



# ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 143 NO. 1 The Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Fall 2013

## From Our President

In late August, one of my church choir members admitted to me that he really wasn't looking forward to starting up rehearsals again in the Fall – that he wasn't finished with Summer yet!! I think he was surprised when I told him that I felt the same way. I have a feeling that many of us share this feeling. Summer in Maine is all too short, and this year seemed to be made even shorter with our wet June. (My added excuse is that I was away in Alaska and the west coast for three weeks, but our garden kept growing and producing!)

Yet here it is mid-September. Rossini Club's 143<sup>rd</sup> season is beginning, and in spite of our short summer, a group of dedicated musicians, from Rossini Club and beyond, has been putting together an amazing program celebrating the centennial of the births of Verdi and Wagner on September 22, and then October 13, another group of dedicated and very talented young people will, I'm sure, astonish us with their energy and ability on violin and piano. May all of our performers this season feel our support and appreciation for their time and effort, as well as for the talent that they offer us in the coming season!

Following our October program, we will conduct our Fall business meeting. All Members (Active, Privileged, Honorary, and Associate) are urged to attend. If you have questions or agenda items, please let me know. My email is [eharmon2@maine.rr.com](mailto:eharmon2@maine.rr.com), and my phone is 829-3393.

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer.

Beth Harmon  
President, Portland Rossini Club

## Call to Our Fall Business Meeting

**Date: Sunday, October 13,  
following our program**

**Time: 4:45 PM**

**Place: Saint Luke's Chapter  
Room**

### BUSINESS AGENDA

- Election of Nominating Committee
- Committee Reports
- Discussion of Bylaws changes

Please let Beth Harmon (829-3393) know if you have additional items to place on the agenda.

Please bring a copy of your bylaws booklet with you.

### This Just In:

Concert pianist, Virginia Eskin, has offered to perform, gratis, a concert to benefit our Scholarship Fund.

Check her out at <http://www.virginiaeskin.com/>

and come to our Business meeting with ideas about how we can best take advantage of her generous offer.

## From our Program Chairs

This season, we have planned on several special, themed programs.

With the assistance of new member, Luette Saul, our September program celebrates the Centennials of Verdi and Wagner (born the same year in 1813!) with presentations of some of their masterpieces by members and guests. Not to be missed!!

Several local, extraordinary students will perform in our October program, and then in February, we celebrate the centennials of Benjamin Britten and Witold Lutoslovski. We finish the season in May with Saint Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*.

There are still vacancies in our schedule, and we encourage Active Members (our performers) to call or email us to reserve your performance date(s).

Susanna Adams,  
[susanna.adams@maine.rr.com](mailto:susanna.adams@maine.rr.com),  
and Richard Roberts,  
[robpiano@msn.com](mailto:robpiano@msn.com).  
Program Chairs

## PRC Scholarship Competition Report

Our thanks go to Christine Kissack, who ably fulfilled her duties as Scholarship Chair for the past two years. Her responsibilities are being passed on to our new Second Vice President, Roberta Barker.

The 2013 Rossini Scholarship Competition took place at St. Luke's Cathedral on June 8.

Our annual competition draws college and university bound musicians who live in Cumberland, Oxford and York counties, between the ages of 17 and 25 and who also are registered as music majors at any accredited music school, college, or university. Live auditions take place in front of a panel of judges that includes current Portland Rossini Club members and local professional musicians.

This year's winners were

**Emily K. Rand Instrumental Scholarship:** First Prize of \$1200: Megan Shusta, French Horn, from York, – student at New England Conservatory

**Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship:** First place Prize of \$800: Jacob Davidson of Brunswick, ME – Student at Mt Allison University Conservatory of Music, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada; Second Place Prize of \$400: Kellia Ingraham of Kennebunk – student at Hartt School of Music

**Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship:** (No First Place was awarded) Second Place Prize of \$600: Kimberly Ouellette, Soprano from Old Orchard Beach, Student at USM; Honorable Mention of \$300: Christopher Climo, Baritone, of Portland – Student at SUNY Purchase



From the Treasurer:

It's that time of year again to pay annual dues to the Portland Rossini Club. There are four membership categories: Active, Privileged, Associate, and Subscriber. For Active Members, dues are \$40 per year. For Associate and Privileged Members, dues are \$30 per year. Subscriber is defined as "Any person who pays an annual fee shall be entitled to free admission to all Program meetings. They would have no voting privileges and may not hold office." Dues for Subscribers are \$30 per year. Those 62 and older who wish to become Subscribers pay \$20 per year.

Under the Bylaws, Article VIII, 5B, "Dues shall be paid no later than November 30." Please mail your check made out to the Portland Rossini Club to:

Sheila McGarr  
Treasurer, Portland Rossini Club  
148 Hennessey Drive  
Portland, ME 04103-2037

## OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2013 - 2014

President: Elizabeth Harmon

First Vice-Presidents: Richard Roberts and Susanna Adams

Second Vice-President: Roberta Barker

Recording Secretary: Virginia Stelk

Treasurer: Sheila McGarr

Assistant Treasurer: Lulette Saul

Piano Chair: Richard Roberts

Candidate Chair: Barbara Graustein

Communications Committee Chair: Sheila McGarr

Social Chair: Judy Coleman

Historian: Virginia Stelk

## Bylaws Changes and Considerations

At our Annual Meeting in May, we discussed two proposals to be voted on at our coming Fall Business Meeting:

A clarification and an addition:

- In Article VIII Section 3 “Standing Committee Chairpersons shall serve two years, with one renewable term.” In this section, the Nominating Committee is listed as a Standing Committee. However, in Article VI section 3, the Nominating committee is to be elected **annually** at the Fall Business Meeting. The board recommends striking the sentence including the Nominating Committee from Article VIII Section 3.
- The board recommends that we clarify the process for accepting people for collaborative membership: We recommend that a potential candidate for **collaborative membership**, who has indicated their interest in becoming a member, be invited by the Board to membership after two successful performances with a member of the Rossini Club. This would be Article III Section 1c. (*Collaborative members are those who perform in ensembles or as accompanists*)

Our Executive Board has met twice since our Annual Meetings, and we find two other items to consider:

- In recent years, the offices of Parliamentarian or Bylaws Chair have not been filled. The Executive Board, at our June meeting discussed this, and agreed that neither role is necessary at this time. They unanimously agreed that we should propose that these be omitted from the Article VIII (Appointed Officers), section 2 and 3 of the bylaws.
- The Board also suggests, in Article V, Section 1, that we eliminate “second week of October” and “no later than January 31”, and instead call for a *Fall Business Meeting* and a *Midyear Business Meeting*, without specific deadlines, as well as the Annual meeting.

We will discuss the latter two items at our October Business meeting.

### Rossini Program Dates for our 2013-14 Season

September 22

October 13

November 10

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 18

All are Sundays at 3:00 pm  
at the Cathedral of St. Luke

### To our Active and Privileged Members: Did You Know?

According to our bylaws (Article V section 2: “Active and Privileged Members are entitled to one complimentary admission for a guest to attend the program at which they perform.”)

### From our Piano Chair

Jason LaWind, of Mindful Music, will continue to function as our piano technician at St. Luke's. Our other Steinway, rented to the Portland Conservatory of Music, has moved from Memorial Hall to the Sanctuary.

Richard Roberts, Piano Chair

We welcome submissions for our newsletter, including poems, memories, concerns, or anything else you want to share with our membership. (subject to editor's approval) The newsletter is compiled about three weeks prior to each business meeting. Send your submission to Beth at [eharmon2@maine.rr.com](mailto:eharmon2@maine.rr.com).

### **A Note from One of Our Former Rand Scholarship Winners:**

Hello Elizabeth and Members of the Portland Rossini Club,

“I am excited to be back in Portland and reconnecting with friends, old and new. I was a flute performance major at USM in the 1980's, a student of Rhonda Martin and Susan Thomas. I was the recipient of the Emily K. Rand Scholarship two years in a row. I believe I performed the Poulenc Sonata for Flute and Piano and Poem by Griffes and a piece for harp and flute by Vincent Persichetti with Jara Goodrich. It was a long time ago. I believe that Crystal Wing accompanied me on piano.

*(ed:Jenny goes on to tell about a concert she was to present this summer at Woodfords Congregational Church, which I unfortunately was not able to attend) ...*“I was told that the piano at the church belongs to the Rossini Club. I thought it would be interesting to get in touch and tell you all a little about what I have been doing since graduating from USM in 1985.

“I was accepted to New England Conservatory in 1984, and was planning to attend when I met jazz pianist Art Lande. That was a life changing moment for me. I decided to go to Switzerland with Art and his family because I was offered a job as au pair for their two small boys. I was able to study piano with Art (a Grammy award winning recording artist) and to study flute at the Winterthur Konservatorium with Marianne Stucki, a fantastic flutist. I have never regretted my decision to go to Europe and I remained in Switzerland for 13 years. I was able to begin teaching and performing there and traveled in Germany, Austria and France playing with European and U.S. musicians.

“I returned to the U.S. in 1999 with two children and finally began my graduate studies at West Virginia University where I was a grad assistant. I received my Master of Music degree in 2002. I now play jazz full time in West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida and Maine and have a private teaching studio in my home. I have made five compact disc recordings of original music and jazz standards and they are being sold worldwide.”

Jenny Menna Wilson



Screen Shot taken from a U-Tube video of our performance of Satie's *Sports and Diversions* performed in May (Thank you Phyllis Leeke)

Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3OOGEW9rIA>