



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER

#252-2025 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B5 Phone and Fax (604) 261-6818

Clubs for retired and semi-retired professional and business persons, former executives and others

...to find more about Probud go to www.probus.org

APRIL 2008

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Next Meeting: Tuesday April 8th, 2008

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Vancouver Academy of Music
opposite the Planetarian and Space Centre

Speaker: Bramwell Tovey

Topic: A Morning with Bramwell Tovey

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday MAY 22ND - Walking Tour of the West End.

BRAMWELL TOVEY



Bramwell Tovey (born 11 July 1953) is an English-born conductor and composer. His musical roots are in The Salvation

Army. He was educated at Ilford County High School, the Royal Academy of Music and the University of London. His formal music education was as a pianist and composer. Whilst a student at the Royal Academy of Music, he also became a tuba player, studying with John Fletcher.

Between 1989 and 2001, Tovey was the music director of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He was instrumental in establishing the city's annual New Music Festival, which began in 1992. He has been the music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra since September 2000, and his current contract is through 2010. In Europe, he

was music director of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra from 2002 to 2006. Tovey was appointed Artistic Director of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and conducted his first course in April 2006.

Tovey has also become known as a composer. His compositions include a Cello Concerto (premiered in Winnipeg in January 2001), and a work for a large choir and brass band, 'Requiem for a Charred Skull', which in 2003 was awarded a Juno for Classical Composition of the Year. Tovey also composed the film score, recorded by the VSO, for Richard Bell's film Eighteen. He was nominated for a Genie Award (Canada's Academy Award), in tandem with Bell, for a song in the film called "In a Heartbeat", which was performed by Thea Gill. On commission from the 2005 British Open Brass Band Championship, Tovey composed 'The Night to Sing' as the test piece, inspired

by the celebrations of VE Day, 1945. In 2007, Calgary Opera commissioned a new opera from Tovey, currently titled *The Inventor*.

Tovey has conducted the "Summertime Classics" series of concerts with the New York Philharmonic since the inception of the series in the summer of 2004, after his 2001 subscription debut with the orchestra. He has been involved as well with a number of television programs related to music and with a number of youth ensembles and concerts. He has been the recipient of two honorary doctorates and many awards.

Minutes of the March 11th Meeting

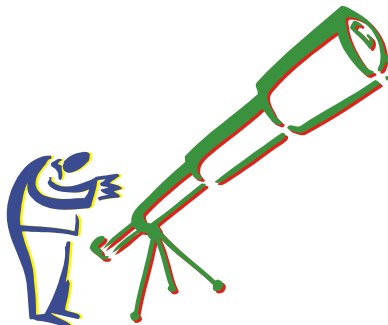
Attendance: 155 including guests

President **Ted Daem** opened the meeting at 10:00 am and introduced the distinguished guest **John Leonard**, representing Probus International. He also thanked Vice-President **George Adams** for taking his place during his absence and drew attention to the next great event organized by the Speakers Committee, the presentation by Bramwell Tovey for the next meeting. Treasurer **Bill Manson** reported all is well. Then, four new members were introduced by **Don Newman** (see "Welcome To Our New Members.") President **Ted Daem** acknowledged the extremely successful Valentine's lunch; reminded members of the now oversubscribed tour of the Reifel Bird Sanctuary and spoke of other tours being planned.

Lindsay Mann introduced the speaker, Dr. Jaymie Matthews, Professor of Astro-Physics at UBC, a leading expert in space science. In a richly illustrated, vividly detailed and witty exposition, Dr. Matthews provided insight into his work exploring for new planets through Canada's space telescope, which he developed with a team of scientists. As the Mission Scientist and

Principal Investigator for this Canadian Space Agency project, Dr. Matthews and his team are able to advance the study of stars and planets because of the telescope's extreme sensitivity to light, despite its modest size and cost (the "humble" telescope). Executing flawlessly and many magnitudes more sensitive than its predecessors, the telescope enables the recognition of oscillating light patterns on the surface of stars which reveal information about their inner composition. Light oscillations on the star also reveal the presence of planets and so enable the discovery of new planets, as in Dr. Matthews's title to his presentation, "The Search for Terra Nova: Exploring alien worlds with Canada's space telescope."

Dr. Matthews provided a brief history of his project, in the context of Canada's space explorations, beginning with the successful launch of the suitcase-sized MOST telescope in northern Russia on 30 June 2003 aboard a Soviet ICBM slated for demolition. He gave some insight into the methods by which detections of vibrations in the light of stars can reveal the presence and characteristics of many planets, and provide illustrations of the discovery of new planets by this means. Dr. Matthews gave new and precise meaning to the "music of the spheres" and the twinkling of stars. The study of their light also tells much about their development and age.



Although the talk was lengthy, Dr. Matthews elicited many substantive questions. The current project will continue for another five years at least, but the data gathered so far will provide work for decades. There will be more projects: NEOSAT is searching for asteroids, partly with a view to anticipating any threats to the earth. Scientists at Harvard, MIT, Berkeley and NASA wish to be involved. The sun's energy results from the conversion of hydrogen into helium and will be exhausted in another ten billion years or so. In a measured reply which revealed intimate acquaintance with the company, Dr. Matthews expressed some regret on balance that MacDonald Dettwiler would no longer remain under Canadian ownership. The discovery of any planets potentially habitable for humans must remain for the present merely of scientific interest and of interest for understanding our own planet, since any such planet (if discovered) would be unapproachably distant: a planet to learn from, not live on. Still the subject must remain of interest, since 50% of people are reported believing that aliens live among us now.

Conrad Rademaker thanked the speaker for a deeply informative and thought provoking presentation, implicitly showing the intellectual passion for the subject which has led to Dr. Matthews's scientific achievements and his ability to instill a like response in his students and others.

Lindsay Mann, Secretary

allotted forty five minutes. Actually it lasted about an hour with very few taking a blue room break. (Congratulations all).

Jamie our speaker joined myself and several other club members at Malone's for the after meeting lunch. It was great. As announced at the meeting, if you have nothing else to do for lunch, Malone's is close, and the lunch is good.

Probus Vancouver has now reached a size where the executive committee feels we must formalize and document the expectations for its executives and their committees. We are in the process of outlining in as much detail as possible the responsibilities of each committee. This will provide a template to follow for incoming committee chairs. Being a volunteer group it is important that efforts to bring formal structure into play will ensure that the effectiveness and efficiency of the committees and executive positions.

NOTICES

Welcome To Our New Members

John Madden – Nuclear Physicist -

Research & Research Management

Mike Overholt – Retail-Office Products

Bill Robertson – Radiologist

Ken Yule - Lawyer

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM



Another outstanding speaker this month. I believe we had two firsts. One, we thanked the speaker, and then opened the question period. Two, the question period lasted longer than the speakers

Member Services Desk: Tremayne Perry

Cash Desk: Hank Levelt, Allen Coombes

Greeters: David Boyd, Dick Nelson, Colin Dobell

IMPORTANT REMINDER

You must register if you wish to attend the April 8th meeting. As mentioned in the special notice sent to all members, registration is on a "*first come, first serve*" basis. This step is necessary because of the limited capacity of the Academy of Music.

If the meeting is overbooked, those members ineligible to attend will be contacted.

Congratulations to Past President



Jack Farley on receiving a B.C. Community Achievement Award from the Province for his long history of community service.

A WALKING TOUR OF THE WEST END

A CENTURY OF RESIDENTIAL CHANGE

Thursday, May 22nd, 2008 –
10:00AM to 1:30PM

This exciting walking tour will be hosted by Chris Lee and local author/tour guide, John Atken. The tour will begin at the Roedde House Museum (1893), 1415 Barclay Street, the centerpiece of Barclay Heritage Square which is bounded by Barclay, Nicola, Haro and Broughton Streets.

10:00 – 10:30: Welcome and orientation session with Chris and John.

10:30 – 12:30: Walking Tour and commentary, hosted by John Atkin.

We will examine a neighbourhood that has moved through a remarkable transition from forest to exclusive single family homes to the high density housing of the apartment district we are familiar with today. And yet we can still find streets of fine Craftsmen and Victorian homes nestled next to delightful Edwardian apartment houses. We will examine this evolution of the west end over time, starting with the Roedde House Museum, the surrounding Barclay Heritage Square, North America's first fire hall built for motorized fire trucks, remaining mansions and a block of Victorian homes heated with geothermal energy.

12:30: Return to the Roedde House for lunch catered by Kelly Saunders, **Cuisine by Design**. Kelly will feature assorted sandwiches, various desserts and a variety of beverages. After lunch we will have a chat with John concerning the tour and future prospects for the area. We plan to adjourn between 1:30 and 2:00 PM.

The cost of the tour for each participant is \$30.00 which includes use of Roedde House for the event, services of our tour guide, lunch and organization expenses. The tour, limited to 30 participants, is open to PROBUS members and spouses/partners only. If you wish to register please complete the attached Registration Form.

For further information contact Chris Lee, (604) 926 1022 or chris189@shaw.ca

WEST END WALKING TOUR

Thursday, May 22nd, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

PHONE # _____

Attach your cheque payable to PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER for____ persons @ \$30.00
each \$_____.

Please mail to PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER, 252 – 2025 West 42nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
V6M 2B5
