



# ROSSINI NOTES

**VOL. 149 NO. 3 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club**

**Spring 2020**

## **From Our President**

How Do We Keep the Music Playing?

*"Without music, life is a journey through a desert."*

Pat Conroy

Has music ever been more important? It makes our hearts soar, it soothes us, it can mirror our deepest thoughts and resonate with emotions that words fall short of being able to express. Music brings us closer together both spiritually and physically. So in a time when we cannot be in close physical proximity to one another, and in the words of a song which the wonderful James Ingram sang, "How do we keep the music playing?"

Listening to music the other day by Paul Sullivan (wonderful composer from Maine) tears started rolling down my face. Tears of sadness for victims, health care workers, the doctor in New York City who took her own life, tears of gratitude that I'm alive now, and it's spring, and my kids are OK. My emotions were all over the map. This is overwhelming.

Our lives have been changed and, from all accounts (or should I say all accounts by intelligent people on the front lines) we will be adapting to new ways of living and being together. It calls upon all of us to be courageous, compassionate and creative so that we can adapt. How can we serve and sustain each other? And for us, Rossini Club members, how do we keep the music playing?

I as your president with my talented board am in the process of figuring out how to continue to keep the Rossini Club going strong amidst this pandemic. Until just recently, our attendance at performances was up considerably. In this new world order, things change daily. But keeping abreast of the news, and keeping in tune with the wonderful Doctor Nirav Shah will be critical as we attempt to navigate these tricky and tumultuous waters.

*(Continued in column 3)*

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

## **CALL TO OUR SPRING BUSINESS MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday, May 19**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: Your Home on Zoom**

**Coordinated by Recording  
Secretary, Susanna Adams**

**Susanna will contact  
members with further  
instructions and information**

**Questions about Zoom?**

**You may call Susanna at  
318-7465 or email her at  
saviolabow@maine.rr.com**

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

**Officer and Committee Reports**

**Update and brainstorm 150th  
Anniversary Celebration**

**Nominating Committee Report**

*(continued from column 1)*

With my board, we have begun talking about our 150th anniversary gala. We'd like to have it, but how? Perhaps we'll have a virtual gala or perhaps we'll do it as a progressive concert tour outdoors in people's gardens (implementing social distancing and wearing masks).....or perhaps we'll simply postpone it.

Know that we on the board are working hard for this 150 year old club. Even during WWII Rossini didn't face the challenges it faces at this moment in history. We need and want your participation more than ever - with your ideas. There are almost always silver linings when horrible things happen. I'm convinced that we, as a club, will find those silver linings.

*I look forward to hearing from you with your ideas about the gala and more.....*

*I hope you enjoy the two links to music referred to in this letter below. Please stay safe and well and keep the music playing!!!*

Sydney Patten  
Portland Rossini Club President  
Email: sydpatten@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RshWauqUAAo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wlePU0ciV8>

## From Our Program Chair

In my 37 or more years as a Rossini member, I have never seen anything like the happenings of this season. The only time we ever cancelled a concert was for severe weather events. This year we have cancelled the entire end of the 2019-2020 concert season (April and May, plus the scholarship auditions).

It is my hope that we will be able to resume in the fall. So musicians, keep practicing as you keep yourselves safe at home. I will be in touch with you when I have dates for our next season.

Cecile DeRoche-Cain, Program Chair

[musikmom810@gmail.com](mailto:musikmom810@gmail.com)

(207)332-6117

### OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2019 - 2020

President:	Sydney Patten
First Vice-President:	Cecile DeRoche-Cain
Second Vice-President:	Barbara Graustein
Recording Secretary:	Susanna Adams
Treasurer:	Sheila McGarr
Assistant Treasurer:	Mathew Nichols
Piano Chair:	Scott Eaton
Candidate Chair:	Barbara Graustein
Communications Committee Chair:	Sheila McGarr
Corresponding Secretary:	Cynthia Henriques

### Reminder of Increase of Annual Dues

At its October 20, 2019 fall business meeting, members unanimously voted to increase the annual dues effective in the **2020-2021** season.

Background: The last time the annual dues were increased was in 2011. Since that time, expenses have increased primarily in two areas: 1) fees for webhosting, website security software, and the website manager; and 2) costs for publicity to increase awareness and attendance at Portland Rossini Club concerts.

#### New annual dues:

**Active - \$50**

**Privileged - \$40**

**Associate - \$40**

**Subscriber - \$40**

**Senior Subscriber [62 and older] - \$30**

**We also agreed to increase admission for non-members.**

**As always, students are admitted free.**

### An die Musik

At difficult, changing times such as these, this timeless Schubert song can remind us of the very special place music can have in our lives.

Du holde Kunst, in wieviel grauen Stunden,  
Wo mich des Lebens wilder Kreis umstrickt,  
Hast du mein Herz zu warmer Lieb entzunden,  
Hast mich in eine beßre Welt entrückt,  
In eine beßre Welt entrückt!

Oft hat ein Seufzer, deiner Harf entlossen,  
Ein süßer, heiliger Akkord von dir  
Den Himmel beßrer Zeiten mir erschlossen,  
Du holde Kunst, ich danke dir dafür,  
Du holde Kunst, ich danke dir!

Franz Adolf Friedrich von Schober

You gracious art, in how many gray hours,  
When life's fierce orbit encompasses me  
You have kindled my heart with warm love,  
You have brought me into a better world,  
Into a better world!

Often a sigh, flowing from your harp,  
A sweet, holy chord from you,  
Shows me the existence of a better time  
You lovely art, I thank you for it,  
You lovely art, I thank you!

Check it out on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=own5xM4II7M>

or get out your music and sing or play it

Without pending performances, it's all too easy to forget our own need to make music