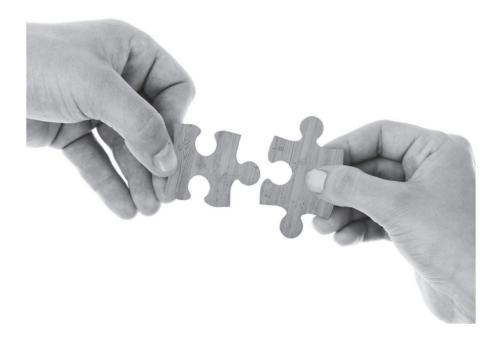








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The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair and is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. The Orchestra performs a subscription series of concerts every year in addition to outdoor and chamber music concerts. The Orchestra has performed opera and ballet, as well as standard orchestral repertoire, and is known for its premieres of new works and performances of unusual repertoire.

This year marks the 42nd Season of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Such longevity would not be possible without your support. We thank you for attending this evening's concert, and look forward to many more years of making music!

Our Mission

Through the diverse programming of standard orchestral literature as well as newer and lesser-known works, The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra strives to enliven the spirit, inspire the imagination, cultivate musical appreciation, and serve the educational and entertainment needs of Harford County, Maryland and surrounding areas.

Thank You!

The SSO would like to thank Michael Krantz of the Town of Bel Air for his help in coordinating the Bel Air High School accommodations with Dr. James Lamb, Assistant Principal BAHS. We are also indebted to James McFarland, Interim Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC for providing rehearsal space. We thank our donors who make sharing excellent orchestral music with our community possible and our advertisers who support the printing of this program. Please visit them and tell them the SSO sent you.

Cover Photo of SSO: Stefan Antwarg

Please Note:

- Silence pagers, cell phones, and signal watches during the performance.
- The use of cameras and recording devices is prohibited.
- Latecomers will be seated only between movements/selections.
- All children should be carefully supervised so that they are not disruptive to the musicians or the audience.
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Jesse Ayers Fanfare and Carol for Christmas

(on Joy to the World)

Jonathan Graybill A Winter Celebration (Premiere)

Irving Berlin

arr. Bruce Chase

White Christmas

Arnold Kirshenbaum Festival of Lights Medley (Premiere)

Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens "Anastasia" Medley

arr. Calvin Custer

Intermission

George Frideric Handel Harp Concerto in B-Flat, Op. 4, No. 6

(1685–1759)

Andante allegro Larghetto Allegro moderato

Harp: Sara Magill

George Frideric Handel Concerto a due Cori (Selections)

Overture

Allegro ma non troppo "And the Glory of the Lord"

Robert Bauerle Fanfare on Emmanuel

Mel Torme and Robert Wells The Christmas Song

arr. Robert Lowden ("Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire")

Randol Alan Bass The Night Before Christmas

Narrator: Lary Noto

Sheldon Bair A Christmas Sing-Along

Thanks to Jonathan Graybill, Arnold Kirshenbaum, and Robert Bauerle for their music.

The Bass piece was acquired through ECS Publishing.









This performance is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council through Harford County Cultural Arts Board.

Music Director

Sheldon Bair is the Founder and Music Director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (Maryland), a community orchestra of over 80 members. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College (Pennsylvania) where he studied conducting with Otis Kitchen and composition with James McVoy and Darrell Douglas, and a Master's degree from Towson University (Maryland). In addition, his postgraduate studies include classes at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Sheldon Bair has studied conducting with Witold Rowicki in Vienna, and Marc Mostovoy, William Hudson, and Leonid Grin.



Bair is adjunct faculty for Harford Community College, is on the conducting staff for the Elizabethtown College Music Camp, and is often invited to conduct and adjudicate youth orchestras and soloists. In November 2000, Bair was bestowed the Paderewski Award for Contributions to Society and Culture at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. He has conducted orchestras in Texas, Oklahoma, and Toronto, Canada. Bair participated in the Sixth Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, UK, in the fall of 2011 by introducing Arnold's 9th Symphony at the final Gala Concert.

In June 2016, Maestro Bair retired from Harford County Public Schools after 40 years of music making with young musicians. In retirement, Bair has taken the opportunity to speak about the SSO with local community organizations and volunteers at the local radio station WHFC 91.1 FM where he has the Wednesday morning, 9–Noon, classical show. On September 24, Bair was inducted into the Harford County Public Schools Educator Hall of Fame.



Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra and church choir. Bair continues to compose and is presently working on a project about WWII using family letters and documents.

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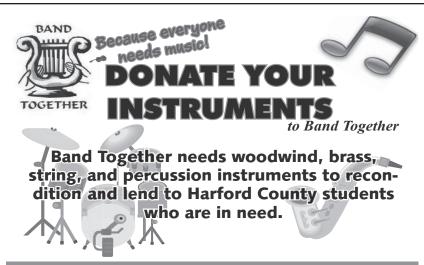


Night Reflections

Saturday, March 9, 2019, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

Music for a Spring Evening

Saturday, May 18, 2019, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.



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About the Composers



Jesse Ayers, born in East Tennessee, began composing around the age of 14. When he was 16, he was invited by W.J. Julian to conduct the University of Tennessee Band in his first work for band. Ayres holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Musical Composition from the University of Tennessee, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky.



Jonathan Graybill is a versatile composer who garners his influences from the mountains, fields, rivers, and plains of North America. He infuses his musical language with the use of field recordings, history, forms in nature, and the legends and stories of the indigenous people of North America. Graybill has earned degrees in composition from the Eastman School of Music, Indiana University, the University of Maryland at College Park, and has taught music courses at several universities.



Arnold Kirshenbaum, M.D., for the past five years, has studied college level music theory and composition with a well-known and published choral and orchestral music teacher, Joshua Fishbein. Dr. Kirshenbaum's music to date includes quartets and quintets for strings, woodwinds, and brass; music for chorus with piano accompaniment; and marching band. He is currently working on his second orchestral work. He lives with his wife, Vivian in Silver Spring, Maryland. Together, they have six children and 24 grandchildren living in the U.S. and Israel.

Robert Bauerle earned his Bachelor's degree in Music from Ohio State University in 1987. While in the Jazz Studies program there, he penned numerous arrangements and compositions in varying styles for different ensembles. As a trumpet player for 21 years in the Army Band system, he served in Germany, the U.S., and Iraq, among other locations. During his Army career, he continued writing and was charged with creating a new song for the Army Materiel Command. After retiring in 2008 he took a break from music and in 2011 joined the Bel Air Community Band, where he now serves as Principal Trumpet. Mr. Bauerle resides in Belcamp with his wife, Deborah and the youngest of their four children, Daniel.





Randol Alan Bass was raised in Midland, Texas studying piano, various other instruments, and singing in local ensembles. He earned his B.A. degree in 1976 from the University of Texas (Austin), a Master of Music degree from the College – Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati in 1980, and pursued doctoral studies in conducting at both Ohio State University's Robert Shaw Institute and U.T. – Austin. Active since the late 1970s as an arranger, he is now focusing his talents on original composition. He founded the Austin Symphonic Band in 1982 and for the past 15 years has been the Music Director and Conductor of the Metropolitan Winds in Dallas.



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Our Guest Performers



Larry Noto, after his father, Music Land founder Joe Noto, passed away in May 2015, left his career in marketing to take over the store and keep his father's legacy alive. Larry most recently served as Director of Marketing and Communications for the National Aquarium in Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor. Before that, he was Director of Marketing for Harbor Magic Hotels and Travel Media Manager for Visit Baltimore. On the side, Noto is a stand-up comedian who has opened for such major headliners

as Brad Garrett, Lewis Black, Richard Lewis, Paul Reiser, Brian Regan, and many others. He's the author of the book, "The Opening Act: Comedy, Life and the Desperate Pursuit of Happiness" cowritten by author and long-time Sun columnist Kevin Cowherd and a recipient of an EMMY Nomination by the Baltimore/DC chapter of the National Association of Academy Arts and Sciences for his work on WMAR-TV's Rodricks for Breakfast show. Larry currently serves on the board for The Maryland Center for the Performing Arts, Harford County Arts and Culture Advisory Board, and Scottfield Theatre Company.



Sara Magill is an accomplished harp soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer currently residing in Pittsburgh. She has performed as principal harpist with the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Binghamton Philharmonic, Tri Cities Opera, Edgewood Symphony, Pittsburgh Philharmonic, and Syracuse Symphoria. Sara has performed at Carnegie Hall, Myerhoff Symphony Hall, Carnegie Music Hall, and Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Magill has performed the Debussy Harp, Flute, and Viola Trio with members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Myerhoff Symphony Hall. In the fall of 2018, she performed the debut of *Surround* by Frederico Garica, a contemporary piece for six harps placed around the room. She frequently performs works for harp and choir with groups such as the Pittsburgh Camerata and Bach Choir.

Magill holds her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland where she studied under the principal harpist of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Sarah Fuller. In the spring of 2017, she earned her Master's degree in harp performance at Carnegie Mellon University, studying with Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra principal harpist Gretchen Van Hoesen.

Ms. Magill maintains a private studio of students of all ages. She believes that studying, appreciating, and exploring music opens the mind and brings people together.

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First Violins ‡

Wendy Bohdel,
Concertmaster
Elizabeth Caughey
Shannon Hash
Rachael Kanagie
Tabitha Kanagie
Timothy Kelly
Rebecca Leadmon
Samantha Litvin
Andrew Nowakowski
Terry O'Neill
Allison Redman
Christine Robbins
William Spencer

Second Violins ‡

Amy Wilkinson

Manfred Reek, Principal
Terez Badger
Joan Beckett-Armstrong
George Cowman
Elizabeth Hamilton
Nikki Lancellotti
Marian Lubbert
Margaret McClure
Sarah Michlin
Alison O'Brien
Martha Schmidt
Bernadette Solounias
Katie Stout
Jennifer Yeager

Violas ‡

Viktor Khodyko, *Principal*Sean Barton
Jolene Cave
Jessica Conklin
Karyn Hetmanski
Kamini Mallick
Whitney McConkey
Keiko Myers

Violoncellos ‡

Kim Damian, Principal
Elaine Bundy
Madeleine Clifton
Walter Garner
Fred Gehris
Barbara Hill
Sheldon Lentz
Michele Martin
Danielle Noe
Courtney Rieck
Carol Scanlon
Jill Smith
Tracy Wettig

Basses ‡

Alyson McMenamin, *Principal*Carol Benck
Andrew McClure
Scott Nowaskey
Beth Weed

Flutes

Doris Reinhardt Carol Thompson Marjorie Roberts, *Piccolo*

Ohoes

Barbara Bair Cathy Zink Wendy Nesbitt, *English Horn* Lilv Barry

Clarinets

Fiona Sparks Kelly Rhodes Margaret Holmes, *Bass Clarinet*

Bassoons

Benjamin Schuhart, and alto sax Alicia Bourassa

Horns

Dawn Zipay Julie Riser, Asst. Bruce Kovacs Kelley Moorman Mike DeZearn

Trumpets

David Stauffer Casey Knell Rob Storey Kelly Hall

Trombones

Liz Antwarg Matthew Ghent Donald Raff, *Bass*

Tuba

Donald McClure

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Welles Still
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‡ In Alphabetical Order

Program Notes



Fanfare and Carol for Christmas (on Joy to the World) Jesse Ayres (b. 1951)

The Ontario Canada *Brantford Expositor* has described Ayres' *Fanfare and Carol* as a "brilliant fanfare...sparkling with brass and percussion." It also includes audience participation. The SSO performed Ayres' "surround sound" work *Fire of the Living God* in December 2011 as well as *Fanfare and Carol* in December 2014.





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Program Notes (Cont'd)

A Winter Celebration

Jonathan Graybill

Composer Graybill provided this information: "Wanting it to be more than an arrangement or fantasy on an existing holiday song, I sought to celebrate the end of the calendar year. Using a broad range of celebrations, sounds, and associations with the time of year, I set-off by writing the perky, almost elf-like tune first introduced at the beginning of the arrangement by sleigh bells. This melody then weaves itself in-and-out throughout the work in various guises and orchestrations." Between the tune he interwove quotes from four tunes that he felt captured "a celebration of peace, joy, love, and friendship": Oh Tannenbaum, Ma'oz, Joy to the World, and December from Tchaikovsky's The Seasons.

White Christmas Irving Berlin (1888–1989)

In his book *American Popular Song: The Great Innovators*, 1900–1950, composer-author Alex Wilder ends his chapter on Irving Berlin saying, "Let it be said that he is the best all-around, over-all song writer America has ever had....I can speak of only one composer as the master of the entire range

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Program Notes (Cont'd)



of popular song—Irving Berlin." Written for the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*, *White Christmas* won the Oscar for Best Original Song. In 1942 alone, Bing Crosby's recording spent eleven weeks on top of the *Billboard* charts. It has become the most recorded Christmas song: there have been more than 500 recorded versions in several languages.

Festival of Lights Medley Arnold Kirshenbaum, M.D.

Dr. Kirshenbaum writes, "The Festival of Lights is oftentimes thought of as a children's holiday which occurs around Christmas. However, it is much more. The Holiday most importunately commemorates the strong faith that Jews worldwide have in God, who watches and protects his people, against overwhelming odds to change, lose faith and disappear into history as have many other ancient religions. Our ancestors 2000 years ago fought back the Hellenistic Greek invasion, won the war, but never forgot their God and turned back to prayer, repentance and song. These are the true themes of Chanukah that are written into the music."

"Anastasia" Medley Stephen Flaherty (b. 1960) and Lynn Ahrens (b. 1948) arr. Calvin Custer

Flaherty (composer) and Ahrens (lyricist) are best known for writing the Broadway musicals *Once on this Island*, *Seussical*, and *Ragtime*. They wrote the songs for 20th Century Fox's 1997 animated musical fantasy film *Anastasia*. One of its songs, *Journey to the Past*, was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Song. The film's score, composed by David Newman, was nominated for Best Original Musical or Comedy Score.

Harp Concerto in B-Flat, Op. 4, No. 6 George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Blair Johnston writes, "On February 19, 1736 in a remarkable gala musical event, four of Handel's pieces were first heard on that evening. [One of the pieces] was a thing, remarkable for its time: a concerto for harp and orchestra, later published as the sixth and last piece of the collection of organ concertos called Opus 4. It is most often played on organ today, but a glance at the pared-down orchestra, streamlined textures, wind family represented by two



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lone flutes – reveals that it was originally conceived for the quieter and gentler harp. The piece is cast in three movements, following the then-emerging modern concerto fast-slow-fast ordering."

Concerto a due Cori (Selections) George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Lindsay Kemp says, "On the face of it, Handel's three Concerti a due Cori...ought to be as popular as the *Water Music* or the *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. With a similar sound-palette, they inhabit the same world of joyous entertainment music....Neither can the fact that they are mostly arrangements of vocal numbers from [his] operas and oratorios be a reason for less attention from performers...as what orchestral musician would not want to play *And the Glory of the Lord or Lift up Your Heads.*"

Fanfare on Emmanuel Robert Bauerle (b. 1962)

"Fanfare on Emmanuel was originally written in the early 1990s while I was stationed at the Fort Lee Army Band in Petersburg, Virginia," Mr. Bauerle informs us. "Originally written as a fanfare to start the annual Holiday Concert... I

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Program Notes (Cont'd)

brought the piece to the Bel Air Community Band for their concert last year, and I am proud to have rescored it for the SSO for this year's performance. The chant-like melody of the hymn has a very haunting quality that led me to compose a modal fanfare devoid of [the interval] thirds that would define major or minor tendencies. The brass fanfare is regal and gives one the sense of approaching royalty, which is fitting as the strings represent the heavenly voices....I finished the last statement following the ancient tradition of ending on a major chord."

The Christmas Song ("Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire") Mel Torme (1925–1999) and Robert Wells (1922–1998) arr. Robert Lowden

According to Torme, the song was written in 1945 during a blistering hot summer, in an effort to "stay cool by thinking cool." "I saw a spiral pad on his [Wells'] piano with four lines written in pencil. They started, *Chestnuts roasting.... Jack Frost nipping.... Yuletide carols.... Folks dressed up like Eskimos*. Bob didn't think he was writing a song lyric. He said he thought if he could immerse himself in winter, he would cool off. Forty minutes later that song was written. I wrote all the music and some of the lyrics."

The Night Before Christmas

Randol Alan Bass (b. 1953)

Bass writes, "This setting of the famous Christmas poem was commissioned by the Cleveland Orchestra. The first performance took place during the orchestra's Holiday Concerts in 1988, conducted by Robert Page. The piece is cinematically conceived, and each poetic image of the narration is imaginatively colored in such a way that audiences can clearly visualize the happenings from passage to passage."

A Christmas Sing-Along Sheldon Bair

In 2009, Maestro Bair felt that the Christmas sing-along we had been playing for a number of years needed a new life and sought to find a new one. He said that "rather than finding a new one, I decided to arrange a new one instead. The only carol for which I set two verses is I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, for which I use the older tune. My mother suggested I include that carol in the arrangement." Thus began the first of his now three sing-along arrangements.

Program notes compiled by Don Raff

SSO Cancellation Policy

In the event of a cancellation of a concert due to weather emergencies, patrons may redeem their cancelled ticket for a ticket at the next concert.



A Christmas Sing-Along (arr. Sheldon Bair)

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields where they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen Let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our savior Was born on Christmas Day! To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy!

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains. And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria. in excelsis Deo!

I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old familiar carols play, And mild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead nor doth he sleep";
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now;
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!



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With the assistance of SR&B Advertising, the SSO is making great strides to further its mission to provide opportunities for local musicians to challenge themselves. The SSO thanks them again for their services.

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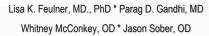
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