

SONATA

Sinfonia Orchestra News
Spring 2016

PHILADELPHIA
SINFONIA
Educating Musicians. Creating Artists.

PS at TPAC: *Firebird!* Cellist Derek Barnes! Composer Jim Primosch!



Cellist Derek Barnes performing with PS at TPAC.

A blizzard of historic proportions threatened to wipe out the first Philadelphia Sinfonia concert of the 2016 season! Miraculously resurrected a week later than planned, the entire program, unchanged by the week's delay, was stunning in both its virtuosity and setting.

This season, all three orchestras' repertoire includes especially challenging,

high-level, major works, complemented by collaborations with other performance groups, soloists, and contemporary composers, and this first concert for PS happened to incorporate multiple elements and multiple personalities.

All the more reason it was little short of a miracle to bring the entire orchestra, a professional soloist and a composer

AUDITIONS FOR ALL
PSA ORCHESTRAS
WILL BE HELD ON
MAY 28 & 29 AND ON
JUNE 4 & 5

See page 6 for more information.

together at Temple's beautifully restored Baptist Temple, now the Temple Performing Arts Center, on January 31.

James Primosch's *Variations on a Hymn Tune*, a Philadelphia premiere, opened the concert. Its theme, a memorable, percussive, march-like tune drawn from 19th century Welsh church literature, is reworked through six not-so-simple movements. While this piece was a challenge to the orchestra, the musicians had the benefit of a rehearsal with the composer himself and performed it with confidence and musicality. Jim Primosch was pleased. In a tribute to both the conductor and the musicians, he summed up the "splendid" [his word] performance with: "Your [Maestro White's] meticulous preparation, excellent rehearsal technique, and sensitivity to nuance yielded remarkably polished results." There is nothing quite like working with and performing for a living composer!

Continued on page 3.

PSP and Friends at TPAC: Holiday Concert with POP!

The light dims by 5 PM on early December evenings, and a lovely evening hush settled over the Temple Performing Arts Center at 5 on December 6, 2015 as the concert opener neared....

Stanford Thompson, founder and Executive Director of Play On, Philly!, introduced the evening's event by evoking the artistic and educational interconnections between

the two groups: Philadelphia Sinfonia Association and Play On, Philly! Drawing from different geographies and building from somewhat differing missions, the two programs nonetheless share a belief in the power of music to change lives and strengthen communities. In performing a concert together on this occasion, we

Continued on page 5.



PSP winds in concert.

From the Podium

The other day I was listening to a radio interview in which a prominent film director described the process of creating his films. He, like so many other artists, commented that the process is almost “magical” – it can hardly be put into words how a film all finally comes together. After the great successes of our January and February PSP and PS concerts, this director’s comments really made me think a great deal about how we travelled from the beginning of the year to two concert performances that were truly magical. *How does this happen?*

When we first began rehearsing, much of the time was spent learning notes, fixing entrances and working on intonation. After that was done many parents who attend the weekly rehearsals commented that the orchestras sounded great, but I knew that the process was only just beginning. Very quickly and rather suddenly notes were learned, entrances were secure and something different became the priority – *musicality*. It always amazes me when we “turn the corner” in the rehearsal period and – clearly — members of the orchestras are ready to delve into a piece’s phrasing, architectural structure, color and so much more that defines what we call “musicality”. This is when we begin the real work of creating the unique voice of a composer.

Our students are so motivated that they achieve the fundamentals of “learning their notes” and very quickly ask, almost demand (as is appropriate), to move to this exciting next level. I know it is coming each year, but I never grow tired

of that moment when it happens, and suddenly we are in this new territory that can be exciting but terrifying all at the same time. Musicality is so subjective. Interpretation of a composer’s work brings with it boundaries, but those boundaries are wide and varied. While we must stay true to each composer’s overall vision, how we get to the final product may vary from composer to composer and from year to year depending on the orchestras. Interpretation is truly unique to each conductor and to each artist in the orchestra, and I believe the “magic” we often refer to when describing the process happens when both parties work as a “duet” to create the final results. It isn’t always an easy process, but there is nothing else like it, and when it works, as it has in our first few concerts with PSP and PS, the process, as well as the results, can really only be described as “magical”.

Gary D. White
Music Director and Conductor



Gary D. White, *Music Director & Conductor*

Sinfonia x 2!

Maestro Gary White conducts a variety of ensembles throughout each year, ranging from professional groups to college orchestras to youth music festivals, etc. Currently Maestro White is the Music Director and Conductor of two standing orchestras, both of which are coincidentally named “Sinfonia”!

On Sunday, February 28, 2016, he conducted a marriage of the two: Simon Housner and Elizabeth Brown, Philadelphia Sinfonia cellists, performed as soloists in Vivaldi’s *Concerto for Two Cellos, RV 531*, with the *Independence Sinfonia Orchestra*, a community orchestra located in Ft. Washington, PA.

The resulting performance was exquisite. Simon and Elizabeth could not have represented Philadelphia Sinfonia better. Their playing in the first and third Allegro movements was clear and precise, while the Largo between them was rendered with the soulful beauty and emotional depth of mature musicians. The first movement of the Vivaldi concerto is in this year’s repertoire for our chamber orchestra and will soon be performed by them on March 15 — also with Simon and Elizabeth as soloists.



Maestro Gary White with Philadelphia Sinfonia cello soloists Elizabeth Brown and Simon Housner; post-concert at Independence Sinfonia.

ORCHESTRA NEWS

Spring 2016 | Vol.14, No. 4

Published by: Philadelphia Sinfonia

Edited by: Carol Brown

Photos by: Steven Goldblatt,
Tom Galish and Paul Wang

Design by: Hanna Manninen

©Copyright Philadelphia Sinfonia Association 2016

PS at TPAC: *Firebird!* Cellist Derek Barnes! Composer Jim Primosch!

Continued from page 1.

Somber and deeply moving, Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E Minor* followed next, with Philadelphia Orchestra cellist, Derek Barnes, as its soloist. Written as an elegiac commemoration of the many fatalities of World War I, its solo voice was rendered exquisitely and tenderly by Mr. Barnes. At the same time, his performance evoked the best of the orchestra's collaborative instincts and musical qualities. As a soloist, Mr. Barnes was a generous musician and accomplished instrumentalist. These qualities provided our musicians with multiple kinds of growth, and Philadelphia Sinfonia clearly matured in mastering this piece.

Back to its own devices, Philadelphia Sinfonia again outdid itself in the second half of the concert, where a full performance of Stravinsky's 1919 version

of *L'Oiseau de Feu (The Firebird Suite)*, followed Glazunov's *Valse de Concert No. 1*, to end the concert. Magical and dance-like, *The Firebird Suite* appeals to audiences for its engaging fairytale, musical narrative and to young musicians for its complexity and challenging material. The Sinfonia musicians nailed it! They delivered an accomplished, musical performance of a stunningly difficult work, and at the last impressionable note, the audience rose to its feet in tribute to a talented group of

musicians, to a conductor whose artistic leadership forges an inspired, single entity from 90-some students, and to an afternoon that almost did not happen. Bravo Sinfonia!



Composer James Primosch listening to his piece *Variations on a Hymn Tune* at TPAC

Future Events:

SATURDAY, MARCH 19: PS/PSP SIDE-BY-SIDE REHEARSAL AT 3:15 PM

This is a glorious annual event! All 167 of our students will gather in a single ensemble to rehearse two pieces of repertoire together – one drawn from the PSP repertoire and one from PS. Each PSP student is seated with his or her counterpart in the PS orchestra, and the sound in the beautiful acoustic St. Stephen's Church is always rich and rewarding.

Please note altered rehearsal schedule for all groups: PSCO at noon; PSP at 1:30; Side-by-Side at 3:15; PS at 4:15.

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23: PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT PHILABUNDANCE!

Again joining the national food drive, "Orchestras Feeding America," Philadelphia Sinfonia Association orchestras will collect and donate non-perishable food items. Cans of food can be brought to St. Stephen's during rehearsal on any of the first four Saturdays in April 2016. Since 2009, our organization has contributed over *three* tons (!) of food to Philabundance. Please help us bring that number up even higher!

SATURDAY, APRIL 16: NETWORK FOR NEW MUSIC/SINFONIA MASTER CLASS AT 2 PM

Network for New Music and Philadelphia Sinfonia present composer Laura Karpman and our own string quartet: Stephanie Bonk, Faustina Housner, Jessica Wang, Simon Housner in Ms. Karpman's *Different Lanes*. All Sinfonia students, parents, and All City Orchestra and Play On, Philly! students are invited to attend this event. Ms. Karpman was a student of the luminary 20th century composer, theorist and teacher, Milton Babbitt, and it will be a remarkable opportunity to see and hear a living composer work for 45 minutes with four of our students on her piece.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17: PRECONCERT PRESENTATION AT SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL 2:30 PM

Network for New Music preconcert presentation at the Queen Street Branch of Settlement Music School: performance and talk — featuring Philadelphia Sinfonia's String Quartet and Laura Karpman in *Different Lanes*. Concert with the Network for New Music ensemble follows at 3:00 PM.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23: PSCO/TEMPEST DI MARE SIDE-BY-SIDE REHEARSAL AT 12:20 PM

One of the city's top professional Baroque Orchestras, Tempesta Di Mare, meets our Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra in rehearsal, giving our students an opportunity to study how the music of Bach and Vivaldi was interpreted during the lives of these great composers.

MAY 2016: GUEST COLLABORATORS WILL JOIN PSP AND PS REHEARSALS

Philadelphia clarinetist, Allison Herz (Opera Philadelphia Orchestra; Orchestra 2001), will join PSP for rehearsal and performance on May 14, 2016.

Enchantment Theatre Company, based in Philadelphia, but featured with multiple orchestras around the world, will collaborate with PS and Maestro Gary White in a dazzling performance of Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Performance is at 8 PM in Verizon Hall on Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

Sponsors/Supporters

Philadelphia Sinfonia is truly grateful to its generous sponsors and friends, whose gifts nurture the growth of many young musicians, further develop our organization and contribute to a vital artistic community in the Philadelphia region. Gifts can be made online through our website, or by contacting us at info@philadelphiasinfonia.com for donor materials. Sponsors are listed annually in our winter newsletter. The current list includes donations received between June 1, 2015 and February 29, 2016:

MAJOR SPONSORS 2016:

Randolph and Virginia Aires
 Alexandra Altman
 Naomi and Skip Atkins
 Kelly and Philip Block
 Carol and Baird Brown
 David and Kathy Brown
 Peter and Teresa Chen
 Michael Brown and Dawn Evans
 Jeff Chen and Wenping Li
 Carolyn Cohen
 Neil Cohen and Debra Weissbach
 Marc DiNardo and Elizabeth Drum
 Paul and Rebecca Eckert
 Jonathan and Diane Edelman
 David and Lori Egan
 Matthew and Christine Frankel
 Stephen and Marsha Goldblatt
 Dr. Andrew and Connie Greenstein
 Anil Gupta and Meena Bansal
 Matthew and Audra Gurin
 Daniel and Judith Hummel
 Jon Hummel
 David and Tessi Lee
 Frank and Cathy Lee
 William Loeb
 Jean and Kirk Lowery
 ZeeAnn and Max Mason
 Michael E. McAndrew
 Lisa Miller and Ron Sarachan
 Christopher Moribito and Katherine Harris
 James and Sue No
 Sewang Park and Jinsil Kim
 Jerome and Elizabeth Pontillo
 Emmanuel and Ramcel Quien
 Axel Ramke
 The Reese Family
 Alec Ren
 David Ren and Ping Zhang
 Lois Vanzant Shamer
 John and Keiko Simon
 James Smith and Raquel Melul
 Boaqing Wang and Dongzhao Chen
 Marv and Martha Weiner
 Gary D. White
 Stephen and Marjorie Wilhite
 Binghua Hu and Puwen Zhang

SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS:

Anonymous
 Nicole Allekotte
 Tania Apicella
 Ohad Bar-David and Keiko Sato
 Eliza Brown and Chris Wild
 Ann M. Bulger
 Dolores Cascarino
 Shaohua Chen and Sheng Dai
 Xiongwen Chen and Xiaoying Zhang
 Michael Church
 Bill Cozzens and Carla Childs
 Christine and Raymond Daniels
 Emily Dibala
 Paul DuSold and Sharon Doerner
 Fayez El-Gabalawi and Fran Devine
 Diane Guterman Fau
 Adrienne and Peter Feuer
 Alan and Mary Frankel
 Deborah and Devon Garrett
 Gladys Greenfield
 Ramona Ann Gwynn
 Lee and Tony Junker
 Kambara Family
 Rhena and Steven Kelsen
 Matthew Kremer and Barbara Craig
 Mary Ellen Krober
 Jeffrey Lang
 Michael and Eva Leeds
 Jonathan Levin
 Alan and Laura Libove
 Michael and Barbara Libove
 Patrick and Nancy Manzano
 James and Rachel McKay
 Judith Mendelsohn
 John Mezochow and Emily Blumberg
 Terrance Napier and Suzanne Aubuchon
 Hirono Oka
 Eme Okamoto
 Beth Palubinsky
 Paul and Patty O'Neill
 The Pollock Family
 Jianshen Qi and Chiamin Wang
 Jonathan Raper and Susannah Chang
 Linda Reichert
 The Sabanas Family
 Jeffrey Saven and Phoebi Qi
 Pengxiang She and Chengwei Wu

Kay Skloff
 Frank Slesinski and Gail Post
 Kenneth and Robin Smith
 Mark and Carolyn Spina
 Amy Tarantino
 The Thorogoods
 Kevin and Lucy Wang
 Andrew and Donna Wechsler
 Jenny Weiner
 James and Marion Winkler
 John and Brenda Wright
 Kathleen Wright
 Linghang Zhuang and Jean Hua
 Andy and Laura Zimmerman
 Friends of Sinfonia

GIFTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN HONOR OF:

Peace Day Philly
 Max and Naomi Aires
 Sally Chen
 Mark Egan
 Danielle Fau
 Simon Fox
 Ethan Frankel
 Jonathan Hummel
 Molly McAndrew
 Hirak Park
 Jason Ren
 Benjamin She
 Madelyn Spina
 William Wang
 Jenny Weiner
 Gary White
 Carol, Gary and Judith

GIFTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN MEMORY OF:

Florence G. Garrett
 George and Lucile Lynn

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:

Ballard, Spahr LLP
 The Connelly Foundation
 The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund
 GE Foundation
 George Blood Audio, LLP
 GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
 The Merck Company Foundation

Network for Good
 Pall Corporation
 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
 The Philadelphia Cultural Fund
 PJM Interconnection
 RAW Ltd.
 Sam Ash Music
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 Tulip BioLabs
 Vertex

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS REQUESTED BY:

David and Lori Egan
 Kris Huang
 Takahito Kambara
 Matthew Kremer
 Wenping Li and Jeffrey Chen
 Nancy Manzano
 Pengxiang She and Chengwei Wu
 Ping Zhang

GIFTS IN KIND:

St. Stephen's Church
 Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll
 George Blood Audio, LLC
 Diane Edelman
 Tom Gralish
 Steven Goldblatt, Photography
 Luke Housner
 Lantern Theater Company
 Lisa Miller
 Mark and Jeanette Turnbull

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS:

Eric Cyphers
 Ben Cohen
 Tom Gurin
 Dylan James
 Kaitlin Peck
 Victoria Pontillo
 Matt Salazar
 Martina Smith
 Nellie Smith
 Leslie Steinberg
 Mitch Steinberg
 Mia Venezia
 Matt Walsh
 Sophie Wright
(Auditions and other events would not be the same without them!)

PSP and Friends at TPAC: Holiday Concert with POP!

Continued from page 1.

were strengthening the ties already formed between our two groups and making visible the message of the sponsoring partner in the event, Peace Day Philly: by connecting to other organizations that are different from ours, we establish valuable friendships and discern our common humanity.

And from there, the program evolved to demonstrate both the strengths of each group and the rich reward in working together.

The performers: our own orchestra — Philadelphia Sinfonia Players; the inaugural high school group from Play On, Philly! — the POP Academy Orchestra; three conductors — two from Philadelphia Sinfonia Association (Gary White and Danielle Garrett) and from POP, Mario Flores, Conductor of the Academy Orchestra.

The program included a movement from Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1 in C Major*, played admirably by the POP Academy Orchestra; a movement from Mendelssohn's gorgeous *Symphony No. 5 in D Major* performed by PSP, and three pieces performed by both groups combined. The finale, *A Christmas Festival*, a holiday medley arranged by Leroy Anderson and conducted by Mario Flores, brought the

holiday season to life and the audience to its feet to applaud.

Separately, each group was a joy to hear; together the music was lush, evocative and gave voice to the power of music to strengthen relationships and communities. Thank you POP, Stanford Thompson, and Mario Flores, and thank you especially to the students at the POP Academy. We look forward to the next collaboration!



PSP musicians in concert.



PSP in concert; Quin Day, percussion.

PS Guest Performance with Commonwealth Youth Choirs

On June 18, 2016, in its second appearance this year in Verizon Hall, Philadelphia Sinfonia will partner with the Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir in the challenging contemporary *Concert Mass* under the baton of Maestro Gary White.

Written by composer Joseph Fitzmartin, also a founder of the Commonwealth Youth Choirs, the *Concert Mass* made its premiere at Carnegie Hall and has been performed around the world and throughout the U.S. The June performance is the first time, however, that it is being performed by a youth orchestra and youth choirs, and we are thrilled to participate in this remarkable event.

Commonwealth Youth Choirs has programmed this piece to honor the Keystone State Boychoir's 15th Anniversary Season and Mr. Fitzmartin's 50th year as a music educator.

Performance time: 7:30 PM, June 18, 2016. Tickets are \$20 – \$50 and are on sale at the Kimmel Center box office: www.kimmelcenter.org.

Concerto Competition Performance: A Winner!

PS Assistant Concertmaster, Stephanie van Duijn, winner of our 2015 Concerto Competition, made quite a statement with the January 21, 2016 performance of her winning piece, St. Saens' *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*. Her talent and her command of this thrilling, crowd-pleasing piece prevailed throughout and brought a long and boisterous round of applause from an admiring and appreciative audience when she was done.

In remarks as he presented Stephanie with a commemorative plaque, Maestro White pointed out that the competition this year was especially tough. Sixteen very capable members of our advanced orchestra competed for the opportunity to perform as a soloist with our advanced orchestra, and the judges had a particularly hard time making a selection. But in the end Stephanie was the winner, the orchestra was behind her all the way, and January 21 was her day. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Call for Spring Auditions!

Going into its 20th season, the Philadelphia Sinfonia program includes several performance opportunities for each orchestra, varied and challenging repertoire, master classes and sectionals, and a season CD. We have three orchestras:

- **Philadelphia Sinfonia (PS):** advanced full symphonic orchestra for ages 14 – 23
Rehearsals: Saturdays, 2:50 – 5:30 PM
- **Philadelphia Sinfonia Players (PSP):** intermediate-advanced full symphonic orchestra for ages 11 – 18
Rehearsals: Saturdays, 9:50 AM - 12:00 noon
- **Philadelphia Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra (PSCO):** advanced string orchestra
Open to any PS string player
Rehearsals: Saturdays, 12:20 – 2:00 PM

Auditioning musicians are expected to perform two different movements from a concerto or sonata – one technical movement and one slower, more melodic movement – without accompaniment; perform major scales up to four flats and four sharps; sight read.

Registration is available on our website: www.philadelphiasinfonia.com/auditions

For more information contact us at info@philadelphiasinfonia.com or 215-351-0363

Please pass along our spring audition dates and times to any interested musicians you know. We are offering auditions for all three of our orchestras on all instruments. Many of our sections are nearly filled in May, with the remaining spaces filled in September. Spring is the primary audition period for our orchestra. Spring auditions are offered this year on:

- May 28, 2016: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- May 29, 2016: 1:30 to 6:00 PM
- June 4, 2016: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- June 5, 2016: 1:30 to 6:00 PM

Auditions take place at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 19 S. 10th Street, Philadelphia.

Upcoming Concerts

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA
Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 8:00 PM
Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center
with Enchantment Theater Company
300 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Philadelphia Sinfonia Players

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA PLAYERS
Sunday, May 15, 2016, 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church in
Germantown
featuring soloist Allison Herz,
clarinet
35 West Chelton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 8:00 PM
Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:00 PM
Foulkeways at Gwynedd
1120 Meetinghouse Road
Gwynedd, PA 19436

Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 7:00 PM
Meadowood Retirement Community
3205 W. Skippack Pike
Worcester, PA 19490

MASTER CLASS:

Philadelphia Chamber Music Society & Dvořák Quintet

On December 12, 2015, in our first master class of the season, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society brought the musicians from the top-notch, Grammy-winning Parker Quartet to St. Stephen's Church to work with five of our Philadelphia Sinfonia musicians – Stephanie Bonk, Faustina Housner, Jessica Wang, Simon Housner and Matt Eng — on the first movement of the Dvořák Piano Quintet in A Major. It was an impressive performance — both the original playing of the movement by our students and the high-level instruction that followed, provided by all four members of the Parker Quartet.



Simon Housner and Jessica Wang listen to performance suggestions from Ying Xue, violin, Parker Quartet, while Jessica Bodner, Parker Quartet violist, looks on. Photo: Paul Wang

Trivia Quiz

The French composer, Paul Dukas, is best known for his virtuosic tone poem, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* (that will be performed by PS on May 25, 2016). He was a brilliant composer but overly self-critical. He would not compose unless he felt absolutely sure it would be “perfect” and at the end of his life decided to burn most of his compositions. As a result he is known for only a small amount of work. Which popular Romantic era composer did the same kinds of things – wouldn't let works he deemed inferior be heard and burned many of his compositions?

The first musician to email Carol Brown (info@philadelphiasinfonia.com) with the correct answer will receive a small prize.

Alumnus Profile: Greg Gennaro

When we think of Philadelphia Sinfonia's benefits, we, as audience members, think of listening to top-notch concerts, and, as parents, we think of the musical growth of our children.

But there are other benefits, too — Sinfonia provides leadership opportunities, and that's something that has meant the world to violinist Greg Gennaro. Greg served as both Co-concertmaster and Concertmaster during his two years with Sinfonia, and his experience in these positions clearly served him well.

But how did it all start?

Greg began violin study at age 5 with Linda Kistler at Allentown's Community Music School, and at 14, began study with Kimberly Fisher, Principal and Peter A. Benoliel Chair of the Second Violin Section of the Philadelphia Orchestra. With Sinfonia, Greg translated his studies into musical milestones, highlighted by his performance of Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 4* as the 2011 — 2012 Concerto Competition winner. He also treasures memories of performing at the Trenton War Memorial, in a "side-by-side" rehearsal with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and working with Sinfonia's String Quartet, in collaboration with Network for New Music, to premier a piece for string quartet and, of all things — laptop!

Greg's training with Ms. Fisher made a life-long impression upon him, and along with Sinfonia, helped to ready him for the conservatory experience. Following high school, Greg entered Oberlin's conservatory, where he is now a third-year student.

Greg happily found the transition from high school and Sinfonia to Oberlin to be

"rather comfortable." Howso? "Maestro White's tutelage and expertise prepared me to almost instantly adapt to the next level of orchestral training." At Oberlin, Greg has served as Concertmaster of the Oberlin Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Tour Orchestra, and has performed at summer festivals at the Heifetz Institute, the Aria International Academy, and the Aspen Music Festival and school. Like Sinfonia, to Greg, "Oberlin has been a place of immense internal growth for me. The education I am receiving here, both musically and otherwise, is actively and undeniably contributing to my development as an artist, human being, and violinist. Ample performance opportunities and unparalleled experiences in the realms of chamber music, academics, and orchestral playing have made these years vital and precious."

It is Sinfonia that gave Greg his start as a leader in the Oberlin musical. Again, Greg calls his leadership opportunities with Sinfonia "beneficial beyond measure," providing him with "necessary skills and training to be a successful leader in a musical setting [and] to interact with peers from a leadership role." Greg shares: "[These skills have] helped me immensely in virtually every aspect of my life."

Along with training, Greg advises future performers "to remain healthy in mind and body — prioritize these things above your musical training." and "to find the optimal teacher, both in high school and college. These bonds are sacred and without them, growth and development as an artist and instrumentalist is impaired. With an effective teacher and diligent individual work, the conservatory pursuit is the most rewarding education a musician can have."

Greg hopes to honor his teachers and mentors by becoming a professor of violin



Violinist Greg Gennaro

at a major music school. He says, "My passions for critical reflection and the act of teaching inspire me to become one of the people with whom the passing of music to the next generation is entrusted."

We hope, too, that current and future Sinfonia members will be inspired by Greg's experience: "It is impossible for me to overestimate the vast contributions that [Sinfonia] made to my life, as a musician and as a person in the world today." We'll be watching as Greg moves on in his sure-to-be successful career!

Please feel free to contact Greg at gennarogreg@gmail.com.

Diane Penneys Edelman

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA

Gary D. White
Music Director and Conductor
Judith Mendelsohn
Executive Director
Danielle Garrett
Orchestra Manager
Hannah Albrecht
Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors:

Carol Brown, *President*
Naomi Atkins, *Vice President*
Jean Lowery, *Secretary*
Jerome Pontillo, *Treasurer*
Neil Cohen
Dawn Evans
Matthew Gurin
Matthew Kremer
ZeeAnn Mason
Carol Steinberg
Jenny Weinar

Philadelphia Sinfonia
PO Box 996
Philadelphia, PA 19105-0996
Tel: 215-351-0363
Website: www.philadelphiasinfonia.com
E-mail: info@philadelphiasinfonia.com

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.



Upcoming Events and Concerts; 2016 – 2017 Auditions!