

# High Notes

## 20th Anniversary Season Announced

Hartford Symphony Orchestra Music Director Carolyn Kuan and President & CEO David Fay are pleased to announce the programming for the 20th anniversary season of the Talcott Mountain Music Festival, scheduled for June 26 through July 24 at the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows in Simsbury, Connecticut.

"With great pleasure and warm summer thoughts, Hartford Symphony Orchestra Music Director Carolyn Kuan and I invite you to join us for the 2015 Talcott Mountain Music Festival – our 20th anniversary season," said HSO President & CEO, David Fay. "Get ready to pack your picnic and enjoy these five fantastic concerts."

### Mambo Kings

**A fiesta of Latin rhythm and contemporary jazz**

**Friday, June 26, 7:30pm**

*Rain Date: Saturday, June 27, 7:30pm*

From the sultry melancholy of Astor Piazzolla and the burning Afro Cuban jazz of Tito Puente, to the rhythmic playfulness of Dave Brubeck and the pop strains of The Beatles, the Mambo Kings will take you on a worldwide Latin jazz tour.

### Celebrate America

**The annual red, white and blue tradition with fireworks!**

**Friday, July 3, 7:30pm**

*Rain Date: Saturday, July 4, 7:30pm*

Fireworks after the concert

Led by guest conductor and Simsbury High grad Eric Dudley and featuring the Asylum Hill Congregational Church Choir, this program will include such patriotic favorites as "The Star Spangled Banner," "Armed Forces Salute," Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" and Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Plus, music of the Americas including spirituals, South American folk music, Dixieland, and more.

### 20 Seasons in Simsbury

**Featuring musical highlights from 20 great years of the Talcott Mountain Music Festival**

**Friday, July 10, 7:30pm**

*Rain Date: Saturday, July 11, 7:30pm*

Celebrate two decades of summer music and memories conducted by Michael Lankester, former HSO Music Director and first-ever Talcott Mountain Music Festival conductor. Featured music will include all the fan-favorites – classical treasures, blockbuster movie soundtracks, the best of Broadway, and a few special surprises.



### Classical Night Fever

**Boogie down with the ultimate disco band**

**Friday, July 17, 7:30pm**

*Rain Date: Saturday, July 18, 7:30pm*

Get ready to dance to the disco hits of the 1970s – complete with bell-bottoms, big hair, wild polyester suits, and some of the coolest platform shoes this side of the Milky Way. It's a feel-good musical extravaganza conducted by HSO Music Director Carolyn Kuan!

### The Music of Queen

**We will rock you with all your favorite Queen hits**

**Friday, July 24, 7:30pm**

*Rain Date: Saturday, July 25, 7:30pm*

Hear the distinctive sound of Queen with the added musical color of the HSO. Las Vegas star Brody Dolyniuk perfectly captures the spirit of Freddie Mercury, from "We Will Rock You" to "Somebody to Love" to "Bohemian Rhapsody."

**For ticket information and much more, visit [www.hartfordsymphony.org](http://www.hartfordsymphony.org) or call 860-987-5900.**

# Education & Community Engagement Update

The Hartford Symphony Orchestra Education and Community Engagement Programs will proudly serve more than 10,000 young people and lifelong learners this year.

The Lincoln Financial Discovery Series alone will reach over 60 schools and over 6,000 students and teachers. Our most recent concert, The Orchestra Swings, highlighted one of the most exciting eras in American music and history, Jazz. This program featured vocalist Shenel Johns and phenomenal tap dance performances

by Michela Marino-Lerman and Ayodele Casel.

The HSO Instrument Petting Zoo is undergoing many changes. Dedicated HSO Teaching Artists along with Manager of Education and Community Engagement Benjamin Hosig, are creating a revitalized HSO Instrument Zoo. This transformation will help to make the Instrument Zoo more engaging and help play an important role in exposing our youth to many musical possibilities.



HSO TEACHING ARTISTS TARA BORCHERT AND LIAM HANNA PREPARE THE INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO FOR ITS 2015 TOUR.

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## Joining the HSO Encore Society Creates a Legacy of Live Music

### JUST ASK CHARLES MILLIKEN

When Charles Milliken informed us of his decision to join HSO's Encore Society, he explained it simply: "Other than my law career and my family, the Hartford Symphony has been the most important part of my life." A subscriber for more than 57 years, Charlie (as he is known to all) is keenly aware of a symphony's value to its community, observing that a core of professional musicians within the community enhances the quality of life for all. Stressing the need for role models and professional musicians who will inspire others and pass the gift of music to future generations, he knows it is up to each of us to make sure that those not yet born will have the chance to enjoy the magical music of the masters which has engaged audiences for hundreds of years. Charlie pointed

out that attending a concert is very different from listening to music at home. Each audience member at a live concert becomes an integral part of the performance: the energy moving between the musicians and the audience creates a unique communal experience that can never be replicated. Preserving the symphony means that others will be given the chance to rejoice in that amazing process.

The Hartford Symphony Orchestra also held special meaning to Sandy, Charlie's wife of 55 years, who passed away in March of 2013. Despite her ongoing battle with Alzheimer's, Charlie recalls that Sandy, who adored outings to the symphony, was often moved to "conduct" from the audience. And when Sandy began to



hum or sing, remembering music and the words to long-forgotten hymns from her childhood, Charlie witnessed the exceptional therapeutic benefits of live music.

Listening to timeless music in a great hall, Charlie concluded, is uplifting and transformational. By becoming a member of the Encore Society, Charlie is an inspiration to all of us who share his passion for the HSO. Charles Milliken is an Emeritus Board member, and during his career as an attorney with Shipman & Goodwin, served as Chairman (then President) of the HSO Board from 1962 to 1964.

## MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

# An Interview with Jaroslaw Lis, HSO's Assistant Principal Second Violin



### **At what age did you begin studying music and why?**

I was seven years old. It was a bit of a coincidence that on one of our family travels to East Germany, my parents bought a quarter-size violin. An impulse buy that happened to shape my life.

### **Are you a native of Connecticut and, if not, where were you born, and what brought you to Connecticut?**

I was born in Poland and came to Yale School of Music to pursue a Master of Music degree.

### **Can you name a powerful influence – a person or something else - that inspired you to want to pursue music?**

When I was nine, the music school I was attending went on a field trip to the finals of the Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition in Poznan. We listened for two days to different contestants and this was my first contact with some of the violin concerto repertoire. I vividly remember listening to Wieniawski concerti as well as Prokofiev and Bartok.

### **If you were not playing your current instrument, what other instrument would you have chosen and why?**

I cannot really imagine playing a different instrument but I did play a little piano for a while as was required by the Polish music curriculum.

### **What schools and/or conservatories did you attend in Poland for your music studies?**

I went to Karłowicz Music High School in Poznan. It was a great place to learn and had some great faculty. The vibe of the school was very artistic and while it was a bit elitist, it was a really great environment.

Later I studied at the Paderewski University in Poznan. After one year I transferred to Chopin University in Warsaw, where I completed my undergraduate studies.

### **What interesting facts can you tell us about the instrument you play?**

I am fortunate to play a 1702 Hendrik Jacobs violin. He was a Dutch violin maker, heavily influenced by Amati.

### **What is your greatest musical achievement?**

I am particularly proud of two: when I was in my last year of University, I got a position in Sinfonia Varsovia and traveled with them extensively. The other one: winning Second Prize at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition as a member of the Assai Quartet.

### **If you were not in your current profession as a musician, what other profession would you have chosen and why?**

I think I would have pursued an academic position. I have many interests, so I can easily imagine teaching Art History, Philosophy or Literature.

### **What non-classical music and/or composer do you most enjoy or are listening to at present?**

I am a complete classical music geek and do not listen to much of anything else! But I find jazz very intriguing conceptually and will listen to jazz on longer car rides.

### **What is the most interesting thing you would like our audiences to know about you?**

I am an avid cyclist and have been a member of Greater Hartford Cycling Club for over a year. Currently, I am training for the Battenkill race in Greenwich, NY, which happens on April 18th. I've made lots of friends while biking and racing. Before I began cycling seriously, I enjoyed alpine skiing and went skiing at every opportunity, especially enjoying Mad River Glen in Vermont.

My dream is to retire to a place where I will be able to ride on my bike up the big hills! And more seriously, to spend more time with the people I love.

**What do you most enjoy about teaching?**

I enjoy mentoring young people. It is most satisfying to see them grow and develop into bright, young adults.

**What are some fun facts that you would like people to know about you?**

I have been lately into baking slow rise sourdough bread a.k.a Pain au Levain.

I also enjoy tormenting my friends with the very vivid pictures of the freshly baked loaves on my Facebook page.

Whatever hobbies in life I have, I am pursuing them with a great enthusiasm and it looks like I only have two gears: "on" and "off".

I live in West Hartford, CT with my wonderful pianist wife Malgosia.

We have three children. The oldest one is Suzanne, 23. She is an aspiring opera singer. Our son Kuba, 19, is a student at Roger Williams University majoring in Political Science and Economics. Maya, 13, is a pianist, dancer, actress and singer and is currently a student at Bristow Middle School. We have a wonderful dog Tosca. She is a rescue dog and a Pitt Bull mix.

She is very protective and I tell my students that she might be dangerous when she senses that they did not practice.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT****Meet Colette Hall, HSO Artistic Coordinator****What has been your path here at the HSO? When did you start working here, and what do you do now?**

I began working for the HSO in October of 2011. When I first started, I was a part-time employee in the Box Office, but over the past nearly four years I have also served as the Assistant Manager and Interim Manager in the Box Office and as Interim Artistic Assistant before I was promoted to full-time Artistic Coordinator in June of 2014.

As the Artistic Coordinator, I work closely with our guest artists and the HSO musicians to provide support in whatever ways are needed. I have many responsibilities including creating contracts, booking travel, and working backstage during the performances. Additionally, I collaborate with the HSO staff to provide artistic support, making sure that the concerts are interesting, engaging, and most importantly enjoyable for our audiences.

**What have been some of your favorite experiences with the HSO? Most memorable concerts?**

Wow, this is a tough question since I've had some great experiences at the HSO during my time here! There have been so many incredible concerts over the past few years; I was blown away by the recent performance of Mozart's Requiem and I was very lucky to be able to hear and meet cellist David Finckel. I've enjoyed our outdoor series too; I really remember The Music of the Rolling Stones and how everyone was up and dancing at the end of the concert.

I love music and the incredible power of a live orchestra, but there have been some really great moments behind the scenes too. High-fiving with Elissa Seed, our Production Manager, backstage during Playing with Food, having office Olympics during our move from Pearl Street to the Bushnell,



driving our guest pianist to practice in a major snow storm during my first concert as the Interim Artistic Assistant, Friday afternoon dance parties and Secret Santa gifts in the box office – the best part of my job has always been the wonderful people that I've been lucky enough to work with.

**When did you first become interested in performing music, and how did you choose the saxophone?**

I began taking piano lessons at the age of 7 and then actually started on the flute in 4th grade before switching to the saxophone in 8th grade. We had approximately 60 kids in my middle school band, and about half of them were flute players. When the band director asked if any of us flute

players wanted to try another instrument, I volunteered to play tenor saxophone; I had always wanted to be in the jazz band and I loved the fact that no one else was playing the tenor saxophone at the time. I had no idea at the time that it would be such a pivotal moment in my life, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I will never be able to thank my teacher enough for taking the time to ask and then help me transition.

The saxophone to me is an incredibly versatile instrument, it can play in orchestras, wind ensembles, jazz ensembles, rock bands – you name it and a saxophone has probably been there. I love that there are really no limits to what the instrument can do. Because there are no full-time orchestral positions for saxophonists, it's very freeing and allows you to make it up as you go along.

#### **Any favorite pieces and/or composers? Why?**

Of course I'm biased and love pieces that have saxophone in them like Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Bizet's *L'Arlesienne Suites*, and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. I also really enjoy the music of Stravinsky, Shostakovich, and Mahler. Since I'm a wind player I find myself gravitating towards works that feature the winds and brass, and as a saxophonist I lean

toward more contemporary classical music since much of what I play myself has been written within the last century. I'm fascinated by how composers combine unexpected pairings of instruments to create new colors. While I might have some favorites, I have always done my best to keep an open mind toward music and continue to expose myself to music of all types.

#### **You are about to receive a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance from the Hartt School. How has it been balancing working full-time, teaching saxophone students, and pursuing this impressive degree?**

I'll admit, it has been challenging to balance my HSO job, teaching privately, and pursuing the degree at the same time. I've been incredibly lucky to have a truly caring and loving family that has encouraged me to pursue to follow my passion, brilliant teachers and mentors, and super supportive co-workers. I wouldn't have been able to manage everything without any one of those groups.

#### **What's next for Dr. Hall?**

I am VERY excited to be graduating in May this year; it has been a long time coming, so sometimes it's difficult to look past that. But anything's possible!

## **SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: Falcetti Music**

For more than 10 years, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra has been fortunate to have a wonderful and important partner: Tony Falcetti, owner of Falcetti Music in Springfield, Massachusetts. Tony's commitment to live music performance is at the heart of all he does, both as a Symphony sponsor/partner and business owner. He aims to preserve the gift of music for all generations, and, as the owner of a two-generation enterprise, he proudly boasts that Falcetti Music has given nearly 3,000,000 music lessons in its 58 years of business.

As an HSO partner, Tony provides all of the pianos for HSO's summer Talcott Mountain Music Festival (now in its 20th season), for our Sunday Serenades Chamber Music Series at the Wadsworth Atheneum, and makes sure that every piano used by a symphony musician or guest artist is properly tuned and maintained in good condition.

Tony's commitment to the Hartford Symphony Orchestra is a reflection of his larger belief that all people deserve the gift of music. But Tony takes it a step further: he wants to facilitate opportunities for the performance of music at a wide array of locations, making music accessible to as many people as he can. These are the values that underscore his critical partnership with the symphony, ensuring that symphonic music will continue as a gift to the community it serves.



Tony assumed sole ownership of the business in 2007, but he has been involved in the business for 37 years. Like his father before him, Tony plays all keyboard instruments, including piano and accordion. At the Springfield store, students of all ages receive professional instruction in a vast array of instruments including piano, percussion, accordion, guitar, banjo, violin, viola, cello, bass, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, flute and even vocals. With a dedicated staff of teachers who also offer performance and recital opportunities for students at a variety of locations, Tony echoes the values of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra: music is inspiring, transformative and is best when shared with others in a communal setting.



# Fanfare Composition Competition

## THANKS TO OUR FABULOUS SPONSORS!

Our final 2014-2015 Masterworks concert, Mahler's Fourth, will feature a special treat for audiences: the world premiere of a new work entitled *Fanfare for the Hartford Woman*, the winning composition of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Fanfare Competition, which invited composers to create a companion piece to Aaron Copland's iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man*. The winning composer receives a cash prize of \$1,000.00, travel and accommodations to attend rehearsals and concerts, and performances of the new work at each of the Masterworks concerts May 28-31, 2015, and at HSO's May 20, 2015 Discovery concert *Heroes!*.

New composers are rarely afforded the opportunity to hear their work performed live. Rarer still is a premiere performance by a major regional orchestra. In addition to encouraging new artists, Music Director Carolyn Kuan wants the competition to honor the power of women in general, and the remarkable women of Hartford in particular, eight of whom will be honored by the *Hartford Business Journal* as this year's Women in Business winners. The *Hartford Business Journal* award luncheon on May 14, 2015 will feature an interview with HSO's Music Director Carolyn Kuan about the process of selecting a winning composition, conducted by interviewer Ronna Reynolds, a past Women in Business Award winner and Executive Vice President of the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts.

A special group of sponsors assembled to support the competition and to honor women. Our leading sponsor, Dr. Albert Hurwit, is a Hartford resident and composer who recognizes the importance of providing composers with meaningful opportunities for the performance of new works. Approximately 12 years ago, the Hartford Symphony under Maestro Edward Cumming performed the world premiere of "Remembrance", the third movement of Dr. Hurwit's Symphony No. 1. Although Dr. Hurwit was a relatively new composer at the time, "Remembrance" went on to win the American Composer Competition in 2009. In a "pay-it-forward" gesture honoring the symphony's commitment to encourage composers, Dr. Hurwit stepped forward as the competition's primary sponsor, encouraging others to follow his example. It worked.

In addition to Dr. Hurwit, our competition sponsors include the *Hartford Business Journal* (honoring the Women in Business Class 2015), and eleven remarkable women who united as a group to honor Carolyn Kuan, celebrate the women of Hartford, and support opportunities for new compositions. Our eleven women sponsors include: Nancy Bernstein, Jo Champlin Casey, Donna Collins, Rosemary Gaidos, Rev. Susan S. Izard, Rebecca Corbin Loree, Bonnie Malley, Yvette Melendez, Patricia Salner, Catherine Smith and Diane Whitney.