



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

# FANFARE

O R C H E S T R A

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## The VSO and VSO Chorus Perform Music to Warm Winter Audiences

Two popular compositions set in the temperate backdrop of spring and summer will be warming December's Masterworks concerts, Saturday, December 1 at Burlington's Flynn Center and Sunday, December 2 at 4 pm at Norwich University's Plumley Armory in Northfield. Associate Conductor Anthony Princiotti leads the Orchestra, narrators Louise De Cormier and Ethan Bowen, and the women of the VSO Chorus in Mendelssohn's lush and melodic "Midsummer Night's Dream," followed by Copland's American classic, "Appalachian Spring."

The December 1 Masterworks concert at the Flynn starts at 8 PM. Ticketholders are invited to attend "Musically Speaking," a free pre-concert discussion, at 7 pm, moderated by VPR's Walter Parker.

Ticket prices for the Flynn 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. Concert information and a direct link to the Flynn website are available at the VSO's website, [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org). Special discounts are available for groups of 20 or more.

Sponsors for the Northfield concert are Norwich University, Adelphia, Northfield Savings Bank, Radio Vermont, Inc. and The Mount Mansfield Company.



*The VSO Chorus catches the holiday spirit*

Northfield concert ticket prices are \$20, \$12 and \$6. All seats are reserved by section only, except the VSO Concert Package which is reserved by seat.

VSO Concert Packages include a pre-concert reception with President Richard W. Schneider and Anthony Princiotti at 2 PM in the Milano Ballroom of Crawford Hall on the campus of Norwich University and reserved Gold seats for the Masterworks concert. Packages are \$30 per person and \$50 per couple.

For advanced reservations, phone the Norwich University Events Office: (802) 485-2305 (9 am - 5 pm) or the Toll Free 24 Hour Reservation Line: (877) 683-8368 or purchase online at [www.norwich.edu](http://www.norwich.edu). Mail/Pickup: University Events Office - VSO, Norwich University, 158 Harmon Drive - Box 24, Northfield, VT 05663; Trans Video Cablevision, Northfield; Capital Plaza Hotel, Montpelier; Bob's Camera, Barre; and Radio Station WDEV AM & FM, Waterbury.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Wings.....	2
New Chairman and Directors .....	3
Brilliantly Beethoven.....	3
Captain Kangaroo and the VSO.....	4
Annual Fund Underway.....	4
2001 Passat Raffle Winner Drawn.....	5
Worry, But Don't Panic.....	5

## FROM THE WINGS

by Eleanor Long

Recent publicity about our financial woes notwithstanding, if you can measure the health of a symphony orchestra by the number of rubber chickens on stage at a given performance, we're just fine. At the last of ten performances of the SymphonyKids program, "Music Means the World to Me," the musicians did their best to crack up the narrator (yours truly) with a barrage of sight gags, including the above-mentioned fowl play. The tour, which took us to magnet locations in Manchester, Brattleboro, Rutland, Barre, and Newport, was stressful but satisfying. It was a great feeling at week's end to tally the audience totals (around 5900) and to look back on all the challenges met: from hanging a 30x18 map from a gym ceiling to persuading a caterer that we HAD ordered dessert.

The VSO always feels like family to me, but there's something about touring that accentuates that. Maybe it's all the eating we do together. During the Made in Vermont tour in the early fall, I started keeping track of the yummy meals we had. Chicken pot pie and stuffed peppers homemade by Doris Bourgeois in Bennington got tour priorities off to an excellent start. Then there was the Vergennes dinner provided by Roland's Place, which included organic potatoes and broccoli and fresh turkey ("It's so fresh, you don't want to know," said Lisa Gaujac.). Food service fare at Johnson State College was surprisingly good, with an astonishing assortment of pies. The new Italian restaurant in Newport, Lago Trattoria, stayed open late for us. I was one of the lucky ones in Jaime and Sharon's party, and all I can say about that dining experience is "Mama Mia!" And the generous host families.... They're theoretically only responsible for breakfasts, but some of

them are extremely insightful about late night cravings. Miriam Howland (with whom I stayed in Brattleboro) forced me to sample some of the best cheese (okay, and Scotch) I've had in my life, and don't even get me started on her breakfast buffet!

Of course, every tour has its special stories and moments. During Made in Vermont, violinist Wilson Pedrazas wore dark glasses at a couple of concerts, after his regular ones went overboard during a kayaking misadventure. A fire in a clothing store in the same building as the Latchis Theater delayed our setup in Brattleboro and left a vague smell during the concert that was a little like popcorn but not quite. One of the musicians went out with some friends after the Bennington concert and admired a man's Beethoven tee-shirt, at which he stripped to the waist and presented her with it. Our commissioned composer, classy Laura Koplewitz, gave everyone in the orchestra flowers at the first and last performances. Concertmaster Joanna Kurkowicz arrived at the concert in St. Albans in a stretch limo, having chartered it from the Burlington airport after sandwiching in rehearsals in New York City mid-tour.

All of these memories, even the most vivid or hilarious, will fade eventually, but I can't believe I'll ever forget this latest youth tour, where I sidestepped the issue of finding a narrator by doing it myself. Those people who comment on all the hats I wear in the organization would have been literally correct during the first week in November, as I donned a cowboy hat, a sombrero, an Irish kerchief, an African cap, and a Turkish veil in my role as tour guide for a whirlwind musical world tour. Even after ten performances, I never got over my jitters, but it was a whole ---- of a lot easier than playing the oboe.

With all this tour lore, I haven't said word one about the season opener. My notes remind me that violin soloist Pierre Amoyal had a blocked ear (having traveled from Switzerland with a head cold) which he took seriously enough to see a doctor about, but didn't lose his sense of humor over (when it felt better, he joked "Bad news, now I can hear myself again.") Did you ever notice how the biggest stars are almost always the most generous with their compliments about others? I remember Pierre groping for the right words to describe Jaime, not as a result of a language barrier, but as though he just wanted to put it perfectly. He finally said "Jaime is the most charming person I know. He's like a...a...he's like a honey bear."

And speaking of searching for the perfect words, I'll close with some student comments we received after the SymphonyKids tour: "It made me feel like I had happy tears;" "The music was wild and soft for some parts, that's what I like;" and (naturally my favorite) "I didn't know the Oboe could make a good sound."

## Fruitcake, Again?



Give the Vermont Symphony Orchestra this holiday season. Share the excitement and energy of a live orchestra with loved ones, friends, employees and clients by giving them a gift certificate good for any VSO 2001-2002 Season concert. You'll receive a beautiful pewter VSO ornament from Danforth Pewterers with each purchase. Call the VSO at (802) 864-5741, ext. 10 or (800) VSO-9293, ext. 10 to order your gift certificates.

## Brilliantly Beethoven

*“That Biss is deeply musical, interpretively principled and technically secure (never ostentatious) makes him an exceptional pianist for any age group. It’s unavoidable that the knock of stardom will be heard at his door.”*

The Washington Post

Jaime Laredo returns to the Flynn Center on Saturday, January 26, to conduct one of today’s most talented young musicians, pianist Jonathan Biss, in an all-Beethoven program featuring the *Coriolan Overture*, *Piano Concerto No. 4*, and *Symphony No. 5*. The Mas-

terworks Series concert begins at 8 pm. Ticketholders are invited to attend “Musically Speaking,” a free pre-concert discussion at 7 pm.

Ticket prices are \$37, \$29, \$24, \$15, \$9, and \$6 for students. Call the Flynn Regional Box Office at (802)86-FLYNN. Concert information and a direct

link to the Flynn website are available at the VSO’s website, [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).



## Be an Angel, Help the VSO

Win this 36 String Harp, hand-crafted by Woldsong Harps of North Troy, Vermont. This “heavenly” instrument, made of curly maple and purple heart, is valued at \$4,200. Raffle tickets are \$8 each or \$80 for a dozen, with all proceeds benefiting the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. The drawing will be held May 15, 2002. Call the VSO at (802) 864-5741, ext. 10 or (800) VSO-9293, ext. 10 to purchase your tickets.



The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's 24th Annual

## WALTZ NIGHT and SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 2, 2002

Featuring the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Associate Conductor Anthony Princiotti at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont.

Join the VSO for an unforgettable evening of dancing to the music of your symphony orchestra!

For more information about Waltz Night or to reserve your place, contact the VSO at (800) 864-5741, ext. 20; 2 Church Street, Suite 19, Burlington, VT 05401; or at [waltznight@vso.org](mailto:waltznight@vso.org).

## New Chairman and Directors On Board

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce John Dinse, retired partner of Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew and Shelburne resident, has been elected to a two-year term as Chairman of the Governing Board of Directors. Dinse succeeds the late David Wilson, who served as Chairman from 1999 to 2001.

Three new members were elected to three-year terms: Michael Flynn, Managing Director of Gallagher, Flynn & Company, Burlington; Brian Harwood, CEO and Chairman of Harwood Moses Chambers, Stowe; and Richard Schneider,

President of Norwich University, Northfield. They will work with fellow board members to institute VSO strategies for achieving public service, educational and financial goals, as well as carrying on the organization’s mission to ensure the highest standards of artistic excellence.

The VSO also presented Craig Tomkinson of North Clarendon with the 2001 Volunteer of the Year award. Since becoming a VSO Regional Trustee, Tomkinson has provided invaluable assistance to the Orchestra’s Rutland-region performances and programs.

# Robert Keeshan Shares “The Many Stories of Christmas”

Vermont’s own Robert Keeshan, known to generations of children as “Captain Kangaroo,” joins the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and the VSO Chorus as “Armchair Santa” of the Orchestra’s 2001 Holiday Pops



concert tour. This popular annual holiday event, conducted by Associate

Conductor Anthony Princiotti, takes place at the Barre Opera House, Thursday, December 13 at 8 pm; Newport’s North Country Union High School, Friday, December 14 at 7:30 pm; Burlington’s Flynn Center, Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 pm; and Rutland’s historic Paramount

Theatre, Sunday, December 16 at 3 pm.

Mr. Keeshan will share the traditions behind “The Many Stories of Christmas,” featuring well-known holiday tales from Europe and the United States. Highlights include his recitation of the classic “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” the VSO Chorus performing excerpts from Handel’s “Messiah,” and a traditional audience sing-a-long.

Ticket prices for the Barre and Newport concerts are \$19 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students. Burlington tickets are \$37, \$29, \$24, \$15, \$9 and \$6 for students. Rutland Holiday Pops tickets are \$25, \$15 and \$6 for students. For tickets or information about the Barre, Newport and Burlington concerts call the Flynn Regional Box Office at (802) 86-FLYNN or visit Barre Opera House, Barre;

Bear Pond Books, Montpelier; Community Bank, Derby Line; and the Woodknott Bookshop, Newport. Tickets for the



Rutland show can be purchased at the Paramount Theatre Box Office at (802) 775-0903.

Holiday Pops sponsors are National Life Group; Northfield Savings Bank (Barre); Community National Bank, Hayes Ford (Newport); Queen City Printers, North Country Federal Credit Union, Dr. & Mrs. John Tampas (Burlington); and Key Bank (Rutland).

## 2002 Annual Fund Underway

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra’s Annual Fund solicitation is underway. You probably have received a recent letter requesting your renewal or a special gift to the VSO, and we hope you will respond.

The Annual Fund is the backbone of the VSO’s fundraising efforts. It supports all VSO activities, from the fantastic soloists presented at the Flynn Center and other venues throughout the state to the children’s programming, such as the Orchestral Youth Concert tour that traveled the state the first week of November. The Annual Fund helps the VSO continue its important activities, as well as providing much-needed support to invest in further out-

reach and children’s concerts across the state.

The VSO is committed to encouraging a love for music in Vermont’s young population at an early age. Through VSO programs, children receive a special opportunity to experience the classics in all their whimsy, charm, and beauty. Over 27,000 Vermont students in 127 schools attended 220 VSO outreach performances in the 2000/2001 season.

The VSO’s concert series include the “Made in Vermont Music Festival” tour, which visits small and large towns alike and presents a VSO-commissioned work by a Vermont composer; the winter Masterworks

Series, and casual summer concerts with flair, flavor, and fireworks.

Our fundraising goal for fiscal year 2002 is \$180,000. If you have recently received a letter from the VSO, please consider as generous a contribution as you can afford. If you have not received a letter but would like to donate to the Annual Fund, please contact Diane Harrison in the Development Office at (800) VSO-9293, ext. 20, or mail your check to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, 2 Church Street, Suite 19, Burlington, VT 05401-4457.

Every gift counts. Thank you for your generosity and support.

## And the Winner Is....



*Jim Ryan of Hand Motors, raffle winner Elizabeth Yandow, and VSO Executive Director Alan Jordan.*

The lucky winner of the VSO's 2001 Volkswagen Passat Raffle is Elizabeth Yandow of Dorset, VT. Ms. Yandow's ticket was drawn October 7 during the VSO's Made In Vermont Music Festival Tour finale at St. Michael's College Recital Hall in Colchester. The winner of the second prize, a Volkswagen Gift Bag, is Jamie Lee of Lexington, MA and the third prize winner of the VSO Goodie Bag is Mary Jane Lowman of Vergennes, VT.

"My intention was to make a donation, never thinking I would win," said Ms. Yandow. "My experience working as an investment counselor has taught me that investing in good causes will always bring a positive return."

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the raffle. Special thanks go to Volkswagen of America and Hand Motors, Kinney Motors Ltd., Lewis Volkswagen, and Walker Motors.

## Worry, But Don't Panic!

by Alan Jordan

The Sunday, November 18 article in the Burlington Free Press (page D1) reported on the current financial situation of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra which, to say the least, has its challenges. This article came about because Free Press staff had noticed stories of failing or near-failing orchestras in large communities, including Toronto, San Jose, St. Louis and Boca Raton. These stories, and reports of large deficits incurred by major orchestras in Chicago, Philadelphia, Ft. Lauderdale and elsewhere, have taken on greater significance since September 11. The Free Press contacted us to learn how the VSO was faring during such obviously difficult times.

The fact is that the VSO has seen better times financially, and the current situation should be of great concern to all. The operating deficit of approximately \$550,000, accumulated during the last four years, does not equate to over half a million dollars of debt. Indeed, the major portion of this deficit has been financed internally with reserve funds held by the VSO; a bank line of credit funds the remainder.

Much of the data the article reported is accurate. Unfortunately, some of the recent good news was not included. Ticket sales this season are exceeding budget projections (this is contrary to most orchestras, who have experienced a sharp decline since September 11). Contributions have not slipped thus far; however, we are keeping an eye on year-end gifts that traditionally represent a large percentage of our Annual Fund. The Governing Board of Director's special \$150,000 fund raising campaign has yielded more than \$50,000 in gifts and pledges through the first two months of this year-long drive. The article also reported our "abandoning" the Hunter Park Summer Concert Series. This is not true and we are currently working to maintain concerts for 2002. Most importantly, the VSO has the best artistic product in its entire history (thanks to the leadership of Jaime, Anthony and Bob, as well as the dedication and talents of our fine orchestra and chorus musicians) and patrons are recognizing this new and improved presentation and supporting it with their attendance.

While the financial situation is a difficult one, I will be the last one to believe that the VSO's future is in jeopardy. Moreover, even in these uncertain economic times, I think we will witness increased attendance and support for our VSO. There has not been a time in recent history when the VSO's impact, providing great music to both energize and comfort, was more needed by Vermonters.

So what can you do to help? As a VSO member, you can consider increasing your Annual Fund gift this year, and you can encourage friends, family members and colleagues to take basic membership in the VSO Association for just \$50. But, more than anything else, you can purchase tickets, attend our concerts and witness firsthand why your Vermont Symphony Orchestra is more important and exciting than ever before.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Vermont Symphony Orchestra!

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This list was compiled on November 15, 2001 for the period of October 8, 2001 through March 1, 2002 for gifts of \$250+. If you would like more 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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