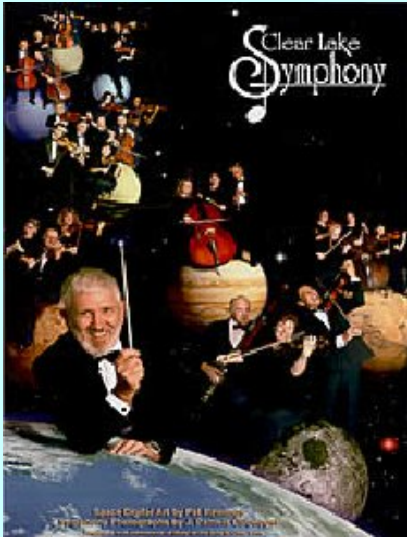


Welcome to the all new Clear Lake Symphony newsletter providing you with reminders of upcoming season performances and the Great Chefs fundraising event.



The Clear Lake Symphony performs its fifth concert of the 2009 - 2010 season on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church located at 18220 Upper Bay Road in Nassau Bay across from the Johnson Space Center.

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.

Clear Lake Symphony

Program February 5, 2010

<i>Pique Dame Overture</i>	Suppe
<i>The Wand of Youth, Suite No. 1, Music to a Child's Play</i>	Elgar
I. Overture	
II. Serenade	
III. Minuet	
IV. Sun Dance	
V. Fairy Pipers	
VI. Slumber Scene	
VII. Fairies and Giants	
INTERMISSION	
<i>Symphony No. 1</i>	Mahler
I. Langsam. Schleppend	
II. Kraftig bewegt.	
III. Feierlich und gemessen, ohne zu schleppen	
IV. Sturmisch bewegt	
Dr. Charles A. Johnson Conductor and Musical Director	
Steinway is the official piano of the Clear Lake Symphony	

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Tickets are available from Eye Trends, 515 Bay Area Blvd., Suite 300 (next door to Starbucks). Individual tickets are:

- \$10 - Adults
- \$ 8 - Seniors (55 & up)
- \$ 7 - Students

For more ticket information, call Eye Trends at 281-488-0066.

Tickets also available at the concert ticket table the night of the concert.

Program Notes

***Pique Dam Overture*, by Franz von Suppe (1819 - 1895):** *Pique Dame*, or *Queen of Spa des*, is an operetta, a type of light, usually short, often farcical comic opera vastly popular in mid-19th century Vienna. By 1862 von Suppe was the most prominent Viennese composer of operettas, and is the earliest whose works are still commonly staged today. He came from a family with a musical pedigree, and a distant relative, the Italian opera composer, Donizetti, supervised much of his education in music. Consequently, von Suppe's music is strongly influenced by the techniques found in the best Italian opera styles of the day. A prolific composer, von Suppe specialized in music with a light-hearted, almost impish character, and the music to *Pique Dame* is a perfect example of his style.

The operetta is from a story by Alexander Pushkin about a sinister countess who takes her secrets to the grave, and returns as a devious, vindictive ghost who taunts her murderer to suicide. The strings begin von Suppe's overture to *Pique Dame* with a humorously sly and scheming theme in a moderate tempo. Soon harsh, loud chords by the full orchestra, complete with crashing cymbals, interrupt the cunning string theme. This melodramatic disruption is followed by a joyous gallop that highlights the flute and concludes the overture with vigorous, animated glee.

--excerpts from Program notes by Dr. Beth Fleming, Symphony of Silicon Valley

***The Wand of Youth Suite L* by Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934):** Generally regarded as the greatest English composer since Henry Purcell, Edward Elgar, was largely a self-taught musician. He gained national fame with the performance of his *Enigma Variations* in London in 1899; with its recognition the University of Cambridge conferred an honorary doctorate on him in 1900. Elgar was knighted with the Order of Merit by King George V in 1911.

Elgar's love of children and their fantasy world was rooted in his own happy childhood, when his family spent summers on a farm. Some of the family play the teenage Elgar wrote inspired his later compositions. Such was the background of the *Wand of Youth*, two suites of incidental music which he composed in 1907 and 1908 respectively. Subtitles "Music for a Child's Play," both suites depict images of an untainted dream world where only butterflies, fairies, giants and the like were allowed, and ill-tempered adults were banned until they repented. The result is a perfect balance of "child-like" straightforwardness with superb craftsmanship, a hallmark of his compositional style which delights the audience with abundant whimsical and dramatic moments and memorable melodies.

-excerpts from Program notes by Dr. Angela Yeung, University of San Diego

***Symphony No.1 in D*, by Gustav Mahler (1860 - 1911):** During the five years needed to compose his First Symphony, Mahler was also working on a group of four songs, ... and some of the themes from those songs are used in the first and third movements of the symphony. This use of song-like material was characteristic of Mahler throughout his lifetime, and it achieves the pleasant result that most of his music leaves the listener filled with memories of wonderful melodies that seem to crop up endlessly, continually surprising one with their inventiveness. Mahler did not limit himself to his own songs: folksong and traditional dances were also fair game, and the First Symphony contains one of the most famous examples, a setting of *Frere Jacques* in an unfamiliar minor key that tends to leave concertgoers simultaneously discomfited and intrigued. (Incidentally, the first appearance of this theme on the string bass is so challenging to play well that it has become a standard requirement in auditions.)

As would become the case for most of his future symphonies, Mahler's First was not particularly well received at its premiere. There were those who immediately understood the music and others who detested it, so that a lively controversy arose almost immediately after the final notes died out. In a letter to his friend Arnold Berliner, Mahler described its reception as "a mixture of furious disapproval and wildest applause.-It is amusing to hear the clash of opinions in the street and in drawing-rooms." But the instrumentalists who performed it, wise musicians that they were, clearly had no trouble perceiving the lasting value of the work: in the same letter, Mahler commented, "Orchestra retrospectively extremely satisfied with symphony as result of barrel of free beer."

-Program notes by Geoff Kuenning, Symphony of the Canyons, copyright 1998. Used by permission.

Next Concert:

March 12, 2010

Winners – Youth Concerto Competition

6th Annual Great Chefs of the Bay Area Fundraiser



This annual fundraiser for the CLS provides funding for the Scholarship Fund for university students who perform with the symphony and general budget as the Clear Lake Symphony celebrates its 35th year next season. Please reserve Thursday, March 4, 2010 for a delicious multi-course, sit-down dinner prepared by the Best Chefs and restaurants in the Bay Area! The fundraiser will be held at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake Hotel.

For more information: http://clearlakesymphony.org/great_chefs_2010.htm

For reservation form:

http://clearlakesymphony.org/files/Great_Chefs_Revervation_Form_2010.pdf

Stay tuned for more information to follow within the week.



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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Mike Matula

Clear Lake Symphony Webmaster

Email: mkmatula@prodigy.net