

# Breve



April, 2020  
Vol. 2.4

Brĕv, brev

1. (music) a note having the time value of two whole notes
2. (gen) brief, short

*The Kettle Moraine Symphony Newsletter*

## See you next season!

The first concert of the 2020-21 season is planned for Friday, September 25.  
Hope to see you there!

## Bassoon Facts

By: Connie Schulist

The bassoon is the lowest of the woodwind instruments. It is made out of maple wood (or a composite material) and is so long that it has to be bent in half. It uses a double reed, which is two reeds tied and glued together to form a tube.

The modern bassoon has a colorful and complex past. It evolved from a 16th century instrument known by a variety of names – curtal or curtail (English), basson or fagot (French), dulcian or fagott (German), fagotto (Italian), and bajon (Spanish). This ancestor of the bassoon, which was also played with a double reed, was fashioned out of a single piece of wood rather than the four separate sections common to today's bassoon.

Today the bassoon is used extensively in the symphony orchestra, opera, and contemporary musicals, television, and movie soundtracks. Innumerable composers have written for the bassoon, particularly during the 18th century, and the repertoire includes impressive parts in orchestral scores, woodwind ensemble music and many bassoon solo concertos. Watch and listen to the opening solo of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/EkwqPJZe8ms>. Fun! [bassoonresource.org](http://bassoonresource.org).

## Spring Concert Cancelled Due To Covid-19



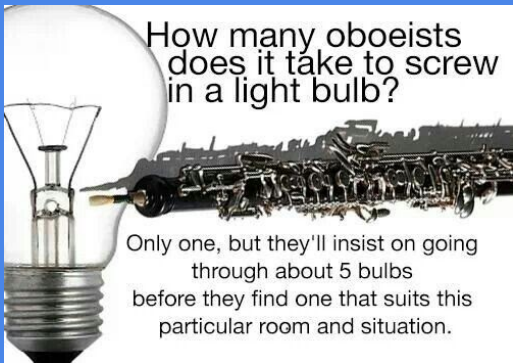
As you are all aware, (probably reading this from your socially isolated couches) we are living in a once-in-a-hundred-years-pandemic which has led to the cancellation of any large gathering of people. From the NBA to the Met, weekly mass to the New York Phil, all seats will be going unfilled for the foreseeable future.

If you're anything like me, these weeks spent in isolation seem to take away some of our humanity. Fear of going to the store or of visiting loved ones, separation from the people and activities we love, and lack of interaction has us feeling somewhat less than human. Sometimes while reading a book, binge-watching HBO or playing with my kids I forget for a few moments. But sadly, as soon as the news starts up or I think to myself, "Oh gee, I'd like to see a concert sometime," I suddenly remember the truth and then the gloom sinks in.

However- it doesn't need to be that glum. Let us remember, it is not actually fear that is keeping us apart. Rather, it is out of love and concern for our community that we self-quarantine ourselves on our sofas- we want everyone to be safe.



## Funnies



**CDC IS NOW  
RECOMMENDING HOURS  
OF PRACTICING AS A  
SOCIAL DISTANCING TOOL**



**Wash Your Hands**  
with soap for at least 20 seconds

You can sing the Happy Birthday song TWICE, or try one of these:

Hey now, you're an all-star, get your game on, go play	Oh no, not I, I will survive	I see a little silhouette of a man
Hey now, you're a rock star, get the show on, get paid	Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I'll stay alive	Scaramouch, scaramouch, will you do the fandango?
And all that glitters is gold	I've got all my life to live And I've got all my love to give and I'll survive	Thunderbolt and lightning, very very frightening me
Only shooting stars break the mold	I will survive, hey, hey!	Gallileo, Gallileo, Gallileo, Gallileo Figaro - magnifico

For the sake of people we know as well as people a world away we will never meet, we lock ourselves up leaving only for the all important bag of flour or roll of toilet paper. We're apart, but really we're together.

It's no secret that many are, or will very soon, be struggling financially from this- and musicians and artists are an important part of this group. At the same time, people are turning to the arts at this difficult time for emotional support and entertainment- listening to their favorite records, watching their favorite movies, even singing from balconies! Many musicians and artists are offering free streaming programming or memberships, and if you haven't already, I encourage you to check out some of these offerings and, more importantly, ask yourself what you can do to support the artists of the world. Consider buying some CDs, making a donation, or just reaching out to your local arts organizations to check in on them and see what you can do to strengthen the arts community.

We're all in this together. Just as each symphony member does their part to make the music come alive, we can all do our part- by staying home and socially isolating, by calling up our friends and neighbors, by contributing to our beloved institutions, and by washing our hands!- to get through this difficult time together.

Stay healthy, stay happy, and stay safe.

-Hannah Muehlbauer, Editor and KMS Violinist

*"Music can heal the wounds medicine cannot touch" -Debasish Mridha*

## Meet the Symphony

The many talents of Erik Holmes, Percussionist



Erik Holmes is a drum set artist and percussionist in the Greater Milwaukee, WI area and a resident of West Bend.

As a performer, arranger, and songwriter, Erik's music has been used on Late Night with Seth Meyers, The Meredith Vieira Show, WWE, NFL, Birthday Boys (IFC), The Hunt with John Walsh, The Outsiders (WGN), It Takes a Church (GSN), District 31 (Canada), and many others.



## *Symphony Storytime*



April's session is cancelled, but there are lots of ideas online for music activities you can do with your kids.

## **Support your symphony orchestra!**

Go to our donations page and click the PayPal Donate button.

<https://kmsymphony.org/orchestra-donations/>

Or send a check to

**Kettle Moraine Symphony  
P.O. Box 52  
West Bend, WI 53095**

It's that simple! Thank you.

262.334.3469

Email Us: [info@kmsymphony.org](mailto:info@kmsymphony.org)

As an educator, Erik maintains a busy private lesson schedule. He pursues a well-rounded approach to lessons, teaching many different styles of music while including music theory, music history, and music technology.

Erik plays vibraphone for The Marital Discords, with wife Rachel on electric piano. The husband-wife duo plays mostly original "straight ahead" jazz tunes composed by Rachel, who is band director at Kewaskum Middle School.

Erik also shares his passion for percussion as a clinician and a percussion teacher at The White House of Music. He's written and arranged music for jazz band, percussion ensemble and pop ensembles, including drum line arrangements played by high schools around the state.

Erik is a member of the Percussive Arts Society and Wisconsin Music Educators Association. He is a WSMA Solo/Ensemble certified adjudicator. He is a 2018 Wisconsin Area Music Industry nominee for Drummer of the Year.

Holmes earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin River Falls, majoring in history and music. He's been performing with the Kettle Moraine Symphony since 2011 and the blues/rock band Ol' Style Skcratch since 2012. Check out their CD of the same name on iTunes.

**When did you start playing?** I was playing percussion in the school band at 11 years old. I started playing drum set a few years later.

**What do you enjoy most about playing?** I love the excitement and rush of performing live. Connecting with the audience on a deep and subconscious level is a wonderful experience. It's truly addicting and makes me wake up every day wanting to play more.

**What's on your playlist?** James Brown, The Rolling Stones, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Oscar Peterson, Gary Burton, Art Pepper, and thousands more.

**What advice would you give to young musicians?** Listen to music. Go to concerts to see great musicians playing live. Hearing and seeing amazing performances will keep you inspired and striving to improve!



*Photo credit D'Lacey Eichinger, 2018*

All the info you need is at <https://www.kmsymphony.org> !

**Claude T. Smith** (1932–1987) is remembered for his composition work. He completed over 110 compositions for band, 12 orchestral works, and 15 choral pieces. *Flight* was to be a collaboration between KMS players and HS students.

Smith was a music teacher at public schools in Nebraska and Missouri. In 1976, he accepted a faculty position at Southwest Missouri State University where he conducted the University Symphony Orchestra. In 1978 he moved to Raytown, Missouri, where his main occupation was in composition and publication consultant.

*Flight* is the official march of the Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. It was commissioned by the Air Force Band in 1984 and premiered by them in November of that year. Their recording can still be heard as visitors enter the museum. A highly descriptive work, it incorporates the Pachelbel Canon by request in the opening section before the brass introduces a soaring theme. Sweeping reeds, active percussion and melodic brass are featured in preparation for a most electrifying 6/8 section. Brass fanfares of particular brilliance bring the work to its exciting conclusion.

**Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff** Born into a musical family, Rachmaninoff was drawn to the piano at the age of four, ultimately becoming a virtuoso. He attended the Moscow Conservatory during which time he composed several piano and orchestral pieces, which were greatly influenced by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Balakirev, Mussorgsky, and other Russian composers. Later on he developed his own style of melody and expressiveness with rich orchestral colors. Despite occasional periods of depression, apathy, and little faith in any of his work, Rachmaninoff started on his Symphony No. 2 (Op. 27) in 1906, twelve years after the disastrous premiere of his first.

Rachmaninoff conducted the **premiere** of Symphony 2 in Saint Petersburg on February 8, 1908. A full length performance is approximately 60 minutes. Because of its length, Symphony No. 2 has been the subject of many revisions, particularly in the 1940s and 1950s, which reduced the piece from nearly an hour to as little as 35 minutes. Before 1970 the piece was usually performed in one of its revised, shorter, versions. Since then orchestras have used the complete version almost exclusively, although sometimes with the omission of a repeat in the first movement.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## FOR CANCELLED CONCERT

Bummed to miss the Smith and Rachmaninoff? So are we! Quench your thirst for musical knowledge by reading about these two great composers!



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