



FEBRUARY 10, 2018 • 7:30 P.M.

CARNIVALE!



TUSCARAWAS PHILHARMONIC

Playing Mas with the Philharmonic

Goethe described the 18th-century Roman Carnival as “a festival that is not actually given to the people, but which the people give to themselves.” That description may be more apt now, as the festival has evolved in form and significance over the centuries, than it was in the philosopher’s day.

European colonists brought the Carnival to the Americas in the form of lavish parties for members of high society, excluding the lower classes and slaves from the celebrations. There was music, dancing, costumes, rich food, and spirits in anticipation of a more austere Christian observance.

The end of the slave trade brought an expansion of the meaning of Carnival, with new partygoers now celebrating freedom along with religious tenets. The event took on a new flair, and Carnival became a holiday more significant, in fact, than others on the calendar.

In Rio de Janeiro, Carnival is one of the

world’s largest festivals of its kind. Neighborhoods host their own individual street parties, and samba schools compete for coveted awards.

Carnival in Oruro, Bolivia, earned a UNESCO designation as the city includes more than 28,000 dancers and 10,000 musicians in a procession that stretches for more than four miles.

And then there is Trinidad, where Carnival is a true celebration of freedom, with mas bands (or masquerade bands) filling the streets in what is known as “The Greatest Show on Earth.” There are more than 100 mas bands, and anyone can join one, registering in advance with a fee that covers an elaborate—and sometimes outrageous—costume, food, drinks, and even access to portable restrooms. Participants can “play mas” by simply marching along with their band of choice and experiencing Carnival firsthand.

We’ll play mas on February 10 with PanHarmonic, and we’ll give ourselves a party to remember. Come join us in the celebration.

Meet the PanHarmonic Ensemble
Details on Page 2



Read the latest in Philharmonic News
Details on Page 3



Musician Spotlight JoAnn McConnell, Percussion Page 4

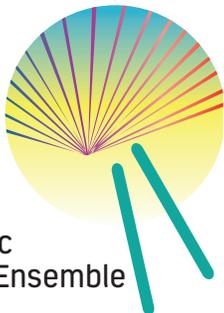


(left to right) Members of PanHarmonic include Neal Frey, JoAnn McConnell, Thomas Roblee, Joan Wenzel, and Tim Hilton

To book PanHarmonic for your special event, contact Joan Wenzel at 330-204-5647 or wenzelj@roadrunner.com

PAN HAR MON IC

Tuscarawas
Philharmonic
Steel Pan Ensemble



If you have followed the music scene of local school systems the last 25 or so years, you are aware we have steel bands in the Tuscarawas Valley. It's a surprise to some, given the distance between here and Trinidad where the instruments were first created, but it's actually a perfect fit.

The music department of The University of Akron is home to Dr. Larry Snider, Director of Percussion Studies. Snider, with deep ties to Trinidad, has passed on his passion for steel pans to his students.

As it happens, many local band directors and percussionists are graduates of Snider's program and have brought their love for the instrument here to teach and to perform.

Members of the Philharmonic percussion section are just such musicians. Joan Wenzel, retired director of the steel pan program with Dover City Schools, said, "We were talking at rehearsal one evening, and we mentioned we all missed playing the steel pan." It was then they decided to form the ensemble PanHarmonic.

Joan, along with JoAnn McConnell and Tim Hilton, began rehearsing together as their schedules would allow, and they soon put together a set list and began performing.

The ensemble has performed at Stan Hywet Hall in Akron and for local community gatherings, including banquets and arts events.

They play on their own instruments built by Cliff Alexis with Pan Yard, Inc. in Akron, and they have them tuned and blended by a Philadelphia tuner, Kyle Dunleavy.

Steel pans are created in different voices—tenor, double second (imagine a viola as a percussion instrument), cello, and bass. Their unique sound creates a blend not unlike that of an orchestra, although there is little music written for the two groups.

Tom Miller, another Akron graduate, has composed some of the first works for both orchestra and steel pan, and you'll hear some of his work at our *Carnivale!* performance on February 10.

"The pan is incredibly adaptable," said Joan, "and it lends itself to a wide genre of music." In fact, Tim will perform a vocal transcription with members of the Philharmonic string section at the February concert as well.

Neal Frey will join the ensemble on bass, and Thomas Roblee will join on percussion (point of fact—both are graduates of The University of Akron).

Meet Our New Board Members

CAREY GARDNER Carey retired in 2017 from Union Hospital, where he was Director of Development and Community Relations for many years. He is an active member of the New Philadelphia Rotary Club; and he and his wife, Kathy, residents of New Philadelphia, have three adult sons.

"I'm pleased to have been invited to come on to the Philharmonic Board," said Carey. "My wife and I have enjoyed attending performances over the years, and I believe the Philharmonic is a wonderful asset for our community. I look forward to being of service in any way that I can contribute."



BARB SINGHAUS Barb was introduced to the Philharmonic almost 20 years ago when her family moved back to Dover and her son, David, participated in the Yuletide children's chorus. The concert and the entire experience was so terrific, the chorus became an integral part of each holiday season going forward. Her support of the Philharmonic and music in the Tuscarawas Valley spans many years. "I am proud to have the opportunity to join the Board of Trustees in leading the orchestra in to the future," she said.

Barb has spent her career as a CPA with a specialty in consultation, strategic planning and accounting for not-for-profit organizations, and she is currently the CFO for Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.



JOIN THE ADULT CHORUS

The Tuscarawas Philharmonic Adult Chorus has begun rehearsals for the March 25 performance of

Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs,
but it is not too late to join.

The group meets Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

in the rehearsal room at the Kent State Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center.

For the special Palm Sunday concert, to be held at Sacred Heart Church, the chorus will sing selections from *Messiah*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, *Gloria*, and more.

To contribute to the Tuscarawas Philharmonic, visit our website for quick and secure online donations— www.TuscarawasPhilharmonic.org

Musician Spotlight



JOANN MCCONNELL— PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION

I grew up in Wadsworth, Ohio, where I joined band in fifth grade. I was one of 60 students trying out for percussion, and the band director told my mom I needed to select a second choice of instruments because “girls don’t play percussion,” and I would most likely not make it in. I selected saxophone as my second choice but said, “If I can’t play percussion, I wasn’t playing anything.”

Needless to say, I made it, and I began taking private lessons. I’ve told my parents they made a great investment when they bought me my first snare drum, as I still use it in concerts today.

I became a music educator to share my love of music with others. I earned my bachelor’s degree in music education from

The University of Akron and my master’s degree in percussion performance from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Throughout my teaching career, I’ve taught band, choir, and general music, but because of budget cuts in our education system, I have been laid off twice. After the last job loss, I retired from my teaching career.

My second career has been as a caregiver with Visiting Angels, a non-medical home-care service for seniors.

I perform as the principal percussionist in both the Ashland Symphony Orchestra and the Tuscarawas Philharmonic. I am grateful to share such great music with these two amazing orchestras.

I must have more than 100 artists on shuffle play on my Pandora app, so when I am asked if I have any favorite music, I have to say I pretty much like everything. I also love to play racquetball and stay active, and I enjoy walking my dog, Lucy. Someday, I will do more traveling, especially to warmer climates.

The *Carnivale!* concert with the Philharmonic will definitely stand out in my memory because steel pans are featured.

(for JoAnn’s full profile, see the blog on our website)



IRELAND: SONGS AND STORIES

MARCH 10, 2018 • 7:30 P.M.

Just in time for St. Patrick’s Day, the wearing of the green celebration of all things Irish, the Philharmonic presents an Irish extravaganza.

Featuring the MacConmara Dancers from Akron, tenor Robert Frankenberry, and our old friend Richard Travers who will come all the way from Boston to tell us some stories from the old sod.

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