Lake Country Orchestra
Spring Concert  May 20, 2012
Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23
West Side Story Selections
Featured Soloists:
Angela Nieman, Vocalist
Joseph Lecher, Piano

Oconomowoc Arts Center  Tickets: $16.00
Pre-concert Lecture at 5:15 P.M.
Concert begins at 6:00 P.M
www.lakecountryorchestra.org

Lake Country Orchestra is an affiliate ensemble of the
Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra
Lake Country Orchestra

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Overture to “The Impresario”, K. 486 ............ W.A. Mozart
Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 488 ........................ W.A. Mozart

Joseph Lecher, piano soloist

Merry Widow, “Vilia” ................................. Franz Lehár

Angela Nieman, mezzo-soprano soloist

Fantasia on the Alleluia Hymn ...................... Gordon Jacob

West Side Story (Selections) ......................... Leonard Bernstein

Robert J. Ignaszak, Conductor

Jim Skaleski, Assistant Conductor

Lake Country Orchestra is a community orchestra open to musicians ages 15 and up with some playing experience.

Lake Country Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings. For more information or to register for the next concert series, visit www.lakecountryorchestra.org.
Program Notes

Overture to "The Impresario", K. 486, W.A. Mozart
Mozart struggled through the winter of 1786 in Vienna, making ends meet by teaching, composing, and performing. Both he and his rival Salieri had been asked to compose an opera for the same occasion. Not to be outdone by Salieri, Mozart completed the opera "The Impresario" in just over two weeks. It was performed on February 7, 1786. The opera's plot is full of rivalries, jealousies, tantrums, and humor as it follows two sopranos and a tenor auditioning for a theater director. The opera is not Mozart's most popular, and as such is not often heard. The Overture, however, is spirited and lively and is an easily recognizable piece.

Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 488, W.A. Mozart
Mozart completed 23 original piano concertos during his career. Each was written with a different audience in mind and the styles vary widely. Many were composed for himself, written to display his considerable performing skills and genius for improvisation. This concerto was finished March 2, 1786, a month after completion of "The Impresario." A lyrical piece featuring flowing, sunny melodies, the concerto is divided into three movements, the outer two being fast and lively, the middle movement slower and more poignant. Although Mozart was influential in the development of the concerto form, one can hear the influence of operatic style and writing throughout the piece.

Fantasia on the Alleluia Hymn, Gordon Jacob
Born in London in 1895, Gordon Jacob was both a composer and an author, having published over 400 pieces of music, four books, and numerous music essays. Taken as a prisoner of war in 1917, he and fellow prisoners formed a prison camp "orchestra" for which Jacob would arrange music. Following the war, Jacob studied and taught at the Royal College of Music while also composing music. His works include a ballet, music created for a radio show during Word War II, and pieces composed for and performed at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. A deft orchestrator, Jacob was particularly fond of the "theme and variation." The Fantasia on the Alleluia Hymn is one such piece. Written in 1949, it is based on the 17th century hymn "Lasst Uns Erfreuen." It is a thick, rich piece that demonstrates why Jacob's works and teachings are still influential.
Program Notes

Merry Widow, “Vilia”, Franz Lehár
The Merry Widow is an operetta by the Austro-Hungarian composer Franz Lehár. The librettists, Viktor Léon and Leo Stein, based the story on an 1861 comedy play, L’attache d’ambassade (The Embassy Attaché) by Henri Meilhac. The story involves a rich widow and her countrymen’s attempt to keep her money in the principality by finding her the right husband. The operetta has enjoyed extraordinary international success since its 1905 premiere in Vienna and continues to be frequently revived and recorded. Film and other adaptations have also been made. “Vilia” is one of the well-known selections from the score.

West Side Story (Selections), Leonard Bernstein
West Side Story is an American musical with music by Leonard Bernstein. Inspired by William Shakespeare’s play Romeo and Juliet, the story is set in the West 50s and West 60s of the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City in the 1950s. The musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The members of the Sharks from Puerto Rico are taunted by the Jets, a white working-class group. The young protagonist, Tony, one of the Jets, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre.

Bernstein’s score for the musical has become extremely popular; it includes "Something’s Coming", "Maria", "America", "Somewhere", "Tonight", "Jet Song", "I Feel Pretty", "One Hand, One Heart", and "Cool". Bernstein composed West Side Story and Candide concurrently, which led to some switches of material between the two works. In fact, Tony and Maria’s duet, "One Hand, One Heart", was originally intended for Cunegonde in Candide.
About the Orchestra

Robert J. Ignaszak, Conductor

Robert J. Ignaszak is the Orchestra Director at Oconomowoc High School and Nature Hill Intermediate School. He has taught in the Oconomowoc School District since 1985.

He is a violist and violinist and has performed with the Waukesha Symphony, Concord Chamber Orchestra and is on the founding Board of Directors of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra. Together with his wife Suzanne, the Ignaszaks form half of the LaBelle String Ensemble.

Jim Skaleski, Assistant Conductor and General Manager

Jim Skaleski is an educator, conductor, woodwind performer, and arts administrator. He is the director of instrumental music at DeForest Area Middle School in DeForest, WI beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. In addition to his work with the LCO, Jim also serves on the boards of the OCO and the Suburban Concert Band of West Allis, WI.

As an active performing musician, Mr. Skaleski performs clarinet, saxophone, and flute with the OCO, Knightwind Ensemble, Waukesha Area Symphonic Band, and the West Allis Suburban Concert Band.

This will be Jim's last regular concert with the LCO. He thanks all the musicians for their dedication, passion, and willingness to be entertained by his crazy imagination and persona.

Joseph Lecher, Piano Soloist

Joseph Lecher is a Première Médaille recipient of the Brevet d'Exécution from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, France and a Médaille d'Argent winner in the Concours Nationale de Piano de Chatou, France. He has performed and attended master classes in Europe. Joe holds his BA in Piano Performance from Carroll University and is obtaining his Master's Degree in Piano Performance from UW – Milwaukee. Joe has been a piano instructor at the Waukesha County Conservatory of Music at Hartland Music since 2005. This is his first performance with the LCO, though he also performed for the debut concert of the OCO in 2010.
Lake Country Orchestra Members

**Flute / Piccolo**
Carli Allen
Lilla Breyer
Heather Dennison

**Oboe / English Horn**
Pauline Bemis (E. Horn)
Sharon Goessner
Suzanne Kyle

**Clarinet**
Mieke Craven
Pamela Harrison
Jim Skaleski

**Bassoon**
Roger Koehler
Makenzie Kojis

**Horn**
Bonnie Hampton
Rebecca Richards
Paul Saganski

**Trumpet**
Frank Reda
Amanda Rieck
Tom Schoknecht

**Trombone/Baritone**
Brett Helwig
Stacy Johnson
Sam Thrun

**Tuba**
Ann Waite

**Percussion**
William Skaleski

**Violin**
Therese Diener
Suzanne Ignaszak
Elizabeth Jorgensen
Nancy Plack
Kassie Slotty
Andreas Stueve
Michele Stueve
Leyla Wirth

**Viola**
Lisa Fusco
Allison Hertweck

**Cello**
Karen Bechtel
Sara Meyer
Andrea Neary
Eric Slotty
Charlotte Voigt

**Double Bass**
Dustan Barret

**Piano Soloist**
Joseph Lecher

**Mezzo-Soprano Soloist**
Angela Nieman
President’s Message

Dear Friends,

The Lake Country Orchestra has come a long way since we started three years ago and, after rehearsing with the group over the past six weeks, I am quite sure this will be our best concert ever. We are especially thrilled to feature two local, up-and-coming solo musicians on the program. We are grateful to them for sharing their talents to make tonight’s program very special.

The all-volunteer orchestra includes a mix of seasoned professionals and aspiring amateurs. The majority reside in the Lake Country area and are doing their artistic best to make it a better place to live.

The board of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra (OCO) is committed to enriching lives through the shared experience of live music; close to home, in our world-class concert hall, and for a reasonable ticket price. The OCO is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that supports professional and amateur musicians. In addition to ticket sales, we rely on the support and generosity of our musicians, our audience, volunteers, and community partners to ensure that we have the financial resources to present excellent concerts. Donations of any size are sincerely appreciated and are foundational to everything the OCO does.

Please sit back, enjoy the concert, and thanks for supporting the OCO.

Roger Koehler, President
Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra

**DVD Recordings of the OCO’s Debut Concert**

The new DVD featuring two compositions written for Lake Country and violin soloist Rimma Sushanskaya are now available online and at local retailers. Photographic, video, aerial and artistic images of our area are combined with the performance. The DVD is available for immediate purchase in the lobby during the intermission and after the performance.
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