

# AVERILL PARK COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

March 2019 Newsletter

## **APCO BOARD 2018-2019**

Sarah Popiel, Board President

Christina Desmond, Music  
Director & Co-conductor

Skip Persia, Co-conductor

Viola Persia, Treasurer

Emily Jaworski

Jack Ishman

David Mitchell

Hadley Chan

Betty Lou Eddy

## **FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

We just had our first rehearsal for the Spring 2019 season, and everyone did a great job – this promises to be another terrific and fun season! It was wonderful to rehearse with everyone again after our winter hiatus.

Our current program is as follows:

- An American Rhapsody - Meyer
- Moondust (from American Sketches No. 6)
- Patriotic Melodies that Stirred Our Nation
- War March of the Priests (from "Athalia")
- Fiddle-Faddle for (Violin) Soloist and Full Orchestra
- William Tell Overture
- Italian Folk Festival
- Russian Sailor's Dance
- Hungarian Dance No. 5
- The Pink Panther

March is Music in Our Schools Month, and I would just like to take the time to say that APCO is always thankful for the tremendous support we receive from the Averill Park Central

School District, particularly at Algonquin Middle School and Averill Park High School where we often rehearse and perform. Their music, administrative, and custodial staff members have all been so helpful and flexible in whatever ways are necessary for us to accomplish our goal of bringing a full orchestra experience to the local community. We have numerous members who were students in the APCSD when they joined, and some who are current students as well. We have been happy to provide an additional music ensemble for these young people to perform in and look forward to finding new ways to give back to the students in the district in the future as well.

I hope that everyone enjoys these last weeks of winter – I hear birds singing their musical songs in the morning now, so spring is on its way!

Sincerely,  
Christina



## TREASURER'S REPORT

APCO has received its first deposit from Amazon Smiles! If you have not already done so, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select Averill Park Community Orchestra. We will receive 0.5% of all purchases made through our group. This does not affect the prices you pay nor your Prime status. Spread the word to friends and family!

If you are a new member of APCO, please be advised that the dues are \$15. You can give me a check made out to Averill Park Community Orchestra or cash before rehearsal. If you paid last season, you are good for the year! If not, please be sure to pay this season so that you can be considered a member in good standing!

Thank you,  
Vi Persia

## OUR COMMITTEES IN ACTION

The webpage is still in its final stages, but the final details are almost done. Look for a link soon!

## CALL FOR HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Our group was started 25 years ago by Janine Budesheim as just a handful of string players, and the history of how it became a 60+ piece full orchestra is an interesting process. We are looking for historical information from anyone who may have participated in this organization when it first started as the "Averill Park Strings," or was involved when the group transitioned to the "Averill Park Winds & Strings," and then the "Averill Park Community Orchestra." We want to put together a comprehensive document with information from multiple sources, so if you have anything you would like to share, please email Christina and we will include it in the history section of our webpage.

It will be subject to some editing, as we will likely be creating one unified document out of whatever we receive, but credit will be given to all contributors.

*"Music is what tells us that the human race is greater than we realize."* – Napoléon Bonaparte



## OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here is a link to our Google calendar, which will eventually be available on the website:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=aGFpamVoNwT1ZWRTZTlibDFibWxzGZoYWdAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluc29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

### SPRING Practices and Concert (Sectional rehearsals TBA)

Wed. 3/13 Rehearse in **AMS band room** from 7 to 8:30PM (6-12 concert at HS)  
Wed. 3/20 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 3/27 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 4/3 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 4/10 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 4/17 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 4/24 \*\*\* **NO REHEARSAL** \*\*\* (Spring Recess)  
Wed. 5/1 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 5/8 " " " " " " " "  
Wed. 5/15 " " " " " " " " (Elem Concerts)  
Wed. 5/22 Rehearse in **APHS band room** from 7 to 8:30PM (7-8 Concert at AMS)  
**Wed. 5/29 Rehearse on APHS stage from 7 to 8:30 PM**  
**Sun. 6/2 Concert in APHS auditorium at 3:00 PM**  
(Please arrive by 2:15 to tune, warm up, and run a few spots)

## LOOKING FOR CHAMBER MUSICIANS FOR THE SPRING

If you want to perform in a chamber music group this spring, please let Christina Desmond know soon, so that music and events can be adequately planned for late spring. We hope to perform 2-3 times, at area nursing homes and in other community locations.

People are signing up to participate in the Chamber Music Committee to assist with planning music and events for these groups.



## SEE OUR APCO MEMBERS PERFORM IN OTHER LOCAL MUSIC EVENTS

Viola Persia, our Treasurer and principal flutist, will be performing a recorder presentation for our local Webelo Scout Troop 528 on Tuesday, March 12. In it, she will be explaining and demonstrating some of the differences between the different types and sizes of recorders. The boys will have a chance to play a recorder piece with her at the end of the session.

(If you are a member, and are performing in an event during April, please let Penny Semeiks and Andrea Indelicato know so that we can put it in next month's newsletter.)

## COMPOSER'S CORNER

### Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875 – 1912)

A prominent English composer and conductor, Taylor was born of mixed race and was so successful that he was referred to as the “African Mahler”. His mother was Alice Hare Martin, an English



woman, and his father was Dr. Daniel Peter Hughes Taylor, a physician from Sierra Leone of mixed European and African descent. Taylor was named after the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. As his parents were not married, they lived with Alice’s father in Croydon, Surrey.

His mother’s side had numerous musicians. His grandfather started teaching him the violin at a young age. At age 15, the extended family paid for him to study at the Royal College of Music where he learned composition. After graduation, Taylor became a professional musician, a professor at the Crystal Palace School of Music, and a conductor of the orchestra at the Croydon Conservatoire.

Taylor had initial success with his orchestral piece *Ballade in A Minor*. Sir Edward Elgar recommended him as “far and away the cleverest fellow going amongst the younger men”. In 1898, this led him to write one of his most successful works, *Hiawatha’s Wedding Feast*, a cantata for chorus and orchestra inspired by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s epic poem *The Song of Hiawatha*. The score was published before the first performance was given and was so popular that Taylor was commissioned to write a sequel before it had even been played in public. The work was an immediate international success, leading him to make three tours of the United States.

In 1899 he married Jessie Walmisley, a fellow student from the Royal College of Music. Her parents initially objected to the marriage because of Taylor’s heritage but eventually relented. They had a son named Hiawatha and a daughter named Gwendolyn Avril, both of whom had careers in music.

Taylor became increasingly interested in his father’s racial heritage and was the youngest delegate at the First Pan-African Conference in London in 1900. He met many leading Americans, including poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and activist W.E.B. Du Bois. On his first tour of the United States in 1904, Taylor was received by President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House, a rare event at the time for a man of African descent. In the tradition of Johannes Brahms with Hungarian music and Antonín Dvořák with Bohemian music, Taylor sought to incorporate traditional African music into the classical form and set some of Dunbar’s poems to music.

Despite his popularity, Taylor often struggled financially. Composers were not often paid well for their music and usually sold the rights to their works outright to make an immediate income. Having done this with *Hiawatha’s Wedding Feast*, selling it for only 15 guineas, he did not benefit directly from the hundreds of thousands of copies sold. Taylor died of pneumonia at the young age of 37; the stress of

his financial situation is said to have contributed to his death. As evidence of his high regard as a composer, King George V granted his widow Jessie a pension of £100. His most famous work was performed regularly for decades after his death, and its popularity was only rivaled by Handel's *Messiah* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

*Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc-ciMBPw-o>

*African Suite* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHqUnfGNybk>

*Petite Suite de Concert* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Fv5ATyOpOo>