





#### 39th Season: 2015-2016

#### Friends and Collaborators

#### Saturday, March 5, 2016, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

Neil Anderson-Himmelspach .... New Work TBA (Premiere)

Max Bruch ...... Concerto for Clarinet, Viola, and Orchestra, Op. 88

Antonín Dvořák...... Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95

"From the New World"

#### Friends and Relationships

#### Saturday, May 7, 2016, Bel Air High School, 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon Bair...... Flourish for Orchestra

George Gershwin ...... Cuban Overture (Rumba)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky ...... Marche Slave, Op. 31

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

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**Bel Air** 410-838-9100 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 39th 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 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.





Erich Wolfgang Korngold

(1897 - 1957)

The Snowman: Overture

Conductor: Brian Folus

Howard Blake (b. 1938)

The Snowman

Narrator and Soprano: Carolyn Black-Sotir

#### **Intermission**

Daniel Dorff

(b. 1956)

Pachelbel's Christmas:

A Merry Mélange for Orchestra

Percy Grainger

arr. Brian Folus

(1882-1961)

(orch. Carl Simpson)

The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol

A Hanukkah Celebration

Conductor: Brian Folus

arr. Sheldon Bair

A Christmas Sing-Along 2

Thank you to Brian Folus who will conduct The Snowman: Overture and his A Hanukkah Celebration arrangement.

The Blake work was acquired through the G. Schirmer Rental Library.

The Dorff work was acquired through the Theodore Presser Company.









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. He holds degrees from Elizabethtown College (Pennsylvania) and 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, 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.

Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra and church choir.

When asked about the SSO's annual Holiday Concert in a recent interview, he gave the following reply: "I always enjoy this concert, and I look forward to Brian Folus conducting his popular Hanukkah Medley. In addition, Carolyn Black-Sotir is our most frequent guest artist, having performed with the SSO on four previous occasions. This is our second performance of Howard Blake's popular work. Carolyn and I have known each other for many years!" When asked about the SSO's 40th season he said, "We are working on the repertoire for our Ruby Season. There will be music by many of the audience and orchestra members' favorite composers, including Mendelssohn, Haydn, Tchaikovsky (Ellington's Nutcracker Suite arrangement, much requested by our audiences), Elgar, and some favorite living composers who have visited us in the past."

#### **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 William Burlew

Elizabeth Caughey

Sam Creighton

Shannon Eaton

Mary Folus

**Emily Kumpf** 

Danielle Moyer

Andrew Nowakowski

Terry O'Neill Kim Politz

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#### Second Violins ‡

Manfred Reek, Principal Katie Bohdel-Stout Beverly Caswell

George Cowman Colleen Grotke

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Jennifer Yeager

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Viktor Khodyko, Principal Christa Bohdel

Jessica Conklin

Will Conway

Karyn Hetmanski Whitney McConkey

George McNally

Lori Metzger

Ashley Simmons

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Elaine Bundy

Madeleine Clifton

Fred Gehris Mark Grotke

Kevin Klein

Michele Martin Shannon Raum

Jasmine Reeves

Carol Scanlan

Kirsten Stevens

#### Basses ‡

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#### **Our Guest Conductor**



Brian Folus, Principal Bassist for The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, has also been a frequent guest conductor of the SSO. He earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Towson University and began teaching in Harford County, Maryland in 1985. He earned a Master of Music degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1993. Mr. Folus has also completed an additional 30 graduate credits at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Mr. Folus studied conducting with Dr. Leigh Martinet, Mr. Ray Moore, and Maestro Leonid Grin.

Mr. Folus is currently teaching instrumental music at Red Pump Elementary School in Harford County, Maryland, and is on the Music Faculty of Harford Community College where he teaches string lessons.

Mr. Folus is the founding conductor of the Harford String Orchestra and assumed the podium of the Harford Youth Orchestra in the Fall of 2005. His arrangements for the Harford String Orchestra include "The Turtle Dove," the "Hanover Chorale," and an original composition "Summer Breezes." Mr. Folus' arrangement of "Symphony No. 1" by William Boyce has been published by Highland-Etling Publishers, the String Orchestra division of Alfred Publishing.



#### **Our Guest Performer**



Carolyn Black-Sotir is a gifted and versatile artist who enjoys one of the most fascinating and diverse careers imaginable. Few possess her breadth of experience, talent, and training. Whether it be as a singer, actress, writer, news journalist, stage director, teacher, or impresario, Carolyn is first and foremost a communicator. She connects to her audiences—through her music, her written words, her interviewing skills, and her inventive and expressive stagings. She is a special person who embraces life and art with incredible passion and with a voice and musicality that touch the souls of others.

Carolyn's ability to coexist beautifully in both serious and popular music worlds is yet another example of her diverse talents. A classically-trained musician, she is a magna cum laude graduate of Eastman School of Music with Bachelor and Master Music degrees in Vocal Performance. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance with a special concentration in Directing from University of Maryland.

Dr. Black-Sotir's commitment to the arts extends beyond that of her own performances. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences which provides more than three million dollars to arts organizations throughout the Greater Baltimore region. As an educator, she has taught and directed at Towson University and University of Maryland. She maintains a private voice studio and is in demand as a clinician, having conducted numerous master classes and workshops for young singers.



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Harford Youth Orchestra (grades 9-12) and Harford String Orchestra (grades 6-8) are offered as non-credit classes through Harford Community College.



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#### **Program Notes**

The Snowman: Overture

Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897–1957)

Korngold, the son of an eminent music critic, was a child prodigy in his native Austria. In 1906 he played his cantata *Gold* for composer/conductor Gustav Mahler who responded by declaring the young boy a "musical genius." Mahler recommended the boy study with composer Alexander von Zemlinsky. During his early years, Korngold also made live-recording player piano rolls, all of which survive today. At the age of eleven, Korngold composed a ballet, *Der Schneemann (The Snowman)*, which became a sensation when performed at the Vienna Court Opera in 1910. There was even a command performance for Emperor Franz Josef. Some elements of the ballet's plot were suggested by Korngold's father and the orchestration was by Zemlinsky. The overture has a dreamy ethereal opening followed by lively waltzes. The waltzes are interrupted by short march-like melodies and the conclusion is a restatement of the opening theme with an even more dream-like quality to it.

In 1938 Korngold was asked by Warner Brothers to come to Hollywood to compose a score for their new (and expensive) film *The Adventures of Robin Hood* starring Errol Flynn. His score won an Oscar that year. Shortly after arriving in California, the Anschluss (the occupation and annexation of Austria



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into Nazi Germany) took place. As a result, the conditions for Jews in Austria became very perilous, so he remained in America. Film scores in 1939 and 1940 received Oscar nominations. Korngold later said the score for *The Adventures of Robin Hood* saved his life.

#### The Snowman Howard Blake (b. 1938)

Howard Blake was born in London. He studied piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music. His enthusiasm for film led him to compose for radio, TV, and film as well as to play as a session keyboard player for Henry Mancini, Quincy Jones, and other Hollywood composers. His first major success was in writing music background for the TV series *The Avengers*. He has since written scores for over sixty feature films.

Blake has also written for the concert stage. His best known work is *The Snowman*. Originally written for performance with a narrator in 1982, it achieved world-wide popularity with its use in the animated film of the same name and through its hit song, *Walking in the Air*. In 1993 Blake developed *The Snowman* into a full-length ballet, which has proved to be very successful with performances around the world, including Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. Blake was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1994.



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The SSO previously performed *The Snowman* in December 2004 with Carolyn Black-Sotir as narrator and soprano.

#### Pachelbel's Christmas: A Merry Mélange for Orchestra Daniel Dorff (b. 1956)

Composer Dorff became amused that one of the countermelodies in Pachelbel's canon sounded a lot like *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*. It also soon occurred to him that *Jingle Bells* also fits over the Pachelbel chord progression, and with a little speeding up or slowing down, so do some other carols. Before long he had a list and created *Pachelbel's Christmas* placing 44 familiar holiday tunes over the Pachelbel canon, first keeping all that Christmas music in strict canon (echoing entrances like a round) and later letting the tunes flow in an advisedly incongruous manner.

This 1986 work was initially written for brass quartet, but over the years Dorff realized that the uniform sound of brass was hiding the contrasting melodies and decided that creating an orchestral version would let the countermelodies stand out more. This new version was created in February 2005 for Sheldon Bair and the Susquehanna Symphony who premiered the revised work in December 2005.



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The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol Percy Grainger (1882–1961), Orchestrated by Carl Simpson

At the age of eleven, Australian-born Grainger travelled with his mother to London when his parents separated. Recognizing her son's musical talents she took him to Germany to study at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfort, Germany. He lived in London again from 1901 to 1914 where, being influenced by Edvard Grieg, whose parents were originally from Scotland, he began a lifelong interest in folksongs. His arrangement of *Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)*, perhaps one of his loveliest works, along with the piano piece *Country Gardens* are his most popular compositions. He moved to the United States at the outbreak of World War I and settled in White Plains, New York, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1918.

The tune was taken down by Miss Lucy Broadwood at Lyne, near Horsham, Sussex in 1880–1881 from the singing of Christmas mummers. Originally set for violin or cello and piano, Grainger approved a version for viola. Although very slow in tempo, the piece as Paul Spicer writes, exhibits "Grainger's extraordinary ear for perfect sonorities, his seemingly unerring sense of rightness of the placing of notes in a chord, serves him particularly well in this carol." Richard Franko Goldman, director of the famous Goldman band,

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originally suggested to Grainger that he arrange this carol for band, but the composer died before beginning the project. After Grainger's death, Goldman undertook the completion and scoring and the first band performance was at the State College of lowa in the spring of 1963 under Goldman's direction. This 1994 orchestral arrangement is by Carl Simpson, an active composer and arranger who graduated *cum laude* from Southern Illinois University in 1979.

#### A Hanukkah Celebration

arr. Brian Folus

This work is dedicated to Maestro Sheldon Bair and the members of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Folus states, "This medley is based on popular Hanukkah folksongs and includes *Who Can Retell; The Candle Lighting Blessing* melody featuring English horn and oboe solos; *Hanukkah, O Hanukkah; I Have a Little Dreidel; The Spinning Top* featuring a trombone choir; and concludes with *Rock of Ages*. Both traditional sounds and a touch of "Klezmer" style writing is used in this arrangement." This is Mr. Folus' first arrangement for the SSO.

Program Notes compiled by Don Raff, with thanks to Daniel Dorff for information about Pachelbel's Christmas; Brian Folus for notes for The Snowman: Overture and his A Hanukkah Celebration; and Sheldon Bair for his A Christmas Sing-Along 2.

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#### A Christmas Sing-Along 2

arr. Sheldon Bair

After a few years of his first sing-along arrangement, Sheldon has written A Christmas Sing-Along 2. It begins with a tune that audience members may not recognize: On This Day (which you won't be asked to sing). The tune is also used as an interlude. Otherwise, please sing along to your heart's content. The words are below.

#### Introduction—On This Day

#### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see Thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in Thee tonight.

#### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, All is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so Tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

#### O Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging; O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging; Not only green when summer's here, But also when 'tis cold and drear. O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging!

#### 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!

#### Here We Come A-Caroling

Here we come a-caroling among the leaves so green, Here we come a-wand'ring so fair to be seen. Love and joy come to you And to you glad Christmas too, And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year, And God send you a Happy New Year.

#### Interlude—On This Day

#### The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood The holly bears the crown.

O the rising of the sun And the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ Sweet singing of the choir.

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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.

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra would like to thank local advertising agency SR&B Advertising for their outstanding services this season. With their support, the SSO hopes to bring the sound of music to new ears. The Orchestra has a sound population of fans and is greatly pleased to see it grow to include various attendees of all ages.

Keep your eyes out for our new TV commercials coming this season as well as more online interaction with our Facebook page and our E-Newsletter (sign up in the lobby to receive the newsletter).

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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