

# HIGH NOTES

## Grammy-Winning Pianist Yefim Bronfman Joins Symphony in Opening Concert

by David Whitehill, Executive Director

The Asheville Symphony opens its 2017-2018 Masterworks Season with a performance by one of the most celebrated pianists of our time, Yefim Bronfman, who makes his Asheville Symphony debut in Beethoven's beloved "Emperor" Concerto. The Sunday matinee concert takes place on September 24 at 4 p.m. in Thomas Wolfe Auditorium under the direction of ASO Music Director Daniel Meyer.

Praised for his lyrical gifts, Yefim Bronfman has been nominated for six GRAMMY Awards, winning in 1997 for a recording of the three Bartok Piano Concerti. Bronfman is hailed by *The Washington Post* as "one of the most no-nonsense pianists around...also one of the most gifted and brilliant and versatile." An acclaimed soloist, he is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, one of the highest honors given to American instrumentalists, and has toured extensively around the world. This fall he will open the Israel Philharmonic's season with Zubin Mehta.

Composed during Napoleon's siege of Vienna, Beethoven's fifth and final piano concerto is filled with majesty, poetry and triumph. Nicknamed "Emperor" for its regal tone, this concerto has earned a reputation for its technical difficulty as well as its beauty.

Next on the program is Liszt's *Les préludes*, which utilizes the rich sound that each section of the orchestra contributes to develop its lush and powerful sound. *Les préludes* is one of the earliest and most beloved examples of a symphonic poem, a genre that Liszt is credited with helping to create and popularize. A symphonic poem is a piece of orchestral music that is typically one continuous movement illustrating a poem, story, painting, or another non-musical source.

Rounding out the program is Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*, which ASO Music Director Daniel Meyer describes as "a sparkling orchestral suite that spotlights the individual soloists of the orchestra as well as each section as a virtuoso group. It is Spanish flavor re-imagined through the mind of a Russian compositional genius, and it all caps a night celebrating the virtuosity of a world-class soloist as well as our own terrific soloists emerging from within the ranks of the ASO." Though his personal familiarity with Spain was minimal, Rimsky-Korsakov borrowed themes and harmonies from a collection of authentic Spanish songs and reimagined them in his own rich orchestration.

Single tickets for all concerts are \$24-69, depending on seating section (reduced youth pricing is available). Single tickets and season ticket packages can be purchased online at [asheillesymphony.org](http://asheillesymphony.org), by phone at 828-254-7046, or in person at the U.S. Cellular Center box office at 87 Haywood Street.



Grammy-Award Winning Pianist Yefim Bronfman





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Welcome to a New Season with the Asheville Symphony Guild *by Mary Kirby, President*

We have the most exciting season ahead, filled with opportunities and events for all.

To begin, we celebrate another Symphony Season with our Opening Concert on Sunday, September 24th at 4:00pm, with Music Director Daniel Meyer and world-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman. What a superb way to begin a most memorable season!

During our Opening Concert, we at the Guild once again ask for your support of our Pass the Hat campaign for our Music in the Schools Program. This program is in its 15th year and reaches over 7,000 elementary school children every year, introducing them to the instruments and music of the classical world. Please join us in donating to this program for the children of our community.

Beginning in October and continuing through May, we will welcome our six Music Director candidates to Asheville. As they join us every month, they will have an opportunity to showcase their talent and knowledge while they learn to appreciate the strength and dedication of the Asheville Symphony community.

Beginning in October, please join us for our Thursday Guild Program, where each month, the visiting Music Director candidate will meet with the community to discuss his or her background and experience in a Q & A session. Please see the schedule in this edition of High Notes and visit our new website, [ashevillesymphonyguild.org](http://ashevillesymphonyguild.org) for more information. The venue for our Thursday Programs will be the new Asheville Symphony Office at 27 College Place.

Please join us for another exciting season of Musical Feasts. This season we offer 25 events to attend, enjoy and share with your family and friends. Betty Fox has outlined our Musical Feast offering in this edition of High Notes and you can view and purchase the feasts of your choice online at our new website, [ashevillesymphonyguild.org](http://ashevillesymphonyguild.org).

As noted in the Summer edition, we have taken our High Notes editions to the web. We hope you enjoy this change and embrace reading High Notes online. Or if you prefer, you can print off those pages of interest to you to read or to use for future reference.

See you at the Symphony!

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## SYMPHONY OFFICE

**Symphony Office** — (828) 254-7046

**Asheville Symphony Guild** — PO Box 18651  
Asheville, NC 28814

**Guild Website** — [www.AshevilleSymphonyGuild.org](http://www.AshevilleSymphonyGuild.org)



# What's Next for October and November

## October 21, 2017

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, 8:00 pm



**Rei Hotoda**  
CONDUCTOR

**Sandeep Das**  
TABLA

**Dvorák:** Carnival Overture • **Tchaikovsky:** Symphony No. 5  
**Wijeratne:** Concerto for Tabla & Orchestra

### REI HOTODA, CONDUCTOR

I believe music has the power to take audiences on journeys that inspire, challenge and engage. In this program we travel to a world without boundaries. Dvorák's *Carnival Overture* sets the tone for our travels. Of this work he said: "the city at nightfall, where a carnival is in full swing. On every side is heard the clangor of instruments, mingled with shouts of joy... of people giving vent to their feelings." From Bohemia to India in Dinuk Wijeratne's stunning *Concerto for Tabla and Orchestra*, with master tabla player, Sandeep Das. A dynamic blend of traditional Indian music infused with familiar Western melodic techniques. Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*, a powerful symphonic tapestry depicting the composer's struggles, joys and triumphs, is our final destination. — Rei Hotoda

Rei Hotoda is rapidly becoming one of America's most sought-after and dynamic artists and was recently appointed music director of the Fresno Philharmonic. She has appeared as a guest conductor with many of today's leading ensembles, including the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Edmonton, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, Utah, Toronto, and Winnipeg, as well as the Colorado and St. Louis symphonies, among others. Her repertoire spans the staples of the classical canon to works by leading composers of today, and she is equally at home leading the orchestra from the piano and from the podium.

### SANDEEP DAS, TABLA

One of the world's leading tabla players with a career spanning 23 years, Das has played with Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble, and orchestras like the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, and the Boston Symphony. [sandeepdas.com](http://sandeepdas.com)

## November 21, 2017

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, 8:00 pm



**Darko Butorac**  
CONDUCTOR

**Lisa Smirnova**  
PIANO

**Theofanidis:** Rainbow Body • **Prokofiev:** Symphony No. 5  
**Mozart:** Piano Concerto No. 23

### DARKO BUTORAC, CONDUCTOR

One of my passions is to create programs that bring together deeply contrasting works which share an underlying thread. Such is the case with this program, featuring works spanning three centuries. Theofanidis' *Rainbow Body* is a recent work, fusing Buddhist philosophy and medieval chant; a dramatic journey from dark reflection to an explosion of orchestral color and light. Prokofiev's *Fifth Symphony*, composed during the bleak days of the World War II, pits lyricism versus rhythm, heroism against pathos, all while whirling in Prokofiev's signature rhythmic intensity. Teeming with colorful characters and contrasts, it comes as no surprise that Mozart composed his *Piano Concerto in A major* while wrestling with his greatest dramatic work, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Darko Butorac has established himself as an exciting conductor, in demand with European and American orchestras. He currently serves as the music director of both the Tallahassee and Missoula symphony orchestras. He has appeared at prestigious venues such as the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Gran Teatro Nacional of Lima, Belgrade's Kolarac Hall, Teatro Magnani in Italy, as well as at the Tartu, Aspen and Brevard summer music festivals. He has collaborated with soprano Renee Fleming, cellist Colin Carr, and Oscar-winning actor J.K. Simmons. Butorac is an avid traveler, passionate about bringing people together through the beauty of music.

### LISA SMIRNOVA, PIANO

Smirnova is a recognized concert artist renowned for her interpretations of Baroque and Classical repertoire. Since her debut at Carnegie Hall at the age of 20, she has been a much sought-after soloist on concert stages around the world. [lisasmirnova.com](http://lisasmirnova.com)



# Our Moment to Support Music in the Schools

by Victoria Remishofsky, Music in the Schools Chair

Asheville Symphony's September 24th concert will be special for many reasons, especially for the opportunity to support its *Music in the Schools* program, bringing live performances to over 7,000 second, third, and fourth graders in the Asheville and Buncombe County public schools. During these performances, students meet Asheville Symphony musicians, learn about their instruments, and hear a live performance. For many students, this is an engaging first experience with classical music.

This program relies on generous donations from our audience. At the September 24th concert, members of

the Asheville Prelude Symphony will **Pass the Hat** for contributions for our annual goal of \$10,000, funding *Music in the Schools*.

Cash, checks, payable to the Asheville Symphony Guild, and credit card donations will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be made before and after September 24th by sending your check to: **Pass the Hat • Asheville Symphony Guild • P.O. Box 18651 • Asheville, NC 28814**

Envelopes for that purpose will be available at the concert. Many thanks in advance for your support!





# Ladies & Gentlemen, Step Right Up. Musical Feasts are Here to Entertain You!

*by Betty Fox, Musical Feast Chair*

A new season of musical feasts is about to begin. The Musical Feast Committee has planned a wide variety of events for your enjoyment. By attending a musical feast, you are supporting the Asheville Symphony Orchestra since the proceeds go to support the activities of the ASO. Our first offering is a South African inspired dinner on a beautiful farm along with a glass-blowing demonstration. You may wish to view the creative designs of the Quilt Show and enjoy a delicious lunch. These are just the opportunities for September.

By now, you have received the musical feast booklet describing each of the wonderful feasts for this season. In addition, we are very pleased that you may review the descriptions on the new website and you may order directly on the website with a credit card. You will know immediately if space is available. No more sending your check and finding out that you are on the waiting list. You may place your name on a waiting list but you will not have to pay until space is available. Remember that feasts do sell out so make your reservation as soon as possible. We need you to make this a very successful season of musical feasts.

Planning for the new 2018-2019 season will begin in September. Ideas for feasts come from committee members but also from other Guild members. There are so many ways that you can contribute to the success of musical feasts: make suggestions for feasts to one of the committee members, serve as host for a feast by planning and organizing an event, making your lovely home available for an event, providing food, wine, or funds to support a feast. Of course, we hope that you will find feasts that you wish to attend. If you are interested in supporting a feast in some manner, please contact one of the following people.

## **Musical Feast Committee Members Planning for the 2018-2019 Season**

Beverly Briedis	Doris Loomis
Melinda Farr Brown	Myra Ramsey
Virginia Erwin	Victoria Remishofsky
Jane Eudy	Barbara Rice
Bolling Farmer	Fran Sandfort (Booklet Editing)
Betty Fox	Cori Saraceni
Dick Hall (Publications)	Diane Sharp
Yolanda Hall (Reservations)	Yvonne Smith
Robin Harben	Olivia Zahler
Beth Hunt (Booklet Editing)	

## **SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER FEASTS STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

### **All Things Bright and Beautiful**

September 30 — \$45

### **Tea and Tradition in Montford**

October 5 — \$50

### **Fall for Crafters Four**

October 7 — \$65

### **LaZoom**

October 11 — \$60

### **Golden Grove**

October 17 — \$55

### **Travel Back in Time**

October 28 — \$150

*\*\*Please see the Musical Feasts Booklet or go to [ashevillesymphonyguild.org](http://ashevillesymphonyguild.org) for more details.*



# 2017-2018 Guild Programs

by Gayle Hanley, Vice President, Guild

Please join us for a unique and exciting season of programs presented by the Asheville Symphony Guild. For the 2017-2018 season, the Guild will present an opportunity for the community to meet each of the six candidates for the position of new Music Director of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra.

The Monthly Guild Program will be held in the meeting room of the new office of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra. During each program, you will meet and listen to an interview of each candidate conducted by a member of the Asheville Symphony Board of Directors.

Beginning in October, programs will be held the Thursday morning before every Masterworks Concert at the:

## **New Asheville Symphony Office\***

**27 College Place**

**Asheville, NC 28801**

Refreshments will be served at 10:00 am. The program begins at 10:30 am. Guild Programs are free and open to the public.

**Directions:** From College Street, turn onto Town Mountain Road and then make a right onto the first street, which is College Place. The new office is located in the Explore Asheville building, which is the first office building on the right.

**Please Note:** There will be no Thursday Guild Program in September.

## **Meet Our New Music Director Candidates**

**Thursday, October 19, 2017**

Meet Rei Hotoda

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

Meet Darko Butorac

**Thursday, February 8, 2018**

Meet Garry Walker

**Thursday, March 15, 2018**

Meet Nicholas Hersh

**Thursday, April 12, 2018**

Meet Jayce Ogren

**Thursday, May 10, 2018**

Meet Jacomo Bairos

## New Guild Members

**The Guild extends a warm welcome to our new members. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Thank you for joining the Guild!**

Max & Lillian Alexander

Hoyt & Kathy Almond

Tony Brown

Florence Byron

Sheila & Nicholas Christofalos

Jan Duwelius

Sheila Elingburg & Bob Maxwell

Kelly & Brady Hull

Diane & Tom Leeper

Barbara Loeb

John & Kitty Martin

Billie Marzullo

Amy McGuire

Nan & Tom Murphy

Carole Perine

Pat Phillips & Mike Wang

Victoria Remishofsky

Vivien Saron

Sarah Seepe

Guillermina Sweeney

Linda Watt & Leo Duncan

Marilyn & Mark Weinstein



# Symphonettes

by Ariana Milner

Asheville Symphonettes is an organization that supports the Asheville Symphony Orchestra through volunteering at the concerts, raising funds for ASO, and so much more! We are so excited to begin this season with ten new members and start the season strong. We cannot wait to experience the beautiful sounds of music in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium and work with the adventurous students of Fletcher-Hall Elementary through an afterschool program known as MusicWorks! This wonderful program allows us to help assist the students in their music lessons, help with their homework, or just simply play games and allow them to relax after school.

Symphonettes are not just a club; we are also a family. Some of our returning members gain a new member who will become their little sister. As a big sister, we become mentors and help guide them throughout the year so they can make an easy transition into the Symphonettes! We plan to devote a lot of time raising funds through our November "Lock-In," our annual Fashion Show, and also by selling Vespa raffle tickets to those who can win a new Vespa Scooter! There are so many wonderful opportunities in this club and we truly look forward to dedicating our time to the Asheville Symphony!

## Save the Date for Symphonettes Fashion Show

by Wendy Chiappini

We are so excited about this new year for Symphonettes. We have secured our annual fashion show details and are delighted to share them with you. More information will be in the Guild's upcoming "E-Blast."

**DATE: Saturday, March 24th**

**TIME: 12:00 pm**

**WHERE: Country Club of Asheville  
170 Windsor Road, Asheville**

**COST: \$40.00**



## 2017-2018 Membership Form

- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS \$60 PER HOUSEHOLD
- MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JULY 1-JUNE 30

Please complete and mail this form with your check made payable to the Asheville Symphony Guild.

**Asheville Symphony Guild • PO Box 18651 • Asheville, NC 28814**

Or you can join the Guild or renew your membership on our website at [AshevilleSymphonyGuild.org](http://AshevilleSymphonyGuild.org)

### CHECK ONE:

- ☐ New Membership
- ☐ Renewal Membership

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# Guild & Symphony Events Calendar

*Guild programs will be canceled only if the Asheville City Schools CLOSE due to the weather.*

## SEPTEMBER 2017

- 12 Tuesday **Behind the Notes with Chip Kaufmann**  
*Blue Ridge Room, Deerfield, 4:00 pm*
- 14 Thursday **Behind the Notes with Chip Kaufmann**  
*Asbury Commons, Givens Estates, 4:00 pm*
- 17 Sunday **Musical Feast**  
*A Farm Feast Like No Other, 4:30 pm*

- 24 Sunday **Opening Concert**  
*Asheville Symphony Concert, 4:00 pm*  
*Daniel Meyer, Conductor*  
*Yefim Bronfman, Piano*
- 30 Saturday **Musical Feast**  
*All Things Bright and Beautiful, 11:30 am*

## OCTOBER 2017

- 5 Thursday **Musical Feast**  
*Tea and Traditions in Montford, 1:30 pm*
- 7 Saturday **Musical Feast**  
*Fall for Crafters Four, 3:30 pm*
- 8 Sunday **Musical Feast**  
*Champagne, Chocolates & Michael Ruiz, 2:00 pm*
- 10 Tuesday **Behind the Notes with Chip Kaufmann**  
*Blue Ridge Room, Deerfield, 4:00 pm*
- 11 Wednesday **Musical Feast**  
*LaZoom Around Town, 3:45 pm*
- 12 Thursday **Behind the Notes with Chip Kaufmann**  
*Asbury Commons, Givens Estates, 4:00 pm*

- 17 Tuesday **Musical Feast**  
*Golden Grove, 11:00 am*
- 19 Thursday **Guild Program – ASO Office**  
*Meet Rei Hotoda, Conductor Candidate, 10:00 am*
- 20 Friday **Symphony Talk with Rei Hotoda**  
*Reuter Center, 3:00 pm*
- 21 Saturday **Asheville Symphony Concert**  
*Rei Hotoda, Conductor • Sandeep Das, Tabla, 8:00 pm*
- 28 Saturday **Musical Feast**  
*Travel Back in Time, 6:30 pm*

## NOVEMBER 2017

- 1 Wednesday **Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Concert**  
*Diana Wortham Theatre, 7:00 pm*
- 4 Saturday **Musical Feast**  
*A Wedding Feast from India, 6:30 pm*
- 9 Thursday **Behind the Notes with Chip Kaufmann**  
*Asbury Commons, Givens Estates, 4:00 pm*
- 14 Tuesday **Behind the Notes with Chip Kaufmann**  
*Blue Ridge Room, Deerfield, 4:00 pm*

- 16 Thursday **Guild Program – ASO Office**  
*Meet Darko Butorac, Conductor Candidate, 10:00 am*
- 17 Friday **Symphony Talk with Darko Butorac**  
*Reuter Center, 3:00 pm*
- 18 Saturday **Asheville Symphony Concert**  
*Darko Butorac, Conductor • Lisa Smirnova, Piano, 8:00 pm*

## REMINDER

- Please turn in your tickets if you are not going to be able to attend a performance — other people are waiting for them!
- Please keep the Guild informed of your contact information. Send your changes to [ccotter@exchange.fullerton.edu](mailto:ccotter@exchange.fullerton.edu)
- Check us out! Latest news at [www.AshevilleSymphonyGuild.org](http://www.AshevilleSymphonyGuild.org).