

# Southeastern Ohio Symphony hits the right notes with Byesville Rotarians

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THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

BYESVILLE — Promoting the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra (SEOSO) is not a hard sell once you've heard Dr. Laura Schumann play the violin. Schumann expounded on the merits of music to Byesville Rotarians at the club's Tuesday meeting.

Schumann, currently musical director and conductor of the SEOSO and associate professor of music at Muskingum College, also demonstrated her expertise and passion for music on her famous green violin.

While she has won numerous awards over the years for conducting and as a performer, many as impressive as her academic achievements, Schumann dispels the image of the stuffy classical music genre.

"Music is boring if it's played boring," said Schumann. "That is why our symphony is so good, we are never boring! We do not have full-time musicians ... 75 percent of our orchestra is comprised of students and people from the community who are not professional musicians, meaning they do not play in the orchestra full-time. They are just people who have a passion for music. We are also one of the few orchestras that offer an apprenticeship program for high school students."

She is constantly coming up with innovative ways to attract more people to music, especially young people. Not one to shy away from taking risks, she once rode into a concert venue on a motorcycle.

"It's important to make music interesting and fun, especially for kids," she said. "It's part of my job to promote the symphony, but I also want to educate people of all ages as to the role music plays in our lives," she said. "You don't have to understand classical music, you just have to learn to enjoy it!"

Schumann credits the "partnership with Muskingum College, the hard-working musicians, board members, corporate sponsors and sub-

scribers" for the orchestra's success. "Funding is, of course, our greatest challenge ... we are continually looking for new sources of income and we are truly grateful to those who continue to support us."

She also alluded to the addition of John Kunkel as SEOSO's new manager. "He has definitely been an inspiration," said Schumann. "Our ideas mesh well together."

Schumann distributed brochures describing SEOSO's upcoming concert schedule titled "Classics En Vogue" at Brown Chapel featuring Beethoven's Third, Oct. 29; a special "Holiday Pops" concert, Nov. 3 at Secret Auditorium; Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 3; the Children's Concert, "Luck of the Irish," March 18; and Jazz violinist Randy Sabein, April 22.

Schumann said if you haven't been to a SEOSO concert, you don't know what you're missing.

"Help keep us in the community ... It's not just music — it's a symphony!"

In other Rotary business:

Byesville Rotary President Joe "Grizz" Smith invited Rotarians to a social outing Saturday evening at his home. A session on trees and landscaping will begin about 5 p.m. (for those interested), eating begins at 6 p.m. Smith said for those attending to bring any kind of salad and a beverage.

The club also voted to make a public statement of support for the local school district levies on the ballot Nov. 7. The club will have a paid advertisement in area newspapers supporting education.

- A chicken barbecue has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21. Volunteers needed.

- Discussion was held on the possibility of sponsoring an online Rotary club in Caldwell. Or an Interact Club. More research is needed.

- Guests at the meeting was Cambridge Rotarian Glenn Arnold.

The Byesville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Rolling Hills Administration building, intersection of Route 209 and County Road 660.

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Judie Perkowski/The Daily Jeffersonian  
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