



Annual Review for 2010/11

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

AUGUST 2011

65th Anniversary Season a Resounding Success!

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra's 65th season broke more records than any season in our history, including:

- ◆ Highest attendance for any concert (March 13, followed by May 8)
- ◆ Most subscriptions in both seats and in revenues
- ◆ Most total tickets in both seats and in revenues
- ◆ The year-end balance sheet reflected these financial results with net assets growing to an all time high

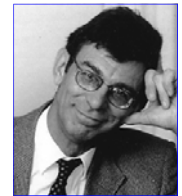
These records were a direct result of the artistic quality evident in all four concerts, including such highlights as:

- October 24 (sponsored by Three Crowns Park) with the Lincoln Trio in Beethoven's Triple Concerto;
- January 30 with soprano Michelle Areyzaga in the world premiere of *The Promised Land*, composed for her and the ESO by Gwyneth Walker, and supported in part by a grant from the Elizabeth Cheney Foundation;
- March 13 with the North Shore Choral Society and four outstanding vocal soloists in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony;
- May 8, the "Suite Mother's Day" concert (sponsored by Presbyterian Homes), culminating in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with Maestro Lawrence Eckerling playing both the piano solo *and* conducting.



The musical quality of this season was so high that the ESO has created its first commercially available CD titled "Evanston Symphony Live!." The disc comprises four performances from 2010/11: Walker's *The Promised Land*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, Hanson's

Merry Mount Suite, and Bernstein's *Candide Overture*, plus a 2008 taping of Donald Draganski's *Overture with Fanfares*, an ESO world premiere commissioned for its 50th anniversary season.



Contributed Support

Individual giving maintained a strong level, highlighted by 100% participation by Board members. Corporate and foundation supporters included Allstate Foundation, Allegra Print and Imaging, City of Evanston, Elizabeth Cheney Foundation, Evanston Community Foundation, First Bank & Trust, Generations Fund, Illinois Arts Council, Lollie, Presbyterian Homes, Romano Brothers & Co., Target Stores, Three Crowns Park, and Zenithmedia.

An Evanston Symphony Christmas

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra once again presented this delightful seasonal concert. The full orchestra, the Evanston Symphony Festival Chorus, Evanston Dance Ensemble, and the Evanston Children's Choir performed to an audience of over 1,000 happy concert-goers.

The Evanston Children's Choir was the latest addition to this family favorite. Approximately 40 children, dressed in bright yellow tops, sang *Mi Burrito Sabanero* with piano/percussion accompaniment and *Angels in the Snow* with the Evanston Symphony Festival Chorus.



We thank Romano Brothers and Co. for their generous support of this concert. This event is a fund-raiser for the ESO and enables us to continue our vital educational programs in Evanston School District 65. Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 4, 2011 for our favorite holiday concert and expect the same happy smiles on the families in the audience!



ESO Board Elects New President; Welcomes New Board Members

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra has not only wonderful volunteer players, but a group of dedicated volunteers on our Board, who work diligently to ensure the ongoing success of our concerts and outreach programs.

Suzanne K. Torrey, a retired corporate lawyer and dedicated ESO board member, was recently elected Board President. She lives with her husband, Scott Peters and their enormous Newfoundland dog, Chloe and is focusing on piano in her retirement. They have two adult children; a writer and an equine vet. Suzanne says of her Board involvement, "Music has always been central to my life and I am proud to help the ESO bring live classical music to our community. I share the excitement each time Larry Eckerling steps to the podium and the music begins."

Four new directors were elected to the Board to serve three year terms: Jeff Berkson, Maurice Grant, Arlene Haas, and Leonard Ilkhanoff.

Music in Your World music education program expanded



For four years now, the ESO has been running a music education program specially designed for 3 to 5 year olds through support from the Evanston Community Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Evanston and other community resources. The Evanston Community Foundation is providing a grant to expand this program to the McGaw YMCA pre-school which will allow us to reach a total of over 550 pre-school children.

These children will sing and dance with our music education professional, Charles Taylor, who will teach them songs and various musical terms. ESO musicians will provide instruments, including lots of percussion instruments and even quarter-sized violins for the children to play. Watch those children's smiles!

Musical Insights — remains a popular offering at Presbyterian Homes, which will again be our generous sponsor in 2011/12. Thanks to General Manager David Ellis and Music Director Lawrence Eckerling, plus our concert soloists who are able to appear, for making this continuing free public lecture series possible.

Coming Up for 2011—2012

Musical highlights of our upcoming 66th season include: **October 23** — 17 year old phenom Colton Peltier honors the 200th birthday of Franz Liszt in his First Piano Concerto, plus the 8th symphonies of Dvorak and Schubert (the "Unfinished"); **February 5** — Russian program featuring the young Bulgarian violinist Bella Hristova in the concerto by Khatchaturian; **March 11** — the Chicago Chamber Choir in Lauridsen's transcendent *Lux Aeterna* plus favorites by Sibelius and Smetana; and **May 13** — CSO principal Mathieu Dufour in Mozart plus dazzling orchestrations of Bach and Brahms. *Join us!*