

# LSO finishes season with 'The Spirit of Spring'

On Saturday evening, the Lima Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Crafton Beck, brought a close to its 2009-10 season with a concert titled "The Spirit of Spring."

This title was quite ironic given the cold temperatures both inside and out of the performance hall. However, Beck in his special way brought a sense of warmth to this concert with his wit and comedic timing.

The concert opened with the Johann S. Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto no. 2," a grouping of instrumental works that Bach presented as a gift to the Margrave of Brandenburg-Schweidt in 1721.

The second of this grouping was composed for violin, flute, oboe and trumpet soloists. The soloists were Michael Houff, violin, Erin Grim, flute, Terri Rivetti, oboe, and Stephen Campbell, trumpet, all principal players in Lima Symphony. Beck did well with keeping an orchestra of this size at an appropriate dynamic level to support and showcase the soloists.

The challenge for the soloists was to find a way to balance each other with such differences in tim-

## MUSIC REVIEW

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bre. It was often difficult to hear the flute in moments when all soloists were playing together. Although the cold temperature in the auditorium may have impacted the tuning in some way, the performance was well-handled and a lovely start to the concert.

Franz Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" was the true highlight of the concert.

Beck presented his David Letterman-inspired Top 10 reasons why Schubert did not complete the symphony, which included such reasons as "he misplaced it," "he forgot about it," "just like his mother always said, he never finished anything," "he thought it was drivel," and the No. 1 reason being "he caught an unspeakable disease and passed away."

This reason was partially true as Schubert died six years later; however, he just lost focus and

was not able to finish. As usual, Beck has a way of making audiences feel as if they are guests in his home and he would just like to provide them with great entertainment during their visit.

The orchestra brought the two movements of this piece to life. Each orchestral section was featured in glorious melodies and had the ability to play these melodies with a unison sound that was remarkable. As the melodies were passed from section to section, there was a seamless transition as each group played with the same level of intensity and sincerity. It was a treat to hear.

Wolfgang Mozart's "Great Mass in C minor" was the completion of the program.

Beck led the orchestra with soloists who showcased the talent of northwest Ohio — Kirsten Osbun-Manley, Julia Szabo, Christopher Schioll and Sean David Cooper. The Lima Symphony Chorus and the Bowling Green State University Choral Society joined forces under the direction of Dr. Mark Munson to provide the chorus for this work.

The spirit of spring that had been

so wonderfully captured during the first half of the program was lost here in the second. The orchestra played extremely well and maintained the proper balance to showcase the chorus and soloists. Unfortunately, the energy that was nicely established at the start of the piece began to fade by the end of the piece. Some slow tempos and overall heavy feeling led to this reduction in perceived energy. Two highlights of the mass were the Benedictus and the Laudamus Te.

Lima Symphony is truly a treasure to the northwest Ohio community. The 2010-11 season will offer such great musical offerings as Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique," Music of the OSU Buckeyes and Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini opera choruses. It is great to know that this group is here to provide these wonderful musical offerings to this community and it will be wonderful to enjoy all that the 2010-11 season will hold.

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