

Con Gusto

KWCO Newsletter

April 2023

www.kwco.org

Welcome to the KWCO's 40th (or 42nd) Anniversary!

Upcoming Important Date:

Add to your Calendars

Kiwanis Spring Concert 2023

Saturday June 3rd, 2023 (7:30 Start Time)

Knox Presbyterian Church; 50 Erb St W, Waterloo

The soloists will be chosen from the piano finalists from the Kiwanis Music Competition. In previous years we have presented three students who will each play one movement of an agreed-upon (by Dan and the soloist) concerto.

"A History of the Symphony"

Bruce McGillivray (KWS Bassist) just stopped by to invite the KWCO Cellos and Basses to the Baroque & Beyond Series "A History of the Symphony" on May 3 at First United Church.

The All Haydn program is curated by Bruce, conducted by David Fallis, and features cellist **Catherine Anderson** in this program.

Bruce has a block of tickets at a reduced price of \$34.50 and will take orders for the next week or so. Please let **Heather Sundin** know if you are interested or text Bruce at 519 503 8810.

Update on the Opernball Concert:

After quite a nervous lead-up to the concert, we are happy to report that the concert did better than we expected! Here is a (very) abbreviated rundown.

\$16,900 169 Dinner tickets
\$480 16 Concert tickets
\$10 KWCO pens
\$316 50/50 Draw
\$4,400 Silent Auction

After expenses (and HST refund) the concert netted approximately \$9,000. The St. George management deserve our special thanks for not holding us to the 250 dinners to which we originally committed.

Ongoing Miscellaneous Notes:

Many positions are still vacant for all the work that gets done behind the scenes that makes our organization run smoothly. See Heather Sundin's next update coming on April 6th.

If you have any announcements or ideas you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know.

DRawlings18@rogers.com

Welcome To Our New Principal Violist

Ann Green is our new principal violist. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Music in Church Music and a Bachelor of Education from Wilfrid Laurier University, as well as a Masters of Music from Western University. She performs as a violist, violinist, organist, pianist and singer.

She was the founding conductor of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and has acted as Music Director for the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts and Music and Lights in the Village, both of Cambridge.

Ann owned and operated Beyond the Clef Music School in Downtown Hespeler Village for 11 years where she taught lessons and conducted annual teacher training seminars. In 2005 Ann received The Bernice Adams Memorial Award for Music, recognizing her involvement in the arts.

Her string trio, Harmonia performs weddings, concerts, and corporate events. She has acted as Music Director of many churches, most recently St. Mark's in Dundas and St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian in Cambridge. Ann is an elementary school teacher with the Waterloo Region District School Board and teaches privately at her studio in Cambridge.

In Memorium - from Sandi Sherk



**In Memorium for
James D Black**
Born July 29, 1953
Died March 28, 2022

We miss you Jim.
Loving father, husband
and friend.

Musical Trivia – Why is ‘A’ 440 Hz?

Have you ever wondered why our ‘Standard’ pitch reference was set to 440 Hz.? Well, it wasn’t always so. For reference to the following discussion, refer to the table at the right which lists a 2 octave range of standard pitches in equal-tempered tuning.

The **A=440Hz** ‘standard’ has varied throughout history to anywhere from 390 to 455.4 Hz.(In Highland pipe bands it can even be as high as 480 Hz.)

Pitch Inflation (the sharpening of the standard to produce a ‘brighter’ tone) in the 17th century became such a problem that singers were experiencing throat strain and string players complained of broken strings.

To alleviate this problem, the French government passed a law on February 16, 1859, which set the A above middle C (A4 and C4 respectively) at 435 Hz. This was the first attempt to standardize pitch on such a scale (pun intended) and was known as the *diapason normal*. The diapason normal resulted in middle-C being tuned at about 258.65 Hz. This was included as "Convention of 16 and 19 November 1885 regarding the establishment of a concert pitch" in the **Treaty of Versailles** in 1919 which formally ended **World War I**. (**Yes, you read that right! The standard for tuning instruments was instrumental (pun intended again) in ending WW1!**) In 1939, an international conference recommended that the A above middle C be tuned to 440 Hz, now known as *concert pitch*. As a technical standard this was taken up by the International Organization for Standardization in 1955 and reaffirmed by them in 1975 as ISO-16.

Still, the current standard is often broken (bent?) in modern times; the Berlin Philharmonic now use 443 Hz – down from their former standard 445 Hz. Modern Baroque enthusiasts tune to 415 Hz, but some early Bach cantatas use 460 to 470 Hz.

For an even longer discussion of the development of pitch ‘standards’, see the following article which is the source of most of this information.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concert_pitch

Note	Frequency
A3	220.00
A#3 / Bb3	233.08
B3	246.94
C4	261.63
C#4/Db4	277.18
D4	293.66
D#4/Eb4	311.13
E4	329.63
F4	349.23
F#4/Gb4	369.99
G4	392.00
G#4/Ab4	415.30
A4	440.00
A#4/Bb4	466.16
B4	493.88
C5	523.25
C#5/Db5	554.37
D5	587.33
D#5/Eb5	622.25
E5	659.25
F5	698.46
F#5/Gb5	739.99
G5	783.99
G#5/Ab5	830.61
A5	880.00

And finally, this issue’s terminal humour

non-musicians: “Wow, you’re so talented!”

me: “What can I say, I’m...”

