

Music Notes

FOR MEMBERS OF THE NIAGARA SYMPHONY

Summer/Fall, 2010

2010/2011 Concerts

MASTERS

October 3

An Opening Celebration

November 28

The Four Seasons

January 30

Afternoon Delights

April 3

A Scottish Affair

POPS!

October 23 & 24

Symphonic All – Stars

December 11 & 12

A Niagara Holiday Fantasy

February 26 & 27

Hey, Niagara, You've Got Talent!

May 7 & 8

Light Classics to Broadway

Inside this issue:

Introducing New Music Director	1
Summer Music Camp & The Academy	1-2
Composer in the Classroom	2
09/10: A Year In Review	3
2010/2011 Subscriptions	3
Music Workshops	3
Contact Information	4
Niagara Symphony's Current Supporters	4

Introducing YOUR new Music Director - Bradley Thachuk

In the Fall of 2008 the Niagara Symphony struck a Search Committee to undertake the all-important *Quest for the Podium*.

More than 100 applications from Canada, the United States, France, Germany, Japan and the U.K. were reviewed, evaluated and painstakingly reduced to about twenty – and then further reduced to eight who were interviewed in person.

Four candidates were then invited to each lead the Symphony in one Masters and one Pops programme during the 2009/2010 Season. At the same time, we sought feedback from our musicians, audience members and donors!

After much discussion and thoughtful consideration, the Search Committee and the Symphony Board reached the decision to offer the post to Bradley Thachuk – and he accepted!

In the upcoming Season, he will conduct 2 of the 4 MasterWorks, 2 of the 4 Pops and will hold the title of Music Director Designate & Principal Conductor.

In the 2011-12 Season, Maestro Thachuk will relocate to the Niagara Region, increase his frequency of conducting with us and hold the title of Music Director & Principal Conductor.

We are delighted to welcome home to Canada this Toronto-trained conductor and much-sought



Bradley Thachuk
Photo by Robert Nowell

-after symphonic arranger whose experiences include engagements in Canada, the United States, Italy and Germany.

Please check www.NiagaraSymphony.org for further details and join us for a dynamic future!

Summer Music Camp

49 years old, and *still* the summer destination of choice for children 18 months to 18 years! Parents and Tots, Early Years, Orchestral and Combination programmes, separate Junior and Senior

sessions, recreational activities and terrific guest artist performances - the **Summer Music Camp** has something for everyone.

Beginners, experienced players - all skill levels

are welcome at SMC! Many students take advantage of Summer Music Camp to try out a new instrument before committing to year-long lessons; others continue to hone their skills on a familiar instrument.

Registration has been brisk for the 2010 camp, but there is still time to enrol.

The Niagara Symphony thanks the many community and individual donors who contribute to our SMC Bursary Fund – their generosity allows us to share the Summer Music Camp experience with every child who wants to make music with us this summer.

The Academy

Exceptional students need an exceptional programme – the Niagara Symphony offers **The Academy at Summer Music Camp**. Serious students of music enrol for a three-week intensive course of study, running parallel with the Summer Music Camp.

The Academy includes one-on-one master classes, theory exams, access to private practise rooms, ensemble performance opportunities and mock auditions with immediate, constructive feedback. Applicants to The Academy must meet rigorous entrance requirements, and the programme is especially suitable for those considering post-secondary studies in music.

*Summer Music Camp
makes a great gift!*

Summer Music Camp and The Academy are presented at Ridley College, and the Niagara



Symphony is grateful for Ridley's ongoing support and cooperation.

To register, to donate to the Bursary Fund, or for further information, please contact B.J. Armstrong, Education Coordinator: by phone at 905-687-4993 ext 223, or by email at BJ.Armstrong@NiagaraSymphony.org or visit our website www.NiagaraSymphony.org for online registration options.

Composer In the Classroom

The Niagara Symphony's premiere in-school education programme, **Composer in the Classroom**, recently concluded its successful 2009-2010 season, visiting six Niagara Region schools this year. This unique programme is a vital part of the Niagara Symphony's ongoing commitment to foster music education for young people.

310 students in Grades 5 through 8, from communities across the region, participated in this in-depth exploration of the composition process, each one spending a total of 7½ hours working with the Niagara Symphony's Associate Conductor, Laura Thomas, and four members of the Niagara Symphony orchestra. Three permanent teaching resources are provided to schools, in the form of a comprehensive preparation package, the book of scores and

an audio CD of the concert performance.

The entire student body of each school is invited to attend final concerts and overall, approximately 925 additional students experienced a live, in-school orchestral performance - with the added thrill of knowing their fellow students composed the music! This brings the total reach of Composer in the Classroom to 1,235 young people this season alone, more than 11,000 since its inception.

The Niagara Symphony is grateful for the continuing support of the Ontario Paper Thorold Foundation, whose three-year commitment supports this vital programme. We are also fortunate to have the continuing endorsement of the two local Arts Consultants, Gerda Klassen of the District School Board of Niagara

and Jayne Evans of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, whose insight and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Planning is underway for the 2010-2011 Composer in the Classroom, with dates and application forms available in June.



Niagara Symphony musicians (L-R: Doug Miller, Charlene Nigel, Marlene Dankiw-Bath, Gordon Cleland) demonstrate their instruments to the students of Notre Dame School in Niagara Falls.

2009/2010: A Season In Review

2009/2010 has been a magnificent season for the Niagara Symphony, filled with excitement and anticipation over the search and successful audition of talented conductors vying for the post of the symphony's Music Director. The orchestra once again outperformed itself by delivering the best quality music entertainment to our appreciative audiences.

A few highlights:

January - April

New and exciting 09/10 Season planned, with the *Quest for the Podium* contest announced.

May - June

Subscription sales up 23% from previous year!

July - August

The arrival of Jack Mills as Executive Director.

September - October

Education Coordinator B. J. Armstrong joined the team!

The excitement begins! The first Music Director candidate took the stage in the inaugural 2009/2010 concert.

The CITC programme started and successfully finished its 09/10 season in April 2010.

November - December

Resource Development Manager Karen Bannister joined the team!

Annual Silent Auction generated \$3,000 with the money supporting education and music programming.

Family of Ludo Muntz donated his vibraphone to the symphony; debut performance at Holiday POPS!

February, 2010

The Niagara Symphony secured \$60K GIC support from the City of St. Catharines.

March, 2010

New 2010/2011 season announced. Subscriptions and tickets go on sale.

May, 2010

The 09/10 season ends with another sold out POPS! Performance.

Bradley Thachuk joined the Niagara Symphony as Music Director Designate & Principal Conductor.

July, 2010

Summer Music Camp starts its 49th season.

2010/2011 Subscription & Single Ticket Sales

The 2010/2011 subscription & single tickets sales are well under way. The new season's repertoire offers an engaging mix of old time favourites and new music pieces.

With the new Music Director in place, the symphony is looking forward to the start of its 63rd season.

The dates and programming are available in our Prelude magazine

and on the website. Please visit www.NiagaraSymphony.org for more details of the 2010/2011 season. If you have not signed up yet to enjoy the symphony music,

*For subscriptions and tickets,
call the Box Office at
905-688-5550 ext. 3257*

call the Box Office at (905) 688-5550 ext. 3257. Subscribers save up to 25% off the ticket price.

All concerts are held at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University.

The Box Office hours are:

Mon - Fri 11am to 6pm

Sat. 10am to 2pm

Summer Hours (June 1 to Labour Day): **Mon - Fri** 11am to 4pm

Music Workshops

By special request, the Niagara Symphony recently presented a series of instrumental and conducting workshops for a Grade 8 band from Ottawa. While visiting Niagara Falls on a year-end school trip, the Henry Larsen P. S. Concert Band made time on Friday May 14th to meet with five members of the orchestra for an hour-long session

focused on instrument groups. Doug Miller, Zoltan Kalman, Amrom Chodos, Steve Fralick and Laura Thomas gave the students professional pointers on warm-up and breathing techniques, posture and interpretation. Ms Thomas then worked with the full band for another hour, conducting two familiar works, as well as a new

piece she had selected to challenge the visitors!

As part of its education and outreach initiatives, the Niagara Symphony offers workshops tailored to meet the specific needs of student orchestras, concert bands or instrument ensembles in the region.

NIAGARA SYMPHONY

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Orchestra in Residence, Brock University

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J. M. (Jack) Mills
Executive Director, ext. 224
Jack.Mills@NiagaraSymphony.org

The Niagara Symphony, based in St Catharines, Ontario, is a 52-member orchestra providing a classical and contemporary musical experience to residents of the Niagara Region.

Through 12 concerts each seasons – two each of four POPS! concerts and four Masterworks concerts – and two education and outreach programmes for young people – the Niagara Symphony inspires and nurtures the love for music in more than 6,000 people each season.

A vital and vibrant member of Niagara's cultural community, the Niagara Symphony is the Orchestra in Residence at Brock University and a 63-year-old cultural treasure.

Please see contact details at left for more information.

Niagara Symphony is an enthusiastic supporter of the new Niagara Centre for the Arts in downtown St Catharines.

Niagara Symphony's Current Supporters

Niagara Symphony relies on generous corporate and individual donations that bridge the gap (of 38%) between operating expenses, earned income and public grants. Our donors and sponsors provide necessary funding to enable achievement of our artistic and education goals: attract prominent guest artists, grow our education programmes and expand collaborations with other cultural organizations.

Our current supporters: (from January 2009 to June 2010)

Corporate (\$500 & up)

Art & Val Fleming Foundation
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** Niagara Symphony acknowledges with sadness the recent passing of our long-time supporter Evelyn Fenwick.*