



The Topeka Symphony Society
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Topeka Symphony Orchestra
John Wesley Strickler, Ph.D., Music Director and Conductor

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New this season: Pre-Concert Buffets

Enjoy a pre-concert buffet with your friends and family prior to each Masterworks concert
Do not plan to cook dinner those evenings!
(Details about time and cost will be available in the fall)

SAVE THE DATE!
HALLS NIGHT OF SHOPPING
OCTOBER 27, 2007

Fundraising event for the Topeka Symphony

POSTCARDS FROM KANSAS

Reflections of National Symphony Orchestra members and staff from their week-long residency in Kansas last March
—Visit www.topekasymphony.org "Announcements"—

SAVE YOUR SEATS NOW! Season packages start at only \$54

- Purchase 3 to 7 concerts!
- Save money!
- Get best seat selection this season!
- Keep your seats next season!

Contact Kathy or Molly at:
785-232-2032
tso@topekasymphony.org

www.topekasymphony.org

Music in Motion 2007-2008

All concerts in White Concert Hall

"Allegro con Brio"
October 6, 2007-8pm
Masterworks I

"Grazioso non troppo"
November 3, 2007-8pm
Masterworks II

"Dash Away, Dash Away"
December 5, 2007-7pm
Discovery I

"Sports in Music"
January 12, 2008-8pm
Discovery II

"con Fuoco"
February 9, 2008-8pm
Masterworks III

"I Love a Parade"
March 8, 2008-8pm
Discovery III

"Molto Appassionata"
April 12, 2008-8pm
Masterworks IV

MORE TSO EVENTS!

Aug. 18: Youth Ensembles Auditions

Oct. 27: Halls Night of Shopping

Nov. 18: Youth Ensembles Concert

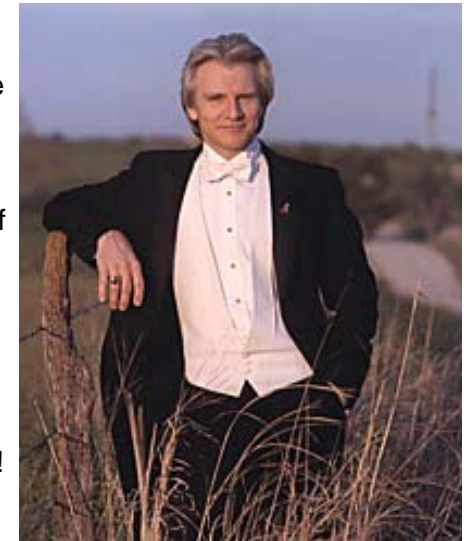
From the Conductor...

The Summer issue of *Allegro!* is devoted to our upcoming season, which we're calling "Music in Motion." We'll explore the relationship between music and motion, with each program including some aspect of dance or a procession.

Each of the four classical "Masterworks" concerts features time-honored classics, 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 orchestral performance. We have four fantastic soloists lined up, including Topeka native Kristen Watson, who will be joining us for our holiday program on December 5th.

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.

Special thanks to Molly Wisman for the excellent job as editor of *Allegro!*
John Strickler



TSO and KTWU Receive 2007 International Award

The Topeka Symphony Orchestra and KTWU TV (PBS) have been honored with a Bronze Prize at the 28th Annual International Telly Awards for the Topeka Symphony 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Concert on September 24, 2005. Telly Awards honor outstanding local, regional, and cable television programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. This year, the Telly Awards received over 13,000 entries from the finest advertising agencies, production companies, TV stations, cable companies, and corporations in the world.

This once-in-a-lifetime program featuring Beethoven's 9th Symphony was captured live in a sold out White Concert Hall for local public television with KTWU TV's Jim Kelly directing the production. The performance was led by Maestro John Strickler. The Topeka Festival Singers and the Washburn University Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Kellim, joined the Topeka Symphony Orchestra to form an ensemble of over 220.

For more about this prestigious award and to purchase the DVD visit www.topekasymphony.org.

Topeka Symphony Society 2007-2008 Board of Directors

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“Allegro con Brio”...lively with gusto and spiritedly! We open the 2007-2008 season **October 6** with 23-year old flutist Jasmine Choi. Named one of America’s Emerging Artists in 2006 by *Symphony* magazine, Ms. Choi has since received great critical acclaim throughout the world. Among her numerous honors are first prizes in the 2005 Juilliard School’s Concerto Competition, the 2004 Yamaha Young Artist Competition and the 2002 Concerto Competition of the Philadelphia Orchestra. A graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School, Ms. Choi is currently with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. She will perform Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, Op. 39 by Lowell Liebermann.



Liebermann

Premiered in 1992, this flute concerto has been described by music critics as “brilliant”, “stunning”, “incredible” and “superbly written”. “This one is a real winner...with rapid passages...jazzy writing for trumpets...pulsating syncopated ostinato...a virtuoso work-out” for the soloist. Lowell Liebermann is one of America’s most frequently performed and commissioned composers. His music is known for its technical command and audience appeal. Mr. Liebermann was born in New York City in 1961. He began piano studies at the age of eight, composition studies at fourteen, and composed his Piano Sonata, Op. 1 when he was fifteen. Liebermann holds advanced degrees from The Juilliard School of Music; currently he maintains an active performing schedule as pianist and conductor as well as continuing to compose. Terry Teachout of *TIME* says about Liebermann’s compositions “If you stopped paying attention to classical music after Britten and Shostakovich died, it’s time to tune in again...and yes, you can hum the tunes.”

Symphony No. 3 by Tchaikovsky will conclude this season opener. Six years after Tchaikovsky’s death, this symphony was dubbed the “Polish”. Sir August Manns led its London premiere in 1874 and affixed this title because of the “Tempo di polacca” marking for the final movement. He could have just as well called it the “German” after the second movement “Alla tedesca” indication. There is actually nothing particularly Polish about the work, but much that is Russian. The five-movement symphony, which came before Tchaikovsky’s well-known Swan Lake, is dancelike at times with a Scherzo that “swirls” and a finale that “flies.”



Choi

TSO Gift Certificates Any amount...anytime!

Call Kathy or Molly at 785-232-2032

What Does It Mean?

Attending the TSO concert on **February 9** may be your only opportunity to hear **Maninyas Concerto for Violin** by Australian composer Ross Edwards. Violinist Sharan Leventhal returns to White Concert Hall to perform this unique work described by Edwards as “rhythmic energy organized into patterns that suggest ritual activity.”

Composer Edwards says he has created a “unique sound world which seeks to reconnect music with elemental forces and restore such qualities as spontaneity and the impulse to dance...I suddenly noticed the outside world...insect and bird sounds...shrieking parrots.”

And what does the word “Maninyas” mean? You can do your own research or you can read more about its meaning in an upcoming *Allegro!*

Discovery Series!



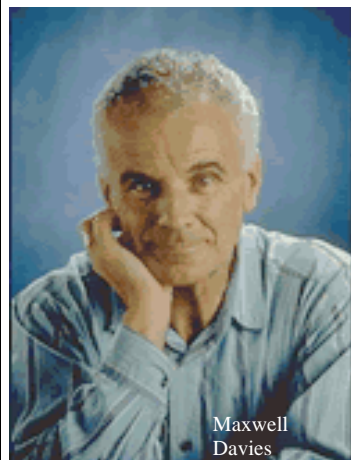
Watson

Join us again this year for our Discovery Series starting off with “Dash Away, Dash Away” on **December 5 at the earlier time of 7 pm**. Topeka native, Kristen Watson, will sing some of your seasonal favorites with the TSO. Many of you may remember Kristen performing at Topeka West High School and Topeka Civic Theatre.

Recently, Kristen has toured as soloist with “Boston Baroque” in their Grammy-nominated performance of Monteverdi’s “Vespers of 1610” and performed in the inaugural season at the newly-built Disney Hall in Los Angeles. She was featured as headlining artist with the Boston Pops on their “Mozart’s Greatest Hits” program as well as their 2005 “Holiday Pops” series. Kristen is equally at home performing opera, music theatre, and making commercial recordings. Welcome Kristen back to Topeka **“con Spirito”...with spirit!**

The other two programs of the Discovery Series are “Sports in Music” on January 12 featuring Holcomb’s *Casey at the Bat*, and “I Love a Parade” on March 8 with Wilson’s *76 Trombones* (will there really be that many trombones?). Find out what the Maestro has cooked up for the entire family.

“Grazioso non Troppo”...graceful, but not too much. How do you combine Brahms and Bagpipes? Just leave it up to Maestro Strickler and his masterful programming on **November 3**. It took Brahms 14 years to complete his Symphony No. 1 and then it was tagged “Beethoven’s Tenth” by conductor Hans von Bülow. The regal string melody of the fourth movement was strikingly similar to Ode to Joy. Brahms was also accused of using the rhythm from the opening of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony. These comparisons annoyed Brahms so he moved its premiere to Karlsruhe outside of Vienna—the city that “worshipped” Beethoven. Today Brahms’ First Symphony is seen as one of his finest creations, indeed, and one of the finest symphonies by any composer of any time.

Maxwell
Davies

OK, you say, what about the bagpipes? *Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise* by Scottish composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies was written for the Boston Pops Orchestra and premiered in 1985. It is a “picture postcard” record of an actual wedding Sir Maxwell Davies attended on the island of Orkney off the north coast of Scotland. You will experience the guests arriving, the wedding processional, and the celebrational dancing into the early morning hours. As the composer walks home across the island, the sunrise is represented by the highland bagpipes. TSO bassoonist, Bruce Gbur, will be featured on bagpipes.

Sir Maxwell Davies lives in the Orkney Islands and has written operas, ballets, orchestral and choral works. His eight symphonies are hailed by *The UK Times* as being “the most important symphonic cycle since Shostakovich”. Having recently finished ten years as Conductor/Composer of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, Sir Maxwell Davies continues to conduct but is currently concentrating on composing chamber music which includes the commission of a cycle of ten string quartets.



Gbur

Season Finale

The 2007-2008 season finale will indeed end **“Molto Appassionata”... very passionately** when Korean pianist Yang-Sook Lee performs Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2. Chopin composed this piano concerto at the age of 19. He wrote to a friend that the *Adagio* was inspired by his “tender feelings” for Constantia Gladkowska, a vocal student at the Warsaw Conservatory, “whom I dream of.”

Symphony No. 5 by Prokofiev will conclude the final concert of this 2007-2008 season on **April 12**. Prokofiev composed this symphony after his ballet *Romeo and Juliet* (1935) and in the same year as *Cinderella* (1944). Premiering on the heels of Shostakovich’s severely criticized Eighth Symphony, this Fifth Symphony was praised as sounding “bright and heroic.”

View photos of Orkney & listen to the composer discuss his work at www.topekasympphony.org