

# PENINSULA *symphony*

## *Symphony Sounds*

November 2010

44<sup>th</sup> Season, Number 1

Editor: Kenneth Gash

### Concert I

Sunday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Rolling Hills Covenant Church  
2222 Palos Verdes Drive North  
Rolling Hills Estates

### PROGRAM

#### Audience Survey Concert

**Gershwin** *Lullaby for String Orchestra*

**Mozart** *Piano Concerto No.22*  
Steven Vanhauwaert, Soloist

**Beethoven** *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*

### 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 CONDUCTOR

After the concert, Symphony Association members at the Patron level (and above) are invited to meet the soloist, Steven Vanhauwaert and **Maestro Gary Berkson** at a reception in the home of one of our members. Directions to the reception will be sent with the membership cards to all who have contributed at the Patron level or above. Please call our office at 310-544-0320 if you have any questions about this event.

### Gary's Second Season!

**H**e's back! After a sensational inaugural year as Music Director and Conductor of the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, our esteemed *Maestro* Gary Berkson returns to begin his second season. Many of you will remember that during his first concert as Music Director, Gary surveyed the audience, asking for their musical preferences. This season's opening concert is based on the results of that survey and could very well be called "Our Favorite Composers." We are going to hear music by Beethoven, Mozart and Gershwin. Tchaikovsky was another audience favorite but, since the orchestra has played music by



GARY BERKSON CONDUCTING FINAL 2009-10 CONCERT

this composer at least forty-three times over the past forty-three years, Gary decided to pass on Tchaikovsky this time.

## Music Preview

### George Gershwin (1898-1937)

I'll be willing to bet that when the average concert-goer thinks of the music of George Gershwin, songs like *The Man I Love*, *S'Wonderful* or *I Got Rhythm* come to mind as well as *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Concerto in F* and *Porgy and Bess*. Our unpredictable maestro Gary has programmed for us a beautiful and undeservedly little-known piece called simply *Lullaby*.

According to that font of all knowledge, Wikipedia, "A lullaby is a soothing song, often sung to children before they go to sleep, with the intention of speeding that process. As a result they are often simple and repetitive. Lullabies can be found in every human culture and seem to have been used at least from the ancient period." Gershwin was the embodiment of the Jazz Age, the Roaring Twenties, flappers, and big, bouncy musicals and yet, from early in his career, he felt the urge to write serious, contemplative music.

Originally written for string quartet, the *Lullaby* has been transcribed for other instruments and groups many times. The interpretation for string orchestra beautifully maintains the complex weaving of the melodies and the subtle but complex rhythms of the original.

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

In addition to their tragic deaths at an early age, there are other similarities between Gershwin and Mozart. Both of them were workaholics and were able to produce an endless stream of musical compositions that greatly appealed to their audiences. Also, both of them found ample time for parties and nightlife. They both earned their living through their music although Gershwin was much more financially successful than Mozart. Perhaps if Mozart had lived after

radio and movies were invented he might have fared significantly better.

Mozart's piano concertos span the whole of his creative life and are viewed by many as the highpoint of his instrumental achievement. Their wide diversity of approaches and emphases show Mozart's remarkable ability to match the style of his musical material to the scale of the work, the tastes of his audiences and to the performance means at hand.

The Concerto in E-flat was one of three concertos intended for a series of Lenten subscription concerts given in Vienna in 1786. Unfortunately, the premier performance was squeezed in between the two halves of Dittersdorf's Oratorio *Esther*. Nevertheless, the audience received it enthusiastically.

The opening movement marked Allegro starts with a ceremonial exclamation by the full orchestra. This is followed by an orchestral exposition which proceeds to reveal the individual colors of the woodwinds, one by one. When the piano enters, the soloist plays for a full seventeen bars before the orchestra reenters with a lively and virtuosic interplay between the soloist and various instrumental combinations.

The second movement is an exquisitely expressive andante in the somber key of C minor which provides the emotional core of the concerto.

The bright, carefree rondo-finale is a welcome contrast to the intensity of the Andante and an unexpected incursion of a gentle Andantino cantabile brings a minuet-like repose before the animated rondo theme returns and the movement runs its course.

### Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Undoubtedly the most familiar four notes in classical music are those that open the fifth symphony of Beethoven. Three G's and an E-Flat. This simplest of themes has echoed through the two centuries since the creation of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor.

This most economical motive propels us harmonically and rhythmically through the first movement. The second movement, a set of variations actually using two themes, comes as a great relief from the relentless energy of the first. Rather than a playful, glorified dance movement, the third (Allegro) movement gives us a mysterious opening theme contrasted with the trio, a kind of contrapuntal game led by the double basses. Following the restatement of that mysterious opening theme all becomes still except the throbbing of the timpani leading us, *without pause*, to the splendor of the final movement.

Many things have been found in the fifth symphony – the summons of Fate, marital celebrations, the repercussions of a tragic love affair, the note of the yellowhammer heard in country walks. But whatever Beethoven did or did not intend to say to us in this tonal revelation, there is one trait that the C minor Symphony has beyond every other, and that is the quality of epic valor. There is nothing in music quite like the heroic beauty of those first measures of the Finale that burst forth at the end of the indescribable transition from the third movement with its swiftly cumulative crescendo, and the overwhelming emergence of the trombones which have been held in reserve until this moment.

All of this drama and splendor based on a simple four-note theme!



### Steven Vanhauwaert

The soloist for the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 22 has been hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* for his "impressive clarity, sense of structure and monster technique." He began his formal piano studies in Brussels and the Royal Conservatory and continued his musical development at the USC Thornton School of Music.

Among the many musical awards he has earned was the Grand Prize at the 2004 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition where his breathtaking performance made him an audience favorite.

## Past Events: Final Concert

The final concert of the 43<sup>rd</sup> season of the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra took place on June 27, 2010. Before the concert, Maestro Berkson presented another of his lively and informative lectures. These pre-concert talks have become an important part of the full musical experience for our audience members.

The concert opened with the rousing *Academic Festival Overture* by Johannes Brahms and concluded with the beautiful Symphony No. 3 ("Rhenish") of Robert Schumann, in recognition of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

Each season, the final concert provides an opportunity for the winner of the Knox Performance Competition Scholarship to perform a concerto with the orchestra. The competition was held on April 25, 2010, and the Scholarship was awarded to a thirteen-year-old cellist named Chloe J. Y. Hong.



CHLOE J. Y. HONG & DUANE CONOVER, KNOX CHAIR

The highlight of the concert was Chloe's performance of the Elgar Cello Concerto. This piece was written by Elgar towards the end of his life and it is a mature and

introspective look at death and mortality. The beautiful performance by Chloe belied her age and showed a level of maturity completely suited to the music.

During the intermission Harriet Servis, President of the *Friends* of the Peninsula Symphony, presented a check for \$20,000 to incoming Board President, Ken Gash.

After the concert, a reception was held in Carlson Hall honoring the Rips Scholarship winner, Chelsea Chen, a flautist just graduated from Palos Verdes High School. She is planning on pursuing degrees in music and psychology with a goal of using her skills to work with disabled children

Knox winner Chloe Hong was presented with her scholarship award and also with a beautiful cake which she shared with the audience.

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### Have you sent in your membership?

If you haven't made a contribution to join the Peninsula Symphony Association for the 2010-11 season, then you are no longer a member and this is the last issue of *Symphony Sounds* that you will receive. You will also lose your invitation to the pre-concert lectures . . . and a valuable tax deduction! To join, just call or write to the Peninsula Symphony Association (see the last page for phone and address). You can also go to our web site ([www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org)), print a copy of the membership form, and send it in. If all else fails, you can come to the concert on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, and make your contribution at the membership desk in the lobby.

It takes a lot of time and money to present free concerts. We would not have been able to do this without the help of a long list of supporters who have spent both time and money to keep the concerts going for the last 43 years. Renewing your membership in the Peninsula Symphony Association for our 44<sup>th</sup> season will help us continue to bring fine music to our community.

**Matching Gift Programs** Membership contributions also qualify for employer matching gift programs. Call the Peninsula Symphony Association office for details.

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### Peninsula Symphony Association Board of Directors

There are a number of new members of the Board of Directors: **Bob Coffey, Barbara Gerber, Anita Gash, Bruce Erickson, Mildred Marx and Ben Pogoreslky**. The following board members to retired from the Board: **Roger Schamp, Charles Ferraro, Jane Jones, and Bob Vasey**. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Peninsula Symphony Association and hope to work with them again.

#### OFFICERS:

President, **Kenneth B. Gash**  
Vice President, **Bob Coffey**  
Secretary, **Faye Schwartz**  
Treasurer, **Barbara Gerber**  
Past President, **John Copper**

#### CHAIRS:

Artistic Committee, **Kenneth Gash**  
Community Affairs, **John Williams**  
Concerts, **Marion Ruth**  
Facilities, **Jack Trost**  
Finance, **D. Paul Nibarger**  
*Friends*, **Anita Gash and Harriet Servis**  
Grants, **(TBA)**  
Knox Competition, **Duane Conover**  
Membership, **Brendon Bond**  
Off-Site Receptions, **Marion Ruth**  
Program Book, **Nancy Mahr**  
Program Book Ads, **Jackie Crowley**  
Strategic Planning, **Dianne Bishop**  
Venue, **(TBA)**  
Webmaster, **Bruce Erickson**

#### DIRECTORS:

**George J. Bender, David Humphreys  
Chuck Klaus, Eugene McAdoo, Mildred Marx, Ben Pogoreslky, Carol Schamp**

## 2010 - 2011 Schedule

All regular concerts are held at:  
Rolling Hills Covenant Church  
2222 Palos Verdes Drive North  
Rolling Hills Estates

### Concert II

**February 20, 2011, 7 p.m.**

Von Suppé	Overture to <i>The Beautiful Galatea</i>
Haydn	Cello Concerto No. 1
	<b>Tamara Bohlin</b> , Cello
Berwald	<i>Reminiscences of the Norwegian Mountains</i>
Liszt	<i>Les Préludes</i>

### Concert III

**May 8, 2011, 7 p.m.**

Humperdinck	Prelude to <i>Hansel and Gretel</i>
Prokofiev	<i>Peter and the Wolf</i>
	<b>Gail Eichenthal</b> , Narrator
Gounod	<i>Funeral March of a Marionette</i>
Tchaikovsky	Selections from <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i>

### Young Artists Showcase

**February 27, 2011, 2 p.m.**

**ARMSTRONG THEATER**

**3330 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, TORRANCE**

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 26 concert.

**Concert IV****The Norris Foundation Concert****June 26, 2010, 7 p.m.**

Rossini	Overture to <i>Il signor Bruschino</i>
TBA	Concerto chosen by winner of the Knox Competition
Schubert	Symphony No. 4, "Tragic"

**Summer Pops Concert****July 24, 2011, 4:30 p.m.**

An afternoon of familiar (and not so familiar) music by Duke Ellington, Leroy Anderson, Richard Rodgers, Max Steiner, Alfred Newman, and Morton Gould.

**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* are an essential part of our Symphony. We are the largest single donor to PSA accounting for almost thirteen percent of last year's budget.

The *Friends* also bring valuable opportunities to promote awareness of our concerts, related events and music education programs such as Celebrate Mozart, an enrichment program for second graders, to the community. We have a variety of opportunities to suit your time and talents.

*Friends* membership donation is in *addition* to your membership in the Peninsula Symphony Association and is open to any current PSA member. If you have not already responded to our membership mailing, we urge you to

join now with your tax-deductible (Tax ID# 23-7008895) donation.

Stop by the membership table in the lobby at intermission. We hope you will join us and help to achieve our goal of a \$20,000 pledge as we did during last season. Our suggested donation levels are:

**Best Friend-\$125      Good Friend-\$75  
Friend-\$50**

Membership donations can also be mailed to:

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

Thank you for being a *Friend*!

Anita Gash, Chair  
*Friends* Membership Committee  
anitag1@cox.net

**Friends Advisory Group**

Jane Copper	Anne Destabelle
Maude Landon	Dorothy Lay
Kay Nibarger	Harriet Servis
Jody Tournat	Midge Trost

**Friends Events**

Since *Friends* Have Fun While Raising Funds we started off the 2010-2011 Season with the *Friends* Membership Event "Allegro Italiano." Maestro Berkson and his wife Annika joined *Friends* members at Giorgio's Italian Restaurant on Sunday, October 24 and celebrated the beginning of the of the Peninsula's 44th Year and Maestro's second season. Members enjoyed a hot appetizer buffet, music by jazz pianist Richard Sherman, and welcome prizes.

Events planned for the coming year include a Spring Luncheon and a Pops Concert Party.

**John Williams**

In June, 2010, the Peninsula Symphony Association office received a \$1,500 check from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to recognize John Williams' volunteer efforts. John is the Chairman of

Community Affairs for the Symphony and a long-time resident of Palos Verdes who has been active in the community for the last twenty years. A graduate of USC with an engineering degree, John entered the Submarine Service. After subsequent civilian engineering and managerial assignments, John joined Shearson in 1990 (now Morgan Stanley Smith Barney) as a financial advisor. Over the years he has enlisted his company to support local charities with which he became involved.

John has been President of the Los Verdes Men's Golf Club, and continues on its Board.

He is currently the Marathon Chairman for the Palos Verdes Marathon, which raises funds to support local youth charities and sponsors scholarships for deserving graduating high-school seniors. Sponsor funding has come from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

His main effort continues to be with the Peninsula Symphony Association, as Past President and current Board member, continuously seeking support from his company as well as other community resources. This year the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney grant was the first from the newly formed joint venture of Smith Barney and Morgan Stanley. The grant is based upon the employee service and a worthy recipient.

The Peninsula Symphony is a community symphony, including professional and local non-professional musicians. It provides free concerts for the community and focuses on exposing students and young people to fine classical music. The entire community of all ages benefits including seniors from local residences.

The Board of Directors of the Peninsula Symphony Association sends its thanks and appreciation to the Morgan Stanley Foundation for its generous gift.

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**Note from the Editor**

If you have read this issue carefully you will have noted that I am now President of the Board of Directors of the Peninsula Symphony Association. I will continue to edit *Symphony Sounds* but my new responsibilities have caused me to become much more involved in the details of keeping our **community** orchestra viable.

As I have stated in the President's Message that appears in our beautiful 2010-2011 Program Book, our main and continued source of support comes from members of our community. In past issues of *Symphony Sounds* I have made appeals for increased support from our members and I will probably continue to do so.

Each of you reading this most likely contributes to a number of other organizations which need your support and you are also deluged with pleas from organizations which would *like* your support. We like to feel that, since your donations go directly to help provide beautiful music that you enjoy, we have a special place in your life.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know at: [kqash@cox.net](mailto:kqash@cox.net)

Thank you.



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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](mailto:music.pensym@verizon.net). General information about the Symphony (current season schedule, etc.) can be found on our website ([www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org)).

Other Contacts are:

Peninsula Symphony Association President, Kenneth B. Gash  
310-541-3516 [kgash@cox.net](mailto:kgash@cox.net)

*Friends* of the Peninsula Symphony, Anita Gash  
310-541-3516 [anitag1@cox.net](mailto:anitag1@cox.net)

Music Director/Conductor, Gary Berkson [conductor.pensym@verizon.net](mailto:conductor.pensym@verizon.net)