



# ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 151 NO. 1 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club

Fall 2021

## From Our President

The summer was a good one, and we were blessed with a perfect day in August to celebrate our 150th anniversary in a beautiful outdoor venue on the oceanfront property of John Crowley and Jenn Packard. After a terrific concert, we ate cake and champagne in Bill's and my garden to the music of Gioachino Rossini!

As we move into winter, there is much to be grateful for. The pandemic may be far from over but we have vaccines and are now armed and protected. I guess you could say that we 'know the drill.' There is a new way of behaving during a pandemic and it looks as though we'll be able to continue our music in interior spaces as well as exterior ones.

On the subject of exterior spaces, we are on the brink of purchasing a musical shell made of panels which will enhance any outdoor concerts we have in the future. The biggest challenge for these concerts outdoors, is acoustical. A shell would go a long way in augmenting the enjoyment of music "en pleine aire." A stumbling block to this purchase is that, as of this moment there is no place to store panels. If you think you or someone you know might be able to help out with storage of these panels, please contact any board member, or me, your club president.

Who knows what the future will bring but we are delighted to be back in St. Luke's. Although St.

*(continued in Column 3)*

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

## CALL TO OUR VIRTUAL FALL BUSINESS MEETING

**Date: Monday,  
November 22**

**Place: your home via Zoom  
Members email Susanna at**

[saviolabow@maine.rr.com](mailto:saviolabow@maine.rr.com)

**To receive ZOOM link**

## BUSINESS AGENDA

**Officer and Committee  
Reports**

**Form Nominating  
Committee**

**Discuss 150th Anniversary  
Celebration**

**Discuss Attracting New  
Members**

**Address Technical  
Challenges**

*(continued from column 1)*

Luke's has been a wonderful space for us for many years now, we are seriously contemplating a move. The Portland Conservatory of Music has relocated to 28 Neal Street in what used to be a church. There could be benefits to moving there (including acoustical superiority). Our board will be thinking and talking a lot about this potential move over the next few months, so stay tuned and chime in to have your voice heard. In the meantime, there will be some trial Rossini Concerts at 28 Neal Street, so make sure to check the website to find out where concerts will be.

I am committed to bringing new members to the club and to introducing some new music from time to time. In addition to our regular concerts, we may also be featuring more Zoom overseas concerts this winter when it's hard to get out, so again stay tuned for more on this "overseas travel." No passport required.

I'm happy to say that the fiscal health of our club is robust. To keep our club healthy and to keep the music playing another 150 years, we need your help and involvement. Be a vital part of this wonderful club by coming to concerts, bringing your friends and finding out how you may become more involved.

Sydney Patten  
978-771-0552  
[sydpatten@gmail.com](mailto:sydpatten@gmail.com)

### From Our Program Committee

Our summer gala in Falmouth was a great success. We managed to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style in a beautiful setting. Thanks to Sydney for excellent planning and attention to detail.

All the members of the committee are new, so we have been working out some technical details about the schedule for sending program information to Beth Harmon who formats it. We are hoping things will go smoothly from now on.

We have had two well-regarded Sunday programs so far and have welcomed a number of new attendees. Our longstanding ritual of a post-concert reception has been suspended, at least for this year.

Susanna, Dale and Dermot have been preparing two programs for Zoom concerts from archived materials (Dale's recordings). These have been prepared 1) as a contingency in case we go remote again; and 2) to use if there is a snow emergency and we can't get to St. Luke's for an in-person concert.

Sydney has already written about having a couple of "test" concerts at the Portland Conservatory's new building at 28 Neal Street. We are considering having the January concert there and Club pianists are evaluating the two pianos that PCM has in their performance space. We will be assessing acoustics and ease of recording in the hall along with other issues such as parking for attendees.

Our program from Royaumant, originally for November 20, was cancelled, but another was substituted. A very few of us tried to listen although we had technical issues.

We still need performers for the Spring. We have only one for February (27) and need one more for March (27) and two for April (24). The last concert has no one scheduled yet. Susanna's record keeping could be improved, so please confirm if you are playing in February and beyond.

Sydney Patten, Susanna Adams and Jonathan Prak

### From our Treasurer:

♪ Just a note - It's that time of year to pay annual dues to the Portland Rossini Club to support in-person concerts at St. Luke's Cathedral for the 2021-2022 season.

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. A 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: <https://www.rossiniclub.org/dues-renewal/>
- By mail, make out your check, payable to the Portland Rossini Club, and send it to:

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

### OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2021 - 2022

President:	Sydney Patten
First Vice-President-Programs:	Susanna Adams Jonathan Prak
Second Vice-President-Scholarships:	Scott Eaton
Recording Secretary:	Torrey Gimpel
Treasurer:	Sheila McGarr
Assistant Treasurer:	Mathew Nichols
Piano Chair:	Scott Eaton
Candidate Chair:	Barbara Graustein
Communications Committee Chair:	Sheila McGarr

## Concert Attendance:

Monthly concert attendance numbers have been maintained since September 2011. It's been encouraging to note that annual attendance has increased from 327 in the 2011-2012 season to 591 in 2018-19, the latest complete season data. Establishing a website at [rossiniclub.org](http://rossiniclub.org); a Facebook account; email blasts; and co-sponsoring concerts at the Portland Conservatory of Music has enhanced our visibility in the community. "Word of mouth" is the most successful initiative to grow the Club membership by bringing along a friend to a concert.

The 151st season of the Portland Rossini Club (PRC) resumed in person concerts at St. Luke's Cathedral on September 19, 2021 with 60 music enthusiasts attending: 22 PRC members; 26 seniors [62 and over]; 8 [61 and under]; 1 student; and 3 guests of performers.

At our recent October 17 concert, 17 were PRC members; 15 seniors [62 and over]; 11 [61 and under]; 7 students; and 5 guests of performers.

Sheila McGarr, Treasurer

### Portland Rossini Club Coming Programs

November 28

January 23

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 15

### **Reminder from our Program Committee**

***We still need performers for the Spring.** We are set for January, but have vacancies for February through May. Please contact Susanna Adams to reserve your date: [saviolabow@maine.rr.com](mailto:saviolabow@maine.rr.com) phone: (207)318-7465. If you think you reserved a date, but she hasn't been in touch, feel free to call her to be sure.*