



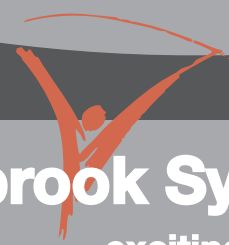
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The Northbrook Symphony

exciting **innovative** engaging

Issue No. 5
Spring 2012

From the Maestro

An Exciting New Perspective

Have you ever sat behind the dugout at a baseball game, or behind the glass at a hockey game? It certainly enhances the experience and makes you feel like a real part of the action itself.

At our March concert, featuring the music of Sibelius and Berwald, The NSO will be offering the equivalent of such an experience—and it will be available to everyone in the audience! When you enter the GBN auditorium on March 25th, you will see two video screens, one on each side of the stage; a camera will be strategically placed near the orchestra. When the music begins, images of yours truly, along with the members of The NSO, will appear on the screens and you will find yourself literally seeing the music unfold on stage from the inside out!

With this unique perspective, you will be carried forward with us on our musical journey; thanks to the magic of technology, you will experience the process of music-making as never before—yet another innovation from your Northbrook Symphony!



Music Director Lawrence Rapchak

But of course, it is all in the service of the music itself—in this case, a sampling of “Symphonic Scandinavia” through two outstanding symphonies: one from the 19th century, the other from the 20th. Jean Sibelius needs no introduction; he is undoubtedly the greatest composer in Finland’s history. His Second Symphony—for which I receive frequent audience

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Dim the Lights

Turkish Delights

February 26, 2012

Sunday at 4 pm



The next stop on our so-journ into The NSO’s 2011-12 concert season, “A World of

Musical Wonder” is Turkey. “Turkish Delights” displays the exotic influence of Turkish music on Viennese composers of the late 18th century.

The concert will feature two selections from Mozart. The first is the overture to his comic opera, “Abduction from the Seraglio.” Mozart took full advantage of the Turkish craze of his day, and this particular selection contains some of his sunniest music. The other Mozart selection is the *Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219*. Brilliant young local violinist Alexandra Switala makes her NSO debut in this masterwork.

The third piece is Haydn’s magnificent *Symphony 100 in G Major*. This work was written to fulfill Haydn’s superstar engagement in London in 1794, and features among its limitless joys a trio of Turkish military instruments in the famous variations of the second movement.

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NSO in the Community

NSO Joins Rotary to Snuff Out Polio

The NSO has joined forces with the Rotary Clubs of Northbrook and Chicagoland Korean to support Rotary International's End Polio Now! project. The NSO will be donating a portion of ticket sales from its Feb. 26 concert to this initiative.

"In 1985 there were approximately 350,000 cases of polio worldwide and there were 160 countries with polio epidemics," said Carlos Frum, District Governor of Rotary District 6440. "Since then, working in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the Centers for Disease Control, various governments, and philanthropic organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we have inoculated 2.5 billion children."



Frum noted that India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan still have endemic polio, although the latest report is that India has not had a case since January 13, 2011.

There will also be a post-concert fundraising reception at the Northbrook Hilton featuring guest performer Paulinho Garcia, a Brazilian jazz guitarist and soloist. Supporting performances include the New Trier High School student singing duet of Sarah MacCausland and Emily Ashenden and members of the Glenbrook North High School Tri-M Music Honor Society. There will also be a video presentation broadcast from India showing a Rotary team performing polio inoculations. Admission is free for concert patrons presenting their ticket stubs. Admission for others: \$25 for adults, and \$8 for students. The **Hilton Chicago Northbrook** and **Allgauer's on the Riverfront** are located at 2855 North Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

"We support Rotary in its worthy endeavor to eradicate this disease around the world," said Mehdi Alister, NSO President.

To order tickets, call 847.272.0755 and mention Rotary, or visit www.northbrooksymphony.org/rotary.

Dim the Lights

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Symphonic Scandinavia

March 25, 2012

Sunday at 4 pm

Scandinavia is the next stop in our journey into "A World of Musical Wonder." "Symphonic Scandinavia" features a pairing of thrilling, life-affirming works by two 19th century Scandinavian masters.



While it's true that the portraits of both of the composers in this program might suggest symphonic gloom and doom, the music itself is remarkably dynamic and uplifting!

Franz Berwald's *Sinfonie Singuliere* is indeed a singular work in its delightful flow of melody and high spirits, and though reminiscent of Beethoven, Schubert, and Mendelssohn, the language is unmistakably that of this unique early 19th century Swedish artist.

Sibelius' mighty *Second Symphony*, in which the great Finnish creator has unmistakably begun to discover his true creative voice, is an expansive panorama in sound, filled with the elemental power, darkness, and passion that culminates in a majestic Tchaikovskian finale.

Olympian Genius

April 15, 2012

Sunday at 4 pm



The final stop in our sojourn through "A World of Musical Wonder" is ancient Greece. The elegance and nobility of Gluck's classic Greek tragedy had a remarkable influence on both of Beethoven's "Fourths" — his *Piano Concerto* and *Symphony*. The genial, pastoral piano concerto, regarded as Beethoven's greatest, features a dramatic slow movement which has been compared to *Orpheus Taming the Furies*, while no less than Robert Schumann described the Fourth Symphony as "a slender Greek maiden between two huge Nordic giants."

These descriptive tributes to Beethoven can only hint at the magnificence and splendor of the music itself. And to enhance these two masterworks, we will include two dances from Gluck's opera "Orfeo."

Pianist George Lepauw will perform with the symphony.

Prior to each concert, there will be a lecture by our popular speaker and music historian, Jim Kendros, at 2:30 pm.



Meet the Players

Alan Rostoker, Cellist

It's about the music, not the money, to Alan Rostoker, The NSO's longtime principal cellist. That is what drove Alan to become a musician, and it is what has driven him as a free lance cellist for more than 40 years.

Alan had already received a BS in mathematics from the University of Illinois – Chicago, with a double major in math and music. He then began pursuing a graduate degree in computer engineering.

“I stopped short and decided I wanted to be a musician,” Rostoker said. “My dad looked at me and said, ‘you realize you are not going to make a lot of money.’ And I said ‘OK.’ And he was supportive of my decision.”

Since then, Alan has made a living playing all types of music. He has played with most of the major orchestras in the Chicago area, performed at nightclubs, and also played with various rock acts. He also provided musical background for commercials for major brands such as Allstate, McDonald's and Budweiser.

Alan has been performing with the NSO for several years. He enjoys being principal cellist. “It lets me use more of my abilities and experience as a musician,” he said. “I am not only playing, but also coordinating our section with all the other sections in the orchestra and making sure we are staying cohesive.”

Alan's involvement is appreciated by Larry Rapchak, NSO Music Director. “Alan is the sort of player that I can always depend on,” Rapchak said. “He comes to rehearsals fully prepared, even when we're in the ‘outer limits’ of the repertoire. And he effectively leads his section in terms of the style—dynamics, color, and phrasing—that helps to make our performances so effective.”

When Alan is not performing, he studies French (he has been to France frequently), donates blood and serves as an election judge. He lives in Skokie with his wife Marcia, a retired accountant and small business consultant, and two cats.



From the Maestro

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requests—represents a rather picturesque national style evolving into a mature symphonic one. The powerful Finale accounts for its popularity, but the first three movements, which seem to unfold like the process of nature itself, are equally compelling.

Prior to the Sibelius, you will have a rare opportunity to experience what is probably THE major work by Sweden's most significant composer, Franz Berwald. The NSO has maintained a close relationship with Berwald—even though he died in 1869—having presented his *Symphony in E-Flat* and *Violin Concerto* in recent seasons. Sunny, energetic, delicate, melodious—sort of a combination of Beethoven, Schubert, and Mendelssohn—the *Sinfonie Singuliere* is indeed what its title implies: a truly unique and life-affirming work.

Come experience these two masterpieces “from the inside out.”

—Larry Rapchak

For more information about single performance tickets, or mini-series subscription packages, call The NSO office at 847-272-0755, or visit www.TheNSO.org.

Upcoming Events

Turkish Delights

February 26, 2012 – Sunday at 4 pm

Featuring soloist Alexandra Switala, violin

Symphonic Scandinavia

March 25, 2012 – Sunday at 4 pm

Olympian Genius

April 15, 2012 – Sunday at 4 pm

Featuring soloist George Lepauw, piano

The NSO performs at the Sheely Center for the Performing Arts, Glenbrook North High School, Northbrook



Stay Tuned with The NSO

1. Visit our website, www.TheNSO.org, and sign up for our e-newsletter to keep up with everything we are doing.
2. Follow us on **Facebook** and receive up-to-the-minute information and special offers: www.facebook.com/thenorthbrooksymphony.
3. Scan the **QR code** at right with your smart phone to see a video presentation of The NSO.



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has been underwritten by:



**The Northbrook
Symphony**

899 Skokie Blvd.
Suite LL12
Northbrook, IL 60062

www.theNSO.org
847/272-0755