

Have you heard?  
**notes & notices**  
at Tennessee Tech University



VOLUME 11 | NO. 3 | FEBRUARY 2006

[www.bryansymphony.org](http://www.bryansymphony.org)

## NOTES FROM THE CONDUCTOR

As a part of the "Ford Made In America" program, Dan Allcott, along with many other representatives from commissioning organizations, was able to meet with composer Joan Tower at the American Symphony Orchestra League's annual conference last June.

What follows is an e-mail interview that Dan conducted with Joan Tower subsequent to that meeting.

**Dan Allcott:** Ms. Tower, first of all, I want to thank you for meeting with me and my co-commissioners last summer in Washington, and for completing the piece ahead of schedule! Is it typical for you to finish ahead of schedule?

**Joan Tower:** I'm pretty good at finishing pieces either on time or ahead of schedule because I know that for those musicians who like to look at their parts ahead of time, they will be there for them.

**DA:** You've had an unusually large group of co-commissioners for this project and I've enjoyed the camaraderie. For instance, I led a set of rehearsals of this piece with the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras for their annual retreat last fall. Their conductor, Aviva Seagal, and I have become friends because we've both been working on your music. Has the feedback been more voluminous because of the project, and has it been helpful, overwhelming?

**JT:** That's great to hear-a camaraderie of orchestral conductors!! If by "feedback", you mean the orchestras' feedback, it has been an unusual pleasure for me to be able to change and focus in on the dynamics and occasional phrasing throughout the ten performances I've experienced so far.

If you mean the different audiences, it has been overwhelmingly positive-standing ovations in every city, except one! At the last one, a 94 yr. old woman

came up to me with her walker and said, "I can now die in peace"!! When 65 orchestras are scheduled to perform your piece, the burden is pretty overwhelming, but so far, I think I've been batting about a 94.

**DA:** With approximately 65 performances planned for these two years, how does that compare in number with a piece like "Sequoia," your first orchestral work from 1981.

**JT:** I really don't know how many times that piece has been performed so far but I don't think it has gotten up to 65 yet.

**DA:** As a 17-yr-old cellist in 1983, I played "Sequoia" with the Augustana College Orchestra in Rock Island, IL. That early impact on me probably led me to joining this commissioning project. So I've been following your career for 23 years! Do you feel like you've "made it," and what keeps the composition process fresh for you?

**JT:** Well, that's a compliment-thank you!! I guess the "nourishment" of having your pieces played many times is a strong factor in how you view yourself and how you keep the whole process "fresh".

**DA:** Thank for sharing some time with us through e-mail, and for all you've done in making this project so accessible for our audiences! Thank you!!

Joan Tower's *Made in America* is part of  
**Ford Made in America**



This program is made possible by  
Ford Motor Company Fund.

## From the Executive Director

During the same year that we are all celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, the Bryan Symphony Orchestra is also celebrating composers of today. The good news is that the creation of new music, good music, did not end with Bach, Mozart, or Brahms. Good composers are alive and well, and working today. They are also teaching the composers of tomorrow.

On the February 19th concert we will have the opportunity to hear the music of two living composers, Joan Tower and Peter Schickele. In fact, for both of these works, the BSO will be playing the Tennessee premier. We will also hear *La Mer* by Claude Debussy, whose music was new only a century ago.

The Bryan Symphony Orchestra has the opportunity to play Joan Tower's new work *Made in America* because of our participation in the Ford Made in America project (See Dan's interview with Joan Tower on page 1.) Joan Tower has been described by the Detroit News as "among the most original and forceful voices in modern American music." The Ford Made in America project is a partnership between two music service organizations, the American Symphony Orchestra League and Meet The Composer, which made it possible for smaller budget orchestras like the Bryan Symphony Orchestra to band together to commission a new work, something that is usually too expensive for smaller orchestras to do alone. Sixty-five orchestras in all 50 states are participants in this project. The Bryan Symphony Orchestra is the only participant in Tennessee.

Our special thanks go to our local sponsor for this concert, Premier Diagnostic Imaging.



Holly Cravens, Ultrasound Technologist and Dr. Randy Robertson, Radiologist, of Premier Diagnostic Imaging, February concert sponsor. Dr. Greg Danner, TTU Professor of theory and composition; Brandon Steward and Ben McMillan, student composers.

## EDUCATION CONCERTS

The Bryan Symphony Orchestra will present two concerts for area 4th graders on February 23rd. Our thanks to Michael Martin, Director of Schools and Barb Good, Arts Coordinator for Putnam County Schools, for working with us to make this happen.

The Bryan Symphony Orchestra Education Concerts are funded by:

- An Arts Build Communities Grant. The Arts Build Communities program is funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and administered in cooperation with the Tennessee Arts Commission and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.
- A grant from the Cookeville Arts Council
- The Bryan Symphony Orchestra Association in partnership with Tennessee Tech University

Look for more in our March newsletter about this exciting event.

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The Ford Made in America project has an excellent web site with I encourage you to visit at [www.FordMadeinAmerica.org](http://www.FordMadeinAmerica.org).

In keeping with our effort to highlight composers of today, we are pleased that two composers who live and work in Cookeville will be our guests at the preview luncheons in February and in March. Robert Jager, Emeritus Professor at Tennessee Tech, with more with 120 published works to his credit, will speak to both our Cookeville and Crossville area luncheon guests in February.

In March, Greg Danner, Professor of music theory and composition at Tennessee Tech, also a highly successful composer, principal horn with the Bryan Symphony Orchestra and member of the Cumberland Quintet, will speak to our luncheon audiences and will introduce to us some of the work his composition students are doing.

Hearing new music is an exciting opportunity for us. Playing new music and introducing us to the composers of today is one element of our orchestra's mission. As we are reminded on National Public Radio, "All music was once new."

- Gail Luna

## Greetings from the Volunteer Council

Happy New Year BSO Patrons & Friends! We were fortunate to plan all our socials for the 2005-2006 BSO Year last fall, so our committee is excited about sharing the upcoming socials with you – setting off our concert weekends!

We will be meeting with two new committee members soon and will be sharing them with you in our next newsletter! It's important to our committee to hear the excitement and commitment of these new members, and we want you to know that we're open to other new members too! We realize that our patrons lead busy lives; therefore, we structure our committee so that everyone chooses a social or fundraiser that they will be able to assist with!

Thanks to our committee members, we were able to give the Mu Phi Epsilon professional music fraternity members a Christmas Party in the Bryan Fine Arts Building just before they left for Christmas Break. I'm so proud to have this fine group of young people assist us at our socials. Remember your college days??? Well, they give up five Friday evenings a BSO year to volunteer and serve our patrons at the socials! Kudos Mu Phi from our committee and the BSO! Do take a moment at the socials to thank them for graciously serving us!

Not missing a beat, note the following upcoming socials on Friday evenings from 7 – 8:30 two days before each of our remaining concerts! We might even have a nice surprise, or a fun theme for our last social! Put these on your calendar – plan to come, meet some new people (we've had several guests at all our socials this past year), and hear our Music Director, Dan Allcott give highlights of our Sunday concerts!

Friday, February 17, 2006

Home of Dr. Terry & Ruth Jones

Friday, March 17, 2006

Home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lowe

Friday, April 21, 2006

Home of Dr. Walter Derryberry

Directions to all these socials will be on the social card invitations!

Thanks to Bob & Sandy Landry for hosting the Board of Directors' Christmas Party this past December. We had almost 100% turnout, and a wonderful time! Don't forget – call me if you have time to volunteer! My number is 528-5253!

Brenda Smith  
Volunteer Council Chairman

## *Symphony Social*

*Friday, February 17, 2006  
7 to 8:30 p.m.*

*at the Residence of  
Terry and Ruth Jones  
615 N. Ferguson Avenue*

*\$15 per person for  
BSOA members;  
\$30 per person non-members*

*Reservations:*

*Call 931-372-6088 or*

*e-mail: bryansymph@tnitech.edu*

*RSVP by Feb. 14, 2006*

### **PREVIEW LUNCHEONS**

#### **Crossville/Fairfield Glade/Pleasant Hill**

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

11:00 A.M.

The Palace Theater Meeting Room  
72 S. Main St., Downtown Crossville

Special guest

Robert Jager, composer

\$10 per person

Reservations: Call Jane Horswill  
At (931) 484-3054

#### **Cookeville**

Friday, February 17, 2006

12:00

Premier Medical Park  
East Building, Suite 101  
315 North Washington Avenue

Special guest

Robert Jager, composer

\$10 per person

Reservations: Call 372-6088  
By Tuesday February 14.

## **PRELUDE & COFFEE:**

Conversations with the Conductor

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m.

WCTE – Channel 22

Cable Channel 10

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## **February & March 2006 Concerts/Recitals**

### **Bryan Fine Arts Building - Tennessee Tech**

- 13 Monday, 7:30 p.m./Brass Arts Quintet/  
Faculty Ensemble
- 14 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m./Frederick Kennedy,  
Tenor/Faculty Recital
- 15 Wednesday, 6 p.m./Derryberry Concerto  
Competition
- 17 Friday, 7:30 p.m./TTU Symphony Band/  
Joseph Herman, Conductor/TTU Festival  
of Winds and Percussion
- 19 Sunday, 3 p.m./Bryan Symphony Orchestra/  
Dan Allcott, Conductor
- 21 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m./Jackson Henry, Piano/  
Guest Recital
- 23 Thursday, 7:30 p.m./TTU Jazz Bands/  
Chris McCormick, Director
- 24 Friday, 7:30 p.m./Joshua Hauser,  
Trombone/Faculty Recital
- 28 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m./TTU Concert Band/  
George Brozak, Conductor

### March 2006

- 2 Thursday, 7:30 p.m./TTU University  
Orchestra/Dan Allcott, Conductor
- 13 Monday, 7:30 p.m./Diane Pulte, Mezzo  
Soprano/Faculty Recital
- 15 Wednesday, 7:30 p.m./Trombones at Tech-  
TTU Trombone Choir/Joshua Hauser, Director
- 16 Thursday, 7:30 p.m./TTU Chorale/Randall  
Hooper, Conductor
- 19 Sunday, 3 p.m./Bryan Symphony Orchestra/  
Dan Allcott, Conductor
- 21 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m./Catherine Godes, Piano  
Faculty Recital
- 22 Wednesday, 7:30 p.m./Brass Arts Quintet  
Faculty Ensemble
- 23 Thursday, 7:30 p.m./Cumberland Quintet/  
Faculty Ensemble
- 30 Thursday, 7:30 p.m./Michael Shepherd,  
Piano/Center Stage Event

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**The Bryan Symphony Orchestra  
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**Concert Sponsor  
February 19, 2006**