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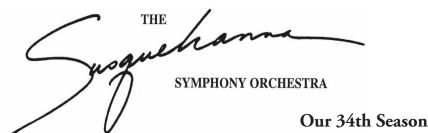
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The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair and is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. The Susquehanna Symphony's home is in Harford County, Maryland, near the mouth of the Susquehanna River. 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. The Orchestra performed in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City for over 3,000 people in November 2007, and at Carnegie Hall for 2,500 people in October 2009.

This year marks the 34th 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!

Mission Statement

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (SSO) strives to stimulate creativity and intellectual growth in the local community and volunteer musicians through the performance of diverse orchestral works.

Thank You!

The SSO would like to thank Chris Schler, Joyce Oliver, and Laura Stafford from the Town of Bel Air for all their help with coordinating the concerts and contracts with Bel Air High School. We also wish to thank Paul Labe, Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC; Joseph Voskuhl, Principal, Bel Air High School; and the Bel Air High School Music Department, Terri Mathews, Department Chair. We thank Harford Community College for providing rehearsal space; our ticket outlets; and our sponsors/donors who make sharing excellent orchestral music with our community possible.

The SSO would also like to thank James McFarland, Professor of Art & Design, Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Division, HCC, and his students for creating the posters for this season's concerts.

Please Note:

- Silence pagers, cell phones, and signal watches during the performance.
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Theldon Myers

People Look East

Allegro

Franz Josef Haydn (1732–1809)

Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in E-Flat Major Allegro Andante

Raymond Scott (arr. Herfurth) (1908–1994)

The Toy Trumpet Trumpet: Kevin Businsky

Intermission

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908) The Snow Maiden: Suite Introduction Dance of the Birds Cortege Dance of the Tumblers

Bill Holcombe

(1925–2010)

Bruce Chase (arr.)

Sheldon Bair (arr.)

'Twas the Night Before Christmas Narrator: Bruce Burns

Christmas Memories

A Christmas Sing-Along MetLife Creative Connections Lecture

People Look East *was acquired from the composer with our thanks.* The Toy Trumpet *was acquired from Lucks Music Library.*



The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra is supported by funds from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive, and the Harford County Government through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Music Director

Sheldon Bair is the Founder and Music Director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (Maryland), a community orchestra of 100 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 post-graduate 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 teaches orchestra for the Harford County Public Schools (Maryland), 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. Bair has been the guest conductor for the Flower Mound Symphony Orchestra in Dallas, Texas, and the Oklahoma City Youth Orchestra. In the fall of 2007, 93 members of the Susquehanna Symphony appeared at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, performing a program of Polish music with several choirs in front of an appreciative, standing-room-only audience. In the fall of 2009, 100 members of the Susquehanna Symphony performed on the main stage at Carnegie Hall for the same Polish impresario, performing a program of Polish works under three different conductors.

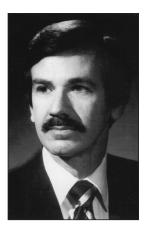
Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra, two works for the Susquehanna Symphony, several arrangements for orchestra, and two works for church choir. Ensembles in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Texas have performed his music. Bair's student string orchestra music is published by Howard Publications (howardpub.com). He lives in Bel Air, Maryland, with his wife Barbara (also a musician) and two of his three children (the eldest is married and lives in Virginia).



Leadership support for Meet The Composer's MetLife Creative Connections program is generously provided by MetLife Foundation. Additional support is provided by The Amphion Foundation, Argosy Foundation Contemporary

Music Fund, BMI Foundation, Inc., Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc., The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Jerome Foundation, mediaThe foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Virgil Thomson Foundation, Ltd.

About the Composers



Theldon Myers is an ASCAP award winning composer. He has written for orchestra, band, chorus, and chamber groups, with performances, recordings, and publications of his works being featured throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Born in Illinois, he earned his B.S. degree from Northern Illinois University, his M.A. from California State University at Fresno, and his D.M.A. from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. His composition studies were with Wayne Bohrnstedt, Arthur Bryon, Nadia Boulanger, Sandor Veress, and Stefans Grove. As Professor Emeritus of Composition and Theory at Towson University, Dr. Myers is presently active as a free-lance composer and arranger. His compositions are recorded on the Vienna Modern Masters and Contemporary Recording Studios labels.

Sheldon Bair, the SSO's Founder and Music Director, has written a number of works for student string orchestra, two works for the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, several arrangements for orchestra, and two works for church choir. Ensembles in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Texas have performed his music. Bair's student string orchestra music is published by Howard Publications.



Our Guest Performers



Kevin Businsky has been playing the trumpet since he was 10 years old. He is currently a fellow of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. After an intensive three-year program of performance and training, NWS fellows emerge from the experience prepared for leadership positions in orchestras and ensembles around the world. Businsky, a graduate of C.

Milton Wright High School and the University of Maryland, competed with more than 1000 musicians for one of 35 available fellowships.

Monika Vasey is involved in research and advancements of musical instruments for people with physical disabilities. She currently serves as Project Manager of VSA Arts' "Sustaining Music Making for People with Disabilities" group, sponsored by NAMM, which works to raise awareness of adapted instruments and technologies among music teachers, musical instrument manufacturers, and the general public. Her goal is to start an organization that will serve as a resource connecting music teachers, students with disabilities, and creative engineers and manufacturers around the globe.



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Program Notes



People Look East Theldon Myers

Commissioned for the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and its music director/ founder Anne Harrigan, *People Look East* uses a French Advent carol as the inspiration for this musical setting of the various moods of the Christmas season with the reiterated declamation "People, look East, the time is near..." opening the piece. Since the medieval French word *carole* originally meant or suggested a celebratory round dance, the drum then sets up a dance rhythm for the English horn to state the carol. *Pizzicato* strings take over the rhythm as accompaniment for a piccolo duet suggesting the pipers at this happy event. A change of key offers the carol in contrasting fragments by brass, woodwinds, and strings.

Then a simulation of other instruments of the time appears as the oboes and bassoons present a fugato on the tune accompanied by the harp playing a preponderance of open fifths—that interval so dear to the medieval ear. Further sectionalization of the tune is presented by alternating *tutti* and string statements with echoes until a chorale-type setting of the carol is used against a scalar string background. The drum rhythm again appears with the pipers gradually tiring as the dancers disperse. *Program notes by the composer.*

Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in E-Flat Major Franz Josef Haydn (1732–1809)

Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* was composed in 1796 when he was 64 years old. The work was written for his friend Anton Weidinger who, in 1793, had started to develop a keyed trumpet that had 4-6 holes or keys and could produce all chromatic tones over two and a half octaves. Before this, the trumpet was essentially a bugle with no keys or valves that could only play a limited number of tones by changing lip tension. As a result, melodies could only be played in the extreme high range where the notes became closer together, but were



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Program Notes (Cont'd)



also very difficult to produce accurately. Weidinger drilled holes in the instrument and covered them with woodwind-like keys that unfortunately resulted in a poorer quality of sound. Further development by others led to a trumpet with valves that started to appear in the 1830s and remain the type used today. The same technology was also applied to the French horn, which to some degree had similar problems to that of early "trumpets."

One important aspect of Haydn's concerto was that it brought the usable range of the trumpet lower, leading to the recognition that the instrument had solo capabilities. Haydn's brother Michael (1737–1806), Leopold Mozart (1719–1787) father of Wolfgang, and Johann Hummel (1778–1837) also wrote concertos for the trumpet with Hummel's being written for Weidinger also.

The Toy Trumpet Raymond Scott (1908–1994) (arr. Herfurth)

Raymond Scott (a "stage name" he picked from a phone book) was born Harry Warnow to parents who had arrived from Russia in 1906. He became a pianist, composer, band leader, engineer, inventor, and electric music pioneer. At age 12 he assembled his first "audio laboratory" and at 15 composed his first song and worked his first professional job as a pianist. His love of science led to his graduation from Brooklyn Technical High School. His older brother, an accomplished violinist and conductor who had purchased a Steinway grand piano for him, agreed to pay his tuition at what is now the Juilliard School of Music.

Over the years, Scott formed a number of small groups and full size bands and wrote numerous songs, including *The Toy Trumpet* in 1936 at age 27. At age 29 he became Music Director for CBS Radio where his quintet performed each week on "Your Hit Parade." When NBC Television took over the show in 1950, Scott became its band leader. Scott also composed music for Hollywood films and Broadway shows and during his lifetime invented numerous electronic music devices, including an electronic music synthesizer as early as 1949.





He holds many U.S. Patents in the areas of electronic audio circuitry, ware Brothers Studios pured

works and used them in their "Looney Tunes" cartoons. His music is also heard in the more recent "Ren & Stimpy" cartoons, although he never intentionally wrote for that medium.

The Snow Maiden: Suite Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908)

Although best known for his Capriccio Espagnol, Scheherazade, Russian Easter Overture, and Flight of the Bumble Bee, Rimsky-Korsakov also composed three symphonies and 15 operas as well as three concertos and numerous smaller works. (Flight of the Bumble Bee is from his opera The Tale of Tsar Saltan.) The Snow Maiden–A Spring Fairy Tale, composed during 1880–1881 and revised in 1898, was his third opera. It was said to have been his favorite work. The libretto, written by the composer, was based on a play of the same name by Aleksandr Ostrovsky which had premiered in 1873 with incidental music by Tchaikovsky.

The story contains elements that were much in favor in Russia at the time, namely opposing forces of nature, the actions of mythological characters, and characters that were part real and part mythical. Each group of characters and a few individuals had musical themes (leitmotifs) that distinguished them. Rimsky-Korsakov also used folk melodies when depicting townspeople.

The composer created orchestral suites, such as that being performed tonight, from some of his operas. The first two movements of this suite, Introduction and Dance of the Birds, are from the Prologue and are played without pause. The third movement, Cortege or The Procession of Tsar Berendey, is taken from Act II while the fourth movement Dance of the Tumblers is from Act III.

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Program Notes (Cont'd)



Twas the Night Before Christmas Bill Holcombe (1925–2010)

This recent setting of Clement Moore's famous poem, for narrator and orchestra by Bill Holcombe, has the potential to rival the half century old vocal version made popular by Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians.

A lifetime resident of the Trenton, New Jersey area, Wilford "Bill" Holcombe, Jr. studied flute at Juilliard in New York City and graduated with a degree in musicology from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. In the 1940s he wrote and performed on flute, clarinet, and saxophone for Tommy Dorsey, Tex Beneke, Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians, and worked at WMGM in New York City. He was also a staff musician for Decca Records. In the 1950s and 1960s Holcombe wrote 15 film scores and arranged for the "101 Strings." By the 1970s he had formed his own publishing company and was commissioned to write for more than 100 symphony orchestras. He composed *Promenade in Swing-Time* for Walt Disney and he proudly remarked that "they played that song every day for two years at Disney World."

As you listen to this setting of the story, listen also to the music and see how many references to well-known Christmas melodies you can recognize.

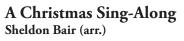
Christmas Memories Bruce Chase (arr.)

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Arranger/composer Bruce Chase has successfully written and arranged numerous works for school and amateur music groups, especially strings and orchestra. *Christmas Memories* is one of several holiday medleys he has arranged and includes *Frosty the Snowman* by Nelson and Rollins; *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* by Coors and Gillespie; *Here Comes Santa Claus* by Gene Autry and Haiderman; *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus* by T. Connors; and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* by Martin and Blane.

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Program Notes (Cont'd)



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Maestro Bair writes, "The SSO has been performing the same Christmas singalong for some years, so [in 2009] I thought it was time to find a new one. Rather than finding a new one, I decided to arrange one instead. The only melody/carol that is the same in both sing-alongs is O Come All Ye Faithful. Also 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 that I include that carol in the arrangement. I hope everyone has a good time performing with the SSO."

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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The SSO is a vibrant, growing organization that positively impacts the community. The SSO's presence contributes to Harford County's quality of life which makes our area an attractive place to live and work. Your contributions will allow us to bring new artists to the stage and purchase/rent new compositions. Pre-concert lectures, the Judith L. Famous Scholarship Benefit concert, and another SCOR workshop for wannabe string players are proof of the SSO's dedication to community enrichment. The SSO Annual Fund is underway and we need your financial support to sustain fine orchestral programming right here in Harford County. (There is free parking and you don't have to fight traffic on I-95!) Donations can be made with a credit card on our Web site or with a check made payable to Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 963, Abingdon, MD 21009. The SSO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

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The SSO Memorial Fund is an important part of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra's ability to sustain its commitment to providing a quality orchestral music experience to Harford County residents. Begun by a bequest from Sibyl Davis Gunther, long time violinist and patron, the Memorial Fund will provide operating funds for the orchestra from interest generated while leaving the principal intact. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please send it to Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 963, Abingdon, MD 21009.

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34th Season Upcoming Concerts



Brahms' 4th

Saturday, March 12, 2011, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

6:45 p.m.: Pre-Concert Lecture—Meet the Composer David Finko **Smetana**—Polka from The Bartered Bride **David Finko**—Piccolo Concerto (Piccolo: Doris Reinhardt) **Brahms**—Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98

Benefit Chamber Concert for the Judith Lloyd Famous Scholarship Fund

Sunday, April 10, 2011, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 3:00 p.m.

Featuring a variety of selections performed by small groups of SSO musicians

From France and America (Side-by-Side Concert) Saturday, May 21, 2011, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

6:45 p.m.: Pre-Concert Lecture—Meet the Composer Raymond Horton **Debussy**—Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun **Raymond Horton**—Make Gentle the Life of This World **William Grant Still (arr. Bair)**—Here's One: A Still Medley (Soprano: Sabrina Clark) **Debussy (arr. Anderson-Himmelspach)**—The Sunken Cathedral **Ravel**—Noble and Sentimental Waltzes

Berlioz-Hungarian March from The Damnation of Faust

Free SSO Summer Concert Sunday, June 5, 2011, Humbert Memorial Band Shell, 7:00 p.m.



classes through Harford Community College.

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