

WINDOWS ON THE WORLD

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 Theater, 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 with Walker as trumpet soloist. Though assuredly a piano concerto, the work includes an extended trumpet obbligato. The trumpet plays a crucial role from the onset, providing a broad range of textures and emotions. Guest conducting the work will be Dr. Richard Hughey. Other works on the program will include Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor*.

The Quincy Symphony Chorus will present the *AMERICAN TREASURES* choral concert at 7:30 PM on Saturday evening, November 8 at the First Union Congregational Church. Dr. Phyllis Robertson will lead the chorus in a selection of traditional songs by American composers, including the *Frostiana* suite by Randall Thompson. The texts for the *Frostiana* songs are poems by Robert Frost, including the familiar 'Stopping by Wood on a Snowy Evening' and 'The Road Not Taken'. The concert will also include music associated with the time of Abraham Lincoln, including a medley of civil war tunes, a new setting of the spiritual *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, and a song from the point of view of his Lincoln's mother – Nancy Hanks.

The *CHRISTMAS MEMORIES* Family Concert will be held at 3:00PM on Saturday, December 6 at the Morrison Theater. The QSO will be joined by the Quincy Symphony Chorus and the Quincy Area Youth Chorus for the premier performance of *Christmas Memories*, a new medley of Christmas pieces arranged for the QSOA by composer Phil Stenacor. The orchestra will perform favorites including Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* and Chip Davis's arrangement of *Stille Nacht*. Mark your calendar early and plan an afternoon of holiday fun and singing for the whole family.

LINCOLN'S IDEALS will be held on Sunday afternoon, February 15 at 3:00 PM. The annual Young Artists Concert will feature performances by the winners of the Young Artists Competition. In its 55th year, the competition is open to area 10th-12th grade musicians. The concert will also commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Congressman Ray LaHood will serve as the narrator for Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, which includes readings from some of Lincoln's most famous letters and speeches, including the Gettysburg Address. Goodman's *Symphony No. 1 Fields of Crimson* depicts through music and narration the story of the Battle of Gettysburg. Composer Todd Goodman be a guest for the performance, and will speak to the audience before the concert about his inspiration for *Fields of Crimson*. Also on the program will be a side-by-side performance of Copland's *Outdoor Overture* with the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra, conducted by Christine Beason.

Come ready for some toe-tapping and finger-snapping, as the Quincy Symphony Chorus hosts singer Margaret Carlson and her combo at 7:30 PM on Saturday evening, March 7, at the First Union Congregational Church. *HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD* will showcase the most famous songs from the golden age of movies. Vocalist **Margaret Carlson** has been compared to Julie Andrews and Maureen McGovern, with her elegant musical style and on-stage presence. Read about Carlson and listen to sound samples at www.margaretcarlson.com.

The 38th Young Peoples concerts will be performed in March. These performances give area 3rd thru 6th graders the opportunity to experience live symphonic music in a setting just for them. The QSO will perform *AT THE MOVIES*, featuring orchestral movie music the children will recognize. The 11:30 AM performance at Baldwin Intermediate School is free and open to the public.

The season will conclude with *FRENCH CONNECTIONS* on Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 PM in the Morrison Theater. Clarinetist R. Joseph Dieker will perform Debussy's famous *Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra*. Other works on the program will include Debussy's *Trois Nocturnes* and Faure's *Pelleas et Melisande Suite*. The orchestra will conclude the program with Gershwin's *An American in Paris*. Gershwin stated "My purpose is to portray the impression of an American visitor in Paris, as he strolls about the city and listens to various street noises and absorbs the French atmosphere." *An American in Paris* is one of Gershwin's best-known compositions.

In-depth information on the season, including program notes and soloist biographies, will be posted throughout the season on the QSOA website, www.qsoa.org. Check back often. Single tickets will be available in advance or at the door, and children under 18 are admitted free and encouraged to attend all concerts. Season Tickets are available now. A special promotional offer will allow new season ticket holders to get two season tickets for the price of one if tickets are ordered before September 22. Call 217-222-2856 for details or a brochure.