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presents...



"A PATRIOTIC PAUSE"



Bryan Eckenrode
Conductor



NARRATOR:
David Bellavia
Congressional
Medal of Honor Recipient

Featuring
Lincoln Portrait
by Aaron Copland

Sunday, February 20, 2022 | 4 PM

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HELLO AND WELCOME TO OUR PATRIOTIC PAUSE CONCERT

How marvelous it is to attend a live program.

Our concert today will delight you with a variety of music from different eras.

We open our program with American composer Morton Gould's American Salute based on the tune "When Johnny comes Marching Home"

Next, we hear the famous Nimrod by Edward Elgar (interesting fact: this is one of my wife's favorite compositions). We dedicate this piece in memoriam to any and all we have lost this past year.

Local composer, Robert Mols composed The Centennial March to commemorate the 1993 Amherst sesquicentennial. We are pleased to add this piece to our program.

Featured in our next piece, The Winter's Passed, is our multi-talented and extraordinary oboist, Paul Schlossman.

In the next two pieces, we make use of our wonderful venue, St. Gregory the Great. First, we hear the antiphonal brass piece Canzon Primi Toni by Gabrieli, written in 1597. And next.....watch out-!!!.....we move right into the twentieth century with the bizarre and very interesting Charles Ives piece, The Unanswered Question. Will the question actually be answered??? You decide.

We are extremely fortunate and honored to have David Bellavia, as our guest narrator for Copland's Lincoln Portrait. We are grateful to all who have served our country. Thank you.

West Side Story selections conclude our concert. It has truly become a classic as shown by the recent remake of the award-winning movie.

Thank you for attending today. Wishing you all the best, Hope to see you at our next concert.

Yours very truly,

Bryan Eckenrode

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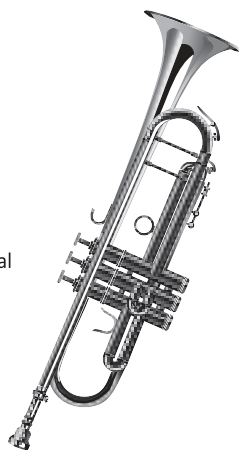
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Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 4 pm

“A PATRIOTIC PAUSE”

Featuring: **Bryan Eckenrode, Conductor**

Guest Artist: **David Bellavia**

American Salute	Morton Gould
Nimrod from Enigma Variations	Edward Elgar
Amherst Centennial March	Robert W. Mols Arr. L. Gearhart
The Winter's Passed	Wayne Barlow
Paul Schlossman, Oboe soloist	
Canzon per sonar primi toni a 8 Ch.170	Giovanni Gabrieli
Unanswered Question	Charles Ives
Lincoln Portrait	Aaron Copland David Bellavia, Narrator
West Side Story	Leonard Bernstein Arr. Jack Mason

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Bryan Eckenrode

Conductor/Cellist

Conductor/cellist Bryan Eckenrode graduated cum laude from SUNY at Stony Brook and holds a Master of Music degree from SUNY at Buffalo.

Eckenrode is conductor and music director of the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra in Pennsylvania, the Chautauqua Regional Youth Symphony, the Prelude Strings Orchestra, and the Young Artists' Orchestra of Jamestown. Bryan also conducts the Amherst Symphony. He has been guest conductor with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, the Genesee Symphony, the Cheektowaga Symphony and conductor of the Zone 1 Area All State Orchestra. Eckenrode served as the program coordinator for Artpark's Music in the Woods series.

He is currently principal cello with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra and the Southern Tier Symphony and has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Erie Philharmonic, and Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra.

Bryan is principal cello with the Bach and Beyond Festival and records with the International Baroque Soloists. He was principal cellist with the British Columbia (Canada) Mozart Festival Orchestra and the Most Arts Festival at Alfred University. Bryan is a member of the Lexington String Quartet, and the chamber groups Voci d'Amore and Camerata.

Eckenrode can be heard on the CDs of many artists, including Ani DiFranco, 10,000 Maniacs, Sixpence None the Richer, Seven Day Faith, Them Jazzbeards, John and Mary, and Alison Pipitone: not only as a cellist, but as a bagpiper and flutist. He has recorded the soundtracks of film scores for several silent movies being distributed on commercial DVD by the Turner Broadcasting Network. Bryan has performed twice at Lincoln Center in New York and recorded the soundtrack for the PBS special – The Siege of Fort Erie – A Glorious Battle. He was bagpipe soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic for their successful Memorial Day Pops Concerts. Bryan was recently inducted into the Sigma Alpha Iota for his distinguished contribution to the arts.

Eckenrode is an adjunct professor at Canisius College, Buffalo State College, Jamestown Community College, and director of the string department at Villa Maria College. Eckenrode is on the music faculty at the renowned Nichols School in Buffalo. He is married to the internationally acclaimed soprano, Cristen Gregory.



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Guest Artist:

David Bellavia

Medal of Honor Recipient

Born: Nov. 10th, 1975

Hometown: Lyndonville, NY

Enlistment Date: June 1999

Military Occupation: 11B Infantryman

Rank: Staff Sergeant - US Army

Unit:

3dr Platoon, Alpha Company
2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment,
3rd Brigade Combat Team,
1st Infantry Division

Campaigns:

Kosovo 2003,
Operation Freedom I, II



David Bellavia, Nicknamed “Bell” (born November 10, 1975) is an American Iraq War veteran who was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah. Bellavia has also received the Bronze Star, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross. He has also received the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. In 2005, Bellavia was inducted into the New York Veterans' Hall of Fame. He has subsequently been involved with politics in Western New York State. Bellavia was born and raised in Buffalo, New York.

Following his high school graduation in 1994, Bellavia attended Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire, and the University at Buffalo, where he studied biology and theater before turning to the military. Bellavia enlisted in the U.S. Army as an infantryman in 1999.

That sense of duty had been ingrained in Bellavia since he was a child by his grandfather, Joseph Brunacini, who served in the Army during the Normandy Campaign in World War II and earned a Bronze Star for his valor.

He was awarded this medal at the White House on June 25, 2019, surrounded by his family and every living member of his Task Force. Bellavia was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic efforts on Nov. 10, 2004, during the Third Battle in Fallujah - dramatic efforts that saved the lives of his unit members.



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IN MEMORIAM

NANCY E. WALLACE

March 7, 1942 – May 30, 2021

Nancy will be sorely missed by the Amherst Symphony family. She wore many hats in her years of service: President of the ASOA Board; President of the Friends Committee, helping frequently with hospitality opportunities, and just being there, loving the music and musicians. Nancy was raised in Amherst, loved to ski in her younger days and later became an avid sailor. Nancy was a French teacher, retiring from Orchard Park Schools.

After retirement, she was a tour guide traveling throughout the U.S. and well as on cruises.

Her biggest love was her family: her sisters Mabel, Jane and Susan and extended family.



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PROGRAM NOTES by Claudia Staines

American Salute

Morton Gould
1913-1996

Morton Gould was considered a child prodigy with early abilities in improvisation and composition. His first composition, in fact, was published when he was just six years old! As a student at the Institute of Musical Art in New York City, Mr. Gould found great opportunities to play at venues like vaudeville halls and movie theaters, as well as becoming the first staff pianist at the newly-opened Radio City Music Hall in 1932. Through the 30s and well into the 40s, Mr. Gould worked as a musician and conductor for numerous radio programs. During this time, his career as composer began gaining traction, notably when his music was used in the short film “Ring of Steel” for the Office of Emergency Management (1942).

Mr. Gould’s music is often described as “unique in its Americanism”, relying on his wealth of creativity but also the roots of American songs. ‘American Salute’ was written in 1942 to showcase that sense of Americanism, to encourage patriotism during WWII. Based on “When Johnny Comes Marching Home”, a Civil War song by Patrick Gilmore, the composition was written and scored in less than eight hours. Which was just as well, as hours after the copyists finished their work, ‘American Salute’ was played on the radio for the first time. It has been popular with both orchestras and bands ever since.

Mr. Gould was a Pulitzer Prize winner in Music for “Stringmusic”, a composition commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra. He was a Kennedy Center Honors recipient in 1994, and was posthumously given a Lifetime Achievement Grammy in 2005.

Nimrod from Enigma Variations

Sir Edward William Elgar
1857 - 1934

An English composer of international concert renown, Elgar’s influences as a composer were more continental European than typically English. He always felt himself to be an outsider, as a musician and as a member of the late-Victorian and Edwardian Society. Elgar was self-taught, without the academic background so many of his peers had. And, in a very class conscious era, he was deeply sensitive about his humble family background.

He had some moderate successes as a composer for several years, but it wasn’t until he reached his early-40s that his career took off with the popular ‘Enigma Variations’. This orchestral work is made up of 14 parts, each based on a member of Elgar’s family and close circle of friends. ‘Nimrod’ is the 9th variation, and indisputably the best known piece. But why Nimrod? He is the Great Hunter of the Old Testament, and translating from the German, ‘Jaeger’ means ‘hunter’.

Nimrod has a long history of patriotic performances in England, amongst them at the 2012 London Olympics, as well as annual performances at the Whitehall Cenotaph for the National Service of Remembrance, and most recently at the funeral for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Solemn, emotional, and spine-tingling, Nimrod has the ability to send you scrambling for your tissues.



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75 years of music for the Western New York community!**

Amherst Centennial March**Robert William Mols
1921 - 2013**

Composer, conductor and educator, Robert Mols was a proud Buffalonian who may have lived away from the region at times, but came home for most of his working career and life. Following graduation from Fosdick-Masten Park High School, Bob earned his undergraduate degree from the Eastman School of Music in 1943. Then Army service called, and for the duration, he was part of the Army Air Force Band, principally playing flute.

After his honorable discharge, Sgt. Mols returned to Eastman to pursue graduate studies. His master's degree thesis was titled "The Use of the Piccolo in the Orchestra Between 1800 and 1850". From 1948 to 1952, Mr. Mols taught at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas where his youngest son, Jeffrey (who plays First Violin for this orchestra), was born. In 1953, the Mols family returned to Buffalo, so that Mr. Mols could take up a position in the newly-formed Music Department at UB. In a 32-year career at the university, he was an assistant professor, teaching theory and flute, eventually heading the theory and instrument divisions. In 1962, returning to Eastman as a mature student, Mr. Mols became Dr. Mols, earning his PhD in composition, studying under Howard Hanson and Wayne Barlow.

The "Amherst Centennial March" was commissioned in 1992 for the town's sesquicentennial to provide what was called 'musical flavor' for the year's celebrations. Dr. Mols said at the time that his experience with marches was related mostly to playing and hearing a lot of them during his Army days, although he also composed the UB 'Victory March', which is still played at most UB sporting events. Go, Bulls!

The Winter's Passed**Wayne Barlow
1912-1996**

A composer of contemporary classical music, Wayne Barlow was also a profession of music, an organist, and directed the choir at the Eastman School of Music. Indeed, Dr. Barlow was an Eastman through and through, having studied as both an undergraduate and graduate student there. In 1937, he became the first American to earn his PhD in music composition.

Dr. Barlow had great influence in the development of electronic music, studying it with Myron Schaeffer, who was the Director of the Electronic Music Lab at the University of Toronto. In 1968, he founded and became the first director of Eastman's Electronic Music Studio, a position he held for 10 years.

Written in 1938, 'The Winter's Passed' is called a "descriptive fantasy", written originally for oboe and orchestra. Recalling how the piece came about, Dr Barlow said he had just finished his PhD studies when it was written. He based the work on a number of Southern folk tunes and harkened the style to something close to 'neo-romantic'.

"Winter's Passed" takes its name from the Songs of Solomon, "For lo, the winter is passed, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle doves is heard..." Despite being just 28 days, February often seems like the long winter month, so it is heartening to know we are so close to feeling the song and smelling spring in the air. Winter's passed indeed.

Canzon per sonar primi toni a 8 Ch.170**Giovanni Gabrieli
1557 - 1612**

Signor Gabrieli was Venetian born and bred, and most of his compositions reflect that as he represents the highest point of the Venetian School, when music was shifting from the Renaissance to the Baroque.

Not much is known about his childhood, but it would seem likely that he was taught by, and may have been brought up by, his uncle, Andrea Gabrieli. The older Gabrieli, also a composer, worked at San Marco Basilica for some 20 years. Giovanni is the chief reason why the world knows the compositions of Andrea, as he was the one who collated, edited, and cataloged much of it.

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cont.

The younger Gabrieli spent several years in Munich where he studied with Orlando de Lassus at the court of the Duke Albert V. On his return to Venice, he began working as the organist at San Marco and, after the death of his uncle in 1586, Giovanni Gabrieli also became the Basilica's composer. He also took on the post of organist at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, a church second only to San Marco in its wealth of extraordinary music and performances.

Gabrieli worked in all the forms of music current to his time, but his preference was always for the sacred in both vocal and instrumental form. The unusual layout of San Marco, with two choir lofts facing each other, gave him a chance to hone a composition style that had been pioneered by Adrian Willaert. Gabrieli provided very explicit directions on instrumentation and how to place both singers and musicians, taking every advantage of the amazing acoustics in the Basilica.

We may not have quite the same extraordinary acoustics here at St Gregory the Great, but the four minutes that are 'Canzon per sonar prime Toni a 8 Ch. 170' will transport to San Marco, in mind and memory, to be surrounded by the grace and joy that is beautiful music in a beautiful setting.

Unanswered Question

Charles Edward Ives
1874 - 1954

When a composer can't make a living with his music, he turns to... insurance. This is what happened to Charles Edward Ives who graduated from Yale in 1898 and moved his career focus to New York where he took a position as an actuary for the Mutual Life Insurance Company. A year later, he joined an insurance agency and then, with his friend Julian Myrick, formed their own agency, Ives and Myrick. He was extremely successful in this career, working at the agency until his retirement.

Mr. Ives never stopped composing even as he was developing insurance plans for the well-to-do. Described as a 'modernist', his music was largely ignored during his early life, and in fact, a large number of his works were never performed during his lifetime. But Mr. Ives' interest in experimental music foreshadowed innovations which didn't become widely adopted until well into the 20th century. Because of his ground work, he is usually regarded as the leading American composer of art music in that century.

'The Unanswered Question' was composed in 1908 and thoroughly revised in the early 30s, and while it is among the composer's most performed pieces, there are still questions being asked, and one hopes, answered about the work. Conductor Dr. Linda Mack says the piece is a "study in contrasts... a solo trumpet asks the question seven times; the flutes try to answer the question, each time getting more and more agitated and atonal." And Leonard Bernstein, in his Norton Lectures, said the woodwinds "...represent our human answers growing increasingly impatient and desperate, until they lose their meaning entirely."

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Lincoln Portrait**Aaron Copland
1900 - 1990**

Tomorrow is President's Day, so why not celebrate one of them in great musical style with Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait".

Critics and peers called Copland the 'Dean of American Composers'. Mr. Copland called his composition style 'vernacular' while others described his very accessible music as 'populist'. His signature was open harmonies, lush and open, bringing to mind and heart the American landscape, the American people.

Commissioned by André Kostelanetz, Copland was asked to write a portrait of a great American, a piece to be played by the New York Philharmonic. Copland chose Lincoln, using as inspiration original folk songs from the period and Lincoln's own words. Lincoln Portrait was finished in 1942, and performed for the first time in May of that year by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Scored for speaker and orchestra, Lincoln Portrait has been narrated by a great number of notable people, including Neil Armstrong, Maya Angelou, Tom Hanks, and President Barack Obama. But who would choose not to perform the piece, when they have the chance to recite passages from Lincoln's writings, such as "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save our country." (Message to Congress, 1862)

West Side Story**Leonard Bernstein
1918 - 1990**

Could there be a better time to re-visit "West Side Story"? Academy Award winning director Steven Spielberg didn't think so, bringing out a new, exciting, film version of a much-loved American classic in late 2021.

The story, of course, is as old as "Romeo and Juliet", a romantic story tradition that goes back to antiquity. Shakespeare's classic was the starting point for composer Leonard Bernstein, lyricist Stephen Sondheim and book author Arthur Laurents. They set their version on the Upper West Side, in a multi-racial, blue-collar neighborhood, with the rivalry not between Montagues and Capulets, but two gangs, one white, one Puerto Rican.

Debuting in 1957, "West Side Story" changed the tone and direction of American musical theatre with, what critic John Chapman called "... (a) manner of telling the story is provocative and artful blend of music, dance, and plot... (in the score), there is the drive, the bounce, the restlessness and sweetness of (New York)." Bernstein's score "combined jazz, Latin rhythms, and symphonic sweep" which begged the usual pit orchestra to be enhanced to 31 players.

From Broadway hit to a the big screen, a multiple-Academy award winning version, including an Oscar for Rita Moreno, the first Latin American to be so honored. Fast forward 60 years, and Spielberg casts Ms. Moreno as 'Valentina' in his version of the film. This is not a role in the original; Valentina is the widow of 'Doc', who provided a neutral place for the neighborhood, free from gang harassment. It wasn't just Valentina who is different in this version of "West Side Story", Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner also brought in subjects like gentrification, race and class warfare, and police violence.

Whether on film or on stage, of course, what makes "West Side Story" an icon of American musical theatre is the music, the songs we all know and love. We will understand if you hum along tonight.

THE AUTHOR OF THESE NOTES You may perhaps know the parlor game, The Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon, where anyone, from anywhere, is determined to be never more than six connections away from the actor and musician Kevin Bacon. I cannot say I found Kevin Bacon closely attached to any of the composers whose work we are hearing today, but there are clear connections from one to another, some of which surprised me. Of course, it shouldn't have, as the more this circumscribed life goes on, the more I see how music has great powers to influence us, teach us, comfort us. Music is our friend, one we should treasure and enjoy every day. Welcome back.

The Orchestra is very grateful for the recent generous gift from the Irma Kordinak trust.

FASO MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP SALUTE TO IRMA KORDINAK (B. February 27, 1930 – D. December 20, 2021)

The Friends of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra would like to share a memory with the Amherst community about a very important member of the Symphony family. Irma Kordinak, who passed away on December 20, 2021, was a piano teacher for many years, having studied at the Conservatory of Music of Oberlin College, as well as studying at Eastman School of Music and the University of Buffalo.



Over 37 years ago, in 1985, Irma Kordinak invited some members of the ASO Women's Committee (now called Friends Committee) to her home to discuss an idea about a music scholarship to be sponsored annually by the group. Irma, Marion Fay, Peggy Wincenc (wife of ASO Conductor Dr. Joseph Wincenc) and Joan Fishburn sat around Irma's kitchen table and hashed out the student requirements, rules and regulations for an annual music scholarship to be awarded to a high school senior music student planning to major in music in college. The student was to be from the Town of Amherst, going to a public or private school, or related to an orchestra, Association Board or Women's Committee member. These meetings were the beginnings of the present FASO/Williamsville Rotary Music Scholarship, (the Rotary of Williamsville joined with FASO in 1990) now valued at \$2000, that is won through audition and judged by professional musicians of Erie County.

The meetings around Irma's kitchen table have been fruitful and full of promise for 37 years of students of all musical instruments, including voice. The Friends Committee has Irma Kordinak to thank for this annual help to students planning music careers.

We are grateful to Sharron (Jo) Rich for her dedication and leadership as Chair of the present FASO/Williamsville Rotary Scholarship program.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello Everyone,

“A Patriotic Pause”, a fitting title for this unique, special Amherst Symphony Concert. As Presidents’ Day approaches, to honor all past and present U.S. presidents, the orchestra is honored to perform “Lincoln’s Portrait”, narrated with excerpts from some of President Lincoln’s most notable speeches. Past narrators have been quite notable also. Names, such as Carl Sandberg, Marion Anderson, Neil Armstrong, Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama have had their turns narrating this piece of music. We are thrilled to have Western New York Medal of Honor Recipient, David Bellavia, as our special guest narrator for this performance. Listen for Lincoln’s words, “Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history”.



The Amherst Symphony is making its own history with a different venue and different kind of “stage”. Our gratitude goes to St. Gregory the Great’s Church for making it possible for the orchestra to perform this concert. In appreciation, a free-will offering, with baskets placed at the front doors of the church, will be ASO’s gift to St. Greg’s Church. As always, we thank our audience for their generous support in showing their appreciation. We are especially grateful for the loyalty and generosity of all our supporters in donating gifts to the Symphony during these past two years, while we remain on intermission from a full concert season.

Communication with our community is key, especially now. We continue to plan and prepare for future concerts. Our ASO Ambassadors perform at Senior Living Residences and our School Outreach Program recently presented a well-received musicians’ assembly at St. Gregory the Great School. The Friends Committee/ Williamsville Rotary Annual Scholarship will hold auditions in March. Please continue to check in at our exciting new website for any concert updates, testimonials from our supporters, a scholarship tribute, events and projects on our “What’s New” tab.

Our new mailing list includes both street addresses and email addresses for a variety of ways for the Symphony to communicate with everyone in the ASO family. Won’t you please send your current email to ASOrch46@gmail.com? Further information is on the inside back cover of this program.

Enjoy “A Patriotic Pause”, a stirring program of music and words on this Winter’s Day.

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Susan G. Arrigo

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Outreach School Program for St. Gregory The Great School

On Wednesday, January 26, 2022 some members of the ASO presented a "Meet the Orchestra" Assembly Outreach School Program for St. Gregory The Great School (grades pre-K through 8).

The mission of this collaboration is to increase our community's participation in, and appreciation for the arts by encouraging students and their families to present and attend community orchestra performances. One member from each section of the orchestra gave a brief discussion and performance on their instrument. The assembly culminated with a group performance of Lord of The Dance. St. Greg's principal, Julie Gajewski, was very excited about this collaboration with the Amherst Symphony Orchestra. Thank you, St. Greg's friends- we have enjoyed working with you!

Sandra Paddock

Outreach School Program Coordinator



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