

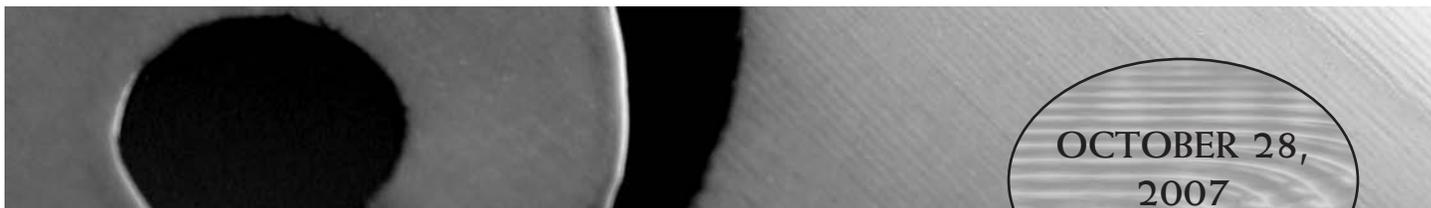


KEYNOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Welcome Back!



OCTOBER 28,
2007
2:30 PM

CONCERT PERFORMANCE

Maestro Lawrence Eckerling and the Evanston Symphony Orchestra have planned another exciting season for our patrons. Our opening concert features some of your favorite composers, Beethoven, Brahms, and Schumann, and the exceptional violinist, **Irina Muresanu**.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) was widely recognized in his lifetime as the pre-eminent living composer in Europe, and his instrumental works were extensively played and admired. His output of symphonies, concertos, sonatas, and chamber music was prodigious, yet he struggled with the writing of his opera, *Fidelio*, for ten years. *Fidelio*, written after Beethoven found out his deafness was incurable, is an intense tale of political repression and dramatic rescue. This opera also inspired four overtures, of which the last now opens the opera. We begin our first concert with this moving overture, the *Fidelio Overture, Op. 72c*.

Another well-loved composer of Evanston Symphony players and patrons, **Johannes Brahms** (1833–1897) was well liked in his own lifetime by Joseph Joachim, the famous violinist, and by Robert Schumann, whose 1st Symphony we are also performing. Brahms met Joachim when he toured with him and Franz Liszt when

Brahms was just 20 years old. Brahms and Joachim became lifelong friends and Joachim badgered Brahms for years to write a violin concerto. Finally, at age 45, while on a lovely summer vacation, Brahms began to write the *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D Major, Op. 77*. Before Brahms had even finished the violin part, he sent the music to Joachim so he could “correct it.” At least six times the score passed back and forth between them, and Brahms took many of Joachim’s suggestions about the orchestra part and form of the concerto, and some of his suggestions about the violin part as well. This beautiful concerto has become one of the favorites of both violinists and audience members. We are looking forward to playing this concerto with our wonderful soloist, **Irina Muresanu**.



MUSICAL
INSIGHTS

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 26, 2007
1:30 PM



Presbyterian Homes

The Symphony No. 1 in B flat, Op. 38 (“Spring”) by **Robert Schumann** (1810–1856) was written during one of the happiest and most productive periods in Schumann’s life. Even as a young man, Schumann had to overcome terrible hardships. Schumann’s father, who had been supportive of his son’s musical ambitions, died when Schumann was just sixteen. Schumann decided to pursue a musical career anyway, but in his twenties he permanently injured his right hand, which ended his career as a concert pianist. He had already started composing and now this became his major focus. In September of 1840 Schumann was finally able to marry his longtime love, Clara Wieck. That year, he wrote over 150 songs. In January of 1841 he completed the keyboard sketch of this symphony in just four days. By the end of February, he had finished refining and orchestrating it. By all accounts, Robert and Clara were blissfully happy, and this symphony reflects Schumann’s inner feelings.

We hope you enjoy these wonderful works! Welcome back to the exciting Evanston Symphony Orchestra! 

—Julie Westbrook

THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IS AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA PROVIDING DIVERSE, ENJOYABLE AND ACCESSIBLE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT THAT ENRICHES THE ORCHESTRA, THE AUDIENCE AND THE COMMUNITY.

MEET OUR SOLOIST: IRINA MURESANU



IRINA MURESANU, VIOLIN

Irina Muresanu, who will be our soloist in the Brahms Violin Concerto at our October concert, was born in Romania and her entire family still lives in Bucharest. "Except for a great-grandfather who played a little bit of violin," she explains, "nobody in my family has ever been a musician." However Irina's father, an engineer, had artistic plans for his daughter, so she began classical ballet lessons when she was four, and violin at six and a half. "I actually wanted to play the piano, but we had no piano at home and my parents convinced me to give the violin a try, pointing out how many violins there are in an orchestra and very few pianos, if any." Irina reached a turning point in her artistic life the year after she gave up ballet to concentrate on violin. ("My parents reminded me that a ballerina has to retire around 35, but that I could play the violin into my 70's," she says.)

"One day when, I was 12, I was practicing Tchaikovsky's beautiful 'Meditation' when I realized there was so much to do with this piece, so much to express through every sound that I never got bored with it. Every day meant climbing a little higher on a sort of musical Mt. Everest. And it dawned on me that this is the beauty of a musician's life; always looking for perfection and never achieving it, because you always look higher and higher."

Irina came to the United States to continue her studies at the University of Illinois/Champaign-Urbana and the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she studied with Madame Michelle Auclair, who—she names as her most important teacher and mentor. "Aside from her genius as a teacher, she set an example of uncompromised dedication to music making, of work ethic and of joy for life," Irina states. "She taught me that talent also meant a huge responsibility to carry on one's shoulders that needs to be tended with care and love." 🎻

—Lilias Circle

AN EVANSTON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT SPONSOR



In 2007, Evanston-based Romano Brothers & Co. will reach a business milestone, 45 years of providing professional investment service to individuals, corporations, trusts and foundations. This year also marks the 4th year the firm has sponsored the Evanston Symphony Orchestra's annual Christmas Concert.

Brothers Robert and Richard Romano began their foray into the investment business when they could not find the right firm in which to invest their parents' real estate earnings. In 1962, the brothers founded Romano Brothers & Co. investment firm. "What began as a 'brother and brother' run firm has changed to a 'father and son' run firm," said Richard Romano, Chairman.

In 1995, Richard's son, Joe Romano joined the firm and in 2001 assumed the role of President. Their philosophy of investing has not changed in 45 years. "All of our portfolio managers develop personal relationships with their clients and build solid, value-driven portfolios. We never advocate buying fads or trends. Our focus is to reduce volatility and increase profit," said Joe Romano.

The firm has grown steadily since its inception, and currently employs 20 individuals. "On average, our portfolio managers have 20 years of investment experience and a cumulative 156 years of direct investment management," said Dick Romano. The firm's goal is to reach one billion dollars in assets under management by the end of 2008.

Romano Brothers & Co. also has been a solid member of the Evanston community for 45 years. Recently, the firm became a founding Cornerstone member of the Women's Club of Evanston's capital campaign. For the past three years, Romano Brothers & Co. has sponsored the Evanston Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Concert. Both father and son have served on various community boards including the McGaw YMCA, Evanston Community Foundation, Evanston Arts Council and Connections For The Homeless.

"We look forward to serving our clients and the Evanston community for another 45 years and more," echoed both Joe and Richard Romano.

Romano Brothers & Co. is a self-clearing firm with \$850 million in assets under management. The firm serves individuals, corporations, foundations and trusts with investments in common stocks, tax-exempt bonds, government securities, corporate bonds, and mutual funds.

MUSICAL INSIGHTS



The Evanston Symphony Orchestra will present "Musical Insights" on Friday, October 26 at 1:30 p.m. at the Assembly Hall of Presbyterian Homes, One Calvin Circle, at Grant and Ridgeway in Evanston.



Julie Westbrook and Maestro Lawrence Eckerling, ESO Music Director, will explore the works and complex lives of Beethoven, Brahms and Schumann at

Musical Insights as an in-depth prelude to our October concert. They will be joined by our soloist Irina Muresanu. Please stop and meet her.

Join them at Assembly Hall of Presbyterian Homes Friday, October 26 at 1:30pm. Parking is free on the Presbyterian Homes campus. All are welcome to attend this FREE event; light refreshments will be served.

For more information call 847-864-8804, email esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org or visit our website at www.evanstonsymphony.org. 🎻



Presbyterian Homes

OBITUARY

March 7, 1924 - June 1, 2007



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of John Condit, an Evanston Symphony Orchestra violist who retired from the orchestra in 1998 after 30 years of volunteer service. He was not only talented on the viola, but played piano as well. John was a greatly loved family man whose memorial service was full of music and laughter. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family.

AN UP-COMING SEASON OF "GOOD VIBRATIONS"

The Beach Boys may have immortalized the words "good vibrations" but the Evanston Symphony Orchestra has programmed an entire season of "good vibrations" with the help of a violin, flute, percussion and the human voice. Different instruments vibrate their unique sounds: violins vibrate stretched strings; flutes vibrate columns of air and the melodious human voice uses vibrating vocal chords. All the more amazing when witnessed in concert.

Our season opens in October with a traditional program of Brahms, Beethoven and Schumann. Violinist extraordinaire Irina Muresanu will bring drama and emotion to Brahms' *Violin Concerto*.

In February, we feature the exceptional work of two ESO orchestra members. Noted composer and ESO principal bassoonist Donald Draganski composed *Overture with Fanfares* to commemorate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra's 50th Anniversary. It's an exciting piece of music and so, twelve years later, we will be performing it again. ESO principal flutist, Sherry Kujala, will perform Griffes' *Poem for Flute and Orchestra*.

In March, we collaborate with the talented voices of the North Shore Choral Society in Poulenc's gorgeous and joyous *Gloria* with Chicago's "Artist of the Year" soprano Michelle Areyzaga as our soloist.

We'll close our 62nd season with a Mother's Day concert as thrilling as it is non-traditional. We'll begin with Beethoven's "Pastoral" *Symphony*. Then percussionist Jordan Wirth will solo on 32 different percussion instruments (a total of 44 on stage!) in Jennifer Higdon's *Percussion Concerto* — a not-to-be-missed spectacle for both the ear AND the eye!

Experiencing live music is one of life's greatest pleasures. The music sounds great, it feels great, and you get to watch the musicians as they create it. Musicians take more risks, generate more excitement and achieve a strong rapport with the audience when they are in concert. Listening to live music can leave you feeling refreshed and energized. *It can be romantic. It can be spiritual. It can be great fun.* Pick up good vibrations and experience great expectations; become an ESO subscriber.

See you in the audience!



Larry Eckerling



Subscribe to Evanston Symphony Orchestra's 2007-08 Season Today!

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P O Box 778, Evanston, IL 60204

AN EVANSTON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS

The annual An Evanston Symphony Christmas, sponsored by the Evanston investment firm Romano Brothers & Co., brings you another exciting program of festive music, vocals and dance to usher in your holiday season. It's the best Yule celebration in Evanston and will leave you humming and singing all the way home. Our media sponsor for this must-see, must-hear holiday concert, is Pioneer Press.

The Evanston Symphony Festival Chorus will fill the hall with traditional holiday music, lead an audience sing-a-long and join in a big Hallelujah Chorus finale. Evanston Dance Ensemble returns to perform four beautiful dances from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. And, of course, what would Christmas be without Santa?

Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 3:00 PM in the Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge in Evanston. Order on-line at www.evanstonsymphony.org or call 847.864.8804. Ask about our family package discount.



FREE CUP OF JOE!

Sign up online for e-KeyNotes and get a free cup of coffee at our October concert! Complete the form online at: <http://ESOFreeCoffee.kintera.org> and you'll get a coupon for a free cup of coffee at our October concert! It's our thanks for helping us keep ticket prices low by saving money on paper and postage. And, because we don't appreciate spam either, we promise to never release your email address. 

TICKET POLICY

When you bring a guest using your Angel Voucher or exchange a previously unused concert ticket, please bring the voucher or ticket to the box office and you'll receive an available ticket for that afternoon's concert. Ushers are instructed not to accept any ticket except the current concert.

All children 12 years of age and under attend ESO concerts for free. However, please pick up a free ticket for any children you are bringing and hand it to the usher when entering the auditorium. Thank you. 

Keynotes • Volume 39, No. 1 • October 2007

For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact Julie Schmidt, General Manager, at (847) 864-8804. Write us at Evanston Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 778, Evanston, IL 60204. Email us at esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org. Visit our website evanstonsymphony.org.



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REMINDER!

MUSICAL INSIGHTS

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CONCERT PERFORMANCE

IRINA MURESANU

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