

# PENINSULA *symphony*

## *Symphony Sounds*

November 2011

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

Editor: Kenneth Gash

### Concert I

Sunday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m.

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

### PROGRAM

## Rule Britannia

J. Strauss, Sr. *Homage to Queen  
Victoria Waltz*

Walton *Viola Concerto*  
Brett Deubner, Soloist

Vaughan Williams *Symphony No. 5 in D  
major*

### 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 ARTISTS

After the concert, Symphony Association members at the Patron level (and above) are invited to meet the soloist, **Brett Deubner** 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.

### Our Maestro's Third Season

If you are like me, you have been eagerly awaiting the start of the 2011-2012 season of the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra and the wonderful music that our Maestro, Gary Berkson, will bring forth from *your* orchestra. During the year we will hear some old favorites as well as some beautiful music which has never before been played by our orchestra. There will be soloists at all four concerts and there will be a Pops Concert in July with a superb guest conductor.



STEPHANIE NG PERFORMING AT THE FINAL 2010-11 CONCERT

### Music Preview

Ask our average audience member about his or her favorite composers and we will hear names like Beethoven (German), Tchaikovsky (Russian), Ravel (French), Dvořák (Czech) and Gershwin (American). Well, you may be adding English composers

to your list after the opening concert entitled ***Rule Britannia***.

### Johann Strauss, Sr. (1804-1849)



Why does Gary start with an *A u s t r i a n* composer for his opening piece about *British* music? I think it is to set the musical mood since the work, entitled *Homage to Queen Victoria Waltz* makes use

of two of the most familiar tunes from across the pond. I wonder if anyone at the Queen's Coronation actually danced to *God Save the Queen* played as a waltz.

The tune of *God Save the King (or Queen)* was quite popular with other composers. Beethoven used it in two different pieces, Johann Christian Bach used it for a set of variations, Muzio Clementi used the theme in his Symphony No. 3, and Franz Liszt wrote a piano paraphrase on it. You will recognize that the theme is also the melody of the American patriotic song *America (My Country 'tis of Thee)* which, as you may remember from the opening piece of Maestro Berkson's Inaugural Concert, was used by Charles Ives in *Variations on America*.

### Sir William Walton (1902-1983)



This is the first time that the orchestra has featured the *viola* as a solo instrument so a little background information may be in order. The *viola* is the second member of the string family,

preceded by the violin and followed by the cello and the double bass. Typically, a *viola* is about two inches longer than a violin, has heavier strings, and is tuned a fifth lower. As a result it has a richer and darker tone than the violin. Prior to the twentieth century, very little music was written for the solo *viola* and it was used primarily in a subordinate role to fill in the middle parts of an orchestral piece.

William Walton, the son of a choirmaster, was a singer first and never really mastered performance of any instrument. Yet his understanding of the *viola's* musical characteristics - its warm, deep, soulful sound and introspective nature - is evident from his *Viola Concerto*, which has become one of the major solo works for the instrument.

Unfortunately, the *viola* has become, with the possible exception of the accordion, the most joked about musical instrument. It is depicted as unplayable, untuneable and unwanted. (***How do you keep your violin from being stolen? Keep it in a viola case.***) A much more judicious characterization of the instrument was given by William Primrose, a *viola* virtuoso who died in 1982. When asked about the difference between a violin and a *viola*, he responded "A *viola* is a violin with a college education."

### Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



Ralph Vaughan Williams, a very prolific composer, was no child prodigy. He began studying music in his early school years and continued until he received a Doctor of Music

from Cambridge in 1901, the year that his first work, a song entitled "*Linden Lea*", was published. His first major work, *A Sea Symphony*, was started in 1903, completed in 1909 and performed in 1910.

He had settled down to a career as a church organist, teacher and composer. In 1904, he was visited by Percy Dearmer, an English parson, who asked him to edit the English Hymnal. Ralph (pronounced "Rafe") at first declined the offer since he was a self-professed atheist and knew little about hymns. After reconsideration, he accepted the assignment which was to take no more than two months. It actually took two years and considerable expense on his part. The high quality of the music and the standard of the arrangements and original compositions made it one of the most influential hymnals of the twentieth century. Vaughan Williams was also the co-editor with Martin Shaw of *Songs of Praise* of 1925 and the *Oxford Book of Carols* of 1928, all in collaboration with Percy Dearmer.

Like many of his works, Vaughan Williams' Fifth Symphony was a long time in the making. First performed in London in 1943, it contains themes composed years earlier as part of a projected opera based on Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Believing (in 1938) that the opera would never be finished, Vaughan Williams decided to divert some of its music into a new symphony. In style it represents a shift away from the violent dissonance of the Fourth Symphony, and a return to the more romantic style of his earlier Pastoral Symphony, which was written twenty-two years earlier. The prevailing impression of the symphony is of serenity and spiritual tranquillity, but there are underlying harmonic tensions

and dissonances indicating a sadness and disquiet.

His compositional life started when he was almost thirty and he was still working up until his eighty-sixth year. His Ninth Symphony had its initial performance three months before his death and he left an unfinished Cello Concerto, and an opera *Thomas the Rhymer*. Among his later works were concertos for harmonica and tuba. Vaughan Williams' music has often been said to be characteristically English and, as one prominent critic put it, "one is never quite sure whether one is listening to something very old or very new."

## Brett Deubner



Brett Deubner, one of this generation's most accomplished violinists, has inspired worldwide critical acclaim for his powerful intensity and sumptuous tone. As an experienced soloist, chamber music collaborator and educator, Brett Deubner has made a lasting impression on musical life the world over.

Engagements as concerto soloist on five continents have garnered critical acclaim as have his guest appearances at festivals throughout North and South America and Europe. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he studied with Martha Katz and

John Graham. Brett Deubner has received over eighty works written for him including twenty five concerti by such composers as Lalo Schifrin, Samuel Adler, Andrew Rudin, as well as sonatas and chamber music for viola by Joseph Turrin, David Sampson, David Del Tredici, Amanda Harberg and many others.

In addition to his concerto appearance with the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, he will also give performances this year with the Winchester Orchestra in Virginia, the Missoula Symphony Orchestra, the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra in New Jersey, and the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado Méridain in Venezuela.

Mr. Deubner resides in Glen Ridge, New Jersey with his wife Susan and their four children. Brett is an avid tennis player, hiker and fisherman. All of his children are championship swimmers and among them they play electric guitar, piano, drums, alto sax, and clarinet - but no burgeoning string players.

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## Past Events: Final Concert(s)

The final regular concert of the 44<sup>th</sup> season of the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra took place on June 26, 2011. 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 theme of the concert was *Celebrating Youth* and it opened with the rousing Overture to *Il signor Bruschino* by the twenty-one year old Gioachino Rossini and concluded with the Symphony No. 4 in C Minor, "Tragic" by nineteen year old Franz Schubert.

Each season, the final concert provides an opportunity for the youthful winner of the Knox Performance Competition Scholarship to perform a concerto with the orchestra. The

competition was held on February 27, 2011, and there were two Scholarship winners: pianist Stephanie Ng and violinist Mimi Jung. They both received the first place award and Stephanie was chosen to be the soloist at the June concert. Mimi Jung was not forgotten and you will be hearing more from her in the near future.

Stephanie performed the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* by Sergei Rachmaninoff with grace and precision. She demonstrated the necessary power and assurance to correctly present this mature work that is, at the same time, witty, austere and lushly romantic.

After the intermission Maestro Berkson made a brief appeal to the audience for support and then showed his own support by handing his membership application to the board president.

A reception was held in Carlson Hall after the concert honoring the Rips Scholarship winners Rachel Carpenter (Chadwick), Joseph Conovaloff (Peninsula High) and Elizabeth Spacone (Torrance High).

At the reception, Knox winner Stephanie Ng was presented with her scholarship award and also with a beautiful cake, which she shared with the audience.

## Summer Pops Concert

For the first time in several years, the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra offered a Summer Pops Concert on July 24. Maestro Berkson led the orchestra in music by Leroy Anderson, Morton Gould, Richard Rogers and others. The very appreciative audience was treated to a surprise encore, the Colonel Bogey March made famous in the film, *Bridge Over the River Kwai*. The audience spontaneously joined the orchestra by *whistling* the famous tune. The *surprise* came when Gary came into the audience and selected five year-old Benjamin Bishoff

to join him on the podium and to conduct the orchestra! He did wonderfully and even knew to bow to acknowledge the applause and cheering that erupted at the end of the piece.




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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 2011-12 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). We now have the convenience of electronic subscription through our Web site at [www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org). Just click on Membership



and you will be sent to a page where you can securely and easily join through PayPal or, if you wish, print out a copy of the membership form, and mail it in. If all else fails, you can come to the concert on the 6<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 forty-four years. Renewing your membership in the Peninsula Symphony Association for our forty-fifth 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.

### Peninsula Symphony Association Board of Directors

There are three new members of the Board of Directors: **Ramona Gifford, Lee Raby and Terri Zinkiewicz.** The following board members retired from the Board: **D. Paul Nibarger, Brendon Bond, Ben Pogorelsky and Anita Gash.** We thank them for their dedicated service to the Peninsula Symphony Association and hope to work with them again.

#### OFFICERS:

President, **Kenneth B. Gash**  
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*Friends*, **Ramona Gifford**  
 Knox Competition, **Duane Conover**  
 Membership, **(TBA)**  
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 Program Book, **Nancy Mahr**  
 Program Book Ads, **Jackie Crowley**  
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 Webmaster, **Bruce Erickson**

#### DIRECTORS:

**George J. Bender, David Humphreys, Chuck Klaus, Eugene McAdoo, Lee Raby, Carol Schamp and Terri Zinkiewicz**

## 2011 - 2012 Schedule

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

### Concert II

**February 20, 2012, 7 p.m.**

Mendelssohn	Wedding March from <i>A Midsummer's Night Dream</i>
Beethoven	Violin Concerto in D major
<b>Sean Lee, Violin</b>	
Goldmark	<i>Rustic Wedding Symphony</i>

### Young Artists Showcase

**April 15, 2012, 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 17 concert. This event is open to all members.

### Concert III

**April 29, 2012, 7 p.m.**

Ives	Symphony No. 2
Brahms	Piano Concerto No. 2
<b>Esther Keel, Pianist</b>	

### Concert IV

#### The Norris Foundation Concert

**June 17, 2012, 7 p.m.**

Faure	<i>Pavane</i>
TBA	Concerto chosen by winner of the Knox Competition
Debussy	<i>Syrinx</i>
Debussy	<i>La Mer</i>

### Summer Pops Concert

**July 22, 2012, 4:30 p.m.**

An afternoon of familiar (and not so familiar) music to be chosen by our distinguished Guest Conductor, Wayne Abrevanel.

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

The *Friends* also coordinates a music-education program. This year we will be adding first graders to our *Celebrate Mozart* program. First and second graders at all ten Palos Verdes schools will experience the music of Mozart played and narrated. Next year our program will be given by a woodwind quintet performing *Peter and the Wolf*.

*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

Thank you for being a *Friend!*

Mona Gifford, Chair  
*Friends* Membership Committee  
monagee@cox.net  
310-377-7711

### ***Friends* Events**

*Friends* have fun while raising funds. This year's membership party "Rule Britannia" was held on October 26 at the Point Vicente Interpretative Center. Members were treated to songs and stories from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales performed by talented and versatile musician, Paul Tracey. Sweet and savory bits of British fare made this party a true feast of British culture.

Events planned for the coming year include salons in January and June featuring both 2011 Knox scholarship winners. Also planned is a luncheon in April.

### **Charitable Donations**

Did you know that, if you qualify, you may make a contribution to the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra directly from your IRA account for the remainder of this year?

With the passage of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010, Congress reinstated the ability to allow individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income.

In addition, these donations can be used to satisfy the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the IRA owner, which means that the IRA owner who doesn't need his or her RMD for income can direct the distribution to the charity of his or her choice. Any distributions directed from an IRA will not be treated as taxable income and the donor will not have to recognize the distribution as income for determining Adjusted Gross Income.

Distributions must be made directly from the IRA trustee payable to the public charity. If you are interested in helping your symphony in this way, please contact the Symphony Office at (310) 544-0320 or go to the Website at [www.pensym.org](http://www.pensym.org).





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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 [monagee@cox.net](mailto:monagee@cox.net)

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