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Moonlit In The Sun's Music Notes

A bimonthly newsletter about music and performances

www.moonlitinthesun.com

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November/December 2008

Did you know?

You've probably heard of Barber Shop Quartets. Well, before barber shop quartets, there were barber shop musicians. Back in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the barber shop was a place to get your hair cut, teeth pulled, and blood let. Yes, a lovely place – not at all like the salons of today! There's a reason why *Sweeney Todd* got its start. As this was a somewhat fearful place to go, barbers would soothe their clientèle by providing live music. In fact Vivaldi's father was a professional barber and amateur violinist. According to *The Amadeus Book of the Violin*, by Kolneder, "membership lists in church orchestras in Genoa often listed a member's occupation as a 'garzone del barbiere' (i.e. a barber's assistant). Think about that the next time you go to Carlos' Salon and Day Spa in Leesburg or Cielo Salon in Lansdowne!



*"The Musicale, Barber Shop,"
by Thomas Hicks (1823-1890)*

Reader's Corner

This section is dedicated to answer questions of our readers. If you have a question, email us at newsletter@moonlitinthesun.com!

Do string players ever play with the wood of the bow rather than the hair? It makes a cool sound! ~T. MacDonald, Purcellville, VA

Yes, we do! It is a technique called *col legno* – if you know Italian, you know that means “with the wood.” We basically turn the bow upside down and bounce it on the string, making a high-pitched percussive sound. When an entire section of string players does this, the effect is quite eerie and can make a listener envision a band of dancing skeletons. In fact, Hector Berlioz used this effect in *Symphonie Fantastique*. The piece was written to portray a story using music only about an artist who is so depressed he overdoses on opium and has wild hallucinations. According to Berlioz's program notes, in the last movement the main character finds himself at a witches' sabbath with sorcerers and monsters of every kind who have gathered for his funeral, and in the midst of it all, the strings are playing *col legno*.

Learning music

As this is the last newsletter of 2008, we thought we would give you a crossword quiz to review how to read the notes on the staff. So, pull out your old issues of Music Notes, and go to it! Don't have the old issues? That's okay, you can find them at www.moonlitinthesun.com. Write the name of each note in the correct box:



ACROSS:



DOWN:



How does a musician know how fast to play the notes, and how long should each note be? You guessed it, look for that in the next issue of *Music Notes*!

Looking for a viola, violin, cello, or piano teacher? Contact us at 571.223.5321.

Make your own

Humankind has made some fascinating instruments. One of these is a tube that when you turn it from end to end, it makes the beautiful sound of rain. Rain Sticks are made in South America out of a dried cactus branch. The thorns are pulled off a live cactus and stuck in the branch in a spiral. Pebbles are put in the branch, and the ends are plugged with wood. The branch is then decorated with sketches of the sky, earth, animals, and/or plants. These instruments are played in the hopes of bringing rain.

We can make a rain stick by using a paper towel tube or gift wrap tube. Stick one inch nails or pins (you will need about 60) about one half inch apart along the spiral seam of the tube being careful not to stick the other side of the tube. Tape these nails in place. Plug one end of the tube using a circular sheet of paper taped or glued to the tube. Fill the tube with about one half cup of dried beans, corn, and/or rice. Plug the other end of the tube. The tube can then be decorated. Play the instrument by tilting it slowly to one side producing a sound like rain.

Upcoming Moonlit In The Sun Performances

- **Sunday, November 23 at 3pm** – Come see our own Carla Deniz in the Loudoun Symphony Chamber Players as they perform Arnold Bax's Nonet for 2 violins, viola, cello, bass, clarinet, oboe, flute, and harp. Location: the Franklin Park Performing Arts Center in Purcellville, VA. Tickets for adults are \$12 at the door.
- **December 6 from 1:00-3:00pm at The Alternative Gift Fair!** Join us for festive holiday music as we usher in the holidays. Location: Sona Bank at the corner of King and Market in downtown Leesburg. Visit their website at: <http://www.saintgabriels.net/AGF-2008/index.htm>
- Visit our website for updates to our schedule!



Moonlit in the Sun is available for receptions, weddings, private parties, and corporate events! Give us a call to arrange for us to play at your next event! Call us at 571.223.5321 or email us at info@moonlitinthesun.com Visit our website at: www.moonlitinthesun.com

Upcoming concerts of interest:

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra

- [Sunday, November 23 at 3pm](#) Loudoun Symphony Chamber Players will be performing in the Franklin Park Performing Arts Center in Purcellville, VA. Tickets for adults are \$12 at the door.
- [Saturday, December 13 at 8 pm](#) Loudoun Symphony will be performing their holiday concert at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, VA. The concert will feature soprano soloist Courtney Ross in music of the season including a couple of "Sleigh Rides", wooden soldiers, ice skaters, a classic Christmas Pastorale, and our Christmas Singalong. Tickets for adults are \$18 at the door.
- [Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm](#) Loudoun Symphony will be performing their holiday concert at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, VA. See above for details.

Concerts at Shenandoah Conservatory

(All concerts in Armstrong Concert Hall unless otherwise noted)

- [Friday, November 14 at 7 pm](#) Shenandoah Conservatory Wind Ensemble will perform works by Paul Hindemith, Joel Puckett, and Michael Daugherty. Tickets are \$15.
- [Sunday, November 16 at 3 pm](#) Anagnoson & Kinton Piano Duo will be performing. Tickets are \$18.
- [Sunday, December 7 at 3 pm](#) Audubon Quartet will be performing. Tickets are \$18.
- [Monday, December 8 at 8 pm](#) Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra will be performing works by Beethoven, Mendelschn, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and Bernstein. Free.
- [Thursday, January 22 at 7 pm](#) Guest Artist McFish a viola and harpsichord duo perform at Goodson Recital Hall. Free.
- [Sunday, January 25 at 7 pm](#) Conservatory Faculty Member Donovan Stokes presents a double bass concert. Free.

Waterford Concert Series at the Lucketts Community Center

- [Sunday, November 23 at 4 pm](#) St. Petersburg String Quartet will perform. Tickets are \$25.

Moonlit In The Sun performances

- [December 6 at 1 to 3 pm](#). The Alternative Gift Fair at Sona Bank at the corner of King and Market in downtown Leesburg.

Questions? Send us your questions about music or ideas for articles! Also, send us any articles you've written that you think we might be interested in using in our next newsletter. Email us at newsletter@moonlitinthesun.com

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