

The Bellingham Music Club
October 7, 2009
10:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran Church



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club
Dorothy Wachter, Editor Emerita

Join us on
November 4
to hear
tenor Ross Hauck
in a program of
Irish favorites.

*Our mission is
"to foster and encourage the
growth and development of
music appreciation and per-
formance in the community."
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization and your dona-
tions are tax deductible. See
any Board member for details.*

The Bellingham Music Club
P.O. Box 193
Bellingham, WA 98227



John Reay Presents Musicians of the
Whatcom Symphony Outreach Program:
percussionists **Stephanie Straight and Jennifer Longstaff,**
violinists **Karen Visser and John Tilley,**
violinist **Laura Barnes and cellist Coral Marchant**

Opening Notes

Our 2009-2010 season continues with an informative, shortened version of the workshops that the Whatcom Symphony takes to the county schools, thanks to coordinator Joanne Donnellan. Makes you wish you could go back to the classroom!

Last month, Joy Shepard Baldrige and Fred Sederholm brought "Melodies of the Heart" to our members, many of whom had just learned of Bob Millard's sudden death. The program ended on a consoling note, with "Time to Say Goodbye."

Affordable, world-class opera right here in Bellingham . . . a rookie opera lover's impressions . . .

by *Alta Stauffer*

I remember very well a conversation I had a few years ago with an opera-lover friend who asked me about my interest in opera. My answer was: "I'm not much into opera", even though I liked the music. She smiled and told me that I would probably change my mind before too long. How right she was!

I am delighted that the **Pickford Cinema** has decided to bring **Opera in Cinema** to Bellingham. What a wonderful opportunity to see world-class, professional opera from various opera houses in Europe right here in town at such an affordable price. My husband and I have attended all the operas so far at the Pickford and look forward to future screenings. Now, here is the exciting part – since we are relatively new to opera, even though we have always loved classical music and were familiar with many of the opera arias, we see quite a few of these opera performances for the first time, and on the big screen, no less! Live opera in an opera house is probably the ultimate experience. However, those

opportunities are limited and sometimes out of reach. With **Opera in Cinema** one always has the "best seat in the house" because of the close-up filming, and the price is right!

Then there is the camaraderie at the Pickford on opera day (we prefer to go on Sunday mornings rather than Tuesday evenings). We always bump into many of our music friends outside the theatre so, standing in line waiting for the doors to open is a nice opportunity to chat and catch up.

We've also been going to all the **Metro-politan Opera HD Live** screenings at a theatre in Richmond, B.C., ever since they began a few years ago [see **Sound Bites – Ed.**]. I suspect that is what got us hooked! With these Met screenings, one gets to see the interviews and some of the backstage activities during intermission – all very exciting for "newcomers" like us or even seasoned opera aficionados. We are hoping that the new Pickford Film Center will consider screening the Met HD Live performances in the future.



October 6 - 11
 Various venues in Lynden
 Many free events

Sunday, October 11, 7:00 pm
 Mount Baker Theatre
 (rescheduled from Oct. 3)

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm
 Lairmont Manor,
 405 Fieldston Rd

Saturday, October 17, 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 18, 2:00 pm
 McIntyre Hall, Mount Vernon

Sunday, October 18, 2:00 pm
 Mount Baker Theatre
 \$10 suggested donation
 Everyone under 18, free

Friday, October 30, 7:30 pm
 Fountain Community Church,
 2100 Broadway
 Admission by donation

From the Board

We are grateful to **Ann Chaikin** who is joining the Board as Secretary and to **Frank DeFreytas** who organized the e-mail notification system.

Welcome to new and returning members Margaret Dickson, Anna Mancini and Elizabeth Moore.

The handbook is in! Pick yours in the lobby. **Will Ellender and Sarah Jacobson** will also take your dues if you have not paid yet.

We send **Shirley Greenstreet** our best wishes for a speedy recovery following knee surgery.

Sound Bites

It's now possible to enjoy real-time, hi-def simulcasts of **Met Opera** performances, without having to cross the Canadian border. **The Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon** will carry the series live on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. beginning Oct. 10 with Luc Bondy's controversial staging of Puccini's **Tosca**, followed by Verdi's **Aida** on Oct. 24. For full schedule and production details, go to **www.lincolntheatre.org** and under "Tickets" click "Metropolitan Opera". Go to **metoperafamily.org** for other venues (including Richmond, B.C., and Alderwood).

Meanwhile, the **Pickford Cinema's** opera series takes the plunge into Wagner's **Ring** cycle with **Das Rheingold** (Oct. 11, 13) and **Die Walküre** (Oct. 25, 27). Not for those with ADHD. You know the drill: Sundays at 11 am, Tuesdays at 7:30 pm; tickets (\$21, \$18 for Pickford members) are available by calling 1-800-838-3006, at www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/15095 or just before the performance. Get yours early for Mozart's **Don Giovanni** and **Così fan tutte** in November. Details of each production, synopsis and trailers are available on **operaincinema.org**.

Coming Events

Lynden celebrates its musical heritage and Claire vg Thomas' legacy with the new **Claire de Lune Festival**. Coordinator **Terhi Miikki-Broersma** has put together over two dozen performances; the eclectic program includes the **Whatcom Symphony**, the **Lynden Choral Society**, **What the Chelm**, **Bottom Line Duo**, **Kevin Della Santa**, and more! For information and tickets, visit **www.lyndenmusicfestival.com** or call 1-800-838-3006.

It was a mob scene outside Mount Baker Theatre Saturday night. Was Glenn Beck in town? No, just WSO fans arriving for the Pops Concert only to find the entire downtown area under a blackout. **NOTE change in day and time.**

The public is invited to the **Annual Meeting** of the **Bellingham Festival of Music** where Maestro Michael Palmer will announce the 2010 season program and artists, and Alex Smith, a student of Rob Viens, will sing.

A Night at the Opera, a joint production of Skagit Opera and Skagit Symphony, features soloists, chorus and full orchestra performing opera favorites. Call 360-416-7727 or visit www.mcintyrehall.org for tickets and information.

The Mount Baker Theatre Organ Society proudly presents Hal Logan and Dorothy Watson playing the Mighty Wurlitzer and the Steinway concert grand in a program titled "Broadway at its Best." Come and enjoy the music of Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Jerry Herman and Irving Berlin!

A local group called **Opera Popolare** gets underway with a performance of Gluck's **Orfeo ed Euridice** featuring Celie Thomas as Orfeo, Charlotte Sather as Euridice, Lauren Delorme as Amore, and students of the vocal studio of **Rob Viens** who also conducts. For more information call 733-2663.

Whatcom Symphony Orchestra members REACH OUT to students in Whatcom County with educational outreach programs

By Joanne Donnellan

The Whatcom Symphony Orchestra sponsors four Outreach Programs:

- **Chamber Music Now**, under the leadership of **Betsy Stuen-Walker**, is open to youth in our community for the purpose of developing chamber music skills. This program is funded by grants and student tuition.
- **Beethoven in the Schools**, with **Grant Donnellan** playing the role of Beethoven in costume, targets 3rd graders in most of the Whatcom County schools yearly, sharing the joys of music through an interactive process with the students as they use their imaginations to identify specific musical images and then select the instrumental sounds they think would best depict those images. Beethoven hopes to give them a better understanding of how composers do their work and what part the instruments of an orchestra play in making music portray a mood or story. This program is free to the schools, and underwritten by grants.
- **WSO's annual Family Concert**, organized and staged by **Cheryl Briggs**, reaches out to our community's young people and their parents via the connections to the players students have made through the other Outreach Programs, and increases audience attendance and audience appreciation for classical music by presenting a varied program that will appeal to children of all ages (including their parents!).

Additionally, the Family Concert provides an opportunity for top students of our symphony members who teach to sit side by side with their teacher on a portion of the program. This concert also gives outstanding local instrumental students an opportunity to be a guest soloist with the WSO.

Last year's program did deviate from the above format, however, with a wonderful special production of the Opera, **Hansel and Gretel**, under the direction of Karen Sadaat, former WSO Board Member.

The Family Concert is free, and also features a popular "Instrument Petting Zoo" in the foyer an hour prior to the concert. The concert is funded by individual donations, sponsorship, and the WSO budget.

- **Musicians in the Schools** is the fourth component of the Outreach Programs, and the program Bellingham Music Club members will be experiencing today.

Each school in the county and several schools in Bellingham are visited once every two years with the target audience being 4th to 6th graders. The schools are visited by quartets or groups of **woodwinds, strings, brass, and percussion**, all in the same year, with the purpose of exposing students to classical music and giving them a chance to meet some of the musicians of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. Also, importantly, the program teaches students about the sounds and capabilities of each orchestra instrument, and motivates them to want to play an instrument. Each group has a lively, student-centered 40 minute presentation which showcases each individual instrument and the types of music each instrument group can play as an ensemble. This program is underwritten by grants and free to the schools.

Today's presentation features two of these groups: a percussion duo featuring **Stephanie Straight and Jennifer Longstaff**, and the string quartet featuring **Karen Visser** (substituting for Joanne Donnellan) and **John Tilley** on violin, **Laura Barnes** on viola, and **Coral Marchant** on cello. Each group will give a shortened twenty minute enactment of their program just as they present it to the 4th – 6th graders of Whatcom County. Prepare to be entertained!

Contact information: Joanne Donnellan, jadonnellan@comcast.net or 384-1394.

October 7, 2009

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*The 2009-2010 **Seattle Youth Symphony** season kicks off on November 15 at 3 pm with an all-Russian program featuring the 16-year old prodigy Lennart Jansson performing Shostakovich's challenging and virtuosic Cello Concerto in E-flat Major. Also on the program is Tchaikovsky's triumphant Symphony No. 4 in F Minor. Please complete this stub and drop it in one of the baskets in the foyer to let President Clyde Hiss know of your interest in attending this concert at Benaroya Hall and benefiting from the group rate.*

Name: _____

Phone: _____

