

# TBSO takes its time with Symphony Virgins

REVIEW BY MICHAEL SOBOTA

THE Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra (TBSO) gave a special concert on Friday night at the Da Vinci Centre as a sort of prologue to launching their 2018-19 season.

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the concert was offered free to the public. And that filled the spacious Da Vinci Centre hall.

Led by TBSO music director and conductor Paul Haas, the program was a musical menu partly designed to entertain the audience for an hour and a half, but also to introduce that audience to this orchestra and showcase their incredible range and depth with a variety of music.

Intended to showcase the TBSO for first-time live orchestra listeners, the program featured a broad range of familiar music and world composers. Listening to this music was not going to overburden our attention but it certainly would engage



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and delight.

Following a warm welcome, Haas launched the orchestra into the stirring, soaring rhythms of John Williams' Star Wars Suite. I was sitting at a table that had children immediately captivated by William's famous movie music. Haas conducted with comfortable energy, showcasing some of his signature techniques: clean stops and crisp entries of the various themes with careful attention to the layering of the entire ensemble.

As a young boy still in primary grades, I remember watching the American conductor Leonard Bern-

stein on television, leading the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in what were called "Young People's Concerts." The most memorable one was Bernstein walking us through Ravel's Bolero. He broke the composition down to introduce each section of the orchestra to us, so we would better understand how an orchestra works.

Haas introduced his own version of this as he introduced each piece of music on this program. He invited various principal players of the TBSO to showcase their instrument and favour us with a few bars of spontaneous music. As each of the next selections in the program came up, we were introduced to the variety of the orchestra sections to help us better understand the complexity of the whole.

We heard a violin, a viola, a cello, a double bass. Then a flute, an oboe, a clarinet and a bassoon. Then a French horn, a trumpet and a trombone. Then the percussion section, featuring a timpani improvisation,

and a reverential reference to the keyboard.

Following each of those TBSO principal musician teaser trailers, Haas introduced a musical work that highlighted that instrument.

We heard the second movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, then Sameul Barber's Adagio for Strings — each of these compositions exquisitely shaped by Haas and performed by the full orchestra.

Next came Mendelssohn's first movement from his Symphony No. 4 followed by Manuel De Falla's Ritual Fire Dance. Some young listeners sitting at the table where I was got so caught up with De Falla's rhythms, they vigorously moved their arms and legs in a shadow exercise of Haas's conducting on the podium.

The highlight of this familiar musical menu, for me, came next. Aaron Copland's Variations on a Shaker Melody sounds disarmingly simple to our ears, but it is a gorgeously complex, rich and layered riff on a Shaker anthem. Using the

full resources of all the TBSO ensemble, this music achieved both a fulsome resonance and an emotional high in the hall.

We will hear more Copland later in the TBSO season.

The final piece of the evening was the 4th Movement of Mozart's Symphony No. 41, The Jupiter. It was the last full symphony Mozart wrote and the TBSO gave it a fitting, shining brilliance to bring the concert to a close.

This concert was like sitting at the Cascades, dipping your hands into the stream and drinking vigorously from the rippling stream. What a lovely, healthy drink this was after the long summer's classical music drought.

The TBSO officially launches their season on Thursday with a full classical program at The Community Auditorium.

Michael Sobota reviews the symphony orchestra for *The Chronicle-Journal*.

## Character, actions define each other

BY ANNETTE O'BRIEN

"It is by character and not by intellect the world is won."

—Evelyn Beatrice Hall, biographer (1868-1956)



INDEPENDENCE

IT SEEMS to me that lately there is a lot of chatter around, both in radio documentaries, television news programs and when just ordinary people get together having a discussion, the subject of one's character, personality, seems to come up in the conversation, judging what they do and why they do it, be it good or bad.

In listening to these programs, I wonder just how much a person's personality really accounts for what they say and do. I confess I do not know too much about this subject, but I am sure — being of sound mind, at least at this moment, and having left my fledgling years behind — there just might be a bit of mindfulness left in me to be able to figure out my type and maybe figure out what makes others do what they do, when I figure out their type.

I do believe that our personality governs everything we do. If I would have to justify my personality, well, I won't because I am apprehensive of who I think I am and what others think I am. But I do know that knowing who you are can make you aware of what you do. Just think what fun it would be to actually know what makes a person do what they

do, and why they do it, especially us older folk.

When one is retired, leaving a job that they have worked at for 25 or 30 years, they developed their personality doing their job. They were conscientious, "efficient, well-organized, and dependable." Some of these traits are still visible in some people, no matter how old a person is, you are who you are, is truly a statement that is hard to deny.

Nevertheless, I wonder, as we age, do our characteristics change, do we keep the personalities we had when we were younger?

There are five major personality types, including being conscientious, that psychologists agree we all possess traits of, even if we do not completely fit into the unique shoe:

Extroversion: Yes, you must know someone who is an extrovert — chatty, friendly, sociable, outgoing, and they love being in the limelight person.

Agreeableness: Do you know someone who is caring, demonstrative and trust-

worthy?

Open to experience: These people are curious and you can probably find them in a craft room, as they are creative. Studies tell us that they are known for their "self-actualization through intense, euphoric experiences like meditative retreats."

Neuroticism: Oh yes. We all know a few neurotic souls who have some "emotional instability." It is not a bad characteristic, just people who are high-strung, sometimes overly anxious, and with a bit of bad temper.

If we think about it, all of our actions are part of who we are. There are many today who searching their DNA, want to find out who their ancestors are, the beginning of their lineage. But I find it kind of hard to believe that some Moor way back in time, fighting in a ferocious battle, being so brave and merciless helped in the development of my meek, fearful, modest character. He would be laughing all the way to the forum.

I am sorry to admit I have no idea what makes us tick. If I did, maybe you would have heard my name announced last week in Sweden as the 2018 Nobel laureates were announced. But maybe being aware of one's character perhaps give us a clue whether we should fight or submit.

Annette O'Brien's column appears every other Sunday. Send comments or suggestions to [independence@tbaytel.net](mailto:independence@tbaytel.net).

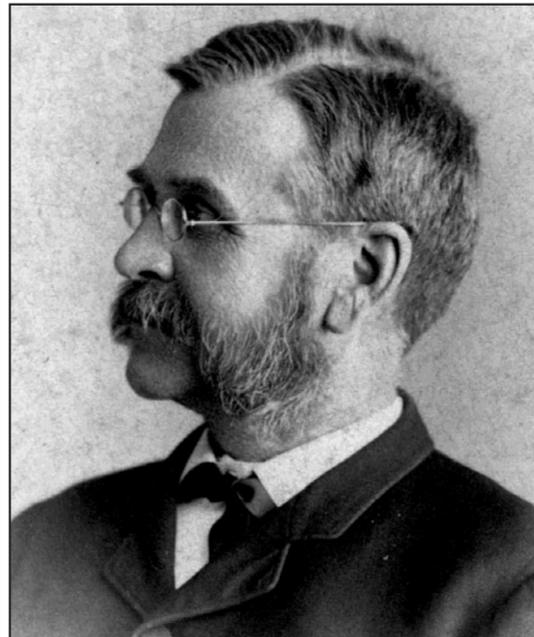


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY THUNDER BAY MUSEUM

John Hamilton became the first judge of the Provisional Judicial District of Thunder Bay in 1884 with residence at Port Arthur, but not before two significant cases disputed who had legal jurisdiction over Thunder Bay.

## Jurisdiction disputes arose over Thunder Bay

BY JOHN WRIGHT

WHICH courts had jurisdiction in what is now Thunder Bay was a matter of contention for many decades.

In the early 1800s, the lands to the west of Upper Canada were said to be "Indian Lands" and their jurisdiction was left to the courts of Quebec. In 1818, a fur trader named Charles de Reinhard was tried in Quebec and found guilty of a murder committed in what is now North-western Ontario. He argued that he should have been tried by the courts of Upper Canada.

A Montreal surveyor, William Sax, testified that the offence had been committed in the Indian Territory. Sax noted that the western boundary of Upper Canada would strike Lake Superior at or about a degree east of Fort William leaving Fort William and points west outside of Upper Canadian jurisdiction. De Reinhard was not hanged.

Views had changed by the end of the century.

In 1883, a 17-year-old girl, Lizzie Washington, was charged with the murder of a man at Prince Arthur's Landing, later known as Port Arthur.

Lizzie was described as living in a "House" . . . on the other side of McVicar's Creek." The deceased had come into town for the Christmas season and had dropped by the "house" for some feminine company. A dispute arose between them over payment and a dog; she shot him to death. The following June, she was tried for manslaughter at Prince Arthur's Landing.

The case proceeded on the basis that Prince Arthur's Landing was within what was then the District of Algoma. John McPherson Hamilton, Crown Attorney and Judge McCrae, both of the Sault attended for the trial.

When the accused was called upon to plead, her lawyer, Edward Robert Cameron, a law partner of T.A. Keefer, challenged the jurisdiction of the court. He called evidence that Prince

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Arthur's Landing was situated outside the province of Ontario. A surveyor testified that according to maps the western limit of Ontario fell to the east of Prince Arthur's landing.

Counsel submitted that Prince Arthur's Landing was within a triangle of land that was neither in the province of Ontario nor within the territory known as the District of Keewatin. It was argued that this land had never been ceded by the British government to Canada nor was it included in the lands purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. The Dominion government, therefore, had no authority to constitute courts having jurisdiction over this territory and accordingly jurisdiction still lay with the courts of Quebec.

Judge McCrae rejected this argument and held that the District of Algoma extended at least as far west as Prince Arthur's Landing. Lizzie was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to five years in prison.

The Manitoba boundary dispute was settled by the judicial committee of the Privy Council a year later. The Provisional Judicial District of Thunder Bay was then created the same year. On Oct. 21, 1884, the former crown attorney, J.M. Hamilton, became the first judge of the Provisional Judicial District of Thunder Bay with residence at Port Arthur.

Looking Back is written weekly by one of various writers for the Thunder Bay Museum. For further information visit the museum at 425 Donald St. E., or view its website at [www.thunderbaymuseum.com](http://www.thunderbaymuseum.com)

## Looking for 'technosignatures'

BY MAUREEN ARGES NADIN

I LEARNED a new word recently. That's always a positive experience for a writer but this particular word came imbued with a certain power that caused me to take a pause and then change the direction of this month's column. A responsible space columnist would normally be reporting on current events in space exploration such as the first discovery of an "exo-moon" orbiting another planet and Japanese rovers landing on an asteroid. But NASA has recently introduced a new buzzword and the implications of this word have the space community buzzing.

In late September, NASA held a "technosignatures workshop" in Houston, introducing their latest strategies in searching for signs of intelligent life in the universe. Intelligent life is generally understood to be any civilization capable of developing and using technology. This represents a quantum leap in how NASA and the space science community look for extraterrestrial life and what they might reasonably expect to find. In other words, it wouldn't make sense to invest the considerable amount of money it will require to search for signs of an intelligent and possibly advanced civilization unless you reasonably expected to find one. In short, this is huge.

Prior to this, the exoplanet program, has been focusing on the search for biosignatures — that is, evidence of chemicals like oxygen and methane in the planet's atmosphere that would indicate the presence of organic life. However, that "life" could be anything from bacteria to an extraterrestrial society that doesn't have technology.

Technosignatures are a completely different thing.

As evidence that the search for life in the universe is rapidly accelerating and being redefined, I was fortunate enough to participate in a webinar this past week put on by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medi-



SETI INSTITUTE/WWW.SETI.ORG

The Allen Telescope Array in northern California is a radio telescope array being used to search for signals that could indicate intelligent life beyond Earth.



COSMIC NEIGHBOURHOOD

cine (NASEM) in Washington. Entitled "An Astrobiology Science Strategy for the Search for Life in the Universe," the presentation introduced the concept of technosignatures, defining them as "signs of technologically advanced life and they are legitimate. Examples include leakage from communication signals or signals intentionally beamed to Earth. The search for technosignatures is a high-risk, high-reward approach to the search for life and its probability of success is poorly understood."

Searching for technosignatures may well be high risk with an unknown potential for success. The "high reward" is apparently worth it to at least some members of the U.S. Congress who asked NASA for this technosignatures workshop after reportedly expressing a renewed interest in the search for

intelligent life in the universe.

This will be expensive and will be done in partnership with several private organizations that are also committed to the search for intelligent life and have the money to finance that passion. They include Russian billionaire Yuri Milner (as well as the late Stephen Hawking) and his "Breakthrough Listen" program. In addition, there have been several private donations to finance time on some of the world's largest radio telescopes such as the telescopes of the famed Allen Array in California.

The search for intelligent life is apparently of deep interest to many people all over the world and we now have the technology and evidently, the will, to work together to find it. As astronomer Alan Boss from the NASEM panel astutely observed: "The question of whether we are alone is of interest to everyone on the planet."

The search for technosignatures won't and shouldn't replace the study of biosignatures. We learn through analyzing the atmosphere of an exoplanet may be far less dramatic than receiving an actual

signal from an intelligent civilization, sometimes the slow and methodical scientific approach is ultimately more realistic. Especially now that the definition of "life" is expanding to a broader definition to include something more universal and less Earth-centric.

One of the more profound things that I learned from the NASEM webinar is the inclusion of a new term in the astrobiology field. The term "agnostic biosignature" doesn't presuppose any particular molecular structure or DNA that is exactly the same as ours. In other words, we are expanding our search to not only life as we know it but also life as we don't know it. This development is long overdue and tremendously exciting. It's a vast universe and because we literally don't know what we don't know, we must be prepared to open our minds to any possibility.

I hope readers will excuse me for setting other space news aside to discuss this development which hasn't been well covered in mainstream news. If I were a conspiracy theorist, I might be tempted to ask why so much interest in this topic now, somewhat suddenly in the larger scheme of things? I might be tempted to ask why the U.S. Congress and many others are willing to put up the funds to develop this program now and why the urgency? What do they know that we don't?

But I'm not a conspiracy theorist and I suspect that the renewed interest has more to do with the rapid discovery of exoplanets, and now exomoons, that are a signal that we are just in the infant stages of what will no doubt be a historic age of discovery and human evolution. I best be prepared to learn many more new words.

Maureen Arges Nadin is a freelance writer and space enthusiast. Cosmic Neighbourhood appears the second Sunday of each month. Find her blog and join the conversation on her website at [www.maureenargesnadin.ca](http://www.maureenargesnadin.ca).