



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 148 NO. 1 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club

Fall 2018

From Our President

As we begin the new season of the Portland Rossini Club, I reflect on the accomplishments of last year and look toward many new musical experiences in the 148th season. As reported at our last meeting, audience numbers were up and the quality of music performed was superb, thanks to our talented membership and our featured artists, all of whom gave willingly of their time and musical talent, rewarding us with an array of wonderful musical programs. The 148th season promises more of the same. Cecile DeRoche-Cain is already arranging performers in quite enticing formats. Not only will we enjoy music of Classical favorites, but new and not so frequently performed works will be presented. For example, *Night Piece for Flute and String Quartet* by Arthur Foote; *Piano Trio in G minor* by Claude Debussy; the *Sonatina No. 1 in D major for Violin and Piano* by Franz Schubert; and *Trio for Piano, Clarinet, and Horn, Op. 274* by Carl Reinecke.

Your Executive Board recently held the first meeting of the Season and all plans are falling into place. The Bylaws were brought up to date, the concerts for each month are well into completion and our annual scholarship competition, as always in the capable hands of Beth Harmon, is set for the forthcoming year. A plan is in the developmental stages regarding the forthcoming 150 Anniversary Celebration of the Club. Sheila McGarr laid out a comprehensive chart of budgetary items. Susanna Adams did a fantastic job of taking notes throughout the whole meeting. All in all, we can look forward to a fantastic and enjoyable season.

Continued on page 2

From Our Program Chair

The upcoming Rossini season will feature many of our active members as well as featured performers. In September we offered tribute to a long-time member who passed away recently, Nicole Trifaro. We featured two opera singers, one of whom is a member. Harold Stover visited us again with French repertoire. And finally two active members offered a personal musical tribute to Nicole.

There are still a few concerts open for your “musical offerings”. Please contact me directly and I will tell you when they are.

The Rossini Executive Board is making plans to celebrate our 150th year anniversary of performing Classical music. If you have any suggestions or requests surrounding that occasion, you can contact any board member and we will plan to discuss your suggestions at an upcoming meeting.

Cecile DeRoche-Cain,
Program Chair
tel: 332-6117
musikmom810@gmail.com

**To All Active, Privileged,
Honorary, and
Associate Members**

CALL TO OUR FALL BUSINESS MEETING

- **Date: Sunday, October 21**
- **Time: approx. 4:30 PM**
(following our program/
reception)
- **Place: Chapter Room, St.
Luke’s Cathedral**

BUSINESS AGENDA

- Elect a Nominating
Committee
- Officer and Committee
reports
- Consider a revision to
Article III of our
Bylaws (See page 2)
- Consider our 150th
Anniversary Celebration

From the 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

*(From Our President
continued from Page 1)*

An observation:

This past summer, Cecile and I reviewed correspondence from 1984 relating to the Marston-Kotzschmar Music Club's early years. The general complaint seemed to be the same as today, low membership and audience numbers. Although the programs showcased the members themselves and the music was well diversified, it seems that lack of participation and interest in membership meetings and audience participation was the constant. Then as now, artistic cultural life in and around the Portland area offers many different types of entertainment to the public. So, over a period of 30 years, music clubs have been slowly following a road to oblivion. When I first arrived in Maine in 2003, there were four music clubs. Now, there are only two. Diehard and loyal members are getting older and the younger generation have other things to see and do. It is certainly something to contemplate what the future will bring. Meanwhile, the Portland Rossini Club gets ready to celebrate its 150th year in two more years and the Marston-Kotzschmar celebrates 60 since the joining of two music clubs. Go Music Clubs!

Eleanor Lehmann

Recommendation to change Article III of our Bylaws

The last published edition of the Portland Rossini Club's bylaws was in 2012. Since that time, a number of amendments have been approved by the membership. The Club hopes to publish a revised edition in 2018. In August, the Executive Board reviewed an annotated draft of the bylaws for additions and corrections. There is one section which requires approval by the Membership at its forthcoming October 21, 2018 Fall Business Meeting.

Article III Members. Section 1a.ii currently states "Alternatively, a candidate may perform a full program at public recital, attended by at least four active and/or privileged members who shall submit a written recommendation to the Chair of the Candidate Committee. Two negative votes shall exclude the candidate."

Currently, the Club does not require a "full public recital" to admit a new member. Thus, the proposed change:

"If a Member recommends membership for a previous guest performer to the Candidate Chair, the Candidate Chair should discuss with the committee and make a recommendation to the Board."

**OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS
2018 - 2019**

President:	Eleanor Lehmann
First Vice-President:	Cecile DeRoche-Cain
Second Vice-President:	Elizabeth Harmon
Recording Secretary:	Susanna Adams
Treasurer:	Sheila McGarr
Assistant Treasurer:	Barbara Graustein
Piano Chair:	Scott Eaton
Candidate Chair:	Barbara Graustein
Communications Committee Chair:	Sheila McGarr

**2018 – 2019
Rossini Club
Concert Schedule
Cathedral of St. Luke,
Portland, ME
3:00 pm**

**September 9
October 21
November 11
January 13
February 24
March 17
April 14
May 19**

KUDOS

To **Lurette Saul**, on the birth of her daughter this year on June 5!!

To **Mark Rossnagel**, on his recent piano concert in Portland at First Parish Church on Congress Street.

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

To **Edith Leary** whos hearing was damaged as a result of a car accident caused by a speeding driver.

**Remembering Past President
Elizabeth Philbrick
October 1, 1915 – July 24, 2018**

Fondly, we remember Elizabeth Philbrick - her musical vitality, her zest for life, and her commitment to Rossini Club.

Born in Biddeford, Maine, she attend schools in Kennebunk and then Gorham Normal School, now known as the University of Maine. After graduation, she married Carroll Philbrick, who worked in the aviation industry. His occupation took him and his family to Mississippi, Texas, New York, and back to Maine in 1967. As her daughter Gloria recalls, wherever they lived, Elizabeth "belonged to music clubs and taught piano in public schools or privately." I remember Elizabeth telling of a concert in Texas where she participated in a concert of ten pianos - 20 hands!

Upon returning to Maine in 1967, Elizabeth became an active member of Rossini Club, serving as President, 1971-1973 and again 1984-1986. She also continued her own piano study, first with Ocy Downs and then Ellinor Carter. As long as she was able, Elizabeth attended Rossini programs regularly and recruited new members, the last one being Mary Johnson Letellier.

About thirty years ago, when she was in her late seventies, Elizabeth lost sight in both eyes due to glaucoma. That meant her ability to practice piano was suddenly cut short. Remarkably, she accepted her new situation with strength and resolve.

Drawing on her artistic vitality, she transformed her mode of expression and began writing poetry. With the help of a friend, she self-published two books of poetry and circulated them among friends and family. Up until two years ago, she still was writing poetry.

For the past two years, she has been living at Seal Rock Assisted Living Home in Saco. Ever creative, she again transformed her artistic mode of expression and began regaling her caregivers with stories of her family and her life.

Of her biological family, she leaves 2 sons and 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren.

Of her musical family, she leaves a legacy of boundless enthusiasm for sharing the joys of music.

Sally Merrill

Rossini Scholarship Report 2018

The Rossini Scholarship Competition took place Saturday, June 2, 2018 at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland, from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Two instrumentalists, eight singers, and three pianists competed for the \$1200 First Prize and \$800 Second Prize in each category. The applicants came from Brunswick, Cape Elizabeth, Holden, Kennebunkport, South Portland, Fairfield, Kennebunk, Old Town, Gorham, Windham, and Falmouth.

Emily K. Rand Instrumental Scholarship

First Place Winner was Julian Abbot of Brunswick, who played clarinet and tenor sax. He is a recent Waynflete graduate and will attend McGill's Schulich School of Music. His instructor was Titus Abbott.

Second Place Winner was Helen Gray-Bauer of Cape Elizabeth. She is a student at Skidmore College and plays viola. Her instructor is Harold Levin.

Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship

First Place Winner was Zachary James Fisher, tenor, from Old Town, who attends the University of Maine in Orono. His instructor is Francis John Vogt.

Second Place Winner was Rosemary Crimp, soprano, from Kennebunk, who attends Gordon College. Her instructor is Katherine Whyte.

Honorable Mention went to Christie Paul, soprano, from Gorham, who attends University of Southern Maine. Her instructor is Ellen Chickering.

The Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship

First Place Winner was Christopher Staknys of Falmouth, who attends the Juilliard School in New York. His instructor is Hung Kunn Chen.

Second Place Winner was Josie DiPhilippo of South Portland, who attends the University of Southern Maine. She is a student of Laura Kargul.

Honorable Mention went to Samantha K. Barry, from Windham, who attends Colby College. Her instructor is Yuri L. Funahashi.

Guest Judges: John Boden, Robin Rilette, James Wesley Nga

Member Judges: Robert Enman, Cynthia Henriques, Mary Johnston Letellier, Carol Elowe

Chaired by President Eleanor Lehmann

Registrar/Stage Manager: Dale Ashby

Assistant: Barbara Graustein

Scholarship Chair: Elizabeth Harmon