



Overtures & Encores

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League

May/June 2011 Vol. 16 Issue 9

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

President's Notes

Esther Wurfel, President

We tried some new fund-raising ideas this past year that were smaller in scope and required fewer volunteers. Some were successful while a few were not.

The **Ravinia** bus trip to hear Ramsey Lewis in concert and the fall **Wine Tour** were both cancelled because there were not enough people interested in attending. Time, effort and money did go into the creation and implementation of both of these projects. Many **Thanks** to **Jo Arnold** for her time and efforts!

At the July KSO Bronson park concert, winners were announced for the **New York trip raffle**. We did not sell enough tickets for the trip, but were able to turn the sales into a 50/50 raffle. The first place prize was \$2000 and, thanks to the generosity of Bravo Restaurant and café, we were able to offer dinner for eight to a second place winner. **Thank you Mary Klenow!** A lot of time and effort went into this project to make it happen.

The **In Home Concert**, hosted by Martha and Jim Hillboldt was a huge success! Sixty lucky guests enjoyed some wonderful music and a yummy meal. A very special "**Thank You**" to our Maestro Raymond Harvey and soprano Susan B Anthony for their fabulous performances! And, thank you to **Martha and Jim Hillboldt** for being such gracious hosts.

Symphony in Style, our fall fashion show was lots of fun! The Epic Theatre was the perfect place for the event. **Thanks** to Jan

Boesch and Barbara King for co-chairing and their talented committee to make the project a success.

Musical Chairs, our spring fund raising project, was more successful than we anticipated! Twelve vintage chairs were transformed into whimsical works of art by twelve local artists. A lot of time and talent went into making this project a success – a **huge Thank You** to Julianne Wood-Rethwill and the dedicated committee for making it happen!

And, most of all, I want to **Thank You** for your continued support of our wonderful KSOL and KSO. Without your support, many of our efforts this past year would have been less than stellar! As you know, we do much more than produce fund raising events. We provide volunteers for the Kushner and Company Petting Zoo, ushers for the Youth Concerts and help with administrative assistance to the KSO staff. We also create community awareness of our fabulous Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra by promoting the appreciation and understanding of symphonic music and providing symphonic music educational opportunities for youth in our community. Remember, we are the KSO ambassadors.

It has truly been my privilege to lead our organization this past year! Have a wonderful summer!
Warmly, Esther



Programs 2010-2011

Elizabeth Youker, Program Chair

I hope you enjoyed our variety of programs over the last year! It has been a pleasure to serve the League in this capacity. Two of our programs introduced new KSO Education initiatives, and I would like to take this last issue to bring you up to date on those programs.

The first year of **Marvelous Music!** was a heartwarming success, as 10 classes of preschoolers came to adore Miss Cathi, their **Music Together** instructor. They couldn't wait for their weekly music class! They also loved hearing the Burdick-Thorne String Quartet and playing cardboard violins during a classroom presentation of Mole Music. They all received a copy of the book, as well as a CD of orchestral greats and an accompanying activity booklet to enjoy with their parents at home. Five students are now taking weekly violin lessons and making great progress with Johanna Steinhäuser at Crescendo Academy. Next year we will nearly triple the program by expanding to 28 classrooms! Under the leadership of Jane Rooks Ross, this program promises to give hundreds of children across our community a "marvelously musical" beginning to their learning years.

We are also running full-tilt toward the establishment of an El

Sistema-inspired after-school music program. In partnership with KPS and Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, the pilot is planned to launch with forty 1st and 2nd graders at Woods Lake Elementary in the fall. Daily activities will include a meal, academic tutoring, bucket band, recorder, choir, and a series of exploratory lessons on violin, trumpet and clarinet. The following year these students will choose their favorite instrument and begin playing in an orchestra, while an incoming class of first graders begins the exploratory sequence. We look forward to sharing our progress with you next fall!

Lastly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to next year's program chair, Janis Clark. She is new to the League, and ready to jump in with both feet. She will bring great energy and creativity to the group!
Best, Liz Youker

The following photo is to be credited to markbugnaski.com:

Music Together® instructor Cathi Smits leads **Marvelous Music** students in a movement exercise.



Musical Chairs 2011 is here!



Musical Chairs 2011 was a fantastic success!

A huge and heart-felt thank you to all of you who gave of your time and monies to ensure Musical Chairs was a community-wide sensation and our monetary goal to benefit the wonderful KSO was met and exceeded!

I would like to begin by thanking Mrs. Linda T. Dunn, our Honorary Chair for her support and contributions. It was a pleasure working with her and getting to know her.

Thanks to our twelve gifted local artists who transformed our vintage chairs into whimsical works of art: Lynette Baber, Rachel Castle, Sy Ellens, Val Karam, Dan Kilgore, Gretchen Leguizamon, Linda Manguiat-Herzog, Bonnie Pfungst, Teri Springer, Sara Strong, Brian Walters, and our own KSOL member, Brenda Murphy. Thank you Carla Obringer for your great job as our Artist Liaison Chair!

We were so pleased that Norman F. Carver, Jr., noted local photographer, agreed to photograph each of the *Musical Chairs* for our publicity brochure and development of our note cards. Sales of the creative *Musical Chairs* note cards were a great success, thanks to Heather Ingram and Barbara Smith, Note Card Chairs. All 300 sets of cards were sold!

Our amazing Art Hop Preview Party, held April 1 at the Epic Center, and the May 6th Art Hop event at the Park Trades Center certainly accomplished our plans to share the *Musical Chairs* with the greater Kalamazoo community. Many thanks go to Jan Boesch and Kathie Tomlinson, Art Hop Chairs, for a job very-well done!

The displays of our *Musical Chairs* were artistic and appreciated by all, thanks to Sue Forrester and Janet Thieme, Display Co-Chairs. They ensured the chairs were safely moved and showcased at KSO concerts and in business windows in Kalamazoo and Portage throughout April and May. A superb accomplishment!

I would like to extend a big thank you to Mary Ellen Agar and Mary Lam-Rodrigues, Printing and PR Chairs, respectively, for their creativity and hard work on our printed project materials and great press exposure. Our project printed materials included the brilliant *Musical Chairs* brochures and posters, invitations

Julianne Wood-Rethwill, Project Chair

and save the date cards. We had *Musical Chairs* articles and mentions in the Arts Council Art Hop brochures for April and May, the Women's Lifestyle magazine and the Kalamazoo Gazette!



Over 110 KSOL members and friends enjoyed our fantastic Musical Chairs finale party held May 21st at the WMU Richmond Center for Visual Arts.

Many thanks to Jessica Maronto, Finale Party Chair, Florence Nelson, Party Decorations Chair, and Reservations Chair, Diane Heckler, who made sure it was a wonderful evening for all!

Sincere thanks also goes to Kay Burtis, Auction Chair and Jay Heckler, Auctioneer, for their superb job making sure both the silent and live auctions at the finale party were a success! The auction results are as follows:

Silent auction: "Peter & the Wolf" by Bonnie Pfungst – Julianne & Craig Rethwill; ♦ "Sitting on Woodward Ave." by Marilyn Johnson - Carla & Tom Obringer; ♦ "Welcome Home" by Sara Strong Glupker - Julianne & Craig Rethwill

Live auction: "Beethoven's Fifth" by Sy Ellens - Linda & John Dunn; ♦ "Cecilia Sitting Pretty" by Brenda Murphy – Diane Robertson; ♦ "La Chaise de Topiarie" by Dan Kilgore – Heather Ingram

The *Musical Chairs* raffle winners were also drawn at the finale party. Mary Klenow, Raffle Sales Chair, did an astonishing job leading our KSOL volunteers in selling over 2200 raffle tickets! Please see Mary's article for winners of the six raffle chairs.

I am so pleased and grateful to have worked with such an excellent committee on this magnificent project! Scotty Allen, Musical Chairs project Secretary and Bonnie Fonner, Treasurer, were joys to work with and were awesome!

Jo Arnold and Babs Herman, Staffing Chairs for the project, were sensational in finding all of our wonderful volunteers for the key steps in the *Musical Chairs* project! This was a massive responsibility which they accomplished with patience and grace. **Thank you!**

An enormous thank you goes to Esther Wurfel, President, Pam Stowell, Community Resource Director, many of you, and the community for the resounding success obtaining the monetary donations to *Musical Chairs* from our sponsors, underwriters, patrons and donors! **Thank you!!**

Have a great summer!

Raffle Ticket Highlights

Mary Klenow, Raffle Chair

What a wonderful evening we had at our Musical Chairs Finale Party on Saturday, May 21 at WMU Richmond Center for Visual Arts! Mid-way through the evening, it was time for our Raffle Drawing and we were honored that Mrs. Linda T. Dunn, our Honorary Chair, pulled the winning ticket from each of the six raffle boxes!

Here are the winners:

Chair 1 - "Put Your Little Bunnies in the Foxy Chair," Artist: Lynette Baber	Winner: Sam Urban
Chair 2 - "Sunrise Over the Snow," Artist: Rachel Castle-Herzer	Winner: Dorothy Early
Chair 3 - "A Tassel with Spring," Artist: Val Karam	Winner: Penny Briscoe
Chair 4 - "Vivaldi Four Seasons," Artist: Linda Manquiat-Herzog	Winner: Richard Knapp
Chair 5 - "Handel's Water Music," Artist: Teri D. Springer	Winner: Diane Byrne
Chair 6 - "Beach Chair," Artist: Brian Walters	Winner: Kathleen Campbell

Education / Scholarship

With the completion of our last two zoos of the season, both of which were snow-day make-up zoos at Kalamazoo Christian and Greenwood Elementary schools on May 17 and 19, the **Kushner and Company Instrument Petting Zoo** was presented 86 times at 31 different schools on 33 days, which was our busiest year ever. With over 60 active docents, ten of whom were new this year, and two thirds of whom are KSOL members, most of the zoos were generously staffed with at least ten and usually eleven volunteers, which made the zoos less tiring for us and provided the students with ample one-on-one assistance with the instruments.

Those sixty-plus wonderful docents referred to above are Mary Ellen Agar, Liz Aldrich, Carole Bickle, Sharon Bosco, Linda Bowerman, Betty Brown, Joyce Budge, Penny Butler, Kathleen Campbell, Dorothy Castor, Brigitte Cripe, Laurie Dahlman, Annelies deBruin-Carson, Nancy Diamond, Jan Diewald, Liz Egberts, Musette El-Mohammed, Thelma Fallows, Barbara Farraye, Diane Fogel, Nancy Forrest, George and Sue Forrester, Linda Fredricksen, Charlene Hansen, Babs Herman, Jane Hoogerheide, Carol Hoppenrath, Diane Keivit, Michael Krischer, Synthia Hardy Kushner, Jeanene Lewis, Jo Longnecker, Jessica Maronto, Janine McGavin, Naomi Morse, Carla Obringer, Kay Polzin, Mary Prange, Rollie and Sharon Preuss, Sally Roach, Amy Rogers, Bev Schmidt, Maynard and Judy Schuur, Pat Shiley, Lani Smit, Barbara Smith, Betty Lou Smoke, Tim and Janet Thieme, Nancy Thiele, Marrijane Walker, Cheryl Warren, Kristina Wood, Margaret Woodhams and her sister Carla Benson, Dale Working, Ann Wuerthele, and Liz Youker. Again, thank you! Without you, the

Jane Hoogerheide, Education/scholarship Chair

zoo would not exist!

If anyone else would like to join the ranks of these very special volunteers, please give me a call at 372-1221 with any inquiries. You do not need any prior knowledge of music or instruments, just a willingness to work with kids. We will provide you with on-the-job training.

Thank you again, docents, for making my job so delightful and pleasant this past year, and I look forward to working with all of you again next year. We also thank Gary Kushner and Synthia Hardy Kushner for their continuing financial commitment to this special instrument-exploration program from the KSO.



Marrijane Walker with Grand-daughter Sarah



Zoo Docents at Richland Elementary in April

Membership

This past year has been an exciting one for membership. We welcomed 15 new members to KSOL!

More than 40 notes were sent to members during 2010-2011 including: **Appreciation** to chairs of our major fund-raisers; **Congratulatory** for weddings, births, special recognition or honors; **Thinking of You** for illnesses; and **Condolences** for loss of loved ones. Each new member also received a note of **welcome**. All notes written for the preceding month were listed in the next newsletter.

Instead of our annual New Member Reception, we decided to procure a booth at **Women's Lifestyle Expo** for two icy, cold, snowy days on January 21st and 22nd. Community-wide recognition and exposure for our organization and its mission were the results of this decision. Many attendees gathered information, and several joined as new members.

Since the April Newsletter the following notes were sent: **Appreciation** to Julianne Wood-Rethwill for chairing the very successful **"Musical Chairs."** **Congratulations** to Margaret and Jim Woodhams who have a new grand-daughter. **Welcome** to KSOL were sent to our final new members for **2010-2011**, Sandy Derby and Amy Cooper.

Being Membership Chair has given me further opportunities

Barbara Farraye, Membership Chair

to welcome, and to become acquainted with our former and new members.

Kay Burtis and Diane Heckler, as Membership Chairs for 2011-2012, can look forward to a rewarding experience!

Wishing each of you a healthy and happy Summer! Barbara Farraye Membership Chair 2010-2011.



Raffle ticket winner, KSOL member, Kathleen Campbell, with Brian Walters' "Beach Chair."



New members who attended our Annual Meeting
First row: Sandy Derby, Annelies Carson
Second row: Janis Clark, Nancy Diamond, Jeanne Hay, and Art Wurfel!



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The Kalamazoo Symphony formed a **Book Club** for the first time this year, 2010-2011. We met at 10:00 on the third Tuesday of the month at Kazoo Books on Parkview.

Our book selections tried to reflect music the symphony was performing, fact and fiction.

We read the following: *Musicophilia: Tales of Music on the Brain* by Oliver Slack'
1791: Mozart's Last Year by H.C. Robbins Lando

The Piano Shop on the Left Bank by Thad Carhart
Body and Soul by Frank Conroy

The Community Read Book of *Strength in What Remains* by Tracy Kidder

We enjoyed hearing from authors (You Tube) and had a speaker from Rwanda come for our Community Read book.



The 2011-2012 KSOL Book Club will be chaired by Jo Arnold.

The following book is recommended for summer reading in preparation for the September Book Review.

In keeping with the opera theme for September (KSO is performing a semi-staged production of Verdi's La Traviata), 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.



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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