

JSG Interlude

SPRING 2015

A newsletter for Jackson Symphony Guild members and friends of the JSO

Guild Fundraising Efforts Exceed Previous Year!

“We were so very excited to be able to present this significant check at the May concert,” said Pat Willis, President of the Jackson Symphony Guild Board, of the donation of \$70,000. The amount was made possible through the JSG’s annual fundraising efforts, including long-standing events such as the Holiday Ball and Jazz Night.

The donation from the JSG provides funds to support students of the community music school, sponsorship



of various events, such as, Backstage Glimpses, Summer Pops, and Afterglows, and general annual operations of the JSO. None of this would be possible without all of the volunteers that work throughout the year to make the fundraising events successful.

Beer, Brats and Beethoven III set for Saturday, July 11

The JSO Summer Pops concert entitled “Beer, Brats & Beethoven III” marks the third year for this festive outdoor concert which will be held once again at the Riverwalk Amphitheater in downtown Jackson. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. and will feature members of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, directed by JSO Associate Conductor David Schultz. The concert will also feature special guest singer and Jackson native Chip Mezo offering up several Broadway standards and modern favorites.

Cost of the event is \$8 for general admission, \$15 for VIP seating with parking and \$20 BBB Package which includes VIP seating, parking, PLUS a delicious Brat or Pulled Pork Sandwich from Mat’s Café and a beverage (beer, wine or soda) provided by Michigan Theatre.

It’s a musical event for the entire family featuring a wide variety of styles for all tastes, including classical favorites, cinema, and modern Pop! For more information and to purchase tickets please call the JSO Box Office at 517-782-3221.

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JSO Concertmaster Emeritus Phil Mason and Wife Coral to Perform in Up Close Concert at Weatherwax Hall on May 31

Longtime friend and musician of Jackson Symphony Orchestra will return to JSO's Weatherwax Hall as part of the Up Close chamber music series on Sunday afternoon, May 31 at 3 p.m. The intimate environment with light refreshments and an opportunity to interact with the audience is just the right setting for Phil and Coral



Mason as they share their love of music and their long history with the JSO. Tickets for this event are \$15. Reservations can be made by calling the JSO Box Office at 517-782-3221.

"Jackson is in for a real treat," states JSO Music Director Stephen Osmond. "Phil and Coral are two artists of the highest caliber. Having served as

concertmaster of the JSO for over 40 years, Phil provided the musical backbone which allowed the orchestra to grow to where it is today," he added.

The Masons have many friends and associates in the surrounding area. They were longtime members of the Albion College faculty and have given numerous recitals and programs

during that time. They will be featuring what Osmond calls a "fine mixture of classics including Mozart, Grieg and more contemporary composers like Gershwin and John Williams – something for everyone."

Born in Battle Creek, Phil received his undergraduate degree at Western Michigan University and graduate degrees at the University of

Michigan. His teachers have included Olive Parkes, Julius Stulberg, Gilbert Ross and Stuart Canin. Coral also attended Western Michigan University where she studied with Owen Berger and did graduate work with Joe Gurt at Eastern Michigan University and coaching with Eugene Bossart at the University of Michigan.

Upcoming Events at the JSO and Community Music School

Ari Hest "Affinity" Singer/Songwriter Series

Poetic, spare lyrics backed up with haunting, incredible melodies

Friday, May 29, 8:00 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m. -

\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door

JSO Weatherwax Hall

Community String Ensemble "Celebration of Spring" Concert

Beautiful and exciting music of Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Ostjijn and much more

Saturday, May 30 – Free, donations appreciated

JSO Weatherwax Hall

Up Close with Phil and Coral Mason

Violin and piano: Grieg, Gershwin, Williams, Kreisler, Mozart and More!

Sunday, May 31, 3 p.m. – \$15

JSO Weatherwax Hall

Chris Knight "Affinity" Singer/Songwriter Series

Americana music icon returns to The Wax for an evening of raw, honest and gritty acoustic music.

Sunday, June 7, 7 p.m. doors open at 6:30 p.m. -

\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door

JSO Weatherwax Hall

Summer Solstice Party with The Ragbirds

Affinity Series in conjunction with Grand River Brewery

Fusion of folk rock and pop hooks over danceable world rhythms, Celtic fiddler's bow

Friday, June 19, kicks off at 5:30, music at 7 p.m. -

\$15 in advance/\$18 day of

Grand River Brewery, 117 W. Louis Glick Highway, Jackson

Jackson Symphony Orchestra Enters Time of Transition

After 37 years, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra is looking for a new Music Director. Stephen Osmond recently announced to the JSO Board of Directors his intent to retire from his roles as Music and Executive Director. He plans to remain in the roles until a suitable replacement has been identified and will then enter a transition period through the 2017 concert season.

The succession process involves four guest conductors selected from a pool of 76 applicants to conduct the orchestra and meet with various leaders of the JSO Board and community. Also under consideration is the current Associate Conductor David Schultz. After the 2015-16 season, it is expected that one candidate will emerge to become the Principal Guest/Music Director Designate for one season and then advance the following season to become Music Director.

Of the four guest conductors, two have appeared so far this season: Scott Seaton in November and Nathaniel Parker this past March. Next season

Thomas Hong and Darryl One will lead the orchestra as part of the orchestra's *The Agony and the Ecstasy* series of concerts.



Board Chair Tim Keener says, "Osmond will be impossible to replace, but we are fortunate to have a number of strong candidates eager to bring their talents to Jackson."

"The JSO has grown enormously and in every possible way during Osmond's tenure," he added. "I know I speak for the entire Board, staff and legion of JSO supporters when I say that we are eager to keep Stephen engaged as Music Director Laureate for as long as he likes."

Osmond has brought an enduring level of artistic excellence to Jackson. His length of service with the JSO ranks him among the longest serving music directors in the country. He has demonstrated what an important role the orchestra can play in the vitality and sustainability of a community through his public service, including eight years on the Jackson Public Schools Board, seven as Vice President or President.

16th Annual Night of Jazz & Blues Brings Out Old and New Friends of the JSG

Many new faces were seen this year at the annual Night of Jazz & Blues held on Friday, April 17th at the Country Club of Jackson.

The popular band "Motor City Beat," was once again a hit —The band packed the dance floor with hits from Motown favorites as well as jazz stylings from Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and even favorites from today!

The band boasts six talented members who

combined bring talent and experience from all corners of the United States and beyond.

Great job to Jackson Symphony Guild board member and chair, Rob Tipton, and his amazing committee for all of their hard work in bringing this wonderful night of friends and music together.





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