



unplugged.

Season 2014-2015

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra Newsletter

Summer 2014

2014-2015 Calendar

August 2014

- 16 WSO Billtown Brass
Central Oak Heights, Milton
7:00 pm
- 17 WSO Billtown Brass
Brandon Park, Williamsport
7:00 pm

September 2014

- 07 WSO Auditions
Mary Welch Honors Hall,
Lycoming College

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
- 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

Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Even though the summer is not over yet, it seems it's going "Presto." I had the chance to be in Italy last month and enjoyed tremendously all that beautiful country has to offer: history, breathtaking sights, culture, great food and wonderful people! I attended an opera performance at the famous "Arena di Verona" that for me, of course, was one of the highlights of the trip.



I am very excited about WSO's new season and can't wait to share all the wonderful music we have programmed for you with a stellar line up of soloists. I love the human voice the same way I love every single instrument in the orchestra, so it is not surprising we start this new WSO season with a choral-orchestral masterwork by Felix Mendelssohn - his *Symphony No. 2*. The Lycoming College Choir along with the Susquehanna University Choir will join us. Also featured in Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* is The Eaken Trio whose cellist is Andrew Ramon

The Holiday concert will bring back to town the beloved *Carnival of the Animals* as well as movie favorites and traditional tunes. Four WSO musicians will be the soloists for our February concert that features music by Mozart, Verdi and Dvorak. A Latin-Jazz concert will certainly entertain you in March with music by Bernstein, Ginastera, Duke Ellington and George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with our own Gary Boerckel as piano soloist. The season closes with Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, one of the

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

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

greatest symphonies of the twentieth century and Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor* with the internationally renowned guest pianist, Jorge Osorio.

A season not to be missed with music for everyone and with one simple message: UNPLUG and come to hear YOUR symphony LIVE!!! See you at the concerts!

Fondly,



Gerardo Edelstein
Music Director/Conductor

In preparation for the 2014-15 Season:

Auditions for four WSO seats will be held September 7, in the Mary Welch Honors Hall. Principal bass, section bass, section viola and section violin are needed for this season. The audition time is by appointment; to request additional information, contact rciab@williamsportsymphony.org.

The WSYO, conducted by William Ciabattari, has also scheduled its auditions for the season: potential new players audition September 14 and returners on September 21. Using the "rciab" address allows the through-grade-12 musicians to set an audition time as well as to pose questions. The first performance by this group is its November 3 concert; more information will come via later newsletters.

The Junior Strings, conducted by Matthew Radspinner, is in the process of gathering recommendations from area music teachers - the means by which the strings gain members. The ensemble will be ready for its first performance, November 8.

JASON MOYER

At the end of July our community lost a leader in finance and the arts. Jason Moyer died suddenly at age 43 and his loss is deeply and widely

felt. He was a founding partner of Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources and on the boards of several theatre and music groups, among them the Community Theatre League, the Williamsport Symphony, and the Community Arts Center (CAC). This remembrance recalls his work with the WSO.



In the early 1990s, the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra was in need of someone to provide office assistance to this growing organization. Former Board member Dr. Gary Boerckel recommended Lycoming College honors student Jason Moyer to fill this position. At the time of his hire, Jason wore black tee shirts and sported a shaggy hair style-a far cry from his professional look in later years. Jason initially worked for a few hours each week inputting data into the Symphony computer. This was boring, tedious work but WSO soon had a computerized mailing list. During this time, Jason had two part-time jobs, attended classes and still managed to excel in his studies.

His talent and intellect were clearly evident, and he was quick to learn the workings of WSO. As a result, the Board of Trustees offered him a permanent 20 hour per week position. Jason accepted and the rest is history. At various times, he served as bookkeeper, orchestra recruiter, music librarian, concert production assistant and general office assistant. He also provided invaluable input in weekly management meetings.

In his adult years, Jason was very health conscious but in those early days, he treated the Symphony staff and volunteers to chocolate treats at concert time, calling these treats "stress reducers."

One incident that comes to mind was when WSO had an opportunity to perform at the opening ceremonies of the Little League World Series. Then Music Director Robin Fountain selected Jason to sing the Star Spangled Banner at this event. Well, his incredible voice captivated the audience-a talent he shared throughout the community for years to come.

Jason graduated with honors from Lycoming College and moved on to a successful professional career. He invited his Symphony family to attend his graduation and we were so proud of him. Annmarie Phillips was Board Treasurer during this time period. Jason remained in contact with WSO and often joked that Annmarie Phillips taught him bookkeeping and Barbara Velez, General Manager, taught him how to "schmooze." He will be sorely missed.

Submitted by Barbara Velez, past General Manager

We also mourn the death of William D. Davis, who with his wife Joyce, was a long-time subscriber and donor to the WSO. Bill, through his position on the Foundation board in the early 1990's, assisted with the move of the orchestra from the Scottish Rite to the CAC in 1993. As significant, he initiated the practice of providing concert sponsorship; the bank of which he was president was the first concert sponsor. We extend our sympathy to his family.

MUSICIAN DOINGS



Dale Orris, trumpet, played with the Penn Central Wind Band in Lewisburg; in a re-creation of the Gene Krupa big band in New Jersey; with the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra in Lewisburg's Music in the Park series; in the Bellefonte Jazz Festival; with the Zeropointe Big Band; and with the Williamsport City Jazz Orchestra at the CAC in June.

Rebecca Dodson-Webster played principal horn with the Endless Mountain Music Festival Orchestra in Wellsboro.

Margaret Abbott (violin) played an antique drum for a joint venture of RIT Theatre and the Rochester Shakespeare Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Ellen Krajewski (Cello), Michael Gross (violin) and Sylvia Ruggeri (viola) participated in Gettysburg Chamber Music Camp 5 days in June playing non-stop quartets from 8:30 into the night.

Debbie Trudeau (violin) played with Music at Penn's Woods festival in State College.

Walker Konkle (violin) played for a medieval dancer, Lady Ophelia, at the PA Renaissance Faire in Manheim, PA.

Hyewon Kim (violin) has been playing in Canada. In June she was in an ensemble program affiliated with Pinchas Zuckermann's NAC orchestra; recently she was in Montreal for Orchestre Francophonie in which she was assistant concertmaster. Finally she'll be at the Lake George Music Festival.

Becky Ciabattari played in the International Trombone Festival in Rochester, NY. And she returned to play euphonium with the Blossom Festival Band at the summer home of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Bill Ciabattari (tuba) played with the Penn Central Wind Band at the Weis

Center and spent a week as assistant conductor with the All-Ohio State Fair Band. Also he played with the Williamsport City Jazz Orchestra along with Bobby Leidhecker, Tim Breon, Dale Orris and others.

Music in the Park and elsewhere

Sunday the 17th features the Symphony's Billtown Brass, conducted by Rick Coulter. The concert begins at 7:00 pm.

Lycoming College is hosting a series in August that - again - includes WSO musicians. The Williamsport Chamber Music Festival opened on August 11 with the Eaken Trio (one member is WSO's principal cellist, Andrew Rammon). The Trio, by the way, appears with the WSO at the October concert.

Season Subscriptions on Sale Now!

Get your season subscription now and enjoy the many benefits! Call 570-326-2424 or visit [WSO website](#) to print the subscription form.

BOARD CHANGES

As we begin a new two-year cycle of Board leadership, hats off to Michael Vuocolo who has been at the helm the past two years and brought his term to an end with a successful financial bottom line. Stepping up as president is Greg Smith assisted by vice-president, Joyce Hershberger. Treasurer Nancy Eischeid, secretary Dianne Peeling and past president Vuocolo round out the Executive Board.

And five stellar Board members have wrapped up their respective, productive terms. Their dedication and hard work have sustained the WSO for many years and their leadership will be missed. Before leaving, Bev McCauley and her Governance Committee recruited four incoming members who will be introduced in the fall newsletter. But for now, here are those who are retiring:

Brad Nason

Brad joined in the fall of 2008, so has served two three-year terms. He has been on Marketing and Education committees, and since 2008 has been chair of Education. He was Board Secretary and on Exec until January of this year. Though no longer on the Board due to teaching conflicts, he will remain as chair of Education.

Miki Rebeck

Miki doesn't remember when she joined the Board - it's been that long - but she's had been involved with nearly every committee. She was Executive Director for 6 months when Robin Fountain was Music Director. Meet the Maestro lunches, run-out concerts to Lewisburg, and the Sunday brunches were begun in that time. Miki was Board president from 2008-2010 during some tumultuous years for the WSO. She will remain on Long Range Planning committee and will be actively involved in Friends.

Barbara Velez

From August 1989 to August of 2000 Barb was managing director of the WSO - first with Rolf Smedvig and then during much of Robin Fountain's tenure. She graciously returned in 2011 as an interim until we hired Reuben Council as Executive Director, and then returned again as interim until Janet became ED. Since 2012 Barb has been a member of the Board, on Governance and the Annual Fund Campaign Committee; for the past six months, she served as Board secretary and member of Executive Committee. Barb will continue her association with the WSO as a member of the Artistic Advisory Committee.

Bev McCauley

Bev's been an active voice on this Board for 30 years - since 1984. Soon after joining, she chaired Long Range Planning Committee. She's chaired Education and became Vice-President at a time when the President and Vice-President attended every committee meeting. She was President from 1998-2000 and has been the chair of the Governance Committee for the past 14 years. Bev has been part of the Friends (the original June Bugs) and will continue to be part of The Friends and Long-Range Committee.

Up Close and Personal - Shelley Whitnack, Violist

Shelley is a Williamsport native, a graduate of Williamsport High School, and one of the first members of the WASD Strolling Strings. After college and an absence of 16 years studying and working in Oregon, she returned in 2009 and has been a regular member of the WSO since 2010.



Asked what piqued her interest in playing an instrument, she remembered in 3rd grade hearing a group of musicians and teachers performing at Round Hill Elementary promoting the district string program. She asked her mom that night if she could play an instrument.

I had no idea which instrument I wanted to play, and all I remember is a hand reaching over me and pointing to the viola. It might have been Mr. Weber or Mr. Bertrand...The quality music program from elementary to high school, is the reason I stayed interested.

Who were her teachers? Dorothy Chappel taught her in junior and senior high school. Walt Straiton was the orchestra teacher and director at WAHS,

...and it's an understatement to say he was a predominant figure in my desire to study music. I was extremely proud to be a member of the high school symphony and because of his encouragement, I also played in the Williamsport Symphony

Orchestra my junior and senior year. I admit that I wasn't as serious about it then as I am now; I was one of the giggly girls in the back of the viola section (in case anyone ever noticed).

Shelley earned B.S. and B.Music degrees from Cairn University in 1993 before studying with Clark Potter at Eastern Oregon University. Potter taught in the summer program at Csehy Summer School of Music in Muncy as did Shelley for a few summers and during visits back from Oregon. "Clark taught me a lot about performing, but mostly to enjoy it and have fun!" She finished her studies in Eastern Oregon with Potter's successor before deciding to pursue a different career path in financial services.

She returned to Williamsport in 2009 and began working at Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources. She is currently a Series 7 and 65 Registered Associate on a team with Michael J. Hudock, jr.

Like many WSO musicians, Shelley plays for other groups such as the Susquehanna Valley Chorale, The Williamsport Community Choir and Orchestra, and for area high school musicals. And she's starting to learn the fiddle with Kate Johnston. These venues "...provide an opportunity to connect with other musicians and keeps my chops in shape. We are blessed with phenomenal musicians in this area who encourage excellence in music, no matter your primary career."

Asked what pieces from the recent season stand out for her, she chose *The Pines of Rome*.

When we finished playing, my stand partner and I looked at each other with huge smiles on our faces, and we both said, 'Now that was fun!' It epitomized why I continue to play. Though music is not my primary career, it is integral to my world. I'm so thankful that I stuck with it and that I get to play music like that. It's a privilege.

Friends of the Symphony

From Friends of the Symphony

Among the services provided by this group of volunteers is sponsorship of the Annual Young Artists' Competition, the winner of which receives a monetary award and the opportunity to perform with the WSO. Young musicians, through grade 12, living in north central PA are invited to apply. The competition this year is set for October 26 in the Mary Welch Honors Hall of Lycoming College. Information and application requirements are available on the WSO website:

www.williamsportsymphonyorchestra.org.

The Friends plus The Board

Every annual fundraising appeal begins with the Board members; and every annual fundraising appeal is answered with a 100% result. Members of Friends are also invited to be part of this initial giving. Thus the Board opens the campaign with a vote of confidence that their start-up funding and that of the Friends will grow exponentially as the annual appeal lands in mailboxes. Keeping the musicians on the stage is the goal, as is the intent to reinstitute the free Family Concert and return the WSO to the park in the summer.

May's "WSO Trivia" Results

And the Winner Is...

The May concert trivia contest yielded a number of correct answers; of those, one was drawn to capture the Anytime tickets for a future contest. It is Friederike Bauer from Cogan Station. Correct responses from the several possibilities (and the questions) follow:

1. Can you name three English composers?

George Friedrich Handel, William Walton, Henry Purcell, Benjamin Britten, Eric Coates, William Bird

2. Can you name another orchestral work by Bartok?

Concerto for Orchestra, Miraculous Mandarin, Romanian Dances, Hungarian Sketches

3. Can you name another ballet by Copland?

Billy the Kid, Appalachian Spring

From the Desk of the ED

Frequently we hear from subscribers, friends and family about how music enriches their lives, and those comments are gratifying. In fact, recently I ran across an article that said, "Music is an ancient, uniquely human activity. The oldest flutes that have been dug up are 40,000 years old, and human song long preceded that." It went on to add "Every single culture in the world has music, including music for children. Music says something about what it means to be human, and it would be crazy not to teach this to our children."



With that in mind, this season we're excited to encourage families to attend the concert series and are offering student subscriptions for ages 4 through 23. The subscriptions are \$25 in the Orchestra section and cover all five concerts. And, some day in the future, perhaps the children will reminisce with fond memories about attending classical concerts. My fond memory includes being whisked from a sports practice to join the rest of the family at a concert. Dinner was a sandwich in the car; I loved every moment and attended many performances.

Another subscription option this season is for seats in the Balcony. If you would like to reserve

seats here, the subscription is \$60 for all five concerts (early subscription orders are due by September 1). Leg room in the Balcony may be limited; however, the view and sound are still great.

Our Annual Fund campaign is almost two-thirds of the way to the goal. The annual campaign plays an important part in filling the gap not met by ticket sales, advertisers, and our generous sponsors. It allows us to keep ticket prices affordable because we want you, your family, and students in the community to enjoy orchestral music. If you've made a contribution, we sincerely thank you! If you're considering a contribution, we encourage you to join our generous supporters who help keep our programs alive for a diverse audience and keep our musicians on the stage.

Let the music play on!



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