

**From:** Williamsport Symphony Orchestra [info@williamsportsymphony.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 08, 2014 5:25 AM  
**To:** rcouncil@williamsportsymphony.org  
**Subject:** October E-Notes

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Williamsport Symphony Orchestra  
E-Notes

October 2014

#### 2014-2015 Calendar

##### October 2014

- 20 Meet the Maestro  
Happy Hour  
Capitol Lounge, CAC  
5:30-7:00 pm
- 21 WSO Season opener  
Hymn of Praise  
Community Arts Center  
7:30 pm
- 26 Young Artists' Competition  
2:00 pm

##### November 2014

- 03 Williamsport Symphony  
Youth Orchestra  
(WSYO)  
Clarke Chapel, Lycoming  
College  
7:00 pm
- 08 Williamsport Symphony Junior  
Strings  
First United Methodist Church  
7:00 pm

- 23 WSO Billtown Brass  
Holiday Concert  
Community Arts Center

##### December 2014

- 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

## Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,

The last days of summer are upon us and I can't wait to see the fall foliage! Our season opener is a bit later this year but promises to be a very special one. If you had been a composer during Beethoven's time, would you have dared to write a symphony after his *Ninth*? Probably not, and that is what happened to many composers who lived in the Master's shade and did not dare to write a big symphony which also included a choir.



A little over fifteen years after the "Ode to Joy" premiere, however, a talented composer named Felix Mendelssohn was asked to write a piece for the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press. Felix did not hesitate and decided to write a symphony that ends with a full cantata, choirs, and vocal soloists. The result was outstanding and the piece occupies a very important place in the symphonic repertoire. Mahler followed fifty- five years later with his *Resurrection* symphony. The text is extracted from the *Bible* and the symphony was nicknamed "*Lobgesang*, Hymn of Praise." We are very proud to have the choirs of Lycoming College and Susquehanna University joining us with a line-up of fabulous soloists.

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

11 Meet the Maestro  
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)

The program will begin with an unusual concerto!  
*Beethoven's Triple*, as everyone likes to call it, is a piece written for one of the Master's piano and composition students, the Archduke Rudolf von Habsburg-Lothringen. A delightful piece with a very colorful orchestral accompaniment, it will feature guest artists -the internationally renowned Eaken Piano Trio. I can't imagine a better way to start our season and I hope to see you all there.

Unplug and come hear your symphony making great music! After the concert, please give us your feedback. Send your comments to [info@williamsportsymphony.org](mailto:info@williamsportsymphony.org) to be eligible for a raffle for free tickets to a future concert.

Have a wonderful musical season,



Gerardo Edelstein  
Music Director/Conductor

## Program Notes by Dr. Gary Boerckel

### Beethoven and the Archduke

In his fifty-seven years [1770-1827]-a short span by our standards-Beethoven lived through the greatest social upheaval Europe has ever known. The American and French Revolutions, followed by the Napoleonic wars, spread ideas of "the people" and "the rights of man" into the minds of men and women who had been dominated by class distinctions for centuries. For many, Beethoven's music - bold, sometimes rough, and driven by superhuman energy - perfectly captured the new spirit of the time. Beethoven embraced the ideals of the French Revolution - "Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood" - and he admired Bonaparte until he became Napoleon I, Emperor of the French. Despite his democratic sympathies, Beethoven cultivated the support and affection of the nobility; he even hinted that the "van" in his own name made him an aristocrat (it didn't). One of Beethoven's two composition students, and by all accounts a highly skilled musician, was the Archduke Rudolph, brother of the Austrian emperor. Beethoven's earliest biographer believed that Beethoven's *Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano* was composed as a showpiece for the Archduke's piano skills. One of Beethoven's greatest works, the *Missa Solemnis*, accompanied Rudolph's installation as



Archbishop of Olmütz.

## Bartholdy

Abraham Mendelssohn was the head of one of the leading private banks in Europe and one of the wealthiest men in Germany, but he is remembered today for the witty lament: "Once I was known as the son of my father; now I am known as the father of my son." Abraham's father was Moses Mendelssohn, one of the greatest figures of the German Enlightenment, whose remarkable writings and exemplary character won the support of men like Goethe and Frederick the Great not just for himself, but the cause of Jewish emancipation which he championed. After Abraham became a banker, he decided to convert to Christianity and adopted the surname *Bartholdy*, which his wife's brother had taken after his own conversion. The family was then known as Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. As Abraham's son, Felix, began his rapid rise to fame as a musician, Abraham advised his son to drop Mendelssohn from his name because "there can no more be a Christian Mendelssohn than there can be a Jewish Confucius." But Felix, who never attempted to conceal his family's Jewish origin, kept his hyphenated last name, which is still found on older editions of his music.

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL:

### Eric Haines

*Perpetuating one's relationship with the Williamsport Symphony helps ensure that future generations will be able to participate in the intriguing emotional journey of live music.*

This statement comes from the WSO's information on its "Encore Society" which welcomes bequests. It has been acted upon in the past and - most recently - through a bequest from Eric Haines. The "intriguing emotional journey of live music" led him to support the WSO through his purchase of blocks of tickets each season to share with others as well as contributing to the annual fund. Through his bequest, he continues his contribution to the continuance of WSO's live symphonic music.

Walt Straiton provides this "memorial" to Eric Haines:

*Eric Haines was a passionate music lover- producer/recording engineer/facilitator/philanthropist. Upon his graduation from Lycoming College, the entrepreneur in Eric emerged with the renovation of an old bank on Williamsport's Market Square and the creation of "EJ's SpeakEasy" in the late 70's, emerging into one of Williamsport's first premier live music clubs. Many of the region's finest bands found a welcoming stage at EJ's, including local favorites "Voyage", "Magique", "Brothers and Others", and "Billy Price and the Keystone Rhythm Band", and many others. Over the course of time, Eric's personal interest in developing his inner musician manifested itself by his pursuing on-line music courses offered by the Berklee School of Music (Boston) in*

*engineering and production, leading to the creation of his own River Valley Studios in his Cogan Station home. Eric developed an affinity for contemporary Christian Music, and offered both his studio and professional services to aspiring Christian music artists.*

*In his final days, Eric expressed his sincere and deep appreciation for the WSO, noting how much its music, and mission, had touched both him, and the greater community at large over the years. In private conversation, he projected an emphatic, yet quiet joy, knowing that he was leaving a gift that would help sustain WSO activities in the future.*

## **Gretchen Carpenter, percussionist**

Gretchen Carpenter feels right at home as the only female in the WSO percussion section. From the time she was an elementary student to the present, that's the way it's been. Since 1995 she's been a regular member of the WSO percussion section.

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade she started percussion in the Greensburg Salem School District in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, continuing through high school in every possible band venue: marching, concert, jazz and pit bands. She studied with Dr. Roderick T. Booker in high school and went on to graduate from Grove City College with a BA in Business and an "informal" music minor because, at that time, there was no music major at Grove City. Last year, however, the college created one. While there, Gretchen played in all the band programs, was the student director her senior year, and a member of the symphonic orchestra and the pit orchestra for musicals. She studied with Hendley Hogue.



Gretchen and her husband Dennis married in 1984, and Dennis took a job as the Williamsburg High School band director and instrumental music teacher. Beginning a path she continues here, Gretchen became the percussion instructor for the Williamsburg HS marching band and a member of the Altoona Symphony. After moving to Montoursville in 1989, she became percussion instructor/assistant band director at Montoursville High School and also co-directed its musical for 14 years. Currently, she is a percussion instructor for the Milton High School Band and has recently joined Epic Percussion as the manager of the Crosscutters drum line.

Both their daughters graduated from Grove City College with degrees in Music Education and both were members of the Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra. Kayla works in corporate social responsibility for Jet Blue Airways in New York City, and newly-married Korinne is the preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade music teacher and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus director in Crisfield, Maryland.

In the October concert, the percussion section consists of only one timpanist, covered by

principal percussionist, Bob Leidhecker. Gretchen is looking forward to playing for the holiday concert, though - and you'll have no trouble identifying her!

## **NEW FACES IN THE ORCHESTRA**

You won't see their faces now, but as soon as we get our photographer at a performance, we'll include them in the next newsletter. They auditioned in September and they are joining us for the season.

**Dr. Joshua Davis, principal double bass.** Teacher, performer, composer, Dr. Davis is director of Jazz Studies and department chair at Susquehanna University. He holds music degrees from University of New Hampshire, the New England Conservatory of Music, and the University of Maryland.

**Allison Graham, section double bass.** A Lewisburg High School student, Allison has performed extensively and is a student of Joshua Davis and Robert Nairn (Penn State) and a former student of Tim Breon.

**Alberto Jara, section double bass.** At Penn State University, Alberto is a student of Robert Nairn.

**Robyn Greene, section viola.** Recently from Tennessee, Robyn is a professional freelance violin and viola player who has relocated in the Williamsport area. She may be seen occasionally playing Saturdays at the Williamsport Grower's Market.

## **Williamsport Youth Orchestra - ready for the new season**

Dr. Bill Ciabattari, the WSYO conductor, reports that the auditions for this year's musicians include 14 new members who come from Line Mountain, Danville, Lewisburg, Williamsport, and Montour school districts. The group is approaching 50 in number.

Its first performance is scheduled for November 3, 7:30 pm, in Clarke Chapel on the Lycoming College campus. The program - an ambitious one - includes Borodin's *Symphony No. 2*, J. P. Sousa's "The Gliding Girl," Isaac Albeniz's "Granada," and Brian Balmages' "Dreaming."

The photo "captures" one of the enthusiastic veteran players, William Knauth. In the tenth grade at Williamsport Area High School, he is a member of the Strolling Strings, Sinonietta, and the Millionaire Quartet.

He has also volunteered for WSO Friends-sponsored functions, greeting arrivals with his mega-watt smile. His next step, he says, is to audition for and perform with the WSO.



## **Be sure to see the WSO photo, winner in the "Picture What You Geek" contest**

The photo submitted to the James V. Brown Library by Hannah Harris was selected under the Arts, Music, and Entertainment category. The contest sought photos to be featured on the Library's "Connect Williamsport" community calendar homepage. Hannah, a physics student at Wellesley College, is the daughter of the WSO's Executive Director, Janet Harris. Hannah was asked to photograph the March concert featuring Morgan Myles; and the results of her work were definitely successful.

## **First, it was "Name That Tune"; then came the "Trivia Contest"...**

### **New This Season:**

Concert Attendees will have the opportunity to win free tickets by emailing their comments/responses to the concert to the WSO via [www.williamsportsymphony.org](http://www.williamsportsymphony.org). Fan mail is, of course, always welcome (and beyond the "stroking" it provides) can be useful in grant applications. We are also interested in hearing suggestions for improvement as well. From the responses, will be drawn the recipient of the tickets.

## **From the Desk of the ED**

Welcome to the Symphony's 48<sup>th</sup> season and we hope you are planning to join us for classical music "unplugged." True to our mission, *providing performance opportunities for regional talent*, you'll see several familiar faces stage front. They include Andrew Rammon performing with the Eaken Trio, Gary Boerckel, Fiona Gillespie, Emily Wertz, members of the Youth Symphony, and the choirs of Lycoming College and Susquehanna University. Although you may not know their names, you'll recognize our principal musicians Judy Burke, William Kenny, Sue Laib and Stephen Olson when they perform in February.



Again this season, we are excited to welcome back our generous Season Sponsor, Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources, and our five Concert Sponsors: Lycoming College, M&T Bank, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Susquehanna Health System, and the Friends of the Symphony. Our Guest Artist for our October concert, the Eaken Trio, is sponsored by long time Symphony supporters Caryn and Skip Powers. And, we thank all of our new and returning contributors to the Annual Fund. They along with our sponsors comprise half of the revenue needed to balance our annual operating budget, so the significance of these commitments cannot be overstated. I hope the concerts this season might inspire you to consider a sponsorship opportunity or a contribution for the 2014-2015 season. We are grateful to the individuals and businesses who help us keep classical music alive for performers and listeners alike.

We hope to see you at the concerts!

"If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once every week." Charles Darwin

Let the music play on!



#### Quick Links

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra  
220 West Fourth Street  
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