



**Phone: 785-232-2032**  
**Email: tso@topekasymphony.org**  
**Website: www.topekasymphony.org**

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**"Classy Date Night!"** *Bill Blankenship, The Topeka Capital Journal*

- Enjoy a gourmet buffet dinner at the Symphony Supper in Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center
  - Hear from the Maestro at the Concert Preview
  - Attend the Topeka Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Concert

**All this for as little as \$38 per person**  
 (\$18.00 Symphony Supper; \$20.00 Concert Ticket)

*Gift Certificates Available*

**February 9**

*Dvorak, Falla, Edwards featuring Sharan Leventhal, Violin*

**April 12**

*Prokofiev and Chopin featuring Kyung Eun Kim, Piano*

**KANSAS WITH THE TSO!**

The Topeka Symphony will perform with the band KANSAS as part of the 07-08 TPAC Season on **January 18**. One of the leading rock bands of the '70s and '80s, KANSAS scored eight gold albums and three multi-platinum albums.  
**For Tickets: www.tpactix.org or 785.234.2787**

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**TOPEKA SYMPHONY**  
**Allegro!**

*Music for Northeast Kansas*

Volume 49, Issue 3

Topeka Symphony Orchestra

John Wesley Strickler, Ph.D., Music Director and Conductor

January 2008

**Music in Motion**  
 2007-2008

All concerts in White Concert Hall

**"Wide World of Sports"**

January 12, 2008-8pm  
 Discovery III

**"con Fuoco"**

February 9, 2008-8pm  
 Masterworks III

**"I Love a Parade"**

March 8, 2008-8pm  
 Discovery III

**"Molto Appassionata"**

April 12, 2008-8pm  
 Masterworks IV

**MORE TSO EVENTS!**

- Jan. 10: Free School Concerts
- Jan. 18: TSO and "KANSAS"
- Jan. 19: Youth Talent Auditions
- Feb. 1: Ball and Auction
- Mar. 9: Youth Ensembles Concert

See Page 3 for more TSO News!

**"Maninyas"**

An earlier *Allegro!* said we would explain this word from the title of the Violin Concerto to be performed by Sharan Leventhal on **February 9**. If you did any research on your own, you now know this is not a simple explanation. Composer Ross Edwards himself begins. "In 1986 I completed a series of pieces under the generic title *Maninya*. Two of these pieces were later used in my violin concerto **Maninyas-Concerto for Violin and Orchestra**. The 'word' *maninya*, meaningless at first, began to connote, for me at least, certain characteristics of the music I was writing. The *maninya* style now refers to an abstraction of insect and bird sounds, lively tempi and rhythms, angular pentatonic melodies and simple drone-like harmonies."

Ross Edwards was born in Australia in 1943 and composed this violin concerto in 1988. Strongly influenced by the sounds and rhythmic patterns of the natural environment, Edwards says "I had an 'up-feeling' in the piece. I'd been writing deeply introspective music and I suddenly noticed the outside world. It was just intensely ecstatic—the sky was blue, the warm air was full of shrieking parrots and an irresistible impulse to dance suddenly took over the music."



Edwards

Sharan Leventhal returns to Topeka bringing this incredible recent work to life. Leventhal teaches at the Boston Conservatory of Music and is the founder and director of Play On, Inc., a non-profit supporting chamber music programs for children. She has toured the U.S. and Europe as a soloist, chamber musician and

teacher; Leventhal has built an international reputation as a champion of contemporary music and has premiered well over 100 compositions. To learn more

about Edwards and Leventhal, visit [www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org)

Concluding this **February 9** program is Dvorak Symphony No. 9. Considered, at the time, the world's greatest living composer next to Brahms, Antonin Dvorak was appointed the first director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York in 1885. Dvorak enjoyed his stay in the United States in spite of bouts of homesickness, and felt the future of American music lay in the study of native music. Thus, his Symphony No. 9 "From the New World" reflects the sounds of African American and Native American music by using scale patterns common to these two musical cultures. One of Dvorak's favorite spirituals emerges as a flute solo and is reminiscent of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". The well-known and celebrated melody of the slow movement, chanted by the English horn, has also been adopted in this country as the spiritual "Going Home". Ten years ago, almost to the day on February 7, 1998, Dr. Strickler led the TSO in this well-known symphony and he will complete this Masterworks concert by leading the orchestra again.



Leventhal

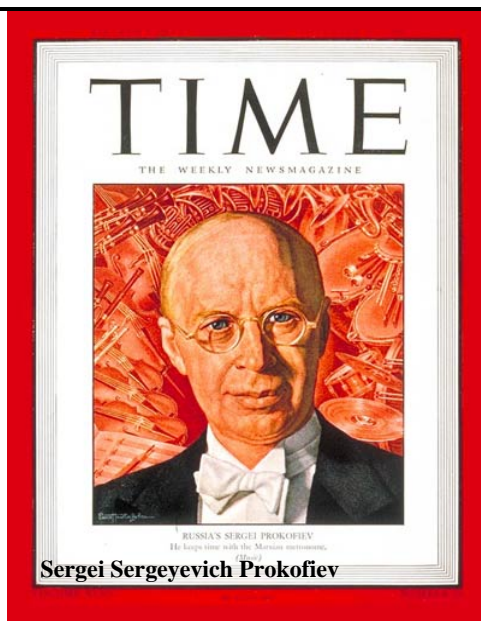
**Monday, November 19, 1945 TIME Magazine:**

*“Last week in Boston’s Renaissance Symphony Hall...Prokofiev’s Fifth had its U.S. premiere. Prokofiev is the greatest musician today! Nobody else can write with such technical perfection, with such instrumentation. And all the time there is beautiful melody!”*

*“He composes with the cold matter-of-factness of a mathematician...hoards themes for use in future compositions. The Fifth Symphony was based on a two years’ accumulation; the actual writing took him only two months.”*

So it was written in “TIME” magazine after the US premiere of Symphony No. 5 by Sergei Prokofiev. Maestro Strickler concludes the 2007-2008 Season with this symphony on **April 12**. Prokofiev said of his symphony “here is music ‘glorifying the human spirit’.” He considered it to be one of his best compositions. The symphony was composed at the height of World War II, in the House of Creative Work, a government-sponsored refuge for composers. Prokofiev shared this refuge with composers Shostakovich, Glazunov, Khachaturian, and Kabelevsky.

While Prokofiev conducted its January 1943 premiere in Moscow with the Moscow State Philharmonic Orchestra, gunfire was heard, marking the Soviet army’s final push to victory. As a measure of the symphony’s success, Prokofiev was pictured on the cover of TIME magazine the week after the symphony’s American premiere. *(Read entire article at [www.time.com](http://www.time.com))*



Exhibiting extraordinary talent at an early age, Korean born Kyung-Eun Kim started piano at the age of four. In 1987, she moved to London with her family and entered The Yehudi Menuhin School of Music and at age 10 made her debut with the Korean Symphony Orchestra.. Ms. Kim entered The Juilliard School in 1998 at the age of 16 as the youngest pianist to have ever been accepted. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music from Juilliard. Ms. Kim is currently studying in the Doctoral program at The Manhattan School of Music. She has played numerous recitals including a solo recital in London for the child victims of the Chernobyl disaster. Ms. Kim performs chamber concerts, solo recitals, and with world-renowned orchestras throughout Asia, Europe and the United States.



Kyung Eun Kim

Ms. Kim will perform Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the TSO on **April 12**. Chopin composed his two piano concertos within a year of each other. In 1829, at the age of nineteen, he went to Vienna where he began this F-minor concerto. (Despite its numbering, this was the first of his two concertos to be written.) “In spite of the young composer’s relative inexperience, his concertos are extraordinary in that special way that makes his music personal and immediately identifiable.” *Steven Ledbetter, member of Pro Arte’s Board of Advisors*

**Game On!** Usher in 2008 with the TSO as we explore the “Wide World of Sports” on **January 12** with some familiar sports music and some surprising ones. From football, to downhill skiing, to mountain climbing to “Tennis Anyone?”...find out what team the orchestra is on. Shannon Reilley, Artistic Director for Topeka Civic Theatre, will narrate “Casey at the Bat”. Washburn University Trumpet professor, Raquel Rodriguez, will be the featured soloist in the bullfighting ring. What else does “Matador” Strickler have in mind?

**DISCOVERY SERIES**

**“I LOVE A PARADE!”** Celebrate with the TSO on **March 8** when *Music in Motion* brings the thrill of the parade to White Concert Hall. Through the music of Rimsky-Korsakov, Edward Elgar and others, this is the perfect time to enjoy one of the **Discovery Series** concerts especially designed for the entire family. “Parade of the Charioteers” from *Ben Hur* and Wilson’s 76 Trombones will be featured selections. Chariots and 76 Trombones.....really?

The 2008 Youth Talent Winner will also perform as soloist with the TSO at this concert after competing with high school students from throughout Northeast Kansas for this opportunity. The Youth Talent competition is sponsored by Capitol Federal and past winners have gone on to perform and teach professionally throughout the world.



*Designs of Winter*

*A DAZZLING EVENING OF DINNER, DANCING, LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS*

February 1—6:00 p.m.

Ramada Inn Regency Ballroom

*New this year! Watch premiere Kansas artists complete their works of art & place them in the live auction!*

For more information: 785-232-2032

*Proceeds benefit the Topeka Symphony Orchestra, three Topeka Symphony Youth Ensembles, and scholarships for music students at Washburn University.*

**Youth Orchestra Celebrates 50 Years**

The Topeka Symphony Youth Orchestra is celebrating its 50th Season. An early program reported that “on July 30, 1957, a group of music teachers and public-minded citizens met at the Kansas State Teachers Association building to discuss the possibility of a youth orchestra for Topeka and vicinity. As a result the Topeka Youth Symphony was born.”

At that time, the orchestra rehearsed every Saturday morning at Topeka High School and was sponsored by the Civic Symphony Society of Topeka in co-operation with the Topeka Public Schools. Now fifty years later, the Youth Orchestra has grown to three orchestras with the addition of the Youth Philharmonic and the Debut Orchestra and they rehearse on Tuesdays.

Hundreds of Topeka and area young musicians have been involved with this outstanding program which has provided a starting point for those performers desiring a career in the musical field. Conductors of the Youth Orchestra who have touched the lives of so many students during its half-century of existence are: Robert M. Hallman (the first conductor), Larry R. Williams, Larry J. Harris, Jack Herriman, Anatole Wieck, Bill Everett, Kenneth Ticknor, and Luis Millán with Steven Elisha as the current conductor. Breta Bloomberg conducted the first Debut and Youth Philharmonic Orchestras. Carolyn Sandquist and Carolyn Rich Voth are conductors this season of the Debut and Philharmonic, respectively.

The accomplishment of fifty years of young people making music together is truly worth celebrating. What a significant impact this program has had on Topeka area student musicians from the 1957/58 to the 2007/08 Season!

**Major Sponsors:**

**Kaw Valley Bank, Security Benefit, Hallmark Cards**

**Additional Sponsors:**

**Topeka Symphony League, Community National Bank, Brier Payne Meade, M-C Industries, Inc.**

**Did you know** that the Topeka Symphony has been presenting free school day concerts to students from Northeast Kansas since 1999? Over the years, 36,000 students from schools throughout Northeast Kansas have been able to attend these concerts at no cost. A resource guide, including musical selections, is made available to teachers prior to the concerts. For many of these students, this is their first opportunity to experience a live symphony performance and their first visit to the Capital City.

This year’s concerts are one-hour presentations of “The Wide World of Sports” on **January 10** at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

**Thank you School Day Concert Sponsors:**

- Kaw Valley Bank**
- Payless ShoeSource**
- Security Benefit**
- Hallmark Cards, Inc.**
- Cox Communications**
- Target**

Thank you Laura McGill and John Strickler for preparing the Teacher Guide

**Cynthia Enstrom  
2007-2008 BRAVO! Award**

Cynthia has been a TSO Board member since 2003 and Chair of the Youth and Education Committee from 2004-2007. Cynthia coordinated the Youth Orchestra’s participation in the National Orchestra Festival of the American String Teachers Association in March 2006. Cynthia is a Topeka Symphony League member, has assisted with Youth Talent Auditions, School Day Concerts and Youth Ensembles publications.

She is currently working with the Youth Archives to prepare for the 50-year celebration of the Youth Orchestra this season. Cynthia says her involvement with the TSO “was a way to serve and give back to an organization that had given so much to my family...the Topeka Symphony’s sponsorship and support of the Youth Orchestra had provided a unique experience for my three daughters, as well as hundreds of other area youth.”

*This award was established in 2005 to honor an individual who has demonstrated devotion to the Topeka Symphony Society through a unique contribution or impact.*