

FROM GSO HISTORIAN

A Couples Affair

The Genesee Symphony Orchestra has drawn its membership, both musicians and board members, from all walks of life. Occasionally, couples with joint musical interest have performed with the GSO and/or supported the orchestra together as musicians and board members alike.

During the GSO's 21st season, the orchestra's roster was bolstered by 7 couples. They included founding members and violinists John and Helen Grapka; French horn and trombone players Nancy and Robert Didget; French horn and violinist Leroy and Marjorie Mason; cello and violinist Barry and Priscilla Hilbert; violinists Nancy and Andrew Frech; trombone and violinist Dr. and Mrs. Roger Jackson, and pianist/organist and board member and past president Henry and Ann Emmans.

In years to come, other notable couples would include, Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Roth; Dr. and Mrs. John Jaeger, Gordon and Marsha Hardy; and Dave and Ann Funston. Our hats off to these dedicated couples and the many others who helped make the GSO what it is today. Want to learn more about the Genesee Symphony Orchestra? Visit the memory books in the reference section of the Richmond Memorial Library or the permanent display at the Holland Land Office Museum.

2016-2017 TICKET INFORMATION**Single Ticket Prices****Adult \$15****Senior Citizen (62 & older) \$10****Student (18 & under) \$7****Family Ticket \$35****(parents and children 12 and under)**

Concert tickets may be purchased at the door the day of the concert or at the following GSO "place of business" supporters: Roxy's Music Store, Vinyl Record Revival, YNGODESS, GoArt!, and Bank of Castile, LeRoy Branch

Tickets also available online: www.dailynewstickets.com and www.geneseesympphony.com



The GSO is pleased to be affiliated with Genesee Community College as Orchestra in Residence, since February 2005. The Stuart Steiner Theatre is the GSO home for most regular season concerts, and qualified GCC students may enroll for college credit through performance with the GSO. Both the Orchestra and College are pleased with this mutually beneficial affiliation.



This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by GoArt!.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

*Escaping Gravity - A Journey Through the Stars***Sunday, May 7, 2017 4:00 P.M.****Elba Central School Auditorium****Featuring GSO String Workshop***Music From Apollo 13* | Horner, Arr. John Moss

String Workshop Selections

Suite from Close Encounters of the Third Kind | John Williams*The Planets* | Holst

Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter

Other concerts:

Sun. Aug 6 – Summer Serenade Mercy Grove, LeRoy

Sat. Sept. 23 – GCC 50th Anniversary

& Grand Opening of Call Event Center

Concerts in Orleans and/or Wyoming Counties - TBA

GSO DINNER FOLLOWING MAY 7
CONCERT AND YOU'RE INVITED!

After the May 7 concert, GSO Musicians, Board, friends, String Workshop participants and parents, and guests (including you!) are invited to an end-of-season celebration dinner at Terry Hills, immediately following the concert at Elba Central School Auditorium. Join us for an informal evening of basking in the glow of what promises to be a spectacular program of inspiring works performed by GSO musicians and String Workshop participants. It'll even be great weather! We're still working on costs, menu and program, but if you're interested, let Roxie Choate know (roxie.gso@gmail.com).

ASTERIA STRING QUARTET



Maestro S. Shade Zajac and three friends entertained 38 GSO fans, Saturday evening Feb.4 at GoArt!, as a benefit for our orchestra. Works by Mozart, Webern, Shostakovich and Debussy showcased the Asteria String Quartet, keeping our ears happy while yummy hors d'oeuvres by Alex's Place kept our taste buds equally pleased. If you missed it, watch for more GSO musician showcases. Thanks to Shade, Evie, Eponge and Kiran for a delightful evening!



PROGRAM

Brahms and Marquez

Sunday, March 12, 2017 4:00 p.m.

Stuart Steiner Theatre, GCC

Guest soloist Brian Preston, Piano

Concerto no.1 in D Minor | Brahms*Danzon no. 2* | Marquez

MESSAGE FROM THE CONDUCTOR

A very happy New Year from all of your friends at the Genesee Symphony Orchestra! We hope that you enjoyed our last concert in December as much as we did and we hope that you will be able to come out to our other performances this season!

Up next is our March 12th concert which will be held at Genesee Community College at 4:00 pm. This will be a concert that you do not want to miss. Our feature piece is *The First Piano Concerto in D Minor*, by the great Johannes Brahms. The piano soloist will be the incredible Brian Preston. Brian is an amazing musician (to say the least) who has had a very active career as a renowned soloist and teacher. You can read his full biography in another section of this newsletter. Brian brings beautiful colors and emotional weight to this piece full of passionate outbursts.

The other piece on the program is the exciting *Danzon no. 2* by Mexican composer Arturo Marquez. It was made popular by the great Gustavo Dudamel and his Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. The piece is full, exuberant Latin American rhythms with blaring brass and explosive percussion. It is sure to get your pulse up and get you out of your seat. This will prove to be a very thrilling afternoon and we hope to see you there!

~S. Shade Zajac



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MISSION STATEMENT

Genesee Symphony, Inc. is a dynamic, regional orchestra that presents innovative programming for the enrichment of the community through high quality performance, educational opportunities, guest artists, and partnerships that bring a diverse public and the arts together.

BRIAN PRESTON, PIANO



Brian Preston has been proclaimed "a pianist processing real charm, with musical instincts intelligently put to work." He debuted with the Baltimore Symphony at age 17 and has since performed concerts around the world, been awarded many prestigious prizes and awards at international competitions, and has worked with some of the world's finest piano pedagogues.

His eight years at Eastman was most influential in shaping his teaching and pianistic style. During those years, he performed the Brahms #1 and other Concerti in the Eastman Theatre. Following his Lincoln Center solo debut, a NY Times critic wrote "there was a full measure of excitement in his playing... finish and thoughtfulness made his recital an especially satisfying one."

A leader in the Rochester music community, Mr. Preston balances private teaching with piano instruction through Nazareth College, where he has been on the faculty since 1991. As a teacher, his pre-college private students have been winning competition first prizes at regional and international levels since 1980.

He has also served on faculty of the Chautauqua Summer Piano Institute, at Ithaca College, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Binghamton, the University of Connecticut, Interlochen Academy and frequently for teachers' organizations in the region. Brian serves as Artistic Director of the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition, is NY State President of the National Federation of Music Clubs and serves locally through the Greater Rochester MTNA and the Rochester Piano Teachers Guild.

Join us in welcoming Brian Preston to the stage at GCC, performing the monumental Brahms *Piano Concerto #1*, with Shade Zajac and your Genesee Symphony Orchestra!

PURCHASE TOPS GIFT CARDS TO
SUPPORT YOUR GSO!

You can support your GSO by purchasing TOPS gift cards! Look for our TOPS Cards representative at the ticket table on concert dates. Cash or check (made payable to GSO) can be accepted for your purchase. For more information, contact Joanne Tumminello at jtmreg4@hotmail.com.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have a beautiful “UNDISCOVERED GEM” in Genesee County in our midst--our Genesee Symphony Orchestra. As we create beautiful orchestral music at each concert, I have had many conversations with concert-goers who were amazed at the quality music our GSO performs.

And it's getting even better with our new conductor, S. Shade Zajac. Shade is very excited working on our new 71st Concert Season repertoire. He will be unveiling details of the 2017-18 season, following the GSO May 7th Concert, during a dinner celebration at Terry Hills. And you're invited!

As for me, I have made so many new friends while working with the GSO Board of Directors for the past 11 years, and also as GSO Personnel Manager. When I come home from a board meeting or a concert, I am thankful not only for the quality music I hear, but I am also blessed with knowing many hard-working musicians and dedicated board members who are united in supporting our strong orchestra. We work together well - and YOU, our wonderful supporters, all benefit.

We are a great network of workers, but our GSO Board can always use new members willing to bring new ideas and energy. If you'd like to know more, please call me at 356-9635. We are also very appreciative of our Friends of the GSO. These guys and gals usher at the concerts, bring cookies and support us in so many ways. Thank you!

Our Sunday March 12th Concert features renowned pianist Brian Preston, playing the beautiful Brahms *Piano Concerto #1*. Brian and Shade have known each other for several years. Brian indicated he'd like to perform with the GSO in celebration of Shade's new conducting role. Come hear the result!

We'll see you for a concert to remember with Shade, Brian and our GSO; Sunday March 12th, 4:00pm at GCC's Stuart Steiner Theatre.

Musically yours, Roxie Choate, GSO Board President

GSO RAFFLE 2017

Support your GSO and win a stay at the luxurious Geneva on the Lake Wine Country Villa and Resort in Geneva NY, in the lovely Finger Lakes region! This famous resort has kindly donated a voucher, as they did in 2013, to the GSO, to be raffled off at our May 7, 2017 concert.

The voucher includes

- one night's accommodation for two at Geneva on the Lake, any Sunday-Thursday evening through June 14, 2018 (certain date restrictions apply)
- a \$50 voucher toward a candlelight dinner for two,
- a bottle of Finger Lakes wine and flowers in your suite,
- continental breakfast.

Tickets may be purchased from any GSO Board member or musician, or at any GSO concert. Tickets are \$5 each, or 3/\$10. Winner must be 21 or older.

The 2013 winners of this wonderful GSO raffle prize are still raving about what a great getaway it was, and will be buying more tickets this year. Join them in supporting your Genesee Symphony Orchestra!



GENEVA ON THE LAKE
WINE COUNTRY VILLA
& RESORT
800-3-GENEVA

WE'RE HAVING A CHICKEN BARBECUE-
7 DAYS A WEEK!

The Genesee Symphony Orchestra is now selling tickets for delicious chicken barbecue dinners from Alex's Place. Tickets can be purchased and used any time of the year! Just call Alex's curbside takeaway, order, and pick it up. It's a great way to get a delicious dinner while supporting the orchestra. They also make great gifts. Each meal includes 1/2 chicken (BBQ or Garlic), a side of your choice, soup or salad, rolls and butter. Tickets are available for sale at GSO concerts or can be purchased any time from Dave Porter, 585-813-3111. GSO musicians or board members may also be contacted for ticket availability.

Alex's Place is located at 8322 Park Road in Batavia.

GSO STRING WORKSHOP....coming April 1 - No Fooling!

The GSO reaches out to string (violin, viola, cello, bass) students in the Genesee region through the GSO's annual String Workshop, to be held this year on Saturday April 1st, 9:30am-2:00pm, at GOArt! in Batavia. GSO conductor and cellist Shade Zajac will direct the workshop.

Area string teachers have sent the music selections, levels 3 or 4, chosen by Zajac. They will assist students with learning the pieces. Students then come together at the Workshop as an ensemble, and work with Maestro Zajac and other GSO string players. Participants will then perform the pieces with the GSO at the May 7th concert at Elba Central School.

This year *Music from Apollo 13* by James Horner will be featured. It's a level 4 work arranged for full orchestra - what an experience for String Workshop participants to play WITH the GSO!

Adult string players are always welcome to join the Workshop, and should contact either Roxie Choate or Georgia Childs.

The GSO Board, musicians and students thank the **Bank of Castile** for their sponsorship of the GSO String Workshop.

KNOW ANY GOOD CONCERTMASTERS?

With the Fall 2016 resignation of Gregory Docenko, the GSO's concertmaster for the past few years, we've been fortunate that Kiran Rajamani has stepped up as Acting Concertmaster for the October, December and March GSO concerts, with assistance from Mark Scheda (thanks Kiran & Mark!).

So what is a Concertmaster and what does s/he do? You've probably noticed that the concertmaster is the last person to walk on stage before the conductor, and who "tunes" the orchestra. But there's more to it. The concertmaster holds a leadership position in the orchestra and works directly with the conductor, librarians and musicians, particularly the string sections (violin, viola, cello and bass). Under the conductor's leadership, the concertmaster also provides leadership with musical issues before and during any given performance, specifically bowings for the strings.

Your GSO Board has out a job description and invitation to apply, with auditions to occur in March, hopefully to have someone on board by the May concert. We're also expanding the job a bit, and will ask our new Concertmaster to help with outreach (especially in the schools, where regional string programs are limited) and to be a presence in the community as part of a growing GSO.

10TH ANNUAL GSO YOUNG ARTIST
COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The GSO is excited to announce its tenth Young Artist Competition! The Competition will be held on April 3, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church in Batavia.

Information and applications are being sent to all music educators and private music teachers in Genesee and surrounding counties. Applications must be received by March 20, 2017. All instrumental and vocal students in grades 8 through 11 who can perform a NYSSMA solo, Level V/VI or above, are welcome to audition. A panel of music educators and GSO maestro Shade Zajac will judge the competition this year.

Last year's competitors were of such high quality that the GSO announced not one but THREE winners. Jackie Hager (cello) and Jerod Yap (piano) performed at the October GSO concert, and saxophonist Amelia Snyder was soloist at the December 11 concert. At least three former GSO winners have appeared on the nationally popular NPR *From the Top* radio program. And of course, former winner Emily Helenbrook returned for the GSO's December 11 concert!

Each participant will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, and the winner will be featured as the Guest Soloist with the orchestra for a 2017-18 season concert. Contact music educators or private teachers for information and application forms, or email Georgia Childs at gchilds45@verizon.net.



ADOPT-A-CHAIR

Adopt-a-Chair is an exciting program which affords the participant a first-hand experience with the orchestra.

For \$35.00, "adopt" a musician of the orchestra. Choose your favorite instrument and sit in that section during the dress rehearsal, for a "behind the scenes" experience in which you will see and hear an orchestra at work. Contact GSO Board Member Helen Parkins at hparkins3373@gmail.com to arrange your Adopt-a-Chair experience.

ASK THE MAESTRO

Question: "I'm never sure whether to applaud between movements of a work. It seems like the polite thing to do - to express your appreciation and admiration - but sometimes nobody else is clapping, and I'm confused and embarrassed. What's the proper protocol?"

The Maestro replies: "Good question, and often asked! Think of the movements of a work as slight pauses between moods... time for the musicians to shift gears slightly between a slow and a fast passage, or a light and heavy one, or different keys or time signatures. It's all part of the same work, however - whether it's a concerto or symphony or whatever. So the time to clap is when the work has ended, not during those slight pauses."

"It's also helpful to look at the program to see how the work is divided, which indicates when to applaud and when not to. See the example below. Of course, it's not the end of the world when it happens, but it does sort of interrupt the mood and the flow of the work, so it's best to observe this custom if you can. And thanks for asking!"

For example, the Brahms *Piano Concerto #1*, which the GSO is playing with guest pianist Brian Preston at our March 12 concert, is a large work, roughly 45-50 min. in length. It is made of of three movements:
Maestoso (25+ min. - don't clap at the break)
Adagio (10+ min. - don't clap)
Rondo (CLAP! Yaay, Bravo, Woot woot!!)

GSO WEBSITE

The GSO Website is up and running! Visit us at www.geneseesympphony.com and find the most up to date information for concert events and symphony news. Purchase your concert tickets online, and sign up for the email version of the GSO newsletter!

