

INTRADA NO. 46 (2009/2010)

The season following a successful and memorable concert tour is always somewhat anticlimactic, but that soon changed as September began with a large enrollment and an exciting and challenging repertoire to master. This was also the season of three missed consecutive rehearsals due to the “Great Blizzard”.

Welcome New Members:

Catherine Amy, flute and piccolo	Mount de Sales
Jennifer Baik, violin	Centennial High School
Emily Barnard, bassoon	Mt. Hebron H.S.
Nathan Biedzynski, percussion	Western Tech
Jeremy Davis, double bass	Catonsville H.S.
Nick Du, clarinet	Centennial H.S.
Julia Gao, violin	Centennial H.S.
Colleen Gillis, oboe	Northeast H.S.
Ashby Henningsen, trumpet	Baltimore Lutheran
Siwen Huo, violin	Mt. Hebron H.S.
Stephen Johnson, trumpet	Home schooled
Lacey Kang, violin	Mt. Hebron H.S.
Caroline Kim, violin	Oklahoma Rd M.S.
Jun-Yup Kim, flute	Mt. St. Joseph
Maria Kaplan, oboe	Severna Park H.S.
Alaina Keller, violin	Monsignor Slade
Allison Kim, violin	Marriotts Ridge H.S.
Rena Lee, violin	Old Mill M.S.
Molly Lepore, clarinet	Oakland Mills H.S.
Logan McDonough, double bass	Folly Quarter M.S.
Monica Perumattam, violin	St. Jane Frances
Phillip Shulman, French Horn	Patapsco M.S.
Nicole Simon Ogan, percussion	South River H.S.
Brady Smith, violin	Hammond H.S.
Erik Soderstrom, flute	Home schooled
Richie Wang, violin	Glenwood M.S.
Connor Wright, trumpet	Mt. St. Joseph
Vivien Xie, flute	Catonsville H.S.
David Xu, violin	Dunloggin M.S.
Linda Yau, violin	River Hill H.S.
Victoria Yun, violin	Mt. Hebron H.S.

Concert and Silent auction: December 12, 2009

The program was as follows:

Hansel and Gretel – Prelude	Engelbert Humperdinck
Concerto in B Minor for Double Bass	Giovanni Bottesini
Nina DeCesare, Double Bass	
Lieutenant Kijé, Suite Symphonique	Sergei Prokofiev
Carmen Suite No. 1	Georges Bizet

Nina DeCesare, Double Bass Soloist

Nina DeCesare is a senior at St. Vincent Pallotti High School, and resides in Ellicott City, Maryland. This will be her eighth year playing with the MYSO and her tenth year playing the double bass.

She started private lessons with George Vance in fifth grade. In tenth grade, she studied with Ali Yazdanfar, and from eleventh grade to the present, she has studied with Ira Gold and Hal Robinson. In 2005, Nina won first place in the International Society of Bassist's Solo Competition, 14 and Under Age Division, and in 2009, she won first place in the 15-18 Age Division. Throughout the years, Nina has attended Interlochen Arts Camp, Wabass Institute for the 21st Century Bass Player, Domaine Forget Music Academy, and George Vance's Summer Bass Workshop. In 2008, she was selected to be a part of the National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship. From 2007-2009, she participated in the NSO Side-by-Side Orchestra. She is also the captain of her school's Varsity Cross Country team. Nina hopes to be a soloist or play in a major orchestra someday. In the meantime, she would like to thank her wonderful teachers, her school, her family, and her friends!

Nina dedicated her performance of the Bottesini Concerto to her first teacher, Mr. Vance, who passed away last August.

Since her performance in December she has been a winner in the NSO String and Army String competitions. Nina also entered the River Series Young Artist Concerto Competition where she won first place.

Silent Auction:

Many thanks to the friends of MYSO who donated to the auction:

Bruce and Kay Miller, Wayne and Sally Stewart, The John Kaplan Family, Jay Shulman and Elaine Patrick, Galina Patrusheva, Pamela Gruver, The Rezaei Family, The Wagner Family, Scott and Eileen Barnard, The Gartside Family, The Crawford Family, Stephen and Valencia Johnson, Faye Chen, The Hassan Family, Mount Airy Matress, Drs. Elijan and Sharon Saunders, Jessica Ren, Paul and Kathleen Casey, Marjorie Owen, Leonid Beresnev, Cullen Cummiskey.

May 2010

Our final concert of the season (May 16, 2010) featured **Prelude to Die Meistersinger by Richard Wagner** and **Mahler's Symphony No.1 in D Major**.

Mr. Silberschlag gave a brief discussion of the Mahler Symphony.

Like many composers who pushed the boundaries of their art, Gustav Mahler had great difficulty winning the approval of audiences. Working with huge orchestral forces yet often writing for only two or three instruments at a time, stretching the boundaries of the traditional forms, and combining a nearly endless profusion of ideas. Mahler's output is often difficult to grasp even after repeated listening. It is thus not surprising, though unfortunate for posterity, that in his own lifetime he was far better known as a conductor than as a composer, and was able to devote only his summers to creating new music.

During the five years needed to compose his First Symphony, Mahler was also working on a group of four songs, the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, or *Songs of a Wayfarer*, and some of the themes from those songs are also used in first and third movements of the symphony. This use of song-like material was characteristic of Mahler throughout his lifetime, and it achieves the pleasant result that most of his music leaves the listener filled with memories of wonderful melodies that seem to crop up endlessly, continually surprising one with their inventiveness.

Mahler did not limit himself to his own songs: folksong and traditional dances were also fair game, and the First Symphony contains one of the most famous examples, a setting of *Frère Jacques* in an unfamiliar minor key that tends to leave concertgoers simultaneously discomfited and intrigued. (Incidentally, the first appearance of this theme on the string bass is so challenging to play well that it has become a standard requirement in auditions. Watch carefully at the very beginning of the third movement, and you will be able to see how the musician must literally stretch himself to reach notes that fall in the normal range of the viola, not the bass.)

As would become the case for most of his future symphonies, Mahler's First was not particularly well received at its premiere. There were those who immediately understood the music and others who detested it, so that a lively controversy arose almost immediately after the final notes died out. In a letter to his friend Arnold Berliner, Mahler described its reception as "a mixture of furious disapproval and wildest applause.--It is amusing to hear the clash of opinions in the street and in drawing-rooms." But the instrumentalists who performed it, wise musicians that they were, clearly had no trouble perceiving the lasting value of the work.

Graduating Seniors

As we say good- bye to our graduates, we thank them for their dedication and loyalty to MYSO and wish them every success.

Violins:

Tyler Frazee, Concertmaster, will be attending West Virginia University in the fall, majoring in Violin Performance and Conducting.

Daniel Brennan will major in physics at University of Maryland, College Park, with a minor in music.

Alexei Beresnev will major in mathematics and engineering at UMBC and minor in music.

Brady Smith is going to UMBC, majoring in computer engineering with a minor in music.

Violas:

Ashley Tobler will be attending AACC and BYU.

Colin Webb will be going to the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, where he will pursue a Bachelor of Music degree in Viola Performance.

Cello:

Alexandra Carella will be a music major at Catholic University.

Bass:

Nina DeCesare will major in bass performance at Rice University.

Flute:

Erik Soderstrom will be attending Grove City College in PA. taking courses towards his declared major of Economics. He has played flute for 9 years and hopes to continue in college.

Oboes:

Margaret Amy is going to East Carolina University, in Greenville NC, where she will major in Music Education.

Colleen Gillis will be going to Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri to major in film production and minor in music.

Bassoons:

Thomas Holt is going to Arizona State University in Tempe for Bassoon Performance.

Emily Barnard will attend Towson University majoring in education with a minor in music.

French Horn:

Kristin Marciszewski is attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is majoring in Biology and minoring in music.

Percussion:

Nathan Biedzynski will attend Shepherd University, majoring in music.

Addendum:

This summer, **Erik Soderstrom** will be attending an outstanding leadership camp called City on a Hill; in this camp the high school students study current bills, learn about leadership, and go to Annapolis, where they sit in the seats of Congressmen in the Capitol (when it's not in session, of course), and re-vote on the bills on the previous session.

Erik will go to a Boy Scout camp in the Florida Keys called Seabase where he will learn to sail. He will be in the Fourth of July parade with his wife and drum corps. In the fall, at Grove City College he would like to participate in the worship services of their church; in anticipation of this, he will be studying Bach on his flute this summer. He is preparing to play Chopin on the piano in a recital in the fall.

Tom Holt received national honors from MENC: The National Association for Music Education and Facebook, as well as the President's Award for Volunteer Service, on May 14 for his volunteer efforts to promote music education in schools.

His father writes:

Tom undertook this effort for all the right reasons. Between hearing about budget cuts and being inspired by people, like Margaret and Angelo, who have devoted much effort to helping young people learn and appreciate music, he felt compelled to do something. Tom has not used the effort for self-promotion or as a brag sheet item. And he is not bucking for a career as a school teacher, either. Tom told me he will keep working on the school music issue after he heads off to Arizona State for college.

Congratulations to Cullen and Liz Cummiskey on the arrival of their son John Michael (Jack) on March 21, 2010 weighing in at 6lbs 1oz and 18 3/4" in length.

