



# KEYNOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Russian Folkfest

Our Season of "Spectacular Sounds" concludes with a program of Russian music, notable for its colorful orchestration and its use of folk tunes. The concert opens with actual Russian folk-songs, eight in total, which were orchestrated by Anatol Liadov (1855–1914), a composer renowned for his laziness. This 15 minute piece may be his longest completed composition. Liadov's most famous non-composition was for a commission offered by the ballet impresario Serge Diaghilev in 1910; when Liadov declined the opportunity for *The Firebird* it became the first major success for Igor Stravinsky.

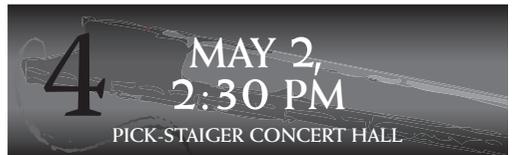


IRINA MURESANU, VIOLIN

Stravinsky (1882–1971) was doubtlessly the most important ballet composer of the 20th century, and he followed his career breakthrough of *The Firebird* with the 1911 ballet which concludes our concert: *Petrushka*.

This was the first ballet in which the music preceded and therefore controlled the choreography. Stravinsky incorporated two recent short works for piano and orchestra into the new ballet, which resulted in a very important part for the orchestral piano, to be played in our performance by Gregory Shifrin. In 1947 Stravinsky revised the orchestration, expanding the piano part while reducing the number of orchestral players required, and this is the version to be heard at our concert.

*Petrushka*, or little Peter, was a stock figure in Russian puppet shows, and the ballet tells the story of a love triangle between *Petrushka*, the *Ballerina*, and the *Moor* set against the backdrop of the *Shrovetide Fair*, the Russian version of *Mardi Gras*. The major theme of the finale is actually a folk-song titled "Down the *Petersky*," once recorded by the great Russian bass *Fyodor Chaliapin*. Stravinsky also used two waltz melodies by



Joseph Lanner, a contemporary of Johann Strauss the Elder. However, the usage and orchestration of this material is vintage Stravinsky.

The center-piece of the program is the extremely virtuosic violin concerto of Peter Tchaikovsky (1840–1893). Unlike the other two works on the program, Tchaikovsky did not borrow any of his themes from folk music, but was still vilified for the "brutal and wretched jollity of a Russian kermess," a reference to the folk-dance quality of the finale. The same reviewer, Eduard Hanslick, concluded "Tchaikovsky's violin concerto brings us for the first time to the horrid idea that there may be music that stinks in the ear." Today, of course, this is possibly the most popular violin concerto in the repertoire. Tchaikovsky composed the concerto in 1878 in less than a month in Clarens, Switzerland, the same town in which Stravinsky composed *Petrushka*.

I trust that you have enjoyed this spectacular season, and our upcoming 65th Anniversary will truly be a season to celebrate. See the flap on this issue of *Keynotes* for the all of the exciting details plus an order form. All orders received by the close of the May 2 concert will not incur the handling charge! 🎵

—David Ellis



**MUSICAL INSIGHTS**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010  
1:30 PM**

**MEET IRINA MURESANU  
3200 GRANT STREET, EVANSTON**

 **Presbyterian Homes**

## BEHIND THE SCENES



LAWRENCE ECKERLING,  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

One of the benefits of being the music director of an orchestra is the opportunity to collaborate with many guest artists. I have been privileged here at the ESO to work with artists of the highest caliber. These collaborations are both inspiring and rewarding.

We offer soloists from three basic categories. We have featured musicians from within the ESO (four times in the last seven years). And we also present soloists both from the greater Chicago area, as well as from the rest of the country.

Sometimes, the collaborations are so special, and the audience response is so enthusiastic that there is little choice but to invite them back for more. For this upcoming concert, Irina Muresanu is returning with the famous Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto after an incredibly moving Brahms Concerto a few years ago. And next season, soprano Michelle Areyzaga returns in Mahler's 4th Symphony, as well as the world premiere of a brand new song cycle written for both her and the Evanston Symphony.

Also returning next season is the North Shore Choral Society, with their new Music Director Julia Davids, in Beethoven's monumental Ninth, or "Choral," Symphony.

I look forward to working with many more guest artists, and many more encore engagements! 🎵

—Lawrence Eckerling  
Music Director, Evanston Symphony Orchestra



## PLAY ME A PICTURE, PAINT ME A TUNE!

What do 12 years old hear in classical music? Come and see. For 10 years now, the ESO has run a creative music-to-art program that serves about 450 middle and elementary school students in District 65. This program, Play Me a Picture, Paint Me a Tune!, enables students to establish connections between different art forms. Inspired by a piece of music that will be performed at one of our concerts, each student creates a work of art and writes about their creative experience. Students receive free tickets to the ESO concert to experience a live performance of the music they studied and to see their art on display.

This year, the music is Liadov's *Eight Russian Folksongs*. The schools and teachers participating are:

- *McGaw YMCA*
- *Lincolnwood Elementary, teacher is Monica Vick*
- *Haven Middle School, teachers are Dan Eng and Denise Taylor*
- *Nichols Middle School, teachers are Nina Benson and Nicole Nava*
- *St. Athanasius, teacher is Mary Ryter*

You can see the pictures on display at Blick Art Materials on Maple Street in downtown Evanston and also in the lobby of Pick-Staiger Hall before this coming concert.

Congratulations to all the students who participated. 🎵



## ESO NAMED "COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA OF THE YEAR"

The ESO has been named "Community Orchestra of the Year" for 2010 by the Illinois Council of Orchestras, a statewide organization consisting of 188 professional and community orchestras.

The announcement of the honor was made at the ESO's concert on March 21, 2010, before a near-capacity 880 attendees at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall in Evanston. The award was based on musical excellence, quality of programming, community outreach and organizational capability. The ESO was one of 19 orchestras nominated for the award.

Reacting to the announcement, Eckerling said: "It is always an honor to be recognized by one's peers in the arts community. This award belongs not only to our superb musicians but to our hundreds of loyal patrons."

Cheryl Haack, ESO Board President, added: "We have wonderful chemistry at ESO between the musicians, our musical director, our Board and our administration. The award is reflective of this effective teamwork." 🎵

## IRINA MURESANU

When she was a little girl in Romania, Irina Muresanu wanted to play the piano. Then her mother quite sensibly pointed out that you rarely see a piano in an orchestra, but there are lots of violins. With that observation, Irina took up the violin at the ripe old age of six and a half, "old by nowadays standards" for becoming a serious violinist, she says. Irina had obvious talent and a year later auditioned for a place in a school for children gifted in music. She passed the exercises in pitch, rhythm, singing in tune and all of the other things designed to test her musical ability, but failed the physical because she was "too small and skinny." Fortunately, her teacher intervened and Irina was able to prove to the school authorities that even a small, skinny girl was capable of making great music.

At age 12, Irina and her classmates had to decide whether or not to continue in music. Fifty percent of the students left the school, but Irina chose to stay and pursue her goal of becoming a professional musician. After college in Bucharest, Irina came to the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign for her master's degree. From there she went to the New England Conservatory, where she studied for five years with famous French violinist, Michele Auclair. (In fact, Irina is one of only two students mentioned by name as "prominent figures" in Ms Auclair's 2005 obituary in the *Boston Globe*.) Irina is a member of the Conservatory's faculty and has recently finished her doctorate there. She also teaches at Harvard. (You can read more about her stellar career and numerous awards on her website at [www.irinamuresanu.com](http://www.irinamuresanu.com).)

Many musicians have certain routines that they follow before a performance. Irina has two: the first is that when she picks up her violin to warm up backstage, she doesn't put it down until she leaves the stage after her performance; the second is what she calls the "obligatory pre-concert nap," but that was "BV" – "Before Victor," her son who was born this past year. Naps may be shorter now, if not a thing of the past, but Irina says that, along with running, lifting Victor helps her to stay in shape. Best of all, Victor seems to love listening to his mother play her violin, which is a good thing because Irina loves to practice. In fact, she doesn't like to leave her music for vacations; for Irina the ideal vacation is being able to practice six hours a day!

Irina says that, as a child, she fell in love with music because of the way it tells a story by expressing emotions. As she grew, so did her understanding of music and her ability to express its emotions with her violin. Now this young woman once thought "too small and skinny" to become a musician is among the best of her generation, and we are delighted to welcome her back to our stage. 🎵

—Kelly Brest van Kempen



IRINA MURESANU,  
VIOLIN

## FREE CONCERT

Don't miss the free outdoor concert Sunday, June 27 at 2:00 pm on the North side of Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center by Crate & Barrel.

Music is "Light Classical and Broadway Favorites," sure to delight the whole family. Rain date June 29 at 6:30 pm, at the same location.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ESO LONG-TERM PLAYERS

At the March 21, 2010 concert, the Evanston Symphony proudly recognized four musicians who have performed with the ESO for over 40 seasons. In addition to these four valued players, the ESO wishes to recognize the following musicians for their 20 or more seasons of great performances with the ESO! 🎵

Lilias Circle (viola) – 49 years  
H. Frederick Greene (French horn) – 44 years  
Linda Keller (clarinet) – 44 years  
Lynn Malnekoff (viola) – 42 years  
Michael Papierniak (French horn) – 37 years  
Gloria Boyell (violin) – 36 years  
Ellen Morris (violin) – 36 years  
Nancy Robertson (French horn) – 35 years  
Edwin Bennett (cello) – 33 years  
John Russell (timpani) – 29 years  
Karen Boyaris (violin) – 27 years  
Anna Zoe Cohen-Helfman (bass) – 26 years  
Donald Draganski (bassoon) – 26 years  
Gus Brest van Kempen (violin) – 24 years  
Cathy Carr (violin) – 24 years

Ruthanne DeWolfe (cello) – 24 years  
Linda Loiben-Kaplan (cello) – 24 years  
Julian Arron (violin) – 21 years  
Susan Champagne (violin) – 21 years  
Mark Westbrook (cello) – 21 years  
Rick Wunder (trombone) – 21 years  
Richard Holbrook (violin) – 20 years

## IN MEMORIAM

The ESO is deeply saddened by the passing of former orchestra player Sarah Barach at age 103.

Sarah played violin with the ESO until well into her 90s. We send our condolences to her family.

65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CONCERT SERIES 2010–2011

A Season to  
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Subscribe today! See opposite side of flap for a subscription renewal form.

**TRIPLE CELEBRATION**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2010**

Lawrence Eckerling, Conductor

**BRAHMS** *Academic Festival Overture*

**BEETHOVEN** "Triple" Concerto for Violin,  
Cello and Piano in C Major  
*The Lincoln Trio*

**TCHAIKOVSKY** Symphony No. 4 in F Minor

**SONGS OF HEAVEN**  
**JANUARY 30, 2011**

Lawrence Eckerling, Conductor

**PUCCINI** *Preludio Sinfonico*

**WALKER** *The Promised Land*  
(Songs of the Next Life)  
WORLD PREMIERE  
*Michelle Areyzaga, Soprano*

**MAHLER** Symphony No. 4 in G Major  
*Michelle Areyzaga, Soprano*

**BEETHOVEN'S 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MARCH 13, 2011**

Lawrence Eckerling, Conductor

**BEETHOVEN** *Leonore Overture No. 3*

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 9 in D Minor,  
"Choral"  
*North Shore Choral Society*  
*Sarah Hibbard, Soprano*  
*Stacy Eckert, Mezzo Soprano*  
*Eric Ashcraft, Tenor*  
*Paul Grizzell, Bass Baritone*

**RHAPSODY IN BLUE**  
**MAY 8, 2011**

Lawrence Eckerling, Conductor

**BERNSTEIN** Overture to *Candide*  
Suite from *Candide*

**HANSON** *Merry Mount Suite*

**COPLAND** *Appalachian Spring*

**GERSHWIN** *Rhapsody in Blue*  
*Lawrence Eckerling,*  
*Pianist and Conductor*

*I want to join the celebration...*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Assigned Seating. Tickets will be mailed in September.

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**INDIVIDUAL CONCERT TICKETS**

*Purchase tickets in advance and save.* Box office prices are \$30, seniors \$25. Students with ID are \$5.

Concert #1	#2	#3	#4		= \$
_____	_____	_____	_____	Adults @ \$27 each...	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	Seniors @ \$22 each...	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	Children 12 & under—free	= \$ No Charge

**SPECIAL 65<sup>TH</sup> SEASON GIFT**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please consider \$65 in honor of the ESO's anniversary.*

**AN EVANSTON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Child \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Family Package\* \$70 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Family package special: tickets for 2 adults and 3 children

Handling Fee \*\*waived if received by May 2, 2010 \$ 5.00\*\*

**TOTAL PAYMENT** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- **On-Line:** Visit [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org) starting August 1st (Please use phone or mail order for orders with children's tickets.)
- **By Mail:** Send your check or Discover/Visa/MasterCard information to Evanston Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 778, Evanston, IL 60204

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The ESO thanks you for your support. All contributions are tax deductible and will be listed in the concert program.



Evanston  
Symphony  
Orchestra

**COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA OF THE YEAR!**

—Illinois Council of Orchestras