



Inaugural Concert

Dan Perkins, Conductor

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Silver Center for the Arts
Plymouth State University
Plymouth, New Hampshire

Sunday, September 14, 2008

Lebanon Opera House
Lebanon, New Hampshire



Dan Perkins

Dr. Daniel R. Perkins, conductor, is professor of music and director of choral activities at Plymouth State University. In 2007, he was appointed the first Stevens-Bristow Distinguished Professor at PSU.

Dan Perkins is an active international guest conductor and clinician. He is principal guest conductor of the Vietnam National Opera and Ballet in Hanoi. He founded the New Hampshire Master Chorale and serves as music director; he is also music director for the Manchester Choral Society. He conducted the New Hampshire Friendship Chorus on their tours to the southern Adriatic, Eastern Europe, Brazil, South Korea, and Vietnam, and will lead their 2010 tour in Morocco. His university ensembles have studied and performed in England, Canada, Italy, Vietnam, South Africa, and throughout the United States. Perkins is also a co-founder, with Dr. Trish Lindberg, of the award-winning Educational Theatre Collaborative, and pianist for the Trio Veritas.

Throughout his conducting history, Perkins has developed programs that reflect his interest in repertoire that is well rounded and multi-cultural, and that encourages work by contemporary composers.

Perkins holds the degrees Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music in Choral Music from the University of Southern California, and Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Brigham Young University. He continued his studies as a Fulbright scholar in Helsinki, Finland. While there, he worked as the associate conductor of the Finnish Chamber Choir and associate conductor of the Savonlinna Opera Festival Chorus.

Program

Divertimento No. 10 in F major K. 247 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegro
Andante grazioso
Menuetto
Adagio
Menuetto
Andante – Allegro assai

Divertimento for Strings (1953) Einojuhani Rautavaara
(b. 1928)

Allegro
Adagio
Allegretto ma energico

Intermission

Romance Opus 42 in C major Jean Sibelius
(1865-1957)

Concerto Grosso No. 1 (1984) Ernest Bloch
(1880-1959)

Prelude
Dirge
Pastorale and Rustic Dances
Fugue

Notes

The mood of the *divertimento* is most often lighthearted (as a result of being played at social functions, after dinner, often outdoors) and it is generally composed for a small ensemble. The form employed here, based on the dance suite, was developed much earlier by Haydn and consummated by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**. The *Divertimento in F, K. 247* was written for Countess Antonia Lodron's name-day celebration in June 1776 (the sister of the current Archbishop, whose two daughters were pupils of Leopold Mozart). This work exemplifies all of Mozart's gifts: energy and lyricism, humor and expressive warmth, balanced and contrasted within and between movements.

Einojuhani Rautavaara, born in Finland in 1928, is a mystic whose works often have an ethereal and spiritual quality. As a mystic, the composer believes that when he writes, he is not so much writing the music from scratch, but instead acting as a sort of midwife to help compositions that already exist fully formed in another reality find their way into our reality. Rautavaara has even gone so far as to say that individual compositions have their own will. This metaphysical spark lies in stark contrast to the more earthbound inspiration of contemporary composers, namely those who drew upon nationalistic sources like folk music or folk mythology. The music of Rautavaara's countryman, Sibelius, often exhibits such a nationalistic compositional style.

When **Jean Sibelius** was born, Finland was just emerging as an independent nation. Finland had become a Swedish Duchy in 1556 and was annexed by Russia in 1808. After annexation, the country slowly began to find a distinctive literary and artistic voice based on a reclaimed past. The *Kalevala*, Finland's national epic, was published by the influential Finnish philologist Elias Lönnrot in 1835, and Finnish became an official government language in 1863. Much of Sibelius' work exudes the style of Finnish folk music, borrowing characters and themes from the *Kalevala*. Completed in 1904, the *Romance in C major* seems to show a Russian influence in its flowing chordal sonorities and plucked bass lines. Sibelius wanders regularly in the piece from the given key center to E minor, a trip that seems to evoke nostalgia.

Ernest Bloch was born in Geneva, Switzerland and eventually settled in the United States where he assumed the directorship of the Cleveland Institute of Music and later the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He also taught at the University of California at Berkeley. His first *Concerto Grosso* is a response to the 1920s wave of neo-classicism. Despite its scoring for strings with obbligato, there is little of the genre's traditional reliance on contrast between concertino and ripieno groups. The music is Romantic and its themes exhibit Jewish musical influence with powerful rhythmic thrust.

Hanover Chamber Orchestra

First Violin

Eliot Markow, Concertmaster

Lydia Forbes

Marla Rathbun

Amy Ripka

Ann Cooper

Matthew Green

Second Violin

Bozena O'Brien, Principal

Sasha Callahan

Amy Rawstron

Mina Lavcheva

Raluca Dumitrache

Jessica Helie

Viola

Harold Lieberman, Principal

Rocco Havelaar

Rodger Ellsworth

Kaethe Hostetter

Jordan Voelker

Cello

Linda Galvan, Principal

Sandi-Jo Malmon

Tim Roberts

Leo Eguchi

Bass

Andy Wilson, Principal

Bob Lynam

Horn

John Boden, Principal

Nina Miller

Piano

Evelyn Zuckerman

Hanover Chamber Orchestra Society

Mission

The Hanover Chamber Orchestra Society is an independent, professional orchestra offering the highest possible level of ensemble musical performance to the people of New Hampshire and northern New England. The mission of the Hanover Chamber Orchestra Society is to inspire, educate, uplift, and entertain people of all ages and to promote music education and appreciation programs through concerts, school visits, demonstrations, and workshops; by encouraging the study of music; and by providing students of music at all levels with exposure to orchestral literature and the opportunity to work with professional musicians. HCO is dedicated to providing access for both rural and urban populations to eclectic musical performances incorporating new works alongside fresh interpretations of familiar orchestral repertoire, to developing new audiences for orchestral music, and to promoting New England composers and musicians.

History

The Hanover Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1976 as a non-profit organization and performance venue for serious musicians in the Upper Valley. The original ensemble has evolved into a highly esteemed professional chamber orchestra, drawing players from throughout northern New England, Boston, Montreal, and New York. HCO supports the Handel Society at Dartmouth College, and has appeared with the Plymouth State University Chorale and Chamber Singers and the Dartmouth College Glee Club, as well as in concert at the Lebanon Opera House, Claremont Opera House, and Carnegie Hall.

The 2008–2009 season represents a major departure for HCO and a significant expansion of its purpose and mission. The orchestra has two home bases: the Lebanon Opera House, where it will present at least two concerts each year, and Plymouth State University, where it will rehearse, perform, and coordinate its educational and outreach activities. As the only year-round, professional orchestra in New Hampshire's Upper Valley, North Country, and Lakes regions, HCO will benefit these areas in many ways, offering communities of all sizes and individuals of all ages the opportunity to experience live musical performance at the highest professional level, and developing partnerships to bring classical music to underserved populations.

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Contributions to the Hanover Chamber Orchestra are
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Hanover, NH 03755-5173

*Please join us for upcoming concerts from the
Hanover Chamber Orchestra*

**The Unicorn, the Gorgon,
and the Manticore**

with the
New Hampshire Master Chorale
Menotti: *The Unicorn, the Gorgon,
and the Manticore*

Friday, November 21, 2008, 8 p.m.
South Congregational Church
27 Pleasant St., Concord, NH

Saturday, November 22, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Anderson Hall
Wolfeboro, NH

Sunday, November 23, 2008, 4 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church
On the Common, Plymouth, NH

Messiah Sing-along

with the
New Hampshire Master Chorale
Handel: *Messiah*

Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
St. Charles Borromeo
Meredith, NH

Night Music

Mozart: *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*
Schoenberg: *Verklärte Nacht*
Arensky: *Variations on a Theme
by Tchaikovsky*
Bartok: *Divertimento* (1939)

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 7 p.m.
Silver Cultural Arts Center
Plymouth State University
Plymouth, NH

Sunday, March 15, 2009, 3 p.m.
Lebanon Opera House
Lebanon, NH

A Child of Our Time

with the
Manchester Choral Society and
Plymouth State University
Haydn: *Te Deum*
Haydn: *Symphony No. 96*
Tippett: *A Child of Our Time*

Friday, April 17, 2009, 8 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral
Manchester, NH

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 8 p.m.
Silver Center for the Arts
Plymouth State University
Plymouth, NH

Sunday, April 19, 2009, 3 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral
Manchester, NH
