

# PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

146th Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke  
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM  
Sunday, March 26, 2017

President  
Program Chair

Cecile DeRoche-Cain  
Luette Saul

## Program

Deh vieni non tardar (*The Marriage of Figaro*)      Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)  
Steal me, sweet thief (*The Old Maid and the Thief*)      Gian Carlo Menotti (1911 – 2007)

Mary Johnston, soprano  
Mark Braun, piano

Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109      Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)  
Vivace, ma non troppo  
Prestissimo  
Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo

Diane Walsh, piano

Sonata for violin and piano      Cesar Franck (1822 – 1890)

Allegretto ben moderato  
Allegro  
Recitativo - Fantasia. Ben moderato - molto lento  
Allegretto poco mosso

Alexander Romanul\*, violin  
Angela Olszta\*, piano

*We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance*

*Please join us for a reception following the program*

*You are invited to our next program, which will take place here Sunday, April 30*

*Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs*

## Today's Performers

**Mark Braun, piano:** Mark grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, moved to Chicago at age 28 and arrived here in Maine on the winds of the blizzard of '96. He has been an active member of both the Marston-Kotzschmar Club and the Portland Rossini Club since 1996. In past years, he has played a variety of music, has performed solo, four-hand and eight-hand compositions, and chamber music, including sonatas for French horn and piano, and trios for piano, French horn, and violin or voice. He likes to write his own program notes, finding that the process helps him to better understand and interpret the musical works he's performing. He is currently an internist in solo practice in Scarborough.

**Mary Johnston, soprano:** Mary attended Boston Conservatory for both her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Opera. She has received additional education from the "Seagle Music Colony" in upstate New York and "Flagstaff in Fidenza" in Fidenza, Italy. She studies with Dr. Rebecca Folsom. Mary has enjoyed membership in the Music Honors Society *Pi Kappa Lambda* since her junior year of college. Recently, she has performed in *La Traviata* as Violetta, *The Mikado* as Peep-Bo, *Hansel and Gretel* as the Sandman, *The Old Maid and the Thief* as Mrs. Pinkerton, *La Rondine* as Magda, and *Don Pasquale* as Norina. In addition, Mary served as Soprano section leader for Boston's historic Old North Church under Libor Dudas's direction. Mary joined Rossini Club in 2012.

**Angela Olszta, piano:** Now working towards completing her Master of Music in piano performance and pedagogy degree at the University of Southern Maine, Angela is currently studying with Dr. Laura Kargul and Christine Kissack. Ms. Olszta was a recipient of the Chester C. Cooke Scholarship for the 2015-2106 academic year, and has again been awarded this scholarship for her studies in 2017. In 2010, she was awarded a full scholarship by the University of Southern Maine for a Masters in piano performance. Angela also teaches piano at the New England Institute of Education in Falmouth, and is pianist and choir director at the Bar Mills Community Church. Prior to graduate studies, Angela maintained a large teaching studio in New Hampshire and Concord Community Music Schools and was choir director and organist at the First Baptist Church of Nashua. She holds a bachelor of music in piano performance and pedagogy degree from Plymouth State University where she studied with Dr. Carleen Graff. In addition to solo performing, Angela has collaborated with singers and instrumentalists in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont. She has also performed with singers in Rome at the Opera Festival di Roma and performed in master classes and recitals with singers at the Salzburg Music Festival. Former teachers include George Lopez, Jack L'Ecuyer, Maria Clodes Jaguaribe, and Anastasia Antonacos.

**Alexander Romanul, violin:** Born in Boston into a distinguished musical family, Alexander Romanul began studying at the age of eight with Alfred Krips, then assistant Concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and continued violin studies under Ivan Galamian, Joseph Silverstein and Josef Gingold. At the age of twelve, he made his debut playing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the New England Conservatory Orchestra, Gunther Schuller conducting. The following year, he appeared as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the Youth Concert Series at Symphony Hall, Harry Ellis Dickson directing. At the age of fourteen, he was invited by Arthur Fiedler to be featured soloist with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall. As an adult, He was a founding member of the Romanul Chamber Players, frequently performing on Morning Pro-Musica on WGBH, and throughout New England and New York. The Romanul Chamber Players won the Jeunesse Musicales International Chamber Music Competition in Belgrade in 1980. Romanul continued violin studies in Germany with Denes Zsigmondy, at the Mozarteum in Salzburg with Sandor Vegh, and in Switzerland with Nathan Milstein. Romanul was awarded fifth prize in the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition and the Szymanowski Prize in 1986. Romanul has served as a member of the Camerata Academica of Salzburg, as Concertmaster of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and as a guest Concertmaster of the Boise Philharmonic, the Virginia Symphony, the Nieuw Sinfonietta Amsterdam, and at Teatro San Carlo di Napoli. He has performed widely as a soloist, throughout Europe and the United States. Philosophically inclined, autodidact and individualist, Romanul pursues a wide range of interest and inquiry.

**Diane Walsh, piano:** Diane grew up in New Jersey. She received her bachelor's degree at Juilliard School of Music; her teachers were Henrietta Wendt and Irwin Freundlich. Graduate studies were with Richard Goode at the Mannes College of Music, where she was awarded a master's degree. She has performed concerti, solo recitals and chamber music concerts worldwide. She appeared with the American, Austin, Delaware, Indianapolis, San Francisco and Syracuse symphonies, Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, and Stuttgart radio symphonies, and Orpheus, St. Luke's and Prague Virtuosi chamber orchestras. She has presented recitals in major venues throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe and Russia, made summer festival appearances at Marlboro, Santa Fe, Bard, Chesapeake, among many others, and led the Skaneateles Festival as artistic director from 1999 to 2004. She was associate professor at Mannes for 32 years. Since 2014 Diane Walsh has lived in Portland, Maine with her husband, the writer Richard Pollak. She recently performed with the Portland Chamber Music Festival, the Choral Art Singers and the Portland Symphony Orchestra. She joined Portland Rossini Club in 2016.