

Orchestral Celebration

NISO NOTES



January 17, 2019

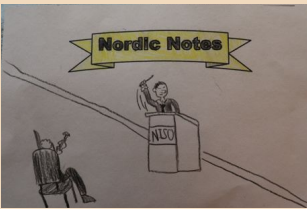
Volume 10, Issue 2– Winter

Children's Concert a Success

Allison Wordes – Staff Writer

NISO's children concert was a smashing success! Hundreds of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from local schools milled their way into Dordt's B.J. Haan auditorium in November to hear the orchestra play with Deborah Greenblatt in a concert titled *Nordic Notes*.

The best part of the Children's Concert—besides the music, of course—was the response of the students who came to watch and listen. On returning to their classrooms, many wrote a kind note to Dr. Christopher Stanichar, Dr. Karen De Mol, and NISO orchestra members, with illustrations to match. But their enjoyment of the concert was evident—and they will be back to hear more from NISO in the future.

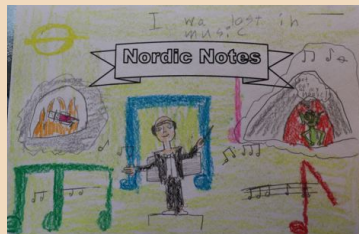


According to De Mol, the students were “very attentive” during the concert. They showed excitement and interest not only in the instruments and the music, but also in the performers themselves. Some of the letters were addressed to specific performers who were related to or friends of the students. To performer Spencer Van Ravenswaay, McKinzie wrote, “You did good at playing whatever instrument you played in the NISO concert” accompanied by a picture of “whatever instrument” she meant.

For some, it was their first NISO concert. In one letter, Sydney wrote, “I have never gone to a NISO concert before. I'm in orchestra.” Lily wrote, “[I]t was a good concert. I play in an orchestra but that was way better.” Others wrote that they play other instruments, like piano or violin. David wrote to performer Dane Hibma, “I LOVE the cello. A lot of my friends play the cello. I play the violin. Thank you for being in the orchestra.”

Some letters complimented Maestro Stanichar on his conducting. Jay wrote, “I love your conducting—it's awesome.” And Lucas wrote, “Dear Mr. Stanichar. Keep up the good work.” Ryan wrote, “I like conductors because they look like they are dancing in front of an orchestra and telling them the notes.”

Some children had questions for Stanichar. Kianna wrote, “I love how you use your hands for conducting. It is so cool. I want to be a conductor.” Gage asked, “How many years were you conducting? What age did you start conducting?” Ben wrote, “I loved every bit of it. I have a question: how do you hold all that pressure in front of that stage? I bet I can't go on stage and bravely conduct as good as you.” Isaac wrote, “Is it fun to burst out of the doors?”



The favorite piece and subject of many illustrations was “In the Hall of the Mountain King.” Willem wrote, “Your concert was the best concert I have ever been to. My favorite song you played was ‘In the Hall of the Mountain King.’” Other favorites were “The Brave Tin Soldier” and “Finlandia.”

Thank you to friends of NISO for helping organize and direct the busloads of energetic students. The help of so many willing supporters makes the event run smoothly year after year—and maybe entice the students to come back for more NISO orchestral performances.

Piano Dreamer – Winter Pops Concert

Allison Wordes – Staff Writer

This season's Winter Pops Concert will feature conductor and pianist Jan (pronounced “Yan”) Mulder— the “Piano Dreamer”



Jan Mulder, piano

Originally from the Netherlands, Mulder is coming to Dordt's B.J. Haan Auditorium to play homage to the beginnings of the Dutch-rooted Midwestern college. Mulder began training for his “dream” career by taking piano and organ lessons at Rotterdam and Utrecht conservatories in the Netherlands.

In 2007, he began to conduct the orchestra while performing on the piano during his concerts—something both ambitious and unique for pianists. He has recorded

nearly 210 CDs in collaboration with the London Symphony and Moscow Symphony orchestras. His most recent CD, *Love Divine V*, which came out in 2018, was an album created with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Mulder performs over 1093 of his own compositions and orchestral arrangements. His style is described on his website, ianmulder.us, as a new twist on classical music, with the feel of film soundtrack. Some of the arrangements he will be performing at the upcoming concert include “Be Thou My Vision,” “In Christ Alone,” and “Theme from Warsaw Concerto.”

Mulder currently lives in Orlando, Florida, composing and performing. His career has taken him to the United States, but his music has traveled even farther. His performances are broadcast on PBS and can be viewed in Great Britain and South Africa. According to his website, he also owns one of the largest and most exclusive grand pianos in the world—a hand-built Italian Fazioli F308, which is the longest grand piano available (10 ft 2 in) and has a fourth foot pedal.

In addition to his playing and conducting, Mulder has also started a foundation for aspiring young musicians called the Beethoven Foundation. Under his direction and with proceeds from his concerts, the organization helps provide young musicians with the resources they need to help them grow and fulfill their dreams.

Come and enjoy Jan Mulder's performance with NISO on Saturday, January 26, at 7:30pm in Dordt College's B.J. Haan auditorium. Tickets may be purchased at the door the evening of the concert. For more NISO information, visit niso.dordt.edu.

Winter Pops Concert
January 26
7:30 PM



NISO Foundation Sets Goal for 2020

Brian Van Engen – Foundation Chair

The NISO Foundation was started in 2016 to provide for the ongoing support and enhancement of the symphony. The Foundation board has set a goal of raising \$50,000 by the end of 2020. Donors contributing cash or pledges of \$5000 or more by the end of December 2020 will earn the designation of being a charter member of the NISO Foundation. In addition, the board established a series of giving levels, and donors will be recognized according to their level of financial support. The levels of support are cumulative, so donors are recognized for their continued support for the symphony over time. If you would like to become a charter member of the NISO Foundation, or would simply like more information, feel free to contact Eric Rankin (eric.rankin@edwardjones.com or 712-722-0618); Brian Van Engen (bengen@sc-law.com or 712-7222424); or the NISO office (niso@dordt.edu or 712-722-6230).

Celebrity Conductor Contest

NISO's eighth Celebrity Conductor Fundraiser will be held on January 26, 2019, 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 their conducting skill after the intermission. Donations can be sent to the NISO Office at 498 4th Ave NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250.



Steve Grond – Hull

I grew up in Sioux Center and graduated from Sioux Center Community High School. I participated in both choir and instrumental music all four years of high school. My choir career is best characterized by valuable advice from my instructor: Focus on the rests and try to sing as quietly as possible. In instrumental music, I ascended all the way to second section by my senior year.

I earned my bachelor's degree from Northwestern College, my master's from South Dakota State University, and my specialist degree from the University of Sioux Falls; none of the degrees was in music, however.

I currently serve as the superintendent of Boyden-Hull Community School District. I have been married to Greta, the Director of the Library at Northwestern College, for the past 20 years. We have four daughters: Elly, a sophomore at UNI; Maggie, a senior at Boyden-Hull; Lydia, a sophomore at Boyden-Hull; and Josie, a freshman at Boyden-Hull. Between school activities and job responsibilities, I have not had much of a chance to create or conduct music. I have, though, beat my daughters in Nintendo Rock Band competitions, which surely qualifies me to conduct an orchestra. **Help Steve ascend all the way to the conductor's podium! Vote for Steve!**

Nancy Landegent – Orange City



Nancy Landegent is a life-long resident of Orange City, born and raised. She's the oldest of six children born to JR and Audrey Siebersma. Nancy is the Receptionist and Office Assistant at Diamond Vogel Paint in Orange City. Music has been an important part of life for Nancy and her late husband, Dan Landegent. They could often be seen at the piano playing 4-hand pieces for Sunday evening worship services at their church. Singing since she was 5 years old, Nancy has been involved in many choirs, acting or directing Tulip Festival Night Shows for 40 years, and most recently portraying Corrie Ten Boom in Orange City First Reformed's presentation of "Ten Boom." It would be an honor for Nancy to be this year's NISO guest conductor. **Nancy deserves a baton! Vote for Nancy!**



Katricia Meendering – Sheldon

A Sheldon native, Katricia (Noack) Meendering began her entertainment career in the December 1968 Christmas program at the Sheldon United Methodist Church as Baby Jesus!

Learning to sing at family gatherings at an early age and in the church pew, music became a passion and gift she enjoys sharing. The middle of five children in the family, she was usually the family comedian. It wasn't until the late 80's she began to share her musical gift of voice with others. Since then, she has been the weekend "gigger", professional tambourinist with business cards to prove it, and praise team member.

Finding a new passion in musicals, her first role was Annie Oakley, in *Annie Get Your Gun* with the Sheldon Community Theater in 2010. Being a pushover for the spotlight, enjoying roles in *The Pajama Game*, *The Music Man*, her favorite and last role was portraying Patsy Cline, in Off, Off Broadway's production of *Always, Patsy Cline*. A favorite line from this role and one that is true to herself, "I'm not doin' too bad for a girl who can't read a note and doesn't know what key she sings in..."

A wife, mother, bonus-mom, grandma, daughter, sister, niece, volunteer and leader, Katricia is the longest serving Mayor for the city of Sheldon, Iowa as well as the Children's Ministry Coordinator with the Sheldon United Methodist Church. **Help Katricia achieve her next goal! Vote for Katricia!**

T.J. Speer – Sioux Center



T.J. grew up in Sioux Center. As the son of an elementary music teacher, he learned to play piano, bass guitar and tuba. Music has always been a part of life for T.J. Although the performances are now limited to the shower or a car, he still enjoys music. After a brief sabbatical to Sioux Falls for seven years, T.J. and his wife Lisa moved home to Sioux Center in 2014. T.J. and Lisa have two girls, Adalyn, age 7, and Stella, age 3. Taking after their mother and Grandma Speer, they both enjoy singing and provide regular performances in the living room. Also the son of a banker, T.J. is employed by American State Bank in Sioux Center. He has served on the NISO board since 2015. He thanks NISO for the opportunity to be a conductor and is sure the years of watching his mother direct church choir will be quite beneficial. **The place for this tuba player is on the podium! Vote for T.J.!**



NORTHWEST IOWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Truffles For Your Valentine Sweetheart
Want a special treat for the ones that you love?
Friends of NISO will be taking orders for Valentines Day truffles at the Winter Pops Concert.
Watch for more info and order forms in the Winter Pops Program.

