

Bryan Symphony Orchestra

AT TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Notes and Notices

Vol. 3

No. 2

P. O. Box 185, Cookeville, Tennessee 38503

October, 1997

21st annual Gala - a huge success

"An Evening at Mud River Farm" was a charitable night to remember. We are thankful to Bob and Julia Lowe for letting the Bryan Symphony Guild use their home and grounds for the Gala. It provided the necessary setting for a wonderfully fun and financially successful event. Gala activities and ticket sales brought in approximately \$23,300. Estimated expenses will be approximately \$7,000. This year's Gala was a reflection of how hard working the Guild is!

The financial success of the Gala was possible because of the people who gave of themselves. The jobs were big and small - no job more important than another - and all the work, in the end, was a labor of love. Many kudos and thanks to the husbands of these ladies who willingly lent a hand. When you see the volunteers listed on page 3, please thank them.

The community sponsorship was tremendous as well. We would like to thank: **Kevin Carter of Williams Enterprises, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Frugal MacDougall's of Nashville, Five Star Catering, Tony Stone, Gaw Brothers Produce, M. N. Hargrove Realty and Auction Company, Caroline Harris, Peggy Holleman (Proof of the Pudding), Whitson Funeral Home, Chuck Johnson Garden Center, Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home, Peter Metts, Mills Linens, Mu Phi Epsilon Music Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity, Tennessee Tech, Wal-Mart, Charlene and Calvin Dickenson, Bob Luna, and Phoenix, USA.**

Percussion Chair

perpetually endowed

We are pleased to announce the perpetual endowment of the percussion chair in the Orchestra by Brian and Susan O'Connor. The Dahl-O'Connor Memorial Chair is named in memory of Brian's mother, Clare O'Connor and her sister (Brian's aunt), Mary Dahl. At the October concert featuring the Orchestra's percussion principal, a plaque will be presented to the O'Connors in appreciation of their gift.

The symphony's musicians are "sitting in style" thanks to a donation from Brian and Susan O'Connor and matching monies provided by the Department of Music and Art's fund raising event of last spring, "Not Just Desserts." These 75 professional musician chairs will be used for all concert events in Wattenbarger Auditorium.

Preview Luncheon

Friday, October 17 - Noon

First Presbyterian Church

Make Reservations before October 15

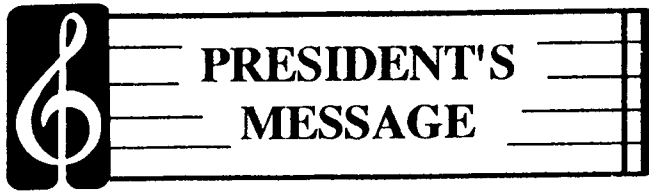
Call: Peggy Holleman 526-4745

or Alice Barker 528-9792

Board meeting at 11:00

The change in the format of the Gala was positive. We went alfresco at a private home maintaining formality yet casually listening to bluegrass music while dining on barbecued ribs and chicken. We received many positive responses from the crowd, which lingered to enjoy the 1997 Gala.

Nancy Williams



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

The conductor raised his baton, then lowered it and waited for the hall to become quiet. After a few moments when all was still he raised it again, and the music began.

The audience sat enthralled in absolute stillness as the opening chords of Wagner's *Tannhauser Overture* were heard being played very softly by the winds. It was a special moment! Thus began the thirty-fifth season of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra at Tennessee Tech.

Not even the finest, most perfect recording can compare with such an experience. As I listened, I thought again as I have many times over the years - this is why we do it! This is why symphony guild members and others give of their time, energy and talents to promote and support our orchestra!

Many think the Gala held on the evening of September 19 was the best ever. It was truly a fabulous evening! Congratulations and thanks to all who worked so hard and to all who attended.

Our first symphony preview luncheon will be held from 12:00 until 1:00 Friday, October 17, at First Presbyterian Church. The previews are for all ticket holders. We invite all of you to join us for a delicious lunch and hear our conductor, John Dodson, talk to us about the music to be played at the concert.

Following the preview, there will be a brief symphony guild meeting at 1:00. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on some revisions in our by-laws. Guild members should plan to stay for just a few minutes.

Our year is off to a wonderful start. I look forward to seeing you at the preview luncheon and the next Bryan Symphony Orchestra concert!

Alice Derryberry

Joseph Rasmussen, percussionist



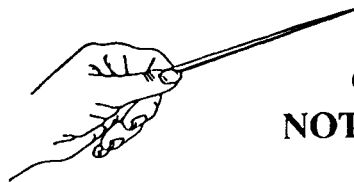
TTU Associate Professor of Percussion, Joseph Rasmussen will be the featured performer at the October 19 concert. He is the Director of the Tennessee Tech Percussion Ensemble and director of Abusua, the Tennessee Tech West African Drumming and Dance Ensemble. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he is a doctoral candidate at Wesleyan University.

Prior to coming to Tennessee Tech, he taught band and percussion at the University of Kentucky and the Tidewater Music Festival at St. Mary's College of Maryland. During his military service he performed with the CONARC Band in Virginia and the USARV Band in Vietnam.

In addition to performing throughout the United States and various countries, he has performed with top name night club entertainers, such as Ella Fitzgerald and Barbara Mandrell.

October 19 Concert Sponsors

Cookeville Pathology
Laboratory
and
Upper Cumberland
Anesthesia Associates



THE CONDUCTOR'S NOTES

As I sit down to write this article, the Bryan Symphony Orchestra has just finished its first concert of the season. The notes from Wagner's *Tannhauser Overture*, Ippolitov-Ivanov's *Caucasian Sketches*, and Saint Saens *Organ Symphony* are still ringing in my ears. I want to savor the moment, to remain in that extraordinary music! Yet the music of the next concert beckons to me.

As difficult as it is to let go, I turn my mind to the next program and am immediately refreshed! The works by Sibelius, Jager and Tchaikovsky could not be more different from September's program, but they are just as enticing. What awaits us?

Sibelius' *Incidental Music* is only one of many works inspired by the play, "Pelleas and Melisande" by Maeterlinck. The other well-known examples are a tone poem by Schoenberg, an opera by Debussy, and the justly famous incidental music by Faure. Sibelius treated the play with a rare level of sensitivity.

His music ranges from grandeur, through haunting beauty, dark foreboding and, ultimately, to transcendent tragedy. Rarely heard, this dramatic suite is one of my favorite works by this composer.

When I asked Joseph Rasmussen to perform as soloist with the Bryan Symphony Orchestra for this concert, I asked him to suggest a work. "Has Robert Jager done an orchestral version of his *Percussion Concerto* yet," he inquired. "I'll ask him," I answered.

From that conversation came this commission for Jager to re-score his concerto - which was originally written for band - for the orchestra. The orchestration looks wonderful, and I can assure you that you'll be amazed at the versatile demands upon the percussion soloist in this work. Joseph Rasmussen will play timpani, xylophone,

cymbal, temple blocks, concert toms, tam-tam, vibraphone, bells, bass drum, and snare drum! Jager has crafted a successful work with virtuosity galore, and Mr. Rasmussen's well-known mastery of the percussion family is sure to astonish all of us.

Last on the program is Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5 in E*. The composer's last three symphonies are some of the most well-known works in the repertoire. Each one dealt with some aspect of personal fate, and represented Tchaikovsky's innermost feelings as he dealt with his own private failings, passions, doubts and successes.

Like the Fourth, the *Fifth Symphony* is a "motto" symphony, unified through the reappearance of an introductory passage in various guises. Listen to the opening clarinet passage in the first movement; it will reappear in outline in the string introduction to the second movement, and again, altered rhythmically, late in the third movement. The final movement repeats this theme in major mode, and leads the work to its conclusion. The *Symphony No. 5 in E* is a powerful journey from resignation to triumph.

Living with the arts is an ongoing invitation to discover the unknown, to open up to the new, and to revisit the familiar. I hope you'll join us as we present a program which offers precisely that opportunity!

John Dodson

Special thanks to the Gala volunteers

Our thanks to the following for working so hard to make the Gala a success: Alice Derryberry, Jan Tate, Kay Starkweather, Laura Medley, Peggy Holleman, Leslie Snodgrass, Wendy Tarver, Becky Magura, Betty Montgomery, Shelia Barnes, Mary Wattenbarger, Marilyn Brinker, Merry Charron, Pam Copenhaver, Grace Forest, Pat Glasser, Linda Carlen, Rosemary Haselton, Julia Lowe, Sarah Hudgens, Julia Wiggins, Jessie Lee Lamb, Betty Stanton, Ann Burns, Joan Kibbons, Sarah Khleif, Patricia Leonard, Janet Lundy, Lucy Stanton, and Cathy Lamb.

Young Artist Festival needs volunteers

Time Change:

6:15 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17
Prior to the John Farrell Children's Concert

Where: Lobby of Bryan Fine Arts Building

*To volunteer, call Diane Glasgow
at 526-7854 as soon as possible.*

Attend the Concert Preview

Mark your calendar to attend the preview of the October 19 symphony concert to be presented by Dr. Catherine Godes at 2:00 p.m. The Preview will be held in Room 223 of Bryan Fine Arts Building.

Thank You

Thank you to the many season ticket holders who donated their tickets for the September concert back to the orchestra for resale. Because of your thoughtfulness, very few empty seats were seen.

Autumn Bacchanal held

The Autumn Bacchanal, a celebration of wine, food and art was held October 5. This was the third annual fund-raising event to support the arts at Tennessee Tech and featured an extravagant selection of wines from around the globe and a sumptuous cocktail buffet. The event culminated in an exciting auction of original works of art created and donated by the TTU art faculty and regional artists.

Attention single ticket buyers!

Prorated season tickets may be purchased for the remainder of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra season. To order, please call the Symphony office at 372-6088.

NON PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 101
COOKEVILLE, TN

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Have You Renewed Your Guild Membership for the 1997-1998 Year??

If not, make checks payable to
Bryan Symphony Guild and mail to
Rosemary Haselton, Chairman
1025 N. Maple Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38501