



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 141 NO. 3 The Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club May, 2012

From Our President

I can hardly believe that we're already near the end of this excellent season. Many thanks to all who have helped to make it successful. My deep appreciation goes to those of you who faithfully attend our performances – and especially to those who bring friends; To those of you who practice diligently for countless hours and then perform for us; To Christine and Alan Kissack who developed our website and to Eric Peppe who carries on their work; To those who prepare and arrange our wonderful refreshments; To Barbara Graustein who calmly and patiently sets up auditions for new members; To the Communications Committee, which sees to it that we, as well as the public, know what is happening; and especially to the Board of Directors. Each member of the board carries his/her own weight. Richard Roberts, our Program/Piano Chair, has worked diligently to bring us well-rounded, interesting programs; Norm Whiteside finishes his term as Treasurer with our finances in order and in the black; Judy Coleman, our Secretary, keeps excellent records, and she does much behind the scenes, well beyond the call of duty. Sheila McGarr, our Assistant Treasurer/Communications Chair, also does much to keep us (and me) in order. I am truly impressed with the way we can all work together to keep Rossini Club running smoothly and happily, even in these contentious times. I hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting May 22.

With appreciation,
Beth Harmon,
President, Portland Rossini Club

CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Date: TUESDAY, May 22

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Barbara Graustein's home

POT LUCK SUPPER

BUSINESS AGENDA

- Receive our new address/
bylaw booklets
- Receive and approve Annual
reports
- Sign-ups for the coming
season
- Report of the Nominating
committee

Please email or call

J u d y C o l e m a n
(coleman8262@roadrunner.com
[m](tel:5036423655) 642-3655) to let her know
that you will attend, and to
give her some idea what you
will bring for food. **We will
need a head count by May
18.**

Directions to Barbara Graustein's home, 57 Waites Landing Rd, Falmouth

From the south:

Take 295 North to Exit 9 [Rt 1, Falmouth Foreside]. Drive approximately 2.2 miles. Take a right onto Rt. 88 [Foreside Rd].

Drive 1/2 mile. Just past the Episcopal Church, take a right onto Waites Landing Rd. Barbara's home is on the right, 6 houses from Rt. 88, a yellow garrison set back in the woods. Look for balloons on the black mailbox.

From the north:

Take 295 south to Exit 10 [Bucknam Rd]. At the end of the ramp, take a left and drive 1 block.

At the traffic light, take a right onto Rt. 1. At the next light, take a left onto Depot Rd. At the next intersection, take a right onto Foreside Rd [Rt. 88]. Drive 1/2 mile and make a left turn onto Waites Landing Rd. Barbara's home is on the right, 6 houses from Rt. 88, a yellow garrison set back in the woods. Look for balloons on the black mailbox.

From our Program Chair

Things have run relatively smoothly this year. However, I have a couple of concerns:

- The length of concerts, especially considering that we have no intermissions – I notice that the audience begins, quite regularly, to shrink after 60 minutes. I try to keep concerts within that frame. **This is only possible when members give me warning well in advance** – if a presentation is going to extend beyond 12 minutes, including introductory remarks please tell me!
- Introductory remarks, their length and audibility – Perhaps it is because I cannot hear clearly (I sit in the back, since I seem to busy until the last minute - and I am older than most of you), I have a hard time hearing you. **I wish more performers would consider the microphone when speaking.** It can be moved within a foot of the piano upon request. If the remarks are at all technical, would not program notes be more helpful? The microphone also allows for an intimate delivery in contrast to the professionally projected oratory not all of us are skilled at.
- **Our concert manager can be trusted to remove music from stands and return it to you.** This allows the performer to bow in thanks to the audience rather than turning his or her back to them.

Richard Roberts

Welcome to our Newest Members

Mary Johnston (Letellier), Soprano: Mary attended Boston Conservatory for both her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Opera. She has received additional education from the Seagle Music Colony in upstate New York. She studies with Dr. Rebecca Folsom. Mary has enjoyed membership in the Music Honors Society, *Pi Kappa Lambda* since her junior year of college. Recently, she has performed in *The Mikado* as Peep-Bo, *Hansel and Gretel* as the Sandman, *The Old Maid and the Thief* as Mrs. Pinkerton, *La Rondine* as Magda, and *Don Pasquale* as Norina. In addition, Mary served as Soprano section leader for Boston's historic Old North Church under Libor Dudas's direction. Mary now resides in Buxton with her husband.

Leah Neuchiller, Piano: Leah Neuchiller studied piano from age 9-19, and began college as a music major at Brandeis University where she studied with the French pianist Evelyn Crochet. She later earned a Master's in Social Work degree, and went on to have a career as a clinical social worker and psychotherapist. Music continued to be a passionate avocation, however, and upon moving to Maine in 2006, Leah found the piano once again became central in her life. She currently studies piano with Laura Kargul, plays chamber music in various groups, and is active in the Marston-Kotzschmar Club. Leah teaches piano to beginning and intermediate students at L'Ecole Francaise in Freeport and in her home studio in Portland.

Nina K. Oatley, Clarinet: Nina K. Oatley returned to music as a profession and vocation in 1995 when she became a student at the USM School of Music to complete her degree work in music education and performance, following a nearly 20 year hiatus. Graduating in 2000 with a double major in music education and clarinet performance she has been working and performing in Southern Maine ever since. She has a studio where she provides private instruction on clarinet and saxophone; since 1997 she has been the Music Director for the Italian Heritage Center Concert Band; and she has performed with the Maine State Ballet Orchestra, Maine State Music Theatre, Lyric Theatre, and performed many solo and chamber works for clarinet. She has studied clarinet with Dr. Thomas Parchman, Dr. William Wreszien, Jonathan Cohler and Robert Carabia. She is currently building a new home in North Yarmouth with her fiancée Andy Walsh and they plan to marry later this fall. She is the proud grandmother of three - one girl, and two little boys, and her two adult sons live in Alaska.

A Letter from Bangladesh

Dear Sheila and the Rossini folk,

I am writing from Bangladesh, and I have a card ready to be hand carried back to the States and mailed with my over due dues.

I appreciate seeing the website especially as I am sort of out of the Maine scene right now. I'm starting up an 'east west' music school here in Rajshahi Bangladesh and have 7 seven piano students. I literally have the only piano in 'town' (a city of about a 100,000 with several colleges and a major University) We also have just started up a website at <http://www.varendramusic.org/>

I will be home in Maine for August and September and hope to be able to come to a concert and see you all again. It was a great joy for me to be able to play last year.

I've had some performances here but they have been mostly vocal presentations of songs by Rabindranath Tagore for which I have written translations and arrangements. I even sang for the Prime Minister a few weeks ago.

Thank you for including me on your e mail list. I wanted to write to you all and update you on my whereabouts.

Yours,
John Thorpe

Editor's note: If you haven't already done so, be sure to check out our website at www.rossiniclub.org

OUR SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The 2012 Rossini Club Scholarship Competition, chaired by Christine Kissack, will take place Saturday, June 9, 2012, beginning at 1:00 pm at [Saint Luke's Cathedral](#). Students who are currently Music Majors enrolled in accredited music schools and living in Cumberland, York, and Oxford Counties, will compete in three different categories: Piano (The Wright Piano Prize), Instrumental (The Rand Scholarship), and Vocal (The Littlefield Vocal Scholarship). Last year, First Place winners in each category won \$1000. Each prize is in honor of or a bequest of past Rossini Club members. This competition is open to the public. We hope you will attend.

Kudos

Stella Baumann and **Norm Whiteside** will be singing a program at *The Cedars* on May 16th at 4:00 pm.

On June 14, **Beth Harmon** and her former Rossini Club accompanist, **Dr. Michael Braz** (from 26 years ago) will perform a reunion concert at 7:00 pm at the Congregational Church in Cumberland.

Please email or write your editor Beth Harmon if you have Kudos or sympathy to share

**Our Sympathy
To Julianne Eberl
on the loss of her husband**

**Remaining Rossini Program
Date
for our 2011-12 Season
May 20**



The Lower Octave from *The Boy Singers of Maine*, under the direction of Rick Dustin, performs *Old Dan Tucker* at our March 25 program.

**THANKS TO OFFICERS and
COMMITTEE CHAIRS of the
PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB 2011 - 2012**

President: Elizabeth Harmon

First Vice-President: Richard Roberts

Second Vice-President: Christine Kissack

Recording Secretary: Judy Coleman

Treasurer: Norman Whiteside

Assistant Treasurer: Sheila McGarr

Piano Chair: Richard Roberts

Candidate Chair: Barbara Graustein

Communications Committee Chair: Sheila McGarr