

WAMSO NEWS

Minnesota Orchestra Volunteer Association

Vol. 30, No. 2 Oct. 2003

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OUR MISSION:

WAMSO—Minnesota Orchestra Volunteer Association provides support for the Minnesota Orchestra and promotes music education.

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Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

Shirley Arendt, *Wayzata*
Annette Conklin, *Mendota Heights*
Judy Corson, *Deephaven*
Emily Estes Love, *Minneapolis*
Yvonne Peterson, *New Brighton*
Merie Elise Pratte, *Bloomington*

CORRECTION: Karen Baker was listed as a new member in the September 2003 newsletter. Karen has actually been a valued member of WAMSO since before she chaired the Symphony Ball in 1985. She is currently serving on the MOA Board of Directors and recently volunteered at the "Osma at Harriet" concert.



Reception honoring

DAXUN ZHANG

Thursday, November 6

1:00 p.m.

(following Coffee Concert)

*Orchestra Hall
Green Room*

RSVP 612-371-5654

Young Artist Competition Winner to Perform at Orchestra Hall



DaXun Zhang celebrates on the phone with his teacher in Indiana and in-person with Peter Lloyd.

The Minnesota Orchestra is celebrating not only its past, but also its future during four 100th Anniversary concerts in November at Orchestra Hall:

Wednesday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 6, 11 a.m.

Friday, November 7, 8 p.m.

Saturday November 8, 8 p.m.

Celebrating the past, Osmo Vänskä and the Orchestra will recreate the Orchestra's debut program from November 5, 1903, that featured Emil Oberhoffer as the conductor.

Celebrating the present, Vänskä has invited bassist DaXun Zhang, grand prize winner of the 2002 WAMSO Young Artist Competition, to demonstrate his artistry. He will perform an arrangement of Bizet's *Carmen* Fantasy on the double bass—a tour de force that is usually performed on the violin.

"... WAMSO gives music students like me a chance to perform with one of the world's best orchestras.."

—DaXun Zhang

DaXun Zhang (pronounced DaShun Jang) is currently studying with Laurence Hurst at the University of Indiana. He began to play bass at the age of nine in China. In June 2001, he was the youngest player to ever win the International Society of Bassists Competition. At age 20, he won the WAMSO grand prize, becoming one of only six grand prize winners in the competition's 48 year history.

Henry Charles Smith, competition judge and former Minnesota Orchestra Resident Conductor, calls Zhang "one of the finest performers on this instrument I have ever heard during my 50 year career in major orchestras." He also predicts that Zhang "has and will set new standards for his instrument—and will unquestionably have a major career as a soloist."

WAMSO will host a reception in Zhang's honor in the Orchestra Hall Green Room after the Coffee Concert on November 6. Meet this superb young musician and other members of the Orchestra following the 11:00 a.m. concert. Call 612-371-5654 to RSVP.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



*“Something
old,
something
new...”*

As I write this column, I am reminded of the old bridal saying that begins “Something old, something new...” In September our new WAMSO management team met for leadership training. It was exhilarating to see seasoned volunteers mingling with new leaders and everyone sharing their aspirations for the programs that they had agreed to lead.

This month's Latin Renaissance is an example of a new venue for what WAMSO has been doing for so long—raising funds to support music education programs. This collaborative effort with Casa de Esperanza exemplifies WAMSO's core value of providing a link between the Minnesota Orchestra and the community. Co-chairs Susan Armstrong and Karen Christopherson and their stellar committee are doing a great job of collaborating and creating!

Our education program leaders and committees work throughout the year to ensure that they meet existing needs and reach a wide audience in our community. In our striving for excellence, Directors of Education Cindy Roszell and Irene Suddard are performing in-depth evaluations of all our education programs this year. We will add new dimensions to old and valued WAMSO education projects.

The final old/new idea is especially exciting! Sandy Krebsbach came to me with an idea for an annual gathering of former WAMSO leaders—the First Chair Society. The date for the inaugural gathering is October 22. It will be a wine and cheese reception from 5 to 7 p.m. at Dorothy Halverson's home, 15256 Wild Wings in Minnetonka. Please call the WAMSO office if you are a current or former leader and do not receive an invitation. We hope to see many of you there!

Get involved! Attend an orchestra concert, volunteer for one of our great education programs, or assist with a fund-raising project—renew an **old** acquaintance or make a **new** one!! You might even do both!

My best to all of you!!

≡ FIRST CHAIR SOCIETY ≡

The inaugural meeting of the First Chair Society, comprised of current and former WAMSO Board members and program chairs, will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd at the home of Dorothy Halverson. Former board member Sandy Krebsbach had the inspiration for this social gathering. “Over the years many of us have been so involved with WAMSO endeavors, and we don't have the opportunity to see each other very often, so I thought that it would be fun to have an occasion to bring everyone together.” A wine and cheese reception is planned from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Invitations will be mailed. RSVP to 612-371-5654 by October 17.



WAMSO past presidents met for lunch on September 4 at Woodhill Country Club.



The Minnesota Orchestra played at the Lake Harriet Bandshell, Sept. 14, 2003.

Listening House

Meet Sam Bergman (viola) of the Minnesota Orchestra on Monday, November 3, 5:30 p.m. social; 6 p.m. dinner, Little Jack's Steak House, 201 Lowry Ave. N.E., Minneapolis.

Menu options: Broiled Filet Mignon (\$26); Broiled Walleye Pike (\$26); Vegetables with Stuffed Tomato (\$23); Broiled Chopped Sirloin (\$18). Call 612-371-5654 for details and reservations.

Thanks to... the **60 enthusiastic volunteers** who helped with inaugural events at Orchestra Hall and Lake Harriet...**Milana Reiche, Minnesota Orchestra violinist**, for entertaining and inspiring us at the Meet the Musicians lunch at Vincent...**Vincent A Restaurant**, 1111 Nicollet Mall, for a fabulous Meet the Musicians lunch...**Mary Rascop** and the **Orchestra Hall usher staff** for their help and support in launching the new WAMSO Volunteer Usher program.

GRANTS, GIFTS & MEMORIALS

From Rodney and Barbara Burwell in memory of Rus McDaniel

From Rodney and Barbara Burwell in memory of Eleanor Davis

From Elaine Lagerstrom for the Mary Smail fund in memory of Robert M. Ryan

From Jean Reissner in memory of Marilyn Ryan's father

From Jean Reissner in honor of Susan Armstrong and Karen Christopherson, Latin Renaissance co-chairs



Left: Coletta Wierson, WAMSO volunteer, demonstrates the Osmo Bobble Arm Doll at "Picnic with Osmo" on Peavey Plaza. **Right:** The Vänskäs toast the new season at the Opening Night Gala.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

V O L U N T E E R O P P O R T U N I T I E S

Concert Ushers—Volunteer for evening classical concerts at Orchestra Hall. Next training session: October 27, 6-8:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall.



Holiday Concerts—There will be a limited number of opportunities for holiday volunteering at Orchestra Hall. Contact the WAMSO office ASAP if you are interested.

Sales Table Assistants—Work with Orchestra staff selling merchandise and CDs at concerts. Enjoy free concert tickets!

Call Janet Ryan at the WAMSO office (612-371-5654, wamso@mnorch.org) for more information.



DATED MATERIAL

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Wamso

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Wamso CALENDAR

FRI	10/10/03	Kinder Konzerts Opener
SAT	10/11/03	Meet the Masters with Cellist Steven Isserlis
WED	10/22/03	First Chair Society Event
MON	10/27/03	Volunteer Usher Training
WED	10/29/03	WAMSO Joint Management Board Meeting at Brit's
SUN	11/02/03	Adventures in Music Previews
MON	11/03/03	Listening House at Little Jack's
THU	11/06/03	Post-Coffee Concert Reception for DaXun Zhang
SAT	12/06/03	Listening House Holiday Brunch
SUN	1/25/04	Young Artist Competition Finals

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