

JUNE 18, 2006

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE

Arts & Entertainment N7

Classical Music

One movement that still resonates

Book chronicles orchestra musicians' labor achievements

By Richard Dyer
Major Henry Lee Higginson founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1881...



MORE THAN MEETS THE EAR

That story is one thread in a colorful and entertaining book by Julie Ayer...

Ayer, assistant principal second violin in the Minnesota Orchestra and a professional orchestra musician for 30 years...

Dickson wrote that BSO music director Serge Koussevitzky finally initiated conversations with the powerful head of the AFM...

Representative arranged to meet Petrillo, who showed up at Scarpino's...

A Boston musician also played a central role in one of the more complex labor developments...

Heard at the time was "Woman Clashes Boston Symphony" and Ayer quotes Herald critic Randolph Ells...

Ells: "The breaking of a tradition considerably older than the more 72 years of the BSO seems to be a very serious matter..."

Ayer does dole out a couple of bullets. For example, she mentions how she does not go very far one of the most vexing issues confronting orchestras...

In the book by veteran violinist Julie Ayer, two Bostonians emerge as prominent players in the struggle...

represented many other musicians in popular and commercial fields and therefore had other issues in the face...

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And while no one would want to draw back from the achievements of the labor movement in the musical world...

Schaller used the highly charged word "KOSM-tastic" to convey his view that the work of orchestras have sometimes compromised the work itself...

In the subsequent 27 years, there has been progress on many of the problems Schaller complains about...

For complete listings, visit boston.com/ae/events.

Her sharp ear for rock gives the Pops an edge

By SALLINGER
Conductor/Pops Page N7

artistic coordinator for the Pops and a central figure in the orchestra's new push to upgrade the Pops' roster...

"Pops on the Edge," a major part of that initiative, launched last year with two sold-out shows...

"It was [Sallinger's] impulse to put the marriage together," says Mike Martinovich, who manages My Morning Jacket.

On paper, Sallinger's duties haven't changed much in the five years she's worked at Symphony Hall...

Always a rock fan, Sallinger's social circle for potential Pops collaborators. At 23, she's much younger than other members of the Pops programming team...

"I call her our resident funky chick," says Lockhart. "With Dennis on [Boston Symphony Orchestra] artistic administrator Anthony Negli, I ran go and see 'You long' is the Boston first place concert..."

Actually, Sallinger studied classical music at Boston University, receiving an undergraduate degree in distinct performance...



Margie Sallinger joins My Morning Jacket's Jim James (left) and Carl Broemel (and the band's stuffed animal mascot "Pooch the Bear") at the TD Banknorth Garden.

she dreamed of managing a symphony orchestra. Now she's not so sure. After all, her current job allows her to sustain her love for both classical music and rock.

In her first week of working for the Pops, back in 2001, Sallinger played Mozart's second movement to the film "Magnolia" for Alton. He liked it, she remembers, but the Pops weren't ready to make that sort of jump.

Suddenly Sallinger became the chafed-out one. "She's the one with her ear to the ground," says Guster singer Ryan Miller. "It's not like the Keith Lockhart is trolling around like and message boards and found that My Morning Jacket is a hip band."

Most nights, Sallinger is either at Symphony Hall for a Pops show or at a club checking out a band in a busy life. Last October, over a two-week period, she saw James Lee, David Gray, Jack Black, Bob Thomas, My Morning Jacket, Death Cab for Cutie, Tracy Chapman, and Matt Nathanson. And her friends have noticed a change since the Guster shows.

"It's not to see Death Cab, and I was sort of looking at it as going to a show and listening to the music, but she was asking questions like 'How many people are singing along to a song?'"

And she's already thinking of the future: How about Maroon 5? Beck? The Arcade Fire? The Guster shows were a success. Miller even praised Sallinger from the stage. But that didn't provide her biggest thrill.

"To me, that concert was about the whole experience of seeing those young people in Symphony Hall," says Sallinger. "That, to me, was more exciting than having Pops members say yes."

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CRITICS' PICKS CLASSICAL MUSIC

SICK PUPPY New England Conservatory's Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice...

Friday at 8 p.m. in Jordan Hall brings the BSO's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion...

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