



VOLUME 1
ISSUE 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- We Can Be Elves
- Dear Tuscaffiliates
- Artist Profile:
Alex Bevan
- Patron Spotlight
- Creepy Classics:
A Full Day of Fun
- In the News
- February Concert
Sneak Peek

Yuletide Celebration: We Can Be Elves

WE like our traditions, we fans and performers of the Tuscarawas Philharmonic; and for this year's Yuletide Celebration, we'll carry on with a good one. A children's chorus more than 50 strong will join the orchestra, along with singers from the Greater Tuscarawas Children's Chorus and the Dover High School Women's Chorus.

Alex Bevan will be our troubadour for the evening, singing his suite of songs, "A Child Looks At Christmas." Each song explores the image from a treasured Christmas card and draws the same scene with words and music, as children discover festive wonders. But sometimes the discovery is made by some not so young.

In "We Could Be Elves," four old men let their minds wander as they play a game of cards, and they imagine becoming elves. "We could wear green pajamas and silly little hats," they say. "We could be elves."

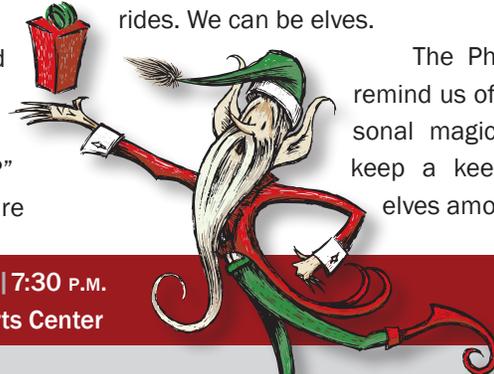
The gentlemen weigh the whys and why nots and wonder if their girth might preclude them from elfhood. "Don't you think we'd be better off acting like Santa?" one suggests. Another asserts elves are

not just tiny men. They could be women as well, or they could simply be the one doing the dishes or shoveling the snow. "Elves could be anybody having fun, doing something good just to see it gets done."

As the evening passes, not one of the men calls the idea preposterous, and not one makes the others feel childish for even mulling it over. No, to a man they consider the prospect of their becoming elves plausible; and come midnight, they are rewarded for their wide-open thinking.

The Christmas season does that to people. If at no other time of year, we can dream the way children dream, not tethered to reality, not constrained by cynicism, limited only by our own imaginations. At Christmas, we can transport ourselves to an ancient star-lit night when the world changed. We can imagine fantastical sleigh rides. We can be elves.

The Philharmonic will remind us of this bit of seasonal magic. Join in, and keep a keen eye out for elves among us. ■



Yuletide Celebration | December 10 | 7:30 P.M.
Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center

Dear Tuscaffiliates

A labor of love. What better job and what better compensation?

For most of the past 16 years my fall calendar has included Saturday morning rehearsals with a roomful of children ages 7 to 14 who comprise the Tuscarawas Philharmonic Children's Chorus. This year, I have the great benefit of collaborating with Monica Davy, who directs the Greater Tuscarawas County Children's Chorus, and with Laura Schupbach.

I lead these rehearsals because the kids' chorus gives the Philharmonic a special feature for the Yuletide program that generates community interest and a ready audience. That's fairly straightforward and a little corporate in its view of the meaning of the concert and preparations.

But there is certainly more to it. I love the energy in the kids' voices as they sing, and I love that they embrace the tunes I select for them. I savor the interaction of the relatively uninitiated with the magic of music. It takes me back to my own first experiences with music that had such a profound effect on me.

What the occasion provides for all of us is an opportunity to work on a project as a community. We don't make a big deal of it, but we are all engaged in one of the great rituals of life, working together on a large undertaking. Mutuality, care for the individual in the midst of a great collective effort and the unique joy of music—these are the great themes we sing and share.



Eric Benjamin
Conductor

ARTIST PROFILE ALEX BEVAN



YOU may know Alex Bevan as the Great Lakes Bard or as the “skinny little boy from Cleveland,” but there is something you may not know about him. The man makes pickles and bread.

As he explains it, he and his wife Deidre had been doing their own canning for several years and giving pickles, salsa and other treats from their kitchen as gifts. But then one day they contributed a jar of their bread-and-butters to a potluck, and friends raved. One friend said, “My God, these are the best pickles I’ve tasted since my mother died, God rest her soul!” He then encouraged the Bevans to think large scale, to start producing pickles in bigger batches and to sell them in local markets.

In the Bevan household, the motto is, “It should be fun or lead to fun,” so Alex and Deidre began upping their pickle production with the goal of having fun and using the proceeds for traveling. But it didn’t take long for the hobby of pickle making to become an all-out endeavor, and the Bevans launched Skinny Pickles,

producing them in the Northern Ohio Cooperative Kitchen and selling them at farm markets and a few retail stores.

Alex and Deidre were old hands at making bread as well, and before long, they began adding their homemade loaves to their market stall,

“In many ways, bread baking incorporates the same skills as performing.”

loaves they had baked in their kitchen oven customized to function as a hearth. The bread was such a success that Alex set out to build an actual hearth in their backyard, just a few feet from their back door. Alex read how-to books, talked to experts and enlisted the help of friends because he didn’t know how to go about the project. “If I had known, I might not have tried it,” he said. But he quickly learned the unknown was nothing to fear, and now the hearth is in its third year of operation.

“In many ways, bread baking incorporates the same skills as performing,” Alex said. When performing live, the musician is constantly making adjustments to account for the venue and the audience. And with bread making, the actual baking is like the applause, but the real work comes in making adjustments for the ingredients, the time and the temperature.

And just as the Bevans sell their handmade pickles and bread in local settings, Alex writes and performs what he calls “handmade music” with his specific audience in mind. “It’s all about community,” he said, and he has adopted this adage as his overall model for success. ■

PATRON Spotlight

DAVID AND NANCY PARHAM lived and worked in Cleveland for many years and were season subscribers to the Cleveland Orchestra. But David retired in 2005, and since then, the Parhams have made their full-time home on Atwood Lake. “We were very pleased when we heard there was an orchestra in the area,” David said, and the Parhams are now regular contributors to the Tuscarawas Philharmonic. They are excited to find the Philharmonic making its home at the Performing Arts Center, which they believe is a worthy setting for the orchestra’s talent. When not attending concerts, both in New Philadelphia and in Cleveland, David spends a good bit of his time on the board of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and as a member of the Atwood Regional Water and Sewer Board. And he and Nancy enjoy taking their pontoon boat out for a spin on sunny days.

AFTERNOON CHILDREN'S PARTY

Clockwise beginning right: Charles Spencer narrates Greg Smith's *A Major-Minor Mystery**

Children enjoy the costume parade*

Board member Monte Ball helps apply tattoos at the children's party*



CREEPY CLASSICS: A FULL DAY OF FUN

On October 29, the Philharmonic played host to approximately 195 children, plus parents and grandparents, for a free concert and party. The concert was a child-sized version of the evening performance; and the party included crafts, games, balloon animals, an instrument petting zoo of sorts and treats for all. Board member Katy Nicholson, who helped plan the event, said the response has been very positive, and parents were grateful for such a cultural event geared toward children. "The concert was almost more important to them than the party," Nicholson said. "Kids aren't hearing this music any place else." She added parents were amazed the event was free of charge, and many have asked that it become an annual event.



EVENING PERFORMANCE

Above: Laura Schubbach and Charles Spencer sing excerpts from *Phantom of the Opera*❖

Right: Schubbach as Wednesday in an *Addams Family* tribute❖

Far Right: Our esteemed president, Gil Snyder, dressed for the occasion❖



Photos courtesy of Dave Trustdorf* and Terry Barnhill❖

COMING
FEBRUARY 25, 2012



Pianist Jerry Wong of Kent State University plays the magnificent Steinway he himself selected for the new Performing Arts Center in Schumann's absorbing Concerto in A Minor. And the orchestra takes you on a tour of the Rhine River in Schumann's spirited Third Symphony.

"Beneath me flows the Rhine, and, like the stream of Time, it flows amid the ruins of the Past." HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

THE *Poetic Piano and Romantic Landscapes*

IN THE NEWS

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MADE EASY

• Dinner and Concert Package

We are now offering a dinner-and-concert package for \$86, a savings of \$34. Make an evening of it by enjoying dinner at Bistro 131 (Bluebell Drive, New Philadelphia) and a Tuscarawas Philharmonic performance for one low price. The package includes a \$50 gift card to Bistro 131 and two reserved seats for any concert of the season (best available).

This package would make a great gift for friends and family or even for yourself. Buy it through the Philharmonic website or by calling 330-364-1843.

• Gospel Extravaganza

On May 14, 2011 the Tuscarawas Philharmonic presented a rousing evening—a gospel extravaganza—featuring the music of Charles Myricks, along with the award-winning vocal ensemble Divine Hope and the choir of the Arlington Church of God.

A recording of this performance is now available on CD, which includes such audience favorites as "Here's My Heart," "Stand," and an improvised rendition of "Amazing Grace" performed by Alan Swoope.

You can purchase the CD for \$10 at the Philharmonic website or in the lobby at the next concert.

- Tuscarawas Philharmonic • P.O. Box 406 • New Philadelphia, OH 44663 • 330.364.1843
- www.TuscarawasPhilharmonic.org • *State of the Art* editor: Robyn Martins
- Concerts are performed at the Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center