

**Phone: 785-232-2032**  
**Email: tso@topekasymphony.org**  
**Website: www.topekasymphony.org**

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"...there is no need to travel to Chicago, New York, or London to hear great classical music played live...music aficionados who have attended concerts all over the world say the Topeka Symphony is as good as the best." Topeka Capital Journal September 23, 2005 (Read more at [www.cjonline.com](http://www.cjonline.com))

# TOPEKA SYMPHONY Allegro!

## Music for Northeast Kansas

Volume 48, Issue I

Topeka Symphony Orchestra

John Wesley Strickler, Ph.D., Music Director and Conductor

June 2006

### From the Maestro

Greetings! Or should I say "Ta Da"! (If you were at the *Cirque Symphonique* concert, you know what I mean.)

This issue of *Allegro!* is devoted to our upcoming season, which we're calling "Back by Popular Demand" or "Encore, Encore!" Owing to overwhelming audience response, we've invited back two guest artists from last season, and we'll reprise three of our most popular program themes from recent years as part of our new "Discovery" series. Each of the four classical "Masterworks" concerts features time-honored classics and fantastic soloists. And the three "Discovery" concerts offer a wide variety of popular selections specially designed to introduce audiences of all ages to the thrill of live orchestra performance.



Again, this year, you can create your own season package — whether it be all seven concerts, the four classical programs, the three "Discovery" concerts, or any combination thereof. If you can't commit ahead of time, the Flex Pass is the thing for you. So reserve your seats early, as you won't want to miss any of these exciting concerts.

*John Strickler*

### All Concerts at Washburn University This Season

With *sold out* performances at White Concert Hall last season, don't risk being left in the lobby. All concerts this year are at White Concert Hall so purchase your season tickets now by calling Kathy or Molly at **785-232-2032**. Select all 7 concerts, choose a series, or mix it up. They will help you create your personalized season. Need a birthday, anniversary or holiday gift? Why not the Symphony? Any way you do it, you will

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*Encore!*  
 2006-2007

#### *Stories in Music*

Jung-Pill Ryu, Tenor  
 September 30, 2006

#### *Haunted Halloween*

October 28, 2006

#### *Epic Grandeur*

Ivan Zenaty, Violinist  
 November 18, 2006

#### *Cartoon Classics II*

January 13, 2007

#### *Russian Masters*

Jon Nakamatsu, Pianist  
 February 17, 2007

#### *The Wild, Wild West*

March 31, 2007

#### *Mediterranean Holiday*

April 21, 2007

# Masterworks Series...this season we are bringing back some of our most popular performers and program ideas from recent years.

Opening the season as he did last year in the sold out performance of Beethoven's 9th, tenor Jung-Pill Ryu will perform selected arias from your favorite operas. Born in Seoul, Korea, Mr. Ryu has been a soloist throughout the world and performed leading roles in such operas as *Faust*, *La Traviata*, and *La Boheme*. He will once again travel from his home in Spain for *Stories in Music* on September 30, 2006. Rounding out this opening concert will be Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* featuring your favorite TSO principals including Concertmaster Larisa Elisha.

Peering further back into TSO performance history, Maestro Strickler has invited Violinist Ivan Zenaty to perform the hauntingly beautiful violin concerto by Jean Sibelius for *Epic Grandeur* on November 18, 2006. Mr. Zenaty last performed with the TSO in 1995. Coming to Topeka from the Czech Republic, he was named laureate of the Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition in Moscow in 1982 and won the Prague International Violin Competition in 1987. In 1988 he became soloist of the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Zenaty will perform on a rare instrument made by Guiseppe Guarneri.



Ivan Zenaty



Jon Nakamatsu

Many consider Sibelius to be Finland's greatest composer. Following the premier performance of this concerto in 1904, Sibelius was criticized for writing a work that gave the violinist too much exposure. He took this to heart and rewrote the piece, giving greater prominence to the orchestra. The TSO will also perform Beethoven's Symphony #3 "Eroica".

Spawning the theme for this season was the overwhelming audience response last season to Jon Nakamatsu's breathtaking performance of the Rachmaninoff Concerto #3 to another capacity crowd. He did not hesitate when asked if he would return to Topeka. However, finding a return date was not as easy since there is hardly a country in which this Van Cliburn Gold Medal winner does not perform! He will join the TSO for *Russian Masters* on February 17, 2007 to perform Piano Concerto #1 in B-Flat minor by Tchaikovsky. Aside from *The Nutcracker*, this piano concerto is his most recognized work—or at least the opening four minutes are. The irony of this familiar melody, that begins the first movement, is that it is never heard again throughout the remaining 30 minutes of the concerto. Also on the program is Symphony No. 6 by another great Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich.



Jung-Pill Ryu

Concluding the season on April 21, the TSO will take you on a *Mediterranean Holiday* with the "Fountains of Rome" and "España" thanks to Respighi and Chabrier. Be the first to hear the World Premiere of "The Ark of the Covenant" by the TSO's own Zamir Bavel. Israeli born Bavel has composed works for symphony orchestra as well as other instrumentation including voice. Mr. Bavel notes that his compositions have been performed by "well over 100 orchestras in well over 100 cities" throughout the world and in "broadcasts on radio stations throughout the country". "The Ark of the Covenant" is one movement of a planned symphonic suite by Bavel entitled "David". The TSO has premiered two other works by Bavel, *Hanukkah Fantasy* in 1996 and *Odyssey for Brass and Percussion* in 1999. The final work on this program will be "The Three-Cornered Hat" by Manuel de Falla. Originally created as a pantomime, Falla was encouraged to expand it into the ballet it is today.



Zamir Bavel in the TSO

# Discovery Series...the entire family can enjoy the thrill of live orchestral performance!

Join the TSO for three of its most popular programs from past seasons. At the first Halloween concert Count Strickula rose from the depths of White Concert Hall in the darkness, emerged from his restful coffin, and seized the audience and orchestra. Two years later Wizard Fumbledor appeared in a fountain of smoke to mesmerize you with not only a magical orchestra but his own bag of magic tricks. Who will lead the TSO at this season's *Haunted Halloween* on October 28, 2006. Who will it be?

The big screen will come alive once again on January 13, 2007 with *Cartoon Classics II*. From the enchanting "Sleeping Beauty" by Tchaikovsky to Wagner's boisterous "Ride of the Valkeries" to the tip-toeing "Pink Panther" by Henri Mancini...see and hear how the classics entertain you through cartoons.



Then just as springtime settles in, dust off your boots and head on down to *The Wild, Wild, West* on March 31, 2007. "Rodeo" by Aaron Copland and "The Magnificent Seven" by Elmer Bernstein will highlight this final installment of our Discovery Series along with special activities.

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## Finishing Touches... Experience the music in the making

at TSO dress rehearsals which are open to the public and held at 3 pm before each Saturday evening subscription concert. Watch the conductor, guest soloist and musicians give the concert its final polishing. AND YES! The TSO wants the entire family to enjoy its performances. We also know sometimes the evening is too long for the youngsters. As an alternative, attend these afternoon *Finishing Touches* dress rehearsals. After all...our young people are the future of the TSO! General admission seating will be sold at the door—\$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

**Congratulations Diana Osterhout!** Diana was presented the Charles Marling Award of Distinction at the TSO April 1 Concert. This award was introduced in 1982 to recognize outstanding achievement on behalf of the Topeka Symphony. It has been bestowed only eight times since its inception, including the unveiling of the award and presentation to Charles Marling. Diana is a past board member and officer of the TSO Board of Directors, Past President of the Symphony League, and has Co-Chaired the Symphony League Ball. You can see Diana before every TSO and Youth Ensembles concert managing ticket sales. She assists with the annual Youth Talent Auditions and serves on countless committees. Limited space does not allow us to share everything Diana has done for the TSO over approximately the last 40 years, but those of us in the office especially *thank* her for all the large mailings she prepares and takes to the post office!

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(Match items on the left with answers on the right!)

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
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| 3) Performance fee for a premier Guest Artist   | c) Priceless!  |
| 4) Volunteer time                               | d) \$ 60,000   |
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