

The highly acclaimed BEYOND THE SCORE® - WHOSE WORLD? program will be the feature of the 3 p.m. Nov. 19 Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association family concert. This Chicago Symphony work is based on Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9" ("From the New World") and is offered free of charge to the community. Designed not only for classical music aficionados, but also for newcomers looking to delve deeper into the world of music, Beyond the Score® is classical music exposed. The Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association, under the director of Dr. Bruce Briney, will collaborate with Quincy Community Theatre for the first portion of the concert, using theatrical and multi-media presentations as well as vocal accompaniment to explain the many period influences on Czech composer Antonin Dvorak.

Les Fonza of Quincy will provide narration for the production. Baritone Jamar Scott of Springfield, Ill., will add dramatic vocal accompaniment while Dan Conboy and Drew Quintero of the Quincy Community Theatre add dramatic interpretations.

The second half will be a performance of the New World Symphony in its entirety, with the listener's newfound knowledge greatly enhancing the music experience. Dvorak wrote "From the New World," during his visit to the United States in the late 1890s, which included visits to Czech communities in Iowa. For Dvorak's fellow countrymen, this work is perhaps the greatest Czech symphony and expresses the composer's longing for his homeland. For Americans, it is the first extensive symphony about America. For African-Americans, it is the first inclusive orchestral work to use themes inspired by their songs and spirituals. For Native Americans, it is the first, and so far the only, great work inspired by Native American culture. The genius of Dvorak's composition is that the very same tunes in this symphony have been claimed as African-American, Native American and Czech.

This multi-faceted concert will explore how the symphony grew out of Dvorak's abandoned opera based on Longfellow's "Hiawatha" epic, and how Longfellow's inspiration itself mixes North American and European stories and ideas. In this performance, the echoes of many different nations mix with one another to produce a rainbow of identities.

The association is planning educational activities in conjunction with the performance. Events will consider the work within the historical context, focusing on the attempt by this nineteenth century Czech composer steeped in central European national, cultural and artistic ideas to create an American musical identity based on American literary and ethnic influences.

Events include a lecture, "More than Americana in a European Frame: Dvorak's Ninth Symphony," with Dr. John Novak at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Quincy Museum. Dr. Novak is an associate professor of music theory at Northern Illinois University. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was awarded the John Maresh Scholarship in Czech Culture. He has numerous published articles on Dvorak and other composers and has presented at symposiums and conferences in various U.S. cities as well as London, Prague, Brno and Sofia. The Native American exhibit at the museum will be open for browsing after the Novak lecture.

A panel discussion, "Dvorak's New World in Context," will be held at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at Quincy Junior High School, just prior to the actual performance. This round-table will be facilitated by Dr. C. Patrick Hotle, associate professor of history and the John A. Sperry Jr. Endowed Chair of Humanities at Culver Stockton-College. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, a Master of Philosophy degree in International Relations and a Ph.D. in History from Cambridge University. He teaches courses in European history and Middle Eastern history.

Participating in the panel is Dr. Judith Mabary. She received her master's and doctoral degrees in musicology from Washington University, and a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Missouri. Dr. Mabary's research interests include Czech music of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, focusing particularly on the life and works of Dvorak, Fibich and Martinu, and Native American music and culture as it impacts the Western musical tradition.

Dr. Scott Giltner will also serve as a panel member. Giltner received his bachelor's degree in History from Hiram College before graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in History. Since 2005 he has been teaching at Culver-Stockton College. Dr. Giltner's research deals with conflicts between southern blacks and whites over competing notions of proper subsistence and land use.

The concert will be provided at no charge thanks to support from Blessing Health System, Advance Physical Therapy, Encore! Symphony Volunteer Council, the Stillwell Foundation, the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area's Arthur O. & Lela B. Lindsay Fund and Green-Humphrey Family Fund for Music, the Tracy Family Foundation, the Marion Gardner Jackson Trust, the business and individual members of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts, the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

The QSOA is grateful for the support from the corporate community including our season sponsor, Knapheide Manufacturing Company. The Silver Baton concert sponsor is Blessing Health System. The Maestro sponsor is Advance Physical Therapy and KHQA is the media sponsor. All concerts are partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Tickets will be available free of charge at the door or in advance at Sturhahn Jewelers and Hy-Vee on Broadway in Quincy. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the concert. Youth from Operation Serve will take donated items and stock the food pantry at Horizons Social Services of Adams County.

Flexi-tickets, which include six single admission tickets to be used in any combination throughout the season, will be available for purchase at the concert for \$60, and prepackaged in a special presentation envelope perfect for gift giving. One flexi-ticket will provide admissions for a couple to QSOA concerts throughout the spring, making a lasting Christmas gift for music lovers on your list.

Call 222-2856 or visit www.qsoa.org for more information.

-Sandi Terford