

My first season as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra appears to have been a great success. The opening of the symphony season began with portions of *Enigma Variations* by Elgar played at the Prism Concert. The Fall Concert featured Dr. Kenneth Sarch, Professor of Violin and Viola at Mansfield University, as guest soloist on the *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor* by Bruch. The *Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla* by Glinka and *Symphony No. 1 in G Minor* by Kalinnikov were also on the program. The Winter Concert featured *Polonaise* from "The Christmas Elf" by Rimsky-Korsakov (conducted by Scott Schimpf, Masters student in Instrumental Conducting) as well as *Siegfried Idyll* by Wagner, *Introduction, March, and Shepherd's Dance* from "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Menotti, and the *Berceuse and Finale* from "Firebird Suite" by Stravinsky. The Spring Concert included *The Hebrides* and *Symphony No. 5 "Reformation"* by Mendelssohn, the *Intermezzo* from "Cavaleria Rusticana" by Mascagni, and *Sigurd Jorsalfar Suite* by Grieg. The Student Solo Concert in April ended the symphony season and was a showcase for the winners of the competition held in January. The program featured Gabriel Wagaman playing the *Clarinet Concerto in A Major* by Mozart; Tyler Harnsberger singing *Non pui andrai* from "Le Nozze de Figaro" by Mozart; Max Grube performing the *Bassoon Concerto in F Major* by von Weber; Meghan Zwart singing *Villanelle* by Eva Dell'Acqua; and Matt Owen performing the Schumann *Piano Concerto in A Minor*. The Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra opened the concert with the first movement of the *Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished)* by Schubert and closed the performance with the *Overture to Egmont* by Beethoven.

I am very excited about the coming year for the Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra. In addition to the Student Solo Competition held for students of MU I have added a high school level concerto competition for string students. This performance will be in the spring semester and will coincide with the symphony participation in the Conducting Symposium held on campus. The symphony will be doing 'run out' concerts just prior to or following home concerts during the year in our continuing efforts to attract the finest instrumentalists to our program. I have hopes the proposed High School Honor Strings Ensemble will attract a good number of excellent string players to our campus during the spring semester as well. I will continue to work with colleagues in the Music Department to form an Opera Orchestra and a Masterworks Orchestra so every orchestral student will have an opportunity to include this wonderful repertoire in their playing experience.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions may you have concerning Orchestral Activities at Mansfield University.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jacobsen

Please download the audition materials from the music department web site and come to school ready to play.

Rehearsals

The Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra rehearses Tuesdays from 4:00 to 4:50 PM and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:00 PM in Steadman Auditorium.

Orchestra Calendar

String Auditions – Fall 2009

Date – Time

Sunday, August 30 from 1p to 4p in Dr. Sarch's office (BC 205)

Prism Concert

Friday, September 25 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, September 26 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, October 10 - 7:00 PM

Berlioz - *March to the Scaffold* from *Symphonie Fantastique*

Fall Concert

Sunday, October 11, 2009 - Steadman Auditorium – 2:30 PM

Creston – *Night in Mexico*

Ponce - *Concierto del Sur* - Soloist - Matthew Slotkin

De Falla - *Suite from the Three Cornered Hat*

Copland - *El Salon Mexico*

Winter Concert

Sunday - December 6, 2009 - Steadman Auditorium – 2:30 PM

Tchaikovsky – *Romeo & Juliette Fantasy Overture*

Williams - *Adventures on Earth* from "E.T."

Holst - *The Planets (Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter)*

Spring Concert

Sunday, February 21, 2010 – Steadman Auditorium – 2:30 PM

Verdi – *La Forza del Destino Overture*

Copland – *Outdoor Overture*

High School Solo Competition Winner

Beethoven – *Symphony No. 6 (Pastorale)*

Student Solo Concert

Sunday - April 18, 2010 - Steadman Auditorium – 2:30 PM

Hailstork *Intrada*

Student Solo Competition Winners

Verdi *Triumphal March from Aida*