



R
P
Y
O

Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

DAVID HARMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alumni News of Note

Fall 2007

ALUMNI FEATURE

From Brass to Baton—the New Career Move of Ward Stare

For the past six years, former RPYO principal trombone Ward Stare, RPYO '99, has been hidden in the back of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's orchestra pit. As the opera orchestra's principal trombonist, Ward and his trombone provided low brass notes for such operas as Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Massenet's *Faust*, Verdi's *Otello*, even Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. They were much more than supporting players in Wagner's *Siegfried* and *Die Walküre*. Above the pit, on stage, performed such international stars of opera as Samuel Ramey, Renée Fleming, Deborah Voigt, and Thomas Hampson. Directing singers and musicians were Sir Andrew Davis and guest conductors including Mark Elder, former Music Director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Now, in a new stage of his career, Ward is emerging from back of the orchestra to the front, and from the pit to the stage. Starting this September, he will be serving as the American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. For the next two years in L.A. he will conduct the Philharmonic in its Youth and Neighborhood Concert Series, as well as work closely with Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen, the much admired music director of the L.A. Philharmonic.

This career transition has been in the making for some time. While in the RPYO and at Pittsford Mendon High School, Ward studied orchestral scores, along with his trombone and piano, and had some lessons in music theory with

David Diamond. A student at Juilliard for just two years before winning the Lyric Opera Audition, Ward's interest in the larger musical picture grew. On holidays and summers off from his opera work, he began to study conducting in earnest, working with David Harman, RPYO Music Director when he came to visit his family in Pittsford, participating in conducting workshops in Europe and winning fellowships to various conducting programs.



In July 2006, Ward was invited to study with David Zinman (another former Music Director of the RPO) at his American Academy of Conducting in Aspen, Colorado. At the conclusion of the Aspen Festival, he was awarded a conducting fellowship for this summer at Aspen and a conducting date this August with the Cleveland Orchestra at the Blossom Music Center. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported that "his conducting of Samuel Barber's *Essay No. 2* was clear and vibrant, with a keen ear for phrasing, balance, and pacing. Stare conveyed the music's lyrical outpourings and fugal gestures with equal aplomb, and he made fine contact with the players before him."

RPYO alumni living around Los Angeles can check the L.A. Philharmonic schedule to learn of Ward's concerts.

We would like to know of the many and varied career paths our alumni are following. Please keep in touch!

2007 RPYO "Alumni Appeal"

Our Alumni are the ones who best know how important the youth orchestra experience can be for all, both those musicians who do not intend to pursue musical careers as well as for those who do. You remember the excitement and pride of performing great symphonic works, of feeling new musical worlds opening for you, of sharing a special camaraderie with your RPYO colleagues, or of sitting next to an RPO musician on Eastman Theatre's stage. We invite you to contribute to an RPYO Alumni Fund that can keep these experiences coming for generations of new RPYO musicians.

A small amount from many people (we have over 1500 alumni) can add up to a lot of support and will help to further strengthen the RPYO. We hope you can help in some way, big or small, by responding to the "Alumni Appeal" in the enclosed envelope.

Thank You!

RPYO IN CONCERT

2006-2007 Season

David Harman, Music Director

OCTOBER 2006

**Advocates for Gifted and Talented
Education: New York State Conference
Rochester Convention Center**

NOVEMBER 2006

**Hochstein Performance Hall
Juliana Athayde, RPO
Concertmaster, Guest Artist**

**Bartók, Concerto for Orchestra
Bernstein, Overture to "Candide"
Barber, Adagio for Strings
Copland, Hoedown from "Rodeo"
Gershwin, Selections from "Porgy and Bess"
Beethoven, Romance in F Major**

DECEMBER 2006

**RPYO Chamber Orchestra and Ensembles
Church of Love Faith Center**

**Mozart, Overture to "Don Giovanni"
Haydn, Symphony No. 101, "London"**

MARCH 2007

**Side-by-Side Concert
with the RPO
Eastman Theatre**

**Górecki, Symphony No. 3, mvt. 2,
"Symphony of Sorrowful Songs"
Dvořák, Carnival Overture
Bernstein, Symphonic Dances
from "West Side Story"**

**Tour Send-Off Concert
Le Roy High School Auditorium**

APRIL 2007

**Tour to Central Europe
Performances in
Opole, Poland
Košice, Slovakia
Debrecen, Hungary**

**Music of Bartók, Barber, Bernstein,
Copland, Dvořák, Gershwin, and Górecki,**

MAY 2007

**Hale Auditorium
Roberts Wesleyan College**

**Dvořák, Slavonic Dance No. 1
Smetana, The Moldau
Williams, Adventures on Earth from "E.T."**

Our April 2007 Tour to Central Europe

Learning a New Language

The 104 musicians of the RPYO and 15 accompanying adults left Rochester on a wintry April day before Easter to visit a part of Europe few of us had been to before: Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary. Several had grandparents or great-grandparents who long ago had emigrated from this region to the United States. Others had relatives who had perished during the Holocaust in the Nazi concentration camps located there, adding a somber note to the excitement of a new journey.

By the time we returned ten days later, what had been only strange place names on a distant map had become familiar images to us, filled with friendly faces, interesting towns, and beautiful landscapes in the bloom of spring. Auschwitz was no longer just the name of a horrifying place and time in history distant from our lives. We saw what had happened there to millions of people and will always remember. Our students paid homage to the lost lives by lighting candles and leaving flowers. They thought of the work by Górecki they had performed in Opole, Poland, a poem written by a Polish girl about to be executed by her Nazi captors.



David Harman and musicians at our concert in Košice

We were the first American orchestra to play in concert in eastern Slovakia, in the city of Košice, known for its beautiful Gothic cathedral and for a love of music and culture. The American ambassador to Slovakia attended our concert and greeted our musicians. U.S. Steel, which runs a large steel plant there, gave us a world class reception that made us all feel privileged and special.

The Tour's much anticipated musical event would occur in Debrecen, Hungary's second largest city. We were to perform Béla Bartók's masterpiece, his *Concerto for Orchestra*, in Béla Bartók Hall to a packed Hungarian audience. Dr. Harman had introduced the musicians to this difficult work in September, patiently leading them through the unusual harmonies, tricky rhythms, and virtuoso solo passages. It was not the kind of music most young musicians were familiar with. Over the months preceding the tour, the piece took shape and began to feel more natural, or at least more comprehensible.

At lunch in the Baroque town of Eger, the students recognized in the gypsy music that serenaded us in a restaurant some of musical styles that had inspired Bartók. Staying over night in a national park on the great open Hungarian plain, we could sense the loneliness of old-time sheep herders and horsemen that echoed in the haunting music they created and that Bartók and Kodály had collected. Then, on the morning of our concert, a folk music ensemble and troop of dancers came to our rehearsal. They twirled and stomped with intricate footwork and then pulled us out onto the floor. Soon we were all moving and kicking to the same rhythms and harmonies that filled Bartók's *Concerto*. No longer were these part of a "foreign" musical language for our musicians. They had begun to make them part of their own. At our concert that evening, these experiences—the gypsy music, the lonely plain, the folk musicians and dancers—were all there. The music had become their own, and the audience knew it and loved it. The endless rounds of applause and cheers were like a warm embrace that our RPYO musicians will always keep with them and may beckon them back to Central Europe some day.

Susan Basu, RPYO Manager

RPYO Alumni in Rochester

Many RPYO Alumni have remained in or have returned to Rochester and fill a wide variety of professions here. But music remains an important part of the lives of a good many of these: About ten RPYO Alumni play in the Penfield Symphony Orchestra each year. There are at least twenty RPYO alumni here who teach music in the schools or as private teachers. Currently four RPYO alums perform in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Five alumni are parents of RPYO musicians last season. Local pop and jazz groups involve several former RPYO musicians.

Here is news about a few of our Rochester Alumni:

Kodak Engineer Makes a New Career as a Piano Technician: Fred Hamaker '72, Percussion, as a Penfield High School student had also played in the Greater Rochester Youth Wind Ensemble and with local jazz groups while studying piano in Eastman's Preparatory Division. Changes at Kodak recently led him to develop a second career as a piano technician and to start his Rochester-area business "Stayed Tuned", frhamaker@yahoo.com. His father, Ralph, clearly a musical inspiration to Fred, still plays violin with the Penfield Symphony.

Violin Maker Contributes to Downtown's Cultural Revival: Ken Sullivan '76, Violin, re-established his violin shop in the former Rochester Club on East Avenue, next to the RPO Offices and near the Eastman School. He and his wife, Carolyn, moved their string business from Arizona to Pittsford a couple of years ago. "Sullivan Violins" sells fine string instruments and restores and repairs violins, violas, and cellos. Visit them when you are in town, www.sullivanviolins.com.

Prosecutor Moves On to the Ski Slopes: Richard Roxin '79, Trombone, recently made a big career change from serving as a prosecutor for the Monroe County District Attorney's Office to becoming the General Manager of the Hunt Hollow Ski Club.

Jazz Bassist Creates Music for the Advertising World: Elliott Kirby '01, String Bass, works as an audio and print production artist, writing music and jingles for TV, radio, and sports. He was one of twenty-six leading local jazz artists, including his brother **Malcolm, '97 String Bass**, teaching in the Commission Project's Jazz Education Workshops offered free to the community this June as a prelude to the Rochester Jazz Festival. (Our fabulous June Jazz Festival is one more great reason to schedule a visit home to Rochester.)

Almost in Rochester—Nicholas (Gala) Walker '90, String Bass Nick Walker has returned to Upstate New York to teach, compose, and perform. He is on the faculty of Ithaca College, Mansfield University, and Cornell University, has composed a number of works for string bass, and performs in both early music and contemporary music ensembles.

New St. Louis Principal Viola

Jonathan Vinocour, RPYO Principal Viola, '97, has been recently appointed Principal Viola of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Founder/Music Director Howard Weiss

Retired RPYO Founder/Music Director (1970-1989) Howard Weiss continues to perform in orchestras locally and in Italy as well as to present workshops and master classes. This March he offered a String Ensemble Workshop Master Class here as a community service for the Hattie Harris Good Spirits Club International.

RPYO Alumni Performing in Professional Ensembles

Over the years many RPYO alumni have built careers as professional musicians performing in orchestras and other ensembles. Here is a running list of these musicians we know about. Please let us know of others so we can continue to update this roster. Their talent, hard work and persistence in pursuing performance careers are an inspiration to our current students and a source of pride to the RPYO.

ALINE BENOIT	'70 Clarinet	Boston Pops Espl. Orch.
DANIEL KATZEN	'70 Horn	Boston Symphony
GRETCHEN VANHOESEN	'70 Harp	Pittsburgh Symphony
PAUL YANCICH	'71 Timpani	Cleveland Orchestra
RITA TURSI COSTANZ	'72 Harp	CBC Radio Orchestra
MARK DUMM	'74 Violin	Cleveland Orchestra
CATHERINE VANHOESEN	'74 Violin	San Francisco Symphony
MARK YANCICH	'74 Timpani	Atlanta Symphony
BRIAN STOTZ	'75 Percussion	Rochester Philharmonic
CHRISTOPHER PEGIS	'77 Cello	Amcl Chamber Players,
		Florida String Quartet
JONATHAN PEGIS	'78 Cello	Chicago Symphony
PAUL SHEWAN	'78 Trumpet	Rochester Philharmonic
PATRICIA DASH	'79 Percussion	Chicago Symphony
ALAN KAY	'79 Clarinet	Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
MELISSA BURTON	'80 Cello	Rochester Philharmonic
BRYAN DUMM	'80 Cello	Cleveland Orchestra
DAMIEN PEGIS	'80 Violin	Amcl Chamber Players
GABRIEL PEGIS	'80 Violin	Cincinnati Symphony
DARYL GOSTOMSKI PERLO	'80 Violin	Rochester Philharmonic
MARGARET KAMPMEIER	'81 Percussion	New Millennium Ensemble
NADINE MONCHECOURT	'81 Cello	Dayton Philharmonic Orch.
JOLYON PEGIS	'81 Cello	Dallas Symphony
KAREN STILES	'81 Violin	San Antonio Symphony
CHRISTOPHER WU	'82 Violin	Pittsburgh Symphony
PATRICIA NIEMI	'83 Percussion	San Francisco Opera
BRENT SHIRES	'85 Horn	Arkansas Symphony Orch.
TARA NOVAL	'86 Violin	Virginia Symphony
DANIEL PANNER	'86 Viola	New York City Opera and
		Mendelssohn String Quart.
JOANNA WHANG	'86 Violin	Arkansas Symphony Orch.
ALEXANDRA TSIBILIS MURTONI	'88 Violin	Ft. Wayne Philharmonic
JENNET HEARNE INGLE	'92 Oboe	Illinois State Symphony
VIVEK KAMATH	'92 Violin	New York Philharmonic
NICOLE MCPHERSON	'93 Flute	Arkansas Symphony
SARAH STEWART	'93 Bassoon	United States Air Force
		Academy Band
RACHEL BROWN ENGLANDER	'95 Violin	Hyperion String Quartet
TIMOTHY JUDD	'94 Violin	Richmond Symphony Orch.
NICOLE SHARLOW	'95 Violin	Harrisburg Symphony
GINA VALVANO	'95 Bassoon	Scarborough Trio
BENJAMIN WENSEL	'95 Cello	United States Army Strings
PATRICK JEE	'96 Cello	Chicago Lyric Opera Orch.
MICHAEL KLOTZ	'96 Violin	Amernet String Quartet
ERIN LARABY-GOLDWASSER	'96 Violin	Detroit Symphony
JANE BEARDEN	'97 Violin	Malaysian Symphony
GUY PIDDINGTON II	'97 Trumpet	Syracuse Symphony
JONATHAN VINOCOUR	'97 Viola	St. Louis Symphony
PAMELA KIESLING	'97 Horn	Owensboro Symphony Orch.
AMANDA BROWN BRIN	'98 Violin	Hyperion String Quartet
SARAH MELLANDER	'98 Oboe	Boulder Philharmonic Orch.
JILLIAN PRITCHARD	'99 Percussion	Buffalo Philharmonic
KATIE CURRAN	'99 Trombone	Santa Cruz County Symphony
WARD STARE	'99 Trombone	Chicago Lyric Opera Orch.
ANDRÉA BELDING	'00 Violin	Cleveland Philharmonic
ELIZABETH SPECTOR	'05 Oboe	Harrisburg Symphony

In addition, RPYO alumni have made names for themselves in jazz, rock and musical theater:

VIJAY IYER (Vijay Raghunathan), '88 Cello, performs in international jazz festivals as a jazz pianist and is gaining recognition as a composer.

LEE-HOM WANG, '92 Violin, a highly popular rock and pop singer-composer in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong now even has a long Wikipedia entry.

MEGAN LOOMIS, '95 Viola, is a New York City-based Equity actor in musical theater performing this fall in "Pump Boys and Dinettes" in Akron, Ohio.

MALCOLM KIRBY, '97 String Bass, regularly performs with the Campbell Brothers Band and other major jazz artists.

JOE PERO, '00 Trumpet, has toured with Maynard Ferguson and the Big Bop Nouveau.



R Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
P Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
Y 108 East Avenue
O Rochester, NY 14604
 (585) 454-7311 www.rpyo.org

Non Profit Org.
 US Postage
PAID
 Rochester, NY
 Permit No. 656

Alumni News of Note

Music : A (Big) Family Affair

The passing away last fall of **Javier Pabalan**, father of six RPYO musicians spanning 1970 to 1985—**Ramon '71, Violin; Francisco '73, Violin; Maria '75, Flute; Angie '81, Violin; and Peter '85, Violin**—reminds us how important families are in handing down their love of music by supporting community music programs that help develop the professional and amateur musicians of the future. The **Pabalan Family** greatly enriched the RPYO in its early years, as did the **Pegis Family** and its five RPYO siblings. (All the latter now have now become professional musicians—see the sidebar on the previous page.)

Currently, the **Heaton Family**, also with five RPYO musicians — **Amos '95, Violin; Eliza '98, Cello; Sophie '01, Viola; Henry '05, Cello; and Eliot '08, Violin**—has faithfully made the weekly trip from Geneva to Rochester for RPYO rehearsals and concerts throughout the past fifteen years.

We view the many talents and extended commitment to the RPYO of such families, over many children and over many years, with awe, admiration, and appreciation.

Annual Alumni Gatherng

Save the date: **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27**
Third Annual RPYO Alumni Gathering
 Check www.rpyo.org for details

RPYO's 2007-2008 Season

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:30 p.m.

Hochstein Performance Hall

Rebecca Gilbert, RPO Principal Flute, Guest Soloist

Brahms, Academic Festival Overture
Shostakovich , Symphony No. 5

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 4:00 p.m.

Church of Love Faith Center

RPYO Chamber Orchestra Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 3:00 p.m.

Eastman Theatre

Side by Side with the RPO

Mussorgsky, Night on Bald Mountain
Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade

Concerto Competition Winners

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 3:00 p.m.

Smith Opera House, Geneva

Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov and More

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 3:00 p.m.

Hale Auditorium, Roberts Wesleyan College

Saint-Saëns, Bacchanale from Samson and Dalila

Respighi, The Pines of Rome

Concerto Competition Winners