



V E R M O N T S Y M P H O N Y

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Join in the Celebration!

In recognition of Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus Director Robert De Cormier's 80th birthday, the Orchestra's 67th season has featured an assortment of outstanding choral performances. The season-long celebration continues Saturday, March 16th at the Flynn Center when Mr. De Cormier conducts the VSO and the VSO Chorus in Brahms' powerful *A German Requiem*. Acclaimed for its universal appeal, this masterpiece articulated the deep grief and eternal hope felt around the world when performed at a nationally broadcast memorial concert just three days after September 11th. Noted guest soloists, soprano Jonita Lattimore and baritone Kevin Deas will lend their remarkable voices to this memorable evening.

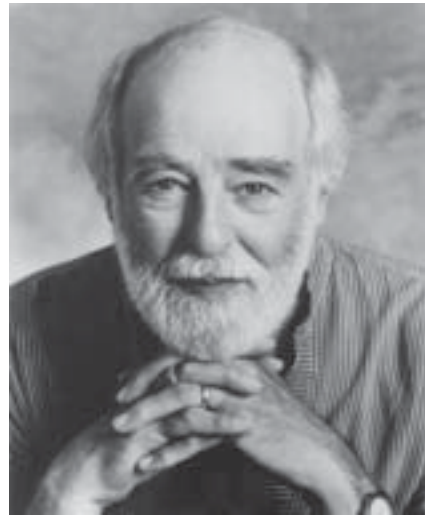
Since its debut in May 1994, the VSO Chorus has won unqualified praise from audiences and critics. The

mastermind behind this success is Robert De Cormier. This year the Vermont Arts Council will award Mr. De Cormier the "Governor's Award," an honor bestowed upon a Vermont artist who has achieved national or international stature for making a significant contribution to the advancement of his or her chosen art form. While he has been a Vermont resident for over 30 years, his reputation is known far beyond the state.

Mr. De Cormier's conducting talents have taken him from Broadway and opera to numerous concert tours throughout the U.S. and Canada. He also spent many years as conductor and arranger for Harry Belafonte and has been music director for the popular folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary for the past 20 years.

Guest soloist Jonita Lattimore has quickly earned a reputation as a world-class soprano. She is a frequent winner in competitions and has been honored by the Birgit Nilsson Competition and the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition.

Baritone Kevin Deas has gained international acclaim for his portrayal of the title role in a nationwide tour of concert performances of Gershwin's *Porgy*



Robert De Cormier

and *Bess* with Bobby McFerrin conducting. Last season, Mr. Deas toured across the U.S. and Europe with *Riverdance* as the leading vocalist.

Masterworks begins at 8 PM, but the evening kicks off at 7 PM with "Musically Speaking," a free pre-concert discussion moderated by VPR's Walter Parker.

Single tickets are \$37, \$29, \$24, \$15, \$9 and \$6 and are available through the Flynn Regional Box Office by calling (802) 86-FLYNN.

Schoenberg & Associates, Comfort Inn and a Friend of the VSO will sponsor the March 16th concert. The VSO's 2001/2002 Season is co-sponsored by Vermont Public Radio; the media sponsor is WCVT-FM.

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FROM THE WINGS

by Eleanor Long

I love that commercial, I think it's for McDonald's, the one where the wife says "Honey, do we have a...?" and makes a vague hand gesture, and the husband quickly says, "Trombone? No, I'll go get one" and runs out the door. It reminds me that I promised to spread the word that we need another trombone for our Musical Petting Zoo. "Crocodile" Thomas has been reduced to repairing the one we have with the butane torch he keeps around for *crème brûlée*.... Check your attics, folks, even a loaner would be much appreciated.



And while I'm in asking mode, we were so taken up with the thrill of having Captain Kangaroo along for our Holiday Pops tour that we forgot to submit our annual Music Wish List to Santa in December. Perhaps the Easter Bunny will bring us one or more of the following pieces for next season: Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3* (\$400); John Williams' "Hymn to the Fallen" from *Saving Private Ryan* (\$300); Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony* (\$250); and Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1* (\$200). Call me at (802) 864-5741 ext. 14 if you'd like to give the VSO the enduring gift of sheet music.

You're wondering what it was like hangin' with the Captain? Well, he's still got it. He came on stage in an oversized raccoon coat and a hat with ear flaps, jingling a set of sleigh bells. That was just the beginning of a magical two hours. Our recording engineers,

who had begged to tape the program, were in heaven, and a staff member who shall remain nameless proclaimed she was in love. The orchestra got more and more into the act, until by the final concert the trumpets and trombones were all wearing elf hats, percussionist Melissa Bedell wore reindeer antlers, the French horns fit their mouthpieces into voluminous Santa beards, red cardinals perched on all the cellists' stands, and a big bunch of carrots was passed up to the podium from the viola section as the orchestra surprised the Captain with his TV theme song.

I am ashamed to admit that I myself was prepared *not* to be charmed. I didn't grow up with the TV show, and I'm often wary of celebrities that others are smitten with. But it didn't take any time at all for Bob Keeshan to win me over. At the first venue, I offered to show him to his dressing r o o m , apologizing for its not being very g r a n d . Without missing a beat, he said, "Then forget about it." His self-deprecating humor and gracious willingness to autograph anything and everything (including the sleigh bells) were hallmarks of the tour. Somehow everything that came out of his mouth seemed hilarious, like his remark that you should be kind to your children—even if you didn't have any. I am now a charter member of the Captain Kangaroo fan club!

The Burlington Holiday Pops concert marked the end of an era. Our

florist, Lori Rowe, closed up shop at Vivaldi Flowers in December. We are very grateful for all her generosity and creativity over the past seven years. I got up my courage and called Kathy & Company Flowers (221 Colchester Avenue in Burlington), and was rewarded by an instantaneous and enthusiastic response. Kathy Spear designed a lovely stage arrangement and presentation bouquets for our Beethoven concert at the end of January, and we look forward to working with our new official florist.

We began another exciting relationship with the January concert: we now have an official masseur. Massage on Tour (33 Main Street in Burlington) approached us with an offer to give free and discounted massages to orchestra members and visiting artists. So far three musicians have had their names drawn out of a hat and have raved about their relaxing pre-performance sessions with Danny Hendershot. I think I'll have to rig the ballot box next time—concert weekends are stressful for me, too, right?!

In closing, just a reminder that if you've always wanted to play the harp, a beautiful 36-string Woldsong Harp (valued at \$4200) can be yours for only \$8. And you don't even have to be that lucky, because your chances are excellent. Principal harpist Heidi Soons will be demonstrating the instrument, which was donated to the VSO, at the remaining Masterworks concerts this spring. If you can't attend, but still want to buy a raffle ticket (or 12 for \$80), the drawing is on May 15, so call the office before then.



The VSO Honors Former Governing Board Chair

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra recognized the extraordinary service of former Governing Board Chairman David Wilson at its January 23rd Farmers' Night performance at the Statehouse in Montpelier. The announcement to rename the annual performance The David M. Wilson Memorial Farmers' Night Concert was made to a standing-room-only audience. Mr. Wilson died October 19th, 2001, after an extended illness.

A resident of Duxbury, Mr. Wilson served on the Governing Board for nine years and as Chairman during the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 seasons. He served Vermont for nearly 30 years as a public servant, lobbyist and political analyst, passionately representing issues and causes in which he believed.

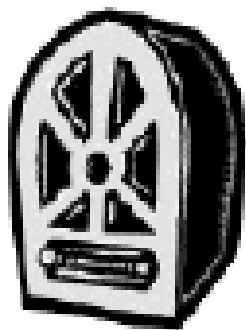
"David Wilson shared a deep affection and commitment to orchestral and choral music in Vermont," said VSO Executive Director Alan Jordan. "His extraordinary dedication to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and his service to the art form of music will long be remembered."



The VSO's 23rd Annual Farmers' Night

The January 23rd concert was the first to be underwritten by the David M. Wilson Memorial Fund, which was established in honor of Wilson for support of this concert for years to come. The annual Farmers' Night performance is free to the public.

Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holds Fifth Radio Auction



Tune your dials! The gavel goes down on Thursday, April 4th on the stations of Radio Vermont (WCVT 101.7 FM, WDEV 96.1

FM and 550 AM, WKDR 1390 AM, and WLVB 93.9 FM) for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Fifth Annual Radio Auction.

The auction promises to be eclectic, with items from businesses across central Vermont, Burlington, Middlebury, and a few places down south.

Radio Vermont Vice President and popular radio personality Eric Michaels will lead the broadcast, assisted by special auctioneers Brian Harwood, Lynne Goodson, Roland Lajoie, and Radio Vermont's own Ken Squier.

Want a great deal on dinner at your favorite local restaurant? How about a chance to conduct the VSO? Check out the VSO's website at www.vso.org for items valued at \$100 and up for a preview, and tune in on Thursday, April 4th, to WCVT, WDEV, WKDR, or WLVB and give yourself a chance to win. All proceeds fund VSO concerts and educational programs across the state.



Would You Like to be Invaluable?

Join the VSO Office Staff

We are looking for a volunteer office assistant to greet visitors, answer phones, enter data, file, copy, send out mailings, and assist with special projects. If you are interested, please call the VSO Office Manager, Evan Wisell, at 1 (800) VSO-9293, ext. 10. We're looking forward to having you as part of our team!

Masterworks Finale Features World-Renowned Violist

This May, violist Michael Tree joins Jaime Laredo, the VSO and members of VSO Chorus, in two Masterworks concerts featuring Ellen Zwilich's *Concerto Grosso*, Vaughan Williams' emotional *Flos Campi* and Berlioz' *Harold in Italy*. These extraordinary performances take place Saturday, May 4 at 8 PM at Burlington's Flynn Center and Sunday, May 5 at 4 PM at Rutland's Paramount Theatre.

Mr. Tree and Mr. Laredo have enjoyed a deep friendship and long musical association including many performances and recordings. One of the most widely recorded musicians in America, Mr. Tree is also a founding member of the Guarneri String Quartet.

Leading off the evenings' program is *Concerto Grosso*. In 1984 the Washington Friends of Handel commissioned composer Ellen Zwilich to write a work in commemoration of the three-hundredth anniversary of Handel's birth. *Concerto Grosso* incorporates themes from Handel's Violin Sonata in D and alternating the baroque style with modern.

From its extraordinary opening movement to its luxuriant conclusion, Vaughan Williams' *Flos Campi* bewitches audiences with its passion. Pentatonic scale variations give the work a both folk-like and oriental feel and the composer uses the chorus to give color to the work, which is more viola concerto than cantata.

Berlioz' *Harold in Italy* was commissioned by Paganini, to demonstrate that his viola skills equaled his renowned mastery of the violin. The composer crafted the work using the



Violist Michael Tree

viola to reflect Harold's role as observer, rather than its focal point, and as a result, Paganini never performed it. Years later he regretted his conceit when he heard the work performed by a rival musician — rushing to the now famous Berlioz as the concert ended, declaring it the most beautiful thing he had ever heard.

The Flynn Masterworks evening begins at 7 PM with "Musically Speaking," a free pre-concert discussion moderated by VPR's Walter Parker.

Single tickets for the Burlington performance are \$37, \$29, \$24, \$15, \$9, and \$6 for students, and are available through the Flynn Regional Box Office by calling (802) 86-FLYNN. Rutland tickets, \$25, \$15, and \$6 for students, are available at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland, (802) 775-0903.

Sponsors for the Burlington Masterworks concert are Hawthorne Suites and Brianne E. Chase. The media sponsor is WCVT.

On Stage!

Since "On Stage With the Vermont Symphony Orchestra" began two years ago, Alan Jordan has hosted a variety of very special guests, including Jaime Laredo, Robert Keeshan, Anthony Princiotti, violinist Leila Josefowicz, Robert De Cormier, music critics Jim Lowe and Dan Wolfe, and VYO Music Director Troy Peters.

"On Stage" is aired:

NW PEGTV-Channel 10, St. Albans
Monday at 2 PM. and Friday
at 10 AM.

Channel 8, Bellows Falls
Tuesday and Thursday
at 1 PM

Channel 15 MCTV, Middlebury
Wednesday 2:30 PM

NEKTV, Newport
Tuesdays at 1 PM and 8 PM.

Channel 15, Burlington
Mondays at 2 PM and Thursday
at 9:30 PM

The following stations include "On Stage" in their rotation, but have no regular schedule. Please check the cable listings in your local paper.

Channel 7, Barre
Lake Champlain Access TV,
Colchester
Channel 15, Enosburg Falls
Northshire Access TV, Manchester
Channel 15, Rutland
Channel 15, Montpelier

Tune into your local cable access channel for updates on upcoming performances, educational programs and special events. For information, call Janice Szabo at (802) 864-5741, ext. 11.

Waltz Night 2002: A Gilded Affair

With much help from a dedicated volunteer committee, Waltz Night 2002 was a stunning success. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra brought in over \$44,000 to benefit its outreach and educational activities across the state.

The night was grand. Cream-colored roses fanned out from stately white candles while splendid waltzes, spirited tangos, and spicy swing filled the air. The Orchestra tux-



Dancing begins at the 2002 Waltz Night

edos on stage were well outnumbered by the ones on the floor, and while our lady musicians have an elegance not to be matched in their black gowns, the dresses on the dance floor were fabulous in their s p a n g l e s , sparkles, golds, reds, and blacks in dramatic cuts. A delicate asparagus salad started the menu, followed by a luscious tenderloin, and a dense chocolate torte, though unspeakably rich, remained on few plates by the time the Orchestra began.

The Silent Auction was a smashing success with almost 130 items on display. Bidders were giddy over canvases, sculptures, and other works of fine art; strikingly lovely and just plain zany housewares; jewelry to fit every throat and ear; certificates to the area's best restaurants and New England's performing arts venues; no fewer



A bidder takes a quick glance at the Silent Auction during dessert.

than three Oriental rugs; and the ever-popular wine tasting from one of VSO audiences' favorite concert sponsors, evoking yet other ferocious bidding war. Special VSO-only items such as conducting the VSO during Summer Tour 2002 and playing the chimes in the 1812 Overture just prior to the fireworks made their appearances again, and you'll see the lucky winners July 4 this year with baton and mallets on stage.



Former Board Chair Grant Bush with Region 1 Trustee (and Waltz Night committee member) Nancy Bush and Board Member Malcolm Severance

The VSO offers its deepest gratitude to the many people and businesses that helped make this event a success. Vermont Tent Company's donation of candelabra and the huge dance floor brought raves, as did the truffle table favors from Lake Champlain Chocolates and Richard Corbett's lovely floral arrangements. The VSO would also like to thank Banknorth Group Inc. and Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew for their table sponsorships.

Plans have begun for the next Waltz Night, which will be held on February 1st, 2003 at the Radisson Burlington. To make sure that you are on our invitation list or to join the Waltz Night 2003 planning committee, contact at 864-5741, extension 10, or e-mail waltznight@vso.org.



2001/2002 Season Concert Sponsors and Underwriters

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This list was compiled on February 21, 2002 for the period of January 1, 2002 through May 31, 2002. It includes sponsorship and underwriting gifts of \$250 and over for VSO programs including concerts in the Masterworks Series and *SymphonyKids* educational outreach presentations. If you would like information about how your business could benefit from a partnership with the VSO, please contact Diane Harrison at (800)VSO-9293, ext. 20.

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