

WCMS THE SCORE

FALL/WINTER 2010



Worcester
Chamber Music
Society

*Balanced.
Intelligent.
Passionate.*

Peter Sulski,
Artistic Director

Tracy Kraus,
Executive Director



photo courtesy of telegram.com

2010 CHALLENGE GRANT

Music Matters! Be a part of our continuing success

September marked the beginning of our Fifth Anniversary season. In just five short years, we have performed forty concerts in eight towns across Worcester County, provided educational opportunity to dozens of young musicians through our summer festival and performed informative concerts for hundreds of school children. And finally.....we are officially a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization!

Our 2010-2011 season of fourteen concerts takes us to Harvard, Hardwick, Leominster, Oakham, Whitinsville and Worcester. We have a free family concert at Mechanics Hall on March 6 and a free senior concert at Briarwood on June 14. Our residency continues at Assumption College with a concert on April 8th. School shows are planned for Clinton, Hardwick, Shrewsbury and Worcester. Finally, the year culminates with our Summer Festival at Anna Maria College in Paxton.

It is our great wish to continue to expand our series to include more of the smaller towns in Worcester County, to continue to offer affordable ticket prices, to continue to offer free tickets to those who are in the greatest need, to continue to offer

scholarships to our summer festival participants, and to continue to offer free outreach concerts.

We cannot do this without your help. We are excited to announce a **\$2,500 matching challenge grant from the Margaret E. Sherman Trust** good towards new and increased donations. Donations must be received by December 31, 2010. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

Your support is vital to the success of our goals. We are deeply inspired by the generosity of our donors over the past five years and we trust in our hearts that you will be an integral part of our future.

With deepest gratitude,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Peter' and the second is 'Tracy'.

Swept Away, The WCMS Experience by Thomas & Elena Powers



In the fall of 2007 while reading the Arts section of the Boston Sunday Globe I noticed a column listing coming cultural events. Near the bottom of the list I found the Worcester Chamber Music Society. I had not known there was such an organization although I like to think that I keep my finger on the cultural pulse of the Worcester area. There was no information other than that a concert was scheduled at St. Paul's Cathedral in a couple of weeks. My wife, Elena and I are lifelong chamber music devotees so my interest was immediately piqued. As I had not heard of WCMS, I supposed it was a collegiate or other amateur group. The listing included the URL of the Society's website. I plugged it into my browser and, to my surprise, I saw the names and faces of several highly respected Worcester area

musicians. I ordered two season tickets. Elena and I were swept away by our first concert and have not missed one since!

We have traveled extensively to chamber music concerts in the New England area: Caramoor, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Kingston Chamber Music Festival, Monadnock Music, Yellow Barn, Music in Deerfield, Mohawk Trail Concerts, and, of course, Music Worcester. At all these events we have seen and heard highly regarded soloists and chamber groups, many of them world famous, but at none them have we encountered a level of musical excellence to exceed, and seldom to equal the WCMS experience. WCMS offers outstanding performances of chamber music masterpieces from the 17th through the 21st century in local venues at reasonable cost.

In addition to the Worcester concerts, WCMS has been bringing chamber music of the highest quality to outlying communities in Worcester County and have undertaken an outreach program bringing classical music to area schools. The value of the latter program can hardly be overstated. American popular culture gives short shrift to classical music and, as a result, few school age children have had significant exposure to it. The experience not only of hearing great music in an

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intimate setting and in the company of their peers, but of having, as well, the opportunity to meet these charming and talented musicians is sure to catch the imagination of many of these young people and, one hopes, put more young faces in the WCMS audience today, and the concert halls of the world in the future.

To us the Worcester Chamber Music Society is the jewel in the cultural crown of the Worcester community. Their commitment to all of Central Massachusetts and especially to our schools is of inestimable value. The big name soloists and chamber groups are here for one night and gone with the wind; WCMS is here to stay and we are proud to support it in any way we can.

NOTEWORTHY

What do we do when we are not together?

Mark Berger spent this summer (and next) teaching at Tanglewood. He will be performing with Emmanuel Music in February and with the Radius Ensemble in March. His String Trio No. 2 won last year's League of Composers/ISCM competition.

Maria Ferrante performed earlier in the year in London with the Ig-Nobel Prize Awards. Recently, she received rave reviews for her role of Madame Butterfly with the Florida Northwest

Symphony. Her new CD “Christmas Memories” will be available this season.

Peter Sulski, US Cultural Envoy to Jerusalem, is planning a Baroque festival with concerts in Gaza, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jenin and Jericho.

Ian Watson is scheduled to appear as guest conductor in two Handel and Haydn Society concerts. January 21, 8pm in Jordan Hall and January 23, 3pm in Sanders Theatre. Visit www.handelandydn.org for more information.

David Russell is performing the Brahms Double Concerto with the University of California-Davis Symphony Orchestra in February, soloing with BMOP in

December on Chen Yi's Suite for Cello and Chamber Winds, and performing on an all-Cage program at the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh in March.

Krista Buckland Reisner premieres a work by composer Panos Liaropoulos at Berklee College of Music on February 14th and performs on Handel & Haydn Society's Chamber concert in Vermont on March 25th.

QX String Quartet (Krista, Rohan and Peter) head to Albany for a concert on March 16th.

WCMS, A Dickensonian

View by Rohan Gregory



It is both an honor and a pleasure to become the newest member of the Worcester Chamber Music Society. My gratification can scarce be properly

expressed in so

short a missive. Having already played a great deal of chamber music with several of the members of the group I have watched with interest the birth of this excellent musical collaboration. WCMS has given me the same sensation as watching a foal in its first hours. There is an inescapable sense of wonder and excitement to see the foal, within minutes of birth, lifting up and running, freedom and freshness part of the essence of its being. So too have I seen this newly birthed chamber group inspire a sense of the miraculous.

This wonderful chamber ensemble seems to have operated under a lucky star in its first years, presenting great concerts and expanding rapidly, but I have found in my life that where there appears to be a lucky star there is often much hard work that impelled the star into motion. I believe that in this case it is the exertions of Tracy, Peter, and Krista have set in motion the celestial bodies now known as the Worcester Chamber Music Society and I am more than pleased to be asked to dance in such a luminous night sky.

Having been weaned on chamber playing from my musical cradle with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, I have been granted a great appreciation for the fact that music does not exist in a vacuum, but rather, grows and thrives in the soil of community. It is perhaps this aspect of the new born ensemble that has impressed me the most. WCMS has begun by creating real community with the chamber music lovers of Worcester. In this day

of instant cyber communication it is not hard to be impressed with great musical artistry. Five minutes on YouTube will suffice to give anyone an overwhelming array of command musical performances that can be enjoyed, but the deeper aspect of musical communication lies in the immediacy of the listener and the player.

Feeling a personal connection to the artist, knowing and loving both the person and the art, and being a part of the unfolding of relationship that exists between the players, the audience, and the statements of the composers; this is the core of the experience that binds, and it is fundamentally created by something shared, or simply put, by community. This is the aspect of WCMS that has struck me as the most important and the one for which I am most honored to be member. I do not wish to be admired for my music on YouTube by a person I will never meet, I would by far rather feel that I have shared something immediate with someone, and that I can get to know and appreciate this person as part of the musical exchange. I fully trust that my involvement in WCMS will bring to life many such relationships.

In my first season with WCMS a gentleman came up to me after the concert and said "I was shaken by the Brahms". I have been looking forward to this performance for months." I myself was moved by such a truthful and deep reaction. We had an engrossing conversation about late Brahms and how his music expresses an intense sense of our mortality. It is for moments like these that I play chamber music.

Yours sincerely,

Rohan Gregory

(P.S. I am a great lover of Charles Dickens so please bear with my tendency toward the verbose and the hyperbolic.)

SUMMER FESTIVAL NEWS

The 2010 WCMS Summer Festival finished up with a bang at the end of July. Our Participants proved again to be full of the spirit that has come to represent our Festival – one of fun, collaboration and support. Concert audiences more than quadrupled this summer given our new location in Paxton at Anna Maria College. New workshops like conducting and fiddling fleshed out our musical day, on top of our traditional sports, and extra-curriculars like karaoke, a pink flamingo scavenger hunt and "Mafia" filled in our off hours! And of course there was skit night...!

If you are interested in experiencing summer concerts only a short drive away, mark July 11-22, 2011 in your calendars now.

BAROQUE CONCERT AT WORCESTER ART MUSEUM SOLD OUT

There are plenty of seats left for our February 12 performance in Harvard.

Tickets and info at www.worcesterchambermusic.org or 978-456-2730.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Gift Certificates are available for purchase on our website or by phone. Good for the remainder of the season.

THREE FOR FREE -

Bring 3 friends and your ticket is free. Good for the remainder of the season. Box office sales only.

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
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Worcester, MA 01602

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WCMS CONCERTS January-July

Songs of Innocence and Experience

Jan 8 7:30 PM First Baptist Church, Worcester

Jan 9 3:00 PM Village Congregational Church, Whitinsville

Baroque Concert

Feb 12 7:30 PM Unitarian Universalist Church, Harvard

Feb 13 3:00 PM Worcester Art Museum **SOLD OUT**

Pinocchio's Adventures in Funland

A FREE concert for the entire family

March 6 3:00 PM Mechanics Hall

The Bohemians

April 8 7:30 PM Assumption College, Worcester

April 9 3:00 PM Oakham Congregational Church

2011 WCMS Summer Festival Concerts

July 12, 14, 22 & 24 8:00 PM

Anna Maria College, Miriam Hall, Paxton

Join us for our pre-concert talks 1/2 hour before each performance and our post-concert receptions.



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