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James R. Cassidy, *Music Director*



## Heads Will Roll

(The KSO jumps the tumbrel with late works by Shostakovich)

**7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9, 2016**

Greaves Concert Hall, NKU

*Joseph Stalin was the quintessential party pooper, who squelched freedom and instilled mistrust and fear amongst all Russians. Only after the tyrant's death, could Dimitri Shostakovich and other Soviet composers feel slightly more confident about writing music without being censored or denounced by the Communist state.*

The **Kentucky Symphony Orchestra** continues its **24th** season with an all-Shostakovich program dubbed "Heads will Roll" at Greaves Concert Hall on the campus of Northern Kentucky University. Before entering the lobby, patrons can celebrate the Cincinnati Reds opening week by testing their throwing arms at the KSO's "**Dunk the Dictator**" tank. A brave soul dressed as Stalin will sit precipitously above the frigid conditions to which the "Red Tsar" often subjected his countrymen and artists.

The program opens with **Dimitri's Shostakovich's** 10th Symphony, which scholars describe as a musical depiction of the oppressive Stalin years and even Stalin himself. The dictator's demise in 1953 ended a 31-year reign of terror, which led to the deaths of millions of Russian citizens. The 10th Symphony allowed Shostakovich to write a symphony for the first time in 9 years, without the constant fear of censorship, exile or execution. In his Tenth Shostakovich musically reflects his optimism, pessimism and realism without contradiction.

Following intermission baritone **Kenneth Shaw** along with 150 voices from the **KSO Chorale**, the **Northern Kentucky Community Chorus** (Stephanie Nash, director) and **Voices of the Commonwealth** (Tony Burdette, director) will join 70 KSO musicians on stage for the rarely heard "Execution of Stenka Razin." This symphonic poem/cantata recounts of the execution of the 17th century Cossack pirate Stepan (Stenka) Razin in Moscow's Red Square in 1671. The lore of Stenka Razin made him a Robin Hood of his time, leading Cossack and peasant armies in uprisings against the Shah of Persia and the nobility of Russia. "Shostakovich's 1964 musical portrayal of the grisly poem by Yevgeny Yevtushenko is unabashedly sardonic and visceral in its bombastic brass writing and serene haunting moments just before the ax falls. One can't help but believe that the subject matter together with Shostakovich's "in your face" score echos his sentiments against the Soviet system and its bloody and oppressive history" opined KSO Music Director, **James Cassidy**.

The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra fills the stage for an evening of late Shostakovich — **7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 9** at **Greaves Concert Hall, NKU**, Highland Heights, KY. Reserved seating tickets are **\$19, \$27, \$35** (children ages **6-18** are **50% off**) and are available online, by phone or at the door. **kyso.org / (859) 431-6216**.



*Dimitri Shostakovich  
(1906-1975)*

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7:30 P.M. Saturday, April 9, 2016  
Greaves Concert Hall, NKU  
Highland Heights, KY

James Cassidy, *conductor*  
Kenneth Shaw, *baritone*  
The Northern Kentucky Community Chorus  
Stephanie Nash, *director*  
Voices of the Commonwealth  
Tony Burdette, *director*  
KSO Chorale

# Heads Will Roll

(Post-Stalin Musical Mayhem with DSCH)  
Greaves Concert Hall, NKU

Symphony No. 10 in E Minor, Op. 93

Dimitri Shostakovich

Moderato  
Allegro  
Allegretto  
Andante, Allegro

## Intermission

“The Execution of Stepan Razin,” Op. 119

Kenneth Shaw, *baritone*

KSO Chorale,  
J.R. Cassidy, *director*

The Northern Kentucky Community Chorus  
Stephanie Nash, *director*

Voices of the Commonwealth  
Tony Burdette, *director*

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**Kenneth Shaw**

The KSO's 24th season concludes on **May 14** at the Florence Baptist Church with the debut of **Soulbrette (Puccini to Prince)** featuring the versatile vocal stylings of soprano **Morgan James** in a brand new program created by the KSO for Ms. James.

American bass-baritone Kenneth Shaw has sung nearly 70 leading roles in over 50 operas, as well as concerts and recitals across America, Southeast Asia, Brazil, Canada and the United Kingdom. A member of the distinguished voice faculty at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Mr. Shaw maintains an active artistic presence with area companies and symphony orchestras.

Since winning New York City Opera's Richard F. Gold award as Debut Artist of the Year in 1987, Kenneth Shaw sang many roles with the company, including Escamillo in *Carmen*, the title role in *Don Giovanni*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Marcello in *La Bohème*, Silvio in *I Pagliacci*, and Germont in *La Traviata*.

In addition, Mr. Shaw has appeared with the New Orleans Opera, Opera Memphis, Kentucky Opera, Cleveland Opera, Opera Columbus, Chattanooga Opera, and with the Chautauqua Opera.

Kenneth Shaw's many orchestral engagements have included performances with the Louisville Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Baton Rouge Symphony, Syracuse Symphony, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony, and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, among others. Kenneth Shaw can be heard in the role of the Mill Foreman in Janáček's *Jenufa* on the BIS label, recorded live with the Opera Orchestra of New York. He has also recorded Mozart's Requiem for the ACA label with the Atlanta Opera Orchestra.

### **Northern Kentucky Community Chorus**

Stephanie Nash, *director*

This season marks the 35th anniversary of the Northern Kentucky Community Chorus. The chorus began in 1980 under the direction of Dr. John Westlund as a community outreach effort of NKU's music department. The chorus has performed at least two concerts per year, focusing on major choral works, often with orchestral accompaniment. Handel's *Messiah*, had become a biennial tradition of the chorus. Over 930 individual singers from across the greater Cincinnati region have rehearsed, performed and even toured internationally with the chorus throughout its 35 seasons.

When John Westlund retired in December 2012, Stephanie Nash stepped into the role of conductor and continues the choir's many established traditions. In addition to the NKCC, Ms Nash holds positions of Director of Music at Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Lakeside Park, Associate Conductor and member of the Vocal Arts Ensemble, and the Conductor of the Kol Rinah Choir at Isaac M. Wise Temple. Stephanie lives in Cincinnati with her husband, Keith and their son, Andrew.

After this year's performances of Handel and Shostakovich works, the Northern Kentucky Community Chorus will close its milestone season on May 15th with "Masterworks 35" — a program reprising several favorite works from past seasons by Britten, Rutter, and Vaughan Williams, while introducing new selections by Ola Gjeilo and Philip Stopford. Learn more about the NKCC at [nkychorus.org](http://nkychorus.org)

### **Voices of the Commonwealth**

Tony Burdette, *director*

Founded in 2011 by Artistic Director Tony Burdette, Voices of the Commonwealth (an ensemble of the Northern Kentucky School of Music), is a 75-voice community chorus for adults in Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati. Committed to collaboration and community involvement, Voices of the Commonwealth has partnered with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, the Disabled American Veterans National Headquarters, the Northern Kentucky Children's Ensemble, local veterans groups and churches.

Director, Tony Burdette has led choirs and orchestras in major works including Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and the Cincinnati premiere of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*. An accomplished tenor vocalist, Tony has appeared as soloist with the Asheville Choral Society (NC), Jefferson Choral Society (VA), Bach Society of Dayton, Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony, Lebanon Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Kentucky Community Chorus and Orchestra.

In the past year, Voices of the Commonwealth has performed in Beaufort, South Carolina, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at Carnegie Hall in New York City. For more information please visit: [voicesofthecommonwealth.com](http://voicesofthecommonwealth.com).