

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 4 Jan 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 1/04 Glen Cortese, Schenectady Symphony

This Week: 1/11 CAPTAIN/Community Human Services –
Director Andy Gilpin

Next Week: 1/18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day- TBD Meeting or Not

Coming Up: 1/25 Landis Arboretum

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.
Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Dan Stec.
Find us at bhbblrotary.org and on Facebook*

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves

Schenectady Symphony Orchestra – Glen Cortese

This week the artistic director of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra, Glen Cortese, met with us in our weekly Zoom meeting. He gave us a brief history of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra which was founded in 1934, performing its first concert in February 1935, sponsored by the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce. Its second broadcast was a pioneering event as it was beamed to South America on General Electric stations, making it one of the first American orchestras to be heard overseas via short wave radio. The Symphony has had great success over the years and starting in 1979 the Symphony started performing at the historic Proctors Theater. The concert season consists of four concerts a year, plus a Children's Concert, and most recently, a Mentoring Concert with an occasional Pop Concert. Recently they had Christmas Poinsettia Pops concert performed virtually, and available to watch remotely.

Glen Cortese, has an extensive performing repertoire and directorship programs. He is the artistic director for the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra as well as the Western New York Chamber Orchestra. He just completed twelve seasons as the music director of the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra and was named music director emeritus of the Oregon Mozart Players after

serving as artistic director for nine seasons. Most impressive of all is that he has maintained his residence in New York City ever since he attended school at the Manhattan School of Music. He talked about being on the road almost 100 days one year at his busiest.

His history with music began when he was 4 years old and began playing the piano. His love of music grew from there but he was also quite the athlete. As budding star baseball player, he was called up to play for his Junior Varsity team early and as an equipment manager for the Varsity team. Life had other plans for him as he tells it, when a freak accident with a baseball bat injury to his head caused him to leave sports indefinitely. This forced him back to his first love, music and the piano and he never looked back.

Greg then spoke about how the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra has found a way to still perform virtually and has been able to gain more viewership. Just like our virtual Zoom meetings, the virtual performances allow more people to enjoy the performances anytime and on demand vs a few set live performances. He went on to talk about that nothing will replace a live performance and how music makes each individual feel from the group setting, vibrations, lights, atmosphere, etc.

He says that even more so that music is needed right now for all of us as we manage the Covid pandemic, as it gives us an escape. It lets us focus on just listening and feeling the music and getting away from the life stressors. Music is a powerful thing, that can be an individual experience as well as a group experience. It can invoke long lost memories, that could stem from multiple emotions. It is deeply connected to our psyche.

It is for all these reasons that the Symphony has continued to operate. He says they will focus on more education programs in our local schools as the music education has been affected by the Covid classroom environment.

For more information about the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and for virtual performances please visit their website and also the Proctors Theater website.
<http://www.schenectadysymphony.org/> <https://www.proctors.org>

For more information about Glen Cortese please visit his personal website. <https://glencortese.com/>

Reported by Jonathan Costolo