



Quarterly Report from the Minnesota Sinfonia

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My very best greetings; I am very happy to report we have been having a banner year!!
Some of the highlights include;

- National Endowment for the Arts support for our 2010/11 Winter Concert Series and Music in the Schools program.
- Minnesota State Arts Board support for two projects:
 1. A North Minneapolis Community Arts/Music Festival featuring the Sinfonia performing concerts in two north Minneapolis parks, both involving north side children in a production of Peter and the Wolf, as well as north side artists displaying their works and local musicians' performing, a community wide picnic along side other family and children activities.
 2. A children's concert tour to Camp Courage in Wright County and a family holiday pops concert in St. Cloud.
- A recording project this fall with Gary Levinson, our January 2011 violin soloist.
- The orchestra will be performing at a September 11th memorial concert at the Basilica of Saint Mary, to be conducted by the Basilica choir director, Teri Larson.
- A terrifically satisfying Winter Concert Series that attracted incredible and consistently large audiences. We had amazing soloists – all of whom will be re-engaged, and of course, terrific playing by the Sinfonia musicians.
- Our Music in the Schools programs will be wrapping up by the beginning of May, with a total of 19 schools, and close to 12,000 students served this school year.

Our summer looks to be very good as well:

- We will do nine community family/children's pops – an increase from last year's six, including the afore mentioned tour to Camp Courage, the North Side Arts/Music Festival, and a special Children's Concert at John A. Johnson Elementary School in St Paul.
- We have established a new partnership – this one with Junior Composers – a group I am very fond of. They encourage and teach budding young composers from all around the country. As part of this partnership, we will do three reading sessions of new works by these young talents, and we will sponsor an "overture contest." The winning entry will be premiered during our July Summer Concert Series II - more information below.
- We will be featuring a new type of soloist for our Summer Concert Series I – DJ Inform, a turntablist who will be playing my latest composition, *Fantasy for Turntables and Orchestra*, co-composed by Jay and Bernard Fishman. This should be great fun, and certainly add a new twist and audiences to our summer offerings. The rest of the program will include a great American Suite by Louis Moreau Gottschalk, who was the American answer to Franz Liszt, and Handel's Water Music.
- The Summer Concert Series II will feature cello soloist John Belk, the senior division winner of our Young Artist Competition and the Claire Givens Violins \$500 cash prize, the winning overture from the Junior Composers contest, and 30 of the region's very talented young student musicians will perform Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony* with the Sinfonia.
- The one downer for the summer is we will not perform at Lake Phalen this year. It was not by choice, but a question of safety- the St Paul Police cannot allow cars to park on both sides of the street because of safety concerns. We are trying to work out an acceptable solution so we can return to the Lake next year!

Do check out our updated website at www.mnsinfonia.org. Emily in our office is doing a fantastic job. The other day I googled MnSinfonia – 9 pages of listings – wow!

Of course we all know none of the above would be possible without your continuous and very generous support. Thank you!! I hope to see you soon, hopefully at one of our upcoming concerts. Until then, I wish you

My very best regards, and of course, happy listening,



Jay Fishman
Executive Director