



Musically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

October 3, 2007

10:30 A.M.

Autumn Tea

TODAY'S ARTISTS

Presented by Jack Frymire

MARTIN KUUSKMANN

Estonian-born Bassoon Virtuoso

and TERHI MIIKKI-BROERSMA, Accompanist

Once again the little city of Blaine, WA, has revealed another musical jewel from its hidden depths. (Remember Mary Ann Unrau and the Robinsons?) Or was it Martin Kuuskmann's performance with the Festival of Music and/or Blaine's Pacific Arts Association Series that drew him to the Pacific Northwest? Welcome to Bellingham, Martin and Terhi, and thank you, Jack Frymire, for persuading them to be our guests today.

Two of the earliest bookings that **Martin Kuuskmann** made for 2007/08 are solo performances with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and with the Bellingham Music Club! A resident of Blaine, this **world-famous exciting and charismatic young Estonian virtuoso** is busy knocking down the walls separating musical styles, genres, eras, and venues. His creative activities are all encompassing: call him a fusion artist. He has premiered seven bassoon concertos, written especially for him by some of Estonia's leading composers, as well as such prominent Americans as Christopher Theofanidis, Charles Coleman and Gene Pritsker, and recorded the most recent concerto by David Chesky. His collaboration with jazz great John Patitucci led to the creation of Caprice No. 1 for bassoon and strings, and he has collaborated with other composers to produce amplified and electronically enhanced music. He is a founding member of the **Grammy-award** nominated Absolute Ensemble, and was featured on several recordings of Michael Daugherty's virtuosic and madcap concerto *Dead Elvis*. And it doesn't stop there; his world-music album, *The Path of Mantra*, blends bassoon improvisations with chanting by Tibetan monks, and another one, *Archipelago*, ranges from the medieval era to rock and jazz.

Also performing today is **Terhi Miikki-Broersma**, an accomplished organist from Finland. Terhi earned a master's degree in music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and worked full-time as a church musician in the Finnish Lutheran Church before moving to the United States in 2004. Currently, she directs the Emmaus Choir at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Burnaby, B.C.

Today's program will feature works by **Heitor Villa-Lobos**, **W. A. Mozart** and **Astor Piazzolla**, among others. While the first two names are familiar, Piazzolla's music might prove just as a pleasurable! Take Bernard Holland's recent review in the **New York Times**: "*The tango's juxtaposition of sudden gesture, balanced grace and imperturbable dignity possesses a life force, and Piazzolla, who died in 1992,*

neither photocopies the original nor weakens it with high-art cleverness. His is the only work I know that keeps popular music popular and makes it better, with subtle dislocations between vocal line and accompaniment and sparse but lovely instrumentation. (...) Piazzolla's magical sounds argue for a future classical music." How enticing!!!

Last month's joint meeting with the Mount Baker Organ Society at the Mount Baker Theatre to hear Andy Crow perform magic on the historic Wurlitzer organ was fantastic! Over 300 people battled parking difficulties (special thanks to Jim Chapman and Arthur Barnes at the Parkade!) to hear him explain all about the pipes and possibilities of the Wurlitzer and display his talent on the manuals with everything from Handel to Bernstein. But the "icing on the cake" was his accompaniment to the silent Laurel and Hardy movie "Double Whoopee" as Andy followed its craziness on the organ. (In 1929 that was our entertainment! No TV then!) The Organ Society's next concert will feature two well-known Canadian organists, Dorothy Watson and Hal Logan, on Sunday October 14 at 2:00 p.m. Call Carol Hitz for information (671-4972) regarding their \$15 membership.

We welcome these new members who have joined since last June: Michael Bezona, Shirley Murty and Linda Trentman.

Yes, you may pick up your **2007-2008 handbook** today if you are a member in good standing! Dues are still \$20 and may be paid today. Our thanks to everyone who responded this summer to our "dues reminder" letter; your name will be in the handbook. Lynn Bellinger has done a terrific job of editing the new directory. If you discover any errors or omissions, please call Colette at 935-1991 or Clyde at 647-7987.

Many thanks to Will Ellender for getting out this month's publicity in spite of a health crisis! Special thanks also to Margaret Bikman of the Bellingham Herald. She loves us!

Clyde Hiss or Jack Frymire can fill you in on details of the **operas being shown live** in movie theaters in Richmond and Vancouver, B.C. You can also log on the website www.metoperafamily.org, and click on *Met Opera Goes to the Movies*.

Phyllis Haberstroh has been busy juggling **calling lists**. Don't be surprised if a new voice calls to remind you of next month's meeting!

Don't forget to wear a nametag and don't forget to drop it in the basket as you leave! Maureen Burr is doing a fantastic job at the reception table, don't you think?

Kristin and Hank VanSchelt extend thanks to everyone bringing "goodies" for today's **Autumn Tea**, and to past, present, and future volunteers who come early and stay late to make our teas such a success.

Did you know...

... that Martin Kuuskmann may be the most prominent solo bassoonist in the world? He's certainly the most versatile!
... that Ethel Crook groomed and bred cocker spaniels?
... that the A.L.L. offers a class titled **Humor in Music (What Makes It Funny?)**? See Coming Events below.

... that the free Entertainment News (blue and glossy this month) may be picked up at grocery stores, bookstores, the public library, etc.?

... that taxpayers age 70½ or older are able to request tax-free distributions directly from their IRA to a qualified charity through December 2007?

A message to our special friends at the Bellingham Music Club from the Board of Directors of the Bellingham Festival of Music

We are pleased to announce the return of the **Bellingham Festival of Music** which will be performed during the **first two weeks of July, 2008**. Steps have been taken to assure the same quality of music that has been the hallmark of the Festival including the return of **Michael Palmer** as our Artistic Director and the return of many of the fine performing artists from the past few years. The planned venues for our "mostly" Beethoven concerts are the halls of Western Washington University and the White Salmon Lodge at Mount Baker.

For those of you who are familiar with the Music Festival, it will be of interest to note that the logistics and operations of this year's festival are to be handled by a dedicated working board of directors under the leadership of Tom Little. Our web pages are currently being updated, so please stay tuned to: www.bellinghamfestival.org. We are grateful for the faithful allegiance of the Bellingham Music Club and encourage your continued support in 2008. If you would like to offer help or support, or if you wish to have email updates, please phone us at (360) 201.6621. Or if you want to write to us, our address is: Bellingham Festival of Music, P.O. Box 818, Bellingham, WA 98227.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 7, 3 p.m.
Mount Baker Theatre Studio
\$15 General admission
\$10 Seniors and Students
Information/tickets 734-6080

Flute Force, the first professional flute quartet in the United States, proudly opens its 25th anniversary season with a concert tour of Washington State. The program will feature works by Stravinsky, Bozza, Joyce, Kuhlau and Shakarian. The New York City-based all-women group will also premiere *Silver Halo* by Joseph Schwantner, and *The Baths of Caracalla* by Elizabeth Brown. A master class follows, which you may observe.

Sunday, October 7, 3 p.m.
Firehouse Center in Fairhaven
\$15 Gen.\$12 Sen.\$10 Students

Part of the Bellingham House Concerts Series, the **Classical Four-Hand Piano Duets – Dances** concert will feature Jeffrey Gilliam, Ford Hill, Dan Sabo and Victoria Ebel-Sabo. Call Victoria at 671-6104 to reserve. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Saturday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.
Mount Baker Theatre
Tickets \$30/\$35
Information/tickets 734-6080

The next **Whatcom Symphony Orchestra Classical Concert** features renowned young cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** who made her debut with the Cleveland Orchestra when she was 13. She has since performed with orchestras all over the world and is being hailed as the next Jacqueline Dupré! Her playing is described as "incisive, earthy and intense".

Tuesday, October 16, 7 p.m.
First Christian Church, Scientist
2700 Lakeway Drive

Dual organists Jonathan Davis of Hilton Head, S.C., and Tim Watters of Whatcom Community College will play a Rodgers "virtual pipe organ" and a classical pipe organ in a fun concert of classical and contemporary pieces. Free admission/donations accepted.

Friday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.
PAC Concert Hall at WWU

Rachel Price, a 20-year-old vocalist, will sing classical jazz standards and original works while accompanied by drums, piano and string bass. Call 650-6146 for tickets (\$16-\$25).

Sunday, November 4, 3 p.m.
Sabo Residence
\$20 (Limited seating)

This BHC concert will feature Arthur Barnes, Dan Sabo and Victoria Ebel-Sabo in **Classical Piano – Nocturnes and Romance**. Call 671-6104 or 661-5984, or e-mail Bellinghamhouseconcerts@hotmail.com to reserve a place.

Friday, November 16, 10 a.m.
The Willows
3115 Squalicum Parkway
\$18 A.L.L. members
\$23 non-members

Humor in Music (What Makes It Funny?) ... and who among us could teach such a class? Have you ever noticed others smiling or even laughing out loud at a concert and not having any idea what makes them laugh? **Clyde Hiss** will help you get in on the joke! Call 650-4970 for information or visit www.ExtendedEd.wvu.edu/ALL to view the course catalog and download a registration form.

Our November 7 program will feature composer and pianist Victoria Ebel-Sabo.