



CHILI KING... Marty Silverman of Westfield, far left, was first runner-up in Kings Super Markets' Chili Recipe Contest, co-sponsored by McCormick spices. "Marty's Optimist Tex-Mex Chili" includes such creative ingredients as semisweet baker's chocolate and ground cinnamon. His recipe topped more than 50 entries in the chili con carne division. He won a \$100 Kings gift certificate and his choice of a Kings cooking studio class, valued up to \$50. The Westfield resident's winning recipe was judged at Kings cooking studio in Bedminster. Pictured with Mr. Silverman, left to right, are: chili medalist and cooking studio chef instructor Michael Salvatore, food editor of the Bergen Newspaper Group Sue Perkins, and WOR-AM radio personality and cookbook author Arthur Schwartz.

Philharmonic Choir, Chorale Brings Tour to Westfield Church

WESTFIELD - The Presbyterian Church in Westfield will host the Kansas Wesleyan University (KWU) Philharmonic Choir and Chorale on Tuesday, March 20.

A potluck dinner will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a 7:30 p.m. concert.

The KWU Philharmonic Choir, which is under the direction of Mark Lucas, is a non-auditioned choir composed of students from varying areas of study.

Performing approximately four times per year, the choir hosts a "Christmas by Candlelight" concert every December.

The Wesleyan Chorale is a smaller, select, auditioned group which performs madrigals, gospel and jazz.

All concerts are open to the public and admission is by free-will donation.

For more information, please call Mr. Lucas at (800) 874-1154, extension no. 5214 or e-mail lucas@kwu.edu.

Library Organizes List Of Book Discussion Groups

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Memorial Library is in the process of compiling a list of book discussion groups in the area which accept new members.

Members of such groups should call a reference librarian in the adult department at (908) 789-4090. The name and phone number of a contact person, as well as the types of books discussed should be indicated.

Oratorio Singers to Premiere Newest Piece on March 18

WESTFIELD - On Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, the Oratorio Singers and orchestra, under the direction of Trent Johnson, will present a varied concert of choral works, along with an appearance by the noted soprano Phyllis Bryn-Julson.

The choir celebrates its 21st year and presents the Te Deum laudamus of Wolfgang Mozart, the Missa Brevis of Zoltán Kodály, four songs from Arriettes Oubliées by Debussy, sung by Phyllis Bryn-Julson, and a world premiere, The Paschal Lamb, by Music Director, Trent Johnson.

Mozart's Te Deum laudamus is an early work from the pen of the precocious composer. It is full of youthful vigor and energy with songs of praise and adoration. Kodály's Missa Brevis, written in 1944, is a 20th century masterpiece full of attractive harmonies and uses as its text the Latin Mass.

Joining the Oratorio Singers will be the noted soprano, Phyllis Bryn-Julson. Ms. Bryn-Julson has become known for her lustrous voice, perfect pitch, three octave range as well as her collaboration with many noted 20th century composers, among them Boulez, Carter, George

Walker, Ligeti, Messiaen and Lutoslawski. She has sung with or-



Phyllis Bryn-Julson

chestras around the world, among them the orchestras of Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, New York, Berlin, Washington D.C., Amsterdam, Munich and Stockholm.

Ms. Bryn-Julson will sing an orchestrated version of four songs from Ariettes Oubliées of Claude Debussy. This is the first performance of these works in this orchestrated version by Pulitzer-Prize winning composer, Wayne Petersen.

Also on the program will be the world premiere of The Paschal Lamb, written by Music Director and conductor Trent Johnson, composed especially for Ms. Bryn-Julson and the Oratorio Singers.

The work tells the story of Lent from its pathos and suffering to the triumph and exhilaration of the resurrection.

Mr. Johnson is a graduate of the Peabody Institute and The Juilliard School, and recently composed a Trumpet Concerto, premiered last spring with trumpeter Don Batchelder. In addition, he has written a Flute Sonata and works for String Orchestra, piano, organ and chorus.

General admission tickets for this event may be purchased for \$15, with student/senior citizen tickets at \$10. They may be purchased at Lancaster's, Ltd. in Westfield or the Scotch Plains Music Center.

For more information, please call (908) 233-4211. This arts program is made possible in part by a HEART Grant (History, Education, Arts - Reaching Thousands) from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

A&E



David Palladino's Music Corner

Presbyterian Church Is Filled With Outstanding Sounds From Ryu Goto and Westfield Symphony

By DAVID PALLADINO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), under the musical direction of Maestro David Wroe offered yet another special concert this past weekend at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield featuring 12-year-old violinist Ryu Goto, younger brother of renowned violinist Midori.

The evening included the beautiful Concerto for violin and Orchestra by Max Bruch; the Sinfonia Breve by A. Louis Scarmolin; and the formidable Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique" by Tchaikovsky.

The fine acoustics at the church were even further enhanced by specially installed risers which set the string sections and timpani on the same level. This configuration helped in several magnificent ways.

Firstly, for the musicians, setting the string section on the same level improved their ensemble playing. It was easier for the musicians to hear the cues and nuances of the other sections more clearly.

Secondly, for the audience, sound projection is freer to rise and develop as total an ensemble sound rather than being partitioned in various sections in front of the church pews.

Thirdly, for those in the balcony, moving the brass from under the balcony enhances their sound and projection greatly, especially for the tuba. Additionally, while French horns are not exactly the most visible musicians on stage because of their placement behind the pulpit, for sound, they could not have been situated in a better position. Their sound is allowed to project into the small space behind the altar, then to move forward, blending especially well with the other brass and woodwind sections.

The first piece, the Sinfonia Breve, was written by an Italian immigrant to New Jersey from the Veneto region, Anthony Louis Scarmolin (1890-1960). This last of his sym-

phonies, composed in 1952 contains rich content, both in melody and orchestration. While a modern 20th century composition, the piece was certainly not of atonal ilk.

Principal bassoonist James Jeter provided much of the steady and melodic solo transition parts between the works three movements. A truly enjoyable work, featuring harmonies that are not often heard.

A real highlight of the evening was hearing Ryu Goto. Success as a soloist is almost guaranteed the young, highly-talented artist. Performing numerous sellout concerts and recitals in Japan, Ryu has taken the American concert scene by storm. He has already performed with numerous American orchestras.

Ryu immediately exhibited excellent sound, both in tone and technical accuracy - which lasted throughout the performance. The WSO provided the stable background which allowed Goto to soar. In fact, Maestro Wroe hung carefully on each note and transition, ensuring the smooth performance.

The second movement, which highlights some fantastic writing by Bruch, soared. The haughty melody was tossed back and forth between soloist and orchestra. A strong showing for both soloist and orchestra. Ryu's musical stamina held out convincingly and admirably.

Finally came the intense powerhouse of the evening, and maybe of the season. For the Tchaikovsky 6th Symphony, not only embodies but defines intensity.

How many times would a faithful concertgoer hear the 6th symphony performed live in a lifetime? Ten - 20 times? So many conductors and musical recordings fall short - tempos rushed, phrases misunderstood, intensity lost. For those who were present this past Saturday night, it is most assured that they will remember the Wroe rendition. It possessed the force of Georg Solti's version with the passion of the Bernstein's interpretation.

The first movement was pure force. The underlying tension in this last symphony of Tchaikovsky was brought out with force. In fact, about a third of the way through the first movement - one crashing fff starts the mayhem. The fury of the moment and the whole symphony could be seen taking flight took from that point on. Perfect tempos were exhibited throughout not only this movement, but throughout the other three.

Cellos carried the melody in the second movement in a beautiful melodic fashion. Phrasing was excellent throughout.

The march movement, the third, was well handled. Tempo was just short of Solti's maniacal style, and just above Bernstein's sometimes laborious one. Just right. Demanding violin writing saw instrument strings snapping once again. In fact, concertmaster Byung-Kook Kwak had to re-string his violin after the third movement. Dramatic dynamics were in fashion throughout as well.

Some musical infelicities could be found in the trumpet section. While the perfection and innate confidence of Principal trumpet Donald Batchelder were missed, the trumpet section did an overall decent job.

Final movement of the symphony told the story of a broken man. Tchaikovsky most certainly meant for this to be his final musical message to the world - despair and grief. Grief from a man who would never be allowed to live as he truly would have wanted, a life free of society's scorn.

Wroe's ability to get the finer nuances out of an ensemble is rare. He can accomplish this with beginning students from Montclair State University and he can accomplish this with the fine, seasoned musicians of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra.

For tickets and information on the next WSO concert, Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, please call (908) 232-9400.

Editorial

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a minute in the ring with that reality television power player. Once laughed at by television critics, CBS has bounced the peacock on his patootie.

One would think that NBC, which used to be king, wouldn't allow its feathers to be ruffled, doused and plucked so badly. But, despite the success of "ED" and "The West Wing" (both formidable programs), NBC continues to accept shows into its line-up that are beneath their caliber.

"Three Sisters," "The Fighting Fitzgeralds," "DAG," and "The Weber Show," are far from television shows shooting to the top of the Nielsen Ratings list. But, it's the best the peacock can come back with, and it saddens me to say that these are the types of shows FOX would have been accepting at the network's weakest moment.

Opening up *The New York Times* only to find NBC's logo listed third on the Nielsen Ratings' box is disheartening. The peacock that once had so much punch is being def-feathered to death. NBC must stop settling for mediocrity, begin turning down shows destined to fail, and give the peacock something worth strutting about.

Kaleidoscope

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must be scheduled in advanced by calling the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts at (908) 273-9121. Morning and afternoon programs are available.

The Kaleidoscope Program is funded in part by the Herman Goldman Foundation.

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts presented an International Juried Show through Wednesday, March 14. Thirty-four works of art were exhibited.

On March 25, and exhibiting until May 20, will be "Identities: Contemporary Portraiture in Modern Art."

The Center is located at 68 Elm Street, Summit. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 12-4 p.m., Thursday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Tours are available upon request.

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Take the Stage

WITH KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT



Short, Sweet and Sincere: SAG Members Reward Peers for Excellence in Acting

By KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Editor's Note: Kerrianne Spellman Cort is not only A&E's Theatre Correspondent, but a card-carrying member of the Screen Actors Guild.

This past Sunday, March 11, the seventh annual Screen Actors Guild Awards were presented live from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The award show aired on TNT at 8 p.m. EST, with a repeat broadcast immediately following.

Unfortunately, a lot of folks miss the SAG awards as they are not as heavily publicized as the other "big" award shows, such as The Golden Globes and the Oscars.

If you were lucky enough to tune in, I'm sure you will agree that the SAG awards are elegant, fun, and they cut to the chase! The beautifully presented show was over in two hours, almost leaving the audience craving a bit more. How refreshing it is to be able to watch your favorite stars win their awards, to view the exquisitely edited montages, and still be in bed by 11 p.m.!

With the SAG awards, there will never be any long-winded speeches from a foreign film writer or animation director thanking his wife, his children, his grandmother, his lawyer, his high school English teacher, his accountant, his realtor, his yoga instructor, the boy who cleans the pool and his dog.

Nothing against these talented individuals, of course, but lets be honest here. We want to see our heroes! Bring on Julia and Tom and well, you get the picture.

What is so different about the SAG awards is that they are the only award given to actors by actors. The award itself is called, "The Actor," and members of the Screen Actors Guild are given the opportunity to vote for their peers. Ballots are sent to members in good standing every February, and votes are tallied right up until two days before the live broadcast.

This particular accolade means so very much to those who are nominated, and clearly, to those who win, as they know that they are being recognized for their work by the very people they are often in competition with. This award is about actors honoring actors.

SAG members love this process, myself included, because if you are not so lucky as to be up there making an acceptance speech, at least you know that you were an integral part of the evening. This is one case where votes do count and people's choices are taken seriously.

While the SAG Awards have only been in existence for seven years, the industry takes them quite seriously and they are a strong indication of what is to come on Oscar Sunday.

The 2001 SAG Awards was artistically presented and included a terrific montage of famous actors playing various characters, a touching "In Memoriam" segment, and a lifetime achievement award to Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

In terms of the winners, it was fairly predictable, but there were some delightful surprises, including my boy Benicio Del Toro, winning for *Traffic*.

Up against heavyweights Tom Hanks and Russell Crowe (along with the terrific Jamie Bell and the flawless Geoffrey Rush) Benicio walked away with "The Actor," and I was cheering out loud. I love it when the underdog wins. You may say, "Benicio Del Who?" but not for long.

Note to Academy Award cameramen- if Russell Crowe does not win the Oscar this year, take the camera off of him as he grimaces and frowns. He did this at the Golden Globes too. It's annoying. Most everyone else who failed to take home a statue handled themselves with

poise, as they should. The nomination alone is a huge honor.

Predictably, Julia Roberts won for *Erin Brockovich*, but, in all fairness, it is her time. She has turned in some commendable work as of late, and she's been paying her dues. I would have like to have seen Joan Allen win for *The Contender*, but Julia is clearly a favorite and that's the way it goes.

Like the Golden Globes and unlike the Oscars, the SAG awards also recognize talent in the television medium.

"The West Wing" won big, with Martin Sheen (who gave a hysterical acceptance speech) and Allison Janney taking home the honors for best actor and actress. "The West Wing" also won best ensemble work, beating out "Law & Order," "ER," "The Sopranos" and "The Practice."

I was surprised that Robert Downey Jr. won for *Ally McBeal*. He is a terrific actor, but up against such comedic geniuses as Kelsey Grammer, Sean Hayes, Peter MacNicol and David Hyde Pierce, I think this was a sympathy win. He did, however, give an extremely gracious speech and said to fellow cast-mate Peter MacNicol that "you got my vote, brother."

The lovely Sarah Jessica Parker won yet again for "Sex and the City," and she is a delight on screen and off. She has won several awards already for her role as sex columnist Carrie Bradshaw on the HBO comedy, so it would have been nice to see Debra Messing or Megan Mullally win for "Will and Grace."

However, the ensemble of "Will and Grace" did take home the statue for best cast in a comedy. All in all, the SAG awards are a treat and a great preview to the Oscars. Nearly every winner mentioned how honored they were to have been voted for by their peers and most mentioned how proud they were to be actors.

James Woods gave a touching opening speech about how honored he is to touch others' lives and, for the most part, the evening was simply a celebration of the actor. Be sure to catch it next year.

The Winners

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Lead Role- Benicio Del Toro - *Traffic*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Lead Role- Julia Roberts - *Erin Brockovich*

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role- Albert Finney - *Erin Brockovich*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role- Judi Dench - *Chocolat*

Outstanding Performance by the Cast of a Motion Picture- *Traffic*

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries- Brian Dennehy - *Death of a Salesman*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries- Vanessa Redgrave - *If These Walls Could Talk 2*

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series- Martin Sheen - "The West Wing"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series- Allison Janney - "The West Wing"

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series- Robert Downey, Jr. - "Ally McBeal"

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series- Sarah Jessica Parker - "Sex and the City"

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series- "The West Wing"

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series- "Will and Grace"

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