



Counterpoint Community Orchestra

March 1, 2000

Toronto's Counterpoint Community Orchestra Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Counterpoint Orchestra is pleased to feature three pieces by one of our very own members, John Alonso. John is a regular soloist with Counterpoint having played Liszt's 2nd Piano Concerto, Mozart's Concerto #23 and Adagio from Ravel's G+ Concerto. The three pieces are from John's CD recording "Remember When". The music is extremely melodic, warm and nostalgic. Come to our March 25th concert and be lulled by John's enchanting and original music. Stay tuned for June 3rd when Mr. Alonso will play Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto with Counterpoint.

LUBA GOY TO NARRATE PETER AND THE WOLF!

On March 25 Counterpoint Community Orchestra tackles the perennial masterpiece by Prokofiev, Peter and the Wolf. We are also especially pleased to announce that Luba Goy from the hit CBC comedy series, Royal Canadian Air Farce will be narrating this performance as well as a special performance on April 1.

The piece is actually a symphonic tale for children that appeals to kids of all ages. Completed on April 15, 1936, Peter and the Wolf was written in a mere two weeks. The story is illustrated with instruments whereby each member of the orchestra or section represents a certain character in the story.

The story itself centres around a boy, Peter who saves the day by catching a wolf, but not before the wolf swallows a duck - whole and alive! The orchestration teaches the listener about certain characteristics of timbres of each of the instruments. For example, the cat is played by a sprightly clarinet and the grumpy grandfather by a low bassoon. Through the narrator the piece speaks directly to the

(Continued on page 4)

This year Terry Kowalczyk celebrates his second season Counterpoint Community Orchestra's conductor. A graduate of the conducting program at the University of Toronto, Terry is also a long time choral conductor. His tutors have included Gustav Meier, Raffi Armenian and John Barnum and he studied clarinet under Avrahm Galper.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present our program for the second concert of our 16th season! We promise an evening of original programming, highlighted by Prokofiev's masterpiece, *Peter and the Wolf*. We are also delighted to feature David Murrell in Mozart's *French Horn Concerto #1*, and Sibelius' sublime tone poem, *Karelia Suite*. Our concertmaster, Paul Willis, will be featured in *Meditation From Thais* by Jules Massenet and pianist John Alonso brings three of his own orchestral works.

Little did we know that our orchestra would be so popular this year. Our last concert was sold out as Glenda Escalante del Monte dazzled us with Beethoven's *Piano Concerto #1*. So get your tickets soon.

Despite the "sold out" signs at our performances, we

can only hope to cover a portion of our costs. We are indebted to you, the concert goer and to those individuals and patrons whose donations have been the backbone of our financial support. If you are not a patron of Counterpoint Orchestra, please visit us at the back table at our next concert and one of the volunteers will be glad to explain our fund raising programme.

We also wish to thank the Church Street Community Centre for organizing a first for Counterpoint. On April 1st we present a special children's presentation of *Peter and the Wolf*. This short program takes place at 3:00 PM and is free for children and their parents/guardians.

Thanks for your support and every good wish in the new millennium.

Cordially Yours
Terry Kowalczyk

"These days the orchestra has grown to more than 40 persons..."



Counterpoint Community Orchestra



16 Years & Counting!

Over the next few issues of the newsletter we will present some of our historical moments, along with photographs and stories culled from the scrapbooks and memories of Counterpoint's members, past and present. This early photograph of our small group was taken during break at a rehearsal at the 519 Church Street Community more than ten years ago. Joe Lauzon, one of the founders of the Orchestra sits on the edge of the stage. For most of our 16 years we've rehearsed and held our Community Concerts there. Although we'll probably continue to rehearse at the "519", currently, we're looking for a larger hall within the community for expanding orchestra and audiences.

Counterpoint Community Orchestra got underway circa 1984. Musicians in the Gay and Lesbian Community wanted their own public space where they could socialize openly as gay and lesbian people, play music together and bring that music to an emerging community. Nowadays, we are persons who are gay or lesbian, or gay and lesbian positive. People from all walks of life have played with our orchestra. For example in this picture there is a computer whiz kid, an insurance broker, a provincial finance analyst, two adult education specialists and a lawyer among others. These days the orchestra has grown to more than forty persons, in comparison to the smaller numbers in those days.



Our New Website

In the past few years, Bill McQueen, who has been a member of the orchestra since its beginning, has built and maintained a web site at www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/9702/main.htm. Now Henry Hewitt of Analogic Communications (www.analogicom.com or phone (416) 406-4444) has developed a new site for us. Check it out at www.coorchestra.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

March

Thurs. Mar. 2

Join us at Woodys (467 Church St.) for a fabulously fun fundraiser. Great raffle prizes! CDs, gift certificates, and more! Bring your friends and support your community orchestra.

Sun. Mar. 25

CCO Spring Concert at 519 Church Street Auditorium. Doors open at 7:00 PM with the concert beginning at 8:00 PM. Please buy your tickets in advance to reserve your spot. Look forward to Peter and the Wolf narrated by Luba Goy and other great classical selections. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance at This Ain't the Rosedale Library (483 Church St.) or \$12.00 at



Get Involved!

EVENTS CALENDAR

(CONT.)

the door. For more information call (416)925-9872 ext. 2066 or check out our website - www.ccorchestra.org

April

Sat. April 1

Children's Concert at the 519 Church Street Auditorium beginning at 3:00 PM. We will be performing the exciting children's tale, Peter and the Wolf, narrated by Luba Goy.

June

Sat. June 3

Our summer concert. Mark your calendar now! Featuring amazing classical works by your favourite composers. Call (416) 925-9872 ext. 2066 or our website at www.ccorchestra.org for more information!

The Orchestra wishes to form a Board of Directors. If you want to be part of an exciting community cultural organization please give your name to a member of the executive or call 926-9806.

Benefactors

The Orchestra is also looking for corporate and individual benefactors. Financial contributions are

tax deductible and will be gratefully acknowledged.

You can become a member of our Conductor's Circle with a donation of \$400.00 or more or a Patron with a donation of ~~\$300.00~~²⁵⁰ or more or be a Friend with a donation of \$50.00 or more.

Sponsors

Some contributors may wish to sponsor guest artists. Your contribution is

tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the program.

Program Advertising

The cost for placing a business card size advertisement in a Counterpoint Community Orchestra program is \$40.00. If you wish to place an ad, please call 926-9806 and leave your name and telephone number.

Guest Performances

At our most recent performance we were thrilled to present Glenda Escalante del Monte (pictured at right with Terry Kowalczuk) in her concert debut, in which she did a spectacular performance of *Beethoven's Piano Concerto #1*. Glenda was born in 1983, in Havana, Cuba and began playing piano at seven years of age. She has won 1st place in numerous prestigious international competitions and since coming to Canada has won 5th place in the Senior Solo Piano Competition, sponsored by the Toronto Symphony Volunteer Committee. Her teachers in Canada include John Alonso and Marietta Orlov, who teaches her at the Royal Conservatory of Music..



Thank You

We at Counterpoint are proud to be a part of this community and appreciate the support we received from you over the years. Without it we could not have survived for sixteen years. So, we would like to extend a very special Thank You

to:
All the **patrons** who attended our performances over the past sixteen years. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we enjoyed performing them;
The **519 Church Street Community Centre**, for the

use of their great space for our rehearsals and performances;
The Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal for the grants we have received;
Gottlich, for the fabulous catering;

(Continued on page 4)



Luba Goy...

(Continued from page 1)

audience. Counterpoint delights in bringing you Prokofiev's enchanting music and invites you to bring any kids you know to a special repeat performance for children on April 1 at 3:00 PM. The April 1 concert is given in co-operation with the Church Street Community Centre. Come on March 25 and then bring the kids on April 1st.

Counterpoint Fundraiser to be Held at Woody's

Be sure to join us at Woody's at 467 Church Street. on Thursday, March 2 for our fundraiser. It will be a fun filled evening with entertainment and fabulous prizes to be won. Besides the entertainment value and the opportunity to win great prizes you will be doing a good deed by contributing to an organization that enhances the cultural richness of our community.

Woody's is known for their generosity, having held benefits for numerous organizations in our community. We are extremely grateful for their support in this endeavour and judging from previous benefits they have done, this one promises to be spectacular. The festivities get underway at 10:00 PM.

Raffle tickets will be sold (\$1.00 for 1 or \$2.00 for 3) for a raft of goodies, including:

- ◆ A cruise on Lake on Ontario provided by ExtaSea
- ◆ Four, cut, style and colour from Rita's Salon & Spa
- ◆ Two nights accomodation at Amazing Space bed and breakfast
- ◆ A hair colouring from Lenna K Color
- ◆ Plaque mounted artwork from O'Connor Gallery

And more! See you there!

Thanks...

(Continued from page 3)

Timothy's ;
Xtra! for their advertising support;
This Ain't the Rosedale Library;
Woody's;
Second Cup;
Ladybug Florist;
Mango;
The Church Wellesley Business Association;
David DuBois of Blanche's Bookkeeping for his help with the fundraising;
Dan Arsenault for his assistance with the newsletter.



Would you like to play in an orchestra?

**Counterpoint
Community
Orchestra**

LOOKING FOR PLAYERS
all sections

Rehearsals Monday evenings at 519 Church Street

for information, call Terry : 416-658-5359