

# Bryan Symphony Orchestra

AT TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

## Notes and Notices

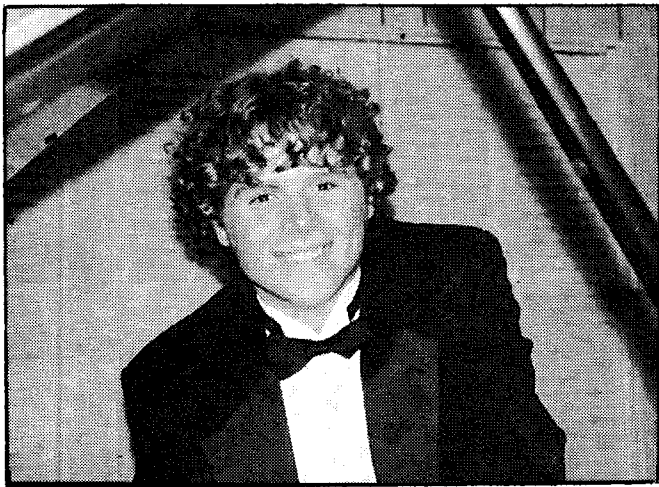
Vol. 3

No. 5

P. O. Box 185, Cookeville, Tennessee 38503

April, 1998

### Jackson Henry plays Saint-Saens Concerto for April 26 concert



Jackson W. Henry, the 19 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Henry of Kingsport, Tennessee, has been making music since the age of five, when he began taking piano lessons. After fourteen years of study, he feels stronger than ever in his pursuit of musical expression.

He received superior ratings in the National Federation of Music Clubs festival held in Johnson City, and in the Tennessee Music Teachers Association statewide competitions and won his senior year. He feels this accomplishment is due in part to Marilyn Davis, who was his teacher throughout his later high school years.

He attended the 1995 Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts and is currently a student of Dr. Catherine Godes at Tech. This past year, he was runner-up in the Music Teachers National Association Tennessee state competition.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Vote to merge Symphony and Guild Boards to be held at membership meeting, April 23

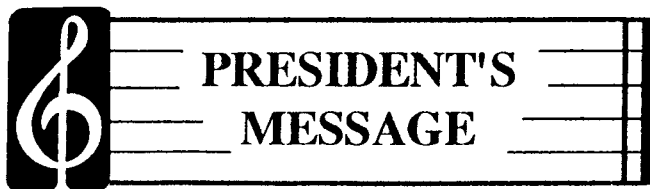
The Guild Board recommends that the Board of Directors for the Bryan Symphony Orchestra at Tennessee Technological University and the Bryan Symphony Guild Board merge and become the Bryan Symphony Orchestra Association. The assets of the Guild will be contributed to the Association. The Association will retain the structure and bylaws of the Orchestra Board with the exception of an amendment, which will allow for membership to the Association.

Much study and thought has been given to this proposal. We feel this merger is essential to the continuance and strong support of our orchestra and urge all members to approve this recommendation. Anyone wishing further information, may read a copy of the merger plan at the Symphony Office or call 432-5249 or 526-5392.

Bryan Symphony Orchestra wishes to thank  
**Covenant Health**  
for their generosity in sponsoring  
the April 26 concert

### *Preview and Membership Meeting*

Thursday, April 23 5:00 p.m.  
at the Bank of Putnam County  
(10th Street branch)  
*Make Reservations by April 20*  
Call: Peggy Holleman 526-4745



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been said that change creates growth. With this in mind, let me recount some of the changes the symphony guild has made and continues to make as we finish the year. Last September, instead of having a coffee for the fall membership meeting, we held a luncheon. We had a very good crowd and our year was off to a promising start. Our next change was returning the gala to an outdoor venue. As you know, this event was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all who attended. Close to \$20,000 was raised for the Bryan Symphony Orchestra.

This past month on Monday, March 23, we held our young people's concert in the gym of Prescott Central Middle School. This location change was actually started last year, and, believe it or not, this setting has proved to be much more successful than a concert hall. The young audiences were extremely well behaved and attentive.

Bravo! Within the same week on Thursday, March 26, the Music Fair, formerly held at the mall, took place in the Bryan Fine Arts Building. This location change was indeed a positive one; the building was filled with children participating in many activities, as well as enjoying a variety of musical programs in Wattenbarger Hall.

Congratulations to Diane Glasgow and Jan Tate and the many others who organized and directed this event.

And now as we finish the 1997-98 season, we are still making changes. Our final preview and membership meeting will be held, not at noon on a Friday, but at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 at the 10th Street branch of the Bank of Putnam County. We hope this will be a convenient time for all our members and especially for those who work (outside the home, that is). Refreshments will be provided by the bank and our own social committee under the direction of Peggy Holleman.

John Dodson will speak with us about the final symphony concert and announce the concert series for the 1998-99 season. This will be followed by a brief business meeting at which time we will ask members to vote on the biggest change of all, a merger of the Symphony Guild Board with the Bryan Symphony Board. For the past year, the Guild board and others have been studying the possibility of merging with the symphony board. After much consideration, we feel this is the best direction to take to assure a strong future for the symphony. It does not mean there will be no more guild, but rather a very strong and active volunteer association open to both men and women under the direction of one board. (See related article on page one for more details.)

This has been a most exciting and rewarding year, and with the restructuring of our two boards into one, the future promises to be a fulfilling one. So, join us on April 23 as we continue to promote and support the Bryan Symphony Orchestra!

Alice Derryberry

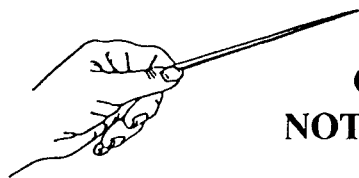
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### **Jackson Henry (cont.)**

Piano, however, has not been Jackson's only instrument. Throughout school, he also pursued trumpet studies, making Blue Band in All-East Tennessee High School Band for three consecutive years. During his last two years of high school, he also participated in the Tennessee All-State High School Band, making 4th and 3rd chairs consecutively.

Throughout his previous education, Jackson has thoroughly applied himself in class. His work paid off and, in 1996, graduated as Valedictorian at Sullivan North High School.

Jackson knows that his Christian spirit plays a great part in his life. As part of his Christian activity, he attends the Wesley Foundation at Tech, where he currently resides as Choir Director of the Wesley Singers. His major goals are to minister through his music and show what God can do through him on the stage.



## THE CONDUCTOR'S NOTES

What a difference between the United States in which Dvorak wrote his last symphony and the United States which produced Copland's music for the opera, *The Tender Land*.

The world which Dvorak found upon his arrival in America was a land of vast opportunity in the west, of industrial cities in the east, with a musical inferiority complex which required visits from great musicians from Europe to lend credence to its artistic aspirations. Dvorak spent time with a Bohemian immigrant community in Iowa and in a teaching position in New York, conducted at the new Carnegie Hall, and argued about the possibilities inherent in the Spiritual as a source for a genuinely nationalistic American music.

Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9* is subtitled *From the New World*. While its most famous melody (later appropriated as *Goin' Home*) is in the spiritual tradition, much of its music is actually Czech in origin. This is a symphony from a homesick composer, biding his time in America before returning to his Bohemian roots.

Copland was born in Brooklyn, studied in Paris *with a woman*, listened to American jazz, and ultimately found his resources in American folk songs, cowboy songs, jazz rhythms, and in his own uniquely American harmonic language. His long career epitomized the American composer's new place in society. Works for the concert hall, modern dance, ballet, and film were coupled with thornier works which enhanced Copland's standing as a composer deserving of respect from those "serious" composers with a less popular bent.

Copland's opera, *The Tender Land*, takes place in that mythical prairie world of the American mid and far west. Its story line explores themes which place opposites in collision: family values and the desire to rebel, young innocent love and a lover whose

shadowy background hints of danger, the desire to be free and the need for commitment. Copland's music to the Suite borrows from major portions of the opera in a rearranged order which contributes to the success of this work.

From the vantage point of the late Twentieth Century, both Dvorak and Copland might muse on their creations and the environments which helped produce them. Both composers' sources of inspiration have been edged out by a new popular culture which replaced spirituals and folk song through the homogenizing forces of pervasive mass marketing. We might stop for a moment to be grateful for Dvorak's and Copland's contributions - even as we wonder what the next century might offer.

John Dodson

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### 1998-99 Ticket prices announced

Increased costs to the orchestra have made it necessary to have a slight increase in ticket prices for the 1998-99 season. However, ticket renewals received before June 1 will remain at last season's prices: Adults \$60, Senior Citizens (age 65 and over) \$55, Students \$15. After June 1, season tickets will be available at the following rates: Adults \$70, Senior Citizens \$65, and Students \$15.

Because education is an important role of the orchestra and in an effort to make the concerts affordable for families, the price for student tickets has been kept very low.

You, as a season ticket holder, are the key to the success of the Bryan Symphony Orchestra. We appreciate your continuing support as a subscriber. Remember, subscribers get the best prices and the best seats!

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### REQUEST to TICKET HOLDERS

The April 26 concert is almost sold out! If you find you cannot use your tickets, please return them to the Symphony Office or call the office at 372-6088 so the tickets may be sold to others. Thanks.

## Music Fair report

For many parents and students, it was their first time to ever step foot into the Bryan Fine Arts Building. For over 700 students and parents, it was the biggest and best Music Fair ever! We were invited to sit on stage in the University Orchestra. We played Peter Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* on hand chimes or percussion with Kristin Duncan and Michael Choate, K - 4 music specialists. We danced with red scarves to Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird* with a synthesizer. Three families videotaped their 7th or 8th grader singing and signing with the Avery Trace Chorus under black lights. The Suzuki string players and the Godes' piano duet featuring Rachmaninoff inspired us.

Who is your favorite character from *Peter and the Wolf* and from *The Firebird*? Children voted with pennies for these top five winners: the wolf, the bird, Grandfather, Peter, and the Firebird. The total of \$4.78 benefits future Music Fairs.

Please thank your friends in these other organizations for their financial or volunteer support: Cookeville Arts Council, Cookeville Junior Woman's Club, Putnam County Music Specialists, Upper Cumberland Development and the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Diane Glasgow, Education Chairman

## Comments on Faces of Russia

"Faces of Russia: Exploring Nationalism in Music" was held March 23 in the Prescott Central Middle School gym. The following teachers' comments reflect the excitement this concert created: "The concert was an enriching experience for the children - and me!" "I liked how John Dodson included a mini-history lesson in connection with the *1812 Overture*." "Wonderful concert! The music was beautiful." "Fantastic, once again! "John Dodson talks to the students on their level at the preconcert visit. He's never over their heads." The People's Choice went to Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, and the favorite family of instruments was percussion.

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at Tennessee Technological University  
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Box 5045  
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Cookeville, TN 38505

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Southwest Mesquite Grill & Bar  
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Sunday, May 24, 1998  
Putnam County Fairgrounds