

# Amherst Symphony Orchestra

*presents...*

## “ALL ABOARD”



**Bryan Eckenrode**  
Conductor, cellist



**WALTER SIMPSON**  
Author, Commentator



**Narrator:**  
**DEBORAH ROGERS**  
Mayor of Williamsville



Pre-Concert Event  
1:30 pm  
Instruments, Prizes  
& Refreshments

**Sunday, February 9, 2020 | 3 PM**

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## Conductor's Corner

# WELCOME ABOARD FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S CONCERT!!!

Being brought up in a small town of Cresson, Pennsylvania situated on the Main Line railroad, trains were a big part of my youth. These incredible pieces of machinery have always held a fascination for me and so my love of train music was born.

We are delighted to have the Mayor of Williamsville, Deborah Roger, with us today to narrate **The Little Engine That Could**, and if you're anything like me, sometimes I need a little inspiration to get going!!! I think I can.....I think I can.....I think I can.....

The first half of the concert will introduce you to some fabulous music and also to train historian and author, Walter Simpson. He will be speaking between the selections of the program and projecting images of the railroad. These can be seen on the screen above the orchestra. Walter will be in the lobby at intermission and also following the concert, selling and signing his latest book Diesel-Electric Locomotives. What a perfect gift for the seasoned train enthusiast or the newly minted. Mr. Simpson has graciously pledged to give a portion of today's sales of his book to the Amherst Symphony. Thank you, Walter, for the generous gift.

Our thanks go out to the sponsors of our pre-concert instrument petting zoo.

So, all that being said, you're at the right station, at the right time, on the platform of the right track, so come aboard and enjoy the journey!

**Your Conductor,**  
Bryan

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Molly Carroll  
Chihiro Heckman  
Libby Keller  
Gayle Kroetsch  
Jeff Mols  
Sandra Paddock  
Christine Reed  
Caroline West

**2nd Violins:**

Judy Bacon\*, principal  
Mary Bullions  
Gabrielle Catalano  
George Chen  
Joan Fishburn\*  
Melissa Goldberg  
Mike Kluczniak  
Francesca Cirulli Linde  
Martina Pusanov  
Bill Rich  
Jordan Stern

**Violas:**

Karen Beacher\*, principal  
Tom Fuchs  
Sarah Ibrahim  
Megan Mihans  
Gretchen Perhamus  
Mary Pouli-Sosnowski 1  
Renee Roess

**Celli:**

Jonathan Steffen\*, principal 3  
Peg Beyer  
Kerry Castellani  
Kevin Jopp  
Jennifer Sandner  
Joseph Tronolone  
Yvonne Verplanke  
Anne Marie Will  
Ezra Zubrow

**String Basses:**

Gil Pease, principal  
Melissa Bender  
Brian DeJesus  
Bob Groves  
Jamey Jacobs  
Jazey Walker

**Flutes:**

August Grillo, principal  
Michelle Russ

**Piccolo:**

Michelle Russ

**Oboes:**

Sheryl Rohr, principal 6  
Kristen Roess

**English Horn**

Laura Beuchi

**Clarinets:**

Lynn Price, principal 4  
Roseann Deni

**Bass Clarinet:**

Rebecca Kent

**Bassoon:**

Sue White, principal  
Linda Mucyn

**Contrabassoon:**

Linda Mucyn

**Horns:**

Lee Brusino, principal  
Dave Macaluso  
Megan Marranca-Valez  
Holly Martin

**Trumpets:**

Matt Miraglia, principal 5  
Nate Barnes  
Kara Meyer  
Al Schlisserman

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Peter Karda

**Bass Trombone:**

Stuart Easter 2

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# AMHERST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 3 pm

## “ALL ABOARD”

Featuring: **Bryan Eckenrode, Conductor**

Narrator: **Deborah Rogers** • Commentator: **Walter Simpson**

Running Off The Rails	Clive Richardson Arr. Robert Gill
The Little Train of The Brazilian Countryman <i>Bachianas Brasileiras No.2</i>	Heitor Villa-Lobos
Copenhagen Steam Engine Galop	Hans Christian Lumbye
Model Railway	Charles Williams Arr. Cecil Milner
Pacific 231	Arthur Honegger
John Henry	Aaron Copland

Walter Simpson, Commentator

Intermission

Romanza	Roland E. Martin
	Bryan Eckenrode, Violoncello
March <i>The Love of the Three Oranges</i>	Serge Prokofieff
The Little Engine That Could <i>Based on the book by Watty Piper</i>	Allen Feinstein
	Deborah Rogers, Narrator
Duke Ellington Fantasy	Duke Ellington Arr. Ralph Hermann

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## *Our Special Guests!*

### **Narrator: DEBORAH ROGERS**

Deborah Rogers was born in Johnstown, PA. As a young child she enjoyed attending performances by the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra with her Grandmother Edna.

In June 2019 she was elected as Mayor in the Village of Williamsville. Prior to that she served as a Trustee on the Village Board for 2 years.

Mayor Rogers has been a Williamsville resident since 2003. She and her husband, Michael, live in the village with their two children, Anna and Joseph. Rogers earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations from St. Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania.



### **Conductor/Cellist: BRYAN ECKENRODE**

Roland E. Martin is a Buffalo born internationally acclaimed composer, whose compositions have been performed by the Buffalo Philharmonic under the direction of JoAnn Faletta, the Buffalo Chamber Players, and throughout Europe and Canada.

As a birthday present, Mr. Martin wrote this Romanza for me. Originally written for cello and piano, Mr. Martin decided to expand the piece to be for orchestra and solo cello. I am pleased to perform the Western New York premiere with the Amherst Symphony, and I know you will love this piece as much as I do.



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# *Our Special Guests!*

## **Commentator: WALTER SIMPSON**



Walter Simpson is energy activist, educator, and professional who retired from the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) in 2008 after serving 26 years as University Energy Officer. In that position he led a nationally recognized campus energy conservation program credited with over \$100 million in savings. While at UB, he also taught many college-level environmental studies courses.

Walter holds Masters degrees in philosophy and environmental studies. He is author of:

- Cool Campus! A How-to Guide for College and University Climate Action Planning (AASHE, 2009)
- Diesel-Electric Locomotives: How They Work, Use Energy, and Can Become More Efficient and Environmentally Sustainable (Simmons-Boardman Books, 2019)
- Turbine Power: A Bold Railroad Technology and Its Fate (Kalmbach Media, 2020)

As the last two titles demonstrate, in retirement Walter turned his attention to railroad locomotives, a long-time interest of his. He is also editor/co-author of *The Green Campus: Meeting the Challenge of Environmental Sustainability* (APPA, 2008).

A former director of the Western New York Peace Center, it was Walter's commitment to world peace that led him to the energy issue. He began studying energy resources and policy in 1980 once it was clear to him that competition over oil supplies was a major cause of war and that nuclear power development could lead to the spread of nuclear weapons.

Walter led a 20 group-coalition which successfully prevented the construction of a new coal-burning power plant in Jamestown, NY. He and his wife Nan were trained by Al Gore's climate project and live in a super-insulated solar home in Amherst.

The Amherst Symphony and the Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association gratefully acknowledges the grant from the **AUDREY HURD GUEST ARTIST PROGRAM**. This gift enables us to cover Guest Artist expenses for the annual family Concert. Audrey, 'cellist with the ASO, spearheaded the School Outreach Program for many years.



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*Jeffery Zepowitz, memorializes his grandfather, violin virtuoso and child prodigy, Harry Samuel, and congratulates the Amherst Symphony Orchestra on their 74<sup>th</sup> season.*



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## PROGRAM NOTES BY CLAUDIA STAINES

### Running Off the Rails

Clive Richardson  
1909 - 1998  
arr Robert Gill  
1916 - 1955

There was an era in English music especially called 'Light Orchestral', when thousands of pieces of music were written and scored to be played for 'light' listening. Neither as demanding as classical music nor nothing as outré as jazz, this style of music was meant for radio, films, and eventually television. Something to enjoy, but not necessarily exciting or demanding. Of course, some pieces of music will just grab listeners' attention, some composers will stand out, and amongst these light orchestral composers is Clive Richardson. Trained as a doctor, Richardson returned to formal education at the Royal Academy in London studying organ, piano, violin, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and timpani, throwing in work in orchestration and conducting as well! Richardson was never without work, as performer or conductor, even while still at the Academy. In 1988, after more than a half century of services to British Music, Richardson was given the Gold Award from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors.



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**The Little Train of The Brazilian Countryman**

**Heitor Villa-Lobos  
1887 - 1959**

Hector Villa-Lobos has been described as the “single most significant creative figure” in 20th Century Brazilian music, although not one perhaps universally loved. Shortly before his death, Villa-Lobos claimed that Brazil stifled creativity, a claim his own prolific career as composer and conductor would argue against. On one of his European tours, he famously said “I do not use folklore, I am folklore.” Despite that claim, Villa-Lobos’ compositions were greatly influenced by Brazilian folk music, but also by European composers and musicians, and many by his love of the cello. The Little Train of the Brazilian Countryman (or ‘Caipira’ in his native Portuguese), is fourth movement from ‘Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2’. This toccata, a tone poem, is probably Villa-Lobos best known piece, and one based on his own rail travels through his country.

**Copenhagen Steam Railway Galop**

**Hans-Christian Lumbye  
1810 - 1874**

Hans-Christian Lumbye was known by some as the ‘Johann Strauss of the North’, and was certainly a peer of Strauss, father and son. When the famed Tivoli Gardens opened in Copenhagen in 1843, Lumbye became a fixture at the bandstand for more than 30 years, leaving only when increasing deafness forced him to retire just two years before his death. This piece of railway music was written to celebrate the inauguration of the very first railway in Denmark, which ran between Copenhagen and Roskilde. The celebratory nature of the piece shows in the bells and whistles, as it accelerates in speed, rolling through the beautiful Danish countryside.

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**Model Railway****Charles Williams • 1893 - 1978**  
orchestration Cecil Milner

Prolific, versatile, and popular are all good words to describe Charles Williams as both a musician and as a man. Among his many works were theme pieces for BBC Radio ("Dick Barton") and scores for films, including several movies by Alfred Hitchcock ("The 39 Steps") and one notable American film, "The Apartment" with Jack Lemmon and Shirley Maclaine. In 1942, Charles Williams was appointed director of Chappell Music's Queen's Hall Light Orchestra with orders to start producing mood music for the Chappell Recorded Music Library, which had just been established. This piece was one of his first for the library catalogue.

**Pacific 231****Oscar-Arthur Honegger**  
1892 - 1955

Arthur Honegger is known as a Swiss composer, although he was born in France and lived most of his life in Paris. He had a very prolific career as a composer, with the greatest output in the interwar years, which is when his symphonic movement trio - which includes "Pacific 231" - was written. Honegger was a noted train enthusiast, calling them "living creatures...(he loved) as others love women or horses." Despite this love, Honegger always claimed he composed this as an exercise in building tempo and not about a steam locomotive. A 1949 French film, also called "Pacific 231", used this piece to emphasize the driving wheels of a train.

**John Henry****Aaron Copland**  
1900 - 1990

Originally 1940, Revised 1952

John Henry was a real man, but there is much debate about exactly where the "steel driving" man did his work. This work was hammering a steel drill into rock to make holes for explosives to blast the rock, so that railroad tunnels could be built. An African-American folk hero, the legend is that John Henry died when his heart gave out, keeping up with, and then wearing out, a steam-driven hammer. Was it at the Big Bend Tunnel, near Talcott, West Virginia, as some versions of the folk song have it? Was the contest at the Lewis Tunnel, near Millboro, Virginia? Or was John Henry working even further south, at the Coosa Mountain Tunnel, near Dunnington, Alabama? Where seems less important than the story of John Henry's strength of body and heart, and the lessons his effort taught his peers, and future generations. There is no doubt he also provided great inspiration to singers and songwriters for decades, in folk songs, hammer songs, and of course, Copland's orchestra piece.

**Romanza****Roland E. Martin**  
1955 -

A touch of Buffalo is in today's concert. Nothing with blue cheese, but something delicious nonetheless. Roland E Martin is an adjunct professor of music at UB as well as a the Assistant Musical Director of and an accompanist for the Chautauqua Chamber Singers. As an accompanist, Martin has traveled the world. As an organist, he played recitals at the National Cathedral in Washington, as well as in Canada, Spain, Germany, Australia, and England. As a composer, he has earned multiple grants, including two "Meet the Composer" and two Alcoa Arts Endowment awards. Very close to home, the Cheektowaga Community Chorus commissioned him to create "A Hymn for St Cecilia".



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**March from "The Love of Three Oranges"****Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev**  
1891 - 1953

'March' from this satiric opera is probably the movement best-known, mostly because of its use by CBS Radio as the theme for the 1944-1958 series "The FBI in Peace & War". Prokofiev based the libretto on an Italian play (*L'amore Delle melarance*) by Carol Gozzi. Oddly, he wrote the libretto before receiving a commission from the Chicago Opera Association for an opera to add to their repertoire. Written in French, as a compromise between the native Russian of the composer and the English of which he was most uncertain, the story combines a fairy tale with 'commedia dell'arte' and a soupçon of surrealism. Although not well received in the 1921 premier in Chicago, despite a glowing review from playwright and reporter Ben Hecht, "The Love of Three Oranges" has increasingly earned love from opera companies and audiences around the world since it was re-introduced in America in 1949.

**The Little Engine That Could****Story by Watty Piper**  
**Music by Allen Feinstein**

I think I can... I think I can... I think I can. And no, it's not about keeping your New Year's resolutions. The Little Engine That Could became widely known in the United States after a book version was published by Platt & Munk in 1930. The story however traces its roots back to Sweden in 1902, and then a short story published in the New York Tribune in 1906. Children were told this story as a way of enforcing the idea that working hard, doing your very best, taking on challenges you might not think you can accomplish are laudable goals. If you think you can, maybe you actually can. So, maybe it is about your best resolutions after all!

**Ellington Fantasy****Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington**  
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Born Edward Kennedy Ellington into a solidly middle class Washington DC family, Ellington was always encouraged by his family to pursue the arts. He was, in fact, offered a scholarship to study fine art at the Pratt Institute, but he turned it down for his first love, music, for which we are all profoundly grateful. For more than 50 years, Ellington wrote, played, composed, toured, recorded music that reflected American life in the key of Jazz. In the late 30's into the 40's, Ellington wrote compositions in the classical style infused with the jazz he loved, and as he grew older, even took jazz into his sacred music compositions. As for that nickname? Ellington credited his childhood buddy Edgar McEntree for the sobriquet. Mrs Ellington had always encouraged her son to 'live elegantly' and even as a youth, he had a casual grace and dapper dress, an air of nobility if you will, that lead McEntree start to calling him 'Duke'. It was, perhaps, meant teasingly, but it is certainly most fitting for the aristocrat of American music.

*"The restlessness and the longing, like the longing that is in the whistle of a faraway train. Except that the longing isn't really in the whistle—it is in you."*

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## Welcome to the February Family Concert

Thank you for joining us for a fun-filled afternoon. For those of you who participated in the "Instrument Petting Zoo," I hope you enjoyed yourselves. We appreciate the music vendors, Monaco's Violin Shop & Music Centre and Twin Village Music, who brought their various instruments for kids of all ages to try out. Who knows, some of you may develop a talent for music due to the up-close exposure to the instruments and to the orchestra's music.



This afternoon we welcome Maestro Bryan Eckenrode, who will conduct the orchestra's concert, "All Aboard!" There is something for everyone. Our guest narrator is Deborah Rogers, Williamsville Mayor. We know you will enjoy her reading of "The Little Engine That Could."

This season the Friends of the Amherst Symphony, in combination with Williamsville Rotary, will again sponsor an annual Music Scholarship. A deserving high school senior from our area who anticipates a music major or double major including music in college, will soon compete for this scholarship. We appreciate the efforts of Jo Rich, who coordinates the scholarship. The award will be given at the April concert, and the winner will be FASO's guest performer at the annual Spring Luncheon in May.

We would like to invite you to become a member of FASO. Our purpose is to support the orchestra with hospitality, financial contributions and the promotion of interest in music in the community. The opportunities to volunteer, while having a good time, are many. Membership brochures are in the school lobby; I am looking forward to meeting you.

Speaking of having a good time, please plan on attending our FASO Preview Luncheon.

Happy Valentine's Day!

**Carolyn P. Dole, FASO President**

## The Friends Committee of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra



### FASO Preview Luncheon

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

11:00 am

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

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### FASO Annual Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

11:00 am

A Country Club

\$35.00

For further information, please call Judy Bacon at 716.689.2775



## Let's Meet the Musicians!



*Ann Marie Will* has been a member of ASO since 1993. She is a member of the cello section and the President of the Musicians' Board. She is a Business & Computer Science teacher who loves to ride her bike and travel with her husband and son. She worked for 14 years as a CPA/Internal Auditor and traveled the world. She loves all things French and her favorite musical is Les Miserables. You can always find her cheering on the Bills, Sabres, and Philadelphia Phillies.



*Judy Nill* was terribly shy and uncomfortable with people when she was young, so her Dad told her she had to pick an instrument to play; he was horrified when she brought home the violin. The rest is history! She did not qualify for the concerto program at Potsdam and was devastated having practiced for months. However, she would not have been able to play as her Dad died right before the performance. Judy loves playing the violin now, in her golden years, more than she ever did and hopes she can go on for many more years.



*Jazey Walker* plays the bass. He owns a landscaping company and a moving company. He has been playing bass since he was a freshman in high school and has always enjoyed classical music and jazz. Another passion of his is mixed martial arts, which he trains multiple nights a week.



*Bob King* is a retired music teacher. He taught middle school instrumental music throughout his teaching career and enjoys performing with a number of groups; including The Amherst Symphony, Buffalo Brass Quintet, The Clarence Summer Orchestra, The Anderson Big Band, The Queen City Swing, Peter Cirillo All-Star Big Band and many other music ensembles. This past Summer he performed with The Who and Weird Al Yankovic.



*Kris Banzaff* has listened to music with a lot of percussion since kindergarten. He first heard the nationally acclaimed Clarence Wind Ensemble and has been inspired ever since.

## Why Become an Association Contributor?



*Have you noticed the names of audience members who have become ASO Association Contributors? They are listed in this program on pages 30 and 31. A fitting tribute would be to make a contribution In Honor Of or In Memory Of a special person. Join the ASO family with a special, tax-deductible check, PayPal, or cash in an envelope with the form clipped from this program to help us pay for music and building rental, custodial expenses for rehearsals and concerts, printed concert materials and programs, guest artists and equipment. Become part of the ASO with a gift as a Listed Contributor; you will be acknowledged in concert programs, receive a handwritten thank you card featuring the orchestra to show our appreciation and know you have helped our fine orchestra continue to perform for another season.*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



*“I think I can...I think I can...”, said the little blue engine. Words about character, encouragement and pulling together are the themes of the children’s picture book, **THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD**. Set to music, this afternoon, your Amherst Symphony Orchestra will perform this classic, with narration read by our Village of Williamsville Mayor, Deb Rogers Originally published in 1930, to teach children about the value of optimism and hard work, the little blue engine and all the trains cars worked together to move forward successfully.*

*I like to think of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association as a little engine that pulls our train filled with cars of talented, dedicated, hardworking Conductors and Musicians; Committees that work tirelessly to provide a rich concert experience; our Corporate Sponsors and Advertisers; and You, our Audience and Contributors; all pulling together, working together, since the orchestra’s beginning in 1946.*

*Every concert needs its musicians, supporters and committees joining together, as cars on a train, for our orchestra’s continued success and future. Whether it be one person or many in our “committee cars”, all do an outstanding job to help each concert be successful. Did you know “our train” has an Ambassadors, Audit, Budget, Concert Services, Contributor, Corporate, Finance, Grant, Librarian, Mailings, Nominating, Orchestra Members, Orchestra Personnel, Promotion, Secretary, School Outreach, Senior Outreach, Service Clubs, Volunteers and our largest, most popular, Hospitality and Promotion Committee (formerly the Women’s Committee) the Friends of Amherst Symphony Orchestra known as FASO.*

*Everyone, join in, find your place on the Amherst Symphony train, help us move forward successfully. In the end, the little blue engine says, “I thought I could... I thought I could...”*

*Sincerely,  
Susan G. Arrigo  
ASO Association President*

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Orchard Park, New York 14127

*Side by Side Concert*

*Guest Conductor: Nick DelBello*

### Amherst Chamber Ensembles

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 3:00pm

Trinity United Methodist Church

711 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Amherst, New York 14226

*Mary Britton, Bassoon*

*Martha White, Violin*

### Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 3:00pm

Villa Maria College Aud.

240 Pine Ridge Road

Cheektowaga, New York 14225

*"An Early Spring"*

*William Amsel, clarinet*

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