

A learning tool for students of the UW-Madison Odyssey Project

# Odyssey ORACLE

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Editors/Contributing Writers:

Kegan Carter  
Odyssey 2004 Graduate, Designer  
uwodyssey@gmail.com  
608-442-8893

Marshall Cook  
Writing Coach  
mcook@dcs.wisc.edu  
608-262-4911

Emily Auerbach  
Project Director  
eauerbach@dcs.wisc.edu  
608-262-3733/ 712-6321

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## Sentences from Socrates

*"I would  
rather die  
having spoken  
after my  
manner, than  
speak in your  
manner and  
live."*

If I have to  
die to spread  
a positive  
and truthful  
message to others, then so be it.  
I will end up dying with a sense  
of pride and self-worth, knowing  
that I didn't just sell out and deny  
my beliefs to please others, when  
my only desire was to do what is  
right. (Sheriah Quartey)

*"I cared not  
a straw for  
death, . . . and  
my only fear  
was the fear  
of doing an  
unrighteous  
or unholy  
thing."*

Paraphrase:  
I couldn't give



a rat's ass. The only fear I have is  
not being obedient to my god.  
(John Shields)

*"And I  
prophecy  
to you who  
are my  
murderers,  
that  
immediately  
after my death  
punishment  
far heavier  
than you have  
inflicted on me  
will surely await you."*

I think that when Socrates  
made that comment, he was  
saying that what goes around  
comes around even greater. He  
was letting his murderers know  
that his death would not be  
avenged by men of their kind, but  
it would sure be in God's hands.  
(Ronnie Jones)

*"A man who is good for  
anything ought not to calculate  
the chance of living or dying; he  
ought only to consider whether*



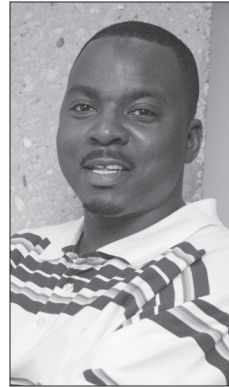
***in doing anything he is doing right or wrong—acting the part of a good man or of a man.”***

A man that is honorable, caring, and selfless should not think about his actions causing him to live or die. . . . If a man lives a righteous life not causing himself or anyone else intentional harm, he doesn't have to occupy his mind with worries of death and how he will be judged in the end.  
(Jeffery McCarroll)



***the state by the God, and the state is like a noble steed who is tardy in his motions owing to his very size and requires to be stirred into life.”***

Socrates has been sent from God to educate society on philosophy, and he's sort of like a fly or pest that's going to teach and teach. It may bother or annoy people, or make someone really dislike him, but he's going to constantly speak about what he believes in.  
(Albert Watson)



wisdom you have to know all. We as humans don't know all; we are ignorant in our own rights.  
(Brenda Tompkins)

***“O my friend, why do you, who are a citizen of the great and mighty and wise city of Athens, care so much about laying up the greatest amount of money and honor and reputation, and so little about wisdom and truth and the greatest improvement of the soul, which you never regard or heed at all?”***

This statement reminds me of all the famous black athletes who never return home. They have an opportunity to spread some of their wealth in the neighborhoods they grew up in but do not.  
(Thomas Gardner)



***“I will never fear or avoid a possible good rather than a certain evil.”***

I paraphrase this as “the price of good costs the highest, yet evil on sale is never worth the bargain thereof.” . . . I walk a pathway straight towards truth/justice quickly, for that which is good outweighs evil present. . . . What an Odyssey to read and reread his words all these years later as an adult woman still searching and gullible in the most secret places deep within my soul's eye.  
(Sherri Bester)



***“God only is wise.”***

He is saying that we as humans will make mistakes and are afraid of the unknown. To have



***“For if you kill me you will not easily find another like me, who . . . am a sort of gadfly, given to***

## Kevin Schoen's Response to Mosaic Challenge

### *"History is a Mosaic"*

*Odyssey students heard the phrase the first night, but then were asked to challenge that image. Here is Kevin's response:*

The metaphor of history as a mosaic is inaccurate or inapplicable because it fails to take into account the human aspect of the picture, like emotional impact on both the subjects of the history and the viewer of the mosaic. History should tell the whole story. A mosaic fails to create a verbal representation, an emotional representation, an intellectual representation, or a musical representation. It fails to represent many aspects of the history of the human race. In

an attempt to create a picture of the history of humanity, how would a mosaic establish meter or chronology? Does time start in the middle, on the left, or the right? Which direction does it flow? I think that the best metaphor for history is a movie. It is linear. It also has so many more tools to represent all of the missing elements. That would be one long movie.



Last night's Odyssey class was so exciting for me! If you had stuck me with a pin, I would've burst like a balloon. I was excited from the moment I walked in the door, itching as if a mosquito had just bit me to discuss this man called Socrates.

I had read and read over and over, highlighting in bright yellow those phrases that struck me like a lightning bolt to a tree. They hit me hard and fast. I was in awe. Me, a black almost fifty-year-old woman whose mind was being opened like the parting of the Red Sea, being filled with this thing called knowledge. Yes knowledge!!! Eye-opening yet embraceable, contradicting yet acceptable, disassembled yet able to be put back together again. What a great catch! What a great catch indeed. (René Robinson)



Congratulations to Naomi Kharrazihassani for being honored for five years of CNA service at Meriter!



# A Musical Sunday Afternoon

## by Ivonne Ramos



It's Sunday afternoon at 2:15 PM, and my excitement for the Madison Symphony Orchestra concert is rising. I open the doors and am kindly led to my seat. The sound of practicing musicians fills the Overture Center, and the excitement heightens.

The program begins, and the blend of the organ and amazing orchestra fills the space. Emotions of the *Toccata Festiva* create joy with its quick tempo and blending of instruments. The music touches me inside, emotionally, at some parts of the program. I can actually feel it inside me. It gives me chills and leaves me feeling elated.

This elevated feeling reminds me that this is the beauty of humanity. Musicians practice every day, and then they share their labor on a Sunday afternoon with the audience. Their labor sounds effortless and timeless; however, there are many hours of sweat behind each note.

The Madison Symphony on Sunday afternoon reminded me of my love for music and the unspoken humanity that is captured in each note. No words can describe the vitality that is brought to the listener. Although it is a personal experience when each note touches us, we experience the music as an

audience together, so it is a truly shared experience. . . . The power of the music itself is that it communicates to all of us.

Thank you, Carroll and Bob Heideman. I would not have had this experience without you. Your gift is the music that humans give to another human. I may never meet you, but your gift communicates to the core of the place where you and I and everyone is the same.

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## Meet the Donors: Bob and Carroll Heideman

In addition to contributing generously to the UW Odyssey Project scholarship fund, Bob and Carroll Heideman have donated two tickets for each of this year's six Madison Symphony Orchestra concerts. They are retired educators:

Bob, an administrator at the University of Wisconsin School of Education, and Carroll, a teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District. Together they have had over 65 years of experience in the field of education. They lead a busy life devoted to community volunteering, service, and philanthropy. Bob and Carroll

Heideman write, "We support the goal of the Odyssey Project – to offer the life-transforming effect of the humanities – and

believe that Madison Symphony Orchestra performances provide a perfect, musical match with those goals."





# Afternoon at the Overture by John Shields

Seeing the Madison Symphony Orchestra for the first time was exciting and

fascinating. The most significant part for me was seeing so many musicians with such an array of instruments coming together to make beautiful music.

Upon arrival to the Overture Center for the Arts I was blessed with another glorious fall day. I entered the magnificent building still in awe of its architecture. Its beige marble and clean lines, not to mention its abundance of glass, left me standing in the middle of

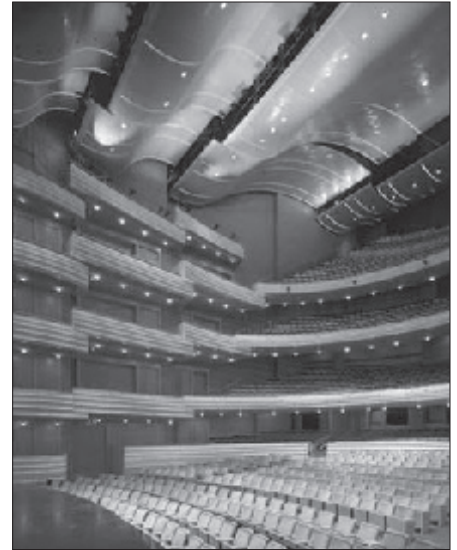
the hall with my mouth open. It was quite a sight to see.

This afternoon the patrons of the arts were of all shape and sizes, some dressed up, some pretty casual with khakis and polos.

The seats we sat in were great for viewing the entire stage. In fact there wasn't a bad seat in the house for viewing Overture Hall's wonderful organ and enormous pipes built into the walls.

This brings me to the gentleman who played the organ this afternoon, Thomas Trotter. He tickled the ivories, patted the pedals like nobody's business.

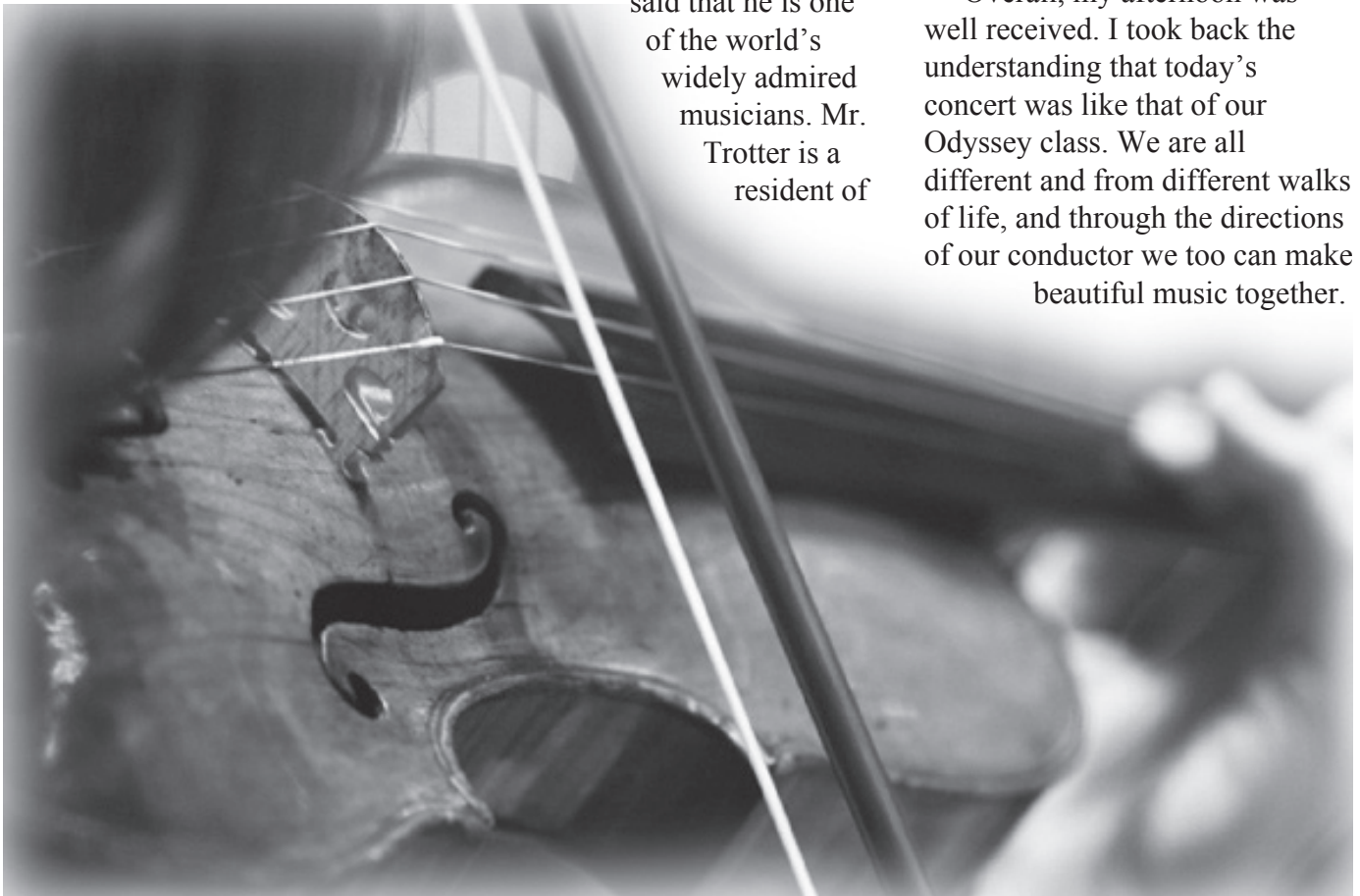
In the concert program it is said that he is one of the world's widely admired musicians. Mr. Trotter is a resident of



Birmingham, England.

I was also amazed at how many violins were used, not including a viola, cello and bass. There were strings galore!

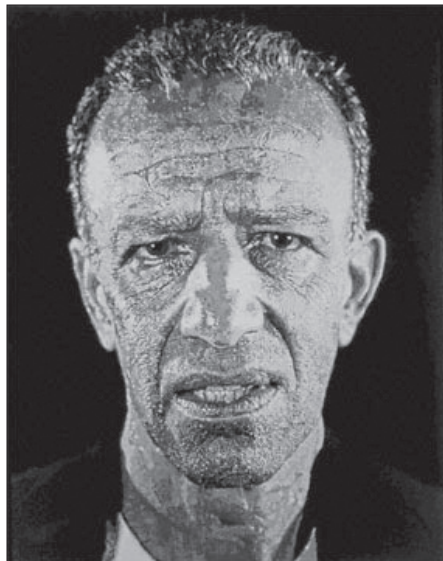
Overall, my afternoon was well received. I took back the understanding that today's concert was like that of our Odyssey class. We are all different and from different walks of life, and through the directions of our conductor we too can make beautiful music together.



# Choices from the Chazen

## Chuck Close's "Alex Reduction"

The one piece of art that I saw at the museum that will always



be etched in my brain was the Chuck Close piece called "Alex Reduction." The painting was located on the third floor and was of a man that had "life" written all over his face. You can look at the painting and see exactly what the man had been through . . . a rough life.

(Charrod Miller)

## Thomas Ball's "Emancipation Group"

Beside Lincoln's stoic figure towering over the man, you could see that if the former slave stood, his stance would equal the tall man standing over him. The delicate carvings of the man's wooly, curly hair tempted me to touch the marble figure draped only in blanket and wrist bracelets with its broken chain links scattered. . . . With what looks like a gesture of importance, Ball has Lincoln's



right hand holding onto the Emancipation Proclamation while it is draped over a bible. These two symbols echo the sculpture's nameplate: "favor of God and judgment of mankind." My interpretation was that God had already given blacks the goodwill

of freedom, but it took the judicial decision of man to free a man free under the Lord. . . . The delicate feature of the models, the cool affection of the marble, and the subject matter held my conscience captive.

(Thomas Gardner)

## Auguste-Xavier Leprince's "The Artist's Studio"

I have lived in Madison all my life, and I have never been to this museum before. Leprince's painting was so lifelike I couldn't take my eyes off it. The characters were so real looking—their facial expressions, the clothing they wore—and the dog and cat were out of this world. I plan to go back one day soon.

(Jack Crawford)

## John de Andrea's "Untitled Bronze"

This real-life statue came to life for me at first glance. I waited for





her lifelike form to move. When she didn't, it piqued my interest even more. As I began to move a little closer, I was amazed at the detail of her form. . . . Every bone and each rib fell correctly in place. . . . The feet were sculpted just as yours or mine might be. John de Andrea even added a tinge of dirt to the bottom of the

foot. . . .  
(RJ Knight)

**Defendente Ferrari's  
"Madonna and Child Enthroned  
with Saints"**

"Madonna and Child" stood out to me because it made me think about the first time I held my son in my arms. I'm very attached to my son. We have both been through a lot. The angels in the background gave me the chills. I believe that angels watched over both of us. Whenever I think about this art work, it makes me appreciate my son more.

(Loretta Smith)

**Klaudii Vasilievich Labedev's  
"The Fall of Novgorod"**

Klaudii Vasilievich Labedev's "The Fall of Novgorod" jumped out at me. All the detail in the people made them look so real.



Their eyes really got me and made me feel as if they were looking out at me. Labedev made me feel the cold, the snow. It was like a history class to see the buildings, the landscape, and the people.

(Rockameem)



# The Nature of Nature

*After reading William Wordsworth, Odyssey students wrote of their own positive and negative moments in nature.*

## Rocky Mountain high

**By Dwayne Blue**

Two years ago a friend of mine named John and I drove to the mountains of Boulder, Colorado. When we approached the city, the mountains seemed to just rise up out of the ground suddenly. They were huge—a lot bigger than I thought! It's like seeing an elephant on T.V., then actually standing next to one in real life.

The mountains smelled fresh, and the snow was so white. It was cool, but I was done when I saw the biggest set of bear paw tracks heading in the same direction. The prints were as large as snow shoes.

## North woods baptism

**By Tara Wilhelmi**

I am standing barefoot in cool, clean grass. The sun is warm and half risen, not yet blazing down on our heads. Morning birds are chirping, singing a beautiful baptismal hymn. To my left, the lake water laps peacefully to shore as if to welcome my handsome baby boy. He lies in my arms, clothed in a long white hand-sewn gown. His mouth curls around his

binky, and his big brown eyes lock with mine. The sounds and the setting are perfect to welcome my son to the kingdom of God.

## Other beautiful moments included:

\*walking under a thousand stars on a cloudless night (**Haroun**),

\*smelling pink and white flowers (**Nosihle**),

\*seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time (**Maria**),

\*feeling the cool, brisk winter's wind (**Ronnie**),

\*walking the shores of Lake Erie (**Josephine**),

\*driving along the Mississippi River (**Jeffery**),

\*moonbathing in shivers of ice cold water (**Sherri**),

\*wishing on your own personal star (**R.J.**),

\*daydreaming on a clear, perfect Saturday morning (**Justin**),

\*camping under a perfect powder blue sky amidst hills of green grass and yellow dandelions (**John**),

\*hiking the majestic heights of Ferry Bluff in Sauk City (**Debby**),

\*seeing crab apple blossoms for the first time (**René**),

\*walking through the Rose Garden in Pasadena, California (**Naomi**),

\*"hearing" the silence of the snow (**Ozanne**),

\*catching lightning bugs on a lazy summer evening (**Mandisa**),

\*reflecting in a pool of water inside a cave in Jamaica (**Rockameem**), and

\*absorbing the smells and colors of a beautiful garden (**Sheriah**).

## Frightening moments involved:

\*being lost in the dark forest at night as a child (**Thomas Gardner**),

\*experiencing a thunderstorm (**Severn**), and  
\*being chased out of a blueberry patch by a tornado (**Ivonne**).

**Brenda Tompkins** described an experience that was at once frightening and beautiful—a deer leaping over one of the campers in her charge at Lake Farm one summer.

Camping was painful for **Charrod, Jack, and Loretta** (who walked into a huge spider web), as was confronting a field of corn needing detassling for **Albert**.