



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 150 NO. 1 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club

Fall 2020

From Our President

The month of September has marked the official beginning of our sesquicentennial, our 150th season, and what a year it has been so far! Many people are feeling anxious about how this year has unfolded. But we have kept our music playing and see the possibility for hope on the horizon on a number of levels. Desperate times may call for desperate measures, but in our club, 'desperate times call for *creative* measures.'

Our outdoor concerts were a huge success and our board has decided to offer more of these in the future. Who knows, these may become a new staple of the Rossini Club. There were three of these and they occurred at the home of Ruth Matt, then at my home in August, and the most recent one and the last of the season was at the home of Barbara and Mike Payson in September. We kept our numbers down because of safety concerns, people wore masks, brought their own chairs and sat at a good distance apart.

Now, with chilly weather having arrived, we have begun our Zoom concerts and although we are still getting some 'bugs out', this is a great way to keep our club alive and well. Our first concert was well-attended and ran quite smoothly thanks to the work of Susanna Adams, Sheila McGarr and Dermot Bostock.

Some of the things we have on the horizon are a concert by Bart Bullock who is a pianist and composer living in France. He will also give us a tour of the Chateau de Palaminy where he lives and works. So a trip to France is scheduled, no airline ticket needed! Just attend our meeting in November.
(continues on column 3)

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

CALL TO OUR VIRTUAL FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Date: Sunday, October 25
**Place: your home, following
our October 25 program**
(advance registration required
- see October Flyer)

BUSINESS AGENDA

**Officer and Committee
Reports**

**Form Nominating
Committee**

**Discuss 150th Anniversary
Celebration**

**Discuss Attracting New
Members**

**Address Technical
Challenges**

(continued from column 1)

There will be other new and exciting events coming up as well. We have traditionally not done a concert in December, but have a wonderful program lining up to bring cheer into our homes as we hunker down again. Details on that will follow soon.

I am thankful to all of my board for doing a yeoman's work to keep this club going strong. And I'm thankful to all our members for hanging in there with us as we negotiate this white water. We still need your help, by attending virtual concerts, bringing in new members, bringing in new ideas and enthusiasm for this fantastic organization.

At our upcoming Fall Business Meeting, I'd like to discuss how best to celebrate our 150th anniversary now that "the usual modes of celebration" are not currently possible. I'd also like to pose the question how do we keep our members interested and active in the club? And how do we attract new members to the club? Finally, I'd like to talk about technical challenges our members might face in trying to keep involved in the club. How can we help?

Sending my best to all of you and looking forward to seeing you all virtually at our next concert!

Sydney Patten
978-771-0552
sydpatten@gmail.com

From our Treasurer:

Dear PRC members:

It's that time of year again to pay annual dues to the Portland Rossini Club. As approved at our February 2020 Membership meeting, the dues are being raised for the first time since 2011. Since then, our expenses have increased especially for 1) fees for webhosting, website security software, website manager, and Zoom hosting software; 2) hiring an audio engineer for the garden concerts; and 3) costs for publicity to increase awareness and attendance at Portland Rossini Club concerts. Additionally our revenues for concerts will decline.

There are four membership categories: Active, Privileged, Associate, and Subscriber. For Active Members, dues are \$50 per year. For Associate and Privileged Members, dues are \$40 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 \$40 per year. Those 62 and older who wish to become Senior Subscribers pay \$30 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. 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

Sharing Memories

As a forty year member, I have countless memories of special Rossini Club musical programs. On this 150th anniversary, I think it's appropriate for me to tell you of some of my own special memories. I'm hoping that you will share some of your memories as well in future *Rossini Notes*. Please send them to me at bethharmon2@gmail.com.

In 1992, former member Pamela Stewart organized a wonderful *Gala Celebration of Gioachino Rossini's Bicentennial* in 1992. I remember the costumes and appropriate songs and extensive publicity. It was a good, fun project.

I remember presenting a program called *Parade of American Music*, as part of an annual competition of the National Federation of Music Clubs. We combined forces with the Maine Composer's Forum, assisted by columnist/critic Nick Humnez, and we won!

Over the years, we've had many special guests, including groups from Boy Singers of Maine, Musica de Filia, Girl Singers of Maine, and the Sunrise Brass Quintet.

Any time we had children's groups as guests, members brought extra refreshments to our Social time!

Stay tuned for more memories in the next issue!
Beth Harmon

OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2020-2021

President:	Sydney Patten
First Vice-President:	Cecile DeRoche-Cain
Second Vice-President:	Barbara Graustein
Recording Secretary:	Susanna Adams
Treasurer:	Sheila McGarr
Assistant Treasurer:	Mathew Nichols
Piano Chair:	Scott Eaton
Candidate Chair:	Barbara Graustein
Communications Committee Chair:	Sheila McGarr
Corresponding Secretary:	Cynthia Henriques

40 years of Rossini Concert Venues

(as far as I remember - please feel free to contact me with more info)

McCauley High School
Two venues at Westbrook College (Now U.N.E)
Trinity Episcopal Church
Corthell Hall at USM
Woodfords Congregational Church
St. Luke's Cathedral

Beth Harmon
bethharmon2@gmail.com

From Our Program Chair

With a different emphasis on our format this season, the club has struggled to provide music in the "time of COVID". Under the able leadership of our president, Sydney Patten we have presented outdoor garden concerts this summer. Hosts have included Ruth Matt, Barbara Payson and Sydney. The weather was very fortuitous with sunny warm weather.

Because St. Luke's isn't open for our concerts this Fall, we have opted to do virtual concerts through Zoom. Members of the board have put in long hours to make this happen. We are soliciting recordings from members to present at these virtual concerts. Susanna has been a godsend throughout this whole process.

I have also been blessed with the help of a Program Director in training, a new member, Jonathan Prak has stepped up to this challenge, with a great deal of enthusiasm!!

Please contact me if you have a desire to contribute to this new format. Dale Ashby has put together some helpful directions on how to do this.

May we all stay healthy!!
Cecile DeRoche-Cain,
Program Chair
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