

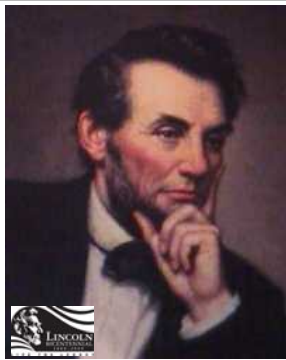
# TOPEKA SYMPHONY *Allegro!*

## Music for Northeast Kansas

Volume 50, Issue 3

Topeka Symphony Orchestra  
John Wesley Strickler, Ph.D., Music Director and Conductor

January 2009



## *American Heritage*

Celebrate 2009 on **January 17** with “American Heritage.” This program commemorates the bicentenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. To honor this great president, the TSO will perform Aaron Copland’s *A Lincoln Portrait* with a narration based on excerpts from Lincoln’s letters and famous speeches, including the Gettysburg Address. This piece of music was written in 1942 as part of the patriotic war effort during World War II. It is very dramatic and creates in the listener a feel for 19th Century America by incorporating parts of the folk-songs “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain.”

Also featured is *Dance for Martin’s Dream* by Michael Abels. The composer describes this tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. as beginning “in somber remembrance” and then bursting into “danceable, cross-cultural melodies. The score calls for loud chanting by the orchestra of some nonsense syllables...used to evoke the sound of a crowd chanting slogans as they might during a large rally, as during the civil rights movement.”



This program features the works of five other American composers: Morton Gould, Charles Ives, William Schuman, Lucas Richman, and Ira Schwartz. The concert spans the history of America from the Revolutionary period to present day and also includes:

### *Colonial Liberty Overture* by Lucas Richman

Original melodies create the atmosphere of colonial America and its struggle to become an independent country.

### *Amber Waves* by Morton Gould

A poignant rendition of *America the Beautiful*.

### *Variations on America* by Charles Ives

Regarded as one of the first American classical composers of international significance, this piece is a witty set of variations on “My Country ‘Tis of Thee.”

### *Chester* from William Schuman’s *New England Triptych*

“Chester” is a church hymn by William Billings (1746-1800) that was adopted by the Continental Army as a marching song. Schuman used it as a point of departure for what the composer describes as “a fusion of styles and musical language.”

### *Rosa’s Rhapsody* by Ira Schwartz

This tribute to Rosa Parks incorporates the protest song “We Shall Overcome” that became a key anthem of the civil rights movement of the 60s.

**SPECIAL FAMILY MATINEE!**  
2 P.M. — January 17  
Special Family Rates  
General Admission Seating

**Call the TSO office at 785-232-2032 for more information.**

*These performances are made possible with a \$25,000 American Masterpieces grant from the Kansas Arts Commission and is presented in collaboration with the Lincoln Club.*



## Meet the Composer

Composer Michael Abels will be in Topeka for a week-long residency from January 12-17.

His work, *Dance for Martin's Dream*, will be performed at the January 17 TSO concerts and at

the School Day Concerts on January 15. Abels is a talented composer and educator who lives in Los Angeles. His music has been performed by many orchestras including Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta, Houston, Baltimore, Detroit, Louisville, and the National Symphony. He is the recipient of numerous commissions and awards.

During this residency, he will interact with the community through pre- and post-concert discussions, workshops in schools, radio and television interviews, community outreach events, and open rehearsals. This residency is sponsored in part by Meet the Composer's *MetLife Creative Connections* program.

**If your group would like to have Mr. Abels visit, contact the TSO office at 785-232-2032**

or  
**tso@topekasymphony.org**

*Sounds of Celebration*

**20th Annual Topeka Symphony League Ball**

Saturday, February 21, 2009  
Maner Conference Center  
Sunflower Ballroom

*Featuring Live Auction items:  
Painted Violins by Award-winning Artists*

For more information, please call the Symphony Office at 785-232-2032.

**For the Love of Sound...** what better way to spend the evening on the stage when Richetta Manager, Soprano, enralls you with the *Four Last Songs* of Richard Strauss, composed in 1948, less than a year before his death, and never heard them performed by a symphony orchestra was never far from Strauss' thoughts. These songs were conceived as a gift to his young daughter, and one of these songs is not only a touching gesture of farewell, but one of Strauss' final wishes. He returned again from Europe to perform with the Topeka Symphony.

The evening will include Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 "The Reformations" by a composer of high standing and experience. His grandfather, Moses Mendelssohn, was baptized into the Protestant faith and raised a Lutheran. He was proud to be based on Christianity. The Finale of this masterful work centers around Luther's



Maestro Strickler with students at TSO Free School Concert at TPAC

## Free School Concerts!

Did you know that the TSO has been presenting free school day concerts to students from Northeast Kansas since 1999? Over the years, 40,000 students have been able to attend 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 their first opportunity to experience a live symphony performance and their first visit to the Capital city.

This year's two concerts are one-hour presentations of "American Heritage" on January 15. Thank you to this year's School Day Concert Sponsors:

**Kaw Valley Bank  
Payless ShoeSource  
Hallmark Cards  
Cox Communications  
Security Benefit  
Target**

**NEW! TSO *E-LLEGRO!* DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?**

February 14 than enjoying beautiful music. A special treat is in store for the TSO audi-  
Songs by Richard Strauss. Strauss completed this set of songs in Switzerland in September  
since the first performance was not until May 1950. Although written for soprano voice, the  
lived as much in orchestral as in vocal terms and are considered "symphonic songs." This set  
est achievements in any form. (Richard Freed) Ms. Manager, a native Topekan, returns once



ormation". Although only twenty when he composed this symphony, Mendelssohn was already  
ndelssohn, was considered to be the greatest Jewish intellectual of his century. Felix, though,  
id of his Jewish heritage but was faithful to his Protestant beliefs and composed many works  
uther's chorale "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" .

**Hollywood Spectacular! March 14**

**Selections from Oscar Winners...**

- Gone with the Wind
- Spiderman
- Forrest Gump
- Ben Hur
- Wizard of Oz



To Kill a Mockingbird  
in conjunction with the "BIG READ" at the  
Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

TSO Youth Talent Winner

**...and more!**

**Season Finale! Keyboard Kaleidoscope**



Linda Maxey will perform Kevin Puts' *Marimba Concerto* for the final concert of the 2008-2009 season. Linda Maxey began studying piano at the age of four and marimba at age six. Ms. Maxey was the first marimbist on the prestigious roster of Columbia Artists Management in New York and has performed hundreds of concerts throughout the United States, Europe and Canada. The critics proclaim Ms. Maxey "...literally stunned a rapt audience with her amazing artistry," and "has to be heard to believe."

Rounding out this amazing Season Finale on **April 18** is Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3 "Organ Symphony" and Barber's Overture *The School for Scandal*. Saint-Saëns conducted the premiere of his symphony in London in 1886. Though frequently listed as a symphony for orchestra "and organ", the composer inscribed it as a symphony for orchestra "avec" ("with") organ. The overture, Samuel Barber's first major orchestral work, premièred in 1933 when he was 23 and thrust him into the limelight.

**What does composer Kevin Puts say about his *Marimba Concerto*?**

*Marimba Concerto reflects my love of Mozart's piano concertos...the influence of Mozart lies mainly in the relationship between the soloist and orchestra, one of near equality in which the marimba continually interacts with the instruments of the orchestra The work is comprised of three movements.*

*The overriding message is one of optimism and exuberance.*

*Each movement bears a subtitle taken from the poetry of my aunt. They are:*

- 1 "...terrific sun on the brink"
2. "...into the quick of losses"
3. "...logarithms, exponents, the damnedest of metaphors"

Kevin Puts





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The Topeka Symphony Society  
P.O. Box 2206  
Topeka, Kansas 66601-2206

**COMING SOON!**  
**E-LLEGRO**

**Phone: 785-232-2032**  
**Email: [tso@topekasymphony.org](mailto:tso@topekasymphony.org)**  
**Website: [www.topekasymphony.org](http://www.topekasymphony.org)**

"Allegro!" is published by the Topeka Symphony Society.

The Topeka Symphony is sponsored in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency; the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency which believes that a great nation deserves great art; Washburn University; and ARTSConnect.



**With 4 concerts left, you can still purchase Season Tickets and save money!**

Contact Molly at [tso@topekasymphony.org](mailto:tso@topekasymphony.org) or 785-232-2032

**"American Heritage"**  
January 17, 2009

**"For the Love of Sound"**  
February 14, 2009  
Optional Symphony Supper

**"Hollywood Spectacular"**  
March 14, 2009

**"Keyboard Kaleidoscope"**  
April 18, 2009  
Optional Symphony Supper

*All concerts start at 7:30 pm*

**More TSO events!**  
January 24—Youth Talent Competition  
February 14—Symphony Supper  
February 21—Symphony Ball and Auction  
March 8—Youth Ensembles Concert  
April 18—Symphony Supper

**If you would like to receive  
TSO email updates,  
contact Molly  
at  
[tso@topekasymphony.org](mailto:tso@topekasymphony.org)**

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