

# Decorating Den INTERIORS

## DECORATE TO ACCENTUATE

Let your home reflect  
the life you lead!

- Window Treatments, Custom Bedding and Upholstered Furniture
- Wall and Floor Coverings
- Lighting and Accessories

We come to you with hundreds of samples, so you can make selections with confidence in the comfort of your own home.

**Save \$100**

on your purchase of \$500 or more

*Call today for your complimentary in-home consultation!*

MARIE FELTZ  
412.344.4430



**WE COME TO YOU!**

[www.decoratingden.com](http://www.decoratingden.com)



C · W · C

C.W. CARLSON CONTRACTORS, INC.



*Building Our Reputation on Quality Work  
and Satisfied Customers*

DESIGN • BUILD • REMODEL  
ADDITIONS • KITCHENS • BATHS

412.854.8180

3571 Valley Drive • Pittsburgh, PA15234



Jacob Kepler

Amateur musicians Jerry Agin, Mary Bragdon and Carol Capson shared the spotlight with Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians at the PSO Side By Side Concert.

### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

It's just a few minutes before curtain time, and Heinz Hall is abuzz. "Look, there's Mommy up there," one man says to his small son as he holds a bouquet of flowers and waves to his wife. Another whispers to his companion, "She worked hard for this." Two little girls run to the first row. There is loud chattering, frantic waving, and great big grins by musicians and audience members alike. Then Lucas Richman, the conductor, walks onto the stage. Thunderous applause is chased by quick silence as he lifts his baton. The music begins.

This is more than just another concert. Family and friends fill the seats to watch their loved ones play side by side with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The event, a program of the PSO's Education and Outreach Department, gives adult amateur musicians the opportunity to rehearse and perform side by side with symphony professionals. Side By Side applications are sent to music teachers and community orchestras. About 65 musicians are chosen based on their completed application forms.

Three Mt. Lebanon residents—Jerry Agin, Main Entrance Drive, Carol Capson, Poplar Drive, and Mary Bragdon, Parkway Drive, were part of the action.

"I'm excited to be in the middle of it all,

in the big leagues," says Agin. A retired computer programmer, Agin began playing violin only 13 years ago at a summer music and dance camp.

For Capson an administrator at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education, the PSO event is a "huge incentive to spend more time with one's instrument." Capson, a two-year veteran of the Side By Side concert, began playing violin as an adult. Her interest in performing was sparked one summer night in 1982 at a square dance at Carnegie Mellon University. After seeing the live musicians play twice that night, Capson was surprised to find them "plain ordinary folk." She was intrigued and remembers thinking, "This is for me." Carol's interest led her to enroll in the Augusta Heritage Arts summer program at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia, where she would spend the next 10 summers learning fiddle on her grandfather's violin.

Mary Bragdon, the youngest of the three, has played the viola since elementary school. However, she also finds the time to be nanny to two children and participate in the Choir and Women's Handbell Team at Southminster Presbyterian Church.

In the early hours of the daylong event, the three entered the backstage of Heinz Hall and were immediately swept up in the activities. First, there were sectional rehearsals in which the amateurs joined



the pros in their particular instrument section to work on their parts. They worked on three pieces: Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance," Schubert's "Symphony No. 8 in B Minor," and "The Coronation March" by Tchaikovsky. Then there were a few minutes to get situated on the stage for a rehearsal without the PSO musicians. After this practice, a much-needed rest in which everyone piled into elevators, dropped off their instruments in one room, and watched a chamber music performance by members of the PSO. After lunch, the musicians made their way to the stage again for practice with the PSO musicians. Almost immediately, the stage hushed and the music began.

Meeting their PSO stand partner was one of the most exciting moments for these guest musicians. Capson and her partner, PSO violinist Carolyn Edwards, discovered a common passion in painting, which led to an exchange of numbers and a new friendship. Agin and his violin partner, Louis Lev, found a common interest in computers. With a laugh Jerry says: "He wanted to talk about computers, while I wanted to talk about music." Bragdon's partner was a familiar face, Peter Guroff, her viola teacher.

Musicians, pros and amateurs alike, played without a hitch. It was hard not to get caught up in the excitement. All around were bright eyes, tapping feet, and cheer from the audience.

To adults who would like to play an instrument but think it's too late, Capson offers this advice: "You just have to realize it takes time, but even 30 minutes a day is a start."

"Do it for yourself," says Agin. "Pick something you like and don't worry about what others think. Just do it."

—ANDREA BARILLA

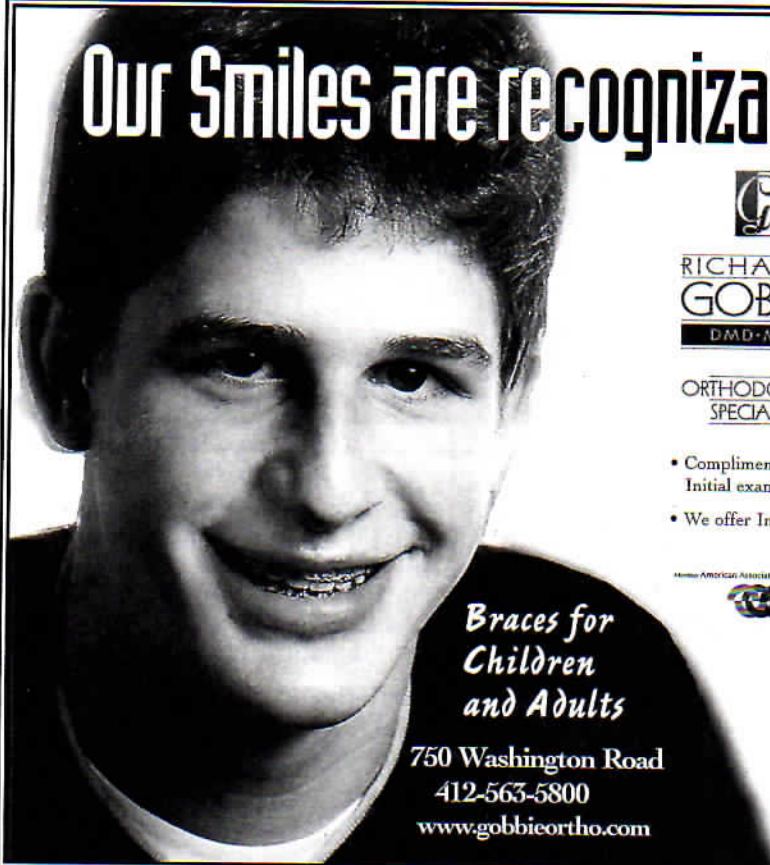
*This year's PSO Side By Side concert will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12. Tickets are available by calling 412-392-4900 or online at [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org).*

## Order your Father's Day cakes by June 12th and receive a 10% discount



1693 McFarland Road • Mt. Lebanon • 412-561-5776  
Great Southern Shopping Center • Bridgeville • 412-221-1080

## Our Smiles are recognizable



**RICHARD F.  
GOBBIE**  
DMD-MDS

ORTHODONTIC  
SPECIALIST

- Complimentary Initial exam
- We offer Invisalign™

Member American Association of Orthodontists



*Braces for  
Children  
and Adults*

750 Washington Road  
412-563-5800  
[www.gobbieortho.com](http://www.gobbieortho.com)