

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Alla Breve*, a publication designed to bridge the gap between *In Tune* editions published throughout the year. We hope you will enjoy the information and updates contained in these pages.

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Opening Night Gala a Smash!

On September 17, 2008, the Opening Night Gala Dinner, held at Roy Thomson Hall, ushered in the 2008-2009 Symphony season in fine style. Gala Dinner attendees sipped pre-dinner cocktails, enjoyed an extraordinary meal of fine food and wine, and were treated to the TSO's performance of Mahler's *Symphony no. 3*, under the direction of our esteemed Music Director, Peter Oundjian. A post-concert reception capped off a splendid evening

designed to support our Orchestra. In addition to fine dining, wine, and music, Gala attendees placed



RTH, at King and Simcoe, was the venue for the Opening Night Gala Dinner

live auction bids on several exciting items, including an Egyptian cruise, a trip to Quebec City in celebration

of its 400th birthday, an unforgettable evening hosted by Sam and Esther Sarick, and a dinner for 20 held in an exquisite Rosedale home. The Gala Dinner committee worked incredibly hard to create such a wonderful evening and their hard work certainly paid off. The Gala was a tremendous success and received rave reviews. It was an event to remember! Further details will be available in the next issue of *In Tune*.

Fine Wine Auction a Success

As was the case with the Gala Dinner, the Fine Wine Auction proved to be another highly successful event this year. Ritchies, acting as the new auctioneer and providing the new venue,

was widely praised and wine sales were brisk. Once again, the hard work of the Fine Wine Auction committee paid off, in a final event that reminded guests why the TSO's annual event

has garnered a solid reputation as one of the finest fine wine auctions in North America. Thank you to all our committee members who volunteered or attended the auction.

Interludes



Giordano Bellincampi launched this year's Interludes program

The first Interlude of this new symphony season was held on October 16. Conductor Giordano Bellincampi was in Toronto to lead the TSO and guest violinist Pekka Kuusisto in performance of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and Respighi's *Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 1* and *The Pines of Rome*. He spoke on the topic of the two composers. Bellincampi, the General Music Director of the Danish National Opera, provided interesting insight and analyses of these two Italian composers. Participants at the Interlude found the event to be thoroughly enjoyable—especially the surprise appearance by Pekka Kuusisto! The next Interlude will take place on November 20. Pianist Stephen Hough will discuss Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. He and Russian conductor Andrey Boreyko will appear with the TSO on November 19 and 20.

"I sit down to the piano regularly at nine-o'clock in the morning and Mesdames les Muses have learned to be on time for that rendezvous."

Tchaikovsky

James Ehnes, the 2008 Gramophone Award winner for Best Concerto Recording of the Year



Orchestra Liaison Lunch

The first Orchestra Liaison Lunch took place on October 14 in the Studio at Roy Thomson Hall. These lunches provide a lively yet informal setting in which TSVC members and TSO musicians can make new acquaintances, reconnect with old friends, and celebrate each other's accomplishments. This year's kickoff lunch was no exception. Happy voices and bubbling laughter provided the music over lunch on this day. As always, Olga Fershaloff was our star photographer, and some of her photographs will appear in the next issue of *In Tune*. The next Orchestra Liaison Lunch will be held in the same location on February 18, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. Don't forget to keep in touch with your musician between now and then!

Ehnes Plays Tchaikovsky

James Ehnes stopped by Roy Thomson Hall on October 9 and 11, 2008, to play Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D Major*, under the expert direction of conductor Sir Andrew Davis, former TSO Music Director. The programme also included Abigail Richardson's *The Sleeping Giant*, J.S. Bach's *Chorale Preludes*, arranged by Sir Andrew Davis and Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*. The Toronto Symphony Volunteer Committee proudly supported this concert as part of the TSO Masterworks programme.

Alla Breve

TSO Dazzles in the Big Apple



A decade is a long time, yet that is exactly how long it has been since the TSO last graced the stage at Carnegie Hall. On October 4, the TSO

World-renowned Carnegie Hall, New York

finally returned to New York and took the sold-out audience by storm. The Orchestra opened with Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins*, featuring Ute Lemper and the Hudson Shad male quartet. The highlight of the evening followed when the TSO delivered an electrifying

rendition of Shostakovich's *Symphony no. 11*, which prompted a five-minute standing ovation from the roaring audience. When order was restored, the TSO closed the evening with an encore consisting of "Nimrod" from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. A full-length review of the TSO's adventures in New York will appear in February.

Using cutting-edge digital technology, the orchestra recorded for hours on end in an effort to lay down the perfect track.

TSO Revitalizes "The Hockey Theme"

Over 48 exhausting hours in the waning days of summer this September, 54 members of the TSO, led by Montreal conductor Darren Fung, turned their attentions to a decidedly cooler time of year. The group was tasked with recording an updated but faith-

ful-to-the-original version of Delores Claman's much beloved "The Hockey Theme", heard before CBC *Hockey Night in Canada* broadcasts until CTV purchased the rights to the tune that some call Canada's second national anthem. With the help of the

TSO, the song has been returned to its classic glory, providing warmth, energy, and nostalgia to listeners while also projecting a big, brassy and bold sound. Tune in to TSN hockey broadcasts to listen to this exciting new work by our TSO musicians.

TSO Plays *The Planets*

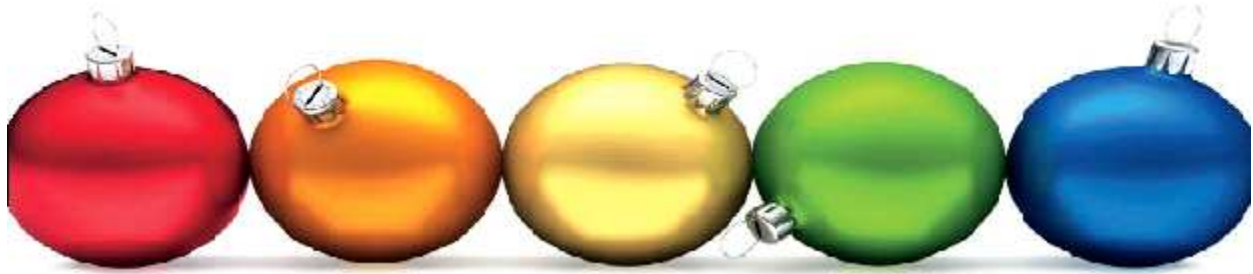
On December 3, 4, and 6, 2008, the TSO will showcase Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, renowned as one of the most popular orchestral showpieces of classical music. The December 4 and 6 performances will also feature *The Rite of Spring*, Stravinsky's

most well-known (and controversial) opus. The Orchestra will be joined by the Elmer Iseler Singers on those dates. The Singers are conducted by Artistic Director Lydia Adams. Comprising 20 vocalists, this Toronto-based chamber choir is one of Canada's most illus-

trious professional choral ensembles. The TSVC is a very proud supporter of the December 3 concert which forms part of the Afterworks Concert Series.



The 20-member, Toronto-based Elmer Iseler Singers



The Toronto Symphony Volunteer Committee invites you to

Celebrate the Holiday Season

with

Maestro Peter and Nadine Oundjian

Graciously hosted by TSO Board member George Lewis and wife Leanne

Sunday, December 7, 2008 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy convivial company, delicious canapés and wine in a magnificent festive setting with unique designer wreaths available for purchase.

Tickets: \$100 per person

RSVP by November 24, 2008
416 593 7769 ext 359

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors



Save the Date—TSVC Events

December 3, 2008	TSVC Supports Afterworks Concert Series <i>The Planets</i>
December 7, 2008	Holiday Open House with the Maestro
December 9, 2008	General Meeting
January 30, 2009	Interludes with Evelyn Glennie
February 17, 2009	Orchestra Liaison Lunch

**Don't miss Toronto's favourite *Messiah!*
Performances December 16, 17, 19, 20 & 21**

The next edition of *In Tune* will arrive in your mailbox in early February 2009. As always, we welcome your feedback and remind you that it is never too early to submit articles and photos to the *In Tune* committee. Please e-mail tsvcintune@gmail.com with any questions, comments, or content!