



SUBMITTED PHOTO

DEBUT CONCERT – Members of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra perform during their debut concert in July. **On the cover:** Woodwinds musicians perform during the OCO's debut concert.

A musical celebration of Lake Country

Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra continues its mission to inspire through new works

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Lake Country's rolling hills, diverse forests and numerous waterways have long inspired writers and artists. Now, through the efforts of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra (OCO), they will also be immortalized through original works of music.

OCO director and musician Roberta Carpenter remembers the cold, rainy day when she and Milwaukee musician and composer Sigmund Snopek III first explored the idea of writing music inspired by the lakes of Lake Country. Nearly two years later, the OCO premiered two original works of music composed by Snopek and Crawford Gates as part of the Lake Country Project during its debut concert July 10 at the Oconomowoc Arts Center.

"So many works have been written by our living compos-

ers, but because they were never recorded, no one knows about them. Our mission is to enrich our local heritage by supporting and presenting new works by living composers, as well as maintaining the visibility of existing musical pieces. We want to give them a voice by performing and recording their works so they can be heard and remembered," said Carpenter.

The OCO is a nonprofit organization that brings together an ensemble of about 45 musicians in a semi-professional setting with the mission to lead, enrich and inspire the community through orchestral performances and music education.

Carpenter said the group is working to raise funds for future performances and hopes to produce recorded copies of its debut concert in time for the holidays. Documenting the original Lake Country compositions by audio recording and having

the music set to the images and sounds from which they were inspired is also a goal.

'Lake Tones & Landscapes'

"A lot of composers don't get recognized until after they're dead, so I'm glad to share my music with so many while I'm still alive," said Snopek. The Milwaukee music icon has been playing, composing and entertaining audiences around the world for more than four decades.

Snopek has written more than 300 songs, has recorded 18 CDs and considers himself a "journeyman musician," exploring, experimenting with and combing a wide spectrum of music ranging from jazz to progressive rock to Top 40. His symphonies, operas and ensemble compositions have been performed by the Milwaukee Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and featured in theatrical productions, at music festivals and for children's educa-

THE SCORE CAME SECOND

The Score Came Second series is an exploration of music, composers and the inspirations behind why the music was written. Each program will highlight specific composers and take an in-depth look at their world and the span of their lifework. Hosted by Roberta Carpenter, music director and conductor of the Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra, at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, at Hartland Music Center, 1125 James Drive, Hartland.

The Fall Series will focus on the life and music of Antonin Dvorak and will take place Oct. 5, 12 and 19.

The Winter Series will feature the music of France and is scheduled for Feb. 1, 8 and 15. The cost per series is \$28 for adults and \$22 for students. Single events are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.

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tional programs.

When Carpenter asked him to compose music that would be premiered during the OCO debut concert, Snopek jumped at the opportunity.

"It's vital for cultural organizations to work with today's creative people; it keeps them from getting too stodgy. While it's important to remember composers from the past by performing their works, it's also essential to take care of the present and the future by premiering new works by living composers," he said.

Originally, Snopek agreed to write a piece that would include seven movements, each of them attributed to an

area lake. "I have always been attracted to water, and I've spent a lot of time on the lakes in the Lake Country area. When I was a kid my dad would take us fishing on Pewaukee Lake, so I guess it's a sentimental attraction," he said.

With nearly 20 lakes in Lake Country to choose from, the group realized one piece would not be enough and decided to broaden the focus of the Lake Country Project to a multiyear, collaborative effort to musically depict the area's lakes and landmarks. Snopek's piece, titled "Lake Tones & Landscapes" would