



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 152 NO. 1 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Fall, 2022

From Our President

My name is Jonathan Prak, and I'm the new President of the Portland Rossini Club. I'm in the midst of studying Piano Performance with Dr. Laura Kargul at the Osher School of Music of the University of Southern Maine for my Masters Degree. I'm overjoyed and honored to serve this inspiring community as President. My vision for the Club is to expand our network and create more connections with the Southern Maine community. Music is food for the soul and connects us together, and what better way than congregating with PRC?

We kicked off the 2022-2023 season with a wonderful summer outdoor concert with some fine musicians at the Portland Community Squash Center. A big THANK YOU to Barrett Takesian, Executive Director of PCS, for offering this wonderful space. We are eternally grateful to our previous president, Sydney Patten, who's responsible for starting these outdoor series. UPDATE: The long awaited acoustic panels have finally arrived!!! Now we can fortify and focus sound to create a better experience for both the audience and performers.

The Executive Board had a meeting on a very important topic after our last concert: the Scholarship Competitions. We have tailored the competition process by eliminating in-house judges to 3 professional judges not affiliated with PRC. The issues with conflicts of interest and bias are at large in this tight-knit community.

(continued in column 3)

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

CALL TO OUR FALL BUSINESS MEETING

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

**Officer and Committee
Reports**

**Form a Nominating
Committee**

Vote on Bylaw change

(continued from column 1)

This segues into the *Bylaws* needing to be changed. In order to change them, PRC members are invited to vote at the October 30th Business Meeting. Can I count on you to be there? PRC members are highly encouraged to still be involved with these competitions, whether you want to sit in and listen to the participants or volunteer. Let's make a difference for our scholarship participants and give them the *best* experience possible.

I'd like to leave you with this one week challenge, which I hope turns into daily practice. We all live in this hectic, busy and noisy world. Take 10 minutes, close your eyes, acknowledge your thoughts and let them go, breathe, and just sit in silence. No phones. No distractions. Try it! You won't be disappointed.

I'm looking forward to this new journey, continuing this amazing century's old tradition, and creating something special with you.

Your Rossini Club President,
Jonathan Prak

<https://www.rossiniclub.org>
jonathan.prak@maine.edu

From Our Program Chair

Although I have been assured by those who have had this job before that things are “normal,” I am finding it quite difficult to put together programs for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season. The October program came together just in time, and I believe it is good one. By “just in time,” we need to know general details about each program at least a month in advance, so that an advance program flyer can be prepared to distribute to members and interested parties several times via email; posted on the Club website, social media, and community calendars; and available at the current concert.

With that in mind, the November and January programs are complete, I hope, with pianists playing solo, chamber music, four hand piano, and a piano/instrumental sonata for the annual Richard Roberts Memorial Concert.

Concerts scheduled on February 19 and March 5 need more performers. [As a reminder, the March program will be held at the Portland Conservatory of Music]. We have tentatively booked a ‘Piano Extravaganza’ by the students of Laura Kargul, piano faculty at the University of Southern Maine for the April 30 concert. The final concert on May 21, needs Club performers beyond the one confirmed competition winner.

Susanna Adams
Program Chair
saviolabow@maine.rr.com

From your 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 2022-2023 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/>
- In person at the October 30 or or November 27 concerts at St. Luke's
- 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

Thank you for your continuing support of the Club.

Sheila McGarr, PRC Treasurer

Acoustical Shells

The Portland Rossini Club recently purchased 3 Travelmaster portable acoustical shells and storage cart from the Wenger Corporation for use at St. Luke's Cathedral and at future outdoor concerts. These shells will provide sound reflection which helps performers, from vocalists to ensemble players, hear better and balance the sound.

The Club applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the David Nichols Charitable Trust which financially supports Maine-based non-profit organizations. This seed money and other Club funds supported the purchase of this equipment. The Club is grateful for their support.

As there is no space to store them at St. Luke's, Sheila McGarr, Treasurer, will store the shells in her garage and Torrey Gimpel, Secretary, will transport them in her SUV to the venues.

Sheila McGarr
Treasurer

From Our Scholarship Chair

At a recent Executive Board Meeting, the Board proposed a change to the judging at the annual scholarship competition. **THIS PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE WILL BE VOTED ON BY MEMBERS AT THE (in-person) FALL BUSINESS MEETING AFTER THE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 CONCERT.**

BACKGROUND: In order to prevent conflicts of interest that have arisen in the very small music community in Maine, the Executive Board proposes to hire three professional judges, not members of the Portland Rossini Club, to judge in each of the three scholarship categories: instrumental, vocal and piano. Portland Rossini Club members are encouraged to help with logistics of running the competition, but will not participate as judges.

CURRENT BYLAW: Article X, Section 3 states: “The categories of the scholarships are vocal, instrumental, and piano. A Scholarship Committee shall determine recipients of the scholarships and **shall consist of three judges for each category, two of whom should be Rossini Club members.**”

PROPOSED BYLAW: “The categories of the scholarships are vocal, instrumental, and piano. A Scholarship Committee shall determine recipients of the scholarships and **shall consist of three professional judges one for each category.**”

Other reforms discussed include changing the dates of the competition and having a prize category for young students just entering college.

I would like to convene a small committee to address these issues to meet by Zoom this winter. We need to start the entire process of contacting potential participants and scheduling them earlier.

Susanna Adams
Scholarship Chair
saviolabow@maine.rr.com

OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2022-2023

President:	Jonathan Prak sydpatten@gmail.com
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2022-23
Rossini Club
Concert Schedule
Cathedral of St. Luke,
Portland, ME
3:00 pm

October 30
November 27
January 22
February 19
March 5 (at PCM)*
April 30
May 21

*Portland Conservatory
Of Music

Comments or Thoughts or Something to Share?

Please email to *Rossini Notes* editor,
Beth Harmon,
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