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

June 2005

*Celebrate our 60th
Diamond Jubilee
Season with us!*

2005-2006

The 9th

September 24, 2005

**From the Heart of
Russia**

November 5, 2005

Radio Holly Days

December 7, 2005

Nakamatsu plays

Rachmaninoff

January 21, 2006

Cartoon Classics

February 18, 2006

Musical Titans

April 1, 2006

Cirque Symphonique

April 22, 2006

The 9th!

September 24, 2005—WCH 8 PM

Maestro John Strickler says his favorite Beethoven symphony is "the one I'm conducting at the time!" Join Dr. Strickler and the Topeka Symphony Orchestra as they perform his "favorite" Beethoven Symphony "The 9th" on the opening concert of TSO's 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee season.

This gala concert on Saturday, September 24, will initiate a season-long celebration of the TSO's 60-year partnership with Washburn University. The Symphony will join forces with the Washburn University Choir, Topeka Festival Singers, and vocal soloists from Europe and the United States to present this monumental work. And Washburn University once again is re-affirming its support by sponsoring this concert in honor of the TSO's 60 years of great performances.

Guest Soprano soloist, Richetta Manager, is a native Topekan as well as Washburn and Topeka High alumna. She returns from her current home in Germany to the same concert hall where she polished her operatic skills. Ms. Manager currently performs throughout Europe and also was the soprano soloist when the TSO last performed "The 9th" during its 50th anniversary season. Jung-Pil Ryu, Tenor, comes to Topeka from his current home in Spain. Kelly Krantz, Mezzo-soprano and Wayne Shepperd, Bass-baritone, both residing in California, will complete the solo quartet which is an integral "instrument" of the work known as the "Choral Symphony".

As an additional proclamation of the TSO and Washburn partnership, Washburn artist-in-residence James Rivers will open the concert performing Piano Concerto No. 2 by Shostakovich. Mr. Rivers has been at Washburn for over 35 years and last performed with the Topeka Symphony in 1991. We are thrilled that he will open our Diamond Jubilee season with this brilliant concerto! Further highlighting this 60-year relationship with Washburn, their KTWU public television station will record this opening concert for re-broadcast throughout the year.



Did you know? Friedrich von Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy" first appeared in print in 1785. Inspired in his youth by the poem, Beethoven began his plan to set the poem to music in his early twenties around 1793. The famous choral melody from his 9th symphony "evolved painstakingly" until assuming its final form as part of its premier performance on May 7, 1824 in Vienna. Due to total deafness by this time, Beethoven did not realize from his place on stage the success of this premier until one of the vocal soloists turned him around to "see the thunderous cheers" of the audience.

From the heart of Russia

November 5, 2005—WCH 8 PM

You feel like you know her...she's your friend ... you watch her time and again arrive on stage at a special moment...you hear her beautiful sounds flowing throughout the concert hall alone and with others...you grasp her hand along with the maestro at the end of each performance. Larisa Elisha, TSO Concertmaster, will now dazzle you with her display of virtuosity as she performs the most well-known violin concerto by Russian composer Dimitri Shostakovich.

Your friend and Washburn University artist-in-residence, will leave you awestruck when she performs this stunning concerto on Saturday, November 5 at White Concert Hall. This violin concerto is considered one of the greatest concertos of the 20th Century yet has never been performed with the Topeka Symphony. Larisa has performed the Shostakovich Violin Concerto several times with major Polish orchestras.

Continuing in the tradition of the great Russian violinist, David Oistrakh, Larisa holds a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in music from the Academy of Music in Minsk, Belarus, where she was a student and assistant of Professor Olga Parchomienko. She earned her Doctorate degree at the Academy of Music in Wroclaw, Poland where she was also Violin Professor.

Originally from the shores of the Caspian Sea,

Larisa has distinguished herself as an international soloist, chamber musician and pedagogue. She has performed and taught extensively throughout Europe and the United States and has made numerous compact disc, TV, and radio recordings.

Many of you have enjoyed her with cellist (and husband), Steven Elisha, in the *Elaris Duo* and at the Sunflower Music Festival. What you may not know is that Larisa is also Concertmaster of the Wichita Grand Opera where she recently performed featured solos with Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti. AND we just learned that she is in the *2005 Marquis Who's Who in America*, recognized for her outstanding professional achievements. What an accomplished and gifted friend you have indeed!



"From the Heart of Russia" will also feature *Sleeping Beauty* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky

are two of the most famous Russian composers along with Prokofiev, Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Glinka's. *Sleeping Beauty* is one of the most beautiful and recognizable ballet scores written by the composer of the *Nutcracker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *1812 Overture*.



Buy One—Get One Free!

Why pay \$18 to attend a TSO concert when you can pay less than \$10? New 2005-2006 Season Ticket Subscribers can buy one season ticket at regular price and get a second season ticket free.

That's right! You and another person can attend all 7 concerts for as little as \$125 or 3 concerts for as little as \$54. And if you are a full-time student cut that in half!

Do the math and then call TSO at 785-232-2032 and we will help you create your season package.

It was on the radio...

December 7, 2005 — TPAC 7 PM

December 7, 1941 – it was broadcast over the nation's radio airwaves. December 7, 2005 Five by Design and TSO will bring back memories with a time capsule of those times in their critically acclaimed holiday show "Radio Holly Days".

This Minneapolis-based jazz/swing vocal ensemble will take you down memory lane when they join the Topeka Symphony Orchestra to celebrate another 60-year anniversary – the end of World War II. Five by Design and the TSO will recreate the people and the times through music, segments of vintage shows, commercials, "schtick" and comedy. Carmen Miranda? Betty Grable? The Lone Ranger?

Attired in authentic clothing, Five by Design will transform TPAC into a 1940's radio-type broadcast. You will hear your favorite holiday songs as well as the most well-known "red, white, and blue ditties of the 1940's". This patriotic musical retrospective celebrates the golden age of radio.

After their Kennedy Center debut with the National Symphony Orchestra Pops last February, the Washington Post proclaimed Five by Design's "Radio Days" concert as "one of the best NSO pops performances of the season".

You will not want to miss this spectacular show and special tribute to our veterans. So boogie on down or take the Chatanooga Choo-Choo. However you get there, plan to bring the entire family to TPAC at 7 PM on December 7.

Conductor's Corner

John Strickler

Greetings! As we prepare for our 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee season, we are pleased to again bring you our newsletter after an absence of several years. Thanks to the efforts of Molly Wisman, we plan to publish two issues of the *Allegro!* this season.

Anniversaries are a time for celebration and memories. So it seems appropriate to reflect on the longevity of the relationship between the TSO and Washburn University. As many of you are aware, the Symphony began as a college-community orchestra at Washburn and was under the direction of Everett Fetter for 30 years. Upon his retirement, Jack Harriman was named the next conductor and served in that capacity for 12 years. In 1989, I began my tenure as the third conductor. While I serve in no official capacity at Washburn, the relationship remains strong.

The Topeka Symphony is proud to call White Concert Hall its home for rehearsals and performances by the TSO and all Youth Ensembles. In 1997, the Symphony and Washburn embarked on the joint Artist-in-Residence/



Concertmaster position. Three years ago, the University and Symphony again took on a second joint position for Artist-in-Residence/Principal Cello. These collaborations have equally enhanced the Washburn Music Department and the Symphony.

These are just a few of the ways the Symphony and Washburn continue working together for the mutual benefit of both organizations and the community. Join us as we celebrate this partnership