

Counterpoint Community Orchestra

Counterpoint Community Orchestra
Terry Kowalczyk Music Director,
and the **Dickens Fellowship**
Toronto Branch present

DICKENS with a Twist

A Tribute to
Charles Dickens,
Novelist,
Social Reformer,
Philanthropist,
on the Occasion
of the 200th
Anniversary
of his Birth
A Symphony
Orchestra Concert
evening featuring:

"Oliver!" Concert Orchestra Selections;

Sinead Sugrue, soprano: Mozart's *Marten aller Arten*;

Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Opus 92, by Beethoven;

plus other celebrated pieces associated with this celebrated author

Tickets: \$20 at the Door • Advance \$16 • Youth (13 & under) \$7

Reserve Tickets, Group Tickets, or for more information:

tickets@ccorchestra.org • (416) 902-7532 • www.ccorchestra.org

Join the mailing list for upcoming Dickens Fellowship

events in 2012: dickenstoronto@hotmail.com

Saturday March 3, 2012, at 8:00 p.m.
Saint Luke's United Church, 353 Sherbourne St.

Dickens with a Twist

For our March concert, Counterpoint Community Orchestra teams up with the Toronto Branch of the Dickens Fellowship to present 'Dickens with a Twist'. The concert features works from musicals based on Dickens' work, music Dickens himself loved, and music composed in 1812 the year of Dicken' birth.

The Dickens Fellowship, founded in 1902, is a worldwide association of people who share an interest in the life and works of Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870). The Toronto Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, founded in 1905, is the oldest of the Dickens Fellowships in North America.

Come and enjoy selections from *Oliver!*, Mozart's 'impossible' *Marten Aller Arten* with the exciting coloratura soprano Sinead Sugrue, the Overture from *The Yeomen of the Guard* by Dickens' friend Arthur Sullivan, and Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony*.

The concert is on Saturday March 3 at 8 pm at Saint Luke's United Church, 353 Sherbourne Street at Carlton, across from Allan Gardens. Be sure to come.

Guest Conductor

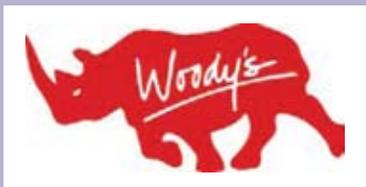
Love of Sousa Lands Concert
Goer on Conductor's Podium

Sol Mednick is a family friend of Music Director Terry Kowalczyk, and Sol loves the music of John Philip Sousa. He had never been to a Counterpoint concert - because we weren't doing Sousa. He has for years asked how the orchestra is doing and would come out if we did Sousa. Finally, for the December concert, John Philip Sousa was on the programme. True to his word Sol was there, flying back early from a Florida trip to attend, along with many members of his family. Terry marked the occasion by inviting Sol on stage, and after a brief lesson in conducting, Sol was leading a symphony orchestra in a performance of 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' by John Philip Sousa! Many thanks, Sol, for one of the highlights of our December concert, and we hope to see you at many more concerts, even if we aren't doing Sousa.



The Counterpoint Community Orchestra Newsletter is published 3 times per year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

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Woody's Night

March 29

Counterpoint is holding the annual Woody's fundraising evening on Thursday March 29. This event is held at Woody's, a gay bar on Church Street near Wellesley. We sell raffle tickets to the clients at the bar and give them information about the orchestra. If you can donate a raffle prize, such as a gift certificate, please get in touch (info@ccorchestra.org). This event has been a source of important revenue for the orchestra, so come out and support Counterpoint, and have a good time as well!

Thurs Mar 29, 2012, 9 pm to Midnight
Woody's, 465-467 Church Street



Charles Dickens

Novelist, Social Reformer, Philanthropist

Charles Dickens was born 200 years ago. His legacy is contained in his writing. In his brief 58 years he managed to write 14 ½ novels, hundreds of short stories and articles and thousands of letters. His childhood years were spent in many homes in Portsmouth, Chatham and London due to his father's being transferred from one British Navy site to another and his family's constantly being insolvent. In fact his father was sent to debtors prison for several months and Charles, aged 12, was sent to work in a shoe blacking factory. His childhood memories, both delightful and haunting, never left him and greatly influenced his writing.



Drawing by Cameron Coneybear

Dickens attained celebrity status throughout the world with the writing of *Pickwick Papers* in 1836 when he was 24 years old. He continued to write best-selling and extremely popular novels until the time of his death in 1870.

Although not an accomplished musician himself, Dickens loved music. He knew Sir Arthur Sullivan, and some of his favourite composers were Mozart, Mendelssohn and Chopin. He also greatly enjoyed Gounod's *Faust*.

Most adults today have read something written by Dickens whether it is *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist* or the ever popular *A Christmas Carol*.

Dickens did not only write. Beginning work as a law office clerk, then a court and parliamentary reporter, he owned and edited magazines, performed in many plays,

travelled to North America, France and Italy and, most importantly, advocated for the poor and destitute. He was even asked to run as a member of Parliament.

Never satisfied with his financial situation and because of his love of the stage, Dickens embarked on

several reading tours in Britain and as far as the United States. "Reading" is somewhat misleading. Dickens acted the parts of the characters, changing his voice and volume for each character. He caused audiences to roar with laughter, weep in sorrow and scream in terror as he performed comical parts from *Pickwick* or the murder scene with Nancy and Bill from *Oliver Twist*. It is likely that these

performances aided in his early death as he was already in poor health in the last year or so of his readings.

The Dickens Fellowship was founded in England in 1902 to "knit together in a common bond of friendship lovers of the great master of humour and pathos, Charles Dickens, to spread the love of humanity, to campaign against those 'social evils' that most concerned Dickens..."

The Toronto Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, founded in 1905, consists of about 60 members who share an interest in the author. Its reading group meets monthly and there are two annual events: a Christmas tea in December and a Birthday Luncheon in February. In the spirit of Dickens, annual donations from its members are presented to the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation.

Interview with Marlon Brown

Counterpoint Community Orchestra has initiated a mentorship program for young musicians. Through this program, Marlon was recently appointed to the position of Composer/Arranger for Counterpoint. This allows Marlon to use the orchestra as his own sounding board for the arrangements that he wishes to create and help him learn and try out techniques. Marlon has arranged seven pieces for us to date. Recently Music Director Terry Kowalczyk caught up with Marlon on the internet for this interview.



Terry: How long have you played for CCO?

Marlon: I have been playing with the CCO since 2008 (4 years).

Terry: Please tell me a little of how you learned to arrange music? What is your musical training?

Marlon: I am a self-taught arranger and have been using books, scores and recordings to help me learn the skill of arranging/orchestrating music.

Terry: Who was your musical inspiration?

Marlon: My musical inspiration was Andre Rieu. I like the way he presents music. Fun, flamboyant and full of life.

Terry: How has being chosen for the CCO mentorship program benefited you so far as an arranger of music?

Marlon: I was recently enrolled in the CCO mentorship program and feel very privileged. Imagine having an orchestra at your disposal for all your arrangements and compositions. It's every composers' dream and it usually ends up being just that. However I have the great benefit of hearing how a few notes written on a piece of paper, can translate into a grand affair of instruments blending together. Through this, I can hear what instrument combinations work best.

Terry: How did your association with arranging music for CCO start?

Marlon: Arranging for the orchestra started with a simple conversation between you and me, about what I do in my spare time - write and arrange music. The orchestra needed an arrangement made for a Canadian composition by Harry Lewis. I took on the challenge and have been doing arrangements for this orchestra ever since.

Terry: What are the challenges of arranging music for a symphonic orchestra the size of CCO?

Marlon: It's a lot of fun writing for an orchestra, but with all that fun comes a couple of challenges. The obvious one would be the size. It's no walk in the park writing for 60 musicians. When writing, you have to think of which instrument best suits the melody, counterpoint and harmony. Balance is another issue and can be the downfall to the greatest of arrangements. If you can't hear the motif or soloist due to certain instruments or sections playing too loudly, the meaning of the piece will be missed. The best thing to help these sort of challenges is to be clear and concise when writing and know who you are writing for.

Terry: Would you encourage other orchestras to develop similar mentorship programs?

Marlon: I strongly recommend that other orchestras develop a mentorship program like this. This program is not only a great experience and learning curve for the mentee but is a great resource for the orchestra.

Terry: What are your future musical plans?

Marlon: I plan to attend university for Education and Composition.



Sinead Sugrue...

Irish Canadian soprano, Sinéad Sugrue, returns to Counterpoint Community Orchestra to perform Mozart's *Marten Aller Arten*.

Sinéad has brought to life some of the most famous leading soprano operatic roles: Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Mimi (*La Bohème*), Nedda (*Pagliacci*), Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Adele (*Die*

Fledermaus), Baby Doe (*The Ballad of Baby Doe*), *Die Königin der Nacht* (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Susanna (*The Marriage of Figaro*). Her ability to connect to the emotional core of the characters she portrays and convey that feeling to the audience makes Sinéad an all-round performer and an audience favourite. "The range of emotion that weaved through soprano Sinéad Sugrue's performance of 'Qui la voce', the longing, the heartbreak, the hint of madness in her laughter, was easily evident; no interpreter required." (Ontario Arts Review)

Sinéad graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University and an Advanced Diploma in Voice from the Glenn Gould Professional School. In 2003, she was the first place winner of the prestigious Christina & Louis Quilico Award from the Ontario Arts Foundation.



Spring Concert

Saturday, May 12, 2012, 8 p.m.

Counterpoint Community Orchestra's spring concert on May 12 coincides with Toronto's Organix organ festival and will feature a rare performance of organ Symphony in G minor by Charles-Marie Widor. More details will follow in our April Newsletter. Saturday May 12, 2012, 8:00 p.m.



Garage Sale

Summer 2012

Following up on our successful sale last July, Counterpoint will hold another garage sale. This year we'll try not to have it on the hottest day in recorded history. Please keep our sale in mind when doing your spring cleaning/offloading/downsizing. If you have stuff you can donate, let us know at web@ccorchestra.org. Last year we raised over \$850 for the orchestra. Let's see if we can top that this year.



Rehearsal

Counterpoint Community Orchestra has held rehearsals at the 519 Community Centre on Church Street for many years, Monday evenings from 8 until 10 pm. Here are some images from a recent rehearsal.



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Board Bulletin

Board Members for 2011-2012:

Neville Austin (Chair), Kirk Cooper (Vice-Chair),
Drew VonStrauder (Secretary), Ed Piotrowski (Treasurer),
Larry Reid, Mike Hwang, Holly Price

Our December concert was successful artistically and financially, and enough money was raised by the small envelopes in the programs to purchase the stands needed for the orchestra. Thanks to all who donated!

Counterpoint Orchestra now has an official CCO Composer/Arranger – the Board has appointed Marlon Brown to this position. Marlon has done a lot of arranging for the orchestra and now has a title to go with the work he has done.

Orchestra Canada Workshop

Terry Kowalcuk, Neville Austin and Norman Thackeray participated in a one-time orchestra information-gathering session in March 2011. It provided us with a chance to liaise with other orchestras, compare notes and exchange ideas and suggestions. These sessions were held by Orchestra Canada all across the country and resulted in a large and informative report about small-budget orchestra issues. We have this report and it can be made available to anyone who is interested. One of the upshots of this is that our orchestra is in reasonably good shape relative to many community orchestras in terms of the size and median age of our audience base.

Donations

Counterpoint is grateful for the ongoing generosity of our patrons. Without you there would be no music. Contact us about donating: contributions@ccorchestra.org
To donate online, go to our website www.ccorchestra.org and click on the 'Donate Now' button.

Get your tickets now for

DICKENS

with a
Twist

Saturday March 3, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.
Saint Luke's United Church

\$16 Advance \$20 at Door \$13 Youth (13&under)
Advance tickets can be reserved to be paid at the door.

Group Ticket Deals

Take advantage of Group Ticket Rates!
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Contact Lana Chou Hoyt

to inquire or to reserve tickets:
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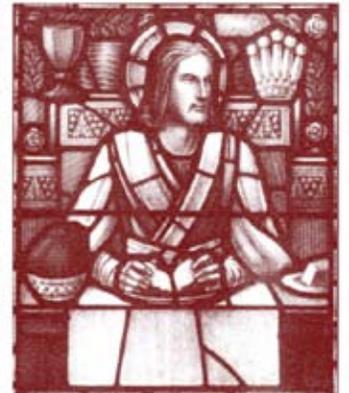
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