

A CELEBRATION OF SONG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- A Celebration of Song
- Performing Arts Camp Inaugural Success
- 78th—A Season to Celebrate
- In the News—What I Did on My Summer Vacation

**SONG: a) the act or art of singing
b) a short musical composition of words and music
c) a distinctive sound or series of sounds (as of a bird, insect or whale).**

Throughout the Philharmonic's 78th season, we won't be making any bird calls or doing any whale imitations, but we will certainly be performing plenty of music, much of it involving the act of singing; and we'll definitely be artful as we go.

This year, we aren't just performing the Song, we're celebrating it in all of its instrumental and vocal forms, with a variety of programs ranging from operatic selections to big-band swing tunes to authentically American originals.

The Philharmonic will kick off this celebration with a free concert at Tuscora Park on Sunday, September 1. Selections you'll hear that evening will provide a hint of what to expect this year—Verdi's "Giovanna d'Arco" will point you toward our October performance, a Duke Ellington set will prepare you for what's in store in February, and we'll perform "Ashokan Farewell," because, well, as music director Eric Benjamin said, "It's pretty."

"Choosing music and putting together programs for you, and for the players in the Tuscarawas Philharmonic, is one of the parts of the job of music director that I enjoy most," Benjamin said. "I try to choose pieces that make people say 'wow!'"

With that reaction in mind, we'll also perform Tchaikovsky's "Polonaise" from *Eugene Onegin*. Polonaises, in general, were stately dances designed to open courtly balls and royal functions, and they set the stage for the who's who of society to be seen in their finest.

This polonaise, a sweeping and elegant piece that opens Act 3 of the opera, is no exception as a grand spectacle. The Philharmonic performed it several years ago on the occasion of the Performing Arts Center's opening night, and we aim to bring this same vibrant music to Tuscora Park.

Join us for our Pops in the Park performance, and then join us all season long for our *Celebration of Song*.



POPS
IN THE PARK
TUSCORA PARK
SEPTEMBER 1, 2013
7:00 PM



PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

INAUGURAL SUCCESS

The Tuscarawas Philharmonic conducted the inaugural session of its Performing Arts Camp in June, and it was a success. During the week of June 17, nearly 30 young musicians from Stark and Tuscarawas counties registered to participate in the orchestral experience and in specialized sectionals led by faculty selected from the Philharmonic. Students ranged in age from eight through high school, plus one adult student who joined the bass section.

Each morning, students met at the Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center and formed an orchestra under the direction of Eric Benjamin. They later divided into sections for guidance according to their specific instrument—staff members included Mary Bontrager, Elaine Anderson, Jack Steward and

Bohdan Subchak; and local music teachers, Sarah Behal and Lindsey Nicholson, assisted.

The students were also treated to instruction by Jacob Stockdale, two-time winner of the State of Ohio Youth Fiddle Championship, who taught a fiddle tune to advanced violin students.

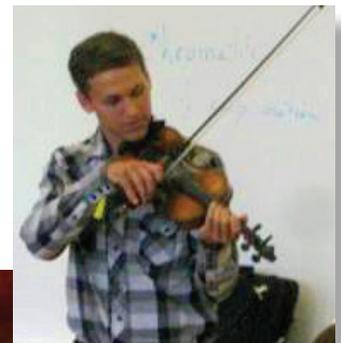
Beyond music instruction, kids and staff alike took to the field outside the hall for outdoor fun. “This 58-year-old got into a game of elbow tag and had to run like everyone else,” said Benjamin.

The camp was the idea of Mary Cooper, music educator and cellist with the Philharmonic. Cooper recalled music camp experiences from her own childhood and wanted to create a similar experience for young musicians in the area. She also wanted to broaden the music experience for local students without an orchestra of their own, private and home-school students who have only rare opportunities to play with a larger group. Through the camp, young musicians from a variety of educational backgrounds were able to meet and play together in one orchestra.

Cooper was delighted to have the camp at the Performing Arts Center, holding sectionals in the classrooms and having access to the grounds. And on Friday evening, following a pizza party, she said the students performed on stage in a free concert attended by parents and friends. “The experience is something the kids won’t forget,” said Cooper. “They were tickled to death.

The entire experience helped to bring out the best in the students, Cooper believes, and she heard parents exclaim they had no idea their students were capable of playing so well.

As coordinators begin planning for next year’s camp, the hope is to attract more students, enough to form two complete orchestras—beginners and advanced—and to include a wind and percussion session as well.



THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE **78th**

October 19—Over-the-Top with

Tenors: This program's big, romantic melodies include "Prelude to Act 3" of *Lohengrin*; and Rob Frankenberry will perform Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2," as well as doing double duty as tenor on stage.

When I first heard tenor Tim Culver perform, I knew I wanted to hear him sing "Nessun Dorma." Is the classic piece on the program, you might wonder? You betcha! And, we'll welcome tenor Andrew Blosser from The Ohio State University.

March 22—American Accents:

In this unique program experience, we'll demonstrate the richness of the American artistic sense—trumpet player Jeff Huston will mark his 30th year with the orchestra by performing Peaslee's "Nightsongs"; Lindsey Goodman will perform Pinkston's "Lizamander" for flute and computer (yes, that's right); and we'll deliver Ive's "Symphony No. 3" and welcome the Malone Chamber Chorus and Philharmonic adult chorus in to perform Randall Thompson's "Frostiana."

December 14—Christmas in the Air: We'll welcome the Philharmonic Children's Chorus to perform the music of "The Snowman," as the audience enjoys watching the award-winning short film. It will be a magical and intimate experience, becoming a celebration of relationships and conviviality and a reminder to not take these things for granted.

This Yuletide, we'll also collaborate again with Shawna Hinkle, choir director at Dover High School, whose group will sing for us Rutter's "Gloria."

February 15—Singing, Swinging

Valentines: We're bringing the big-band style to the Performing Arts Center stage (and to the lobby with a few surprises!) as we welcome Joan Ellison, recording artist and accomplished faculty member at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory and the Cleveland Institute of Music. The evening will make for a great date night with the Tuscarawas Philharmonic!



May 17—May Festival:

The May Festival emphasizes what's going on culturally in Tuscarawas County, and we use the occasion to collaborate with area arts organizations. This year, we'll collaborate with the Tuscarawas Dance Arts Center to perform my ballet, "Red and the Culinary Carnivore" or "A Wolf in Chef's Clothing." We'll also perform Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite" and our own James Perone's "Joel's Journey to the Jewelled City," a work for solo clarinet and orchestra based on an episode of "Northern Exposure."



June 7—Coming Back to Classic Country: We're bringing back some favorite guests, as well as collaborating with beloved local talent such as Debra "Reb" Robinson to create an evening of country standards, along with orchestra classics like "On the Trail."

from Eric: "As music director for the Tuscarawas Philharmonic, I get to dream, to research, to dream some more, to consult a bit with this prospective soloist, a choir director, a few players, board and management ...and then combine the choices into a big jigsaw puzzle that joins together into an image of delight. All of the selections are important to me, but here are some I want to tell you about:"

*with music director
Eric Benjamin*



Coming **OCTOBER 19, 2013**

OVER-THE-TOP WITH TENORS

That soaring thrill only a tenor can deliver—three times over! Tenors Tim Culver, Rob Frankenberry and Andy Blosser will provide the “high,” but not before Rob has already wowed you with his prowess at the piano in Rachmaninoff’s *Piano Concerto #2*. Some Wagner, some Verdi, “Nessun dorma,” the duet from *Pearlfishers*, some cross-over thrown in for good measure... prepare for take-off!



IN THE NEWS

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

When summer comes I frequently hear the comment “now you will have a little time off,” but not so! Summer is the time for finalizing the work begun early in the spring on the next season’s rehearsal schedule and concert dates; setting the new budget; preparing for the PAC’s Reveal event; and assisting with notifying season ticket holders about renewal.

Communicating with the current sponsors to secure their continuing support is of course very important, as is seeking out new sponsors. The program advertisers are all contacted and any necessary changes to their ads made.

We also work through the final decisions on the programming for the upcoming season (which often involves quite a bit of research on costs and availability) so I can sign up guest artists and negotiate fees with them and finish the planning, writing, proofing, and mailing of the season brochure.

At the same time, I am making the arrangements for the Labor Day Pops-in-the-Park concert and the performance of Handel’s *Messiah*; scheduling rehearsal locations for the choruses and ordering their music; and writing news releases publicizing the new season.

There is a lot going on now to bring you a spectacular new season this fall—see you then!

Melanie Winn, general manager

- Tuscarawas Philharmonic • P.O. Box 406 • New Philadelphia, OH 44663 • 330.364.1843
- www.TuscarawasPhilharmonic.org • *State of the Art* editor: Robyn Martins
- Performing at the Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center • Box Office—330.308.6400