

## Philadelphia Sinfonia Appoints Executive Director Jonathan Hummel



Photo: Kate Kammeier

Jonathan Hummel

The Board of Directors and I are pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Hummel as Executive Director of Philadelphia Sinfonia, effective April 25, 2011.

Jon Hummel brings valuable experience, skill, training, energy and commitment to this appointment, and we want to share the reasons we feel he is a great choice to fill Philadelphia Sinfonia's newly-created position.

Mr. Hummel came to us from The Philadelphia Orchestra, where he has served as Manager of Communications and Community Partnerships since June 2009. In this role he directed all internal and external communication for The Philadelphia Orchestra's education department and managed all of the

Orchestra's community partnerships and community programs.

Prior to this role, Mr. Hummel was Electronic Media Coordinator for The Philadelphia Orchestra, Marketing Manager and Executive Assistant for the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, and he spent a summer working for the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood.

Mr. Hummel received a Bachelor of Music degree with a business concentration from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, and a Master's degree in Drexel University's Graduate Arts Administration Program. While at Mansfield, he studied trombone under Stephen P. McEuen. He continues to be an active trombone player and is also the music arranger and winds coordinator for the Hatboro-Horsham High School Marching Unit.

We appreciate the strong musical and community connections Mr. Hummel brings to us. We value his broad administrative experience, his training in arts administration, his own musical background and interest in music education. He is passionate about the future of orchestras and committed to being a part of that evolving future. He understands our mission but will bring new direction and ideas to that mission. We are struck by the personal strengths he has and believe he will be a good fit with our own personalities and our approach to teaching young musicians. He eagerly stepped into his position a few weeks ago; we were equally

## Sinfonia 2011 Seniors Leave Generous Gift

As happens each spring, about a fourth of our members are graduating this month and moving on to fine conservatories, schools of music, colleges and universities. Their aspirations are high, and we wish them well as they embark upon new and adventurous programs and lives. We will miss the tremendous contribution they brought to our endeavor. Their class, the class of 2011, has left us with a particularly thoughtful and sustaining legacy: a significant contribution to our scholarship fund. We are truly grateful. Thank you, seniors 2011!

*Schools of Music, Conservatories, Colleges & Universities currently attended by Philadelphia Sinfonia alumni (partial listing; alumni updates welcome):*

Berklee College of Music  
 Boston Conservatory  
 Boston University, College of Fine Arts  
 Brown University  
 Bryn Mawr College  
 Burlington County Community College  
 Carnegie Mellon University, Schools of Music & Drama  
 Cornell University  
 Cleveland Institute of Music  
 Curtis Institute of Music  
 Drexel University  
 Duquesne University, Mary Pappert School of Music  
 Fordham University  
 Goshen College  
 Harvard University  
 Haverford College  
 Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music  
 Ithaca College  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Juilliard School of Music  
 Mansfield University  
 New England Conservatory of Music

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## Philadelphia Sinfonia Honors St. Stephen's Church Rector and his Vision for the Arts

Philadelphia Sinfonia conferred its most prestigious honor, The Conductor's Circle Award, upon The Reverend Dr. Charles Flood, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, in a concert of works by Strauss, Mahler and Tchaikovsky on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia.

Residents of the St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia Sinfonia and the Lantern Theater Company hold office space, rehearse and perform year-round in an unusual arrangement between a small but active parish and the two performing arts organizations. Nestled on Tenth Street between Jefferson Medical School and Chinatown, amid the hustle and bustle of Market Street below City Hall, St. Stephen's Church is all but obscured, but alive with purpose. Many churches have opened their doors to concert series and other artistic performances, but few have expanded their missions to include year-round housing and rehearsal space for award-winning, large and growing resident performance groups. Philadelphia Sinfonia recognized the remarkable vision and support of the St. Stephen's Church rector during its April concert.



Dr. Charles Flood, Rector, St. Stephen's Church (center) with (left to right) Carol Brown, Board President, and Gary White, Music Director and Conductor

The Conductor's Circle Award is presented to rare individuals whose work on behalf of Philadelphia Sinfonia proves conceptually ground-breaking and renders lasting effect. In the orchestra's fourteen-year history, only two other individuals have received this award, each in 2007. Residing

at St. Stephen's Church for over a decade, Philadelphia Sinfonia has grown and prospered. Partner to the orchestra's success and to the success of its countless young musicians, Dr. Charles Flood is richly deserving of this award.



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eager to welcome him. We anticipate that his transition will be gradual and seamless. I will continue as President of the Board.

Jon's enthusiasm is evident: "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with some of the most talented young artists in the Delaware Valley, their families, Gary White, the Board of Directors, and the many volunteers and fans of Philadelphia Sinfonia. This is a youth orchestra with a very bright future, and I look forward to playing a

leading role in its continued success."

This is a new and exciting moment for those of us who have nurtured this orchestra for many years. We are confident that this is the right step at the right time, with the right person joining the leadership team. We believe that with his involvement the future of Philadelphia Sinfonia holds growth and enrichment for all of us.

Carol Brown, *President*  
*Board of Directors*

*Sonata*  
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## Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* with Temple's Community Music Scholars

Invited by Temple Music Prep to hold a side-by-side rehearsal with their Community Music Scholars Program this year, Philadelphia Sinfonia readily agreed. We thought it would be a great opportunity to rehearse at Temple's Boyer College of Music and Dance, to read new repertoire and to meet and inspire other students interested in pursuing music.

On Saturday morning, March 19, 2011, our students made their way by car, carpool and public transportation to the campus of the Boyer College and spent an hour and a half reading Schubert's *Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished"*. A two-movement symphony, it was the perfect choice to share between two conductors and 120 student musicians. Ben Blazer, the Conductor and Music Director of CMSP, conducted the first movement, and Sinfonia's Maestro

Gary White followed with the second, which he introduced with rich contextual information about the piece. The room was packed, full of musicians, music stands, instruments and instrument cases. A number of parents listened, rapt, to the rehearsal – but only from the hallway; there was no room for an audience inside the room, not even to stand.

Pizza, fried rice, fruit and cookies were brought in by the two organizations, and the musicians ate and chatted after the rehearsal until it was time to return — by carpool and public transportation – to St. Stephen's for Sinfonia's usual Saturday afternoon rehearsal and Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 "Titan"*.

We thank Melissa Douglas and Mark Huxoll of Temple Music Prep for hosting this event and we thank all the musicians who shared the morning, some great music and the beginnings of friendship.



Temple University, March 19, 2011.

## From the Podium

As Philadelphia Sinfonia's Music Director, I give a lot of careful thought to our repertoire. Each piece represents a set of goals that I hope to achieve as we first learn about the work and its composer, begin its rehearsal and finally move to performance.

This year, Mendelssohn's challenging "Reformation" Symphony presented the Full Orchestra with the opportunity to learn to play a 4 movement symphony in the Romantic style and greatly expanded the performers' technical and musical prowess. On the other hand, Tchaikovsky's "Capriccio Italien" highlighted the orchestra's flexibility at performing music representative of various "Italian styles", from military bugles calls to the popular tarantella dance. For the Chamber Orchestra, the range of repertoire performed, from Baroque to 20th Century, allowed our players to fine-tune the critical skills necessary to play each piece in its correct "period" style.

Skills learned from performing the "Reformation" and "Capriccio Italien" were aptly applied to our season's finale, Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 "Titan"*. This piece,

performed for the first time in Sinfonia's fourteen-year history, required the utmost focus and dedication from our members. Its technical and musical challenges are numerous and a bit daunting for any orchestra – youth or professional. That is why I was so pleased to see how successfully the orchestra embraced the challenge and how eagerly the musicians stepped forward to not only learn the symphony, but also delve into its history and into Mahler's interesting and fascinating background. I had many discussions with our talented musicians, answering their questions and exploring together the world of Mahler and his creative genius.

This year's goals of technical and musical development, enhanced by an emphasis on the history of each piece and its composer, helped the orchestra to give concert after concert filled with passionate and informed performances. The sense of achievement and accomplishment the orchestra felt in performing these "warhorses" of the repertoire is well deserved.

Bravo for another great season!

Gary D. White  
*Music Director & Conductor*



### Philadelphia Sinfonia on Facebook

We are excited to announce that Sinfonia now has its very own Facebook fan page. As more and more people begin to utilize Facebook as a place to connect with family, friends, and colleagues, we believe it is important for us to increase our online presence. This new page will be a great resource for us to inform the Philadelphia region about upcoming events, including concerts and auditions, and it will provide us with an opportunity to stay in tune with the Philadelphia arts community. We encourage everyone – our members, their families, friends and teachers — to become a fan of Philadelphia Sinfonia's new page: [www.facebook.com/philadelphiasinfonia](http://www.facebook.com/philadelphiasinfonia). Together we can continue to increase awareness of our fantastic organization!

## Orchestras Feeding America: Sinfonia's Third Successful Food Drive

Throughout March 2011, Sinfonia musicians solicited, collected and ultimately donated 1,570 lbs, i.e. hundreds of cans, of non-perishable food to Philabundance, our regional food bank partner. It was a terrific contribution; congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated!

Food needs in the U.S. and in this region rose during the 2008 recession and the supplies of donated food began to go down. The statistics are sobering (one in eight people in the U.S. do not know where their next meal is coming from). To address this problem, the League of American

Orchestras launched a national orchestra food drive in the winter of 2009 and this drive has now become an annual event. Sinfonia has participated every year since the launch, and each year we have exceeded our collection over the year before. This year's total was not entirely surprising: our student organizers were an inspired group, setting a standard of leadership for years to come.

We especially thank the teachers and students involved in the Methacton School String Jamboree, held on April 7, 2011. They joined our drive for a second year and their impressive canned food collection added considerably to our total.

## Mozart to Metallica: Sinfonia's Stunning Benefit Recital

In the tradition of 19th Century house concerts, Sinfonia's 2011 benefit recital was held for the second time at the lovely Moorestown home of Jerry and Libby Pontillo.

It was an unusually warm Sunday afternoon for late February, when seven Sinfonia musicians gathered to perform a spectacular, but varied, program of four gorgeous solo pieces and one smashing quartet!

Solos ranged from Bach's *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major* (Colin Hartwick's lovely interpretation of the "Allemande") to the "Burlesque" from Shostakovich's *Concerto No. 1 in A minor*, which violinist Matthew Slesinski tackled with decided prowess. The winds

more than held their own with James Rose's beautifully rendered opening piece, Mozart's flute concerto No. 2, and Haydn's challenging *Concerto for Oboe in C Major*, played with incredible finesse by Daniel Wilhite.

Capping the program, four Sinfonia cellists charmed the room with "Nothing Else Matters" by Metallica, arranged by Toppinen (Apocalyptic). It was expertly played, fun, beautiful; a brilliant cross-over hit.

We deeply appreciate the musicians who performed at this recital, the Pontillo's gracious hospitality, the various authors of a most delicious post-recital reception, and the generous donors who came and shared the afternoon with us. Bravo!

## Auditions for 2011 – 2012

September auditions will fill the remaining seats for the 2011 – 2012 season. We will audition all instruments in September, but we are particularly looking for musicians on bass, trumpet, trombone, tuba and percussion. To schedule an audition in September call Jonathan Hummel after August 1, 2011 at: 215-351-0363 or email [info@philadelphiasinfonia.com](mailto:info@philadelphiasinfonia.com). The audition dates in September are:

Saturday, September 3, 2011;  
noon – 5:30 PM

Saturday, September 10, 2011;  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Cameron Clarke, Daniel Christensen, Max Song and Colin Hartwick play Metallica

Daniel Wilhite

James Rose

Matthew Slesinski

## Sinfonia 2011 Seniors Leave Generous Gift

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New York University

Northwestern University,  
Bienen School of Music

Oberlin College,  
Conservatory of Music

Peabody Conservatory of  
Music

Penn State University

Pepperdine University

Princeton University

Rice University, School of  
Music

Rowan University

Rutgers University,  
Mason Gross School of  
the Arts

St. Olaf College

Syracuse University,

Setnor School of Music

Temple University, Boyer  
College of Music

The New School for  
Music, Mannes College

University of Chicago

University of Delaware,  
School of Music

University of Michigan,

School of Music

University of Miami,  
Frost School of Music

University of North  
Carolina, School of Music

University of  
Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rochester,

Eastman School of Music

Vanderbilt University,  
Blair School of Music

Villanova University

Washington University in  
St. Louis

Wheaton College, School  
of Music

Yale University



Gary D. White  
*Music Director and Conductor*  
Jonathan Hummel  
*Executive Director*  
Danielle Garrett  
*Orchestra Manager*  
Hannah Albrecht  
*Administrative Assistant*

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## Mission Statement

Philadelphia Sinfonia supports the artistic growth of young musicians in the Delaware Valley by providing high-level ensemble experience in a supportive educational environment.

We believe that the pursuit of excellence requires performers with integrity, working together toward a common goal. Thus our mission is three-fold: to provide ensemble opportunities for young musicians, to achieve the highest level of artistic advancement, and to educate young people broadly to be strong citizens and leaders as well as responsible musicians.

We recruit from a demographically diverse student population to provide an opportunity to anyone who musically qualifies and to enrich the experience of all members of the organization.



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on its New Facebook Fan Page!**