



## NEWSLETTER PERSONNEL

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# AUTUMN 2008 NEWSLETTER



## Meet Our New Conductor

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Thomas Heuser began violin lessons at age three and as a young pianist was awarded a scholarship to study at the St. Louis Symphony Music School. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College and was awarded the Francis Walker Prize in piano performance. Mr. Heuser received a Masters of Music in instrumental conducting from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and he is currently a doctoral student in orchestral conducting at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Mr. Heuser was formerly an adjunct faculty member at Indiana University and served as music director of the All-Campus Orchestra. In Cincinnati, Mr. Heuser is the assistant conductor of the CCM Philharmonia Orchestra under Mark Gibson, and will assist the CCM Opera 2009 production of Verdi's Falstaff. He also serves as music director of the University of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and he joins the Xavier University conducting faculty as music director of the XU Chamber Orchestra. Equally talented as a singer, Mr. Heuser studied voice as a countertenor with Drew Minter at Vassar College, and was a core member of the Pro Arte Singers of Indiana University under John Poole. His conducting mentors include Mark Gibson, David Effron, Larry Rachleff, and David Robertson.

**Favorite food:** wild blue crab

**Favorite ice cream flavor:** coffee

**Favorite Movie:** Il Postino

**Favorite Book:** 100 Years of Solitude

**Favorite musical piece:** The Rite of Spring

*written by Ray Talbott*

## Donut Sale and Fundraising

If you happen to have early morning classes near McMicken or in DAAP, you probably heard several orchestra members heckling passer-bysers to buy a donut for \$1. In early October, Busken Bakeries was kind enough to donate 6 dozen donuts to the UCSO. Over the course of three mornings we were able to raise over \$200.

With this money we bought the percussion section a tambourine. It also allowed us to host the Halloween Party with only a minimal cover. With the money that was left we opened a bank account in the orchestra's name, which means that we can now accept donations from corporations and individuals made out to UCSO. Eventually, we hope that the orchestra will have enough money to help prospective members rent large, expensive instruments, buy necessary percussion equipment, and be able to throw free social events for our members.

**Interested in donating to UCSO? See our website: <http://www.uc.edu/groups/orchestra>**

*written by Susan Kayser*

## Dancing Music

The compositions presented on this concert are song and dance themed pieces. From Brahms and Bizet to Stravinsky, these particular compositions present unique and interesting dance or "dance-like" themes.

The selections from Hungarian Dances by Brahms are from a collection of 21 pieces based on the folk music of the Hungarian people. Brahms was one of the leading collectors of folk music and used many themes of these folk tunes in his compositions.

Bizet's Carmen is a master work of the Opera literature. The songs presented here are both dance and song themed and Stravinsky's Firebird Suite: Finale is a selection from the original ballet. This work was Stravinsky's first major success and propelled him to "overnight" fame. Debussy is quoted as saying: "...for here the music is not docile servant of the dance. And at times you hear altogether unusual combinations of rhythms."

We extend to you our sincere "Invitation to the Dance" with these pieces. We hope you find them both exciting and invigorating. And feel free to sing and dance along in the aisles!

*written by Alix Reynolds*



## Halloween Celebration

Who says dressing up for Halloween is just for children? Many UC Orchestra members took the opportunity to put on some creative costumes and join their fellow players in a party celebrated before the normal orchestra rehearsal on October 28th, 2008. Pizza and pop were provided, and the orchestra members played different games including Orchestra Bingo and Pin the Tail on the Conductor, also participating in a costume contest. Many interesting costumes were worn, including a mermaid, a banana, various characters from The Wizard of Oz, and others, but the winner of the costume was dressed as a nerd, with pocket protector and all. The party was a big success, with about 30 people in attendance, and brought the orchestra together through the festivities enjoyable and conversation. Altogether, it was a very enjoyable evening of fun. *written by Emily Janowiecki*

## A Brief History of the UCSO...

The University of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra was officially founded in 2004 by Richard Wang, Nicole Desender, Alex Noel, Adam McCormick, and Angela Santangelo. The next year, the group gained thirty eight more members and has been growing ever since. Today there are 80 members in UCSO. UCSO held the status of a student organization until 2006, when it became a class in the College-Conservatory of Music. The orchestra contains UC students, faculty members and staff, and is conducted by a graduate conducting student from CCM. *written by Emily Head*