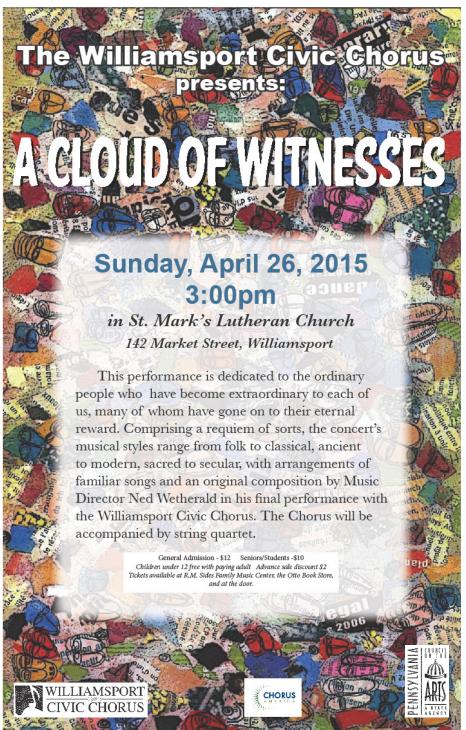


Eighteen Years with Ned

"The Planets" with the WSO Abend Music Vivaldi. *Gloria* Music of John Rutter A Gershwin Centennial Handel, Judas Maccabaeus Bach, Messiah Sing-a-Long A Randall Thompson Centennial Les Misérables favorites with the WSO Concert of the Millennium with the Repasz Band & the West Branch Chorale **December Daze** Cherubini, Requiem in C Minor Beethoven, "Symphony No. 9" with the WSO & the Susquehanna Valley Chorale Dvořák, "Mass in D" & Kodaly, Laudes Organi with other jewels of Central Europe "Be Glad Then America" Music of the Masters All-Schubert Concert Works by Women Composers Handel, Messiah, Parts II & III Made in America Brahms, "A German Requiem" "Voices of Freedom" Peace and War: A Musical Look Turtles, Dragons & Other Children's Favorites To the Baltics and Russia, with Love Music of the Kings and Queens Knock, Knock, or Who Says Musicians Never Laugh? Mendelssohn, Elijah Canticles **Community Bicentennial** 'Sing for the Cure®' Everyone's Favorites **Family Christmas Concert** Once Upon a Time Mozart, Requiem in D Minor To Saint Cecilia Holiday Concert
"Rejoice in the Lamb" Orff, Carmina Burana Mendelssohn, "St. Paul" Beach, "Grand Mass in E flat" Poetry in Music The Music of Fauré Coffee and Dessert House Sing "The Pirates of Penzance" Bach, "St. John Passion" Barnett, "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" An Evening at Eisenstaedt Hear the People Sing Wintersong Handel, Theodora An Afternoon with Mother Goose Bach, "Mass in B Minor" "Ghoultide Scarols" Praise Parisienne

A Cloud of Witnesses





WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS

Ned's Notes...



"Cloud of Witnesses" is a vague title for a concert. The idea for the title comes from scripture (Hebrews 12:1) but I'm not using the title in a Biblical way, I just felt that that phrase best expressed the theme of our April concert. The impetus for this concert theme came out of the death of my son, Noah, due to cancer in September, 2013. In my grief, I was sometimes frustrated that the rest of the world didn't come to a complete stop as I felt that I had. Through prayer, meditation and counseling I came to the conclusion that even though his family, Karen, and I loved Noah tremendously, he was an average guy to most of the rest of the world. My thinking led me to realize that in our lives we frequently each lose personally influential people whom we love. Most of the rest of the world almost doesn't notice, but they have their own list. We can all think of family members, teachers, mentors, friends, and role models whom we have lost, and for whom we grieve and long. Knowing that those important people left a bit of the best of themselves and their gifts in us gives us hope to keep going and to find ways to share those gifts with someone else. We have a responsibility to use those gifts that have been passed on to us to make the world a better place. So this concert is intended to be a concert with some mourning, some remembering, some searching, some healing, and lots of hope, comfort, and aspiration.

The first half of our concert features choral masterpieces that are Chorus favorites (and Director favorites) that express feelings of hope, comfort, and aspiration. The second half is the premier of a set of pieces entitled "Cloud of Witnesses" on which I have been working for the past year (in truth, I'm still working on a bit of it!). Much of the music is newly composed, but there are a few arrangements of folk songs. The style of the music ranges from classical to spiritual. We will be accompanied by piano and string quartet.

And a final note (pun intended) – this is my final "Ned's Notes" as I am "retiring" after this concert. This has been a wonderful eighteen years of music making. Many of the musical highlights of my life have been with the Williamsport Civic Chorus. I want to thank our audi-

ences, our patrons, and especially all the talented singers who have joined us over the years for sharing their hearts and talents so freely. It has been grand! Thank you.

"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.

About the artist:

Eria 'Sane' Nsubuga is a contemporary visual artist, primarily a painter, who was born in Mpigi, Uganda in 1979. Also a singer-songwriter, he confronts indigenous as well as global issues. The collage on the cover is used with his permission.

"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."

Visit us: williamsportcivicchorus.org



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71st SEASON

A Cloud of Witnesses

Sunday, Apr. 26, 2015 3 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church 142 Market St., Williamsport

An audience reception will follow the concert.



Shhh!

Surprise Retirement Dinner for Ned Wetherald

Saturday, May 16, 2015 Cloud 9 Restaurant

Cloud 9 Restaurant 700 Airport Rd., Mtrsvl.

5 pm cocktails, 6 pm dinner

I/we (#	_) will attend.	Enclosed is a
check for	\$35/person.	
Name	Exercise to the American Services	

Address_____ Phone

___Chicken piccata _____Broiled haddock



Clip and mail with payment to:

Williamsport Civic Chorus PO Box 752 Williamsport, PA 17703

Our Final Four Leads to Next Director's Naming

Thirteen complete applications, four 30-minute candidate auditions with the Chorus, and one eminently qualified new music director! Montoursville resident Michael Connor has been selected to fill the position soon to be vacated by Ned Wetherald who announced his well-deserved retirement at the end of last season. Not long thereafter, a Boardappointed search committee, led by co-President Tina Swisher, began its deliberate and painstaking work to hire just the right person to guide the Chorus' musical and organizational development. To our great pleasure, which also

complicated the decision-making, there was no shortage of talented candidates.

Connor earned a bachelor of arts degree in music from the Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and a master of science in education from Bucknell, where as graduate assistant to the renowned Dr. William Payn, he frequently conducted the Bucknell University Chorale. Currently, Mike teaches music at Central Mountain Middle School in Lock Haven. He also directs the Williamsport Gesang Verein Harmonia, and has previously



Mike Connor

served as choir director for Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

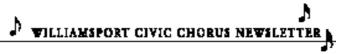
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"The Williamsport Civic Chorus is an open community of singers dedicated to making fine music accessible to all through education, participation, and inspiration."

(Continued from page 3)

in Montoursville, and as interim music director for the Williamsport Chamber Choir. Mike has appeared as tenor soloist with the Civic Chorus on several occasions, sometimes in conjunction with his wife, Denise. Beyond that, his demonstrated skills as an inspiring composer, choral, band, and orchestra director go hand-in-hand with Mike's commitment to creating a positive, safe, and enjoyable environment for performers.

Upon hearing of his selection, Mike commented that "it brought chills, and as on Christmas morning, excitement and life bubbled around me." As he contemplated beginning a new chapter of the Chorus' rich history, music began to race through his mind, leading him to reflect on "so many wonderful nuggets that I have performed and other pieces that have eluded my concert repertoire just wanting to be explored—sharing them all with the Civic Chorus and bringing them to Williams-

port will be such a treat." He envisions exciting new collaborations with area arts ensembles and soloists, so please stay tuned; rehearsals resume on September 14th.

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!

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