



# KEYNOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Romantic: Liszt, Schubert, Dvořák

Romantic favorites — and a sensational young pianist — highlight the opening concert of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra's new season.

Read an interview with Colton Peltier, our soloist in the *Liszt First Piano Concerto*, inside this issue. Also inside, Maestro Eckerling's "Behind the Scenes" column explains the genesis of the ESO's first CD, titled "Evanston Symphony Live!"

Franz Liszt (1811–1886) was born on October 22, which means that our October 23 concert misses his 200th birthday by only one day. Liszt was the original "rock-star" of music, the greatest piano virtuoso of the nineteenth century. He invented what we now call the piano recital, but retired as a piano soloist at the age of 35 to concentrate on composing.

His First Piano Concerto was first performed in 1855, after undergoing numerous revisions, and was the first concerto to feature percussion instruments — the triangle and cymbals. The piano part is highly virtuosic with great opportunity for display, as befits a concerto premiered by Liszt himself.



Liszt was a great admirer of Franz Schubert (1797–1828), whose "Unfinished" Symphony opens our concert. Schubert completed two movements and had just started a third movement when he moved on to other compositions without completing the symphony, thus leading to its title. No one knows why it was never finished, but Schubert actually started a number of other symphonies and stopped after only one movement. The "Unfinished" is notable for its wealth of melody, as well as the prominence in the scoring given to the three trombones.

The concert will conclude with the Eighth Symphony of Antonin Dvořák (1841–1904), which many Czech musicians consider his greatest symphony. Composed in 1889, it is part of a series of works imbued with the character of Czech folk melodies. The rousing finale of the Eighth makes this symphony very definitely "finished!" 🎻

—David Ellis

THIS CONCERT IS SPONSORED BY



*Three Crowns Park*

### TOAST THE LAUNCH OF THE ESO'S FIRST CD!

Join Maestro Lawrence Eckerling, soprano Michelle Areyzaga, composer Don Draganski, and the other orchestra musicians. Enjoy complimentary wine, cheese, and desserts and listen to the inaugural playing of our new CD, *Evanston Symphony Live!*

When: Wednesday, October 12  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Three Crowns Park,  
2323 McDaniel,  
Evanston, IL 60201

RSVP: [esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org](mailto:esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org)

Kindly sponsored by Three Crowns Park with food donated by Marcello's Catering.



MUSICAL INSIGHTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011  
1:30 PM

MEET COLTON PELTIER  
3200 GRANT STREET, EVANSTON

 Presbyterian Homes

THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IS AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA PROVIDING DIVERSE, ENJOYABLE AND ACCESSIBLE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT THAT ENRICHES THE ORCHESTRA, THE AUDIENCE AND THE COMMUNITY.

## BEHIND THE SCENES



LAWRENCE ECKERLING,  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra enjoys a great tradition of performing premieres. In addition to last January's premiere of Gwyneth Walker's *The Promised Land*, our recent association with the Ford Made In America program brought Illinois premieres of Joan Tower's *Made In America* and Joseph Schwantner's *Chasing Light*. For both of these later works, a recording was planned by one of the orchestras which performed a local premiere. The Joan Tower recording won three Grammy awards in 2008, and Schwantner's *Chasing Light* was released only a few months ago.

In the case of *The Promised Land*, this was a world premiere. Unlike the Made in America program, there weren't 50 performances in 50 states by 50 orchestras. It was just the Evanston Symphony, playing but one performance. And *The Promised Land* is music written specifically for the Evanston Symphony Orchestra and for soprano Michelle Areyza, with whom the ESO has developed a deep performing relationship.

Unfortunately, what often happens with new music is there is only one performance, and no one ever hears the music again. So David Ellis (the ESO General Manager) and I had the idea to record *The Promised Land* professionally, and document what we believed would be a significant addition to the orchestral repertoire. Although the ESO had never produced a commercial recording, because the orchestra has grown artistically over the years I knew that the players were now ready for such a challenge.

The next goal was to decide what other compositions should join *The Promised Land* on the CD, such that it would include at least an hour of music, but also provide a unified listening experience. So we recorded many of the works from the 65th Anniversary season with an enhanced microphone setup. After rigorous listening, we picked the best of our performances, and were fortunate to arrive at a one hour all-American program for our CD.

However, while reflecting on problems of "one performance" world premieres, I thought of Donald Draganski's *Overture with Fanfares*, which was composed for the ESO's 50th Anniversary in 1995–96. I gave the work a second performance three years ago, a performance which was well received and very well played by the orchestra. So we have included it as an "encore" on the CD, which brings the playing time to a generous 72 minutes and preserves both of the works given their world premieres by the ESO.

I hope that you enjoy this first CD recording by the Evanston Symphony Orchestra, and share the pride that I have with these fine musicians. Happy listening! 🎧

—Lawrence Eckerling  
Music Director, Evanston Symphony Orchestra

### DA CAPO AL FINE: LILIAS CIRCLE

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra has lost one of its long-time members and most enthusiastic supporters. Liliias Wagner Circle, violist, writer and friend, died on August 28 at the King Home in Evanston. She was born on April 26, 1928, and raised in Ann Arbor, where she also attended the University of Michigan, joining Alpha Gamma Delta and participated in many of the musical activities on campus as a violist and singer. Her summers were spent at Interlochen, first as a camper, then as a counselor, and finally as a member of Interlochen's Alumni Board.

When Liliias moved to the North Shore in 1959, music remained an important part of her life. She joined the viola section of the Evanston Symphony in 1960 and immediately started writing for *Keynotes*, this very publication. When the legendary Frank Miller became the ESO's conductor 3 years later, Liliias and Frank joined forces to found the Savoyaires in 1965. Liliias was a producer for the group's annual Gilbert and Sullivan offering for 40 years, stepping down only in 2005. She was also the National Secretary of Pi Kappa Lambda music honorary society for many years, with an office on the Northwestern campus, a position she thoroughly enjoyed.

Liliias loved writing and talking, especially about music. In addition to *Keynotes*, Liliias wrote program notes for the ESO, the Chicago Symphony, Symphony II and Lyric Opera, and also contributed chapters to several books on music. She particularly enjoyed interviewing and writing about the many soloists who performed with "her" orchestras, always trying to emphasize something unique, funny or endearing to bring the soloist closer to the audience.

When Bob Circle, Liliias's husband of almost 40 years, died in 2006, Liliias tried apartment living, then made local history by applying and being accepted as the first woman resident at the King Home in Evanston. She entertained the other residents with her quick wit and many stories until her health failed over this past year. The members of the ESO will miss this delightful, interesting and funny woman.

The March 11, 2012 concert of the Evanston Symphony will be dedicated to her memory. 🎧

—Kelly Brest van Kempen

## MEET COLTON PELTIER!

Colton Peltier's parents aren't sure where their oldest child's musical talent came from. His parents are both athletes; his mother, Amy, swam for Notre Dame and now trains for marathons by running 10 miles a day, while his father, Dan, was a left-handed outfielder for the Texas



COLTON PELTIER

Rangers and the San Francisco Giants in the 1990's and is now a financial advisor. "Music wasn't their thing," said Colton, who was himself fascinated by music at a very early age. His mother enrolled him in a Suzuki program when he was three because she recognized his keen interest in music and was impressed by research showing musical training helps develop the brain, especially for math. When asked what drew him to music, Colton responded that he "loved the sound, and how it felt." He also remembers the moment in grade school when he decided that he wanted to "do music" for the rest of his life, but that was only after he'd already had a number of years of piano study under his belt.

When Colton was four, his music teacher had him sit quietly and listen to a Mozart piano concerto and told him that, if he worked very hard, he could one day play like the musician on the recording. That experience impressed Colton. He said that he was fascinated by the piano as a toddler "and just kept going." Did he ever! When he outgrew Suzuki, he began studying with Dr. Paul Wirth at the Central Minnesota Music School. He started competing – and winning — when he was nine and at 11 played Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Allegro Con Brio Orchestra in the Twin Cities. That led to requests to perform seven times over a six-month period with the Minnesota Orchestra under the baton of Osmo Vanska. For more about Colton's many accomplishments since then, see the article about him on the ESO website at [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org).

For the past several years Colton flew to New York every other weekend to study with Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky in the Juilliard pre-college program. That long commute came to a halt this past August when Colton, now 17, moved to the Big Apple to continue his studies with Dr. Kaplinsky on a full-time basis, one of only 23 young musicians accepted at Juilliard as first-year piano students out of over 2000 applicants. Colton loves New York, which he finds exhilarating and full of energy, and hopes to find time to explore the city, especially its many museums.

Many professional musicians have a special routine for performance days, and Colton fits right into this category. His routine isn't filled with mantras or good luck talismans, however; rather, it smacks of Midwestern common sense. For an evening performance, he tries not to practice too much so as not to overtire his muscles, perhaps just two or three hours in the morning. He has a high-protein meal a few hours before the performance followed by a relaxing two-hour nap when he can. He may have some energy bars before warming up, then it's into his tux and out onto the stage to play the piano for yet another audience eager to hear this delightful and talented young man perform. You can be sure that our ESO audience is one of them! 🎻 —Kelly Brest van Kempen

## THREE CROWNS PARK

Three Crowns Park, by design, is a small, intimate retirement community located in northwest Evanston, Illinois. For more than 100 years, the community has thrived as part of a residential neighborhood with access to the many benefits a prestigious university town offers.

At Three Crowns Park you will find they have achieved the balance that comes with personal freedom and the feeling of being a part of a large, extended family. Whether you choose independent living, the added support of assisted living, or the security and complete care of an award-winning household, at Three Crowns Park everyone knows your name.

As a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), you have full access to a continuum of services. They pride themselves for early adoption of the culture change model of care, delivering person-centered healthcare, becoming a leader in a wellness-centered approach to long term care. Three Crowns Park is committed to providing the most comprehensive care for seniors who have a lot more life to live. For a personal tour call Gina Eshius at 847-328-8700 or email [gina@threecrownsark.com](mailto:gina@threecrownsark.com). 🎻

## EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S FIRST CD!



We have just released *Evanston Symphony Live!*, our first commercially available compact disc, which features an all-American program conducted by Music Director Lawrence Eckerling.

The highlight of the CD is the acclaimed world premiere performance of Gwyneth Walker's *The Promised Land*, composed for the ESO and local soprano Michelle Areyzaga.

The disc includes the recording premiere of *Overture With Fanfares*, commissioned by the ESO for its 50th anniversary season from Evanston resident and ESO bassoonist Donald Draganski. It also features George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with Music Director Eckerling both conducting and playing the piano solo. The suite from Howard Hanson's *Merry Mount* and the overture to Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* round out the 72-minute disc. All performances were recorded live in Evanston's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, primarily during the just concluded 65th anniversary season. The audio post-production and booklet design work were also executed by Evanston firms, contributing to the strong local focus of the disc.

The CD may be purchased on the ESO website: [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org). It will also be available on ESO concert days at Pick-Staiger Hall and at the Christmas concert at Evanston Township High School on December 4, 2011. 🎻

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*Lawrence Eckerling, Conductor*

## ROMANTIC Schubert's Unfinished — OCTOBER 23, 2011

**SCHUBERT** Symphony in B Minor "Unfinished"

**LISZT** Piano Concerto No. 1 in Eb Major  
*Colton Peltier, Pianist*

**DVOŘÁK** Symphony No. 8 in G Major

## RUSSIAN Night on Bald Mountain — FEBRUARY 5, 2012

**MUSSORGSKY** *Night on Bald Mountain*

**KHACHATURIAN** Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D Minor  
*Bella Hristova, Violin*

**SHOSTAKOVICH** Symphony No. 1 in F Minor

## RAINBOW Eternal Light — MARCH 11, 2012

**THEOFANIDIS** *Rainbow Body*

**SIBELIUS** Symphony No. 7 in C Major

**LAURIDSEN** *Lux Aeterna "Eternal Light"*  
*Chicago Chamber Choir*

**SMETANA** *Vltava, "The Moldau" from Ma Vlast*

## REORCHESTRATION Dufour Plays Mozart — MAY 13, 2012

**BACH** (ORCH. STOKOWSKI) Toccata & Fugue in D Minor

**MOZART** Flute Concerto #2 in D Major  
*Mathieu Dufour, Flutist*

**BRAHMS** (ORCH. SCHÖNBERG) Piano Quartet in G Minor

# AN EVANSTON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS

**Come and join in the most joyous seasonal concert!**  
**Sunday, December 4th, 3:00 p.m. at Evanston Township High School**

Come and celebrate all the joy of the holiday season with the Evanston Symphony Orchestra. This year we are joined for the first time by the wonderful voices of the North Shore Choral Society. The concert also features the fabulous dancers of Evanston Dance Ensemble and the delightful Evanston Children's Choir. This is a true occasion for families to enjoy music together. And you get to join in with carols.

Among the concert's favorite pieces will be Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, danced by the Evanston Dance Ensemble. The Evanston Children's Choir will sing a beautiful arrangement of *Away in a Manger*, and the North Shore Choral Society will sing *The Many Moods of Christmas*.

The proceeds of this concert help the ESO fund its excellent in-school music education programs, particularly Music In Your World, a program for underserved pre-schoolers in District 65.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children, with a special family package also available. To order tickets, call 847.864.8804 or go on-line to [www.evanstonsymphony.org](http://www.evanstonsymphony.org).



PHOTO:SHAUNA BITTLE, ST MEDIA

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