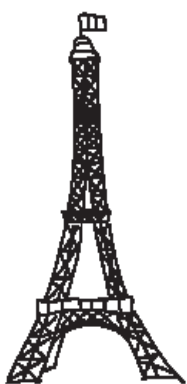


“Praise Parisienne” follows Victorian Christmas



In a serendipitous finale to Preservation Williamsport’s French-themed Victorian Christmas on November 22nd, the Chorus will perform “Praise Parisienne” on Sunday, November 23rd.

Our 3 pm concert will take place in Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church, 807 West Fourth Street, in the heart of Millionaires’ Row. There, those late 19th century Williamsport lumber barons whose mansions still grace the area would likely have been familiar with the composers to be featured in our concert.

“Praise Parisienne” is a collection of French Romantic music from the late 19th and early 20th



Mrs. Donna Elkin



Dr. Susan Hegberg

centuries. Our main piece will be Louis Vierne’s “Solemn Mass”. Listeners will thrill to many emotionally evocative and lush melodies that provide stark contrast to an earlier period of more formal classical music. As Music Director Ned Wetherald notes elsewhere in this issue, the Romantic era broke with many constraints in art and literature, displayed greater immersion in nature, and

reflected the rise of political nationalisms in addition to themes related to indigenous peoples. It was a “heady” time.

We will be joined by area organists, Donna Elkin and Dr. Susan Hegberg, who will play colorful works from the late Romantic period. Dr. Hegberg is Professor Emeritus of Music at

(Continued on page 3)



Singers’ Corner

Many singers (and listeners, too, for that matter) report getting “earworms” stuck in their heads. These mental fragments of songs, usually not more than eight seconds long, appear involuntarily as

the “brain’s singing”. Specific clusters of notes of longer durations and closer pitch intervals occur most frequently in these phrases, perhaps because they are also easier to sing. The brain’s

motor planning region in the cerebral cortex is activated when a subject experiences such repetitive, involuntary musical fragments. To stop the process,

(Continued on page 4)



Ned's Notes...



The music of Paris has had a tremendous influence on Western art music for well over 150 years. By "the music of Paris", I mean music written in Paris or influenced by Parisian musicians who were the elite teachers, organists, and composers of their time. You see, the influence of these musicians stretched far beyond Paris and, due to its connectational nature, influences even American music today. For example, the Paris Conservatory, founded in 1795, boasts a "who's who" of students and teachers.

All of the composers whose works will be represented in our concert on November 23rd were either students and/or teachers at the Paris Conservatory. One of Gabriel Fauré's students, Nadia Boulanger, taught Americans Aaron Copland, Irving Fine, Philip Glass, Walter Piston, Daniel

Pinkham, Quincy Jones, and many more. My graduate conducting teacher, Robert Shafer, studied with Boulanger in the 1970s.

The music we will feature is from the late Romantic era, roughly 1890 up until about 1910, prior to the start of World War I. The word "romantic" in this usage is not describing romantic love, but it describes music written to evoke feelings and imagination in the listener. The pieces we are performing will contain lovely and memorable melodies, lush harmonies, and dramatic contrasts of dynamics and sound. Another characteristic of Romantic music is an interest in the past, exemplified by the two motets by Duruflé that are based on Gregorian chants.

During the Romantic era, pipe organ builders developed new technologies that created larger and more expressive instruments. Advances in pipe making and voicing enabled sounds to be produced for the first time that imitated the symphony orchestra's winds and reeds. Termed "symphonic", these organs paralleled the orchestra in the music that could be performed on a solo instrument.

You will have the opportunity to experience all these aspects of French Romantic music in our "Praise Parisienne" performance. It promises to be a dramatic concert full of memorable melodies, lush harmonies, exciting contrasts that will thrill your soul. 🎵

"Ned's Notes" is provided for the enjoyment of our readers by Ned Wetherald. Currently in his eighteenth year as music director of the Williamsport Civic Chorus, Ned is minister of music at State College Presbyterian Church. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music and choral conducting from Shenandoah University.



"This performance is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency."

Patrons Reminder

The current Civic Chorus patron campaign is concluding, and you can still make those very important, tax-deductible contributions by mail at P.O. Box 752, Williamsport, PA 17703, or on our website using PayPal.

PayPal[™]

Visit us:
williamsportcivicchorus.org



Find us on
Facebook

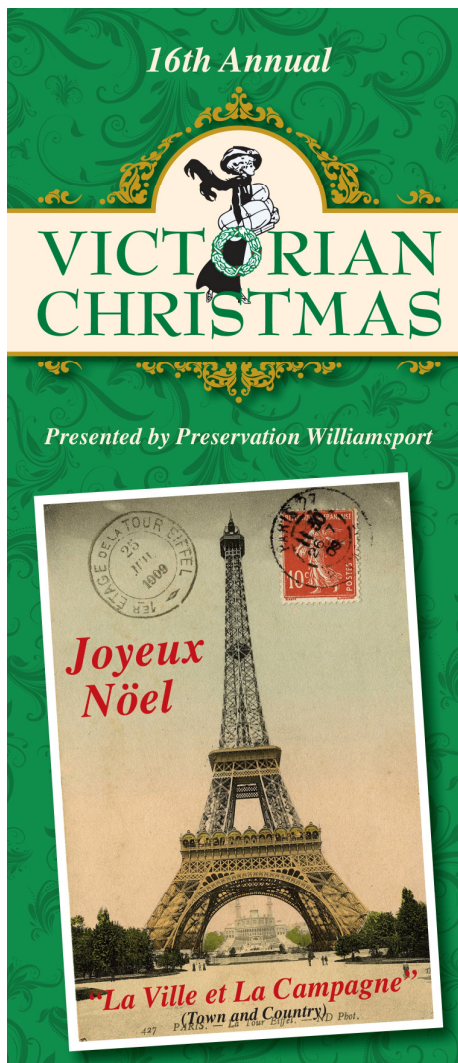
More on "Praise Parisienne"

(Continued from page 1)

Susquehanna University where she taught organ and a variety of music classes for 27 years. A recitalist and presenter, she holds degrees from St. Olaf College, the University of Michigan, and Northwestern University. Her organ teachers include Eleanor Killoran with whom she began her study of organ at age 13, David N. Johnson, Robert Glasgow, and Karel Paukert.

Donna Elkin, organist, retired music educator, and singer, holds music degrees from Susquehanna and Wittenberg Universities. As a performer, she earned the title Associate with the American Guild of Organists. Williamsport residents since 1996, she and her husband, Kenneth, who pastors St. Mark's Lutheran Church, have three adult children, all musicians.

So, do celebrate beautiful French music and the glorious pipe organ with us on November 23rd. Patrons of Preservation Williamsport's Victorian Christmas, which takes place on Saturday, November 22nd, will receive a \$2 discount from our regular concert admission fee when presenting tour tickets at the door; the public may also purchase concert tickets in advance at the R.M. Sides Family Music Center and at the Otto Book Store. Children under 12 accompanied by a ticketed adult will be admitted without charge, and an audience reception will follow the concert. 🎵



Our "Praise Parisienne" concert takes place the day following Preservation Williamsport's Victorian Christmas on **November 22nd**, from **10:00 am - 5:00 pm**, a French inspired "La Ville et La Campagne" (Town and Country) Tour of Homes, Churches, and Museums.

71st SEASON

Praise Parisienne

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014

3 pm

Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church

807 W. Fourth St., Williamsport

A Cloud of Witnesses

Sunday, Apr. 26, 2015

3 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market St., Williamsport





**WILLIAMSPORT
CIVIC CHORUS**



**P.O. Box 752
Williamsport, PA 17703**

Nonprofit Std.
U.S. Postage

PAID


Williamsport, PA
Permit #183



 **WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS NEWSLETTER** 

“The Williamsport Civic Chorus is an open community of singers dedicated to making fine music accessible to all through education, participation, and inspiration.”

(Continued from page 1)

experts suggest distracting oneself with other language tasks such as working a crossword puzzle, listening to different music, or starting a conversation with someone. Failing those, consider embracing the entire piece in which the earworm fragment is embedded in order to “complete” the operation. 



FALL FUNDRAISING EXTRAVAGANZA

***All orders will arrive by
Thanksgiving.***

- **Wolfgang Candy sale,
Sept. 29th to Oct. 27th**
- **Aunt Jan's Salsa sale,
Oct. 6th to Nov. 3rd**
- **Rada Cutlery sale,
Oct. 13th to Nov. 10th**

Being Good Green Stewards

Please email us at wccmail@yahoo.com if you wish to receive this newsletter electronically or to be removed from the mailing list. This will not only insure that your desires are met; it will also help us be fiscally and environmentally more responsible. We value your patronage!

