



QUARTER NOTES

FASO'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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A Busy Spring Season

It's an exciting time to be a FASO member and part of the ASO family! The next few months are filled with wonderful events and opportunities to spend time with supporters of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and in doing so support its youth education and community outreach programs.

First up is our 38th annual Concert of Tastes on April 8 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, off Bay Ridge Road. This year's event will offer a special performance by ASO trumpet star Christopher Sala, along with food samples from some of the best restaurants in Annapolis. There will be a full open bar, live and silent auctions and a golden chance raffle. Len Mitchard's jazz quintet, the Sharp Five, will also be part of the evening. If you haven't done so already, please purchase your tickets now. Space is filling up. Instructions on next page.

On May 6, we will hold our annual Champagne Sunday at the home of Lou and Laurie Berman. Please join us for champagne and hors d'oeuvres and this unique opportunity to experience some of the most amazing views Annapolis has to offer. Special thanks to Lou and Laurie for making their home available to us! Watch for details by email.

We will also hold our annual meeting on May 16 at Carrol's Creek Café just before many of us depart for Spain on FASO's second annual music tour. This time, the tour goes to Spain, where Maestro José-Luis Novo will share with us his insights into his native country and its musical heritage. I can't wait! Planning is already underway for our 2019 music tour to Italy.

I'm also excited about two new projects that you will hear more about in the coming weeks. First is our Painted Violin fundraiser which will display the talents of local artists and offer an opportunity for FASO and the community to support the Annapolis Symphony Academy (ASA). All proceeds will go to supporting the ASA. Second is our FASO Ambassador Program. This will offer FASO members a chance to help promote the symphony. They can do this by arranging for their favorite community groups, to hear directly from Patrick Nugent, ASO Executive Director, and others about the symphony and its upcoming events and programs. Please consider becoming a FASO Ambassador.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank all of you. We are having a tremendously successful year and that would not be possible without you. Thanks to everyone who has helped plan one of our many events this year! Thanks to everyone who has taken time to attend one or more of them!

Stephen A. Sotack

President, FASO



Join the Fun!

Our biggest and liveliest event of the year occurs this year on April 8 at a glamorous new venue, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, located – natch – right on the Chesapeake shore. We’re starting an hour earlier than in the past so you can enjoy sunset on the bay. And we have some super new restaurants providing food for us. You can dine on beef from Ruth’s Chris Steak House, barbecue from the

Annapolis Smokehouse, and sushi from a favorite past vendor, Wegmans Catering, among the dozen or more vendors providing hors d’oeuvres, entrees and desserts. We will have a full open bar from Port Tack Ltd of Arnold, music both classic and jazz, fabulous items to bid on at the live and silent auctions and the ever popular Golden Chance raffle. How would you like to invite 12 friends to a Scotch tasting at a fine waterfront home? Our friends at Port Tack, pictured at right (the tall gentleman is Donald MacMurray, owner), will supply the booze and the expertise. You can bid on this at the live auction. Or how about dinner at Harry Browne’s restaurant with Maestro José-Luis Novo? You can bid on this too. Or a gourmet dinner for four hosted by FASO president Stephen Sotack, joined by concertmaster Netanel Draiblate. Or a golf outing at three different country clubs complete with meals. And that’s just offerings at the *live* auction. Be ready for lots of action and plenty of fun.



Here are the basics: When, April 8, 5-8 p.m. Where, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Ave., Annapolis 21403. Cost, \$85. To use credit card, go to Annapolissymphony.org, click on the Friends tab and follow directions. Or send a check to FASO, Box 1974, Annapolis MD 21404.

Annapolis Symphony Academy Takes Off!

The academy is a new project designed to provide high-level musical training to local students, combining private lessons and ensemble coaching by ASO musicians in an environment of excellence that values diversity. On Feb. 25, the first auditions were held. Here is an excerpt of ASO Chairman Laurie Berman’s report:



“With tremendous pride and excitement, I report that this past Sunday, the **Annapolis Symphony Academy** held its first round of **auditions** at Asbury Methodist Church for the upcoming September launch of the program! I *WISH* you all were there to have witnessed how our program exuded professionalism and strength while at the same time keeping the kids and parents as relaxed as possible throughout the process. Nati [Netanel Draiblate, program director and ASO concertmaster] was extremely well organized and the day ran incredibly smoothly. Auditions began at 2:30 and ended at 7ish. ... ASO violinist Sally Amass who, like a mom, tried to relax the kids with encouragements, escorted the student and family to the Audition Room where Nati sat at a table along with another ASO musician for the audition. ...Long day and all of the folks involved stayed! We have only 20 spots to fill and in this first of at least two days of auditions, we already auditioned about 24 students! ... And the diversity is there, folks! About 50 percent! And the need-based students came in! It’s working!!!”

... and Painted Violins will support the Academy

How would you like to own a violin beautifully painted by one of the region's best artists? That is the idea behind FASO'S Painted Violins Project, inspired by a similar and enormously successful ASO project in 2002. Then, more than \$40,000 was raised for the symphony by selling raffle tickets for the violins. The Painted Violins were displayed in educational and cultural venues around Anne Arundel County back then, so that people could see the beauty of the art on the violins. This time, the funds are being raised to support the Annapolis Symphony Academy.

The artists who will paint the violins will be announced shortly. Later this year, we are planning to circulate the painted violins to local art galleries, ASO concert venues, and so forth, so that the public may view the violins in person. Stay tuned to learn how to buy raffle tickets online and in person. Winners of the painted violins will be announced in 2019. If you'd like to be a part of this exciting project, get in touch with Stephen Sotack at stephen_sotack@comcast.net,



Manuel Barrueco, guitar soloist, and José-Luis Novo, parry questions at Strathmore

Best Tweet of the Day (Read on)

The Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda has turned out to be a great venue for the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. The concerts we all heard at Maryland Hall on March 2 and 3 were repeated at Strathmore on the 4th with good attendance and wonderful sound quality. Several FASO members went and reported back on the Jose-Luis /Manuel Barrueco Q & A session after the concert. Michael Kurtz asked José-Luis if we might let the audience ask questions at Maryland Hall and the maestro had no objection. Novo was asked: How did he adjust the presentation of the music for the larger hall? In his usual calm and clear manner, José-Luis talked about how it was important to adjust the trumpets in the last piece so that the sounds coming from the back and sides reached the audience at the same time as sounds coming from the stage.

Someone asked what instruments were used to make the birdsong sounds in Respighi's "The Pines of Rome". Surprise! José-Luis said that Respighi himself recorded the sounds of actual birds and that is the recording the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra used in its powerful performance. Some tweet!

FASO's Mary McKiel said that during the reception in the Comcast Lounge, much of the conversation centered on how beautiful the music sounded in the Strathmore venue and that, in turn, drew many questions and ideas on how to have that sound all the time. Quarter Notes thanks Mary and Michael for playing reporter for us, and Mary for taking the above picture.

Champagne Sunday

FASO'S annual salute to spring, Champagne Sunday, will be held May 6 at the waterfront home of Lou and Laurie Berman in Bay Ridge. Laurie is chairman of the ASO board and Lou will be auctioneer at the Concert of Tastes. It's both a fundraiser and a social event. Plan on spending from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. noshing on home-made treats and enjoying the view of the bay, with a glass of champagne. Bring your friends! Sign them up for FASO! Watch your email for more details.



Be an Ambassador for the Symphony

FASO is developing a new program for members to become “ambassadors,” folks who are provided with the most current information about goings-on at the symphony and who encourage their community groups to invite ASO spokespeople to come and speak, promoting the 2018-19 season. We hope you’ll informally share the symphony’s story with your friends. The indefatigable Patrick Nugent, the symphony’s executive director and holder of the Patricia Edwards Chair, would be delighted to come speak about our great symphony at places you have scoped out. We’ll have more on this later as plans firm up. But if you are dying to volunteer, get in touch with FASO President Steve Sotack, whose phone and email address are below. This program is his special initiative

We’re on the Air

Who is that familiar voice wafting out of the radio? It’s Michael Kurtz, co-chairman of the Concert of Tastes. You may hear him on WBJC being interviewed by host Jonathan Palevsky. Michael was interviewed recently about the big April 8 event. The Q and A is on tape and will be aired, we’re told, as the Concert of Tastes nears. Be sure you listen to everyone’s favorite local classical music radio station on April 5 and 6.

Save these Dates

April 8, FASO’S Concert of Tastes, this year at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Ave. Put this on your calendar now! Watch email for electronic invitations. Go to AnnapolisSymphony.org for more info and to purchase tickets by credit card. Tickets, \$85.

April 13-14, Concert: Julian Schwarz, cello, Roussel, “Spider’s Feast;” Liebermann, Concerto for Cello, Tchaikovsky, Symphony No. 5. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

May 4-5, Concert: Jon Nakamatsu, piano, Mozart, *La Clemenza di Tito* overture, Rachmaninov, Concerto for Piano No. 2; Brahms, Symphony No. 1. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor. Renew your season subscription with champagne and chocolate.

May 6, FASO’s Champagne Sunday, Laurie and Lou Berman’s house, 1 Sands Ave., 4-6 p.m. Watch for more information to come.

May 12, Family Concert: Magic Circle Mime Co., “Peter and the Wolf”. 2 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

May 16, FASO annual meeting, this year at Carrol’s Creek starting at 11:30 a.m. Meet the new FASO officers; say good bye to retiring board members, have a wonderful lunch and meet ‘n’ greet FASO friends.

May 18 - 29, FASO-sponsored music tour of Spain.

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