

Interlude

Summer 2012: A crescendo of new sounds connects with audiences across the region

Under the guidance and direction of new Artistic Director Gil Rose, Monadnock Music recently completed its 47th season. Rose joined the organization last February with stellar experience under his belt, having worked as artistic director for both Boston Modern Orchestra Project and Opera Boston. “Programming, rehearsing and performing music for my first season at Monadnock Music was a singular thrill,” states Gil Rose. “It all happened so quickly, but the memories will stay with me for a long time. I look forward to future programs and memories yet imagined.”

“I’m really very proud of everyone who worked to make this Festival happen, especially Gil and our Trustees” says Executive Director William Chapman. This season Monadnock Music provided guests with new and diverse offerings. Highlights included Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* with the Monadnock Sinfonietta, Schubert’s *Winterreise* with baritone Sanford Sylvan, and the return of opera to Monadnock Music.

Considered one of the biggest highlights of the season by Chapman, the two chamber operas by Dominick Argento – “The Boor” and “A Water Bird Talk” – made a bold statement. “It’s different in scale from anything Monadnock Music has done in more than a decade,” Chapman said. “It’s great when you hear belly laughs coming from the audience. It doesn’t get better than that.”

Violinist Gabriela Diaz, of the newly formed Monadnock Quartet and several Boston-based ensembles, finds the enthusiasm of the audiences refreshing. “You know your audience is coming with expectations of having a great listening experience”, says Diaz. “You feel like you are playing for people who really want to be there, which made performing here such a thrill”.

“...the possibilities are endless”



Heather Buck and James Maddalena are cast members in “The Boor” at the Colonial Theatre in Keene.

Photo: Paul Marrota

The smaller venues, used for Village Concerts, allowed for a more intimate and engaging experience. Concert-goers and performers alike got to mingle at receptions after the concerts. “The Peterborough Town House was perfect for larger productions,” says Chapman. “Village Concerts enable us to explore the rich chamber music repertory. Gil feels that the possibilities are endless.” This strategy paid off with many concerts so crowded that staff had to make room for overflow.

“I think it’s very rare in our world and in our cultural exercises, which tend to be serious and strenuous, to find comfort linked to excellence as it was in these concerts,” says Edith Milton, an avid Monadnock Music attendee, who for over 40 years has watched as the organization has grown from a group

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of musicians making informal recordings, to one of the most important music festivals in New England.

Using the challenges and successes of this season as a guide, Monadnock Music looks forward to next summer's season. As it approaches its 50th anniversary in 2016, the group is committed to bringing great music to the region.

According to Chapman, Monadnock Music will continue to strengthen both artistically and institutionally, from developing a new record label to devising even more compelling programs to draw in a larger and more diverse audience.



Gil Rose leads the Monadnock Sinfonietta on Opening Night at the Peterborough Town House. Photo: Michael Lutch



Gil Rose with members of the award-winning Claremont Trio.



Monadnock Music Trustee Kenneth Appel speaks with clarinetist Pascal Archer at a post-concert reception.

Gala Benefit moved to 2013

Monadnock Music's Gala Benefit, honoring founding Executive Director Jocelyn Bolle, has been postponed until next spring. Originally slated for October 19, a replacement date will be announced this winter. If you are interested in serving on the gala committee or sponsoring this event, please contact Executive Director Will Chapman at will@monadnockmusic.org



Intern Jack Washington announces the beginning of the concert at Deering Community Church.



You can make a difference!

The Keene Sentinel says it all: "With school music programs and arts-based non-profit groups among those taking a financial hit in the suffering economy, efforts like those of Monadnock Music go a long way toward keeping the arts accessible to everyone. And that's music to our ears." To sustain the high level of programming, engage the finest performers, and continue offering our educational programs, we depend on your generous support. Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated. Contribute today by calling 603-924-7610 or visiting www.monadnockmusic.org. Thank you!

Aaron Engebretson in Argento's "A Water Bird Talk." Photo: Paul Marrota

Monadnock Music's New Record Label

On the heels of a successful summer season, Monadnock Music announces that it will launch its own commercial record label, giving a wider audience the opportunity to experience the stellar performances local audiences have come to enjoy. Dominick Argento's chamber opera "The Boor," performed July 29 at the Colonial Theatre, was recorded last summer. Chamber works by Virgil Thomson will be committed to disk this fall in recording sessions at the WGBH studios. Both recordings will be released in 2013.

Monadnock Music artists in the Fraser Performance Studio at WGBH in Brighton (MA).



Behind the Scenes...



Will Chapman with Eleanor Briggs at the cast party following the performance of two Argento operas at the Colonial Theatre.



Aaron Engebretson costume fitting

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Donor profile:

A conversation with John Shonle & Shirley Smith

John Shonle and his wife Shirley Smith moved to the Monadnock region in 2000. For years, John taught at the college level and also was a businessman and entrepreneur. Generous donors since 2008, we recently caught up with John and Shirley to discuss Monadnock Music and their passionate support of the Village Concerts.

How did your relationship with Monadnock Music start?

My wife, Shirley, and I began attending the concerts in 2007, and we have been hooked ever since. At the first few concerts Shirley and I decided that we wanted to cover our share, but as time went on we wanted to help other people enjoy the concerts as much as we did, so we started making larger contributions.

Tell us about your past musical experiences?

I was introduced to classical music at the age of five, as my family listened to the Metropolitan Opera

radio broadcasts every Saturday afternoon. Later in my life, Shirley and I attended concerts in Colorado and Portland (ME), but neither city had anything comparable to Monadnock Music.

What is it that keeps you coming back?

The Village Concerts. The churches and meeting houses in which Monadnock Music performs are perfect venues for chamber music. The experience is up close and personal, and the acoustics are terrific. It's important to us that these concerts remain free and available to all. Of course, we enjoy going to the bigger shows, but the Village Concerts are why we started our contributions and continue to be involved with Monadnock Music.

Which past Monadnock Music concerts are your favorites?

There have been so many over the years. We loved the concerts featuring the new Monadnock Quartet this past summer. We look forward to hearing what they bring to future festivals.

John Shonle & Shirley Smith

