

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra Newsletter

March 2013

Let's Rock!

March 16, 7:30PM
Community Arts Center

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In This Issue:

[Program Notes](#)

[Youth Programs](#)

[Up Close & Personal](#)

[WSO Calendar 2012-2013](#)

March 2013

12 Raise the Region

16 WSO Let's Rock
7:30 PM at CAC

24 Close Up Concert
3:00 PM at Mary
Lindsay Welch Honors
Hall

April 2013

**2013-2014 Annual
Campaign launch .**

We appreciate your past support and look forward to your support for the next season.

Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Some of you may be thinking, why in the world is the symphony playing rock music, right? Many, many years ago there were only two types of music pretty much: religious or secular. The religious music was played in churches, while the secular,



mostly dances, was played and danced on the streets, at homes or during special occasions. Have you ever thought about how many different musical genres exist today? Pop, Jazz, Metallica, Rap, Reggae, Rock, Folk, Country to name just a few. Classical music is one of those and my favorite, of course, but I also grew up listening to the great bands of the 70's and 80's. And those bands were awesome, made up with real talented musicians! The musical world is richer today with all the different music styles available and many composers in the last century tried to combine some of those styles like Bernstein or Gershwin did with great success. I believe that part of our mission at the Symphony is to reach as many people as we can, showing them that there are no boundaries and prejudices when it comes to

May 2013

6 *Meet the Maestro*
5:30 - 7 PM at the
Capitol Lounge, CAC
For tickets: 570-322-0227

7 WSO Symphonie
Fantastique
7:30 PM at CAC

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[WSO Website!](#)

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SUN-GAZETTE**

Hospitality Sponsor
**Genetti Hotel and
Suites**

good music! Rik Emmett, the Canadian Hall of Fame Guitarist



and his band are going to play great hits by Jimmy Hendrix, Santana, Triumph and Led Zeppelin. The Symphony will accompany these tunes with a full orchestra and arrangements written by Peter Brennan. It is going to be a great night with many nostalgic songs perhaps for some of us but most important of all it will be an opportunity for many to hear a symphony for the first time in their lives.

Let's make sure we bring those first comers back to our Classical fantastic season finale in May!

Fondly,

Gerardo Edelstein
Music Director/Conductor

MASQUERADE 2013



February 23 - an evening of masks music, magic, and merriment - was enjoyed by 150 guests in the comfortable expanse of the CAC mezzanine, lobby, and lounge. Auctioneer Ron Roan assisted by Linda Lundy ran an entertaining sale which benefited the WSO more than \$22,000. The crowd filled the dance floor till closing to the music of Pepper Street Band.

Program Notes by Dr. Gary Boerckel

The four-person Rik Emmett band "Jeans n Classics" joins the symphony orchestra for "Let's Rock"---a marriage of classical and popular music. Rik and his band are musicians with respected resumes in both genres, as well as being educators in various Canadian schools and conservatories.



Orchestras have a long association with popular music: Johann Strauss conducted dance orchestras; pit orchestras accompanied Broadway shows; and orchestras performed "classic pop" arrangements used by both Sinatra and the Beatles. With John Williams came the revival of Hollywood orchestral scores some of which have become symphonic classics, beginning with the *Star Wars* saga. In many ways, classical and pop have often merged; think Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess*, the Philip Glass score for *The Hours* among others.



Demonstrating this marriage of the popular with the classical, Rik Emmett is a song writer, vocalist and guitarist whose style incorporates rock, blues, jazz, classical, bluegrass, and flamenco techniques. Thus he personifies the merger of classical and pop. Emmett is the founding member of the Canadian rock Band *Triumph*, which was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He left the band to pursue a solo career. In addition to performing, Emmett writes for *Guitar Player* and teaches song writing and music business at Toronto's Humber College.

Another Orchestra Retiree

Nora Nugent, a member of the second violin section, is working toward "complete" retirement. After retiring from her "day job" with Geisinger Medical Center, she auditioned for the WSO, joining the orchestra in 2002, working with Maestro Robin Fountain. Through the years, she saw the growth and changes, including the conductor search after Fountain's departure. She ends her tenure with Maestro Edelstein of whom she says: "I believe the orchestra has really blossomed under him."

Nugent has played with the Schuylkill Symphony, the Bloomsburg Community Orchestra and occasionally with the Susquehanna Valley Chorale. She has taught violin in a private studio and has now officially retired from the studio work as well though she has retained a few students with whom she works at her home.



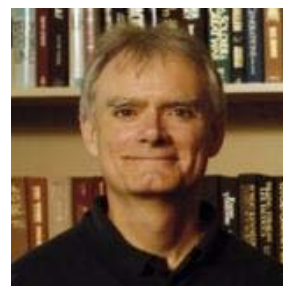
Nora Nugent

WSO exists because of committed, talented musicians like Nora Nugent to whom are extended the best wishes of the Board and the staff.

Be it Time or Money---Without Our Donors, An Empty Stage

Keeping the office functional - Jim Cunningham's donation

Newsletters, websites, email, donor lists, ticketing - standard organization/management needs - all requiring functional computers. When the WSO's computers were deemed non-functional, up stepped Jim Cunningham, the technically astute donor of time. First, he determined the level of need so that the purchases would be sensible. Second, he oversaw the installation. Third, he helped the staff with the conversions. Having retired from his position as Vice president for Information Technology at Pennsylvania College of Technology, Jim contributes his expertise - what he describes as "my way of giving back" - to the WSO ensuring that the staff have the tools to support the organization.



Jim Cunningham

Keeping the musicians on the stage - Daphne Hill

A love story: he from Williamsport, she from New Orleans; they, as grad students, in the same dorm complex at the University of Minnesota; ultimately returning to Williamsport as Doctor and Mrs. Daniel E. Hill.

Having been subscribers to the Minnesota Symphony, Daphne's first question upon the decision to make Williamsport home was, "Is there an orchestra there?" asked early because she was concerned about the availability of season subscriptions (a concern based on their Minnesota experience). And there began the Hills' relationship with the WSO - first with Dan's accepting a position on the board of the then-Susquehanna Valley Orchestra in 1977, under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Holmes Yealy, while Daphne became a member of the Friends of the Symphony. Now, that relationship continues with Daphne's involvement on the Artistic Advisory Committee of the WSO board.

Season subscribers as well as donors since their arrival in 1974, Daphne offers this commentary on the commitment to the arts (she also sits on the CAC board) and to the WSO:

Music has the wonderful ability not only to touch the heart in expressing joy, love, the beauty of nature, hope and grief, but also to heal - definitely to heal.

The healing-through-music became significant in 2008 upon Dan's death. On his "bucket list" was the wish to conduct an orchestra, a wish he shared with Daphne who thereafter gifted him with a conductor's baton early in their marriage. It was with that baton that Maestro Golka conducted a memorial piece. And the love story with music continues through Daphne's creation of the Daniel E. Hill, M.D. Memorial Circle, which also ensures that the musicians remain on the stage.

Youth Programs

Kudos to the Young Musicians and Their Conductors

The Williamsport Symphony's Youth Orchestra (WSYO) and the Junior Strings (WSJS) shared the

stage at the Community Arts Center February 18. The evening also featured the runner-up in this year's Young Artist competition - another WSO outreach activity. Violinist Walker Konkle performed the Viotti "Moderato."

Directed by Matthew Radspinner, the WSJS's 31 players, performed first. The WSYO, directed by William Ciabbattari, then took the stage. That ensemble now numbers 54 musicians; 39 high schoolers and 15 college students. The concert ended with the two groups collaboration on Elliot Del Borgo's *Chant Rituals*.

Eavesdropping during intermission and post-concert provides evidence that the work of the two directors is appreciated, as parents and grandparents reference the discipline and opportunities experienced by the participants. That appreciation is noted even more directly in the following comments from John and Denise VanDeLinde, directed to Dr. Ciabbattari. Expressing, first, their appreciation and recognition of his efforts, they then note: "Everything was well organized; it was a joy to sit back and listen to all the music played. P.S. Bugler's Holiday was so cool."

Up Close & Personal

Meet Sue Laib, principal oboe

Sue's is the first note you hear when the concertmaster quiets the orchestra. The whole orchestra tunes to the oboe's clear, penetrating pitch. We've been fortunate to hear Sue's "voice" in the orchestra for twenty-four years.

In 1989 she came to Mansfield to be a double-reed teacher from the previous four years with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra in Tennessee. While there she taught at Tennessee Tech University. She knew she enjoyed teaching, and Mansfield offered that; the same year she joined the WSO.

Why did she choose the oboe? Both parents were music educators, and her older siblings played instruments: her sister, flute, and her brother, horn. When she was nine, her parents suggested the oboe and she said, "Sure," and she took to it "like a fish to water."

How well a student learns to play, Sue says, "...depends on their natural instincts, the player, and how they're taught. Because the oboe has such a small bore (opening) and small reed, it can create much unnecessary tension in the player. He/she needs to stay relaxed and move the air freely, without creating more obstructions through tension. The player must exhale stale air before inhaling fresh air, and direct the air into that small aperture. The instrument conserves air for you."

Sue holds a degrees from Eastman, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Florida State University. She also is principal oboe in the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (Coning/Elmira, NY) whose music director - Toshi Shimata - was on the short list for the WSO



Sue Laib

MD in our 2008/9 search.

Sue's husband, trombonist Steve McEuen, and thirteen-year old son have a busy life, but when she has free time, she enjoys gardening. We asked what she looks forward to playing in the next several months and she spoke about the Berlioz *Symphony Fantastique*. In one of the movements, she plays a duet with the English horn. It's a romantic conversation in which the English horn calls out and the oboe answers - offstage. She's looking forward to the music itself, but beyond that she's pleased to be playing with her seatmate and friend, Leslie McClelland. At the next concert, look for Sue in the woodwind section directly in front of Maestro Edelstein... and listen for that voice!

February's Mystery Piece Winner

Charlotte-Anne Egger, from Loganton, accurately identified February's "Mystery Piece" as Mozart's Symphony No. 40, 3rd movement. One of the seven who identified the piece correctly, Ms. Egger commented:

It is not often that I have the opportunity to see live professionals perform, and it adds a sort of excitement that cannot be replaced or duplicated through recordings. I enjoy all of your concerts and hope to continue attending.

From the Desk of the ED

March 2013

Hours turn into days when a major fundraising event is planned. Our thanks go to the Friends of the Symphony Committee who spent many volunteer hours creating the successful Masquerade fundraiser! Led by Christine Kaiser, her dedicated committee included Yvonne DiRocco, Jo-Ann Gorski, Mary Louise Kissell, Linda Lundy, Bev McCauley, Dianne Peeling, Miki Rebeck, Tania Thomas, and Cheryl Yoxthimer. They transformed the Community Arts Center into a romantic venue fit for a Phantom. By the way, who was behind that mask? Thank you to the sponsors and many supporters who made the evening memorable, and helped "keep our musicians on the stage."



Janet Harris

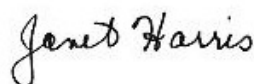
Visions of planets, stars and nebulae swirled behind the musicians when they performed the grand symphony, *The Planets*, by Gustav Holst. Professor Ned Ladd from Bucknell University created the imagery, and the Women of the Lycoming College Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer lifted our spirits to the heavens. Adding to the excitement of the evening were Williamsport natives, Pamela Stahel a musician with the Zurich Opera Orchestra in Switzerland, and Ruth Hunter who joined forces to perform a seldom-heard concerto by Mozart for flute, harp and orchestra.

If you attended the February concert by the Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Junior String program musicians, you were in for a treat. The talent displayed by the young musicians, over 80 in number, was a tribute to our community and the Symphony's commitment to music education. Kudos to conductors Dr. Bill Ciabattari and Matt Radspinner, featured violinist Walker Konkle, and all the musicians! We are very proud of you.

We're excited for our next concert on March 16 which brings the classic rock tunes of Rik Emmett, Eric Clapton, Santana and more performed by Rik Emmett himself and his Jeans 'n Classic Band with Gerardo Edelstein and the orchestra. Thank you to our Concert Sponsor, Lycoming College, Season Sponsor, Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources, and Hospitality Sponsor the Genetti Hotel!

I'll close by adding that the Symphony's annual fundraising campaign kicks off this spring with levels of giving for all budgets. Also, we are participating in the Raise the Region fundraising program with the First Community Foundation on March 12. If you keep in mind that ticket sales account for only 30% of the Symphony's expenses, we hope you will consider a donation and help us keep our wonderful musicians on the stage for your music enjoyment!

Let the music play on!



Fan Mail

Of the February concert, an anonymous audience member wrote:

"Last night's concert was such a winner. For all of the 53 minutes I was mesmerized by the music and the images. Today I keep remembering the sound of that large orchestra - it sounded like one instrument.

The strings had such a depth of sound. All sections did actually. Six horns...the low brass..Bill's tuba...Bill Kenny's solos, and the trumpets - clear and cutting...so commanding. The woodwinds played w/ precision and delicacy. Percussion - Wow. Harps and Gary's celeste (if that's what it was) added such color as did those large instruments in the wind section.

As I listened and watched the interstellar images, I sort of forgot which came first - the music or the photography. Most of the players weren't aware of that, but what we were seeing and the orchestra sound seemed wedded somehow.

It was a wonderful collaboration - the Lycoming women, the orchestra, Ned Ladd's videos, the support of the CAC guys. Thanks to all of those. I haven't even been imbibing, and I'm still euphoric."