“People Will Say We’re in Love”...with NISO’s Winter Pops Concert – “The Classics of Rodgers and Hammerstein”  
by Natalie Dailey

From the stars in the sky to the ones on the stage, the next concert in NISO’s Symphonic Journey will take audiences around the globe through the well-loved music of composers Rodgers and Hammerstein. “It’s a journey everywhere they take you,” said Principal Conductor Christopher Stanichar, “from the New York Broadway scene to musicals in Oklahoma and Thailand.” This season’s Winter Pops Concert will feature songs from stage and film musicals Oklahoma!, The King and I, The Sound of Music, and more.

Joining NISO on this journey are vocalists Shannon Salyards (soprano), Pamela De Haan (mezzo-soprano), Russell Svenningsen (tenor), and Brandon Hendrickson (bass) in order to bring the songs to life. Stanichar described these guest vocalists as “favorites,” noting each has worked with NISO in the past and that they “work well together.” Music Director Bradley Miedema also stated that Salyards, De Haan, Svenningsen, and Hendrickson “are some of the best vocal instructors in the region.”

This concert will also feature the best conductor in the region—or at least the one with the most votes! The winner of NISO’s annual Celebrity Guest Conductor Contest will appear after the intermission to lead the orchestra in “Colonel Bogey March” by Kenneth J. Alford (also known as Lieutenant F. J. Ricketts), which has been used in over forty films. Though not a Rodgers and Hammerstein piece, “Colonel Bogey March” has “the same flavor,” according to Stanichar, and promises to fit in well.

With songs from favorite musicals on stage and on screen, this season’s Winter Pops Concert is guaranteed to be nostalgic, upbeat, and entertaining for all ages. Tickets may be purchased at the door the evening of the concert. For more information about NISO, visit niso.dordt.edu.

| Shannon Salyards | Pamela De Haan | Russell Svenningsen | Brandon Hendrickson |

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A Note from the General Manager

By Karen De Mol

At the beginning of the year leading into NISO’s 30th anniversary, I express my deep gratitude for:

- The vision of all involved with NISO from the early beginnings on for a symphony orchestra in our area
- The strong sense of community in the orchestra, in which musicians from students through professionals unite in music-making in common purpose and common joy
- The dedicated work of the orchestra musicians and their director in preparing magnificent music excellently played for the enrichment of both themselves and our community
- The artistry and imagination of the principal conductor and the music director in selecting music and arranging guest artists
- The schools who partner with NISO to enhance music education through the Concert for Children
- The NISO board members and staff who oversee operations and development
- The Friends who raise money for scholarships, and the students who benefit from them
- The strong support of persons, businesses, and institutions in personal time, financial support, and facilities, which has enabled the orchestra to grow into a well-established and notable orchestra—a cultural gem!
Celebrity Conductor Contest
By Shirley Matheis

NISO’s fifth Celebrity Conductor Fundraiser will be held on January 30, 2016, in connection with the Winter Pops Concert. Prominent individuals have been invited to vie for the honor of conducting an orchestral selection that evening. They are vigorously garnering support from family and friends by soliciting donations for NISO. Each dollar donated will constitute one vote. The winning candidate will demonstrate his skill after the intermission.

Josh Bowar - Sioux Center
Bowar is the assistant principal at Sioux Center Christian School. His wife Alicia is an administrative assistant at the Sioux Center Public Library. Josh enjoys service in the community, building relationships with students and school employees, reading, drinking coffee, and helping kids. And he loves music! Josh's life and musical experience can be summarized using everyone's favorite musical scale.

DO you know that he played the alto and tenor saxophone in middle school and high school? He really can toot his own horn.

RE call that he also took piano lessons -- for only two weeks.

MI nutes away in his small hometown in South Dakota, he once played the lead role (Santa) in the elementary music program (pillow and all).

FA st forward to today: he enjoys singing in church, in the shower, and sometimes all alone in his office.

SO long ago, he also participated in swing choir, all state choir, jazz band, marching band, and a special summer musical put on by the neighborhood kids.

LA tely he enjoys hearing his nephews sing songs that may or may not make sense.

TI melines are blurry, but he once was part of a famous trio that serenaded young women at bachelorette parties.

DO nate if you want to see him make a fool of himself in front of talented, professional musicians and a packed house!

Alan Laird – Orange City
Laird grew up in Storm Lake, Iowa, and attended Northwestern College. A circuitous course brought his family back to Orange City, where he has been with the Orange City Area Health System since 1991, providing care in both Orange City and Hospers. Recently, his role grew to include Chief Medical Officer duties. Al eagerly accepted the invitation to participate in the Conductor Contest, believing it to be his chance to keep up with his talented family. His wife is a ventriloquist and children’s entertainer, and both of his sons are involved in the entertainment business. Al has always enjoyed music and participated in high school band and choir. His greatest achievement was being selected as 1st chair baritone saxophone of his high school jazz band. He does admit that there was only one chair and that nobody else wanted to march with that huge baritone sax! Al is happy to have this opportunity to support NISO. He hopes you will support him in this political season. Unlike other candidates currently seen on TV, he promises that, should he win, there will not be four years of voter regret. Please vote for Dr. Laird as this year’s guest conductor. He asks you to open your hearts and your pocket books. He urges you to vote early and vote often.

Marlowe Van Ginkel – Rock Valley
Van Ginkel was born and raised in Rock Valley, where he and his wife, Pam, still live. They have four adult children and thirteen beautiful grandchildren living in Arizona, Iowa, and South Dakota. Marlowe earned a degree in social work at Dordt College in 1973. His entire career since then has been serving in various capacities at Hope Haven, where he currently is the Director of Church and Public Relations. Marlowe has received numerous Hall of Fame and Official of the Year awards in his role as a college and high school athletic official in basketball, football, and baseball. He also has been singing second tenor and baritone in the Valley Male Chorus since 1978, and he coordinates all their concerts and spring tours. Although he has been through some tough, intense moments in his officiating career, Marlowe admits that conducting the symphony orchestra will likely be much more stressful for him! He is confident, though, that the combination of his decisive athletic judgments and his fine musical talent will equip him to be a superb symphony conductor.