

September 16, 2011

FEATURING OUR OWN: A SEASON OF CONNECTIONS

The Opening Concert of the Season

Corning, NY- The season begins with an orchestral concert on **Saturday, October 1st at 7:30pm at the Corning Museum of Glass**. Under the direction of Musical Director **Toshiyuki Shimada**, the **Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes** will highlight two soloists, **David Unland**, Tuba, and **Eva Virsik**, Piano. The concert will open with Tom Myron's *Katahdin* (Greatest Mountain) to remind us of our connection with the Appalachian Mountains. Tom Myron's orchestral suite is based on his music for the documentary *Wilderness & Spirit*. Toshiyuki Shimada was so taken with Myron's "luminous and magnificently crafted" music that he recorded this piece and now brings it here to the Finger Lakes. We then bring our very own Principal Tuba, **David Unland** to enlighten us with Vaughn-Williams' *Tuba Concerto*. In this piece we here the agility, and lyrical and brilliant qualities of an often underappreciated instrument. In a drastic mood change, *Fantasy on Hungarian Folk Melodies* by Liszt is then introduced, which showcases the brilliant Eva Virsik. Eva gives a fearless performance that you are unlikely to hear by any other. In a triumphant finish to the concert, Beethoven's popular *Fifth Symphony* will immediately connect to the audience, with its recognizable, awe inspiring, four note opening and variations, made world famous in pop culture. Though many have heard its melody, nothing can compare to the drama of a live performance.

Tickets to this concert are \$35 (adults) and \$5 (students with ID), both general admission seating, and can be purchased online at www.osfl.org; by phone at **(607)734-8191 or 800-724-0159**; or at the Clemens Center Box Office, 207 Clemens Center Parkway in Elmira.

The next three concerts of the season will include the Holiday Festival on **December 11, 2011 at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY**, the 3rd concert of the Season which will include the OSFL Youth Orchestra and the 2011 Hertzog Competition Winner, on **Sunday, March 11, 2012, at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY**, and the 4th Concert of the season which will include guest artist William Preucil, Violin, on **Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Corning Museum of Glass**.

(More)

ARTISTS BIOS:

Dave Unland, Tuba

Mr. Unland has performed with numerous ensembles including the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Philharmonic, St. Louis Muny Opera, Joffrey Ballet, Moiseyev Dance Troupe, La Scala Ballet, Ringling Bros. Circus, Six Flags, Disney on Parade, Midwest Sport Show, Syracuse Symphony, Albany Symphony, Utica Symphony, Binghamton Symphony, BC Pops Orchestra, Tri-Cities Opera, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, St. Louis Brass Quintet, Ithaca Brass, and in a wide variety of freelance engagements. He has also recorded with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Brass, a solo recording of Vaughan Williams' Tuba Concerto with the Utica Symphony and the Cornell Wind Ensemble, and a CD with the Ithaca Brass released in 2008. He completed Doctoral studies and a Master's degree at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and a Bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville as a member of the Dean's College, Mensa and Mensa Elite. Mr. Unland is a clinician and recitalist for Custom Music, a contributor to "woodwind, Brass and Percussion" and author of "Tuba Performance and Pedagogy," a textbook for college studies. He recently retired from Ithaca College after 33 years of being a professor of tuba and euphonium and working as a music education supervisor and chamber music coach.

Eva Virsik, Piano

Eva Virsik was born in Bratislava. Hailed by the press as a child prodigy, she started piano lessons and made her first television appearance at age four. From age five she composed music. At eleven she became a student of the Bratislava Conservatory. She went on to study with Stanislav Neuhaus and Yakov Zak at the Moscow State Conservatory in Russia, completing it with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. A collection of her childhood compositions entitled "I Have Music" was published in 2002.

Eva Virsik has appeared internationally as an orchestra soloist and recitalist throughout Europe and the United States, highlighted by her Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2008 and her performances to sold-out houses with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Slovak Philharmonic, and the Orchestre National de Lille, in addition to her success with many distinguished orchestras in Europe and in the USA. Her festival performances include notably the Festival of Contemporary Music in Berlin, the Russian Winter series tour, the Bratislava BHS Music Festival, and in the U.S., the Arcady Music Festival and the Saco River Festival in Maine. She was heard in numerous recitals in major cities and gave special performances in the

(More)

Robert Schumann House in Zwickau and the Smetana House in Prague. She appeared on European Television networks, and in the United States, her performances were televised on Maine PBS. She was a featured artist in a live-aired recital on WGBH Radio Boston, and she recorded for the archives of the German Radio SWR, Slovak and Czech Radio networks, and the Opus label. In September 2010, she released a new album entitled Piano Encores, which is being distributed worldwide. Earlier this year, Eva Virsik was honored by the Slovak-American Cultural Center in New York City and was praised for her contribution in representing her homeland. Recently, she performed for the President of Slovakia, Ivan Gašparovič, during his official visit in New York. In the current and next seasons, besides performing in the United States, she will visit Europe, highlighted by recitals at the prestigious Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna, and will appear as an orchestra soloist in China.

CALENDAR LISTING:

Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes; Music Director Toshiyuki Shimada conducting; guest artists David Undland, Tuba; Eva Virsik, Piano; Saturday, October 1, 2011; 7:30pm; Corning Museum of Glass, 1 Museum Way, Corning, NY 14830: \$35 (adults) and \$5 (students with ID); online at www.osfl.org; by phone (607)734-8191, or in-person at the Clemens Center Box Office, 207 Clemens Center Parkway in Elmira