

The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra and Rock County:

The roots are deep and the music keeps growing

By Edie Baron
BJSO Executive Director

Sixty-five years ago, Louis Dalvit and his wife, Patricia, founded an orchestra on the Beloit College campus. From its humble beginnings as a community orchestra open to all who were interested in playing, this eventually became the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, also known as BJSO, which has grown into a professional orchestra.

Our musicians come from all over Rock County and Madison, Milwaukee, Rockford and sometimes the Chicago area.

The Beloit Janesville

Symphony Orchestra has had only three music conductors in sixty-five years; that's a record unto itself. Dr. Dalvit, Dr. Crawford Gates, and our current director, Dr. Rob Tomaro, have all conducted the BJSO and have all taught in the Music Department of Beloit College.

Even though Dr. Tomaro has retired from teaching at Beloit College, BJSO still retains a collaborative relationship with the campus. Our most recent concert, *An Evening with Beethoven*, exemplifies the unique relationship between the college and BJSO: Dr. Ian Nie, a professor at Beloit College, started the

evening off by conducting Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*. During our major work, *Beethoven Symphony No. 9*, The BJSO MasterWorks chorus, under the direction of Christopher Joyner, the Chorus Director of the college, sang the beautiful and famous *Ode to Joy*. Many of the chorus members are students at Beloit College, and others are members of our community. Mr. Joyner was also one of our featured soloists. And we performed in the elegant Eaton Chapel, one of Beloit College's oldest buildings.

We at BJSO are grateful for all that Beloit College has done for us through the years. We are also grateful that Dr. Crawford Gates had the foresight to expand the symphony's performances to Janesville, bringing it to more of Rock County. It was under his direction that we became the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Gates was also instrumental in creating the enormously popular *Pops on the Rock* concerts. On July 3, BJSO performs its *Salute to the Armed Forces* in Janesville's Courthouse Park. On July 4, the festivities happen in Beloit's Riverside Park at the Harry Moore Pavilion, followed by fireworks.

After a hiatus from 2015-2016, BJSO came

back to a successful *Come Back Season* in 2016-2017, and we just finished our 2017-2018 *Keeping the Music Alive* season. This year the July 3 and July 4 concerts mark the beginning of the 2018-2019 *Celebrating 65 Years* season. We hope to see you in Beloit and Janesville at our concerts.

With all the various offerings, there is something on our musical buffet table that will appeal to you in our 2018-2019 Season: *Romantic Masterworks*, featuring solo violinist Matt Pickart; Rock County's barber-

shop chorus, The Chordhawks, sing with the BJSO in our December *Holiday Extravaganza*; always mindful of our young audiences, we are offering *Ferdinand the Bull and other Fantasy Favorites* in March, with guest narrator, Edie Baron; and we wind up our season with David Newman on piano, playing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* at our April *A Rhapsody in Sound* concert. A little bit of something for everyone!

In the interest of encouraging families to attend live performances,

we offer free tickets to all children under the age of 15; high school and other students are only \$5. Adult tickets are \$20. The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra makes professional symphonic music easily available to everyone in the Rock County area!

Sixty-five years old, and still making beautiful music – thank you, all, for helping us *Keep the Music Alive!*

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything! – Plato



The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra is inviting you to help celebrate its 65th year together during its 2018-2019 concert series. (Submitted photo)






Sunday, August 5, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
www.rchs.us/tallmanart

BELOIT & JANESVILLE SYMPHONY

DR. ROBERT TOMARO, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Celebrating 65 years!
1953 – 2018



JOIN US AT THESE 2018-2019 CONCERTS:

Pops on the Rock: A Salute to the Armed Forces - FREE CONCERTS!

July 3, 6:30 - Janesville Courthouse Park | July 4, 7:30 - Beloit Riverside Park (fireworks following the concert)

Romantic Masterworks - September 22, Beloit and September 23, Janesville

A Holiday Extravaganza with The Badger Chordhawks Chorus - December 16, Janesville

Fantasy Favorites for Children of All Ages - March 21, Janesville

A Rhapsody in Sound! - April 14, Beloit

View full BJSO season schedule at beloitjanesvillesymphony.org | (608) 313-1200 |    