

Counterpoint

President's Message

We mark another successful year at the NRV Friends of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. In the last newsletter, I highlighted the AIRS (Artist In Residence Series) program, our week-long intensive curriculum that emphasizes a section of the orchestra in each of the four years that it follows students in elementary schools. This message will highlight the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra (RYSO).

The RYSO is comprised of approximately 80 student musicians, ages 12-18, who rehearse weekly and perform symphonic repertoire in public concerts throughout the school year. Led by RSO Associate Concertmaster James Glazebrook, the RYSO is the only professional orchestra training young people in southwestern Virginia. The young musicians gain membership through auditions held annually each spring and fall and may perform with the RYSO through their high school graduation.

According to Sarah Wardle Jones, RSO's Education Director, there were 14 students in RYSO from the NRV in 2016-17. These NRV students played in all four of the sections of the Orchestra – strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion. Over the years, many of the RYSO alumni from the NRV have gone on to have interesting careers – both in music and in other disciplines. As a result, we will attempt to provide information about some of our NRV RYSO alumni in a series entitled "Where Are They Now?" in future newsletters. One of our NRV alums, Jason Painter Price, is the subject of an article in this newsletter. Jason, who hails from Blacksburg, is one of the founding members of Alarm Will Sound, which will perform at the Moss Arts Center in January 2018. He will serve as a guest artist at the 2nd Annual Virginia Tech Trumpet Festival in September.

The RYSO members are expected to attend the RSO's Summer Music Institute (SMI) as a part of their annual program, where they form bonds with the other RYSO members and learn and perform some of the repertoire for their upcoming season. This year, the NRV Friends initiated two need-based scholarships (\$500 each) for NRV students to attend the Summer Music Institute. We are proud to support NRV students who would otherwise be unable to participate in this important educational experience.

Don't miss the rest of this newsletter. You will find information about our AIRS and SMILES educational programs. Julie Earthman and her Road Show Committee have been hard at work all winter organizing a sensational season of Road Show offerings for the fall. Please read all the details in Julie's article.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the three Directors who end their service on the Board effective June 30. They are Director Dr. Frank Clark, who is leaving the area and so is resigning a year before his term expires (2015-17), Sara Glesner, Director and Recording Secretary (2011- 2017), and Director Jessica Vance (2014-17), who will be attending graduate school out of the area. If you have a chance to see any of these Directors, please be sure to thank them for their service.

Thank you for supporting our programs, as it is only with your support that we can continue to bring world-class music education programs to our NRV communities.

Have a great summer! I hope to see you at our events next season!

Kim Adel,
President

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Where Are They Now?

After talking about the Roanoke Youth Symphony in the President's Message, we thought it would be appropriate to initiate a series in which we tell you about some of the NRV former members of the RYSO. Some former members indeed pursued careers in music, while others chose paths which led them to other disciplines. By and large, however, no matter where their careers have taken them, the former members of RYSO believe their experiences in RYSO were invaluable.

Jason Painter Price – Trumpet and Electronics

In this first installment in the series, we will look at Jason Painter Price, who graduated from Blacksburg High School. Jason shared his skills on trumpet with RYSO in the late '90s. Then he pursued an undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech, going on to get Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Eastman School of Music. Jason is a trumpet performer, composer, and improviser. As a trumpeter and soloist, he has performed in North America, Europe, and Asia, specializing in innovative contemporary works. In 2001, Jason won 1st Prize in the National Trumpet Competition and has since performed in the World Premieres of works by John Adams, Steve Reich, Benedict Mason, Augusta Read Thomas and others.



Jason's work in the large ensemble format at Eastman led him and others to found Alarm Will Sound, a contemporary music ensemble based in New York, which performs at the Moss Arts Center in January 2018. Even though Jason has recently retired from the group, he still considers them "family" and will miss accompanying them for this performance. Jason will return to Blacksburg this fall as a guest artist with the 2nd Annual Virginia Tech Trumpet Festival. We don't want to miss the Trumpet Festival's gala concert on September 16 in the Squires Recital Salon where we can hear Jason play!

After serving a year on the faculty at Virginia Tech, Jason joined the faculty at Michigan State University in 2011, where he creates interactive electronics for theatre productions and sound installations, as well as composing electronic and acoustic music for dance, film, television, radio, and software. His compositions have been performed in Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Manhattan School of Music, Ohio University and Bowling Green State University.

About his experience with the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra, Jason states that the experience in RYSO gave him his first opportunity to play in an orchestra. The RYSO experience, combined with the solid band experience at Blacksburg High School, gave Jason the sense that "this" was what he wanted to do. Even with his own students now, Jason believes that music enhances creative thinking and problem solving (and with RYSO, he "got to go away to camp!"). Jason remembers moments with RYSO that have stuck with him, including a rehearsal in which the group was playing Sibelius' Symphony No. 2. According to Jason, while playing a brass chorale in the piece, there was a moment that he felt the "hair standing up on the back of my neck." We hope that all of our RYSO musicians, whether they ultimately pursue music or not, will have an opportunity to connect with the music in this way!

Season Eight of a Musical Road Show

Plans are well underway for the Friends annual Musical Road Show. Composed of a variety of six "stops" each featuring a unique musical attraction and tasty eatables and drink, Road Show is an experience not to be missed! Following is just a peek at each stop with more details coming in Passport, your formal invitation, to be posted August 1. If a particular event strikes your fancy and you'd like to be a sponsor of said event, please call Julie Earthman – she'd love to have you on board. 951-2051

Stop One

Music with a Twang
Home of Mark Golusky and Myra Blanco, Blacksburg
Featuring the Mike Mitchell Trio playing bluegrass!
Barbecued ribs and more! Catered by Professional Catering
Friday, September 1, 2017 6-8pm

Stop Two

Music & the Maestro Center Stage!
Moss Center, Anne & Ellen Fyfe Theatre, Main Stage, Blacksburg
Featuring Maestro David Stewart Wiley at the Steinway grand
plus Julee Hickcox, flute and John Smith, bass.
Heavy hor d'hoevres & wine bar catered by Personal Touch
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 6-8pm

Stop Three

Music with a Dixieland Beat!
Jackson Park Inn, Pulaski
Featuring the return of the Riverboat Ramblers!
Enjoy a beer and wine bar plus a light buffet catered by the Jackson Park Inn
Friday, September 29, 2017 6-8pm

Stop Four

Music, Classical, with a Bach's Lunch!
Home of Larry & Patti Cowley, Blacksburg
Featuring a performance by violinist Linda Plaut and Sine Nomine
Enjoy wine and a gourmet Bach's lunch!
Sunday, October 1, 2017 1-3pm

Stop Five

Music that SINGS!
Nesselrod Bed & Breakfast, Radford
Featuring the Choral Music Department at RU
A cocktail party catered by Feast & Co.
Monday, October 9, 2017 6-8pm

Stop Six

Music and All that Jazz!
Warm Hearth, Blacksburg
Featuring Charlie Perkinson, bass; Tom Floyd, keyboard;
Al Wotjera, drums.
Savories and canapes. Beer & wine.
Catered by The Village Gourmet
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 6-8pm

Artists in Residence (AIRS) Update:

Another wonderful year of music in our local schools has happened, thanks to the NRV Friends of the Roanoke Symphony AIRS grant programs. At Belle Heth Elementary School in Radford, sixth grade students were treated to workshops and a concert given by the Highlander Brass Quintet. The students enjoyed a lively presentation by Dr. Dayl Burnette, along with all the members of the quintet. They explained how their instruments "worked" and demonstrated how to play them. The quintet played many musical selections ranging from classical music to movie themes. Afterwards, the students had the opportunity to play all of the brass instruments using colorful, bright mouthpieces of all sizes. The week culminated with a fantastic concert by the Highlander Brass Quintet. This concludes the four year cycle of the AIRS grant for Belle Heth. Sandy Findley, music teacher at Belle Heth, reports that all four years have been exceptional and students benefited greatly from working with the fine musicians who visited this Radford school.

During the week of April 24th, Eastern Montgomery Elementary School enjoyed the instruction from Radford University percussion professor, Al Wojtera, and the Radford Percussion Ensemble. During the week of May 1st, Eastern Elementary in Giles County worked with the Saturn String Quartet. In addition to these workshops, a wonderful after school string program has been developed at Snowville Elementary in Pulaski County. More details about all of these opportunities will follow in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in learning more about the NRV Friends Artists in Residence program, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Edie Carter at 230-4556 or Ann Berenato at 961-7777, both members of the Board of Directors of the NRV Friends of the Roanoke Symphony Board.

Respectfully
submitted,
Ann Berenato



Holiday Pops Spectacular 2017



Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops

Saturday, December 9, 2017
at 4:00pm

Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

We are proud to co-sponsor this event with
the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech.

The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra returns with everyone's annual favorite, the Holiday Pops program. Gather your friends and family, and celebrate the season with a merry musical program for audiences of all ages. NRV Friends can purchase individual tickets before the general public beginning July 25 by using the code: NRVFriends17

Order Tickets at
www.artscenter.vt.edu

or call the

Box Office:

(540) 231-5300

Masterworks at the Moss Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 3 PM

David Stewart Wiley, music director and conductor

Celebrate the 2017-18 season opening of the Roanoke Symphony
Orchestra with this special appearance in Blacksburg

P.O. Box 242
Blacksburg, VA 24063

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Support the NRV Friends...

The New River Valley Friends of the Roanoke Symphony is a volunteer arm of the RSO dedicated to furthering the musical experiences of young people in the valley and bringing live music to the area. Please support the NRV Friends of the Roanoke Symphony. See the inserted pledge form.

Thanks to our many individual and corporate sponsors.

CORNING



Smiles

SMILES 2016-17 was our most engaging year in the program. Our focus has been on artists that not only interest the kids, but include them in the performance in some way, and it has been a huge success! The Julius Quartet opened our SMILES season at the Lyric, making us hungry for more by likening chamber music making with building a fine sandwich, and ended with the students chanting and cheering for their favorite instrument. Terra Voce, a flute and cello duo from Northern Virginia, introduced Harding Elementary to the basic foundations of music (dynamics, tempo, articulation) while also giving them a chance to try out the slide whistle. Francesca Khalifa conversed about violin and piano duo repertoire with the newest string students at Snowville Elementary. And Shana Tucker, a classically trained cellist and jazz/soul singer-songwriter, invited students from Springhouse Community School in Floyd on stage to improvise their own original tunes through piano, beat boxing, and freestyle rap.

The 2017-18 school year promises to be the best yet! We are in negotiations with several ensembles that offer something unique to the program. Included on the roster are the TriForce Quartet, hailed across the country for their innovative approach to video game music; Clarence Padilla, jazz clarinetist with annual SMILES favorites from the VT Jazz Band; Javier Vinasco and Cathy Correa-Lopera, musicians from Colombia who run educational programs for underprivileged students in Medellin; and a drum circle that lets the kids take center stage. Stay tuned for more exciting details!



In Memoriam

C. Ned Lester – We lost our Director C. Ned Lester on February 22, 2017. Many of you knew Ned, who served as a Director from 1994-2016, and served as President for more than one term. Both Ned and his wife, Rosalyn served the NRV Friends of the RSO for many years in various capacities and supported all of our educational programs, as well as the Musical Road Show. Ned and Rosalyn had just moved to the Hilton Head area at the beginning of 2017, where Rosalyn continues to reside. Ned's legacy with the NRV Friends will always be remembered; he is sorely missed.

Cornelia (Connie) Giesen – A past member of the NRV Friends of the RSO Board, Connie passed away March 14, 2017 in Radford. Some may recall that Connie, along with her late husband, Bill, was a longtime supporter of the RSO and the NRV Friends.

Peggy Meszaros – A past member and President of the NRV Friends of the RSO Board, Peggy passed away on April 18, 2017. Peggy was a long-time supporter of the NRV Friends of the RSO and its educational mission.