

# PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

151st Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke  
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM  
Sunday, March 27, 2022

President  
Program Chair

Sydney Patten  
Susanna Adams

## Richard Roberts Memorial Program

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I  
Prelude and Fugue in C major  
Prelude and Fugue in C minor  
Prelude and Fugue in C# major

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Steven Blumenthal, piano

Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48, No. 1

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Sydney Patten, piano

Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

Frédéric Chopin

John Thorpe, piano

Piano Concerto No. 1

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Allegro maestoso

Quasi adagio

Allegretto vivace - Allegro animato

Allegro marziale animato

Jonathan Pekdey Prak, piano

Laura Kargul, piano\*

\*Guest

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

*Our next program will take place here Sunday, April 24, 2022*

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

## Today's Performers

**Steven Blumenthal, piano:** Steven studied piano at Columbia University with the late Niels Østbye, a student of Edwin Fischer. While pursuing his medical education and later directing a pediatrics emergency room in New York City, Steven continued post-graduate music studies at Columbia University and at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. He participated in master classes with Jeanne-Marie Darré. He now lives in Cape Elizabeth with wife and PSO violinist/teacher Holly Ovenden, and recently retired from pediatrics practice in Portland. Steve has been a member of the Rossini Club since 2009.

**Laura Kargul, piano:** Laura Kargul has performed as a soloist throughout Europe in venues such as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and the Diligentsia in The Hague, the Schleswig-Holstein and Nordhessen Music Festivals in Germany, the LisztHaus in Weimar, the Opera Theater and Music Festival of Lucca in Italy, and the Lesvos Arts Festival in Greece. She performs, lectures, adjudicates and gives master classes throughout the USA, as well as in Canada and the West Indies. Her solo CD, *Liszt and Ravel: Transcriptions for Piano*, was recorded and produced by Grammy winner Bob Ludwig of Gateway Mastering. Laura Kargul holds a DMA in piano performance from the University of Michigan, where she studied with pianists Leon Fleisher and Theodore Lettvin and served as an assistant to conductor Gustav Meier. She has been the Director of Keyboard Studies at the University of Southern Maine Osher School of Music since 1989.

**Sydney Patten, piano:** Sydney began studying piano at the age of 6 to please her mother. She very quickly fell in love with the instrument and with classical music. At Skidmore College, she minored in music with a concentration in piano performance. She began to compose music secretly never sharing any of her compositions until she had graduated from college. While living on the North Shore of Massachusetts, she began composing music inspired by birds at Crane's Beach. During that time, she served as the Vice President of the American Women Composers. Sydney lives with her husband, Bill Patten and their dog, Patapouf in Falmouth Foreside, Maine. Other interests include skiing, gardening, anything to do with France (from whence she recently moved) She has been associated with the Royaumont Abbey for many years, where she now organizes master classes in a variety of disciplines. She is currently the president of the Rossini Club.

**Jonathan Pekdey Prak, piano:** Jonathan, from Saco, ME, is a piano performance major at the University of Southern Maine Osher School of Music and is currently studying with Dr. Laura Kargul. He was the featured solo pianist in the 2014 Annual USM Scholarship Gala. Jonathan is a recipient of the Bob Crewe Foundation Award, the Chester Cook Scholarship, and the Newell A. Auger Scholarship. He was a winner of the Anne Gannett Scholarship, sponsored by the Maine Federation of Music Clubs in 2015. He was a second prize winner of the Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship, sponsored by the Portland Rossini Club, in 2016 and 2017. Jonathan was awarded the Brian McGorill Memorial Scholarship in 2018. While he was living in Nantes, France, he wrote a piece called *Colette*, which was dedicated to his late piano teacher, Colette Kelly. Jonathan studied with Dr. Daniel Sonenberg and composed a piece called the *Kargul Variations*.

**John Thorpe, piano:** After studying piano under William Eves of Topsham and Richard Roberts of Portland, John Thorpe received a B.S. in Music Education at the University of Southern Maine, and a Master's at Gordon Conwell Seminary. He has taught music privately and taught middle school band in Boothbay, Nobleboro and Woolwich, Maine. In 2011 he founded the Varendra Musical Arts Center in Rajshahi, Bangladesh where he developed curriculum and taught instrumental music, staff notation and elements of Western music to Bengali students. He also taught a course on the Elements of Western Music at the University of Rajshahi. He has performed twice before with the Rossini Club and also performed at the Goethe Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh, International Festivals at the University of Rajshahi, Khulna University, and was the guest speaker and performer at the Rabindr Bharati University of Kolkata. John and his wife, Jan, now reside in Woolwich, Maine presently enjoying three grandchildren born out of the year of COVID.