

### Spring 2016 Concerts

- Saturday, March 19, 7 pm, Augustana Lutheran Church Great Hall, Cumberland
- Sunday, March 20, 4:00 pm, UW-Barron County Fine Arts Theatre

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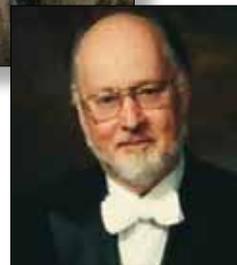
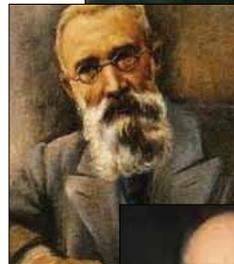
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## Masters and Virtuosos: Creators and Performers

Works by Mozart and Haydn will highlight Red Cedar Symphony's spring concerts, with solo performances by three of the finest young musicians in our region, the winners of RCS's 2016 concerto competition. Flautist Olga Galina from UW-Eau Claire will perform movements II and III from Mozart's Concerto in D major for flute. Soprano Laura Schachner, also from UW-Eau Claire, will perform "Batti batti O bel Masetto" from the opera "Don Giovanni" ("Don Juan"), and Cameron high school student India Carpentier will present all three movements of Franz Joseph Haydn's Piano Concerto in C.

The concerts will take place on Saturday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in Augustana Lutheran Church's Great Hall in Cumberland, and on Sunday,

March 20, at 4 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the campus of UW-Barron County in Rice Lake.



In addition to the performances by the featured soloists, the RCS will also perform Mozart's "La Clemenza di Tito" (The Clemency of Tito), Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Russian Easter Festival Overture," and finally, as a tribute to the most popular work by the most popular classical composer of the 20th century, "Star Wars Epic-Part 2," a medley of themes from the three original Star Wars movies composed by John Williams, here arranged by Robert W. Smith.

Please join us for our spring concerts, a celebration of great composers by great performers.

## RCS Announces Three Winners of Concerto Competition

The RCS is pleased to announce three, rather than the traditional two, winners of its biennial Concerto Competition, after an outstanding group of auditions. "It was a fantastic day of competition!"

said RCS Conductor and Musical Director Kevin Peters. "I'd especially like to thank our judges, Peter Mansfield and Naomi Haugen."

*(continued on page 2)*

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The three winners are: UW-Eau Claire student Olga Galina, playing flute; fellow UW-Eau Claire student Laura Schachner, soprano; and Cameron high school student India Carpentier, playing piano.

Carpentier, right, currently a student of music teacher Lynn Emmons, will perform all three movements of the **Piano Concerto in C** by Haydn. She also plays with the Communiversity Band and the WSMA Honors Band.



Flautist Olga Galina, a member of the UW-Eau Claire Symphony Orchestra, will perform the **Concerto in D**

**Major, Movement III**, by Mozart.

Soprano Laura Schachner has performed in numerous ensembles and operas at UW-Eau Claire. She will be performing “**Batti batti O bel Masetto**” from Mozart’s Don Giovanni.



The RCS is excited to welcome and accompany these talented musicians on stage at our spring concerts on March 19 and 20.

## Donor Spotlight: Janice Stearns

Tucked in her jewelry box Janice Stearns has a small pin, featuring a treble clef and the tagline: “Red Cedar Symphony—celebrating 25 years of making music: 1983–2008.” A reminder of how long the symphony has brought live classical music to northwestern Wisconsin, the pin also reminds Mrs. Stearns of the many years she’s been involved with the orchestra as a volunteer and donor.

“I may have missed one or two concerts (over the years), but I try not to. I try to schedule whatever is going on (with her family) so it doesn’t interfere with the concerts,” she said.

Stearns traces her love of music back to childhood, and her deep appreciation of classical music to high school. “My family background didn’t allow for playing instruments. I was the oldest of eight kids and we had some lean years. But I sang in the choir,” she said. “My high school choir instructor taught us serious music. When he left he taught at UW-Superior until he retired. I had music appreciation class with him: we’d close our eyes and listen and you’d feel it.”

A native of Rice Lake, Stearns and her husband stayed in the area after marrying. They farmed for six years, then he finished his degree and began a career in

social work. “He died at 56,” Stearns said, “and I had to figure out how to make a living.”

Fortunately she was already employed as the township clerk, and took

additional jobs in a florist shop and then at a tourist shop in Birchwood. With the help of her son, she’s also continued to run the farm. “We have 60 or 70 head of beef cattle right now, and calving will start in a couple months,” Stearns said.

Through it all Stearns has continued to support the RCS with her attendance and donations because, she said, the orchestra plays the serious music she loves, the tickets are reasonably priced, and it’s close to home.

The additional dollars she donates, she says, are because “You pick your battles. And I’m battling for art.”





## Musician Spotlight: Nancy Keeler

Standing more than four feet tall, with 11 finger holes and keys on the front and 12 or more on the back, the bassoon is best suited to players with particular physical characteristics.

“My mom picked it out for me when I was in fifth grade, because I have a big left thumb and big hands,” says Nancy Keeler of Cumberland, the Red Cedar Symphony’s principal bassoonist. “I didn’t have a choice, but it was fine with me. It’s been great.”

Except for three years when she and her husband Brian’s two sons were small, Keeler has played throughout her life, and looks forward to having even more practice time in the future. “I’m making the bassoon my hobby now that I’m going to retire soon,” she said.

Growing up in a suburb of Chicago, Keeler began her bassoon education by taking lessons from the principal bassoonist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. “Those were the best lessons I’ve ever had,” she said. “I played through high school, and when I went to UW-La Crosse for my elementary education degree.” The bassoon even went along when Keeler spent her sophomore year in Denmark, where she played with a community orchestra in Copenhagen.

Keeler has continued to play as an adult: through nine years of teaching in Turtle Lake, twenty-one years

of home schooling her own children, more years of substitute teaching, and finally starting her own property rental business with her son, Scott. She is one of the founding musicians of the RCS, and played with the Communiiversity Band at UW-Barron when it still existed. She continues to play in school musicals and many small ensembles. “I love to play bass recorder, too—I would like to have another recorder group,” she said.

Many of Keeler’s musical activities are informal. “Patty Smith and I have a woodwind quintet with Gail Waldron (both RCS musicians), and one year we had a bassoon trio,” Keeler said. After attending the Shell Lake Jazz Camp two summers ago, “Jim Haack (RCS trumpet player), Ana Traicoff, and I had a little jazz group, and we would play at Brentwood Memory Care.”

Recently Keeler has focused on preparing for the RCS’s concerto competition. “It’s been a wonderful, growing experience preparing for the competition. It’s prompted me to find a new teacher—I haven’t had a teacher since high school—and it’s just been so much fun practicing. You need something to make you practice.”

Perhaps the most unusual ensemble Keeler has played in continues to perform for the public at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday at the Northern Lights community church in Cumberland. “It’s bassoon and guitar, and it’s wonderful,” she said, “A beautiful mellow inner voice. We honor God by making music to Him.”

## A Note From the President

### *Red Cedar Symphony is looking for an Executive Director*

The Executive Director is a part-time position that reports to the Board of Directors at monthly board meetings. The ED works with the Artistic Director/Conductor and the Director of Personnel in planning concerts.

Requirements and responsibilities include:

- A passion for the arts
- Administrative/office and computer skills
- Donor relations and fund-raising

- Grant writing, letters, and newsletter
- Concert preparations—programs
- Coordinating volunteers and events

Non-profit experience is a plus.  
Should be familiar with the Rice Lake community.

Please forward your resume to:  
Robin Fossum, RCS Secretary  
630 28th St, Chetek WI 54728  
rkfossum@gmail.com



## Orchestra Notes

Founded as a volunteer 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](http://RedCedarSymphony.org)

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Red Cedar Symphony Orchestra is supported, in part, by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

## Thank You to Our 2015-16 Donors: You Keep the Music Playing!

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