



# ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 146 NO.3

Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club

Spring, 2017

## From Our President

It's hard to believe that we are very close to completing another year of Rossini concerts. As I write this, I myself am very close to completing my current term as President. However, I do plan to remain active, so you will see and hear from me still!

The last two years have been full of many transitions for me, the biggest one being my move from Portland to Gorham, Maine. I now have a much better appreciation for those of you who commute a distance to Portland for our concerts.

The music over the last two years has been superb and varied. We have enjoyed many different combinations of instruments, and also many new and exciting composers. On April 30, we heard the trio, *Landscapes* in its entirety. The composer Arthur Welwood was in the audience to receive our accolades. How nice to have this happen at Rossini!

There are many people in our Club who keep the wheels turning in good order. Please help me to thank them appropriately: 1st Vice President Lurette Saul, who is stepping down as Program Chair, Beth Harmon who chairs the scholarship program; Sheila McGarr who tends to financial matters; Ginny Stelk who stepped in to replace departing assistant treasurer; Susanna Adams who keeps impeccable records; Barbara Graustein who prepares new candidates for audition; Scott Eaton,

*President's letter continues on page 3*

**To All Active, Privileged,  
Honorary, and  
Associate Members**

## **CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday, May 23**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Place: Barbara Graustein's  
home**

### **POT LUCK SUPPER**

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- Receive and approve Annual reports
- Sign-ups for the coming season
- Nominating Committee's Report

Please email or call

Judy Coleman at 642-3655 or  
coleman8262@roadrunner.com  
to let her know whether you will  
attend, and to give her some idea

**Check out our website.**

**Find us at**

**[www.rossiniclub.org](http://www.rossiniclub.org)**

**Check out our  
Facebook Page!**

**"Like" it!**

**Ask your friends to "like" it.**

**Directions to Barbara  
Graustein's home,  
57 Waites Landing Rd,  
Falmouth  
781-3202**

### **From the south:**

Take 295 North to Exit 9 [Rt 1, Falmouth Foreside]. Drive approximately 2.2 miles. Take a right onto Rt. 88 [Foreside Rd]. Drive 1/2 mile. Just past the Episcopal Church, take a right onto Waites Landing Rd. Barbara's home is on the right, 6 houses from Rt. 88, a yellow garrison set back in the woods. Look for balloons on the black mailbox.

### **From the north:**

Take 295 south to Exit 10 [Bucknam Rd]. At the end of the ramp, take a left and drive 1 block. At the traffic light, take a right onto Rt. 1. At the next light, take a left onto Depot Rd. At the next intersection, take a right onto Foreside Rd [Rt. 88]. Drive 1/2 mile and make a left turn onto Waites Landing Rd. Barbara's home is on the right, 6 houses from Rt. 88, a yellow garrison set back in the woods. Look for balloons on the black mailbox.

## Warning to All Performers

*Many of you well-remember Diane Walsh's wonderful piano performance for our March program. It was her first performance for our Club. Some of us also remember Diane's panicked search for her purse following the reception, and our slow realization that it must have been stolen. Imagine yourself in her shoes.*

*Her letter follows:*

"I wanted to alert you to what happened to me after the concert yesterday, **so it could be a warning for the future.**

"After the reception was over I began to collect my belongings to go home, which is when I discovered that my handbag, with my iPhone and wallet, were missing. I looked everywhere and finally had to conclude it had been taken. My husband and I decided to stop by the police station on our way home to report the theft, and there, miraculously, we were able to pinpoint the location of my iPhone using its GPS. A patrolman was sent to the scene (somewhere on High Street) and came back with my bag, phone, wallet, credit cards-- everything but the cash. (My bag had been thrown under the deck of a house.) I was quite amazed and relieved. Unfortunately a few other empty wallets, including Angela Olszta's credit cards and her driver's license were found mixed in with my things, too, so she was obviously robbed too. She has been informed by Cecile and will go get her property at the patrol station.

"I'm telling you all this because I think it would be a good idea if someone in the sanctuary could hold people's valuables while they perform. Or maybe one of the smaller rooms in back (the nursery?) could be locked between 3:00 and 4:00 to protect performers' things. That's how it was done when I played there with Choral Arts, although of course that's a lot more people.

Sorry to be the bearer of unpleasant news, but at least my adventure ultimately had a happy ending.

All best,  
Diane"

**Please don't let this happen to you. We recommend that purses and valuables, including instruments, stay with you at all times when at St. Luke's. When you perform, you should leave such items with friends in the audience, or leave them near the table by the Sanctuary door, where Sheila can keep an eye on them.**

## From Our Program Chair

Well, it's spring, both suddenly and at last - as it tends to happen every year. I'd like to thank everyone for their help in making a great season, especially those who stepped up last minute to fill performances spots - you know who you are!

On the last concert of the season, May 21st, Edith Leary will play solo works for flute by Bach, Telemann and Hindemith. Margaret Vishneau and Lynne Lennox will perform French Melodie (songs from the French art song tradition), and our newest member Mathew Nichols will be playing the Brahms cello sonata in E minor with Leah Neuchiller at the piano. Pianist Derek Herzer, whom we have heard play on several occasions before as a guest - will be playing English music by E.J. Moeran and John Ireland. This will be a varied and interesting program to close out the performance year.

This will also be the closing performance of my tenure as program chair. I've learned quite a bit from this position and I've met some very wonderful people. I'm grateful to everyone who stepped up to the plate, reminded me of what they needed, were patient when I forgot deadlines.

I look forward to attending concerts as a civilian!

Lurette Saul

## Note to Performers re: Recordings

I personally have found it very helpful to listen to a recording of my performance after I perform. It's sort of like giving myself a lesson - sometimes learning that I do as poorly as I thought I did. This is especially helpful now that digital recordings are easily made and give a decent reproduction of our performances. Because I know this could be helpful to you (and ultimately to the Club) as well, I record the entire Rossini Club program every month and duplicate a CD for each performer, bringing it to the program following your performance, for Sheila to give you. While I don't charge for this service, please know that it does cost me time and money to do it. I am very happy to accept your contributions (usually \$3) towards these CD's, but I can't keep track of who has paid me.

Beth Harmon

## Our Scholarship Competition

Our 2017 Scholarship Competition will take place Saturday afternoon, June 3, at Saint Luke's Cathedral, starting at 1:00. I am pleased to say that, thanks to the continued generosity of our donors (including many of you), we will again be able to raise the amount we can award - this time to **\$2100 per category**.

We offer scholarships in three different categories:

**The Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship Fund** was created in memory of the Club's longtime treasurer, vocalist, Barbara C. Littlefield.

**The Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship Fund** was established in 2001 as a bequest of pianist, Lucia A. Wright, a member in good standing for 55 years.

**The Emily K. Rand Instrumental Scholarship Fund** was established in 1932 in memory of the Portland Rossini Club's third president, a vocalist, who presided in a distinguished manner for 25 years.

The judges for this competition come from our membership, as well as from Greater Portland's wider musical community. I have begun to approach members about serving as judges. If you are interested in helping out at this event, please let me know. I need two more pianists and vocalists, and one more instrumentalist to serve as judges. While this competition can occupy a full afternoon of your time, it is an amazing experience to hear and see the next generation of musicians, and a privilege to have a part in helping them financially.

Elizabeth Harmon,  
Scholarship Chair

### KUDOS

Congratulations and best wishes to member, Mark Rossnagel, who was recently appointed music director at Trinity Lutheran Church on Staten Island, New York.

*President's letter continued from page 1*

our new piano chair; the communications committee Sheila M., Danielle Vayenas and Ruth Matt; Dale Ashby who facilitated the creation and sale of Richard Roberts' piano music.

At our board meeting following the April 30 concert, Beth brought to my attention that **in less than four years we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of our Club**. Such a wonderful milestone! We need to think of appropriate ways to celebrate this, and I urge everyone to keep this in mind as we move forward.

Finally I would like to remind everyone that our club cannot survive unless we are all willing to help by volunteering for the many tasks which make it successful.

I hope to see everyone at the final concert, May 21 and at the Annual Membership meeting on May 23.

Many thanks for your support over the last two years!

Cecile

### THANKS TO OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2016 - 2017

<b>President:</b>	<b>Cecile DeRoche-Cain</b>
<b>First Vice-President:</b>	<b>Lurette Saul</b>
<b>Second Vice-President:</b>	<b>Elizabeth Harmon</b>
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	<b>Susanna Adams</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Sheila McGarr</b>
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	<b>Virginia Stelk</b>
<b>Piano Chair:</b>	<b>Scott Eaton</b>
<b>Candidate Chair:</b>	<b>Barbara Graustein</b>
<b>Communications Chair:</b>	<b>Sheila McGarr</b>
<b>Social Chair:</b>	<b>Susanna Adams</b>

**The Public Concert Series of  
The Portland Rossini Club  
Now in its 146th Season**

**Portland Rossini Club  
Presents**

Flutist Edith Leary will perform works  
by Telemann, Hindemith, and Bach

Pianist Derek Herzer will perform English works  
by Moeran and Ireland

Vocalist Margaret Vishneau and Pianist Lynne Lennox  
will perform French songs  
by Bizet, Hahn, Saint-Saens, and Poulenc

Cellist Mathew Nichols and Pianist Leah Neuchiller  
will perform  
Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano in E Minor, Opus 38

*Meet our performers at a reception which follows the concert*

**The Cathedral Church of St. Luke  
143 State Street, Portland**

Suggested donation \$10/5 seniors (students are admitted free of charge)

For more information: 415-577-4193  
*check us out on the web at [www.rossiniclub.org](http://www.rossiniclub.org)*