



DES MOINES SYMPHONY ACADEMY

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Newsletter January 2007, vol. 2, no. 6

Performances

Sinfonia Orchestra Concert January 23, 7:00 pm in the Grand Hall.

Chamber Orchestra Concert January 31, 7:30 pm in the Grand Hall.

Orchestra News

Youth Symphony auditions for strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion will be held **January 30, 4:30 pm** in the Grand & Recital Halls. Minimum playing experience requirements: String players, five years (Suzuki book 7+); brass, woodwind, and percussion players, three years. Brass players are especially needed!

Concerto auditions for current members of Youth Symphony will begin at 3:00 pm January 30. For full Youth Symphonies requirements and schedules visit: <http://www.dmsymphony.org/academy/gdm-youth-symphonies/index.php>

Announcements

The **Young Artist Competition postmark deadline is January 5, 2007!** Participants compete in high school and college divisions for a jury consisting of professional musicians, collegiate faculty and educational leaders. Grand Prizes: High School Division – Full Scholarship to the 2007 Summer National Music Camp at Interlochen. Collegiate Division – Full Scholarship to 2007 Aspen Music Festival. Plus, an opportunity to perform as soloist with the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra (at the discretion of Music Director and Conductor, Maestro Joseph Giunta). Cash Awards are offered to the first and second place winners. For more information, visit: <http://www.dmsymphony.org/academy/progs-teens-adults/young-artists-comp.php>

Academy offices will be closed January 15, Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. Please check with your teacher regarding lessons this day.

Summer camps and classes are in the works! Back by popular demand: Fiddle Camp, Flute Choir Workshop, Piano Camp, Composition Workshop, Chamber Music, and Harp Ensemble. **NEW for 2007:** Intro to Jazz Flute Workshop. Look for details on these programs and more in the coming weeks.

Calling all high school seniors! The Des Moines Women's Club awards scholarships in many categories (music, art, literature, education, and health fields). Application deadline is February 1. Visit <http://www.desmoineswomensclub.org/scholarships.html> for applications and information.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

**Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and ICM Artists, LTD. Present
Doc Severinsen & His Big Band Benefit Concert Farewell Tour
Saturday, March 10, 2007, 8 p.m.**

Join Doc Severinsen and his Big Band as they boogie into Des Moines as part of Doc's Farewell Tour. Doc, Ed Shaughnessy and the rest of the Big Band will take you away with old favorites such as the Bugle Call Rag, Flyin' Home and Georgia on my Mind.

Funds raised from this concert will help support the Des Moines Symphony Academy programs and scholarships. Established in 2003, the Academy currently provides music education to over 400 students annually. The Academy offers music instruction for infants through adults and turns no student away due to financial inabilities. As many music programs are being cut in public schools due to budget restraints, it is imperative that the Academy thrives in the greater Des Moines area so that the community's youth are able to benefit from the many advantages of music education.

Program Information

Enroll now for winter session group classes!

World Music students will take a musical journey around the world and learn about people and cultures. Children ages 2-5 will sing songs and play instruments from around the world. This class was developed especially for the Symphony Academy and will meet Wednesday mornings.

Music for Little Mozarts students will join music friends Mozart Mouse and Beethoven Bear for a musical adventure. Stories, songs, dance, and beginning piano encourage a love of music in young children. These classes will meet Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Group Piano Classes: Music for Moppets, Kinderkeyboard, Music 1A and Music 1B. Give your child an introduction to piano in these creative and fun classes!

Classes begin January 8, 2007. Visit our website to enroll: www.dmsymphony.org/academy or call Registrar Joshua Barlage at 280-3332.

Des Moines Symphony news

Three Loves Lost: Kristen Lee, violin

Saturday, January 20, 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 21, 2:30 p.m.

Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

Mahler: Symphony No. 6

As a student of the great Itzhak Perlman, Kristen Lee is emerging as a virtuoso in her own right. Lee will perform the richly melodic, unconventional Bruch Violin Concerto. The emotionally charged Mahler 6 is described as one of the great "human condition" works of the last century. Alma Mahler said "Not one of his works came as directly from his innermost heart as this. We both wept that day. The music and what it foretold touched us deeply...."

The Sixth Symphony is noted in particular for two things - the 'hammer blows' in the Finale and the controversy surrounding the order in which the two middle movements should be performed. In her memoirs, Mahler's widow, Alma, recalls: *In the last movement he described himself and his downfall or, as he later said, that of his hero: 'It is the hero, on whom fall three blows of fate, the last of which fells him as a tree is felled.' She then goes on: 'He anticipated his own life in music. On him too fell three blows of fate, and the last felled him'.*

To learn more about 19-year-old violinist Kristen Lee, visit <http://www.dmsymphony.org/worldtour/bios/lee.htm>. Also, Academy teacher, Symphony violist and Librarian Chuck Miranda built an impressive wooden hammer and platform specifically for this performance. Don't miss it!

TUNE IN!

A listening challenge from Academy Registrar Joshua Barlage

As a young student entering conservatory I received a great piece of advice from a respected faculty member. This advice proved to be so rewarding that I would like to share it with you. This esteemed educator suggested that I go to the library and check out two recordings each week that school was in session. He promised that I would be amazed as to the amount of music I would expose myself to by the time that I graduated. I took him for his word and did just that. With my university on semesters, I was in school a total of 30 weeks each year. I not only checked out two recordings, per week, during each semester; but continued this mission into our winter and summer breaks. Following the advice I was given, I listened to a minimum of 416 recordings during my four years in college. I occasionally revisited a piece that had left an impression on me, but each week I challenged myself to find two recordings in which I was unfamiliar with the piece or composer.

I would like to offer you the same challenge. In the course of one year, you could make it through all 104 Haydn symphonies (without repetition), or all the symphonies of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler, Shostakovich, Bruckner, Dvorak and Schubert combined OR, for the adventurous, the complete catalog of works by Anton Webern twice over. And this is just symphonic works, not to mention chamber music, choral and opera.

Each month I will offer my suggestions; one piece of music from each of the four major musical periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Impressionist/20th

century. If there is a piece that you feel that others might enjoy, please send it to me and I'll include it with the next month's suggestions.

Feel free to follow my suggestions or find pieces completely on your own. The goal is to widen your musical perspective, expand your palate and possibly begin to appreciate a piece or a composer that you never thought that you would enjoy.

With that, here are my January 2007 recommendations:

BAROQUE - *Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks*

CLASSICAL - *Cimarosa: Concerto for Two Flutes in G major*

ROMANTIC - *Mahler: Symphony No. 6*

IMPRESSIONIST/20TH CENTURY - *Shostakovich: Jazz Suite No. 2*

Note: Each of my January suggestions will be performed by the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra in one of their remaining concerts this season.

Enjoy!

You receive this newsletter because of participation or interest in Academy programs. If you prefer not to receive future editions, please email jenny@dmsymphony.org with the word "unsubscribe". Thank you.