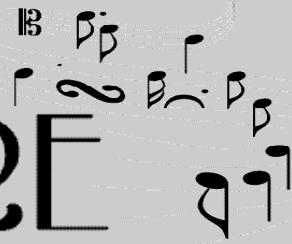


October 2009

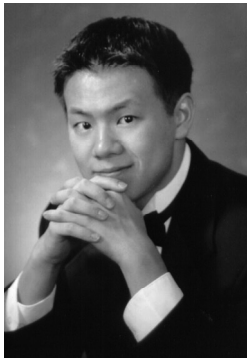
OVERTURE



BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS, AND BARBER

Sunday, October 25, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Proctors Theatre

Sponsored in part by The Open Door Bookstore and The Niskayuna Community Foundation



Wei-Jen Yuan

The Schenectady Symphony opens its 76th season, "Music We Love," with the return of Capital District native Wei-Jen Yuan, who will perform The Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1, D minor. Winner of the SSO's 1997 Parillo Piano Competition and a graduate of Harvard University, Wei-Jen obtained his M.M. and Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music in 2009 under the tutelage of Peter Frankl.

Wei-Jen has studied with numerous prestigious artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Dorothy Delay, Leon Fleisher, Joseph Kalichstein, Stephen Hough, and Charles Dutoit in chamber and solo masterclasses and feels blessed with having had such professional guidance and experience all his life. This past summer, he was one of six pianists chosen to participate in the 2009 Sarasota Music Festival under the direction of Robert Levin, Dwight P. Robinson, Jr. Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. He has also performed in numerous venues throughout New York State. His last appearance with the SSO was in 2006, playing Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto to great acclaim.

For this concert, Wei-Jen joins the Symphony for Johannes Brahms's Concerto No. 1 in D minor for Piano and Orchestra, a virtuosic and fiery piece that stands in great contrast to the composer's second piano concerto, written much later in his career. Originally composed in 1854 (when Brahms was just 21) as a sonata for two pianos, he later decided to rework the piece into the form of a symphony, and then later decided to make it a concerto for piano and orchestra. Over the course of several years, he made substantial changes in the score and was the soloist when the composition finally had its premiere in 1859.

Beethoven's Fourth Symphony, also on the program, is often overlooked in comparison to his more famous Third and Fifth Symphonies. Yet it also is considered very beautiful and understandable. Indeed, toward the end of

Beethoven's life, one critic wrote about the Fourth that "There are no words to describe the deep, powerful spirit of this work from his earlier and most beautiful period." In all, Beethoven's Fourth Symphony is considered to be closer in classical style to his First and Second Symphonies, than the more revolutionary (for their time) Third and Fifth Symphonies.

Rounding out the afternoon's program and highlighting the SSO's talented string section, will be Samuel Barber's melodic and emotional Adagio for Strings. One of the staples of the string orchestra repertoire, it is considered one of the most moving pieces of music written in the 20th century and has been used in a number of film soundtracks, including the 2001 Oscar-nominated film, *Amélie*.

*** Preview ***

Maestro Charles Schneider will present a concert preview at 2:00 p.m. in the upstairs gallery space at Proctors. All ticket holders are invited to attend on a first-come, first-served basis.

TICKET INFORMATION

Individuals tickets are \$10.00 for adults/\$6.00 for students 7-18 (children under 7 may attend FREE with a paid adult) and are available:

- by mail through the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra – four-concert subscriptions or individual tickets – make your check payable to the SSO and mail to 432 State Street, Schenectady NY 12305. Orders received after 10/9/09 will be held at the Box Office for pick-up just before the concert.
- from the Proctor's Theatre Box Office – individual concert tickets only at 346-6204 or online at www.proctors.org



A Message from our President

It's hard to believe that the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra's is about to open its 76th season, "Music We Love." And what a season we have in store for you, with works by history's great composers, top-notch soloists, and appearances by local young pianist Ryan Reilly and members of the Capital District Youth Chorale under the direction of Dianne Warner.

Many thanks to all of you who supported the SSO this summer by attending our two fundraising events, the Classical Breakfast at River Stone Manor and the Gala at SPAC. The weather was terrific for both events (unlike much of this past summer) and everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks as well to those of you who turned out for our performance at Schenectady's Summer Night.

Your support at these events and during the season is critical to the SSO's survival as an organization. Only about 12% of our costs are covered by ticket income and for this season, we are seeing a decrease in government and business support. Without our sustaining members, it would be impossible to support a professional orchestra in our community.

We think it is all about how you define your mission - and that's only possible with your support. People who make the arts an essential part of their lives make the magic of the symphony possible. So if you haven't yet renewed your subscription for this season, please take the time to do so today. We hope that you will also consider adding in a tax-deductible sustaining membership gift. There is a membership level for every income and every gift is greatly appreciated. Without this kind of community support, we would be unable to produce the high-quality classical performances that you and other members of the community have come to enjoy.

As always, we hope to see you at our concerts this season.

Robert Bour. President
Schenectady Symphony Orchestra

For Your Tax Records

Our legal name is **Schenectady Symphony Orchestra Association, Inc.** We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Our federal ID number is 23-7213129. For more information about deductibility of gifts made to us or any other questions, please call 372-2500 or email us at sso2@verizon.net.

For your tax records, here is a listing of the tax-deductible portions for each ticket to our 2009 fundraising events.

Thank you for your support!

Music We Love Season Preview Party	\$40
2009 Gala at SPAC	\$72
2009 Classical Breakfast	\$6

Seen in Saratoga

Who was that lead violinist playing Nat "King" Cole standards with George Benson at the Saratoga Jazz Festival at SPAC this summer? It was none other than the SSO's own concertmaster, Michael Emery!

Michael was part of the 28-piece orchestra accompanying eight-time Grammy winning singer/guitarist/songwriter Benson, who performed an "unforgettable" tribute to Nat "King" Cole. Michael also had a number of brief solos during the show - which was a terrific ending to the two-day festival.

