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NISO NOTES

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NISO Guest Concert: *Life Is a Rose Garden During The Rose Ensemble's "Slavic Wonders"*

by Natalie Dailey



The Rose Ensemble

of music from various periods of European history and various countries, particularly Russia, Poland, and Bohemia.

More than performing spectacular compositions from history, The Rose Ensemble strives with each concert to tell a story. On their webpage, Founder and Artistic Director Jordan Sramek writes, "I select music and assemble it in such a way that allows a story to be told, whether regarding an historical event, a geographic location, a political figure or a vein of spirituality." With a repertoire that encompasses 1,000 years and 25 languages, each story the ensemble chooses to tell cannot fail to be audibly and spiritually fascinating. The story of "Slavic Wonders" will be one of folk heroes, hymns, chants, and motets from Eastern Europe.

The Rose Ensemble's desire to bring beautiful but little-known ancient music to the modern world is reflected in their name as much as in their performances. Sramek writes, "I wanted to find some sort of elemental or organic image or symbol that somehow played an important role or bore substantial significance in the worlds of the sacred and secular but also from ages past and our contemporary world."

The Guest Concert is sponsored in part by a generous grant from:



NISO invites you to come enjoy a musical experience as classically beautiful as a rose.

This concert will take place on April 1 at 7:30 PM in Dordt College's B.J. Haan Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the door the evening of the concert. For more information about NISO, visit niso.dordt.edu.

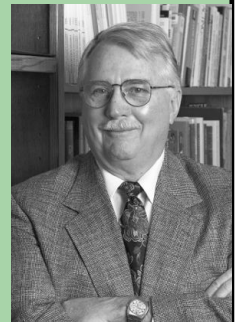
**Guest Concert
The Rose Ensemble
April 1 - 7:30 PM**

James Koldenhoven: Three Decades of Service to NISO

By Karen De Mol

NISO has been blessed over the years by people with a long-term vision for the orchestra and a long-term commitment to the success of the orchestra. Some of these dedicated people are orchestra members seen on the stage. And some are those working behind the scenes. One such person is James Koldenhoven, who for thirty years has tirelessly supported and promoted NISO in a variety of capacities.

Koldenhoven was Dean of the Humanities Division at Dordt College when Henry Duitman, Dordt Director of Instrumental Music, came to him with a vision for a regional orchestra with an educational mission, one that would include students, community members, and professionals. As Dean, Koldenhoven worked out the details for college support, not the least of which were the inclusion of directing the orchestra as part of Duitman's teaching load and the provision of the college facilities for rehearsals and concerts. That early orchestra, called the Sioux County Symphony Orchestra, was launched in 1986; most of the members came from the Sioux County community, schools,



James Koldenhoven

(cont. Koldenhoven)



and college faculty. Koldenhoven's roles included liaison with Dordt College, chief fund-raiser (Director of Development), and General Manager. He recalls signing correspondence with whichever of those titles fit the business at hand.

It was his pleasure over the years to have vision become reality in an orchestra that played increasingly difficult music at higher levels of competence and musicality, that attracted both players and audience from a wider region (which prompted the name change to the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra), and that augmented its yearly concert season with the Pops Concert, the Concert for Children, and the Guest Concert.

Koldenhoven retired from Dordt College in 1997--but not from NISO. He continued his roles as General Manager and Director of Development, using his organizational skills for day-to-day operations of the orchestra and the NISO Board and his knowledge of the community and his persuasive skills for raising monetary support from area businesses. When he stepped aside from these roles in 2012, he could point to having raised some \$250,000 for the orchestra. He recalls that even in some lean years, never once has NISO had to borrow to cover a shortfall.

Even after stepping out of those roles, Jim was involved with NISO for three more years, serving as a Board Member until December 2015.

When asked his favorite memory of these thirty years, Jim replied, "Hearing the orchestra get better, not all at once, but in steady increments every year."

For his thirty years in the roles of Dean, Director of Development, General Manager, and Board Member, steady encourager and enthusiastic supporter, NISO heartily thanks James Koldenhoven!



NISO Scholarship Recipients 2015-2016

Marissa Beaty – MOC-Floyd Valley HS

Erika Buitter – Unity Christian HS

Katie Fictorie – Western Christian HS

Abigail Rockhill – MOC-Floyd Valley HS

Victoria Tatsumi – Western Christian HS

Heather Shih – Boyden-Hull HS (not pictured)

“Czech” This Out NISO Spring Concert: “Czech-Mates”

By Natalie Dailey

The final concert of this season's *Symphonic Journey* will transport NISO and its audience of travelers to the beautiful Czech Republic. “Czech-Mates” features works by the first two Czech composers to reach world fame – Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. Both Smetana and Dvořák developed what is today considered classic Czech music. The works of

**“I love Czech music.”
-Christopher Stanichar**

Dvořák especially incorporate rhythms of folk music from the surrounding country to give his music a unique and still-popular sound. NISO will be performing Dvořák's *Symphony No. 6 in D Major*, one of his first larger works to receive international attention. Smetana's “Dance of the Comedians,” a piece from his comic opera titled *The Bartered Bride*, will be performed in conjunction with NISYO.

Another composer who will be featured in NISO's Spring Concert is Mozart, who spent time in Prague on multiple occasions during his life. In fact, the citizens of Prague were often the most enthusiastic supporters of Mozart's music, instantly appreciating the beauty in his compositions that others would not understand until years later. Clarinetist Christopher Hill will join NISO for “Czech-Mates” to perform Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto*.



Christopher Hill

Hill has held his position as principal clarinetist with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra for 27 seasons. He is also the conductor of the Sioux Falls Municipal Band. NISO Principal Conductor Christopher Stanichar calls Hill “a wonderful musician” and “a fantastic performer.”

Stanichar also says, “I love Czech music. I've performed in Prague on many occasions, and performing [the music] in Sioux Center is a real treat. There is more of a wild side to this music; here is a folk tendency.” The folksy sound and dance rhythms are the defining characteristic of this fun, unique, Eastern European experience.

“Czech-Mates” will be presented on April 19 at 7:30 PM in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the door the evening of the concert. For more information about NISO, visit niso.dordt.edu.

**Season tickets for
2016-2017 available
April 19**

THANK YOU
to EVERYONE who contributed to this
year's NISO Celebrity Conductor Contest!

And the winner is... Josh Bowar!

A special thanks to all of the
2016 Celebrity Conductor Candidates
Alan Laird and Marlowe Van Ginkel

These celebrities raised over \$4,000 for NISO!



Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra

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