

Walden Notes

SUMMER 2002

Newsletter of the Walden Chamber Players  Christof Huebner, Artistic Director



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR


Why listen to modern music?



As you might have noticed, looking at our programs or attending one of our concerts, we light to "mix it up". Schnittke and Mozart in the same program? Sure, why not? Even better, both composers' string trios side by side! Our premise in that particular program was that both works are master-pieces and deserve to stand next to each other as equals.

A frequent and at this time almost overused phrase is the "decline of classical music". Audiences are dwindling, record companies are drastically cutting their classical music recording projects and musical organizations are scratching their heads trying to figure out what to do to rejuvenate interest in classical music.


Andrew Pincus, music critic of the Berkshire Eagle, put it very well in his book "Musicians with a Mission". He writes: "Music cannot stand still. It needs constant refreshment through new repertoire, new artists, and new ideas. Otherwise it

 continued page 2

Make Music and They Will Come . . .

The WCP performed our much anticipated concert with guest artist **Branford Marsalis** in July on the **Nantucket Musical Arts Society** series featuring the music of Hindemith, Busch, Faure and local composer Dan Crozier. The concert was sold out with about 600 people in attendance and the presenter had to turn away people at the door. Branford

and Artistic Director Christof Huebner also packed the house at a pre-concert talk the evening before. At the talk, Branford


described the challenges of playing classical music and especially the piece written by Dan Crozier as the technical demands were very different from anything he had experienced before. Branford said he felt he was a better musician after meeting the challenges of the composition, **Toccata for Saxophone and Strings**. WCP hopes to feature the composition again, possibly in Florida in 2004. 



Branford Marsalis rehearses with WCP artistic director, Christof Huebner, and pianist, Bonnie Anderson.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

The WCP are very pleased to continue to build on previous outreach programs in several schools in the Berkshires next season. We will be returning to the Richmond Consolidated School in Richmond, MA in September. This residency on composers and composing will culminate in a concert featuring student compositions, as well as a piece

written for the WCP by Larry Wolfe, our bass-player and composer extraordinaire. Additional outreach programs will take place in the New Lebanon Central School District, Berkshire Music School, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, and Indian Hill Music Center as well as Drury High School and Hoosac Valley High School. 

2002/2003 SEASON

-  SEPTEMBER 14, 2002
20TH CENTURY UNLIMITED SERIES
SANTA FE, NM
-  SEPTEMBER 29, 2002
RICHMOND CONS. SCHOOL DISTRICT
RICHMOND, MA
-  OCTOBER 18, 2002
FIRST ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
NEW LEBANON, NY
-  OCTOBER 25, 2002
TROY SAVINGS BANK MUSIC HALL
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
TROY, NY
-  NOVEMBER 10, 2002
JAMES LIBRARY, NORWELL, MA
-  NOVEMBER 17, 2002
BOSTON COLLEGE
CHESTNUT HILL, MA
-  NOVEMBER 24, 2002
KALLIROSCOPE GALLERY, GROTON, MA
-  JANUARY 10, 2003
BERKSHIRE MUSIC SCHOOL
PITTSFIELD, MA
-  FEBRUARY 23, 2003
CURRIER GALLERY
MANCHESTER, NH
-  MARCH 2, 2003
CLARK ART INSTITUTE
WILLIAMSTOWN, MA
-  MARCH 9, 2003
JAMES LIBRARY, NORWELL, MA
-  MARCH 16, 2003
NEW ENGLAND ARTIST SERIES
WESTFORD, MA
-  MAY 11, 2003
BLACKMAN HALL
INDIAN HILL MUSIC CENTER
LITTLETON, MA

DIRECTOR *continued*

becomes a museum, a place to visit but not to dwell."

I like the idea of exploring new territory, of listening to (or playing) new sounds, new ideas and –who knows? – I might just happen upon the next master-piece of tomorrow. We all know what to expect when we play and listen to the "classical top 40" – exploring new music one enters into a world of the unknown and often I find myself fascinated with what I discover.

I would like to put it this way: Music is an expression of humanity and a reflection of our times, past and present. In order for music to be there for us tomorrow we need to engage with it as a living, breathing and constantly changing medium. Otherwise it does become a museum, relegated to an occasional visit and the intermittent dusting.

Christof Huebner

NEWS

Andrew Pearce, our wonderful cellist, has decided to spend more time with his family. We very much regret seeing him leave and wish him well in his future endeavors! In his stead the newest member of the BSO's cello section, **Mihail Jojatu**, has accepted our invitation to join the WCP. We are delighted to have Mihail on board and look forward to having him as part of the team!



Mihail Jojatu

The ensemble has been invited to it's first "international" concert in **Calgary, Canada** with the Calgary Pro Musica Society in September, 2004.

This July Artistic Director **Christof Huebner** was appointed Associate Music Director of the Monadnock Festival, based in Peterborough, NH.

WCP member **Nurit Bar-Josef** was given tenure as the new concertmaster of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Nurit!

WCP bassoonist **Rick Ranti** reports brisk sales of his first cd with the WCP. His cd can be obtained from his website <http://people.bu.edu.ranti>. WCP bassist **Larry Wolfe** who arranged the Vaughn-Williams piece on the cd, has also composed two works *Currents* and *Triptych* recorded by Doug Yeo on his cds *Proclamation* and *Two of a Kind*. Larry is also

working on a composition this year for our educational programs at the Richmond School in September.

The WCP has received several grants this year to sponsor concerts and educational programs. **The Ellis Foundation** and **Stewart's Shops** will again fund our program in the New Lebanon School District at the First Annual Fall Festival. **Berkshire Bank** and the **Local Cultural Council** of Pittsfield are sponsors of the Berkshire Music School concert and outreach events. **The Kodosky Foundation** is one of the sponsors of our appearance at Troy. We have also received grants from the **Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation** to work with two high schools in Northern Berkshire County this year.

WALDEN CHAMBER PLAYERS

TATIANA DIMITRIADES - VIOLIN
NURIT BAR-JOSEF - VIOLIN
ALEXANDER VELINZON - VIOLIN
CHRISTOF HUEBNER - VIOLA
MIHAIL JOJATU - CELLO
LAWRENCE WOLFE - BASS

MARIANNE GEDIGIAN - FLUTE
LAURA AHLBECK - OBOE
THOMAS MARTIN - CLARINET
RICHARD RANTI - BASSOON
RICHARD SEBRING - HORN
JONATHAN BASS - PIANO

CONTACT US!

For more information about the Walden Chamber Players, contact Susan Spelman at 800/586-8438 or visit us at www.waldenchamberplayers.org

Walden Chamber Players™

442 West Housatonic Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Making music meaningful . . .

making meaningful music™



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