

A passion for music

KSO performer rebounds from surgery

By Valorie Fister

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra will resume performances in a few weeks following a summer recess, and Assistant Principal Violist Eunsoon Lee-Corliss will rejoin the music.

Lee-Corliss, a KSO performer since 1985, underwent shoulder surgery in March to remove calcium buildup and inflammation caused from "frozen shoulder." Her range of movement – which is vital to her performance – was growing smaller and smaller as suffering grew worse.

After months of healing and physical therapy, she



Eunsoon Lee-Corliss in her home music studio. Photo by Valorie Fister

can play again.

The violist will tell anyone who doesn't believe playing a musical instrument could be very physical to rethink that statement. She has been known to practice up to five and six hours a day in former years. When she's not

playing for the symphony, she plays at other community concerts and teaches.

"I feel better, now," Lee-Corliss said. "It's not 100 percent new but it's better."

Lee-Corliss, a native of Seoul, Korea, is an incredibly talented musician with

a long list of achievements. She learned to play viola at the age of 17, which is actually a late age for violinists and violists. She worked hard to practice and learn and entered the music school of Yon-Sei University in Seoul. She played with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra even before she finished school.

She then joined the Singapore Symphony until she came to the U.S. to attend a graduate program at Ohio University. That's where she met her husband, Scott, who was studying theater. During her time as a graduate assistant, Lee-Corliss was principal violist with Ohio University's Symphony Orchestra.

Once she obtained her graduate degree, Lee-Corliss played for the Omaha Symphony, Lincoln Symphony, Nebraska Chamber Orchestra, Pensacola Symphony and eventually the Knoxville

Symphony Orchestra.

When she's not playing with the KSO at the historic Tennessee Theatre, she plays for schools, libraries and hospitals.

"I cannot pick just one thing" that's most enjoyable, Lee-Corliss said. "There are so many different venues to go out on. (Performances have) all different reactions and effects on people, all in the name of music."

Teaching young string musicians is another large component of Lee-Corliss' career. Along with raising three musical children of her own – Chris, Michael and Jess – she's been teaching for years. Ever modest, she doesn't advertise the fact that she was recognized by the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts as an outstanding teacher in 2005 and 2007.

Instead, she focuses on her students' achievements.

Many are recipients of numerous honors and scholarships, and many play for the Knoxville Youth Orchestra. Lee-Corliss' interest in her students' progress is visible and sincere.

Lee-Corliss also loves to hear what schools her students attend. One of her current viola students, Grace Preznik, is an Oak Ridge High School student who was accepted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"It's really like a family," Lee-Corliss said. As students enter her home-based music studio, they remove their shoes in keeping with Korean customs. They also bow after their lessons and thank Lee-Corliss in her native language.

"I watch them and worked with them when they were younger," Lee-Corliss said. "They're growing up beautifully."

ARTS CALENDAR

Fiddling competition

Fiddle players are encouraged to sign up to compete in a fiddling contest Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Second Harvest Irish Festival at the World's Fair Site. Info: John Bell, 521-0000 or e-mail john@secondharvestknox.org.

'Sherlock's Last Case'

Theatre Knoxville Downtown, 319 N. Gay St., presents "Sherlock's Last Case" through Sunday, Aug. 22. Performances are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 Thursday and Sunday, \$15 Friday and Saturday. Info: 544-1999 or www.theatreknoxville.com.

'The Jungle Book'

Children's Theatre of Knoxville, 800 Tyson St., presents Disney's "The Jungle Book" through Saturday, Aug. 28. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$12 per person. Reservations are recommended. Info: tickets@childrestheatreknoxville.com or 599-5284.

'Indiegrll' music festival

The 2010 "Indiegrll International Music and Arts Conference and Festival" will be held Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 19-22, at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. The event will feature workshops and seminars presented by industry professionals, with keynote speaker Ashley Capps of AC Entertainment, founder of the Bonnaroo festival. Admission for all four days is \$25 with daily passes of \$10 each. Info: www.indiegrll.com.

Photography at UT Gardens

Learn how to capture a perfect garden photograph while enjoying an early morn-

ing walk 7:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at UT Gardens, Chapman Drive. A UT Gardens staff member will lead an hourlong walk focusing on the best lighting and garden location during that particular walk. Admission is free. Info: 974-7151 or www.utgardens.tennessee.edu.

'Music Man' at the Tennessee Theatre

The classic film "The Music Man" will be shown on the big screen at the Tennessee Theatre, 604 S. Gay St., 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22. Info: 684-1200 or www.tennesseetheatre.com. Tickets: 656-4444.

Knox Choral Society auditions

The Knoxville Choral Society will hold auditions for all voice parts 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at West Hills Baptist Church, 409 N. Winston Road. You are not required to bring a prepared piece. Info: www.knoxvillechoralsociety.org.

'Donuts behaving badly'

Artist Denise Stewart-Sanabria will exhibit "Eat Me," a series of both produce portraits and "donuts behaving badly" paintings through Monday, Aug. 30, at the Clayton Center for the Arts, 502 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway in Maryville. Arts center hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Info: www.claytonartscenter.com or www.stewart-sanabria.com.

Works by McEwing, Oglesby

Unarmed Merchants, 129 S. Gay St., presents paintings by Asa McEwing and silver jewelry by Dena Oglesby through Monday, Aug. 30. Gallery hours are noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Info: 549-5769 or www.unarmedmerchants.com.

Losing sight, but not vision

By Lorraine Furtner

Sue Buckley, guest speaker at the Farragut Rotary Club on Aug. 11, is a triathlete, hiker and tandem biker. She runs a nonprofit organization, yet made the time to help tile her own kitchen. She is also completely blind.

When she was 33, Buckley lost her sight due to retina detachment, but not her vision of living a full life.

"You can do one of two things when you experience any loss, death or impairment. You can sit around and feel sorry for yourself or you can change and go on." The hardest part of the adjustment is changing your attitude and state of mind, said Buckley.

She decided to combine her own experience and degrees in art education, physical education and philosophy to teach blind teens and young adults how to live independently. She and her husband, John Buckley, a former UT professor who is also blind, founded Club VIBES (Visually Impaired / Blind Enhanced Services).

"Moving toward greater independence through mentoring" is their motto. Members learn home skills like cooking and laundry;



Sue Buckley, founder of Club VIBES, is welcomed by Farragut Rotary President Peggy Wilson. Photo by Lorraine Furtner

social dynamics on building relationships and dating, and explore new technology. The Buckleys educate young adults about college scholarships and how to get transportation and jobs.

Club VIBES also trains sighted persons to be guides, taking members

on tandem bike rides and nature hikes at Ijams. Sue works with the children and John educates the parents.

The club meets once a month at Jubilee Farms owned by Ken and Linda Piety. They currently focus on the 14- to 30-year-old age group, but encourage parents of younger visually impaired children to join.

Buckley urged Rotarians and other business owners to make a difference in the lives of those with impairments by hiring them or volunteering with Club VIBES.

Info: Sue Buckley, suebuckley25@gmail.com; Melissa Preston, msapreston@tds.net; or www.clubvibesknox@yahoo.com.

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