

EUTERPE

FALL 2007

CYSO Tours Italy—Concerts and Fun for All



Also in this
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Italy Tour

Conductors' Notes

*Leonard Slatkin
comes to CYSO*

CYSO Welcomes New Faces to Staff in 2007



Linda Foss



April Nyman

CYSO was fortunate to have Linda Foss step in last spring as Executive Director when Care Napolitano departed. She helped with the tour to Italy and has been a valued addition to CYSO as all can attest to. In addition this year, we have April Nyman helping us as development coordinator, and already she has made a tremendous impact.

ABOUT LINDA: Linda has spent the last nine years home schooling her two youngest children and she decided that she also “needed another challenge in my life.” Thus her challenge has become being CYSO’s Executive Director. Her daughter joined

CYSO in 2003 with the Preparatory Orchestra and currently participates in the Symphony Orchestra. She was a volunteer for CYSO in the 2004-2005 season as a manager of the String Orchestra. She lives with her husband and two children in Queenstown, MD. “We have really enjoyed the musical experience that CYSO has brought to our family.”

ABOUT APRIL: She and her husband Ted and three children (Logan - 13, Abby - 11, and Elizabeth - 9) moved to Davidsonville two years ago. They are a Navy family who plans on retiring here. Her background is Fund Raising, Marketing and Event Planning. She has worked with several nonprofits as both staff and volunteer. And she joined CYSO in July of this year as Development Coordinator.

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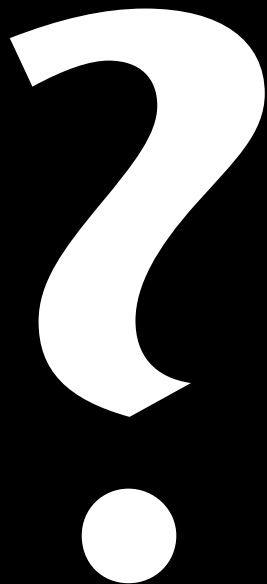
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Bill Schachter, Conductor
Gail Vehslage, Conductor
Sandra Balderson, Conductor

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Anne Sloan



What (or Who) Is Euterpe?

To the Ancient Greeks, the arts were inspired by nine mythical women: the Muses. Euterpe was the muse of lyric poetry and music. Called “the Giver of Pleasure,” she was often depicted with a flute, the instrument she was supposed to have invented. The Greeks thought that whoever listened to Euterpe’s music would be able to understand and fulfill their dreams.

Cover photos

Photos from Italy Tour (photos by *Eric Dahlstrom*)

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What's Inside



Dear Friends of the CYSO,

Welcome to our 18th season as the Annapolis area's finest youth orchestra. This is an exciting time for the CYSO and I'm proud to inform you that our organization is on sound financial footing, is reaching new heights in terms of enrollment, and is preparing several wonderful concerts over the next eight months that will bring you many hours of musical enjoyment.

Viva Italien! We had an exciting ten-day trip to Italy visiting as many major sightseeing events as possible. In addition, we had three excellent performances in Venice, Florence and Rome. Our Symphony orchestra and senior flute ensemble performed remarkably. The chaperons and students thoroughly enjoyed all the sights in Milan, Florence, Rome, Belaggio, and Tuscany. It was a wonderful experience. We look forward to our next international tour in three years!! I wonder where we will travel in 2010 with our senior ensemble(s)?

People are the strength of CYSO. This year Mrs. Linda Foss returns as our permanent Executive Director, bringing her outstanding organization and dedication to making the CYSO something special for all our families and staff. Julien Benichou returns for his sixth season as Music Director and conductor of our Symphony Orchestra. Julien has crafted a wonderful program that will challenge and excite our students. I'm sure you will be delighted and amazed at the level of our performances over the course of this year. Bill Schachter and Robert Stojakovich return as directors of the Preparatory Strings and Strings Orchestras, while Ms. Sandra Balderson and Ms. Gail Vehslage return as conductors of our Wind Ensemble and Junior and Senior Flute Ensembles. Vladimir Lande returns to conduct the Concert Orchestra.

We have had one year at our new rehearsal space and many of the bumps in the road have been resolved. We enjoy having a formal office, an actual library space along with several large rooms for rehearsals every week. I am confident that our partnership with the Indian Creek Upper School will prove to be supremely beneficial for both organizations.

This year we have already had a Master Class for the Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Leonard Slatkin and a retreat for most of our musicians. Leonard Slatkin worked with the symphony members on one selection which you will hear performed at the Holiday concert (see p. 5). The retreat was a great way to kick off our new season and allow the students in each ensemble to get to know each other.


Many of our goals could never be actualized without the solid financial backing of our families, donors, sponsors and grants. Our fees remain extremely competitive with other youth orchestras in the area even after the slight increase this year. In addition to the support of our families, we continue to receive and seek generous personal and corporate donations. If you have good ideas on how we can partner with local businesses and organizations, please do not hesitate to give me or Linda Foss a call. Some of the greatest composers and musicians, like Mozart and Tchaikovsky, needed patrons to allow them to practice their art, and CYSO is no exception.

The 2007-2008 season is shaping up to be our largest in terms of enrollment. We hope to have over 200 musicians in our various ensembles this year. Julien Benichou and his conducting team have put together an ambitious series of concerts for your enjoyment. I encourage you to attend as many of our concerts and events as possible.

In closing I would like to invite you to take a more active role in the CYSO. We are always looking for new ideas and new faces to help us bring the best musical experience for our students. Without you—our supporters—there would be no CYSO. Help us ensure that music remains an important part of our students' lives.

Sincerely,
Morag Dahlstrom, President

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**Are you an alumnus of
CYSO?**

**If so, we want to keep
in touch with you! Please
send us your email address
and mailing address to the
address below.**

Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra
PO Box 863
Arnold, MD 21403
443-758-3157
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Symphony Orchestra

Julien Benichou, Music Director

Rebecca Firth and Boris Kim, orch. managers

The Symphony orchestra is remarkable this year in two respects. First, nearly all of the members of this group are new this year—fewer than 10 musicians returned to rejoin the orchestra this year. Second, this is a young orchestra, especially the string section. The average age in the string section is approximately 14 (ninth grade). Despite their relatively young age, this group displays a high level of technical proficiency with their instruments, and a good attitude in their approach to learning music. Maestro Benichou will have an opportunity to work with this group for a few years before a significant number of students retire from the orchestra due to graduations. His general method of training will be to study works that present technical difficulty, but are of short duration. He will require that these works be performed with proficiency and musical refinement. Examples of such works that will be performed this year are three dances from “The Three-Cornered Hat” by M. de Falla, and “Romeo and Juliet Overture” by P. I. Tchaikovsky.



Concert Orchestra

Vladimir Lande, Conductor

Gigi Morrison and Pat Beers-Block, orch. managers

This fall, as conductor for the Concert Orchestra, Maestro Vladimir Lande focuses on music written by George Bizet and Peter Tchaikovsky and provides challenging opportunities for the 36 talented young musicians who are part of this ensemble. Maestro Lande leads the ensemble to “play the music, not just the notes.” The first concert will be a “Kinderkonzert” at St. Anne’s School in Annapolis on Sunday, Dec. 9. Look for an interview with Maestro Lande on the CYSO website.



Wind Ensemble

Sandy Balderson, director

Laura Dozier, manager

Mrs. Balderson reports that she is always impressed with the joy and positive feelings that simply flow through this organization. The Wind Ensemble has evolved over the past four years into an ensemble that is cohesive and musically mature. Presently there are 35 musicians participating in Wind Ensemble. They are working together and making beautiful music. As always the repertoire will be exciting, challenging and fun. The first concert will be on Dec. 16 at Annapolis Area Christian School.

Flute Ensembles

Gail D. Vehslage, director

Pam Buckenmaier, Jr. manager and

Denise Wagner and Patti Irwin, Sr. managers

The *Senior Flute Ensemble* is off to a fast start this fall with their first performance in October at Macy’s, Annapolis Mall. They were featured in a festival of local musical talent. February will bring a performance at the Flute Society of Washington’s Mid-Atlantic Flute Fair. Repertoire through the year is varied and includes classics of Handel, Mozart and Ippolotov-Ivanov and newly composed works. The first, by the American composer Sonny Burnette, is entitled, “Stone Suite,” published in 1998. The second, “A Short Nautical Journey,” by Jason Hodac, was published in 1998 as well. Our spring concert will feature Mozart’s “Symphony No. 40” in its entirety. A highlight of the finale concert will be a performance of Todd Coleman’s “Wind Dance” with the two flute ensembles combined, a total of 45 flutists on stage!

The *Junior Flute Ensemble* will have its first concert in early December. They are performing movements from Bach’s “Cantata 142,” Moussorgsky’s “Hopak” and “Coventry Carol.” Their repertoire throughout the year will be varied, introducing them to many composers and musical styles from Celtic flute music to newly composed pieces. Many members are being exposed to playing alto and bass flutes for the first time and are enjoying this new experience! A highlight will be performing with the Senior Flute Ensemble in May.



String Orchestra

Robert Stojakovich, director

Patricia Ritchie, orch. manager

The Strings Orchestra currently has 29 members. It is working on the transition to the next level of musicianship and the concepts entailed. Emphasis is being placed on intonation, bow placement as it pertains to ensemble playing, shaping phrases, note production and many other concepts that the students need to be successful in the next phase of their playing with a large ensemble. Our literature ranges from string orchestra repertoire to transcriptions of string symphonic work.



Preparatory Strings

William Schachter, director

Jan Snedecor, orch. manager

This year’s Prep. Orchestra has gotten off to a great start with another group of wonderful, talented young string players. We have begun working on “Simple Gifts,” “The Dragonhunter” (one of the orchestra’s favorites), the beautiful “Shenandoah” and “Crossing Pirate’s Cove.” Future music will include “Trepak” (from the Nutcracker Suite) and “Let It Snow.” This year Maestro Schachter hopes to work with the orchestra on their rhythmic reading as well as their sound production and dynamic ranges. Our first performance will be at Ginger Cove in December.



Magical Summer Trip to Italy

by Casey Firth

Buongiorno! I'm in love with Italy!

This summer was magical for some lucky CYSO musicians. In June, a small group of approximately thirty-five musicians started practicing several nights a week at St. Anne's Episcopal Church Parish House in Annapolis (Thank you, St. Anne's!). Maestro Benichou worked us hard to prepare pieces by Schubert, Mozart, Byrd, and Vivaldi, which was a challenge with our small numbers and the fact that many of us had never played with each other before. Meanwhile, in Mrs. Vehslage's studio, the flute choir worked on their pieces. Some musicians played in both the symphony and flute choir. Of great importance on rehearsal nights was that we sampled the ice cream at the nearby Annapolis Ben & Jerry's, frequently and diligently, so that we would be prepared to compare American ice cream to Italian gelato. (Travel Tip: Gelato wins!)

When the big day came, we all met at Dulles International Airport and boarded a plane to Paris. Thanks to the hard work of Mr. Benichou, Mrs. Foss and Mrs. Dahlstrom, we were able to bring most of the instruments on board and store them away safely, much to the relief of our parents and insurance companies! Mr. Benichou's parents and a friend helped get us a bass and timpani, which of course could not economically be transported with us. After a smooth flight, we landed in Paris and boarded a plane to Milano, one of the largest cities in Italia. While in Milan, we had lots of opportunity to see amazing architecture and world famous shops. Our first dinner in Italy was in a quaint Italian restaurant. It was a perfect introduction to Italy.

In the morning, we traveled to Lake Como, where we boarded a ferry to Bellagio. Everyone was excited about the beautiful silk products that were made right there in Bellagio! That evening, we serendipitously enjoyed fireworks and opera singing at a midnight wedding held next door to our hotel.

The next morning, we traveled to Verona, the place made famous by Romeo and Juliet, and then on to Venice,

for a day of gondola trips, glass blowing exhibitions, and sight-seeing. We all learned that Maestro Benichou is not a very patient man in

a museum with a long-winded tour guide! He likes to keep moving! That night, was beautiful and we had our concert in a cathedral. The doors were open and within a short time, we filled the cathedral with people walking in off the street to listen. The caretaker of the cathedral later told us that he had never had more people walk in on a concert at the church.

Next, we were off to Florence and Siena. We visited the Academia Gallery to see Michelangelo's David and traveled to San Gimignano for more sight seeing. The day ended with a surprise trip to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. We all did our best to straighten it out, but we did not have much luck. Our next destination was Rome. We visited St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican museum, the Colosseum and the Trevi Fountain, where many of us bought our last (of many) gelatos. That night we had a concert, which had a surprisingly good turnout despite the fact that we were competing with a Rolling Stones concert nearby!

Our farewell dinner was funny, exciting, and sad. Our experience had been such a whirlwind of incredible sights, beautiful music, and growing friendships. We found it very difficult to say goodbye to our guide, Luigi, and driver, Franco. We found it hard to say goodbye to each other. We could not find the words to thank our incredible conductor, and fantastic parent-chaperons. Every time I hear Schubert, Mozart, Byrd, and Vivaldi, it will bring back memories of CYSO's magical trip to Italy!



Welcome to New Conducting Intern

CYSO is very pleased to introduce Robert Goeke as our Conducting Intern. Rob comes to us through a new partnership with Catholic University. Robert currently studies orchestral conducting with David Searle at the Catholic University and plays tuba with the 257th Army National Guard Band. He has performed with orchestras, bands, and community theaters in 12 countries including Austria, the Czech Republic, and Iraq. Rob comes to the Washington, D.C., area after serving four years with the 76th Army Band in Mannheim, Germany. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in Film Scoring from the Berklee College of Music in his home town of Boston, MA. He now lives in Alexandria, VA, with his lovely wife Amanda. Rob led brass sectionals at our Fall retreat, to the delight of our students in both the Concert and Symphony orchestras.

WELCOME TO CYSO!



Save the Date for the Spring Gala

April 12 at Maryland Hall is the date for CYSO's annual Spring Gala. Besides the silent auction and reception, with music from some of our smaller ensembles, we will have a wonderful concert featuring both our Symphony and Concert Orchestras and special guests—the Maryland State Boychoir. Now 20 years old, the MSB has about 140 members ranging in age from 7 to 20, who perform some 60 concerts each year throughout the United States and abroad.

The program will include selections by the orchestras alone, including Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet," and a capella pieces by the MSB; they will join forces for selections from Mozart's "The Magic Flute," Faure's "Requiem," and Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana." Altogether an evening not to be missed!

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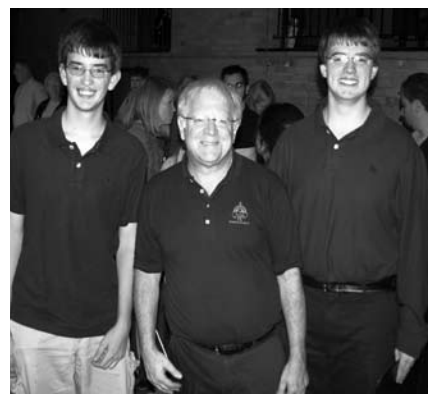


Oct 15 was a day our Symphony Orchestra will not soon forget! That was the Monday National Symphony Maestro Leonard Slatkin came, saw, heard and helped the orchestra in the basement of Maryland Hall. The kids were thrilled, on their best behavior, and played beautifully!

The occasion was a Master Class lasting one hour prior to a performance by the Washington Brass at Maryland Hall. Leonard Slatkin has often worked with youth orchestras and seems to enjoy it. He told the orchestra he was very impressed with their playing, saying, "This piece is heard for any orchestra because of the rhythms." The piece, Manuel de Falla's "Dances from The Three Cornered Hat," sounded wonderful, and people in the building stopped to listen, including the ASO's conductor Jose-Luis Novo. "It's amazing you have come this far on this. You will play this piece many times in your life if you are musicians."

Maestro Slatkin took time with each group in the orchestra and asked them to play or gave them good advice—and they responded and did what he wanted. He said, "These dots on the page are turned into a living language that comes to life." He was patient and the kids seemed to improve. He was very gracious and stayed afterwards for about 20 minutes signing autographs and posing for many pictures.

Many of our families also stayed for the Washington Brass concert and our horn players got the chance to talk to them about horns and the pieces they were playing.



CYSO's 18th Season's Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 9, 2007, 3 p.m.

St. Anne's School of Annapolis
Concert Orchestra – KinderKonzert
Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite
Bizet's L'Arlesienne Suite # 2

Sunday, December 16, 2007, 3 and 7 p.m.

Annapolis Area Christian School
Holiday Concert
features String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble (3 p.m.)
Symphony Orchestra and Sr. Flute Ensmb. (7 p.m.)

Don't miss these other important concerts:

Sunday, March 29, 2008, 7 p.m.

St. Anne's Church, Annapolis
Sr. Flute Ensemble and Wind Ensemble

Saturday, April 12, 2008 7 p.m

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts
CYSO's Annual Gala

Saturday, May 17, 2008 3 and 7 p.m.

Riva Trace Baptist Church
Concert Orchestra, Jr. Flute Ensmb., String
Orchestra, Preparatory String Orchestra (3 p.m.)
Symphony, Sr. Flute Ensemble, Wind
Ensemble (7 p.m.)



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