

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra E-Notes **March 2018**

2017-2018 Calendar

17 WSO concert #4
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm tickets: 570-326-2424 or www.caclive.com

April 2018 - **ADDED EVENT**

29 **Friends of the Symphony**
Brunch - a family event
Herman & Luther's Historic Barn
Noon - Adult \$40 / Child \$20 / 5 and under free
RSVP 570-322-0227

May 2018

14 Behind the Scenes
with Gerardo and Friends
Capitol Lounge of CAC
5:30- 7:00 pm - \$30/person

15 WSO concert #5
Community Arts Center
7:30 pm tickets: 570-326-2424 or www.caclive.com

For more info:
www.williamsportsymphony.org or
570-322-0227

Special thanks to our sponsors!



Conductor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your wonderful comments and positive vibes we got after our last concert, the musicians and I appreciate it very much!



If you are still humming the gorgeous melodies from Dvorak's "New World" Symphony and cannot get those tunes out of your head, I invite you to come to our WSO upcoming concert featuring the most popular classical pieces from all time!

Our guest soloist is Max Zorin who returns to town to perform the well known Spring from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, one of the first programmatic violin concertos ever written. He is also going to be the soloist of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" or Gypsy Airs, a piece with a blazing dance in the most brilliant Gypsy manner energized by an entire fusillade of violin pyrotechnics.

More dances are in the program starting with Strauss' "Blue Danube" Waltz featured in Stanley Kubrick's "2001 A Space Odyssey" film and the famous "Sabre Dance" by Armenian composer Khachaturian followed by "Hoe Down" from Copland's Ballet "Rodeo".

Two exciting overtures will open each half, Bizet's *Carmen* and Bernstein's *Candide* and we will close the concert with one of the most popular pieces by Tchaikovsky, his 1812 Overture, written in 1880 to commemorate Russia's victory over Napoleon's invading forces. There will be no live canons, but we will make sure we make enough noise to emulate those strenuous explosions!

This is the perfect concert to bring your families and friends and introduce people to classical music. They will not be disappointed!

What a perfect way to kickoff the Spring season!!! I am looking forward to seeing you all at the concert!

Fondly,

Gerardo Edelstein

Lollipops

The WSO's March program includes ten orchestral gems composed over the last 300 years--music known and loved by audiences everywhere. The witty English conductor Sir Thomas Beecham called such pieces "lollipops." Because they are so well known, "lollipops" often figure in musical anecdotes. According to one, Beecham was conducting Verdi's *Aida* on an evening when things went awry during the *Triumphal March*. Verdi's victorious Egyptian army usually includes a few horses and that night one of them, who was not properly "prepared" beforehand, cocked his tail and relieved himself in full view of the audience. Once the laughter had subsided, Beecham turned around to face the auditorium and proclaimed: "A distressing spectacle, to be sure, but, Gad, what a critic."



During the *Gilded Age*--the late 1800s--America was known to European musicians as the land of big ideas...and big money. In 1872, Johann Strauss II was invited to conduct his *Blue Danube* at the World's Peace Jubilee in Boston. When he arrived, he discovered that he was to direct 20,000 singers accompanied by an orchestra of over 1000 for an audience of 100,000. Expressing his dismay, Strauss was assured that 20 assistant conductors would make sure all went smoothly. A cannon shot was the signal to begin. Strauss later told his friends that, after his downbeat, "there broke out an unholy racket such as I shall never forget. As we had begun more or less together, I concentrated on seeing that we should finish together, too. Thank heaven, I managed it!" After the concert, Strauss collected his \$100,000 fee, made a short tour in which he doubled his money, and went home to Vienna.

Fun Reading

If you enjoy humorous insights into music history, there are two scholars whose writing you might want to explore. Harold C. Schonberg was chief music critic for the New York Times for many years. His *The Great Pianists* [1964], *The Great Conductors* [1967], *The Lives of the Great Composers* [1970] and other books are informative, lucid, and filled with memorable stories. Nicolas Slonimsky studied in imperial Russia, taught at the Boston Conservatory, conducted the first performances of works by Ives and Varèse, and edited the prestigious *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*. Slonimsky also edited the *Lexicon of Musical Invective* [1953, 1965], a brilliant compilation of the vicious things critics and colleagues have written about the great composers from Bartók to Webern.

How does Maestro Edelstein craft the season?

Not by sitting alone in his office, although he does do that, too. No, the maestro enlists the assistance of the Artistic Advisory Committee (AAC) - a group created by the WSO Board of Trustees. AAC members - an intrepid group - bring the benefit of their knowledge and experience to help shape the season.

And what a diverse and enthusiastic group it is! Yes, there are musicians, but also music educators, retired teachers, an investment banker (who is also a musician), a retired finance executive (who was never a musician, but who loves music), among others.



The AAC starts its work on the upcoming season well before the current season is even halfway concluded. The maestro prepares a list of possible pieces for review, including at least six alternative choices for symphonies, overtures, concerti, choral works, and Pops for the upcoming season. The committee members then set to work listening to all the works and determining their favorites in each genre. A tough job, but someone has to do it!

Meeting in late January we voted our favorites within each genre. Voting was very tight and some tie-breaker vote rounds had to be taken more than once. All this accomplished with one of the committee members even listening in on her cell phone to vote.

With the most favored pieces for WSO's three classical and two Pops concerts in hand, Gerardo sets the season and it's back to the committee for another round of review before finalizing the 2018-2019 season.

This is a labor of love by all involved. We even took a selfie to commemorate our efforts!

We hope you are enjoying the current season - a result of the same process.

Featured Friend of the Month - Miki Rebeck



This month's featured Friend is Miki Rebeck! Miki has served as Co-chair of Friends and as the Treasurer for eight years. She is the hostess and coordinator for all of the popular after concert receptions in the Capitol Lounge . Miki works tirelessly and enthusiastically at all the Friends fundraisers.

In her daily life, Miki works as a voice coach. Always involved in the arts, Miki has performed with the Community Theatre League, Studio 570, church choir, and many more.



Once again the Williamsport Symphony is participating in Raise the Region - First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania's 30-hour regional fundraising event.

We invite you to make a contribution to the Williamsport Symphony. Your contribution provides over 30 concerts and educational programs, and serves over 9,000 children and adults!

Your contribution keeps ticket prices affordable and free for students, brings local and regional schools to a Symphony concert to learn about and experience orchestral music, provides transportation and reduced rate tickets to senior living communities, provides educational lectures and performance opportunities for local artists, trains future Yo-Yo Ma's and Wynton Marsalis's through our Youth Orchestra and Junior Strings program, and more.

Mark your calendar! On Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM through midnight on Thursday, March 15th the public is encouraged to visit www.raisetheregion.org and select the Williamsport Symphony to support. Your gift will be stretched by a generous contribution from Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships and help us qualify for additional monetary prizes. All gifts are tax deductible and will help make your WSO's mission possible.

Your kind generosity makes our community a better place in which to live.

Let the music play on!

Janet

Quick Links

Williamsport Symphony Orchestra
220 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701
570-322-0227



For information and tickets [Visit our website!](http://www.raisetheregion.org)