

Arts & Entertainment

Silver Sounds Concert



COURTESY PHOTO
The Alura Ensemble featuring Manchester Community Music School faculty member Aubrie Dionne, flute, (right) and Christopher Gantner, piano, (left) will perform Silver Sounds on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 PM at the Manchester Community Music School. No admission fee. For more information contact MCMS at 644-4548 or www.mcmusicschool.org.

MANCHESTER – On Thursday, November 12, the Manchester Community Music School presents the performance Silver Sounds at 7:00 pm in the Music School's Gruber Recital Hall featuring the Alura Ensemble with MCMS faculty member Aubrie Dionne, flute and Christopher Gantner, piano. Admission is free and open to the public. This concert is the second of the 2009/2010 MCMS Manchester Chamber Players series, presented on select evenings from October – March by the Manchester Community Music School.

Featuring eclectic composers from the 19th and 20th centuries, Silver Sounds will transport the listener to faraway worlds with melodies that are haunting, mysterious, and passionate. Rich in imagery, the feature piece of the concert is Alan Hovhaness's Garden of Adonis, a work inspired by Greek and Egyptian legends.

Aubrie Dionne, flute, is an active performer, teacher, conductor, and adjudicator in the New England Region. As a flutist, she has performed in conjunction with The Great Water Music Festival, The Granite State Opera, The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra, The Longy Chamber Orchestra, The Brockton Symphony, The Manchester Chamber Players, The Hanover Chamber Orchestra, and the Manchester Choral Society. She has also performed in various solo recitals throughout the region and as a soloist with the New Hampshire Symphony, the University of New Hampshire Symphony, Wind Symphony, and the Lakes Region Symphony. She is on the faculty at Plymouth State University and The Manchester Community Music School. She also teaches flute

masterclasses every summer at the Summer Youth Music School at the University of New Hampshire. She received her B.M. in music performance from the University of New Hampshire and has studied at the graduate level at the Longy School of Music. Her Teachers include Robert Willoughby and Peggy Vagts.

Christopher Gantner is an active collaborative pianist, organist, teacher, and composer in the New England region. As a collaborative pianist, he has accompanied numerous musicals, competitions, workshops, and solo recitals in the area. As a church musician, Chris has worked both as a director and organist in the Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, and Catholic denominations. He is also a member of the American Guild of Organists and is a certified C.A.G.O. Organist. Currently, Chris teaches music at The Maple Avenue School in Goffstown, NH. Christopher has also won several performance and composition awards. His original work "A Sonata for Clarinet and Piano" was a finalist in the 2001 ASCAP awards. Chris has a B.M. in music theory and composition from The University of New Hampshire. He has studied organ performance at the graduate level (Master of Music program) at The Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. His primary teachers include Peter Sykes, Michael Annichairico, Christopher Kies, Andrew Boysen, Paul Brust, Eric Sawyer, and Howard Frazin.

For more information on MCMS, visit the Web site, www.mcmusicschool.org or call 644-4548. MCMS is located at 2291 Elm Street in Manchester.

Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Joined By Children's Chorus For Nashua Premiere

NASHUA – On Saturday, November 21, the Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus will present the Nashua premiere of John Rutter's Mass of the Children as part of its "Awake, my soul" concert. The program, which also includes Tchaikovsky's stirring Serenade for Strings, begins at 8 pm in Nashua's Keefe Memorial Auditorium. Jonathan McPhee, the NSA's Music Director and Principal Conductor, and Diane Cushing, Director of Choral Activities, will share conducting duties for the evening. The concert is sponsored by Crowne Plaza, Nashua.

For the performance of Rutter's Mass, the orchestra and chorus welcome SCORE, an accomplished children's chorus based at Nashua's Birch Hill Elementary School, under the direction of Deb Kneeland. "The last time SCORE joined the Symphony Chorus was in the spring of 2006 for two performances of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana," notes NSA Executive Director Eric Valiere. "They were wonderful then, and I expect their youthful energy and considerable talent will bring an extra level of excitement to this concert," he added.

The British composer – well known to American choruses for his many audience-friendly works in that medium – had his reasons for including the voices of young people. "The effect of combining children's and adults' voices is unique, and I wanted to write a work that would bring them together in a joyful context," explains Rutter. "I had never written a Mass, and it seemed to me a perfect opportunity to interweave texts and music coming from the different perspectives of children and adults."

In addition to the children's and adult choruses, Rutter's score calls for two vocal soloists, and the NSA has engaged soprano Nouné Karapetian and baritone Jimi James. Both may be familiar to New Hampshire audiences; James and Karapetian last sang together as Germont and Violetta in the Granite State Opera production of La Traviata in November of 2008.

The appearance of Ms. Karapetian and Mr. James is made possible by the generous support of Hesser College and Triangle Credit Union. Upon completing his Serenade for Strings, Tchaikovsky wrote his

publisher: "I am violently in love with this work and cannot wait for it to be played." The first public performance, however, took place nearly a year later in St. Petersburg to an enthusiastic response, with listeners carried along through beautiful melodies and the rich luxurious sounds of the string orchestra.

"It's one of my very favorite works," exclaims NSO Music Director Jonathan McPhee, "and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to share it with our New Hampshire audience."

Nashua Chamber Orchestra November 14 and 15 Concerts

NASHUA – The opening concert of the Nashua Chamber Orchestra, under the skillful baton of maestro David Feltner, will take place on Saturday, November 14, at the Nashua Senior Center, 70 Temple Street, 8:00 PM, and Sunday, November 15, at Milford Town Hall on the oval, at 3:00 PM. The program includes works by two living composers, Gandolfi and Rautavaara, along with Beethoven, Honegger and Schubert. Bassoonist Gregory Newton is the featured artist. Tickets (\$15 adult, \$13 senior and \$8 student) are available at the door, or in advance at Darrell's Music Hall in Nashua, and the Toadstool Bookstore in Milford's Lorden Plaza.

Beethoven's Overture to King Stephen, Op. 117 (1812) was written for the theatre production of King Stephen, which recounts the tale of this Hungarian national hero, crowned king in the year 1000. Brimming with restless energy, dynamic contrasts and compelling rhythmic drive, the Overture is characteristic of Beethoven's musical idiom, and incorporates elements of Hungarian folk music.

Presenting a stark contrast in mood, La Pastorale d'ete (Summer Pastorale, 1920) is a tranquil, dreamy composition by Swiss composer Arthur Honegger (1892–1955), inspired by his summer vacation at the base of the Jungfrau. The piece is in A-B-A form, with a con-



Composer, Michael Gandolfi

trasting B section that pays homage to Beethoven's Pastorale Symphony. La Pastorale d'ete garnered the Prix Verley at its first performance in 1921.

Melrose native Michael Gandolfi (b. 1956) is a "Renaissance Man" whose achievements and awards, too numerous to list here, are fueled by his endless curiosity. His music frequently draws inspiration from

other disciplines such as science, visual arts and theatre. His interest in jazz is evident in the Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra (2007). Relishing a challenge, he composed this piece in three weeks during the fall of 2007. Bassoon soloist Gregory Newton is one of New England's most active musicians in orchestral and chamber music. His facile virtuosity showcases the colors and agility of his instrument in this swinging concerto.

The Fiddlers ("Pelimannit"), op. 1, is a 1952 work by Einojuhani Rautavaara (b. 1928), the leading Finnish composer of his generation and one of the most notable after Sibelius. In a musical idiom ranging from serialism to Romanticism, his compositions span a variety of genres. This brief and colorful suite for strings is based on folk melodies from his home region of Ostrobothnia. Each of these five short vignettes spins a unique mood, creating its own com-

posing, microcosmic world.

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) wrote his Symphony No. 5 in Bb Major, D. 485, in the fall of 1816, at the tender age of nineteen. Premiered by an amateur orchestra in the year it was written, the symphony languished in oblivion for some fifty years until it was rediscovered in 1867 by Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir George Grove on a pilgrimage to Vienna, undertaken specifically to ferret out forgotten Schubertian gems. Displaying Schubert's genius in its vitality, exuberance, drama and lyricism, the Fifth Symphony pays tribute to Mozart while beckoning to dawning Romanticism with its lilting grace.



Gregory Newton

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