



Dundas Valley Orchestra

“Hi” Notes

March 2013



This is where old violins end up - on a wall as a decoration!

President's Message

We are reaching that time in this season when we have to think of what we want to do and accomplish in the 2013-2014 season. One thing we do need to do is elect a new Board. If you have a skill to offer, please consider putting your name forward or, suggest that another player stand for election.

Your Board has been working hard on creating a template for forward planning and we shall be looking for suggestions from all players - after all, this is an orchestra run by its members.

You can offer suggestions at any time but this year (in June) we are going to have a “bigger and better” Annual Meeting so that everyone’s opinions can be shared and discussed openly with others.

Remember, if you have any questions or comments, members of the Board are easily accessible either in person, via email or on the phone.

Peter
President

And the winner of the first DVO Student Composer Competition is ...

The competition, which closed on January 18, was open to students currently enrolled in a Canadian educational institution (secondary or post-secondary, full- or part-time). And the winner is ... Christopher Barletta who is studying at Brock

Music Director's Message

Happy Spring DVO musicians!

I hope you're as happy as I am with the progress of rehearsals lately. I hear good progress on our regular repertoire and the Mohawk Concerto Concert repertoire is coming together very well. Keep up the good work!

There's lots going on for the DVO right now – great rehearsals, submission of an OAC grant application, planning for the exciting gala fundraiser in June, programming for next season and continuing work by the DVO Board to organize the administrative schedule. And of course, congratulations once more to Ashley, Dan and D.J.! More information will be coming at rehearsals and through HiNotes!

As we welcome a new DVO baby we also mark the passing of Vern Bridgewood, a long-time violinist in the DVO. Many of you will remember him. I never met Vern, but I know his granddaughter and great grandsons in St. Catharines. His granddaughter gave him a copy of “A Jewel in the Valley” last summer and he enjoyed the memories it brought back of his years with the DVO.

See you Tuesday!

Laura
Music Director

University in St. Catharines. An Honorable Mention went to Matthew Stodolak, a student at Mohawk College. We shall perform Christopher's winning composition three times in May 2013 - first at our May public concert and twice at our Retirement residence concerts. Congratulations to both composers!

DVO Fundraiser planning well under way

By now you will have received the flyer announcing the major fundraiser to be held on June 9 2013 which is being organized by **Baya Vertes** and **Simon Woodside**. It is an **invitation only** event and, in many respects takes us back to the origins of fundraising for the DVO so ably carried out by Gordon Webster (our first President) and his wife, Betty who held “Strawberries and Champagne” concerts in the garden of their Ancaster home in the early 1980’s.

Once again, our guests will enjoy summertime refreshments, works of art and music by the DVO. Attendees this year will be given an original work of art by John MacGregor created especially for this event. Tickets will be \$100.00 (but \$125.00 per couple). If you’d like to attend, please speak to **Baya** or **Simon** soon.

Remember the date!

SUNDAY June 9 2013

DVO Time Machine An excerpt from

“The Dundas Valley Orchestra, A Jewel in the Valley: 1978-2011”

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However, once established, the orchestra existed in the early years solely on an annual donation from each adult member, plus a collection box at the entrance to each free concert. After a couple of seasons, founding President **Gordon Webster** and his wife, **Betty**, instituted a **Strawberries and Champagne Social** which was held annually each June for several years at their home on Mineral Springs Road just outside of Dundas. The orchestra would play a concert of about thirty minutes to one hour and then the audience would be served champagne and strawberries with whipped cream. Among the artists invited to display and sell their work were ceramic artist **Carol Rossman** and graphic artist **Sally Glanville** and they contributed a portion of their proceeds to the orchestra. **Dorothy Mould**, Gordon’s sister and a gifted artist, also displayed her work.

Betty Webster recalls that those Saturdays were busy. She remembers that Gordon would go to DeBoer’s Berry farm just off Governor’s Road to pick up the strawberries in the morning and that Bright’s Wines was encouraged to supply the champagne. Illustrating the size of the endeavour, one hundred bottles of champagne were ordered to refresh audience and players alike after the concert! The orchestra members brought the shortcake and came early to hull the berries just before the performance. Everyone chipped in and, as the saying goes, “a great time was had by all.” **Anne Jones**, then Chairman of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, attended the first Social, responding to one of the beautifully designed RSVP invitations.

After all that, the audience was encouraged to donate to the orchestra’s funds. With that masterful effort, the Websters were able to raise a thousand dollars or more for the orchestra each year and, as a result, not only was it able to pay rent for the rehearsal and performance halls but also to purchase quite an extensive library of music.

Application for the Ontario Arts Council Grant

This year we submitted an application for the OAC grant in the amount of \$6,000. The project for which we are requesting funding is for a violin coach who will then also be the soloist in the Vivaldi in our January 2014 concert.

Our expectation is that such an individual will provide an improved experience and opportunity to learn for our players, enhancing both their experience and improving the calibre of playing overall. Learning to play with a soloist is an important part of playing in an orchestra.

Our application is stronger this year than last due to our involvement with Mohawk College last year and the implementation of our Student Composer Competition. The assessors at the OAC are looking for ways in which orchestras spread their influence across the community and these two initiatives certainly do that.



The DVO “on the road”

Above is a photo of the DVO playing at Macassa Lodge on November 20 2012 under the direction of Laura Thomas.

How much are we worth?

That’s not an academic question! Today the orchestra’s music collection is valued at \$24,000 by our Librarian, Homer Seywerd.

Given that fact, your Board of Directors has decided that it is necessary to insure this valuable collection which is shared with other orchestras from near and far under a reciprocal style arrangement which creates a win-win situation for all parties.

Of course, this costs money and is one expense which makes our current fundraising initiatives increasingly important.

Glenn Mallory Award

At a recent rehearsal, Glenn Welbourn announced that those young players interested in being considered for this award should complete the “application” form.

This is just a quick reminder that the completed forms should be handed in as soon as possible!



And the photo above shows the orchestra at the Clarington Retirement Residence in Ancaster on November 27 2012.

Nursing and Retirement Home Concerts:

May 21 2013

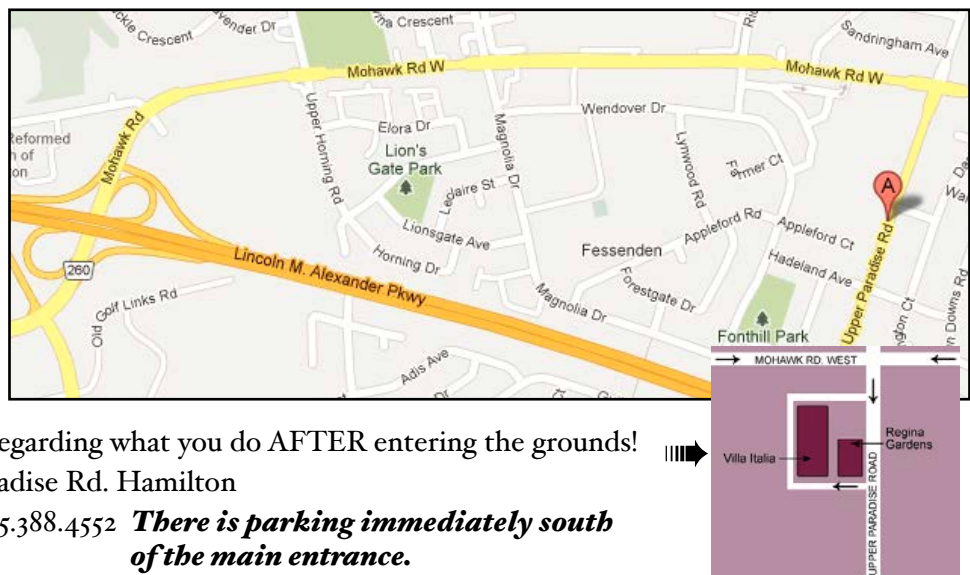
Arrangements have been made for **Tuesday, May 21, 2013** for us to visit **Shalom Village** on Paradise Road in Hamilton.

70 Macklin Rd. N. Hamilton
905.529.1613



May 28 2013

Arrangements have been made for **Tuesday, May 28, 2013** for us to visit **Villa Italia** on Upper Paradise Road in Hamilton. We have never played there before but their large entrance lobby provides a fine venue for a concert.



See the inset regarding what you do **AFTER** entering the grounds!
530 Upper Paradise Rd. Hamilton
Telephone: 905.388.4552 ***There is parking immediately south of the main entrance.***

Calendar

April 4, 2013

Mohawk Concerto Concert

May 12, 2013

Public Concert at St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

May 21, 2013

Shalom Village

May 28, 2013

Villa Italia Concert

June 9 2013

DVO Fundraising event!

June (date TBA)

DVO Annual Meeting

DVO Board of Directors

President: Peter Hill

Past-President: Mark Thomas

Vice-President: Olga Hencher

Secretary: Alicia Hutchings

Treasurer: Jim Jones

Librarian: Homer Seywerd

Members-at-large: Margaret Jamieson

Glenn Welbourn

Music Director: Laura Thomas

Dundas Valley Orchestra

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