

Dracula Gets a Soundtrack In WSO's Halloween Concert

By GREG WAXBERG
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—To celebrate Halloween this year, Music Director David Wroe and the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) are continuing their tradition of joining music and media to provide a new experience for a famous horror movie.

On Saturday, October 24, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, the audience will watch the 1931 movie *Dracula* - starring Bela Lugosi as the infamous vampire Count Dracula - while listening to a new symphonic soundtrack that Mr. Wroe created for this concert.

This idea is possible because the movie consists only of talking. There is no musical soundtrack, and director Tod Browning reserves the silence between talking for dramatic elements that help advance the plot.

Mr. Wroe is filling the silence with famous classical works that are intended to enhance the film's mysterious atmosphere and intensify these moments of visual suspense.

The music includes Siegfried's Funeral March from Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle, excerpts from Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique" and Franz Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" and many other selections.

"We think this is a wonderfully unique way of presenting this classic movie, which deserves a new airing, and serving our mission of bringing classical music in a new and invigorating format to the public," Mr. Wroe said.

Saturday's program also features Camille Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3, the "Organ Symphony," with Ms. Barbara Thomson as soloist. She is organist and music director of the Congregational Church in Westfield. Saint-Saens, known for "Carnival of the Animals," "Danse Macabre" and the Bacchanale from "Samson and Delilah," uses the organ's majesty to complement this glorious symphony.

"He did not call it an 'organ concerto' because the organ part is not flashy or technically difficult the way a concerto would be. The organ is used as an orchestral instrument," said Ms. Thomson, who has performed with the Westfield Symphony several times. Her husband is William Shadel, the orchestra's principal

clarinetist. The organ is first heard in the slow movement.

"In the last movement, it enters with a massive chord and continues to play loudly through that movement, adding volume and brilliance to the orchestral sound. Organists all love to play loud. It's the most fun thing about being an organist," Ms. Thomson said. The symphony's rousing finale is one of the jewels of the orchestral repertoire.

All audience members are encouraged to attend the concert dressed in their Halloween costumes. A contest, to be judged at intermission, will offer three cash prizes.

For tickets, call (908) 232-9400 or visit westfieldsymphony.org.

WF Author Finally 'Apologizes' to Himself

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - Dramatic, true events in the life of Westfield resident Bradley Booth are the inspiration for his novel, "I Apologize," which was recently released for publication.

When Mr. Booth's fiancée succumbed to a rare form of cancer in 1994, he blamed himself for not doing more to save her.

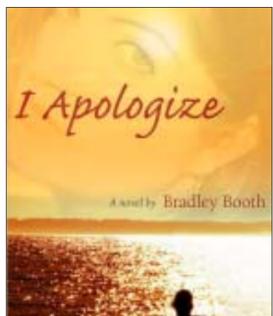
After many years of hiding from the emotions resulting from her death, he finally took the advice of a co-worker, who reminded him that suppressed emotions have ways of manifesting themselves.

"Fortunately, for me, [the experience] rekindled my childhood dream of becoming a writer," said Mr. Booth. "It took me seven months to write 'I Apologize,' working at it every day for about 15 hours."

The manuscript was hidden away in a box in a closet until Mr. Booth's wife found it, read it and urged him to have it published.

"I Apologize" is the story of Tony Richardson, who, like the author, blames himself for his loss.

When Tony's second chance at hap-



piness is threatened by a similar series of events, he finds himself standing at a crossroads where the present intersects with the past.

"[There are] feelings of helplessness as you watch the person you love slip away from you, and there is nothing you can do to stop it," said Mr. Booth.

"I believe that anyone who has gone through the agony of losing someone dear to them can identify with Tony. Regret becomes the greatest tormentor. You keep thinking that you should have done more," he continued.

Like the author, Tony also realizes that his fiancée lives on through him in the life she once lived and the dreams she once dreamed.

"I Apologize" is Mr. Booth's first novel. He is currently at work on a second entitled, "I Always Love You," which should be available to readers in 2010.

According to Mr. Booth, his second novel is a story about a man who kills his comatose wife. A pessimistic young lawyer who defends his case and, in the process, rediscovers love for his own wife, also figures prominently in the novel.

Prior to becoming a published author, Mr. Booth worked as a retail manager, a district manager and a general manager for several businesses.

Born in Brooklyn, he enjoys living in Westfield because it provides him with "the best of both worlds."

"Westfield [is a] progressive town that still manages to retain its picturesque charm," he said.

"I am a train ride away from the bustle of the city and yet can find solitude to write in this quiet and peaceful town," he said.

Mr. Booth will be at The Town Bookstore on Saturday, October 24, at 2 p.m. to meet readers and sign copies of "I Apologize." For more information, contact (908) 233-3535.

Music, Dance And Art Combine For Local Artist

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains artist Gisele Zeidler has been selected, along with nine other New Jersey artists, to paint and decorate a violin for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for the annual "Art Strings" fundraiser, headed by volunteer Art Strings Chair and Westfield resident Rita Kessler.

The artists met at the Art Strings Kick-Off Reception and Concert on Saturday, October 10, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

The 10 transformed violins will be on display at NJSO concerts and other selected venues throughout the 2009-2010 season. Art Strings hopes to raise \$10,000 with the raffle of the violins.

Proceeds will help support NJSO and various youth and educational outreach programs, such as Concerts for Young People, Educational Ensemble (REACH), Family Concert Series, and the Greater Newark Youth and Chamber Orchestras. Raffle tickets are available for \$10 each, \$25 for three, or \$100 for 15 tickets. Drawings for the violins will be held on May 17, 2010.

Each of the artists' violins features a musical work the NJSO is presenting this season. Ms. Zeidler chose to represent "Best of Tchaikovsky" because of her passion for the ballet.

"As a former dancer, and a long-

standing subscriber to the New York City Ballet, I naturally gravitate to music of the dance. Tchaikovsky is my favorite composer, and his 'Swan Lake' is the quintessential ballet; thus, I chose it to represent his music," she said.

"I sought reference material that depicts moments in 'Swan Lake' that typify both the majesty and the ethereal quality of this ballet and its music. I chose the colors surrounding these images to represent the greens and yellows of the ballet's setting in nature, as well as the purples of night. And because I am a portrait painter, I also painted Tchaikovsky's portrait on the violin," she said.

The "Best of Tchaikovsky" will be performed from today, October 22, to October 25 at several venues. See njsymphony.org/09_10calendar/October.htm for more information. For concert tickets, call (800) ALLEGRO.

Ms. Zeidler is a member of the Portrait Society of America, and some of her work can be seen at Swain's Gallery in

Plainfield and martinfieldgalleries.com. She can be contacted at (908) 753-6039 or martinfieldstudio@aol.com.

For more information about Art Strings, contact Renee Pachucki at (973) 624-3713, extension 270, or rpachucki@njsymphony.org.



The work of Scotch Plains artist Gisele Zeidler

Westfield Symphony Orchestra
David Wroe, Music Director
The 1931 classic "Dracula" rises from the archive to the big screen with a never-before-heard LIVE symphonic soundtrack.

Dracula A MUSICAL
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Barbara Thomson, organ

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Arts & Entertainment

Remarkable Residences, Delectable Dishes Embody 'Hearth and Home'

By CHRISTIE STORMS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Seven Westfield families recently welcomed the public to not only tour their beautiful homes, but to taste local cuisine during the Hearth and Home Kitchen Tour sponsored by the Holy Trinity Interparochial School Home and School Association.

Each home's décor was distinctly different, echoing the individual flair of its homeowners, and each unique kitchen offered up delectable treats.

Interior designers and caterers were also present at many locales to answer questions or discuss details with visitors.

Jill Kelly, of Jill Kelly Interiors, LLC, in Westfield, greeted guests in the foyer she had decorated at the Bennett Place home.

"We wanted to maintain the essence of the house but kick it up a notch," Ms. Kelly said of the circa-1930 colonial's extensive renovations completed in 2007.

While integrating the homeowner's favorite antique pieces, Ms. Kelly added unexpected punches of color such as rich cocoa walls in the dining room and a tufted green leather chair in the family room.

While guests sampled sweet con-

fections provided by Chocolate Chicks, they could step into the sumptuous living room to view the original canvas of an award-winning painting, "Early Autumn Broad & Elm," by former Westfield resident and artist Burt Longenbach.

The Hawthorne Drive home reflected the artistic talents of its homeowner, who also owns "All Things Painted" in Westfield. Hand-painted details abound from the Rufus Porter-style mural in the upstairs hall to the checkerboard hardwood floors in the kitchen, and stenciling around the octagonal piano nook.

The colonial staircase featured individual hooked rugs she designed to commemorate the family's special memories on each riser.

Bob Davis from Crownpoint Cabinetry explained how the kitchen island, comprised of apothecary-style drawers, was designed and assembled

of autumn leaves, pinecones and berries by Nancy Connor Designs added seasonal appeal.

A relative's historic World War II paratrooper uniform on display in the Stoneleigh Park living room inspired the color palette.

A picturesque red tile dining room, complete with charming built-in china cabinets, led the way to the kitchen where personal chef Mike Ripatrazzone doled out mini-bowls of Rigatoni Bolognese.

A brick wall featuring an oven, warming drawer and microwave added texture to the sleek cherry cabinetry and hunter green walls. The custom woodwork continued into the mudroom, which included a wall-to-wall closet that expertly organized the children's sports gear and equipment.

While maintaining a classic exterior, the interior of the Scotch Plains



Christie Storms for The Westfield Leader and The Times

HOME IS WHERE THE HEARTH IS...Caterer John Dorio of Sage and Vine in Westfield served up hors d'oeuvres in a Lawrence Avenue Victorian during the Hearth and Home Kitchen Tour earlier this month. Visitors were not only invited to tour remarkable residences, but to sample a range of appetizing selections in each kitchen.

from four custom pieces. Its Shaker-inspired attributes and hand-brushed, milk-paint finish was fashioned after a similar piece the homeowner saw in a magazine.

Guests enjoyed baked goods from Gigi's Cupcakes as well as refreshments provided by Trader Joe's in Westfield. A basket raffle was also held at this home.

The Lincoln Road residence featured a book signing by New Jersey celebrity chef and author Ellen Postolowski. A personal chef to such clients as basketball star Jason Kidd, Ms. Postolowski said her book, "It's Just Personal," focuses on the journey toward healthier eating.

"It's about making better choices," she told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. "It's also shopping more effectively and efficiently, and getting kids to eat healthy, too."

The newest of the tour's homes, built and designed by homeowner Anthony Cerami of Anthony James Construction in 2001, included many modern amenities while maintaining "old-world" charm. The media room in the basement, complete with movie-theater seating, included a "coffee bar" and mural of New York City.

Stephen Bigmore, a classically French-trained chef from Feast Catering in Westfield, put the kitchen's ample Viking appliances to good use as he prepared and served multiple hors d'oeuvres.

Careful attention to detail helped blend the extensive 2006 addition to the Victorian on Lawrence Avenue seamlessly with its existing turn-of-the-century architecture.

Caterer John Dorio of Sage and Vine served up sirloin tips with Gorgonzola and chicken teriyaki kabobs in the kitchen awash with light from oversized windows. Floor-to-ceiling subway tiles, glass cabinets and traditional millwork maintained the home's original character.

The striking tabletop arrangement

Avenue home infused transitional elements of style. The living room featured a modern combination of black and grey furnishings with red accents, while the kitchen's white cabinetry gleamed in high contrast to the dark hardwood floors.

The Sugar House in Garwood provided luscious desserts, including a delightful fondant cake sculpted to look like a child sleeping peacefully with her teddy bear.

At the Prospect Street home, Julie Farrell of BKC Kitchen Design Gallery in Westfield gave informative talks on "How to Get Started Designing Your Kitchen."

Ms. Farrell told *The Leader* and *The Times* she had worked with the homeowners to harmonize the newer gourmet kitchen with the existing 1920's center hall colonial.

"If you keep the main elements classic and keep with the true architectural details, it will always stay in style," she said.

Intricate paneled moldings, including coffered ceilings, flow throughout the impeccably elegant downstairs rooms, resplendent in deep shades of brick red, navy and gold. The first 400 guests received "goody bags," which included kitchen and design information and complementary magazines at this home.

Marlene Perez-Santella, chair of the Home and Hearth Kitchen Tour, said it was a huge success.

"It was great to see the community embrace our event and support it with such enthusiasm," she said, adding that many ticket holders especially loved the idea of adding food samplings.

According to Ms. Perez-Santella, more than 70 businesses donated their goods and services.

She reported the committee is already in preliminary planning stages for a new tour next October.

"The event can only get bigger and better," she said.

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