

# PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

152nd Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke  
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM  
Sunday, May 21, 2023

President  
Program Chair

Jonathan Prak  
Susanna Adams

## Program

Chorale Without Words Christopher Staknys (1996 – )  
Prelude and Fugue in F-sharp major (*Well-Tempered Clavier II*) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)  
Christopher Staknys, piano\*

Song to the Future Spouse Ryan Slocum (2002 – )  
Sonata in F major, K. 332 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)  
Liebesträume No. 3 in A-flat major, S. 541 Franz Liszt (1811– 1886)  
Ryan Slocum, piano\*

Romance for Viola and Piano Max Bruch (1838 – 1920)  
Eleanor Lehmann, viola  
Jonathan Prak, piano

Prelude and Fugue in E major (*Well-Tempered Clavier I*) Johann Sebastian Bach  
Prelude and Fugue in E minor (*Well-Tempered Clavier I*)  
Three Intermezzi from *Klavierstücke*, Op. 119 Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)  
1. Adagio  
2. Andantino un poco agitato / Andantino grazioso  
3. Grazioso e giocoso  
Steven Blumenthal, piano

\*guest

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

**Eleanor Lehmann, viola:** 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.

**Jonathan Pekdey Prak, piano:** A Saco native currently living in Portland, Jonathan has been playing the piano since he was 6 years old and currently studies with Dr. Laura Kargul at the Osher School of Music at USM. He has won numerous competitions and scholarships, including Rossini Club's Lucia Wright Piano Scholarship, 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. He appeared as a 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 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.

**Ryan Slocum, piano:** Ryan began studying piano with Ashley Tardif when he was 12, and soon began playing at his home church. He began playing regularly for church services when he was 14. When he was a senior at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, he began studying organ with Doris Krueger. Ryan will be a senior in the fall, at the University of Southern Maine, where he is working toward a Bachelors in Organ Performance, studying organ with Justin Murphy-Mancini. Ryan participated in the 2021 Kotzschmar Memorial Trust Scholarship competition, where he was one of the recipients of the scholarship. During the summer of 2021, he performed multiple times with Mark Thallander, former organist of Crystal Cathedral, for concerts and church services. He was one of six organists featured on the organ program *Pipedreams Live*. He is currently the organist at several area churches. In his free time, Ryan likes to arrange / compose music, play chess, and learn how to do new things.

**Christopher Staknys, piano:** Pianist and composer Christopher Staknys is a graduate of The Juilliard School (2018) with a degree in solo piano performance. He has appeared as both performer and composer in cities such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Paris and Salzburg. Christopher has won numerous competitions, including first prize at the Steinway Society of Massachusetts Piano Competition and the Rivers School Concerto Competition. Artists he has studied with include; Sergei Babayan, Robert Levin and Peter Serkin. He has also appeared on NPR's *From The Top* radio show. He has also been vocal coach and pianist for Opera Maine and the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory. Christopher has played for numerous operas and musicals including *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Into the Woods*. For three summers he taught piano and electronic music at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp in Alaska to children and young adults ranging from elementary to high school. He currently serves as music director for First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Kennebunk, Maine. His interests include languages (Lithuanian, French, Italian, German, Ancient Greek) and reading.