



Musically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

March 7, 2007

10:30 A.M.

Faith Lutheran Church

TODAY'S ARTISTS

Presented by Robert Palmieri

Poulenc Fancies

Part I

Mary Somerville, Soprano
Nancy Heyer, Piano

Part II

Robert Palmieri, Piano
Clyde Hiss, Narrator

On February 22, 1916, a small group of influential women conspired to bring music and culture to the "new Bellingham." They had no inkling that our city would become a musical Mecca. "Build it and they will come!" ... and this morning it is our privilege to present some of Bellingham's finest. Welcome!

If you missed last month's program spotlighting the winners of the Enid Carrick Piano Awards, it is unfortunate. All three awardees performed beautifully but it was a charming 13-year-old First Place Winner, Nicole Wakabayashi, who brought everyone to their feet as she concluded her eclectic program of classical and jazz pieces with Rimsky-Korsakoff's "The Flight of the Bumble Bee." Congratulations to Nicole and to her teacher, Kagan Tanabe.

Upcoming BMC Auditions:

Monday, March 12

2 to 4 p.m.

PAC Concert Hall

WWU Music Awards. Carolyn Wilhite, coordinator

You are invited to sit in on this competition with members of the Board.

Saturday, April 21

9 a.m.

1 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Nicholas Bussard Instrumental Awards. John Reay, coordinator

Lena Montgomery Vocal Awards. Isabelle Cormier, coordinator

All are welcome to hear talented high-school musicians.

Are you wishing that the Metropolitan Opera performances could come to the West Coast? Well, it's here now! On selected Saturdays, the Met's matinee performances (usually the biggest stars) are shown "live" in HD on the big screen with surround sound in Seattle and Vancouver theatres. On February 24, Clyde Hiss, Hélène Minari and Jack Frymire attended "Eugene Onegin" at the Met - LIVE! Their verdict: "Better than a \$100 ticket at the Met!" Future productions include Plácido Domingo in The First Emperor (3/10), Juan Diego-Florez in The Barber of Seville (3/24), and Puccini's Il Trittico (4/28), all with super titles shown above the screen. In Vancouver, tickets are available at the Paramount Theatre or online at www.cineplex.com. Several Seattle venues are also involved. For locations and tickets, visit www.metoperafamily.org/metopera. Early reservations are suggested as sell-outs are expected. All shows are at 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time; admission is \$15 US or \$18 CAN.

As announced in February, we vote today on a minor bylaw change regarding Honorary Membership. **Article II Membership and Dues, Section 3**

"An Honorary Membership category shall be awarded for long-standing service and/or those physically unable to attend meetings by a vote of the Executive Board." **will become:**

"An Honorary Membership category shall be awarded for long-standing and/or exemplary service by a vote of the Executive Board."

Since last fall, when our 2006-07 red handbook was published, we have added 23 enthusiastic new members. We must be doing something right! Maybe it's our information brochures! Pick up several to introduce family and friends to your favorite Wednesday morning outing!

A cordial welcome to our newest members Dan and Victoria Ebel-Sabo.



COMING EVENTS

Artist **Lanny Little** makes history with amusing building murals. He will talk about his many works about-town tomorrow, Thursday, March 8, at 10:15 a.m. at the Museum's Rotunda Room.

Friday, March 9, 7:30
La Conner's Maple Hall,
Corner of First and Commercial
and

Saturday, March 10, 7:30
Blaine Performing Arts Center,
945 H Street

Saturday, March 10
7:30 p.m.
WWU PAC Concert Hall
\$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors and
Students, under 18 \$5

Sunday March 11
3:00 p.m.
\$18
Reservations required

Sunday, March 18, 7:30
WWU PAC Concert Hall
\$20 general, \$10 Seniors and
Students

Saturday, March 24
8:00 p.m.
WWU PAC Concert Hall
\$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors and
Students, under 18 free

Saturday, March 31
Orpheum Theatre
8:00 p.m.

The La Conner Institute of Performing Arts presents the **Ciampi Quartet** with oboist **Joseph Robinson** in a program of Mozart, Schoenfield and Bliss (tickets \$15-17; call 360-466-2665 for reservations). In Blaine, Mr. Robinson and **Ted DeCorso, clarinet**, join forces with the Ciampi Quartet. Tickets are \$25 reserved, \$20 adults, \$10 students/seniors, and are available at Village Books, by calling 360-332-6464 or online at www.pacificartsassoc.org.

The Whatcom Chorale and Sinfonia present Carl Orff's dramatic *Carmina Burana* and other works by Rutter and Lauridsen. Allan Cline conducts. Tickets on sale at Village Books, Community Food Co-op, and WWU Box Office (650-6146). See Isabelle Cormier for \$12 tickets in the church lobby after today's program.

The next **Bellingham House Concert** will feature Seattle pianist Judith Cohen in a program of Scarlatti, Stoyanovich, Roy Harris, Bernstein and Ginastera. Call Victoria Ebel-Sabo at 671-6104 or 661-5984 for reservations and location.

WWU Alumna Brenna Wells, soprano, in the 2007 Virginia Hunter Vocal Scholarship Endowment Recital. "*Crossing the Channel*" is a richly varied program featuring vocal works of English and French composers from the Baroque through the twentieth century.

American Masterpieces, a collaborative performance by the **Bellingham Chamber Chorale** and **Seattle Pro Musica**. Tim Fitzpatrick and Karen Thomas conduct works by Copland, Barber, Lauridsen, Thompson and others. Tickets at Community Food Co-op, Piper Music, Village Books and WWU Box Office (650-6146).

The Vancouver Bach Choir performs Handel's *Israel in Egypt* with the VSO. See Clyde Hiss today for tickets/reservations.

Only three more programs remaining in our 2006-2007 season. Bring a friend to our Spring Tea on April 4, along with a plate of your favorite cookies (there's a sign-up sheet on the nametag table). You won't want to miss **Millie and the Mentshn** performing "Chamber Klezmer Music from Shtetl to Swing".

In memoriam: Dan Addis 1920-2007

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved Dan Addis on Sunday, March 4. We will miss his sense of humor, his extensive musical knowledge and appreciation, his kindness, his grace, and his smile. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Virginia, the love of his life, and to their children.

You will be remembered always, Dan!

Poulenc Fancies

Part I

Soprano: Mary Somerville

Pianist: Nancy Heyer

Fiançailles pour rire

[Whimsical Betrothal]

Music by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Poems by Louise de Vilmorin (1902-1969)

1. *La dame d'André* [André's Lady]

2. *Dans l'herbe* [In the grass]

3. *Il vole* [He flies]

4. *Mon cadavre est doux comme un gant*

[My corpse is as limp as a glove]

5. *Violon* [Violin]

6. *Fleurs* [Flowers]

Airs chantés

Poem by Jean Moréas (1859-1910)

1. *Air champêtre* [Pastoral air]

Part II

Pianist: Robert Palmieri

Narrator: Clyde Hiss

L'histoire de Babar, le petit éléphant

Text by Jean de Brunhoff

Whimsical Betrothal

1. André's Lady

André does not know the lady
whom he took by the hand today.
Has she a heart for the tomorrows
and for the evening has she a soul?

On returning from a country ball
did she go in her flowing dress
to seek in the haystacks the ring
for the random betrothal?

Was she afraid, when night fell,
haunted by the ghosts of the past,
in her garden, when winter
entered by the wide avenue?

He loved her for her colour,
for her Sunday good humour.
will she fade on the white leaves
of his album of better days?

2. In the grass

I can say nothing more
nor do anything for him
He died for his beautiful one
he dies a beautiful (=natural) death outside
under the tree of the Law
in deep silence
in open countryside
in the grass.

He died unnoticed
crying out in his passing
calling, calling me.
but as I was far from him
and because his voice no longer carried
he died alone in the woods
beneath the tree of his childhood.
and I can say nothing more
nor do anything for him.

3. He flies

As the sun is setting
It is reflected in the polished surface of my table
it is the round cheese of the fable
In the beak of my silver scissors.
But where in the crow? It flies.

I should like to sew but a magnet
attracts all my needles.
On the square the skittle players
pass the time with game after game.
But where is my lover? He flies.

I have a thief for a lover,
the crow flies and my lover steals,
the thief of my heart breaks his word
and the thief of the cheese is not here.
But where is happiness? It flies.

I weep under the weeping willow
I mingle my tears with its leaves.
I weep because I want to be desired

and I am not pleasing to my thief.
But where then is love? It flies.

Find the rhyme for my lack of reason
and by the roads of the countryside
bring me back my flighty lover
who takes hearts and drives me mad.
I wish that my thief would steal me.

4. My corpse is as limp as a glove

My corpse is as limp as a glove
Limp as a glove of glacé kid
And my hidden pupils
Make white pebbles of my eyes.

Two white pebbles in my face
two mutes in the silence
the last two hills I saw
at the moment when I lost
the race that the years win.

I still resemble myself
Children bear away the memory quickly,
go, go, my life is done.
My corpse is as limp as a glove.

5. Violin

Enamoured couple with the misprized accents
The violin and its player please me.
Ah! I love these wailings long drawn out
on the cord of uneasiness.

In chords on the cords of the hanged
at the hour when the Laws are silent
the heart, formed like a strawberry,
offers itself to love like an unknown fruit.

6. Flowers

Promised flowers, flowers held in your arms,
flowers sprung from the parenthesis of a step
who brought you these flowers in winter
powdered with the sand of the seas?

Sand of your kisses, flowers of faded loves
the beautiful eyes are ashes and in the fireplace
a heart beribboned with signs
burns with its treasured pictures.

Airs chantés

1. Pastoral Air

Lovely spring, I will never cease to remember
that on a day, guided by friendship
entranced I gazed upon your face, o goddess
half hidden beneath the moss.

Had he but remained, this friend for whom I weep,
O nymph, a devotee of your cult,
to mingle once again with the breeze that caresses you
and to respond to your hidden waters.

Lovely spring, lovely spring,
I will never cease to remember
that on a day, guided by friendship
entranced I gazed upon your face, o goddess.

L'histoire de Babar, le petit éléphant

Melodrama for narrator and piano, (1940)

Music by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

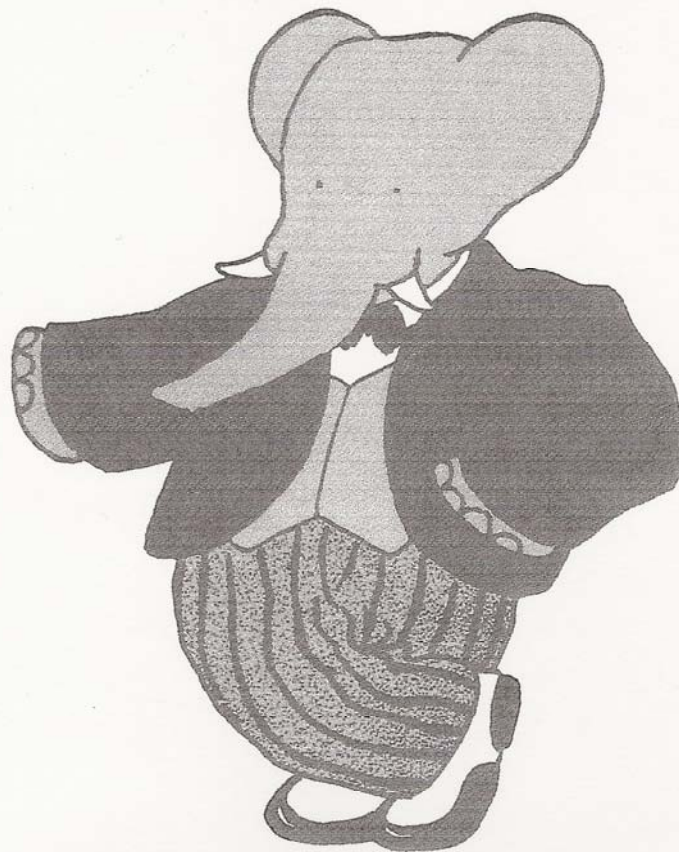
Text by Jean de Brunhoff (1899-1937)

Narrator: Clyde Hiss

Pianist: Robert Palmieri

One day during World War II, while Francis Poulenc was visiting some relatives in Brive, France, his four-year-old niece did not like what the composer was playing on the piano. With youthful assurance, she removed Poulenc's hands from the keyboard and said "Oh, that is so ugly. Play this," placing one of Jean de Brunhoff's *Babar* books on the music stand. Poulenc improvised an accompaniment as he read the story. Word must have spread through the neighborhood, for the composer soon found himself surrounded by neighborhood children. The composition was dedicated to these children, and their names appear in the score. Among those listed are nine cousins of Poulenc and two friends of the family.

Poulenc's work is a melodrama which combines de Brunhoff's narrative with evocative musical interludes. The story follows the life of the anthropomorphic elephant Babar from his birth and youth in the jungle to his life in Paris (where he learns to drive a car) to his marriage to Celeste, his childhood sweetheart. In lending a musical element to the story, Poulenc relies on a number of pictorial devices as well as the kind of stylized forms in which he excelled: a nocturne, a grand march, a lullaby, a waltz, a schottische, etc.



Biographies

Soprano Mary Somerville grew up in Towson, Maryland, and has been singing since childhood. Before moving to Bellingham in 1980, she was the mezzo-soprano soloist at Grace Methodist Church in Baltimore and sang with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society and Choral Arts Chamber Choir. She is a member and frequent soloist in both the Whatcom Chorale and Kulshan Chorus, where she has also served as assistant director. Mary sang with the Bellingham Festival of Music every summer since the creation of its Festival Chorus. Last year she performed Mozart's solo motet *Exsultate Jubilate* with the Whatcom Chorale Sinfonia, and most recently appeared as soprano soloist in the Whatcom Chorale's performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Mary is a graduate of Dickinson College and was a student of renowned mezzo-soprano Elaine Bonazzi.

Nancy Heyer, pianist, has been an active soloist, chamber music participant, accompanist and teacher in the Pacific Northwest for many years. She recently was the featured soloist with the Whatcom Chorale Sinfonia and has performed with the Cascade Ensemble and other chamber groups as soloist and chamber music collaborator. She maintains a busy teaching studio in Bellingham and is in demand as an accompanist for both vocal and instrumental musicians. In addition to being the pianist for the Whatcom Chorale and Sinfonia, she has collaborated with a variety of professional musicians throughout the Pacific Northwest. Each summer for many years she was involved with the annual Puget Sound Chamber Music Workshop under the auspices of the Music Center of the Northwest. Nancy is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Music and was a student of Betty Ruth Tomfohrde and Randolph Hokanson.

Robert Palmieri, pianist, is Professor Emeritus of Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, where he was chairman of the Keyboard Division of the School of Music. He is presently a Research Associate at Western Washington University. In addition to a BM degree from Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and a MM degree from Eastman School of Music, he studied piano at the Milan Conservatory in Italy with Carlo Vidusso and at the Manhattan School of Music with Robert Goldsand. Palmieri has performed concerts in Europe and Canada. In 1989 he was allowed the rare privilege of examining autographed scores of Sergei Rachmaninoff in the Glinka Museum of Musical Culture in Moscow. He continues to specialize in Russian piano literature. Palmieri has published Piano Exercise, a research guide to Rachmaninoff, a piano encyclopedia, and is editor of a 3-volume series of encyclopedia covering the piano, the clavichord and harpsichord and the organ. He has performed as an accompanist in numerous BMC programs, notably "Enoch Arden" with Jim Lortz, and with his wife, Margaret, a talented soprano.

Dr. Clyde Hiss, narrator, received his Bachelor of Music degree from Baldwin-Wallace College (Berea, Ohio) and his Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Illinois. As a teaching assistant, Dr. Hiss taught for three years at the U of I, for two years as a professor at Mercer University (Macon, Georgia), and for over thirty years taught voice and related subjects (in addition to directing the opera program) at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He has sung recitals, opera and oratorio across the United States. He retired in 1995 and settled in Sudden Valley and for the last 11 years has sung in the Vancouver Symphony Chorus (AKA Vancouver Bach Choir). Since becoming a member of the BMC, he has chaired and served on the Program Committee, the Awards Committee, the Telephone Committee, as a vocal adjudicator and as BMC Vice-President (2006-2007). He has produced two fund-raisers, and has performed costumed programs, often with his wife, Patricia. He is also the instigator and host par excellence to lunches following our meetings.