



# MADISON CITY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring Edition - Issue 1 - Volume 4 - Year 2018

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*MCCO, founded in 2015, is a 501(c)(3) organization that exists for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the appreciation of music in all its various forms. It seeks to raise the common standard of musical education and enjoyment as well as provide exceptional performances for a broad and diverse public throughout the Tennessee Valley. MCCO offers a much needed outlet for those that are experienced players who enjoy playing and wish to foster appreciation for orchestral arts.*

## DVORAK'S NEW WORLD SYMPHONY, SPRING CONCERT

The Madison City Community Orchestra is pleased to present Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor "From the New World", Op. 95, more popularly known as the "New World Symphony". This event will be held at the Madison United Methodist Church on Friday, May 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM, in celebration of the piece's 125th anniversary this year.



About the Composer: Antonin Dvořák was born on September 8, 1841 and is considered to be the second (to Bedrich Smetana) Czech composer to reach worldwide recognition. Born

in Nelahozeves, a small village north of Prague, Czech Republic, Dvořák began his musical studies at an early age of 6 while learning to play the violin. It is said that his first composition, "Forget-Me-Not Polka in C", was written as early as 1855, but his first public performance of his work was in Prague in 1872. In 1873, Dvořák submitted his work to a competition in Germany, but did not win. The original manuscript that he submitted was unreturned and not found until many decades later. Finally, in 1874, Dvořák made another submission that included two symphonies and other works, to the

Austrian State Prize for Composition. Johannes Brahms was the lead member of the jury and very impressed with the work of Dvořák. The prize was awarded to Dvořák in 1874, and then again in 1876 and 1877, when Brahms made himself known to Dvořák. Brahms recommended Dvořák to his own publisher, Simrock, who shortly thereafter commissioned the popularly know Slavonic Dances, Op. 46. The Slavonic Dances were highly praised by Berlin music critic, Louis Ehlert, and shortly thereafter, Dvořák achieved international recognition.

Between 1880 and 1890, Dvořák continued to perform and conduct his own symphonies throughout England, Russia, and the US. In 1891, Dvořák was appointed Professor at the Prague Conservatory, and then in 1892, he moved to the US and became the Director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York City. While in the US, Dvořák wrote two of his most successful orchestral works, his Cello Concerto, one of the most highly regarded of all Cello Concerti, as well as the Symphony From the New World, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic. A lack of salary, increased recognition in Europe and a bit of homesickness all led to Dvořák returning to Bohemia in 1895.

Over the next 9 years, Dvořák continued to compose and conduct while living in a country cottage in Vysoka with his wife

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The Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From the New World", Op. 95, B. 178, popularly known as the New World Symphony, was composed by Antonín Dvořák in 1893 while he was the director of the National Conservatory of Music of America. It is by far his most popular symphony, and one of the most popular of all symphonies. In older literature and recordings, this symphony was often numbered as Symphony No. 5. Astronaut Neil Armstrong took a tape recording of the New World Symphony along during the Apollo 11 mission, the first Moon landing, in 1969. The symphony was completed in the building that now houses the Bily Clocks Museum.

## DVOŘÁK'S NEW WORLD SYMPHONY - CONTINUED

and several children. He spent much of his later years writing opera and chamber music. Dvořák also returned to the Prague Conservatory where he continued his professorship.

The first Czech Music Festival in April 1904 consisted almost entirely of music from Dvořák. Over 16,000 singers and thousands of listeners enjoyed many works including "From the New World". Unfortunately, Dvořák was unable to attend this massive celebration due to illness.

On April 18, 1904, Dvořák suffered from an attack of Influenza. Just two weeks later, Antonin Dvořák died of a stroke at the age of 62. Many pieces were left unfinished due to his untimely passing.

About the Music: Antonin Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From the New World, Op. 95, B. 178, commonly known as the New World Symphony, was composed in 1893 while working as the Director of the National Conservatory of Music of America. It is said to be his most popular symphony and one of the most popular symphonies of all time. It was often numbered Symphony No. 5, and there is still confusion over whether there are missing works that led to the inconsistent numbering.

The symphony has four movements, Adagio, Largo, Scherzo, and Allegro con fuoco. Movements 1, 2 and 4 will be played during the MCCO Spring Concert.

Dvořák was interested in Native American Music and the African American spirituals he heard while in North America. One of his students, Harry T. Burleigh who later became a composer, said he would sing African American spirituals to Dvořák, who would "absorb their spirit before writing his own melodies". Dvořák stated that Native American music had a strong influence on this symphony. Dvořák has stated, "I have not actually used any of the [Native American] melodies. I have simply written original themes embodying the peculiarities of the Indian music, and, using these themes as subjects, have developed them with all the resources of modern rhythms, counterpoint, and orchestral colour."

Dvořák was also influenced by what he had seen in America. He wrote that he would not have composed his American pieces as he had, if he had not seen America. Dvořák was inspired by the "wide open spaces" such as prairies he saw during his trip to Iowa in 1893. Performance announcements often used the term "wide open spaces" as a term for what inspired the symphony and the feelings it conveys to its listeners.



Title Page of the Autographed Score of Dvořák's Symphony No. 9

Source::

Wikipedia contributors. "Antonín Dvořák." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 16 Feb. 2018. Web. 30 Mar. 2018.

Wikipedia contributors. "Symphony No. 9 (Dvořák)." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 21 Mar. 2018. Web. 30 Mar. 2018.

Statue of Antonín Dvořák in Stuyvesant Square in Manhattan, New York City, made by Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović.



*"The music of the people is like a rare and lovely flower growing amidst encroaching weeds. Thousands pass it, while others trample it under foot, and thus the chances are that it will perish before it is seen by the one discriminating spirit who will prize it above all else. The fact that no one has as yet arisen to make the most of it does not prove that nothing is there."*

*-Antonin Dvořák*

## INSTRUMENT OF THE QUARTER - ENGLISH HORN

The cor anglais, or English horn is a double reed woodwind instrument in the oboe family, and is approximately one and one half times the size of the oboe.

The term cor anglais is French for English horn, but the instrument is neither from England nor related to the various conical-bore brass instruments called "horns". The instrument originated in Silesia about 1720, when a bulb bell was fitted to a curved oboe da caccia-type body by the Weigel family of Breslau. The two-keyed, open-belled, straight tenor oboe, and more particularly the flare-belled oboe da caccia, resembled the horns played by angels in religious images of the Middle Ages. This gave rise in German-speaking central Europe to the Middle High German name engellisches Horn, meaning angelic horn. Because engellisch also meant English in the vernacular of the time, the "angelic horn" became the "English horn". In the absence of any better alternative, the curved, bulb-belled tenor oboe then retained the name even after the oboe da caccia fell into disuse around 1760. The name first appeared on a regular basis in Italian, German, and Austrian scores from 1741 on, usually in the Italian form corno inglese.

The pear-shaped bell of the English Horn gives it a more covered timbre than the oboe. While the oboe is the soprano instrument of the oboe family, the English

### The English Horn in the Modern World

Though primarily featured in classical music, the English horn has also been used as a jazz instrument. Multi-instrumentalist Bill Page performed on the instrument with the Lawrence Welk band from 1951 until 1965, and it has also been featured in elements of several Carpenters songs. It has made some appearances in pop music, such as many versions of "Send in the Clowns", Lionel Richie and Diana Ross's "Endless Love", and in Elton John's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" and "Candle in the Wind". An English horn carries the opening of *Fiddler on the Roof's* "Sabbath Prayer". Paul McCartney holds an English horn on the album cover of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The instrument is also featured in the 2005 film *American Pie Presents: Band Camp* (referred to as an oboe).



Horn is generally regarded as the tenor member of the family. The English horn is perceived to have a more mellow and plaintive tone than the oboe. Its appearance differs from the oboe in that the reed is attached to a slightly bent metal tube called the bocal, or crook, and the bell has a bulbous shape. It is also much longer.

The earliest known orchestral part specifically for the instrument is in the Vienna version of Niccolò Jommelli's opera *Ezio* dating from 1749, where it was given the Italian name corno inglese. Gluck and Haydn followed suit in the 1750s, and the first English horn concertos were written in the 1770s.

The English Horn is heavily featured in Antonin Dvorak's *New World Symphony*. MCCO will be featuring the English horn in our upcoming spring concert on May 8, 2018 as we play the second movement, *Largo*.



Wikipedia contributors. "Cor anglais." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 9 Jan. 2018. Web. 30 Mar. 2018.

## Upcoming Events

- **April 14, 2018** - MCCO booth at Taste the Spirit of Madison, Insanity Complex, Madison Market, 9am-2pm, food and beer tasting, 6pm-9pm
- **May 11, 2018** - MCCO performs Antonin Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9* in E minor, Madison United Methodist Church
- **July 4, 2018** - Conductor's Showcase, more info to follow
- **October 28, 2018** - Heroes and 40 Years of Star Wars, more info to follow
- **December 14, 2018** - The Christmas Story, Madison United Methodist Church

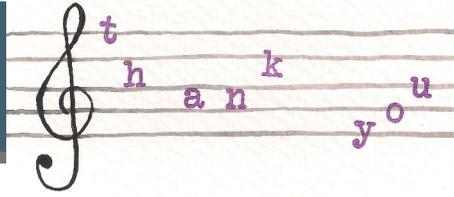
## TRIVIA

We are excited to continue with MCCO trivia, but we are raising the stakes! Email: [marketing@mccorchestra.org](mailto:marketing@mccorchestra.org) with your answer to the quarterly trivia question and all correct responses will be entered into a drawing for a \$10 credit to the MCCO store! Use this credit to purchase any one of the many items with the MCCO logo such as shirts, jackets, cups, blankets and more! Entries will close on the 10th of the month following the date of issue. Q1 trivia will close May 10, 2018.

**Q1: Antonin Dvořák came to New York to teach and compose for a salary of \$ \_\_\_\_\_?**



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## A Note from the Conductor

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Hi all, our spring concert season is devoted to the classical genre. I chose Dvořák this spring because of his passion and the fact that it is the 125th birthday of this particular piece. Its beautiful melodies and strong countermelodies really allow the listener to feel what Dvořák was trying to tell us through this piece of music. I hope you will all enjoy it. Don't miss our summer concert as we join forces with the Madison City Youth Orchestra in our Conductor's showcase. See you at the concert!

~Sandy

### MCCO is Going Green!

To receive future editions of the MCCO Newsletter via email, please email [marketing@mccorchestra.org](mailto:marketing@mccorchestra.org) with your name and email address and we will update our records!



### Our Mission

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### Our Vision

MCCO's vision is to enrich community life by providing an exceptional musical program that educates, entertains, and enhances lives in Madison. The orchestra reaches the community through a variety of performances each year by alternating classical concert series with more contemporary, pop series.

Lasting friendships will be formed and renewed during each season's programs on the common ground discovered through dedication to the goals and purposes of MCCO. The artistic leadership, musicians, regional, and governing board members will work with integrity to care for and nurture creativity, collegiality, and excellence through high quality music and educational performances.

**MCCO**  
Madison City  
Community Orchestra

# MISO

Madison City

Community Orchestra

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