



The Topeka Symphony Society  
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PLAYER PORTRAITS  
SPECIAL EDITION

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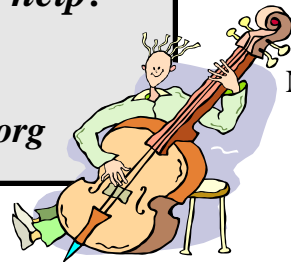
### Did you know?

**TSO musicians earn less than half the national average for orchestras in similar sized cities?**

*Ask us how you can help!*

**785-232-2032**

[www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org)



### TAKE NOTE!

NOVEMBER 17 — VIOLIN MASTER CLASS  
WITH IVAN ZENATY

NOVEMBER 18 — "EPIC GRANDEUR"  
Beethoven and Sibelius

NOVEMBER 19 — YOUTH ENSEMBLES CONCERT  
White Concert Hall 2 PM

"...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))

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## Music for Northeast Kansas

Volume 48, Issue 3

Topeka Symphony Orchestra

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

November 2006

### Encore!

2006-2007

*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*

Featuring

Judy Coder & *Pride of the Prairie*

March 31, 2007

*Mediterranean*

*Holiday*

April 21, 2007

*With fingers flyin' and bows caressin', the members of the TSO string sections do yeoman's duty every season! Composed of educators, students and everyday folks, the strings make beautiful music under the direction of Maestro John Strickler. "The strings"...violins, violas, cellos and basses...always add a few new players each season but primarily consist of veteran players, some having been with the Symphony for over 30 years.*



*Special thanks to the masterful leadership of Concertmaster Larisa Elisha and String Principals Donna Mealy, Steven Elisha, James Starr, and Wally Proctor. This Player Portrait highlights some of your TSO string players and their interesting snapshots! Enjoy!*

*Dave Azwell, violin*

**LeAnne** Baehni-Schultz is a member of the second violin section and has played in the TSO since 1999. LeAnne plays on a violin that was made in 1982 for the late Larry Harris, former TSO member and recognized Topeka public school music educator. Upon graduation from Topeka High School, LeAnne studied at Washburn from 1971-74 under the tutelage of Dr. Everett Fetter, original conductor of the TSO. She moved to Homer, **Alaska** where she eventually took over the Homer Public School music program. In 1980, she returned to Topeka and graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Washburn University. LeAnne is a professional independent music teacher and currently has students enrolled in both **Violin** and **Viola**. She has taught locally for over 25 years. LeAnne has been recognized by several "Who's Who" publications for her more than 30-year career as a music educator and performer and belongs to a number of professional organizations including Music Teachers National Association and Sigma Alpha Iota. LeAnne has been married for 22 years.

Hmmmm. She won't say anything about her age (woman's prerogative), but **Lisa** Janssen has played the viola since the fifth grade and has been in the TSO **viola** section for 23 years. She is a 1978 graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and has done some graduate work at Emporia State University. Harveyville, Goodland and Havensville, Kansas have been stopping points in her career as an elementary music teacher. Lisa currently teaches elementary music at Pauline Central in USD 437. Lisa is married and has a son and two stepsons. Her interests lie in gardening, dog walks, feeding the birds, hunting, **chopping wood** and watching her son play sports.

Interesting, interesting,

interesting !! **Kate** Dinneen has led a marvelous life that has involved food, music and artist blacksmithing. Being the tallest one in the class at age 12, Kate got the tallest instrument... a bass fiddle. She is now a member of the **string bass** section of the TSO and has been for over 10 years. A graduate of KU with a Bachelor of Arts in Folklore (with an emphasis on Irish music), Kate had been a chef for 13 years. Some 11 years ago, she started a new career as an **Artist Blacksmith**. She makes architectural and ornamental iron and metalwork...fences, music stands, candlesticks, lobster hammers and the like. As part of a collaboration, Kate made an ear of corn for the Globe Theatre gates in London. Kate is married and enjoys sailing, being a storm spotter/chaser and working with birds of prey.

It's a sister act!! **Jenith** Hoover and **Melanie** Wambsgans are sisters and both are members of the TSO. Jenith has played the **cello** since the fourth grade and has been in the TSO for 31 years, starting out under the direction of Dr. Everett Fetter. Melanie plays second **violin** and has been a member since 1977 having played the violin since the first grade. A 1969 graduate of Topeka High School, Jenith has held support positions in various offices. For the past 14 years, she has been Associate Director of the Kansas Pharmacists Association. Melanie is also a graduate of Topeka High School and is music director and administrative assistant at University United Methodist Church. She has worked at the Casa Restaurant since 1978. Jenith has been married since 1971 and has one son. She enjoys photography, gardening, dog-jogging with **Waldo, the Dalmation**, and bicycling. Sister Melanie, also married, has two daughters and enjoys reading, **quilt-ing** and singing. Proud dad, **George** Paris, is a faithful TSO audience member!

Born in Wichita, Kansas, **Mary Lyndal** Nyberg graduated from Wichita North High School. She has been a member of the TSO's **violin** section since 1984. Lyndal completed a Bachelor's degree in Music Education at Wichita State University and her Master of Music degree at Kansas State University. Lyndal has taught music in the public schools of Phoenix, Arizona and Abilene, Texas and had a private violin/viola studio in Manhattan, Kansas for many years until she retired in 2003. Lyndal was copy editor for the Kansas Quarterly for 20 years. She has played in the Wichita Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Abilene Symphony, and Lexington (KY) Philharmonic and also currently plays in the Bluemont String Quartet and the Pernambuco Quartet. Lyndal likes traveling with her husband, Ben, Professor Emeritus of English at KSU. They **travel** throughout the US and Europe to see concerts, operas and theatre productions. Lyndal has 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren whom she frequently visits.

**"Pizzicato" \*\***  
The act of removing anchovies from an Italian dish with short, quick motions

**Julianne** Boren began playing the **cello** 20 years ago at the age of 10. She has been a member of the TSO since 2000 and currently holds positions in the St. Joseph Symphony and the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra; she has also performed with the Wichita Symphony. Julianne is a founding member of the Orenunn Trio which recently completed an international tour to North Korea and Thailand. She maintains an active freelance music career in the Kansas City area and has performed in a variety of venues around the country. This Ponca City, Oklahoma native holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Wichita State University and a Master of Music from DePaul University in Chicago. Julianne is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, has received the Theodore Presser Award and was the Kansas Senior Division Winner of the 1998 ASTA Solo Competition. With a passion for music, she currently maintains a large private studio, teaching in both Kansas City and Lawrence and has also taught at Baker University. Julianne is currently on the faculty of the International Music Camp at the International Peace Gardens in North Dakota. She is married and enjoys making **candles** in her spare time.

At age 14, **Anne** Heim began playing the viola in the school orchestra in Joplin, Missouri. She has been a

member of the TSO **viola** section for 35 years and has played under all three TSO conductors. Anne originally started in the 1962-63 season under Dr. Everett Fetter, but moved away for 8 years until she returned to continue through this season. Having graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BSE in music education, Anne taught in the Jefferson City and Kansas City, Missouri schools. She also was a secretary in the Washburn Education department for 14 years. Anne is married to Ted and has 2 daughters. She loves to play in the orchestra, **swim**, walk, and travel.



**Kenya** Patzer is a first **violinist** in the TSO. She played from 1993-95 while a student at Topeka High and then took some time off to continue her music studies and rejoined in 2002. Kenya received a Bachelor of Music from Denver University and Master of Music from Rice University. In 2000 and 2001, Kenya played in the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colorado. She toured the US, Russia and Armenia with the American-Russian Young Artists Orchestra in 2002. Kenya currently is the choir director at the Calvary Lutheran Church and a member of the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra. She is a certified **firefighter/EMT**, an active member of the Soldier Township Fire Department and is a Fire Prevention Inspector for the Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office. Did you recognize her at a Halloween concert in her official firefighter gear?

**\*\* Pizzicato . . . To pluck the strings with the fingers**

**Anna** Kraxner's mother gave Anna her first violin when she was 7; at age 13, she received from her mother a 200+ year old German violin—a Placht dated 1784. Music has since been the common thread through all the greatest experiences of her life. Anna is currently a member of the second **violin** section and has played in the TSO for approximately 20 years. At age 53 (she'll deny it), Anna has a double degree from KU in English (creative writing) and Communications (conflict resolution). She is a proposal writer for the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Anna has two children and enjoys spending time with her family, sitting at the computer, reading, arts and crafts, **wine** tasting, watching movies, ethnic cuisine and music.

**This Allegro! represents 258 years of TSO participation**

Having started and taught the strings program in the Seaman School district in the early 80's, **Martha** Barnhill moved on to the Shawnee Heights School district as high school orchestra director and has been with them for 21 years. Martha also teaches some elementary classes and at the middle school. A highlight for 2006 occurred when her Shawnee Heights Symphonic High School Orchestra was selected to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Convention in Wichita. Martha began playing the **cello** in the fourth grade and the Topeka Symphony's 2006-07 season is her 31st year in the orchestra. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music from Arizona State University and currently resides in Lawrence where she has played with the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra and other chamber groups. Married, with two children, Martha enjoys reading and **hiking** which has led to some interesting hikes — 10 days in Wales and a planned hike in Scotland. She also is learning German and has traveled four times to Germany as part of a Shawnee Heights exchange program.

**Nancy** Fleeker Daniels freaked out about turning 50 but handled it well. No hill for a stepper!! In 1975, Dr. Everett Fetter advised Nancy that it was time for her to play in the Symphony. She played for 3 years, dropped out for 6 years, and then started up again and has been playing ever since. Nancy began the **violin** in the 9th grade and is currently a member of the second violin section. A graduate of KU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism, worked for 12 years as an Assistant for the Kansas Department and has 2 daughters orchestra, Nancy has

**TSO audience members travel from 62 Northeast Kansas communities. Bravo!**

of Transportation. She is married who are active in sports, band, theatre and dance. After having met cousins via e-mail, Nancy taught herself to "fiddle" so that she could play with her cousins at a **hoe-down** being held in Kentucky at a family reunion. She had a blast!

Music, music, music...have bass will play it and whatever else is out there, she can do it!! So it goes for **Breta** Bloomberg, a member of the **string bass**

in the McPherson Community Orchestra and the Hutchinson Orchestra. After graduation from Sterling College, James spent a year in **Kiev, Ukraine** teaching conversational English. Upon his return to the US, he took a year to prepare for law school and graduated from the Washburn School of Law. James is a research attorney with the Kansas Court of Appeals and has been married for one year to Sarah, daughter of a former TSO musician.

section since 1998. Breta has a private music studio of piano, violin, cello, string bass and electric bass students. She is music director at Highland Park United Methodist Church and plays with the "Kings of Swing" big band regularly. Breta has been orchestra director at Topeka High School and Williams Science and Fine Arts Magnet School since 1999 and at Highland Park High School since 2004. And if that is not enough, Breta has been the conductor of the Topeka Symphony Debut Orchestra and Youth Philharmonic since their inception. A graduate of Kansas University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree, Breta went on to earn a Master of Music degree from Kansas State University. That must make her a **Jaycat!!** Breta is active outside of music, also. She is a certified tennis official for the Big XII conference and USTA events in the Kansas City area, a member of Downtown Topeka Rotary, and was recently included in the Marquis Who's Who in America 60th Diamond Edition.