



Volume 30, Number 44 Thursday, November 6, 2014

Music to the Ears

Philip Bauman Celebrates 20 Years with La Porte County Symphony Orchestra

by Andrew Tallackson

Philip Bauman knows how to pull off an 11th hour rescue.

In 1989, he made his podium debut with Chicago Opera Theater, helping its season-ending performance of "Romeo and Juliet" with only five minutes notice.

In 1994, he stepped in at the last minute to conduct an Elgin Symphony subscription concert for Margaret Hillis, revered as Chicago Symphony Chorus' founder and first director.

It was in 1994 that he also came to the aid of a friend, Steven Blackwelder, who was



Philip Bauman

The annual Hoosier Star fundraiser remains an enjoyable experience for Philip Bauman and the symphony's musicians.

unable to fulfill his conducting obligation with La Porte County Symphony Orchestra. At the time, Bauman had no plans to make a long-term commitment. He was simply helping out a friend at short notice.

"My first impressions (of the symphony) were that they were musicians with a great deal of heart, with a desire to do well and go through the process of rehearsing and performing," Bauman said. "The atmosphere in the community was very welcoming, so that set things in the right direction."

Continued on Page 2

THE
Beacher

911 Franklin Street • Michigan City, IN 46360
219/879-0088 • FAX 219/879-8070
e-mail: News/Articles - drew@thebeacher.com
email: Classifieds - classads@thebeacher.com
http://www.thebeacher.com/



Published and Printed by
THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

In Case Of Emergency, Dial

911

Music Continued from Page 1

Twenty years later, Bauman is at home with La Porte County Symphony Orchestra as its music director and conductor. What's gratifying for him, among many things, is how the musicians over the years have embraced bigger and bolder projects, securing new audiences and, better yet, a new generation of talent.

"There is a trust that goes both ways," Bauman said. "I trust that the musicians will work to get where we need to be, and they trust that I haven't bitten off more than I can chew.

"The result is the musicians saying, 'Wow. I can't believe we played 'Pines of Rome' or 'Carmina Burana.' It's a boost of enthusiasm that, hey, we've done these works, that we *can* do these works."

Amid his 20th anniversary with LCSO, Bauman is about to kick off its 2014-2015 season, "Symphonic Voices: Reimagined," with an opening night concert Nov. 15 that includes guest performances by

The Other 3 Tenors and the Wirt-Emerson Concert Choir from Gary. He's a busy man, also conducting the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra, but he took time out from his schedule to speak with The Beacher not only about the LCSO, but also his love of music and instilling a passion for the arts in children.

A native of Battle Creek, Mich., music played a key role in Bauman's youth. His mother sang and played the organ. Each Saturday, she'd play Metropolitan Opera broadcasts on the radio. Once, he even stuck his head between his parents' stereo consoles to better appreciate Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5."

"That stuck with me forever," he said. "I remember thinking, 'This piece is just incredible.'"

Bauman gravitated toward the French horn, and says he was fortunate to have music teachers who believed in him, helping cultivate his talent. He later received a bachelor's degree in music theory from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University.



Philip Bauman conducts a performance of "The Nutcracker."

His first experience at the podium arrived, appropriately enough, before the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra. The conductor at the time was a friend with whom he'd studied privately.

"I remember being nervous as heck walking up to the podium, but extremely comfortable conducting the orchestra," he said. "I felt like I was home. Then, I turned around and I was scared again.

"That says something, that while making music I felt 100 percent confident and secure, that I needed to pursue this."



The Wirt-Emerson Concert Choir.



The Other 3 Tenors

Bauman's ensuing journey marked one impressive accomplishment after the next. He created Camera da Musica Concert Society, a chamber music concert series and professional orchestra. He conducted pieces not only with Chicago Opera Theater, through which he presented works ranging from "Carousel" to "La Traviata," but also The Opera Factory, da Corneto Opera, Light Opera Works and the Jarvis Conservatory. He served as music director and conductor of the Chicago Brass Choir, Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra and Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra. For 13 years, he was an associate conductor with Elgin Symphony. He served as Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra's assistant conductor, appearing in classical and pops concerts, for five seasons, as well as conducting everything from the Wheaton Symphony to the Downers Grove Oratorio Society.

Continued on Page 4

Lake Michigan Water Levels On a quick Upswing For how long? How far?

The Lake levels tend to peak each July, drop in the fall and early winter and then start to rise in the Spring and first half of summer. The average variation over the year is about a foot between January–February (low) and June–July–August (High). So you have to make comparisons to the same month to track changes.

As recent as February 2013 Lake Michigan levels were equal to the lowest ever recorded levels. In fact, December 2012 and January 2013 were the lowest levels ever recorded for those two months.

I just received the USACE report for September 2014. Some interesting numbers. September 2014 Lake Michigan hit 579.10 feet above sea level. September 2013 it was 577.56. That is a 1.54' rise year over year for the same month. For the first time in many years, the actual level of the Lake is higher than the average level. The average level for September is 579.06. We have been below average for so long that average seems high.

What peaks my interest is how fast we have gone from the lowest recorded level to slightly above average.

The highest lake level for September came in 1986. It reached 581.96' above sea level. That is 2.86' higher than September 2014. In 1986 the beaches were eroding mightily. Houses in the National Park and Grand Beach fell into the Lake.

The Lowest recorded level for September came in 1964. That year the level was 576.64' above sea level. They tell me that the beaches were grand that year.

So, "Will the Lake keep rising or will it settle back to a more normal annual cycle?" The USACE predicts that it may well go up another foot by next March. That is very counter cyclical to the normal annual rise and fall of the Lake. But the USACE people have hedged their bets by saying that the Lake might also fall back into a more normal cycle.

Lake Michigan has been decidedly on the rise since early 2013. In 2014 it rose rapidly. Hold on to your beach steps if it continues to rise as quickly as it has in the past 18 months. Then pray for early ice so the winter storms do not cause you to lose more than your steps.

Dan Coffey
O: 269.469.5635 Ext. 302
C: 269.612.0505
E: Dan@DanCoffey.com
W: www.remahxc.com

RE/MAX
harbor country

Music Continued from Page 3

Since becoming the conductor/music director with the LCSO, he's helped boost not only concert attendance figures, but also educational programs and the symphony's overall budget. He's also found a balance between satisfying audience expectations with classic or popular pieces and introducing new or unfamiliar works. Personal highlights for Bauman over the years have included Berlioz's "Symphony Fantastique" and "Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9," both in 2000 and the latter the same week his son, Matthew, was born, "Pines of Rome" and Mozart's "Requiem" in 2003 and "Carmina Burana" in 2008. That year also marked the performance of a contemporary work by Peter Boyer, "Ellis Island."

LCSO musicians, on average, hail from a 20-mile radius, Bauman said, not just from within the county, but also from South Bend, Valparaiso, Southwest Michigan and in some cases Chicago. According to the LCSO website, the roster of talent, which includes substitutes and student apprentices, hovers at around 90 individuals.

The musicians, Bauman said, have become highly proficient with the rehearsal process. On average, the group practices six to seven times beforehand for classical concerts and one or two times in advance for Pops programs.

"My main job is to get everyone basically on the same page," he said. "Sometimes, that's developed

by my inclinations, or sometimes I hear the musicians play something differently than I thought of... and I welcome that input. It definitely is a collaborative effort."

What's changed during the past five to six years, Bauman continued, is that an increasing number of younger musicians are joining the LCSO, the talent



La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., is home to most of the symphony's performances.

ranging in age from people their 20s to their 40s.

"They are enjoying themselves here," Bauman said. "They realize the intent here, that the quality we have is high.

"They also find themselves in leadership roles that they may not have in bigger orchestras. We are here to work hard and make music, and they are on board with that."

Bauman's emphasis on youth extends beyond the symphony's performers. Look at some of the LCSO events — Hoosier Star, LCSO Children's Chorus, the annual Children's Concert attended by countless area school children — and it's the next generation of talent that often takes center stage.

It's one reason why Bauman loves conducting the LCSO, why he's remained with it for 20 years and why he wants to continue doing so into the foreseeable future.

"It's important to get younger audiences interested because they become the audiences of the future," he said. "Exposing young people to the arts, to symphonic music can get them excited about a different realm in music making that they might not have experienced before.

"When we bring in thousands of children every year to hear the orchestra, we know there are kids we are touching, children who will become musicians because of this experience. They will become patrons, people who will appreciate this and support this."



Philip Bauman conducts a performance that includes an appearance by the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra Children's Chorus.

More about the Upcoming Season

The 2014-2015 La Porte County Symphony Orchestra season is:

- "Opening Night" with The Other 3 Tenors (Warren Moulton, Franco Martorana and Simon Kyung Lee) and the Wirt-Emerson Concert Choir, conducted by Marion Boynes at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Table seating costs \$30. General admission balcony tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors (65 and older). Children/students through college age with I.D. receive free admission to the balcony.

Call (219) 362-9020 or visit www.LCSO.net for reservations. Tickets also may be purchased at the door, La Porte Civic Auditorium, La Porte Savings Bank, 710 Indiana Ave., La Porte, Roxy Music Shop, 1012 Lincol-

nway, La Porte, and Visit Michigan City La Porte Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall.

- The IU Health La Porte Hospital Classic Concert, "Bach, Bruckner & Brahms," featuring the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, 2015, at the Elston Performing Arts Center, 317 Detroit St., Michigan City.

- The Robert J. Hiler Family Pops Concert, featuring the Purdue Glee Club and LCSO Children's Chorus, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18, 2015, at La Porte Civic Auditorium.



The Purdue Glee Club.



3 DAYS ONLY - LIMIT 1
Grade A 4-7 Lb. Avg.
FROZEN HONEYSUCKLE TURKEY BREAST

99¢

lb.



3-DAY SALE

ITEMS GOOD THURS., FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, NOV. 6-7-8 WITH A SINGLE \$15 OR MORE ADD. PURCHASE & YOUR VALUE PLUS CARD

<p>Absopure Half Liters 24-PAK SPRING WATER</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.88</p> <p>Limit 1 (Add. 3/\$10)</p>	<p>Indiana Kitchen Selected Var. SLICED 1-LB. BACON</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99</p> <p>Limit 2 ea.</p>	<p>3-Lb. Bag Flash Frozen Boneless Skinless CHICKEN BREAST</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$4.99</p> <p>"Farm Fresh" Brand Limit 1 bag</p>	<p>Rich in Vitamin C 1-Lb. Pkg. STRAWBERRIES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$2.88</p> <p>ea.</p>
--	--	--	---

All quantity rights reserved.

KARWICK PLAZA
PH. 879-4671
OPEN DAILY 7-10
www.alssupermarkets.com
Find us on Facebook