



QUARTER NOTES

FASO'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Summer Greetings to all FASO Members!

I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather that has finally arrived! I know that I am. And many of you enjoyed the perfect weather June 8 at FASO's Mexican Fiesta. We had wonderful food from Sin Fronteras, margaritas, sangria,



music and good fellowship. A huge thank you to our past president, Carol Lee, for hosting the Fiesta at her home. The setting was perfect! It was a great way to raise funds for our ASO.

It's time to renew your membership! A renewal form is included in this mailing and I sincerely hope that you all renew. We depend on our members to support the ASO through FASO dues, donations, and participation in events. We have set a fundraising goal of \$30,000 for the upcoming season and we need your help to get there. Just fill out the form, write a check, put them in an envelope, stick on a stamp and mail it to P.O. Box 1974, Annapolis MD 21404.

FASO's next fund-raising event is September 27 at Great Frogs Winery on Harness Creek Road. This is a beautiful vineyard right here in Annapolis that produces several varieties of wine. You will have the opportunity to taste the wines as well as buy them at our event. It should be a lot of fun. Invitations will go out later this summer, so please plan to join us.

The ASO Pops in the Park Concert is coming up on Labor Day weekend. FASO will have space in the ASO booth and will man the Bucket Brigade, collecting donations from concert-goers.

Plans are also underway for gala receptions on the evenings of the Opening Night concerts of the ASO's new season in October. FASO will participate with the ASO Board to help celebrate the new season and to inaugurate the newly remodeled Concert Hall.

And be sure to mark your calendar for November 2, our Concert of Tastes. FASO is already hard at work to make this the best ever, with restaurant samplings, open bar, dancing, raffles.

All FASO members are invited to help with any of our events. You don't need special skills, just a desire to support the ASO. You can contact me regarding opportunities to become involved.

---Paula Abernethy, president, 410-703-3554

THANKS FROM RETIRING ASO CHAIR HARLEY FLACK

I want to send a personal greeting of congratulations to FASO for a wonderful 2013 – 2014 season. I thoroughly enjoyed working with FASO this past year and especially enjoyed getting to know some of the membership during the Dinners with the Strings! The Annapolis Symphony is a very complex organization depending on so many volunteers and FASO is incredibly important to our formula for success. As we look toward the 2014-2015 season and a new performance hall we will need the inspiration and resource of FASO to continue our success!

Thank you for all you do and we look forward to working with you next season.

With Warmest Regards,

Harley



FASO ANNUAL MEETING: SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW OFFICERS, SIX NEW MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FASO has term limits for our directors, and so we are losing two much-beloved long-time members of the board, Jim Cheevers and Joan Russell. In their place we are bringing on six new members: Judi Tanner, Linda Russell, Virginia Reinhart, Larry Innis, Barbara Dwyer Brown and Steve Holt. They were introduced at our Annual Meeting May 13 at Loews Hotel.

FASO's new officers for 2014-2015 are: Paula Abernethy, president; Ginger From, vice president Ways and Means; Marthena Cowart, vice president Membership; Lois McGovern, recording secretary; Renee Ehler, correspondent secretary; and Valerie Gutterson, treasurer.



Why Are These Folks Smiling?

It's obvious! In the photo, President Paula is handing a \$10,000 check to the ASO. On the right is ASO Music Director José-Luis Novo, and at left is ASO Executive Director Jeth Mill. Both joined us at the annual meeting, where we enjoyed lunch, heard a performance by ASO Concert Master Netanel Draiblate and welcomed our new officers and board.

The \$10,000 was raised by FASO. This gift raised our total donation for the 2013-2014 season to \$20,000.

-- Photo by Don Dement



Another Reason to Smile

This young lady will have her private music lessons paid for by FASO in the coming season. She is the winner of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra Scholarship, a \$1,500 grant given each year to a worthy, talented student. This year's winner is Grace Hughes, violinist with the CYSO String Orchestra. Here she receives her scholarship from FASO Director Michael Kurtz.

Meet the Executive Director

In recent Quarter Notes we've quoted ASO Executive Director Jeth Mill about the big changes afoot in Maryland Hall. Jeth has been on top of the developments since he took the job eight months ago, on Oct. 1. He and his wife, Donna, came here from Windsor, Ont., where Jeth was executive director of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and where he oversaw the rehabbing of a similarly historic hall. He was familiar with the challenges of maintaining historic integrity while upgrading acoustics, visuals, lighting and patron comforts. In Annapolis, the plans were already laid. As the saying goes, he hit the ground running.

Windsor? Aha, you may think, he's Canadian, eh?

Well, no, he grew up in central Ohio, and his first career was in public radio. He worked as a producer at NPR in Washington D.C. for a number of years and can tell great stories (nice ones) about people whose names you know from public radio. In fact, he learned to sail on the Chesapeake Bay during his years at NPR. That's his picture – he's the guy in the tie -- in the story above about FASO's latest \$10,000 donation to the ASO.

His desire is to let the rest of the world know how good our symphony is. "We don't want to be Maryland's best-kept secret anymore," he says. One way to show off the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra is to perform outside of our community. So, on March 1, 2015, the ASO will perform a matinee at the Strathmore. The ASO will recap its Feb. 27 and 28 Maryland Hall performances at the fine North Bethesda theater complex. It'll be a chance for Washingtonians to experience what we have been lucky enough to hear for years with Maestro José-Luis.

Meanwhile, work has begun in the Maryland Hall auditorium. Asbestos abatement was required. Soon there will be dramatic structural changes. The slope of the floor will be adjusted for better sight lines, parterres will be built on either side, a removable stage extension is planned which will bring the strings closer to the audience. There will be risers for the musicians and an acoustic shell to send the sound where it ought to go: out to the audience.

It's all very exciting. One way for patrons to share in the excitement is to plan to attend one of the gala Opening Night parties that the ASO board is planning. Jeth says there will be red carpets, searchlights, trumpet fanfares for attendees at the pre-concert parties followed by post-concert Champagne receptions. These will be fund-raisers, replacing the usual ASO Gala.

Stay tuned for more updates. Meanwhile, keep an eye out for Jeth Mill. If you don't spot him prowling Maryland Hall, you may find Jeth and Donna out sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. They don't have a sailboat but will answer any invitation to crew!

--By Carol R. Richards, editor

Stardom for Cheevers

There are honors. And then there are HONORS.

Honor 1. The James Cheevers Gallery is now a reality at the Naval Academy Museum. Our retiring FASO board member, Jim Cheevers, was honored April 29, for his 50 years of government service. Jim is the Associate Director and Senior Curator of the Naval Academy Museum.

Honor 2. Jim has also been one of the hardest-working members of the FASO Board of Directors. He was recognized June 8 for his conscientious and inspirational work by President Paula Abernethy. At the Fiesta, he received a farewell gift and the badge that you see in the picture.



Save these Dates

Sunday, Aug. 31, Quiet Waters Park, 5:30 p.m. FREE Lexus Pops in the Park.

Saturday, Sept. 27, Wine-tasting fund-raiser, Great Frogs Winery, Harness Creek Road, Annapolis. Time to be announced

Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18, Gala Opening Night parties to celebrate the transformation of Maryland Hall's auditorium to a Concert Hall. Watch for more info.

Oct. 17 and 18, 2014, Lexus Classic Series 1, Handel, Music for the Royal Fireworks; Falla, Nights in the Gardens of Spain; Nielsen, Symphony No. 4, "The inextinguishable." Angela Cheng, guest pianist. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

Nov. 14 and 15, Lexus Classic Series 2, Beethoven Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, op. 55, "Eroica;" Ravel, *Le Tombeau de Couperin*; Doppler, *Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise*, op. 24. Griffes, Poem for Flute and Orchestra, Kim Valerio, flutist. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

Dec. 19, Holiday Pops. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

Feb. 7. Family Concerts, 2 and 3:30 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

Feb. 27 and 28, Lexus Classic Series 3, Ravel, Concerto for Piano in G Minor; Bax, the Garden of Fand; R. Strauss, *Ein Heldenleben* (A Hero's Life.) 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

Feb. 29, repeat of Feb. 27-28 concert, matinee, Strathmore, North Bethesda.

Mar. 27 and 28, Lexus Classic Series 4. Elgar, the Sanguine Fan; Prokofiev, Concerto for Violin No. 2 in G Minor, op. 63; Shostakovich, Symphony No. 9 in E-flat major, op. 70. Vadim Gluzman, guest violinist. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

May 8 and 9, Lexus Classic Series 5. R. Schumann, Manfred Overture; Lieberso, Neruda Songs; Sibelius, Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major, op. 82. Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

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