

NJRO - Report of June 12, 2011

Another year has gone by! We celebrated our last session before summer's hiatus by playing the Hebrides Overture by Felix Mendelssohn, recalling the moors and mysteries of Scotland, while I was solving the mystery of finding us some more chairs for late comers. We had a nice full turnout: Violins 1—Herb Steiner, Luba Schnable, Dan Daniels, Roland Hutchinson. Violins 2—yours truly, Sylvia Rubin (welcome back after a long absence!) and Barbara Bivin. Violas: Ellen Hill and Ysa Borstel. Celli: Ruth Lepp and Innes Borstel. Bass: Bob Whiteley. Woodwinds: Kent Weisert on flute, Donna Dixon on clarinet, Steve Lepp on oboe, and Libby Schwartz as our horn section. We missed Laura, our founder, who had to tend to housing responsibilities upstate. Maestro Culbertson led us and Evan Schwartzman played piano, not only covering missing orchestra parts, but also playing a noble presentation of the Beethoven 4th piano concerto.

Speaking of which, the 2nd movement of Beethoven's mighty Fourth piano concerto is a remarkable roll reversal for piano and orchestra, wherein the piano is the calming effect on an angry-sounding orchestra. Wiki calls it Orpheus (the solo piano) taming the Furies (unison strings). The Fourth piano concert premiered in 1808 at the Theater an der Wien. Also premiered on the same marathon occasion were Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and Fifth and Sixth Symphonies. It was also Beethoven's last appearance as soloist with orchestra.

Somehow we got on the subject of mutes, which prompted a story from Steve about the little girl listening to her dad practice the trumpet. He inserted a mute. What's that, Daddy? It's a mute. What's it for? So that you can hardly hear the trumpet, to which she retorted "Can't they just stop making trumpets?" (Crash, boom!)

We concluded with Mozart's last symphony, No. 41, the Jupiter. Oh yes, the one with the fugue at the end of the last movement. I was so glad Steve was generous with his cues. Then it was time to eat and imbibe. I had some music scores, violin studies, song books, etc. available free for adoption. Everything found a new home—thank you!

Thanks also to my husband Al who took this year's group photo (now at the front page of the web site). There were some more interesting candid shots, which I've included below. BTW, thank you to those who contributed toward the C.E.C. for the use of the choir room. Thanks, everyone, for playing with us, and happy summer to all!



