Message from Our President

In this edition we introduce a new friend and pay tribute to an old friend.

It is an honor for Blossom Friends to introduce a new friend, André Gremillet, during our event, “A Special Evening of Conversation with André Gremillet”. This will be Mr. Gremillet’s opportunity to meet the volunteers that work tirelessly on behalf of Blossom and TCO as well as an occasion for Friends to learn more about our new Executive Director.

A long-time Blossom Friend, Germaine Williams’, has spent many years and volunteer hours growing awareness and fundraising for Blossom Friends (formerly BWC). Her long devotion to the orchestra and Blossom Music Center is admirable.

All of our members contribute in many ways that helps us execute our mission, “To promote and financially support Blossom Music Center and The Cleveland Orchestra”. Thank you to each of our Chapters for their diligence in growing our membership and working diligently to financially support The Cleveland Orchestra.

Lis Hugh, President

Invitation to an Evening and Conversation with André Gremillet, Executive Director of The Cleveland Orchestra

On Tuesday April 5, Blossom Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra, will hold a special benefit welcoming Cleveland Orchestra Executive Director André Gremillet to his new home town.

Robert Conrad, co-founder and president of WCLV, and broadcaster for The Cleveland Orchestra, will be hosting the interview with Mr. Gremillet. Please join us as Mr. Gemillet shares his passion on leading orchestras in New Jersey and Melbourne Australia as well as sharing his impressions on The Cleveland Orchestra.

“We are beginning a new era, updating the name of our volunteer group to be more welcoming and

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representative of our community – and feel hearing from André early in his tenor marks this important moment in our history supporting The Cleveland Orchestra in a spectacular way” says Elisabeth Hugh, President of Blossom Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra.

The evening takes place at Steinway Piano Gallery Cleveland, 334 E. Hines Hill Road, Boston Heights, Ohio 44236 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Wine and hors d’oeuvres catered by NOSH. Seating is limited, please RSVP by Friday, March 25th. Inquiries, please contact Connie Van Gilder, 330.656.1073 or cjvangilder@aol.com. Watch for your personal invitation in March.

For additional information about André Gremillet, please see the February Issue of Blossom Notes.

The Cleveland Orchestra Celebrates 10 Years of Entertaining Audiences in Miami

Montserrat Balseiro, managing director of The Cleveland Orchestra Miami has seen the growth of attendance, ticket sales and gift-giving during The Cleveland Orchestra’s 10 year tenure, ”The excitement didn't go away,” said Mr. Balseiro, ”It has continued, and it's amazing. Here we are after 10 years. People see we're here to stay.”

The orchestra spent its 10th anniversary season at the Arsht Center playing works by Mahler, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Brahms and Prokofiev. In addition to four subscription programs under Giancarlo Guerrero and music director Franz Welser-Möst, the orchestra presented a gala, a reprise of the evening with soprano Renee Fleming held earlier this season in Cleveland. Afterward, guests had the opportunity to view a video summarizing the orchestra's 10 seasons in Miami.

The Orchestra has also developed ties with public schools, colleges, community centers and Miami-based arts organizations, estimating that at least 45,000 students have had the opportunity to enjoy the symphony. ”It is quite literally our second home,” said associate conductor Brett Mitchell. ”We’ve really translated it into a second home, complete with another family.”

Excerpted from The Plain Dealer, November 5, 2015
**Chapter News:**

The **Akron Chapter** will be hosting a New Member Luncheon at Silver Lake CC on April 30th at 11:30 am.

The **Aurora Chapter** is planning a scrumptious ‘Luncheon at Country Inn’ fundraiser on May 26th. It is with sadness that we extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Eda Precop who recently passed away. She served on the Chapter Board for many years.

The **Kent Chapter** welcomes spring with our annual Spring Luncheon and Meeting, March 30th at Congress Lake Country Club. Kent member, Denise Seachrist, was recently named as dean and chief administrative officer of Kent State University at Stark. Our congratulations Denise!

The **Northeast Chapter** welcomes our newest members, Barbara Davis and Audrey and Sidney Waldman. This brings our Chapter membership total to 45. The Chapter has been busy developing a member handbook which will serve as an orientation tool for new members and a hand reference for current members.

**Gourmet Matinee on the Road**

The Northeast Chapter is very pleased to be sponsoring a **Gourmet Matinee on the Road** at Mentor Harbor Yachting Club on beautiful Lake Erie. Please plan on joining us on May 15th. Lunch will be provided with entertainment by John Rautenberg, retired flutist of TCO, along with a string quartet performance by students of Kent State University. For more information please contact Nancy Cruikshank, 440.354.8603, or cruikshank08@aol.com.

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**A Tribute to Kent Chapter Member Germaine Williams**

One of the original members of Blossom Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra (formerly Blossom Women’s Committee), Germaine Williams is retiring from her many roles within the volunteer group. Her numerous contributions make it impossible to list them all.

A long-time member of Kent Chapter, Germaine served as the editor of *Quarter Notes*, and hosted many membership drives and fundraisers, including a pig roast at her home. She was instrumental in preserving wardrobe trunks of TCO musicians and having them transformed into works of art. These trunks were then auctioned to raise money for the orchestra. Ms. Williams was the first recipient of the Emily Award for her outstanding volunteer activities for Blossom Friends.

Thank you, Germaine for your long and amazing work on behalf of The Cleveland Orchestra and Blossom Music Center. We look forward to seeing you at our many activities this season.

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**Blossom Friends Chapter Presidents**

- Akron, Jean Mathews, jmathews0114@yahoo.com
- Aurora, Susan Kenney, suedatwalden@aol.com
- Canton, Donna Paola, donnaipaola@gmail.com and Liz McCormick, elizmccormick@yahoo.com
- Hudson, Robert Valente, rvalente@ravfinancial.com
- Kent, Donna DiBiase, dibiase1@sbcglobal.net and Sylvia Armstrong, sylviaarmstrong330@gmail.com
- Northeast, Jan Robinson, janrobinsonest@gmail.com and Nancy Cruikshank, cruikshank08@att.net

*For more information about joining Blossom Friends please contact the Chapter President in your area.*
Opening Night Celebration July 9

Blossom Friends will again sponsor Opening Night for the 2016 Blossom Music Festival

Chairs: Mary Anne Leon and Kathy Moock

The evening begins with cocktails and dinner followed by The Cleveland Orchestra, Franz Welser-Möst, conductor

Adès - Overture, Waltz and Finale from Powder Her Face

Strauss - Death and Transfiguration

Beethoven - Symphony No. 3 (“Eroica”) 

Watch for more details in the next edition of our newsletter.

Cellist Dane Johansen Joins The Cleveland Orchestra

TCO music director Franz Welser-Most has announced the appointment of cellist Dane Johansen to the orchestra.

Mr. Johansen, 31, a native of Fairbanks, Alaska is a former student at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Conservatoire de Paris in France. He earned an artist’s diploma and has served as an assistant on the pre-college faculty since 2012 at the Juilliard School. In addition to teaching, Johansen spent five years in the Escher String Quartet. He also has performed regularly as a soloist, notably playing Elliott Carter’s Cello Concerto on a tribute to Carter under James Levine at Lincoln Center in New York.

Mr. Johansen plays a custom cello modeled on the famous 'Countess of Stanlein' Stradivarius long owned by the artist’s former teacher, Bernard Greenhouse, a founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio. Blossom Friends join The Cleveland Orchestra community in welcoming this talented musician.

With Sadness...

TCO former resident conductor, Louis Lane passed away on February 14, 2016 at the age of 92. In 1947 he was appointed apprentice conductor to George Szell. He also performed in the Orchestra, serving as principal piano and keyboard player from 1948 to 1961. He also served as co-director of the Blossom Festival School (now Kent/Blossom Music Festival) from 1968 to 1973, music director of Cleveland Orchestra summer pops concerts presented at Public Auditorium (1952-68), and music director of Lake Erie Opera Theatre (1964-70) presenting a series of opera productions at Severance Hall. In 2008, Mr. Lane was the recipient of The Cleveland Orchestra’s Distinguished Service Award.

Supporting The Cleveland Orchestra financially is an important part of being a Blossom Friend. And now you can receive special recognition by making a special gift. With this special gift, a commemorative plaque featuring your name – or the name of someone you wish to honor – will be permanently affixed to a seat in the Cleveland Orchestra venue of your choice, including Blossom. Watch your mail box for this special offer or contact Sarah Jessie, Senior Development Associate, at sjessie@clevelandorchestra.com or 216-231-7562 for more information.
The Cleveland Orchestra Announces the 2016 Blossom Music Festival Season

The Cleveland Orchestra has announced the 2016 Blossom Music Festival season.

Festival highlights include Cleveland Orchestra Music Director Franz Welser-Möst conducting Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 (“Eroica”) as well as works by Adès and Strauss - July 9.

Blossom’s traditional, star-spangled celebration with the Blossom Festival Band, A Salute to America - July 4.

Michael Feinstein with The Cleveland Orchestra performing Broadway hits and classic songs by Ellington, Berlin, and Gershwin - July 31.

The Silk Road Ensemble with cellist Yo-Yo Ma - August 13.

The Blossom Festival Orchestra in a concert featuring the symphonic rendition of The Who’s seminal rock opera Quadrophenia - August 20.

And the Blossom Music Festival debut of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra performing Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 2, 3, 5, and 6 - August 27.

Details of the 2016 Blossom Music Festival season, including Festival as well as Cleveland Orchestra soloist and conductor debuts, are available online at clevelandorchestra.com.

Concert schedules and series renewals are being mailed to subscribers of last year’s Festival, and new series packages are available for purchase now. Lawn Ticket Books are also on sale now. Individual tickets for the entire season go on sale to the general public on Monday, May 9, 2016.

The Cleveland Orchestra Announces the 2016 Summers @ Severance Season

The Cleveland Orchestra has announced the 2016 ‘Summers @ Severance’ series.

The series in 2016 will consist of three Friday-night programs. Each evening, too, will entail pre- and post-concert concessions in and around the Severance Hall property.

Music director Franz Welser-Möst will preside over the first evening on July 8 featuring the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, soprano Lauren Snouffer, and bass-baritone Dashon Burton in Brahms’ "A German Requiem," along with Bartok’s Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta.

On July 22, the final round of the Thomas and Evon Cooper International Piano Competition, a high-level contest for young artists staged by Oberlin College Conservatory of Music will be held. Jahja Ling will conduct as three finalists perform concertos with the Cleveland Orchestra while vying for a $20,000 first prize.

And on August 12, Baroque specialist Bernard Labadie will return to conduct a program of lesser-known works from the Baroque and early Classical periods. He'll join soprano Karina Gauvin and principal trumpet Michael Sachs in presenting Mozart’s Symphony No. 29, Bach’s Cantata No. 51, and an aria from Handel's oratorio "Samson."

Series tickets, $60-$204, go on sale Monday, Feb. 15. Individual tickets, $25-$85, will be available Monday, May 9. Severance Hall is at 11001 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Go to clevelandorchestra.com or call 216-231-1111 for information.
**Concert Calendar:**

March 3rd, 5th and 6th – Stephen Hough plays Dvořák, 7:30 pm, Severance Hall. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets.

March 24th and 26th – Truls Mørk plays Schumann. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets and times.

March 31st – Wagner’s Götterdämmerung, 7:30 pm. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets.

**Special Events:**

March 4th and 5th - Cheerful Cello, Reinberger Chamber Hall at Severance Hall. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets and times.

March 6th - Free tours of Severance Hall, 12:00, 12:30 and 1:00pm.

March 10th - Maria João Pires in Recital: All Beethoven, 7:30 pm. Severance Hall. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets and times.

March 11th – Cleveland Pops Orchestra presents Rodgers & Hammerstein, 8:00 pm, Severance Hall. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets.

March 13th – Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, 1:00 pm, Severance Hall. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets.

March 19th – Cleveland Orchestra Chorus Benefit Concert, 7:30 pm, Severance Hall. Check clevelandorchestra.com for tickets.

March 23rd – A Celebration of Community, 8:00 pm, Severance Hall.

The Women’s Committee of The Cleveland Orchestra are presenting a fabulous night of **Music and Conversation with Cleveland Orchestra Musicians**, Michael Sachs on trumpet, Massimo La Rosa on trombone and Joela Jones on keyboard, on Friday, March 4th at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven, 6111 Landerhaven Drive, Mayfield Heights. Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction starting at 6:00 pm followed by a musical performance and dinner. For more info contact Patricia Smith, 216-789-1788.