



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 142 NO. 3 The Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Spring 2013

From Our President

It's hard to believe another season has slipped by. I feel that it has been an outstanding one, with excellent attendance at most of our programs – programs that we can all be proud of.

I think this is an appropriate time to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have contributed to these programs – first of all, of course, to the performers, then to those of you who attend and support us, and especially to those of you who help everything to go smoothly and happily: Our retiring Program Chair, Richard Roberts; our concert manager, Michael Rackliff and her husband, Andrew; our Social Chair, Judy Coleman and all her helpers and refreshment providers; Sheila McGarr for her help with our printing; Ruth Matt who keeps us up-to-date with email; Ginny Stelk and Cynn timeriques who prepare our mailings; and Sheila McGarr and Susanna Adams who greet our patrons when they arrive. It really takes a team to make this happen. My thanks to all!

We do have one very special program coming up on June 16 - Richard Roberts will celebrate his eightieth birthday by presenting a concert to benefit our piano fund. I'm sure you won't want to miss it!

Be sure to attend our annual Meeting coming up May 21. If you have questions or agenda items, please let me know. My email is eharmon2@maine.rr.com, and my phone is 829-3393.

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer.

Beth Harmon
President, Portland Rossini Club

CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Date: TUESDAY, May 21

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Barbara Graustein's home

POT LUCK SUPPER

BUSINESS AGENDA

- Receive and approve Annual reports
- Sign-ups for the coming season
- Report of the Nominating committee
- Consider two bylaw proposals (to be voted on in October)

Please email or call

J u d y C o l e m a n
(coleman8262@roadrunner.com
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 2nd 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.

PRC Scholarship Competition

The Portland Rossini Club's Annual Scholarship Competitions will take place Saturday, June 8, 2013, beginning at 1:00 pm at Saint Luke's Cathedral. Three \$1,200 prizes will be awarded this year. Scholarship Chairperson, Christine Kissack, sent reminder post cards to applicable contacts in southern Maine directing interested candidates to our website where the application can be downloaded. To date, there are no applicants for the 2013 auditions. The application deadline is Friday, May 10th and it is normal for students to apply close to the deadline.

Our scholarship competitions are open to residents of Cumberland, York, and Oxford counties in the state of Maine. Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 25 and be registered as music majors in the fall of 2013 at any accredited music school, college, or university. (Previous first place winners of the scholarships may not apply.) A panel of judges will be assembled in the coming months and will include Rossini Club members as well as nonmember area professionals. If you are interested in serving on the judges panel, please email Christine at: ckissack@usm.maine.edu.

The Emily K. Rand Scholarship Fund was established in 1932 in memory of the Portland Rossini Club's third president, a vocalist, who presided in a distinguished manner for 25 years. The Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship was established in 2001 as a bequest in good standing for fifty-five years. The newly established Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship was created in memory of the club's longtime treasurer, vocalist, Barbara C. Littlefield.

Christine Kissack,
Scholarship Chair

From the Program Chair:

Our regular season has ended but for my 80th birthday benefit recital on June 16.

We suffered a financial setback with the cancellation of the February concert (slippery roads and treacherous sidewalks - does anyone remember?). Otherwise attendance has been up, meaning more income.

It strikes me that there are two reasons for the improvement: the efforts of members to encourage their friends to hear the fruit of their labors and the quality of the performances, produced by hours of intense labor - accompanied, we hope, by a few moments of ecstasy on the part of the humble practitioners.

Richard Roberts
Program Chair

THANKS TO THE OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS of the PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB 2012 - 2013

President: Elizabeth Harmon

First Vice-President: Richard Roberts

Second Vice-President: Christine Kissack

Recording Secretary: Virginia Stelk

Treasurer: Sheila McGarr

Assistant Treasurer: Susanna Adams

Piano Chair: Richard Roberts

Candidate Chair: Barbara Graustein

Communications Committee Chair: Sheila McGarr

Social Chair: Judy Coleman

Portland Rossini Club Endowment Scholarship Funds

*Here's a great opportunity to help
aspiring young musicians!*

From our Treasurer:

The Portland Rossini Club has three separate endowed scholarships: the Emily K. Rand Instrumental Scholarship, the Lucia A Wright Piano Scholarship, and the Barbara C Littlefield Vocal Scholarship. The competitions, held annually in June, are open to residents of Cumberland, York, and Oxford counties between the ages of 17 and 25 who are registered as music majors at any accredited school, college, or university.

For many years, the three scholarship funds were invested separately in Wells Fargo mutual funds. To improve the overall rate of return and increase the amount of scholarship monies available each year, in 2012, the three accounts were consolidated into one account. The newly renamed RWL (for Rand, Wright, and Littlefield) Scholarship Fund is well diversified exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and mutual funds invested in stocks, bonds, cash, and alternatives through Commonwealth Financial Network. The investment objective is income and long-term growth. The account is currently worth \$125,000 and is scheduled to pay \$3600 in 3 scholarships this year.

The RWL Scholarship Fund is administered by Ruth Matt of Fore River Financial. Ruth is CEO of Fore River Financial, who is a member of the Portland Rossini Club and performs as a collaborative pianist. She is licensed as a Registered Representative and an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network. She is also a Certified Financial Planner™. In order to avoid a conflict of interest, Ruth waived the fee she normally charges clients to help the Club prudently manage its funds.

It is the Club's hope that members and music lovers will consider adding to this scholarship fund. For additional information, please contact Ruth Matt at (207) 899-0531 or rmatt@foreriverfinancial.com.

Bylaws Discussion

Two years ago, we considered and passed several revisions to our bylaws. We had hopes that they would be the last changes that would be needed for some time.

Our board is now offering two other proposals to be voted on at our Fall Business Meeting.

A clarification and an addition:

- Carol Downs pointed out that in Article VIII Section three, Standing Committee Chairpersons shall serve two years, with one renewable term. In this section, the Nominating Committee is listed as a Standing Committee. However, in Article VI section four, the Nominating committee is to be elected **annually** at the Fall Business Meeting. The board recommends striking the sentence including the Nominating Committee from Article VIII.
- The board recommends that we clarify the process for accepting people for collaborative membership: We recommend that a potential candidate for **collaborative membership**, who has indicated their interest in becoming a member, be invited by the Board to membership after two successful performances with a member of the Rossini Club. This would be Article III Section 1c. (*Collaborative members are those who perform in ensembles or as accompanists*)

We will discuss this at our Annual Meeting May 21.

Beth Harmon,
President, Portland Rossini Club

**Our sympathy to former
Concert Manager, Dale Ashby
on the loss of his Step-Father.**

**Our concern to soprano Stella
Baumann as she undergoes
treatment for cancer**

We welcome submissions for our newsletter, including poems, memories, concerns, or anything else you want to share with our membership. (subject to editor's approval) The newsletter is compiled about three weeks prior to each business meeting. Send your submission to Beth at eharmon2@maine.rr.com.

We are pleased to welcome two new Active Members, Lurette Saul and Robert Enman

Lurette Saul, Soprano: Lurette Saul received her Bachelor of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory, and a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Southern Maine. Since moving to Maine she has performed as a soloist with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra, the Bagaduce Chorale, the Tri-City Community Chorus and others. She premiered new works by Maine composers at the Portland Back Cove festival in 2012, and sang the roles of the Mother and Witch in Paper Bull Puppet's production of Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel in December. Lurette teaches voice at Bates College, and at her studio in Portland.

Robert Enman, Collaborative Piano: Originally from Oregon, Robert received a Bachelor of Music Degree in piano performance from Lewis and Clark College and a Master's in piano performance with a minor in violin from the Yale School of Music. He accepted teaching positions at Lewis and Clark College, Michigan University and in New Hampshire. For the past twenty years, he has taught music and performed in Maine. As violinist, he worked with the Albany, Oregon, Saginaw, and Midland Symphonies. He has been in the first violin section of the Bangor Symphony since 1991 and has been the pianist for several duos and trios. Currently, he is active as a private teacher. Bob lives in Windham.



Linwood Leland Photo