

The Symphony of Southeast Texas  
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# SYMPHONY OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS



**Chelsea Tipton II**  
**Music Director**

## A little about the Academic Festival Overture

Brahms wrote the Academic Festival Overture in forced gratitude for an honorary doctorate awarded to him by the University of Breslau.

Actually, Brahms felt hassled by the whole thing: he was a homebody of sorts and outwardly disinterested in honors and awards.

A letter he received reminding him to make the work “well-orchestrated” must have made him roll his eyes... Yet his historically-inclined psyche recognized that Haydn wrote a symphony for his honorary doctorate from Oxford, and that he must also follow suit. Where Haydn’s “Oxford” Symphony was a grand and serious affair, Brahms wrote a heavily ironic work.

In a burst of humor worthy of “Dr.” Haydn, “Dr.” Brahms’s overture pastes together a number of student

fraternal songs, drinking songs, patriotic tunes, and academic hymns one after another.

The faculty were shocked and the faux-solemn potpourri contrasted markedly with the solemnity of the occasion.

The most famous part, the grand fanfare at the very end (heard in everything from cartoons to movies) is the song “Gaudeamus Igitur.”

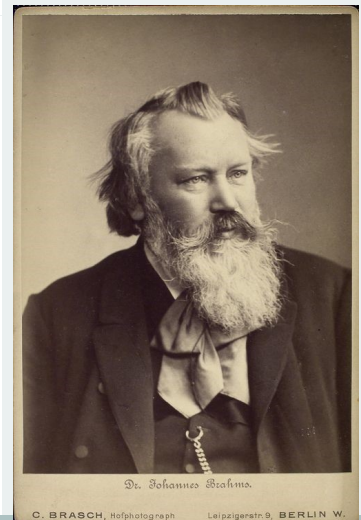
It is largely serious (life is short, long live the academy etc.), but includes verses celebrating cute girls and attacking those who don’t support fraternities.

Today the work is heard at commencement ceremonies across the world completely straight-faced.

Source: Bryan Proksch

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Dr. Johannes Brahms.  
C. BRASCH, Hofphotograph Leipzigstr. 9, BERLIN W.



## Classic Series III : February 15, 2020 The Romantic Spirit of Music

Capture the romantic spirit with this concert of Romantic classics. Toast to the spirit of Brahms' *Academic Festive Overture*, an overture written to honor his honorary doctorate degree. A combination of four student songs, the piece includes a treatment that celebrates life.

Our concert tonight also features the Fauré *Requiem*, originally programmed last season, yet unfortunately postponed due to the sudden death of SOST veteran violinist, Yu Gu.

We embrace all emotions and conclude this Romantic concert with the *Romantic Symphony* of Howard Hanson. A picturesque symphony that depicts mountains and oceans which beautifully express Hanson's love of nature.

Guest Artists: Angela Pickering and Dalton Woody  
Featuring the SOST Chorus!

Sponsored by Rosine McFaddin Wilson



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## Classic Series IV : April 4, 2020 "A Renewal of Spirit: Elgar and the Common Man"

Glinka: Overture to *Ruslan und Ludmilla*  
Elgar: Cello Concerto, op. 85, e minor  
Copland: Symphony No. 3

Spirit captures this season's music in its many forms. Our final concert displays this variety in the upbeat themes of Glinka's *Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla*, then to the deep soul-searching mood of Elgar's Cello concerto.

Cellist Julian Schwarz's masterful technique wonderfully captures the many somber moods of this masterpiece through the many hues of color only a cello can portray.

Then we celebrate the human spirit to a victorious finale with Copland's rousing *Third Symphony*. Built upon his Fanfare for the Common Man, this Copland epic celebrates the longing for an immortal spirit for humanity!

# Spotlight on: Dalton Woody and Angela Pickering

Dalton Woody is a recent graduate of the University of Houston's Moores School of Music, where he received his Master's degree in Opera Performance. Dalton continues his study of voice under Héctor Vásquez. A native of Burnsville, NC, Dalton has appeared in supporting roles with the Asheville Lyric Opera company as Action in Bernstein's *West Side Story*, Fiorello in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and the Speaker in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. While attending the Moores School of Music, Dalton was cast as Francis Nurse in Robert Ward's *The Crucible*, Cosimo in John Musto's *The Inspector*, Ali in Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*, Leandro in Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges*, and Charles Surface in the world premiere of the University of Houston's production of *The School for Scandal*. Most recently, Dalton was engaged as Fred Graham/Petruccio in *Kiss me, Kate* with the Beaumont Community Players.



Soprano Angela Pickering is a native of Southeast Texas who holds a Bachelor of Music in voice from Lamar University and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Indiana University. She has performed as a soloist with the Houston Camerata, the Houston Chamber Choir, the Beaumont Interfaith Choral Society, and with the Symphony of Southeast Texas. She previously taught voice at Lamar University for nine years, and she is still involved in the Greater Houston Chapter of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing), serving as current board president. Even though her career has shifted away from music and teaching, she still enjoys sharing her talents with her community. Currently she serves as cantorial soloist for Temple Emanuel in Beaumont and is involved in leading music at her home church, LifePoint Church of Beaumont.

# POPS 2

## We're off to See the Wizard

Travel with Dorothy, her dog Toto and her friends, as she tries to return to Kansas with the help of the Wizard of Oz. This unique presentation combines the technological magic of digital mastery to present the original movie on a widescreen, above your SOST, putting you right in the movie.

March 7, 2020

7:30PM

Julie Rogers Theatre



### WIZARD of OZ COSTUME CONTEST

**MARCH 7, 2020**  
Join us before the SOST concert for a fun-filled evening at the Julie Rogers Theatre dressed as your favorite character!

**CATEGORIES:**  
Best Dorothy  
Best Scarecrow  
Best Cowardly Lion  
Best Tin Man  
Best Good Witch  
Best Wicked Witch  
Best Group  
Best Children's Costume

**Prizes will be awarded for all categories!**

**RULES**  
March 7, 2020 from 6:30-7:15pm in the lobby of the Julie Rogers Theatre  
Contest only open to those that have purchased a ticket to the Wizard of Oz concert  
Registration will be in person starting from 6:00 - 6:30pm  
Judging will take place from 6:30-7:15pm  
Judging criteria: originality, detail and presentation

Winners will be announced after intermission and must be present to win  
Photos and video may be used by SOST for marketing purposes  
Costumes should be family-friendly; determination at the discretion of SOST management  
No weapons will be allowed  
Those not following the rules will be disqualified



# Spotlight on...

## Home for the Holidays in Beaumont and The Sounds of Christmas in Port Arthur



## Maestro's Notes

We are kicking off the second half of our season with some great masterpieces of the Romantic and American music periods concluding what has been an exciting year! Our third Classics Series concert will begin with a familiar epic work of Johannes Brahms, his *Academic Festive Overture*. When one uses the title "Overture," you expect either an opera or symphony to follow. Brahms, actually wrote this piece, sort of "tongue in cheek" as it was in recognition of his receiving an Honorary Doctorate from University of Breslau in philosophy. With his wit and charm in full force, he included several student drinking songs rather than the symphony which the University expected. The results were one of his most beloved shorter works. Cheers!



Gabriel Faure's *Requiem* is a work that stands out as one of the few choral masterpieces of this era as well as one of the only choral compositions of his career. Faure's mass for the dead, depicts the grandeur of heaven as a resting place of peace and comfort. Joining us for this concert will be guest soloists, Dalton Woody and Angela Pickering. This performance will be a memorial for our deceased violinist, Yu Gu, particularly fitting as it was to be scheduled to be performed on the concert last April when he passed.

We conclude this concert with a wonderfully romantic symphony by American composer, Howard Hanson. Filled with lush harmonies and a lyrically haunting melody, Hanson's *Second Symphony* has provided the romantic background for movies, including *Alien*. So impressed, by the work, famous movie composer, John Williams, was influenced by Hanson's opus to pattern his music for *E.T.* after it. Romanticism at its best, it is the perfect Valentine's Day evening music with your SOST!

**Pre-Concert Talk at 6:40pm**



# MUSICAL SPIRITS

## CZARS, THE WIZARD AND THE COMMON MAN

### 2019/20 SEASON

#### Classic Series I

September 14, 2019 7:30PM  
 The Titans of the Classics: Beethoven and Shostakovich  
 Beethoven Concerto No. 5  
 Shostakovich Symphony No. 5  
 Guest Artist Philippe Bianconi, Piano

#### Classic Series II

November 16, 2019 7:30PM  
 A Celebration of Mozart, Rossini and SOST!  
 Rossini Barber of Seville  
 Vaughan Williams Suite for Viola and Orchestra  
 Mozart Symphony No. 39  
 Featured Artist Whitney Bullock, SOST Principal Violist

#### Classic Series III

February 15, 2020 7:30PM  
 The Romantic Spirit of Music  
 Brahms Academic Festival Overture  
 Fauré Requiem  
 Hanson Symphony No. 2  
 Featuring the SOST Chorus

#### Classic Series IV

April 4, 2020 7:30PM  
 A Renewal of Spirit: Elgar and the Common Man  
 Glinka Overture to Ruslan und Ludmilla  
 Elgar Cello Concerto, op. 85  
 Copland Symphony No. 3  
 Guest Artist Julian Schwarz, cello

#### POPS I

October 5, 2019 7:30PM  
 The Piano Man meets the Rocket Man  
 Jeans 'n Classics presents  
 Back to Back: Elton John meets Billy Joel  
 Jean Meilleur (Lead Vocals), John Regan (Piano)

#### POPS II

March 7, 2020 7:30PM  
 We're Off to See the Wizard  
 A multimedia presentation of the movie  
 The Wizard of Oz, accompanied by your  
 SOST!



# Meet Board President Tillie Hickman



**Q) How long have you been a board member?**

A) Thirty-six years. I first came on the board as the representative of the then Symphony Women's League now the Symphony League.

**Q) What do you enjoy about serving on the board?**

A) Serving on the board gives me the opportunity to work to further symphonic music in our community. Even though there is some string instruction in local schools, the programs never draw the enthusiasm that band creates. As a result fewer children learn about the symphony. I enjoy being able to introduce children to the symphony and help them understand that it is "cool."

**Q) What made you decide to become a board member?**

A) I started attending the performances of the Lake Charles Symphony with my grandmother when I was a child. I've always loved the music and wanted to share it with others. Since I have absolutely no musical talent, my way to further symphonic music has been to support the effort from the sidelines.

**Q) What has been your favorite SOST concert?**

A) I love most of them, but the percussion concert will always stand out. It was so different and so much fun.

**Q) Do you or did you ever play a musical instrument?**

A) I've tried. I played the alto saxophone in high school, but although I made concert band, I spent most of my time in the tuning room with the electronic tuner. I also studied piano as a child and decided to continue studying for an elective credit in college. After two semesters, my teacher suggested that I might enjoy greater success in another creative outlet. I became a supporter, not a musician.

**Q) What is your profession?**

A) I was an educator for over 50 years. The last 25 I served as assistant principal and principal at Odom Academy where I helped develop the magnet program.

**Q) Other community involvement?**

A) Although I've always worked outside the home, I've also always been an enthusiastic volunteer. I worked on major fundraisers for the Symphony League, the Heritage Society and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. I've been a Junior League member since my twenties. Now that I'm retired, I serve on the boards of the Edison Museum as well as the Tyrrell Historical Library Association. I also volunteer to read with BISD second graders as part of the ROAR program.

**Q) Do you have hobbies?**

A) I enjoy cooking, gardening, reading and traveling.

**Q) What was your favorite vacation?**

A) One of my favorite vacations was a working vacation to London. I went with a graduate school group to tour gifted and talented schools in England. For the first week of the trip we visited among others the Yehudi Menuhin School which trains gifted students in strings and piano. After the rest of the group left, I had a couple of days to roam London, visiting museums and seeing plays. Then my husband joined me for another week of trips to Canterbury, Dover, and Stratford-upon-Avon.



### Mission Statement

The mission of The Symphony of Southeast Texas is to develop, maintain, and nurture a symphony orchestra of the highest achievable artistic quality that will, within a viable economic framework, play a major role in the education, entertainment, and cultural enrichment of all residents of Southeast Texas.

### Find us on:



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[@TheSOSTx](https://www.instagram.com/TheSOSTx)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc0f1VlpKqGMIP0RPfbf0hg>

## Upcoming Events

Date, time	Event	Location
February 15, 7:30 p.m.	Classic Series III "The Romantic Spirit of Music"	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street
March 7, 7:30 p.m.	POPS II "We're off the see the Wizard"	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street
April 4, 7:30 p.m.	Classic Series IV "A Renewal of Spirit: Elgar and the Common Man"	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street
April 15, 9:30 and 11:00	Youth Education Concert	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street
July 4, 8:00 p.m.	4th of July Celebration Concert	The Event Centre 700 Crockett Street
September 19, 2020	Classic Series I "Cinematic Impressions"	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street
October 24, 2020	POPS I "Cirque Spooktacular"	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street
November 21, 2020	Classic Series II "From the Mountains to the Pastures"	Julie Rogers Theatre 765 Pearl Street

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