In May 2018, the DSO successfully launched a brand new Education Concert format. In partnership with Carnegie Hall, the symphony presented Link Up: The Orchestra Sings. Carnegie Hall partners with over 100 orchestras all over the world and we are lucky to be one of them! This unique concert format, which included the audience participating by playing recorder or strings, and singing from their seats in the audience, was attended by more than 2200 students in Wilmington and Dover. The DSO distributed over 1100 recorders to schools and students. Schools were provided with Curriculum Guides and student workbooks so the audience came prepared to hear the glorious sounds of the DSO. It was remarkable to witness the level of audience engagement, and to hear the sounds of a full Grand Opera House playing recorder along with the DSO.

This season, on May 21 and 22, 2019, the Delaware Symphony will be building on last year’s successful launch of Link Up by presenting The Orchestra Rocks. This concert will explore a universal element of music – Rhythm! Composers and musicians play with elements of musical time, creating patterns of sound and silence that are expressive and exciting. A consistent groove can unite musicians, singers, and audiences in an experience of listening and performing together. Through the Link Up repertoire, hands-on activities, and a culminating interactive performance with a professional orchestra, we will discover how the orchestra rocks! Repertoire highlights include: Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4, and Holst’s The Planets.

Our Link Up program is expanding! Due to an overwhelming demand, we have added a second show in Dover on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. Our overall Link Up enrollment is up 27% and our Dover enrollment has almost TRIPLED! We are so thrilled to be expanding our audience and our presence downstate this season. We have purchased and distributed over 1100 recorders to schools and students all across the state, and we are also happy to have a senior center participating this year. If you would like to find out more information about this fun and dynamic concert, or if you know of a group that would be interested in learning more, please direct all inquiries to Elizabeth Jaffe, Education Director, elizabethj@delawareysymphony.org.
The DSA is a membership corporation. A Member of the DSA is someone who has donated $300 or more during the present or the immediately preceding fiscal year. (The DSA’s fiscal year begins each July 1.) It is these Members, typically at an annual meeting each June, who elect the DSA Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the DSA, responsible for managing the DSA’s business and affairs in a prudent manner. The Board approves the annual budget, closely follows the DSA’s finances, and otherwise deals with the many wide-ranging issues that arise. In its work, the Board considers the best interests of the Association and is faithful to the Association’s stated purposes, which, according to its Certificate of Incorporation, include “... the study of musical activities... kindling and keeping alive a general interest in music...to give concerts [and] to...operate an orchestra.”

The DSO Board of Directors meets monthly and on other occasions if necessary. Board members typically serve on two committees, such as Finance, Development, Nominating & Governance. Being a director requires a major commitment of time, expertise, and resources, and we are most grateful to all those who serve on our Board. With this issue of Clef Notes, we will begin introducing the most recently elected directors.

DEBBIE GREEN I was born and raised in Brandywine Hundred. My family has been in Delaware for many generations. In a pretty mobile state, that was different growing up. I attended University of Delaware, Rutgers, and Widener University, majoring in business administration with many music courses, completing an AS, BS, and partial MBA. My business career started with the Bell Companies, becoming an IT professional back when punched cards were the norm. In 2014, I retired from AstraZeneca, then consulted for a few years.

We have always treasured the Delaware Symphony. When I returned to Delaware after a few years out-of-state, I resumed attending DSO Concerts, mainly the Chamber Series. Howard and I enjoy many forms of music, but also like to snow ski, sail on the Chesapeake, and help with an English Springer Spaniel rescue group as well as ShoreRivers conservancy group. We do not have children, but have two very-spoiled English Springer Spaniels. We live in North Wilmington, but spend much spare time on the Upper Eastern Shore of Maryland, enjoying the beautiful Sassafras River.

JIMI HONCHICK serves as a research analyst for Wilmington Trust’s portfolio managers, providing bottom-up, fundamental research. He serves the group in the Consumer Discretionary sector with a particular expertise in Media. Jimi is a member of the research team across all of Wilmington Trust’s equity strategies. Since 2013, Jimi has worked as an equity research analyst in several capacities, including private equity, sell-side research, and hedge funds. His work at the boutique firm C. L. King focused on applying a value-investing framework to small and mid-cap stocks. Jimi also brings industry experience to his Media research from his five years of working in television production. Jimi holds an MBA from Columbia University and a bachelor’s degree in Communications from Villanova University. He is a member of the CFA® Society of Philadelphia.

DAVID MCBRIDE is a Partner in the Wilmington law firm Young, Conaway, Stargatt and Taylor, LLP, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of corporate law and corporate and commercial litigation. He has been involved in many of Delaware’s significant corporate law cases, particularly in the area of mergers and acquisitions. He serves as an Appointed Member of the Committee on Corporate Laws of the Section of Business Law of the American Bar Association. In addition, Dave is the former Chairman and currently a member of the Executive Council of the Corporate Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association, the group that is responsible for recommending and drafting amendments to the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Dave is a member of the American Law Institute and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is one of Delaware’s three Commissioners to the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws, a member of the Rules Committee of the Delaware Court of Chancery, a member of the Board of Editors of the Delaware Lawyer, and a director of the Historical Society for the Delaware Court of Chancery. He has also authored several articles and CLE outlines in the area of corporate law, and he has regularly been named to lists of leading lawyers in the U. S.

THE REV. ROBERT D. (BOB) STODDARD, JR. retired as a vice president of Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon. He has BA in Religion from College of Wooster, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and is an ordained Presbyterian minister. His special interests include American History, historic preservation, and the performing arts.

As Program Director of the Greater Wilmington Development Council, he initiated the 1971 restoration of The Grand Opera House and was the founder or co-founder of the League of Historic American Theatres, Delaware Churches for Middle East Peace, Career Insights for Teens, Peace Drums Project, and Warner-Shortlidge Arts Alliance. Bob is writing a history of Lebanese American University and American female education in Syria/Lebanon. He and Judy live in Wilmington near their two children and four grandchildren.

PATRICIA G. ZAHARCO is a retired bank trust professional with 25 years’ experience in wealth management.
Almost three years ago, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra embarked on an ambitious plan to increase its geographic, programmatic, and educational reach. Since then, there have been some successes, some disappointments, some surprises, and many learning experiences.

One of the pages borrowed from the “playbook” of a previous orchestra was the creation of volunteer committees of people from the areas where we are trying to develop a presence. In the case of Delaware—with its relatively small footprint—it made sense to divide the state up by its three counties. As we started planning for new presentations in Kent and Sussex counties, we invited community members from each county to form committees to assist the DSO in its planning, promotion, and production of new offerings. We sought out individual’s names and organizations with which we might partner. Initially, in both Kent and Sussex counties, we enjoyed broad interest, with 15-20 people attending our early meetings. They include representatives from the Biggs Museum, Dover Symphony, Modern Maturity Center, Dover and Cape Henlopen High Schools, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Coastal Concerts, a few churches, a mayor, and a number of interested patrons of the arts. Over time, the committees settled in at 6-8 fairly active participants each.

These wonderful volunteers have been a huge source of knowledge, guidance, advice, and support for the DSO as we have gotten to know more about the communities we are reaching. By spreading the word of upcoming DSO presentations; alerting us to possible conflicts with other community events; recommending performance locations, possible partner organizations, and sponsorship and group sales prospects; coordinating educational outreach events; and connecting us with new potential collaborators and patrons, the county committee members are making a big difference.

Until they relocated out of state last year, we had a devoted couple, Gordon and Diane Fung in Milford, who served on both the Kent and Sussex County Committees. (Milford is a unique community in that the Kent/Sussex county line divides the city!) In addition to subscribing to our Classics Series in Wilmington and talking up the DSO whenever they could, this extraordinary couple worked to sell a page of advertisements in our concert program guide to Milford businesses, and ran a bus with a large number of Milford residents to DSO performances in Dover and Lewes.

We are so grateful to our past and current (listed below) county committee members in Sussex and Kent, and we welcome new members who are interested in expanding the DSO’s presence in their community.

Now, someone is going to ask, what about New Castle County? Two years ago, we announced we would also be forming a New Castle County Committee and a couple of patrons even expressed interest back then. We deferred starting this group until we saw how things evolved in Kent and Sussex counties, but we hope to develop this newest support group later this spring and over the summer. We will reach out to those who previously expressed interest, and we welcome others interested in helping the DSO further develop its presence in New Castle County.

The saying goes, many hands make light work. It takes a tremendous amount of work to put on a DSO concert or educational outreach presentation. With a small professional staff officed in Wilmington, developing and sustaining new offerings across Delaware will only be possible with the help of a large and enthusiastic corps of volunteers. Please consider joining us! The rewards of sharing live music in your community are great, and we try to make it fun along the way. Feel free to reach out to me at alanj@delawaresymphony.org if you are interested.

Kent County Committee

Teresa Emmons
Carolyn Fredricks
Charles Guerin
Debbie Hansen
Leslie Jones King
Lois Lanzalotti
Anna Grace Moshier
Diane Neutzling
Nancy Pikulik

Sussex County Committee

Marina Borovok
Stuart Brahns
Christopher Burkhart
Carol Dennis
Edna Ellett
Louise Foster
Anna Grace Moshier
Gerri Stephenson
This season, the DSO will again participate in the program launched by the League of American Orchestras in 2009 called Orchestras Feeding America. In this partnership with the nation’s largest hunger relief organization, Feeding America, more than 370 orchestras in all fifty states have participated in this annual effort.

Orchestras Feeding America was inspired by the film The Soloist, starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey, Jr., and was based on the true story of the relationship between Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez and Nathaniel Anthony Ayers, a gifted Julliard-trained string player whose mental illness landed him among the homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. Featuring the Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Soloist is a testament to the redemptive power of music and a reminder of our connections to the most vulnerable among us.

“The story of The Soloist reminds us that classical music has the power to sustain spirits and change lives, even under the most difficult circumstances,” commented League of American Orchestras President and CEO Jesse Rosen. “Our team effort with Feeding America and The Soloist gives America’s orchestras a way to use that power to make an even greater difference in our communities — to feed both body and soul.”

You can help by bringing non-perishable items to donate to the effort! Collection barrels will be available at our two Classics Series concerts in March — Friday, March 22, at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington and Sunday, March 24, at Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes. Urgently needed items include hot and cold cereals, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, and any canned fruits, vegetables, and meats.