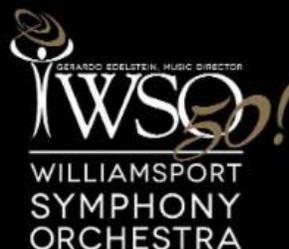


2016 - 2017 SEASON

Celebrating the past,
Looking forward to the *Future...*



Anniversary E-Newsletter - *Special Issue*

2016-2017 Calendar

October 2016

- 14 Friends' Gala
Williamsport Country Club
5:30-10:00pm
- 17 Meet the Maestro
Capitol Lounge, CAC
5:30-7:00 pm
- 18 WSO Season Opener
CAC, 7:30pm

November 2016

- 06 Youth Orchestra & Junior
Srtings
Clarke Chapel, Lycoming
College, Williamsport
5:30pm
- 19 Billtown Brass
Williamsport High School
Auditorium, 3:00pm

December 2016

- 13 Holiday Concert
CAC, 7:30pm

February 2017

- 14 Resurrection
CAC, 7:30pm

Dear WSO Supporter,

"Urge to Provoke" represents the vibrancy of the WSO's golden anniversary year. So much has been, is, and shall be happening that there was provocation enough to issue this Anniversary Edition of the newsletter, adding to the normal six season editions.



From July to September

Pops in the Park in Muncy, Milton, and Williamsport - outdoors and rain-forced indoors - brought smiles, extended applause, appreciative audiences. "No one better" was one



comment from an audience member as he left Clarke Chapel after the Brass concert. That the First Community Partnership (aka Williamsport Foundation) chose to make the WSO concert its

March 2017

05 Youth Orchestra and Junior Strings
CAC, 4:00pm

18 Broadway Celebration
CAC, 7:30pm

May 2017

16 Happy 50th!
CAC, 7:30pm

For more information, please visit
www.williamsportsymphony.org

The 50 for 50 Campaign



That's fifty dollars for fifty years - the anniversary campaign. See the slide trombone meter that accompanies the WSO appearances all season to see the progress. One board member demonstrated his commitment by purchasing pins to go to each donor; the board itself boasts 100% commitment. The Vein Center and anniversary honorary chairs Michael & Lyneah Hudock have offered to match the first \$7,500 (that's one hundred fifty \$50 gifts). Throughout the season, donors' names will be listed in the concert programs. The goal-1,000 donors. To add your \$50 to this campaign, visit williamsportsymphony.org

eighth gift to the community allowed for not just glorious music but also a spectacular laser show. One young attendee (age 4) kept reaching up, trying to touch those rays of light when he took a break from his fancy footwork in front of his seat.

In addition, the WSO had a presence at the First Fridays from July to September with live music to entertain the up/down the streets of town along with information about the season. In addition, there was the presence, again with music, for Williamsport Welcomes the World, part of the Little League World Series activity. As the staff/board members who "worked" this event noted-WOW! The foot traffic amazed along with the conversations and shared stories like "our symphony orchestra in San Antonio..." from those who stopped to visit.

"Urge to Provoke" - the visual arts support the musical arts

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra



In Concert With The Community

Fred Gilmour's artwork is used for the anniversary logo.

Available for purchase, as a fundraiser for the WSO, the framed or unframed prints are signed and numbered with a certificate of authenticity. The original, a framed 11 ½ by 14 ¼ piece, is a mixed media

acrylic painting. As one-of-a-kind, it is also available for purchase with a price of \$450. The "logo" piece with the painting as a background, again one-of-a-kind, is priced at \$350. Interested? Check with the office and/or pick up an order form at a WSO event. Orders for the framed or unframed prints end October 30 so as to allow for holiday gifting for those so inclined.

Urged to Recognize Those Who Came Before: "on their shoulders..."



Musicians and music directors from the past 50 years were identified and - as was possible - contacted by snail mail or email. The outcome: a significant number responded to the inquiry and accepted the invitation to attend Meet the Maestro and/or the October 18 concert. A previous newsletter included several of their responses to

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which we add these:

From Wendy Johnson (formerly Hemmendinger) violin, 1994-99: *Being one of the youngest members was special for me. As a point of information: she won the Young Artists' Competition (scheduled this season for September 24, another of the Friends projects) before joining the WSO. Thus she followed in the steps of retired principal bassoonist Richard Campbell who won that same competition some 40 years earlier.*

From Jeffrey Tedford, violin 2003-11: *I have played with several orchestras since leaving Williamsport and, while many are comparable musically, very few have had the welcoming and community spirit that the WSO provides. Now on the faculty of Grove City College, Tedford began his academic career in the storied music program of the Williamsport School District.*

From British Columbia, Juanita Serang, a violinist in the mid-70s to 80s, provided this update along with the news that she will be attending the October Meet the Maestro and the concert: her music education began in Oakland, CA and included San Jose State University. She joined the symphony in that city; from there to Washington state and on to British Columbia where she joined two orchestras. *While many dear old friends are gone, others continue to brighten life in Williamsport* she noted as she contemplates her return to the city.

It is appropriate to note that the contacts with the former players is the work of another former player/violinist, Georgia Burch, 1980-2008. Now a supporter/fan of the WSO, she is a member of the Anniversary Planning Group.

The anniversary provokes - and urges - the Three R's (Revelry, Relationships, Reality)



**Friends of the Symphony
and many more!**

Revelry is the promise of the Friends of the Symphony who are completing the preparations for the Anniversary Gala, scheduled for Friday, October 14, at the Williamsport Country Club. The WSO string musicians during cocktail hour give way to the beat of the Pepper Street Band luring dancers to the floor. In between are some "interesting" games, dinner and the chance to interact with the 200 guests. 'Tis a dressy-but-not-stuffy evening out.

Relationships are epitomized by The Friends of the Symphony; their working and supportive relationships fuel their efforts including organizing Meet the Maestro scheduled for the CAC., October 17. At the same time, Friends has initiated its annual membership campaign: another way to demonstrate support for the WSO.

Reality has to do with money - Fundraising - the bane and the reality of all non-profits. There is the 50/50 campaign and the sale of the art. At the same time, corporate donors are being solicited to recognize this special season through program ads and contributions. Local restaurateurs, merchants, businesses, professional services within the region should aim to be included in the donor lists this season. Add, too, the sale of the "Best of WSO's Fifty Years" CD and the Billtown Brass holiday CD. The staff, the Friends, and the board have extended their efforts this season; they seek now to have the support of the region served by the WSO.

Anniversaries Bespeak History



History is variously defined, including this from Voltaire: "the lie commonly agreed upon." To which we say: "*au contraire* in the case of the WSO." The commitment to explore the past lives of the orchestra, both the distant past - the 1915 start - through what we call the "modern orchestra" - with the 1966 start - has yielded one over-riding, significant truth (not a lie): "What's past is prologue" (so said Shakespeare) in the case of the orchestra. Consider this sampling of historic facts:

- Pops in the Park - Brandon Park, that is: first record of it is 1956, with 1,000 attending. The Muncy concert approximated that number
- Young Artists' Competition - initiated in 1954; after a stoppage, returned in 1972, providing the winner the opportunity to perform with the WSO (as will

happen in the December concert)

- Concerts in the CAC: the December 1948 and 1949 concerts when the CAC was the Capitol Theater and before the CAC became the orchestra's "home" in 1993
- Youth Orchestra - 1986; continued and extended its presence via pre-concert lobby performances and First Friday involvement
- Local guest artists - 1947 forward ; the October concert will feature principal cellist Andrew Rammon
- Meet the Maestro (and its many early iterations) - in 1955, for example, the Art of Listening Series; October 14 is the first for this season. Early reservations are necessary, since this Meet the Maestro includes two former Music Directors and former players
- Family Concerts (regrettably in hiatus the past several years -that reality business intrudes-but a commitment to return) - 1950s
- Commissioned pieces - first noted in 1992; May's concert features the work of another contemporary composer
- Concert sponsorship - regional corporate entities were major contributors, including every bank in the area; additional sponsorship opportunities allow supporters to announce their commitment
- Connectivity to local schools and colleges - Williamsport school district's 1947 survey to determine local interest in the formation of a symphony orchestra; local faculty members as orchestra members (began in distant past through present); appearance of the Lycoming College choir with the symphony, first reference 1949; featured this season for Mahler's Resurrection
- Commitment to the community - participated in the 2007 County Big Read program (via an NEH grant), the only one of the national projects with a symphony component; 2008 Family concert served as a fundraiser for the SPCA
- Commitment of the community - represented by Friends of the Symphony (1982-present), succeeding the Symphony Society of 1948 and the Orchestra Guild of 1974. That commitment in the 1998-99 season, for example, included sponsorship and organization of the Gala Dinner, Holiday Boutique, Symphony Sundays, Gala evening shopping event and lunches for musicians.

With the help of sponsors, donors, and in-kind gifts plus the "sweat equity" of Friends (the list above demonstrates that group's commitment), the present will morph into the past as the organization moves into its next fifty years, having met the challenge of keeping the musicians on the stage. (Editors' note: in celebration of the anniversary, the preceding is a 50 word grammatically correct sentence.)