



# Clef Notes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

## JANUARY 2009 CONCERT

*Soprano soloist  
Erin Wood  
performing  
Mahler's "Songs  
of a Wayfarer" at  
our January  
concert.*



## CLARINET SOLOIST BRADLEY COHEN TO BE FEATURED AT MARCH 2009 CONCERT

Beach Cities Symphony Principal Clarinet Bradley Cohen was born in Los Angeles in 1961. He graduated from University High and studied Music Performance at California State University, Northridge. He has recently returned to CSUN to get a teaching credential and a Master's Degree in Music. His principal teachers have been David Howard and Charles Bay. Mr. Cohen has also studied with Michelle Zukovsky, Yehuda Gilad, and David Shifrin.



Mr. Cohen was Associate Principal Clarinet of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Symphony and has toured in Europe and Japan with the CSUN wind ensemble. He has played Principal Clarinet for the Beach Cities Symphony since 1988 and is frequently singled out by reviewers for the quality of his tone and interpretive skills. He soloed with this orchestra in Carl Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto in 1998, Claude Debussy's *Première Rhapsodie* in 2002, and Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto in 2006.

Mr. Cohen is a freelance musician, clarinet teacher, and reluctant computer security consultant. In addition to the Beach Cities Symphony, he performs regularly with the Brentwood-Westwood and Rio Hondo Symphonies. He also performs in musical theatre with the Fullerton Civic Light Opera and Music Theatre West, various chamber ensembles, and a Klezmer band. He lives in Santa Monica with his wife of 9 months, Navelle, a flutist in the BCSO; stepdaughter Kelly; and two cats—Spot and Sheri.

## TWICE AS GOOD

### *Two Scholarships to Be Awarded*

Heartened and encouraged by the enthusiastic response to the first annual scholarship offered by the Beach Cities Symphony last March, this year the BCS will offer TWO scholarships—one for string instruments and one for all other orchestral instruments.

During the auditions for the scholarship awarded in October, 2008, it was learned that there is a big difference between the processes of learning a string instrument versus learning a wind instrument. String instruments are now available in all sizes—some small enough for a toddler to wield and control. Wind instruments are the size you see in the orchestra—no miniatures. Besides the sizes of the instrument, there is the physical development of the child to consider. A toddler has all the physical attributes necessary to play a violin. A toddler does not have the mouth development necessary to control a flute or trumpet. According to Bill Malcolm, versatile musician and member of the selection committee, until permanent teeth are in, a child is not equipped to play a wind instrument, so as a result playing these instruments is delayed until the age of at least 9 or 10. The auditions for all instruments made this difference very

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## YOU PLAY A WHAT AND A WHAT?

*Greg Lee with two of his passions.*



Did you know that Debussy's *Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun* has no trombone part? Well, why would you, unless of course you are a music director, or a musician, or someone who just knows the (um) score? Imagine the disappointment of our long-time principal trombonist, Greg Lee, when he noticed the obvious absence of a trombone part in his share of music at the first rehearsal for the January concert. The troubled and necessarily silent trombonist sat through a few rehearsals of *Prelude* (one of his favorite pieces) and instead of engaging in thumb twiddling decided to look at the harp part. Why the harp part? The harp isn't even positioned near the brass section.

It seems Mr. Lee had long had an interest in playing the harp because "it's completely different from the trombone...a contrast in technique and...repertoire." After his wife found a harp store in Glendale (so they're not just in heaven), which offered harp seminars, rentals, and lessons, he ended up with a rented harp and his current teacher, Carolyn Sykes in Pasadena. About four years ago, he purchased his own concert grand harp with "a fortuitous combination of a large tax refund and a bonus at work."

Mr. Lee's foray into music started at the early age of five, with lessons on the piano, and continued on and off through public school and college. Piano was never his main interest, nor was cello, which he played in high school. He began playing the trombone in the sixth grade and continued on since then, playing in concert and marching bands, orchestras, swing and jazz groups, and trombone ensembles. Besides playing as principal trom-

*Bradley Cohen*  
*Continued from front page*

When asked by Maestro Brisk to solo with the BCSO at the March 20, 2009 concert, Mr. Cohen said he was honored to be asked to play Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, which he has been playing since he was 12 years old. In his words, "the concerto is hauntingly beautiful in the

bonist for the BCS, he plays for a big band (swing) called The Peninsulans; Bones West; a 40-plus member trombone choir (36 more and they can lead the parade); the Moravian Trombone Choir; a trombone quartet; and occasionally in a pit orchestra for musicals.

Greg Lee shared two of his fondest musical experiences with us. In 1980, he played in the University of Texas Longhorn Band in President Reagan's inaugural parade, and in 2006, as a member of Bones West, he performed at Carnegie Hall. "I deeply value all of the friends I've made in various musical groups over the years," he says.

Mr. Lee has bachelor's degrees in French, Mathematics, and Electrical Engineering. He also has a master's degree in Electrical Engineering, all from the University of Texas. He works for Northrop Grumman Corporation in San Pedro, and he and his wife, Lindsay, just celebrated their eleventh wedding

anniversary. Their wedding album, no doubt, has a picture of Mr. Lee playing "I'm Getting Sentimental over You" in serenade of his bride.

As a harpist, Mr. Lee is a member of the Beach Cities Harp Ring, a group that meets monthly and promotes harp playing in the South Bay. He recently played harp as part of a pit orchestra for a new musical, "The Accidental President," written by trombonist John Dusenbury.

The most recent experience and performance of Greg Lee, harpist (and silent trombonist), was with the Beach Cities Symphony at the January concert, playing alongside principal harpist Liesl Erman in Claude Debussy's *Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun*.

way it spends much time in minor keys in the outer movements. The famous Adagio second movement is the musical embodiment of gentle tranquility and is the centerpiece of the concerto to me."

The Beach Cities Symphony is proud to once more present Mr. Bradley Cohen as soloist for the March concert, playing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K.622.



*Principal harpist Liesl Erman and Greg Lee at the January 2009 BCS concert.*

## THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY BARRY BRISK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

*featuring*

### BRADLEY COHEN CLARINET SOLOIST

*performing*

### Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K.622 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*also featuring*

### Prometheus Overture by Ludwig van Beethoven

### Symphony No. 2: "The Four Temperaments" by Carl Nielsen

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009**

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

**FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING**

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

**Young Audience Pre-concert Lecture on Mezzanine**

*Co-sponsored by MTAC South Bay Branch, and  
Mu Phi Epsilon PVP Alumni*

**Information: (310) 379-9725 or (310) 539-4649 • [www.beachcitysymphony.org](http://www.beachcitysymphony.org)**

### DAVID D. BRADBURN 1925 – 2008

Last October we heard the sad news of the passing of the former Beach Cities Symphony Association Chairman of the Board, David Bradburn. David was Chairman of our symphony during difficult times, both financial and musical. He and his wife Bertha were keenly interested in the symphony and its success and worked hard to keep us going. The current members and musicians thank the Bradburns for their devotion and sacrifices made in our behalf.

Major General David D. Bradburn was a space radar pioneer in the United States Air Force from 1946 until



retiring in 1976. It was before retirement that his interest in the symphony allowed him to become our C.E.O. Bradburn's satellite was designated "Quill," a technique for detecting nighttime military exercises and nuclear missile movements. Bradburn spent more than twenty years helping develop radar and satellite systems for the Air Force up to retirement. He played the trumpet, and he and his family were active in the Manhattan Beach Community Church as well as the symphony. He lived in Manhattan Beach most of those years.

Those of us enjoying our symphony's current success owe a great deal to David Bradburn and his family. He ruled over staff and Board changes with great enthusiasm and helped us survive what could have been a tragic end to this fine orchestra. We are grateful for his work and appreciate his and Bertha's efforts

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

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

Friday, May 22, 2009

Emmanuel Chabrier: *España*

MTAC Artists of the Future

Maurice Ravel: *Tzigane*

Violin soloist, Kristie Su

Ludwig van Beethoven: Concerto No. 4, Op. 58

Piano soloist, Katherine Daly

Dimitri Shostakovich: Concerto No 2, Op. 102

Piano soloist, Jason Griffin

Edvard Grieg: Concerto in A Minor. Op. 16

Piano soloist, Nathan Ben-Yehuda

Modest Mussorgsky: *Night on Bald Mountain*

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### COMMENTS, ANYONE?

Do you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share with members of the Beach Cities Symphony Board of Directors? We're listening.

Please feel free to email your comments to

**bcsa.clefnotes@gmail.com** or write to:

Beach Cities Symphony

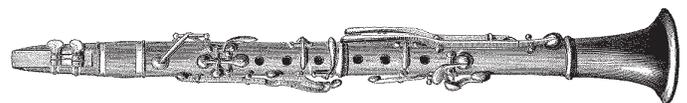
Attn: Clef Notes Editor

P.O. Box 248

Redondo Beach, CA 90277-0248

### JANUARY 2009 PRIZE WINNERS

In the members' raffle at our January concert, the CDs donated by Borders Books and Music in Torrance were won by Jo Sheldon of Torrance and Toni Empringham of Hermosa Beach. The floral arrangement by Lily's Flowers and Gifts in Torrance was donated by the winner to present to the soloist Erin Wood. In the general raffle, Mike Rodriguez of Lawndale won the dinner for two at Chicago for Ribs, and Jenn Floto of Hawthorne won the one-night stay at Crowne Plaza, Redondo Beach, and the gift certificate to Elephant Bar in Torrance.



*Scholarship*

*Continued from front page*

obvious. The BCS's criteria for the award were for a student showing dedication and promise, as well as progress on the instrument—hence the choice of a bassoonist in the 2008 competition.

So to avoid always leaving out the string players, or alternating a string player one year and a wind player the next, the Board decided to award two scholarships in 2009—one for each category. The twin awards will be announced at the opening concert of the Fall, 2009, season.

