

Omaha Symphony Guild

— ESTABLISHED IN 1957 —



Fall 2011



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GRACE NOTES

Meeting the Maestro

by Anne Jetter



Front row (l to r): Matt Jetter, Anne Jetter, James Johnson, Jennifer Kratz, Thomas Wilkins, Sherri-Lee Wilkins. Back row (l to r): Matt Bogard, Anne Bogard, Beth Pusic, Tom Pusic.

Table Art 2011 offered a rare live auction item, dinner for 10 with the Maestro, Thomas Wilkins and his wife Sherri-Lee. The lucky couples who purchased the dinner were Guild members Tom and Beth Pusic, Matt and Anne Bogard, and Matt and Anne Jetter. As an added surprise – the group was very lucky to also include the recently appointed Omaha Symphony Executive Director, James Johnson and his wife, Jennifer Katz. The Johnsons, who have recently moved from New York to Omaha, received a warm welcome to both the Omaha Symphony and the City of Omaha. We're glad to have you!

The dinner was held at The Gallery & Loft in Valley, Neb., and hosted by owner, Wendy Deane. The evening included appetizers, dinner, a magnificent dessert of Godiva Chocolate Mousse and berries, and a "behind the scenes tour" of the historical landmark, The Gallery & Loft. The evening was a terrific success! Thanks to everyone for supporting the Omaha Symphony Guild.

ADULT COSTUME PARTY TO BENEFIT THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE OMAHA SYMPHONY – more on page 3





New Season – New Faces

The Omaha Symphony welcomed **James M. Johnson** as president and chief executive officer effective June 1. For 10 years, Johnson has been CEO of the New York Pops, the largest independent pops orchestra in the country, which performs primarily at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Johnson has both a musical and a business background. He grew up in the Seattle, Wash. area with musical training as a double bass player. When he realized he would not make a career as a musician, he began exploring the other side of the stage. He attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, where as an undergrad he began producing events and concerts. He earned his masters in business and in arts organization and has been working in nonprofit arts for the past 25 years.

Johnson brings great enthusiasm to Omaha. From his first impressions he has identified the incredible potential to increase the symphony's involvement in not only the Omaha community, but in Nebraska at large and on the national stage. He

recognizes the need to reach new audiences and values collaboration with other cultural institutions.

Johnson, 47, and his wife, Jennifer Katz, have two daughters: Hannah, 11, and Maya, 6.

Susanna Perry Gilmore has been named concertmaster for the Omaha Symphony. For the coming year she will also serve as concertmaster of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, a position she has held since 1997. She holds degrees from Oxford University and the New England Conservatory. She will move to Omaha and be with the Omaha Symphony full-time starting with the 2012-13 season. We cannot wait to welcome her for her first concerts, the MasterWorks program at the Holland Performing Arts Center on September 23-24.

Paige Pearson has been appointed to the position of public relations manager of the Omaha Symphony. Paige is relocating to Omaha from Green Bay, Wis., where she was a sports anchor and reporter for WLUK, the Fox television affiliate. She started here on September 6.

The Omaha Symphony Guild leadership for 2011-2012



Kathleen Langdon, President Elect; Donna Foley, Advisor; Beth Pusic, President; Leslie Volk, Treasurer; Becky Wincek, Vice President of Administration; Molly Searl, Vice President of Fundraising; Nancy Ayoub, Vice President of Education; Marcy Cotton, Vice President of Social/Outreach. Not pictured: Jean Cramer, Secretary.

Table Art and New Music Symposium Receive National Recognition

Each summer the Volunteer Council for the League of American Orchestras holds its national conference. The conference provides the opportunity for guilds around the country to network and share ideas for membership, publicity and fundraising. This year's conference was held June 6 – 9 in Minneapolis.

The Omaha Symphony Guild was recognized for Table Art and New Music Symposium, and represented by Guild members Beth Pusic and Karen Burkley.

Table Art 2010 received a Roundtable Award. Karen Burkley provided the highlights and how-tos of this successful fundraiser in a 15-minute breakout session followed by a Q & A. Her message was well received by those in attendance.

The New Music Symposium 2010 was highlighted in the Community Engagement Workshop. The Omaha Symphony Guild was recognized for bringing the community in to the orchestra while also taking music education out to the community. Beth Pusic was interviewed and excerpts from her interview are included on page three.

SAVE
THE DATE:
TABLE ART
2012:

March 28 & 29



The Evolution of the New Music Symposium

Originally called "The New Music Competition," the project, at that time, brought only one new composer to Omaha. The Guild housed the "winner" and provided volunteers to help at the concert. But due to financial issues and complications with the review process, the program was dropped.

In 2008 the project was relaunched. Now held every other year, the emphasis is on "symposium" not a contest. The Symphony solicits universities and colleges nationally for young composers, and received approximately 30 applicants in 2008 and in 2010 there were nearly 60 applicants. Applicants must be 35 years or younger.

The winner and three to four alternates are involved in the "symposium" which

provides expanded educational benefits. They receive critiques from musicians, the Omaha Symphony conductor, plus a nationally recognized composer. The winners rehearse and perform two concerts with the Omaha Symphony.

As for the Guild's role, funding is provided to cover the expenses of the hall, mailings, the musicians and publicity. Each composer provides their own transportation to Omaha. They love being in a home, treated as family and welcomed into Omaha's community. The Guild also hosts a welcome breakfast and a reception after the final concert performance.

Each year components are added to further involve the community. In 2010 we involved the Omaha Area Youth

Orchestra. This allowed the area youth music students to be interactive with the living art of composing, as well as play side by side with the symphony. An additional benefit was that it added to our audience, since of course, their parents wanted to attend.

In 2012 we will add to the symposium by opening up the creative process to the public. This means the reading of the new piece, the working with the conductor, the master composer, musicians and the librarian about the technical aspects. During this process they will experience the feedback and the changes that may happen to the chosen piece of music.



Why should the kids have all the fun? Don your best get-up for an adult costume party to benefit the educational programs of the Omaha Symphony. The Joslyn Castle and grounds will provide a spooktacular background for Halloween fun.

Event co-chairs Stephanie Horeis and Rod Anderson, Mary Pat and Scott Paul and Mari and Jeff Rensch have planned an evening of frightening fun, friends and food. Reservations are \$55 per person with a cash bar; appetizers and desserts will be served. Entertainment will feature Jim Boggess, pianist, and Elizabeth Edwards, DJ.

Make your reservations early, as space is limited. Please make checks payable to the Omaha Symphony Guild and mail reservations to:

**Michelle Koraleski
17777 Baywood Drive
Omaha, NE 68130
mkoraleski@cox.net**



To welcome new members and kick off the 2011-2012 season, the Guild hosted a reception at the home of Marian Bogard. Those in attendance had the opportunity to meet the Omaha Symphony's new CEO and President, James Johnson and his wife, Jennifer Katz. Left to right: Donna Foley, James Johnson, Jennifer Katz, Anne Bogard, Sheila Nelson and Liz Crosson.



Backstage with the Musicians – Guild members hosted a Cinco de Mayo theme for the Symphony's May 5th rehearsal. Left to right: Donna Foley, Mary Virginia Corkle, Beth Pusic and Kim Banat.

Omaha Symphony Guild Calendar

September

8 Omaha Music Circle, 1:00 p.m.
Guest: Jerome (Jerry) Gorman
Program with the Shopharat, at
the home of Sandra Kohll,
11740 Mayberry

12 Bellevue Music Circle, 9:30 a.m.
Guest: Adam Goos, VP
Education & Community
Partnerships, at the home of
Betty Cash, 1414 St. Raphael,
Bellevue

15 Guild Executive Committee
Meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
Security National Bank*

22 Guild Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
Security National Bank

October

3 Bellevue Music Circle, 9:30 a.m.
Guests: Aviva Segall, Conductor
Omaha Youth Orchestra and
Brandon Brown, Associate
Conductor, at the home of
Lee Casey, 414 Martin Dr. North,
Bellevue

13 Omaha Music Circle, 1:00 p.m.
Guest: Dr. James Johnson,
Professor of Music at UNO and a
student, at the home of Kim Ohr,
14212 Eagles Run Dr.

20 Guild Executive Committee
Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Security
National Bank

27 Guild Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
Security National Bank

28 Monster Masquerade at the
Mansion, 8:00 p.m., Joslyn Castle

November

1 – 4 Celebrate Creativity, 9:30 a.m. –
2:00 p.m., Joslyn Art Museum

7 Bellevue Music Circle, 9:30 a.m.
Guest: Patrick Pfister, trombonist
with the Omaha Symphony, at the
home of Ann Williamson, 3402
Leawood Dr, Bellevue

10 Omaha Music Circle, 1:00 p.m.
Guest: Adam Trusell, bassoonist
with the Omaha Symphony, at the
home of Nitza J. Fairlie, 9880 Choke
Cherry Lane, Papillion

13 Choral Collaborative, 7:00 p.m.,
Holland Performing Arts Center

17 Guild Executive Committee
Meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
Security National Bank

December

5 Omaha/Bellevue Music Circles,
Christmas Tea, 1:30 p.m. Offutt
Quarters XIII, Offutt Air Force
Base, Bellevue

27 Debutante Ball, 6:00 p.m.,
Embassy Suites LaVista

Save the Date!

March 28 & 29
Table Art at Happy Hollow Country Club

Music Circles

Omaha and Bellevue Music Circles
are open to all – please join us and
bring a friend!

*All Guild meetings will take place from
11:30 – 12:45 at Security National Bank,
One Pacific Place, unless otherwise noted.