



January 4, 2008

Dear Members of the Board, Volunteer Council, Orchestra and Staff:

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were fun-filled and restful. December was a whirlwind of DSO concert presentations and it was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Annual Meeting on the 13th. I wish to thank everyone again for their participation in the success of the last fiscal year. As you know, we were able to announce nearly break-even results: a \$190,000 shortfall on a budget of \$32 million. In Michigan's current economic environment and our ongoing state budget crisis, these financial results were nothing short of incredible.

This financial achievement includes a caveat, however, which we must take into account as we set our sights on the challenges facing us in 2008. Our record FY 07 Annual Fund of \$14.6 million, the highest ever in the organization's history, included an additional \$1 million generated from donors who released previously restricted gifts in August, when it was apparent we would otherwise not meet our goal. We also had an anonymous \$500,000 challenge grant and increased our endowment draw from 5.75% to 6.9% for the year. This underscores our consistent theme of the past few years: the need to identify new donors and to grow our endowment. Creating new strategies in this area will be paramount in 2008.

As we enter the New Year, we can be grateful for our organizational strengths. First, let's celebrate the welcome addition of our Music Director! As all who meet with Leonard Slatkin will recognize, and as the staff can assure you, we have entered a new era by virtue of his strategic focus, experienced perspective and top-to-bottom style of involvement. Although his tenure does not officially begin until next fall, we will continue to enjoy Leonard "sightings" in between his appearances on the podium. Our maestro was here twice in December and returns again several times in January, laying the groundwork for a number of important initiatives you'll hear more about soon. In his first visit last month, he flew in for just a few hours to welcome some of our premier donors at a brunch at the elegant new restaurant Saltwater at the MGM Grand. At that event Leonard spoke eloquently and passionately about all he looks forward to accomplishing in Detroit. This event also spurred \$1.5 million in early-bird contributions to the Annual Fund, moving our traditional timeline ahead significantly. This is crucial as it enables our staff to concentrate vigorously on reaching out to new donors as we move forward. We are very grateful to all who attended and supported this initiative.

Leonard has also graciously agreed to host our national radio broadcasts this season, which begin airing in the spring. New this year, we have entered into a partnership with our friends at WRCJ 90.9 FM who will act as co-presenter of the programs with additional support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. WRCJ has brokered an agreement for national syndication with Public Radio International. Thanks to Leonard's participation, this series will draw new national attention to the quality of our orchestra. Our distribution on XM Radio will also continue in 2008, with specifics to be announced soon. We will notify you when both broadcast schedules are confirmed.

As we look to the months ahead, there is much to do. Importantly, we have returned full-tilt to strategic planning with broad participation from the Board, Orchestra, staff and, of course, our music director. Long-term decisions impacting artistic, financial and educational planning require everyone's participation. Along these lines, I am especially pleased to welcome ten new Board members. In addition to these inspired community leaders, we have quite a few other significant personnel announcements this month. We have chosen to highlight news about the incredible people on our DSO "team" in the pages attached.

After our holiday break, I am sure many of you are eager to once again hear our great DSO inside amazing Orchestra Hall. We welcome back our artistic partner and great friend Peter Oundjian for concerts this month (January 10-13), as well as the legendary Charles Dutoit (January 24-26). We unveil a new fine art exhibit at The Max titled "Freedom" (January 17-March 30), presented in collaboration with the Arts League of Michigan; and we continue a partnership with The Sphinx Organization, hosting their Finals Competition Concert (January 27). Be sure to make time in your hectic schedules to enjoy an evening or afternoon of inspiring and powerful music. I look forward to our work this year, as a community, to preserve and advance the great tradition of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Cordially,

James B. Nicholson
Chairman of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra



A DSO WHO'S WHO FOR 2008

The newest members of the DSO Board of Directors are:

- **Bonnie Larson**, past president of the DIA's Founders Junior Council and Board Executive Committee member at the Cranbrook Art Academy and Museum;
- **Lois Shaevsky**, a 30-year community leader for many metro area charitable organizations;
- **Richard Szamborski**, Vice President, American Honda Motor Co.;
- **Sharon Vasquez**, Dean of WSU's College of Fine, Performing and Communications Arts;
- **John Young**, lawyer of counsel for Warner, Norcross & Judd, LLP;
- **Nicholas Hood III**, senior pastor of Plymouth United Church of Christ;
- **Lillian Bauder**, retired Chairman and President of the Masco Foundation;
- **Thomas M. Costello Jr.**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Compuware Corporation;
- **Karen Davidson**, longtime supporter of the DSO and previous host of successful Gala events;
- **Barbara Frankel**, dedicated community volunteer and Board member at Michigan Opera Theatre;

Four new musicians joined the DSO this season:

- Violinist **Sarah Crocker**, who was most recently Acting Assistant Concertmaster of the Colorado Symphony;
- Clarinetist **Shannon Orme**, for the past two years a member of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Japan;
- **Hang Su**, formerly Principal Violist of the International Chamber Orchestra and the American Youth Symphony;
- **Una O'Riordan**, previously with the Oregon Symphony, Sarasota Opera and Florida West Coast Symphony.
- **Michael Robinson, Jr.**, a trombonist who received the African-American Orchestra Fellowship in September, has played in a number of festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA and Youth Orchestra of the Americas.



Read more about them in Performance magazine or online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

MUSICIAN ACTIVITIES

- Principal Percussionist **Bob Pangborn** performed with his grandson, Brandon Schwartz, from New Jersey, in a Junior Division Concert at Interlochen Arts Camp. Brandon attended on a percussion scholarship.
- **Sharon Sparrow** and **Jeffery Zook** were featured soloists in the Cimarosa Concerto for Two Flutes and Orchestra in the December Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra concert, **Felix Resnick** conducting.
- Violist **Shanda Lowery-Sachs** and Bass Trombonist **Randy Hawes** are spearheading activities for the DSO Members' 2008 Bradlin Fund Scholarship program. Applications can be found online at www.bradlin.org and the deadline is Feb. 1, 2008. The competition for cash scholarships awards takes place on March 1, 2008.
- Cellist **Carole Gatwood** spearheaded, and co-directed with producer Paul Cooney, DIA Conservation Specialist-Imaging, a unique education advocacy project: a promotional video for their school district's instrumental music program (Berkley, MI). The project took over a year to complete. The video will be shown annually to elementary school parents and students as they choose to start on an instrument. It is designed to spark interest, to foster long-term commitment, to inspire, and to show the fun.
- For DSO snowbirds in the Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ area: flutist **Philip Dikeman** was asked to play Principal Flute at Arizona MusicFest 2008 as a member of the Festival Orchestra, Feb. 18-24. Visit www.azmusicfest.org for details.
- Bassist **Rick Robinson** and CutTime players performed a Holiday Program at the Detroit Institute of Arts to a full Rivera Court. Children danced and jingled bells, people sang and laughed in all the right places. They also enjoyed **Kim Kaloyanides Kennedy's** performance of Winter from Vivaldi's Four Seasons.
- In November, cellist **Paul Wingert** was invited by the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society to give a presentation about his own original bromeliad hybrids.
- On Jan. 12, DSO members will be participating in the 16th Annual Day for Strings in the Farmington Public Schools. Over 600 string students from the Farmington Schools will work with guest conductors and professional musicians including eight members of the DSO string sections. The DSO members participating are: **Hai Xin Wu, Sarah Crocker, Shanda Lowery-Sachs, Una O'Riordan, Eun Park, Caroline Coade, Paul Wingert** and **Larry Hutchinson**.



BABIES

- Principal Cellist **Robert deMaine** and his wife Betsy celebrated the birth of a beautiful baby girl on Oct. 21, Annette Elizabeth deMaine, 6 lbs., 14 oz., 19 1/2 inches.

- Violinist **Elayna Duitman** and husband Zeger Verhage welcomed son Lukas into the world on March 9. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces! Lukas is pictured with his brother David, age 4.



Lukas and David

- Development department Executive Assistant **Cynthia Reeves**, who joined the DSO in 1983 at Ford Auditorium, recently became a grandmother for the fourth time!



Reeves

CONGRATULATIONS

- Best wishes to **Stephen Millen** and **Donna Saul-Millen**, who are now reunited in Philadelphia. After years of distinguished service as Vice President of Facilities, Donna has rejoined Stephen, now General Manager of the Philadelphia Orchestra.
- A fond farewell and many thanks to **Sunaina Vargo**, Executive Assistant to Anne Parsons, and prior member of the Development department. Sunaina has embarked on a new life adventure, but will return to help train her replacement.

STAFF NEWS

- Patricia Walker** has been promoted to Vice President of Operations and Resource Management. She will oversee the management of facilities as well as all event and concert implementation, technology, and all human resource issues.

- In February the DSO welcomes **Jim Berdahl** as Vice President for Artistic Planning. He will be responsible for developing the DSO's mix of product offerings, working closely with Leonard Slatkin and the rest of the staff in the planning and creation of all DSO orchestral programs, non orchestral presentations, and education activities. He was previously General Manager of the Aspen Music Festival and School.



Berdahl

- Also in February, **Keith Elder**, currently with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, joins the DSO as Assistant Vice President for Operations. He will work closely with Patricia to manage all facility, production and stage related activities.
- Alice Sauro** has been new DSO Assistant Personnel Manager since October. Alice previously managed the Fisher Theater and Masonic Temple orchestras and is an accomplished

violinist. She was Associate Concertmaster for more than 25 MOT productions and has performed as an extra musician with the DSO regularly since 1988. Alice replaces **Nick Hansinger**, who had been DSO Assistant Personnel Manager for the past 10 years. Thanks for a decade of dedication, Nick!

- Cynthia Korolov** joined the DSO on contract in December as Archivist (she replaces Stephanie Lucas). Cynthia has already been on site frequently, providing research assistance to **Paul Ganson** for the history of the DSO he is writing (to be published by the WSU Press). Cynthia was formerly with the Ford Motor Company Archives.

- Assistant Director **Marni Raitt** is the newest member of the PR team. She has ten years of media relations, promotions and marketing experience in the entertainment industry for Disney/ABC Cable Networks, Miramax films and Polygram's extensive family of music and film labels.



Raitt

- Dominic Arellano** is the DSO's new Marketing Coordinator for non-classical products. He previously operated his own marketing, PR and artist management consulting firm for events clients including Dally in the Alley 2007, Red Bull and the Detroit Electronic Music Festival.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WE LOST IN 2007

- Two former DSO members passed away this season: violist **David Ireland** in October and violist **Gary Schnerer**, following a long illness, in December.
- David Ninowski**, beloved son of DSO Volunteer Council Past President Barbara Diles, passed away in November.
- Kathleen McCree**, a distinguished attorney and wife of Board member David Baker Lewis, passed away in October.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7 — The Chairman's Dinner hosted by Jim Nicholson at the Detroit Athletic Club — Cocktails at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m. Call (313) 576-5400.

January 17 – New Leaders and Classical Roots Young Friends event at “Cole Porter & Friends” — DSO Double bassist Rick Robinson will speak to the combined groups about the 2008 Classical Roots program which features acclaimed soprano Denyce Graves; 6 p.m., Allesee Hall. Call (313) 576- 5449.

For tickets and information call (313) 576-5111 or visit the DSO online at www.detroitssymphony.com