







Our 35th Season

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 35th 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 express their gratitude to Chris Schler 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 are indebted to Paul Labe, Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC; Gregory Komondor, Principal, Bel Air High School; and the Bel Air High 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.

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.
- · Smoking is prohibited anywhere on school property.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please enjoy this evening's performance.







Modest Mussorgsky (arr. Rimsky-Korsakov)

Night on Bald Mountain

Conductor: Ronald Royer

(1839 - 1881)

Ronald Royer Echoes, A Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra

Fanfares Nocturne Rondo

Conductor: Ronald Royer **Clarinet:** Kaye Royer

Intermission

Ludwig van Beethoven Cavatina from String Quartet Op. 130

(1770-1827)

Antonín Dvořák The Noon Witch, Op. 108

(1841 - 1904)

Richard Wagner Prelude to "Die Meistersinger"

(1813 - 1883)







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 over 90 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 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, DC. In the fall of 2007, Bair was the guest conductor for the Flower Mound Symphony Orchestra in Dallas, Texas, and in February 2011 he conducted the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra in Norman, Oklahoma. 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.

Putting Harford County on the Map

In October 2011, Bair was invited to speak at the 6th Annual Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, U.K. The invitation came more than a year before and was due to the fact that he had conducted the U.S. premiere of Arnold's 9th (and last) Symphony in Bel Air in March 2000. On the 90th anniversary of Arnold's birth, Bair was given the honor of laying a wreath at the bust of Sir Malcolm Arnold in the lobby of the Northampton Concert Hall where the festival was being held. Also during Bair's trip he met with Tony Masters, a retired high school band director who had brought his school band to Bel Air on two occasions; and met with English conductor Andrew Penny who had conducted the Naxos label's CD set of all nine Arnold symphonies. There may be some possible future collaboration with the SSO and the local youth orchestras from England. Maestro Bair's travels connect the SSO to points all over the world and are one of the reasons why this all-volunteer community orchestra is of such an amazing value to Harford County.

About the Composer



Ronald Royer is a multi-talented musician who is active as a composer, conductor, and educator. Born in Los Angeles into a family of professional musicians, he began his career as a cellist, performing with such ensembles as the Pacific Symphony, Utah Symphony, and Toronto Symphony, as well as working in the motion picture and television industry in Los Angeles during the 1980s.

As a composer, his concert music has been performed by over 50 orchestras with performances in Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, and the USA. Mr. Royer has worked in film and theater and this includes (with co-composer Kevin Lau) the score for the Canadian children's movie, *Gooby*, starring Robbie Coltrane and Eugene Levy.

Royer's recordings include the Cambria Master Recordings *Premieres* with violinist Conrad Chow and Sinfonia Toronto (to be released in April 2012), *The Hollywood Flute of Louise DiTullio* with Sinfonia Toronto, and *The Nightingale's Rhapsody* with clarinetist Jerome Summers and The Thirteen Strings of Ottawa. Other recordings feature the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, Toronto Sinfonietta, Triofus, HornPipes! Duo, Chamber Music Society of Mississauga, and cellist Simon Fryer.

Recent performances include the Aradia Ensemble, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Orchestra London, Scarborough Philharmonic, Thunder Bay Symphony, Victoria Symphony, plus the iPalpiti Orchestra in Walt Disney Concert Hall, a recital by Louise DiTullio at the National Flute Association Convention, and the Ontario's Festival Symphony Orchestra for their concert tour of China.

As a conductor, he is presently serving as the music director and conductor of the Scarborough Philharmonic in Ontario, Canada. He has conducted the *Premieres* and *The Hollywood Flute* recordings, film scores including *Gooby*, and has guest conducted several orchestras.

He teaches and conducts at the University of Toronto Schools and is involved in a variety of initiatives to promote music education throughout Ontario. For more information, please visit his Web site at <www.ronaldroyer.com>.



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.

Our Guest Performer



Kaye Royer was born in Canada and has performed in orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout Canada. the United States, England, and Italy, and as a soloist in concertos by composers such as Mozart, Weber, R. Strauss, Beethoven, Finzi, Dubois, Telemann, and her husband, composer Ronald Royer, Last season, Kaye was a soloist with the Niagara Symphony and Sinfonia Toronto and this year she will perform concertos with the Brantford Symphony and the Scarborough Philharmonic. She currently holds the position of principal clarinet

with the Toronto Sinfonietta, Brantford Symphony, Canadian Sinfonietta, Scarborough Philharmonic, and the Stratford Symphony Orchestra. She also performs regularly with Niagara Symphony and Sinfonia Toronto, and has worked with orchestras such as the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Hamilton Philharmonic, Orchestra London, Talisker Players, Sinfonia Mississauga, and the Orchestra at Niagara Fallsview Casino. Also active as a chamber musician, Kaye's recent performances include the Les AMIS concert series and the Niagara International Chamber Music Series, the University of Toronto Chamber Series at Hart House, and the Sunday Series at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Her principal teachers include Avrahm Galper, Toronto; Stephen Pierce, London, England; James Kanter, Los Angeles; John Bruce Yeh and Larry Combs, Chicago. As a recording artist, she has worked on the soundtracks of such films as Prisma, The Dog, and The Happy Couple, as well as the compact discs The Storyteller's Bag, and Toronto Sinfonietta's Romancing Chopin, on which she performed as a soloist. Kaye received screen credit for her work as a featured performer on the soundtrack of the Canadian feature film, Gooby, starring Eugene Levy and Robbie Coltrane. Kaye has also been featured on the Naxos released recording The Hollywood Flute and was excited to perform with the orchestra on the Ontario portion of the most recent Diana Krall world tour. She has been heard on radio broadcasts on stations CJRT. CFMX. and throughout Canada on CBC 1 and 2 and the United States on NPR.

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Anthony J. Belcasti Katie Bohdel Beverly Caswell George Cowman Ashley Harris Cristine Larson Kaitlyn Lee Jennifer Rich Martha Schmidt Sara Twist

Alexander Weber Demi Wilkerson Chelsea Wilks

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Will Conway
Colleen Grotke
Karyn Hetmanski
Caitlin Norman
Edna Rainey

Violoncellos ‡

Laura Ruth, Principal
Elaine Bundy
Kim Damian
Julia Dather
Chelsea Friend
Fred Gehris
Mark Grotke
Barbara Hill
Kevin Klein
Michele Martin

Basses ‡

Beth Weed, Principal Zachary Bair Carol Benck Ken Hennings Dylan Jennings Richard Schlecker Alicia Watts

Flutes

Doris Reinhardt Carol Thompson Marjorie Roberts

Oboes

Barbara Bair Lindsay Evans, *English Horn*

Clarinets

Fiona Sparks Kelly Rhodes Jane Mammana

Bassoons

Alicia Bourassa

Margaret Holmes, Bass Clarinet

‡ In Alphabetical Order

Horns

Timothy Byrnes
Dawn Zipay
Julie Houtz
Michael DeZearn

Trumpets

David Stauffer Robert Storey Kelly Hall

Trombones

Liz Antwarg Phillip Hubbs Donald Raff

Tuba

Donald McClure

Harp

Shu Jun Li Hom

Timpani

Allan Andreycak

Percussion

Mary Eilerman Joanne Mitaro Welles Still

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Stage Manager Welles Still

Program Notes

Night on Bald Mountain

Modest Mussorgsky (1839–1881)

arr. Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)



Sometimes known as Night on Bare Mountain, the piece is based on a Russian legend that tells of a witches' Sabbath taking place on St. John's Night (June 23-24) on the Lysa Hora (a mountain with a top devoid of trees) near Kiev. The tone poem was completed by Mussorgsky in 1867 but was never performed. After his death, his friend and former roommate, Rimsky-Korsakov did not know that their teacher Mily Balakirev, who had severely criticized the work, had the completed score. Rimsky-Korsakov and his pupil Alexander Glazonov "completed" many of Mussorgsky's manuscripts, including Night on "Bare" Mountain and unfinished works and created performing editions to enable them to enter the repertoire. In doing so, he made "corrections" which means that he preserved the thematic structure, but occasionally added or omitted bars and changed harmonic structures. Rimsky-Korsakov's edition premiered in 1886 and has become a concert favorite. Another version heard in the Disney Film Fantasia was arranged by Leopold Stokowski, but is rarely heard today. Mussorgsky's original orchestration was not performed until the 20th century in England in either 1932 or 1933.

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The "program" or story in music can be listed as follows: "Subterranean sounds of unearthly voices; Appearance of the Spirits of Darkness, followed by that of Satan; Glorification of Satan and celebration of the Black Mass; Witches' Sabbath. At the height of the orgy, the bell of the little village church is heard from afar; The Spirits of Darkness are dispersed. Daybreak."

In a letter to a friend, Mussorgsky described his composing the piece: "My St. John's Night on Bald Mountain....is, in form and character, Russian and original; and I want to feel sure that it is thoroughly in keeping with historic truth and Russian folk tradition...otherwise it would not be good enough...I wrote it quickly, straight away in full score without preliminary rough drafts, in twelve days. It seethed within me, and I worked day and night hardly knowing what was happening within me. And now I see in my wicked prank an independent Russian product, free from German profundity and routine, grown on our country's soil and nurtured on Russian bread."

Echoes, A Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra Ronald Royer

The composer writes, "Echoes, A Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra was composed to explore various meanings and ways an 'echo' can be incorporated into a soloist-versus-orchestra structure. This three movement work utilizes musical ideas that can be echoed by different combinations of the soloist and various instruments of the orchestra, or sometimes, just by the soloist.



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The Harford Youth Orchestra (grades 9–12) and String Orchestra (grades 5–8) will perform a free concert on April 14, 2012.

The orchestras are offered as non-credit classes through Harford Community College.

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Echoes exploits the clarinet's wide range of expressive possibilities and technical versatility, including the instrument's huge dynamic range. For the orchestration, *Echoes* uses several spatial and antiphonal effects, on stage as well as the placing of musicians in the auditorium and backstage. *Echoes* was commissioned by the Brantford Symphony [Canada] to commemorate the 30th anniversary of clarinetist Kaye Royer playing with the orchestra. The composer writes, 'I greatly appreciated the opportunity to compose this concerto for my wife. She is a wonderful professional player, and we always enjoy working together. The music was written in a neo-romantic style to represent the continued romance of our marriage.' The first performance was on April 18, 2010 with Kaye Royer playing clarinet, Phillip Sarabura conducting and the composer playing in the cello section. This composition was supported by a music-commissioning grant from the Ontario Arts Council."

Cavatina from String Quartet Op. 130 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

String Quartets 12–16 and the Gross (Grand) Fugue, composed in 1825 and 1826, comprise the last major completed compositions by Beethoven, and are widely considered to be among the greatest musical compositions of all time. The first three of the quartets, numbers 12, 13, and 15 (numbers were assigned by the order of their publication, not composition), were

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commissioned by Prince Nicholas Galitzin who offered to pay Beethoven: "... what you think proper" for the three works. Beethoven's written reply was: "Fifty Ducats for each opus."

The Cavatina from quartet No. 13 was the fifth of six movements, with the entire work in its original form lasting almost 50 minutes. Beethoven was in poor health during these years and the work progressed slowly. Quartet No. 13 was written during a period when Beethoven was feeling better, if not completely free of his illnesses and, for the most part, is a "brighter" work than most of the other earlier quartets. Broadcaster and writer David Bartel writes, "The Cavatina with its operatic title is a preghiera (an aria in which the character pleads for divine assistance). On the manuscript, over one of the passages, Beethoven scribbled 'anguished.' The basis of the movement is only a three-part song, but its external simplicity can hardly mask the movement's intricately organized harmony and tortured, sob-broken melody.... As Beethoven considered the Cavatina one of his greatest achievements, so history has agreed." The composer never witnessed the first performance of the quartet, having died almost a month before it occurred.

The Cavatina (as played by the Budapest String Quartet) was chosen as the last piece to be played on the "golden record," a phonograph record containing



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The full string arrangement (with added double bass parts) heard this evening is the work of Maestro Bair.

The Noon Witch, Op. 108 Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

Dvořák is not generally known for writing "program music" (music that tells a story), but he did toward the end of his life. The works are very good, but are not commonly programmed today.

John Henken, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association writes, "In 1896, Dvořák wrote a group of four tone poems inspired by ballads from a collection of Czech folk tales in verse by Karel Jaromir Erben. These were the last orchestral pieces he wrote other than one more tone poem the following year. Most of the ballads are in the dark mood of the Brothers Grimm at their grimmest, and The Noonday Witch [as he titled it], the second of the Dvořák's set, is no exception.

The music depicts a harassed mother who threatens her squalling young son with a visit from the Noonday Witch [who legend says destroys children] if he



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does not behave, and is appalled when the hobbling witch actually appears. The mother clasps her son tightly and collapses as the witch reaches out for him. When the father returns for his noon meal, he finds mother and son on the floor. He revives the mother, but his son has been smothered in her protective embrace.... Dvořák depicts all of this vividly, with motives for each character that he transforms to show the physical and psychological developments."

Prelude to "Die Meistersinger" Richard Wagner (1813–1883)

Written and composed by Wagner, *Die Meistersinger* is the only comedy among his mature works. It is also his only opera centered on a historically well-defined time and place rather than a mythical or legendary setting. It is the only mature Wagner opera to be based on an entirely original story devised by Wagner himself and it is the only one of Wagner's mature operas in which there are no supernatural or magical powers or events.

The story takes place in Nuremberg during the middle of the 16th century and revolves around the real-life guild of Meistersinger (Master Singers), an association of amateur poets and musicians, mostly from the middle class and often master craftsmen in their main professions. The mastersingers developed a craftsmanlike approach to music-making, with an intricate system of rules for composing and performing songs.



After completing a scenario, Wagner began writing the libretto (the story) in 1862, and followed this by composing the overture (Prelude). This was publically performed in Leipzig in November of 1862, conducted by the composer. Many composers did not write overtures to their operas until after the full production was completed. Work on Act 1 was begun in the spring of 1863, but the opera in its entirety was not finished until October 1867. The premiere was given in Munich on June 21, 1868 and was a triumph, being hailed as one of Wagner's most successful works.

Program Notes compiled by Don Raff, with thanks to Ronald Royer

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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!)

To give you an idea of what it takes to implement five concerts a year, a simplified budget is provided (right). Even with all the volunteer hours, the SSO continues to need your financial support through direct donations and your participation in our fundraisers.

INCOME

State and County Grants	\$5,500
Corporate Cash Support	\$500
Individual Cash Contributions	\$6,000
Advertising	\$2,000
Ticket Sales	\$25,000
Fundraising	\$3,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,500

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,400	
Storage Rental	\$2,300	
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Marketing	\$2,500	
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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.

How Do I Contribute?

Donations to the operating budget or memorial fund 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 1812 Overture plus music of The Grateful Dead Saturday, May 19, 2012, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

Side-By-Side Concert

Lee Johnson Symphony No. 6, "Dead Symphony"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.. Two Arias from "Don Giovanni"

(Soprano: Emma Zyriek)

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from Suite No. 4, "Mozartiana"

Peter I. Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture

Program Advertising

Would you like to advertise in our concert programs and help defray the costs of printing? E-mail a press-ready PDF to <ProgramAds@ssorchestra.org> and send a check made payable to **Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra**, **P.O. Box 963**, **Abingdon**, **MD 21009**.

Page Size	Inside Cover/Back	Full Inside page	½ Page	⅓ Page
Ad Dimensions (W x H)	5 ½" x 8 ½"	5 ½" x 8 ½"	5 ½" x 4 ¼"	5 ½" x 2 ½"
Full Season (5 Concerts)	\$500	\$400	\$200	\$100
Single Concert Program	N/A	\$125	\$75	\$30

^{*} The deadline for single concert ads is four weeks prior to the concert date.

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.

Music Summer Camp Opportunities

String Camp of Rochester—SCOR! (Adult) May 30-June 2 (Bel Air, MD) July 10-14 (Rochester, NY-overnight camp)

July 10-14 (Rochester, NY—overnight camp)

Overnight string camp in Rochester, NY is an inspiring summer program for adult string players and pianists of all skill levels. Day camps at other locations. Check <www.stringcamp.com> for other dates and locations. E-mail: <scor@stringcamp.com>.

Baltimore String Orchestra Camp (Grades 6–12) June 19–28, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Baltimore, MD)

Day camp with Violin/Viola/Cello/Bass ensembles, Beginning, Chamber, and Young Peoples Orchestras.

Audition Dates: April 21 or 29, 2012. Check < www.baltostringorchcamp. org> for application.

Summer Strings (Grades 6–12) July 9–13, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Bel Air, MD)

Day camp with string orchestra rehearsals, small group sessions with guest clinicians, and music theory. Camp serves as audition for Harford Youth Orchestras. Camp concert on Friday evening. For information call 443-412-2376. Registration is through Harford Community College.

Elizabethtown Music Camp (Grades 7–12) July 25–21, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Elizabethtown, PA)

Overnight camp with Chamber, Orchestra, Band, Chorus, Piano, Voice, Jazz Band, Jazz Orchestra, and Show Choir tracks. Students reside on Elizabethtown College campus studying music with practicing musicians from the College. Camp concert on Saturday afternoon. Contact Grant Moore, Director, at 717-361-1114 or <mooreg@etown.edu>.

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