

LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Begins the 2007-2008 Season “Classical Sounds with a Southern Flare”

My review began with a rousing performance of the “Star Spangled Banner” in combination with a beautiful concert hall filled with community members of all ages. The Callaway Auditorium is a most fitting home for the Lagrange Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Patricio Cobos in his seventh year as Musical Director and Conductor of the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Cobos put together an outstanding program which displayed enormous technical difficulty resulting in a wonderfully passionate performance. His superb conducting style, musical taste and commitment to presenting the best performance possible resulted in an evening of great music and hailed the opening of the orchestra’s fall concert season.

The performance began with the overture from Carl Maria von Weber’s famous opera “Der Freischutz” (The Freeshooter). This dark story was exquisitely presented utilizing a wide variety of instruments producing both strong and delicate melodies through a variety of timbres. The musical battle of good and evil was well communicated by a vast dynamic range and emotion performed by all members of the orchestra.

The showcase performance of the evening was featured violinist Anastasia Agapova of Columbus State University. Agapova performed Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in D. This twenty year old music student was poised, artistic and superbly secure in her delivery of a most demanding three movement concerto. Agapova’s cadenzas were breathtaking and highlighted her extraordinary musical abilities. She was well supported by the orchestra, creating a fascinating interplay between one and the other. Before this young twenty year old artist could lower her bow after the last notes were played, the audience rose to their feet in a standing ovation.

The symphony closed the concert with Ludwig van Beethoven’s epic Symphony No. 3, “The “Eroica Symphony”. The powerfully glorious first statement of the melody in the horn section was indicative of great things to come. This was an obvious favorite of the orchestra. The performance was passionate with an energy and enthusiasm that is only found in the music of Beethoven. Timpanist Paul Vaillancourt underscored the power and intensity with great flair and understanding. The second movement (funeral march) was in direct contrast to the vitality of the first. Cobos evoked fascinating orchestral colors in this section of the piece.

The third and fourth movements were invigorated with interesting horn solis supported by a robust string section. These movements were full of grand statements and delicate motifs and truly made the audience understand why this piece is entitled “The Heroic Symphony!”

Bravo to all of the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra members and Conductor Patricio Cobos on a job well done. As a band director, I was especially impressed with the clarity and artistry of the woodwind section. We are fortunate to have such an arts organization

available to us. I commend all of those whose hard work and commitment make this accessible to our community. See you at the next concert!

**Deanna Marshall
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