



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 146 NO. 1

Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club

Fall, 2016

From Our President

We are experiencing so many beautiful, sunny days. Who knows how long this temperate weather will last!! In Rossini time, we are in the 146th season of the club. As we head toward the October concert and first business meeting of this year, I am aware of the difficulties of keeping this organization functioning in top form. Our first vice-president, Lurette Saul, bears a heavy burden of keeping our concerts fully staffed. Having held this office in the past, I am aware of all this entails. It is my hope that all performing members will help her by signing up for a concert! Last year's concerts set a very high standard. I'm sure we have the talent to continue presenting this level of classical performance for our community.

Last week I saw the beautiful picture of the St. Luke's rose window in the sanctuary. It is exciting to know that this project is now complete. It makes a fitting background for our concerts. We are fortunate to be able to perform in this beautiful, sacred space.

Though I was unable to attend the September concert, I have been told that it was a fitting tribute to our dear friend and colleague, Richard Roberts. I look forward to having my own copy of the CD of Richard's piano music, so skills fully assembled by Dale Ashby, Ruth Matt and Carol Elowe.

In closing, I remind you all to put our October concert and business meeting on your calendars. Many thanks to all who make this organization so healthy and vibrant!!

Cecile DeRoche-Cain
musikmom@maine.rr.com
332-6117

CALL TO OUR FALL BUSINESS MEETING

- **Date: Sunday, October 23**
- **Time: approx. 4:30 PM**
(following our program/
reception)
- **Place: Chapter Room, St.
Luke's Cathedral**

BUSINESS AGENDA

- Elect a Nominating Committee
- Vote on Bylaw changes (See page 3)
- Officer and Committee reports

Check out our website.
Find us at
www.rossiniclub.org

Check out our
Facebook Page!
"Like" it!
Ask your friends to "like" it.

From Our Program Chair

Hello Rossini Members!

The '16-'17 season is off and running - opening with a tribute to the late, great Richard Roberts (whom I am dearly missing as a mentor and a friend, especially as the Rossini Club season gets underway. Richard's thoughtful ideas and suggestions - not to mention his dryly sarcastic, often hilarious emails were some of the high points in my year).

The next two months will offer performances from Eric Peppe and his daughter Morgan Peppe, playing Dvorak's sonatina in G major for violin and piano Op. 100, and on that same October concert you'll also hear the lovely voice of Danielle Vayenas singing arias from American opera composers as well as the contrasting pianistic styles of Angela Olzsta and Derek Herzer.

The November concert will feature two trios: the Tahj Trio (Tim Carter, Steve Schiffman and David Sherman) and Ginny Stelk, Nan White and Hugh Maynard, as well Eleanor Lehmann and Leah Neuhchiller's violin-piano duo.

As always the club offers a great variety of instruments, personalities, musical backgrounds and performance styles - something different every month! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Lurette Saul,
Program Chair

From Our Treasurer

It's that time of year again to pay annual dues to the Portland Rossini Club. There are four membership categories: Active, Privileged, Associate, and Subscriber. For Active Members, dues are \$40 per year. For Associate and Privileged Members, dues are \$30 per year. Subscriber is defined as "Any person who pays an annual fee shall be entitled to free admission to all Program meetings. They would have no voting privileges and may not hold office." Dues for Subscribers are \$30 per year. Those 62 and older who wish to become Subscribers pay \$20 per year.

Under the Bylaws, Article VIII, 5B, "Dues shall be paid no later than November 30."

You may pay your dues using PayPal at our website: www.rossiniclub.org. Save postage by paying dues in person at our concerts. By mail, make your check payable to the Portland Rossini Club and send to:

Sheila McGarr
Treasurer, Portland Rossini Club
148 Hennessey Drive
Portland, ME 04103-2037

KUDOS

Big kudos to **Sheila** for her persistence in reinstating our tax exempt status. This has taken years of determination! Many, many thanks!

Congratulations to **Danielle Vayenas**, who will perform as one of the leads ("Mother") in the Menotti opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, being performed at 7:30 pm, December 9 and 10 at the Williston-Immanuel United Church in Portland. Because it is double-cast, she will be performing December 9.

WBACH Radio ads

Did you hear the ads on WBACH radio 96.9 FM for the tribute concert to Richard Roberts on Sunday, September 11?

Did you hear the WBACH radio contest for 2 free concert tickets to the September 11 concert?

The Communications Committee received the endorsement from the Executive Board for a 3-month trial with WBACH radio to advertise our September-November 2016 classical music concerts. John Geller, an Associate Member, generously donated the \$900 in funds.

Fifteen 30-second commercials were aired from September 5-10 at a cost of \$300. Ads will also be heard advertising the October and November concerts.

Sheila McGarr, Communications Chair

Portland Rossini Club Tax Exempt Status

The Portland Rossini Club's tax exempt status, revoked in 2011 for failure to file an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990-series documentation, was restored in June 2016. The 2015-2016 tax form has been filed and accepted by the IRS.

With proof of the Club's tax exemption, the Marie Thomas Charitable Trust bequeathed \$17,175.54 to the RWL Scholarship Fund.

During this lengthy process, the Treasurer discovered that the Portland Rossini Club was never registered with the Bureau of Corporations within Maine's Secretary of State's Office. Part one of the process, submitting the appropriate forms and documentation, was completed and in August 2016 the Club is now a registered Maine corporation. Part two includes submitting Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation to the Bureau of Corporations to comply with IRS requirements. These amendments were adopted at the Club's May annual meeting.

When the amendments are accepted, the Club will be required to submit an annual report to the Bureau of Corporations accompanied by a user fee.

The Club has received two other generous gifts from Club members John Geller and Ruth Matt, in addition to the Thomas Trust. It is hoped that members and music lovers will consider adding to the RWL Scholarship Fund so that the monies awarded in scholarships each year can be increased.

Sheila McGarr, Treasurer

Proposed Bylaws Changes

As part of the reinstatement process of the Club's tax exempt status, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) required that new language be approved by our Membership that reflects the more stringent IRS standards for tax exempt institutions. That language was approved at our May 24 Annual Meeting.

Maine's Bureau of Corporations requires the Club's incorporating any new language into our bylaws and submitting them to their Office. The October 23 Fall Membership Meeting is the first opportunity for the Club to approve bylaw changes.

Current bylaws:

Article II Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to provide live performances, to encourage young musicians, and to present creative educational opportunities.

Proposed change: While retaining the above wording, add the following statement:

This organization is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as tax exempt organizations described under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article IX Finances:

Section 7 Disposition of Assets In the event that the Club shall at any time discontinue its activities as a music club, then after its just debts have been paid, all monetary assets, including cash, bank deposits, and investments, shall be transferred to the RWL Scholarship Fund to become a permanent part of that Fund.

Section 7a. All personal property, such as pianos and benches, shall be either converted into cash which shall be added to the RWL Scholarship Fund or given to some worthy institution, the Club to decide upon final disposition.

Section 7b. Should the Club discontinue its activities as a music club, the Executive Board shall appoint a committee of five to administer the RWL Scholarship Fund.

Proposed change: Add a new **Section 7c** with the following text:

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XI The Portland Rossini Club Memorial Fund:

Section 1. The name of this fund shall be *The Portland Rossini Club Memorial Fund* in memory of members and friends of the Portland Rossini Club.

Section 2.

Disbursement of this fund shall be made by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Board.

Section 3.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a Record Book which lists the memorialized person, date of donation and name of donor.

Proposed change: No specifically named Portland Rossini Club Memorial Fund currently exists. Donations and bequests have been accepted for both the RWL Scholarship Fund and the Piano Fund in memory of members of the Club. The Treasurer maintains the Record Book. The recommended wording follows:

Rename the heading to: The Portland Rossini Club Memorial Funds

Change Section 1 to read: Donations and bequests will be accepted to the RWL Scholarship Fund and the Piano Fund in memory of members and friends of the Portland Rossini Club.

Change Section 3 to: The Treasurer shall keep a Record Book which lists the memorialized person, date of donation or bequest, and name of donor.

Portland Rossini Club Scholarship Report for 2016

The Rossini Scholarship competition took place at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland, on Saturday, June 4, 2016, beginning at 1:30 pm.

Our judges were: Members Mark Braun, Robert Enman, Eleanor Lehmann, Nina Oatley Andersen, Lurette Saul, and Rachel Keller; guest judges Barbara Kapp and Sarah Bailey. Our President, Cecile DeRoche-Cain, chaired the panel of judges.

Mark Rosnagel and Christine Kissack assisted me on the day of the competition.

There were twelve applicants: three instrumentalists, five singers, and four pianists.

For each category, we had a total of \$2,000 available from the RWL Scholarship Fund.

Winners

First place winner of the **Emily K. Rand Instrumental Scholarship** was Melody R. Hasbrouck, flute, from Gorham. She is a student at USM, and we awarded her \$1500.

Honorable Mention went to Helen Gray-Bauer, viola, from Cape Elizabeth. She is a student at Skidmore College. We awarded her \$500.

First place winner of the **Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship** was James M. Brown, Countertenor, of Portland. He recently graduated from USM and will do graduate studies at McGill University in the fall. We awarded him \$1250.

Helena Crothers-Villers, Mezzo-soprano, of Portland, was the winner of the second prize. She is a student at USM. We awarded her \$750.

There was no first place winner of the **Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship**. The following three pianists took second place and were awarded \$650 each: Tina Davis of Gorham, who studies at USM; Jonathan Prak of Biddeford, who studies at USM; and Christopher Staknys of Falmouth, who studies at The Juilliard School.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Harmon, Scholarship Chair

Speedy Recovery!

We wish a speedy recovery to Recording Secretary Susanna Adams as she recovers from recent knee surgery.

Richard Roberts CD

A Memorial CD featuring Richard Roberts' Rossini Club performances of works of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Rachmaninoff is available at the October concert for \$10 as well as through the mail for \$15.

If purchasing through the mail, please send a check payable to the Portland Rossini Club to Sheila McGarr, Treasurer, 148 Hennessey Drive, Portland, ME 04103.

OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2016 - 2017

President:	Cecile DeRoche-Cain
First Vice-President:	Lurette Saul
Second Vice-President:	Elizabeth Harmon
Recording Secretary:	Susanna Adams
Treasurer:	Sheila McGarr
Assistant Treasurer:	Virginia Stelk
Piano Chair:	Mark Rosnagel
Candidate Chair:	Barbara Graustein
Communications Committee Chair:	Sheila McGarr
Social Chair:	Jazmin DeRice