



From the Podium

By Dr. David Harman



Perché l'orchestra è in tournée in Italia!

That's what you can say when an audience member asks you, " Spiegami perché siete qui?" Our tour is now only about a month away! We've learned most of our tour music and now have the fun of making it sound as wonderful as possible during our March rehearsals. The repertoire is a great blend of American and Italian works which gives us a chance to share our musical culture with the Italian listeners. Our tour also provides all of us a chance to gain a deeper appreciation of their musical heritage.

It's natural that we know how our showpieces should go. Bernstein's *Candide* and *West Side Story*, Gershwin *Porgy and Bess*, Copland's *Hoe-down*, Ellington's *Sophisticated Lady* and Sousa's *Stars and Stripes* are in our musical bones. We've heard and been aware of this music for a long time-probably even before we could even talk. Sure, there are technical challenges involved in playing it and the ensemble demands of some of the pieces are quite high, but we still have a very good notion of how it feels when we play it correctly. It feels right to us.

The Italian repertoire is starting to feel that way too, but it's a different kind of challenge, since we don't come from that culture. We are learning to be sympathetic to the music and how it feels. Thanks to the RPO, the joint concert will have been a big boost to getting the style on track. Having Maestro Christopher Seaman work with us on March 7 will also inspire us to be even more operatic in our approach. But there will probably still be a part of the essence of Verdi and Rossini that will be much more

powerful to our tour audiences, simply because of their own cultural background. That's what they bring naturally to the listening experience.

What is it that makes Italian music, especially from the Romantic period, well, Italian? That's hard to quantify exactly, but that's part of why we're going to Italy. Where you're there, open up your senses. Look at the buildings, especially the older ones. Many of them were there when Verdi was composing his great operas. There's a physical rhythm to the architecture that's different from our more modern styles here in the States. Really look at how the people are and how they relate. What do they look like? How do they carry themselves? How do they talk to each other? Do they stand really close to the other person? Do they speak forte, piano or mezzo-voce? Do they use their hands more than we do when they talk? How does the language sound? Does it seem more flowing, perhaps more naturally melodic than English? How are they dressed? And, perhaps most importantly, how does the food taste and look? If we're lucky enough to have really good spaghetti Bolognese when we're in that area, you'll immediately sense a big part of what it means to be Italian!

The point is, although we may not be able to become native Italians, a vital interaction on site with their culture can give us each a personal appreciation, and maybe a good understanding, of what it might feel like to be Italian. Once we accomplish that, our interpretations of Verdi and Rossini should become really well informed. Music and travel can both be transforming activities for those fortunate enough to be passionately involved in the experience. Andiamo!



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RPYO Concert Preview:

MUSIC ITALIAN STYLE

Annual RPYO Side-by-Side Concert with the RPO

**Sunday, February 29, 2004
Eastman Theatre at 3:00 p.m.**

David Harman, Music Director

RPYO Concerto Competition Winners:

Emily Fox, Horn

Emily Grissing, Cello

Brian Heveron-Smith, Marimba

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

The Annual Side-by-Side RPYO and RPO concert in Eastman Theatre is an enduring tribute to a musical culture here in Rochester that cares about and nurtures its future musicians and music lovers. By sharing music stands and musical skills and experiences with our student musicians, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra clearly shows us how deeply committed they are as individuals and as an orchestra to encouraging young musicians and nourishing deep musical roots in our community.

This is a tradition that goes back to at least the 1950s, before the RPYO was established, to the youth music festivals of that era. Many of the RPO's most devoted supporters today remembered the thrill of performing with RPO musicians in Eastman Theatre as one of the highlights of their high school music experiences. Fifty years later, the thrill continues for new generations.

The concert's theme, *Music Italian Style*—a tribute to the RPYO's upcoming tour to Italy in April—will unfold during the second half of the performance when the RPO joins the RPYO on stage. The first half features the talented winners of our fall Concerto Competition, plus two favorite American works that we will pack along with us for our Italian concerts.

The pieces performed by our soloists span a wonderful range of eras and styles. **Emily Fox**, a junior at *Greece Arcadia High School*, plays a movement of a late-18th century *Mozart Horn Concerto, No. 2*, whose deceptive lightness and clarity disguises the challenges Mozart always offers any instrument. **Emily Grissing**, a junior at Brighton High School, performs a richly romantic work of the high 19th century, the first movement of the *Cello Concerto* by the French composer *Edouard Lalo*. **Brian Heveron-Smith**, a senior at Webster Thomas High School, brings us up to the 20th century and a highly virtuosic work for marimba by *Paul Creston*, the third movement of his *Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra*.

In between these solos, the RPYO strings will present the breathtaking *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber. The first

half will come to a finger-snapping close with Bernstein's *Overture to "West Side Story."*

Italy's most famous 19th and 20th composers largely devoted their talents to opera, an art form passionately beloved of all Italians, from fruit sellers in Naples to physicians in Bologna. Fortunately, many of their opera overtures and choruses easily lent themselves to orchestral versions and have become as popular on concert stages as in opera theaters.

Sitting side-by-side under the baton of David Harman, the RPYO and RPO will perform pieces by two of the greatest 19th century Italian opera composers, *Gioacchino Rossini* and *Giuseppe Verdi*. Rossini's *Overture to "La Gazza Ladra" (The Thieving Magpie)* (1817) was acknowledged from the start as a masterpiece in its own right. Even before the opening night curtain rose on the melodramatic story of a young serving girl wrongly condemned to death for stealing a silver spoon (fault of the magpie), the audience was brought to a state of delighted delirium by the overture's passion and fire, delaying the opera's start by their cries of "O bello! O bello!"

Verdi's *Aida* (1872) continues as one of the top three or four most popular operas in the world. Its well-known "*Triumphal March and Ballet Music*" may have reminded contemporary Italians of their proud imperial Roman heritage and helped them smooth over their difficulties in creating a new Italian national identity. During the final concert of our tour, an Italian chorus from the University of Rome will join us in singing the "Hymn" from this section of the opera.

Ottorino Respighi, in contrast to Rossini and Verdi, composed works explicitly for orchestra, though never forsaking the Italian love of melody. Best known for his *Pines of Rome*, Respighi was also attracted to music for the ballet. In *La Boutique fantasque* he fused some of Rossini's great melodies with his own early 20th century musical style to create a witty, richly orchestrated ballet and, later, the *Suite* from the ballet that will be performed on this concert.

Susan Basu

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 6: Companion Tour Social Casa Italiana
Nazareth College**

**March 21: 4 pm Mandatory Parent Meeting with
Hugh Davies from ACFEA. Optional catered dinner to follow**

April 9-18: Italy Tour!

May 6-8: RPYO Auditions for 2004-2005

Bravo to Our Community Benefactors!

The RPYO continues to thrive because individuals and families in our community have a passionate commitment to musical excellence and to the musical growth of our youth. They recognize that musical knowledge and skills will profoundly enrich throughout their lives the intellect, emotions, and personal well-being of children who learn music. They also know that fine music in a community is a form of cultural wealth without which our lives individually and collectively would be impoverished.

So many people support the RPYO in a variety of ways—current RPYO families, alumni and their families, school and private music teachers, RPO musicians and staff, RPO and RPYO Board members, and many others.

On this occasion we want to recognize some other very special individuals and organizations that have come forward this year to assist our Youth Orchestra in its musical and educational programs.

The Marc and Ann Iacona Family Music Foundation. Our February 29 Side-by-Side Concert with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra is being sponsored by the family of Marc and Ann Iacona, who strongly believe in the importance of developing music talent in young people and have committed themselves to supporting that talent. They chose to support the Side-by-Side RPYO-RPO Concert because it exemplifies the RPO's own dedication to nurturing young musical talent. Mr. Iacona's business, Simcona Electronics, Inc. is also a frequent sponsor of the Rochester Philharmonic's WPOPs concerts.

Alfred Davis. Mr. Davis, who is helping us with instrument rentals on our tour and with our Mentor sessions with RPO musicians, has been an extraordinary benefactor to Rochester's musical life and especially to the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. His support made possible the RPO's critically-acclaimed recordings with Van Cliburn Piano Competition Winners Jon Nakamatsu and Olga Kern and the purchase of the RPO's glorious new Steinway piano. In addition to his love for music, Mr. Davis has had a lifetime's dedication to education. For many years he served the Rochester Institute of Technology as its Vice-President for Development, overseeing its transformation from a downtown college into the vast, multi-faceted institution it has become today. The RPYO is honored to be included among the beneficiaries of Mr. Davis' generosity.

The Borg Imaging Group. Both the RPO and the RPYO have benefited a great deal from the support given by this medical radiology organization of Rochester. Borg Imaging was an important sponsor of the RPO's exquisite *Music in an Asian Garden* event last June, whose proceeds helped the RPYO's Financial Aid Fund. It continues as a significant sponsor of RPYO activities.

Orthopaedic Associates of Rochester. This Greece-based medical corporation and its physicians have a long-standing dedication to the arts in our community and to helping through personal efforts and financial support cultural organizations like the RPYO.

Wendy's Restaurants of Rochester. Wendy's has long earned our great appreciation for its support of the RPO's educational program and specifically as a sponsor of the OrKID-stra concerts. For over ten years Wendy's has also helped the RPYO in various ways, including tour fund-raising and program sponsorships. Their offer of bright yellow cups help make it possible for us to provide our students refreshments during RPYO rehearsals.

The ExxonMobil Foundation. Thanks to the initiative of an active RPYO family, the RPYO is the recipient of an Exxon-Mobil Volunteer Involvement Program Grant. This is the way the foundation recognizes the volunteer commitments of its employees while also assisting the organizations they volunteer for.

The Johnson and Johnson Corporation Matching Gifts Program. The Johnson and Johnson Corporation has a generous matching gifts program that an alumni family is using to triple its own contribution to the RPYO.

Rochester Italian Charities. This Rochester organization of civic-minded Italian-Americans delighted us with a surprise contribution to our Italian Tour. One of the side benefits of the tours undertaken by the RPYO is the opportunity to meet local individuals and groups with ties to the countries we visit. In turn, we introduce them to an aspect of Rochester's cultural life they may not have known before—our talented and exciting RPYO.

Side-by-Side Concert Program Sponsors:

We are deeply appreciative of the special support given by several local organizations for our February 29th Side-by-Side Concert. These concert program sponsors include:

Concept II Fine Kitchens and Baths, Inc.

Faraci & Lange, Attorneys-at-Law

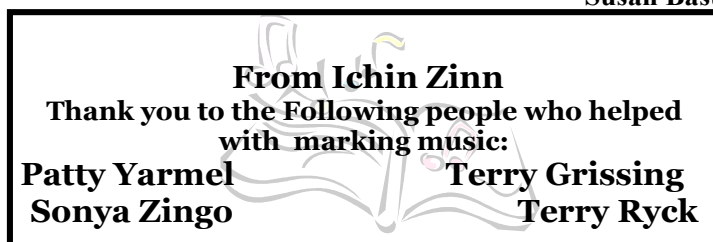
Genesee Valley Organic Community Supported Agriculture

Hiscock & Barclay LLP

Saphar & Associates, Inc.

The RPYO is grateful that so many businesses and benefactors recognize the importance and value of the Youth Orchestra in our community. We offer our sincere thanks.

Susan Basu



TOUR UPDATE from *INSUNG*

Upcoming Tour Meeting and Dinner: **March 21, 2004**

Important date to mark your calendar!

Mandatory Final Tour Meeting with Hugh Davies of ACFEA Tour Company and optional Catered Dinner for the entire family. See the enclosed Flyer for more detail information. RSVP is required by March 13. There will be Live Entertainment and Raffle Tickets to Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano at the Eastview Mall. Cost is \$10.50 per person and \$5.00 for children 10 years old and under.

Please bring all your questions and find out all the important information about the Tour from Hugh Davies and from us.

Topics to cover at the meeting:

Itinerary

- Flight Information
- Hotel Information
- How much money to carry and what form
- Luggage Packing requirements
- Behavioral Tour Guidelines
- Dress Codes
- Q&A session at the end.
- Parents will meet first from 4:00-5:00 PM
- Students will join from 5:00 -5:45 PM
- Dinner from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Forms:

In addition to your Personal Profile and Instrument Information Form and Roommate Information Forms, the most recent Forms you should have turned-in by now are:

Binding Effect (Notarized)

Medical Form (Notarized)

Medical Information for the Chaperone

Copy of your Passport

Copy of Insurance Card (front and back)

If you are not sure what may be missing from you, please contact Eleanor for the update. Some of you have turned-in the front copy of your insurance card and forgot the copy. If this is the case, please send the copy to Eleanor.

A simple Reminder from Insung:

As the Tour Chairperson and as a parent of RPYO for the past six years, please make a note of the following reminder coming from me.

Parents: Please open all the mailings and read them immediately and do not ignore any of them! Also, be responsible in sending all the information on time! Ask your child/children often if they had received any mailings from the RPYO or from Susan Basu.

Students: Please, have your parents read all mailings from RPYO first. Your parents need to respond whenever Forms are requested and serious problems could arise when this is overlooked.

Why do I stress this reminder?

Some parents have said they had not received certain important mailings from RPYO, and we know they have been sent to everyone. It caused us to *wonder that* perhaps, the parents never saw them. It's very possible. We do not want you to miss anything from now on.

Tour Payments and Tour Funds:

February 1, 2004 was the last Due Date.

Everyone's payments need to be paid in full.

For all your moneys earned in your Tour Account from September 15th 2003, a check will be issued in your name and be sent to you following the February 29th Concert ticket sales.

If you know that your payments have not been made in full by now, please contact me immediately

Big Thanks to our Treasurers:

Susan Macpherson and Jack Resnik have been doing a fantastic job at bookkeeping for the Tour Payments and for the RPYO general account. Many thanks to Jamie Schuster with the Colavita Basket Fund-raising, and Kevin Ryck for helping us with the Raffle Tickets Sales accounting. Thank you all for your hard work. We appreciate the time and effort you have put in.

Website Tour Information:

You can go to our www.rpyo.org for more news.

You can also go to www.acfea.com and click

On the "World Class" ID number is DRO40904

Password: acfea.

See you all on the March 21st meeting and

Come Dine with Us!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations

to our recent competition winners:

William Cho won the State Level ASTA competition in November. As a prize he received a Coda Bow.

PENFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA JO AMISH YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Winner--**Greg Byers**

2nd place--**Niall Adams**

3rd place--**Emily Fox**

GENESEO YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

1st place: **Katharyn Zinn**

3rd place: **Emily Grissing**

HOCHSTEIN RECITAL COMPETITION

1st Place: **Christine Cho**

Thanks to all participants in our fall fundraising campaign. Thanks to your efforts the Colavita Basket Sales and Raffle tickets generated over \$25,000 in sales. Participating members were able to offset the cost of their Italy trip and the general tour fund benefited as well. Thanks to Dr. Jamie Schuster for organizing these events. Also Thanks to all the parent volunteers who helped sort and mark boxes and to those who helped with the raffle during the last concert.

ALUMNI NEWS

The RPYO Alumni Association sponsored its second fundraiser, "The Sweet Sound of Music II" on February 6. The event, held at the Rochester Club Ballroom, featured a dessert buffet, wine tastings by four local vineyards and a silent auction. The evening was designed to reunite alumni and supporters of the RPYO in addition to raising funds for the orchestra.

Thank you to "The Clarinet Collection", who performed a lovely selection of pieces, followed by RPYO alum Hugh Brodsky on the piano. The evening concluded with a fierce bidding war on some of the auction items, including a private flight lesson, health club memberships and a silver necklace (which Dr. Harman eventually won!)

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so special by joining us!! It was great to see some familiar faces from long ago and remember the fun times we had in the orchestra. Great music, wonderful food and wine, and good friends. It was music to my ears!

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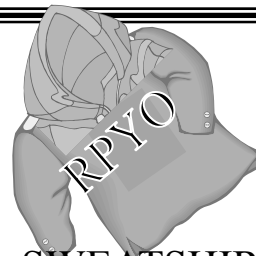
WWW.RPYO.ORG

*The Parent Advisory Committee of the RPYO
welcomes our new Treasurer beginning with
the 2004-2005 season*

Mike Laird

***Many Thanks to Jack Resnick for his
years of service in this position***

*Looking for a way to be more involved in
RPYO? Ask a PAC member about the future
needs of the committee.*



**SWEATSHIRT ORDERS SHOULD
BE IN AT THE MARCH 7th
REHEARSAL. MISS OUT? WE
HOPE TO REPEAT THIS SALE IN
THE FALL**