



Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia
1629 22nd Ave SE, Olympia WA



2003



2004

December 2012

Vol. 13 no. 3



2007



2006

SOGO
HO HO...

It's Tennybopper



2010

This December marks the lucky 13th installment of SOGO Ho Ho and although you might be leery of spending one and a half hours with a young adolescent, you won't want to miss this opportunity

to experience the joy and fun of the holidays with outstanding brass players, an old-fashioned barbershop chorus, fine vocalists and the chance to join in on our traditional sing-along at this year's SOGO Ho Ho! – An Americana Christmas.

SOGO Ho Ho has run the gamut of themes as disparate as The Blues Brothers, A Caliente Christmas, It's a Wonderful Life (complete with a staged drama about the plight of a washed up band director-hmm, I wonder), An Old-Fashioned Crooner's Christmas, and An Italian Christmas to name a few.

This year we feature several new arrangements of traditional American carols by our Court Composer, Mark Thome - I Wonder As I Wander, It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, Rudolph, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day and many others. Each of these carols weaved into the fabric of our holiday has its own rich story. Many of those stories will be shared by our delightful hosts for both the 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM shows - Liz Weisenfeld and Scott Sagerser. Liz and Scott will bring the stories to life in their original, colorful, poignant, and often humorous ways.

Also sharing the program with the brass choir is the Puget Sounders Barbershop Chorus. This traditional Barbershop Chorus will fill the air with that rich choral sound on traditional and not-so traditional carols. They will also lead the audience in our sing-along and close the program with the brass choir on a new arrangement of Auld Lang Syne for chorus and brass by Mark Thome - buy your kleenex, now.

Vocal splendor will also be delivered by SOGO Alumnus Elliot Weeks and SOGO Teaching Artist Danielle Westbrook in renditions of Baby, It's Cold Outside and White Christmas and a new holiday selection composed by Elliot, himself. Mel Torme' look out!

And, of course, SOGO Alumni will be joining in the fun along with a very special guest appearance by Dame Ima Ditts - telling us about the 12 Days After Christmas.

See you and hear you (at least for applause, laughter and hopefully the sing-along) there!



SOGO HO HO Holiday Show

An Americana Christmas
Saturday, Dec. 15
2 & 7 p.m. shows
First Christian Church

Featuring the SOGO Brass Choir
Greg Allison, conductor
Liz Ward, Assit. conductor

Guests Include
Dame Imma Ditts
Puget Sounders Barbershop
Elliot Weeks, vocal
Alumni

Tickets: 360.561.2056
\$5 Student | \$10 Adult/Senior
\$25 Family (2 adults/2 or more children)

Music can be like a conversation among friends...

The Lincoln Center is one of the world's leading concert halls, housing 12 major groups, including the New York Philharmonic and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. In Seattle, Benaroya Hall features the *Seattle Chamber Music series. Chamber music groups provide communities a broader more intimate experience in the arts. Generally chamber music ensembles are no larger than 40 and are more often small groups like a string quartet. In the smaller group settings musicians are one on a part; in a close conversation. Musicians have a lot of control over what is done musically; in other words a lot of give and take in the interpretation of the music. There is no conducting; it is a team effort involving everyone in the process of music making.

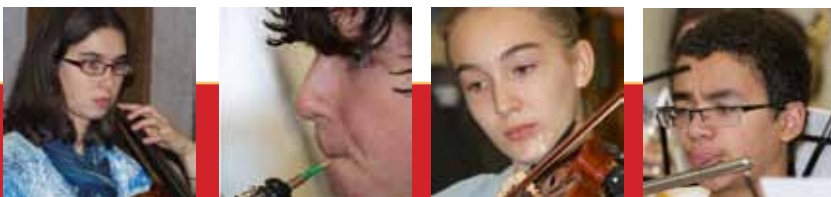
The chamber music literature spans 400 years, which provides a "balanced diet" for musicians and audiences, whether it be performing works from the baroque period or something with a little more contemporary twist. Composers generally enjoyed writing works for small ensembles, often composing something with a particular musician friend or acquaintance in mind.

The listener will hear all the elements of music in a very transparent setting. There is a democracy of sorts in each ensemble, and when united, it comes across to the audience. Poets and novelists have said that "chamber music is like a conversation between friends," which is at the heart of why audiences are drawn to this deep, rich listening experience.

This season of SOGO, the most advanced musicians, Conservatory Orchestra, have had an opportunity to pare down into small ensembles of varying sizes during the month of November and December. Mary Jo Rydholm, SOGO violin Teaching Artist, has a long history of performing and directing chamber music workshops. Coupled with her expertise, she and Music Director John Welsh have provided the Conservatory musicians an opportunity to explore a chamber music experience.

Sunday, December 16, family and friends of SOGO are invited to the First Christian Church to hear excerpts from the works that the chamber ensembles have been rehearsing. Please check www.studentorchestras.org for the exact time.

** Page 3 includes the upcoming performance series of the Seattle Chamber Music Society.*



An Opportunity

~ Mary Jo Rydholm & John Welsh

An old saying goes, "When one door closes, another opens". When the scheduling issues arose with the Messiah Sing-Along, we took the opportunity to schedule a round of chamber music rehearsals that include all of the Conservatory Orchestra members instead of just a few. Messiah always provides some musical value in addition to promoting community relations. Performing Baroque music always is a challenge.

But this opportunity offers us the chance to delve further into the musical experiences that Baroque music offers. I will just mention a couple here:

- One of the biggest challenges in musical development is the ability and concentration required to develop and practice inner pulse. Inner pulse is a sense of rhythm that works constantly as we perform. More commonly it is called, "counting to yourself". It is a skill missing in varying degrees even in professional musicians.

As I rehearse the orchestra, I can sense that a lot of our members are not utilizing this skill, either because they have not yet developed it or their concentration consistently. In chamber music ensembles, not exercising these skills will cause complete chaos. We are taking advantage of an opportunity to address this issue by running these series of rehearsals.

- One of the most important things music (and thus SOGO) can offer to people is a sense of team work. While teamwork in music is more subtle than in athletics, it holds no less experience in that discipline. The musical dialogue that occurs develops an even stronger sense of communication between team members than does athletics. A side effect of this teamwork experience is that participants should realize that when they are not present, they let down their team members. Also, it should enable participants to realize that they need to do a schedule synchronization to co-ordinate their activities and communicate the results with their team members.

These are just a couple of experiences this series of rehearsals has to offer.

Join us Sunday, December 16th at the First Christian Church (our rehearsal venue). Please check www.studentorchestras.org for the exact time.



DONATE this season
to SOGO online at
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More Chamber Music Opportunities...

SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY 2013 Winter Festival

January 18-26, SCMS presents six exciting nights of classical music. Artistic Director James Ehnes brings a dynamic program, including six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, along with Dvorak, Brahms and Schubert. Five of the concerts feature a free 30-minute recital beginning one hour prior to the concert start time.

To find out more about the Winter Festival series and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.seattlechambermusic.org/>

MOJO

The SOGO Chamber Ensembles - MOJO (Musicians Out Jammin Olympia) have quite a number of places they are performing in Olympia over the holidays. In January we are honored to have been invited to participate in the Temple of Justice Centennial Reception, which is part of the Governor's Ball on January 16, 2013.

MEET POP!

The 2013 Youth Symphony Leadership Summit is excited to **welcome Stanford Thompson, the CEO of POP! (Play On Philly!),** as our keynote speaker and facilitator on **Monday January 21, 2013,** in Olympia. POP! is an el Sistema (Venezuela) inspired program that socially transforms children through the power of music. POP! is an **after-school music program** in its third season that currently engages over 250 first-tenth grade students at two different inner city schools in Philadelphia. POP!'s Venezuelan counterpart - "el Sistema" - is in its 37th year and provides music training as a **vehicle for social transformation** to more than 500,000 children. Yes, that was not a misprint, the number of students in the Venezuelan program is over 500,000. Stanford will be accompanied by Zebadiah Coombs, a Philadelphia high school student who plays viola in the POP! program.

Stanford is originally from Atlanta and graduated from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia in Trumpet Performance. He will offer a master class to our SOGO musicians and the community on Sunday, January 20 at 1:30 PM at First Christian Church before our regular rehearsals that day.

Zebadiah will attend the Summit but will also be out in our community on Friday (1/18) before our NW Youth Symphony Leadership Summit sharing his POP! experiences at several local high schools.

The morning sessions of the Monday, January 21 Summit will feature Stanford and Zebadiah. The presentations will be lively, informative and inspiring for us all. Our afternoon sessions will include separate tracks for orchestra leaders including board members, conductors and executive directors. **Youth orchestra leaders, music educators and interested community members are invited to attend.**

Please mark your calendars for this important event!

Monday, January 21, 2013 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Olympia, WA
Please contact Doug Ford, Summit Coordinator, for registration materials: douglas.ford@comcast.net

Please forward this to leaders in your organization and to other groups who would be interested.



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HO HO and
Merry Christmas!



STUDENT ORCHESTRAS OF GREATER OLYMPIA

1629 22ND AVE SE | OLYMPIA WA 98501

www.studentorchestras.org

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Chamber Ensemble Series



DECEMBER 16
Chamber ensembles

Looking Ahead!

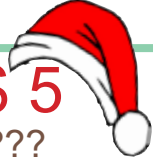
January 6
first rehearsal of the
new year!

**SOGO
HO HO
Show**

December 15



Brass Choir
Opening of Hands on Children's Museum

What will **\$ 5** Get you???? 

A student ticket to see the
SOGO HO HO Show.