

Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra

Sheldon Bair, Founder & Music Director



**Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**
AN AUDIENCE
PARTICIPATION
CONCERT!

December 6, 2014



38th Season: 2014–2015

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Saturday, March 14, 2015, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

- Rimsky-Korsakov..... Wedding March from “The Golden Cockerel”
- Hector Berlioz..... Les Nuits d’Ete (Selections)
- Jean Sibelius Symphony No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 39

And All That Jazz!

Side-by-Side Concert

Saturday, May 2, 2015, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

- Sir Malcolm Arnold..... Four Scottish Dances, Op. 59
- Vaughan Williams Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis
- Arturo Marquez Danzon No. 2
- Scott Routenberg..... Concerto for Jazz Violin and Orchestra
- Aaron Copland..... Hoe Down from “Rodeo”



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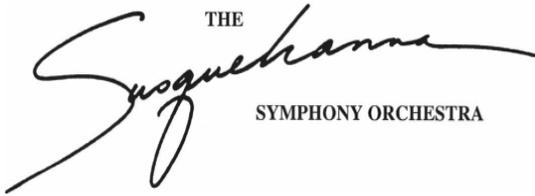
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Our 38th Season

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 38th 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 BAHS Vice Principal John Stearns. We are also indebted to Paul Labe, Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC for providing rehearsal space. We especially thank Paul Bowden, Drama Department Chair for concert night support. 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.
- Smoking is prohibited anywhere on school property.

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



December 6, 2014

Jesse Ayers	Fanfare and Carol for Christmas
arr. Donald Raff	A Czech Christmas (<i>Premiere</i>)
arr. Todd Hayen	Good King Wenceslas Medley

Happy New Year:

Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825–1899)	Overture to Die Fledermaus
Johann Strauss, Sr. (1804–1849)	Radetzky March

Intermission

Todd Hayen	Maltese Winter
Piotr I. Tchaikovsky (arr. Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn / adapted for orchestra by Jeff Tyzik)	The Nutcracker Suite Overture Toot Toot Tootie Toot (Dance of the Reed Pipes) Dance of the Floreadores (Waltz of the Flowers) Sugar Rum Cherry (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy) Peanut Brittle Brigade (March)
arr. Sheldon Bair	A Christmas Sing-Along

*Thanks to Jesse Ayers and Donald Raff for their music.
Thanks to Todd Hayen and his publishing company for his music.
Thanks to G. Schirmer for the rental of the Tchaikovsky arrangement.*



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 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. In the fall of 2007 Bair was the guest conductor for the Flower Mound Symphony Orchestra in Dallas, Texas; in February 2011 he conducted the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra in Norman, Oklahoma; and in October 2012 he conducted the Scarborough Philharmonic in Toronto, Canada. 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 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.

Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra, three works for the Susquehanna Symphony, and three 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. 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).

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.

Musicians of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra

First Violins ‡

Wendy Bohdel, *Concertmaster*
Joan Beckett-Armstrong
William Burlew
Elizabeth Caughey
Shannon Eaton
Mary Folus
Anne Lehman
Andrew Nowakowski
Terry O'Neill
Kim Politz
Christine Robbins
William Spencer
Lily Wang

Second Violins ‡

Manfred Reek, *Principal*
Samantha Bittorf
Katie Bohdel
Beverly Caswell
George Cowman
Colleen Grotke
Erica Hiteshaw
Kait Lee
Sheldon Lentz
Timothy Power
Allison Redman
Amy Wilkinson

Violas ‡

Viktor Khodyko, *Principal*
Christa Bohdel
Jessica Conklin
Will Conway
Caitlin Norman
Edna Rainey
Alison Rice
Ashley Simmons

Violoncellos ‡

Laura Ruth Donall, *Principal*
Claire Brennan
Elaine Bundy
Julia Dather
Mark Grotke
Barbara Hill
Michele Martin
Shannon Raum
Carol Scanlan

Basses ‡

Brian Folus, *Principal*
Carol Benck
Karen Shearman Rose
Richard Schlecker
Beth Weed

Harp

Sara Magill

Flutes

Doris Reinhardt
Carol Thompson
Marjorie Roberts, *Piccolo*

Oboes

Cathy Zink
Barbara Bair
Wendy Nesbitt, *English Horn*

Clarinets

Fiona Sparks
Felicia Martin
Margaret Holmes, *Bass*

Bassoons

Benjamin Schuhart
Alicia Bourassa

Saxophone

John Sobus

Horns

Timothy Byrnes
Bruce Kovacs, *Assistant*
Dawn Zipay
Kelley Moorman
Mike DeZearn

Trumpets

David Stauffer
Brandon Powers
Robert Storey
Kelly Hall

Trombones

Liz Antwarg
Josh Bock
Donald Raff, *Bass*

Tuba

Donald McClure

Timpani

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Anne Lehman

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‡ In Alphabetical Order

Program Notes

Fanfare and Carol for Christmas

Jesse Ayers

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. Ayers holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Composition from the University of Tennessee, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky. The SSO performed his "surround sound" work *Fire of the Living God* in December 2011.

Fanfare and Carol for Christmas has been described in the *Brantford Expositor* (Ontario) as "a brilliant fanfare on *Joy to the World*...sparkling with brass and percussion." It also includes audience participation.

Fanfare and Carol for Christmas

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re-ceive her King;— Let
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove— The

ev - ery_ heart_ pre - pare_ Him room, — And heav'n and na-ture sing, and
glor - ies_ of_ His right - ous - ness. And won - ders of His love, and
And heav'n and na-ture
And won - ders of His

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
won - ders of His. love, and. won - ders, won - ders of His love.
sing, and heav'n and na-ture sing
love, and won - ders of His love

Our enthusiastic thanks to the artists exhibiting at this and all our 2014-2015 season concerts. They are making these evenings a true celebration of masterpieces in both sight and sound. Don't miss the feast for the eyes awaiting you just outside the theater!

Program Notes (Cont'd)

A Czech Christmas

arr. Donald Raff

In the Czech Republic, the tradition of caroling goes back centuries and is a wonderfully rich mixture of spiritual, secular, classical, and folk traditions. Both Catholics and Protestants (especially the Moravians) have contributed to the mix. I first became acquainted with most of these carols on a CD of Czech and Polish carols I had purchased. The last carol, *Rocking*, I had performed a number of times in choral groups. (How I forgot to include it in my arrangement *Christmas Lullabies* continues to amaze me.) I am beholden to SSO violinist Enid McClure for bringing *Morning Star, O Cheering Sight* to my attention. She informed me that the carol is sung every Christmas Eve in the Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with selected children soloists singing particular passages. In my arrangement that honor goes to solo trumpet. The words to *Morning Star...* are from a 1657 poem by Johann Scheffler, a German Catholic priest who worked in Silesia (a former Czech region that was home to many Moravians and Bohemians) that was divided between Germany, Poland, and the new country of Czechoslovakia after World War I. The music was composed by Francis Hagen (1818–1907), a Moravian minister from Pennsylvania who had moved to North Carolina.

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Program Notes (Cont'd)

Most of the carols in my arrangement seem of the folk tradition (there is even reference to bagpipes that were common throughout Europe in the first carol). Many of the carols are short and contain numerous repeated phrases. The translated names of the carols and the number of verses for each in parentheses are *Together We'll Go To Bethlehem* (2); *Merry Christmas Holidays* (2); *Hear Ye, Little Shepherd* (1); *Morning Star, O Cheering Sight* (1); *The Bird Carol* (2); *We Bring Thee Tidings* (2); *Happiness, Health, Holy Peace* (1); and *Rocking* (2).

Good King Wenceslas Medley

arr. Todd Hayen

Todd Hayen studied composition at Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in Winchester, Virginia as well as engaging in graduate studies at Cincinnati Conservatory in Ohio. He then went on a 25-year career in Hollywood, composing, orchestrating, and conducting scores for motion pictures and television. You can hear Todd's music at Philadelphia's Independence National Park in the documentary, "Lights of Liberty."

During the final years of Hayen's stint in Hollywood as a sought after composer, orchestrator, and conductor, his wife of 28 years, Janice Hayen, became ill with a terminal cancer. Upon her death he decided to devote the rest of his life in an active commitment to helping others cope with life's inevitable difficulties and thus went back to school to study psychology eventually receiving his Ph.D.

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Program Notes (Cont'd)

in depth psychotherapy. Hayen's current work focuses on helping artists deal with the unique psychological issues they encounter. He also lectures and writes on the psychology of music and film music in particular. Music is still his passion and he continues to compose for his private label and select film and television projects. He lives with his wife Cindy in Toronto, Canada.

Good King Wenceslas Medley is a collection of holiday favorites melded into a short, but stunning orchestral arrangement. The work was originally conceived for a CD release, *Christmas Fantastique*, by Hayen's label, Nelidova Records, and accompanies 16 other arrangements recorded by the Moscow Symphony orchestra.

Because the good king Wenceslas story is about a Czech king's generosity, most people assume that it is a Czech carol. However, research reveals that the carol was actually written in England.

Overture to Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825–1899)

The Johann Strausses, father and son, epitomized the elegance of 19th century Vienna, producing much of the most purely pleasurable music ever composed. Their best work was in dance forms, especially the waltz. The Viennese love of the waltz was described by Wagner as "a narcotic more potent than alcohol."



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Program Notes (Cont'd)

After achieving tremendous success, the younger Strauss became intrigued by the possibility of the musical theater. On a visit to Vienna, Offenbach, who himself had achieved fame with his operettas, suggested Strauss try that light musical medium. After two less than successful attempts Strauss was provided a good libretto. Six weeks later he completed *Die Fledermaus* (*The Bat*). Although not initially a great success in Vienna, perhaps due to an economic depression, the work had a hundred performances in Berlin and soon after gained popularity in Vienna and throughout the world.

Radetzky March

Johann Strauss, Sr. (1804–1849)

This popular march, dedicated to Austrian Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz, was composed in 1848. Strauss had been commissioned to write the piece for a celebration of Radetzky's victory at the Battle of Custoza, which briefly ended an Italian attempt to gain independence from Austrian control.

Prior to Wellington's defeat of Napoleon leading to his abdication and first exile in 1818, Radetzky was Chief of Staff to the allied coalition of 1813–1814. He created the strategy that defeated Napoleon in Germany and then France, when neither Russia nor Prussia had been able to defeat the Emperor



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Funds raised support the operating budget. Tickets will be available at concerts through March and from orchestra members. The drawing will be at intermission at the March concert and you need not be present to win.

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Program Notes (Cont'd)

"in battle." These Austrian led victories decisively tipped the balance against Napoleon. It was Radetzky, too, at the age of eighty-two, who defeated the Italians in 1848 and 1849 that saved Europe once again from the prospect of international war and revolution. Yet today he is almost forgotten, remembered only in the music of Strauss, Sr.'s march.

When the march was first played in front of Austrian officers, they clapped and stomped their feet when they heard the chorus. This tradition is continued today when the march is played in Vienna and elsewhere. It is almost always played as the last piece at the Vienna New Year Concert.

Maltese Winter

Todd Hayen

Maltese Winter is an original composition by Hayen, which was originally released on the same CD as his Christmas arrangements. Although obviously not a current Christmas classic, the hope and intention in its composition is to become one! It is a beautiful work featuring strings and solo flute and oboe, which conjures the beauty and heartfelt warmth of the holiday season. Composed while on retreat in Malta during the winter of 2003, the piece carries the name of its birthplace.

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Program Notes (Cont'd)

The Nutcracker Suite

Piotr I. Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

(arr. Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn / adapted for orchestra by Jeff Tyzik)

When Tchaikovsky composed his famous ballet *The Nutcracker* and the symphonic suite derived from it, it is doubtful that he imagined that some day that suite would be arranged for a type of popular music played by a “jazz band.” But that is exactly what the great jazz man Edward “Duke” Ellington and his pianist/arranger Billy Strayhorn did in 1960. They even jazzed up the titles of the movements, so the *Dance of the Reed Pipes* became *Toot, Toot, Tootie Toot*, *March* became *Peanut Brittle Brigade*, *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* became *Sugar Rum Cherry*, *Russian Dance* became *The Volga Vouty*, *Chinese Dance* became *Chinoiserie*, *Arabian Dance* became *Arabesque Cookie*, and *Waltz of the Flowers* became *Dance of the Floreadores*.

In 1998, Jeff Tyzik, orchestral “pops” conductor and arranger, went a step further and adapted the overture and four of these jazz movements for the symphony orchestra. It is this adaptation that will be performed tonight.

The SSO played this arrangement in the December 2003 concert and it was repeated in 2005 and 2012 by popular request. As we continue to have requests to perform it again, we’re glad to bring it to you once more.

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38th Season from



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Program Notes (Cont'd)

A Christmas Sing-Along

arr. Sheldon Bair

Maestro Bair writes, "The SSO has been performing the same Christmas sing-along 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 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."

Program Notes compiled by Don Raff, with thanks to Todd Hayen and 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, 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 heartily thanks The Agape Fund of InFaith Charities which provided \$8,000 to establish a percussion fund for the SSO. Orchestral Chimes, tunable Tom-Toms, and three suspended cymbals were purchased. We thank The Agape Fund for the noticeable difference these quality instruments make.



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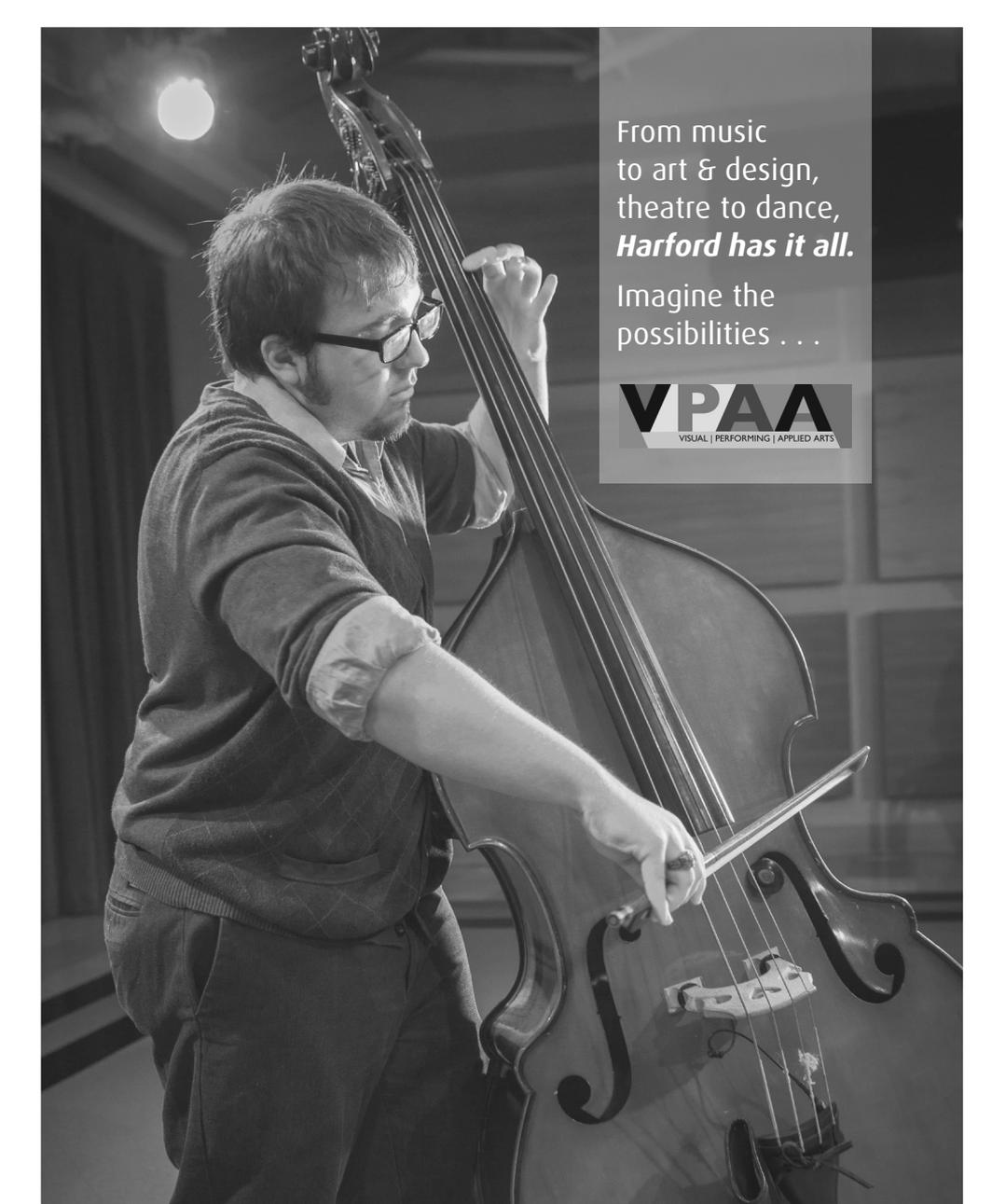
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