

TOPEKA SYMPHONY *Allegro!*

Music for Northeast Kansas

Volume 50, Issue 1

Topeka Symphony Orchestra
John Wesley Strickler, Ph.D., Music Director and Conductor

June 2008

Sounds of Celebration 2008-2009

All concerts start at 7:30 pm

“Bold, Elegant, Sublime”

October 4, 2008

Masterworks I

David Everson, Horn

Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 3

Brahms: Symphony No. 2

“The 3 Pianists”

November 1, 2008

Masterworks II

Inna Faliks, Marina Lomazov, Alexander Ghindin

Piano concertos by

Ravel, Grieg, Rachmaninoff

“Celebrate the Season”

December 3, 2008

Discovery I

Tabitha Reist Steiner, Harp

“American Heritage”

January 17, 2009

Discovery II

Copland: A Lincoln Portrait

Abels: Dance for Martin's Dream

“For the Love of Sound”

February 14, 2009

Masterworks III

Richetta Manager, Soprano

Strauss: Four Last Songs

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 5

“Hollywood Spectacular”

March 14, 2009

Discovery III

Wizard of Oz, Ben Hur, Gone with the Wind

“Keyboard Kaleidoscope”

April 18, 2009

Masterworks IV

Linda Maxey, Marimba

Puts: Marimba Concerto

Saint-Saens: Symphony No. 3 “Organ”

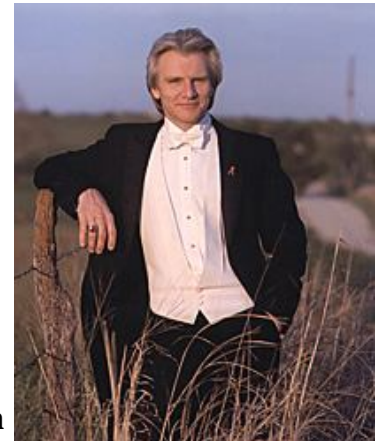
Greetings!

The 2008-2009 season marks my 20th as Music Director of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. So each concert has some sort of anniversary tie in.

We'll commemorate the birth of two major composers—Brahms' 175th and Mendelssohn's 200th. In January, we'll celebrate the bicentenary of Lincoln's birth with a program of all-American music, including works by Aaron Copland, Charles Ives, Morton Gould and Michael Abels. We also have a variety of guest artists, including a reprise of a programming idea we did 10 years ago—3 pianists on one program.

So if you haven't already done so, order your season tickets now, as you won't want to miss any of our exciting programs.

—John Strickler



Why buy season tickets?

- Season tickets start at \$54!
- The more concerts you select...the more you save!
- Only one handling charge for the season!
- Senior discount! Student discount!
- 10% discount on additional single tickets!

Save Money!

Enjoy Convenience!

- Best seating choice...keep your seat or switch!
- Reserve additional seats before sales open to the public!
- Get to know the musicians and fellow audience members!
- Advance notice of special events!

Contact Molly at tso@topekasymphony.org or 785-232-2032.
She will help you create your personalized season package!

MASTERWORKS SERIES

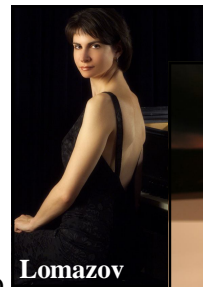
Let the Celebration Begin! This first Masterworks concert begins the celebration when Maestro Strickler conducts Brahms' Symphony No. 2. This symphony was Dr. Strickler's major audition piece (Yes! Everyone auditions for the TSO!) when he came to Topeka in January of 1989 to rehearse and conduct the orchestra. After an impressive concert and overwhelming praise, John Wesley Strickler became only the third Maestro to lead the Topeka Symphony since its first performance in 1946.

Everson



Guest artist David Everson returns to Topeka perform the Mozart Horn Concerto No. 3 on this opening concert. Mr. Everson is Principal Horn of the Sunflower Music Festival and Assistant Principal Horn with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

“The 3 Pianists” Dr. Strickler is bringing back one of his most popular concert ideas: Three international pianists...three international composers! As one of the exclusive first presenters of the winner of the 2007 Cleveland International Piano Competition, the TSO has been selected to bring Russian pianist Alexander Ghindin to Northeast Kansas. His performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 will highlight this spectacular concert. Two Ukrainian-born pianists, Inna Faliks and Marina Lomazov will perform Concerto in D for the Left Hand by Ravel and Piano Concerto in A Minor by Grieg respectively. All this on one night on one stage! Learn more about these renowned pianists and these popular concertos at www.topekasympphony.org.



Lomazov



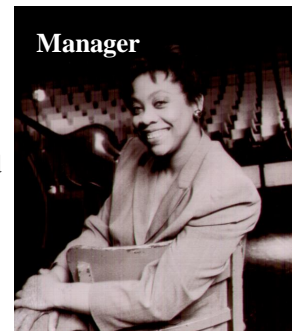
Faliks



Ghindin

A special Valentine treat awaits you on February 14 when Richetta Manager, Soprano, returns to White Concert Hall to perform “Four Last Songs” by Richard Strauss with the TSO. Strauss completed this set of songs in 1948, less than a year before his death, and never heard them performed. “This set of songs... is not only a touching gesture of farewell, but one of Strauss' finest achievements in any form.” (*Program Notes/National Symphony Orchestra*)

The TSO will close this third Masterworks concert with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 “Reformation” which was first performed in 1832. Believing this to be one of his failed works, Mendelssohn did not allow it to be published initially and it was not performed again until after his death. The piece was published posthumously in 1868 and is now widely performed.



Manager

Maxey



April 18, 1990 and April 18, 2009: Maestro Strickler has chosen Symphony No. 3 “Organ Symphony” by Camille Saint-Saëns to conclude this season's “Sounds of Celebration”. On this same date in 1990, Dr. Strickler concluded his first season leading the TSO in this symphony. Now he would like to celebrate the success of his 20 seasons as Music Director and Conductor of the TSO with this same monumental work.

This final Masterworks concert will also feature marimbist, Linda Maxey, performing the Marimba Concerto by Kevin Puts. Linda Maxey holds the distinction of being the first marimbist on the roster of Columbia Artists Management in New York. Ms. Maxey continues to garner rave reviews with her “dazzling display of virtuosity.” (*VERDI Arts Publicists*)

**WE WANT TO KNOW
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE TSO UPDATES,**

DISCOVERY SERIES

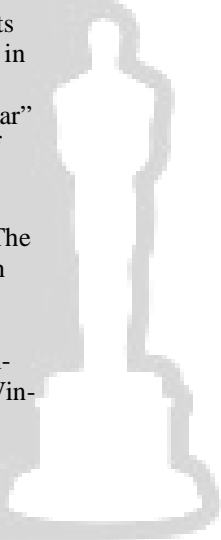
“Celebrate the Season” with your Topeka Symphony Orchestra at the always popular Holiday concert on December 3. In addition to your favorite holiday tunes, Harpist Tabitha Reist Steiner will be featured. Bring the entire family to this special evening of seasonal music and good cheer! Include this concert in your season package while seating is still available.



Steiner

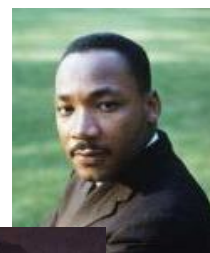
*Heard around the hall
“Amazing”, “Great Fun”, “Strickler has done it again!”*

Discovery III transports you to Hollywood just in time for the Oscars! “Hollywood Spectacular” will showcase some of your favorite movie soundtracks including *Gone with the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Ben Hur*.



The 2009 Topeka Symphony Youth Talent Winner will also perform.

Discovery II will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth and freedom in America with “American Heritage”. Aaron Copland’s “A Lincoln Portrait”, will highlight the evening. Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Copland and two other composers were asked to write independent works to represent a “musical portrait gallery of great Americans.” Copland began this portrait of Abraham Lincoln in February 1942 choosing to write for speaker and orchestra.



The TSO will continue this celebration of freedom in America with “Dance for Martin’s Dream” by Michael Abels. Abels pays tribute to Martin Luther King and says of his work “the piece begins in somber remembrance, but bursts into danceable, cross-cultural melodies and never looks back.” Also on this program are “Amber Waves” by Gould and “Variations on America” by Ives.



STIMULUS CHALLENGE

If each reader of this *Allegro!* donates at least \$20 of their stimulus check to the Topeka Symphony Orchestra, your TSO could raise over \$120,000 to:

- stimulate youth programs
- stimulate TSO concert programming
- stimulate small ensemble performances in the community

Congratulations to TSO Concertmaster Larisa Elisha and principal cellist Steven Elisha on being named one of the winners of the 2008 Governor’s Arts Awards by the Kansas Arts Commission. They received this distinction as “The Elaris Duo”. First started in 1974, the Governor’s Arts Awards are honors given annually by the governor and the Kansas Arts Commission to distinguished Kansas artists, patrons and educators. A dinner and awards ceremony will be June 26 in Topeka. For more information contact the Kansas Arts Commission at 785-296-3335 or kac@arts.ks.gov.



Elaris Duo

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P.O. Box 2206
Topeka, Kansas 66601-2206

SEASON PREVIEW!

Phone: 785-232-2032
Email: tso@topekasymphony.org
Website: www.topekasymphony.org

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Summer Youth Opportunities

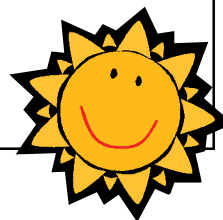
The Topeka Symphony will sponsor a Strings Camp and a Youth Orchestra Academy for young musicians
July 7-11

The Camp and Academy are open to all youth who meet the minimum skills required for each group.
For more information contact the TSO Office at 785-232-2032 or tso@topekasymphony.org.

Youth Ensembles Auditions for 2008-2009 Season

August 23, 2008

Contact the office to receive information about how to schedule an audition



Topeka Symphony

New concert start time!

Based on the Audience Survey at last season's final concert,
all Season Series concerts will begin at

7:30 p.m.

7:30 PM!!!

7:30 PM!!!

Topeka Symphony Society 2008-2009 Board of Directors

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