



Bryan Symphony Orchestra

AT TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Notes and Notices

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P.O. Box 185, Cookeville, Tennessee 38503

October, 2000

Elisabeth Small Soloist For Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*

Concertmaster Elisabeth Small enjoys a multi-faceted career performing the recital, concerto and chamber music repertoire to public and critical acclaim.

She is concertmaster of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra and the Muncie (Indiana) Symphony Orchestra, and has been guest concertmaster of the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra earlier this season.

She has been a featured recitalist in major cities in the United States such as New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., and Nashville, where she currently resides. Her performances can be heard on public radio stations around the country and public television in Middle Tennessee. She was a recent guest performing on WPLN's "Live in Studio C" program. She has performed in major American venues including the Gardner Museum in Boston, the

National Gallery, Smithsonian, Phillips Collection, and Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and as part of the North River Music series in New York City.

Small has been soloist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., the Nashville Chamber Orchestra and the Bryan Symphony Orchestra at Tennessee Technological University,

where she has performed the Barber and Glazunov concerti and the Bach *Concerto for Violin and Oboe* with principal oboist, William Woodworth. She has appeared as soloist with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in the Nashville Ballet's production of *Robin Hood*.

An avid chamber music player, Small has performed at the Aspen, Banff and Teton Festivals and as violinist with the Washington Music Ensemble. She serves as Artistic Director of Belmont Camerata Musicale, an organization she co-founded at Belmont University. *Recital Hall*, a long standing broadcast collaboration between Belmont Camerata Musicale and WDCN-TV 8, won top honors for its American music program in the Public Television Program-Performance category in the national competition of National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA).

Small is active in the Nashville recording industry, and in addition to her activities as a performer, she maintains a busy teaching schedule. She is Coordinator of Strings at Belmont University and Belmont Academy. She is listed in the 1998 Edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

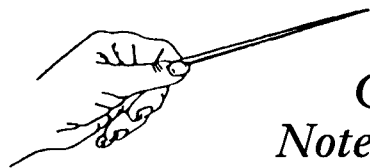
As a recording artist, she can be heard on the Premiere Records label with pianist Alan Mandel in the first recordings of the Loewe and Rontgen Sonatas. In its review of her CD, *The Washington Post* praised the "sensitive, assured performances" and described Small as "a musician who puts impressive technique in the service of communication." She recently recorded rarely heard American Romantic music with pianist Alan Mandel at the Library of Congress.

Elisabeth Small is a graduate of the Juilliard School where she studied violin with renowned teacher Dorothy Delay. In addition to her studies with Delay, her mentors have included New York Philharmonic concertmaster, Glenn Dicterow, and the legendary solo violinist, Nathan Milstein.

She is married to Nashville attorney Thomas Bloom and is the mother of two young children, Jessica and Alexandra.



The November 12th concert is sponsored by
Bank of Putnam County and Cumberland County Bank.



The Conductor's Notes

Many of you will remember the concert last year when our concertmaster, Elisabeth Small, stepped in at the last minute to perform Dvorak's *Romance for Violin and Orchestra*. We had already been talking about a future solo performance with the orchestra, and when Betty and I talked about which concerto she might play, I was surprised at her suggestion of *The Four Seasons*. Vivaldi's four-concerto work expresses the characteristics of each season very well, but I had expected something else. In the past she has played both the Barber and Glazunov concerti with the orchestra; both are huge works and I expected a similar suggestion. Vivaldi seemed so intimate by comparison. And yet, it was such a perfect choice that it literally led me to program the rest of the concert around the selection.

We would have Baroque music, Classical music and a 20th Century Neoclassical piece fashioned from Baroque music. A full circle could be drawn.

Mozart seemed the obvious choice for the classical piece, and I thought of his extraordinary overture to the opera *Cosfan tutte*. If you don't know this piece already, you are about to fall in love! It is masterful in every way. Mozart lavished some of his finest music on this opera based upon the faithfulness (or lack thereof) of women. The overture sets the mood of the entire opera: a Voltaire-like brilliance whose general character always makes me think of the repartee in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in which everything is presented quickly, elegantly and with double meanings throughout. Or another parallel would be to the conversations of Oscar Wilde: Nothing is serious, but, if you want to keep up, you have to concentrate! This kind of humor is almost aristocratic: it is refined and cheerful, even when it is most satirical.

We will be closing the next concert with the Baroque music of Pergolesi, well, sort of. It will be Pergolesi with a few wrong notes, extra measures, and clever asides thrown in by Igor Stravinsky.

When you think of the music of Stravinsky, I would guess that the primitive sounds of *The Rite of Spring* come to mind - and with good reason. That monumental work put Stravinsky firmly in the forefront of Modern composers. In his effort to musically tell the story of a primitive agrarian society's sacrifice of a virgin as part of the planting season, Stravinsky employed wild rhythms, tremendous harmonic tension, unusual orchestration, archaic

melodies, and a huge orchestra.

Nothing could be more *unlike* Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*. After the *Rite*, Stravinsky turned his back on its enormous resources choosing to create an entirely new music which took the aesthetics of Baroque and Classical music as its point of departure. As the consummate work of the Neo-classical style, *Pulcinella* has humor, charm, and beauty, all residing within a very intelligent balance.

Pergolesi was a fine composer of the 18th century, and Stravinsky utilized his music to great effect while imbuing it with newfound life through its accompaniments, orchestration, and subtle references to the effects found only in Modern music. The momentary pungency of the harmonies, the slight edge to the coloristic choices, and the just-off-kilter phrasing at times - all of these subtle commentaries raise the original music far beyond itself. While staying amazingly true to Pergolesi's originals (Stravinsky said, "the remarkable thing about *Pulcinella* is not how much but how *little* has been added or changed."), such a treatment allowed the modern composer to "repeat him in my own accent." The critics were indignant. Stravinsky is quoted as saying "People who had never heard of, or cared about, the originals cried, 'Sacrilege! The classics are ours. Leave the classics alone.' To them all my answer was and is the same: *You respect, but I love.*"

It is as if Stravinsky held that we cannot love anything which we have to take too seriously. It is better to poke a little fun at the object of our affections than to worship it from afar. How lucky we are to have such music as Pergolesi's, and to have had a composer whose respect for it was consumed by an even greater emotion.

-John Dodson

Tickets

Tickets for the November 12th concert may be reserved by 372-6088.

Adults	\$20.00
Students	\$ 8.00

PLEASE REMEMBER! If you are holding a ticket for the November 12th concert or any other concert, and you cannot attend, please remember to let us know that your seat will be available. This will help us insure seating for those who may be waiting for tickets. All you need to do is to call the Bryan Symphony Orchestra office at 372-6088.

Preparation Underway for Next "Symphony Social"

On October 6th the Bryan Symphony Orchestra Association held its first ever Symphony Social at the home of Alice and Walter Derryberry. I am most happy to report that it was a rousing success! Delicious appetizers from Diana's Catering as well as some tasty thirst-quenchers and great company were enjoyed by all. Everyone seemed to have a very good time. The highlights of the evening were as fascinating as well as enlightening talk by Catherine and Hermann Godes about Rachmaninoff and his music (we even were treated to their playing!), and a short but immensely fun auctioning of a few fabulous items. A big thank you goes out to the Godes' for their inspiration, and to our wonderful auctioneer Joe Groom.

My thanks also to all who helped with the preparations as well as those who helped that evening. It would not have happened without you. Thank you again. And of course, a tremendous thank you to Alice and Walter Derryberry for once again opening your home and your hearts to the symphony. You are the best!

And so now we prepare for our second Social. The date for the next Symphony Social will be November 10th, and the location will be the beautiful home of Joane and Charles Kibbons at 133 Evergreen Place, which is east of town off Buck Mountain Road, between Old Kentucky Road and Dry Valley Road. As with the first Social, we request your reservation, for planning purposes, by Monday, November 6th. You may pay at the door that evening, if you choose.

This Social will feature the food of Tristessa Howard, a new caterer to the Cookeville area who comes highly recommended, as well as tasty libations. Our auction will include several interesting items just in time for holiday shopping. The following items have been graciously donated: 40 poinsettias from Chuck Johnson Garden Center, (to be auctioned in blocks of 10); an entire Day of Beauty from Essence Salon and Spa (a great Christmas present for the lady in your life...hint, hint); a beautiful custom wreath and matching garland from Ms. Nina's Christmas Shop; an extraordinarily beautiful hand-made dulcimer, made from a single piece of walnut, and donated to the Association by retired TTU faculty member Dallas Smith, (with three lessons included); and once again, a great party with the Cumberland Woodwind Quintet playing in the location of your choice, with Diana's Catering furnishing delicious hors d'oeuvres for 26.

Maestro John Dodson will be there to give us insight into that Sunday's concert, which should prove to be a treat for all. We had such a great time at this last Social, and we want to encourage you to attend and join in on the fun. So get your reservation in for a spot on the roster, come and bid on some truly great items, and look for

ward to another wonderful evening in a beautiful setting!

Don't forget that the Preview Luncheon, November 10th at 12 noon, will be held this time at the Depot in Crossville. You may make your reservations with the Symphony office at 372-6088, or for Crossville area patrons, at 931-484-3054. Can't wait to see you there!

Jan Tate

Volunteer Coordinator

Education and Outreach

The following ideas were expressed by Dodson Branch School students in a thank you letter John Dodson received following a visit by a string quartet to their school in September. The visit was sponsored by the Bryan Symphony Orchestra's educational and outreach program.

"I liked the cello because I love the loud bass sounds. Thanks for coming. Come again sometime."

"I have only heard professional music twice in my life and this was the best."

"Thank you for coming. I really enjoyed it. You really inspired me to play an instrument."

"Thank you all for coming. I really enjoyed the violins. I wish I could play like that."

"Please come back."

The project reflected in these wonderful comments is called "Musicians in Your Schools". Funding for sending musicians into Cookeville area schools was provided in part by a grant from the Cookeville Arts Council.

Crystal Lee, the music teacher of the children quoted above, expressed her thoughts this way, "It was a rare treat Thank you for your generous efforts toward helping to educate our youth. Together we can make a difference."

Concert Preview

by Dr. Catherine Godes

2:00 p.m.

November 12

Room 223

Bryan Fine Arts Building

Upcoming Recitals and Concerts

- November 13 8:00 p.m. Francis Elliott Faculty Violin
Recital
- November 15 8:00 p.m. University Orchestra
- November 16 8:00 p.m. TTU Jazz Ensembles
- November 17 7:30 p.m. TTU Symphony Band
- November 20 8:00 p.m. Chorale and Madrigal Concert
- November 30 8:00 p.m. Opera Workshop
- December 2 3:00 p.m. Cumberland Children's
Chorus Concert
- December 3 3:00 p.m. ABUSUA W. African
Drumming and Dance
- December 15 7:30 p.m. Mastersingers Christmas
Concert
- January 23 8:00 p.m. Nyaho/Garcia Piano Duo
- January 25 8:00 p.m. Ian Hominick, Guest Pianist
- January 30 8:00 p.m. Radu Georgescu Guest Violin
Recital



Preview Luncheon

Friday, November 10 - 12:00
The Crossville Depot
135 North Main Street
Crossville, Tennessee

Crossville area residents may make reservations
by calling 484-3054.

Cookeville area residents may make reservations
by calling 372-6088.

Reservations are required and should be made
by Wednesday, November 8. Cost: \$6.00 for As-
sociation members; \$10.00 for non-members
Payment may be made at the door.

Please note the change in location for the pre-
view luncheon. Enjoy lunch with friends at the
Crossville Depot and hear Music Director John
Dodson's lively and helpful commentary on the
music planned for the November 12th concert.



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Bryan Symphony Orchestra
at Tennessee Technological University
Department of Music and Art
TTU Box 5045
Cookeville, TN 38505

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Symphony Social

Friday, November 10

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The home of
Joane and Charles Kibbons
133 Evergreen Place

Reservations may be made by calling 372-6088.

Cost: \$10.00 for Association members

\$20.00 for non-members

Reservations requested by

Monday, November 6.

Payment may be made at the door.