



LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!

150TH ANNIVERSARY HERBERT CELEBRATION OFF TO A GREAT START!

The Victor Herbert Foundation, Herbert P. Jacoby, Esq., President, always celebrates February 1 by having the Central Park Conservancy place a wreath at the foot of Herbert's statue in Central Park.

This year's turnout was sparsely attended since the placing of the wreath fell on Monday, February 2 instead of actually on Sunday, February 1. Alyce Mott and Dino Anagnost of the Victor Herbert Renaissance Project in New York City joined Steven Oppendal, of the Central Park Conservancy in placing a wreath which matched the one on the statute perfectly.

The day was beautiful, as you can see from the photo to the right. The sun was shining and sky rich in that wonderful New York sort of clear blue. The change of weather was much appreciated as last year's outing attracted a drenching cold rain under grey overcast skies.

ASCAP also released a great article celebrating both it's own 95th Anniversary and Herbert's 150th Anniversary. You will find a link to that article at www.vhsource.com under the "In the News" white tab in the upper right hand corner of the Home page.



Feb. 1, 2009 - 150h Anniversary Wreath & Statue of Herbert in Central Park

GRAND SALON ORCHESTRA SALUTES HERBERT IN TORONTO

VHsource welcomes Canadian orchestra, The Grand Salon, Kerry Stratton, conductor, to those professional orchestras celebrating Victor Herbert with a full concert, *Tribute To Victor Herbert*, on Saturday, February 7, 2009, at the Markham Theatre for the

Performing Arts, Markham, Ontario. The big news is that **VHSource** provided 60% of the parts for this concert - all in less than an hour! *Observation* - to date, we know of only two union orchestras in North America which have dedicated full concerts to the music of Victor Herbert in recent memory - The Little Orchestra Society (NYC), Dino Anagnost, conductor and The Grand Salon. If you can add to that list, it would be appreciated.

Two exciting voices, lyric tenor Stephen Harland and soprano Iris Rodrigues, joined Maestro Stratton for "Eileen," "Neapolitan Love Song," "Romany Life," "Italian Street Song," "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life," and "Thine Alone."

Maestro Stratton also chose the rarely performed "Royal Sec (1885)" and nostalgic medleys from several operettas. It was as fine a re-introduction to the Herbert body of work as anyone in attendance could request. This is fine orchestra which will get better and better as Maestro Stratton and his musicians delve further into their exploration of Herbert. Their next concert is in Milton, Ontario on Friday, March 27, 2009. Visit www.vhsource.com for details.

You can visit The Grand Salon Orchestra at www.grandsalonorchestra.com and Maestro Stratton at www.kerrystratton.com.



Tenor Stephen Harland, Soprano Iris Rodrigues and Maestro Kerry Stratton

LAST CONCERT OF FEBRUARY SET IN WASHINGTON STATE

Port Townsend Community Orchestra, conducted by Dewey Ehling and located in Port Townsend, Washington finished out the month of February on the 28th with a full concert, "Victor Herbert's 150th Birthday," featuring Jessica Reid, Soprano and Paul Krabill, Tenor. Their offering included a pre-concert lecture and was a free gift to their community. **VHSource** was the source of 5 or 6 sets of orchestra parts for this concert also - again in less than one hour!

Visit <http://www.porttownsendorchestra.org> to learn more about this organization.

MP3S ARE FINALLY READY FOR PURCHASE IN SHOP VHSOURCE

On February 18th, **Shop VHSource** began selling MP3s on-line. Our major vendor, The Comic Opera Guild of Ann Arbor, MI has supplied six Herbert operetta recordings (*Algeria*, *The Enchantress*, *Little Nemo*, *The Princess Pat*, *The Only Girl* and *Orange Blossoms*) as well as two mixed composer compilations (*Vienna in America* and *Offenbach in America*) with English lyrics.

We're also working on an *Orpheus in the Underworld* with English lyrics which should be up soon. In addition, they have another 55-60 additional cds (half of which are Herbert operettas) which we hopefully will be adding on a regular basis.

Here's your opportunity to hear operettas that have not been heard in many decades, many of which have never been recorded in full original state. Congratulations to **The Comic Opera Guild's** president, **Tom Petiet** and their music director, **Adam Aceto** for this magnificent collection of Herbert recordings. A note to those

of you who are not comfortable loading and playing music on your computer. It's a great time to learn and is a really marvelous experience. However, if you are not comfortable entering the digital music world, you will find a link to COG's website in **Shop VHSource** where you can purchase the old-fashioned way - through the US Post Office. Most albums are \$15.00 (average 30+ tracks per CD) and include dialogue that keeps the listener following the original plots. There are music only versions when available which are discounted to \$12.00 for those of you who just want the music. The downloads are available just like the performance materials and will take between 2 and 45 minutes to download, depending upon your internet connection. This may prove to be the perfect reason to leave the dialup connection behind. Be patient if you have a slower connection and a dialup connection may not work at this point.

The download file is zipped and when you open it, the process automatically opens into your default media player - Windows Media Player - for those of you who've not entered the media world before. The contents contain not only the music files, (*.wma) but also album cover artwork and Program notes in full color *.pdf format.

This is probably one of the most exciting new elements VHSource has offered simply because of both the rarity of these recordings as well as the fact that a large number of us need to **hear** a work before making a decision on it. These are simple productions which allow the piece to come to the forefront. We are currently offering an entire song for free download at the end of the introductory information on MP3s page so that you have an idea of what you are purchasing. The Herbert song is "Love Is Like A Cigarette" from *Algeria*. Enjoy!

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN MARCH

Light Opera of New York, Stephen F. Vasta, Music Director, will present *Operetta's*

Greatest Hits, on Friday, March 6, 2009 at 7:30pm at the Players, 16 Gramercy Park South, 20th Street East of Park Avenue South, New York City. All tickets \$35. For reservations call: 212.249.9470 or go to tickets@LightOperaOfNewYork.org

The Grand Salon Orchestra, Kerry Stratton, Conductor brings the concert mentioned above to St. Pauls United Church, 123 Main E, Milton, Ontario CANADA, on Friday, March 27, 2009 at 8:00pm. Place a call to **1-905-878-8895** for tickets.

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN APRIL

Comic Opera Guild of Ann Arbor also mentioned above, offers *150 CANDLES! A celebration of Victor Herbert's birthday, featuring ORANGE BLOSSOMS* on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4, both concerts at 7:30pm at the Village Theater, Canton, MI. Tickets are available by Credit Card: 1-734-394-5460 or On-line: www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING . . .

The following are some of the reactions of customers and inquirers have sent after utilizing a service of VHSource:

Thank you so much for your reply -- your "instant" reply! Thank you so much for taking the time to send me so much information . . . truly appreciated!
- AH

Thank you for the terrific p.r. on the VH website. That's outstanding marketing for us and I really appreciate it.
- KS

Wow! I'm thrilled that you can lead me so directly to *Miss 1917*. The VHSource is an incredible resource, not only for musicians and

theater professionals, but for writers, cultural historians, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the early 20th century. - EW

Thanks so much for the tip on ordering the Piano Conductor score from Luck's . . . when I received your e-mail, I was thrilled to not spend money unnecessarily. -LG

Thank you very much Alyce for your quick answer. I have forwarded it to our customer so that he can order this material. Merci beaucoup !
- Editions Mario BOIS (Paris)

Thanks for the prompt response. I downloaded this morning. The quality of the printing is superb - so easy to read. Thank you. You're a pleasure to work with. I really appreciate your honesty and integrity. - DE

ALYCE'S MUSINGS



Hope you've enjoyed this very first Newsletter from **VHSource, LLC** - you can reach us at alyce.mott@vherbert.com or 917-815-8899 with questions and comments.

Also, please feel free to pass this **Newsletter** on to any of your friends whom you think might be interested in helping to revive the beautiful music of the operetta era. It's safest to save the pdf file to your hard drive. You can print it out as frequently as you like and/or send it by e-mail to your friends and colleagues.

Anyone can regularly receive this **Newsletter** once they create a user name and password at www.vherbert.com. That's all there is to it, and of course there are a couple of other benefits listed below to having that login name and password.

Also, if you haven't visited the web site in a while, come check us out. Trouble remembering your user log-in and password? Contact **VHS** and we'll look you up - give you a new password so you can enter. Once you're in, you can easily change the password yourself to something more user friendly.

Why do you need to log-in? You cannot see a sample or download that free song unless you are a registered user **AND** logged in. You'll know you're not in when you click on a sample and you end up in a list of available downloads that aren't available.

Upcoming Newsletters will introduce you to our vendors; typical Herbert instrumentations; arrangers you can trust; great songs for particular voices; what's happening where; what organizations are choosing to program; and provide fuel to stoke the revival!

One last thought - We need your enthusiasm and energy to keep this Herbert and operetta revival rolling forward. It takes all hands on deck reminding not only yourselves but also like-minded people that there's a whole world of gorgeous music just waiting to be rediscovered and shared once again with live audiences.

There are singers who don't even realize these exciting, challenging songs exist

There are conductors who haven't discovered the joys of Herbert's *rubato*.

There are audiences who have never heard hummable melodies.

There are audiences who have simply forgotten.

See you in April!