

"SCARY SINFONIA" RETURNS WITH NEW SPOOKINESS

No medium is spared in PA Sinfonia's second annual Halloween treat.

Allentown, Pa. – (October 4, 2010) – If this year's Scary Sinfonia concert doesn't paralyze you with fear, it will at least open your mind to the creative possibilities of multi-arts presentation. A mixture of live music, theatre, and audio-visual effects characterizes the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra's Halloween-themed fundraising event, which begins at 6:00 pm (reception) and 7:30 pm (concert) on October 30 at Octave Hall, Allen Organ Company in Macungie, PA.

"Last year, everyone in the audience (young and old alike) enjoyed all of the music and many came in costume...even Allan was a classy Count Dracula. Creative programming makes classical music FUN and Scary Sinfonia provides the tasteful alternative to haunted houses and gore...we let people celebrate the holiday and enjoy dressing up (optional) gourmet treats, great quality music PLUS see musical director, Allan Birney in costume!"

A large film screen at Allen Organ Theatre will augment the main festivities with a live feed close-up of the performers as well as photos from appropriate films. Josh Neth of Allentown Public Theatre will present Edgar Allen Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart* and the Ghost Scene from *Hamlet: A Rock Experience*, accompanied by live music with a Pink Floydian twist.

The Scary Sinfonia String Quartet will play a potpourri of haunting melodies including an excerpt from Edvard Grieg's String Quartet in g minor, a Hungarian Dance by Johannes Brahms, and Simon Maurer (violin) playing Transylvanian Lullaby from Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*. J.S. Bach's Toccata in F will be performed by Allan Birney on organ.

Perhaps the most unique instrumental Halloween treat of the evening, however, is a one-person "spoken opera", a piece performed by PA Sinfonia string bassist (and narrator) Nancy Merriam.

The three-movement piece by Jon Deak is titled "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (The Hound of the Baskervilles)" which uses text by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The piece will require Nancy to play bass, narrate the dialogue of six characters, and produce interesting sound effects on her bass.

"This is a very scary piece, for both the audience and the performer!" said Nancy, whose ambitious solo act requires incredible preparation and coordination.

Jon Deak recommends that performers of his piece adapt an intensity of "near-paranoia" to achieve clarity of the story's diverse characters as well as an appropriate level of drama through the music.

There is plenty of free parking available at Allen Organ, located at 3370 Route 100 in Macungie, PA. Admission is \$15 for the concert, \$35 for the concert and pre-concert reception. During the pre-concert reception, gourmet ghoulish goodies catered by Simply Smooth and Dracula drinks (wine and cider) will be served in the entrance rotunda of the Allen Organ building. For tickets and more information, call 610-434-7811 or visit www.pasinfonia.org.