



VALDOSTA  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

215<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

2014 — 2015  
season

From: Valdosta Symphony Orchestra [mailto:swalexander@valdosta.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2014 3:24 PM

# VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Join us for our 25th Anniversary Season!



### Ticket Information

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ve until September 5, 2014 to renew seats.  
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Tickets with a tax deductible gift of \$50  
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x deductible gift of \$540 and tax  
call the box office)

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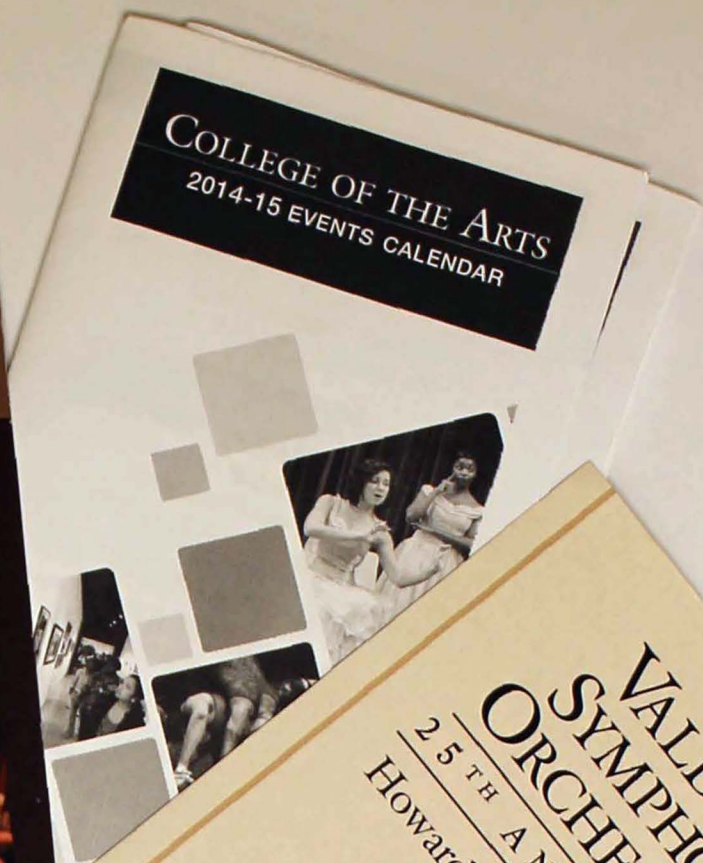
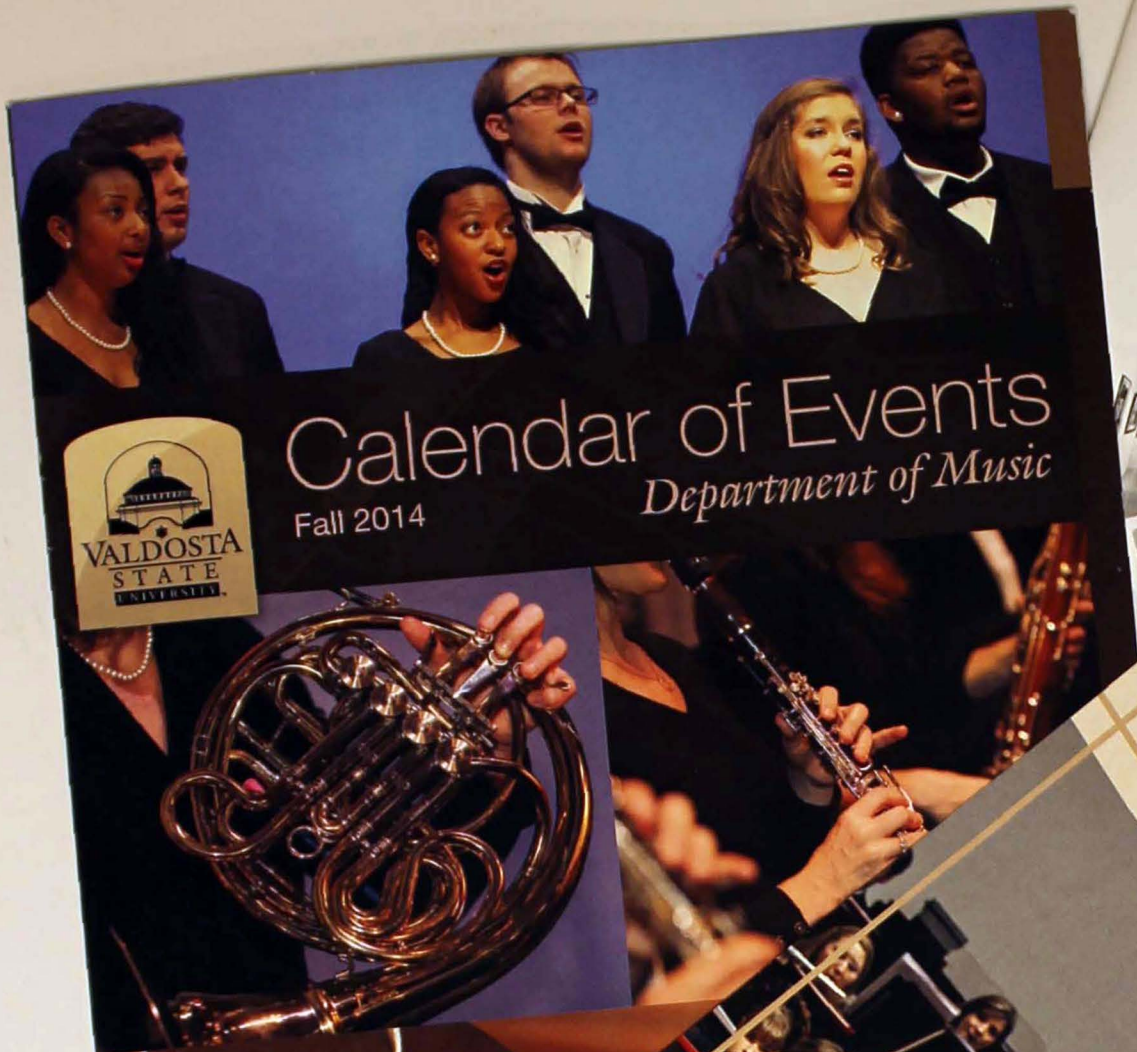
mbers, Seniors, Military,  
y phone or at the box

o purchase tickets

out the upcoming 25th Anniversary Season  
ickets online visit: [www.valdostasymphony.org](http://www.valdostasymphony.org).

here to view the new VSO promotional video.

Valdosta Symphony Orchestra  
College of the Arts  
Valdosta State University  
Valdosta, Georgia 31698



*You are cordially invited to be our guest at the*

*Valdosta Symphony Guild  
Annual Luncheon*



*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

*11:30 A.M.*

*Valdosta Country Club*



*Please join us to*

*Enjoy a wonderful lunch with fellow members and guests,*

*Welcome our new members,*

*Install our incoming officers,*

*Celebrate another successful year, and*

*Give our donations to the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra & VSG Endowment Fund.*

*Musical Entertainment by The South Georgia String Project*

*R.S.V.P. by Thursday, May 1, 2014*

*to Marian Belanger, [barrybelanger@bellsouth.net](mailto:barrybelanger@bellsouth.net), 229-293-9322 or 229-560-4178*





*You're Invited to a  
Wine and Cheese Party  
and  
New Member Orientation*



*Tuesday, August 19, 2014*

*6:00 - 8:00*

*Bellemeade North Clubhouse  
17 Bellemeade North*

*Please RSVP by August 15 to Carla Penny  
229-560-0902 or  
carlapenny@bellsouth.net*



## Valdosta Symphony Guild celebrates year

VALDOSTA — The recent annual luncheon of the Valdosta Symphony Guild was a celebration of the successful 2013-14 season.

At the luncheon held at the Valdosta Country Club, eight new members were introduced and recently elected officers were installed, with retiring President Marian Belanger handing over the baton to Carla Penny, president for the 2014-15 season.

Guests were entertained with music performed by students enrolled in the South Georgia String Project, one of the many youth programs supported by the Guild.

In her remarks, Belanger expressed appreciation for the efforts of Guild leadership and members in raising funds to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's youth programs, which benefit many young people in Valdosta and surrounding communities.

Belanger presented the Guild's annual gift to the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra in the amount of \$50,000, with Dr. Doug Farwell and Maestro Howard Hsu accepting on behalf of the Orchestra. Belanger al-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Valdosta Symphony Guild donated \$50,000 to the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Pictured left to right: Marian Belanger, Maestro Howard Hsu, and Dr. Doug Farwell.

so presented a donation to the Valdosta Symphony Guild Endowment Fund in the amount of \$15,000, with John Crawford and Dean Blake Pearce accepting on behalf of the Endowment Fund.

The Guild honored Kay Jennett for her many contributions by giving a

\$1,000 scholarship in her name to be awarded to an international masters performance graduate student enrolled in the VSU Music Department curriculum for the academic year 2014-15.

Newly installed President Carla Penny expressed enthusiasm for the

In her remarks, Belanger expressed appreciation for the efforts of Guild leadership and members in raising funds to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's youth programs, which benefit many young people in Valdosta and surrounding communities.

coming year, which will celebrate the 25th Anniversary Season of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, and emphasized efforts to promote the orchestra and youth programs throughout the community and in surrounding areas.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

New Valdosta Symphony Guild officers were recently installed. Pictured left to right: Marian Belanger, past president; Jeani Synyard, treasurer; Ann Kasun, treasurer elect; Carla Penny, president; Emily Rogers, president elect; Robin Thomas, corresponding secretary; and Sheya Taylor, recording secretary.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

New Valdosta Symphony Guild members were presented. Pictured left to right: Lois Heine, Renita Corbett, Patricia Richter, Happy Ingeman, Jeannette Strickland, Patricia Marks and Virginia Boswell.

# VSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Ensemble performances feature these same talents gathered as woodwinds, brass, or in performance genres such as jazz.

Guest performances host talents from across the U.S. and around the world in solo performances or gathered in musical ensembles.

For more information on VSU arts schedules and seasons, visit [www.valdosta.edu/coa](http://www.valdosta.edu/coa).

For information on school tours, programs and other questions, call (229) 333-5832.

## VSU celebrates the Year of

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — In naming the 2014-15 session the Year of the Arts, the Valdosta State University College of the Arts doesn't really have to do anything that it doesn't already do.

Each year with the theatre-dance department presenting more than a half-dozen professional-level productions and the Peach State Summer Theatre musicals, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra hosting national and international guest musicians and performing works by world-renowned composers, the music department presenting dozens of free and open-to-the-public recitals



# YEAR OF THE ARTS 2014-2015

and ensembles and the art department displaying numerous visual arts exhibits showcasing student and faculty works along with visiting art exhibitions, as well as any number of other events, presenting additional shows for a Year of the Arts would be overkill.

Arguably, for those pay-

ing attention, every academic year is 'Year of the Arts.'

Paying attention, said A. Blaine, director of the College of the Arts, 'The Year of the Arts' is about celebrating what is available at VSU College of the Arts. It has to offer a variety of what is available.

## **SAVE THESE DATES !**

As we open our exciting and celebratory  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

### **Tuesday, September 23**

First night meeting at the home of  
Jane Hearn  
3311 Bellemeade Drive  
7:00 – 8:00

### **Wednesday, September 24**

First morning meeting at the  
Turner Center for the Arts  
10:00 – 11:00

AND reservations for Pre-Concert Dinner are due

### **Saturday, September 27**

Pre-Concert Dinner  
Turner Center for the Arts  
5:45

Pre-Concert Lecture  
Fine Arts Building Room 1032  
7:00

Concert I : VSO Celebration  
Whitehead Auditorium  
8:00

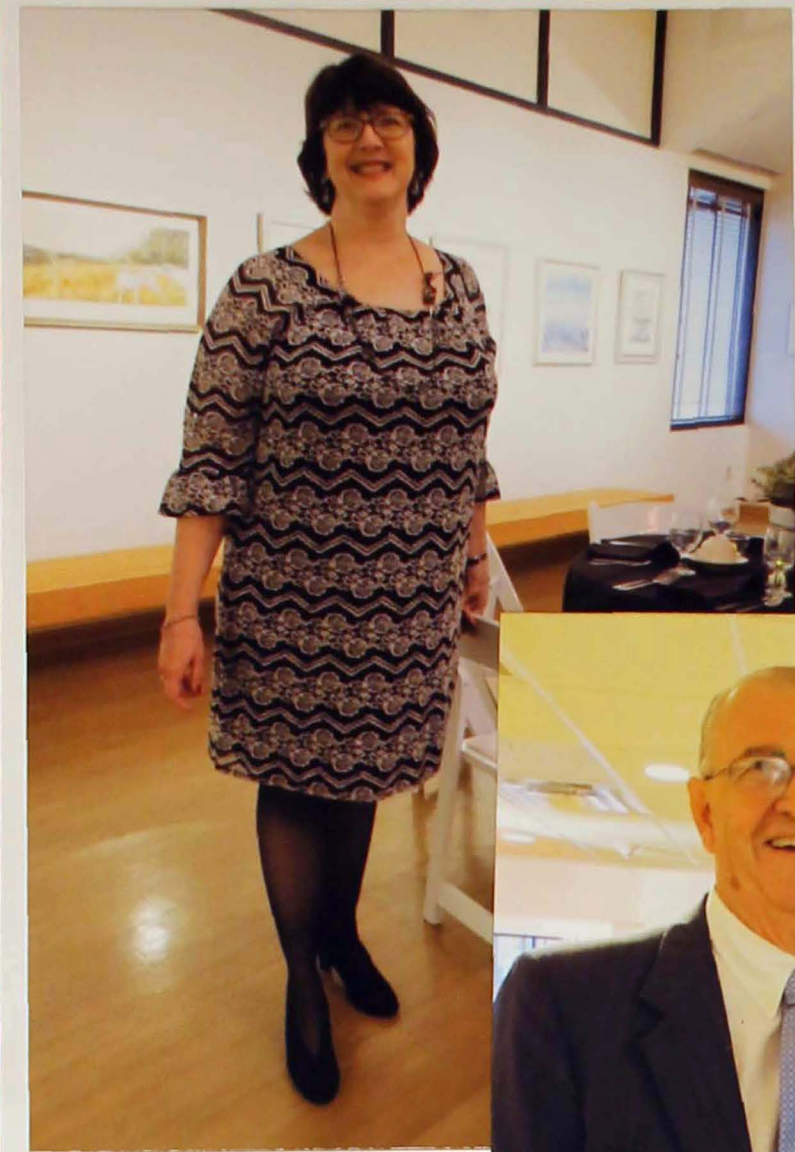
### **Saturday, November 8**

“Black and White” Symphony Ball  
Valdosta Country Club  
6:30 silent auction and cash bar opens













Winner of the 2011 National String Project of the Year

# South Georgia String Project



Sunday, August 31, 2014 **3A**

## String Project hosts student, parent meeting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The South Georgia String Project will kick off its 2014-2015 season with a meeting for new students and their parents at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3, in the Fine Arts Building Choir Room.

VALDOSTA — The South Georgia String Project, a joint venture of the Valdosta State University Department of Music and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, will kick off its 2014-2015 season with a meeting for new students and their parents at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3, in the Fine Arts Building Choir Room. Families with children age 8 and older who are interested in learning more about this initiative are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Led by Lauren Burns Hodges, director and master teacher, the South Georgia String Project offers "an after-school music program where students can easily access low-cost stringed instrument instruction," while simultaneously providing "a valuable, mentored teaching experience for music students at Valdosta State University."

The South Georgia String Project offers technique classes, private lessons, and group classes. Performances are held several times a year both on the VSU campus and out in the community.

Private lessons are also available for those who wish to study piano.

Advanced South Georgia String Project students have the opportunity to audition for a seat in the Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestra.

"Music is such a valuable part of a child's education," said Hodges, who was named director of the South Georgia String Project five years ago, "and it is a shame that so many programs are now being eliminated from public schools. Musical training encourages creativity and self-expression, and it develops discipline, teamwork, and analytical thinking skills.

"The South Georgia String Project can provide

low-cost music education to families in the community who would not otherwise have access."

According to its website at [www.valdosta.edu/sgsp](http://www.valdosta.edu/sgsp), "The South Georgia String Project encourages the enjoyment of music and self-expression through the study of a musical instrument and actively seeks to provide opportunities for student leadership, parental participation, and involvement in the greater community." It was started in 1993 and originally offered on location at area public schools and taught by VSU professors.

The American String Teacher Association named the South Georgia String Project the 2011 National String Project of the Year.

Contact Lauren Burns Hodges at [sgsp@valdosta.edu](mailto:sgsp@valdosta.edu) to learn more about the South Georgia String Project.



# SymphonyNotes

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Meet the Artist



In both art and life, violinist **Rachel Barton Pine** has an extraordinary ability to connect with people. Celebrated as a leading interpreter of great classical works, her performances combine her innate gift for emotional communication and her scholarly fascination with historical research. She plays with passion and conviction across an extensive repertoire. Audiences are thrilled by her dazzling technique, lustrous tone, and infectious joy in music-making.

Pine has appeared as soloist with many of the world's most prestigious ensembles, including the Chicago, Montreal, Baltimore, and Vienna Symphonies; the Philadelphia Orchestra; the Mozarteum, Scottish, and Israel Chamber Orchestras; the Royal Philharmonic; and the Netherlands Radio Kamer Filharmonie. She has worked with such renowned conductors as Charles Dutoit, Zubin Mehta, Erich

Leinsdorf, Neeme Järvi and Marin Alsop. She has performed all 24 Paganini Caprices live in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C. and at Ravinia.

Pine's prolific discography of 25 recordings includes her performance of the Glazunov Violin Concerto with the Russian National Orchestra, conducted by José Serebrier, which is featured on Glazunov Complete Concertos on Warner Classics. Her Violin Lullabies performed with pianist Matthew Hagle and released on Cedille Records debuted at number one on the Billboard classical chart. For Beethoven & Clement Violin Concertos recorded with The Royal Philharmonic conducted by Serebrier, Pine presented the world-premiere recording of Clement's Violin Concerto. Her Brahms and Joachim Violin Concertos was recorded with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and conductor Carlos Kalmar. The author of her own cadenzas to many

of the works she performs, Pine became the only living artist to join musicians like Fritz Kreisler and Jascha Heifetz in Carl Fischer's Masters Collection series with the

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## Featured in

- 1 | Meet the Soloist
- 3 | Conductor's Corner
- 4 | VSO Gala
- 5 | Meet the VSO

# VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# 215<sup>TH</sup>

## ANNIVERSARY

2014 — 2015  
season

Thursday, September 25, 2014 3A

# VSO Celebration!

## Violin concerto opens orchestra's 25th season

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

### AT A GLANCE

VALDOSTA — Composers often pen music for specific musicians. Yet, Saturday, when Rachel Barton Pine performs Mendelssohn's violin concerto with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, audiences will hear a work where the composer shared the creative inflection with the solo musician.

In the 1800s, Felix Mendelssohn served as concertmaster for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. He appointed violinist Ferdinand David as concertmaster.

Their friendship and working relationship led to the Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64.

"The fact that the composer was willing to entrust so much of the concerto's expressive content to his soloist suggests that David was not only a first-rate virtuoso but a sensitive artist as well," writes former NPR's "Performance Today" host Ted Libbey.

"... Here, the full range of a violinist's technique is challenged by writing that calls for lyricism and agility in equal measure as well as an ability to project nuance and emotion in the softest dynamics."

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's VSO Celebration! concert plays 8 p.m. Saturday, Whitehead Auditorium, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. More information: Visit [valdostasymphony.org](http://valdostasymphony.org)

Valdosta listeners will hear such expression this weekend during the opening concert of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's 25th anniversary season.

The Mendelssohn concerto features violinist Rachel Barton Pine.

A prodigy virtuoso, Pine began playing violin at the age of 3 years old. She debuted with the Chicago Symphony at the age of 10.

She has performed throughout the United States: Chicago, Atlanta, St. Louis, Dallas. Internationally renowned, Pine has performed in New Zealand, Israel, Canada, Iceland, etc. She has appeared in television performances on CBS's Sunday Morning and NBC's Today.

The VSO will also perform Musorgsky/Ravel's "Pictures at an Exhibition."



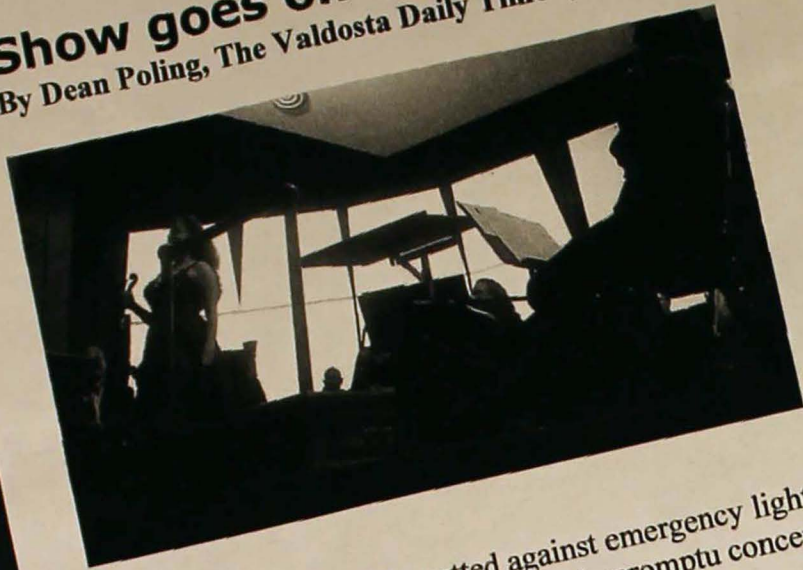
PHOTO: LISA-MARIE MAZZUCCO

World-renowned virtuoso Rachel Barton Pine performs Mendelssohn's violin concerto this weekend with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.



## Show goes on at VSU despite power outage

By Dean Poling, The Valdosta Daily Times | Posted: Saturday, September 27, 2014 11:40 pm



### Blackout

Rachel Barton Pine, silhouetted against emergency lights on stage, gives the delighted audience a bonus impromptu concert.

VALDOSTA – A power surge reportedly caused an electrical fire alarm and power outage led to concertgoers being evacuated from the Center during the orchestra concert.

The VSO was playing the opening concert of its 25th anniversary season featuring internationally known violinist Rachel Barton Pine performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and Mussorgsky's rousing "Pictures at an Exhibition." The concert begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, on the stage of Whitehead Auditorium located at Valdosta State University.

"The opening concert should start the season off with a 'bang' as well as let us give a taste of what's in store for the other concerts," said Dr. Howard Hsu, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra music director. "Since it's the VSO's 25th anniversary, I chose several blockbusters that are perfect for such a big celebration."

Pine has appeared as soloist with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the Chicago, Atlanta, St. Louis, Dallas, Baltimore, Montreal, Vienna, New Zealand and Iceland Symphonies, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Israel and Scottish Chamber Orchestras. In addition, she has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning and NBC's Today.

"The audience will love Rachel Barton Pine," Hsu said. "She's a world-renowned virtuoso who will dazzle everyone who hears her."

The orchestra will also perform Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," which Hsu referred to as a "masterpiece that contains some of the most electrifying music ever written."

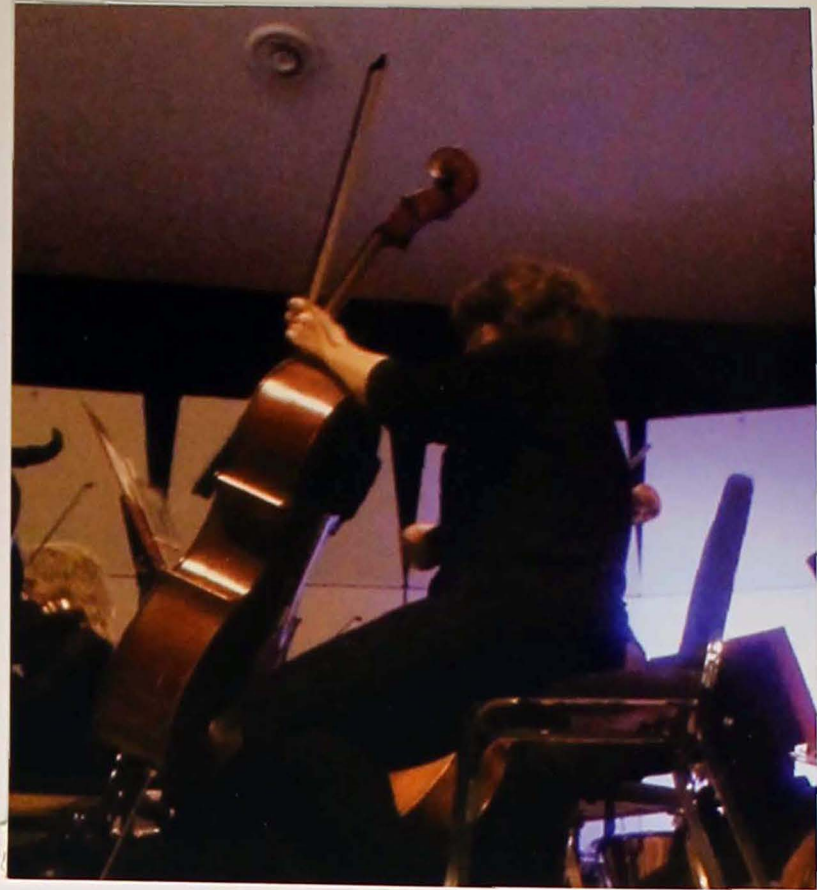
Tickets for Saturday's performance, which is sponsored by First Federal Savings and Loan, are \$27 for adults and \$10 for students. Senior and military discounts are available.

A special youth concert will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, also in Whitehead Auditorium. Teachers may reserve free seats for any program by contacting Sarah Alexander at (229) 333-2150 or [swalexander@valdosta.edu](mailto:swalexander@valdosta.edu).

Whitehead Auditorium is located on the first floor of the VSU Fine Arts building at the intersection of Oak Street and Brookwood Drive.

Visit <http://www.valdostasympphony.org/> or contact Sarah Alexander with VSU's College of Arts Outreach Office at (229) 333-2150 or [swalexander@valdosta.edu](mailto:swalexander@valdosta.edu) to reserve tickets or learn more. Tickets are also available at the Box Office before each event.

Reprinted from Valdosta Daily Times online



Photos by  
Haley Hyatt

# VSO wins national award



BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Valdosta Symphony Orchestra received national recognition to mark its 25th birthday.

But it is no gift. The VSO earned it.

During the weekend, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra learned it had received the distinguished first-place honor in The American Prize in Orchestral Performance in the community orchestra divi-

sion.

The VSO was one of approximately a dozen finalists from across the nation.

Founded in 2009, the American Prize "grew from the belief that a great deal of excellent music being made in this country goes unrecognized and unheralded, not only in our major cities, but all across the country: in schools, churches, in colleges, universities, and by community and professional musicians," according

The American Prize website.

"With the performing arts in America marginalized like never before, The American Prize seeks to fill the gap that leaves excellent artists and ensembles struggling for visibility and viability. The American Prize recognizes and rewards the best America

its size to have a symphony orchestra.

Through sponsorship by Valdosta State, the VSO began performing in 1990.

Under the direction of conductor Howard Hsu for the past several years, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra recently opened its 25th anniversary concert season as part of Valdosta



## VSO wins American Prize in Orchestral Performance

### VSO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

The orchestra's rotating membership includes VSU Music faculty, students, Valdosta-area musicians and professional musicians selected from a five-state region.

One American Prize judge said of the VSO: "The ensemble plays with

excellent intonation and balance. The intonation of the wind and brass is of high quality with lovely tone.

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra took first prize followed by second place from the Chamber Music Society of New York City and Seattle Collaborative Orchestra of Seattle and third-place from the Waynesboro Sym-

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's (VSO) live performance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony has won the 2014 American Prize in Orchestral Performance.

Dr. Howard Hsu, VSO music director, said, "It is extremely gratifying for the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra to receive national recognition. We have long believed that we have an excellent orchestra in this region, so to have it confirmed by a national panel of our peers proves that we have something special happening here in Valdosta."

The American Prize in Orchestral Performance recognizes and honors the very best performances by orchestras in America.

All applicants had to submit a recording of a live, unedited performance to be considered for recognition, Hsu explained. The VSO selected the Tchaikovsky piece from its 24th season.

Fans may recall the September 2013 performance on Valdosta State University's Whitehead Auditorium stage.

"This is the first time we have competed," Hsu said. The VSO won top prize in the Community Orchestral Division.

Judges for the American Prize in Orchestral Performance noted that the VSO "plays with excellent intonation and balance" and "the individual wind and brass players are



The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra performs.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

### ON THE WEB

[www.valdostasympphony.org](http://www.valdostasympphony.org), [www.theamericanprize.org](http://www.theamericanprize.org)

of high quality and play with a lovely tone."

Created in 1990, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra serves both the cultural

life of Valdosta and the regional academic mission of Valdosta State University. The high standard of performance of the orchestra

enables it to attract guest soloists of both national and international renown to the Valdosta community. Its membership is a rather unique blend of resident artist-faculty, students studying professional music disciplines, carefully selected professionals from a five-state region, as well as a few talented community performers. Supported by

an advisory board of directors, the Valdosta Symphony Guild, Valdosta State University, corporate sponsors, along with hundreds of individual patrons, the orchestra has become an important part of the cultural life of the entire region.

Contact Dr. Howard Hsu at [hphsu@valdosta.edu](mailto:hphsu@valdosta.edu) to learn more.

# How the Valdosta Symphony became a TitleTown winner

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — A telling moment occurred while discussing the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's recent national award with conductor Howard Hsu.

Hsu had allowed several students rehearsal space in his office. So he discussed the VSO's winning the first-place honor of The American Prize in Orchestral Performance in the community orchestra division while seated on a second-floor hallway of the Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building.

The newspaper interview occurred near VSU piano professor Lyle Indergaard's office. Indergaard stepped into the hallway to say hello and briefly visit.

As the conversation turned to noting that some people are still surprised that a town of Valdosta's size even has an orchestra, Indergaard smiled and said, "Valdosta has had



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Howard Hsu has been the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra conductor for the past six years. He recently led the orchestra to winning the prestigious American Prize.**

VSO | 11A

## VSO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

a symphony for 25 years, but it has never sounded as good as this."

Apparently, the American Prize judges agreed.

Valdosta State won first place above finalists from New York City, Seattle and performing groups in between.

One American Prize judge said of the VSO: "The ensemble plays with excellent intonation and balance. The individual wind and brass players are of high quality and play with lovely tone."

However, the VSO almost didn't enter the competition.

Hsu is not a big believer in competitions for orchestras.

"Unlike sports, an orchestra is not about competition," he said. "It's about people coming together."

Still, several months ago, Hsu and Doug Farwell, VSU Music department head, decided to en-

ter the competition. The competition required a live, unedited performance recording.

They submitted the recording of the VSO's 2013-14 season-opener of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. The VSO has recorded non-copyrighted scores for years and these performances are regularly aired Sunday evenings and 1 p.m. weekdays on the VSU cable channel.

Once entered, the VSO moved from one level to the next: semi-finalist, finalist, winner.

Though the VSO has improved since his arrival as conductor six years ago, Hsu never expected to win.

"It was kind of like being nominated for an Oscar," Hsu said. "It was an honor just to be named a finalist."

Yet, the VSO was a David facing many Goliaths, including a perennial past winner. The "little guys" kept moving to the next level, Hsu said, until the VSO brought home the latest national championship to TitleTown.

Hsu hopes this national championship aura will resonate with people living in a town also known as Winnersville. He hopes it might attract larger audiences to the orchestra's performances.

The American Prize will also cement the VSO's reputation in the orchestral world. It could resonate with potential future artists who may have otherwise said no or balk at performing with a symphony in a small town.

The award could be the nudge to change a few minds.

Award or not, the VSO continues rehearsing for its scheduled performances. There is the regularly scheduled performance next weekend, the upcoming "Nutcracker" performances with Dance Arts. And more concerts scheduled for 2015.

Hsu has no plans to reenter the competition.

He referred to the Oscars again. Like an Oscar winner, the VSO will always be known as a winner of the American Prize.

## Valdosta State music performs Mozart, Bloch

By Dean Poling, The Valdosta Daily Times | Posted: Tuesday, October 28, 2014 1:37 am

VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University Music faculty join a guest musician this evening for a recital of music by Mozart and Bloch.

Specifically, the four musicians will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat and Ernest Bloch's Suite for Viola and Piano (1919).

The recital features Kristen Pfeifer Yu, violin; Lauren Burns Hodges, viola; Steven Taylor, cello; Doug Jurs, piano.

Jurs is the guest artist.

Having studied with many influential piano teachers, the Chicago-born Jurs has served since fall 2012 as an assistant professor of piano and music theory at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton.

"Dr. Jurs has performed solo and collaborative recitals throughout the U.S. and abroad in cities like Vienna, Nice, and Milan and at festivals such as the Holland International Music Sessions,

From: **Doug and Donna Farwell** farwell4dees@mchsi.com  
Subject: WONDERFUL NEWS! 2014 American Prize  
Date: October 19, 2014 at 9:16 PM  
To: Doug and Donna Farwell farwell4dees@mchsi.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Howard P Hsu [mailto:hpsu@valdosta.edu]  
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2014 8:44 PM  
To: farwell4dees@mchsi.com  
Subject: Fw: 2014 American Prize

Hello,

we have some wonderful news to announce. The VSO has been named as the 2014 winner of the American Prize in Orchestral Performance (Community Division)!

<http://theamericanprize.blogspot.com/2014/10/community-orchestra-winner-runners-up.html>

Our performance of Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony from last season was judged against performances by other orchestras across the country (some also submitted the Tchaikovsky 5th), and a panel of judges chose us as the top prize winner for our division. What excellent work by our faculty, students, and professional core - this national recognition is well-deserved, and perfectly timed for our 25th anniversary and VSU's Year of the Arts! Of course, none of this would be possible without the fervent support of VSU, the VSO Board, Symphony Guild and the Valdosta community. Your Valdosta Symphony Orchestra thanks you all!

Dr. Howard Hsu  
Assistant Professor of Music  
Director of Orchestra Studies  
Valdosta State University  
Music Director, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra hpsu@valdosta.edu

# VSO Board of Directors elects new members

VALDOSTA — Valdosta Symphony Orchestra board of directors recently elected new directors.

— Walter Elliott was reared in Valdosta where, since 1993, he has practiced law with the firm of Elliott, Blackburn and Gooding, P.C.

He has been active in many civic and educational activities, having served as president of the Valdosta Rotary Club and chairman of the Valwood board of directors.

He is a member of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church.

His wife, Laura, is an active member and former officer of the Valdosta Symphony Guild.

— Will Hanson is a surgical pathologist at South Georgia Medical Center and the medical director of its laboratory as well as the managing partner of Pathology Associates of Valdosta.

He and his wife, Bonnie, a psychiatrist and Guild member, moved to Valdosta in 1995 and have been loyal patrons of the Valdosta



Valdosta Symphony Orchestra Board Chairman Dan Coleman poses with new board members John Magnasco, Walter Elliott and Will Hanson, and VSO Executive Director Doug Farwell.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Symphony Orchestra ever since.

He has served as an adult leader of the Boy Scouts, his two sons having become Eagle Scouts. He and Bonnie attend Christ Episcopal Church where he is on the vestry.

— John Magnasco is a retired professor of com-

munication arts (emeritus) at Valdosta State University. He is a long-time member of Valdosta's Italian-American Club and also teaches a continuing education course on wine which includes giving private wine tasting parties.

His interest in music in-

volves attending as many opera performances — both live and live in HD — as possible. He is an Army veteran.

His wife, Roberta, was a Brooks County school teacher of gifted students as well as a Valdosta Symphony Guild member.

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Where: Whitehead Auditorium, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. Exceptions noted.

More information: Call VSU College of the Arts Outreach, (229) 333-2150; or visit [www.valdostasymphony.org](http://www.valdostasymphony.org)

Conductor: Howard Hsu.

### CONCERTS

• "Visions of Love:" Bernstein's "West Side Story Overture," Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll," Saint-Saens' "Baccalaureate" from "Samson and Delilah," Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake Suite" Op. 20 (selections), Mascagni's "Intermezzo" from *Cavalleria rusticana*. Run date: Feb. 14.

• Flicker-Symphonic Celebration of the Silent Age: Musorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain," Saint-Saens' "Danse Macabre," Op. 40, Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1," Op. 4, Sibelius' *Finlandia*, Op. 26, Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite" (1919). Run date: March 14.

• Beethoven's 9th: Strauss' "Solemn Entrance," Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125, with Tamara Hardesty, soprano, and Soon Cho, mezzo soprano. Run date: May 2.



THE VALDOSTA SYMPHONY GUILD  
invites you to celebrate the  
25th Anniversary of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra at  
*"The Black & White"*  
**SYMPHONY BALL**  
To benefit the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra Youth Programs  
Saturday, the eighth of November  
two thousand and fourteen  
Valdosta Country Club

VALDOSTA  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

6:30 Cocktails (Cash Bar)  
7:30 - 11:00 pm  
Dinner, Auction and Dancing

The Valdosta Symphony Guild  
celebrates the  
**Silver Anniversary**  
of the  
Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

25

"THE BLACK AND WHITE"  
SYMPHONY BALL  
NOVEMBER 8, 2014

## PLANNING FOR THE SYMPHONY GUILD BALL



Photos available on Picasa and on CD



# Symphony Guild Ball Set- Up

Photos available on Picasa  
and on CD





# Symphony Guild Ball Set-Up

Photos available on Picasa and on CD



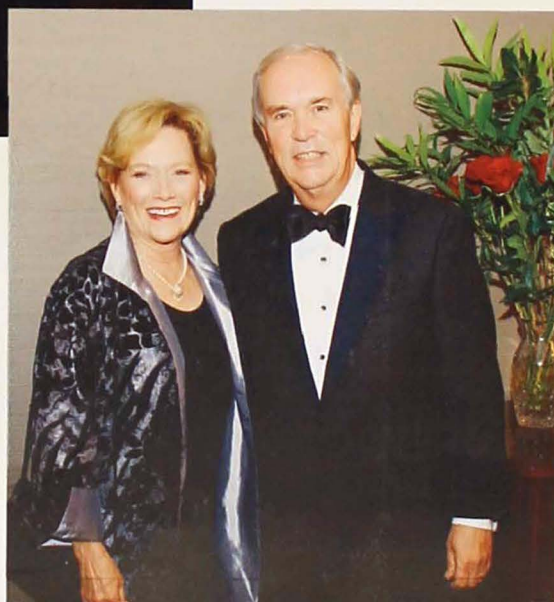






SUBMITTED PHOTO

Symphony Guild officers are pictured from left, Ann Kasun, treasurer-elect; Emily Rogers, president-elect; Jeani Synyard, treasurer; Carla Penny, president; Marian Belanager, past president; Robin Thomas, corresponding secretary; Sheya Taylor, recording secretary.



## Valdosta Symphony Ball: 'A great success'

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Guild held the "Black and White Symphony Ball" at the Valdosta County Club last week.

It was also the grand reopening of the club's newly redecorated dining room and a celebration of the Symphony's 25th anniversary season.

Guild President Carla Penny said the ball had a black-and-white theme to mimic the first ball held by the Guild 25 years ago.

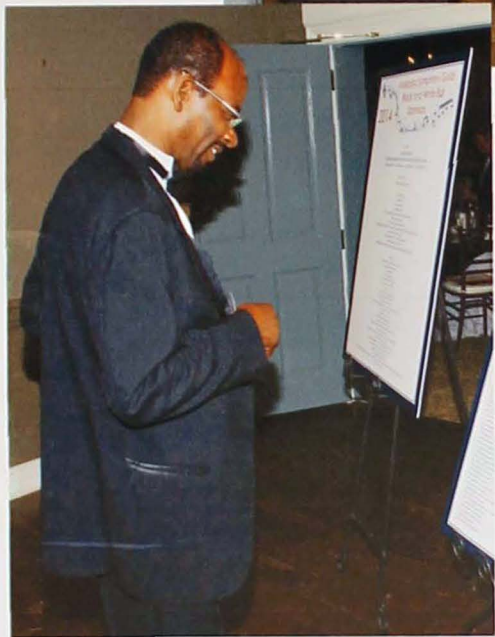
The ladies were into the spirit of the evening and dressed accordingly in black and white along with their tuxedo-clad escorts.

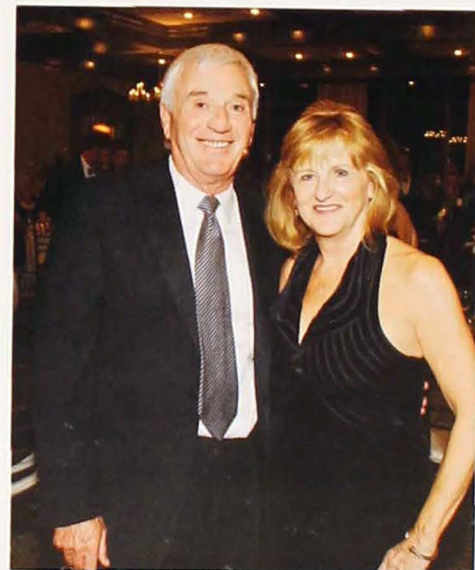
Attendees danced to the smooth tones of the Ed Barr Orchestra while being encouraged to bid by Auctioneer Stuart Mullis on the many live auction items.

All proceeds from the ball, live and silent auctions will benefit children, youth and collegiate programs in the area.

Some of these programs include the Youth Concert Series that are special performances by the orchestra for school children and their teachers. More than 50,000 children have heard the VSO through this series of concerts.

In January, the Guild will present its annual Tunes for Tots event which introduces young children to hear and touch the instruments of the orchestra.





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Photos available here:  
[www.luckyshotphotography.smugmug.com](http://www.luckyshotphotography.smugmug.com)



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The Valdosta Symphony Guild  
celebrates the  
Silver Anniversary  
of the  
Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

25

"THE BLACK AND WHITE"  
SYMPHONY BALL  
NOVEMBER 8, 2014





# SymphonyNotes

VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## Meet the Artist



Among his generation of concert artists, pianist **Awadagin Pratt** is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras.

Born in Pittsburgh, Awadagin Pratt began studying piano at the age of six. Three years later, having moved to Normal, Illinois with his family, he also began studying violin. At the age of 16 he entered the University of Illinois where he studied piano, violin, and conducting. He subsequently enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas - piano, violin and conducting. In recognition of this achievement and for his work in the field of classical music, Mr. Pratt recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Johns Hopkins.

In 1992 Mr. Pratt won the Naumburg International Piano Competition and two years later was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Since then, he has played numerous recitals throughout the US including performances at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and Chicago's Orchestra Hall. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic,

Minnesota Orchestra and the Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Baltimore, St. Louis, National, Detroit and New Jersey symphonies among many others. Summer festival engagements include Ravinia, Blossom, Wolf Trap, Caramoor and Aspen, the Hollywood Bowl and the Mostly Mozart Festival in Tokyo. Internationally, Mr. Pratt has toured Japan four times and performed in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Colombia and South Africa.

As a conductor, Mr. Pratt participated in the American Symphony Orchestra League and Conductor's Guild workshops and the National Conducting Institute, where he worked closely with Leonard Slatkin and conducted the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center. He has also conducted the Toledo, New Mexico, Vancouver WA, Winston-Salem, Santa Fe and Prince George County symphonies, the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Concertante Chicago and several orchestras in Japan.

Mr. Pratt has been the subject of numerous articles in the national press including *Newsweek*, *People Magazine*, *New York Newsday*. He was named one of the 50 Leaders of Tomorrow in *Esquire* magazine's special 50th anniversary issue. He has been featured on National Public Radio's *Performance Today*, *St. Louis Morning* and *Weekend Edition*.

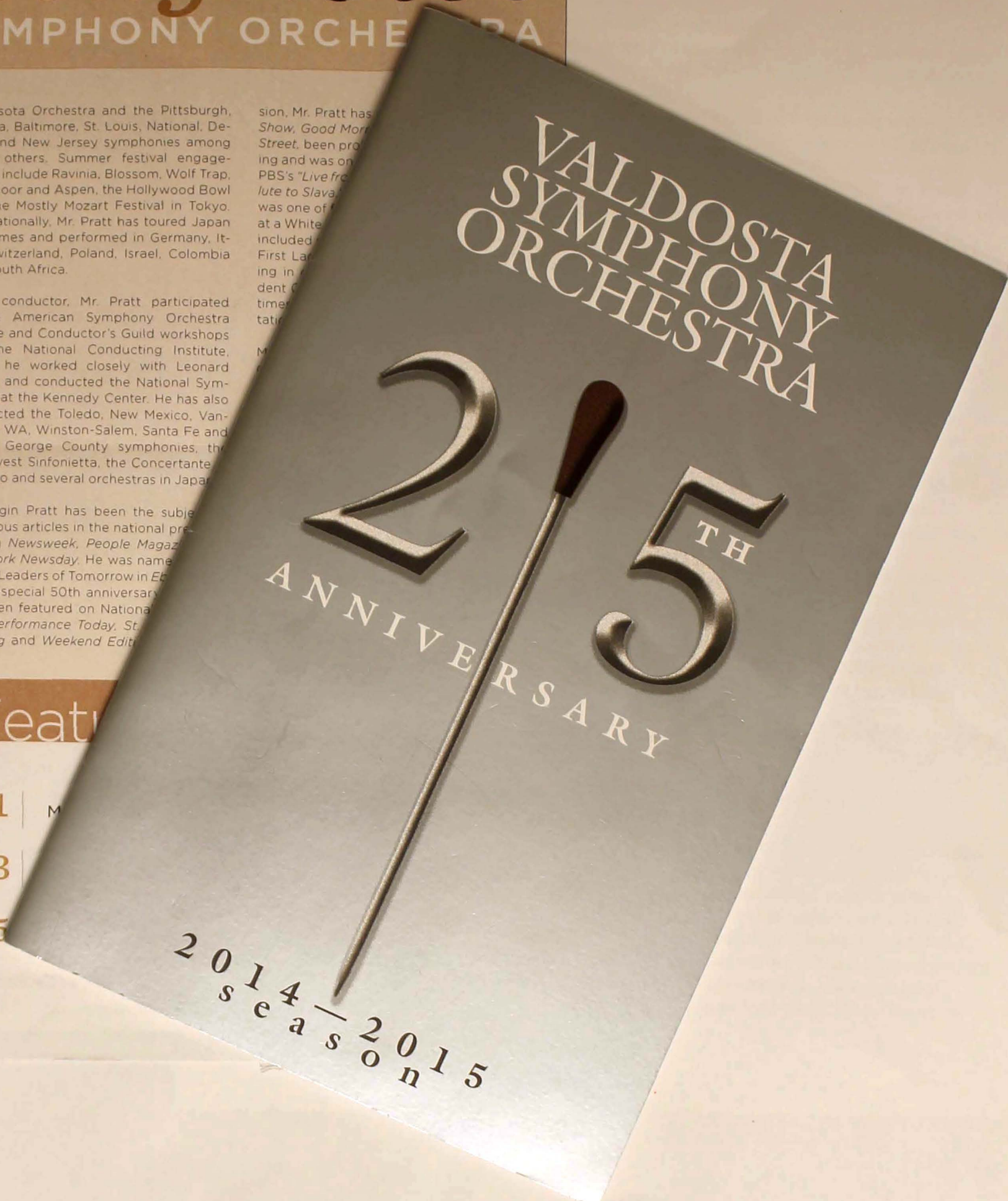
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2014 - 2015  
season



# VSO Welcomes Pianist Awadagin Pratt to Whitehead Stage Nov. 15

Posted: Friday, November 14, 2014 7:00 am



## Awadagin Pratt

VALDOSTA — Acclaimed pianist Awadagin Pratt will join the 2014 American Prize-winning Valdosta Symphony Orchestra (VSO) for Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58, on Saturday, Nov. 15. The performance will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

“There are several members of the VSO who have previously performed with Awadagin Pratt, and they all raved about what a fantastic musician he is,” noted Dr. Howard Hsu, conductor and VSO music director. “Back when a conducting career was a distant dream of mine and I was working in public relations, I had an assignment to send press releases promoting a recital by a hot newcomer in the classical world .... I’ve known Mr. Pratt since that moment and am thrilled that I will soon get to perform with him.”

Praised for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras, the Pittsburgh, Pa.-born Pratt began studying piano at the age of 6; he picked up the violin three years later after his family moved to Normal, Ill. At the age of 16 he entered the University of Illinois where he studied piano, violin, and conducting. He subsequently enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas. He received the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Johns Hopkins University. He won the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg Foundation Inc. International Piano Competition in 1992 and was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant two years later.

Pratt has played numerous recitals throughout the United States, including performances at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, Calif., and Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Ill. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the



## Valdosta Symphony guest plays Beethoven concerto

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — South Georgia audiences will learn this weekend why Awadagin Pratt is considered a remarkable pianist as he visits the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

But he almost became a violinist instead.

For many years, Pratt played both instruments.

At the age of 6, he began playing piano. At the age of 9, he began studying violin, too.

"At the age of 16, he entered the University of Illinois where he studied piano, violin, and conducting," according to Pratt's biography. "He subsequently enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas — piano, violin and conducting."

"I knew I wanted a career as a musician when I was 15, 16, but at the time, I was still also a violinist," Pratt said in a Times interview.

"It was when I was 23 that I decided to stop playing the violin and focus only on piano. Of course, it was only when I won Naumburg in 1992 that I could start a career."

Since winning the Naumburg International Piano Competition, Pratt has performed nationally

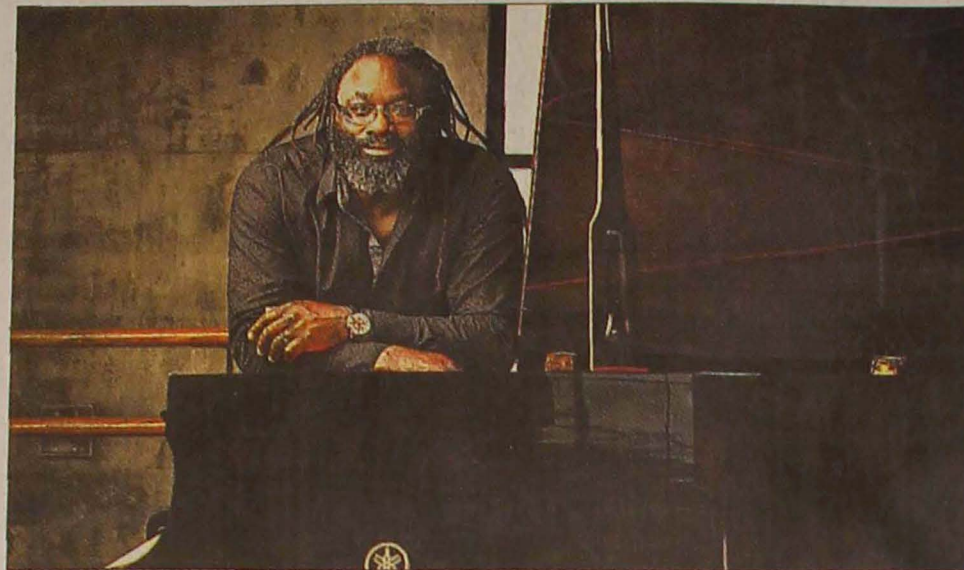


PHOTO: ROB DAVIDSON

Internationally known pianist Awadagin Pratt will perform Saturday with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Pratt studied both piano and violin until his late teens.

everywhere from the Lincoln Center to the Kennedy Center to concerts with many major metropolitan areas' symphony orchestras. He has traveled the world, performing and recording: Japan, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Colombia and South Africa.

This week, he arrives in Valdosta — a place where already has some connections.

He went to school with Valdosta State University violin faculty member and VSO Concertmaster Nina Lutz.

Last season, Pratt per-

formed in Albany. Dr. Doug Farwell, VSU Music department head and a trombonist, also played the Albany concert. Farwell invited Pratt to play Valdosta.

Here, Pratt will play Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4.

The Valdosta audience can expect Beethoven "in

full bloom and craft," Pratt said.

The concerto opens with the piano.

"There is a wonderful interplay between the orchestra and pianist with the pianist often times accompanying the orchestra," Pratt said. "Second movement, a dialogue of opposing ideas. Orchestra

### CONCERT

**Valdosta Symphony Orchestra** plays its "Majestic Mastery" performance.

**When:** 8 p.m. Saturday.

**Where:** Whitehead Auditorium, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood.

**Downtown Symphony Club** meets 6 p.m. Saturday, 306 North, 306 N. Patterson St.

**More information:** Visit valdostasympphony.org

severe, pianist coaxing, pleading, back and forth, with orchestra eventually relenting. Third movement, typical Beethoven rondo, full of joy and energy."

For the pianist, Pratt said this concerto is "technically demanding and emotionally and spiritually demanding. The transition from the second movement's emotional gravity to the joyous opening of the third is particularly challenging."

The VSO will also perform Beethoven's "Fidelio" Overture and Schumann's Symphony No. 2.



Photos by  
Haley Wyatt

# NUTCRACKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Dance Arts' "Nutcracker" has continued through eight presidents and the popularity of the dance shows no sign of flagging. Partly, its success rests on the nature of

Ogilvie. Ogilvie had danced with the New York City Ballet and had studied under the great George Balanchine. Given this connection, Ogilvie arranged for some



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The Nutcracker' plays  
bee (Clara),  
stopher Gibbs (The  
nica Gibbs; and  
r of David and

# The Valdosta Sunday Times

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Sunday, November 30, 2014

\$1.50

# Dance Arts continues Christmas tradition



PHOTO: MONICA GIBBS

The principal cast of Dance Arts and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is prepared for the annual performances. Pictured: top row, left to right, Matthew Hogan, Howard Hsu (music director, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra), Margaret Anne Cosper, Christopher Gibbs, Katherine Godbee, Frankie Patten; second row, Hannah Trowell, Kamie Hartley, Bill Abercrombie, Caroline Dean, Libby McCrary; sitting, Breanna Strickland, Sara Scruggs, Andie Krispin, Emily Rozier and Brittanye Blake.

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — For more than 40 years, Valdosta and Lowndes County have greeted all but one Christmas season with Dance Arts' and Linda Chase's production of "The Nutcracker."

Next weekend, the tradition continues with a new generation of young people, several stalwart performers, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra providing live instrumentation and more with the 42nd anniversary performance of Dance Arts' "The Nutcracker."

In 1972, Chase put into effect her long-held dream of presenting a full-length production of "The Nutcracker."

With help from Dave Christian, then the head of Valdosta's Department of

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 234 Individual roles
- 2 Casts
- 384 rehearsal hours
- 258 costumes
- 300 Pointe shoes worn out during season
- 189 props

Parks and Recreation, she presented her choreography and students in the first production that same year.

To give a little historical framework, Dance Arts' first "Nutcracker" hit the stage in the weeks after President Richard Nixon was re-elected to his second term, and it was presented months before the term "Watergate" became a household word.

NUTCRACKER | 9A

...e, Frank Kilgard, ...a Ross, Andrew ...s, Becky Herndon, ...Roberts, Abigail ...ry, Laura and ...el Walker, Robert ...chelle Byington Jr., ...Crozier, Joshua ...Taffy Chase, Carl ...obs, Rosa Alverado, ...Davis, Elizabeth ...Cali Garcia, ...opher Gibbs, Mer ...bbs, Jade Johnson, ...Nijem, Olivia Till ...annah Trowell, ...nye Blake, Bill Aber ...ie.

**CHOREOGRAPHERS, CRE-TEAM:** Linda Chase, ...ographer, artistic di ...; Allison Shenton, ...ant director, addi ...choreography; ...Brague, Karrin ...er, Cristin and Jay ...gan, Ben O'Brien, ...ion Thomas, Kim ...; additional choreog ...rs; Howard Hsu, con ...r; Todd Tillman, nar ...e.

## SHOWTIME

Dance Arts Inc. and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra present "The Nutcracker."

Time: 7:30 p.m. Friday; 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Location: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley

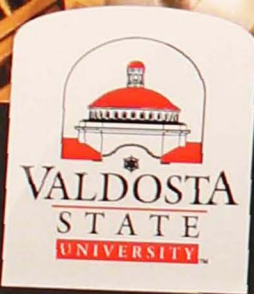
**Tickets:** \$12; \$10 for special narrated Saturday matinee performance.  
**Reservations (required), more information:** Visit NutcrackerValdosta.com

started middle school, but her dance studies continued.

At 13, Linda joined the Ballet Guild of Jacksonville, under the direction of Betty Hyatt

"I did so much dancing as a teenager," she said. "That was my life from 15 to 18 years old. I did so much as far as dancing and performing goes. Saturdays and Sundays prac-

...aves, Emily Rozier, Sara Scruggs, Mary Catherine Stamey, Truly A. Storm, Breanna Strickland, Abigail Tillman, Abigail Walker, Matthew L. Logan, Dave Ross, Phyllis



# YEAR OF THE ARTS 2014-2015

## VSU: YEAR OF THE ARTS

In naming the 2014-15 season the Year of the Arts, the Valdosta State University College of the Arts hasn't really had to do anything that it doesn't already do.

Each year with the theatre-dance department presenting more than a half-dozen professional-level productions and the Peach State Summer Theatre musicals, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra hosting national and international guest musicians and performing works by world-renowned composers, the music department presenting dozens of free and open-to-the-public recitals and ensembles and the art department displaying numerous visual arts exhibits showcasing student and faculty works along with visiting art exhibitions, as well as any number of other events, presenting additional shows for a Year of the Arts would be overkill.

Arguably, for those paying attention, every VSU academic year is the Year of the Arts.

Paying attention is the point, said A. Blake Pearce, College of the Arts dean. The Year of the Arts is about celebrating what VSU College of the Arts has to offer and about raising public awareness to what is available to the South Georgia public.

"We're drawing attention to the things we do every year," Pearce said.

Calendar of Events  
Spring 2015  
*Department of Music*



# Lifestyles

6E

Sunday, January 4, 2014

www.valdostadailytimes.com

## A Year in the Arts

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Whether it's a play, a concert, an exhibit, etc., there's always something happening in the arts in South Georgia.

Today, we take a look at a handful of the area's top arts stories for 2014.

### VSO: AMERICAN PRIZE

Valdosta Symphony Orchestra received national recognition this fall to mark its 25th birthday.

But it was no gift. The VSO earned it.

With a performance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra won the distinguished first-place honor in The American Prize in Orchestral Performance in the community orchestra division.

The VSO was one of approximately a dozen finalists from across the nation.

Founded in 2009, the American Prize "grew from the belief that a great deal of excellent music being made in this country goes unrecognized and unheralded, not only in our major cities, but all across the country: in schools and churches, in colleges and universities, and by community and professional musicians," according to The American Prize website.

"With the performing arts in America marginalized like never before, The American Prize seeks to fill the gap that leaves excellent artists and ensembles struggling for visibility and viability. The American Prize recognizes and rewards the best America produces, without bias against small city versus large, or unknown artist versus well-known."

Valdosta is a rare city of its size to have a symphony orchestra.

Through sponsorship by Valdosta State, the VSO began performing in 1990.

Under the direction of conductor Howard Hsu for the past several years, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is performing its 25th anniversary concert season as part of Valdosta State University College of the Arts' Year of the Arts.



The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra won top honors in the prestigious American Prize.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



ADAM FLOYD | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Julien Williams, 5, gets a quick violin lesson from Amelia Krumpel during Saturday morning's *Tunes for Tots* event at Valdosta State University. Krumpel has been playing violin for four years and has been a member of the South Georgia String Project for the past three years.

## *Tunes for Tots strikes a chord with kids*

BY ADAM FLOYD

adam.floyd@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — A stage full of children were all smiles Saturday morning as they had the opportunity to hold and play classical instruments during the annual *Tunes for Tots* event at Valdosta State University.

Kids and parents filled Whitehead Auditorium at 10 a.m. Members of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra introduced the audience to different instruments and demonstrated how each transforms sound into music.

The program is a collaboration between the Valdosta Symphony Guild, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and the VSU music department.

"This is to get kids interested in instruments," said Tamara Hardesty. "Usually, we tell kids don't



ADAM FLOYD | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

John Pope with Valdosta State University gives Ciara Minus, 6, the opportunity to try out a double reed on a bassoon during the instrument petting zoo portion of Saturday's *Tunes for Tots* program at Whitehead Auditorium.

touch that priceless instrument, but here today kids get to actually touch the instruments in our instru-

ment petting zoo."

During the event, kids had the opportunity to play the violin, trumpet, oboe,

flute, tuba and several other instruments.

TUNES | 10A

## TUNES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"With the help of a faculty member, they will get to play a violin, blow into a horn, beat on a drum, and this hopefully inspires them to want to learn a musical instrument and appreciate classical music for the future," said Hardesty.

The free event saw record attendance last year, and organizers were excited by this year's turnout. This year's event also included a performance from students with the South Georgia String Project.

"The South Georgia String Project is subsidized by the Valdosta Symphony Guild and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra to provide low-cost string classes and lessons to the community," said Hardesty.

"Sometimes, people think music lessons are very expensive, a luxury only for the elite. The South Georgia String Project makes those lessons more affordable."

SGSP students, who range in age from 8 years old to adults, performed during the event. Some of the young musicians have only been playing for three months.

Robin Thomas, co-chair of the *Tunes for Tots* committee, said the event is important because music programs are linked to students' academic success.

"There was a study not too long ago at the University of Kansas. It found that even a minimal amount of exposure makes a difference in reading and math scores," said Thomas.

For Hardesty, the event helps create an interest in preserving the past. "From a classical musician's point of view, we need to foster an appreciation of classical music or else it will be a dying art form," said Hardesty. "In many states and cities across the country, orchestras are going bankrupt. We think it's important to keep the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra going, and the Symphony Guild does that, and part of that is to reach out to the children. We are very fortunate for a city of our size to have a thriving orchestra."

More information about the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and the South Georgia String Project can be found at [valdostasympphony.org](http://valdostasympphony.org).

# Symphony Guild presenting annual Tunes for Tots

**VALDOSTA** — The Valdosta Symphony Guild will present its annual Tunes for Tots on Saturday in the Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building's Whitehead Auditorium.

Activities will begin at 10 a.m. with instrument demonstrations by musicians from the American Prize-winning Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, allowing the children in the audience an opportunity to discover the unique sounds of the violin, cello, bassoon, flute, clarinet, oboe, horn, trombone, tuba, as well as percussion and various other instruments.

Performances by the South Georgia String Proj-

ect will follow. Families will have the chance to learn more about this low-cost stringed instrument instructional program, which is designed for community students ranging in age from 8 to adult, during the event.

From 10:45 a.m. to noon, the Fine Arts Building will be converted into a petting zoo of sorts, allowing the children a chance to try all of the instruments of the orchestra.

Admission is free of charge; no ticket or reservation is required.

Free refreshments will be provided for the children.

Children of all ages are welcome to attend Tunes

for Tots; however, an adult must accompany them.

**South Georgia String Project**  
valdostasymphony.org/  
sgsp/

**Valdosta Symphony Orchestra**  
www.valdostasymphony.org

Whitehead Auditorium is located on the first floor of the VSU Fine Arts Building, at the intersection of Brookwood Drive and Oak Street. Free parking for this event is available in the Oak Street park deck.

Call (229) 333-2150 for more information.

Created in 1990, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra serves both the cultural life of Valdosta and the regional academic mission of Valdosta State University.

The high standard of performance of the orchestra enables it to attract guest soloists of national and international renown to the Valdosta community. The orchestra's membership is a unique blend of resident artist-faculty, students studying professional music disciplines, talented community performers, and carefully selected professionals from a five-state region. Supported by an Advisory Board of Directors, the Valdosta Symphony Guild, Valdosta State

University, corporate sponsors, and hundreds of individual patrons, the orchestra has become an important part of the cultural life of the entire region. Its live performance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony won the 2014 American Prize in Orchestral Performance.

A joint venture of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and the Valdosta State University Department of Music, the South Georgia String Project provides an after-school music program where students can easily access low-cost stringed instrument instruction and a valuable, mentored teaching experience for music students at

Valdosta State University. It offers technique classes, private lessons, and group classes. Performances are held several times a year both on campus and out in the community.

The South Georgia String Project encourages the enjoyment of music and self-expression through the study of a musical instrument and actively seeks to provide opportunities for student leadership, parental participation, and involvement in the greater community.

It was started in 1993 and originally offered on location at area public schools and taught by VSU professors. Classes start Jan. 21.

## Tunes for Tots returns this weekend

BY DEAN POLING  
dean.poling@gaffnews.com

**VALDOSTA** — Have a child interested in learning more about a particular musical instrument? Or a youngster who shows interest in music?

This weekend's Tunes for Tots may be just the ticket for you and your young Mozart.

Sponsored by the Valdosta Symphony Guild, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra musicians demonstrate how various instruments work and sound

then allow youngsters a hands-on demonstration with the "Instrument Petting Zoo."

The South Georgia String Project, a group composed of young area musicians, is scheduled to perform during the event. These musicians range in ages from 8-year-olds to adults.

"We hope to inspire a lifetime love of music for the younger generation," said Robin Thomas, co-chair of the Valdosta Symphony Guild's Tunes for Tots committee.

While no reservations

### SHOWTIME

#### Tunes for Tots, a Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and Valdosta Symphony Guild event.

- **When:** 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, with the instrument demonstrations from 10-10:45 a.m.; and the instrument petting zoo from 10:45 a.m.-noon.
- **Where:** Whitehead Auditorium, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood.
- **Admission:** Free.

are required and admission is free, children must be accompanied by an adult for this event.

The Valdosta Symphony Guild, which provides support for the Valdosta

Symphony Orchestra and their educational programs, sponsors this annual event.

Fresh Beginnings provides cookies for the children in attendance.



Steven Taylor, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra principal cello, assists Delancey Hsu with her cello encounter last year during Tunes for Tots. The event returns this weekend at Valdosta State University.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Friday, January 16, 2015

## OUR POINT OF VIEW

# Tunes for Tots and beyond

While reading informs the intellect, music informs the soul.

Music is the soul quantified into mathematical equations, a series of beats multiplied by joie de vivre.

Children who grasp the mathematical foundations of music traditionally do better academically in school.

Children who play in school bands are not only introduced to a lifelong love for music but music cultivates the roots of making new friends, finding harmonious teamwork, and a full spectrum of positive life experiences.

Tunes for Tots has been introducing classical music and instruments to children for approximately two decades.

Sponsored by the Valdosta Symphony Guild, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra musicians demonstrate how various instruments work and sound then allow youngsters a hands-on demonstration with the "Instrument Petting Zoo."

The South Georgia String Project, a group composed of young area musicians, is scheduled to perform during the event. These musicians range in ages from 8-year-olds to adults.

"We hope to inspire a lifetime love of music for the younger generation," said Robin Thomas, co-chair of the Valdosta Symphony Guild's Tunes for Tots committee.

While no reservations are required and admission is free, children must be accompanied by an adult for this event.

The Valdosta Symphony Guild, which provides support for the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and their educational programs, sponsors this annual event. Fresh Beginnings provides cookies for the children in attendance.

Tunes for Tots will foster a spark of musical appreciation for some children this weekend.

For other children, it may well provide the inspiration for a lifetime.

Tunes for Tots, a Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and Valdosta Symphony Guild event, is 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, with the instrument demonstrations from 10-10:45 a.m.; and the instrument petting zoo from 10:45 a.m.-noon, Whitehead Auditorium, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. Admission: Free.

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

## South Georgia String Project kicks off today with meeting

VALDOSTA — The South Georgia String Project, a joint venture of the Valdosta State University Department of Music and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, will kick off its 2014-2015 season with a meeting for new students and their parents at 5 p.m. today in the Fine Arts Building Choir Room.

Families with children age 8 and older interested in learning more about this initiative are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Led by Lauren Burns Hodges, director and master teacher, the South Georgia String Project offers "an after-school music program where students can easily access low-cost stringed instrument instruction," while simultaneously providing "a valuable, mentored teaching experience for music students at Valdosta State University."

The South Georgia String Project offers technique classes, private lessons and group classes. Performances are held several times a year, both on VSU campus and in the community.

Private lessons are also available for those who wish to study piano.

Advanced South Georgia String Project students have the opportunity to audition for a seat in the Valdosta Symphony Youth Orchestra.

"Music is such a valuable part of a child's education," Hodges said, who was named director of the South Georgia String Project five years ago, "and it is a shame that so many programs are now being eliminated from public schools. Musical training encourages creativity and self-expression, and it develops discipline, teamwork and analytical thinking skills. The South Georgia String Project can provide low-cost music education to families in the community who would not otherwise have access."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students hone their musical skills in the South Georgia String Project. The program offers an after-school music program where students can access low-cost stringed instrument instruction.

### ON THE WEB

- <http://www.valdostasympphony.org/sgsp/>
- <http://www.facebook.com/SouthGeorgiaStringProject>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-d\\_ae48jegM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-d_ae48jegM)

According to its website at [www.valdosta.edu/sgsp/](http://www.valdosta.edu/sgsp/), "The South Georgia String Project encourages the enjoyment of music and self-expression through the study of a musical instrument and actively seeks to provide opportunities for student leadership, parental participation, and involvement in the greater community."

It was started in 1993 and originally offered on location at area public schools and taught by VSU professors. The American String Teacher Association named the South Georgia String Project the 2011 National String Project of the Year.

Contact Lauren Burns Hodges at [sgsp@valdosta.edu](mailto:sgsp@valdosta.edu) for more information.

# Valdosta Symphony ready for 'Visions of Love'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Valdosta Symphony Orchestra ensures love is in the air this weekend.

On Valentine's Day, the orchestra presents its "Visions of Love" concert, featuring several appropriate selections. The VSO's instrumentation backs voices on several arrangements.

Soprano Missy Griffin, soprano Caroline Hatchett and baritone Dr. Karl Paoletti are the featured artists.

They lend their trained voices to works by Korngold, Mozart, Puccini and Lehar, said Howard Hzu, the orchestra's conductor.

Griffin is a Valdosta State University graduate having earned her master's degree in classical voice performance. She



Griffin

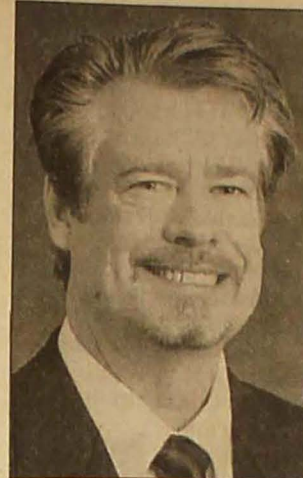
performed in several VSU Opera and other productions. She lives in Minneapolis and has performed with groups there, including the Minnesota Opera.

Hatchett also attended VSU, earning a master's of music degree. She per-



Hatchett

formed locally most recently in the 2014 season of Peach State Summer Theatre. Hatchett has also performed operatic works. She has been a featured soloist in Georgia, Virginia, and Kentucky. She is a VSU Music voice instructor.



Paoletti

Paoletti is an assistant VSU professor of voice. He has also served as a voice instructor in Texas. He has performed throughout the United States and internationally on stages including South Korea. He works closely with VSU Opera. Along with the VSU De-

## CONCERT

### Valdosta Symphony Orchestra presents "Visions of Love."

- **When:** 8 p.m. Saturday.
- **Where:** Whitehead Auditorium, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. Symphony Club meets prior to the concert at 6 p.m. Saturday, Tippy Cow Eatery, 3338-G Gornto Road.
- **More information, reservations:** Call VSU College of the Arts Outreach, (229) 333-2150; or visit [www.valdostasympphony.org](http://www.valdostasympphony.org)

partment of Communications Sciences and Disorders, "he developed the first singing voice science lab in the VSU Music Department," according to a bio.

Their voices will be a part of the Valentine's flavor of the VSO concert.

The orchestra will perform Bernstein's "West Side Story Overture," Korngold's "Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen" (Tanzlied des Pierrot) from "Die tote

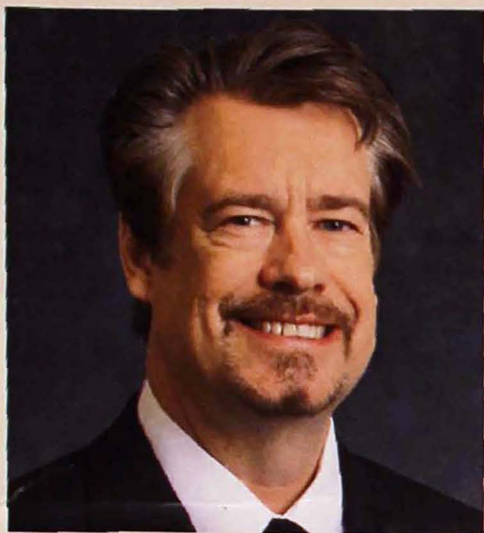
Stadt," Mozart's "Là ci darem la mano" from "Don Giovanni," Puccini's "Chi il bel sogno di Doretta" from "La rondine," Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll," Saint-Saëns' "Bacchanale" from "Samson and Delilah," Mascagni's "Intermezzo" from "Cavalleria rusticana," Lehár's "Vilia" and "Waltz Duet" both from "The Merry Widow," Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake Suite" (selections).



# SymphonyNotes

VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## Meet the Artists



**Karl Paoletti Jr.** is an Assistant Professor of Voice at Valdosta State University. Before joining the voice faculty at VSU, he was an instructor of voice at The University of North Texas and Texas A&M University, Commerce. He received a doctorate in voice performance and vocal pedagogy from The University of North Texas where he was the recipient of a Toulouse academic scholarship and a teaching fellowship. In 2010, he performed the baritone solos in Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* at the South Korea Baptist University in Daejeon, South Korea. He has sung both leading and supporting roles with The Gold Coast Opera, Columbia Lyric Opera, Pensacola Opera, Amarillo Opera, Treasure Coast Opera, First Coast Opera, East Texas Chamber Music Festival, West Virginia Symphony/Opera, the Bay View Summer Music Festival, Palm Beach Opera, The University of North Texas Opera Theater, and most recently sang the role of Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly* with the Peach State Opera and Peter the Father in *Hansel and Gretel* with First Coast Opera. In addition

to performing the role of the father, he also directed FCO's 2013 production of *Hansel and Gretel*. He was also a featured performer in First Coast Opera's production of *Grandi Voci* in which he sang scenes and arias from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Don Giovanni* and *Don Pasquale*. Recently appointed the Director of Opera at Valdosta State University, Dr. Paoletti is currently directing *Opera After Dark*, "Tutto Italiano," the annual opera fundraiser.



### Caroline

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## Feature

- 1 | Meet the Artists
- 3 | Conductors
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- 5 | Meet the VSO

- 7 | Tickets & Directions

VALDOSTA  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

2014-2015  
ANNIVERSARY

2014-2015  
season

## The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

### "Visions of Love"

February 14, 2015

#### Text Translations

#### "Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen" from *Die tote Stadt* by Erich Wolfgang Korngold

Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen,  
es träumt sich zurück.  
Im Tanze gewann ich,  
verlor ich mein Glück.  
Im Tanze am Rhein,  
bei Mondenschein,  
gestand mirs aus Blau-  
aug ein inniger Blick,  
Gestand mirs ihr bittend Wort:  
o bleib, o geh mir nicht fort,  
bewahre der Heimat  
still blühendes Glück.

Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen,  
es träumt sich zurück.  
Zauber der Ferne  
warf in die Seele den Brand,  
Zauber des Tanzes lockte,  
ward Komödiant.  
Folgt ihr, der Wundersüssen,  
lernt unter Tränen küssen.

My yearning, my obsession,  
they return in dreams.  
In the dance I won,  
and lost my happiness.  
While dancing on the Rhein  
in the moonlight,  
she confessed to me with an ardent  
look in her blue eyes,  
Confessed to me with her pleading words:  
O stay, O do not go forth,  
preserve the memory of your homeland's  
peaceful, flourishing happiness.

My yearning, my obsession,  
they return in dreams.  
The magic of things far away  
hurls a burning into my soul  
The magic of the dance lured me,  
and I became a comedian.  
I followed her, my wonderful sweetheart,  
and learned from tears to kiss.



### Valdosta Symphony Guild Celebrating 25 years

Do you love music, want to meet new people,  
and support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra?

**Then we need you!!!**



Created in 1990, the Valdosta Symphony Guild supports the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and other Valdosta youth music programs in our area. We are looking for new members to join for the 2015-2016 season. Some of the programs that you could participate in include:

#### Tunes for Tots



- **Tunes for Tots** - introduction of instruments to young children for a fun hands-on experience.
- **Youth Concert** - a symphonic experience for school age children and their teachers.
- **Glenn Wisenbaker Memorial Concert** - clients of LARC enjoy a musical performance by the VSO.

We have several fund raising opportunities like our Symphony Ball that helps to provide scholarships to our talented musicians and also a Music Enrichment Grant which supports music students with special projects.

If you would like to join and help contribute to supporting our wonderful symphony and the students of Valdosta State University, please call or email:

Marian Belanger 229-560-4178  
barrybelanger@bellsouth.net



# VSO presents Valentine event

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra will continue its 25th anniversary celebration with Visions of Love at 8 p.m. today in Valdosta State University's Whitehead Auditorium. Tickets are on sale now.

Dr. Howard Hsu, conductor and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra music director, said that this is the first time he can recall a concert falling on Valentine's Day since he arrived in Valdosta. When selecting the music for the evening, he decided that a love-themed concert would be a perfect way to celebrate the happy occurrence.

"Every work on the program is related to love, or some aspect of it," he shared.

The evening will begin with Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story Overture and continue with Richard Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, which, Hsu explained, was never meant to be heard by the public.

"Wagner composed it as a birthday present for his wife, Cosima, following the birth of their son, Siegfried," he shared. "Wagner gathered a chamber ensemble on the stairs of his villa on Christmas morning to perform this gift for the sleeping Cosima."

"We can only imagine what she thought as she awoke to the beautiful opening bars," he added.

The evening will conclude with Camille Saint-Saëns's "Bacchanale" from Samson and Delilah, Pietro Mascagni's "Intermezzo" from Cavalleria Rusticana, and selections from Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Suite, Op. 20.

The program lineup includes vocal performances



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Valdosta Symphony Orchestra is a unique blend of resident artist-faculty, students studying professional music disciplines, talented community performers, and carefully selected professionals from a five-state region.

by Missy Griffin, who earned a master's degree in classical voice performance from VSU; Caroline Hatchett, who earned a music education degree and master's degree in performance from VSU, serves as an adjunct instructor of voice in both the Department of Music and the Theatre and Dance Area at the university, and is a member of the Sine Nomine Singers of Valdosta; and Karl Paoletti Jr., an assistant professor of voice and director of VSU Opera.

"This evening promises to be a fun and romantic one ...," Hsu said.

Visions of Love is the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's third concert of

the 2014-2015 season — the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's 25th anniversary season.

Tickets for Saturday's performance, which is sponsored by Ladenburg Thalmann, are \$27 for adults and \$10 for students. Senior, military, and VSU faculty and staff discounts are available.

Whitehead Auditorium is located on the first floor of VSU's Fine Arts Building, at the intersection of Brookwood Drive and Oak Street.

Visit [www.valdostasympphony.org](http://www.valdostasympphony.org) or contact Sarah Alexander with VSU's Col-

## ON THE WEB

<http://www.valdostasympphony.org>

lege of Arts Outreach Office at (229) 333-2150 or [swalexander@valdosta.edu](mailto:swalexander@valdosta.edu) to reserve tickets or learn more. Tickets are also available at the Box Office before each event.

### Downtown Symphony Club meeting

The Downtown Symphony Club, a social group for young and young-at-heart music lovers and professionals, will meet prior

to Saturday's performance for drinks, appetizers, and dinner at 6 p.m. at The Tippy Cow.

Contact Dr. Shannon Lowe, an instructor of bassoon, music theory, and chamber ensembles at Valdosta State University, [atsr-lowe@valdosta.edu](mailto:atsr-lowe@valdosta.edu) to sign up. Club members receive a discount on single tickets, a pre-concert chat with the conductor, access to other members-only events, and more. Membership is free.



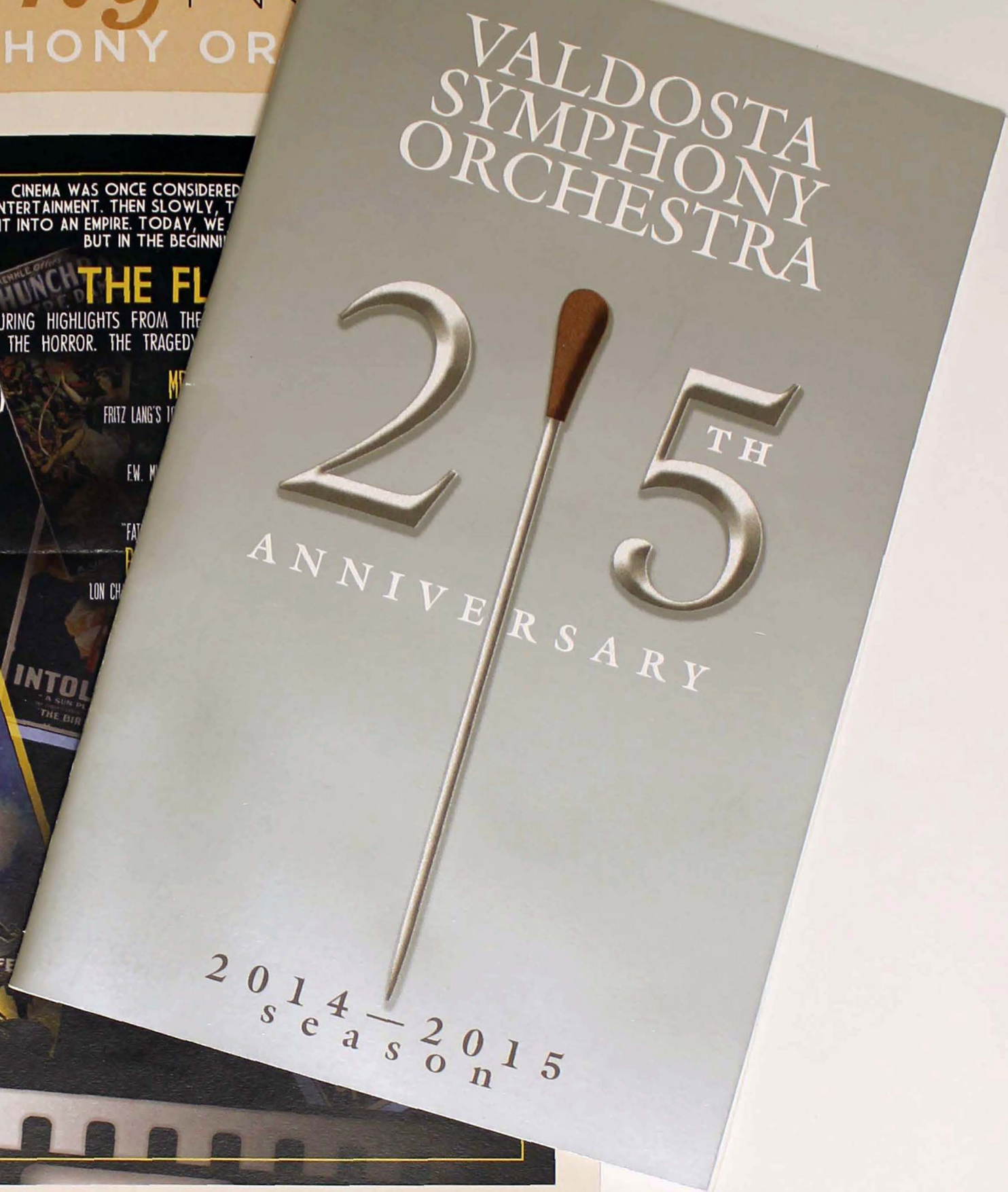
# Symphony

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### About the Special Concert

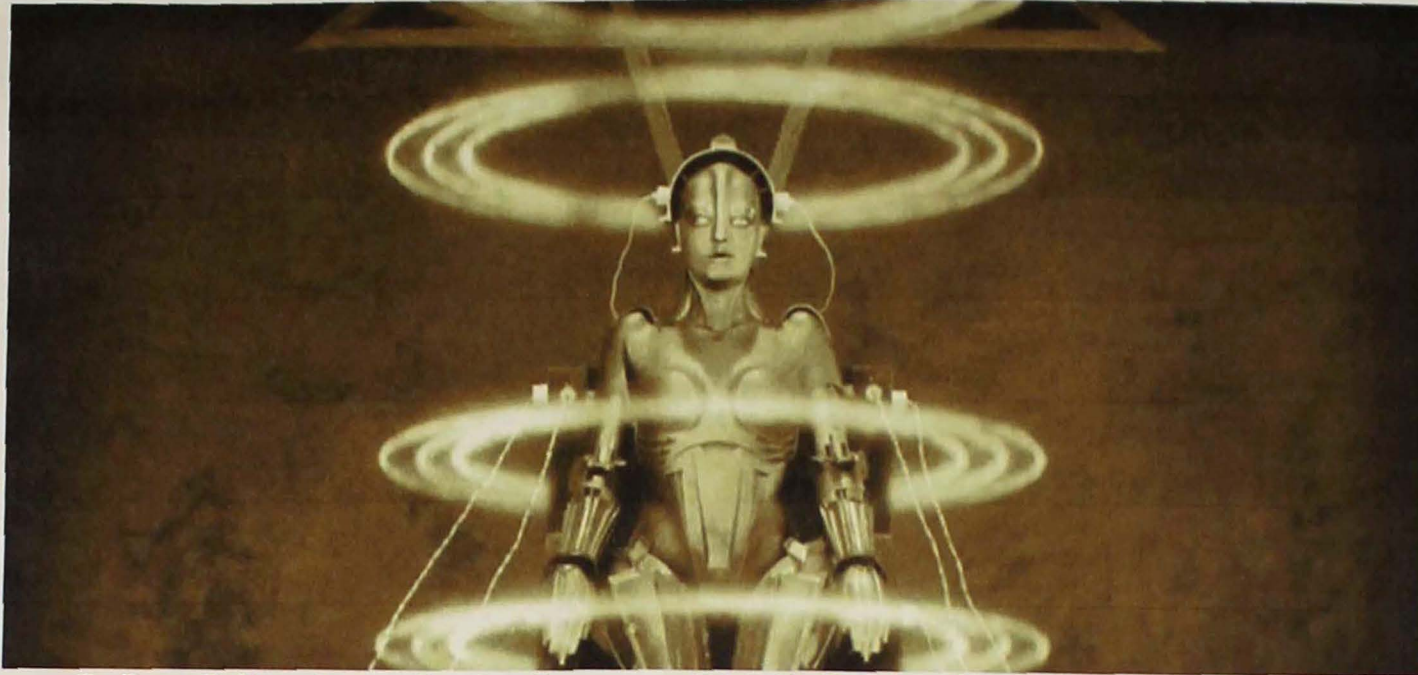
The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's 2014-15 season continues on Saturday, March 14th, at 8 pm in Whitehead Auditorium in Valdosta State University's Fine Arts Building. Movie night comes to the VSO, as the orchestra performs beloved works as the soundtrack to HD Movie excerpts from silent classics such as *Metropolis*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Tramp*, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *The General*, *A Trip to the Moon*, *Nosferatu*, and more!

*Flicker* is one of the "film score in reverse" series by Video Ideas Productions, consisting of a number of high definition video scenes. Each scene is designed to play back at a particular place in the music that matches the mood and pace of the music. The audience has the experience of an incredible cinematic movie in high definition sequenced precisely to the orchestra's live performance of the music.





## The music of the 'silent' films



By Dean Poling, [dean.poling@gafnews.com](mailto:dean.poling@gafnews.com) | Posted: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 5:30 am

### The sound of silent films

A scene from Fritz Lang's 1927 film 'Metropolis,' one of the classics featured in the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra's concert this weekend.

VALDOSTA — Valdosta Symphony Orchestra goes to the movies this weekend.

The concert is "Flicker – Symphonic Celebration of the Silent Age."

It was produced by Video Ideas Productions as part of the "Film Score in Reverse" series. Here, video is sequenced to a live performance.

"In this concert, HD video excerpts from classic silent movies such as 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,' 'Metropolis,' 'Nosferatu,' and 'The Tramp' will be projected above the VSO while it performs classics of the orchestral repertory such as 'Night on Bald Mountain,' 'Peer Gynt Suite,' and 'Danse Macabre,'" according to the Valdosta Symphony.

In the early days of film, movies did not include sound. A musical soundtrack was often scored to accompany the film. In some cases, theatres received a record to play simultaneously with the movie. Other theatres received a musical score for a musician to play along with the movie.

"I wouldn't be surprised if many people didn't know that live musicians accompanied silent films," said Howard Hsu, VSO conductor/music director, "but I didn't know that some movie theaters used full orchestras."



# VSO participates in National Food Drive

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra (VSO) is once again participating in the annual Orchestras Feeding America National Food Drive, sponsored by the League of American Orchestras.

"The food drive gives the VSO another opportunity to serve our community," said Dr. Howard Hsu, VSO music director.

The Valdosta State University campus and surrounding communities are asked to support the VSO's efforts by donating a non-perishable food item during the food drive, which ends Sunday, March 15. Donations may be dropped off at the Fine Arts Building, located at the intersection of Brookwood Drive and Oak Street, or at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, located at 527 N. Patterson St.

Donations will also be accepted during the VSO's "Flicker: Symphonic Celebration of the Silent Age" concert at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 14, in Whitehead Auditorium.

The food collected will benefit Second Harvest of South Georgia, the second largest food bank in the state. It serves a 12,675-square-mile region made up of 30 counties and is in need of all nonperishable food items, particularly dry soup, rice, canned or powdered milk, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, beans, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, canned meats, stew, soup, pasta, and fruit juices.

Over the past six years,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Valdosta Symphony Orchestra has joined the annual Orchestras Feeding America National Food Drive.**

more than 425 orchestras from across the country have collected and donated nearly 450,000 pounds of food through the Orchestras Feeding America National Food Drive. The project started in 2009.

"The efforts of these orchestras have helped spread the word about how and why orchestras are so necessary to their communities, beyond providing amazing music," according

to the League of American Orchestras.

Contact Dr. Howard Hsu at [hphsu@valdosta.edu](mailto:hphsu@valdosta.edu) to learn more.

*Note: The VSO cannot accept items in glass jars or bottles, items that are unlabeled, dented cans, homemade foods, expired products, monetary donations, any open or resealed packages, clothing, diapers, other nonfood items, or perishable foods.*

# Valdosta Symphony shares Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — Beethoven's Ninth Symphony has one of the most familiar refrains in classical music.

"The Ode to Joy," the celebratory, climactic rush, has been stitched into numerous movies and television soundtracks. It has been used in commercials of cereals, shoes and more.

The Ninth runs the risk of being cliché ... until an orchestra plays the symphony in its whole, with all of composer Ludwig van Beethoven's complexities

and subtleties, his power and bold simplicity.

No wonder so many latch onto it. No wonder so many

**Cho** try to make some claim to it. Yet, even when one begins to think it banal, an orchestra reminds audiences why Beethoven's Ninth Symphony remains "towering," as Howard Hsu, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor, described it.



The VSO performs the Ninth and Strauss' "Solemn Entrance" this weekend.

The **Hardesty** Ninth will feature acclaimed soloists Tamara Hardesty, soprano; Soon Cho, mezzo-soprano; Stanford Olsen, tenor; Nathan Stark, bass. A full choir joins the VSO.

Together, they "will shake the rafters with the sounds of one of Beethoven's most glorious creations," Hsu said.



"It is here as well that Beethoven transforms the symphony, for the first time in its history, into an act of philosophy and personal confession," writes Ted Libbey in his book, "The NPR Guide to Building a Classical CD Collection." "The Ode to Joy" came as close as words could to summarizing Beethoven's own moral views."

Libbey offers that is a reason why the



Olsen

endures, why so many movie directors and commercial producers glom onto "The Ode to Joy."

"The famous theme is plain rhythm, plain even in its melodic outline," Libbey writes. "It is the kind of song a man might sing to himself off in the corner of a tavern, which is perhaps Beethoven's



Stark

## CONCERT

Valdosta Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Strauss' "Solemn Entrance."

**When:** 8 p.m. Saturday.

**Where:** Whitehead Auditorium, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood.

**Reservations, more information:** VSU College of the Arts Outreach, (229)

# VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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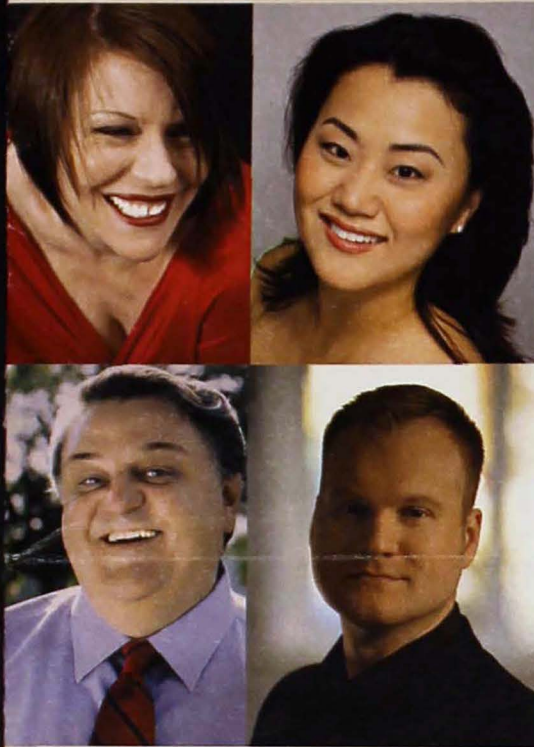
ANNIVERSARY

2014 — 2015  
season

# SymphonyNotes

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Meet the Performers



**Tamara Hardesty**, soprano, is described by noted *New York Times* music critic James R. Oestreich as "...a particular joy, singing with a clear, agile soprano and spinning out the coloratura with ease." In addition, Andrew Porter wrote in the *New Yorker* magazine that Hardesty "...gave pleasure in many gentle, fluent, well-shaped passages."

Hardesty has sung lead operatic roles with such opera companies as Connecticut Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera's Merola program and Western Opera Theater Tours, White-water Opera in Indiana, Sorg Opera in Ohio, Lake George Opera in New York, Sarasota Opera in Florida, and L'Opera Francais de New York, Dicapo Opera, and Bronx Opera in New York City. She made her Kennedy Center debut per-

forming the soprano solo in the Monteverdi Vespers with the Washington Chorus. She has also been a featured soloist in oratorios and concerts with the Valdosta Symphony, Westchester Oratorio Society in New York, the St. Joseph Symphony in Missouri, the Oskaloosa Symphony Orchestra and the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra in Iowa, and the Haddonfield Symphony Orchestra in New Jersey. Hardesty has given lieder recitals in New York City at Steinway Hall, Klavierhaus, St. Peter's Church, St. Paul's Chapel, and in Boston at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Hardesty is active in singing at events benefiting and memorializing victims of the September 11th tragedy and the 2011 tsunami in Japan.

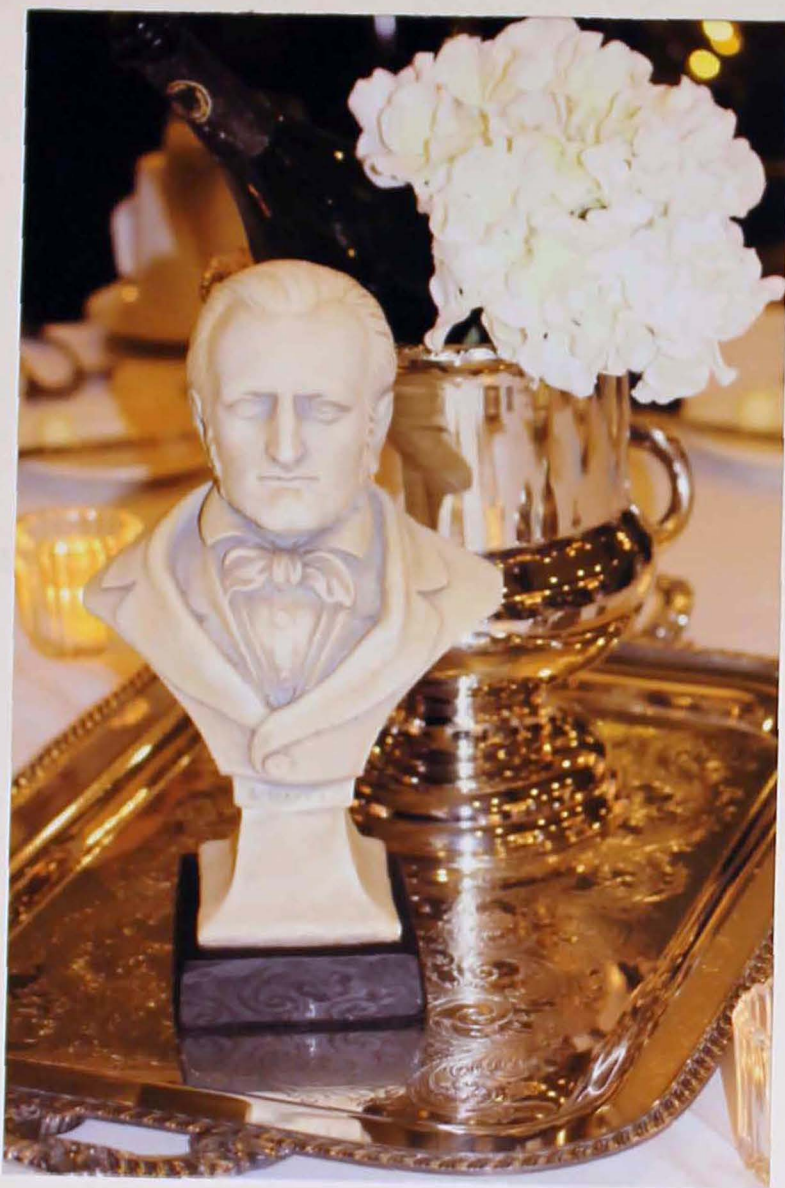
Hailed by *Opera News* for her "potent presence" as Mrs. Clemm in Argento's *Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe*, lyric mezzo-soprano **Soon Cho** has gained recognition as a versatile performer. As a recitalist, chamber musician, ora-

torio and concert soloist, and equally at home on the opera stage, Ms. Cho began her professional singing career under the batons of world-renowned conductors such as Alan Gilbert, Kristjan Järvi, Paavo Järvi, Erich Kunzel, Julius Rudel, Mischa Santora, and David Zinman.

As Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, *Cincinnati Post* praised her performance as "regal in bearing, with vocal endowments to match. The tears were listener response to her heart-wrenching performance of When I Am Laid in Earth." Opera credits include Costanza in Haydn's *L'isola disabitata* with New York Philomusica, Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Seongnam Arts Center in Korea, Mao's 2nd Secretary in *Nixon in China* with Cincinnati Opera, a "delightfully melodramatic" Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* with the CCO and at the Astoria Music Festival, Adalgisa in *Norma* with Opera in the Heights, Mercedes in *Carmen* with Dayton Opera, Zita in *Gianni*

## Featured in this Issue

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| <b>3</b>   Conductor's Corner  | <b>6</b>   Announcements        |
| <b>4</b>   Champagne Breakfast | <b>6</b>   Community Partners   |
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The VALDOSTA SYMPHONY BOARD of DIRECTORS  
& the VALDOSTA SYMPHONY GUILD

*cordially invite you to*

## THE CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

*toasting the*

VALDOSTA  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA



25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015  
VALDOSTA COUNTRY CLUB

10:00 p.m. or  
Immediately following the concert  
Prepaid reservations required

\$25.00 per person  
Champagne included  
Cash bar available











*Valdosta Symphony Guild  
Annual Luncheon*

*Please join us in our final celebration of the  
VSO's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year*

*Wednesday, May 6, 2014  
11:30 AM*

*Valdosta Country Club*

*With Musical Entertainment by our  
South Georgia String Project*

*RSVP by Friday, May 1, 2015 please  
\$20 per person  
Prepayment is greatly appreciated*

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*Reserve by mailing this form to  
Carla Penny, 8601 Morven Road, Mableton, GA, 31632  
or by email to [carlapenny@bellsouth.net](mailto:carlapenny@bellsouth.net)*

*Name \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address \_\_\_\_\_*

*Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed (Payable to Valdosta Symphony Guild)*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Please bill my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ American Express*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code*

*Valdosta Symphony Guild Annual Luncheon*  
*May 6, 2015*



Dear Guild members,

I want to thank you all for giving me the honor to represent the guild this past season, and also for the incredible gift Emily presented to me at the luncheon. I should have opened it while we were together so I could share it, but here is a photograph.

The beautiful basket contained 12 CDs representing music that was played by the VSO throughout this past season. What a perfect reminder of this past year! There's Beethoven, Sibelius, Schumann, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, even Rachel Barton pine and West Side Story! All were beautifully assembled by Sharon Morris in a basket full of seashells and natural balls. With the addition of a bottle of Limoncello, it's like a trip to the Italian coast.

Thank you again everyone.

Past President,

Carla Penny









LET'S HAVE FUN AND GET THE JOB DONE

Committee Sign-up Sheets are in the Lobby:

Tunes for Tots \* Youth Concerts \* Invitations/Mailings  
Publicity \* Glenn Wisenbaker Memorial Concert  
Sponsorships \* Hospitality for Visiting Musicians  
Music Enrichment Grant \* Orchestra Liaison \* Historian  
Symphony Ball \* Symphony Ball Auction  
Spring Fundraiser

Descriptions of the duties of each committee are included on each sign-up sheet.

Participation on more than one committee is encouraged

SIGN UP AND MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNT!

