

Joe Allen

From: Gwinnett Forum [news@gwinnettforum.com]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 6:00 AM
To: jallen@gwinnettplacecid.com
Subject: 1/9: New issue of GwinnettForum



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❖ today's focus

Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra and Chorus growing in stature

By KELLY HAGGARD OLSON
Special to GwinnettForum

(Editor's Note: During 2008, the Gwinnett Philharmonic Orchestra went out of business. However, another orchestral music organization has become much more active in the county in recent years. Here is a brief overview of how the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra and Chorus began. -eeb)

DULUTH, Ga., Jan. 9, 2009 -- Twelve years ago, in 1996, two home school mothers organized a small string group because they wanted to create more performance opportunities for their children. They started with a 15-piece youth orchestra. One year later, Robert Trocina accepted the directorship and helped expand the organization into a full symphony orchestra. Adult musicians were later added to the orchestra, and the non-profit Gwinnett Community Symphony Orchestra was born.

In the fall of 2007, Rick Smith created the companion Symphony Chorus. Though the Chorus is fairly new to the organization and is still recruiting additional members, it has already participated in exciting collaborations with

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GwinnettForum.com
Number 8.79, Jan. 9, 2009

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the Berkmar High School Chorus and Capitol City Opera.

May Smith, vice president and senior loan officer at Atlanta Mortgage Lending, became board president of the Symphony in 2008 and is helping to restructure the GSO.

The GSO organization now includes a 90-member Symphony Orchestra, 50-member Symphony Chorus, 21-member Chamber Orchestra and 40-member Ballet Orchestra. It recently dropped 'Community' from its name in an effort to reflect the more professional character of the organization, and officially became the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in 2008.

The GSO&C played in 2008 its second year of a five-year contract with the Northeast Atlanta Ballet, for whom the Ballet Orchestra performs live for The Nutcracker in Fall and another ballet in the Spring (Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake in 2009). It is also in its first year working with Capitol City Opera and the new Georgia Gwinnett College.

Music Director/Orchestra Conductor **Robert Trocina** received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Kennesaw State University and studied further at Georgia State University. He is the co-founder/CEO of New School of Music, which has three Atlanta-based locations, 80 music teachers and 1600 students.



Trocina

Trocina served as associate conductor and board member of the Atlanta Wind Symphony, and is a member of the Music Educators' National Conference, International Trumpet Guild and Georgia Music Educators' Association. He performs with the Capital City Chamber Orchestra.

Symphony Chorus Conductor **Rick Smith** began studying piano at the age of 7, becoming the pianist at his church at 12. He received Bachelor's degrees in both church music and music education at Shorter College, and studied under choral genius John H. Ratledge III, Ph.D.



Smith serves as senior music minister at The River United



NEW SIGNS. In 2008, new directional signs were placed in prominent locations throughout Gwinnett Place. The initial phase installation of 10 large directional signs that will aid motorists as they navigate Gwinnett's central business district. In addition to directional signs, gateway markers, gateway monuments, banners and illuminated signs displaying street names can be found at major Gwinnett Place intersections. In addition to aiding traffic flow, the signage also helps brand the area and identify the boundaries of the CID, where travelers can see the improved road conditions and cleanliness of the area. The Gwinnett Place CID is one of three CIDs in Gwinnett, funded by a self-imposed tax on commercial property owners dedicated to improving their areas.

- "School vouchers." This amounts to transferring public monies to private schools, and hurts public education.
- "Cut the income tax." They'll call for this as a pro-business lure. But this would reduce progressivity and cause the regular guy to shoulder more of the burden.
- "Increase energy independence." These may be the words that they use to try to build more coal-fired power plants, which would hurt the environment.
- "Clean coal." There is no such thing.
- "More efficiency in government." Who wouldn't call for that? But watch out who is cut out, and whose jobs are protected. All too often, the wrong people get the ax.
- Watch out when a legislator says "...all this bill does." Simple explanations of complex bills are the norm. Any time you hear this phrase, watch out!

All these activities, this year, will only be more interesting for us in Gwinnett because we will have two of our own in the running for higher office. We wish them well. It can however, complicate getting things done!



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sustainability of greater Gwinnett Place. The Gwinnett Place CID...Keeping Gwinnett Place the Place to be. To learn more about the Gwinnett Place CID and ways to find success at Gwinnett's central business district, please visit www.GwinnettPlaceCID.com or www.visitgwinnettplace.com.

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❖ feedback

Feels county government swings toward dictatorial tactics

Editor, the Forum:

I, too, regret the apparent imminent demise of Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, and echo your sentiments in regard to its contribution to the quality of life in Gwinnett County. However, this tragic result could have been avoided.

The basic problem is that the County Commission, through GC&B, either (a) did not get enough input and buy-in from the citizens and the contractors; or (b) ignored whatever input they got---or both. Instead, the county attempted to strong-arm the changes in the waste collection program, resulting in a massive protest from both groups of constituents. My sense is that there is a growing undercurrent of protest and rebellion among Gwinnett taxpayers over other issues as well. The commissioners should take note.

It is my opinion that the over the last few years the county government has swung more toward using dictatorial tactics in making changes or creating new ordinances and taxes, and that this trend continues today. I can see a similar situation developing over the new baseball stadium.

-- Al Swint, Buford

Reader sends along ways to recognize person having stroke