

NEWS NOTES

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A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Welcome to our 2007 – 2008 season!

We'll be starting the season with "A Night at the Opera" on Saturday, October 20th. Conductor Nobuyoshi Yasuda admits that "until a few years ago, I was not interested in attending opera at all," but since then has become "fanatical about opera." With the exciting selections in "A Night at the Opera," we're sure that all will enjoy the performance.

The concert will feature guest artists Alison Bates, Christin-Marie Hill, and Christian Reinert, Resident Artists from the Minnesota Opera.

The program begins with Rossini's overture, 'The Barber of Seville,' which has been made famous by cartoons starring Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry, and Daffy Duck.

Following the overture are two arias from Saint-Saëns 'Samson and Delilah.' When Saint-Saëns began composing the work in 1868, it's staging in France was met with much resistance because of the Biblical subject matter. It wasn't actu-

ally performed in France until 1890, when it premiered in Rouen.

Next, we'll hear two arias from Charles Gounod's 'Romeo et Juliet.' Inspired by Shakespeare's tragic story, this opera in five acts was first premiered in Paris in 1867.

After the intermission, we'll hear the first act of Giuseppe Verdi's 'La Traviata.' 'La Traviata' is third on Opera America's list of the 20 most-performed operas in North America. It follows only 'Madama Butterfly' and 'La Boheme.' The first act introduces us to Violetta, a courtesan who is throwing a party to celebrate her recovery from illness. Here, she meets Alfredo, who visited her home every day of her illness. Alfredo confesses his love and Violetta at first rejects him, but then gives him a flower, asking him to return to her when the flower has wilted. At the end of the first act, Violetta wonders if she could love Alfredo, but decides she needs independence and freedom for her happiness.

We're very excited to see you this season!

C Stagg

Upcoming Events

October 18, 2007

6:30—7:30 p.m.

A Night at the Opera
Workshop **FREE**
Boys' and Girls Club of the
Greater Chippewa Valley

October 20, 2007

6:30—7:00 p.m.

pre-concert talk with
Jamie Andrews, MN Opera
7:30 p.m.

A Night at the Opera
Both events at the Eau Claire
Regional Arts Center

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MEET THE MUSICIANS

This is the second of a series of articles about CVS musicians. In this issue, we introduce you to two members of the bass section, Carol Schachtler and Mark Miller.

Carol Schachtler

Carol Schachtler started playing string bass in 1946 and hasn't quit yet. Her motto is "Music is for a lifetime." Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Carol studied music education at the Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia. After graduating, Carol moved to Eau Claire and taught in the Eau Claire Elementary Schools for 37 years. She hadn't been here six weeks when she was invited to play with the Community-University Orchestra, which rehearsed in the furnace room of Schofield Hall. Carol stayed with this orchestra until the University Music Department established their own. Then she joined the Chippewa Valley Symphony.

Carol has played with the Eau Claire Municipal Band for 57 years. She has also performed in pit orchestras for the Chippewa Valley and Menomonie Theatre Guilds, the Eau Claire Children's Theatre and other Eau Claire area groups.

When she is not playing the string bass, she can be found on her farm or traveling the country, showing her horses and ponies. Carol's only complaint of being a bassist is the difficulty of transporting the instrument. "In my next life? Piccolo!"



Mark Miller

What inspired you to play?

When I was 10 a music teacher said I was big enough to start string lessons on the bass instead of the cello. I was so excited to be able to do something the other kids couldn't that I signed up on the spot, and my parents went shopping for a station wagon. When I found out that the bass crossed musical barriers (classical, jazz, country and even rock music), I hoped I could pick up 'chicks'. When that didn't pan out, I found out that bass players are always in demand, so I figured I could make a lot of money playing gigs. When I got tired of the smokey bars, I settled down and found a new appreciation for music and joined the CVSO.

Who are your heroes/idsols? Why?

Musically, I appreciate Charles Mingus; bass player and composer extraordinaire. When I found out Mingus and I share the same birthday - Earth Day (April 22), I was inspired to learn music theory and composition at UWEC. To know that a bass player

could lead a band, compose the music and play in the band, gave me hope that musically learning the bass was a solid foundation for future musical endeavors. Then I discovered Paul McCartney and Brian Wilson, bass players and composers who developed modern popular music. I formed my idea that the more 'bass'ic your understanding and approach to music the more successful you will be.

When did you start playing/working with the Chippewa Valley Symphony?

I started playing with the CVSO in October 2006 with the "Kosower Comes Home" concert. I had previously worked with Nobu when I was at UWEC. In fact, my first year in college was Nobu's first year conducting the University Orchestra. His energy and enthusiasm was and is contagious. I remember Nobu telling the orchestra that he was waiting for his first paycheck back then, and then his first purchase - a VCR! Nobu influenced my interest and love of classical music. I am happy my family and I could move back to the area. It's a special opportunity to work with Nobu again.

Favorite memory from orchestra?

Now that I am married with children, my favorite memories are seeing music being enjoyed by people I know! Looking out into the audience at the Christmas concert and watching my kids appreciate classical music makes me excited to play next season. I have asked people to wave from the audience or come up to the stage after the show so I can ask them what they thought. I was lucky enough to do the Music in the Schools presentation for a couple elementary schools this year, and some of the children were able to attend a concert. You truly see the effect music can have when you share music with children.

Favorite composer/work you played with CVS? Why?

I have to say that Mozart's Requiem is hard to beat. Mozart composed a challenging string bass part that is a work-out to play. Combining the intensity of this piece of music and the spiritual feelings from a full choir, I hear this music dancing in my head all the time. This also was the first classical music album I purchased - so I could play the driving bass line over and over and over ...

When you aren't playing what are you doing (i.e.: hobbies, kids/family, school)?

When I am not playing in the CVSO, I am playing with Mariah, Nolan and Emma (my 3 children), practicing gourmet cooking for Tammi (my wife) and working as a Chemical Engineer at EDI in Chippewa Falls.

OCTOBER EVENTS WITH THE SYMPHONY

A Night at the Opera Workshop

When: October 18, 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Where: The Boys' and Girls' Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley, 201 E. Lake Street, Eau Claire

Open to the Public

Free

The workshop will be led by Christin-Marie Hill from the Minnesota Opera. She has been praised as a "powerful, warm-hued mezzo-soprano" by *The New York Times* and "majestic in voice and appearance" by the *Boston Globe*. She began her musical career as a jazz vocalist in Paris, France. In 1999, she began a transition into classical music.

Pre-Concert Talk

When: October 20, 6:30—7:00 p.m.

Where: The Gallery at the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center

Join Jamie Andrews from the Minnesota Opera for a pre-concert talk about the evening's repertoire. The concert will include selections from:

Rossini	The Barber of Seville
Saint-Saëns	Samson et Dalila
Gounoud	Romeo et Juliet
Verdi	La Traviata

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2007-2008 season of the Chippewa Valley Symphony. We have a very exciting repertoire planned starting with *A Night at the Opera* on October 20. Three singers from The Minnesota Opera's Resident Artist program will be singing with us. It's quite thrilling to be working with them. They are considered the most exciting opera company in the United States. They began in 1963 when the Walker Art Center commissioned an opera for its performing arts program. In the 1970s, they began presenting more traditional operas.

Our three soloists for the concert are Alison Bates, soprano, Christin-Marie Hill, mezzo-soprano, and Christian Reinhart, tenor. As members of the highly competitive Resident Artist program, they spend a year focused on all elements of opera including acting, language and movement. We are pleased to be bringing such high-caliber artists to the State Theatre.

As part of the Minnesota Opera's visit to Eau Claire, members of their Education Department are conducting a Master class at Memorial High School for George Uthphall's choir students. On Thursday, October 18, soloist Christin-Marie Hill will present a workshop at the Boys' and Girls' Club on Lake Street. This workshop is free and open to the public. We'd be happy to see you there.

We are proud to be able to bring these events to the Chippewa Valley in addition to our concert.

Jill Granlund



THE 2007—2008 SEASON

Mark your calendars for this season's concerts. Be sure to subscribe and guarantee your seats for every concert.

Season tickets include the following four concerts performed at The State Theatre:

- October 20, 2007, 7:30 p.m. - A Night at the Opera
- December 1, 2007, 7:30 p.m. - Celebrate!
- March 8, 2008, 7:30 p.m. - From the New World
- May 10, 2008, 7:30 p.m. - A Mediterranean Vacation

Ticket Prices

	Season	Single concert
Adult	\$60	\$18
Senior (62+)	\$57	\$17
Student	\$25	\$8
Family	\$170	\$50

Chippewa Valley Symphony

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We're on the Web!
www.cvsymphony.org

Music You Love by People You Know

SUPPORT THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY SYMPHONY

We are fortunate to have live symphonic music in our community, and the music is possible only because of your generosity. Every gift plays an important part in bridging the gap between ticket revenue and the cost of creating exciting, high-quality performances. 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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