

subscriber services

search

JS Online

search

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

login | register | e-newsletters



Packages starting at only \$256

Based on availability. Some restrictions apply.

> VIEW COMPLETE PACKAGE DETAILS

The American Club KOHLER, WISCONSIN

Home News Watchdog Opinion Sports Business Food and Dining Entertainment Features Multimedia Classified Jobs Wheels Real Estate Shopping

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 Movies Music and Nightlife Arts and Books TV and Radio Weekly Calendar Puzzles Comics Horoscopes Lottery Contests

Arts and Books

Home » Entertainment » Arts and Books

Tools

TEXT SIZE **AA** - +

print

Yahoo! Buzz

Newsvine

e-mail

reddit

Digg it

Delicious

Technorati

facebook

Mixx

Chafetz behind the baton for 14 MSO holiday concerts

By Tom Strini of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: Dec. 16, 2008

enlarge photo



Stuart Chafetz

Conductor Stuart Chafetz entered his dressing room Dec. 7 to find Andreas Delfs, music director of the Milwaukee Symphony; Delfs' wife, Amy; and MSO concertmaster Frank Almond and his wife, Katie.

"I walked in, there they all were, and I had to take a moment and remember where I was," Chafetz said.

The encounter occurred not in Milwaukee but Hawaii. Chafetz is conductor of the Maui Pops, and Almond was the featured soloist at the Dec. 7 program. In addition to his MSO duties, Delfs is music director of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his duties with the Maui Pops, Chafetz is the timpanist of the Honolulu Symphony and resident conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

The Milwaukee-Hawaii musical connections are so extensive that you'd think some planning went into them.

But forget about intelligent design. It all happened by chance.

Delfs likes going to Hawaii, and he was willing to step in to try to help the financially shaky HSO find its legs. His appointment in the fall of 2007 had nothing to do with Chafetz coming to the MSO. Chafetz, 45, is trying to build his conducting career, and the No. 2 conducting post at the MSO is a boost. He applied for the MSO job at the prompting of a friend in the mallet trade, MSO timpanist Dean Borghesani.

Chafetz flew into town Dec. 8 for two busy weeks of holiday concerts. By Saturday, Chafetz will have led 14 concerts in venues including retirement homes, hospitals, community centers, concert halls and churches.

The most visible public, ticketed program is the "Holiday Classics" run that starts tonight at St. Josaphat Basilica, moves Friday to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist and winds up Saturday at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts.

Chafetz started conducting out of necessity. In 1999, when the Honolulu Symphony had shut down temporarily because of labor and financial issues, his colleagues asked him to conduct a benefit concert. That effort led to the development of the Maui Pops and made Chafetz think that a conducting career might be possible for him.

"A negative turned into an opportunity," Chafetz said.

He attended a conducting workshop in Connecticut, where he improved his baton technique and also met Ann Krinitzky, a violinist and conductor. They are now married.

Chafetz leads the Nova Vista Symphony, an accomplished amateur orchestra in San Jose, Calif., and has a principal-guest relationship with the professional Naples (Fla.) Philharmonic. Among his guest credits are the New Mexico Symphony, the Florida Orchestra and three Chicago Symphony family concerts. He also conducts at the Chautauqua Festival in upstate New York every summer.

"The conducting is going better than I ever imagined it would," Chafetz said. "Conducting has made me a better player, and playing in an orchestra has made me a better conductor. I learned from my colleagues. I know what they need."

Chafetz programmed the MSO "Holiday Classics" within fairly narrow constraints.

The MSO has split in two for this holiday season, with half playing the morning and afternoon concerts and the other half playing the evening concerts. Each unit tops out at 45 players.

TOP STORIES

Milwaukee School Board to consider investigation of Hardin escapade

Mom who killed baby gets 5 years

Home builders seek incentives to boost economy

Man struck, killed while waiting for tow truck

MORE ENTERTAINMENT

Predictable 'Seven Pounds'

Electrifying genius

Live concert broadcast from Shank Hall

Ensemble takes wide-ranging Baroque journey

Urban Ecology Center restroom is nature's calling

Connick rings jazzy jingle bells

'Nutcracker' crackles Pamper power

advertisement

What will Mobile Banking mean for you? FREEDOM.

LEARN MORE

Most Popular - Entertainment

most read e-mailed

With 2 months to go in digital TV countdown, questions abound

Celtic Thunder is Irish-lite

Holiday TV Listings

Book recounts history of Milwaukee television

He ended up with repertoire that leans more classical than Christmas: Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" Overture; Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on "Greensleeves"; "Winter" from Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons"; Wagner's "A Siegfried Idyll"; Grieg's "Holberg" Suite; Bach's Suite No. 1; and, as a finale, an audience sing-along "Hallelujah" Chorus from Handel's "Messiah."

Can the audience handle the "Hallelujah" choral part all by itself?

The conductor shrugged his shoulders, then smiled. "We're just going to go for it."

If you go

What: "Holiday Classics" series by Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, resident conductor Stuart Chafetz and violinist Frank Almond

When and where: 7:30 p.m. today and Thursday, St. Josaphat Basilica, 2333 S. 6th St.; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson St.; 8 p.m. Saturday, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield

Tickets: Call the MSO ticket line, (414) 291-7605, or visit www.mso.org for tickets for the basilica (\$29-\$36) and cathedral (\$29-\$41) concerts. Call the Wilson Center box office, (262) 781-9520, for tickets to the Saturday performance (\$25-\$48).

E-mail Tom Strini at tstrini@journal sentinel.com.

BOOK RECORDS HISTORY OF MILWAUKEE TELEVISION in words and pictures

Milwaukee area TV and radio station guide

[more most popular content...](#)

Sponsored Links

1 Flat Stomach Rule: Obey

I cut out 2 lbs of body fat per week by following this 1 old rule
AnnasDietingBlog.com

Symptoms of GERD

Learn more about the symptoms of GERD. Sign up today and Save \$25.
Beyondtheburn.com

1 Tip to A Skinny Stomach

I cut out 2 lbs of body fat per week by obeying this 1 old rule.
RachelsDietBlog.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Elsewhere on JSOnline

Special Report



Targeting the Good Cell

Your Photos



Submit photos of your festive décor

Sledding Hills



Maps, photos and reviews

TV Listings



Holiday movies and TV specials

Dining Blog



Who has the best pancakes in town?

Photo Contest



'Scared of Santa' photo contest

Sponsored by MilwaukeeMoms and MyCommunityNow.

JSOnline | Today's TMJ4 | MyCommunityNOW | Newsradio 620 | Living Lake Country | MilwaukeeMoms | SportsBubbler | 94.5 Lake FM
Privacy | Terms of Use | Contact Us | Jobs at Journal Sentinel | Subscription Services | Place an Ad

© 2008, Journal Sentinel Inc. All rights reserved.

Powered by [Clickability](#).

Produced and Managed by [Journal Interactive](#).

