

RED CEDAR

Symphony Orchestra Notes

Volume 18, Issue I

Fall 2016

Fall 2016 Concerts

- Saturday, November 12, 7 pm, Chetek Lutheran Church, 1419 2nd St, Chetek
- Sunday, November 13, 4 pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, 35 W. Messenger St, Rice Lake

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Pipe Organ to perform with Symphony at Fall Concerts

Moving a pipe organ is extraordinarily difficult, so in order to perform with one, the Red Cedar Symphony will move to where the organs are for its 2016 fall concerts. Together the organ and orchestra will play the second and fourth movements from Camille Saint-Saens' famous but rarely performed *Symphony No. 3 "avec orgue"* (with organ), as well as the *Polka and Fugue* from Jaromir Weinberger's (1896-1967) opera, *Schwanda the Bagpiper*. In the opera, the *Fugue* is the music played when one of the protagonists wins a card game with the devil!

Local organist Lynn Emmons will be the featured performer at the concerts at 7 p.m. on November 12 at Chetek Lutheran Church, and at 4 p.m. on November 13 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. **Note: The orchestra will not be performing at UW-Barron County Fine Arts Center for this concert.**

Ms. Emmons will also perform an organ solo, French composer Theodore Dubois' (1837-1924) *Toccata in G Major*. The *Toccata* is considered one of Dubois' finest works for organ and is Emmons' favorite organ solo, she said. "I love the stark contrasts between the two main sections of the piece and the powerful ending."

RCS is also excited to collaborate with another group of musicians for this concert, the *Bethany Belles*, the handbell choir founded at Bethany Lutheran in 1978 and currently under the direction of Sue Hildebrand. The handbell choir and

the orchestra will perform *Ring Gladsome Bells*, composed by St. Olaf College music professor Steven Amundson.

To round out the concert program, the orchestra will perform Felix Mendelssohn's (1809-1847) ocean-inspired *Hebrides Overture, op. 29*, and a light-hearted set of Scott Joplin "ragtime" pieces arranged for chamber orchestra by Gunther Schuller.

Featured Soloist: Lynn Emmons



Lynn Emmons has been playing music since the third grade, when she and her father began organ lessons together. For the past 30 years Emmons has taught private piano lessons, in addition to teaching sixth grade science and English as a second language. She is currently a member of the Chippewa Valley American Guild of Organists, and serves as a substitute organist at various churches in Barron, Rice Lake, and Eau Claire. Emmons was the winner of the RCS 2012 Concerto Competition, and Emmons' student, India Carpentier, was a winner of the 2016 Concerto Competition. She is dedicating this performance to her late father, Richard Averill, her husband Nathan, and Dr. Donald Patterson, Professor Emeritus of Music.

RCS Welcomes New Executive Director

The RCS is delighted to welcome Alana Henkel Laufman back to her native town of Rice Lake and to her new position as Executive Director for the Red Cedar Symphony. A 2006 graduate of Rice Lake High School, Laufman played and soloed with the Red Cedar Symphony before she left for college, so this is a double homecoming for her.

As ED, Laufman will oversee activities of other orchestra staff, coordinate long-term planning and development, and direct marketing and development.

“I am excited for this upcoming season,” said Laufman. “The programming includes repertoire that is both fun for the audience and fulfilling for the musicians—which shows great consideration, sensitivity, and musicianship from the artistic director. I look forward to meeting our donors this season and to helping the board and artistic director expand musicianship and audiences in the future.”

Laufman holds a Bachelor of Music in Education from UW-Madison and a Master of Music in Oboe Performance from McGill University, as well as having several years’ experience directing choir, band, and youth ensembles. She has performed with numerous groups, including the Pronto Musica Orchestra, The Erik Hove Large Jazz Ensemble, and the Orchestre Interculturel—all in Montreal—as well as the American Wind Symphony Orchestra in Pittsburgh, the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra, and as principal oboe for the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra. She currently plays substitute oboe and English horn for the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, and is performing on oboe with the Chippewa Valley Symphony Orchestra this upcoming season.



2016 Concert in the Park Makes History in Unusual Way

Guest conductor Alan Ross, host of Wisconsin Public Radio’s weekly “Spectrum West” program, added a small but happy footnote to musical history at the Red Cedar Symphony’s third annual “Concert in the Park” on August 2nd.

Playing to a crowd of well over 100 people at Veteran’s Memorial Park in Rice Lake, the orchestra mixed classical selections such as *Mozart’s La Clemenza di Tito* with a broad selection of popular music ranging from the Downton Abbey Suite and a medley from Star Wars to selections from Wicked, Pirates of The Caribbean, and orchestral music from Bugs Bunny cartoons.

Mr. Ross conducted the *Liberty Bell March* by John Phillip Sousa, which conductor Kevin Peters noted was played at the Clinton, Bush, and Obama inaugurations. This rendition, however, was a little unusual.

“When Kevin asked me to guest conduct, I was thrilled,” Ross said. “I was going to buy myself a

baton, but I was off on vacation, and it slipped my mind. Right during a golf round a few days ago it came to me that I hadn’t purchased a baton.

I think the folks with me thought I was a lot worse golfer than I am, because I was in the woods a lot looking for a stick. Then when I got home I looked through my workshop, and found nothing. I went to the kitchen. Wooden spoon, no. Spatula, no.

“Then, aha! And I tell you this because it is going to have some historical value,” Ross said. “I did a little research, and this is going to be the first time anywhere that a Sousa march has been conducted by a conductor using a chopstick.”

The orchestra, we are proud to say, rose to the occasion and played a rousing rendition of the march, to the beat of a very capable hand holding a chopstick!



Musician Spotlight: Don Weibel, First Violin

Some musicians are able to turn their love of music into a career, often by teaching and performing. Violinist Don Weibel took a somewhat different path, waiting till he retired from his first career to get the advanced training that allowed him to open his own strings shop, Northwoods Violins.

Like many young musicians, Weibel began with lessons in grade school and advanced to play with the UW-Marshfield Symphony while in school there. But, as so often happens, "Once I got into a career and raising a family, I put it aside for 20 years," Weibel said.

In 1991, with their three children mostly raised, Weibel began talking about picking up the violin again. His wife, Carolyn, "got tired of listening to my whining," he said. "So she bought me three lessons and rented me a violin." Weibel began playing again, a welcome break from his demanding job as nurse anesthetist and department head at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls.

In the early 2000s, "I started having medical issues from the stress of the job," Weibel said. "Essentially I had to retire from anesthesia." Then a friend alerted him to the violin repair and construction program at Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing, Minnesota. "So I enrolled in 2007 and graduated in 2009," Weibel said.

In August 2009 Weibel opened Northwoods Violins in Chippewa Falls, offering violin and other string

instrument rentals, sales, and repairs. "There's



an extensive and very active orchestra program at the local high school and middle schools," Weibel said. "They have supported me a lot."

He can't remember quite when he heard about the Red Cedar Symphony, but contacted personnel manager Patty Smith when he did. "She said, 'Come on up!' So I've been part of the orchestra ever since," Weibel said. He also plays with the Strings Connection adult orchestra in Eau Claire, conducted by RCS cellist Susan Halderman, and in the pit for summer productions at the Heyde Center in Chippewa Falls. Many arts patrons in the Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls area also remember Weibel's star turn as the fiddler in the Chippewa Valley Theater Guild's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" in 2014.

In his spare time, he serves as president of the Chippewa Falls Kiwanis Club, and is past president of the Chippewa Valley Cultural Association, which owns and operates the Heyde Center. But making music, especially with others, remains his first priority. "I enjoy the challenge, I enjoy the music. All the musicians are very friendly, and you almost feel like you're walking into a family," Weibel said. "I love playing the violin."

RCS Performing in a New Venue This Fall

As already stated on page 1, moving a church organ is a pretty big job! RCS Artistic Director Kevin Peters' wish to perform music written for symphony and organ for the fall concerts prompted a discussion with Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake which has resulted in a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. The MOU states that Bethany will provide the RCS with rehearsal and performance space for the 2016-17 concert season, and the two groups will share some instruments and equipment. Although the MOU

is for a single performance year, an extension is a real possibility as



both the church and the orchestra have expressed interest in a longer-term association. "In particular," said RCS Board President Earl Cook, "Both Bethany and the RCS are very interested in a collaborative effort to enhance the musical environment of Rice Lake and our part of Northwest Wisconsin."



Orchestra Notes

Founded as a volunteer 501(c)3 community orchestra in the fall of 1983, the Red Cedar Symphony's mission is to provide orchestral music to Rice Lake and surrounding areas and to promote the study of string instruments.

Red Cedar Symphony
PMB #109
330 S. Main St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Email:
info@redcedarsymphony.org

On the Web:
RedCedarSymphony.org

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