Welcome! "The Beat" is a new way for the orchestra to communicate with its various constituencies both inside and outside the organization – audience members, community supporters, staff, Board of Directors, musicians, and the general public.

The goals of the newsletter:
- Help develop a closer relationship and greater communication between all members of the WSO family.
- Encourage greater stewardship of the WSO through an exemplary level of transparency.
- Provide an opportunity to highlight extraordinary achievements of WSO stakeholders (staff, board, musicians, audience, donors, sponsors, volunteers, etc.).

We need your help!
The Beat will be written and produced by WSO staff – but WE NEED YOUR HELP! Frequent contributions from all our constituencies is what will make the newsletter vibrant, interesting and evolving. So, if you have an interesting story idea, a person or achievement to be featured, or information you’d like to see shared – Just email me (Steve) at: scollins@waterburysymphony.org

When & How to Get The Beat: The Beat will be produced quarterly in January, April, July and October. Depending on the timing of orchestra events, distribution will be earlier or later in the month. The Beat will be distributed via links on facebook and twitter, the WSO website, and directly emailed to all WSO staff, Directors and musicians.

Finally, please don’t be a stranger. Let me know if you enjoy reading The Beat – or if you don’t. Just be as specific as possible so we know how to improve. Don’t be shy!

Thank you so much for your support. The WSO is only as strong as its extended community, and for that we are so very grateful!

Yours truly,
In November 2011 the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, staff, musicians, and community supporters set out to write a new, three year Strategic Plan. The Plan would serve as a guiding document in the orchestra’s development, a tool for communicating our vision to the public, and an instrument to measure our progress. Well, we’re halfway through the implementation period and while much work remains to be done, we’re very proud of….

The advancements we’ve made:

- Music Director Leif Bjaland is creating fresh, vibrant concerts which are attracting new and diverse audiences.
- Education programming is having a truly profound effect on Greater Waterbury’s youth.
- The orchestra has undergone a complete rebranding, revitalization, and expansion of staff and infrastructure.

Furthermore, to distinctly articulate our emerging vision of a dynamic organization with creative gravitas, Maestro Bjaland has created an Artistic Vision Statement. The Statement describes the kind of programming we endeavor to produce – while still honoring the great traditions of the past.

The future is bright indeed! I invite you to explore the Strategic Plan and Artistic Vision Statement, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

Click Here For…..

2012-2015 Strategic Plan
Artistic Vision Statement

Sincerely,

Kristen Jacoby, WSO President

Website to Feature Musicians

The WSO website has been sorely lacking in highlighting our fantastic musicians. No longer! We’d like your ideas on how to best feature the people who make the music come alive. Shall we post the roster for each concert in its entirety? Shall we feature our core musicians in a more in-depth fashion? Perhaps our audience would like to learn more about our musician’s personal lives – their background, musical inspiration and hobbies? Please let us know what you’d like to see on our website.

Send Steve Collins an email: scollins@waterburysymphony.org

WOBYTheNumbers

106 business partners contributed $347,864
19 institutions hosted education programs

More than 5,500 people attended a WSO concert or special event

More than 180 musicians performed, taught and shared their love of music
Where is Mike? (You’ll Want to Find Out!)

By Calida Jones
Bravo Waterbury! Program Director and Violinist

1. You left the WSO for Las Vegas. What took you so long to get there?

Only Steve Collins knew that playing in Las Vegas was my destiny. I had to figure it out slowly over time.

2. Why are you in Las Vegas?

I’m the Music Director and Percussionist for a new show called “Vegas Nocturne” at the Cosmopolitan Hotel’s new social club - Rose.Rabbit.Lie. It’s hard to explain, but it’s sort of a modern variety show in an old fashioned social club.

3. What’s your favorite part of performing in Las Vegas?

The cast and musicians here are amazing. Julian, our wire walker, does an incredibly dynamic act full of jumps and flips – it is really fun to provide accompaniment for him. The clowns have a lot of fun interaction with the band and often do jokes at the expense of the musicians, which we love.

4. Have you lost any money gambling?

Not nearly enough. I requested to be paid in casino chips, but they said they don’t do that anymore.

5. During your downtime what do you do?

So far, I’ve had very little downtime because we just opened the show last week. The rehearsal and tech schedule has been insane. There is a great community of performers of all kinds here in Vegas. When I do have time, I’ve been enjoying getting to know them and trying to get familiar with the city.

6. Are you ever coming back to the WSO?

Yes! WSO is one of my favorite groups to work with. I have no idea when I’ll be back to the East Coast. But when I am, I hope to rejoin the orchestra.

7. Is there anything else we should know?

If the WSO percussion section comes out here to visit, I cannot be held accountable for anything that might happen.....

For more information on Mike:
http://www.mikedobsonmusic.com/

For more information on Vegas Nocturne:
http://roserabbitlie.com/#/vegasnocturne

For some of Mike’s other, colorful, work:

SWAG!

By Sarah Miller
WSO Education Associate

Pens! Lens Cleaning Cloths! Tote-bags! Be on the Lookout for free WSO promotional items!

The new, colorful WSO logo is everywhere – on the exterior awning of the WSO office, in advertisements and marketing materials, and on promotional “swag” that is being given away at concerts & events this season. Versatile black tote bags with the new logo were given to each audience member who contributed canned goods at our December food drive, and pens & lens cloths are distributed frequently.

Also, check out our beautiful new 6’ tall concert banners that adorn the lobby or entrance to each of our concert and special event venues. The colorful images on each banner highlight our musicians, education programs, special guests and are a striking visual portrayal of the WSO “family” in action.

The WSO tote bag is just one of the fun new items we have available this year.
The WSO Goes Mobile!

Thanks to WSO Marketing Director, Kathryn Dennen, you can now visit a mobile-friendly version of the WSO website and do all of the following things from your mobile device:

- View the concert season & upcoming events
- Purchase tickets
- Map office location
- Call us with one touch
- Email us with one touch
- View recent photos
- Check us out on YouTube
- Connect with us on Facebook
- Connect with us on Twitter
- Email us with one touch
- Call us with one touch
- Map office location
- Purchase tickets
- View recent photos
- Map office location

For More Information...

Visit http://waterburysymphony.org on your mobile device now! Email us with any comments or questions at boxoffice@waterburysymphony.org

Don’t miss our upcoming concert – Side by Side!

Featuring students from Northwest Connecticut & The Alluras Duo
February 8, 7:00 pm, Litchfield Intermediate School
Click here to purchase tickets!

Estelle Mackenzie: Board Member, Musician, Educator…

By Doug Donato, WSO Administrative Associate

What is your role in the Waterbury Symphony?

Well I don’t currently play with the Symphony. In the past, I did have a few opportunities to play piano accompaniment. I did a couple of large Mozart pieces for his bicentennial in 1991 and a Beethoven Choral fantasy in 1994. I’ve been on the WSO Board of Directors since 2008, Executive Committee secretary for three years, and currently I am the Chairperson of The Education Committee.

When did you know that music would be a major part of your life?

My aunt was always a very good musician and we always had a piano in the house, so I was able to learn piano at age 4. I took to it quickly and loved it! I came from a family of 6, so piano was an escape from the noise. I was the kind of kid that, when shown how to play a scale – stayed in the basement until I could do it. I teach piano now and I’m always happy when I get a student who has “got the bug!”

Tell me a little bit about the Education Committee and its work...

The Education Committee is focused on inspiring a passion for music and promoting community engagement through the education programs of the WSO. Also, we aim to keep the Board of Directors well informed of our programming vision, goals and accessibility for students throughout their entire education. We are very grateful for the support of our education funders, without whom programming wouldn’t be possible.

We are also very fortunate to work with so many great community partners such as the Waterbury Arts Magnet School.

Our work at “WAMS” gives us an opportunity to reach high school students who are very motivated and immersed in an arts environment. It is so exciting to see the seed of an idea take root and flower.

I know that you have a hand injury. This must be a huge challenge for you as a pianist!

I do have a hand condition, but it’s not exclusive to musicians. I wore out my thumb joints while playing loud octaves, accompanying choral societies. My right hand surgery had great results. Now it is eight years later and time for the left hand… I hope it goes just as well! It is just stuff you have to do to take care of yourself!

What kind of impact do you think the WSO has on the community?

An ever-growing impact! We’ve gone from a group that was just a little club for people that loved music to a great staple in Waterbury. I am originally from Pittsburgh, PA, but have lived in Roxbury for 37 years. I went to The Hartt School and moved to Roxbury not long after. I have always attended the Hartford Symphony also, but was looking for something local to support. I found that in the WSO. The Orchestra has always had a core group of dedicated people, which is part of the reason it’s still here!

We have worked hard to expand our civic ties in Waterbury as well as forge new ties beyond the city. I think that our pride has become much stronger in the past years, especially with the success of the 75th season and the WSO’s involvement in the history of Waterbury. I feel as though the WSO has a big, beautiful presence in the community. It is never easy running an arts organization, but it’s really moving in the right direction.
Greetings friends! I can truly say that with the 2014-15 season, the WSO will be entering uncharted territory. First, we venture into an enchanted wood and our second collaboration with Shakesperience: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Just as Shakespeare’s play blurs the lines between fantasy and reality, our shared objective will be to blur the lines between musician and actor, music and silence and between a double bass and an oak tree. In this multi-media experience, the audience may become as much a part of the show as Felix Mendelssohn’s gossamer music. Then in November, it’s on to the sunny Mediterranean to feature Grammy Award winning violinist James Ehnes. To quote the Toronto Star:

“There is something supernatural about how easy Canadian violinist James Ehnes makes everything sound…. So far in his amazing career, James Ehnes has turned into gold every note touched by his violin bow.”

Next we’re in a field of new fallen snow that will soon be populated with the cast of “A Connecticut Christmas,” a completely new show taking up where last December’s celebration left off! Then pianist Andrew Armstrong will transport us to yet unexperienced musical vistas, with the help of some of the greatest composers the world has ever known. The season finale is music of tremendous grandeur and transcendence - a cathedral in sound that we can explore together. More details in the April newsletter!

Yours truly,

Leif Bjaland

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2014-15 Season Sneak Peak
by WSO Music Director:
Leif Bjaland

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Upcoming Events!
February – March 2014

- Feb 6; 8:30-11:30am: Side By Side Young People’s Concerts at Litchfield Intermediate School
- Feb 8; 7:00pm: Side by Side Evening Concert at Litchfield Intermediate School
  - Both concerts feature students from the ASAP Inter-district String Project and the Alturas Duo.
- Feb 20-22: Youth Orchestra Los Angeles “Take a Stand” Symposium
  - WSO Executive Director Steve Collins and Bravo Waterbury! Program Director Calida Jones will attend this event to learn how “el Sistema” inspired programs are developing around the world.
- Mar 15; 8:00pm: Canyon & Stars - with Video! Subscription concert at the NVCC Fine Arts Center
  - A symphonic sunrise to sunset tour of the majestic Grand Canyon and interstellar trip through our solar system.

For more information on all concerts and events please visit: www.waterburysymphony.org