



2013-2014 Calendar

24 Billtown Brass Holiday Concert
Community Arts Center
7:00 pm

December 2013

02 Meet the Maestro
Capitol Lounge of CAC
5:30 - 7 pm

03 WSO *Time to Rejoice!*
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm

February 2014

10 Meet the Maestro
Capitol Lounge of CAC
5:30 - 7 pm

11 WSO *Fantastic Tales*
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm

23 Close Up Concert # 2
Mary Lindsay Welch
Honors Hall, Lycoming
College
3:00 pm

23 Williamsport Symphony
Youth Orchestra (WSYO)
and Junior Strings (WSJS)
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm -- **NEW DATE**

March 2014

09 Close Up Concert # 3
Mary Lindsay Welch
Honors Hall, Lycoming
[College](#)
TBA

21 Meet the Maestro
Capitol Lounge of CAC
5:30 - 7 pm

Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Our October concert was a great start for the season! The orchestra played beautifully, we had a first rate guest artist and a very enthusiastic audience. I am very proud of our musicians and can't wait for the next concerts.



As the holidays are approaching, a different type of music is ringing in my ears. From festive to solemn, entertaining to profound, it's definitely music for everyone. I was lucky to be in Dublin several years ago and visit the church where Handel's *Messiah* was premiered in 1742. I was moved to be in that place. Although it took one year until it was performed in London and other places, this piece become a staple of the holiday season and one of the most performed oratorios of all time. We have chosen selections from it including the famous "Hallelujah" chorus accompanied by the wonderful Williamsport High School Choir and four excellent soloists from the area. The program will also include traditional Christmas tunes, a sing along and a symphonic suite from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Our own Fiona Powell, radio anchor and storyteller, will be featured as the narrator for the sweet *The Snowman*. This is the perfect concert to bring the entire family, including the little ones who will get treats from the maestro. One of them might even get the chance to conduct.

I hope to see you at the concert and Happy Holidays!!!

Fondly,

22 WSO *The Beauty of Song*
Community Arts Center
7:30 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.

Gerardo Edelstein
Music Director/Conductor

And the Winner Is (a new contest this season)

In place of the "Mystery Piece" in each concert, "WSO Trivia" challenges members of the audience to apply their musical knowledge. The first quiz mirrored the "3 Giants" program.

Question 1-Name four major orchestral and/or choral works by Bach other than orchestral suites.

Answers, among others: *St. Matthew Passion*, *St. John Passion*, *Christmas Oratorio*, and any of the *Brandenburg Concertos*

Question 2-How many symphonies did Brahms write? Which one includes a *Passacaglia*?

Answer: Wrote four; the *Fourth* includes a *Passacaglia*.

Question 3-Name two orchestral works by Beethoven other than the symphonies.

Answer (again among many): *Leonore Overture*, *Fidelio Overture*, *Overture to Ruins of Athens*, *Violin Concertos*

Of the responses submitted, three had correct answers. Of those three, one was pulled to win two tickets to any remaining concert. That entry came from (drum roll): John B. Williman of Lewisburg. Congratulations to him on "besting" Maestro Edelstein's challenging quiz.

Remember to check that program insert at the other concerts and be ready to apply your musical IQ.

Meet the Hoffmanns - Long term Donors and Subscribers

From New York and a position with CBS came Bill Hoffmann to Williamsport where he met Sharon; together since the 70s, they continue to contribute their time and support to the community.

Sharon - a girl scout for over fifty years - became a scout leader and accompanied girls on scouting trips including a 21 days' bus trip to the National Scouting Center in Wyoming, with 24 girls, ages 12 to 14; that trip involved nightly campouts along the way - the full treatment, including food preparation. More comfortable was a trip to Europe with 10 young scouts.



Bill lent his support by also becoming involved. Both Sharon and Bill have served on scout boards. And - yes - Bill owns - and wears as needed - the green blazer and yellow slacks, including in airports, when he accompanies Sharon and the scouts on travels. Their involvement continues now through the next generation of family scouts.

Their community involvements over the years include - among many others - the board of Albright Care (Bill), Recreation Advisory Board (Sharon), Chamber of Commerce (Bill), Family Life Institute (Sharon). Both believe "It is important to give back."

Sharon, whose first career was in education, teaching science and mathematics, is a semi-retired process engineer with the IMC (Innovative Manufacturers Center). Bill retired from his CPA practice of 30 years after a working life in finance.

Their involvement with music comes from the experiences of their youth as Sharon asserts: "I have no musical talent at all and he doesn't either, but we have music in our souls." Sharon was a member of the Williamsport Music Club and as a teen experienced the NYC music scene through visits to Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, and Julliard. She became a member of the Joy Seekers, a singing group, and learned to play the guitar so as to accompany the group. She remembers the group's participation in the City's Bicentennial parade.

Bill's love affair with music began at home where classical music was a constant; then came the attraction of opera - through a birthday present from his father for the Metropolitan Opera's performance of *Die Meistersinger*. Recruited to serve as General Chair of the WSO Endowment Campaign in 2004 - a campaign that exceeded its one million dollar goal - Bill then served on the symphony board until his retirement in January of this year.

Both agree that exposing young people to music is important; they are enthusiastic supporters of the WSO youth outreach programs, including the hosting of school-age groups at each concert.

Subscribers since the Maestro Smedvig era, they agree: "For a city this size, we are fortunate to have the symphony." Both enjoy seeing area musicians featured in the concerts. And this season that enjoyment will be multiplied, as area guest artists are a season feature.

"Time to Rejoice!" - Program notes by Dr. Gary Boerckel

Light Music from an Intellectual Heavyweight

Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* has been part of the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra's holiday concert more frequently than any other piece of music-outdistancing such perennial favorites as *Messiah* and *The Nutcracker*. Anderson was associated with the Boston Pops Orchestra for many years-as both arranger and pianist-and the Pops introduced many of his memorable tunes with catchy titles: "Fiddle Faddle", "The Typewriter", "The Syncopated Clock", "Bugler's Holiday" and "Jazz Pizzicato". No American composer has left a greater legacy of light music for orchestra. Few of the millions



Gary Boerckel

who know and love Anderson's compositions are aware of his "other life" as a linguist and a spy. The son of Swedish immigrants, Anderson grew up speaking English and Swedish. He studied German and Scandinavian languages at Harvard and eventually became fluent in Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, German, French, Italian, and Portuguese. During World War II, the United States Army recognized Anderson's linguistic skills and initially sent him to Iceland as a translator and interpreter. By 1945, Anderson was working in the Pentagon as Chief of the Scandinavian Desk of Military Intelligence.

A New Sacred Oratorio

George Frideric Handel was the most famous composer in Great Britain in 1743, but he was nervous about the London premiere of his new oratorio, which he called *Messiah*. Though born and raised in Germany, Handel had come to England in 1712 as one of the foremost composers of Italian opera-which the English aristocracy had embraced as enthusiastically as Chinese tea. He was extremely successful, and grew wealthy, until the 1730s when interest in Italian opera waned. In 1736, Handel wrote his first oratorio in English and its popularity was encouraging. Today, oratorios-essentially operas with religious plots-are usually heard in churches, but in Handel's day they were performed in theaters by opera companies during Lent, when operas were prohibited. Oratorio had saved Handel's reputation-and his fortune-but until *Messiah* no composer had dared to write an oratorio with Jesus Christ as the subject. Handel knew that public opinion in London was unpredictable, so he gave the first performance of *Messiah* in Dublin and announced that all the proceeds would benefit an orphanage. When planning the London premiere a year later, he called his new work "A New Sacred Oratorio." Dubliners evidently adored *Messiah*, but Londoners were not so easily won over. Newspaper critics complained that such "an exalted subject" had no place in the theater. "A New Sacred Oratorio" survived only a few London performances in 1743, but by the time Handel died in 1759 it was his most beloved composition, and so it has remained for more than 250 years.

Up Close and Personal: The Three Baileys



Dave (trumpet), Diana (saxophones) and Drake (violin) - a musical family you can, on occasion, see onstage in three different sections of the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra: Dave in the 2nd trumpet chair, Drake in the second violin section, and Diana in the wind section when the scores call for one kind of saxophone or another. This season you'll see Drake and Dave on our stage, and you may well see Diana in the pit bands for area high school musicals.

What starts a player's interest in music and who influences him/her always makes a good story. For Dave, it began when he was 6 and his father took him to hear the Count Basie Orchestra at the Corning Glass Center.

At the end of the first signature Blues form with the rhythm section punctuated by Basie's signature "plink-plink" on the piano, I knew at that moment I wanted to be a musician.

Diana began music in 2nd grade as a piano student of neighbor Lola Huber. She was in 7th grade, however, when she started on the saxophone, encouraged by her teacher Dave Bailey (that same Dave Bailey as in the previous paragraphs). He "listened to the raucous tones of my early saxophone playing." Teachers throughout high school and at District Band also encouraged and inspired her.

Both music educators, Dave taught instrumental music, general music and band at elementary, middle and high school levels in Bellefonte and Montoursville for 35 years, retiring in 2005.

We asked Dave what trumpet players he most admires.

Rafael Mendez, Clark Terry, Maynard Ferguson, and several without big names. Wynton Marsalis is so impressive because he lives at the pinnacle of both classical and jazz performance, and is one of the most kind and gracious artists I've ever met, though I must say, I'd pass up a chance to hear any of them in order to sit in a rehearsal or concert next to my favorite trumpet player - Dale Orris.

Diana spoke about women as sax players.

When I see women playing saxophone, more of them do actually play alto. I'm not sure why, however. I have found the biggest disparity in the ratio of men to women in the jazz bands in which I play. In college, I was not the only female in the sax section, I was often the only female in the band. I believe these odds are changing, however. In the Williamsport Community Jazz Orchestra (WCJO) saxophone section, women outnumber the men.

Both Diana and Dave play in the Penn Central Wind Band (Lewisburg) and the Repasz Band. Diana also plays in the WCJO, playing charts from the classic jazz orchestras. Dave plays in the Billtown Brass and the "Tarnished Six," a Dixieland band in State College.

I feel blessed to be where I am. I dare say there are few communities demographically similar to Williamsport that are so replete with so many performance opportunities for good musicians in so many genres

At age 5, son Drake began piano lessons with teacher Alice Nacinovich. Two years later, he began learning violin with Suzuki teacher, Pat Thayer. Through high school, he played in All State Orchestras and in 2006, he auditioned for Maestro Robin Fountain after which he played in the first violin section in the WSO until graduation. Drake spent a year in pre-med at Temple and then transferred to Penn State in the music program. Two years ago, he chose another track and currently is the head cook at one of the busiest restaurants on the Golden Strip - Dolly's Diner. Drake continues as a member of

the WSO playing in the second violin section.

Like sisters/twins Janet and Judy in the clarinet section or the Leidheckers (Aegina, flute; Bob, percussion), the Baileys are another family who share music and sometimes the WSO stage.

Young Artist Competition Winners

Sunday afternoon October 27th, the audience in Mary Welch Honors Hall was treated to an hour and a half of fine student performance. Nine young musicians performed with accompanists for the opportunity to play with the Williamsport Symphony and Williamsport Youth Orchestra. Adjudicators were Karena Creasy, Gerardo Edelstein, and Pat Thayer.

After a fairly lengthy deliberation, the judges returned saying that all competitors were winners for the hard work and talent displayed. Two 15 year olds, however, tied for the winning spot: Allison Graham, a double bass player from Lewisburg and Brian Curtin, violinist from State College. In another unusual decision, two students were chosen as runners-up: violinists William Knauth of Williamsport and Lora Boll of Williamsport will play their selections with the WSYO in the next several months.

Billtown Brass Opens the Holiday Music Season

The "hills [will be] alive with music" through year's end as schools, live entertainment venues, and concerts abound. First up is the Brass, immediately preceding Thanksgiving, with its "Kick Off the Holidays" concert November 24. Last month's newsletter provided information on the program and noted the added attraction of Spencer and the T-Bones.



A performance by Don Henley (of the Eagles) in which he used only trombones in his horn line "gave birth" to the local ensemble. The original four trombones and rhythm section then grew with the addition of Spencer Sweeting, providing the vocals. Yet another "tweak" came with a trade of one 'bone for a baritone sax and the addition of a keyboard player.

The resulting Spencer and the T-Bones will present Kevin Henry's arrangements of "Angels, We Have Heard You're Funky," "Run, Run, Rudolph" and "Latin Drummer Boy." Thus, this kick-off holiday concert will offer both the traditional and the definitely less traditional program-sure to get the "spirits rising."

Tickets are available by calling WSO office at 570-322-0227, at Robert M. Sides Music Center, and at the door. (Only cash or check payments are available at the door)

WSJS-Off to a Great Start

The 30-member Junior Strings opened its season at the First United Methodist Church November 9. In grades 4-8, the young musicians presented the music of Vivaldi, Grieg, and Gliere. In addition, the program included modern composers: Soon Hee Newbold and Robert Harbinson.



Conductor Matt Radspinner and the players look forward to their other performance opportunities as well as to the joint concert with the WSYO in February.

WSYO-Also Off to a Great Start

The season's first appearance of the Youth Orchestra drew a full house at Lycoming College's Clarke Chapel on November 4. Concertmistress Leah Nason led fifty young musicians through the eclectic repertoire referenced in the previous newsletter.



Conductor Dr. William Ciabattari held two auditions to fill out the musician ranks for this season, adding 17 new players to the roster. Among the additions is a harpist (a first for the WSYO). Ciabattari also announced an additional/new performance opportunity for this season; a Chamber performance/solo recital March 30 in Lycoming College's Honors Hall. And a **change of date in February - the concert will be Monday, February 23** (not the 24th as originally scheduled).

Next - though - is the December 8 appearance at the Lycoming Mall at 2 pm.

Eaken Trio holiday CD

Just released is the Eaken's newest CD, *Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. Andrew Rammon, WSO principal cellist, plays with John Eaken (violinist) and Gloria Whitney (pianist). In this recording, you'll hear familiar holiday pieces in arrangements that surprise and delight with every phrase. And, of course, the artistry and compatibility of these players is seamless. If you're interested, contact Andrew Rammon at parammon@yahoo.com. He has an ample supply.



You can hear the Eaken Trio live in a "home for the holidays" concert to benefit the

From the Desk of the ED

November 2013.

There's excitement in the air! I hope you took the opportunity to hear both the Youth Orchestra and the Jr. Strings in their separate performances the first 2 weeks of the month. I hope you will join us to tap your feet to the music of Billtown Brass as they team with Spencer and the T-Bones November 24th. And, as we move towards our holiday concert on December 3rd, I hope you, your family, and friends will experience the joy of live music and join us to sing holiday carols.



Thanks are in order to Andrew Rammon, principal cellist and Jennifer Updegrove, principal first violinist who provided music for the Muncy Historical Society's Annual Artist Exhibition and Sale at the Pennsdale Civic Center. And thank you to the Friends of the Symphony who sponsored the Young Artists' Competition you'll read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

To Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources, season sponsor, our endless gratitude for supporting all the work of the Williamsport Symphony. And our thanks to M&T Bank and Weis Markets for their concert and orchestra sponsorships for the December concert.

Lastly, thank you to the community for your help in keeping our musicians on the stage through your attendance at the concerts and support of our annual fund drive. We hope your lives will continue to be enriched by the music of our talented professional musicians and that of our gifted young people.

Let the music play on!

Janet Harris

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