

Bryan Symphony Orchestra

AT TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Notes and Notices

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P. O. Box 185, Cookeville, Tennessee 38503

November, 1997

Mastersingers to join orchestra on November concert

Mastersingers will join the Bryan Symphony Orchestra for three selections on the November 23rd concert. The program will open with Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, featuring the chorus and soloists, followed by Faure's *Pavane* and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe: Suite No. 2*.

According to Mastersingers' director, Joy Rachor, "Each piece presents a unique challenge for the singers. Vaughan Williams' lush writing demands much from the soloists and the chorus as well, dividing the group into as many as twelve parts at times. The *Pavane* challenges the singers with its French text, while Ravel uses the chorus in a very instrumental fashion, with the entire piece being sung on the syllable 'ah'."

Mastersingers will celebrate its 20th anniversary this spring. During its twenty year history, the group has presented a variety of choral music, including such major works as Brahms' *Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Bach's *Magnificat*.

The women of the group were featured last season in a performance of Charles Faulkner Bryan's *Ballad of the Harp Weaver*, but it has been several years since the full chorus has collaborated with the orchestra. "The group is very excited about the opportunity of working with the Bryan Symphony Orchestra in the performance of these works," says Ms. Rachor.

Mastersingers is composed of some sixty-five men and women from all walks

Elisabeth Small, violin soloist for upcoming concert



Elisabeth Small, Concertmaster of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra at Tennessee Tech will be the featured soloist on the November 23 concert. Please see page 2 for more information about her.

Preview Luncheon

Friday, November 21 - Noon
First Presbyterian Church

Make Reservations before November 19

Call: Peggy Holleman 526-4745

or Alice Barker 528-9792

Board meeting at 11:00

of life. While most of its members are Cookevillians, there are several members from adjoining communities including Allons, Sparta, Pleasant Hill, and Fairfield Glade. Collectively, the members bring a vast variety of musical backgrounds to the group, but all share a love of music, and in particular, singing.



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

At the guild membership meeting on October 17, the members voted on several revisions to our constitution and by-laws. Among them was an important change regarding the term of office for guild officers. Section 2 of Article III on elected officers now reads, "Each elected officer shall serve a term of two years." We believe a two year term of office will provide for more continuity in guild programs and will also fit well with future fund-raising plans. The gala committee has recommended that we hold the gala every other year, making it a biannual event instead of an annual event.

There are several reasons for making this change, with the primary one being that there will be more time to plan and make arrangements for this important large-scale event. The officers elected next spring and the committee chairmen appointed to the board at that time will have a year to plan without having to jump into a major fund-raiser immediately. The guild will continue to have smaller fund raising events during the alternate year. We think this two year plan makes good sense for our future.

Our October preview luncheon was excellent as always, and, again, I would like to stress that these previews are for all ticket holders, not just for guild members. They are held from 12 to 1:00 at First Presbyterian Church on the Friday before each concert.

Talk to anyone who has attended a preview and heard John Dodson talk about the music to be played, and you'll know you should be there! And, of course, the lunch is always delicious! Where else could you get such a deal for only \$5.00! So, come join us!

I look forward to seeing you both at the preview on the 21st and the concert on November 23.

Alice Derryberry

Meet Elisabeth Small, violinist

Elisabeth Small has been equally acclaimed in recital and chamber music performances for her interpretation of the literature for violin from the 18th century to the present. She has performed in cities throughout the United States and Canada, including engagements at the National Gallery's "American Music Festival," Kennedy Center, Renee Weiler Concert Hall in New York City, and at such festivals as Aspen, Banff and Teton. As soloist she has appeared with many orchestras including the National Symphony as winner of the orchestra's Young Soloist Competition, and the Atlanta Symphony, where she served as associate concertmaster. Her performances of the recital and chamber literature have been featured on public radio as well as on the Middle Tennessee public television series, "Recital Hall."

Ms. Small holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School where she was a student of Dorothy DeLay, and studied chamber music with Felix Galimir. Presently, she resides in Nashville, maintaining an active concert schedule as guest artist on recital series and with chamber ensembles in cities throughout the Southeast, including Washington and Atlanta. She also serves as artistic director of the Belmont Camerata Musicale, the resident chamber ensemble at Belmont University School of Music. She serves as adjunct faculty at Belmont and at Tennessee Technological University, and was appointed Concertmaster of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra in 1991 and appeared as soloist with the orchestra in the 1992-1993 season. She is married to Thomas Bloom, a Nashville attorney, and they are kept busy with their two daughters.

TTU recitals and concerts

Sun. Nov. 16 3 p.m. & Mon. Nov. 17 8 p.m.

Opera Workshop Performances

Tues. Nov. 18 7:30 p.m. Cumberland Quintet

Tues. Nov. 18 8:45 p.m. Studio Voice

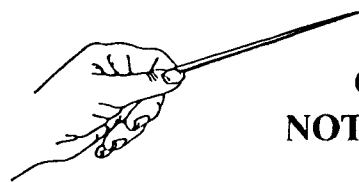
Wed. Nov. 19 7 p.m. Chamber Music

Wed. Nov. 19 8:30 p.m. TTU Horn Ensemble

Thurs. Nov. 20 8 p.m. TTU Jazz Concert

Fri. Nov. 21 7:30 p.m. Symphony Band

Concert



THE CONDUCTOR'S NOTES

I recently found myself describing the upcoming program of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra: music by Vaughan Williams, Glazunov, Faure and Ravel. A violin soloist and a choral ensemble which will appear and reappear throughout the program. My own inner voice kept asking, "Is this unified? Have we put together the right works? Does it fit together in a manner which will form a satisfying afternoon?"

The program is built around the Glazunov *Violin Concerto* to be played by the Bryan Symphony Orchestra's concertmaster, Elisabeth Small. Only twenty minutes in length, it is in the grand Russian Romantic tradition: a virtuosic showpiece which is melodically engaging, harmonically rich, and dramatically compelling.

Around that concerto, I found that the program seemed to demand music about, of all things, Impressionism. It is a great irony that from Berlioz' trip to Russia in the first half of the 1800's, there was a quiet musical dialogue throughout the Nineteenth Century between France and Russia, and while their music could not be more different, both cultures' non-Germanic approaches to musical syntax and harmony somehow informed the other nationality's art.

The French influence on Russian culture was pervasive in the Nineteenth Century. At court, in the ballet, and in the literary arts French artists found themselves in the company of Russians. One might do well to remember that Tchaikovsky's patron Mme von Meck found a fine piano teacher for her daughter in the young Claude Debussy - himself a friend to Stravinsky years later!

So, around this Glazunov *Concerto* we will perform music by Faure, Vaughan Williams and Ravel. Joining us in all three works will be the Mastersingers.

Faure is said to be the only composer of his generation to avoid the influence of Wagner. His music and his teaching were

extremely influential in helping French music find a voice in the late Nineteenth Century. His *Pavane* is a small gemstone of truly French music. In many ways it anticipates the characteristics of Impressionism.

Vaughan Williams was known as an English Nationalist, but many have commented on his kinship with the musical textures and non-functional harmonies of Impressionism.

His *Serenade to Music* is set to words of Shakespeare, and, for all its English qualities, the work has that "fleeting moment" delicacy which was the hallmark of the French Impressionist school.

Finally, Ravel's "Second Suite" from *Daphnis and Chloe* crowns the program. A true showpiece for orchestra, it even uses a wordless chorus as yet another color in Ravel's seemingly endless tonal palette.

You can see that I DO think these works belong together. Truthfully though, words are inadequate, and I find myself remembering that old cliché that music begins where language ends.

For all the historical perspective, there is also intuition at work here - a felt sense which guides this program. You simply have to HEAR these selections juxtaposed side by side to sense their rightness together.

Enjoy!

John Dodson

**Let's work together to fill
the concert hall!**

CAN'T ATTEND A CONCERT? PLEASE
DON'T ALLOW YOUR SEATS TO BE EMPTY
FOR ANY CONCERT!

**If you can't use your concert tickets,
please call the symphony office
at 372-6088 to release your seats
for resale. We'll issue a new ticket to
the concert goer who purchases your
released seats.**

Results of favorite family of instruments announced

Children voted with pennies at Cookeville's Fun Fest for their favorite family of instruments, and the results follow. 1st place: percussion, \$10.77; 2nd place: brass, \$10.32; 3rd place: woodwinds, \$5.80; and 4th place: strings, \$4.68. Proceeds from the voting will benefit future music fairs for Putnam County children.

Thank you to Upper Cumberland Anesthesia Associates, B & B Printers, J Platinum Printers, Ted Haselton, Heather Glasgow, Zaynah Hindi, Dick and Nancy Williams, Jan Lundy, Mary Jean Delozier, Pam Copenhaver, and all the parents and children who stopped by the Bryan Symphony Guild's Music Fair booth.

The results of the vote for the favorite family of instruments at the Young Artists Festival prior to the John Farrell concert on October 17 in the Bryan Fine Arts Building at TTU were as follows: 1st place: woodwinds, \$7.55; 2nd place: brass, \$5.31; 3rd place: percussion, \$3.33; 4th place: strings, \$2.74.

Volunteers who helped make this a successful fair were: Ted Haselton, Sara Hudgens, Becky Magura, Jan Tate, Nancy Williams, Junior Women's Club, Cookeville Arts Council, and a special thanks to Jane Armistead.

**SYMPHONY TICKETS
ARE GREAT
GIFTS
CALL 372-6088**

Concert preview scheduled

Mark your calendar to attend the preview of the the November 23 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.

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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