Dear Friends and Supporters of the YSO:

As winter carries on throughout March, you can come to hear the Yakima Symphony Orchestra and have your soul transfigured! Our Heavenly Thoughts season continues on March 28th with an incredibly uplifting concert called Transfiguration.

The program will include Richard Strauss’ masterpiece Death and Transfiguration, which takes the listener on a musical journey through the story of a man struggling on his deathbed, seeing his life pass before his eyes, finally succumbing, and then achieving that for which he had been longing—transfiguration. The program will also include The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto, featuring the wonderful Chinese-American violinist Linda Wang. Like the Strauss work, this piece also is a musical depiction of a tale of transfiguration. Based on an ancient Chinese legend, the story centers around two young lovers who are unable to be together in life. After they both die of broken hearts, they are transfigured into butterflies and unite in the afterlife. While this piece may be little known to audiences here in the United States, it is literally the single most famous piece of music in China. We will also play a brand new classic: blue cathedral by Jennifer Higdon.

This is one of the most frequently played pieces of music by any composer alive today. Inspired by the spirit of the composer’s deceased brother, who passed at a very young age, the piece depicts a glass cathedral floating in the sky. In addition to playing their usual instruments, members of the orchestra are also called up to play water-filled crystal glasses and Chinese handbells. Serving as a prelude to all of this will be the beloved Les Preludes by Franz Liszt. The score to this ever-popular symphonic poem contains an inscription that amounts to: “What is life but a series of preludes to the afterlife?”

I would also like to personally invite you to our annual Raise the Baton fundraiser at the 4th Street Theatre on April 10th, this year entitled Starry, Starry Night. This is sure to be a beautiful, enjoyable gala evening complete with great food, live music, and terrific auction items.

We look forward to seeing you on March 28th and April 10th as we continue along with our 2014-15 season, Heavenly Thoughts!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Golan
The Helen N. Jewett Music Director
Yakima Symphony Orchestra
**Prelude: Email vs. Snail Mail**

In addition to our hard copy version of the *Prelude*, we produce a full-color, online version that includes program notes and artist bios. If you would prefer to save paper and postage by accessing only the electronic version of *Prelude*, please send a note to development@ysomusic.org and we will make this change.

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**From the Executive Director**

I have had many occasions during my first two years in Yakima to reflect on how well this community has taken care of our symphony, and what a strong foundation has been laid by so many individuals whose work over the years has made it possible for the YSO to grow both artistically and in community impact. This month has brought two more such occasions. First, after 38 years at the helm of the Yakima Symphony Chorus, Dr. Scott Peterson has announced his retirement at the end of this season. As YSC chorusmaster and a member of the YVCC faculty, Dr. Peterson's impact on the choral life of Yakima and on the success of the symphony's choral endeavors cannot be overstated, and of course this will continue through his other choral activities in the area. We will have more to say in a future *Prelude* newsletter, but as we begin our search for his successor I would like to congratulate Scott on his accomplishments and wish him even greater musical enjoyment and success in retirement.

On Saturday, April 11th at Davis High School, the YSO Opera Committee will conclude twenty years of tireless work to promote and support opera education in Central Washington with *Carmen Redux* (see YYSO Affiliate Updates to the right). The opera committee was first formed in 1995 to present small performance and informational events, then moved on to help coordinate and promote collaborative annual performances and educational activities between the YSO and the Seattle Opera Young Artists program, all of which has nourished an appreciation for opera in Yakima that has been evident in the extraordinary response among all age groups to the YSO's recent two fully-staged opera productions. While these dedicated volunteers will no longer function as an active committee, we know they will continue to support opera and music education in Yakima, and I hope you might take time to honor their contribution to our community (and the work of our many talented young musicians!) by joining us at Davis High School for a truly remarkable and inspiring event.

On a final note, we are delighted this month to be collaborating with the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy on a number of activities connected to our March 28th concert (see the back page of this newsletter), and we look forward to our annual *Raise the Baton* gala on April 10th. More than simply lectures, exhibitions and auctions, these are celebrations of what makes Yakima so special—many thanks for your support and participation!

David Rogers, Executive Director
Yakima Symphony Orchestra

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**Share Your Love of the Symphony!**

- Beautiful “concert black” caps, aprons, bags and knapsacks
- 2014-15 posters (artist Barbara Smith Gilbert)
- 2012-13 posters (artist Consuelo Soto Murphy)
- Packages of 2014-15 notecards
- CDs of multiple YSO musicians

Our gift cart will be open before Capitol Theatre concerts and during intermission on concert nights. All items also can be purchased in person at the YSO office (8am–5pm, Monday–Friday) or by viewing them online (www.ysomusic.org) and calling your order in to the office at (509) 248-1414.

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**RBC Wealth Management is a Proud Sponsor of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra**

We are celebrating our 20th Year serving the Yakima Area and glad to provide volunteer and financial support to worthy causes that make the Yakima area a better place to live and work.

**The Bohoskey Group | Bret, Dave & Marlena**

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Affiliate & Partnership Updates

Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra (YYSO) & Yakima Ensemble for Strings (YES!) www.yyso.org
Bruce Walker, YYSO Conductor and YSO Cover Conductor
Christy Baisinger, YES! Conductor

Please join the YYSO and YES for the following performances.

- March 20, 7:00pm @ the Harman Center. Waltzing With the Youth Symphony Annual Gala Fundraiser! Waltz to music performed by the YYSO and YES! Swing dance to music performed by the West Valley Jazz Band. Dance instruction provided, along with awesome silent auction items and fabulous desserts. Tickets $15 via www.yyso.org.
- April 11, 7:00pm @ Davis High School Auditorium. Carmen Redux: a community opera education and performance event sponsored by the YSO Opera Committee, coordinated by YSO Founding Music Director Emeritus Brooke Creswell and conducted by the YSO’s Maestro Lawrence Golan. This project will feature the YYSO, YES! and YAMA with opera vocalists Sarah Mattox (Carmen), Ross Hauck (Don Jose) and Charles Robert Stephens (Escamillo) and Nancy Beier, Narrator, Host and international opera performer. FREE!
- April 26, 3:00pm @ The Capitol Theatre. Spring Concert. YYSO and YES! in concert with YAMA. This is our culminating concert showcasing the 49th season and honoring graduating seniors. The senior division winner of the 2015 YYSO Concerto Competition will perform with the orchestra on this concert. FREE!

Yakima Symphony Chorus (YSC) / Dr. Scott Peterson, Chorusmaster

After 38 years of outstanding conducting, Dr. Scott Peterson has decided to retire from the Yakima Symphony chorusmaster position after this season. Please join us in thanking him for his incredible dedication! We look forward to sharing a retrospective on Dr. Peterson’s accomplishments with the YSC in the May issue of Prelude.

Although replacing him will be impossible, the search is on for a new chorusmaster. The position has been listed on ChorusAmerica and through other avenues, and we will be accepting applications through March 16th. We will be focusing on increasing the size of the chorus next year, so if you are a conductor or a singer we will be looking for lots of new talent next year. Join us for this exciting new chapter!

Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA) / Stephanie Hsu, Director

After a successful presentation with music and testimonials at February’s TEDxYakima, YAMA students have caught the public speaking bug. Students are auditioning to speak at several upcoming musical events, free and open to the public: First Friday with La Cantina, a YAMA musical benefit show hosted by YAMA faculty, featuring student and parent speakers on Friday, March 6th from 8-10pm at Gilbert Cellars; an evening of chamber music with renowned pianist George Lopez, featuring YAMA faculty and student ensembles performing alongside Mr. Lopez on Friday, March 20th from 7-9pm at the Seasons Performance Hall, with dinner available for purchase provided by the dedicated YAMA parent group; YAMA at the Upbeats Series, featuring works performed by all YAMA student ensembles on Sunday, March 22nd from 6-7pm at Englewood Christian Church; and YAMA’s first annual YAMA-me Mucho Musical Fundraiser on Friday, March 27th from 8-11pm, hosted by YAMA faculty in collaboration with Gilbert Cellars, at which 10% of the evening’s wine sales (5pm onward) will be donated to YAMA. On Saturday afternoon, March 28th, enjoy a recital featuring YAMA students studying under YSO Concertmaster Denise Dillenbeck and YSO cellist Jennifer Moulton, with performances by our YSO Teaching Artists as well as fellow YAMA faculty members.

Encore!

Join the YSO’s Social Club for patrons age 21 through 39+!

ENCORE! membership benefits include:

- Special pre and/or post-concert events;
- Discounts on pre-concert and post-concert opportunities at participating venues (with ENCORE! membership card and ticket/ticket stub);
- Discounted Lunches With Lawrence;
- and more!

Membership is $50 per season (July 1 through June 30); $25 if joining mid-season. Discounted memberships available for students, professionals participating in internships/residencies and spouses/partners of the same. Inquire for details.

To join, please contact the YSO office at (509) 248-1414 or use the CONTACT US form on the website.

Meet the Orchestra!

Children learn what they live…

The YSO joins the Yakima Valley Museum on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am at their children’s story hour. FREE!

Wednesday, March 4th
Theme: Strauss. Special Guest: Roger Finch, YSO Trombone Player

Wednesday, April 1st
Theme: Bizet. Special Guest: Nancy Beier, Opera Vocalist

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Beethoven Bear taking a break
Transfiguration features the well-known masterpiece by Richard Strauss as well as other pieces inspired by death and/or transfiguration: The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto, featuring Chinese-American violinist Linda Wang, Jennifer Higdon’s blue cathedral, and Liszt’s profound Les préludes.

Franz Liszt (October 22, 1811 – July 31, 1886)

Les préludes (d’après Lamartine)
(1848/1854)

Throughout his life, Liszt was determined to combine musical and non-musical ideas, which had a profound influence on nineteenth-century musical expression. While his piano works are deservedly lauded, Liszt’s orchestral works were equally progressive and influential. He invented the sinfonische Dichtung, or symphonic poem, a single-movement musical representation of a literary or other non-musical subject.

Les préludes, the third of twelve symphonic poems composed between 1848-1858, was originally conceived as an overture to a choral work, The Four Elements. Inspired while on vacation in 1848 along the Mediterranean coast, it went through several revisions until 1853, when Liszt decided to make it a stand-alone piece and went looking for a program to go with it. He found a poem by Alphonse de Lamartine (Les préludes, from Nouvelles Méditations Poétiques, 1823) that had a similar emotional flow, then named the piece, adding “after Lamartine” to the title, and wrote his own program notes summarizing the emotions he felt both shared—how life is a series of preludes to death. The piece was premiered in Weimar on February 23, 1854.

Two primary themes are “transformed,” or modified to become new themes. The first theme begins with a foreboding character that gets stronger and more optimistic as the piece goes on. The second theme is more tender and lyrical. After these are introduced, the music goes through an agitated section based on the first theme, followed by a pastoral section with a modified second theme. Finally, the two themes are combined in a final marziale section, and resolve and optimism triumph.
**Program Notes**

**Chen Gang (b.1935) and He Zhanhao (b. 1933)**

The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto (1959)

Written in 1959 by two Chinese composers, Chen Gang and He Zhanhao, while they were students at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto has become one of the most famous modern works of Chinese classical music. It combines Eastern and Western musical traditions, with elements drawn from traditional Chinese Opera, including the use of pentatonic scales and quoting Chinese melodies, and techniques designed to imitate traditional Chinese musical instruments, particularly in the solo violin. It is an orchestral adaptation of an ancient legend, The Butterfly Lovers, in one movement with three sections that correspond to the three phases of the story.

Part I, “Falling in Love,” describes the two main characters, Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai (Liang represented by the cello and Zhu by the violin), Zhu’s disguise as a man so she can attend a university, their meeting and subsequent friendship, and their sad separation when Zhu is called home by her father. Part II, “Refusing to Marry,” begins with Liang visiting Zhu, who reveals that she is female, and their love blooms. At the discovery of an arranged marriage made by Zhu’s father, they agree to commit suicide to avoid being separated. Part III, “Metamorphosis,” completes the story as the flute and harps depict the couple’s metamorphosis into butterflies so they can be together forever.

Unknown until the 1970s, when China loosened its restrictions after the Cultural Revolution, this piece has been performed in concert halls worldwide, and it has been used in various commercial settings, like figure skating. It has also been adapted for performance with Chinese instruments.

Jennifer Higdon
(b. December 31, 1962)

**blue cathedral**
(2000)

Born in Brooklyn, Jennifer Higdon spent her youth in Georgia and Tennessee. She studied music at Bowling Green State University, the Curtis Institute of Music, and finally at the University of Pennsylvania where she studied composition with George Crumb. Higdon currently teaches composition at the Curtis Institute and has served as composer-in-residence for several symphony orchestras. She has received many commissions and awards, including the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto and the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for her Percussion Concerto. Her musical style uses elements of traditional tonality and emphasizes interesting color combinations.

**blue cathedral**, a one-movement tone poem dealing with the death of her brother, Andrew Blue, from cancer, is one of the most performed modern orchestral works by a living American composer, by more than 400 orchestras since its premiere. In the composer’s words, “Blue...like the sky. Where all possibilities soar. Cathedrals...a place of thought, growth, spiritual expression...serving as a symbolic doorway into and out of this world. Blue represents all potential and the progression of journeys. Cathedrals represent a place of beginnings, endings, solitude, fellowship, contemplation, knowledge and growth. As I was writing this piece, I found myself imagining a journey through a glass cathedral in the sky...I wanted to create the sensation of contemplation and quiet peace at the beginning, moving towards the feeling of celebration and ecstatic expansion of the soul, all the while singing along with that heavenly music...This is a story that commemorates living and passing through places of knowledge and of sharing and of that song called life.”

Richard Strauss
(June 11, 1864 – September 9, 1949)

**Tod und Verklärung** (Death and Transfiguration), op. 24
(1889)

It seems inevitable that Richard Strauss would become a musician. His father was a hornist in Munich and was a part of several premieres of the works of Richard Wagner. Despite his father's overt dislike of Wagner, the younger Strauss was drawn to Wagner's progressive approaches to orchestration and chromaticism. His first mature compositions, especially his tone poems, explore the expressive capabilities of instrumental music, particularly in how instruments alone might portray a literary storyline.

His first success came from Don Juan, premiered in 1888. For his next effort, the 24-year-old Strauss was inspired by the concept of Love-Death and Transfiguration in Wagner's Tristan und Isolde, especially after serving as a vocal coach for a performance of the opera in Bayreuth in 1888. For the premiere of Death and Transfiguration, however, the composer asked a friend, Alexander Ritter (1833-1896), to write a poem based on the transition from life on earth to life in heaven, depicting the death of an artist and corresponding to the work's four sections, summarized below by Michael Glass.

I. In a dark, shabby room, a man lies dying. The silence is disturbed only by the ticking of a clock - or is it the beating of the man's heart? A melancholy smile appears on the invalid's face. Is he dreaming of his happy childhood?

II. A furious struggle between life and death, at whose climax we hear, briefly, the theme of Transfiguration that will dominate the final portion of the work. The struggle is unresolved, and silence returns.

III. He sees his life again, the happy times, the ideals striven for as a young man. But the hammer-blow of death rings out. His eyes are covered with eternal night.

IV. The heavens open to show him what the world denied him, Redemption, Transfiguration – the Transfiguration theme first played pianissimo by the full orchestra, its flowering enriched by the celestial arpeggios of two harps. The theme climbs ever higher, dazzlingly, into the empyrean.

Strauss conducted the premiere on June 21, 1890, at the Eisenach Festival. On his deathbed in 1949, he remarked to his daughter-in-law that his music was absolutely correct: “It's a funny thing, Alice, dying is just the way I composed it in Tod und Verklärung.”
Transfiguration & Nature’s Symphony
Join the YSO and the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy for

BUTTERFLIES OF THE COWICHE CANYON

LECTURE
Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 7:00pm
at the Yakima Valley Community College.
Visit www.cowichecanyon.org for building and room number.

David G. James, PhD, presents his research on the Coronis fritillary (our own mini-monarch) being conducted at Cowiche Canyon Conservancy’s Snow Mountain Ranch. There are 63 recorded species of butterflies flying at Snow Mountain Ranch. Dr. James also will discuss some of the unusual and unique species found in our own backyard.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT
Saturday, March 28, 2015
in the Capitol Theatre Lobby; prior to the concert, during intermission and after the performance.

Photography by David James and David Hagen.

David Hagen
David Hagen was born and raised in Seattle and moved to Yakima in 1979. He became seriously interested in photography in the early 1970s and is largely self-taught. He has photographed throughout the Washington Cascades and the Columbia Basin as well as locations in Oregon, Idaho and the Colorado Plateau. His work has appeared in national, regional and local publications as well as in local juried art exhibitions. David has been a member of the board of directors of the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy for almost 30 years and is a past president of the organization. He is also a long-time member, former board member and past president of the Cascadians. He has been photographing the Cowiche Canyon Preserve since 1985 and Snow Mountain Ranch since its purchase in 2005. He is a retired counselor and social worker and lives in the West Valley with his wife and two cats. David Hagen’s book, One Small Place, Photographs of the Cowiche Canyon Preserve, may be ordered via hagenphoto@wildblue.net. Prices are $35 to $60.

David G. James, PhD,
Associate Professor of Entomology,
Washington State University,
Prosser, WA
David James developed a passion for entomology at age eight in England, rearing caterpillars in his bedroom. He studied zoology at the University of Salford near Manchester, then migrated to Australia to work for the New South Wales Department of Agriculture on ways of controlling agricultural pests like locusts and mites. A PhD on the winter biology of Monarch butterflies in Sydney followed and a career as a biocontrol scientist in horticulture blossomed. David developed successful conservation biological control systems for stink bugs in citrus and for mites in pasture, grapes and peaches. In 1999 David became an Associate Professor at Washington State University at Prosser and worked on conservation biological control of insect and mite pests of hops and grapes. David has published 177 peer-reviewed scientific papers and in 2011 he co-authored and published a widely-acclaimed book on the life histories of Pacific Northwest butterflies that renowned British naturalist David Attenborough called ‘magisterial.’ Currently he is working on sustainability of integrated pest management (IPM) and conservation biological control in viticulture, insect conservation and community research and education projects with Washington wine grape growers, Washington State Penitentiary and Yakima’s Cowiche Canyon Conservancy.

Tune in to nature’s symphony on our trails through sage and grasslands, flowering meadows, oak woodlands, and basalt cliffs.

www.cowichecanyon.org
509-248-5065
THE YAKIMA VALLEY CLASSICAL SERIES

**Transfiguration**
The Butterfly Lovers concerto, plus music of Strauss, Liszt and Higdon
Saturday, March 28, 2015, 7:30pm
Lawrence Golan, Conductor
Linda Wang, violin

**Resurrection**
Mahler’s Second Symphony
Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:30pm
Lawrence Golan, Conductor
Lindsay Russell, soprano
Melissa Schiel, alto
Yakima Symphony Chorus; Dr. Scott Peterson, chorusmaster
Members of the Central Washington University Symphony and Choirs; Dr. Nikolas Caoile, Dr. Gary Wiedenaar and Dr. Scott Peterson, directors

THE MEMORIAL FAMILY OF SERVICES POPS SERIES

**Feelin’ Groovy – Starring Jim Witter: Music of Simon & Garfunkel**
Saturday, April 25, 2015, 7:30pm
Lawrence Golan, Conductor
Jim Witter, piano and vocals

Transfiguration & Nature’s Symphony
A collaboration of the YSO & the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy (CCC)
- *A Symphony of Butterflies in Yakima* presented by Dr. David James, Wednesday, March 25, 7:00pm, @ Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, Butler Haney Hall Auditorium 301
- CCC Photography Exhibit by David James and David Hagen in the Capitol Theatre lobby on March 28th prior to the concert, during intermission and after the performance

Classical and Pops Concerts are held at the Capitol Theatre.

For additional concert information, please download the 2014-15 Heavenly Thoughts brochure at www.ysomusic.org