



KEYNOTES

JUNE 2018

PRESIDENT'S YEAR IN REVIEW

2017-2018 has been a good year for the CSOL®. And, it's been a good year for me -- working with the members of the League has been very gratifying. Getting to know many of you in a more personal way has been a pleasure. Best of all, our numerous projects have met and even exceeded our goals.

Prior to each Masterworks, we enjoyed **Coffee with the Maestro** on Friday mornings. Ken Lam regaled us with what we would be experiencing that weekend and he usually brought a guest artist. Thank you, Sue Ingram and crew, for providing delicious goodies. If you haven't been attending the Coffee Hours, join us next season; you won't be disappointed. Remember Active Members: you're expected to attend at least two coffees each year. (Not punishment, but a treat!)

Sue and crew also fed CSO musicians four times with between 40 and 70 musicians at each lunch. If you'd like to meet hungry and grateful musicians, this is your opportunity. The price of admission is a salad, a bowl of fruit, a tray of sandwiches or a plate of cookies.

In October, the CSOL® hosted the two-day **SOVA conference** -- Southeastern Orchestra Volunteer Association. Much information was shared among the participants and when the sessions adjourned, all of us felt inspired to do bigger and better things for the welfare of our individual orchestras. Thank you, Carol Lou Yaeger for your leadership.

The first weekend of November was our annual **Island Tour of Homes** on Kiawah and Seabrook. Becky Hilstad did a masterful job of marshalling our members and opening a total of seven homes on the islands. Following the Tour of Homes, the CSO performed a free concert on Kiawah to a packed house. **This year, the Tour is scheduled for November 3, 2018. Mark your calendars.**

Revels Chair, Kathy Pease and her committee offered a variety of fun and informative outings. We work hard together. Revels are a chance to play together.



When the 2018-19 Revels program is mailed this fall, peruse it well and sign up.

The **Gala** was held in January and was chaired by Jane Miller. The *Tonight Tonight* theme was inspired by a Bernstein and Gershwin POPS concert. Thank you, Jane and your committee for spending hours upon hours putting together a lovely evening enjoyed by many, many people.

Our **Car Sponsorship** project was chaired by Don Reid. The Audi Q5 winner was selected on May 19th, at the Charleston Farmers Market on Marion Square. 1,015 sponsorships were sold, netting a very nice profit for the CSOL®. The day of the drawing started out wet, but the sun finally broke through, and the CSO Brass Ensemble delighted onlookers. Maestro Ken Lam drew the winning ticket #291, purchased by Al Roberds. A dozen or more League members came out to lend support, making for a festive morning populated with familiar, smiling faces.

We are indebted to Claudia Porter and Patti Tully for their stellar job running our **Designer Showhouse** at 142 Tradd Street. The Designers did a superb job as well. It may not have been our biggest house ever, but our visitors had nothing but positive comments. The **Café** was run by Carol Cronk, a new member, who stepped up to a big challenge. She never seemed ruffled and demonstrated great resourcefulness.

For years, the DSH **Boutique** has been run by Mary Ellen Ondo and Gail Maginnis and they've generated lots of revenue and created durable vendor relationships.

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PAUL STONEY WINS THE 2018 PURSUIT OF THE PODIUM



Paul Stoney

All pictures on this page by
Denva G Photography

For six weeks, four distinguished Charlestonians competed for the honor of conducting the Charleston Symphony Orchestra during the Sunset Serenade concert on May 25th. Voters selected Paul L. Stoney, President/CEO of the Greater Charleston YMCA, who debuted his conducting talents at the concert, sponsored by the City of Charleston, on the steps of the U.S. Custom House. At \$5/vote, friends, family and fans of the contestants voted to put their favorite candidate on the podium while supporting the orchestra.

Thanks to the three other notable Charlestonians who made this fundraiser a success, raising more than \$5,000 for the CSO. They are:

- ♪ James D. Elliott, Jr., Founder and Executive Director of the Avian Conservation Center
- ♪ Leyla Gulen, Anchor of FOX24's News at 6:30 & 10 pm and Host and Executive Producer of FOX24 News Now
- ♪ Sandy Tecklenburg, First Lady of Charleston, Advocate for Community Building and Arts

When describing his Pursuit of the Podium win and opportunity to conduct the CSO, Paul Stoney admits it wasn't a dream of a lifetime, "Because I never, in my wildest dreams, thought I'd get to conduct an orchestra!" But under Ken Lam's tutelage, Paul learned two important lessons as a guest conductor. First, the orchestra really responds to a love of music (several musicians commented, "Bring this guy back") and second, the William Tell Overture has some tricky parts. Three, actually. And Paul needed "to hit those spots so I wouldn't throw the orchestra off." (So much for the myth of the orchestra is so accomplished, it plays on its own.) "I focused on Principal Trumpet, Tony Marti who performs the initial trumpet herald." ("He's the paella chef – my wife Allison and I loved that party.") "I then bonded with Micah Gangwer, the Assistant Concertmaster, counting off the 5 bars for the violins. And, following Ken's advice, I concentrated on the cymbals at the end to insure that I was on the beat with difficult syncopation."

In addition to watching videos of conductors performing the overture, Paul practiced his moves – including what he termed a signature Ken Lam ending with both arms to the left. (Paul nailed it.) The most important move? "Ken reminded me to cut the orchestra off at the end, or they'd just keep playing." Paul's family (the most supportive and also critical audience) paid him the best compliment: "You really looked like you knew what you were doing."

COLORADO'S GAIN IS CHARLESTON'S LOSS



Sometimes, it's a necessary inconvenience to give up one of our highly qualified and valued members. Sadly, this is one of those times. Janette Moody, the CSOL's former Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian has very recently retired from her position(s) at The Citadel and is moving to Colorado to be near her son. We will miss you, Janette, and wish you Godspeed.



Ken Lam, Paul Stoney, Nathan Nelson (Director of Lowcountry Voices who performed at the Sunset Serenade), Yuriy Bekker

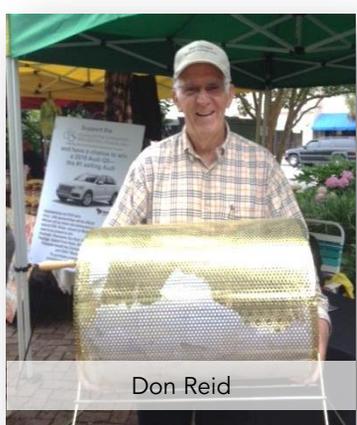
NEITHER RAIN NOR ... DAMPENS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE AUDI Q5 SPONSORSHIP DRAWING

The sun finally(!) broke through on May 19 at the Charleston Farmers Market on Marion Square. The CSO Brass performed jazzy tunes and Maestro Ken Lam came by to select the winning ticket. The number was 291 and it was purchased by Al Roberds.

Thanks to Don Reid who ran this project, the CSO Brass Ensemble for making it such a festive affair, McDaniels Audi of Charleston for providing this fine automobile and the City of Charleston for helping with a prime venue for the drawing.



Al Roberds, Don Reid



Don Reid



Kitty Reid, Ken Lam



The CSO Brass

CSOL® 2018-2019 BOARD

Executive Committee

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Kitty Reid |
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| Nominating | Patti Tully |
| Sponsorship | Lorraine Perry |

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- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Car Sponsorship | Don and Kitty Reid |
| Island Tour of Homes | Sharon Bartshe, Becky Hilstad |
| Merchandising | Jodie-Beth Galos |
| Pursuit of the Podium | Susan Leggett |



Caroline Thibault, Kathy Pease



Mary Davis, Pam Mockler, Sue Ingram

Thank you to June *Keynotes* contributors: Peggy Cross, Mary Davis, Terri DeVane, Julie Fenimore, Diane Kochamba, Kathy Pease, Kitty Reid, Karen Ruef, David Savard, Lucy Thornhill

CSO MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS BRESNICK

Thomas Bresnick, originally from Westchester, NY, has played with the CSO for 30 years — 22 as Section/Assistant Principal and eight as Principal Bass. Before joining the CSO, Tom was a member of the Knoxville Symphony in Tennessee and the National Symphony of New York where he performed regularly at Carnegie Hall. Originally trained as a woodwind player, Tom attended the Manhattan School of Music in New York as a saxophone major. After developing embouchure problems, he decided to take up the bass at age 19 and was soon freelancing around New York playing various types of music. Tom has studied with many of the country's leading double bassists/teachers. His other interests include yoga, meditation, astrology and reading.

Q: Following the visit to Charleston by the ex-Nachez Stradivarius a few weeks ago, I was told you're a collector of worthy musical instruments.

A: I don't think of myself that way. I mentioned to David Savard that I'd become the owner of an old Italian Double Bass, c.1780, attributed to Giuseppe Gagliano of Naples, Italy whose grandfather, Alessandro, apprenticed with Amati and Stradivarius in Cremona in the late 17th century. The bass has that indescribable beauty in the quality of its sound that's the hallmark of the great masters of Cremona. It's the finest bass I've ever owned and I feel grateful to have the chance to play it.



Gagliano Bass

Q: This isn't your first bass?

A: I have, since starting the bass in 1974, been through a lot of different instruments. I rented my first bass for \$6 a month and it was worth every penny. After a few months on that, I was ready to find something more user-friendly. On the advice of my bass teacher, I asked a professional bassist if he knew anyone with an inexpensive bass for sale. He had an old American-made bass from 1875, a Batchelder & Sons, from New Hampshire, which needed some work but had potential to be a good instrument. I had the Batchelder completely restored and it had a nice sound -- especially for jazz.

Q: You really liked it.

A: You have no idea. A few years later, that instrument saved my life: I was in a car accident and it took the brunt of the impact. But it was completely shattered, so I went back to playing on inexpensive instruments ... until I bought an old German bass. I played this next bass for about 10 years and it was the bass I was playing when I moved here in 1987 to play with the CSO.

Q: Why wasn't that the end of your buying journey?

A: It was a good bass but, there were many more basses that were just better than the one I had, but they also cost more money. This German bass was somewhat 'tubby' sounding. When I was visiting a friend in New York who had become a promising luthier, I played his most recently finished bass, and

I decided to have him make me one. I bought the Arnold Schnitzer Bass Number Five a year later.

Q: So, you then owned two?

A: Well, during the time I was playing on the German bass, I received a settlement from the car accident and decided to have Robert Chambers make me a copy of Gary Karr's 1611 Amati Bass (so-called at the time but later it turned out to not be an Amati). It's a beautiful instrument that I still have but it's small and more suited to solo playing (which I was studying more at that time) than orchestra playing.

Q: Is my count correct -- you owned three basses at this point?

A: ... until I acquired another old Italian bass by Cavali and played on it for several years. But it needed a lot of repair work. So, I asked Arnold if he wanted to make me another bass that he could trade for the Italian bass. He agreed and I sold Number Five. While it had a beautiful deep bass tone, it didn't project well in the orchestra. I played on the second Schnitzer Bass, Number 13, which was better but five years later, I found another modern maker from Canada, Kai Arvi which I thought was even better for orchestra playing. I still have the Arvi bass and play it for some concerts.



Tom and Friend

Q: Help me out -- do you own four or five basses at this juncture?

A: Yes. Then I found another old German bass that was very nice and reasonably priced so ... I went for it.

Q: Could you bottom-line this for me?

A: I have six basses now ...

Q: Six? SIX!?! And you don't think of yourself as a collector?

A: ... but one of them is for sale and I *should* sell one of the others ... but they're all so unique and each has its own fine qualities. For now, I'm keeping all of them. The Gagliano is, however, the finest bass I have ever owned.

Q: It was great learning about all your musical acquisitions.

A: Wait! We haven't even mentioned bass bows! ☺

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS' RECITAL AMAZES AND DELIGHTS



L to R: Jenna Flaherty, Jenny Yao, Erica Kremer, Harry Ding, Gloria Palmer-Long, Erick Won, Elliott Weeks, Julie Fenimore
Missing from picture: Lauren Reynolds

The 2018 CSOL® Scholarship Winners' Music Recital was held at Bishop Gadsden Chapel on Sunday, May 6, 2018. CSOL® scholarships, amounting to over \$33,000 each year, are given to Tri-county music students who compete in the annual audition.

This year, five college scholarships were awarded, with Jenny Yao, who will be attending Harvard in the fall, winning the David/Karen Stahl Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to the high school senior planning to major in music in college and having the highest audition score. In addition to Jenny, scholarship winners Jenna Flaherty, Erica Kremer, Harry Ding, Erick Won, Elliott Weeks, and Lauren Reynolds performed.

Overheard during the reception which followed the concert: In addition to proud parents thanking the CSOL® for the opportunities our scholarships opened up for their kids, the audience commented how amazed and inspired they were by the talent displayed by these young musicians. And some of that excitement translated into immediate donations to next year's scholarship funds. To the Education Committee which did an outstanding job at organizing the auditions, the judges, the many contributors to these scholarship funds, and of course, the students who played so beautifully during the auditions and at the recital, thank you.

REVELS: A BROTHEL – GOOD, CLEAN FUN

Despite Mt P's traffic problems, 49 revelers attended hosts Debbie and John Avinger's *A Brothel* event. Following social time and a delicious buffet, the group was regaled with speaker David Gregg Hodges' stories of the legendary Sunset Lodge. This brothel was run for over 30 years by Hazel Weiss outside of Georgetown. Never raided, never closed -- go figure! (Perhaps because Madame was the largest yearly donor to organized charities in the area.) A lovely evening – rated PG.



Hostess Debbie Avinger and Speaker David Gregg Hodges



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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|---------|---|---|--------------------|
| 11/3/18 | 2018 Symphony Tour of Island Homes | Kiawah and Seabrook Islands | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm |
| 11/3/18 | CSO Concert Sponsored by the Town of Kiawah Arts & Cultural Events Fund | East Beach Conference Center, Kiawah Island | 5:00 pm |
| 5/5/19 | Student Scholarship Recitals | TBD | TBD |