

PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

152nd Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM
Sunday, January 22, 2023

President
Program Chair

Jonathan Prak
Susanna Adams

Richard Roberts Memorial Program

The Single Petal of a Rose (1958) Duke Ellington (1899 – 1974)
6 Variations on "Nel cor pio non mi sento", WoO 70 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)
Mark Braun, piano

Sonata No. 11 in A major, K. 331 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Andante grazioso
Les Cloches de Genève (*Années de Pèlerinage*) Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886)
Jonathan Prak, piano

Piano Quartet in E flat major, K. 493 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)
Allegro
Eleanor Lehmann, violin
Susanna Adams, viola, Kathy Berry, cello
Logan Peters,* piano

Scheherazade, Opus 35 Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov (1844 – 1908)
Movement 1
Leah Neuchiller and Ruth Matt, piano

* Guest

We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance
Our next program will take place here Sunday, February 19, 2023
Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs

Today's Performers

Susanna Adams, viola: Susanna made the switch from violin to viola in 1999. She is a graduate of Smith College and holds masters degrees from Harvard and Berkeley. She obtained a B.S. in Music Education from U.S.M. in 1997. She is a member of Maineblend, the Woodfords choir, and the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra where she plays viola. She is co-chair of the Advisory Council of the Portland Conservatory of Music. Susanna has been a member of Rossini Club since 2009 and currently serves as Program Chair.

Katherine Berry, cello: At the age of ten, Katherine began studying with the late Katherine Hatch Graffam, Rossini Club member and principal cellist of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. When she was 16 she played with the Portland Symphony Orchestra under Arthur Lipkin and Paul Vermel. She graduated from The Northern Conservatory of Music in Bangor in 1971. While attending college she played in the Bangor Symphony with Peter Re. She studied cello with Marian Heller of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, who was cellist with the now well known Portland String Quartet. A resident of Portland, she currently plays in the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra under Robert Lehmann. She enjoys playing cello and playing basketball with her three grandchildren.

Mark Braun, piano: Mark grew up in Minneapolis, MN, 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, including solo, four-hand and eight-hand piano compositions, and chamber music, including works for French horn and piano, clarinet and piano, trios for piano, French horn, and violin or clarinet, as well as works for voice and piano. He writes his own program notes, finding that the process helps him to better understand and interpret the musical works he's performing. He served on the Board of the Portland Conservatory of Music. In his professional life, he is an internist and geriatrician in solo practice in Scarborough.

Eleanor Lehmann, violin: Eleanor began her musical studies on violin at the age of 5 with John M. Ray in San Francisco, California. She then attended the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where she studied with Jack O'Brian (Griller String Quartet) and Marion Ford. In 1963, she received a degree in music education and performance from San Francisco State University. After years of teaching and performing in California, as well as in Mexico City, and in Holland, she moved to Maine in 2003 and began teaching both violin and viola in her studio and at the Portland Conservatory of Music. In 2007, she initiated violin classes at USM, Portland, for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Today, she is an active member of both the Portland Rossini and Marston-Kotzschmar Music Clubs of Portland, and served as President for both.

Ruth Matt, piano: Ruth studied piano for 13 years between the ages of five and eighteen. As a teenager she accompanied choirs, instrumentalists, musicals, and the local ballet society in Princeton, NJ. At Cornell University, she accompanied private voice lessons and musicals. While her major was in Spanish Literature and her career is now in investments and financial planning, music has always been a passion and inspiration. She enjoys collaborating with other musicians on any instrument with a current focus on piano duets. Ruth was a student of the late Richard Roberts. She and her husband have lived in Portland since 1988, and have one son, Peter. She joined Rossini Club in 2011.

Leah Neuchiller, piano: Leah studied piano from the age of 9 and began college as a music major at Brandeis University, where she studied with the French pianist Evelyne Crochet. She went on to a career as a clinical social worker and psychotherapist, but playing the piano continued to be a passionate avocation. Music once again became central to Leah's life when she moved to Maine in 2006 and began studying piano with Laura Kargul and earning a Masters of Music degree in piano pedagogy at USM. Leah has had a second career as a piano teacher, teaching at the French School of Maine, the Friends School of Portland, and her home studio in Cumberland Foreside. She has been a member of the Rossini Club since 2012.

Jonathan Pekdey Prak, piano: Jonathan Prak is a Saco native currently living in Portland. He's been playing the piano since he was 6 years old and studied with the late Colette Kelly of Québec, Canada. Jonathan studies with Dr. Laura Kargul at the Osher School of Music of the University of Southern Maine (USM). He was a featured soloist for the USM Annual Scholarship Gala in 2014 and 2021 and was selected to perform for the USM Honors Recital in 2014 and 2015. He has won numerous competitions and scholarships such as the Bob Crewe Foundation Scholarship, Federal Pell Grant, Chester Cook Scholarship, Newell A. Augur Scholarship, Anne Gannett Piano Scholarship in 2015, Lucia Wright Piano Scholarship 2015 and 2016, Brian McGorrill Memorial Scholarship in 2018, and Hanna Powell Scholarship in 2022. Jonathan participated in masterclasses with instructors Steve Pane and Lily Funahashi on works for two pianos, along with participating in a chamber group for a composition masterclass with Grammy-nominated cellist Matt Haimovitz. He appeared as a repeated guest soloist for the Portland Rossini Club before becoming a member. He loves playing works by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and Prokofiev, just to name a few. Jonathan is proudly the current President of the Portland Rossini Club. Outside the world of music, Jonathan has a knack for learning languages, enjoys adventures and traveling, and running.

Logan Peters, piano: Logan is a 17 year-old junior at Falmouth High School. He began playing piano when he was eight years old and enjoyed playing blues and jazz, but above all else, he enjoyed composing his own music. In 2016, at the age of 10, he won First Place at the Bagaduce Composer's Competition for his piece *Hunting on a Full Moon*, and earned the opportunity to perform the piece at the 2016 Blue Hill Pops Festival. In the spring of 2020, Logan discovered his love of classical music, and by September that same year began studying classical piano at the Portland Conservatory of Music with accomplished instructor, Naydene Bowder, with whom he continues his studies today. Since then, he has won several awards, culminating in the Ocy Downs Piano Competition. In addition to classical music, Logan still enjoys playing jazz and performs with the Falmouth High School Jazz Band. When he is not playing piano, Logan enjoys singing with the Falmouth Jazz Singers, Chamber Choir and Chorus. Logan is also an active member of Boy Scouts, holding the rank of Life Scout, while he continues to work towards becoming an Eagle Scout.