

PENINSULA *symphony*

Symphony Sounds

February 2014

47th Season, Number 2

Editor: Kenneth Gash

Concert II

Sunday, February 2, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Redondo Union High School Auditorium

631 Vincent Street (at PCH)
Redondo Beach

PROGRAM

Mozartian Melodies

- Mozart** ***Masonic Funeral Music***
- Mozart** **Violin Concerto No.3 in G**
Elizabeth Pitcairn, Soloist
- Mozart** **Sinfonia Concertante for**
Violin, Viola and Orchestra
Elizabeth Pitcairn & Brett
Deubner, Soloists

CONCERT DETAILS

Symphony Association members admitted at 6:00. Center-section priority seating is reserved for members at the Patron level and above.

Concert Preview by **Maestro Berkson** at 6:15.
General public admitted at approximately 6:50.

POST-CONCERT MEET THE PERFORMERS

After the concert, the audience is invited to remain in the auditorium and meet informally with our conductor, Gary Berkson, and with our soloists. The artists may make a few remarks about themselves and their program, and then the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. Please call our office at 544-0320 if you have any questions about this event.

We Did It!

Our opening concert in our new venue at Redondo Union High School Auditorium was a rousing success! During the little more than four months that we had to prepare for the move from our previous location at the Rolling Hills Covenant Church, we were optimistic, but no one was sure that everything would get done for our opening concert.

First, there was the shock of our precipitous ouster from the Covenant Church after thirty years of residence there. Our Music Director, Gary Berkson took the lead in searching for and securing the wonderful setting of the Redondo Union High School Auditorium. Our season schedule was already set and the soloists were contracted, so we were very lucky that we only had to change the date of the opening concert. (Of course this gave us almost a month less time for the transition.)



Board President John Williams ready to welcome the audience at the new venue.

After that it was a matter of working out the many details involved in integrating into our new home. This involved arranging for refreshments for the audience and orchestra members (no food or drink inside the auditorium), organizing the parking, getting the word of our move out to members and the general public, and arranging for a gala opening night.

The staff at Redondo Union High School Auditorium, led by Theater Manager Aaron Morgan, are magnificent. They worked enthusiastically with Maestro Berkson to arrange the stage, the lighting and the audio to perfectly accommodate our orchestra. Lisa Rodriguez and the RUHS Band & Guard Boosters arranged for the wonderful refreshments at intermission. They also sent out several "*email Blasts*" to the 2000 families of the students inviting them the concert.

We can look forward to many years in this comfortable and acoustically excellent hall as the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra approaches its fiftieth anniversary and beyond.

Music Preview



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Along with Beethoven, Mozart is perhaps the most familiar composer to modern listeners of classical music. We all know that he was a child prodigy who lived a tragically short life.

But, did you know that Mozart had actually been tested and certified as a true musical genius? In June of 1765, Baines Barrington, a prominent member of the Royal Society of London, was invited to the Mozart home in London. He described meeting Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and thoroughly testing the musical abilities of this **eight-year-old** boy.

Barrington brought along a five-part score of a new opera by a London composer. To compound the problem, two of the five lines were in the offbeat contralto clef. This was a very tough test, and Mozart not only played it flawlessly -- he also captured the composer's tempos, dynamics, and musical intentions. In his publication of the event, Barrington went on for two pages explaining the complexity of the feat to the non-musician readership of the Royal Society.

Next he asked young Wolfgang if he'd be good enough to improvise a love song. The child gave him an arch look, as though to say, "Ask me something hard," and he proceeded to create a complete piece with recitative and two movements.

Could you then, asked Barrington, compose me a song of rage? This time, Mozart tore into the keyboard like a child possessed -- standing up from his bench and hammering the keys with small fingers that had trouble reaching the interval of a fifth.

The playing came to an abrupt halt when a cat entered the room. Mozart suddenly leaped up to run after it. No more harpsichord for a while. As Barrington talked with his father Leopold, Wolfgang proceeded to gallop back and forth through the room on an improvised hobby-horse.

Barrington predicted that Wolfgang would some day rival the genius of another prodigy, George Frederic Handel.

The beautiful music on this concert's program is unique in many ways. In the forty-six plus years of the Peninsula Symphony, there have been very few works with two or more instrumental soloists. The last performed was the Beethoven Concerto for Piano, Violin and Cello, way back in November of 1983. On Sunday, we will hear another two soloist piece.

Mozart composed his entire set of five violin concertos between the Spring of 1773 and December of 1775, never returning to that form again. He professed that he disliked the violin and preferred the viola. His father, Leopold Mozart, wrote to him stating "You have no idea how well you play the violin. If only you would do yourself justice and play with boldness, spirit and fire, as if you were the greatest violinist in Europe!"

The Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major (subtitled *Straßburg*) was composed in September, 1775. This concerto is noted for its lyricism, elegance and vivacity. The first movement is a profusion of melodic and rhythmic wonders. The Adagio is even more striking—a luminous nocturne of great warmth that characterizes the entire work with seeming effortless. The effect of sheer enchantment is enhanced by the substitution of flutes for the oboes in this movement alone.

The concluding Rondeau is a sequence of captivating vignettes, among them a lovely little serenade by the soloist with pizzicato accompaniment from the orchestral strings, and a musette-like citation of a popular tune before the proceedings come to an unceremonious close in which the winds have the last gentle word.

The magnificent Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra in E flat major, K. 364, is Mozart's only surviving complete work

of this type. The three movement work has unusually full and rich orchestral scoring. The work is notable for its warm expansiveness, especially in the Andante with its lovely dialogue between the two soloists.

We welcome back to our orchestra Elizabeth Pitcairn (with her famous Mendelssohn Red Violin) and Brett Duebner, violist. Elizabeth performed the Brahms Violin Concerto in November, 2012 and Brett played the Walton Viola Concerto in November 2011.



Elizabeth Pitcairn performing the Brahms Violin Concerto, Peninsula Symphony Orchestra



Brett Duebner performing the Walton Viola Concerto with the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra.

If you are able, plan on staying behind after the concert on Sunday and participate in the question and answer session with both soloists.

Past Events: First Concert

As mentioned in the opening paragraph on page 1, the concert of October 13 was a rousing success. Maestro Berkson surprised the audience immediately by opening with a piece that was not on the program: Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*. This short fanfare is written for the following instruments: four french horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, tam-tam (gong), and bass drum. It is therefore loud, brassy and percussive and it was a perfect introduction to the great sound qualities of our new auditorium.

This piece was followed by the evocative Scottish Symphony of Felix Mendelssohn. The audience was impressed with the clarity of the sound coming from the stage. After the concert, Maestro Berkson commented to me about how much he appreciated a stage with a proper sound shell - he could actually hear each of the instruments of the orchestra without them being buried in a muddle of sound.



Following intermission, we were treated to a bravura performance of the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 by Rufus Choi. Rufus specializes in music of the late Romantic period, in particular the music of Rachmaninoff. After the concert Mr. Choi stayed behind and enthusiastically answered questions from audience members.

Prior to the concert we had a Gala Reception at the Blue Water Grill in Redondo Beach attended by members at the Sponsor level and above. Wine, canapes, desserts were served and door prizes were awarded to lucky winners.

2013 - 2014 Schedule

All concerts, including the Young Artists Showcase, are held at
Redondo Union High School Auditorium
PCH and Vincent Street
Redondo Beach

Young Artists' Showcase

March 30, 2014, 2 p.m.

The finalists in the Edith Knox Performance Competition will play with their accompanists in a full-dress stage performance for professional judging. The first-prize winner will be selected at the end of the program, and will perform as soloist with the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra at our June 22 concert. This event is open to all members.

Concert III
April 13, 2014, 7 p.m.

SPRING CLEANING

Schumann	Symphony No. 1, ("Spring")
Copland	<i>Appalachian Spring</i>

Concert IV
The Norris Foundation Concert
June 22, 2014, 7 p.m.

AN IDYLIC EVENING

Edith Knox Competition Winner Soloist

Mozart	Sinfonia Concertante for Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn and Orchestra
TBA	Concerto performed by the Knox Competition winner
Beethoven	Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

Summer Pops Concert
July 27 2014, 5:00 p.m.

Guest conductor Wayne Abravanel will return to the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra to present a program of popular favorites - details to be announced.

raising funds and providing a variety of volunteer opportunities to suit your time and talents.

The *Friends* music education outreach program which began as the Mozart Program has expanded. Starting in January, first-and-second grade students at all ten Palos Verdes elementary schools will listen a narration (accompanied by a string quartet) of Mozart's life and times when he was young. The music teachers work with classroom teachers to prepare students in advance of the performance with knowledge of the composer, the instruments and how to listen. This preparation provides students with an enriched listening experience at the live performance.

Friends membership donation is **in addition** to your membership in the Peninsula Symphony Association and is open to any current Peninsula Symphony Association member. If you have not already responded to our membership mailing, we urge you to join now with your tax-deductible donation (Tax ID# 23-7008895).

Stop by the membership table in the lobby at intermission. We hope you will join us. Our suggested donation levels are:

Best Friend(s) - \$125

Good Friend(s) - \$75

Friend - \$50

Membership donations can also be mailed to:

***Friends* of the Peninsula Symphony
 PO Box 3961
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274**

Friends of the Peninsula Symphony

The *Friends* of the Peninsula Symphony welcomes men and women interested in providing an extra measure of support to the Peninsula Symphony and having fun while doing it. The *Friends* perform an essential function for our Symphony by

Friends Have Fun!

The *Friends* membership party was held on November 2, 2013 at the Admiral Risty Restaurant in Rancho Palos Verdes. We celebrated the start of the 2013-2014 Symphony season with a salad luncheon, music and door prizes. The 47th year celebration of both the Peninsula Symphony and The Admiral Risty was acknowledged with a gift certificate presented to our door prize winner, Barbara Davis, by Tim Roderick, manager. Cellist Tim Ogden provided music for our festivities.



Marion Ruth Wins a Door Prize!

Membership luncheons, trips, musical salons and other activities are all part of the enjoyable benefits of becoming a member of the *Friends* of the Peninsula Symphony Association.

Extension of Membership Renewal

If you have not yet sent in your 2013-2014 membership donation yet, this is **absolutely the final issue** of Symphony Sounds that you will get. Our orchestra sounds better, the auditorium is larger with comfortable seats and Gary's pre-concert lectures are better than ever. Visit our website at www.pensym.org or come to the membership table at the concert and renew. We need and value your support.

Amazon Associates

Our affiliation with Amazon Associates has been successful and we receive monthly income from our members purchases. We would love to have any of you who have not used this program to provide additional needed support to our orchestra. Here is a repeat of the instructions for doing this.

If you ever shop on Amazon, you can now use their Associates program to continue to support the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. All you have to do is to first go to the Peninsula Symphony web page and click on Shop Amazon which is highlighted in red under the orchestra picture..

This will open a new window where you should enter an item you wish to buy and then click go. You will then be automatically sent to the Amazon site and you can then continue as you normally would to make your purchase, search for additional items or any other activity.

When you take this small extra step to do your Amazon shopping, the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra will receive a percentage the purchase price as a charitable donation from Amazon. ***There is no cost to you the buyer for this donation!***

This appears to be a win-win situation for the orchestra and for you since you, through what you normally do to purchase on-line, will also provide much needed support for your orchestra.

Please try this the next time you use Amazon.com. If you have any difficulties please email me at kgash@cox.net and I will be happy to help.

Join our Symphony Team - Become a Volunteer

The Symphony Association could not function without the help of volunteers. There are many opportunities for you to use your talents. Some examples are helping us with mailings, ushering, intermission refreshments, receptions, the membership campaign, pre-concert setup, and maintaining files. This is only a partial list, but it shows the diversity of tasks that must be done. If you have any questions, or are ready to become a volunteer, please contact Marion Ruth, Concert Committee Chair, (310) 541-4144.



In Memoriam

Jeanne Tellez, a second violinist with the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, passed away on November 26, 2013 with her family by her side. Jeanne, a very talented violinist, first played with the orchestra in April, 1999. She had both a deep love for music and a great sense of humor.

Maestro Berkson has dedicated the February concert to her memory.

General Meeting of the Peninsula Symphony Association

The Symphony Association's annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2014. The Board meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the annual membership meeting will begin at approximately 9:00 p.m. (at the conclusion of the Board meeting).

All Symphony Association members are eligible to attend either or both meetings.

The primary item of business at the annual meeting is the election of new Board members for the 2014-2015 term. The Nominating Committee will present a list of candidates. Association members attending this meeting may nominate additional candidates and may also vote. Please call the Symphony Association office (310-544-0320) if you plan to attend. This is necessary to ensure that we will have sufficient capacity for all attendees. Details about the meeting location will be given when you call.



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Contact Information

Any questions or requests about the Peninsula Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony Association, **Symphony Sounds**, or the *Friends* of the Peninsula Symphony should be sent to the Peninsula Symphony Association office (we will route your message to the appropriate person):

The Peninsula Symphony Association
Post Office Box 2602
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

The office is normally staffed from 9:00 to noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. You may call at any time (310-544-0320) and leave a message on our answering machine, but phone replies will usually be made only during normal staffing hours. You can e-mail us at music.pensym@verizon.net. General information about the Symphony (current season schedule, etc.) can be found on our website (www.pensym.org).

Other contacts are:

Peninsula Symphony Association President, John Williams
310-541-4660 jwskrs@verizon.net

Friends of the Peninsula Symphony, Mona Gifford, Chair
310-377-7711 monagee@cox.net

Music Director/Conductor, Gary Berkson conductor.pensym@verizon.net