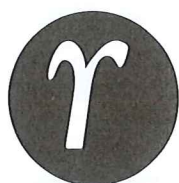




Robert Hazen

In work and art, board member strives for “the highest level.”

By Pamela Toutant



Robert Hazen—scientist, musician, writer and philanthropist—is the quintessential Renaissance man. “Every day is fresh,” enthuses the 62-year-old National Philharmonic board member and recently retired trumpeter.

“I feel like I haven’t worked a day in my life.”

By day, Hazen is a research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington’s Geophysical Laboratory, and Clarence Robinson Professor of Earth Science at George Mason University, researching, writing and lecturing on such subjects as high-pressure organic synthesis and the origin of life.

As a professional trumpeter since 1966, Hazen has played with many of the great opera, ballet and symphony orchestras. “My sense has always been that I want to do things at the highest level,” he says.

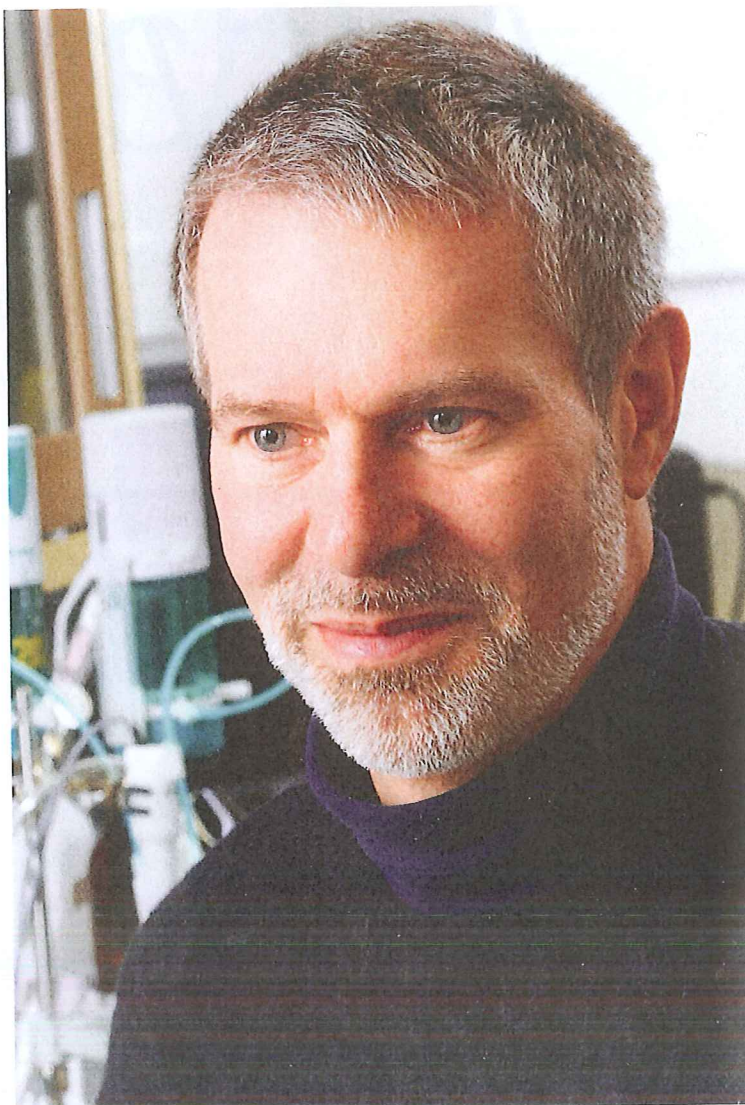
Hazen began playing the piano when he was 5, took up the violin when he was 6 and began playing the trumpet at 9. “My father practiced the piano for hours every night,” he recalls. I usually fell asleep listening to him play.”

“Robert was one of the first to audition for what was initially called the Montgomery Chamber Orchestra and played in our first concert in January of 1985,” recalls National Philharmonic Music Director and Conductor Piotr Gajewski. “The National Philharmonic,” says Hazen, “has gone on to become an incredible success story.” In October 2010, Hazen played his last National Philharmonic concert at the Music Center at Strathmore.

Not surprisingly, retiring as a professional trumpeter hasn’t stopped Hazen from playing music. “I am currently studying the cello with National Philharmonic cellist Lori Barnet and play in a string quartet with my wife Margaret who is a violinist,” Hazen reports. In his “spare” time Hazen plays doubles volleyball, collects 15 million-year-old whale and shark fossils, writes books and enjoys ballroom dancing with his wife.

Contemplating the life of a man with such diverse talents, accomplishments and intellectual curiosity in both the arts and sciences leads to questions both mundane and profound. “We all only have 24 hours in a day. My secret is that for everything I do, I concentrate exclusively on that activity while I am doing it,” Hazen explains.

Comparing his experiences as both a musician and a scien-



tist, Hazen says, “Being a symphony musician is a very precise endeavor. You must be able to perform the music exactly as it is written. On the other hand, being a research scientist is more like jazz, more improvised. I have an idea, but I don’t know where it will go or how it will turn out.”

“I am fascinated by the parallels between music and science,” Hazen muses. “For example, the chord harmonics we play in the orchestra are the same as the harmonic vibrations of the hydrogen atom.”

Gajewski has a deep appreciation for Hazen’s contributions as both a musician and a board member of the National Philharmonic. “For years, Robert has been a wonderful member of the orchestra. On the board, he brings a broad understanding of the music world and is one of our largest contributors. I will be taking advantage of Robert’s wise counsel for years to come.” ☺

MAY/JUNE 2011

applause

at Strathmore

Emanuel
AX

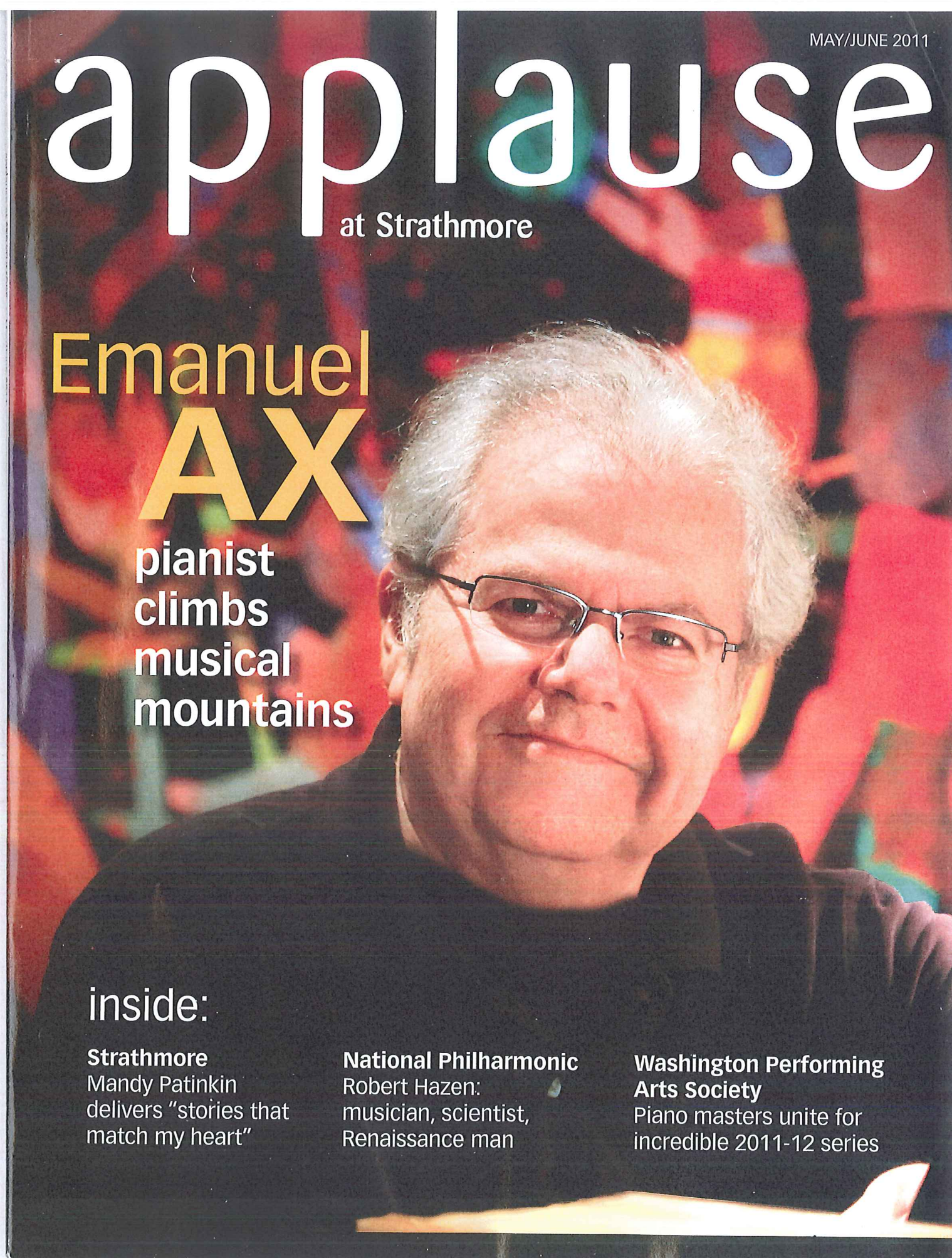
pianist
climbs
musical
mountains

inside:

Strathmore
Mandy Patinkin
delivers "stories that
match my heart"

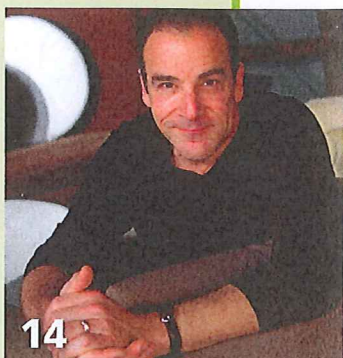
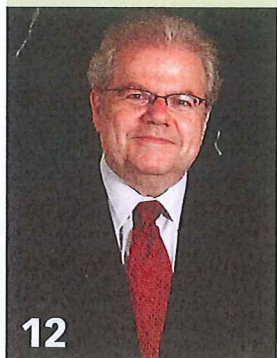
National Philharmonic
Robert Hazen:
musician, scientist,
Renaissance man

**Washington Performing
Arts Society**
Piano masters unite for
incredible 2011-12 series



prelude

APPLAUSE AT STRATHMORE / MAY/JUNE 2011



program notes

May 1

22 / WPAS:
Itzhak Perlman

May 2

25 / Strathmore:
David Crosby and
Graham Nash

May 5

27 / Strathmore:
Nils Lofgren &
Friends Acoustic

May 7

29 / BSO: Songs
of the Earth

May 13

34 / BSO Off the
Cuff: Schumann's
Beautiful Mind

May 14

36 / National
Philharmonic:
Bach and Mozart

May 19

40 / BSO Super-
Pops: Rodgers &
Hammerstein at
the Movies

May 21

42 / National
Philharmonic:
Verdi's *Requiem*

May 28

45 / BSO: Mahler,
Sibelius and
Walton

June 2

50 / BSO:
Emanuel Ax

June 4

54 / National
Philharmonic:
All Tchaikovsky

June 9, 10

57 / Strathmore:
Mandy Patinkin,
Dress Casual

June 11

59 / BSO:
Verdi's *Requiem*

features

10 Arts in Their Hearts

Students stage a production with the help of Strathmore-affiliated arts professionals

12 Emanuel Ax

Acclaimed pianist still finds challenges in Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1

14 Modest Mandy

Singer-actor Mandy Patinkin performs as if he's in his living room

15 Songs of the Earth

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra explores Gustav Mahler's breakthrough work

16 Musician profile

Edward Palanker's gardens are vibrant works of art

17 Robert Hazen

National Philharmonic board member balances the worlds of art and science

18 A Symphonic Relationship

Master classes spark creativity in both seasoned and young musicians

20 2011-12 Washington Performing Arts Society's Piano Masters Series

Four accomplished pianists will share their distinct styles and techniques

departments

6 **Musings** of Strathmore CEO Eliot Pfanstiehl

6 **A Note** from BSO Music Director Marin Alsop

8 **Calendar:** Summer performances

80 **Encore:** Washington Performing Arts Society
Director of Ticketing and Audience Services Julia Allal

musician rosters

31 Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

44 National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale

ON THE COVER

Emanuel Ax

Photo by Maurice Jerry Beznos