

Society of Musical Arts

Stephen Culbertson, Music Director

Concert Program



Sunday, June 7, 2015

4:00 P.M.

**Maplewood Middle School
7 Burnet Street
Maplewood, New Jersey**





This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.



SOMA gratefully acknowledges our grant from Essex County DCHA in the amount of \$750 for the year 2015.

Orchestra June 2015

Stephen Culbertson, Music Director

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Len Tobias
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Karen Kanan-Correa
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Carrie Schwimmer

CELLO

James Celestino*
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Megan Doherty
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Helen Kong
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Charles Sachs

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David Shapiro*
James Buchanan
Kenneth Bannerman
Matthew Hintz
Robert Whiteley

FLUTE

Laura Papparatto*
Emily Jones

PICCOLO

Gail Berkshire*

OBOE

Jeffrey Lacolcetta*
Alice Marcus

ENGLISH HORN

Molly Raum*

CLARINET

Donna Dixon*
Theresa Hartman

BASS CLARINET

Joel Kolk*

BASSOON

Laura Carnibucci*
Karen Kelland

FRENCH HORN

Libby Schwartz*
Paul Erickson
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Linda Lovstad
Susan Martin

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Robert Ventimiglia
Darrell Frydlewicz

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Society of Musical Arts

Stephen Culbertson, Conductor

**Sunday, June 7, 2015
4:00 pm**

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

“Remembrance and Celebration”

Remembrance (2013)

Alex Shapiro

Concerto for Two Trumpets and Orchestra (2003) Stephen Paulus

- I. Fantasy*
- II. Elegy*
- III. Dance*

Donald Batchelder and Joseph Christianson, solo trumpets

~~~ Intermission ~~~

**Consecration of the House Overture (1822)**

**L. van Beethoven**

**Symphonic Metamorphosis  
on Themes of Weber (1943)**

**Paul Hindemith**

- I. Allegro*
- II. Turandot, Scherzo*
- III. Andantino*
- IV. Marsch*

**Join us for our next concert!**

**Sunday, November 8, 2015**

**Please sign up for our mailing/email list in the lobby**

# Program Notes

by Stephen Culbertson

## **Alex Shapiro: Remembrance (2003, adapted for strings in 2013)**

Alex Shapiro (b. New York City, 1962) composes acoustic and electro-acoustic pieces known for their lyricism and drama. Published by Activist Music, her music is heard daily in concerts and broadcasts across the U.S. and internationally, and can be found on over twenty commercially released recordings from around the world. Alex lives on Washington State's remote San Juan Island, and when she's not composing, she can be found communing with the sea life, as seen on her music and photo-filled blog, [www.notesfromthekelp.com](http://www.notesfromthekelp.com) and her website, [www.alexshapiro.org](http://www.alexshapiro.org).

The composer's original note for this work: REMEMBRANCE is a pensive eulogy and tribute. We grieve, and reluctantly accept, the passing of those who have profoundly touched our hearts. We cannot clutch the elusive, or possess the scent of memory that defies capture. The only thoughts about this music that matter, are those which privately unfold for the listener.

*For this performance, Alex adds:* If I were going to compose a tribute to reflect someone as vibrant, hilarious, and irreverent as Stephen Paulus, it wouldn't sound like REMEMBRANCE. But were I to compose a reflection of a person who felt everything painfully deeply, who did his best to elicit profound emotion and thought in others, and who sought to improve the world around him, then the resulting piece might well have turned out to be this one. Stephen possessed each of these contrasting traits and many more. He was a dear friend, colleague, and inspiration to all whose lives were brightened by his spark, and his humor and wisdom are sorely missed. This performance of *Remembrance*, a piece originally written in the wake of my father Ivan's passing, is dedicated in Stephen's memory.

## **Stephen Paulus (1949-2014): Concerto for 2 Trumpets and Orchestra**

Stephen Paulus wrote over 600 works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano, and organ, receiving premieres and performances throughout the world as well as a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Classical Composition in 2015. His musical style has been described by *The New York Times* as "lush and extravagant," and critics from around the country have praised his work.

Born August 24, 1949 in Summit New Jersey, Paulus lived most of his life in Saint Paul, Minnesota where he earned his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1978. Paulus was a passionate advocate for the works and

careers of his colleagues, co-founding the Minnesota Composers Forum (now known as the American Composers Forum) in 1973. He also served on the board of ASCAP from 1990 until 2014. His music has been commissioned, recorded and performed by virtually every major ensemble and many solo artists in the US.

Stephen Paulus passed away in October, 2014 but his music continues to be frequently performed and described by critics as rugged, angular, lyrical, lean, rhythmically aggressive, original, often gorgeous, moving, and uniquely American.

Although perhaps best-known for his choral works and operas, Paulus has a large catalog of orchestra works, written during various tenures as Composer-in-Residence with the Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and others. Stephen first became familiar with the great trumpeter and conductor Doc Severinsen after hearing a performance of *Ordway Overture*. Doc suggested Paulus write a trumpet concerto for him to play with the Phoenix Symphony, where he conducted the orchestra's pops concerts. That piece came to fruition in 1991. The two became better acquainted during Severinsen's tenure as principal pops conductor with the Minnesota Orchestra, which ultimately commissioned the present work for Severinsen and Minnesota principal trumpet Manny Laureano. The concerto was premiered by the Minnesota Orchestra in Minneapolis under Osmo Vänskä's direction in November 2003. Audience response has been wildly enthusiastic in the concerto's many performances.

The concerto is in three movements, fast-slow-fast, titled Fantasy, Elegy, and Dance. The relationship between the two trumpets is handled masterfully: sometimes the two act as one meta-instrument, blending in such a way that the listener can't tell them apart, sometimes playing a continuation of the same melody. At other times, the two players bounce small ideas off one another, or play a harmonized melodic line. Their relationship to the orchestra is similar: making statements or responding by turns. Although Paulus' musical language doesn't really use much jazz, the energy and flow of his concerto relies on, and provides the soloists with, great drive and swing. This all leads to a finale in which the trumpet section of the orchestra joins the fun.

## **Beethoven (1770-1827): Consecration of the House, *Overture*, Op. 124**

First performed at the opening of the Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna in 1822, this work was written at a time when Beethoven was studying the works of Handel and Bach. One can hear nods to the earlier masters in the opening theme (Handel) and several fugal passages (Bach).

## **Hindemith (1895-1963): Symphonic Metamorphosis on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber**

Originally conceived as ballet music (a project that fell through after the choreographer heard two movements of the new work and informed Hindemith he was going to use backdrops by Salvador Dali), the work in its present form was premiered by the New York Philharmonic in 1944. Balanchine later choreographed the music for the New York City Ballet in 1952.

The Weber pieces are quite obscure, originally for piano 4-hands and written in the first two decades of the 19th Century. Hindemith knew about them from playing piano with his wife. The most surprising things about this work, which will become clear when we hear the originals as well as the metamorphosis, are (a) how close Hindemith kept to the original melodies and form, and (b) how different they sound from the originals!





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## **Donald Batchelder** - *Trumpet*

Donald Batchelder is Trumpet Faculty and Coordinator of Brass and Woodwinds at Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music. Recognized as an outstanding soloist and orchestral trumpeter in the New York area for many years, he performs frequently with the Metropolitan Opera and on Broadway, and serves as Principal Trumpet with the New York City Opera. Mr. Batchelder also holds the principal trumpet chairs in the New Jersey Festival Orchestra and the Stamford (CT) Symphony.

Mr. Batchelder earned both a Bachelors and a Masters Degree from the Juilliard School, where he studied with William Vacchiano and Mel Broiles. Other influential teachers include Vince Penzarella, Arnold Jacobs and Philip Smith. Mr. Batchelder is a founding member of the Quiet City Chamber Ensemble, and is featured on that group's acclaimed world premiere recording of the chamber version of Aaron Copland's Quiet City, adapted by saxophone soloist Christopher Brelochs, on the Sono Luminus label. Among other recent solo appearances: a featured solo role at the 2008 New York Brass Conference; Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 with the Stamford Symphony and the Sherman Chamber Ensemble; When Speaks the Signal-Trumpet Tone by David Gillingham, with both the Montclair State University Wind Ensemble and the Ridgewood Concert Band; the Shostakovich Concerto for Piano and Trumpet with both the Stamford Symphony and the Windham Chamber Music Festival; the world premiere of Trent Johnson's Concerto for Trumpet and Organ; and David Sampson's Triptych with the Westfield Symphony. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Trumpet as a student of David Krauss at Rutgers University, where he recently received the Irene Alm Award for excellence in performance and scholarly research.

## **Joseph Christianson** - *Trumpet*

Trumpeter Joseph Christianson is an alum of the New York Youth Symphony Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Chamber Music programs. He received the Director's Award from Jazz Director Matt Holman in the 50th Season. Mr. Christianson received his master's degree from Montclair State University and his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, where he graduated Suma Cum Laude. Originally from New Jersey, he participated in their All-State Band, Chorus, and Orchestras. He studied privately with Tony Kadleck, Dave Ballou, and David Krauss, among others.

# Stephen Culbertson

## *Conductor*

Stephen Culbertson, Music Director for the Society of Musical Arts, has conducted over 35 orchestras, opera productions, and ballet companies, ranging from major to community level, in Europe and the United States. Major engagements include a Spoleto USA debut on the 20th-Century Perspective Series and a new production of Prokofiev's Cinderella for the San Joaquin Ballet in California. In recent seasons, Culbertson has appeared with the Montclair Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra Society of Philadelphia. He has served as Music Director of the Sussex County (New Jersey) Community Orchestra and Associate Conductor of the Bergen (New Jersey) Philharmonic Orchestra. With the latter two orchestras, he conceived and conducted a series of family concerts for the community to great acclaim. He served on the board of Unity Concerts of NJ and was its Artistic Director for the 2002-3 season. Culbertson's most recent activities include leading the New Jersey Reading Orchestra and serving as interim Music Director at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair.

After graduating from University of the Pacific in his native California, Culbertson was awarded a scholarship to study at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (Finland) with famed conducting teacher Jorma Panula. During his five-year stay, he studied the works of Sibelius with the composer's son-in-law, Jussi Jalas, and conducted most of Finland's major ensembles: The Finnish National Opera, the Helsinki Philharmonic, The Finnish Radio Orchestra, The Vaasa and Tampere Operas, and the Oulu Philharmonic. In addition to conducting, he gained valuable experience (not to mention much-needed income) by singing in a number of professional choruses, including the Finnish Radio Choir, Savonlinna Opera Chorus and the Helsinki Festival production of Britten's Church Parables.

Culbertson introduced Finnish audiences to works by Copland, S.R. Beckler, John Forsman and many others. He introduced local listeners to American music by writing a six-hour series of radio programs entitled A History of American Music for the Finnish Broadcast Corporation. As a guest conductor, Culbertson has worked for the Netherlands Opera and appeared in Czechoslovakia (with the Košice State Philharmonic), Italy, Hungary, and England. Culbertson has been a strong advocate of American music as both a conductor and a publisher. In 1993, he co-founded Subito Music Publishing and became its President in 1997. From 1987 to 1992, he was director of the rental and publications departments for G. Schirmer, Inc., where he supervised the music preparation of, among others, John Corigliano's opera *The Ghosts of Versailles* (for the Metropolitan Opera) and *Symphony No. 1* (for the Chicago Symphony).

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## **Society of Musical Arts who we are**

The Society of Musical Arts (SOMA) was founded in 1981 by Dr. Samuel Applebaum, New Jersey's world famous master teacher of the violin. We are continuing Dr. Applebaum's objectives to provide an opportunity for both amateur and professional string musicians to play baroque and classical music in a chamber orchestra and to present free public concerts with multi-generational appeal to the residents of Essex and surrounding counties.

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# Cadences

SOMA mourns the passing of Anne P. Lieberson on January 25, 2015, at the age of 86. Anne was a long-time concertmistress of our orchestra.

SOMA mourns the passing of one of our supporters, cellist Elizabeth Reiss, on November 20, 2014 at the age of 74.

Laura Papparatto and Peggy Reynolds made a special donation to SOMA in memory of our five Rehearsal Club colleagues, whom we lost this past year.

The Rehearsal Club of Montclair acknowledges the loss of five treasured members in the past year:

**Grace Gimbel      Basia Jaworski**  
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**Barbara Hendrian**

Condolences to their friends and family.

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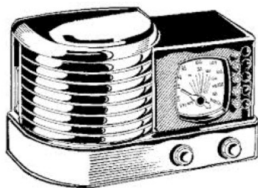
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Thanks for helping us keep alive Dr. Applebaum's dream of live classical music by and for New Jersey residents!

*Laura Papparatto*, President



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