



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 152 NO. 3 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Spring, 2023

From Our President

Spring is finally here! Actually, it felt more like summer. However, as I write this, it currently feels like autumn with the cold front seeping in. O! Maine is just indecisive about weather. I'd be even more concerned if it started snowing in May. In any case, I hope that everyone is doing well, especially with allergy season upon us.

I do want to thank Laura Kargul's *Portland Piano Extravaganza* for such an outstanding concert in April. This was the third most attended Rossini Club concert (the other two being Richard Roberts Memorial Concerts) in the past 12 years! A whopping 107 people attended. We've seen lower concert admissions this past season due to weather or COVID related circumstances. I already see a bright future for the Club.

An update on admissions and advance flyers: We're putting our heads together to offer other payment options for concert goers who prefer to pay electronically instead of by cash or check. We will still accept cash and check. However, understanding how this world functions with other payment options, we would like to become more accommodating.

For the advance flyers, I'd like to require professional headshots from each Active Member so we can add these to your bio, for publicity.

(continued in column 3)

To All Members

CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

- **Date: Saturday, June 3**
- **at Sydney and Bill Patten's home, 221 Foreside Rd, Falmouth**
- **Time 11:00 am**
- **Potluck Luncheon to follow**

RSVP to Sydney
978-771-0552

sydpatten@gmail.com

BUSINESS AGENDA

Officer and Committee Reports

Vote on *Bylaws* change

(continued from column 1)

The Board has worked hard to consider a major change to the *Bylaws*. We received a donation from the Marie Thomas Charitable Trust, which was to be used solely for scholarships. We propose to offer musically inclined high school juniors and seniors the chance to participate in our scholarship competitions with an additional high school category. They would become eligible for the Marie Thomas Award, in honor of a late benefactor and advocate for the arts. We are proposing to change the age minimum of 17, to high school juniors or older. We would omit such requirements as memorized repertoire and good academic standing from the *Bylaws*.

Prior to our June 3 Annual Meeting, I ask you to carefully consider the proposed changes to the *Bylaws*, which Sheila has put on pages 3 – 5 of this issue of *Rossini Notes*.

I just want to bring to your attention to our Annual Potluck Meeting. Thanks to Sydney and Bill Patten, it will be hosted at their home in Falmouth. If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd at 11 AM. I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Your Rossini Club President,
Jonathan Prak

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

From Our Program Chair

We are ending the year with some blockbuster concerts. Many thanks to Jonathan Prak for organizing the April 30 master class of Laura Kargul's piano students from the Osher School of Music at USM (himself included). The final concert will be at St. Luke's on May 21 and will consist of two pianists, a violist (thumbs up), and a singer.

I will continue as your Program Chair (I like being two Vice Presidents simultaneously). Sheila has assiduously been trying to find my replacement (it's a big job), but I'll re-up for next year. PLEASE practice your repertoire over the summer so I have an OVERABUNDANCE of candidates for next year. If you request it, I will send you an up-to-date roster so you can find collaborators and accompanists. Sheila also has this information.

Susanna Adams
Program Chair
saviolabow@maine.rr.com

From Our Scholarship Chair

Nine of us have been meeting by Zoom for several weeks to update the information for the three scholarships on the Club's website. Early on, we decided to postpone the next competition until 2024 and make the competitions biennial from that point forward. Our investments have not offered a great deal of prize money to award this year, but there should be more generous scholarship awards in 2024.

Additionally, the Club received a \$46,200 bequest from the Marie Thomas Charitable Trust. The Club will create the Thomas Award to benefit only high school juniors and seniors with outstanding musical potential.

We reviewed requirements to compete, the judges' instructions, and the application process. We have ensured that all these documents are compatible with our *Bylaws*. At the upcoming Annual Meeting, we will be discussing and approving (I hope) these *Bylaws* changes.

I've had several inquiries as to why all the information on the website dates to the 2002 competition, so we need to get the new information onto the website ASAP.

The *ad hoc* Scholarship Committee members were Jonathan Prak, Torrey Gimpel, Susanna Adams, Sheila McGarr, Steve Schiffman, Eleanor Lehmann, Beth Harmon, Ruth Matt, and Barbara Graustein (she's back!!). Thanks for all the help and advice. The competitions will be held on June 1, 2024 at St. Luke's.

Susanna Adams
Scholarship Chair

Proposed *Bylaws* Changes

The *ad hoc* Scholarship Committee has prepared new guidance and procedures for the biennial scholarship competition beginning in June 2024. The Second Vice-President who acts as the Scholarship Chair will conduct the competition using these principles. Additionally, the Portland Rossini Club recently received a \$46,200 bequest from the Marie Thomas Charitable Trust solely for scholarships. This committee decided to create a separate award earmarked for high school juniors and seniors in honor of Marie Thomas. These actions require modifying the *Bylaws*. The proposes changes will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting and appear below:

Article X

Scholarship Fund

Existing Section 1.

The name of these scholarships shall be *The Emily K. Rand Instrumental Scholarship*, in memory of the third president, who served The Portland Rossini Club in a distinguished manner for twenty-five years; the *Lucia A. Wright Piano Scholarship*, in memory of Lucia A. Wright, who was a member in good standing of the Portland Rossini Club for fifty-five years; the *Barbara C. Littlefield Vocal Scholarship*, in memory of Rossini Club's longtime treasurer, Barbara C. Littlefield.

Proposed change:

Add the phrase *and the Marie Thomas Award in memory of a benefactor and advocate of the arts in the Greater Portland area.* after Littlefield.

Existing Section 3.

The categories of the scholarships are vocal, instrumental, and piano. An Audition Committee shall determine recipients of the scholarships and shall consist of at least three professionally qualified judges, each of piano, voice, and instrumental specialty.

Proposed change:

The categories of the scholarships are vocal, instrumental, and piano. *Additionally, the Thomas Award is reserved only for high school juniors and seniors exhibiting outstanding musical potential. Competition Judges* shall determine recipients of the scholarships and shall consist of at least three professionally qualified judges, *each specializing in one of the following disciplines, piano, voice, or instruments.*

Existing Section 4.

Those eligible for scholarships shall be any residents of the State of Maine age of seventeen or above, who are planning further musical study at an accredited music school, college, or university.

Proposed change:

Those eligible for scholarships shall be any residents of the State of Maine *who are high school juniors or older*, who are planning further musical study at an accredited music school, college, or university.

As background to Section 6, in the past, the Club has required a transcript of grades. The process can be delayed at the school and fees are charged to the student. In reality, no one has been turned away due to grades.

Existing **Section 6.**

Candidates for scholarships shall have outstanding musical ability, good academic standing, and sound character.

Proposed change:

Candidates for scholarships shall have outstanding musical ability, ~~good academic standing~~, and sound character.

As background to Section 7, the Competition announcement specifies that the vocal performances be entirely memorized and that the other performances (piano and instrumental) can be partially memorized. The proposed deletion in Section 7, removing the word ‘memorized,’ confirms actual practice rather than being a rule.

Existing **Section 7.**

For the audition, the memorized repertoire, lasting no more than fifteen minutes and consisting of at least two compositions from two different periods, shall be selected from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and/or Modern literature.

Proposed change:

For the audition, the ~~memorized~~ repertoire, lasting no more than fifteen minutes and consisting of at least two compositions from two different periods, shall be selected from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and/or Modern literature.

Existing language in Sections 8 and 9 is confusing with the use of Audition Committee and Scholarship Committee when they are in fact the same people.

Existing **Section 8.**

Candidates shall appear in person before the Audition Committee.

Proposed change:

Candidates shall appear in person before the *Competition Judges*.

Existing **Section 9**.

The Scholarship Committee shall determine the number of grants and the amount of each.

Proposed change:

The *Competition Judges* shall determine the number of grants and the amount of each.

Sheila McGarr

**THANKS TO OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS
2022-2023**

President:	Jonathan Prak jonathan.prak@maine.edu
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**Comments or Thoughts
or Something to Share?**

Please email to *Rossini Notes* editor, Beth Harmon, bethharmon2@gmail.com