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Overture

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA GUILD OF DECATUR

2017-2018 Season, Issue 3

January 2018

From The President

Robert Tyler



Happy New Year! I think we can safely say that we are half way through the season, and what a season it has been so far. We have been treated to exciting music performed in front of full auditoriums. Not even rain could dampen the Labor Day Pops concert, and Romeo and Juliet left the audience breathless on opening night.

To top that off, audiences were thrilled with the music of John Williams, and they are still talking about the Moscow Ballet's *Great Russian Nutcracker* performance, which set the theme for a delightful fund-raising holiday gala, our 'Sugar Plum Ball' in December.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 3 – MDSO Masterworks IV*
CREATIVE & INNOVATIVE:
YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT!
Kirkland Fine Arts Center,
7:30 p.m.

March 3 – MDSO Masterworks V*
ODE TO JOY; BEETHOVEN
SYMPHONY NO. 9
Kirkland Fine Arts Center,
7:30 p.m.

April 20, 21 and 22 –
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*
presented by MDSO, School
of Theatre and Dance, and
School of Music Opera
Workshop
Kirkland Fine Arts Center,
Friday and Saturday
7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m.

**April 23 – Decatur Youth
Symphony Orchestra**
Spring Concert, Kirkland
Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m.

April 24 – PASS Concert
Presented by Decatur
Youth Symphony
Orchestra
Kirkland Fine Arts
Center, 10 a.m.

*Tickets at Kirkland box
office (217) 424-6318
More info at
decaturochestra.com

Scholarship Auditions Set for March 16-17

Auditions for the symphony guild's 2018-2019 music scholarships will be held March 16 and 17 in Perkinson Music Center on the Millikin campus. Students who play in the Decatur Youth Orchestra and any Macon County students in grades six through 11 who play in their school band or orchestra are encouraged to apply.

Each year the guild awards a large number of scholarships for summer music camps and for private instrument lessons with a Millikin-approved instructor through the Preparatory Department. Friday, March 16, audition times are for piano, percussion, and those with Saturday conflicts. Audition times on Saturday are for all other orchestral instruments. Students should prepare a solo piece that showcases their technical ability and musicality.

Application forms and more details are accessible on the guild's website, decaturochestra.com. Completed applications are due Friday, March 2.

Successful Gala Raises Funds for MDSO, Music Education

The theme for the guild's annual holiday gala fundraiser was inspired by the elegant party scene that opens *The Nutcracker* ballet. Ask anyone who attended on Dec. 1, and they no doubt would agree that the Sugar Plum Ball lived up to its billing as a party that would have delighted Clara and Fritz and a handsome prince.

Sincere thanks are due to all those who helped make the evening possible – the guild's Ways and Means committee members who planned and hosted the gala; our generous sponsors, whose donations ensured the event's financial success; individuals and businesses who donated auction items and those who bid generously to purchase items; and all who attended. Kudos to all!



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Photos clockwise from top left: Millie Gonzalez, Dave and Mary Gendry; Paul Rosenberger, John Baird, Verlyn Rosenberger; Linda and Erwin Arends; Sugar Plum Fairy, aka Grace Brewster; Duane and Joan Avis

Pre-Concert Talk 6:30 in Kirkland Auditorium

Beginning one hour before each MDSO Masterworks concert, a pre-concert conversation gives insights into the music and the composers whose works you will hear on the program. Pre-concert talks are held in the Kirkland Auditorium and are free to all ticket holders.

After-Concert Receptions

Following the Feb. 3 and March 3 concerts, all attendees are invited to a reception hosted by the symphony guild. Plan on stopping by the Kirkland Lobby to enjoy light refreshments, greet the musicians, and visit with other symphony-goers.

Bizou Extends Hours on Symphony Nights

Enjoy the performance, join the guild for light refreshments in the lobby, and then continue your evening out at Bizou in downtown Decatur. The restaurant has graciously agreed to extend its hours on symphony performance nights, and will offer a selection of appetizers, desserts and drinks for the after-concert crowd. Come join us!

Welcome

We appreciate these new guild members:

Silver baton

Sandy and Dave Johnson
Bryan and Brynn Kickle
Neal and Christine Smith

Ivory Baton

Kristin Hargrove

From the President (Continued from Page 1)

So, what is the new year to bring? Come out Feb. 3 and see Masterworks IV as it introduces and spotlights the winners of Millikin School of Music's annual concerto-aria competition. Read more about these young performers in this issue. Masterworks V on March 3 will include Millikin's Union of Choirs with the orchestra as they perform *Ode to Joy: Beethoven Symphony No. 9*.

Finally, I am already hearing excitement for the season finale when the MDSO joins with the Millikin School of Theatre and Dance and the School Music Opera Workshop and to present Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*.

As I said earlier, what a season! I encourage you come out and enjoy the rest of the performances this season – you will not be disappointed. I also invite you to join audience members and performers for some refreshments at the guild's after-concert reception, and continue the fellowship at Bizou downtown following all of the symphony performances. Happy New Year!

Bob Tyler

President, Symphony Orchestra Guild of Decatur

Masterworks IV – Creative & Innovative

In 18th-century Vienna, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was renowned for his prodigious talent as a composer and pianist. Many of Mozart's works, especially his Turkish March, were pinnacles of compositional creativity and cosmopolitan culture. The grandeur of his final symphony, later nicknamed "Jupiter," highlights the composer's musical and emotional brilliance. Now, in 21st-century Decatur, the MDSO celebrates both Mozart's historical innovations and contemporary creativity with solo performances by three 'Young Artist' competition winners.

Mozart *Turkish March, from Piano Sonata in A major, K.331*

Jacob *Trombone Concerto, Movements I and 3*
Soloist: John Robinson, trombone

Bellini *Oh! quante volte*
Soloist: Lauren Jones, soprano

Nielsen *Flute Concerto, Movement I*
Soloist: Madeline Moylan, flute

Herbert *Art is calling for me*
Soloist: Lauren Jones, soprano

Mozart *Symphony No. 41, K.551, C major (Jupiter)*

Masterworks V – Ode to Joy

Few composers have inspired greater fascination among audiences, musicians, and scholars than Ludwig van Beethoven. His nine symphonies, framed in this concert, represent monumental artistic achievements for both the composer and the many musicians who continue to perform his works. Symphony No. 1, deeply rooted in the Viennese classical styles of Haydn and Mozart, premiered in 1800 and reveals Beethoven's compositional ambitions. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, completed in 1824 near the end of his life, stands as a testament to the composer's optimism that culminates in the choral finale proclaiming an "Ode to Joy."

Joining the MDSO for this concert will be the Millikin Union of Choirs, with their directors Guy Forbes, Beth Holmes, and Brad Holmes.

Beethoven *Symphony No. 1, Op. 21*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 9, Op. 125*

Soloists:

Anna Kristine Phillips, soprano
Kasey Stewart, alto

Justin John Moniz, tenor
Ian Greenlaw, bass

Meet the Young Artists Slated to Solo Feb. 3

John Robinson, a senior music performance major, has been performing with MDSO since his freshman year. He has also performed in the Millikin Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band 1, Jazz Combo, Trombone Ensemble, Trombone Quartet, Brass Quintet, played in the pit orchestra for the November 2015 musical theater production of *The Addams Family*, and performed the Ferdinand David *Concertino* with MDSO as a featured 'Young Artist' soloist in February 2016.

In addition to performing at Millikin, John has done many performances outside of school. In 2015 he was named a participant for the Southeast Trombone Symposium, where he spent a week working with trombonists from the Atlanta Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony and the New York Philharmonic. Also at this conference he was selected as a semi-finalist in the orchestral excerpts competition. He also was selected to play in the emerging performers trombone ensemble at the Midwest Trombone and Euphonium Conference in 2016 and 2017.

He played in the pit orchestra for The Little Theater On The Square's 2016 summer season and the 2016 Christmas show. During summer 2017 John spent a month touring with musicians from seven countries for the 60th anniversary tour of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra.

After graduating this spring, John plans to continue his study of the trombone by attending graduate school.



Lauren Jones is a senior music major from Evanston, Ill. Lauren has been active in the Opera Department at Millikin and has been featured in leading roles in several Opera Workshop concerts including *The Old Maid and the Thief* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

In addition to music performance, Lauren is an active member of the International Student Organization and serves as Vice President and Marketing Chair, a role in which she organizes events for cross-cultural awareness on campus.

Lauren sings with the Collegiate Chorale under the direction of Dr. Guy Forbes and is the voice student of Professor Ann Borders.

Madeline Moylan, a native of Breese, Ill., is a senior majoring in Flute Performance. She performs with the MDSO, Millikin Wind Ensemble, Millikin Flute Choir, and the Eidolan Quintet.

Madeline has performed as a soloist with the Millikin Wind Ensemble in 2016 and 2017, as well as in masterclasses with world-renowned flutists including Bernard Goldberg, Bonita Boyd, and Sir James Galway.

In April 2017 Madeline won the prestigious Hollis Prize Competition, receiving a monetary award and the opportunity to perform a recital in Chicago. She spent a semester abroad in Dublin, Ireland, studying at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with Bill Dowdall, one of Ireland's leading flutists.

After graduating this May, Madeline plans to pursue a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance.



OUR MISSION:

To promote and support
**symphonic
music**

to encourage

**educational
opportunities**

that include all segments
of our population,

and to provide an ever-increasing level of

artistry

and audience appreciation.