

UNION SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

Junior Guild Journal

JG

Leadership and Enrichment For Music Students of Greater Union County

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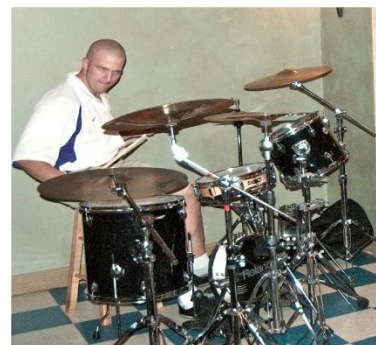
Musical Life Lessons

By Alyssa Jones

Last Junior Guild meeting, the guild was lucky enough to have professional drummer Jordan Varela (who is the brother of USYO violinist Austin Neese) come to speak and play. The performance he gave was outstanding, displaying his amazing talent.

Following a complex drum solo, Mr. Varela spoke about his music, life, and the lessons he has learned. Though he played in school bands, Mr. Varela knew from a young age that he wanted to be a soloist. Playing in various bands and venues during high school, Mr. Varela learned many things, which he passed on to us. Though he spoke on many subjects, a few stood out as excellent principles to guide a musical life.

First, love your instrument. If you love something, you will excel at it. As busy seasons come and go, it may be hard, but dedication to your instrument brings out its very best. Secondly, keep going with music – it's too hard to get it back. There are probably scores of people, long grown up, who resent ceasing to



play their instruments. Once you learn something when you are young, then quit, it's extremely difficult to recover lost knowledge.

Lastly, don't be lazy. Many students can attest to the dread of practice. Ask any musician – all have probably experienced their parents forcing them to practice. But, as they say, "practice makes perfect". Professionals do not become professionals without practice. It may be hard to put down the book, magazine, video game, remote control, phone, etc. but practice is a vital part of playing an instrument well. Practice is the thin line between average musicians and great musicians.

After the meeting had officially been dismissed, I embarked on a quest to discover some tips, tricks, and life lessons

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from Mr. Varela. Interviewed him with the two questions I had, that he already hadn't answered. I discovered that even though he was so amazing on the drums, no, he hadn't gone to music school

Then I asked him what the best part about being a professional musician was. "The best part is having free creativity." Mr. Varela answered, very confidently. Professional musicians have the talent to create things that are beautiful. Be it heavy metal drum solos, classical concertos, or bluegrass toe-tapping tunes, music is such a free, open subject, and we, the musicians must seize the opportunity and enjoy it as much as we can.

A Night at The Concert

By Taryn Miller

On October 10, 2009, the Union Symphony Orchestra performed a concert at the Batte Fine Arts Center, entitled "Oh, Vienna". The concert featured Instrumentalist Concerto Winner Joseph Ellison.

At the "Oh, Vienna" concert, I was assigned a job as usher. Along with fellow USYO members Allison Spahr, Austin Neese, and Ian Searle, I sat at the doors of the auditorium with programs to check tickets and make sure people knew where they should sit. But, just because we had jobs to do, doesn't mean we didn't have fun. After we finished ushering, we listened to the concert. It was amazing! The trumpets at my high school definitely don't sound like that. The sound was smooth and wonderful. After the concert we had a reception that was very elegant, with all sorts of food. It was great fun at the concert!



Pictured, l-r: Ian Searle, Ben Keoseyan, Allison Spahr, Taryn Miller, Austin Neese, Tim Singh



A Word From JG

President, Tim Singh:

Hey guys, we're really starting the season off great. We hope you are enjoying being a member of the Junior Guild and keep up the good work!

Upcoming Events:

December 5:

5:00 PM - Downtown Monroe Christmas Tree Lighting (Jazz Ensemble and USCHAP venue)

December 11-13, 18-20:

8:00 PM - Nutcracker Ballet at the Blumenthal Performing Arts center (*Pending*)

December 14:

5:30 PM - Junior Guild Meeting

January 11 :

7:30 PM - USYO Winter Concert at Porter Ridge High School

February 2:

7:00 PM - Turtle Island String Quartet at Wingate University Batte Fine Arts Center (*JG members encouraged to attend*)

Got an idea for the Junior Guild Journal?

Send ideas, articles, and/or pictures to Alyssa Jones at jonescarolina6@ctc.net.

Notes from USYO:

Percussion:

By Jordan Hupko

In what other orchestra section can you play more than one instrument? Well that's an easy answer...percussion. As percussionists in USYO, we may not get the same amount of attention as everyone else, but we are a very important part to the orchestra. If we get off rhythm, the other musicians may get off if they are not watching the conductor.

Brass (Trumpets):

By Ian Searle

On behalf of the Trumpet Section, I wish to cordially invite all who are reading this informative newsletter, to the first, you heard it, the first USYO Annual Winter Concert, January 11th, 7:30 pm at Porter Ridge High School.

It will showcase an inspiring musical performance given by the Union Symphony Youth Orchestra, conducted by the ever-popular and extremely cool, Mekel Rogers, and include stellar contributions from the exceptionally talented trumpet section. Listen for us, you won't be sorry. There will be food to eat and an extraordinary art exhibit to enjoy before and after the concert, as well as during intermission. You don't want to miss this!



Mekel Rogers conducting USYO

The Nutcracker Ballet

By Sarah Stephens

There is a really great opportunity for all members of the Junior Guild and USYO to attend The Nutcracker Ballet on December 12th [at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, Belk Theater in Charlotte]. The Nutcracker ballet was composed by Peter Tchaikovsky in the 1800's and has excellent music as well as an amazing ballet to accompany it. Tchaikovsky wrote this right before he died, and originally, it was not a huge success when it was first premiered. This wonderful work was based off of a book by Hoffman called "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."

This is a great opportunity because it is an amazing classical work by a truly gifted musician. It is a great learning experience as well because of the different types of music that are in this ballet. There is something that everyone will enjoy. Join us for a great performance and a fun time with your guild/USYO friends.

Beethoven's Fifth

By Alyssa Jones

Beethoven has been accredited with the title of the most important classical composer ever. Wouldn't we all love to have that title? Beethoven wrote so many beautiful pieces, many of which are famous. Written during his "heroic period," Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is instantly recognizable, and probably his best known works. "The celebrated Symphony No. 5 in C minor op. 67 from 1808 is the most thematically concentrated of Beethoven's works. ... Beethoven uses here a large-scale polarity between the darker sound of C minor and the brighter, more radiant effect of C major, which is held largely in reserve until the finale."¹ There is only one word for the beauty and majesty of this symphony- Encore!

¹ Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2003. © 1993-2002 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved."