

NEWS NOTES

POPS AND CELEBRATE!

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The sleigh bells will be ringing when Music Director Nobuyoshi Yasuda starts the Christmas Pops Concert with *Sleigh Ride* on December 13. Leroy Anderson's classic, which has been recorded by nearly everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to the Muppets, sets the tone for a delightful afternoon at the State Theatre, starting at 2:00 p.m.

The Pops concert is general admission. Use the coupon included with this newsletter to bring a youth for free with one paid adult.

A medley of favorite Christmas memories will be followed by *The Bells of Christmas* and *Christmas at the Movies*.

At intermission enjoy a cup of hot Swiss Miss and cookies before returning to hear a medley of carols, including *How Great Our Joy*, *Away in a Manger* and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, among others, sung by the Chippewa Falls High School Choir, Ron Buckles, Director, accompanied by the CVS.

And then it is your turn to sing as Nobu conducts us all in a Holiday Sing-Along. As you leave, grab a cup of Swiss Miss for the road.

In the evening, the orchestra returns for another concert starting at 7:30.

G. F. Handel's *Overture from Music for the Royal Fireworks* opens the concert. Composed in 1749 to celebrate a treaty between France and England, it is filled with pomp, splendor and optimism.

Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock, composed in 1926, is based on a set of Renaissance dances and tells the story of a lawyer, Capriol, who wishes to learn to dance. Maybe that is what need today: more dancing lawyers.

Taking a modest tune from a Welsh hymn, Ralph Vaughan-Williams composed *Rhosymedre*. Also known as *Lovely*, this 1920 composition takes a simple melody and soars into a piece of grand feel and scale.

"The Walk to Paradise Garden" by Frederick Delius is from his opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet*.

Handel returns with *Water Music*, the music so lovely King George I had the musicians play it over and over until they were exhausted.

The Chippewa Falls High School Choir returns to perform the medley of carols.

We wish you well this holiday season and we extend our deepest gratitude to you, our concert-goers, and to our sponsors: Lasker Jewelers, Nohre & Co., Sound Installations Inc. and Swiss Miss.

Keep music in your heart this season and always.



Upcoming Events

November 22, 2008

Friends of the Symphony
Christmas Stroll
1:00-6:00 p.m.

December 12, 2008

Kristo Orthodontics
Young Artist Competition
Submission Deadline

December 13, 2008

2:00 p.m. Pops Concert
7:30 p.m. Celebrate!
The State Theatre

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MEET THE MUSICIANS

This is part of a continuing series of articles about CVS musicians. In this issue, we introduce you to two of the most visible members of the orchestra: Principal Cellist Mark Steidinger and Principal Percussionist/Tympanist Brittany Kaye Zold.

Mark Steidinger: Cello

Mark is playing his 29th season with the CVS. The CVS was just getting started when Mark was a music education major at UWEC. He was playing in the University Orchestra under Roy Bennett, who was also Mark's theory teacher. Bennett was going to conduct the CVS and he told Mark: "You want to play in the community orchestra, don't you?" Given that imperative, Mark joined the CVS and played two years before graduating and moving to Minnesota to teach high school band and orchestra. "I played the euphonium in the marching band, which helped me get hired to teach," he said.

He taught for five years when his wife, Jana, was hired by UW-Stout and they moved to Menomonie. Mark re-joined the CVS and has played ever since. Only founders Dale Young and Bill Eisenbarth have been with the CVS longer.

Originally from Platteville, Mark started cello in 5th grade and played in the high school orchestra from 6th grade on. "I played at seven graduations. I got a bit tired of playing *Pomp and Circumstance*."

Mark has worked in banking since getting hired by First Bank and Trust when they moved to Menomonie. "I've done everything in a bank except be president and make loans."

In what may be the most eclectic tastes of anyone in the orchestra, Mark's music listening ranges from bluegrass, classic jazz and orchestral to 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and more. "I like 'Good Music' and I don't care if it was composed 1,000 years ago or yesterday," he said.

Among his many memories of playing with the CVS, the best are playing when Mark and Paula Kosower were guest artists. "I remember when they were born," he said, "and then they end up playing with us."

"It's been fun to see the explosion in the orchestra over these 30-some years," he said. "When we started we were playing just above the level of a high school orchestra and there were barely 100 people—our friends and family—in the audience. Now sometimes we play for 1,000 people. And I have to practice, which is a wonderful thing. I can't get by playing what we played 30 years ago because we are playing new and more challenging repertoire."

Brittany Kaye Zold: Percussion

Brittany started playing violin in 5th grade at Boyd School in Eau Claire. When the family moved to Crandon in 1994 there was no orchestra so she switched to percussion. They rented a house once owned by the very prolific composer/arranger/teacher Harold W. Rusch. "In an old, unplugged refrigerator in the basement I found originals of his compositions," she said.

In 2001 she entered UWEC. She said, "My family wanted me to be a doctor, so I was a biology/pre-med major, but with a minor in music." In keeping with her musical interest, she joined the CVS in the fall of 2001.

After her sophomore year she attended a two-week music camp taught by marimba player Nancy Zeltsman. Brittany was dedicated: "We had to bring our own five-octave marimba to the camp. Do you know how big they are?" she said. The camp set her in a new direction. "Those two weeks opened up my life. I never felt so alive as I did there playing music all the time."



She returned to UWEC, switched to majoring in music and along with her two sisters joined the Army Reserve. "I'm an Army brat. My Dad served 25 years. When my younger sister saw a recruiter he talked my other sister and me into joining. Three of us." Brittany now plays in the 451st Army Band at Fort Snelling.

She graduated from UWEC in 2006 with a double major in music and biology.

One of her favorite memories is when she was named principal and the orchestra played *An American in Paris* and *West Side Story*, "two pieces heavy with percussion that I had to organize."

Classical music dominates her iPod playlist but she also has a fondness for local-band-gone-national Bon Iver.

Brittany lives in Eau Claire with her husband, Jacob.

"Playing under Nobu has made me a better musician. It's been a wonderful experience. If I have to leave and go on active duty I will miss it very much."

FRIENDS OF THE SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS STROLL

The Friends of the Symphony are hosting their Christmas Stroll on Saturday, November 22. Join with others to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with a tour of six special, beautifully decorated homes in Eau Claire, open from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Musicians will play holiday music at each home from 1:30-3:00 and 3:30-5:00.

Enjoy complimentary coffee and Christmas cookies from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at Chapel Heights United Methodist Church, 300 E. Hamilton, to add to the festive spirit!

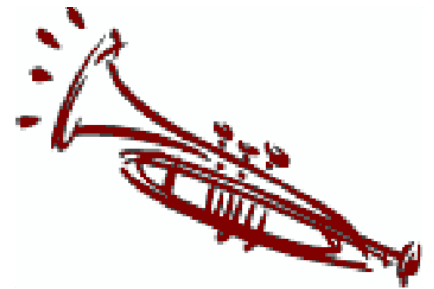
Decorated gingerbread cookies baked by The Friends

will be available for sale at the church. This is a great way to get a head start on your holiday baking.

Tickets will be available at the church on Saturday for \$10, or in advance at the Symphony office, and at:

Festival Foods
May's Floral
The Potting Shed
Ron's Castle Foods
Willow on Water St.
Mega East and West

Stroll, look, listen
and nibble.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Just a reminder for our young musicians: The 2009 Kristo Orthodontics Young Artist Competition submission deadline is December 12. First place is \$800 and a performance with the CVS in March. Now in its 21st year, many of the young artists have gone on to professional musical careers.

And a reminder that I'm always available to talk to your organization about the CVS. We have two wonderful, short DVDs from last season that I can show: Concert highlights and the WQOW-produced piece about Nobu and the musicians.

This is a wonderful season to share the *Music you love by People you know*. Let me share some with your organization.

Mark Blaskey



RAY KILBURN AND THE FLY

During the afternoon of the October 18 concert guest pianist Ray Kilburn was practicing on stage while a fly buzzed around his head, getting in his eyes and ears. He told me how years earlier as a guest artist one night he was playing up the keyboard when he saw a fly sitting on an upper key. As his fingers approached the fly it left. A moment later he had a run down the keyboard and there was the fly again. "I spent 20 minutes chasing that fly back and forth. I played okay, but I was always worried about that fly getting in the way," he said. As he told me the story the fly buzzed around him...and only him.

After dinner I put a fly swatter in the piano. Ray had

it ready as he warmed up. From the back row, Principal Horn Verle Ormsby heard the discussion and said, "Maybe that fly is Brahms." That stopped us and made us think, but no fly showed during warm-up.

Thirty minutes later the concert started. Ray sat at the piano and started listening to the five-minute orchestral introduction. The fly returned and flew around only Ray. He said, "I thought 'I'm going to be chasing this fly for the next 45 minutes.'" But just as the orchestral introduction was ending, he flew back toward the rear of the orchestra and I never saw him again."

Mark Blaskey

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Music You Love by People You Know

SUPPORT THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY SYMPHONY

Normally this section of the newsletter contains a form for contributing money to the symphony, but there are other ways to make a contribution:

- Buy season tickets.
- Bring friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to concerts.
- Give a gift certificate.
- Make a point to tell three people how much you enjoy the symphony and Nobu.
- Join the Friends of the Symphony. The Friends put on the Holiday Stroll each November and the Garden Stoll each June. The Friends are an energetic group and an integral part of the symphony's success.
- Volunteer in the office:
 - Database management of our development program
 - Web site development
 - Edit photos for the web and other promotional work
 - Help with various mailings.
 - Write for the web and the newsletter
 - Distribute flyers, brochures, posters
 - Paint our offices (I've had the paint since May!)
 - Curate our archive of programs, posters, flyers, tapes
- Volunteer at a concert:
 - Tally our concert-goers as they enter the theatre.
- Take our old computers to the recyclers.