



# KEYNOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Evanston 150

Welcome to the opening concert of the ESO's 68th season, with its theme of *Celebrate Evanston!* Please see the inside of this page for the "Behind the Scenes" column by Maestro Eckerling, which details how he arrived at the program for our "Evanston 150" opening concert, and explains the origin of the *Evanston Fanfare* by Mark Gresham.

The provenance of the second work on the program, the Overture to *Orpheus in the Underworld* by Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880), is a good deal murkier than that of the *Evanston Fanfare*. In fact, the standard version of the overture is not by Offenbach at all, but by a Viennese composer named Carl Binder, who stitched together three sections of the score using Offenbach's melodies for the 1860 Vienna premiere of this popular operetta. Offenbach was a master of catchy tunes; in addition to the "can-can" music which closes this overture, he also composed the melody which is now the official hymn of the U. S. Marine Corps.

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921), as Maestro Eckerling points out on the next page, used Offenbach's "can-can" in a slowed down version to represent the tortoises in his *Carnival of the Animals*. Saint-Saëns also slowed down the "Dance of the Sylphs" from *The Damnation of Faust* by Hector Berlioz to depict the elephant. The *Carnival of the Animals* was originally scored for two pianos plus a small chamber ensemble; our performance will follow the standard practice of using a full complement of strings in the orchestra plus the other instruments as originally scored.

Maurice Ravel's (1875–1937) *Bolero*, his best known composition, is actually a ballet score, which was commissioned by a Russian ballerina named Ida Rubenstein in 1928. Their original plan was for Ravel to orchestrate six sections of *Iberia*, piano music of the Spanish composer Isaac Albeniz. When copyright issues prevented the orchestration, Ravel

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2:30 PM

PICK-STAIGER CONCERT HALL

composed an entire score, consisting of one theme (in two parts) over a constant rhythm on a snare drum (a second snare drum is added toward the end) and a bass motif played by pizzicato strings at the start with other instruments joining in as the work progresses. The popularity of *Bolero* as a film score and as ice skating music (Torvill and Dean) has obscured the artistry of Ravel's structure.

A Ravel orchestration of earlier piano music, *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky (1839–1881), will close our concert. Mussorgsky, in the 1874 piano original, honored his close friend Viktor Hartmann (an artist who had died suddenly) with musical depictions of ten of Hartmann's pictures. Between 1891 and 2012 there have been at least 15 orchestrations of the *Pictures*, with Ravel's 1922 version by far the most frequently performed. Ravel was a master of orchestration, and both *Pictures* and *Bolero* provide many solos for the individual players in the orchestra, concluding with enormous climaxes for the full orchestra. 🎵

—David Ellis



FREE

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**MUSICAL INSIGHTS**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2013**

**1:30 PM**

**1611 CHICAGO AVE., EVANSTON**

The  
**North Shore**  
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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. For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact David Ellis, General Manager, at (847) 864-8804. Write us at Evanston Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 778, Evanston, IL 60204. Email us at [esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org](mailto:esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org). Visit our website [evanstonsymphony.org](http://evanstonsymphony.org).

# BEHIND THE SCENES



Our upcoming season is right around the corner, and I'm getting excited. I hope you all are too. Since this year the City of Evanston is celebrating their 150th Anniversary, we knew that we wanted to kick off our season with a celebratory concert

honoring the City of Evanston. So I thought it important while programming this concert to include as many connections with Evanston as possible.

Approximately a year ago, in planning for the Evanston Symphony's five minute "Backstage Evanston" presentation, I was looking for a second brass fanfare to play as a companion to the Dukas Fanfare to *La Peri*. When I put inquiries out, there didn't seem to be a work available with the same instrumentation that was only about two minutes long. But then, Atlanta based composer Mark Gresham volunteered to compose something for the occasion, and titled it "Evanston Fanfare." We did perform this wonderful fanfare at Backstage Evanston for a very small audience. But I thought it important to perform it on a subscription concert since it was composed for us, and because it bears our city's name. Therefore this will be its official world concert premiere.

Another work on our concert is Saint-Saëns' beloved *Carnival of the Animals*, which requires two pianos. I was able to engage twin pianists, Ryan and Kyle Jannak-Huang, who have obtained the majority of their training at the Music Institute of Chicago, which is actually headquartered in Evanston! And we have invited Toni-Marie Montgomery, Dean of the Bienen School of Music at Evanston's prized educational institution Northwestern University, to read the witty Ogden Nash verses as part of the performance.

We also will be performing Offenbach's Overture to *Orpheus in the Underworld*. It ends with the familiar and rousing "Can-Can." (And be on the lookout for hearing the "Can Can" as the part of the *Carnival of the Animals* representing the tortoises. The fastest music played at the rate of the slowest turtle crawl!)

The final two works on our program are both audience pleasers that honor the commitment of the musicians of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra. Both Ravel's *Bolero* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* contain numerous solos, which will highlight many members of the ESO.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on November 10th! 🎻

—Lawrence Eckerling

Music Director, Evanston Symphony Orchestra

## A very special way to start the holidays — music, Santa, and a unique shopping experience!



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EVANSTON DANCE ENSEMBLE DANCES TO TCHAIKOVSKY'S NUTCRACKER SUITE WITH THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra's wonderful holiday concert is getting even better this year. Not only will we hold a magical concert on December 8, but we are also hosting a Holiday Bazaar, featuring local artists, artisans, and local businesses.

### Sunday December 8: An Evanston Symphony Christmas and a very special bazaar

Plan your day:

2:00 – 5:30 p.m.: Over 30 Homegrown Artists and other local businesses will have tables in the Michael Cafeteria (close to the Auditorium) at Evanston Township High

School. There will be loads of special items available for purchase. Find some special gifts for your family and friends.

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.: *An Evanston Symphony Christmas*. Our festive concert featuring the full ESO, North Shore Choral Society, Evanston Dance Ensemble, and Evanston Children's Choir, ETHS A Cappella Choir, and, of course, a visit from Santa and his elves!

Don't miss enjoying these favorite Yule festivities with your family and friends. The bazaar will be open before the concert, during the intermission, and after the concert.

Make sure your holiday season starts with the best holiday event in Evanston! 🎻



PHOTO STRIKE 2 PHOTOGRAPHY

A VISIT FROM SANTA, ALONG WITH THE EVANSTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR

# City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz on the Arts in Evanston



We recently sat down with City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz to talk about the role of the arts in Evanston and about Evanston150, the City's commemoration of its 150th anniversary. While many towns hold a single big event — a gala or a parade — to celebrate an important milestone, Wally said that Evanston decided to do something different. No surprise there! The City is rather celebrating the sesquicentennial with a series of good works, projects begun this year that will become benchmarks for continuing activities to benefit the community.

In the first phase of Evanston150, residents were invited to submit proposals for appropriate community development projects; these proposals were then reviewed and posted online for public vote. The top ten projects that caught the public's eye — and therefore earned the official cachet as Evanston150's "Ten Ideas" — ranged from pre-school for all Evanston children to a community health center to a program to ensure that every child in Evanston knows how to swim. There were, however, no projects related to the arts.

Wally said he quite understood the disappointment of the ESO and other arts organizations at the absence of an arts project from the official Ten Ideas list. However, he added, many of the arts organizations in town took it upon themselves to create their own Evanston150 projects and celebrations. Chief among these, he said, is the ESO's upcoming "Evanston150" concert on November 10th, the largest single arts event of the year focusing on this milestone. He also called it "the lead-in to the second largest event": the revival of First Night to bring the City's sesquicentennial to an appropriate close.

Wally described the ESO as "part of the mosaic that makes up Evanston." He went on to say that giving our 2013–14 season the theme "Celebrate Evanston!" and connecting our first concert to Evanston150 was "wonderful outreach" by the orchestra. The City has been fostering this outreach by advertising the concert to employees and encouraging them to attend. Wally hopes this effort will help more people discover the ESO and bring a number of first-timers to the concert. The City has also assigned staff members from the Economic Development Division and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to help publicize the ESO's upcoming new Holiday Bazaar to local businesses and to work with local artists. The Bazaar will be held in conjunction with the ESO's annual Christmas Concert on December 8th. The ESO very much appreciates these efforts and hopes that first-timers to either of these events become repeat subscribers!

While the ESO has had longtime performance collaborations with the North Shore Choral Society, the Evanston Children's Choir, and Dance Center Evanston, this type of cooperative effort is not the norm. Rather, Wally said, we have a number of "arts silos" that lessen the visibility of many arts organizations in town; these silos need to be turned into one broad layer spread over the entire city. He added that this process is beginning as more arts organizations start talking with one another about cooperative projects.

"No one is going to build an Old Orchard or a Fortune 500 company with a thousand employees in Evanston," Wally said. With increased visibility, "the arts will become an economic driver for Evanston and we want to build on that." He specifically named longtime Evanston organizations that form the core of the arts community here: the ESO, the North Shore Choral Society, Piven Theatre Workshop, Next Theatre Company, Light Opera Works, Dance Center Evanston, and the Evanston Art Center, among others, all of whom have the potential to become more visible both in Evanston and beyond its borders.

We ended our conversation with a discussion of the proposed downtown Evanston arts complex. After two studies on the possibility of creating an arts corridor downtown, the City Council is appointing a task force to develop recommendations. However, Wally said, there are many questions to be answered, particularly with respect to financing and the optimum mix of private and public funds. There is also the need for a balance of facilities to accommodate various types and sizes of arts groups, e.g., studios, galleries and performance spaces for individual artists and musicians as opposed to larger rehearsal and performance spaces for orchestra, theatre and opera groups. Given the existing facilities at Northwestern, the Music Institute of Chicago, the Noyes Cultural Arts Center and some Evanston schools and churches, what should a new downtown arts complex include? And, if the complex is designed to complement these existing facilities, can an equitable agreement be structured to permit the use of all facilities within the city's borders by Evanston's public, private and educational groups? These are among the many issues that the task force will have to consider.

In an interview with *Patch* contributor Christine Wolf in October, 2010, Wally was asked, "If you compared Evanston to an animal, what would it be and why?" Wally's response: "Evanston would be a Griffin, the mythical animal with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. Griffins are known for guarding treasure and priceless possessions. Evanston is certainly a treasure to be guarded." We are confident that City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz will ensure that the arts are always considered part of Evanston's treasure and are safely guarded under the Griffin's wings. 🦁

—Kelly Brest van Kempen

# CELEBRATE EVANSTON!



## 2013–2014 CONCERT SERIES

Lawrence Eckerling, Conductor

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### Evanston 150

November 10, 2013

EVANSTON  
150 | CELEBRATE!  
2013

GRESHAM	<i>Evanston Fanfare</i>
OFFENBACH	<i>Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld</i>
SAINT-SAËNS	<i>Carnival of the Animals</i> <i>Kyle and Ryan Jannak-Huang, Piano</i> <i>Toni-Marie Montgomery, Narrator</i>
RAVEL	<i>Bolero</i>
MUSSORGSKY (ORCH. RAVEL)	<i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i>

### Hungarian Connection

March 16, 2014

BARTÓK	<i>Dance Suite</i>
LISZT	<i>Totentanz</i> <i>Gleb Ivanov, Piano</i>
SIBELIUS	<i>Symphony No. 2 in D Major</i>

### Three 'B's

May 4, 2014

BARBER	<i>Overture to The School for Scandal</i>
BRUCH	<i>Violin Concerto No 1 in G Minor</i> <i>Sang Mee Lee, Violin</i>
BEETHOVEN	<i>Symphony No. 3 in E Flat "Eroica"</i>

### Verdi Requiem

June 15, 2014

VERDI	<i>Requiem</i> <i>North Shore Choral Society</i> <i>Julia Davids, Music Director</i> <i>Sarah Hibbard, Soprano</i> <i>Stacy Eckert, Mezzo Soprano</i> <i>Eric Ashcraft, Tenor</i> <i>Aaron K. Stegemöller, Bass</i>
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# Perfect Evanston 150 (or Christmas) Gift!

*Evanston Symphony Live!*, our first commercially available compact disc, which features an all-American program conducted by Music Director Lawrence Eckerling, is the ideal Evanston 150 gift for all of the music lovers on your list!

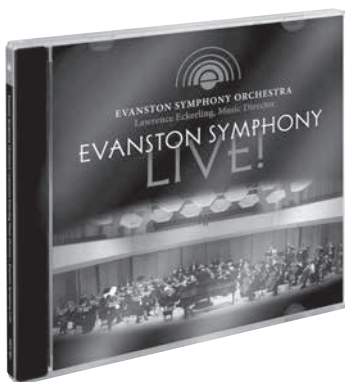
This CD is tied to Evanston in many ways, including:

- The Evanston Symphony itself
- The composer of *Overture with Fanfares*, Donald Draganski, is a long-time Evanston resident and ESO bassoonist, and composed this piece for the ESO
- Howard Hanson, the composer of the *Merry Mount* Suite, taught at Northwestern
- The CD was recorded in Evanston in Pick-Staiger Hall by Northwestern engineers
- The post-concert mastering was handled by Studiomedica of Evanston
- The artwork and design of the CD cover and booklet was produced by IDG Evanston

The highlight of the CD is the acclaimed world premiere performance of Gwyneth Walker's *The Promised Land*, composed for the ESO and local soprano Michelle Areyzaga.

The disc includes the recording premiere of *Overture With Fanfares*, mentioned above, commissioned by the ESO for its 50th anniversary season from Donald Draganski. It also features George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with Music Director Eckerling both conducting and playing the piano solo. The suite from Howard Hanson's *Merry Mount* and the overture to Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* round out the 72-minute disc.

The CD may be purchased on the ESO website: [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org). It will also be available on ESO concert days at Pick-Staiger Hall and at the Christmas concert at Evanston Township High School on December 8, 2013. 🎵



## Musical Insights Free Lecture/Recital

**North Shore Retirement Hotel • Friday November 8, 1:30 p.m.**

Music Director Lawrence Eckerling and General Manager David Ellis will give a free lecture/recital at the North Shore Retirement Hotel on the Friday before our first concert. The music from the concert will be previewed with musical examples at the piano and DVDs. Whether you plan on coming to the concert or not, come along and hear more about the music of the concert and enjoy a delightful hour listening.

The North Shore Retirement Hotel is located in the center of Evanston on the corner of Davis St. and Chicago Ave. You can park in the multi-story garage at Chicago Ave. and Church St., or find space on the street. The program will last one hour and conclude with free refreshments. 🎵