



As the year draws to a close, our painted violins fundraiser is nearing its end. As I reflect back on the experience, I realize that the project has been much more than a means for raising funds for the Annapolis Symphony Academy (ASA). It has played a role in bringing all of us, whether a regular ASO concert attendee or not, a little closer together. It is a perfect example of how music connects us to one another and strengthens social bonds.

I have been at just about all of the raffle ticket events since we kicked off sales in September, and at every one, someone has come up to me and told me a story. Whether young or old, a musician or not, an Annapolitan or not, from this country or not, everyone has a story to tell about music. Just about everyone was an opportunity for me to meet someone new and establish a new friendship. Everyone was positive and invoked memories of wonderful experiences from the past. Everyone brought smiles!

At our event on December 2nd, we had a special treat. One of our ASA students, Sadie Brandi, joined us not only to sell raffle tickets but to share her gift of music with all of us. In this busy holiday season when we are rushing from one thing to the next, Sadie got many of us to stop for a moment and not only listen but perhaps reminisce. She brought us smiles and for some of us, tears of joy. She touched all of us with her wonderful music and gift! Thank you, Sadie!

To all that have contributed to making the painted violins project a success, thank you! I know that it has required a tremendous number of hours from many of you, but you don't have to look hard to see the impact you have had on our community. There's still time for anyone that would like to participate. All are welcome to join us at an upcoming event and I look forward to seeing all of you at our painted violins raffle drawing on January 13th. The final event details will be shared on our website as well as via email shortly.

Finally, I thank all of you for making each and every FASO event this year a success and 2018 a terrific year for FASO! No matter how you are spending the holidays, I wish you and your family the best of holidays and a wonderful 2019. Thank you for being part of the Friends of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra family!

Stephen Sotack - President

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!



**PAINTING THE TOWN...
WITH VIOLINS!**

FASO's 10 Painted Violins are making a colorful tour around Annapolis thanks to the dedicated efforts of intrepid FASO volunteers. The PVs have graced the Benfield Gallery in Severna Park, the Main Street Gallery in Annapolis, Quiet Waters Park and Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts among other locations. They were star attractions at Midnight Madness in downtown Annapolis on December 6th and 13th as well as invited guests at Homestead Gardens. (See below for a special report on that visit!) Some upcoming locations are listed on the left. At every location FASO sells raffle tickets for each violin art piece.

The 10 violins will be raffled off to 10 lucky winners on January 13th at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. All proceeds go to help the talented young musicians at the Annapolis Symphony Academy, many of whom could not otherwise afford the excellent training they are getting at the Academy.

A chance to own one of these treasures has never been easier! Purchase tickets where the violins are displayed, or online at www.tunedtoyouth.org, or at the ASO box office or from any FASO Board member. Opportunities



See the Violins - Get your raffle tickets!

+ **Jan. 10**, What's Up Gallery

+ **Jan. 2-12**, McBride Gallery

for more information on locations, contact FASO President, Stephen Sotack; Stephen_Sotack@comcast.net



The Academy's own Sadie Bondi joined the painted violins on Dec. 2nd at Homestead Gardens. Serenaded by Sadie, customers stopped their shopping and listened to the beautiful music and view the beautiful Painted Violins. Would-be passers-by were inspired by Sadie's artistry, and the resulting raffle ticket sales were music to the ears of FASO!

And Speaking of children...

Students Sparkle! On December 9th at Temple Beth Shalom in Annapolis, talented young students of the newly formed Annapolis Symphony Academy (ASA) shined at their first concert performance under the direction of ASO conductor José-Luis Novo. Parents, guests and connoisseurs of fine music were enthralled with the brilliant sounds of Vivaldi, Mozart, Dvorak and McLean. Plus, a completely charming encore by Leroy Anderson! ASA Founder and Executive Director, Dr. Netanel Draiblate listened proudly!



Congratulations to ASA!!

ASO Goes for Baroque

THE EARS HAVE IT!

More than 50 lucky guests reveled in ear-candy on November 9th at the home of Lou and Laurie Berman for FASO's evening of music and poetry. Poets Jessica Beyer and Garrett Brown along with musicians Rachel Franklin and her SONOS trio filled the air with wonderful words and magical music. The overall theme of the evening was a celebration of the anniversary of Armistice. Wait! Hear that?

"Listen all with ear to ground!
Hearts abound with joyful sound
at the coming of this year.
FASO plans more treats of sheer
sonorous joy all for thee.
Come, 2019! and bring
your music and your poetry!"

ASO's new Chamber Music Series premiered on Sunday, October 21 at Temple Beth Shalom in Arnold and featured the Annapolis Symphony Baroque Ensemble with Antonio Vivaldi's ever-popular "The Four Seasons," featuring Concertmaster Netanel Draiblate as a soloist. As one of Vivaldi's most familiar compositions, first published in 1725, "The Four Seasons" featured four violin concertos. Guests experienced this wonderful chamber music mainstay in an intimate setting, although the house was packed!



Thanks to Don Dement for many photos in this edition. His website is: www.nonlinearart.com

WHAT THOSE IN THE KNOW ARE SAYING ...

"Two things I particularly like about this new ASO venture are the especially intimate setting which makes for an even closer interaction with our audience than at Maryland Hall, and presenting some of our talented ASO musicians soloing with the orchestra. I think the latter not only raises the general level of pride among our musicians, but it also promotes a keen sense of complicity and support which is incredibly healthy for everyone's morale". *Music Director, José-Luis Novo*

"Three years ago, when we asked the community what they wanted from their Symphony, the answer they gave most often was chamber music, performed in a wide variety of local venues. The Chamber Series is the fruit of that aspiration. Inaugurating it with a Baroque Ensemble performance of the Four Seasons helped us begin our series of public chamber concerts with a memorable splash." *Executive Director, Patrick Nugent*

Thanks to FASO member Stephen Holt of the Premier Planning Group in Annapolis for sponsoring this exciting new series!

The ASO Ambassadors, met on November 29th at the offices of the Premier Planning Group in Annapolis. FASO President Stephen Sotack, ASO Executive Director, Patrick Nugent and ASO Concert Master, Netanel Draiblate spoke with the group about the importance of spreading the word of ASO and ASA to friends, family and colleagues. Pat Nugent said the best thing to do is: Bring Your Friends! President Sotack reminded everyone that a practical way to support is through the painted violins project. For more information on the Ambassador program contact Mary McKiel at mmckiel@comcast.net or Stephen Sotack at stephen_sotack@comcast.net



NUMBERS TO KNOW

Stephen Sotack, president,
stephen_sotack@comcast.net,
410-703-7553
Mary McKiel, editor, Quarter Notes,
mmckiel@comcast.net
443-994-6437

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gala galore!!

2018 phun in photos

From ASO's magnificent 2018-2019 season opening to ASA's very first concert. Some mid-morning magic, players and listeners. These are just samplings from a most glorious, musical year!



Thank you to Maestro José-Luis Novo, all of the ASO musicians and guest artists, Netanel Draiblate, Patrick Nugent, Marshall Mentz and the ASO staff for a superb 2018 full of music, education and growth. Thank you to all the FASO members who continue to support the important mission of ASO and the Academy. Thank you to the generous donors who enable the programs and outreach. Thank you to all who come and enjoy the spirit and music of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra!

Have a wonderful holiday season and a bright new year!