TUSCARAWAS PHILHARMONIC
STATE OF THE ART • DECEMBER 2016

AS A CHILD LOOKS AT CHRISTMAS EVE

VOLUME 6
ISSUE 2

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There was a younger one and an older one
who were part of a family of loved ones.
These two were preparing to decorate the family
Christmas tree and had spent most of the
morning climbing up and down stairs.
This labor of love consisted of bringing
ornaments and illuminations to the living room
from the attic.
The younger one was the first one to spy
the old box in the corner under the eaves...
a small cardboard and dusty thing
secured with loose wraps of kite string
wound three times around and tied with
a simple bow.

So begins Alex Bevan's remarkable Christmas suite titled *As a Child Looks at Christmas Eve.* Through his music and story telling, he allows us to follow along as one generation shares the simple joys of the holiday with another, marveling at traditions, music, food, gifts, surprises and the magical atmosphere of the season as they rediscover forgotten treasures.

Alex wrote the suite of songs several years ago as acoustic pieces, and the idea of orchestrating them didn't seem an option until he and Eric Benjamin discussed the idea.

"When I wrote the story and companion songs I had no Idea that Eric would lend his incredible talents as orchestrator, arranger and conductor to the project," Alex said.

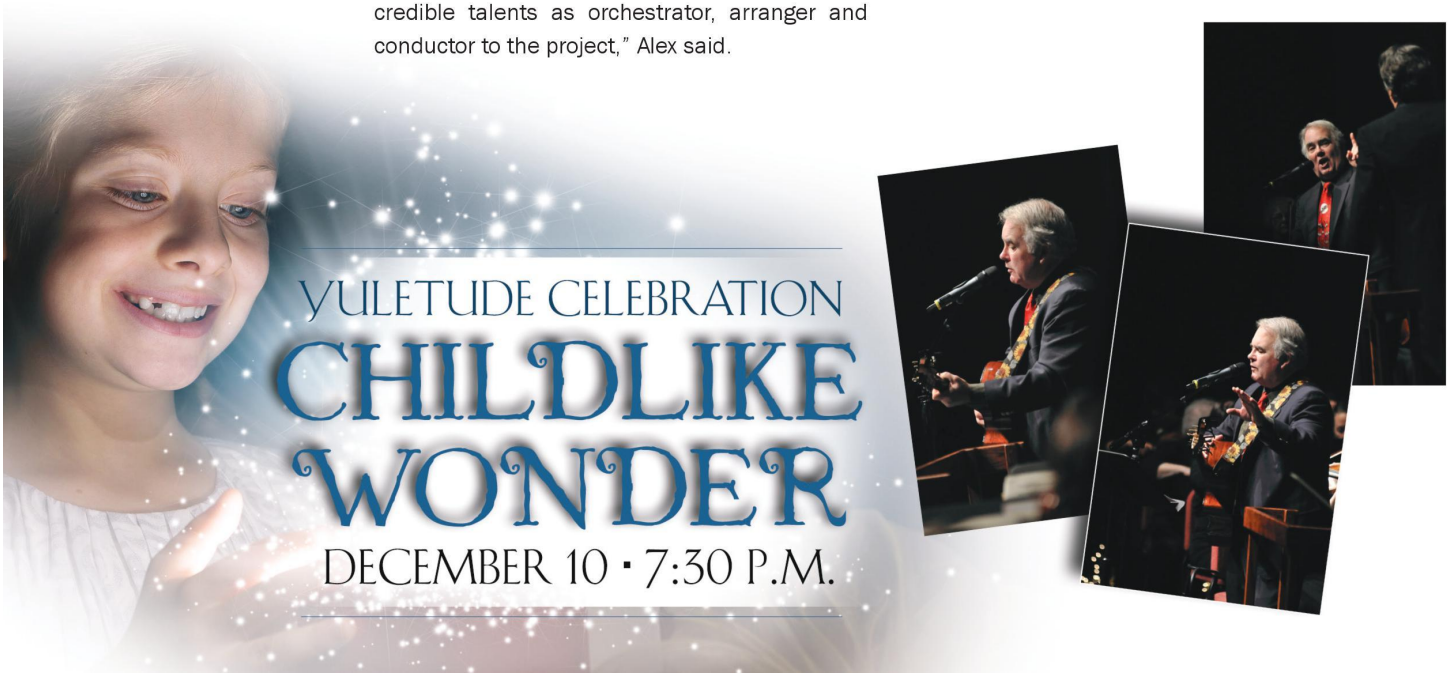
Now the suite is a full production complete with children's chorus, and we are pleased to present it once again for our Yuletide concert on December 10.

Our children's chorus has been rehearsing since October, and they will be joined by the Women's Honors Chorus under the guidance of Shawna Hinkle of Dover City Schools.

"I am so excited to be performing *A Child Looks at Christmas Eve* again with the Tuscarawas Philharmonic and Children's Chorus," said Alex. "This performance will be the highlight of my year—to stand next to Eric, surrounded by the orchestra and chorus, with the audience in front and the Christmas spirit everywhere—a joyous noel indeed!"

And all in all, that Christmastime was remembered
by every young one and every old one
to be the very best one... ever!

NOTE: Alex will have copies of a new companion book available for sale in the lobby after the concert. Stop by to say "hello," and pick up a copy.



MEET SALLIE STROUP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A year ago, Sallie Stroup might not have imagined she would become the new executive director of the Tuscarawas Philharmonic, but in retrospect, her journey to this point seems almost a straight line.

Sallie grew up in Canton, Ohio not far from where now stands Belden Village Mall. She attended Jackson Elementary School and recalls seeing the high school band perform in a special concert and being drawn to the trombone section.

When it came time to choose the instrument she would play in band, she begged her parents for a trombone. The school director at the time warned her that girls didn't often last long in that section because they would be charmed by the boys and become distracted. She would prove him wrong, she remembered, and would practice and practice to do it.

Sallie's discipline paid off, and in high school, she auditioned for Margery Henke in order to join the Canton Youth Symphony. Sallie performed with the group for two years.

She later attended the University of Akron, but when her band director transferred to the University of Colorado in Boulder, he offered her a scholarship there to help complete the trombone section.

It was there that Sallie met Steve Stroup, who was a horn performance major at the university. She scheduled a practice room beside his, she said, just to get to know him, and it wasn't long before the two began dating.

Steve and Sallie married in 1976 and moved back to Ohio to be closer to family. Sallie taught music in several school systems—Alliance, Strasburg, Sandy Valley and New Philadelphia—working with all age groups and focusing on band, orchestra, chorus and drama throughout her career.

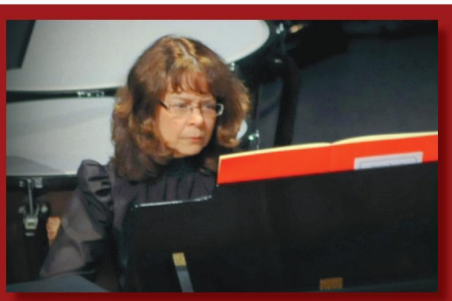
She later became Dean of Students at New Philadelphia; and after getting her masters degree in administration, she became assistant principal and then principal of New Philadelphia Middle School.

While she was a music teacher, Sallie continued to play trombone, once again for Henke who was then conductor of the Philharmonic. She played bass trombone with the orchestra under Eric Benjamin's direction as well.

Now in her new role with the Philharmonic, Sallie has hit the ground running. "I have had a great start, and the board has been very helpful, as have Bud and Melanie Winn, during this time of transition," Sallie said. "I am eager to guide the orchestra toward a larger presence in the community and to help develop the organization beginning at the board level."

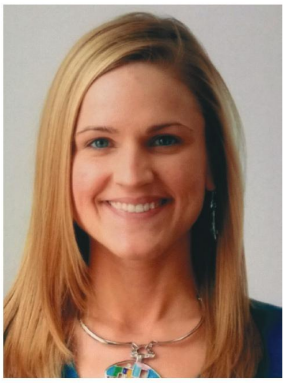
Sallie and Steve live in New Philadelphia (Steve is principal horn with the Philharmonic). When she isn't busy with orchestra matters, Sallie enjoys quilting, baking and reading. And she spends time with her family—Steve, Adam, Emily, Aaron, Kim and grandson Phillip

After her recent passing, we mourn the loss of our dear friend and long-time pianist **Sherri Weidman**. Sherri graced our stage with remarkable musicianship, and she generously shared her kind heart and ready smile with the ensemble. Her friendship, encouragement, delightful sense of humor, professional attitude and skill at the keyboard will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time of sorrow.



MEET THE STAFF

Along with hiring an executive director, we have expanded our staff to include an ensemble of talented people to help us develop the orchestra and chorus programs and to keep the Philharmonic a sustainable organization.

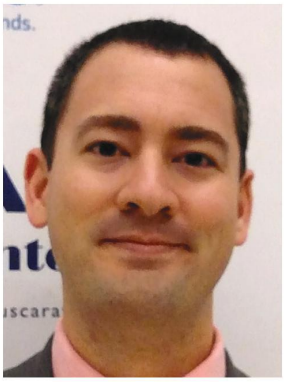


Laura Schupbach Barkett is our new ticket, mailing and program Manager. She is also the children's chorus director. "Getting to be a part of the Philharmonic from 'the inside' has shown me how hard our members work to bring new and exciting opportunities to this area. And they do it because they love and revere this organization," said Laura.

She is married to Mark Barkett and is mother to Sarah, and the family lives in Dover.

Michelle Campbell is the new finance manager. She believes one of the great things about the Philharmonic is the incredibly talented musicians that make each concert a success. "The Tuscarawas Valley is very lucky to have the Philharmonic," said Michelle.

She is employed full time as the accounting manager at Inca Presswood-Pallets, Ltd. She also serves as the treasurer of the Tuscarawas County Child Advocacy Center. Michelle and her husband, Orvis, live in New Philadelphia and have four children: Jessica, Maddie, Brandon, and Griffin.



Tony Eckert is the new webmaster for the Tuscarawas Philharmonic. He will also manage our e-mail subscription list and any other technology needs.

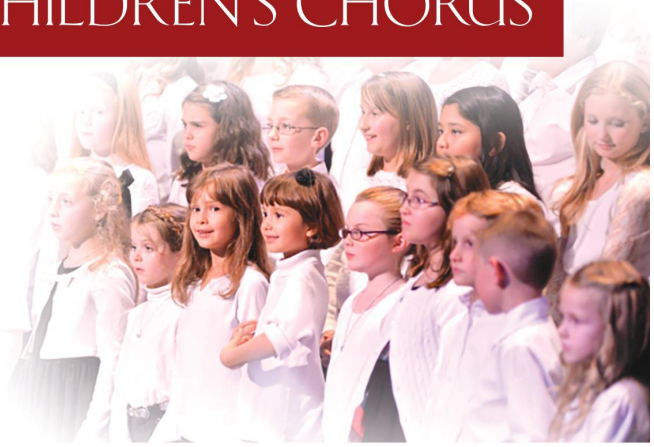
Tony, a resident of New Philadelphia, appreciates the value of having the Performing Arts Center which the Philharmonic can call "home" as the resident company. "It's great to have that kind of entertainment available where you can have a fun and classy evening enjoying great musical pieces," he said. " There's also much to appreciate from everyone who is involved—it's why the Philharmonic continues to be such a fantastic organization."

WE'RE EXPANDING THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The Greater Tuscarawas Children's Chorus and the Tuscarawas Philharmonic Children's Chorus have existed side by side for many years, but the two groups will now merge into one under the umbrella of the Philharmonic organization. The newly formed chorus will begin in January 2017 under the direction of Laura Schupbach Barkett, with Jennifer Finley Bassnet accompanying.

The Tuscarawas Philharmonic Children's Chorus will accept all singers with unchanged voices from ages 7 to 14. Rehearsals will be held every Monday from 5:45-6:45 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church at 217 E. High Avenue in New Philadelphia.

During the first rehearsal on January 9, Barkett will conduct a comprehensive voice assessment for each participant, and a parent or guardian must be present for the duration of the rehearsal. There is a $30 participation fee, and need-based scholarships are available with a $10-per-child minimum contribution.



"By merging the two groups, we create a stronger unified chorus with twice the performing opportunities," said Barkett. "Even more exciting is that the children will be benefiting from the strengths and experiences that each respective group brings to the table."

Carolyn Wallace has directed the Greater Tuscarawas Children's Chorus, and as a member of the Philharmonic board of trustees, she was instrumental in making this exciting change. Wallace will also be part of the transition.

IN THE NEWS

FRIENDS OF ADULT EDUCATION
BUCKEYE CAREER CENTER
Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday, December 10 • 5-7 p.m.
545 University Drive NE, New Philadelphia

Make a night of it—attend the dinner (and make a contribution toward scholarships) and then attend the Philharmonic Yuletide concert just down the street. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

ZOAR 2017 BICENTENNIAL

At our March 26th performance, the Zoar Community Association will kickoff the Zoar Bicentennial with an event in the PAC lobby.

• Food • Traveling exhibit • Cash bar • live music

Costumed representatives will be in the lobby on December 10th with information on tickets for the special event.

- Tuscarawas Philharmonic • P.O. Box 406 • New Philadelphia, OH 44663
- www.TuscarawasPhilharmonic.org • *State of the Art* editor: Robyn Martins
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