



Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Oakland Symphony concert set for Nov. 15

The Oakland Symphony's 2003-04 season continues Saturday, Nov. 15, with a concert featuring one of the region's preeminent pianists, Diane Helfers Petrella, in a performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 in C Major.

Other highlights of the concert include Johann Sebastian Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, with the concertmaster and assistant concertmaster of the Oakland Symphony, Sherri Magno and David Litven, performing as the soloists. The concert also includes a beautiful work for string orchestra, the Serenade No. 1 in E Major, op. 22 of Antonin Dvorak. Gregory Cunningham is the concert's music director.

Helfers Petrella joined the Oakland University faculty in the fall of 2001. She teaches applied lessons, piano pedagogy and piano literature and coordinates the group piano program. She has a doctoral degree in musical arts in piano performance from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. She also holds an artist diploma from Texas Christian University, a master of music in piano performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a bachelor of music in piano performance and music education, magna cum laude, from Eastern Illinois University.

Helfers Petrella has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of North Texas, Texas Wesleyan University and taught pre-college students in the Texas Christian University Preparatory Program, Madison School of Music, Wayland Academy and Eastern Illinois University Preparatory Program. Since 1993, she has been on the piano faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Mich., and became chairperson of Blue Lake's Piano Department in the summer of 2000.

She has won awards in the Martin Memorial Competition, Petroff Piano Competition and Sigma Alpha Iota Undergraduate Scholarship Competition and was featured twice as a soloist with the EIU/Community Orchestra. She is active as a soloist, collaborative pianist and adjudicator throughout the United States.

The Nov. 15 concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased outside Varner Recital Hall the evening of the concert or can be reserved by calling (248) 370-3013.

SUMMARY

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