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**Congratulations Topeka Symphony Youth Orchestra on being accepted as a "competing orchestra" at the American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival in Kansas City on March 9**

- January 19 — Piano Master Class with Jon Nakamatsu
- February 24 — Symphony League Ball and Auction
- March 2 — TSO Free School Day Concerts
- March 12 — Youth Ensembles Concert
- March 31 — Clarinet Master Class with David Shifrin

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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)*

# TOPEKA SYMPHONY **Allegro!**

**Music for Northeast Kansas**

Volume 47, Issue 2

Topeka Symphony Orchestra

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

January 2006

*Continue the 60th  
Diamond Jubilee  
Season with us!*

*2005-2006*

**Nakamatsu plays**

**Rachmaninoff**

January 21, 2006

**Cartoon Classics**

February 18, 2006

**Musical Titans**

April 1, 2006

**Cirque Symphonique**

April 22, 2006

## **Nakamatsu plays Rachmaninoff**

*January 21, 2006—WCH 8 PM*

To win the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in June 1997, Jon Nakamatsu had to "outperform two Russian flamethrowers." A native of California and former high school German teacher, Jon Nakamatsu became a hero overnight as the only American to win this esteemed gold medal since 1981. He will perform the monumental Piano Concerto No. 3 by Serge Rachmaninoff with the TSO at White Concert Hall, Saturday, January 21.

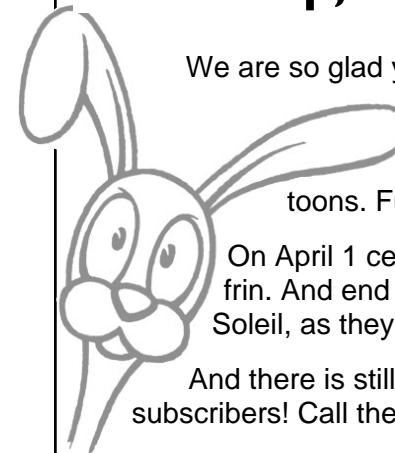
Mr. Nakamatsu began studying piano at the age of 6 and is a graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in German Studies and a master's degree in Education. He performed at the Clinton White House and was named Debut Artist of the Year (1998) by NPR's "Performance Today." He was profiled by "CBS Sunday Morning", and is featured in "Playing with Fire," a documentary about the Van Cliburn Competition on PBS.



On this concert, the TSO will also honor Robert Schumann on the 150th anniversary of his death with a performance of his Symphony No. 3. This symphony, the "Rhenish", was the composer's tribute to the Rhine River.

## **What's up, Doc?**

*February 18, 2006—TPAC 8 PM*



We are so glad you asked! There is a lot happening with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra as we continue our special 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee season. Watch original cartoons and then hear the music in its entirety in February when the TSO performs some of the best-known classical works used to accompany animated cartoons. Fun for the entire family — even for those who think they don't like classical music.

On April 1 celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with renowned clarinetist David Shifrin. And end this spectacular year on April 22 with Tesseract, acrobats formerly with Cirque du Soleil, as they swing with the music of the Topeka Symphony.

And there is still time to take advantage of the "Buy One Get One Free" season ticket offer for new subscribers! Call the TSO office at 785-232-2032.

# Mozart and Mahler

April 1, 2006 — WCH 8 PM

Clarinetist David Shifrin will perform the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A Major on Saturday, April 1. Mr. Shifrin's recording of the only clarinet concerto by Mozart was named Record of the Year by *Stereo Review*. As was done on this award-winning recording, he will perform this concerto with the TSO in its original version on a specially built basset clarinet. Mozart wrote this concerto specifically for his friend, Anton Stadler, who had been experimenting with the court instrument maker to extend clarinets by four half-steps down to their keynotes like the popular basset horn of the times. Shifrin states "the ability to play down to the keynote of the instrument allows him to perform the work in its originally conceived version" which is rarely done.



The *San Francisco Chronicle* calls David Shifrin's playing "a revelation in just how beautifully the clarinet can be played." Mr. Shifrin has toured extensively throughout the world, performed at a state dinner at the White House, and appeared in several national TV performances on *Live from Lincoln Center*. He has also received three Grammy nominations. Currently, Mr. Shifrin is professor of music at Yale University.

Paul Horsley of the Kansas City Star recently wrote in his article *The Rise and Fall of Gustav Mahler* that "Critics and audiences have begun to view Mahler's symphonies as an orchestra's, and a conductor's, litmus test...today his music has all the signs of taking on Beethoven-like status." The TSO and Maestro Strickler are up to the "test" to perform Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 "Titan". Mahler, who died at the early age of 50 in 1911, "made his living as a conductor" and "composed in the summers. Each season he'd bring back something new to shock and delight audiences. He was a favorite of newspaper caricaturists."



Gustav Mahler  
Caricature by Oscar Garvens

Horsley continues, "A symphony should embrace the whole universe, Mahler had said. The First Symphony embraces a gigantic range, from the inchoate, 'Cosmic' opening to the slow movement's humble folk character. Though it's in some ways the most straightforward Mahler symphony, in terms of orchestral playing... his First Symphony is among his most difficult." (Read more at [www.kcstar.com](http://www.kcstar.com).)

**GOING...going...SHOUT** or silently outbid your neighbor at the Topeka Symphony League Ball and Auction on February 24 at the Capital Plaza Hotel. This fundraiser has raised almost \$30,000 annually for the TSO and Endowment in recent years. Support the orchestra and go home with something for yourself. Need a new DVD player, a gift for a friend, special jewelry? Did you ever wonder how the "guest" conductor gets to conduct the symphony? Find out on February 24. Enjoy a gourmet meal, live entertainment, and a fun evening with fellow TSO concert goers. Call the TSO office at 785-232-2032 for more information.

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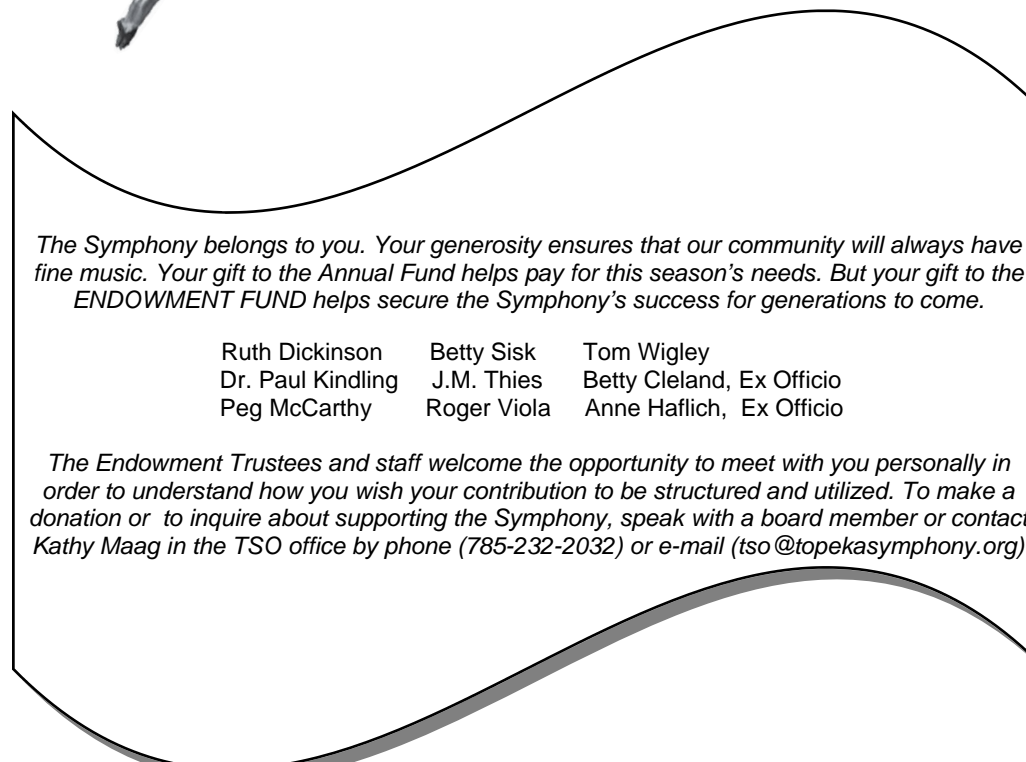
# Cirque Symphonique

April 22, 2006 — TPAC 8 PM

**It's** music in motion when the Topeka Symphony Orchestra welcomes Tesseract, world-class acrobats formerly with the renowned Cirque du Soleil. Peter Boulanger and Ninon Parent have been performing together for the last 12 years and founded British Columbia's only full-time professional circus, Cirque Phoenix. They have toured throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in Japan, France, England, China, and Singapore. You will be captivated as they entertain and amaze you with their fast-paced comedy, awesome acrobatics and hilarious audience interaction.

While the TSO plays Rossini, Moussorgsky, Khatchaturian, Stravinsky, and Strauss, Peter and Ninon will perform high in the air. Feats of strength, graceful figures and breath taking tumbles are executed by intertwining body and fabric on aerial silks. You will never look at your dining room table and chairs the same way again after they stun you with their balancing act.

**AND LOOK OUT ORCHESTRA . . .** when Peter and Ninon fly across the stage performing flips and catches. Come join the circus and your TSO for the new age of circus on April 22.



*The Symphony belongs to you. Your generosity ensures that our community will always have fine music. Your gift to the Annual Fund helps pay for this season's needs. But your gift to the ENDOWMENT FUND helps secure the Symphony's success for generations to come.*

- |                   |             |                           |
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*The Endowment Trustees and staff welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally in order to understand how you wish your contribution to be structured and utilized. To make a donation or to inquire about supporting the Symphony, speak with a board member or contact Kathy Maag in the TSO office by phone (785-232-2032) or e-mail ([tso@topekasymphony.org](mailto:tso@topekasymphony.org))*

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### YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Did you know that over 150 young musicians spend every Tuesday afternoon rehearsing in one of three TSO youth ensembles? The Youth Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Elisha, and the Youth Philharmonic and Debut orchestras, under the direction of Breta Bloomberg, are rehearsing for their March 12 concert after a spectacular opening concert on November 20. Cynthia Enstrom, Chairperson of the Education and Youth Committee, works tirelessly with her many volunteers to coordinate all youth ensemble activities including auditions, rehearsals, concerts, and special events. They even produce their own newsletter "Tutti". Thank you all! Special thanks to the many corporate and business sponsors and especially the Topeka Symphony League for their volunteers and financial support.