

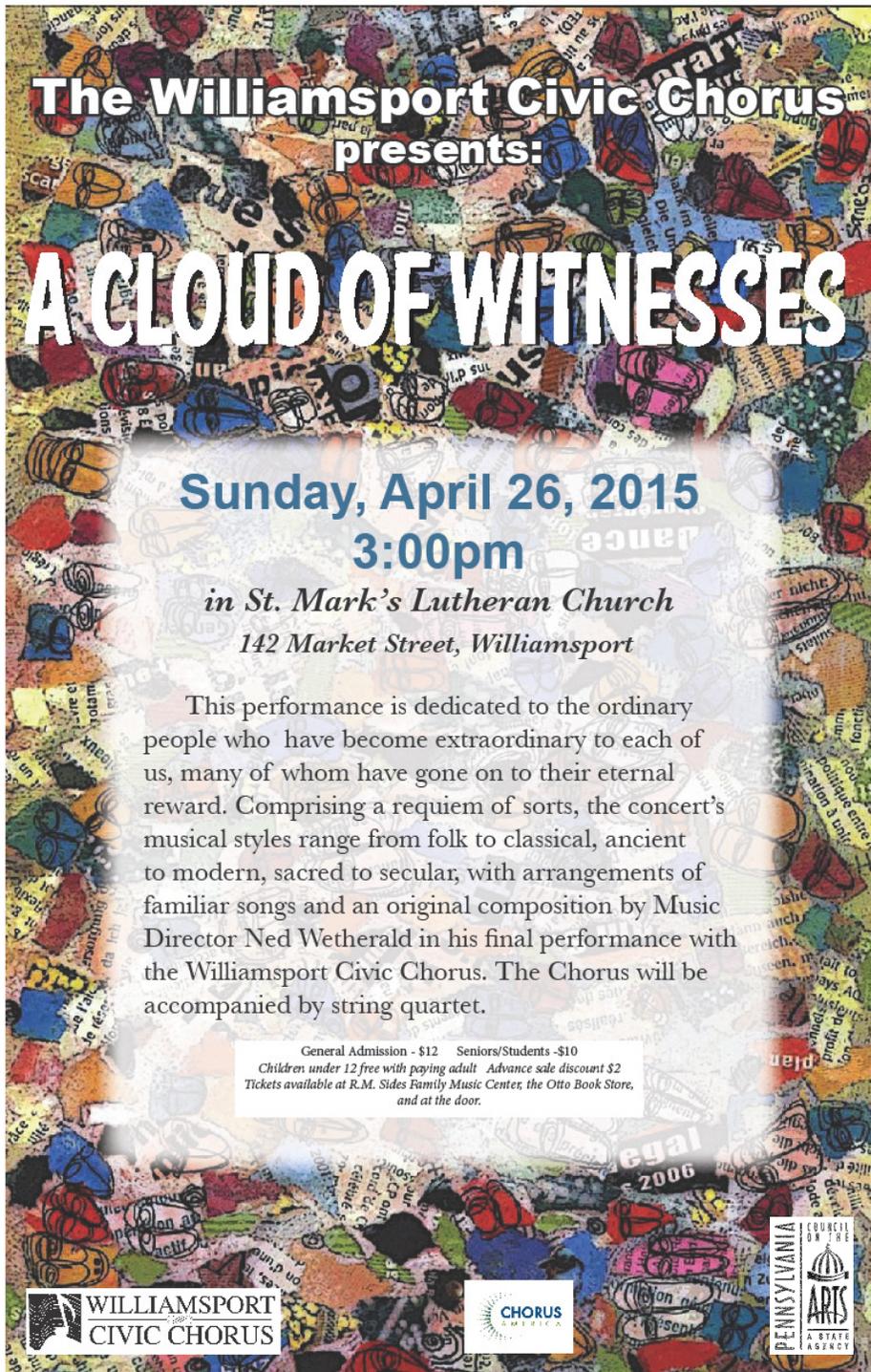
hitting the high Notes

A Newsletter From  WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS

Volume 17, No. 3 Apr., 2015
Barbara Hemmendinger, editor

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 Or-
 gani* 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”
 “Ghoultime Scarols”
 Praise Parisienne
 A Cloud of Witnesses



The Williamsport Civic Chorus
presents:

A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Sunday, April 26, 2015
3:00pm
in *St. Mark's Lutheran Church*
142 Market Street, Williamsport

This performance is dedicated to the ordinary people who have become extraordinary to each of us, many of whom have gone on to their eternal reward. Comprising a requiem of sorts, the concert's musical styles range from folk to classical, ancient to modern, sacred to secular, with arrangements of familiar songs and an original composition by Music Director Ned Wetherald in his final performance with the Williamsport Civic Chorus. The Chorus will be accompanied by string quartet.

General Admission - \$12 Seniors/Students - \$10
 Children under 12 free with paying adult Advance sale discount \$2
 Tickets available at R.M. Sides Family Music Center, the Otto Book Store,
 and at the door.

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.”

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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.

Hebrews 12:1 says,

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

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 Board-appointed 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“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

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