



All of us get tugged in different directions from time to time. Here's a tip: let maestro Peter Lipari and his talented 130-member West Suburban Symphony and Chorus (WSS) put you under the spell of a beautiful, powerful live concert, seemingly performed just for you.

One recent concert featured songs by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein from *Show Boat*, followed by songs from *Porgy and Bess* by George and Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward—standing ovations.

On June 15, Giuseppe Verdi's magnificent *Requiem* will be performed at Wentz Hall in Naperville. And on Aug. 3, Lipari has planned a world tour of music for dance at Cantigny Park in Wheaton.

Other concerts have featured music with fantasy, holiday and movie themes, as well as timeless classical favorites.

In short, there is music for all ages and tastes. As Lipari says, "We are not a bunch of stuffed-shirts playing nothing but music that's 300 years old."

How does all this happen? After all, most in the group have full-time day-jobs, or are enjoying their retirement, studying in college, and are otherwise busy outside of music.

First of all, not only are they talented; they love to play music and sing.

Secondly, they love the opportunity to be part of a special group that has been

## Sit back, relax and enjoy

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ATTEND A WEST SUBURBAN SYMPHONY AND CHORUS CONCERT

BY LARRY ATSEFF

Top left: Trombonist Thomas Izzo of Elmhurst and bassists Charles Becker and Dennis Gibbons, both of Western Springs.; Above: Maestro Peter Lipari

performing continuously for 72 years. Some have met and married, and are still part of the group to this day.

The other thing that makes for excellent live music is that members are willing to put in the work separately and together in demanding rehearsals that lead up to each performance. WSS is a non-profit organization where members are volunteers who not only share music, but who manage the group and perform all of its business functions.

"It is a labor of love," WSS president Richard Lukes said.

At the end of each concert, they hear genuine appreciation as they mingle with

the audience on their way out.

"Besides selecting the themes and music, there is nothing quite like the rush of a group on-stage that is so good and loves to play for the crowd, and you pull off another wonderful, synchronized sound, just the way composers intended," Lipari said.

All this for \$25 or less a ticket, and free parking, just minutes away. Come as you are. ■

For more information about the West Suburban Symphony and Chorus, visit [www.westsubsymphony.org](http://www.westsubsymphony.org), or call 630-887-7464.