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BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

The concert's one lamentable element was some awkward behavior from the guest conductor. After a sensitive, perceptive approach to Schuman's string work, Litton at times morphed from a dynamic conductor into a hyperactive, overzealous one. Unarguably, he culled wonderful sounds from the NJSO, but his wild jumping up and down stole the focus from the musicians on more than one occasion. Most regrettable were the moments at the end of two Rachmaninoff movements where the audible stomping of the conductor's feet took something away from the excellent pianist's time to shine.

His acrobatics returned at the end of the Beethoven symphony, and

though one could understand the urge to be carried away with the heroic work's triumphant coda, the fact that we'd seen Litton's jumping jacks before merely recalled his ill-timed antics from the first half of the program.

Those incidents aside, Litton led the NJSO through rousing performances good enough for the audience to wish that this year's concert season wasn't quickly drawing to a close.

The NJSO presents its season finale May 17-20, with performances at NJPAC in Newark that Saturday and Sunday. The program features works from Strauss and Copeland, along with Beethoven's Second Symphony.



RUMORS SPREADING...John Correll, on phone, and Stan Kaplan, seated, appear in the Westfield Community Players production of Neil Simon's comedy Rumors, opening Saturday night.

WCP Ends Season With Simon's Comedy Rumors

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Community Players' (WCP) production of Neil Simon's hit Broadway comedy *Rumors* opens Saturday, May 5, at 8 p.m. in the theater at 1000 North Avenue, West in Westfield.

The show continues on May 12, 18 and 19 with all reserved-seat tickets at \$15. There is a benefit performance open to the general public on Friday, May 11, for a sponsoring organization, with those tickets priced at \$25.

Director Naomi Yablonsky and assistant director Jerry Yablonsky have the cast in final rehearsals for the May 5 opening, assisted by producer Letty Hudak and stage manager Barbara Ruban.

The setting is an elegant dinner party in upper Manhattan hosted by the

deputy mayor of New York, Charley Brock. As guests arrive, they discover the deputy mayor passed out with a gunshot wound and no one else around.

To keep a scandal under wraps, guests take turns confusing the cops to buy time for Deputy Mayor Brock to wake up and explain himself. With characteristic wit, comedic timing and sharp dialog, Simon shows us what happens when gossip outraces the facts.

The cast includes Debbie Frank Briamonte of Scotch Plains and Ellen Dooley and Stan Kaplan of Westfield.

Call the box office at (908) 232-1221 for further details. All non-member tickets must be pre-paid to secure a reservation; WCP member tickets will not be honored for benefit performances.

WESTFIELD FOOD 4 THOUGHT

Recipes From My Mother



By JAYNE SALOMON

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

I can still remember the disappointment my brother and I would feel when we'd ask our mom, "what's for dinner tonight?"

Her reply was always the same: broiled chicken sprinkled with garlic powder, salt and paprika; broiled lamb chops, also sprinkled with salt and garlic powder; sirloin steak with the same seasonings or something she called "potted chicken" and meatballs.

We'd groan to know we'd be suffering through another typical dinner



Garlic Bread with Dip

and then just forget about it until the next day. I suppose it wasn't totally her fault, but more a sign of the times. I don't think anybody was eating exciting dinners like we do today or even fresh vegetables, for that matter, back in the 1950s and 1960s.

I know in the home I grew up in the only fresh vegetables ever served were corn on the cob and salad made from iceberg lettuce (and I don't think this

even qualifies as a vegetable).

Like the dinner meats, the salad was also always the same - iceberg, tomatoes, green olives, cucumbers and Italian dressing. Along with the broiled meats, we were served canned peas, canned French-cut string beans or canned corn and a baked potato.

Maybe produce aisles didn't exist in the 1960s? Or maybe they just didn't stock vegetables, as I can recall fresh fruits. As a matter of fact, canned fruits weren't very popular at all.

To Mom's credit, she did cook every night; never missing a single night, not even on those rare nights when she had a PTA meeting or some other sort of function. It wasn't until I went away to college that I discovered delicacies like fresh mushrooms, asparagus and broccoli.

But my mother did make a dish that, when we asked, "What's for dinner?" we were crossing our fingers, hoping she would say "your favorite." She didn't make it often, but when she did, it was a big hit. And although the ingredients are as basic as can be, it is as delicious today as it was then.

GARLIC BREAD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 loaf wide Italian bread
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Garlic Powder
- Salt
- Paprika
- Optional: Parmesan Cheese

PROCEDURE

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Slice the bread, lengthwise. Liberally brush both sides with the olive oil. Heavily douse each side with the garlic powder. Salt each side, according to taste. Sprinkle with paprika. Sprinkle with Parmesan, if using. Place on the top shelf of the oven for 10 to 15 minutes and watch carefully. Remove and slice. Serve warm.

GARLIC BREAD DIP

**Make this creamy dip for garlic bread in advance. Serve with garlic bread as well as any warm bread. Use it as a dip with fresh vegetables or at the dinner table as a spread for bread or crackers.*

INGREDIENTS

- 6 garlic cloves
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon parsley

PROCEDURE

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wrap peeled garlic cloves in foil and roast for 40 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 5 minutes. In a small bowl, mash the garlic. Add the mayonnaise and blend. Add the salt and parsley and mix well. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Serve in a bowl.

TOMATO SAUCE WITH SWEET ITALIAN SAUSAGE

INGREDIENTS

- 3 pounds sweet Italian pork sausage
- 3 cans (14.5 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- 3 cloves garlic
- 2 bay leaves
- Parmesan cheese

PROCEDURE

In a large frying pan, cut the sausage into thirds and brown on all sides. At the same time, pour the tomato sauce and tomato paste into a large pot. Add the garlic and bay leaves. When the sausage is browned, cut into bite sized chunks and add to the pot. Cover and simmer for 1 hour. Serve over spaghetti. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.



THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS...Internationally renowned violinist Xiang Gao will join Westfield Symphony Orchestra at Temple Emanu-El on Saturday, May 12, at 8 p.m.

St. Paul's to Hold 15th-Anniversary Spring Concert

WESTFIELD - Friends of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church will present its 15th-anniversary spring concert on Sunday, May 6, at 7 p.m. The concert will feature The St. Paul's Parish Choir, joined by soloists and members of the Grammy Award-winning New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO), under the direction of St. Paul's Director of Music Charles Banks.

The St. Paul's Choir will perform Francis Poulenc's *Gloria* with soprano soloist Jamie Baer Peterson.

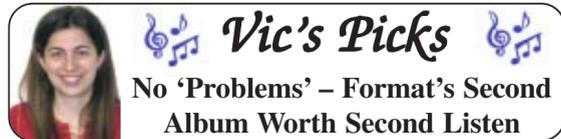
The concert will also include a performance of Alexandre Guilmant's Organ Concerto by featured organ

soloist Brian Harlow. The concerto will showcase St. Paul's new pipe organ consisting of four manuals and nine divisions.

Mr. Harlow, prior to his recent appointment as director of music and organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, was associate organist at St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

St. Paul's invites the public to attend; a donation of \$10 will be accepted at the door. St. Paul's is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield, across from Town Hall.

For more information, contact Mr. Banks at cbanks@stpaulswestfield.org.



No 'Problems' - Format's Second Album Worth Second Listen

By VICTORIA McCABE

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Confession: I got into this album because I had to.

In my life, there's so much music, so little time - so, admittedly, if something doesn't hook me in quickly, there's no guarantee I'll always make an effort to get into it.

But this was a case of necessity. The Format opened up for Guster at Loyolapalooza, Loyola College's spring weekend concert, last Sunday, and I had to be prepared. The Format's debut, "Interventions & Lullabies," is deliciously catchy from start to finish, so I was psyched to hear what they've been up to since 2003.

Their sophomore effort, "Dog Problems," is in many ways a departure from their first full-length release. "Interventions & Lullabies" serves up bright alt-pop; their latest album draws on much more layered instrumentals and gives off a kind of carnival vibe. It's still sunny, but it's not as immediately accessible.

I considered giving up on the album, finding it a bit cheesy the first time through, but I owed it to my sister to show up for her spring concert ready to sing. A listen or two later, I couldn't believe I had almost written it off - the songwriting maturity, depth and fun that were initially

elusive suddenly jumped out all over the place.

"Oceans" and "She Doesn't Get It" are wonderful pop gems - wildly singable, they could stay on repeat all day and never get old.

The title track sounds like the hypothetical product that would be created if the Beach Boys and Queen harmonized outside the big tent at a three-ring circus. Instrumental vamps and carefree swirls abound, along with several tempo changes. At first it's a little disconcerting, but it's the best-crafted song on the album, and it gets more fascinating with each listen.

Harmonies harkening bands that built their sound on layered vocals are all over the place. "I'm Actual" is a fantastic early track - as singer Nate Ruess keeps crying, "can we please take this hour and talk about me?" backing vocals can take credit for building up the energy. It's the same with "Time Bomb," as Queen-like outbursts get better each time they enter.

Don't make the mistake I almost did by giving up on "Dog Problems" too soon. Download "The First Single (You Know Me)" from the band's debut album, and then give "Dog Problems" a chance - it's the kind of musical experience that, once you get into it, you'll have no idea how it didn't immediately grab you in the first place.

Fanwood Carriage House Series Presents Jack Wiler

FANWOOD - The Carriage House Poetry Series invites the public to attend a free poetry reading on Tuesday, May 8, at 8 p.m. in the Kuran Arts Center on Watson Road (adjacent to Fanwood Borough Hall, off Martine Avenue). The featured reader will be Jack Wiler.

Mr. Wiler was raised in Wenonah. He has lived for the past 25 years in Hudson County with a brief layover in Wenonah four years ago. He has been published in a number of literary magazines, primarily *Long Shot Magazine*, which he also edited for six years. He worked with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in

New Jersey as a visiting poet in the schools and was a Festival Poet last fall at the foundation's Festival of Poetry.

Long shot published his first book, "I Have No Clue," in 1996. CavanKerry Press of Fort Lee published his second book, "Fun Being Me," in 2006. Bob Holman recently named it one of the 10 best books of poetry in 2006 on about.com.

Admission is free. An open mic will follow the featured performance, and those attending are encouraged to bring a poem and join in the reading. For more information, call (908) 889-7223 or (908) 889-5298.

Symphony of Fine Homes To Delight on Friends Tour

WESTFIELD - The Friends of Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), the auxiliary and fundraising arm of the orchestra, will present a medley of five stylish residences in its annual Tour of Notable Homes, to take place this Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Now in its 23rd year, the self-guided tour will wind its way through picturesque and storied neighborhoods of historic Westfield.

"The tour is one of Westfield's most delightful local spring traditions," said Carole Leone, WSO Friends president, "and this year we again present a compendium of fine homes that define good taste and embody the pleasures of hearth and home."

This year's tour features five residences that represent a range of architectural influences and design sensibilities. They include a sophisticated English Tudor cottage located in the Stoneleigh Park enclave, an extensively renovated colonial home in the Wychwood section circa 1930, a newly updated authentic Tudor, a magnificent colonial that features a landscaped family room with waterfall and indoor pool and an expansive newly constructed center-hall colonial.

Mrs. Leone promised that the tour would hold "something for everyone." One of the residences will fea-

ture a musical interlude, the always-popular plant sale will feature geraniums in time for Mother's Day purchase and refreshments will be served in the garden of one of the homes.

The Friends will also offer a 50-50 raffle and a drawing for tickets to WSO's upcoming concert at Temple Emanu-El on May 12.

All profits will benefit the WSO. The award-winning orchestra, comprised of professional musicians and led by Maestro David Wroe, is the resident orchestra of Union County.

"The home tour is a key element of the funding mix that's necessary to operate the orchestra," said Elizabeth Ryan, executive director of the WSO. "We could not manage without the Friends. Supplemental fundraising is necessary because only about a third of our revenue comes from the sale of tickets."

Tickets for the 2007 Tour of Notable Homes are \$25 (\$30 at the door) and can be purchased in Westfield at the office of the WSO, Poppyfields, The Town Bank locations, Baron's Drugs, The Town Book Store, Coldwell Banker Realtors, Burgdorf Realtors and Weichert Realtors.

Tickets are also available at Christoffer's Florist in Mountainside, Irma's Hallmark in Fanwood and Martin Jewelers in Cranford.

Workshop Participates In Lord & Taylor Benefit

WESTFIELD - This May, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) will again take part in the Lord & Taylor Benefit Bash, an event designed to support local non-profit organizations. The all-day fundraising event will occur at the Westfield Lord & Taylor retail store on North Avenue on Tuesday, May 8, from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m.

A \$5 admission ticket to the shopping event can be purchased at the NJWA studios at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield. Proceeds from the ticket sales will contribute to the NJWA piano fund. Last year, the organization received an extra bonus for its high attendance to the event, bringing it closer to achieving its goal.

The admission ticket entitles the purchaser to a variety of special benefits, among them a 20-percent coupon toward one regularly priced item, including most cosmetics and fragrances. Also

included is a 15-percent all-day savings pass that can be used toward all sale and regularly priced merchandise.

Participants may also register for a chance to win a \$2,000 shopping wardrobe and a \$500 spa gift certificate.

Anyone who opens a Lord & Taylor credit account that day will receive an additional 15-percent off all purchases, on top of the Benefit Bash coupons. The NJWA will receive an extra \$5 if it is mentioned on the credit application.

The day will include appearances by special guests, book signings and mini-manicures. Children can meet Spider Man in person or have their faces painted by a clown from The Big Apple Circus.

To obtain a pre-admission ticket and savings coupons, visit the NJWA studios or phone (908) 789-9696. Additional information about the NJWA is available at njworkshopforthearts.com.

CDC Holds Secret Garden Opening Night Reception

CRANFORD - The Cranford Dramatic Club Community Theatre will host a complimentary reception after May 4's opening performance of *The Secret Garden*.

Refreshments will be served, and cast members will be on hand to visit with patrons. An exhibit of floral photomontages and photographs from local artists, "Our Secret Gardens," will run concurrently.

The featured artist is Shari Seltzer of Westfield. Ms. Seltzer's portrayals of flowers will add to the spring celebration of the musical.

Ms. Seltzer has created art floral photomontages for more than 20 years.

In addition, the CDC exhibit will feature floral photography by members of the club: Maurice and Patricia Moran, Barbara Krause and Marilyn Court. The upstairs gallery will also feature "The Secret Gardens of New Jersey," giving information on many gardens in the Garden State, including the Reese Arboretum in Summit, Doris Duke Gardens in Somerville and the New Jersey Botanical Garden at Skylands.

The Secret Garden, based on the beloved children's classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, revolves around 10-year-old orphan Mary Lennox and how she brings hope and

love back into the life of her reclusive and lonely uncle as she helps to restore the beauty of his secret garden and the health of his ailing son.

Lindsay Aaron portrays Mary Lennox, while Russ Crespolini plays her uncle, Archibald Craven. Other key roles are Mary's Aunt Lily (Sarah Asplundh), Neville Craven (Phil Levesque), the housekeeper (Peggy Seymour), the housemaid (Melissa Loderstedt), Archibald's son Colin (Steven Bunin), the head gardener (Thom Korner) and Martha's brother Dickon (Derek Rocchini).

These characters advance the story through the beautiful and inspirational music of Lucy Simon and the book and lyrics of Marsha Norman.

Patrons should reserve soon to take advantage of the opening night reception. Show dates are Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. from May 4 to 19, as well as a Sunday, May 13, matinee at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 on a reserved-seat basis and are available at the box office at (908) 276-7611 or through cdctheatre.org. Senior and student discounts are available.

The CDC Community Theatre is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford, off of Centennial Avenue near exit 136 off the Garden State Parkway.

'Movies In May' Screens Best in Local Cinema

SCOTCH PLAINS - More than 20 cinematic productions by local film makers will be featured in this year's "Movies In May" Film Festival taking place in Scotch Plains and Fanwood between Thursday, May 10, and Saturday, May 12.

Now in its third year, the festival provides viewers with a chance to see productions created by local filmmakers, ranging from students to professionals.

This year's festival includes the world premiere of *As Cool As Jennifer II: New Beginnings*. Directed by Peter Paul Basler, this spy thriller was shot almost entirely in Scotch Plains and Fanwood during the summer of 2005 with a professional cast and the assistance of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School television production students.

Also featured will be *7th Inning Stretch*, starring Scotch Plains resident and lead singer of The Smithereens, Pat DiNizio. Originally airing on ESPN last year, *7th Inning Stretch* explores the relationship between baseball and rock 'n roll through Mr. DiNizio's attempt to enter the world of minor league baseball.

Mr. DiNizio, along with most of the filmmakers, will be on hand to answer questions about their productions.

"We have a great lineup of films this year," said "Movies In May" founder and festival curator William McMeekan, Jr. "It's a nice mix of drama, comedy and documentary work that I'm sure our audience will enjoy."

New to the festival this year will be the "Library PSA Contest," which challenges local directors to create short public-service announcements highlighting the offerings of the Fanwood and/or Scotch Plains libraries. Awards will be presented to the best of these productions.

The 2007 "Movies In May Film Festival" will open on May 10 at 7 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Television Studio located in Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Juxtapose Showcases

Due Sorelle Jewelry

WESTFIELD - Jewelry-designing duo Due Sorelle will once again participate in a Mother's Day jewelry trunk show at Juxtapose Gallery in Westfield on Saturday, May 12, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The designer will offer a full inventory and selection to accommodate many tastes. This year's collection will include sterling silver and vermeil with both colorful and muted icy tones.

Clear crystal and earthy bohemian styles, incorporating leather and ethnic beads, are hit trends for spring and summer. Long layered chains remain popular, and many of the necklaces are adjustable and can be worn a variety of ways for optimal style.

Those who attend can be outfitted in the latest styles, or stop in to buy a Mother's Day gift.



Due Sorelle Jewelry

Musical Club Celebrates National Music Week

WESTFIELD - The Musical Club of Westfield will celebrate National Music Week, May 6 to 12, with a concert on Wednesday, May 9, at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield. The concert is open to the public at no admission charge. A reception will follow.

Local Westfield resident Charles Milton Tremaine, who was then president of the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, worked with musical clubs around the nation to found the first National Music Week from May 4 to 10, 1924.

The Wednesday, May 9, evening concert will feature performances by F. Allen Artz, III, organ; John Blasdale, piano; Nancy DeSisto, mezzo-soprano; Elsa Hahn, soprano

accompanied by Mr. Artz, piano. Mr. Artz will play on the organ during J.S. Bach's Concerto in A minor and his "Little" Fugue in G minor along with Bartholdy's Andante in D Major with Four Variations. Mr. Blasdale will play Beethoven's Piano Sonata in C minor.

Also, the Musical Club will hold its annual luncheon on Wednesday, May 16, at 11 a.m. at the Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains.

The luncheon will feature performances by winners of scholarships from the Musical Club. Reservations are required by May 9. Those interested should contact Beverly Thomson Shea at (908) 654-1036 or e-mail btspiano@gmail.com for more information.