



KEYNOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The French Connection



MARCH 16,
2008
2:30 PM

CONCERT PERFORMANCE

Maestro Lawrence Eckerling and the Evanston Symphony Orchestra have an absolutely stunning program planned for Sunday, March 16. They will be joined by the **North Shore Choral Society** and the exquisitely gifted soprano **Michelle Areyzaga** in a program featuring four French composers with popular appeal.

Although **Georges Bizet** (1838-1875) showed remarkable early talent as an organist, pianist and composer, he struggled to gain popularity during his lifetime. Luckily, other composers such as Charles Gounod and Hector Berlioz recognized his talent and encouraged him. The *Suite No. 2 from L'Arlésienne*, which opens our concert, was a suggestion from Léon Carvalho, the opera-manager of the Theatre-Lyrique in Paris, to write incidental music to a play by Alphonse Daudet. The play was a huge flop, but Bizet decided his music was worth saving and immediately extracted four numbers and rescored them for full orchestra. This suite was so successful that after Bizet's death, a friend of his, Ernest Guiraud, took three more excerpts from the play's incidental music and an excerpt from an earlier Bizet opera, *La jolie fille de Perth*, to form this second suite. This suite has also proven to be a popular success.

Joseph Marie Canteloube (1879-1957) was introduced to the folk songs and the beauty of his native Auvergne by his father, who

also encouraged his musical talent. Eventually, Canteloube went to Paris to study composition with Vincent d'Indy, who was also a lover of folk song. Although Canteloube wrote many original compositions, his most famous and well-loved works have been his orchestral arrangements of folk songs, particularly the *Songs of the Auvergne*. Canteloube felt that the sounds of nature were the peasant's accompaniment. His beautiful orchestrations evoke the atmosphere of nature. **Michelle Areyzaga** will join the ESO for four of these wonderful pieces.

Like Bizet and Canteloube, **Paul Dukas** (1865-1935) is most well-known for just one work: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Ironically, the fault may be mostly his own. He was a professional critic for a good part of his early life, and was most critical of his own works, and ended up destroying most of his output. This wonderful piece has inspired many artists, the

most famous of whom is Walt Disney. The story is based on a ballad poem, "Der Zauberlehrling," by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Dukas follows the poem exactly and even prefaced his score with a French translation of all fourteen stanzas of the poem. We know you'll enjoy the live orchestral version of this extraordinary work.

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) was largely a self-taught composer with eclectic tastes. His compositional styles are wide ranging as well. He wrote the *Gloria* following the death of a close friend which reawakened his Catholic faith. Poulenc wrote for many different combinations of vocal and instrumental groups. In the *Gloria*, which he called his "large choral symphony," he joins the forces of the orchestra with a large chorus and soprano soloist. We are very excited to join with the **North Shore Choral Society** and **Ms. Areyzaga** in presenting this spirited and uplifting opus.

We are looking forward to sharing this music with you! 

—Julie Westbrook

NEW TIME

MUSICAL INSIGHTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008
3:30 PM

 

Presbyterian Homes

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: MICHELLE AREYZAGA



MICHELLE AREYZAGA, SOPRANO

Michelle Areyzaga, who will join the Evanston Symphony for our March 16th concert as soprano soloist, was born in Chicago and has lived in the area ever since. "I have visited many cities and never found a better one," she says.

Like many professional musicians, she came from a musical family, where she was encouraged at an early age. Both of her parents loved music and her father had some training, and they even met in a musical setting! Both were in the choir at the Moody Bible Institute and when the director asked all those representing another country to stand, her dad stood up representing Mexico, and her mother, Bolivia. Her parents always had volunteer positions in church—they directed choirs, and her dad played piano and organ. "As a child, I would sing with my parents and little brother for the special music at the offertory," she remembers.

"We would sing four-part harmony arrangements of our favorite hymns. I started piano lessons when I was 3 years old, but I did not plan to have a musical career, although I accompanied the high school choirs. I earned a scholarship as an accounting major in college, but all the while, I kept singing in choirs."

Michelle didn't begin voice studies until she was 23 years old. She still works with her first and favorite teacher, Maria Lagios, at Roosevelt University, and also continues to work with Richard Boldrey. "He is a fantastic coach and has helped me figure out how to sing in every imaginable language or dialect!"

As our soloist, Michelle will sing some of Joseph Canteloube's "Songs of the Auvergne" in the dialect of that area in France. In Poulenc's "Gloria," she'll be singing in Latin. Asked if she has any hobbies, Michelle replied, "There are lots of things I enjoy, but all my time is completely spoken for at this point while I'm enjoying being a mom." 📶

—Lilias Circle

NORTH SHORE CHORAL SOCIETY



DONALD CHEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The North Shore Choral Society, which joins the Evanston Symphony in its March 16 concert, is a community chorus with a 72-year history. For the past 24 years, its 100-plus members have been led by Music Director Dr. Donald Chen. In its three-concert seasons, accompanied by professional soloists and instrumentalists, the NSCS has performed much of the world's most celebrated choral music, including Mozart's Requiem, Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and Haydn's Creation. In addition, Dr. Chen introduced the NSCS to lesser-known works, including Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri*, Britten's *St. Nicolas*, and Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*. These repertoire choices have been guided by his mission: "The North Shore Choral Society explores, studies, and performs a wide range of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of its singers and audiences."

Early in 2007, Dr. Chen announced his retirement and gave the chorus this directive:

"NSCS [represents] a valuable ideal that is becoming increasingly rare in today's divergent music culture. It must be nurtured and sustained by current and future members who love music and singing as much as we do today. It is my sincere hope that my final chapter and your new one will achieve all this and more."

The Choral Society's 72nd season concludes Saturday, June 7, 3:00 p.m. at The Parish Church of Saint Luke, 939 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, with a performance of Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* chosen specifically by Dr. Donald Chen, for his final concert as NSCS Music Director. 📶

SPECIAL LIVE BROADCAST

Tune your radios to WFMT 98.7 FM at 12:15 pm on Friday, March 14, 2008 to hear Maestro Eckerling and soloist Michelle Areyzaga perform songs by *Canteloube*, *Poulenc*, *Bernstein* and *Walker* as featured artists on the Fazioli Salon Series. This is a live program before an audience and will include interviews with Maestro Eckerling and Ms. Areyzaga. Enjoy this free program by attending the concert in the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 825 in Chicago. 📶

MUSICAL INSIGHTS



Don't miss this wonderful program hosted by Julie Westbrook on Friday, March 14 at a new time—3:30 pm, in the Assembly Hall of Presbyterian Homes, One Calvin Circle, at Grant and Ridgeway in Evanston.



Join Maestro Eckerling and soprano, Michelle Areyzaga as they perform selections from "Songs of the Auvergne" by Canteloube. Julie Westbrook will enlighten you with the stories behind Canteloube's "Songs" and the music of three other great French composers; "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by Dukas, "L'Arlesienne" Suite by Bizet and the magnificent "Gloria" for chorus and orchestra by Francis Poulenc. Be sure to note the new time for this Musical Insights—3:30 pm on Friday, March 14. 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



SHARE THE STAGE

With your gift to the Evanston Symphony

As an ESO supporter, you share the excitement every time Maestro Eckerling and the orchestra take the stage. Now we are inviting you to take your place "on stage" by sponsoring a Section Member, a musician in our orchestra, with a tax-deductible gift of \$125-\$349. Or sponsor a Principal Player (one of the 19 section leaders) with a leadership gift of \$350 or more

We call it **Share the Stage** to recognize the importance of you, our most generous supporters. Our goal is to match a sponsor with each and every musician in the ESO!

At each concert your name, or the name of whomever you choose to honor, will be featured proudly on our ESO Community On Stage display in the lobby. Choose an instrument you love, one you play, or one you wish you could play – it's your turn to shine! Your giving will inspire others. Of course, every gift, whatever its size, helps further our mission and ensures that we keep live symphonic performances accessible to everyone.

The ESO earns about half of its operating budget from ticket sales. The other half comes from contributions—from people like you. Make your tax-deductible gift today and Share the Stage with us as a vital part of our ESO Community.

One of our principal players, Sherry Kujala, has made a generous donation to Share the Stage in honor of musicians Don and Mary Koss. Don Koss, currently Principal Timpanist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, met his wife, Mary, when they both joined the Evanston Symphony Orchestra over 50 years ago. Mary played the harp with the orchestra for many years. Since that time, Don and Mary Koss have been very supportive of the ESO. They donated most of the high quality percussion equipment that the ESO now owns. The Koss family also was active in the community energy behind the 1960's bond issue that resulted in the new arts wing of Evanston Township High School and the right of community groups to use the space for a small fee. The ESO rehearses in the band room of ETHS on Tuesday nights throughout the season.

Don and Mary Koss' names will be proudly honored on our Share the Stage board in the Timpani section. We hope that this generous gift by Sherry Kujala will inspire you to honor someone you know and admire with a gift to the ESO! 🎵



ESO Annual Fund – Share The Stage

DONATION LEVELS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Conductor | \$2,500 and up | <input type="checkbox"/> Soloist | \$600 – \$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra Member* | \$125 – \$349 |
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DONATION

I would like to make a gift for the following amount: \$ _____

*Instrument choice: _____ My Share the Stage Label should read: _____

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Make your donation on line by going to www.evanstonsymphony.org and click on Support the ESO. Or print this page and complete this form

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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. 

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For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact Sarah Buino, Business 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.



PO BOX 778
EVANSTON, IL 60204-0778

REMINDER!

MUSICAL INSIGHTS
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008, 3:30 PM

CONCERT PERFORMANCE
MICHELLE AREYZAGA
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008, 2:30 PM

This concert is sponsored by
Harris Bank.

