

Amherst grad returns, performs with quartet, ASO

by ELIZABETH TAUFA
Reporter

The Amherst Symphony Orchestra will kick off its 62nd season this weekend with a concert with the Attacca String Quartet, featuring 2002 Amherst High School graduate Amy Schroeder on violin.

The concert, titled "Four & More," will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21 at Amherst Middle School, 55 Kings Highway, Snyder.

The Attacca String Quartet is the first featured group of the orchestra's "Amazing Area Artists" concert lineup. The other three members are Keiko Tokunaga, violin;

Attacca String Quartet recital to benefit ASO

Amy Schroeder and her group, the Attacca String Quartet, will present a benefit recital for the Amherst Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Christ United Methodist Church, 350 Saratoga Road, Snyder.

The suggested donation is \$10.

For more information, call 633-4606.

Gillian Gallagher, viola; and Andrew Yee, cello.

All Attacca members are currently pursuing master's degrees at the Juilliard School.

Schroeder noted her excitement at playing in her home town with the group.

"I'm more excited for this than most of the concerts," said Schroeder, who has previously soloed with the orchestra. "I always talk about Buffalo wings, and we'll probably go to Niagara Falls and do all those touristy things."

The quartet, which was formed in 2003 at Juilliard,

will be joining the orchestra for Luis Spohr's "Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra."

"We haven't done this particular concerto before," Schroeder said.

But the quartet, which is fresh off its Carnegie Hall premiere, is not just in town to play one concert. The week prior to the concert, the quartet is a busy one,



Amherst graduate Amy Schroeder, second from left, will appear with her Juilliard-based group, the Attacca String Quartet, in a concert with the Amherst Symphony Orchestra on Oct. 21. The group's other members are, from left, Gillian Gallagher, viola; Andrew Yee, cello; and Keiko Tokunaga, violin.

according to ASO General Manager Joan Fishburn.

On Monday, Oct. 15, in addition to an ASO rehearsal, the quartet will perform at Smallwood Elementary School, which Schroeder attended and her younger sister currently attends.

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, the quartet will perform at a preview luncheon, a regular occurrence for ASO guest artists.

On Wednesday, Oct. 17, the quartet will conduct workshops with several string quartets at Williamsville North High School, under the guidance of Joe Buckle.

"Normally we give presentations and different programs to different age groups," Schroeder said, of the high school master classes. "But this is more like a coaching class where we'll do less playing and more watching."

That night, they will perform at a benefit recital for the ASO beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Christ United Methodist Church, 350 Saratoga Road, Snyder.

The quartet will perform string quartets by Haydn, Bartok and Debussy and a short contemporary piece titled "Dark Energy," by Kelly-Marie Murphy.

On Thursday, the quartet will conduct workshops with students at Amherst Central High School under the guidance of Steve Thomas.

A quartet from each school will be chosen by Attacca to perform for the preconcert event, scheduled to begin at 6:15.

"My group likes to do stuff like this," Schroeder said. "We're at an age that's still kind of close (to the students), so hopefully we have an influence."

"They have been the recipients of guidance by some of the best quartets in the world, and now they're passing it on," Fishburn said of Attacca. Since its inception, the group has worked with the Tokyo, Emerson, Juilliard, Miro and St. Lawrence string quartets.

The quartet, Schroeder said, is still in its infancy, despite its course work at Juilliard and its performances all over the world.

"We try to keep our plans in terms of five years," she said. "We hope to have a residency at a college and run a program there some day."

Admission to the concert is free, but donations are accepted. Complimentary shuttle service will also be available from the Berryman Drive entrance of Amherst Senior High School, 4301 Main St., beginning at 5:45 p.m.

For more information on the concert or the orchestra, call 633-4606 or visit www.amherst.ny.us/news/symphony.asp.

What's Going On

Bonsai meeting set at Menne's

The Buffalo Bonsai Society will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Menne's Nursery, 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. Call Bob Maxwell at 662-4940.

Spaghetti dinner set at St. Paul's

A Spaghetti dinner will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 65 Eagle St. Call 634-2330.

NAMI meeting set for Oct. 24

The National Alliance on Mental Illness in Buffalo and Erie County will hold a family support group meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24 at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4007 Main St., Amherst. For more information, call 949-7543.

Laura Aikin to perform at UB

Buffalo native, University at Buffalo alumnus and Metropolitan Opera soprano Laura Aikin will perform with the Slee Sinfonietta at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall, North (Amherst) campus, University at Buffalo. The program will feature Boulez's multi-movement piece "Ple selon pli for soprano and orchestra." Call 645-2921 or visit the Web site at www.slee.buffalo.edu.

Flour company to hold free bread-baking class

King Arthur Flour will offer a National Baking Classes entitled "Yeast Bread: Sweet and Whole-Grain" and "Crusty Artisan Breads" on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Samuel's Grand Manor, 8750 Main St., Clarence. "Yeast Breads" will be held from noon to 2 p.m. and "Artisan Breads" will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information on the classes, call 800-827-6836 or visit www.kingarthurfour.com.

Chiropractic talk slated in Clarence

Dr. Michael Pisani of the Clarence Family Chiropractic will give a free health talk, including an explanation of chiropractic, from 6:15 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 at his office, 10946 Main St., Clarence. For more information, call 759-7939.

Lecture, meeting set for garden club

Forest Stream Garden Club will meet at 6:45 p.m. Thursday Oct. 18 at Forest Elementary School 250 N Forest Road, Williamsville. The speaker will be "The Tree Doctor" Jeffrey Phelps, Certified Arborist. He will lecture on correct pruning techniques and other tree and shrub concerns.

NFWS October meeting set at ACC

The Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Highway, Snyder. A watercolor demonstration will be held by Janet Rogers. For more information, call 634-7015.

Daemen psychological manipulation speaker set

Robin Stern, an educator, psychotherapist and psychological consultant, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 18, in Wick Center on the Daemen College campus, 4380 Main St., Amherst. Stern, who has developed and implemented programs to promote personal and professional growth through self-awareness, emotional competence and ethical leadership, will speak on emotional abuse and psychological manipulation. For more information, call 839-8253.

NFWS show, reception set

The Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society Fall Show 2007 will be held Oct. 21 through Nov. 11 at the Kenan Art Center, 433 Locust St., Lockport. A reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21. Call 433-2617.

CHS to offer flu shots at parishes

The winter influenza season will soon be here and the Catholic Health System, in conjunction with the Diocese of Buffalo, is once again offering flu vaccines at area parishes throughout Western New York.

Amherst locations and times include; noon to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's of Swormville, 6919 Transit Road and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 5480 Main St.

Participants need not be members of the parish to receive a flu vaccine, however reservations are required. The cost of the vaccine is \$30 and is covered by most major insurance plans.

Flu shots are recommended for all people who want to lower their chances of becoming sick with the flu or spreading the illness. The CHS Flu Vaccine program is available to individuals 18 years of age and older.

"This is a simple and convenient way to protect yourself against the flu," said Sandy Spencer, director of Patient/Community Education for the CHS. "This is especially important for those individuals who are at risk of developing complications from the flu."

The flu season generally runs from November to April. Those most at risk include adults over 65 years-old, anyone with long-term health conditions, anyone with a weakened immune system, women who will become pregnant during influenza season, anyone with long-term aspirin treatment, and family members and out-of-home caregivers of infants less than six months of age.

Because influenza viruses can change often, flu vaccines are updated each year to be as effective as possible.

"People who are at risk should get a flu shot each year for maximum protection," Spencer continued. "With the number of parishes we have participating this year, there is a convenient location within minutes for most residents in Erie County."

The flu vaccines are administered by appointment by registered nurses. A complete list of dates, times and locations is also available at www.chsbuffalo.org.

For a list of flu shot location or to make an appointment, call the CHS's Health Connection at 447-6205.

Voice-over class set for Oct. 24

Tony Award-nominated composer and commercial producer Dan Levine will teach an introductory course for aspiring voice-over artists from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24 at Heim Middle School, Classroom A2, 175 Heim Road, Williamsville.

"You're On The Air...How to Really Make It In Voice-Overs" is a course designed to help launch a student's careers in the growing industry.

Voice-overs can be heard anywhere, from the "movie trailer guy" to the adult cartoon, "The Family Guy." From the average voice to the most exaggerated voice, the potential to enjoy a lucrative part-time or full-time job as a voice-over artist is made possible through Levine's instructional course.

With over 30 years of experience in the voice-over industry, Levine has helped to launch many careers.

For more information regarding enrollment in Dan Levine's voice-over course, call 626-8084.

Registration is required.