



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 143 NO. 3 The Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Spring 2014

From our President

It has been an amazing season. Each program has been interesting and well-put-together. I've heard really excellent performances throughout the season. Special thanks to Program Chair Richard Roberts and Co-Chair Susanna Adams, as well as to each of you who prepared and performed for us.

Let's think back for a moment. Remember the wonderful Verdi/Wagner Centennial performance in September? Lurette and her friends, along with Mary Johnston and Richard Roberts and Scholarship winner, Kimberly Ouellete, presented a real gala, in costume even! Or the October presentation of highly talented young people. Members successfully performed outside our usual Classical/Romantic comfort zone, with such 20th century composers as Sam Adler, Samuel Barber, Milhaud, and a program consisting entirely of works by Benjamin Britten, when we celebrated Britten's Centennial in February. I personally found those twentieth-century performances especially riveting! This season, altogether twenty members and twenty-two guests performed or will perform works by thirty composers

I can't forget all of you who attended our performances. It's pretty hard to perform well for a small audience. We encourage each other by our presence. Thanks especially go to those of you who regularly attended and to those who provided refreshments for our post-concert receptions.

Thanks also to our Board. Each officer carefully and supportively performed his/her role to make everything fall together as planned. It wouldn't have happened without you.

I look forward to seeing you at *Carnival of the Animals* May 18, and at our Annual Meeting may 20.

In appreciation,

Elizabeth (Beth) Harmon,
President, Portland Rossini Club

CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Date: TUESDAY, May 20

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
- Vote on several Bylaw changes (see page 3)

**Please bring your copy of the
Bylaws to the meeting**

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.**

Portland Rossini Club Associate Member, John Geller, will be attending our Annual Meeting and will share some of his memories of Ocy Downs, and his 1960 Gould Award trip to New York. Any of you who have similar memories or pictures will be welcome to share them.

**Directions to Barbara
Graustein's home,
57 Waites Landing Rd,
Falmouth
781-3202**

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.

The 2014 Rossini Club Scholarship Competitions

Portland Rossini Club's Annual Scholarship Competitions will take place Saturday, June 7, 2014 beginning at 1:00 pm at Saint Luke's Cathedral. Three \$1,200 prizes will be awarded this year. The deadline for applications is May 17. Scholarship Chairperson, Roberta Page Barker, says that we already have several applications.

This year, our scholarship competitions are open to Maine residents between the ages of 17 and 25 and who are registered as music majors in the fall of 2014 at any accredited music school, college or university. (Previous first place winners of the scholarships may not apply.) A panel of judges is being assembled and will include Rossini Club members as well as non-member area professionals.

The *Emily K. Rand (now instrumental) 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 of a Member in good standing for 55 years. The recently established *Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship* was created in memory of the club's longtime treasurer, vocalist, Barbara C. Littlefield.

The competition is open to the public, and will begin at 1:00 pm.

Roberta Barker,
Scholarship Chair

THANKS

Thanks go to Naydene Bowder and Susanna Adams for an excellent job organizing the master class in April. The students were amazing, too!

From Our Program Chair

I want to thank Susanna Adams for her careful researching of dates for the monthly concerts and Lurette Saul for her organizing of the Verdi-Wagner concert in September, significant help with the Britten centennial and arranging for Mark Rosnagel to fill-in at the last minute at the March concert.

As usual I want to express my appreciation for Michael Rackliff's uniquely excellent work as concert manager.

Richard Roberts,
Co-Program Chair

From our Piano Committee Chair

We expect Jason LaWind, of Mindful Music to continue his fine care of our Steinway next season.

Richard Roberts, Piano Chair

Don't Miss It!

Richard Roberts' Piano Benefit Concert will take place at St. Luke's on Sunday, June 8 at 3:00 pm. He will perform Beethoven's final sonata, Op. 111, in C minor and works by Scarlatti, Ravel and Chopin.

OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2013 - 2014

President: Elizabeth Harmon

First Vice-Presidents: Richard Roberts and Susanna Adams

Second Vice-President: Roberta Barker

Recording Secretary: Virginia Stelk

Treasurer: Sheila McGarr

Assistant Treasurer: Lurette Saul

Piano Chair: Richard Roberts

Candidate Chair: Barbara Graustein

Communications Committee Chair: Sheila McGarr

Social Chair: Judy Coleman

Historian: Virginia Stelk

Bylaws Changes and Considerations

This summer, we'll be printing revised copies of our bylaws, which will also include our membership directory. In preparation for this, we would like to update our bylaws, including (we hope) the following revisions. Please look these over, and bring any questions you may have to our meeting. Most of these proposals have been before the membership since before our Fall Business meeting.

Our Board recommends several changes to our bylaws, to be voted at our Annual Meeting

- **Article III Members:** The Board recommends that we clarify the process for accepting people for Collaborative membership: *A potential candidate for Collaborative membership, who has indicated an interest in becoming an Active Collaborative member, may be invited, at the discretion of the Board, to Active Membership after two performances with a member of the Club.* This would become Article III, section 1C.
- **Article V, Section 1 Business Meetings:** The Board suggests that we eliminate *second week of October* and *no later than January 31*, and instead call for a *Fall Business Meeting* and a *Midyear Business Meeting*, without specific deadlines.
- **Article VIII, Appointed Officers: Section 2, 3:** In recent years, the offices of Parliamentarian or Bylaws Chair have not been filled. The Executive Board agreed that neither role is necessary at this time. Thus we *eliminate* Section 2. *Parliamentarian*, Section 3, *Standing committees*, becomes Section 2, and we *eliminate* "Bylaws" from the list.
- **Article IX, Finances:**
 1. **Section 1. Fiscal Year:** In our 2012 edition and previously, our Fiscal Year was from May 1 to April 30. *The Board recommends that we change our fiscal year to July 1 to June 30.*
 2. **Section 4. Budget:** In our 2012 edition and previously, our budget was to be voted on at our Fall Business Meeting. The Board recommends the budget be voted on at our Annual Meeting. Proposed change: *"At least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, the Finance committee shall circulate a proposed budget. At the Annual Meeting, that budget shall be considered and then submitted for approval by two-thirds of the Members present."*

The Board recommends that we consider expanding eligibility for our scholarships beyond residents of Cumberland, York and Oxford counties to residents of the entire state of Maine. At our winter business Meeting, we decided to expand it this year, on a trial basis, and we will vote on a change in bylaws **at our Fall Business Meeting.**

THANKS!

Thanks to all who have contributed, so far, to our ongoing drive to increase our Scholarship funds. Special thanks to Ruth Matt, Robert Enman, Barbara Graustein and Roberta Barker for their generous contributions of \$100 or more. Heartfelt thanks to Associate Member, John Geller for offering to match whatever we accumulate by May 18 (up to \$11,000). So far, including what we received at Virginia Eskin's concert, we have received \$3,000. If you still wish to contribute to this effort, please send a check made out to Portland Rossini Club, to Sheila McGarr, Treasurer, 148 Hennessey Drive, Portland, ME 04103, indicating that it is for the Scholarship Fund.

KUDOS

To **Ruth Matt**, who donated lovely Rossini Club Stationery, and who has faithfully sent emails to Members and friends; to **Eric Peppe**, who maintains our website; to **Judy Coleman**, who sees to it that we have refreshments at our receptions, and to our intrepid Concert Manager, **Michele Rackliff.**

Remembering Janet Perrin

How many of us remember Janet Perrin? For many years, she was owner and operator of Gallery Music, an old fashioned music store that filled the sheet music needs of many Maine musicians until she and her husband, Art, retired in 2004. She was an energetic, engaging, and supportive woman, who for years attended most classical music events in the area, Janet died at the age of 91 on April 25. Her memorial service will take place at Dolby Funeral Chapel in Windham on

Who Are We?

In March, a few of us attended a presentation by Robert Moody and Jamie Bernstein, emceed by Robin Rilette, and produced by Rose Kue. Robin is the new Classical music host for MPBN radio, and Rose is Director of Education & Community Engagement for PSO. The focus was on music education in Maine. On behalf of PSO, Rose and Robin expressed a desire to have a better picture of musical activities and opportunities throughout Maine. Below is an excerpt from an email I sent in response. I would appreciate feedback from you, our members. Perhaps you have other thoughts to share.

I attended your very helpful and informative panel discussion with Robert Moody and Jamie Bernstein last week, and decided that I needed to tell you about Portland Rossini Club, and our small role in Greater Portland's music scene.

We are in our 143rd season, and I understand that there was a time when we played a larger role than we do now. Until a few years ago, we were an organization exclusively consisting of female musicians who presented monthly classical concerts. I understand that we were covered well in Portland's press, and one hundred years ago, people would travel by trolley to our well-attended concerts.

Times have changed, and so have we, though some things haven't changed. We still present eight monthly public concerts; We still audition our performing members, though the audition process is a little less elaborate than it was when I auditioned thirty-five years ago. Men now become members, and some occasionally play an active role on our Board. We own two excellent Steinway Concert Grand Pianos. We are a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, and in June we have a scholarship competition for Maine music majors, offering \$1200 for each of three categories of musicians (Vocal, Instrumental, and Piano).

Our members are skilled instrumentalists, pianists, and vocalists who enjoy performing classical music. Some are music teachers and semi-retired performers, but others are professionals in other fields who made the hard choice not to pursue music as a career, but wish to "keep their chops" as performers. We have several bankers, doctors, financial advisors, etc. Currently, we have twenty-eight performing members. Often, our members invite guests to perform with them in ensembles. We do not pay our performers, but our performers have the luxury of deciding what they wish to learn and perform next. Once or twice a year, we focus on the anniversary of one or two composers - most recently Benjamin Britten in February.

We are an organization made up of volunteers who struggle to make our voice heard - to get word out about our concerts and scholarships. Many of us are much more comfortable performing music than jumping through the hoops necessary to be noticed by the public.

I urge you to check out our website : www.rossiniclub.org. You will find programs for past concerts and newsletters, as well as information about our scholarship competition.

I don't know exactly what we need from you, but since, as you said, you are trying to enlarge your picture of Maine's music scene, I thought I should put Portland Rossini Club in your radar. Please feel free to call me (829-3393) if you have any questions.



At Virginia Eskin's master class: Virginia Eskin and Nadine Bowder with Joshua Batstone, Jacob Austin, Shujing Lian, Josie DiPhilippo, and Marcos Perez Edgar



Virginia Eskin performs a solo benefit concert for us in April