

The **Independence Sinfonia**, now in its 11th year, is a non-profit community orchestra comprised of a select group of volunteer musicians from the Greater Philadelphia Area, who enjoy playing music together and for community audiences. The ensemble's flexible instrumentation allows the group to perform a wide range of music written for the chamber orchestra repertoire. The Independence Sinfonia offers approximately four concerts each season presented in near-by locations, including Jenkintown High School and All Hallows church. The orchestra rehearses most Sunday evenings in the parish hall at All Hallows. Interested listeners are always welcome.

Gabriel Gordon, Conductor and Music Director, made his professional conducting debut with the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea in 1998, and soon after formed the Chamber Orchestra at Tower Hill, with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and New Jersey Symphony. Mr. Gordon has conducted the Atlantic Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, The New Symphony, and Vidin Philharmonic in Europe. He is a founding member of the DaPonte String Quartet, directs the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, The Old York Road Symphony, and conducts for the Manhattan School of Music. Mr. Gordon made his Kimmel Center debut in the summer of 2004 as Assistant Director of the Strings International Music Festival.

Frank James Staneck, composer, earned his Bachelor's Degree from West Chester University and his Master's Degree in music from Temple University. His original works have been premiered by the Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey, Greater South Jersey Chorus and West Jersey Chamber Music Society. His work has been performed at a variety of venues including New York's Lincoln Center. Mr. Staneck teaches at the Perkins Center for the Arts in Marlton, New Jersey, and Rutgers University, Camden. He is the U.S. Chairman of the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society.

Forrest Rowland, English horn soloist, and oboist, began his musical education as a young man, with Marion Norcross, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Recognized early as an outstanding performer, he won several statewide and regional honors. After graduation from Haverford College, Forrest pursued his interest in music in a commercial context, working in several music stores eventually founding his own business. He is now employed at the Law Library on the Camden campus of Rutgers University. Throughout the years, he has been active as a performer in diverse styles and settings, ranging from sacred music to Broadway, and chamber ensembles to orchestras. Forrest currently serves as President of the Independence Sinfonia.

Acknowledgements

The **Independence Sinfonia** expresses sincere thanks to the **All Hallows Vestry**, and to **Mark Ainsworth, Rector**, for their cooperation and gracious hospitality in providing rehearsal space for the orchestra this season. The orchestra is especially grateful to **Rose Davis, All Hallows' organist and music director**, whose kindness and enthusiastic support for the past six years, has helped make our concerts possible. To **Karen Reid, church secretary**, and **Ted Hojnowski, sexton**, thank-you for all your assistance this season.

Music for today's performance is on loan from the Edward Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music, Free Library of Philadelphia.

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Dr. William Fullard,
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Visit our Web-Site: IndependenceSinfonia.com

ALL HALLOWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Presents

THE INDEPENDENCE SINFONIA

Gabriel Gordon, Conductor

Forest Rowland, English Horn



TRINITY SUNDAY

June 11, 2006
3:00 pm

THE ORCHESTRA

Gabriel Gordon, Conductor
Jeff Bradbury, Assistant Conductor

Violin

William Phillips
Concertmaster

Kim Dolan
Gail Miller
Stephan Kadlecek
Eden Kainer
Amanda Godshall

Viola

Jeff Bradbury
Margot Cohn

Cello

Julie Wiberg
Tony Gizzi
Megan Stauffer

Bass

Alfred Finck
Heather Dickson

Flute

Lisa Davis
Anders Hansen

Clarinet

William Fullard
Lila Finck

Bassoon

Jay Tinkleman
Judy Frank

Horn

Shelly Berg
Kevin Sykes
Rashida Nannetti
Kim Newell

Contrabassoon

Richard Carroll

Oboe

Forrest Rowland
Lynda Cantor

Music Librarian

Kim Dolan

Concert Program

Lila Finck
Karen Reid

All contributions to today's concert will benefit
All Hallows Church

Thank you!

PROGRAM

Concerto for English Horn and Strings

FRANK JAMES STANECK

Forrest Rowland, English Horn

Serenade in Eb Major op. 7 for Winds

RICHARD STRAUSS

A Suite for Ursula

FRANK JAMES STANECK

- I Allegro*
- II Lento Espresso*
- III Allegro con Brio*

TODAY'S CONCERT IS DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF

John H. Ralston Jr. 1936-2006

PROGRAM NOTES

Concerto for English Horn and Strings

Frank James Stanek (1954-)

(Gloucester, Oxford, and Stratford-upon-Avon)

It has been said that the English Horn (or *Cor Anglais*) is neither English or a horn, however this concerto actually has everything to do with England. Many of the tunes came to me while driving in and around Gloucester, Oxford, and Stratford-Upon-Avon, through the beautiful Cotswolds region of England, and other themes are reminiscence of the time spent there. Also, the English Horn possesses very natural pastoral qualities. These qualities are employed to perfection in the wonderful music of English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, whose music I greatly admire. *F.J. Stanek*

Serenade in Eb Major for Winds, op. 7

Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Richard Strauss (not related to the "Viennese Waltz" family) is familiar to audiences for works that include *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Don Juan*, and *Also Sprach Zarathustra*. A prolific composer throughout his long life, Strauss wrote many instrumental works, concertos and songs. He experienced both World Wars as well as the dawn of the atomic age.

Strauss was born in Munich Germany into a wealthy family that encouraged his talent and education. His father was the most renowned horn player of the day. Strauss began to compose when he was very young, influenced by the music of Brahms, Wagner and Schumann. He wrote *The Serenade for Winds* when he was in his teens. It is a one-movement work in sonata form that begins gently, followed by a lively middle section, and concludes with a sonorous, peaceful ending.

A Suite for Ursula

Frank James Stanek (1958-)

Composed in 1994, *A Suite for Ursula* was written for Ursula Vaughan-Williams, poet, author and widow of the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. It was scored for string quartet/quintet or string orchestra. In 1995, the work premiered at the Perkins Center for the Arts in Collingswood, New Jersey by the Divertimento String Quartet. The Independence Sinfonia is the first ensemble to perform *A Suite for Ursula* arranged for string orchestra.