

NEWS NOTES

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Upcoming Events

March 3-14, 2009

Student Art Show
Eau Claire Regional
Arts Center Gallery

March 14, 2009

Myths and Legends
Young Artist Winner
Jocelyn Schendel plays.
7:30 p.m.
The State Theatre

May 9, 2009

An Eau Claire Story:
World premier by Dennis
Luginbill
7:30 p.m.
The State Theater

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Join us to experience story through music at our Myths and Legends concert, Saturday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the State Theatre at the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center .

Opening the evening will be *Finlandia*, by Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius. He was born in 1865 when Finland was a part of the Russian empire. *Finlandia* was composed in 1899, the year Czar Nicholas II further restricted the Finns. Many artists protested and Sibelius added to the protests by writing a series of six tableaux depicting scenes from the history of Finland. The final tableau, titled "Finland Wakes" became the most popular and he reworked it into this composition.

Aladdin Suite by Danish composer Carl Nielsen is based on the Middle-Eastern folk tale. Aladdin is tricked by a sorcerer to retrieve an oil lamp from a magic cave. Trapped in the cave, Aladdin rubs his hands over the ring the sorcerer gave him, which turns out to be magic. Aladdin escapes the cave, becomes rich and powerful, and marries the Emperor's

daughter. The sorcerer wants the lamp and does every trick he can think of to get it back but Aladdin ultimately defeats the sorcerer.

Our program will also feature the Kristo Orthodontics Young Artist Competition winner Jocelyn Schendel. She will be performing the final movement of Elgar's Cello Concerto. See page two for more information on Ms. Schendel and her debut with the Chippewa Valley Symphony.

The folk take theme continues with Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*. Composed in 1910 for Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, it tells the story of Prince Ivan's journey through the magical country of Kashchei the Immortal. In the garden Ivan catches the Firebird. It begs him to grant it freedom in exchange for future assistance. Prince Ivan agrees.

Ivan falls in love with one of Kashchei's 13 daughters and ask his permission to marry. Kashchei denies Ivan and sends magical creatures after Ivan. The Firebird rescues the Prince and helps him kill Kashchei. Ivan and the princess live happily ever after.

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KRISTO ORTHODONTICS YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION WINNER JOCELYN SCHENDEL



“Her playing was full of passion and emotion,” said CVS Music Director Nobu Yasuda, “and we were captivated by her musical intensity throughout her performance.” That passion and skill earned Jocelyn Schendel this year’s Young Artist Competition’s top prize.

Jocelyn, 16, performs in a piano trio and has had years of experience playing in the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies. Recognition of her ability as a cello soloist includes two Schubert Club/Undercofler Scholarships awarded by the Saint Paul Conservatory, a MacPhail Center Honors Recital, Minnesota Orchestra concerto semifinalist and Thursday Musical Young Artist winner. In January, she performed in a Rodney Farrar Master Class. In April she will be a concerto soloist with the Dakota Valley Symphony.

Jocelyn studies with Mr. Peter Howard, retired principal cello of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

She is a junior at Champlin Park High School in Champlin, MN.

Jocelyn’s other interests include competitive swimming, time spent with friends, and savoring all things chocolate.

HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

The Kristo Orthodontics’ Young Artist Competition is open to young musicians between 14 and 18 years of age. Each contestant submitted a recording of a concerto or aria between 8 and 16 minutes long. The recordings were judged and six finalists were selected to perform on January 25. They were:

Second Place: Maggie Schenk, flute, Madison, WI
Mozart: Gordeli Flute Concerto in D.

Third Place: Kate Van de Loo, piano, Eau Claire
Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2, III mvt.

Cole Hanson, Alto Saxophone, Hixton, WI
Muczynski: Concerto for Saxophone, III mvt.

Alyssa Borell, flute, Ripon, WI
Reinecke: Flute Concerto, III mvt.

Abby Patchet, piano, Eau Claire
Mendelssohn: Piano Concerto in D minor, I mvt.

- First prize is \$800 and an opportunity to perform as the featured guest artist with the Chippewa Valley Symphony.
- Second place wins \$200 and third wins \$100.

Thank you to Kristo Orthodontics and the UW-Eau Claire Department of Music for sponsoring this event.

Grace Notes

A recent nation-wide study showed that 74% of classical music concert ticket-buyers played an instrument at one time.

Monaco’s national orchestra is larger than its army. Another reason to appreciate the late Princess Grace.

MEET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY MICHELLE JENSEN



The chance to represent the Chippewa Valley Symphony tempted Mark Blaskey of Altoona to emerge from semi-retirement last summer to become the just the fourth executive director in 34 years.

Blaskey arrived in the Chippewa Valley 30 years ago fresh from UW-Madison to work as a civil engineer at Ayres Associates. A few years later he started his own consulting firm and five years ago re-kindled his interest in metal sculpting. This background of successfully running a business and the friendships he forged with many Chippewa Valley businesses and community members allows him to share his love of music.

“Music has been a fundamental part of all aspects of my life,” Blaskey said.

As a 4-year-old boy in Antigo, he banged homemade drum sticks on the next-door neighbor’s new aluminum siding, denting it in the process. Although the neighbor, a music teacher, complimented him on his sense of rhythm and suggested he take up drums, Blaskey’s parents steered him toward the trumpet, “because my uncle gave me one,” he said. “The peak of my trumpet playing was five years with Mike Leckrone and UW-Madison Marching Band.”

Over the years, he taught himself to play the guitar. His wife, Emily, a physical therapist at St. Joseph’s Hospital, said that he carries a deep appreciation for music, as both as an artistic and academic pursuit. The couple make it a practice to attend local, live-music events as often as possible.

Blaskey saw the symphony’s executive director position as an entry to a widely respected facet of Eau Claire’s live music scene. He immediately identified several business goals, such as increasing already strong ticket sales and updating the web site with audio and video clips and using it to introduce the CVS to a wider audience.

The one thing that Blaskey has not worried about as he runs the symphony’s business is the orchestra itself. “That is in the care of our dynamic Music Director, Nobu Yasuda, and 65 talented musicians,” he said. “I merely clear the hurdles so they can perform. It’s an excellent orchestra and a wonderful organization to promote to the community.”

Michelle Jensen is Managing Editor of Triad Publications, LLC.



REMEMBERING A.J. ANDERSON

“To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable.”

—Aaron Copland

Alfred J. Anderson, through his estate, has kept the music flowing at the CVS. Mr. Anderson, who volunteered as the early manager of the orchestra, died in 2007. His gift is the largest ever received by the CVS. A portion of the gift will be used to purchase a bass drum and a high-quality keyboard. Currently we borrow a bass drum from UWEC and a keyboard from Morgan Music. The remaining funds are invested with the Chippewa Valley Symphony Foundation for the long-term needs of the orchestra.

Mr. Anderson was vitally important in the early days. He set up an office and did everything needed to organize the business aspects of the symphony. He never failed to speak his mind and his legacy lives on with his generous final gift to the symphony.

Chippewa Valley Symphony

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Development Director: Barb Brenden
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Music you love by People you know

SUPPORT THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY SYMPHONY

You will be receiving in the mail soon information on our annual development campaign. While times are tough, we want to reassure you that we are in solid financial condition mainly through your generous support. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helps us bring the joy of music to the Chippewa Valley. Thank you.

Support the Chippewa Valley Symphony

I/We wish to make a gift to the CVS CVS Foundation. My/Our commitment will be completed as detailed below (complete all spaces that apply):

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