

Symphony Hamilton
Music Director's Report for the AGM Oct. 6, 2010-10-05

Last year was actually my 15th year as Music Director of Symphony Hamilton. I have enjoyed every one of these years and hope to continue enjoying more. The highlight from last season for me was the Debussy *Nocturnes*. I felt that the whole orchestra responded brilliantly to power of that music as it swept over us and the audience. We are so grateful to Sabatino for gathering and preparing the women's' choir for *Sirènes*. Their performance added immeasurably to ours. Beethoven 7 and the *Symphonie fantastique* were also for me great musical experiences. We also remember Sabatino's great performance of Liszt's *Totendanz*.

I eagerly look forward to our programs this year and, even more eagerly, look forward to performing in the new Burlington Arts Centre hopefully in 2011-12.

Deep thanks from me go to our Board of Directors under the Chair of James Douketis, and to our past Manager Leah Higen, and Assistant Conductor Sabatino Vacca. We warmly welcome Barry Matthews to the orchestra as our new manager, and Pratik Gandhi, as our new Assistant Conductor. And, as always, I am deeply and personally indebted to our Personnel Manager, Jeannie Martire, and to our Librarian, Graham Young. To our dedicated performers, some of whom have been members of Symphony Hamilton longer than I have, I say a heart-felt THANK YOU!

James R. McKay