

ISSUE 1 · OCT. 2020

PRELUDE

Official Newsletter of the ECSO

Missing Music

Toshiyuki Shimada,
Music Director & Conductor

If there's one thing I've learned through these difficult times of lockdown, it's that nothing can replace live music. While virtual streaming is certainly better than no live music at all, there is a special magic and intimacy to witnessing music and its creation that we're all craving.

For now, we will seek out opportunities to perform for you where it's safe and feasible, but our main concert series still requires research before asking for your continued subscription. We are excited to share with you some dates to hold in your calendar (in pencil, not pen), artists, and possible pieces at the end of this newsletter. Above all, I cannot wait until I see you again as we witness the magic of live orchestral music together once more. -Toshi



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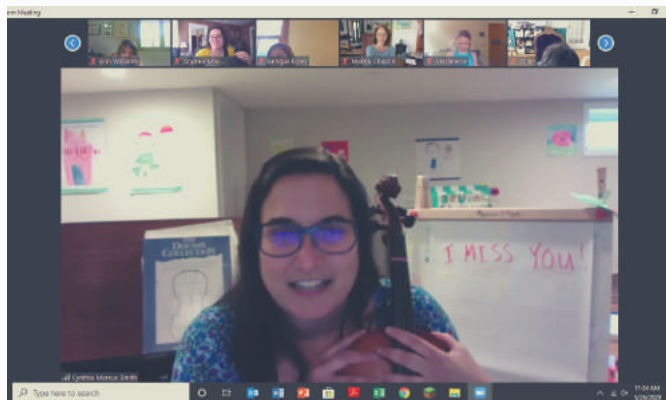
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Photo Contributors: Tom Bombria, Dan Brandl, Vinnie Scarano, Kathryn Fausel, Chelsey Nicole Rubin



Music in the Homes

As a result of the current health crisis, the ECSO transformed its educational program, Music in the Schools, into an online resource for all to access, titled Music in the Homes. These resources included educational videos posted on our YouTube channel as well as live in-person classes taught by our musicians. Combined, the ECSO reached 1,500 students with music education at home that otherwise would have been difficult for them to obtain. These videos walk through the personal background of our musicians, musical concepts demonstrated by performed and recorded excerpts, and background about orchestral composers.



Funding for this program was provided initially for Music in the Schools by the R.S. Gernon Trust and the James P. and Mary E. Shea Perpetual Trust.

Our main goal this season is to be a community asset and provide musical opportunities to all schools in our region. We are gathering input from area teachers and transforming many of our grant-funded programs to meet the needs of the schools at this time. Programs might include live and recorded masterclasses (Music Appreciation, Music History, Performance, Musician Q&A), a live stream of our Young People's Concert with year long curriculum (collaboration with Carnegie Hall), remote lessons, and blog style curated music playlists from ECSO musicians.

These are just some of the ways that the ECSO is finding ways to reach the people in our region and beyond through its mission "to inspire, educate, and connect our communities through live orchestral music."

"It was so cool to speak to a professional musician in my virtual classroom."

JOSEPH, AGE 8





New Look, New Logo

As an exclusive preview to you, our subscribers, donors, and fans, below is a sneak preview of our new logo that will adorn ECSO materials and our soon-to-be-updated website!

The Norwich-based marketing, branding, and advertising company, Miranda Creative, consulted with our Board and considered numerous surveys that gathered patron and musician feedback to come up with a striking new look for us moving forward.

We are thrilled to formally introduce this to the public at large when our new website is live!



Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra

Toshiyuki Shimada
Music Director & Conductor

"We are so excited to refresh our logo and to have a brand that will encompass all of our groups that make up the ECSO: the Friends of the Symphony, the Chorus, and the Youth Orchestra and String Ensemble."

CALEB BAILEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Musicians of the Orchestra: Kelli O'Connor

Kelli O'Connor is principal clarinet of the Vermont and Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestras, and co-principal clarinet of the Orchestra of Indian Hill. She is a founding member of the Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston and Radiance Woodwind Quintet. We sat down with her virtually to get to know her better.



What did you do during this shutdown period: For the first two weeks? NOTHING. And I have to admit, it was GLORIOUS! Then reality set in, and realized I opened a family restaurant in my home. Funny thing, Bob and I run the business...we cook, serve drinks, bus, do the dishes, but not ONCE did our children pay the bill, or tip us! Lots of Zoom, FaceTime, GoogleMeets for lessons. AND I bought a tenor saxophone! Her name is Betty, and she is awesome.

Favorite Musical Memories: When I had the opportunity to perform the Copland concerto at seven months pregnant with my youngest, Fionagh. Recently, the Artie Shaw concerto with the ECSO and the New London Big Band last February.

Favorite Composer: Dmitri Shostakovich- no chamber music for clarinet...so I arranged his *Piano Quintet, op. 57* for piano and winds, in place of strings. And, it worked!

Who inspired you to take up your instrument: My dad pretty much made me pick the clarinet...then I realized it was easy and I was good at it.

What can't you wait to do when we all get back to "normal":
PLAY A CONCERT IN A CONCERT HALL!

"I miss the teamwork, the sound of live music, and the thrill of real time performances."

KELLI O'CONNOR





Meet the 2020-21 ECSO Board of Directors

CATHERINE MARRION, PRESIDENT

Catherine A. Marrion is an attorney at the New London law firm of Waller, Smith & Palmer, P.C., practicing primarily in the areas of business, nonprofit and municipal law. Catherine received her bachelor's degree from Connecticut College and her juris doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law. After law school, Catherine served a clerkship with the Connecticut Appellate Court, and was then in the private practice of law in Hartford and Washington, DC. Prior to joining WSP, Catherine was Vice President and Associate General Counsel at New York Life Insurance Company, where she also served as the General Counsel for the New York Life Foundation. Catherine resides in her hometown of Niantic with her family. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut, where she also serves as Secretary. She has served as a member of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Grants Committee, a mentor in the UConn Law School Mentor Program, and a leader with the 4H and Girl Scouts organizations.

"While COVID-19 has made it more difficult to fulfill our mission, I have been so inspired by the creativity and generosity of ECSO's musicians, board, and staff in meeting the moment and turning these challenges into opportunities to innovate. I am also thankful for our donors who have stepped up to support the ECSO, knowing that arts are more vital than ever to our community. I look forward to meeting you in person, whether it is at a pop up concert featuring 2 or 3 of our musicians, or upon our return to the Garde. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe."

- Catherine Marrion



New Board Member

ALICE SOSCIA

An energetic and community-minded leader, Alice is currently the Development Officer at L+M Hospital. Before fundraising for the hospital, she worked as the Director of Campaign and Leadership Giving for United Way of Southeastern CT. Alice received her bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Tampa and is a former television and radio producer. She has been a member of the Mystic River Boathouse Park and Hart Perry Community Rowing Center, the Town of Stonington Charter Revision Commission, and on the board of Sophia Sees Hope.

2020-21 BOARD MEMBERS

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1st Vice President Liane Crawford
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Secretary Anne H. Wilkinson
Immediate Past President Ellen C. Cummings

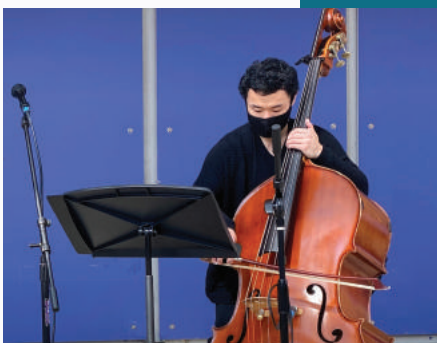
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Anthony
 Tom Berl
 Svetlana Kasem-Beg
 Bud O'Donnell
 Robert P. Reed
 Ana M. Schneider
 Alice Soscia

Fall 2020 and Soundscape Concert Series

Prior to COVID-19, we were researching non-traditional venues and collaborations for continued performances throughout the summer with our musicians. In late summer, we announced small ensemble performances in various locations through a new series called "Soundscape".

This series encompasses non-traditional offerings moving forward that will that give patrons access to our musicians and orchestral music in a safe environment. With performances primarily outdoors at the Hygienic Art Park, Olde Mistick Village, and Stonington Vineyards, we are looking at possible safe locations indoors when the weather becomes less than ideal. Stay tuned for further updates on this series as our season develops.





SUBSCRIPTION
AND TICKET
INFORMATION
COMING SOON



2021 CONCERTS

JAN
23

FEB
20

ALL WORKS,
ARTISTS, AND
DATES SUBJECT
TO CHANGE

WITH PERFORMANCES BY

Sara Sant'Ambrogio,
Igor Pikayzen, Jason
Vieaux, Eva Virsik &
Hyung Joon Won

FEATURING WORKS BY

Beethoven, Brahms,
Coleridge-Taylor, Copland,
Elgar, Mendelssohn,
Nazaykinskaya, Price,
Prokofiev, Rodrigo, Saint-
Georges, Shostakovich, Still,
Tchaikovsky, Walker & more

AND A WORLD PREMIERE BY
Joseph Butch Rován

MAR
20

APR
24

MAY
15



Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra

Toshiyuki Shimada
Music Director & Conductor

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