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QSO Opens Season with A RUSSIAN TAPESTRY

Led by conductor Bruce Briney, the Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association is preparing to celebrate its 61st Season. *WINDOWS ON THE WORLD*, the 2008-2009 season of orchestral and chorus concerts, will commemorate and explore music by Russian, French, and American composers. On Saturday, October 11 at 7:30PM in the Morrison Theatre, the season will open with A RUSSIAN TAPESTRY, featuring pianist Tammie Walker performing the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1 for Piano, Trumpet, and Strings. QSOA Music Director Bruce Briney will perform as trumpet soloist for the concerto.

Tammie Walker has been on the piano faculty at Western Illinois University since 1998 and is coordinator of the keyboard area. She received the B.M. degree in Piano Performance, summa cum laude, from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, where she studied with Penelope Cecchini, and the M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Piano Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied with Ian Hobson. An active solo and collaborative pianist, Walker has concertized throughout the continental U.S., Hawaii, England, Scotland and Germany.

Dr. Walker is an active clinician, having presented lecture-recitals throughout Illinois. She has also accepted invitations to give workshops to piano teachers in Naperville, Springfield, Quincy, Galesburg, and Peoria. Walker is an active adjudicator, recently serving on final-round international juries for the World Piano Pedagogy Conference Piano Competition in Atlanta, Georgia and Las Vegas, Nevada. An interview with Dr. Walker was published in the January, 2006 issue of *The Piano* journal in Korea, and she was recently featured in an article in *International Piano* magazine. Her article entitled "The Status of the BM-Piano Performance Degree" was published in the April/May 2008 issue of the *American Music Teacher* journal. Tammie Walker's appearance is sponsored by Mercantile Bank.

The Shostakovich *Piano Concerto No. 1* includes an extended trumpet obbligato. The trumpet plays a crucial role from the onset, providing a broad range of textures and emotions. Bruce Briney, Music Director of the QSO, will perform as trumpet soloist for the Concerto. Briney received his musical education from the University of Illinois and Northwestern University where he earned a Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance. His primary teachers in trumpet were David Hickman and Vincent Cichowicz with additional studies from Arnold Jacobs, Ray Mase, Charles Geyer, George Vosburgh, Ray Sasaki and Luther Didrickson. Briney received WIU's Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Fine Arts and Communication in 2001. Amazon.com distributes his solo trumpet CD, *Time Passages*. *The Journal of the International Trumpet Guild* describes the recording as ". . . beautifully performed in every aspect from tone color to technique." Tammie Walker performs as pianist for several of the works on the CD as well.

Dr. Richard Hughey will serve as guest conductor for the piano concerto and for the opening work on the concert, Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture*. Hughey started his musical education with the cello, and developed an early interest in orchestra conducting. He completed a Bachelor of Music at Utah State University, a Master of Music degree in Cello Performance and Orchestral Conducting from the University of Utah, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Cello Performance from the University of Arizona under the tutelage of Gordon Epperson with a minor in Orchestral Conducting under Leonard Pearlman. Dr. Hughey has served as Assistant Conductor and Assistant Principal Cellist of the Omaha Symphony, Principal Cellist and orchestra manager for Opera Omaha, Music Director of the Western Piedmont Symphony, and cellist for the Western Piedmont String Quartet. Hughey has been Director of Orchestral Activities at Western Illinois University since 2007. Dr. Hughey's appearance is sponsored by Mercantile Bank.

Bruce Briney will return to the podium after intermission to conduct the performance of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor*. Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky approached the prospect of writing his Fifth Symphony with trepidation. Critics in 1882 had pronounced him "written out," tired, and past his peak. By 1888, he was frequently asking himself whether he had something new and original to express in the genre of the traditional symphony after his momentous Fourth, premiered a decade earlier. He wrote to his brother that spring to report on his hopes of collecting, "little by little, material for a symphony." Tchaikovsky set to work on his Fifth Symphony that May, and by late August, the symphony was completed. The composer even dared to declare that it was "good." The premiere in St. Petersburg, however, was received harshly by critics, and a subsequent disappointment in Prague prompted Tchaikovsky to pronounce the symphony "a failure... too garish, too massive, too patchy, too long, and generally of very little appeal." Fortunately, the symphony found success in Hamburg in 1889, and the composer grew fond of it once again. A few decades later, Tchaikovsky's Fifth had

secured its position among the central pillars of the Romantic symphonic repertoire. It maintains that position to this day.

The Concert Sponsor for A RUSSIAN TAPESTRY is the Quincy Herald-Whig and WGEM. Tickets will be available at the door or at Wild Birds Unlimited in Quincy, or may be reserved in advance by calling 222-2856. Individual concert tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$12 for senior citizens, with children under age 18 admitted free and encouraged to attend. Save money and time by purchasing a Season Ticket for the entire *WINDOWS ON THE WORLD* Season! All QSOA concerts are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Morrison Theater is located in the Quincy Jr. High School at the corner of 14th and Maine St. in Quincy, IL. Visit www.qsoa.org for more information on the music and performers.