

*Delaware County Youth Orchestra*  
*Est. 1973*  
*Mid-Year Review • 2006-2007*  
*Season*

35<sup>th</sup> Season

Box 143, Media, PA 19063

March, 2007

**PODIUM NOTES**  
**February 2007**



It is a pleasure to be serving as music director for my second season with DCYO. Every chance I get, I tell people about the high caliber of students in this orchestra, and people are often impressed with the quality of repertoire that our students are able to perform. I've been asked to give you an update on my activities outside of DCYO, so here goes.

At Penn this year, we performed a concert featuring the Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique* as well as John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and a work by Philadelphia resident and Penn alum, Jennifer Higdon, *blue cathedral*. This concert took place on Saturday, February 24 in Irvine Auditorium on the Penn campus. Here's a bit of trivia for you – Jennifer Higdon and Osvaldo

Golijov, two composers whose work we are performing this spring at Penn, are both former composition students of George Crumb, who, along with his wife Liz, was one of the people responsible for the creation of DCYO 34 years ago. The music world can be very small sometimes!

Last fall, the Penn Symphony presented concerts of works by Beethoven (*Sixth Symphony*), Musorgsky (*Pictures at an Exhibition*), Schumann (*Fourth Symphony*), Elgar (*Enigma Variations*) and Mozart (*Marriage of Figaro* overture). Our season will conclude in April with a performance of the Verdi *Requiem*, presented with the University of Pennsylvania Choral Society. I continue to conduct the Penn Wind Ensemble, and am currently preparing a program featuring works by Gustav Holst, including two movements from *The Planets*. This spring is my first semester teaching a musicianship seminar for music graduate students, as well as an independent study in conducting. So, as usual, things are busy, which is the way I like them.

Finally, I want to give a big thanks to our board members who serve so faithfully in support of DCYO and our students – we all appreciate the work that you do. I

hope to see all of you at our spring concerts in April and May.

Brad Smith

*2007 Spring Concerts*

**Sunday, April 22, 2007**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Haverford High School**  
**Havertown, PA 19083**

**Mozart Overture to**  
[\*The Magic Flute\*](#)  
**Rimsky-Korsakov**  
[\*Capriccio Espagnol\*](#)  
**Tchaikovsky**  
[\*Symphony No. 4\*](#)  
Free admission

**Tuesday May 1, 2007**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Strath Haven High School**  
**Wallingford, PA 19086**  
Repeat of April 22 program  
Free admission

**Program Notes**  
**Spring 2007 Concerts**

Spring 2007 is already shaping up to be a truly outstanding season.

This year's program features *The Magic Flute*, Mozart's last completed work, incorporating folk song and farce as well as "high brow" elements. A multilayered work rich in symbolism and meaning, *The Magic Flute* is, among other things, a fairy tale, a morality play, a political allegory and a treasure trove of Freemason symbols and rituals.



All ends on a joyful note when good triumphs over evil and love over hate.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Fourth Symphony No. 4 in F Minor*, Op. 36, was completed in early 1878 after a particularly difficult episode in the composer's life. In a letter to Nadezhda von Meck, a wealthy widow who became his patron for fourteen years, he says "This is a purely lyrical process, and essentially a musical unburdening of the soul in music, similar to the way in which a poet expresses himself in verse...."

Interwoven in the fugue is a lyrical theme played by wind instruments, including a solo flute and oboe.

"After the fast, rhythmic ending of the first movement, I try to change the tone of the piece to a more somber and lyrical style simply by following the directions of Tchaikovsky -- in the style of a song, simple but graceful. After the first movement I just try to take a step back and take a very deep breath for the next movement,"

says oboist Tim Feil.

*Capriccio Espagnol*, Op. 34, by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov stands out as the master in the art of orchestration.

A clarinet solo from the first movement is now played by the violin.

"As for the solos, there's a LOT of them, and they're all technically very hard. However, I'm having fun playing them and it fits in nicely with the rest of the piece – it's full of energy and excitement. The 3rd movement has a lot of other instrument solos, and it's cool to hear the solos get passed from one instrument to another and listen to different instruments play the same theme in their own style," said Concertmaster Jamie Lee.

At the premiere of the piece, the audience demanded a full repetition as soon as the performance ended. Tchaikovsky, who was present at the premiere, wrote later in a letter to Rimsky-Korsakov, "Your Spanish Capriccio is a colossal masterpiece of instrumentation, and you may regard yourself as the greatest master of the present day."

We can't wait!

(note to readers: for more information about these pieces, please visit our web site at [www.dcyo.org](http://www.dcyo.org).)

## KUDOS!

Although the season is only a little past the halfway mark, DCYO members have already achieved significant honors. Concertmaster Jamie Lee won first place in the instrumental division of the Kennett Symphony Orchestra concerto competition, while principal cellist Yuki Koyama won honorable mention in the same competition. Violinist Jennifer Campbell was first-place winner for the state of Delaware in the Music Teachers

National Association competition for both piano and for composition.

## Scholarships

Several DCYO members have won scholarships for private study and for chamber music programs this year. Concertmaster Jamie Lee is the recipient of a Starling Scholarship for private study given to selected members of the violin section of the Temple Music Prep Chamber Orchestra. Oboist Tim Feil is the recipient of the Weinstein Scholarship for private study and for chamber music given to members of the Weinstein Advanced Study Woodwind Quintet at Settlement Music School. Violinist Jennifer Campbell has won the Athena Scholarship for private piano study at Darlington Fine Arts Center. Both Jennifer Campbell and Kristin Kapalka have received Amateur Chamber Music Players Foundation Scholarships for the chamber music program at Darlington Fine Arts Center. Violinist Rachyl Duffy has received a scholarship for the chamber music program at Wilmington Music School.

## Master classes

This season several DCYO students have performed in master classes conducted by distinguished musicians of national and international reputation. In February, oboist Tim Feil played the first movement of the Marcello Oboe Concerto in a master class at the Kimmel Center conducted by Richard Woodhams, principal oboist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Oboist Tim Feil, bassoonist Melanie Shafer, and clarinetist Patrick Fisher will be performing on March 17 in a Richard Woodhams chamber music master class at Settlement. Violinist

Jennifer Campbell was selected to perform in a piano master class with Curtis faculty member Hugh Sung at the Darlington Fine Arts Center. Violinist Rachyl Duffy performed in a master class with Timothy Schwartz at Wilmington Music School.

### **Special performances**

DCYO members have shone this season in performances throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond. Violinist Amy Semes played the Bach *Double Concerto* with her sister Maria at Ocean City Pops concerts in October and in December. This December, violinists Jonathan Eldridge, Kathryn Nagel, and Hannah Volpert, and cellists Yuki Koyama and Jeremy Emata, performed Handel's *Messiah* in a chamber orchestra at Wallingford Presbyterian Church. Again in December, violinist Rachyl Duffy played in a special holiday concert at the Franklin Institute presented by the Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association. On New Year's Day, trumpeter Jim McMullen, leader of the trumpet section of the Penncrest Marching Band, played in the Toyota Gator Bowl Half-Time Show in Jacksonville, Florida; his band won second place in the nationally rated Gator Bowl Parade Competition. Throughout the year, violinist Anne Cawley has been performing at retirement centers and at weddings and banquets as a member of the Avalare Strings. On February 25, violinist Erica Ball's composition *say nothing, nothing...* was performed at Andrea Clearfield's Salon Series by a string quartet made up of DCYO members Natasha Carlin and Sean Wood

(violin), Hannah Volpert (viola), and Peter Volpert (cello). This May, Erica Ball (violin), Charlie Pokorny (string bass), and Matt Frankel (tuba) will be performing at America's 400th Anniversary at Jamestown, Virginia, as members of the Haverford High School Orchestra. On June 14 and 16, concertmaster Jamie Lee will be performing with the Kennett Symphony at Longwood Gardens as winner of their 2006-2007 concerto competition.

### **Districts and Regionals**

This winter many DCYO members are participating in district and regional level orchestra and band competitions sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. Many others, especially seniors, choose not to participate because of other commitments, while still others are not eligible either because their schools do not have orchestras or bands, or because as freshman woodwind or brass players they are barred from participating until they are sophomores. For these reasons, fewer than half of DCYO members try out for PMEA "districts." Nonetheless, many of our students won seats in these district-level ensembles, which took place this January and February, and more than a few won seats as principals in their sections: in District 12 Orchestra, DCYO members included the concertmaster (Jamie Lee, DCYO concertmaster), the principal cellist (Yuki Koyama, DCYO principal cello), the principal string bassist (Steve Lyons), the principal trumpet (Barbara Eisele), and the principal bassoon (Melanie Shafer). DCYO flutist Kate McGlinchy was principal flute in PMEA District 10 Orchestra. For

District 12 Band, DCYO members included principal trumpet (Barbara Eisele), principal bassoon (Melanie Shafer), and principal tuba (Matt Frankel). Going on to Region VI Orchestra are DCYO violinists Jamie Lee, Daniel Koo, Kristen Kapalka, Jonathan Eldridge, Natasha Carlin, Kendal Smiley, and Hannah Volpert; violists John Drennan, Terri Mercer, and Caroline Kane; cellists Yuki Koyama and Peter Volpert; string bassists Steve Lyons, Alex Martinez, and Charlie Pokorny; bassoonist Melanie Shafer; trumpeter Barbara Eisele; and trombonist Brooke Petersen. Flutist Kate McGlinchy is going on to Region IV-V Orchestra. Going on to Region VI band are bassoonist Melanie Shafer, trumpeters Barbara Eisele and Jim McMullen, and tubist Matt Frankel.

*Note: Pennsylvania's All-State Orchestra and Band winners were not available at this writing.*

### **Academics, community service**

Members of our orchestra have distinguished themselves academically as well as musically. Violinist Kristin Kapalka has advanced to the position of National Merit Finalist in the 2006-2007 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Clarinetist Andrew Kang has been granted early acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. In terms of community service, Rachyl Duffy has donated 13 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides hair prosthetics for disadvantaged children with permanent hair loss from alopecia areata, radiation treatments, or burns.



## Fun for all at Camp Tockwogh

The Camp Tockwogh Rehearsal Weekend is a special program for the talented students accepted into the Delaware County Youth Orchestra. Its purpose is to enrich the orchestral learning experience and to enhance the student group dynamics both socially and musically. At the beginning of each season, DCYO schedules a weekend of intense rehearsals at Camp Tockwogh, a YMCA camp on the Chesapeake Bay. This annual mid-September retreat encourages camaraderie between new and returning members and provides a jump-start towards mastering the fall repertoire.

For the 2006/2007 concert season, this special program was sponsored largely by a generous grant from the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund.

Approximately 95% of our students were able to attend this program on the weekend of September 16-17, 2006. The weekend consisted of several intensive rehearsals interspersed with ample time for lively camaraderie.

Conductor Brad Smith demonstrated his superb abilities as Educator/Mentor as well as Conductor and the students responded enthusiastically. During rehearsals visitors and passersby were treated to strains of the Beethoven's hugely popular 5<sup>th</sup>

*Symphony* as well as snippets from Debussy's *Nocturnes* and Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. During their free time students found no shortage of activities, which ranged from archery and rock-wall climbing to water sports on the bay shore. The evening beachfront bonfire under starry skies was one of many highlights. As always, the retreat was a great success, stimulating the orchestra to develop as an ensemble both musically and socially.

## Sectional Center

On October 24, The Delaware County Youth Orchestra held its sectionals for the fall semester. We had the privilege to have highly accomplished professionals coach the students. Among them were three alumni, Lesa Bubak for the basses, Lori Simpson for the violas, and Ted Pasternak for our woodwinds. All of the coaches worked with the individual sections to isolate the challenging passages, improve the ensemble and intonation of the section, and give the students the opportunity to think about the character of their particular instruments within the music they were studying. We always look forward to the rehearsal after the sectionals, as the orchestra sounds greatly improved. The students reach a new level of understanding of the music they are playing.

Sectionals for the fall and spring semesters this year have been sponsored in full by a generous grant from The Strine Foundation.

On December 5, 2006, the orchestra had its semi-annual Performance Hour at the Swarthmore Presbyterian Church. This is the opportunity for the musicians to perform solo or in small ensembles that they rehearse outside of DCYO. Two violinists

performed beautifully on the piano. Anne Cawley played an original composition and Jennifer Campbell played Liszt and Copland. Rachyl Duffy and Amy Semes played works for solo violin, accompanied by Chris Emata, mother of cellist, Jeremy Emata. David Himmer and Madeline Blood performed solos on marimba and harp. Jamie Lee, Hannah Volpert and Peter Volpert performed a "Super Mario Brother" trio. We are grateful to the *Swarthmore Presbyterian Church* for allowing us to use their beautiful venue.

## Fall 2006 concerts

Returning for his second concert season with DCYO, Brad Smith again demonstrated his ample abilities as both an educator and a conductor. This year welcomed in a large number of new students particularly in the violins. These sections, though exceptionally talented, were relatively young and untested. Hard work and dedication of conductor and student musicians alike resulted in impressively strong fall concert performances.

DCYO played to an enthusiastic audience for the season's opening concert on November 19 at Neumann College. This concert featured Beethoven's ever-popular 5<sup>th</sup> *Symphony* and Wagner's Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*. Also featured at this performance were Debussy's *Nocturnes, I Nuages*; and II Fetes. The fall concert program was repeated on December 3 at Upper Darby Performing Arts Center. This concert was also warmly received and a perfect close for the fall season. This young orchestra has shown the potential for spectacular performances in the coming spring season.