



Overtures & Encores

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League

August 2011 Vol. 17 Issue 1

Volunteers supporting today's symphony and tomorrow's musicians.

General Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

5:30 p.m. - Registration

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

Kalamazoo Country Club

Price \$28

Program

Soprano Alice Pierce,
Director of WMU's Opera Program
featuring Highlights of La Traviata

Menu

Fall Salad w/ Vinaigrette Dressing

Pork Tenderloin

with Apple Brandy Sauce

Acorn Squash Wedge

Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Dinner Rolls - Butter

Tea - Coffee - Water

Reservations

by Tuesday, September 6th
to Janet Thieme ★ 743-7140
email: jsthieme@aol.com

President's Notes

Mary Klenow, President



Wow, summer is flying by – I certainly hope that you are enjoying this special time of year with your family and friends! Hope you were able to attend KSO's concert at the "Taste of Kalamazoo" on July 23. It was delightful.

Your faithful KSOL friends have had a busy summer having meetings and making decisions that will shape the success of our fall fund-raiser: "*Symphony in Style – Fashions for the Season.*" With Project Chairs, Jan Boesch and Barb King, lending their expertise again, I know our second fall fashion show is in very capable and talented hands! They have formed a project team that includes long time members and a few of our newer members.

This year's Community Resource Chair, Babs Herman has been busy working on our sponsor and patron letters and ensuring they have been printed and mailed. You should have recently received your patron letter. Please consider sending a donation to support our "*Symphony in Style*" fashion show!

Janis Clark, this year's Program Chair has an exciting program planned for our September meeting (details below). Our thanks to Janis in securing speakers that are sure to be informational and entertaining this coming year!

Thanks to the Arrangement Co-chairs, Nancy Thiele and Sally Roach for procuring General Meeting locations for this year and planning menus that are sure to please. Watch for email invitation from Janet Thieme, Reservations Chair for the September meeting. If you do not have email, you will receive a phone call.

Our Membership Chairs, Kay Burtis and Diane Heckler have had a busy summer ensuring that all past KSOL members have renewed their memberships so they can continue to enjoy their KSOL friends at meetings and project fund-raiser planning.

Thanks to Mary Ellen Agar, Computer Records Co-Chair for the many hours spent this summer updating last year's directory so it can "go to press" and be available to hand out to members at our September meeting!

There are numerous tasks to keep KSOL running smoothly, many thanks to all our KSOL team. Please enjoy this year's journey with KSOL as we work to ensure another spectacular KSOL year!

I look forward to seeing you September 13 at the Kalamazoo Country Club.

September Program - A taste of La Traviata

Janis Clark, Program Chair

Our first program of the new symphonic season will highlight KSO's premier of La Traviata. We are honored to welcome as our guest performer, **Soprano Alice Pierce** who will be accompanied by Gunta Laukmane. Ms Pierce has had an international career in opera, concerts and musicals which spanned over two decades. The center of her achievements was at the Brandenburg State Theater in Cottbus, Germany, where she sang nearly 100 performances a year for 10 years.

Ms Pierce received her training at Indiana University, a two time Metropolitan Opera Auditions Regional finalist, and served on the music faculties of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington and the North Carolina School of the Arts. Currently, she is on the faculty of Western Michigan University,

where she teaches singing and is the director of the opera program.

Ms Laukmane is also on staff at WMU. As a free lance pianist and collaborator she has delighted audiences throughout South Western Michigan for years.

Ms Pierce will not only speak about La Traviata but will enchant us with an excerpt from the Verdi opera as well. KSO's performance of La Traviata is Saturday, September 17th at 8pm at Miller Auditorium. Hope to see you there!



Alice Pierce

Education / Scholarship

Even though the **Kushner and Company Instrument Petting Zoo** volunteers are currently enjoying summer vacation, they occasionally help at community zoos that are presented by the KSO education department.

On July 28, several docents volunteered for an instrument zoo that was held during the Black Arts Festival in downtown Kalamazoo. We spent a very busy two hours helping children of all ages make very impressive sounds on a variety of instruments. In fact, some of the smallest children made some of the biggest sounds!

You can see by the pictures that a good time was had by all!

Jane Hoogerheide, *Education/scholarship Chair*



“Symphony in Style” - Fashions for the Season

We are planning a spectacular evening on **October 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Epic Center Theatre**, downtown Kalamazoo. **Please circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend.**

“*Symphony in Style*”- *Fashions For the Season* will be presented, featuring stylish fashions, exciting entertainment, excellent food and drink, the latest accessories, a chance to go home with an item from the silent auction and door prize drawings.

Susan B. Anthony will be the Master of Ceremonies. She’s known world-wide for her incredibly beautiful soprano voice, and her charming manner. Barry Ross and Steve Kamerling, talented and popular instrumentalists, will provide music before the fashion show begins.

Fall and Winter fashions will be shown, from Burtrum Furs, Cabi, Cakes Boutique, Carlisle Collection, Chico’s, Coldwater Creek,

Jan Boesch & Barbara King, *Fashion Show Co-Chairs*

Earthly Delights, Lana’s Couture, MODA (student designers from WMU), Stein Mart and Sydney’s. The show will feature everything, including sporty-casual, business attire, special occasions, fur and leather jackets.

❖ **Ticket prices are \$55 for VIP seating and \$45 for general admission.** They’ll go fast! Seating is limited! Don’t delay! Let’s fill the theatre! Tickets will be available at our September 13 general meeting. They may also be obtained from Teresa Crawford, at 371-4486, or TeresaR.Crawford@gmail.com. Promotional information to share with family and friends will be available at the meeting.

Each KSOL member is encouraged to attend this, our Fall fund-raising project, to support our fabulous KSO.

See you at the show!

Public Relations

Watch, read, and listen for news about **KSOL**. We want **ALL** of our members and the general public to be aware of our mission: “*Volunteers Supporting Today’s Symphony and Tomorrow’s Musicians*”

Our **Fall project is *Symphony in Style, Fashions of the Season*** to be presented on October 25 at the Epic Center Theatre.

Contacts have been made with the Kalamazoo Gazette, *Women’s lifestyle Magazine of Kalamazoo*, *Encore Magazine*, and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra office. The purpose is to let the public know about upcoming fund-raising projects and community involvement.

A news release will be sent for publication to the Gazette in September, regarding the Fashion Show.

A photo of Fashion Show Chairs Jan Boesch and Barbara King,

Barbara Farraye, *Public Relations Chair*

Secretary Helen Driver, Designer of Decorations Sandi Fox and KSOL President Mary Klenow, will be included with the news release.

The newly elected Executive Board will be photographed for another article.

Other plans include: a listing in the community calendar of the Gazette News and/or the Today section; our own page in the KSO program book which will feature a replica of the ***Symphony in Style*** program, or the post card designed for the event.

Plans are in the works to up-date the KSOL web site with show information, arranging an interview with Lori Moore at WKZO, and contacting Channel 8 in Grand Rapids for an appearance on “Eight West.”

Read more in other articles of this newsletter.

Chicago Trip – Nov. 16

Chicago Here We Come!

Please mark your calendars now for the KSOL annual pre-holiday trip to the Windy City! The date is Wednesday, November 16 and the bus will depart from the former K-Mart parking lot on S. Westnedge Ave. at 8 a.m.



Last year’s travelers had a wonderful time: they spent the day in many different ways from seeing a Broadway show (Wednesday is matinee day) to touring the Chicago Cultural Center and the Art Institute. Of course there was the shopping, both on

Jo Arnold & Anne van Giessen, *Chicago Bus Trip Co-Chairs*

State Street and Michigan Avenue and the great food at trendy restaurants.

❖ **The price for the trip is \$45** and includes the bus driver tip and a few surprises.

If you would like to join other members for dinner at Rosebud Restaurant (located on Superior and Rush where the bus picks us up), please reserve your spot when you pay for your trip.

Your non-KSOL friends are welcome to join us, so please spread the word and plan to register at the September meeting or call Anne at 668-5521 to make a reservation.

Membership

Welcome to KSOL's 81st year of service. We look forward to all members getting to know each other and making new friends while promoting and supporting the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. We encourage you to get involved.

During the 2011-2012 year, it is our intention to send notes to members as indicated:

- ❖ **Thinking of You Notes** to members experiencing serious illness or surgery involving the member, member's spouse or member's child.
- ❖ **Congratulatory Notes** to members on the occasion of their marriage, birth of a baby, birth of a grandchild, receipt of a special honor or a significant wedding anniversary.
- ❖ **Sympathy Notes** to members or surviving family for the death of a member, member's spouse, child, mother, father, mother-in-law or father-in-law.

Kay Burtis and Diane Heckler, Membership Co-Chairs

Please communicate any such news to either of the Membership Co-chairs so a thoughtful note can be sent. Unless requested otherwise, a mention of **Notes** sent will be included in the KSOL Newsletter.



Kay Burtis



Diane Heckler

This summer we have sent **Welcome Notes** to two new members, **Marian Fisher and Terri Erhart**. We have also sent a **note congratulating Jean Courtney** and her husband on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. A **note of cheer** was sent to Jim Woodhams.

Are there other notes that should have been sent during the summer? If so, please let us know. We will appreciate your help throughout the year.

See you in September!

KSO Office Assistance

Barbara Smith, KSO Office Assistance Chair

EASY WAYS TO ASSIST OUR SYMPHONY

1. Once a month, on the 1st Thursday, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., 3-5 volunteers gather at the KSO office (Epic Center) to help with simple clerical projects related to Symphony programs and Educational outreach. You would only have to assist once or twice a season, because I have many volunteers who are also interested to help.

Call: Barbara Smith 345-2180

2. KSO requests your help to house and/or transport visiting guest musicians for 2-3 days before scheduled concerts of our 2011- 2012 season. Those who have helped in this way have been very enthusiastic. Please consider this experience. Call: Operations Manager: Sarah Clapp 349-7759- ext 212



Barbara Smith

Nominating Committee

Esther Wurfel, Immediate Past President Nominating Committee Chair

The ballots are in and the votes have been counted! It's my pleasure to announce the **KSOL Nominating Committee** for 2011-2012!

They are:

Lilly Baraka, Kay Burtis, Bonnie Fonner,
Heather Ingram, Barbara Smith, Anne van Giessen.

Alternate members are:

Mary Ellen Agar, Cheryl Warren, Ann Wuerthele.

The nominating process is a very important part of our organization, one that will ensure the continuation of our wonderful organization, KSOL. Thank you for your votes – over 95 ballots came in! We have some challenges ahead, but I look forward to working with the committee to achieve our goal of completing a slate of qualified officers for the **KSOL Board of Directors** for 2012-2013.

See you in September!

KSOL Book Club

Jo Arnold, Lilly Baraka, Janet Thieme, Margaret Woodhams, Book Club Co-Chairs

Many thanks to Sharon Gulbis who initiated and chaired the very successful first year of the KSOL Book Club! Sharon's dedication, enthusiasm, leadership and scholarship were very much appreciated.

This year's Book Club will operate under a new format with a different member chairing each meeting. Jo Arnold, Lilly Baraka, Janet Thieme and Margaret Woodhams volunteered to chair the sessions. Meetings will take place at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of September, November, January and April (and possibly March) at Kazoo Books, 2413 Parkview Ave. Members decided to branch out a little and consider books in all the arts, not only books about music.

Our first book is an autobiographical work by Renee Fleming, **The Inner Voice: The Making of a Singer**. Ms. Fleming is one of the premiere divas of opera today. The very readable book is about her education and vocal training and experiences in the world of opera. Margaret Woodhams who read the book during

the summer comments: "She writes as beautifully as she sings and gives excellent suggestions for placement of the voice, breath support, etc. all while taking the reader on a fascinating journey through her development, struggles and successes."

November's book is **Loving Frank**, a novel by Nancy Horan. It is the story of architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney, the client for whom Wright left his wife and children. The book is sure to evoke a heated discussion!

Both books are available in paperback at local bookstores and libraries or can be ordered at Kazoo Books - 553-6506.

Hope to see you on September 20!

An RSVP would be appreciated:
Please call Jo Arnold - 327-0886
or e-mail: jlarno@charter.net
if you plan to attend.



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Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League

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Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Editors: Margaret & Jim Woodhams

Address Service Requested

Please Expedite

September Calendar of Events

- Tues. Sept. 6** 12:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting
1:30 pm Full Board Meeting
Barbara Smith's home
- Tues. Sept. 13** 5:30 pm General Meeting Registration
Kalamazoo Country Club
- Sat. Sept. 17** 8:00 pm KSO Concert - Miller Auditorium
Verdi - La Traviata
Raymond Harvey, Conductor
- Tues. Sept. 20** 10:00 am KSOL Book Club
Kazoo Books - 2413 Parkview Ave.



- Tues. Oct. 25** 6:30 pm "Symphony in Style" - Fashion Show
Epic Centre Theatre

October Calendar of Events

- Tues. Oct. 4** 12:45 pm Executive Committee
1:30 pm Full Board Meeting
Parkview Hills Club
- Tues. Oct. 11** 10:30 am General Meeting Registration
The Beacon Club
- Fri. Oct. 21** 8:00 pm KSO Concert - Chenery Auditorium
and
Mozart & Schubert
- Sat. Oct. 22** 8:00 pm Matthias Bamert, Guest Conductor
Anthony McGill, Clarinet



Tony McGill

Mission Statement

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League is a volunteer organization committed to promoting and supporting the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (KSO) by:

- raising funds for the operating budget of the KSO
- promoting the appreciation and understanding of symphonic music in the community, and by
- providing symphonic music educational opportunities for the youth in the community