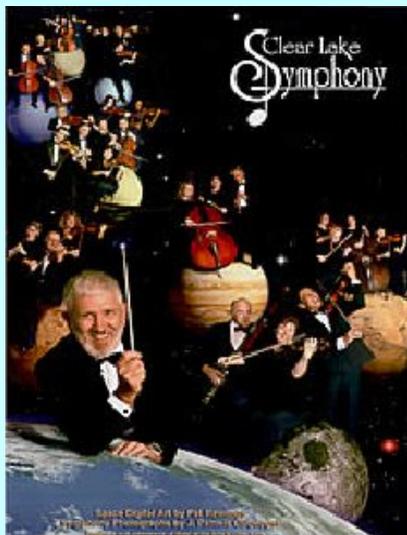


Clear Lake Symphony Newsletter – Vol. 1, Issue 2, Page 1 of 2

www.ClearLakeSymphony.org

Welcome to second issue of the all new Clear Lake Symphony newsletter providing you with reminders of upcoming season performances and the Great Chefs fundraising event.



The Clear Lake Symphony opens its 2009 - 2010 season on Friday, September 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church located at 18220 Upper Bay Road in Nassau Bay.

Program

Prokofieff - Lt. Kije Suite

Marsh Hudson, vocal

Stravinsky - Firebird Suite

Rimsky-Korsakov - Sheherezade

Kysha Bradshaw, violin

Reminder: All concerts for this new season will be on **Friday** evenings at 7:30 p.m. For a list of all the season concerts, please click on the following link: www.ClearLakeSymphony.org.

Concert Program Notes

***Lieutenant Kije Suite* (1934) by Sergei Prokofieff (1891 – 1953):** The great Russian film director Sergi Eisenstein marveled at Prokofieff’s genius for film music. In the evening he would watch a series of edited takes a few times, note down the number of seconds that certain events lasted, then go off to his studio and return the next day at noon with the score of that scene perfectly attuned to the screen action. But Prokofieff had written film music before meeting Eisenstein. In 1933 he began the score to *Lieutenant Kije*, a satiric film comedy set in the court of Emperor Paul I, Czar of Russia. In the film the Czar misreads the report of one of his aides and creates a non-existent name out of the syllable ki, which ended the aide’s name, and a Russian expletive ji. The aide was afraid to correct an imperial error, so Lt. Kije had to exist. With a little connivance from the courtiers, Kije assumed a paper existence, which kept everyone hopping to prevent the Czar from learning the truth.

After completing the music for the film, Prokofiev arranged the popular suite in 1934. It is substantially rewritten to stand on its own while tracing some of the central incidents of the film-in this case the history of the fictitious hero: his birth, his romantic ardor when in love, his marriage (combining brief pomp with unbuttoned festivity in the tavern), a ride in a troika, or carriage drawn by three horses, to the tune of a tavern song, and the death of our hero. This is in no way mournful; on the contrary, once Kije “dies”, all those involved in maintaining the deception can at last breathe a sigh of relief.

***Firebird Suite* (1910) by Igor Stravinsky (1882 – 1971):** The Firebird is a beloved creature in Russian folklore, and she corresponds to the phoenix in classical mythology as a symbol of rebirth. The story of The Firebird is the tale of Prince Ivan in the realm of the immortal King Katschai, which he enters quite unwittingly while lost in the forest. Katschai has a magic garden, where he ensnares women and where men are turned to stone. Straying into the garden, Prince Ivan spies and captures a luminous creature, the Firebird, half bird, half woman. He is startled by her brilliance and beauty and releases her, in exchange for which he is given a magic feather. Then he spies 13 princesses that Katschai has ensnared, and falls in love with Elena, the most beautiful. The prince follows the maidens to the palace, after celebrating into the night, where guards capture him. With his magic feather, he summons the Firebird, and the King, along with the palace creatures, puts on an “infernal dance” unto exhaustion under the Firebird’s spell. The Firebird relates the secret of Katschai’s immortality to Prince Ivan (his soul is shielded in a magic egg), and Ivan is able to free the princesses from their enchantment by smashing the egg. The finale celebrates the union of Ivan and Elena and, of course, the death of the antagonists. It might well celebrate the entrance on the scene of Stravinsky, for whom The Firebird remains his most frequently performed work.

Concert Program Notes (cont'd)

***Scheherazade* (1888) by Nikolas Rimsky-Korsakov (1844 – 1908):** Scheherazade is without question the best-known and most performed work of Rimsky-Korsakov's. It has become what is known as a 'popular classic'. The rich melodic content and stirring dynamics in contrast to its women subtleties has an appeal that reaches audiences of every degree of musical tastes and training.

The tale goes that every day the King Shahryar of Persia would marry a new virgin, and every day he would send yesterday's wife to be beheaded. This was done in anger; having found out that his first wife was betraying him. He had killed 3000 such women by the time he was introduced to Scheherazade, the Vizier's daughter. She was pleasant and polite, wise and witty, well read and well bred. Against her father's protestations, Scheherazade volunteered to spend one night with the King. Once in the King's chambers, she asked if she might bid one last farewell to her beloved sister, Dinazade, who had secretly been prepared to ask Scheherazade to tell a story during the long night. The King lay awake and listened with awe as Scheherazade told her first story. The night whiled away, and Scheherazade stopped in the middle of the story. The King asked her to finish, but she said there was not time, as dawn was breaking. So, the King spared her life for one day to finish the story the next night. The next night Scheherazade finished the story, and then began a second, even more exciting tale, which she again stopped halfway through at dawn. The King again spared her life for one day to finish the second story. The King kept Scheherazade alive day by day, as he eagerly anticipated the finishing of last night's story. At the end of 1001 nights, and 1000 stores, she told the King that she had no more tales to tell him. During these 1001 nights, the King had fallen in love with her, and had three sons with her. So, having been made a wiser and kinder man by Scheherazade and her tales, he spared her life, and made her his queen.

Season Tickets



Reminder - Season tickets are still available until Friday, September 4, from Eye Trends, 515 Bay Area Blvd., Suite 300 (next door to Starbucks). Phone number: 281-488-0066. Season tickets also available at the concert ticket table at the opening concert on September 4, 2009. This will be your last chance to obtain season tickets.

If you would no longer like to receive future emails, please forward this email to Mike Matula, CLS Webmaster, at mkmatula@prodigy.net and insert "Unsubscribe" in the Subject field.

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