

# Downbeat Times

Schneiderman—PSO player, teacher, comic

March 2000

## Dean's column

by Dean Streator

When I received a call from the folks at Ligonier to invite us back for a Sunday evening (7:00) concert on August 13, she told me that Community Band South draws their biggest audience of the summer. ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS !!

I love the Ligonier venue, the court house backdrop, the gazebo in the square and all the folks sitting in the park and on the street. It is just the way the American town concert should be. We have to maintain that tradition and do another great performance there.

We go to California University as an opportunity to show the college kids that there are opportunities to play in bands and orchestras and sing in choirs after school life. There are no music majors at California and Director Max Gonano wants his kids to understand that there are plenty of opportunities to continue playing after graduation. This is not an "audience" geared event for CBS, but fits into our

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### Concert schedule

(downbeat time)

**Monday, May 22 (7:45)** Friendship Village in Upper St. Clair

**Sunday, June 11 (6:30)** Wallace Presbyterian Church in Green Tree

**Monday, July 24 (7:30)** Peters Creek Historical Society in Venetia

**Saturday, July 29 (7:15)** St. Sylvester's RC Church in Brentwood

**Sunday, August 13 (7:00)** Ligonier town square

When Dean says he defers to his teacher and nods to Bill Schneiderman, he means it. Bill taught Dean percussion for five years at Carnegie Tech. He says Dean was a student of great promise. Another well known student of his was Dean's classmate Eddie Myers who went on to become a Pittsburgh Symphony player.

Bill studied at Julliard for six years ("They didn't give degrees then so I stayed till they kicked me out," he says). After finishing school, he won the first chair timpani position with the Pittsburgh Symphony. He stayed on for 39 years. He also played with the Ballet Theatre in New York, the Pittsburgh Ballet, the Pittsburgh Opera, and the Chautauqua Symphony.

When he first started with the symphony, he was able to remain in his home town of New York City and continue to play with the Ballet Theatre. With the ballet he traveled all over the US and Canada. Later on, when the Pittsburgh orchestra extended its season, he moved to Pittsburgh. He now lives in Scott Township.

Bill wasn't always focussed on becoming a musician. In fact, he seriously considered becoming a journalist. Over the years he has been editor in chief of two different community newspapers. One of them was in Oakland, the other in Yonkers. He chose music over journalism because he did not like the yellow journalism reporters sometimes were forced into. Music is non-offensive and he likes the lifestyle.

Anyone who spends any time around Bill knows he has a wry sense of humor. ("It's awry," says Bill). He's apparently been looking at the funny side of life all along. He wrote a humor column while he was in high school and he did imitations — A particular favorite was Groucho Marx doing his Duck Soup routine complete with night gown and night cap.

He's been asked to write a book about his musical experiences. He has a head full of

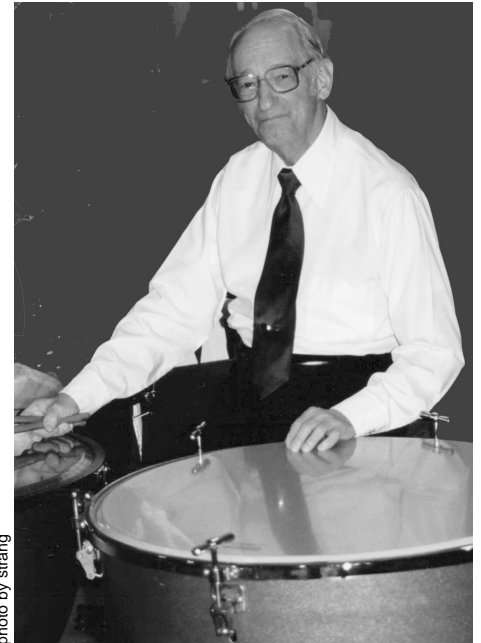


photo by strang

Bill Schneiderman

stories, he says. And with his ability to see the humor in what's going on, it should be a very entertaining book.

**Dean:** "I've just finished writing a book on how to teach rhythm."

**Bill:** "Well, it's about time."

Learning to read rhythms is simply a case of MIND over METER.

Musicians who study kettledrums have succumbed to timptation.

A serious head injury occurred at the Soviet Rhythm Symposium...or in other words, there was a concussion at the Russian percussion discussion.

## Digital printing

Thanks to all those who donated money to the printing fund for this newsletter. We now have enough to print several more issues using digital technology which produces clearer and brighter photos.

# Green sheets

About half of the band members have turned in the green dossier sheets that ask for musical background, favorite things, vocation, etc. Some interesting statistics are beginning to emerge. We have enormous variety in vocations and training but surprising similarity in hometowns -- Not only did most of us grow up in the Pittsburgh area, but almost half are from the south hills. We don't agree at all, however, on the best flavors for ice cream. (Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of people sharing the item.)

Vocation	High School or hometown	Field of study	Education levels
Actuary		Aviation maintenance	AA/BS/BA (22)
Aircraft maintenance	(in Pennsylvania except where noted)	Biology	MS/MA (4)
Chiropractor	Baldwin	Chiropractic	PhD/MD/LLD (5)
Editor	Baltimore, MD	Civil engineering	
Education (5)	Bedford	Computer science	<b>Favorite ice cream flavor</b>
Electrician	Bethel Park (2)	Electrical engineering	Ben & Jerry's mint chocolate cookie
Engineering/math/science (10)	Brentwood	Elementary education (3)	Ben & Jerry's toffee bar crunch
Firefighter	Bridgeville	Engineering	Bruster's chocolate raspberry truffle
Industrial analyst	Castle Shannon (2)	Engineering physics	Butter pecan (4)
Lawyer	Crafton	English	Chocolate chip cookie dough
Library	Dubois	English literature	Chocolate (6)
Museum	Elizabeth	Fire science	Cinnamon
Nursing	Hastings	Geology	Homemade vanilla with chocolate chips and peanut butter
Painting	Hyattsville, MD	German	Mint chocolate chip (3)
Psychiatrist	Hyndman	Great books	Peach
Sales	Johnstown	History	Praline and carmel
Surgeon	Kirwan Heights	Library science	Rocky road
Urban planner	Malta, OH	Mathematics (2)	Toasted almond fudge
Writer	McDonald	Mechanical engineering	Vanilla (2)
	Mt. Lebanon (2)	Medicine	
<b>Other instruments</b>	Mt. Vernon, NY	Mining engineering	<b>Last book read</b>
(currently being played)	Mt. Washington	Museum studies	Watch for this list in the next issue.
Electric bass	Newell, WV	Music education (2)	
Guitar	Pitcairn	Nursing	
Organ	Pittsburgh	Physics (2)	
Piano	Upper Darby	Political science	
Plus singing in choirs	Upper St. Clair	Public administration	
	Waynesburg	Science	
	West View	Science & technology studies	
	Whiting, IN	Technical writing	
		Urban and regional planning	

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stated policy of encouraging kids to continue involvement with music....MUSIC IS FOR A LIFETIME !

California plans to come to Upper St. Clair next year. We will alternate locales with the goal of attracting an audience. The combined finale selection is always a blast. What it lacks in finesse and precision is made up for in exuberance. There is a kind of thrill in risk taking. The audience was a little bigger this year...these things take time. When Max told his players that CBS requested that they stay for the second half, someone recalled that CBS didn't show up last year until their third number, so I was put in MY place.

## Johnny Mathis superfans

Here's an item gleaned from the greensheets: **George Barrett** (trumpet) and his wife have the world's largest collection of Johnny Mathis recordings. They own 410 record albums, for example, plus CDs, tapes, 45s, and memorabilia. They have traveled all over the country to hear Johnny sing. They are such familiar sites at his concerts, that Johnny greets them by name. George says it's really his wife's collection but he seems just as enthusiastic as she is.

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Founded 1987

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