

## NJRO - Report of November 21, 2010

We were a small, but solid group, despite no cellos (where are the Lepps? Bill and Innes?) Our assembly of 14 consisted of Bob Whiteley on bass; firsts were Luba Schnabel, Dan Daniels; second was yours truly, viola was Ellen Hill. Luba and I alternated on first. Woodwinds were Kent Weisert, Laura Papparatto and Doris Danielson on flutes, Donna Dixon on clarinet, Alice Marcus on oboe, and Libby Schwartz on horn. Evan Schwartzman on piano and Maestro Steve Culbertson both guided us through our readings.

Our first selection was Faure's Pavane, Op. 50. Wiki reports it as a 7-minute piece (yes, that's about right—it left us wanting more) and was a "hit" from the start. Originally an orchestral piece, Faure added a chorus at the behest of his patron Elisabeth, comtesse Greffulhe and later a ballet, which entered the standard repertoire of Ballets Russes in 1917. Faure's Pavane also inspired his pupils Ravel and Debussy to write their own: Pavane for a Dead Princess and Suite Bergamasque, respectively.

We reminisced with Maestro Culbertson, whose first conducting assignment as a freshman in college was Beethoven's 8th Symphony. The shortest and probably least performed of the nine symphonies, Steve reported that it was Stravinsky's favorite and that the first movement contains one of the best re-caps ever written. We forged through it without the benefit of cellos. By this time I was on the first violin part, negotiating that devilish double-triplet pick-up to the last movement. Once you get it, you're good for the movement; just don't let your brain get between the notes and your fingers!

We ended with Haydn's Symphony No. 104, which was Haydn's last symphony (I did not know this!) Wiki reports Haydn was delighted to have received 5000 gulden at its London premier in 1795. I want to save room for pictures, so here's an interesting link to [some program notes by Jason Sundram](#).



A small, but assertive group



Violinist's-eye view of Steve about to conduct LvB#8, reminiscent of college days.