



# Friendly Notes

## Newsletter for Friends of Guelph Symphony

FRIEND

Vol. 3 No.4

Editor: Geoff Howe

March 2010

### Simon says...

Topical comment by the  
Artistic Director



This newsletter is packed with interesting information about the orchestra, and leaves little space for my usual column. So I'll be ready to share some thoughts in the next issue. Please note that FOGS members are invited to participate in the selection process of the new GSO conductor by means of a questionnaire which can be found in the concert program on April 11th, and through next season.

### EXCITING SEASON IN PROSPECT.....

Although the main features of the Guelph Symphony's 2010 / 2011 season are the concerts, there are plenty of other activities, associated with the orchestra, for members of FOGS to enjoy. Please make a note of the dates.

#### OPEN REHEARSAL

Attendance at an open rehearsal is one of the privileges of being a FOGS member. This year the Open Rehearsal will be on **Monday March 29** from 7:30 till 10 pm ( you don't have to stay for all of it!) at the usual location of St John's Kilmarnock School Chapel, on Shantz Station Road. A novel feature is that the guest conductor for this concert is Kerry Stratton, with whom you may be familiar from his presentation of programmes on Classical 96.3 FM.

#### FIVE CONDUCTORS!!

2010-11 season will feature five guest conductors who are applying for the position of permanent conductor of the GSO. There were a large number of applicants, and selecting a short list of five is not an easy task. However, the calibre and experience of the applicants is high indeed, and bodes very well for the future of the GSO. Final selection will take place in May 2011.

#### MUSIC IN THE PARK

This popular family concert which ends the 2010 season is scheduled for **Sunday June 27**, and we have arranged for good weather this year! As before there is no formal admission charge though a donation of up to \$10 would be very welcome. Location is again the bandshell at Riverside Park.

#### GARDEN PARTY

Our third Annual FOGS Garden Party will be held in the lovely gardens of Wynne and Gary Christie on **Sunday June 20**. Be sure to reserve this date now.

### Guelph Symphony Orchestra Concert Schedule 2010/2011 season

**Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30 pm**

The Marriage of Figaro – Mozart  
Concert Performance

**Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> 3 pm**

Christmas Choral Fantasy  
with The Grand River Chorus

**Saturday January 1<sup>st</sup> 3 pm**

Dreams of Vienna  
starring Donna Ellen Trifunovich and  
Julie Nesrallah

**Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup> 3 pm**

Classic Delights  
Brilliant Beethoven

**Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 3 pm**

Masterworks  
Liszt and Brahms

All concerts are at The River Run Centre  
See season brochure, available in June, for details of  
ticket prices and deals.

**JOIN FOGS and help the GSO**

# Getting to know the GSO Musicians.....

## Margaret Zak– Violin

Margaret is Assistant Concert Master with the GSO, and a founding member of the orchestra. Trained as a musician and teacher, she has been a professional violinist and teacher in her home country, Poland, and in Canada. She has a Masters Degree in Musical Arts and Pedagogy with specialization in the violin from the University of Wroclaw. Margaret has worked professionally with various orchestras in Poland, Switzerland, Germany, and Russia. Since arriving in Canada in 1996 she has taught the violin to students of all ages at the Guelph School of Music. Five of Margaret's Canadian students are recipients of the Royal Conservatory of Music Silver Medal. She has travelled extensively through Europe and the Middle-East during her summers, and enjoys nordic skiing during winters. Her teaching philosophy involves a living relationship of give and take. To Margaret, music is an amazing blend of discipline and imagination brought to life by the strings of the violin.



### When interviewed, Margaret answered questions as follows:

**How old were you when you first started playing?** *I started to play the violin when I was 6.*

**Why did you choose this instrument?** *You couldn't choose your instrument in Poland. I was applying for the piano but the adjudicators said that my ear was too good for the piano and so they sent me to study the violin.*

**Do you play any other instruments?** *After two years of studying the violin in my country, you had to learn to play the piano equally well, so I have university proficiency in the piano as well.*

**What do you like most about playing in an orchestra?** *The execution of music by so many individuals from so many different parts of the world, without the need for words, is something that transcends orthodox communication, and brushes the artist's soul. That is what's amazing about playing in an orchestra.*

**Do you play any other kind of music?** *I have tried jazz, country, and popular music as well. The violin is very versatile.*

**What is your favourite music?** *Of course, classical music is my life's fascination, but I appreciate other types of music which have a noticeably positive effect on the psyche.*

**Do you have any hobbies?** *I love to travel, I have been to many different European and North African countries. I cross-country ski, read books, and do lots of gardening. ♪*

## 'Masterworks and More'

A concert by

The Guelph Symphony Orchestra  
Conducted by Kerry Stratton

Symphony No. 4 – Schumann  
Symphonic Overture– Lloyd Burritt  
Cello Concerto –Dvorak

Solist: Brian Yoon joint winner 2009 under23 competition  
The River Run Centre 3 pm  
Sunday April 11, 2010

## Meet The Soloist

### Brian Yoon

Brian Yoon, 23, is completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Ottawa with cellist Paul Marleyn. Born in Korea, Yoon moved to Canada with his family as a boy and began cello studies at age five at the Vancouver Academy of Music with Judith Fraser. Yoon has been a prizewinner at several Canadian Music Competitions. He has performed as soloist with the University of Ottawa Orchestra and the Vancouver Academy Orchestra and plans to pursue graduate studies in the U.S. in the fall.



## About the Orchestra:

*Double Reeds*

No. 13 in a series  
by David Knight

The oboe, English horn (*cor anglais*), and bassoon are all double reed instruments. The previous column discussed the first two of these instruments; the bassoon will come next. All require a double reed. *Arundo donax* cane grown in southern France is most commonly used (though novices may learn on a reed made of a synthetic material). The oboe's reed (i.e., the two pieces of cane) is held together by a very strong string where it fits over a slim metal tube (called the staple) which, in turn, is surrounded by cork, which fits into the oboe. The bassoon's (and the English horns) reed is similarly held together; however, the larger size of the reed requires a wire to hold the two bamboo blades together, and the staple fits directly into the bocal, a pipe that serves as the instrument's mouthpiece. An oboe's reed is about 10 millimetres thick whereas a bassoon's is 20 to 25 millimetres thick. Some players will purchase hand-made reeds from a professional oboist, though most players prefer to make their own. The reed making process requires excellent cane, gougers, guillotines, knives, and various other tools – plus lots of patience! It requires years of practice to make good reeds; professional players work at their craft diligently as they seek the perfect reed. ♪

