



Clef Notes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

OUR OCTOBER STARS



(Left to right)
Composer James Covell, Trumpet Soloist John Cather, and Maestro Barry Brisk after the Beach Cities Symphony's October performance of Mr. Covell's Concerto for Trumpet.
(Photo by Peter Coffee)

IT'S A WRAP!

Once again Symphony members were on hand to help Target Store in Torrance wrap gifts for seniors and special needs youngsters while a musical quintet of BCSO members serenaded the shoppers with Christmas carols.

Quintet: (l-r)
String bass, Bob Scott; Clarinet, Mary Mok; Violinists Margaret McWilliams and Joanne Satterburg; Flute, Navelle Kelso-Cohen.



Wrappers: (l-r)
Ruth MacFarlane, Jeanie Pelzman, Lenore Snodey, Pat Chavez, Bill Malcolm.

(Photos: top-Bill Malcolm, bottom-Mary Mok)

JANUARY CONCERT TO FEATURE SOPRANO ERIN WOOD

Erin Wood performed Wagner's Prelude and Love Death from *Tristan and Isolde* with the BCS in March, 2007. Her performance was enthusiastically received by our audience, and we are proud to have her back for our January 2009 concert, this time performing Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*.



Erin Wood came to public attention at the Lyric Opera of Chicago when she replaced Deborah Voigt on short notice as Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*. Other roles she performed with the company include Lisa in *The Queen of Spades*, Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Guttrune and the Third Norn in *Götterdämmerung*, Ortlinde in *Die Walküre*, the Lady-in-Waiting in Verdi's *Macbeth*, Marianne in *Der Rosenkavalier*, plus roles in *Street Scene* and *Susannah*. She was also engaged by the San Francisco Opera for their productions of *Un Ballo in Maschera* (as Amelia, which she sang this past September), *La Forza del Destino* (as Leonora), and *Cavalleria Rusticana* (as Santuzza). Her recent portrayals of Verdi and Wagner heroines have received praise for her "soaring soprano," "immense voice full of grit at the bottom and transcendent radiance at the top," and "volcanic outpouring of sound that was thrilling to behold."

Elsewhere, Ms Wood has sung for Opera Grand Rapids, the Music Academy of the West, the Los Angeles Opera, and Opera Pacific. She has also performed on the concert stages of the Ravinia Festival, Grant Park Music Festival, Pacific Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Toledo Opera, Lake Forest Symphony, the Angeles

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BASSOONIST WINS BIG AWARD: WINS FIRST-EVER BCSA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRIZE

by Jennifer Floto (below, Jennifer congratulates winner Jeff Mohan at October 2008 BCS concert)

The violinists were velvety smooth; the clarinetist polished; but it was 14-year-old bassoonist Jeffrey Mohan who impressed the judges enough to snag the first-ever Beach Cities Symphony Young Instrumentalist award.

The \$500 award was the brain-child of BCSA board member Anli Lin Tong, who has long wanted to create a competition for middle school-aged musicians in the South Bay. The BCS has received bequests and donations from long-time symphony patrons as well as from current members and concert attendees.

There was a large number of applicants for a first-time competition. The South Bay region was very well represented. The seven finalists performed for a distinguished panel of judges that included Bradley Cohen, BCS's principal clarinetist; Sarah Urias, violinist; and BCSO's own Maestro Barry Brisk. The judges, who were looking for a special combination of financial need, musical talent and musical potential, were unanimous in their selection. "[Jeff's] sophistication level after only three years of instruction was impressive," said Cohen. "He has that combination of talent and potential that we were looking for."

Now a freshman at Mira Costa High School, Jeff took up the bassoon three years ago because "the music director at MBMS asked me to!" His interest in music began at age two in his pre-school Music Rhapsody class. He played the recorder from first through seventh grade. In fourth grade, he began playing the alto saxophone and added the baritone and tenor in the Young Musicians' Performance Academy Big Band,



where he performed jazz and big band music in venues such as the Lighthouse in Hermosa Beach and the Disney Concert Hall Keck Amphitheater. In spring of sixth grade he was asked by the Manhattan Beach Middle School (MBMS) band director to play the bassoon. By seventh grade, he played the bassoon in the MBMS Symphonic Band, the Mira

Costa High School (MCHS) Symphony Orchestra, and the South Bay Youth Orchestra, which offered him the opportunity to perform in Ireland. Jeff began teaching himself the trumpet in December of seventh grade and played first chair trumpet in the MBMS Symphonic Band during his eighth grade year. As of September 2008, Jeff is a first trumpet player in the MCHS Marching Band, in the MCHS Wind Ensemble, and continues to play first chair bassoon for the MCHS Symphony Orchestra, which is scheduled to perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in June 2009.

"I am honored to receive this Beach Cities Symphony Scholarship, and appreciate all of my music teachers and band/orchestra directors for their wonderful instruction and opportunities they have afforded me," said the talented teenager. "I especially want to thank my bassoon teacher and inspiration, Melody Millett."

With the proceeds from this scholarship, Jeff is purchasing bassoon reed-making tools to further his bassoon career. And on a final note, the committee is already gearing up for the 2009 competition.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Over 25 years ago, the Beach Cities Symphony joined with the Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC), Southern California Branch, to showcase young promising musicians. Out of this association was born the Artists of the Future concert, which is always the last concert of the season. As space allows, Clef Notes will feature articles about some of these now not-so-young musicians. For some, no research is required; quite a few have become loyal members of our orchestra.



JANE RIGLER, Flutist — Artist of the Future, June, 1983

The concert program for the June 10, 1983, concert described Jane Rigler as a junior at Rolling Hills High School with an already impressive list of achievements. In her senior year, as just one of her many triumphs, she represented six Western states at the National Woodwind Finals in Louisville, Kentucky, and as the winner she performed with the University of Louisville Orchestra.

Ms. Rigler went on to receive her B.M. from Northwestern University, studied in various parts of Europe and North America, and attained her M.A. and Ph.D. from UC San Diego. Her book, *The Vocalization of the Flute*, demonstrates a variety of imaginative ways the voice and flute interact.

While living in Spain, Ms. Rigler co-created and performed more than 500 concerts for children. Now residing in New York, she is currently Teaching Artist for the Lincoln →

THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY
BARRY BRISK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

featuring

ERIN WOOD
SOPRANO SOLOIST

in a performance of

Songs of a Wayfarer by Gustav Mahler

also featuring

Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun by Claude Debussy

Fanfare for Winds, Brass, and Percussion by Grigore Nica

Symphony in D Minor by César Franck

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2009

Marsee Auditorium, El Camino College • Crenshaw Blvd. at Redondo Beach Blvd.

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

concert time: 8:15 P.M. pre-concert lecture: 7:30 P.M.

Information: (310) 379-9725 or (310) 539-4649 • www.beachcitiessymphony.org

Center Institute, St. Luke's Orchestra, and the Manhattan New Music Project, where she is also the Technology Program Coordinator. She has spent several years working and researching music education programs for under-served populations and children with disabilities, co-designing with Zachary Seldess, the "Music Cre8tor," an interactive motion-sensor driven composition software program for children with disabilities.

Accolades, opportunities, and awards continue to rain upon Ms. Rigler. Her latest feat has been to receive (as one of five winners) a National Endowment for the Arts US/Japan Creative Artist Residency Award. She will be studying and working in Japan for five months from fall 2009.

Jane Rigler, beginning in the fifth grade, was a promising student of Donna Clarke, who was a flutist with the Beach Cities Symphony for many years. Ms. Clarke, who still is an ardent supporter of the symphony, maintains a warm relationship with her former pupil, and it is through her that the many pages of information about Jane Rigler were excerpted for this article.

Erin Wood

Continued from front page

Chorale, and the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago. She has presented recitals for the Dame Myra Hess Foundation in Chicago and the Marilyn Horne Foundation in New York.

Erin Wood is an alumna of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from UCLA, where she is now completing her doctoral dissertation. She is the winner of numerous awards, including the Kirsten Flagstad Award from the George London Foundation, Rose M. Grundman Prize from the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, the Edith Newfield Prize from Chicago's Musicians' Club of Women, Third Prize in the Metropolitan Opera's Central Regional Finals, First Prize in the Palm Springs Opera Guild, and scholarships from the Lee Schaenen and Liberace Foundations.

Ms. Wood grew up in the South Bay, where she lives with her husband, Keith Schaefer, and son, Elliott.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

mark your calendars for the remaining performances of our
59th CONCERT SEASON

Friday, March 20, 2009

Ludwig van Beethoven: Prometheus Overture
Frederic Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 1, Sylvia Ho, piano soloist
Carl Nielsen: Symphony No. 2: "The Four Temperaments"

Friday, May 22, 2009

Emmanuel Chabrier: España
MTAC Artists of the Future
Modest Mussorgsky: Night on Bald Mountain

FANFARE IN HONOR OF GRIGORE NICA

The Beach Cities Symphony will honor long-time orchestra member violinist and composer Grigore Nica with a performance of his composition *Fanfare for Winds, Brass, and Percussion*, op. 94 at the January 23, 2009, concert. The selection is in addition to the scheduled performances noted on prior publications.

Mr. Nica was honored recently in his native Bucharest by the Composers Society of Romania. The October issue of *Clef Notes* has a more detailed description of the event. (*Back issues of Clef Notes can be found on our website, www.beachcitysymphony.org.*)



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Thomas & Maria Carr
Harold R. Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Overholser
Michael & Patricia Safani
Al Gibbs
Eileen M. Lang
Bob & Carlene Thune
Thank you for supporting our organization!

OCTOBER 2008 PRIZE WINNERS

In the members' raffle at our October concert, the CDs donated by **Borders Books and Music in Torrance** were won by Quin Robinson of Redondo Beach and Shirley Wineman of Torrance. The floral arrangement by **Lily's Flowers and Gifts in Torrance** was won by Ruth Purdon of Manhattan Beach. In the general raffle, Robert Torres of Redondo Beach won the dinner for two at **Chicago for Ribs**, and Honorah Nash of Torrance won the two tickets to **Universal Studios**.

BCSA OFFERS 2ND ANNUAL \$500 SCHOLARSHIP

For the second time, the Beach Cities Symphony Association is offering a \$500 scholarship to a deserving middle school student. Applications and instructions will be available online at the BCSA website, www.BeachCitiesSymphony.org, later this month. Forms will also be available at the January 2009 concert. Music teachers are asked to encourage promising students of orchestral instruments to apply. The scholarship will be awarded at the October 2009 concert.

Beach Cities Symphony News information: 310-379-9725, 310-539-4649, or www.BeachCitiesSymphony.org
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