

Area lakes, landmarks presented through music

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be the beginning of that journey.

The seven movements pay tribute to the region's ancient past, its abundant activities and invoke emotions associated with the beauty of water and surrounding landmarks. The movements include 1. Glacial Meltdown, 2. Sailing on Pewaukee Lake, 3. Thousands of Fish, 4. An Alp Horn on Pine Lake, 5. Climb the Tower (Lapham Peak), 6. Upper & Lower Nemahbin (two-part invention) and 7. Sunset on Lake Nagawicka (Seven Seas Waltz).

During the OCO debut concert, Snopek narrated a snippet of commentary, introducing each movement of his piece. Before the last movement, "Sunset on Lake Nagawicka (Seven Seas Waltz)," Snopek said, "And now the sunset falls slowly and deliberately over beautiful Lake Nagawicka. All of us await the chord of night. The dance and then the energy of the creatures of the moon dance of Lake Country dance on."

Snopek hopes to eventually weave actual lake sounds into the recording of his Lake Country-inspired composition. "The orchestra brings the music alive. Each performance injects new life into it and changes it. It's an ongoing process that never really ends. Integrating the sounds that the lakes make into the

orchestral body of the work will bring it to a whole new level," he said.

'Fanfare for Lake Country'

When Carpenter began looking for a composer for "Fanfare for Lake Country," Gates – a musician, composer and conductor – immediately came to mind. The Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra music director had worked with Gates 20 years ago when conducting for the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra. "Dr. Gates has unbelievably deep roots in the music realm. I knew he would be able to infuse the spirit of the lakes into this celebratory piece in a vigorous and flamboyant way," said Carpenter.

"I was inspired by Roberta's invitation, and the fact that she liked my music was quite a compliment. I was more than happy to write a fanfare for Lake Country," added Gates.

Gates has been creating music for more than 80 years. His first composition, at age 8, was played by his third-grade class. Since then, Gates has composed or arranged more than 875 works of music, which have been performed by the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Utah Symphony and other major orchestras in Dallas, Kansas City, Rochester, Madison and Milwaukee.

Gates was the music direc-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

INSPIRED – Crawford Gates of Salt Lake City, Utah, watches a rehearsal of his new composition, "Fanfare for Lake Country." Gates and Oconomowoc Chamber Orchestra Music Director Roberta Carpenter worked together during Gates' 34-year tenure as music director with the Beloit/Janesville Symphony.

tor for the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra from 1963-99. He was also professor of music at Beloit College, and orchestral conductor for the Quincy Symphony and Rockford Symphony Orchestras.

"Fanfare for Lake Country" was not the first time Gates has written music based on his reflections of Wisconsin. He was commissioned by the Madison Sym-

phony Orchestra to write a piece about Madison's lakes and also composed works about the Baraboo Circus and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin in Spring Green. Today he and his wife, Georgia, live in Salt Lake City, Utah, and just celebrated the birth of a great-grandchild.

"I lived in Wisconsin for 34 years, and during that time I traveled all over the state, which I feel is one of the most

beautiful in the United States. I'm 88 years old, and coming back to Wisconsin to celebrate the beauty of its lakes through this music was a great climax of my life. It was a delightful experience," he said.

For more information about the OCO and its outreach programs, including the Lake Country Project, visit www.oconchamberorch.org.