

VSA Monthly Column

By Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., VSA Board President

Bringing Classical Music to Life:

Music from *Fantasia* Headlines the Start of the Valley Symphony Association's 50th Concert Series

Definition: fan·ta·sia – pronounced /fan'tāzēə/

noun

1. a musical composition with a free form and often an improvisatory style.
 - o a musical composition based on several familiar tunes.
 - o a thing composed of a mixture of different forms or styles

The Valley Symphony Association's October concert is titled "Fantastic *Fantasia*: A Spooktacular!" The music comes from the animated film *Fantasia*, created by Walt Disney. True to the definition of the word, the music from *Fantasia* is free form, improvisatory, composed of familiar and unfamiliar melodies, and made up of different forms and styles—and it's downright fun!

The all-volunteer orchestra—musicians gathered from all over the Uncompahgre, North Fork, and Grand Valleys—will bring the music of *Fantasia* to life on Saturday, October 23 (7:30pm) and Sunday, October 24 (3pm) at the Montrose Pavilion.

Fantasia was released in 1940, and the idea for it began to crystallize in 1937 after Disney had a chance encounter with the conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski. Disney pitched an idea for an animated short film paired with music to the famed conductor, and he loved the idea.

Stokowski was literally a superstar in the classical music world. The Maestro was renowned for his masterful recordings and radio appearances from the late 1910s onward. With his intense countenance, commanding stature, and wild mane of hair, Stokowski was—and still is—the very image of what many people envisioned for a long-haired, frenetic conductor.

Disney was famous for encouraging his directors to bring in all types of inspiration to help animators create their magic. Director Wilfred Jackson brought in horror movie great Bela Lugosi to inspire and create the character Chernabog in the "Night on Bald Mountain" sequence. Irina Baronova of the American Ballet Theatre danced for Disney artists to help inspire the dancing ostrich in the "Dance of the Hours" segment.

Take advantage of the VSA's expanded concert offerings for the jubilee season to make a night of it! Support local restaurants before the Saturday evening performance, or on either side of our 3pm matinee on Sunday.

Having a regional all-volunteer arts organization such as the VSA is a rare and special thing for the regional community. So many people and businesses have supported the efforts of the orchestra and chorus, and we extend our grateful thanks for keeping us in the music-making business for 50 years. If you haven't yet attended a VSA concert, give us a try! Like the West itself, both musicians and concert goers are a mix of all types and ages. You'll see people wearing everything from blue jeans to evening

gowns, and families, couples, and singles all attend. Fashion choices aside, ultimately, we are all drawn together by our love of music.

Season tickets and individual concert tickets are available online at ValleySymphony.org, in Delta at Clubb's (502 Main St), and in Montrose at Our Town Matters Business Center (1245 E Main St). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-275-8676 or info@ValleySymphony.org.

About Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., VSA Board President

Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., is the owner of Clubb's in Delta, and a civic treasure and proverbial pillar of the Delta community. He has been an active member of the VSA in various ways for decades.

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The VSA's 50th Concert Series at the Montrose Pavilion will include:

"Fantastic Fantasia" – Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 24 at 3 p.m.

"Christmas by Candlelight" – Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 5 at 3 p.m.

"Seasons of Love" – Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.

"Flashback to the 70s" – March 27 at 3 p.m.

"Let's Dance" – April 23 at 7:30 p.m., and April 24 at 3 p.m.

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About the Valley Symphony Association

Bringing classical music to life since 1970, the Valley Symphony Association has culturally enriched the community and its members by bringing together some of the best volunteer musicians from the North Fork and Uncompahgre Valleys to discover and present works of great composers, past and present. Performances range from classical orchestral to upbeat pops, from purely instrumental to purely choral, to a combination of both.

For information, upcoming concerts, the audition process, and tickets, visit the VSA on Facebook @valleysymphonyassociation or ValleySymphony.org. Tickets are also available in Delta at Clubb's (502 Main St) and in Montrose at Our Town Matters Business Center (1245 E Main St). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-275-8676 or info@ValleySymphony.org.