

Arts & Entertainment

WF Symphony Orchestra Director Shares Inspiration for New Season

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

WESTFIELD — Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Director David Wroe reported that there is much in store for the orchestra's 2006-2007 season, which begins with a presentation of Puccini's *Turandot* on Saturday, September 30, at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Mr. Wroe elaborated upon the inspiration behind this year's predominantly Oriental theme.

"There is a considerable amount of classical music repertoire that has

influences from exotic cultures," he said. "I thought it might be an interesting way to couple different types of music together that have a common link."

Mr. Wroe said there are actually a number of ways the performances will incorporate an Oriental flavor. In addition to capturing the very distinctive Asian, Chinese and Persian sounds, the orchestra has also chosen some pieces based less on sound itself and more on the stories and cultural history of that part of the world.

For example, Mr. Wroe said the

opening concert features the famous tale of a Chinese ice princess who presents three riddles to be solved in order to acquire her hand in marriage.

"In addition, we are infusing this theme by having a Chinese composer in residence, Zhou Long," he said.

Mr. Wroe reported that the orchestra will not only perform some of Mr. Long's existing work, but will also commission him to write a new piece to be performed at the March 17, 2007 concert.

He believes specializing in commissioning new works and championing living composers helps the orchestra find its own niche in the professional community.

Soloists from the New York City Opera are scheduled to perform at the opening show, as are dancers from the Nai Ni Chen Dance Company.

"We pride ourselves on bringing in one of the most famous operas," Mr. Wroe said. "I doubt any town of our size in the country can boast of a comparable coup. It is just unbelievable."

In addition, the Shanghai String Quartet will perform at the February 10, 2007 show.

"We have touched on various themes in the past, but never has it been so concise and with such a powerful flavor for a whole season," Mr. Wroe said. "We're very excited to do it."

Mr. Wroe also emphasized that the orchestra will continue to perform the classics.

"We will be presenting bucketfuls of familiar and beloved symphonic music such as Beethoven and Brahms," he said.

Tickets may be purchased directly from the WSO office on East Broad Street. For further information, call (908) 2322-9400 or e-mail wso@westfieldsymphony.org.

Jewish Film Festival To Return to Central NJ

SCOTCH PLAINS — The JCC of Central New Jersey and Temple O'r Beth Torah of Clark are sponsoring the Second Annual Central NJ Jewish Film Festival, to take place October 16 through November 6.

Four award-winning films will be screened at this year's festival: *Live and Become* (October 16), *Only Human* (October 25), *Campfire* (October 30) and *The Ritchie Boys* (No-



STOCK MARKET... Two Sundays ago, the Fanwood Memorial Library presented Fanwoodstock III. The day began at 1 p.m. with children's performer Mr. Ray entertaining the youngest of concertgoers. Scotch Plains resident Pat DiNizio, of The Smithereens, highlighted the event, which featured picnics and family fun.

Fanwoodstock Offers Community Festival, Memorializes Steve Clark

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

FANWOOD — The lawn of the Fanwood Memorial Library (FML) resembled a scene from the 1960s on Sunday, September 10, as members of the community gathered together to enjoy the third annual, "Fanwoodstock" music festival.

An estimated 250 people attended the event, which was jointly sponsored by the "Friends of the Library" and the library's board of trustees.

Billed as "five hours of peace, love, music and fun," the music festival celebrated the 20th anniversary of the "Friends," and memorialized recently deceased Fanwood resident Steve Clark with the dedication of a rain garden in his memory.

Mr. Clark served for 10 years on the library board of trustees.

"[Mr. Clark] was a huge music fan,

who always envisioned a community-wide musical event," explained Carol Campell, vice-president of the "Friends."

"Fanwoodstock gives us the perfect opportunity to honor him," she continued.

Entertainment was provided by Scotch Plains resident Pat DiNizio, a guitarist and vocalist who was part of the 80s and 90s rock band sensation, The Smithereens. Local band Goodman Brown, featuring Scotch Plains-Fanwood seniors Luke Saenz, Peter Bistis, Alex Cvetovich and Alex Russo, also performed.

Children's entertainer Mr. Ray kicked off the program by inviting the youngest members of the audience up to the stage for solo debuts, as families seated nearby on blankets and lawn chairs applauded.

"It gives me great pleasure to be able to provide such an incredible day of music for everyone," said library Director Dan Weiss.

"[It also] gives me a special satisfaction knowing that Steve Clark, to whom the day and the rain garden were dedicated, would have had the best time of anyone there..." Mr.

Weiss continued.

The "Friends" assist FML with purchases not covered by the library's budget. In the past, they have funded a projector and screen, furniture, computer upgrades and children's programs at the library.

In addition, the "Friends" has provided seed money for new collections, such as DVDs.

Funds for "Friends" projects are raised by events like the upcoming book sale, which will be held at Forest Road Park, and open to the public on Friday, September 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 to 8 p.m., and on Saturday, September 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the library at (908) 322-6400 or the "Friends" at (908) 322-6559. Information is also available on FML's website at www.fanwoodlibrary.org.

Academy of TV Arts Lauds WHS Graduate

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School graduate Ross Martin, now senior vice president and head of programming for mtvU, and his team were honored with the Governor's Award Emmy, the highest honor given by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Board of Governors at the 2006 Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards on August 19 in Los Angeles.

mtvU, MTV Networks' 24-hour college network, won for its Sudan campaign, an initiative that, for the past two years, informed and empowered college students to help stop the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

A 1991 graduate of Westfield High School, Mr. Martin now lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Jordana, an artist, and their four-year-old son Dashiell. His parents, Harlan and Susan Martin, are 30-year residents of Westfield.



Ross Martin

The Skin Of Our Teeth To Open at Theater Project

CRANFORD — Thornton Wilder's comedy, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, will open at The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company (1033 Springfield Avenue, in Cranford), on Thursday, September 21, and run through Sunday, October 8. Audiences are invited to meet the actors after each performance.

Staged by Artistic Director Mark Spina, the production features three mainstays of the New Jersey theater scene: Liz Zazzi, Gary Glor and Harriett Trangucci.

The Skin of Our Teeth depicts 5,000 years in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. George Antrobus, a suburban New Jersey couple, who, with their maid Sabina and two children, manage to survive fire, flood, war, pestilence and hundreds of calamities, barely hanging on by the proverbial skin of their teeth. The play, a satirical look at history and the never-ending cycle of human existence, won Wilder his third Pulitzer Prize.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. General admission is \$20. On Thursdays, tickets are \$12. Sunday, September 24, is designated as "Senior Sun-

day." All senior citizen tickets are \$12. Student tickets are \$10. Reservations are recommended and can be made at (908) 659-5189. To learn more, visit www.TheTheaterProject.com.

In addition, an audio described performance for the visually impaired will be held on Saturday, September 23.

Oratorio Society Presents Fall Concert

AREA — The Oratorio Society of New Jersey, under the direction of Sandor Szabo, will present a fall concert featuring three musical settings: Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Missa in C Major*, *Credo* (K 257) and Haydn's *Missa Brevis* with professional soloists and orchestra.

The concert will take place at the Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Avenue, located in Upper Montclair at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 11.

General admission is \$15 for senior citizens and \$12 for students. For more information, call (973) 783-3837 or log on to www.oratoriosocietynj.org.



SKIN CARE...Mr. and Mrs. Antrobus (Gary Glor, Liz Zazzi), with their children (Matt McCarthy, Jenelle Sosa) and friend of the family, Sabina Fairweather (Harriett Trangucci), star in The Theater Project's production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

Westfield Symphony Orchestra
DAVID WROE, MUSIC DIRECTOR

JOSEPH DEALESSANDRO MEMORIAL OPERA CONCERT
TURANDOT
Giacomo Puccini
Featuring soloists of NEW YORK CITY OPERA

SAT., SEPTEMBER 30 at 8PM
The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
FOR TICKETS: CALL 908 232 9400
EMAIL wso@westfieldsymphony.org
OR VISIT OUR TICKET OUTLETS:
FASTFRAME: Quimby St. Westfield
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WESTFIELD Symphony ORCHESTRA
WWW.WESTFIELDSYMPHONY.ORG

Building has been made possible in part through a grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH
THE COSMIC COMEDY
by Thornton Wilder
September 21st - October 8th

THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8 PM
SUNDAYS AT 3 PM

The THEATER PROJECT
Union County College's Professional Theater Company

1033 SPRINGFIELD AVE
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

THEATERPROJECT.COM
(908) 659-5189

ADMISSION: \$20
STUDENT TICKETS: \$10

THURSDAYS:
ALL TICKETS \$12

\$5 OFF FULL-PRICE TICKET WITH THIS AD

Senior Sunday:
September 24th ONLY,
Senior Tickets: \$12