

Date: Sunday, October 12, 2014

Event: *The Gathering Storm* Concert by Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra

Where: Cecilian Auditorium, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$10, Students \$5, children under age ten free. Tickets at the door.

Contact: Betty C. Martin or Jim Chesterson, Office: 812-535-6440 or 812-243-2581

The Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra will begin its 2014-2015 season with “The Gathering Storm” on October 12, 2014 at the Cecilian Auditorium, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College at 3:00 p.m. The program will recognize the 100th anniversary of World War I with music and a special display of the original World War I bond posters recently restored by the Lilly Library and part of the Special Collections at the Vigo County Public Library.

Following the playing of the Star Spangled Banner the orchestra will open the program with the national anthems of three of the major combatants in that war, Britain, Germany and France. The tensions between the European countries, especially Britain and Germany had been building for decades. But it was in the Balkans region, which was a hotbed of tension known as the ‘powder keg of Europe’, that the assassination of Archduke Franz Joseph and his wife Sophia provided the spark that ignited the war.

Tunes from the Trenches, the songs from World War One includes lyrics that may sound a bit strange today, i.e. *Belgium Put the Kibosh on the Kaiser* and *They Were Only Playing Leapfrog* but the melodies are often familiar as some of them were taken from tunes familiar from the Civil War era and were often printed in songbooks used in schools.

Gustav Mahler was born in Bohemia, now the Czech Republic. He acted as a bridge between the 19th century Austro-German tradition and the modernism of the early 20th century. His Symphony No.1, a major work written in 1909 takes about an hour to perform in its entirety, but the Sinfonietta will perform a shortened version of the second movement of that symphony which Mahler himself called *Austrian Peasant Dance*.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries “Turkish” music became all the rage in Europe. Both Mozart and Beethoven wrote music which included cymbals and drums which do not have a definite pitch. In 1811 Beethoven composed a set of incidental music pieces to accompany the play, *The Ruins of Athens*. The best-known piece from the music is the *Turkish March*, an example of faux martial music from the Eastern front.

Known in the decade before WWI as “the man who owned Broadway” George M. Cohan is considered the father of the American Musical Comedy. President Franklin D. Roosevelt presented George M. Cohan with a Congressional Gold Medal for his contribution to WWI morale. The orchestra will perform the *Star Spangled Spectacular*, a medley of *You’re a Grand Old Flag* and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*.

Music Director James N. Chesterson reminds the public that tickets are available at the door on the day of the concert. He also thanks the granting agencies Arts Illiana, the Indiana Arts Commission, City of Terre Haute, Wabash Valley Community Foundation and Bemis Foundation for grants that sustain the ongoing operation of the Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra.