

PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

153rd Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM
Sunday, October 29, 2023

President
Program Chair

Jonathan Prak
Susanna Adams

Program

Sonata in A minor, Wq 132
Nocturne (1911)
The Great Train Race

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 – 1788)
Lili Boulanger (1893 – 1918)
Ian Clarke (b. 1964)

John Ross, flute*
Derek Herzer, piano*

Eight Pieces for clarinet, viola and piano
I. Andante
II. Allegro con moto
III. Andante con moto

Max Bruch (1838 – 1920)

Stephen Schiffman, clarinet
Eleanor Lehmann, viola
Ryan Slocum, piano

Symphony No. 40 in G minor (K. 550)
I. Allegro molto
IV. Allegro assai

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Ruth Matt and Leah Neuchiller, pianos

*guest

*We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance
Our next program will take place here Sunday, November 26, 2023
Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs*

Today's Performers

Derek Herzer, piano: Derek Herzer began playing the piano at age 17, teaching himself the instrument until obtaining a Piano Performance degree from WMU School of Music and a Master's in Piano Performance from the University of Southern Maine. He has performed with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra, has been both a finalist and a winner of several competitions, and has spent years as part of the piano faculty at schools such as Bay Chamber Music School, the Portland Conservatory of Music, and Crescendo Academy of Music. Derek is now enjoying a career in information technology while championing lesser-known piano repertoire as an occasional performing artist. His life in the Freeport countryside is spent with his wife, their greyhound, and the music of Medtner, Bowen, Enescu, and Godowsky.

Eleanor Lehmann, viola: Eleanor began her musical studies on violin at the age of 5 with John M. Ray in San Francisco, California. In 1963, she received a degree in music education and performance from San Francisco State University. After teaching and performing in San Francisco, Mexico, and Holland, and again in California, in 2003, she moved to Maine 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 began piano studies at age 9 and started college as a music major at Brandeis University, studying piano with the French pianist Evelyn Crochet. While pursuing a career as a clinical social worker, she continued playing piano as a passionate avocation. After moving to Maine in 2006, she began studying piano with Laura Kargul at USM and earned a Masters degree in Piano Pedagogy in 2015. During that time she embarked on her second career of teaching piano at the French School of Maine, Friends School of Portland, and her home studio in Cumberland Foreside. She retired from teaching piano in 2022, but hopefully will never retire from playing! Leah has been a member of the Rossini Club since 2012 and is currently serving on the Board as Piano Chairperson.

John Ross, flute: Flutist John Ross is an accomplished soloist, educator, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. He is on the faculty and administration of the Portland Conservatory of Music in Maine. He also teaches and performs in the summers for Sparrow Music Camp in High Springs, FL and the Taneycomo Festival Orchestra in Branson, MO. His folk trios, Cuttin' Bracken and Rakish Ramblers, have performed throughout northern Florida, including multiple performances at the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs, FL. Dr. Ross attended West Virginia University, Ball State University, and Florida State University, studying with Joyce Catalano, Thomas Godfrey, Francesca Arnone, Mihoko Watanabe, and Eva Amsler. He is also pursuing a certification in body mapping through the Association for Body Mapping Education, studying with Amy Likar.

Stephen Schiffman, clarinet: Prior to moving to Portland, Stephen Schiffman, emeritus faculty member at Babson College and the F.W. Olin College of Engineering, lived in Boston for 30 years and played with various ensembles and chamber music groups there. He has been playing the clarinet for 60 years and his teachers have included Sherman Friedland, Julie Vaverka and Thomas Hill. Also a member of the Marston-Kotzschmar Club, he joined Rossini Club in 2015.

Ryan Slocum, piano: New member, Ryan Slocum 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 at the Poland Community Church. When he was a senior at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, he began studying organ with Doris Krueger. Ryan is 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.