Sugar Plum Ball Promises a Gala Evening!

“One of our favorite parts of The Nutcracker Ballet is the opening scene – the elegant holiday party that sets the stage for Clara’s sugar plum dreams,” say holiday gala co-chairs Kathy Brown and Carol Tyler.

This vision is what enticed the guild’s ways and means committee to choose Sugar Plum Ball as the theme for this year’s annual gala. Fancy dress, delicious food, our own Sugar Plum Fairy, lovely items at both the silent auction and the live auction, door prizes, and dancing – in other words, a party that would delight Clara and Fritz and a handsome prince.

Major sponsors for the gala are Flora Gems, which will provide an exquisite jewelry piece for the live auction, along with media sponsors WAND-TV, Herald and Review, and Neuhoff Media. Watch and listen for their promotions in the weeks prior to the gala, and invite attendance.

Looking for your invitation, encourage your friends who are not guild members to join in the fun, and we’ll see you on Friday, Dec. 1 at the Ball!”

From The President

Robert Tyler

2017-2018 Season, Issue 2

Mark Your Calendars

Oct. 22, 2017 – MDSO Masterworks II*

MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS

Nov. 4, 2017 – MDSO Masterworks III*

MOSCOW BALLET – THE GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER

Dec. 1, 2017 – Sugar Plum Ball

Holiday Gala fundraiser, Decatur Club

Dec. 10, 2017 – Millikin Chamber Orchestra

Advent Service, Central Christian Church

Feb. 3, 2018 – MDSO Masterworks IV*

CREATIVE & INNOVATIVE: YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT!

March 3, 2018 – MDSO Masterworks V*

ODE TO JOY: BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9

April 20, 21 and 22, 2018 – THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*

Tickets at Kirkland box office (217) 424-6318

More info at decaturorchestra.com

Each newsletter is available at www.decaturorchestra.com on the News tab.

October 2017

Guest Pianist Offers Master Classes, Community Concerts

Ilya Yakushev, guest soloist for MDSO’s opening night, arrived in Decatur mid-week before the Saturday concert so that he could be available for the orchestra’s Thursday and Friday evening rehearsals. His few days in Decatur, however, included much more than rehearsing and performing with the orchestra.

The schedule took him to a variety of performance venues – Eisenhower H.S.’s orchestra class, a brown-bag luncheon concert at Decatur Area Arts Council, and playing in St. Mary’s Hospital lobby. In addition, one afternoon was devoted to personalized master classes for aspiring young pianists – some Millikin students plus three high school students who study piano through Millikin’s Preparatory Department. Each student performed a classical composition, then the master teacher provided constructive comments on performance technique and interpretation. Students invited for a master class benefit from individualized advice, and others attending can learn vicariously and observe how a master’s guidance improves the student’s performance.

Guest pianist Ilya Yakushev offered one-on-one coaching in master class sessions with several students, including high school senior Grace Brewster. Grace is one of almost 40 students who this year have scholarships from the symphony guild for private music lessons through Millikin’s Preparatory Department. She studies with Dr. Susan Cobb.

So, plan a concert and a Sunday dinner for your family. I am sure you will enjoy the afternoon!

And so now I invite you to the rest of the season. It portends to be a grand one.

Masterworks II features Polish violinist Kinga Augustyn, who will perform with the symphony at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 22. Dr. Bogza has selected scores that will be recognized as coming from iconic movies especially for this concert to entertain family members of all ages.

So, plan a concert and a Sunday dinner for your family. I am sure you will enjoy the afternoon!

And then to help everyone get into the holiday spirit, the Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian
MDSO’s next two Masterworks concerts come less than two weeks apart, and they promise some of the most anticipated repertoire of the entire season! Masterworks II features the music of John Williams in a Sunday afternoon concert the entire family will enjoy.

Williams, lauded for masterful scores that capture the very essence of film, is considered one of the greatest composers of our time. His themes for movies including E.T., Jurassic Park, Star Wars, and many others, have become iconic in film history. The MDSO, joined by special guest violinist Kinga Augustyn, will perform some of the most dramatic musical moments from these movies. Alongside the heartrending theme to Schindler’s List, this concert features Augustyn playing in compositions by the Polish-Jewish composer Henryk Wieniawski.

Masterworks II Program – Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m.

Wieniawski Violin Concerto No. 2, op. 22, D minor
Williams Theme from Schindler’s List
Wieniawski Polonaise brilliante No. 1, op. 4, D major
Soloist: Kinga Augustyn, violin
Williams Adventure on Earth from E.T.
Williams Theme from Jurassic Park
Williams Selections from Star Wars Suite

Meet the Soloist

Kinga Augustyn is a classical concert violinist and recording artist who performs as a concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. She has been described as “stylish and vibrant...playing with verve and superb control” and “beyond amazing, one hell of a violinist!”

Her repertoire ranges from early baroque to modern, sometimes performed on a baroque violin, to modern, often written especially for her. She sometimes performs on a baroque violin, to modern, oftentimes written especially for her. Kinga Augustyn began her musical studies at age 7 in her native Poland. She continued her musical education at The Juilliard School, where she earned both Bachelor and Master degrees. She also holds a doctorate from Stony Brook University.

As a teacher, Dr. Augustyn has served on the violin faculty for the Alexander & Buono Festival of Music. She has also conducted various violin, piano and chamber music masterclasses and workshops in the United States and Poland, most recently at Queens College, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Wacoaud Music Academy (University). Kinga Augustyn plays on an early 18th century violin made by Antonio Nazotti, generously on loan to her from a private collector.

Masterworks III – Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker

Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker ushers in the holiday season with two performances on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. From the very young to the very young at heart, all ages will enjoy this Christmas classic with 40 professional dancers, hand-selected area young dancers, a local children’s choir, and full musical accompaniment from the MDSO.

Tchaikovsky’s classic score narrates the audience through the “Miniature Overture,” “Land of the Sugar Plum Fairy,” and closes with Masha and the Nutcracker Prince dancing a grand pas de deux before the dream ends.

The Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker is known for its lavish costumes in the style of the Victorian era and its Russian focus including life-sized Matryoshka dolls and Russian folk legends.

DYSO Completes Auditions; Plans Partnership with MDSO

After four nights of auditions in early September, the 2017-2018 Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra welcomes nearly 50 student musicians from 20 different schools. The orchestra is already rehearsing a wide variety of interesting pieces and will perform a full symphonic concert each semester. Millkin’s Dr. Neal Smith, DYSO conductor, says he looks forward to seeing these students grow and learn as they work with the staff of teachers, musicians, and conductors.

In June DYSO students had the opportunity to participate in the first ever Heart of Illinois Youth Symphony Festival at University of Illinois, an event that brought together 150 young musicians from youth orchestras from Decatur, Peoria, Champaign and Quincy. The festival was a great learning experience as students rehearsed and performed large orchestra pieces with the director of the Chicago Youth Symphony, Allan Tinkham, as well as directors of all participating orchestras. Visit music.illinois.edu to see and hear more about the festival.

This year DYSO students will partner with the Millkin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra by preparing their own versions of pieces to be performed on each of MDSO’s Masterworks concerts. MDSO conductor Dr. Gregory Bogia will join DYSO rehearsals to share his expertise and help youth orchestra students understand the music. DYSO student musicians will then observe DYSO rehearsals and attend the Masterworks concerts to hear the final product – a great opportunity to learn from professional counterparts and observe how a professional symphony orchestra operates.

DYSO welcomes everyone to attend our concerts, which are free and open to the public. Any young musicians interested in participating in DYSO can contact Dr. Smith, 424-6358 or NSmith@millkin.edu.

From the President

(Continued from Page 1)

Nutcracker will be on the Kirkland stage for two performances on Saturday Nov. 4.

What an experience for the DYSO to perform with this ballet, and what a treat for us to watch it. Gather your family and friends and come see this very special performance.

The symphony guild’s primary purpose is to provide support for the MDSO. Each year the Guild hosts a holiday gala as one of its primary fundraisers. This year’s gala will carry the Nutcracker theme forward by holding a Sugar Plum Ball on Dec. 1 at the Decatur Club. The planners promise good food, a fun auction, live entertainment, and even dancing. Save the date and be looking for your invitations.

Please take the time to check out all of the other guild activities described in this newsletter. You will see scholarship winners, the youth orchestra schedule, and much more. All of which show the many ways to support your local orchestra.

We are grateful for all of our supporters, advertisers, and corporate sponsors, and especially we are grateful for guild members who support the MDSO through their membership, their volunteer time and their attendance at the concerts. If you are a member please invite your friends to a concert and invite them to join the guild. They will thank you for the invitation!

See you at the symphony!

Bob Tyler
President, Symphony Orchestra Guild of Decatur

DYSO Calendar 2017-2018

Monday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
Winter Concert
Central Christian Church

Friday, Dec. 1
Concerto Competition
Keueper Hall

Friday, March 23
Trip to St. Louis Symphony concert, Pines of Rome

Monday, April 23, 7 p.m.
Spring Concert
Kirkland Fine Arts Center

Tuesday, April 24, 10 a.m.
PASS Concert
Kirkland Fine Arts Center

Madelyn Kelm and Fiona Podruff (left) were among the DYSO members who participated in the June 2017 Heart of Illinois Youth Symphony Festival (above).