



2013-2014 Calendar

March 2014

- 09 Close Up Concert # 3
Mary Lindsay Welch
Honors Hall, Lycoming
College
5:00 pm (note special time)
- 12/13 Raise the Region
6 pm March 12 -
midnight March 13
- 21 Meet the Maestro
Capitol Lounge of CAC
5:30 - 7 pm
- 22 WSO *The Beauty of Song*
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm
- 30 WSYO Chamber Music Recital
Lycoming College Honors Hall
4:00 pm

May 2014

- 12 Meet the Maestro
Capitol Lounge of CAC
5:30 - 7 pm
- 13 WSO *Variations*
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm

Ticket Holders - don't miss out on
this exciting benefit!

Park and dine at the Genetti's 4th
Street Grille & Ale House. Bring
your Symphony ticket to receive
10% off your meal along with free
parking prior to the show.

Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,
I cannot imagine a
better way to start
the year after the last
concert's huge
success. The WSO
musicians did a
terrific job in a
challenging program,
and the response of
the audience was
exhilarating and rewarding. As always, I was very
proud of our musicians, and without much time to
rest on our laurels, we are thinking about our next
adventure!



Not long ago, I asked Rob Steele, executive
director of the CAC, to recommend a local artist to
perform with the Symphony. Immediately came to
his mind the name of Morgan Myles, a
singer/songwriter who just moved to Nashville to
start her career. I listened to some of her music
and was captivated by her talent so I decided to
bring her back to her hometown!

She will delight you with her own and other well-
known songs to please a diverse audience. The
orchestra will perform a variety of tunes starting
with the witty Overture to *Candide* by Leonard
Bernstein (who continues to be an inspiration for
me), and medleys from two recent cinema
revivals, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Les Miserable*. We
will also feature one of the 2014 Young Artist

Special Thanks to the
Sponsors



Season Sponsor



Concert Sponsor

Competition winners, Brian Curtin, performing the first movement of Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*, one of my favorite violin concertos.

A great orchestra, a wonderful program, a beautiful theatre, a supportive and engaged audience; what else can we ask for? Let's enjoy the magic and power of live music and fill up the CAC with energy and excitement.

See you at the concert!

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerardo'.

Gerardo Edelstein
Music Director/Conductor

RAISE THE REGION



RAISE THE REGION

FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA

30 hours of online giving - supporting YOUR nonprofit!

Raise the Region 2014 is a unique, online giving event that provides an opportunity for people who care about their community to come together and raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in 30-hours — starting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 and ending at 11:59 pm on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships has generously donated \$125,000 that will be used to stretch a portion of every donation. To donate visit:



www.RaiseTheRegion.org

A fundraising event of the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania

Last year, the WSO earned \$6702 in the **Raise the Region** 24 hour campaign. This year, online donations can be made for 30 hours: from 6 pm March 12 - midnight March 13. Support the WSO in this generous community opportunity at www.raisetheregion.org!

And we encourage you to make your donation on **Thursday March 13** between **8:00 pm and 10:00 pm** to help us win the \$1000 **White Flag Prize**. Thank you for your support, and *without you, it's just an empty stage!*

Guest Artist - Morgan Myles

Who is Morgan Myles?

Morgan, née Pissoneault, is a graduate of Loyalsock High School. She was an early student and intern at the Uptown Music Collective where Dave Brumbaugh was her guitar teacher. He has been a mentor and supporter of her career ever since. She graduated from Belmont University and completed her first solo album in 2009. She continues to write and record in Nashville. For more information:

www.morganmyesmusic.com



A Letter from Morgan Myles to the Community

Williamsport, you are very dear to my heart... When I was just a little girl I had a dream to become a singer, and my hometown let me chase after it. I was given great opportunities here as well as encouragement to go after whatever I wanted. It has been an uphill climb with many highs and lows, but the support I have received throughout the years from my fans, friends, and family have made it all worthwhile.

I am so grateful that you've offered me this opportunity to perform with the Symphony. It is really a dream come true. Tears came to my eyes when I was first asked to perform, and they will probably roll down again on March 22nd!

Any musician will tell you that there is nothing better than playing for your hometown. There is a sense of pride that makes the night more magical than other places - a sense of love from the town that built you into what you've become. So thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a part of my journey.

Morgan Myles

"The Beauty of Song!" - Program notes by Dr. Gary Boerckel

The Beauty of Song - featuring Morgan Myles - performing her own compositions - will entertain, even inspire, the audience. The orchestra has chosen for its segment several pieces drawn from other genres. Voltaire, Hugo, film and opera will "figure large" in this concert.

The Overture to *Candide* is based on Voltaire's work translated by Leonard Bernstein into a musical in the late 1950s. From there to Broadway and opera theaters, *Candide* is recognized as the great American comic opera.

From Victor Hugo came *Les Miserables*, translated from book to stage by Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil. The orchestra will perform selections from the work that



Gary Boerckel

represents Hugo's role as the conscience of his country, asking "Will you stand with me?" as he chronicles the need for social justice.

"Across the pond" a film - *The Cowboys*, starring the iconic Western hero, John Wayne - includes a score by John Williams, the iconic film score composer. The "Overture" to that score demonstrates the reason that film scores have achieved a place in the orchestral repertoire.

Another film - *Lord of the Rings* - features a score by Howard Shore; his television career included a stint with *Saturday Night Live*, as its music director. Besides *Lord of the Rings*, Shore also scored the *Ring* sequels and *Silence of the Lambs*.

Composer of an opera, Edouard Lalo is more widely known for the *Symphonie Espagnole*, which he composed for the Spanish violinist, Pablo de Sarasate. The WSO will introduce this composer to the audience with *Symphonie Espagnole in D Minor, op 21*.

The Beauty of Song thus moves the audience from the eighteenth century through the twenty-first with classic, recent, and current music - something for all tastes.

Look for more of Dr. Boerckel's notes in the concert program on March 22nd.

Pre-concert lecture with Dr. Boerckel is held in the Capitol Lounge of the CAC at 7:00 pm before the concert. All ticket holders are welcome!

Up Close and Personal-Meet Lyneah and Michael Hudock, Subscribers and Donors

Symphony orchestras, large and small, ask the same question: "Where are the Generation X-ers?" as they study their subscription and donor bases. The data do support the importance of the question, as in addition to the already significant decline in audiences across the country by 2008; there is now predicted an additional 35% decline by 2018 (a decline that, by then, will include the Generation Y demographic).

In Williamsport, however, there is hope that the additional decline will not affect the WSO. Why the cause for a more positive outlook? Meet the younger Hudocks, who in conversation noted others in their age group becoming interested in and attending concerts. Their involvement is testimony, by the way, to what we know about parental influence.

Lyneah comes from a musical family: mother as a church choir director; father, on drums with the Pepper Street Band; singers in a gospel quartet; aunts and uncles also musically involved. She studied piano and viola through high school, developing the "ear", the knowledge, and the discipline that come from music education. For Michael - a fan of classical rock- it was his parents' invitation to attend a WSO concert after he had returned from his student days in the south and thereafter working



Lyneah and Michael Hudock

in Atlanta. And "With that one concert, I was hooked."

Parenting - for both Lyneah and Michael - initiated both the appreciation for and commitment to the symphony. That parenting style extends now to their two sons, 3 and 5 years old, whose toy box includes a collection of musical toys. Yes, even drums - a testament to the willingness to adopt the parenting approach both experienced.

That parenting approach extends also to Lyneah's and Michael's community involvement, these among others: Pearls With a Passion and Junior League for Lyneah; Boy Scouts and the Penn College Foundation for Michael; they joined forces for the Hospital's capital campaign. In addition, they supported the outfitting of the children's activity space in the library, a need Lyneah observed as she spent time there with her sons. The Hudock name has long been associated with community support. As Michael notes: "It is not about choosing to do, it is something you just do"--testimony to the parenting point, and the choice of the WSO for not only their support but also for Michael's work on the Board.

Why the support for the WSO and its multiple activities? The orchestra has a "direct impact on community life...creates opportunities by adding quality program options...enriches the foundation of the community...contributes to the musical education for school-age attendees...is an attractive element in the community." They also note that there is a socialization factor in attending; wonderful way to connect with people they might otherwise not see. Given the ticket price---a bargain on multiple levels.

And what would they like to see in the WSO's future? The immediate response to this question, both in unison: "A sell-out!" (A definite "from their lips to...."). They also look forward to seeing additional collaborations with local arts organization and the involvement of local and regional talent. Concertmaster Max Zorin gets especially high marks, recalling his famous "duel" last season with the rock group.

It is Williamsport's good fortune that this young couple chose to continue their lives here and assume an active role in the community they are already helping to shape for their two pre-schoolers. These Generation X-ers are as much a community asset as is the WSO.

February's "WSO Trivia" Results

Of the fifteen entries, seven earned a grade of 100%. Joe Radley of Williamsport, one of the seven, claims the prize. The questions and answers follow:

- Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* was featured in the movie *Fantasia*. Can you name two other famous pieces performed in the film?

Sorcerer's Apprentice, Dance of the Hours

- Can you name two other compositions by Aaron Copland?

Appalachian Spring, Rodeo

- Can you name two tales from *One Thousand and One Nights*?

Aladdin's Lamp, Seven Voyages of Sinbad

Up Close and Personal - Meet Steve Olson, Principal Bassoon

Toward the back center of the orchestra in front of the horns and behind the oboes is the bassoon section and bassoonists Steve Olson and Mahlon Grass. The bassoon is among the most versatile instruments of the orchestra, but infamously difficult to play. The WSO has been fortunate to have outstanding strength there. Steve Olson, now in his third WSO season, succeeded Dick Campbell as principal bassoonist in 2011, but had played in prior seasons as a sub or extra.



Steve Olson

Steve grew up in St. Marys, PA enjoying the outdoors, hunting and fishing, but found his way to the bassoon by way of clarinet. "I had an early interest in clarinet, mostly because as a kid I really liked the look of it." Bassoon came later when he applied too late to a music festival in 7th grade. His band director, Ray Knight, asked if he was interested in going on bassoon instead, and he agreed enthusiastically.

I remember thinking, 'How hard can it be?' There were a lot of things I didn't understand when I was twelve. I'm really glad I went for it though. It's tough just to make the thing go, but it's incredibly satisfying, and it suits my sense of humor.

He credits devoted teachers who made it possible for him to find his way in music: Nick Sinibaldi, Ray Knight, and Rita Ferrere in St. Marys; Ron Phillips in Cleveland; and Daryl Durran at Penn State

Steve earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music where he first met fellow WSO members Rebecca and Bill Ciabattari, and Andrew Rammon. Then from 1999 through 2001, he played full-time with La Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México in Mexico City. He then decided he'd like to design stereo equipment and so enrolled at Penn State to earn a BS in electrical engineering. At some point, he also collected an MS in Architectural Acoustics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Since 2004 he's had a research position in acoustics at Penn State's Applied Research Lab.

As audience members have noticed, reed players - especially the double reed players - spend time tinkering with their instruments during a concert. Steve explains why.

All bassoonists carry a small woodshop with us, as do the oboists. The reason is that we have to make our own reeds and maintain them. The instrument is very finicky, and so the reeds really need to be custom-made to match both the instrument and the player. Furthermore the reeds have a finite life span and are always changing, thus requiring consistent attention. Anyway, I have to carry pliers, files, a very sharp reed knife, and some specialized tools for holding and positioning the reeds while I'm working on them. I also carry a jeweler's screwdriver, since the bassoon has about as many moving parts as a hay-baler,

and they love to do funny things right before a concert is about to start.

Steve describes the variety of bassoon sounds depending on the range (three and a half octaves) as well as the character of the music. Recalling an earlier remark about his own sense of humor, he describes it as a versatile, expressive instrument, one that's well-suited to humorous roles. "If you watch the old Looney Tunes cartoons, you'll hear the bassoon getting a LOT of playing time."

So far this season his favorite piece has been *Scheherazade*. He likes the larger works of the Romantic era especially Mahler and Brahms, and adds Beethoven to his list because their symphonies get such incredible sounds out of an orchestra. "Some music you love to play, but don't like to listen to as much, and some music is the reverse; but the great ones you love to play and love to hear."

This summer Steve and his fiancée head west. They'll be hiking and camping in Montana's Glacier National Park.

Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra/Junior Strings Perform



The February 23 joint concert drew a large and enthusiastic audience to the CAC. Billed as the "Second Annual," the performance followed the concerts performed in Fall 2013 by each entity.

Next for the WSYO is a recital for its members, March 30, 4:00 pm in Lycoming College's Honors Hall. Twenty musicians will perform in ensembles, featuring chamber music. Following that event, the WSYO - conducted by Dr. William Ciabattari - will be part of WSO's May concert, in a side-by-side performance with the WSO musicians.

The Junior Strings - led by Matthew Radspinner - will continue to be represented in the CAC lobby before the WSO concerts. That addition this season has proven to be a crowd pleaser while also providing additional performance opportunity for the young musicians.

Fro the Desk of the ED

March 2014

This has been the season for snow! However, the sky was clear and sparkled with stars the evening of our concert *Fantastic Tales*. On stage, we had the "stars": our musicians, dancers from Saint John's School of the Arts performing in *Billy the Kid*, and Max Zorin whose masterful solo during *Scheherazade* created a visual memory of the stories of the Arabian Nights. In fact, if you followed the Olympics you might have had a vision, too, of gold medalist ice dancers, Davis and White, performing their award- winning program. As always, we are grateful to our sponsors who helped make this crowd- pleasing concert possible - season sponsor, Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources and concert sponsor, Pennsylvania College of Technology. Congratulations to Penn College as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary!



On a very snowy February Sunday night, our musicians joined their sponsors for a thank you dinner made possible by the Friends of the Symphony with generous support of Lyneah and Michael Hudock. The first annual appreciation dinner was a great success, and thank you to the Friends and their supporters for making this dinner a reality.

As you've read in this newsletter, we welcome hometown girl, Morgan Myles, to the Symphony as our guest artist on Saturday, March 22nd. Morgan (you may remember her as Morgan Pinsonneault) is a rising talent in Nashville and we're excited that she will perform with the Symphony. We invite the whole family to come to the concert! We're looking forward to a strong show of support for a Loyalsock High School graduate reaching for the stars. Tickets for students and children over age four are free for balcony seating, and \$5 in the orchestra when purchased in advance.

Come and join us for the magic of music, and if you want to stay up- to- date on all of our upcoming performances, the Symphony concerts, Youth Symphony, Billtown Brass, and Junior String program, "like" us on Facebook!

Let the music play on!

Janet