

Arts & Entertainment

Nashua Symphony Orchestra to Tour State With "Made in New Hampshire" Program

Music Director Jonathan McPhee welcomes Nashua Symphony Chorus and Baritone Philip Lima

The Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus' 2009 | 10 season - the second under the organization's Music Director & Principal Conductor, Jonathan McPhee - continues with a tour of the state in February 2010. The "Made in New Hampshire" tour is sponsored by Citizens Bank, with additional major support from the National Endowment for the Arts, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and Putnam Foundation. The program features the NH premiere of Joseph Schwantner's Chasing Light, part of Ford Made in America, a partnership program of the League of American Orchestras and Meet The Composer.

Ford Made in America is made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

Major support is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding from The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, and The Amphion Foundation.

Several aspects of the tour are especially noteworthy, including:

- Performances in Nashua (February 13 at Keefe Auditorium), Concord (February 19 at the Capitol Center for the Arts), Plymouth (February 26 at the Silver Center for the Arts at Plymouth State University) and Keene (February 28 at the Colonial Theatre).

- The concert program features works by two NH composers, Kevin Siegfried, a resident of Dover, and Joseph Schwantner, who lives in Spofford.

- Mr. Siegfried's work, "Help is on the Way", is a setting of high-school student poetry for voices and strings, produced as part of the Nashua Symphony Association's "Ripple Effect" project and premiered in 2009. The work explores students' varied viewpoints and emotions regarding our changing environment. For the upcoming performances in Concord, Plymouth, and Keene, the NSO and Symphony Chorus under Director of Choral Activities Diane Cushing will be joined by choirs made up of young people from each of those regions, including the Bow High School Chamber Singers, Conway's Kennet High School Choir, and the Keene State College Concert Choir.

- Michelle Nickerson, who serves as Choral Director at Bow High, remarks that "The Bow High School Chamber Singers are thrilled to be included in this project. The musical setting of the poem "Help is on the Way" is very moving and the subject strongly resonates with my students.

The Nashua Symphony Association's "Ripple Effect" project is obviously still effectively rippling through the youth of this state. We feel privileged and grateful to be a part of this collaboration." [Photos of Mr. Siegfried can be found at <http://www.kevinsiegfried.com>]

- Mr. Schwantner's work, Chasing Light, is part of a national commissioning consortium project called Ford Made in America. The piece itself is a musical exploration of the changing impressions given by the shifting light in the NH landscape near his home in Spofford. We are fortunate to have such a distinguished composer in our state, and the NSO is honored to share his shimmering new work with New Hampshire audiences. [A bio of Mr. Schwantner is appended to this release; photos and other press materials are available upon request. Interviews are welcomed!]

About his Chasing Light, Mr. Schwantner has written: One of the special pleasures of living in rural New Hampshire is experiencing the often brilliant and intense early morning sunrises, reminding one of Thoreau's words, "Morning is when I am awake and there is a dawn in me" (Walden). Chasing Light, draws its spirit, energy and inspiration from the celebration of vibrant colors and light that penetrate the morning mist as it wafts through the trees in the high New England hills. Like a delicate dance, those images intersected with a brief original poem that helped fire my musical imagination.

Chasing Light.

*Beneath the sickle moon,
Sunrise ignites daybreak's veil*

*Calliope's rainbow song
Cradles heaven's arc*

*Piercing shadowy pines,
a kaleidoscope blooms*

*morning's embrace
confronts the dawn*

The four-movement work, about eighteen minutes in duration, proceeds from one movement to the next without pause. Each movement's subtitle is associated with a pair of lines from the poem.

- Other New Hampshire connections on the program include The Devil & Daniel Webster, a narrated suite from the Oscar-winning score by legendary film composer Bernard Herrmann. Leonard Bernstein wrote part of West Side Story at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, as was Dubose Hayward's play Porgy & Bess, which inspired Gershwin's operatic masterpiece.

- Finally, the NSO's principal bassist, Volker Nahrman, will be performing at these concerts on an instrument made by famed American luthier Abraham Prescott, who worked out of Concord, NH. The so-called "Prescott bass" was constructed from spruce and maple in 1835 in Concord, and restored by Mr. Nahrman in his Billerica studio. [Pictures of Mr. Nahrman and the Prescott bass are available upon request.]

February 13, 2010: NASHUA (Keefe Auditorium, 8 pm)

February 19: CONCORD (Capitol Center for the Arts, 8 pm)

February 26: PLYMOUTH (Silver Center for the Arts, 8 pm)

February 28: KEENE (Colonial Theatre, 4 pm)

MADE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus With choruses from Bow High School, Kennet High School (Conway) and Keene State College Jonathan McPhee & Diane Cushing, conductors

BERNSTEIN

West Side Story: selections
"Meditation No. 1" from Mass

SCHWANTNER

Chasing Light. (NH Premiere)

SIEGFRIED

Help is on the Way

HERRMANN

The Devil and Daniel Webster

GERSHWIN

Porgy & Bess: selections - Philip Lima, baritone

"Made in New Hampshire" program to be repeated in Keene, Concord, and Plymouth, sponsored by Citizens Bank with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the Nashua performance are available at the Nashua Symphony Box Office, 6 Church St., can be charged to major credit cards by calling 603.595.9156 or can be purchased online by visiting the NSA website, www.nashuasymphony.org. For performances in Concord, Plymouth, and Keene, please contact the individual venues in each city. Discounts for seniors, students and groups are available. Request a season brochure online, by phone, or via email to NSO@NashuaSymphony.org



Joseph Schwantner

Joseph Schwantner, composer

Known for his dramatic and unique style and as a gifted orchestral colorist, Joseph Schwantner is one of the most prominent American composers today. He received his musical and academic training at the Chicago Conservatory and Northwestern University and has served on the faculties of The Juilliard School, Eastman School

of Music, and the Yale School of Music, simultaneously establishing himself as a sought after composition instructor. Schwantner's compositional career has been marked by many awards, grants, and fellowships, including the Pulitzer Prize in 1979 for his orchestral composition Aftertones of Infinity and several Grammy nominations. Among his many commissions is his Percussion Concerto, which was commissioned for the 150th anniversary season of the New York Philharmonic and is one of the most performed concert works of the past decade. Schwantner is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Schwantner's music is published exclusively by Schott Helicon Music

Corporation and recorded on the RCA Red Seal/BMG, Hyperion, Naxos, Koch International Classics, EMI/Virgin, Sony, Delos, New World Records, Klavier and Innova labels. Schwantner's recent commissions include works for the 75th anniversary of the National Symphony Orchestra, eighth blackbird, Flute Force, a work for flute and piano to honor flutist, Sam Baron's memory and a Concerto for Percussion Section, Timpani and Orchestra for the Percussive Arts Society and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, for the Society's 50th anniversary.

Commissions include The Ford Made in America Consortium, the New York Philharmonic, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, National Symphony, Boston Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, International Horn Society, Dallas Symphony, Pacific-Northwest Ballet, Chamber Music America, Howard Hanson Memorial Institute, Barlow Endowment, First New York International Festival of the Arts, San Diego Symphony, Fromm Music Foundation, Naumburg Foundation,

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, American Composers Concerts Inc., American Heritage Foundation, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Canton Symphony, Solisti New York Chamber Orchestra and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Orchestral performances by the London Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Boston Pops, Philadelphia Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, Vienna Radio Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Orchestra de Liege, NHK Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, Stockholm Philharmonic, Radio Chamber Orchestra of the Netherlands, Orchestra de Paris, Winnipeg Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Nuremberg Philharmonic, Utrecht Radio Orchestra, Slovenska Filharmonija, and the Orchestra de Liege.



Kevin Siegfried

Kevin Siegfried, composer

Hailed by the British magazine Choir & Organ as writing music of "austere beauty" that exhibits the "pressure and presence of personal conviction," Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969) is a composer with an emerging international voice. His music has been described as "timeless," "ravishing," and "refined" and is known for its direct expression, lyricism, and accessibility.

Siegfried's music is published by E. C. Schirmer, Earthsongs, and Trinitas and has been performed and recorded by leading ensembles including The Dale Warland Singers, The Tudor Choir, and Conspirare. The Tudor Choir's Gentle Words CD, the premiere recording of Siegfried's Shaker song arrangements, received wide acclaim and was praised as "a stunning addition to the repertoire" by Fanfare Magazine. Siegfried has received grants and awards from ASCAP, Choral Arts New England, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and The Carlton Savage Endowment's "Waging Peace Through Singing" Competition.

Siegfried graduated from The New England Conservatory with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Composition. He studied additionally in Paris, at La Schola Cantorum, and in India, with South Indian classical musician Sriram Parasuram. Since 2004, he has been a faculty member at The Boston Conservatory. Previous teaching engagements include Harvard University, The New England Conservatory, and The Northwest School in Seattle.

Carmen Selling Fast at Peterborough Players

The Met: Live in HD - Carmen - by Georges Bizet

Saturday, January 16th at 1:00 p.m.
Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Rd., Peterborough 03458
\$25adults \$20students
Box Office only: 924-7585

PETERBOROUGH - The Met: Live in HD opera series has already established a strong following in its first season at the Peterborough Players. Carmen, by Georges Bizet, will be simulcast on Saturday, January 16th at 1 PM. Tickets are extremely limited and must be purchased through the Box Office only: 924-7585.

One of the most popular operas of all time, Carmen "is about sex, violence, and racism-and its corollary: freedom," says Oliver Award-winning

director Richard Eyre about his new production of Bizet's drama. "It is one of the inalienably great works of art. It's sexy, in every sense. And I think it should be shocking." Elina Garanča sings the seductive gypsy of the title for the first time at the Met, opposite Roberto Alagna as the obsessed Don José.

Conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Approximate running time is 4 hours with 2 intermissions. Casting is subject to change without notice.

StageCoach Productions Announces Auditions for Two Student Performance Groups

Glee... America's Got Talent... Dancing with the Stars...

NASHUA - Do you ever watch these shows, and think "I could do that!"

StageCoach Productions is ready to give you the chance. This January, StageCoach Productions will be having auditions at 25 Front Street, 5th Floor, Nashua, for two select student performance groups:

The Southern New Hampshire Youth Chorale provides students in grades 1-12 with the chance to study music theory and history, vocal technique, sight-singing, and concert etiquette while performing a comprehensive repertoire of music, from traditional to folk and striving toward the highest artistic standards. Auditions are Saturday, Janu-

ary 16, 2010; 10am-1pm. Rehearsals will be Saturdays 10-11:30am.

The StageCoach Show Choir will give students in grades 9-12 the chance to learn songs of every style, from melodic ballads to upbeat pop. Choreography will be added to bring pizzazz to each performance! This group is for students who want to perform with a dynamic group under professional leadership. Auditions are Saturday, January 23, 2010; 1-3pm. Rehearsals will be Mondays 4:15pm-5:45pm.

Visit StageCoachProductions.org or call Judy Hayward at 672-9664. Website: www.StageCoachProductions.org.

Stagecoach Productions Announces Auditions For The Kander & Ebb Musical, Cabaret

All roles are open! Auditions are Sun., Jan. 17, 5-8pm and Mon., Jan. 18, 7-10pm, at the Carey & Henderson studios, 14 Court St., Nashua, 2nd floor. Auditions are first come, first served. Callbacks are by invitation on Wed., Jan. 20, 7-10pm at 25 Front St., Nashua, fifth floor.

For auditions prepare a song that shows your vocal and dramatic range. No monologue is required. At callbacks, be prepared to read from the script and to dance. Wear

appropriate clothing and shoes.

Cabaret will be directed by Erik Duchesne with Michele Henderson, Music Director and Ashley Smith, Choreographer.

Cabaret will be performed April 16-18, at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court Street, Nashua.

For more information visit www.StageCoach.org, call 889-6580 or email Michele at mhenderson@stagecoachproductions.org or Erik at educhesne@gmail.com.

MLK Art Exhibit

DURHAM - The University of New Hampshire will kick-off its 20th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration with an art exhibit confronting invisibility and identity through the works of young men of color. The exhibit, titled "I Am Here, Hear Me," is the culmination of a semester-long facilitated discussion and collaborative work between three multicultural organizations: Y.O.U. in Manchester, MOSDEF at UNH, and Men 2 Be from Raw Art Works in Lynn, Massachusetts.

Using art to define, represent, and assert their identity, a group of 30 young men from various racial and ethnic backgrounds examined what it means to navigate U.S. culture, where pervasive negative images and cultural stereotyping challenge their ability to be seen as individuals. The result is the exhibit, which aims to address the complexities of personal identity, while giving visibility and voice to a group of men too often defined and silenced by others.

Inspired to take an innovative approach to the University of New Hampshire's 20th Annual MLK Celebration, committee chair Jerriane Boggis matched UNH stu-

dent members of MOSDEF (Men of Strength, Diversity, Education, Family) with members of Men 2 Be and Y.O.U. (Young Organizers United) to embark on this year's art project. MOSDEF is a student-facilitated group through the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs designed to build community amongst students, faculty, and staff and improve retention of men of color at the University.

The collaboration between college students and younger men allowed for mentoring relationships to develop as they explored the creation of a shared story as a tool of empowerment and act of resistance to culturally-imposed invisibility. Except for the young men at RAW, none of the other student collaborators had formal experience with art-making, which meant the college students were also learning a great deal from their younger peers.

The exhibit opens on Thursday, January 28th at 6 p.m. in the Strafford Room of the Memorial Union Building on the UNH, Durham campus. Visit www.unh.edu/diversity/mlk or contact Jerriane Boggis at 862-0693, jerriane.boggis@unh.edu.

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