
BUTLER COUNTY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION



November 7, 2009 Amber Waves

Opening the concert with music by Morton Gould based on “America the Beautiful,” we follow with music by composers who immigrated to America and found fulfillment in “The Dream of America”: Victor Herbert (Irish/American), Percy Grainger (Australian/American) and Igor Stravinsky (Russian/American).

BCSO Concertmistress Galina Istomin, who immigrated from Russia in 1991, and her daughter Katerina, a recent Juilliard graduate, are soloists in this program and will team up to play Mozart’s “Sinfonia Concertante” for violin and viola.



December 5, 2009 HOLIDAYS WITH MARIANNE

Our traditional and popular program of seasonal music features internationally acclaimed opera singer Marianne Cornetti, a native of Cabot, Butler County, She now shares her wonderful operatic voice and acting talents with audiences all over the world. She is an ambassador from Butler County performing in many of the countries where our ancestors began. Her accomplishments exemplify “The Dream of America.”

Traditional holiday music that celebrates the Christmas and Hanukkah seasons is played and honors those whose Dream of America included freedom of worship.



February 13, 2010 SHOUT, AMERICA

This concert celebrates the contributions of jazz and gospel that the African-Americans have made to music in America. The orchestra performs a brand new work “Mary Lou” by John Harbison, a work commissioned by the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra and first performed May 3, 2009. The BCSO performance will be just the second of the work that is a tribute to Mary Lou Williams, a black jazz pianist who grew up in East Liberty, Pittsburgh,

and is known as “the mother of bebop. We perform “Symphony ”No.1”(Afro-American Symphony) by William Grant Still, “the dean” of African-American composers. Still merged musical aspects of his African-American heritage, the blues and jazz, with traditional European classical forms, to form a unique style.

Music by Elmer Bernstein from the movie “To Kill a Mockingbird” is based on a novel about racial injustice in America.

The concert ends featuring a performance with the Pittsburgh Gospel Choir, a multi-age, multi-ethnic musical ensemble intended to catalyze connections among participants of all races, ethnicities and ages, while acting as a conduit for the rich history of gospel music.



March 13, 2010 MODERN AMERICA (Family Pops Concert)

We work our way from Pennsylvania folk songs, through the music of our grandparents, then parents, and up to the music of the American youth. As demonstrated by these musical varieties, “The Dream of America” continues, with changes, through the generations. The concert begins with a selection of tunes that would have been familiar to our Butler County ancestors. For the older generation, we present music by Duke Ellington, “Grand Slam Jam,” that showcases our classical musicians in jazz solos. For the in-between generation, we play selections from Lee Johnson’s “Dead Symphony,” an orchestra tribute
