

PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

153rd Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM
Sunday, March 17, 2024

President
Program Chair

Jonathan Prak
Susanna Adams

Program

Viola Sonata, Op. 36
Maestoso--Allegro
Barcarolla: Andante con moto--Allegro tranquillo
Finale scherzando: Allegretto

Henri Vieuxtemps (1820-1881)

Melissa Lund Ziegler, viola*
Amy Hunter, piano*

An die Musik (*To Music*)

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

Suleika I

My House (*Peter Pan*)

Leonard Bernstein (1918 – 1990)

Take Care of This House (*1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*)

Elizabeth Harmon, mezzo soprano
James Nga, piano*

Sonata No. 1 for Cello and Piano Op. 5, No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

Adagio sostenuto

Allegro

Allegro Vivace

Hugh Judge, cello
James Nga, piano*

Three Preludes for Piano

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

Andante con moto

Agitato

Ruth Matt, piano
Leah Neuchiller, piano

* Guest

*We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance
Our next program will take place at St. Luke's Cathedral, Sunday, April 28, 2024
Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs*

Today's Performers

Elizabeth Harmon, mezzo soprano: A Maine native, Beth has sung publicly since was a child. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College where she sang under such inspiring conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Leopold Stokowski, William Steinberg, and Sir Malcolm Sargent. She was Director of the Chancel Choir at Cumberland Congregational Church for thirty-six years. She was also a longtime member of ChoralArt Masterworks, ChoralArt Singers and Camerata. A performing member of Portland Rossini Club since 1980, she has served on the Board in a number of capacities, including Secretary, Scholarship Chair, Program Chair, and President. She currently lives in Brunswick.

Amy Hunter, piano: A native of Maine, Amy Hunter holds a B.M. and M.M. in piano performance from Temple University's Esther Boyer School of Music where she studied with Dr. Charles Abramovic. Amy has taught private piano lessons and accompanied various musicians and choirs for over 25 years in Philadelphia, PA, Yerevan, Armenia, Washington, DC, San Jose, CA, and Portland, ME. She has also taught at Montgomery County Community College in PA and Colby College. In 2015, Amy founded the music school, The Hunter School of Music, in San Jose, CA where she taught and was the Executive Director for six years. HSM served over 100 students per week and employed six talented faculty members. In 2021, Amy and her family moved back to Portland, Maine where she enjoys teaching private lessons and performing locally.

Hugh Judge, cello: Hugh grew up in Naugatuck, CT and has been playing the cello since the age of 8. Hugh studied the cello with John Ruggiero of the Waterbury (CT) Symphony Orchestra, Harry Clark of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (CT), with Lorne Munroe of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and with Ben Noyes. He is a 1981 graduate of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Hugh has been a member of the Portland Rossini Club since 1996. When not making music, Hugh works as Vice President and Portfolio Manager for R.M. Davis, Inc. in Portland, and currently serves on the Town of Cumberland Coastal Waters Commission. In the past, Hugh has served as a Board member of the Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program in Brunswick, President of the Board of Directors of the Portland Chamber Music Festival, Board President of the Portland Conservatory of Music and on the Annual Fund Committee of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. Hugh lives in Cumberland Foreside with his wife, Lois, and they have 3 grown sons. In his spare time, Hugh enjoys cycling, hiking, reading history, golf and sailing along the Maine Coast.

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.

James Nga, piano: Originally from Malaysia, Dr. James (Jim) Wesley Nga has performed publicly since he was 6. He has performed nationally and internationally throughout United States, Belgium, Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan. He came to the United States after completing two music performance diplomas from the Trinity College of Music, London. He obtained his Master of Music in piano performance from the Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, California, and his Doctor of Music in piano performance from Texas Tech University. He was an active pianist and instructor in the San Francisco Bay Area for many years, and he now serves as the Music Director for the Congregational Church in Cumberland. He is also a member of the piano faculty at the Bay Chamber Concerts in Rockport. He enjoys working with students of all ages.

Melissa Lund Ziegler, viola: Described as "exciting to watch", violist Melissa Lund Ziegler is an experienced and dynamic orchestral and chamber performer. She was a member of the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra and performed regularly with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and the Muncie and Anderson Symphony Orchestras. Lund Ziegler has performed in many orchestras and music festivals in Europe and across the United States including CCM Spoleto (Spoleto, Italy), the Aspen Music Festival and School, and the Fox Valley, Sheboygan, Richmond (IN) Symphony, and Owensboro Symphony Orchestras. She was a founding member of Muse Trio and the Take 3 String Trio, and has collaborated with violists Katrin Meidell and Michael Chen. She has performed as part of the 360 Lecture Series at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay performing a history of jazz dance styles. Melissa is Director of Marketing and Development at the Portland Conservatory of Music in Portland, ME. Previously, she was Development and Marketing Coordinator at the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center in Portsmouth, NH, Social Media Coordinator at Rees Harps in Rising Sun, IN, and Associate Director of Music for the Sake of Music in Green Bay, WI. She holds two degrees in viola performance from the prestigious College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, OH and an Artist Diploma from Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Her major teachers have included Dr. Catharine Lees, Masao Kawasaki, Rebe Barnes, and Dr. Katrin Meidell.