

Quarter Notes

What's New at the HSO? Announcing First Rehearsal & Nosh!

Ever wonder how a Masterworks concert sounds when musicians join together for the very first time? How much tweaking, massaging and refining is needed to create the finished product we hear at the concert? If you are curious to learn more about the creative process behind the music performed by our Music Director and gifted musicians, you will love our brand-new offering, which invites donors at Principal's Club (\$250) and higher to join us on a Saturday morning for "*First Rehearsal & Nosh*".

Starting this spring, on three separate occasions, donors will be invited to be a 'fly on the wall' at the Woodland Street Rehearsal Hall to observe what happens when the HSO musicians play through Masterworks concert pieces for the first time. Before starting rehearsal, donors and musicians are invited to mingle and enjoy a light pre-rehearsal breakfast "nosh."

While invited dress rehearsals in the concert hall are common, outsiders are rarely permitted to



observe inside the rehearsal room. Even musicians who have played the repertoire previously view the first rehearsal as the start of a critical creative journey, when the Music Director's interpretations (or those of a guest conductor) are explored. Musicians take notes, scribble intensely on scores, and begin the process of choosing the techniques and sounds that ultimately shape the version of the great music we hear in the concert hall.

Maestra's Society donors will receive advanced notice of the date and time of each *First Rehearsal & Nosh*. Space limitations severely limit capacity, so RSVP's will be taken on a first come, first served basis. When you get the invitation, be sure to respond immediately to reserve your spot as we anticipate that this will rapidly become a favorite!



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HSO Adventures – Want to join us on the next one?

This past July, more than 40 Concertmaster's Club and Maestra's Society donors joined the HSO for a visit to the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, N.Y. to see Carolyn Kuan conduct Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. The luxury bus trip included a special guest: former Classical Music Director at WFCR-FM and music historian, John Montanari, a skilled raconteur who regaled all with fascinating stories about Mozart and the creation of *The Magic Flute*.

The group enjoyed breakfast en-route, plus an exclusive on-site catered luncheon with Carolyn, along with Glimmerglass Artistic & General Director, Francesca Zambello. Before the performance, there was time for a private tour of the Glimmerglass costume shop, which included an

in-depth, hands-on presentation of the Festival costumes, from concept to creation. We had perfect seats at the opera and to everyone's delight, Carolyn met our group post-performance at a pre-arranged location. She made time to answer questions, provide more details about the production and introduce the opera's leading man – Sean Panikkar, as Tamino. Our return bus trip included wine, snacks and fond memories of a great day; all agreed that the remarkable adventure we shared together will be talked about for years to come.

We are in early planning phases of scheduling new excursions during the upcoming season, and these events are generally offered to Concertmaster's Club donors, with

advance notice to Maestra's Society members. If you have any questions about your level of giving or would like to become a Concertmaster's Club or Maestra's Society donor, we invite you to contact Annual Fund Manager, **Jillian Baker at 860.760.7302 or jbaker@hartfordsymphony.org**. We'll be thrilled and you'll be glad you did!



Presto Mambo!, held on October 28, was the first in a series of three **Discovery Concerts** offered to students in grades K – 6. In 2014-2015, more than 2,600 children from 17 different Connecticut schools attended the series, supported in part by a generous grant from **Lincoln Financial**. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, ***Presto Mambo!*** was a fun, musical frolic

around the Spanish-speaking globe with enchanting Guest Conductor Alexandra Arrieche, who encouraged the children to speak with her in English and Spanish, as she led the HSO in a concert of music with Hispanic origins. A large screen enhanced the journey with maps illustrating each country of origin, and videos to bring the music to life.

Two more Discovery Concerts are scheduled for March 23 and April 20 and are held at the Mortensen Hall in The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. For more information on any of these programs, contact **Miriam Engel, Education Coordinator at 860-760-7328**.



Have you noticed... and heard... the beautiful **Disklavier** located in the main foyer of the Belding Theater? On loan for your listening pleasure via **Falcetti Music**, this gorgeous instrument is connected to the internet and plays music of every genre at the touch of a button. Information about the **Disklavier** is available on location and we sincerely thank **Tony Falcetti** for his generous 'loan' enjoyed by all.

MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Ann Drinan, Viola

Tell us how you started in music and why you chose your instrument.

Growing up in Newton, MA, my father's sister Catherine was my first music teacher, starting me on piano and violin at age four. When she married and moved to Germany, I continued lessons at the local music school, and played violin in the junior high orchestra. We didn't have anyone to play viola, so when I mentioned that we had a viola in our front hall closet (left behind by Catherine), I was immediately declared a violist! In high school, I joined the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra (GBYSO), where I met Pat Daly Vance, who is now also an HSO violist. We were stand partners during our senior year; it was such a joy to reunite with her in the HSO viola section!

Did you study music in college?

I attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison intending to major in French, but of course I played in the college orchestra. At 19, I contracted a polio-like paralysis of my left wrist, which was very traumatic. I regained movement after a few weeks, but I still have issues today from that paralysis. It was a long, slow road to play without pain. At Madison, I met Otto Werner Mueller, who became an incredibly important person in my life. He taught me how to approach music intellectually, about playing in a symphony, about conducting and about life in general. I consider him to be my mentor; how fortunate I was to have met him at 18!

How did your musical career begin?

I freelanced in college, but it really began with an amazing break: a college friend (a horn player on the national tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*) called me when the violist left. Two days later I left for six months on the road! But I never thought I'd ever be a symphony musician. My uncle,



Robert F. Drinan, S.J., a Jesuit, was elected to Congress in 1969, and I helped run several of his campaigns. I decided to pursue a Master's in Political Science, and graduated from Yale's International Relations Program in 1976. (But I was still connected to music, playing with OW Mueller and the Yale Philharmonia.)

Wait – So you opted to pursue a career in politics? NOT music?

Yes – I moved to DC to work in politics, but moved back to CT for family reasons. I was still having lots of problems from the paralysis. I began studying with Sam Kissel (who had played with Toscanini), who taught the Dounis method, created by a physician. It took three years of diligent determination to relearn how to play my instrument without pain.

So what would you say is your greatest musical achievement? Relearning how to play?

That, and winning my position with the Hartford Symphony at age 30 in 1980. I never believed I would play professionally, so being a member of this orchestra is a dream come true.

What other things do you do when you are not playing with the HSO?

After working for an artificial intelligence company (Cognitive Systems) for a decade, I became a freelance technical writer. I'm now a Senior Editor at Polyphonic.org, a website for symphony musicians hosted at Eastman. And I'm Executive Director of CONCORA, a professional chorus now in its 42nd season. Check out www.concora.org.

Who is your favorite composer?

Probably Prokofiev - and anything by Astor Piazzolla. And I still sometimes listen to *Jesus Christ Superstar* when I'm cleaning the house. :)

What are some other personal things you'd want people to know about you?

I'm married to Algis Kaupas, a sound recordist for film and TV, and webmaster for various arts organizations. We love going to museums, and have been to Lithuania six times together. We have a shelter cat, Tatiana, whom we didn't see for a year after bringing her home, and who still won't let us pick her up. And I still love politics and follow it closely!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

David & Alison Leeds



David and Alison Leeds have a special bond with the HSO: their first date was at a Masterworks concert.

Their shared love of music was apparent even before they began dating. David, originally from New York, was already an HSO subscriber, having started off attending Classical Conversations on Thursday evenings

after work. Alison, a native of Connecticut, had been going to the HSO “all of my life.” She started at Saturday morning Family Concerts with her grandfather, and slyly admits she knew The Bushnell “from the inside,” since her Dad’s best friend worked the sound booth. So David figured that a first date at the Hartford Symphony was a “no-brainer.” He was right.

David & Alison just celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary; and music still is a part of their lives. Alison, a vocalist, sang with the Farmington Valley Chorale in a performance of Mozart’s Requiem at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center, and began singing with the Hartford Chorale in 1997. David and Alison were both on the Hartford Chorale Board, but for now, Alison has taken a break from singing to be a full-time mom to their five-year-old twin boys, Josh and Nick.

Together, they are subscribers AND donors. They both understand the financial costs required to keep great music in the community. Both recall the loss of the Connecticut Opera and are proud of their decision to actively support the symphony as donors: “Every one of us should financially support arts organizations. Otherwise, these important resources could disappear and we’ll have no one to blame but ourselves.”

The HSO is still “date night.” While Alison is the one with “the musical family” (her brother, Tim Reno, works as an organist, and is Assistant Professor of Creative Arts at Siena College, with a doctorate in choral conducting), David (having played piano and timpani in public school) insists he has minimal musical training, but just “knows what he likes.” And their love of music is a treasure they are already sharing with their children. They play all varieties of music for the twins, who especially enjoy *Hall of the Mountain King* by Edvard Grieg. They want their children to also experience the magic of live symphony performance.

To someone who has never experienced live orchestral music, David quietly offers this advice: “Pick a piece you might have heard before – like Beethoven’s Fifth. And then go hear it live. It’s like hearing it for the first time. Watching the artistry of the musicians and having the music created live in front of you is an amazing experience. It just doesn’t get old.”

David and Alison, thank you. We cannot wait to greet your children at a concert, and you know we will make sure the experience is special, creating a memory that will keep them coming back for more.

The HSO website is your friend!

Don’t forget to check the HSO website on a regular basis -- it’s not just a place to order tickets! We list restaurants offering special discounts to ticket-holders, updates on our fabulous community and education programs, and links to all past concert program guides. Video links will soon be shown on the website, so check us out – often! www.hartfordsymphony.org.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

CLY-DEL Manufacturing Company



Modest and unassuming, Bob Garthwait, Jr. has found two ways to combat stress: he drives race cars and attends Hartford Symphony Orchestra concerts. The first demands undivided, focused attention, but the second – listening to the rich sounds of the symphony — allows Bob to discharge tension while simply enjoying the music. Bob began his HSO connection attending Classical Conversations with his wife, Carlotta, and enjoyed Family Concerts with their son Bobby. Within a few years, he was a Masterworks subscriber. Having played cornet and trumpet as a child, Bob appreciates the talent and artistry of the HSO musicians.

As President and CEO of CLY-DEL Manufacturing Company based in Waterbury, Bob and his father are the second and third generations to steer this successful business. His son, Bob III, will be the fourth generation to lead the family-owned enterprise. Bob's grandfather, Clyde Garthwait, was

a skilled toolmaker by day and he "moonlighted" to launch CLY-DEL in 1939. The young metal-manufacturing company stepped forward to meet the defense needs of the U.S. during WW II. The 1955 flood of Waterbury left CLY-DEL's original facility intact, but convinced Clyde to seek higher ground. The location of the current 195,000 square foot plant, built in 1956, was selected because it was six feet above the flood's high water mark.

Today, CLY-DEL is the largest producer of alkaline battery parts in North America, and manufactures parts for multiple industries, including hardware, communication, automotive, electronic, ammunition and even jingle bells for crafts. Proud to be an American company, respected for its tradition of high-quality and leading-edge technology, CLY-DEL is proactive in its concern for the environment and care for its employees.

Bob proudly continues a second Garthwait family tradition: service and philanthropy, noting, "My father raised my awareness of how important it is to 'give back' to the community." The company and family combined donate to over 250 different organizations with a concentration in arts, health and education. Now in its fifth year, the Garthwait Leadership Center at Gettysburg College has touched over 2,000 students, helping to develop the future leaders of tomorrow.

Three years ago, Bob began a new tradition: sponsorship of HSO's Masterworks. This season, CLY-DEL again sponsored the concert featuring guest conductor Bill Eddins. Using his sponsorship to its best advantage, Bob brings friends and employees to the symphony, some introduced to the orchestra for the first time. But it didn't take long for people to get "hooked" on the experience. He jokes, "Folks now line up to make sure that they are included in the symphony group!"

Bob has no difficulty explaining why support for the HSO is critical: "We cannot take the arts for granted; it is important that we support it. And in turn, the HSO gives so much to each of us and to the entire community. For me, giving at a more specific level and for a specific purpose makes you think about what you support and why. It creates a closer bond and a deeper connection." And the HSO is now in the top five local organizations that Bob supports.

Bob, we are so proud and grateful to have you as a cherished partner, and please accept a heartfelt thank you from every member of the HSO family!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Miriam Engel, Education Coordinator

Miriam Engel joined the HSO on August 4, 2015 and, with the start of the school year nearly upon her, she dove right into preparations for the first education concert of the season, *Presto, Mambo!*

What drew you to the HSO?

I grew up in West Hartford and participated in the Inter-El and Inter-Mid festivals at The Bushnell as a tiny soprano. I also came to the Symphony with my parents, so I've always thought of the HSO as the "home team."

After graduating from Smith College in 2013 with a B.A. in music, I started working at the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center in DC as the Artist Services Coordinator (code name: Divawrangler). I loved it, but wanted to work in arts education, and now I have the opportunity to develop programs for students and community members right in my hometown! It's an exciting challenge to find ways to strike the right chord (pun intended) with the kids of Greater Hartford.

Now that you're here with us, what do you think?

I love my new HSO family! It may be cliché, but with these individuals, it's also the truth. The warmth, passion, and "all hands on deck" mentality here is inspiring and moving. It's an incredible privilege to be able to work with this team, and I can't wait to see where we can go together from here!

So many of the HSO staff members are musicians or passionate about music. Are you a musician and/or is music a passion in your life?

I've already confessed to singing on The Bushnell stage as a tiny fourth- and fifth-grader, but it doesn't begin to cover how much music has shaped my life. I'm extremely grateful to my parents for sitting me in front of the piano at age 5. As much as I hated to practice, even then I couldn't imagine my life without music! I sang in choirs in school every year from grades 3-12, culminating with my senior year as a member of the Hall High Choraliers, then went on to sing in several choirs at Smith and with the Choral



Arts Society of Washington in DC. I studied opera from age 14 on and it turned out that, after all, I was not a tiny soprano but a big mezzo. Less of a Susanna, more of a Cherubino.

At the present, for the first time in my life since the second grade, I'm not singing in a choir...yet. I am, however, (somehow) finding time to compose the score to Smith College Theatre's upcoming production of *Orlando*, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf.

We are delighted to announce that the amazing Coleman Casey, Emeritus member of the HSO Board of Directors and our favorite audiophile, will resurrect "Casey's Corner" on our website and in the next issue of *Prelude*.

Coleman's insights into the world of classical music recordings will take you on a journey to true music appreciation. For years, he shared his knowledge on Connecticut Public Radio, and in the HSO's prior newsletter, *Capriccio*. Watch for "Casey's Corner" in the next issue of *Prelude* and on the HSO website under "Plan Your Visit." Remember, to receive *Prelude*, offered free to the public, we need your email address. Send your address to Ruth Sovronsky, Director of Development, at rsovronsky@hartfordsymphony.org.



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