



### 2014-2015 Calendar

#### December 2014

- 07 WSYO  
Lycoming Mall  
2:00 pm
- 12 Muncy Farms Open House  
Friends of the Symphony  
Fundraiser  
6-9 pm
- 15 Meet the Maestro  
Happy Hour  
Capitol Lounge, CAC  
5:30-7:00 pm
- 16 WSO Holiday Concert  
*Time to Rejoice!*  
Community Arts Center  
7:30 pm

#### February 2015

- 16 Meet the Maestro  
Happy Hour  
Capitol Lounge, CAC  
5:30-7:00 pm
- 17 WSO *The Kings of Melody*  
Community Arts Center  
7:30 pm
- 22 Williamsport Symphony  
Youth Orchestra  
(WSYO) and Junior Strings  
(WSJS)  
Community Arts Center  
5:30 pm

#### March 2015

- 20 Meet the Maestro  
Happy Hour  
Capitol Lounge, CAC  
5:30-7:00 pm
- 21 WSO *Jazz & Latin*  
Community Arts Center  
7:30 pm

#### May 2015

- 03 WSYO Chamber Recital  
Mary Welch Honors Hall  
Lycoming College  
3:00 pm
- 11 Meet the Maestro

### Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,

After our season opener's big success, a holiday concert could not be a better encore. As we plan our celebrations, music is always present; so we invite you and your family to begin the celebration with the WSO!



One gift to the audience comes with the introduction of the winner of this season's Young Artists' competition: Raina Arnett will perform the first movement of *Concerto No. 3, Op. 61 in b minor* by C. Saint Saëns. Read on through this newsletter to learn about her.

The orchestra will also present another Saint Saëns creation: the beloved *Carnival of the Animals*, a piece that delights adults and children alike with its charm and wit. The two most famous numbers of the piece - "Aquarium" and "The Swan" - will be narrated by a surprise guest. I invite the children in the audience to come costumed as their favorite animals.

The concert will also include an orchestral suite called *Christmas at the Movies* with music from *The Polar Express*, *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* and *Somewhere in My Memory*. For the performance of music from *Frozen*, the WSYO musicians will join the WSO for a side-by-side presentation. We will have a young aspiring conductor leading "Sleigh Ride." Finally, will come our sing-along of favorite holiday songs presented by the WSO and WSYO.

Happy Hour  
Capitol Lounge, CAC  
5:30-7:00 pm

12 WSO *Hope & Triumph*  
Community Arts Center  
7:30 pm  
For more information, please visit  
[www.williamsportsymphony.org](http://www.williamsportsymphony.org)

My best wishes for a safe, peaceful and merry holiday season!

See you at the concert,



Gerardo Edelstein  
Music Director/Conductor

## To add to your holiday celebration---

Friday, December 12, at the Historic Muncy Farms

Join the Friends of the Symphony at the Historic Muncy Farms for *Delectable Edibles and Libations*. The Farm is offering a Holiday Open House for this fundraiser scheduled for 6-9:00 pm. The event includes a silent auction highlighted by the piece you see here pictured. Perfect for gift giving (or self-giving), it is a one-of-a-kind James Meyer piece featuring a 0.50 carat antique diamond stone cut in the 1880s. It is valued at \$3,300 ; the high bidder need not be present to win.

Able to join the fun? Call the WSO office for tickets priced at \$85/person. Hope to own this elegant piece? Call the office to place an unbeatable bid (aim for at least \$3,500 to be safe). Bids called into the office need to be placed by that Friday at noon.



## Program Notes by Dr. Gary Boerckel

### Light Music from an Intellectual Heavyweight

The composer of *The Carnival of the Animals* must have had an IQ that was "off the charts." Camille Saint-Saëns [1835-1921] could read and write at the age of two and a year later he composed a piece of music-the autograph is in the library of the Paris Conservatoire. Between his first public performance as a pianist-he was then five-and his official debut at the age of ten, he found time to learn Latin and study botany, geology, and lepidoptery [moths and butterflies]. His debut was held at the prestigious Salle Pleyel in Paris, where Saint-Saëns performed a Mozart concerto (with orchestra) plus works by Bach, Handel and two of the leading pianists of the day: Hummel and Kalkbrenner. At the end of the concert, the soloist announced that



he was prepared to play as an encore any of the 32 piano sonatas of Beethoven-over 600 pages of music-*from memory!* Saint-Saëns remained a polymath throughout his life. In addition to composing almost 400 works (including 5 symphonies and a dozen operas), he maintained an avid interest in astronomy and archeology and wrote plays and poetry.

## It's Been Quite a Decade

At the age of 39, Robert Lopez is one only twelve people who have won all four major annual American entertainment awards-Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony-and the only person to have won all four in a single decade. Born and raised in Greenwich Village, Lopez majored in English Literature at Yale where he joined an *a cappella* singing group, wrote three plays (two with music), and decided to make his living as a composer of Broadway musicals. He met Jeff Marx at the prestigious BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop. Marx and Lopez's first collaboration was *Kermit, Prince of Denmark*-a muppet version of *Hamlet* that was rejected by the Jim Hensen Company because it lacked "kid appeal." Their second-begun in 1999-was *Avenue Q*, a musical using muppet-like figures in adult situations that won Lopez his first Tonys in 2004 [Best Musical, Best Musical Score]. Collaborating with his brother, Billy, Robert Lopez won a Daytime Emmy for music used in several episodes of the Nickelodeon series *Wonder Pets* in 2008. *The Book of Mormon*, another Lopez/Marx collaboration, earned three more Tonys for Lopez [including Best Musical, 2011] and the original cast recording won the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. The last of the "Big 4" awards arrived when Lopez and his wife, lyricist Kristen Anderson-Lopez, won the 2013 Academy Award for Best Original Song ["Let it Go" from *Frozen*].

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: Meet the McCauleys

Niagara Falls, Morgantown, Oklahoma City, Charlottesville, Richmond, Philadelphia-all have been postmarks for the McCauleys; finally Williamsport became the home for Beverly and Bill McCauley. Why here and why stay?

Why here - initially - had to do with Bill's specialty in pulmonary medicine which brought him to the Williamsport Hospital. Why stay?

*We wanted to settle in a community that allows us to be part of the local life - a place different from life in a large city or in the suburbs. Williamsport is a comfortable size and gives us an environment similar to what we enjoyed in our growing-up years.*



The other postmarks, however, provided advantages that enriched their lives here as well as the lives of others. In 1975, Bill came from a residency at the University of Pennsylvania during which time he became friends with Dr. David Finn; they came

together to Williamsport, and with Dr. Joe Calder initiated the new cardio-pulmonary department at the hospital. That initiative began the ongoing attraction of other doctors coming from major university departments including Dartmouth and Duke, as these three new additions to the medical staff helped to create an environment supportive of medical education and innovation in specialty care.

Bev left behind her employment as a teacher, replacing it initially with her work as an active parent at the West Branch School where both sons were enrolled. "Active parent" there meant more than assisting with field trips; it included time in the classrooms. That role completed, she shifted to older students, spending 20 years at Williamsport Community College/Penn College as an adjunct faculty member teaching English. In addition, being part of the local life took the form of her service on the WSO board, beginning in the early 80s ending after 30 years. Those years included a role as Board chair and as chair of three standing committees.

Back to the postmarks: while Bill was in his residency at Penn and Bev was in the classroom at Clifton Heights, they sat in the nosebleed sections of the Academy of Music as subscribers to the Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Eugene Ormandy. That interest in music came from the experiences of their youth.

Bev remembers a school bus trip in Oklahoma City to hear the symphony orchestra. Both referenced listening to the at-home record players and the access to record club and Readers' Digest collections of music. Bill has a fond memory of his introduction to 33 1/3 vinyls. His parents invested in a used piano and piano lessons; he still plays for pleasure today. Their continuing interest in orchestral music has lead them to Tanglewood and to concert halls wherever their travels take them: Toronto, London, San Francisco, Italy (Ravello and Lucca), among others. Those experiences enhanced Bev's role on the WSO board, as she shared what she observed and heard.

Thus, the "meeting of two minds" that began on the campus of the University of Virginia and that brought them to Williamsport has significantly enriched the community they chose for their home. Bill now serves as the CEO of the Medical Group of 190 professional staff; he continues in the recruitment role he began decades ago while continuing a pared-down pulmonary practice. Though Bev has left the WSO board, she applies her leadership/organizational skills to the WSO Friends organization.

And their attachment to the WSO? In their own words:

*Personal pleasure, thus our support is selfish on our part, as the orchestra provides us enjoyment...we subscribe and contribute because the orchestra benefits the community and those who grow up in it...definitely helps recruit professionals to the area...valuable part of the commitment of the community to the arts.*

As for their personal WSO favorites: for Bev, it was Beethoven's *Ninth* with the Susquehanna Valley Chorale for a full house on a Saturday night; for Bill it was Ravel's *Concerto in G* with the guest pianist. And given the pleasure both gain from their years of concert attendance, they note that their ongoing support is a "commitment to make it [the orchestra] work" thus ensuring its continued contribution to the life of the community they chose as their home.

## **Valerie Whyman - French Horn**

Valerie has worn several hats for the Orchestra in the past 18 years. Her first concert with WSO was playing 6<sup>th</sup> horn in *The Planets* in 1996. The following season, the third horn spot became open

again so she auditioned and won it. From 2003 - 2009 she served as WSO's executive director. Currently she is a fundraiser for the American Red Cross where she has a 13 county territory, supports four chapters, and has to raise a significant sum of money.



Ironically, although I am mightily proud to work for the American Red Cross, fundraising is definitely outside my comfort zone! I seem to do pretty well, but being brought up to recognize how rude it is to ask someone for money, it is a daily struggle to actually do it. I really appreciate the people who say yes!

**Question. When did it occur to you that you'd like to be a musician? The "Hey, I'd like to do that" moment.**

I was told I was going to be one! My dad was a church organist - a good one - and when I was 5 years old, he got a job at a school in Kettering in England on the strength of his promise to set up a brass band there (an odd caveat for being employed as an English teacher!). He brought a cornet home for my brother, who was 9, a tenor horn home for me (I was 6 years old) and another for my sister, who was 5. We were taken along to training band and then the brass band, which we played in until we left home for university. Music was a family affair - perhaps, "requirement" is a better word! We had band practices on Monday and Wednesday nights, choir practice on Tuesday nights, and often, concerts, contests and of course, church services at the weekend. I chose to study music at university because I hadn't had time to try out anything else

**Would you describe your musical training?**

Intense! My dad taught me to play the piano and the tenor horn, AND he coached us in music theory too, so our 6 week summer holidays (vacations/break) were miserable! Every day, we couldn't do anything recreational until we had done our practice on each of our instruments AND our pages of music theory! I truly, truly resented having to practice. I mean, I really loathed it. I'd much rather have been reading a book or something. But as I got older, I began to count myself very lucky to have a father who could play the piano really well, so he would play the orchestral reductions for horn concertos and solos, and I would play the horn part.

Perhaps the wisest thing anyone has said to me is "It's not fun learning to play an instrument - the fun starts when you can".

**As you've played w/ the orchestra, what are some of the high points on stage or off?**

I still think one of my favorite "fun" concerts was *Christmas At The Movies*, where we debuted *The Polar Express*, and where Jason Moyer cleverly wove a concert around random selections of music. As for the "masterworks" type of concerts, the choice is just so vast. I always enjoy playing *The Planets*. I always enjoy a symphony by Tchaikovsky.

Anything with a robust horn part! Off stage, it's great to be a part of a community of people who look out for each other - for instance, when the husband of one of our colleagues was undergoing cancer treatment, the orchestra members contributed to a fund to provide gas cards and restaurant vouchers to help out. And for the community at large, the

outdoor concerts are fun.....even the stress of "will it or won't it rain?" - I well remember when we had to abandon a performance of *1812* in Lewisburg, because it started to rain. We were about half way through it, and then it turned into the Farewell Symphony!

Where do you see orchestras - and specifically the WSO - in, say, 5 years? Do you think symphony orchestras appeal mostly to an older audience?

I think there is a greater growth in attendance of the 40 - 50 year old age group than people realize likely due to the fact that people's musical tastes refine/develop as they get older, so people of my age (very late baby boomers) who grew up liking Elton John, Billy Joel and Queen can find a LOT to appreciate at a symphony concert. The unknown factor of course in all this is the means by which the way music is delivered/received. Perhaps that is the strength of the live concert - it might be one of the last opportunities to interact with people instead of your cell phone, and being so, it might become a sought after experience, about so much more than the performance.

What haven't we asked that you'd like to comment on?

In my opinion, an appreciation of the arts is an incredibly important thing to nurture in children in order to develop their overall wellbeing, intelligence, creativity, interpersonal skills and curiosity about the world at large - and why the world looks as it does in this moment in time. Starkly put, it is the arts at one end of the scale, and tragedy at the other that brings a community together. And in the aftermath of a tragedy, it is the arts that begin to heal the soul. The arts facilitate real relationships between people.

## Clarke Chapel on the Lycoming College Campus Hosts Two November Concerts



**The Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra (WSYO)** performed its initial concert of the season on November 3. The 46 musicians, conducted by William Ciabattari, presented a varied program that ended with Alexander Borodin's *Symphony No. 2 in b minor*. Concert sponsors were the Robert M. Sides Music Centers, the Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Arts, Inc., and Wegmans.

The young musicians come from the Williamsport area, Lewisburg, Hughesville, Wyalusing, Woolrich, Danville, Mansfield, and Selinsgrove. This season welcomed 11 new members, including two former members of the Junior Strings program. The concertmaster was William Knauth, from the Williamsport High School. William's photo appeared in the October newsletter.

The next performance of the WSYO is scheduled for December 7, at 2:00 pm, at the

Lycoming Mall. Thereafter, the ensemble joins the WSO in a side-by-side appearance at the December 16 concert, collaborating on the presentation of music from *Frozen* and the holiday tunes for the sing-along. Thereafter, it collaborates with the Junior Strings at a February 22 concert at the Community Arts Center.

**The Williamsport Symphony Junior Strings (WSJS)** took the stage on November 8. The 29 musicians, in grades four to eight, under the direction of Matthew Radspinner, come from four local school districts. The WSJS provides an ensemble opportunity for young string players; they then can "graduate" to the WSYO.

The concert began with Vivaldi's *Concerto in G Major* and ended with Mussorgsky's *Hopak*. Michael Fisher was concertmaster for the group; sponsors were the Robert M. Sides Music Centers and the Woodcock Foundation.

Players from the WSJS can be heard throughout the season, as members perform as a chamber ensemble while the audience assembles for WSO performances.

## YOUNG ARTIST WINNERS

Our 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Young Artists Competition sponsored by the Friends of the Symphony was held on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the Mary Welch Honors Hall, Lycoming College at 2:00 PM. Nine contestants performed one movement of a standard concerto for their instrument, which included works for bassoon, cello, piano and violin. Adjudicators this year were Dr. Amanda Gunderson, piano; Andrew Rammon, cello; and Maestro Gerardo Edelstein. They were pleased to award three "Runner-up" contestants: Laura Kate Boll, violin; William Knauth, violin; and Emilie Tupper, violin. Our winner this year is 17 year old Raina Arnet (violin), a student of James Lyon at Penn State. She will be performing *movement 1 of Violin Concerto No. 3* by Camille Saint-Saëns with the WSO at the December 16<sup>th</sup> concert. Congratulations to Ms. Arnett and to all participants!



## Billtown Brass also on the November Calendar



**WSO's Billtown Brass Band** did in truth "make a joyful noise" at its November 23 concert as it joined with the Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra and with the Youth Choir. Rick Coulter, conductor of the Brass, Kent Weaver, conductor of the Chamber Choir, and Emily Wertz, conductor of the youth choir provided a memorable evening of holiday-celebratory music, fulfilling the promise of the concert's name: "Kick Off the Holidays!"

Each ensemble presented a segment of the concert followed by the three combining for a series of holiday music. In that program, the audience heard both well known and little known pieces: Holst's "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" performed by the Brass, Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium" presented by the Chamber Choir/Orchestra, and Curtright's "Jubilate performed by the Youth Choir.

In its performance of "We Three Kings." The Brass ensemble featured euphonium soloist Dr. Susan Trolrier-McKinstry, a Professor of Ceramic Science and Engineering at Penn State.

Another highlight of the concert was the premier of a new arrangement of " We Saw Three Ships." Jeremy Leidhecker - a former WSYO member - took the baton. Like his parents - Bob and Aegina, WSO musicians - he is an educator.

## **WSO Board Welcomes Four New Members**

The Summer Newsletter noted the departure of five board members; the following additions to the Board aim to offset those losses. Following an orientation program in September, organized and conducted by the Governance Committee of the Board, these five began their three-year terms.

**Gabriela Alexander** is a native of Slovakia, educated at Prague University. Previously, an attorney in Slovakia and Italy, she moved to Muncy upon her

marriage to Blaise Alexander. The commitment to the WSO is an extension of Gabriela's lifelong involvement with music: her grandfather founded the Conservatory of Music in Kisuca; her mother was a concert pianist, and Gabriela is also a pianist.

**Craig Konkle** is father to four former or current members of the WSYO or WSJS; the eldest - now a music major at Penn State - performs with the WSO. In addition, he and the children are frequent guests performers at area nursing homes, where they entertain the residents. A Montoursville native, Craig is a member of his church orchestra. Craig began as a parent representative on the WSO's Education Committee; he continues as a board member on that committee.

**Suzanne Murray** added the WSO Board to her ongoing commitment to her "new" community. She made her home in Hughesville in 1996, post-retirement from Dunn and Bradstreet Corporation as Vice-President for Financial Strategy. Her MBA from the Wharton School positions her to help move the WSO organization to financial security in an era when symphony orchestras across the country are struggling.

**J. Michael Wiley** brings to the Board his experiences as a former member of Williamsport City Council, his role in the Williamsport School District Foundation and the Plankenhorn Foundation in addition to his legal knowledge and experience. That knowledge and those experiences mesh with the multiple functions of the Board.

## SURVEY

It has been 4 years since we asked questions of our audience, so we hope you will give us some feedback in a one-page program insert at the December 16<sup>th</sup> concert. For example, we would like your opinion on the best day and time for Meet the Maestro events. And for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a couple of years - how would you suggest we observe/celebrate it? And others. There will be a table with pens and extra forms in the lobby and a box in which to put them.

## From the Desk of the ED

The holiday season is almost here, and we hope that you will join us for the December concert; the orchestra will continue to delight the audience as it did with the October concert. The Eaken Trio, operatic soloists and almost 150 choir members from Lycoming College and Susquehanna University provided an electrifying sound. We are grateful to our season sponsor, Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources; to the concert sponsor, Lycoming College, and to the guest artist sponsors, Dr. and Mrs. Powers whose generosity made the concert a reality.



The response to the WSYO , Junior Strings, and Billtown Brass concerts was as enthusiastic. You will see the WSYO musicians on stage for the annual side-by-side

experience when they join their WSO counterparts for the December concert.

As the end of the years draws to a close, we thank our sponsors and contributors who help the symphony accomplish its mission: *to be a cultural asset by providing quality orchestral music, education, and performance opportunities for regional talent.* Our Annual Fund goal has reached the 75% mark, and we hope to have reached our goal by the end of the year. Every contribution - no matter its size - is appreciated as we continue to keep alive classical music performed by local talent.

Let the music play on!

Janet

Let the music play on!



#### Quick Links

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra  
220 West Fourth Street  
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