By John Pauley

The orchestra, under the direction of Kenneth Cooper from the Harpsichord Academy, gave a brilliant annual New Year’s Day concert at the Troy Music Hall. The concert was a celebration of the Berkshire Music School’s 101st anniversary of music making in the Berkshires and at the Troy Music Hall.

The seventeen musicians of the ensemble are all virtuoso instrumentalists and have been taught and honed their art at the school in Carnegie Hall, Symphony Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera. The Berkshire Music Festival, known for its influence on music as well as the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. That vibrant space gave the audience a chance to hear themselves and the orchestra-in-residence perform the works of Arnold Schoenberg and Giacomo Puccini.

A word needs to be said about the genius of this extraordinary young musician, Jeanmari Bagley. The work is a delightful contrast to all that has gone before. It brought the audience up on their feet for an encore.

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