

# The Whole Note

Special Edition of  
The Norwalk Youth Symphony  
Newsletter

April, 2002

## The Norwalk Youth Symphony Is Going To Carnegie Hall!

May 22, 2002 - 7:30 PM

**Conductor: Tara Simoncic**

**Elgar – Enigma Variations, Op. 36**  
**Shostakovich – Festive Overture, Op. 96**

The Norwalk Youth Symphony is delighted to be returning to the stage of the world-renowned Carnegie Hall to perform for the fourth time. In 1993, the Principal Orchestra played a joint concert there with the South Florida Youth Orchestra that was wonderfully successful – so much so that it appeared on this famous stage again in 1996, sharing the program with the Gemini Youth Symphony of Long Island. In 1999, our concert partner was the Empire State Youth Orchestra. In keeping with our decision to make this an event that takes place every three years, we're going once more this coming May to Carnegie Hall. We are delighted that Empire State will share the program with us for a second time; we anticipate a great concert; and we invite you to join us on this special occasion.

### History of Carnegie Hall

On May 5, 1891, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky mounted the podium of a new hall on 57th Street in New York to conduct the first performance in what was to become one of the most famous concert halls in the entire world - Carnegie Hall. The dream of a young conductor, Walter Damrosch, this building, known at first only as Music Hall, was New York's answer to Boston's recently constructed Symphony Hall. Its purpose was to provide a space suitable for the performances of large orchestras and for world-class musical figures in this great city.

Imagine that opening night — the boxes filled with the elite of New York society dressed in all their splendor, all seats taken and even the aisles crowded, a standing ovation for Andrew Carnegie, the benefactor for whom the hall was eventually named, wonderful music — all in all, a brilliant start to what was to become a legendary musical building.

Consider, too, the performers who have graced this hall's magnificent stage. Conductors such as Gustav Mahler, Arturo Toscanini, Bruno Walter and Leonard Bernstein led the New York Philharmonic

here. Soloists such as Jascha Heifetz, Pablo Casals, Yehudi Menuhin, Vladimir Horowitz, Artur Rubinstein, Rudolf Serkin and more recently Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman have thrilled audiences here. The Cleveland Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra and countless others have played here. And, pop artists such as the Beatles, Johnny Cash and Elton John have been welcomed here.

As Richard Schickel and Michael Walsh say in their book, *Carnegie Hall, The First One Hundred Years\**, "(Carnegie Hall) was the American musical mecca, the place to which all aspiring performers must journey before they could truly call themselves artists. Everybody knew that to get there you had to practice, practice, practice. But there was more to the myth of Carnegie Hall than mere success. For once you had made it in Carnegie Hall you were not finished; indeed, your career had only just begun."

..and it is in this hall that the Norwalk Youth Symphony will perform on May 22!

### Newsletter Staff

Carolyn Phillips ..... Editor  
Computing Concepts ..... Graphics & Layout

\*New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1987. p. 230.

## From The Conductor

Carnegie Hall has a unique history that many concert halls cannot claim. In doing a little research, I learned that the diversity of the people who have stood on its stage makes it one of the most popular performance venues in the world.

Andrew Carnegie, who was considered to be the "richest man of his time," built the hall. He made most of his fortune in the steel and railroad industries, and it was rumored that he was such a ruthless businessman that he gave most of his fortune away to redeem himself.

Many events have made history on the stage of Carnegie. In 1904, Strauss conducted the world premiere of his *Symphony Domestica*, and, in 1908, Mahler conducted the premiere of his *Symphony No. 2*. Political figures such as Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson gave speeches on its stage. Toscanini gave his farewell performance there, and the Beatles performed in Carnegie on their first trip to America. In this year alone, the Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburg Philharmonics as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago and Boston Symphonies have given concerts in this great venue.

Today, to play a concert in Carnegie Hall is considered a great honor and distinction that not everyone is fortunate enough to have. I am excited and proud to be a part of The Norwalk Youth Symphony's performance there because by doing so we are not only following in the footsteps of the aforementioned people, but we are also becoming a part of its rich history.

— Tara Simoncic

Violinist Isaac Stern played more than 155 concerts at Carnegie Hall and its stage held a mystical attraction for him, more than any other in the world. "When you walk out there and listen in silence, you hear Toscanini, Horowitz, Heifetz, Bernstein, Anderson, saying, 'Come on kid, try.' You walk out and they welcome you."

In *The Hour* February 5, 2000

## Members of the Principal Orchestra

### Violin I

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| James Yu **      | Westport   |
| Andrew Boyd      | Ridgefield |
| Dana Cole        | Norwalk    |
| Sara Friesen     | New Canaan |
| Shota Ike        | Darien     |
| Adam Kaye        | Wilton     |
| Alec Orenstein   | Weston     |
| Jessica Palmer   | Westport   |
| Rebecca Phillips | Weston     |
| Elizabeth Skalka | Weston     |
| Sarah Spitzfaden | New Canaan |
| Shanna Telesco   | Brookfield |
| Kathryn Watkins  | Trumbull   |
| Jessica Wong     | Darien     |
| Stephanie Wong   | Darien     |

### Violin II

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Eric Pidluski *        | Fairfield |
| Eric Allard            | Wilton    |
| Benjamin Bordoley      | Wilton    |
| Christopher Burkhalter | Norwalk   |
| Emmaline Cullen        | Norwalk   |
| Andrew Feng            | Westport  |
| Adele Jourdan          | Easton    |
| Hadrian Kim            | Newtown   |
| Leslie Klein           | Norwalk   |
| Brandon May            | Redding   |
| Parker Noren           | Easton    |
| Anna Penchuk           | Darien    |
| Lauren Pires           | Norwalk   |
| Rebecca Pollak         | Westport  |
| Karl-Gustav Ruggeberg  | Greenwich |
| Michael Szeto          | Westport  |

### Viola

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Andrew Knebel *     | Norwalk    |
| Caitlin Ahern       | Ridgefield |
| Gail Harmon         | Trumbull   |
| Alexandra Lillie    | Norwalk    |
| Geraldine Napoleone | Norwalk    |
| Nicholas Revel      | Wilton     |
| David Rosen         | Westport   |
| Katharine Sanford   | Weston     |
| Hanwen Yan          | Westport   |

### Cello

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Emily Asen *       | Fairfield  |
| Donald Black       | Darien     |
| Benjamin Brennan   | Westport   |
| Rei Chiang         | Westport   |
| Jennifer Chieffalo | Norwalk    |
| Ashley Jordan      | Norwalk    |
| Tanner Kaufman     | New Canaan |
| Laura Messina      | Westport   |

### Cello Continued

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Jane Minehan    | Westport |
| Colin Nangle    | Westport |
| Kathleen Palmer | Westport |
| Jonathan Payne  | Norwalk  |
| Matthew Sanislo | Norwalk  |

### Bass

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Nicole Contaxis  | Easton   |
| Amber Coutermash | Westport |

### Flute

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Kasha Rybczyk * | Westport  |
| Sasha Buttke    | Weston    |
| Jacob Greiner   | Fairfield |
| Nina Sickler    | Wilton    |

### Oboe

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Emily Redmerski * | Rye Brook, NY |
| Christine Rank    | New Canaan    |

### Clarinets

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Christine Mandell * | South Salem, NY |
| Emily Hargraves     | Darien          |
| Laura Collins       | Wilton          |

### Bassoon

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Andrew Fulton * | Darien |
|-----------------|--------|

### French Horn

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Rebecca Lipsitz * | Easton   |
| Daniel Riegler    | Westport |
| Jonathan Sousa    | Westport |

### Trumpet

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Stephen Horowitz       | Bridgeport |
| Linnea Perelli-Minetti | Greenwich  |
| William Domeika        | Fairfield  |

### Trombone

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Kevin Brenner * | Warren   |
| Ezra Harris     | Westport |

### Tuba

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Stephen Procopio | Fairfield |
|------------------|-----------|

### Harp

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Tiffany Yusko * | Danbury |
|-----------------|---------|

### Percussion

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Louis Morgan * | Weston  |
| Sean Nye       | Norwalk |

\*\* Concertmaster  
\* Principal Player

**TARA SIMONCIC** is the newly appointed conductor of the Principal Orchestra. She received a professional studies diploma in conducting from the Manhattan School of Music in June 2001 and also holds a master of music degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University and a bachelor of music degree in trumpet performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. Ms. Simoncic has conducted the Knoxville Youth Orchestras and the Wachusett, MA Regional High School orchestra program and was an apprentice conductor of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Presently, she is a guest conductor of the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra in New York and the assistant conductor of the Kingsborough Community Orchestra. Last year, Tara was the fourth Norwalk Youth Symphony conductor, on hand to fill in as needed for the others. Her conducting teachers include Zdenek Macal, David Gilbert and George Hurst.



## *From a Young Musician*

Beads of sweat slowly trickle down my face as I wait in line on the stairs. There is excitement all around me as I feel my stomach starting to twist. My friends and I are very excited as we anxiously await our cue. Finally, a voice projects down the stairs, "You're on! Good luck!" I follow the line and nonchalantly walk onto the stage. Turning my head as I proceed to my seat, I look into the distance and see the audience observing us assemble in our seats. I take a big breath and think to myself, "This is it! I have finally made it to Carnegie Hall!"

There is silence, and everyone in the orchestra looks at one another, waiting for someone to start warming up first. I work up enough courage and raise my trumpet up to my lips. I start with a quick exercise just to get some air flowing through the instrument. One by one, the rest of the musicians from the Norwalk Youth Symphony Orchestra join me and start to play their own warm-up exercises.

In what seems to be less than a few seconds, the audience starts to applaud as our conductor walks onto the stage. We all take a bow and sit down, ready to play. Our conductor looks at us for a few seconds with a big smile on his face. Confidently, he raises his baton. All of us gaze at him awaiting the downbeat to start playing. He lifts his arms and begins the first movement. Again, I think to myself, "Here we go! We have practiced hours, for this moment!"

The cello section starts to play a beautiful, mysterious theme. The violins, the French horns, and the other instruments each enter the music at their designated times. The music begins to soften. "One more measure left!" I think to myself. I lift up my trumpet; I am ready to play. My sound rings across the stage and into the audience. I slowly elevate my eyes from the sheet music and scrutinize every move of our conductor's baton. I am not reading the music off the paper anymore; I am concentrating on making it!

Thirty to forty minutes later we finish the exciting conclusion to Dvorak's "New World Symphony." As we play the crescendo on the last note, we look to our conductor for the cut-off. The beautiful sound ascends from the symphony and bounces off every wall in Carnegie Hall. As the echo slowly fades, we are showered with thunderous applause. We realize any fear of failure was pointless. We had executed an outstanding performance at one of the world's most famous concert halls, Carnegie Hall. With enormous smiles on our faces, we stand, take our bows and hurry back to the dressing room, complimenting each other's performance as we go. Instruments are quickly packed up, and we rush outside where our families and friends are anxiously waiting to congratulate us on what has been the most exciting night of our lives.

— Benjamin Robinson

## *Ticket Order Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ general admission seats @\$25 (Box seats are sold out)

\_\_\_\_\_ round trip bus tickets to Carnegie Hall from  
Norwalk City Hall and back @ \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ 4:00 PM departure \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00 PM departure

I enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to *Norwalk Youth Symphony*

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my Visa or Mastercard:

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:  
***The Norwalk Youth Symphony***  
P O Box 73  
Norwalk, CT 06856-0073

*Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope*

For further information, all  
**203-866-4100.**



Look for us at our Web site:  
[www.norwalkyouthsymphony.org](http://www.norwalkyouthsymphony.org)  
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*The Wide Note*  
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