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- January 2 — Youth Ensembles Rehearsals begin
- January 11 — Free School Day Concerts
- January 20 — Youth Talent Auditions
- February 15 — Piano Master Class with Jon Nakamatsu
- February 23 — TSO Ball and Auction
- March 11 — Youth Ensembles Concert  
 White Concert Hall 2 pm

**National Symphony Orchestra Residency**  
**March 22-30, 2007**

**Kickoff Concert March 23-White Concert Hall**  
**Outreach activities throughout Topeka area**

**More information to come!**

*Season tickets still available!*

**Purchase 3 or 4 concerts!**  
**Save money!**  
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"...there is no need to travel to Chicago, New York, or London to hear great classical music played live...music aficionados who have attended concerts all over the world say the Topeka Symphony is as good as the best." Topeka Capital Journal September 23, 2005 (Read more at [www.cjonline.com](http://www.cjonline.com))

# TOPEKA SYMPHONY Allegro!

## Music for Northeast Kansas

Volume 48, Issue 4

Topeka Symphony Orchestra

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

January 2007

**Encore!**  
**2006-2007**  
 All concerts at  
 White Concert Hall  
**Cartoon Classics II**  
 January 13, 2007

**Russian Masters**  
 Jon Nakamatsu, Pianist  
 February 17, 2007

**The Wild, Wild West**  
 March 31, 2007

**Mediterranean**  
**Holiday**  
 April 21, 2007

**Give up your day job?** Why not? From high school German teacher to Van Cliburn Gold Medalist, Jon Nakamatsu became a popular hero overnight in the highly traditional medium of classical music. But was it really "overnight"? Of course not. Mr. Nakamatsu has studied piano since the age of six. He has studied composition, orchestration, chamber music and musicology extensively. He performs throughout the United States and internationally with major orchestras and in the most prominent recital halls. A highlight was his performance of *Rhapsody in Blue* at a White House event hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton in 1998.

He will join the TSO on **February 17** for **Russian Masters** to perform the ever popular Piano Concerto #1 in B-Flat minor by Tchaikovsky. Aside from *The Nutcracker*, this piano concerto is Tchaikovsky's most recognized work—or at least the opening four minutes are. The irony of this familiar melody, that begins the first movement, is that it is never heard again throughout the remaining 30 minutes of the concerto. Read more about this work at [www.meetthemusic.org](http://www.meetthemusic.org). Also on the program is Symphony No. 6 by another great Russian composer, Dmitri Shostakovich. Come celebrate this composer's centennial birthday during this season. Concert sponsors are Brewster Place Retirement Community and Commerce Bank and Trust.



Jon Nakamatsu

**You too can conduct the TSO!** The Topeka Symphony League Ball and Auction is **February 23** at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. This is your chance to be high bidder for an opportunity to guest conduct the TSO next season. Graham Bailey says "everyone should be bumping each other out of the way to get this chance next year." Graham, who was the guest conductor in October, treasured this "once-in-a-lifetime 'rush' of an experience." Oh...by the way...no musical experience required! Other auction items include everything from a warm blanket to a summer getaway. The event, "Waltz of the Flowers", is chaired by Maggie and Dale Warren. Honorary chair is community arts advocate Randy Austin. Proceeds from the ball benefit the TSO, youth ensembles and the Topeka Symphony Endowment fund. Enjoy a gourmet dinner, silent and live auction and dancing at this fun evening with fellow TSO concertgoers. Support the Symphony and go home with something for yourself from the auction! Call the TSO office at 785-232-2032 for more information.

***National Symphony Orchestra Residency in Topeka!*** Kansas is the site of the National Symphony Orchestra's (NSO) 2007 American Residency. At the invitation of the Kansas Arts Commission, members of the NSO will participate in approximately 150 education and performance activities in all regions of the state from March 22-30. Outreach activities will take place in Topeka on March 23, 24, and 28 at a variety of venues. The NSO will also travel to Wichita, Hays, Lawrence, and Pittsburg. The National Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Leonard Slatkin will kickoff this state-wide residency with a performance at White Concert Hall on Friday **March 23**. Mr. Slatkin received the National Medal of Arts in 2003, the highest award given to artists by the US government. With his announced retirement at the end of the 2007-2008 season, this may be your only opportunity to experience his masterful work with the NSO.

"The NSO American Residency program was first brought to our attention by John Strickler, Music Director & Conductor of the Topeka Symphony..." said Llewellyn Crain, Kansas Arts Commission Executive Director. In 1992, the NSO began this program of accepting one invitation each year, making a state or a region the focus of a host of activities. Throughout his career, Mr. Slatkin has demonstrated a continuing commitment to arts education and to reaching diverse audiences. He has also reached out to younger musicians and music teachers by talking about and performing music in Tennessee, North Carolina, Oklahoma, North and South Dakota, and Vermont as part of these past residencies.

Residency activities are supported by the Kennedy Center through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund of the Kennedy Center.

Keep up to date on residency activities and when concert tickets will go on sale at:  
**[www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org) "Announcements"**

For more about the NSO and Maestro Slatkin visit:  
[www.kennedy-center.org/nso](http://www.kennedy-center.org/nso) and [www.leonardslatkin.com](http://www.leonardslatkin.com)



Leonard Slatkin, NSO Conductor

***A World Premiere!*** Be the first to hear "The Ark of the Covenant" by the TSO's own Zamir Bavel. Israeli born Bavel has composed works for symphony orchestra as well as other instrumentation including voice. Mr. Bavel tells us that "The Ark of the Covenant" is one movement of a planned symphonic suite entitled "David". The TSO will continue on this ***Mediterranean Holiday*** with the "Fountains of Rome" by Ottorino Respighi. Written in 1916 by the Italian composer, musicologist and violinist, this work is part of his *Roman Trilogy* along with "Pines of Rome" and "Roman Festivals". Each movement is dedicated to one of Rome's fountains during different periods of the day and night. At first jeered by critics during its premiere, this work has now become one of the most eminent examples of a symphonic poem.

### ***The Fountains of Rome***

**Fountain of Valle Giulia at Dawn**—at daybreak in a pastoral landscape where cattle pass in the morning.

**Triton Fountain in the Morning**—Naiads and Tritons dance in the morning light, as figures of the Bernini fountain are seen nearby. Gods and goddesses using conch shells are portrayed by the French horn.

**Trevi Fountain at noon**—triumphant portrayal of a recent victory by the god Neptune.

**Villa Medici Fountain at Sunset**—a much more melancholic atmosphere as the brilliance of the sun fades.

The winner of the 2007 Youth Talent Auditions will perform at this concert on **April 21**. Concluding the program are two works with a Spanish flair: the colorful "España" by French composer Chabrier and the suite from Manuel de Falla's "The Three-Cornered Hat" with its vibrant dance rhythms.

**Read program notes before the concerts at [www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org)**

### ***Discovery Series!***

Do not miss the sequel... ***Cartoon Classics II*** on **January 13** when the big screen will come alive once again with some of your favorite cartoons and music. From the enchanting "Sleeping Beauty" by Tchaikovsky to Wagner's boisterous "Ride of the Valkeries" to the tip-toeing "Pink Panther" by Henri Mancini...see and hear how the classics entertain you through cartoons. Listen to excerpts at [www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org) "Free School Concerts" link. Concert sponsor is Capitol Federal.

Then just as springtime settles in, dust off your boots and head on down to ***The Wild, Wild, West*** and a chuckwagon cookout on **March 31**. "Rodeo" by Aaron Copland and "The Magnificent Seven" by Elmer Bernstein will highlight this final installment of our Discovery Series. Judy Coder and Pride of the Prairie also join the TSO for a set of rousing western favorites. This four piece acoustic ensemble was named Western Music Association (WMA) International Harmony Singing Champions in 2003-2005. Judy Coder was raised listening to opera and formally trained as a lyric soprano, earning her BME, at Washburn University. Her impressive three-octave vocal range is not only great for the classics, but ideal for cowboy style yodeling. This "hottest cowboy band in the Midwest" features Alan Lawton on fiddle and guitar, Phil Thompson on bass, and Stan Tichenor on guitar and mandolin. Concert sponsor is UMB Bank.



Judy Coder & Pride of the Prairie

### ***Congratulations TSO Board President Larry Wolgast***

Larry received the Nonprofit Leadership Award at National Philanthropy Day on November 17.

Larry's career path has traveled through the education, political, and philanthropy fields where he has provided leadership to organizations for 30 years.

*Award presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Topeka Chapter on Philanthropy*

The TSO has been presenting free concerts to capacity crowds of students from Northeast Kansas since 1999. This year's two School Day Concerts, held on January 11 at the Topeka Performing Arts Center, will be one-hour presentations of "Cartoon Classics II".

Over the years, 32,000 students have attended these concerts at no cost. Teachers are given a resource packet and demonstration CD to prepare students for this fun and educational experience. For many of these students, this is the first opportunity to experience a live symphony performance and their first visit to the Capital city.

**Thank you 2007  
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