



# ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 153 NO. 3 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Spring, 2024

## From Our President

We are reaching the end of another season, and we're still going strong. Recently, we had Laura Kargul's studio, the *Portland Piano Extravaganza*, perform for our April concert. From Grant's flawless Mozart to Oren's triumphant Beethoven 4th Piano Concerto, the performances were just stellar. I'd have to say, I'm proud of being a part of this talented bunch. I think the late Leon Fleisher and our great-great-great-great piano grand dad, Beethoven, would be proud, too! We're the generation of Beethoven's lineage that is responsible for keeping the tradition alive!

At the May 26th concert, we ask for those who are attending the performance to take a brief survey at the start. It will only take a few moments of your time, and we will collect the responses before we start the performance. May's program is certainly not to be missed. We'll also get to hear the sheer power of the St. Luke's organ! I know it's been a while since this was on a Rossini Club program.

I'm looking forward to the scholarship competition this coming June 8th and hearing all of the budding talented candidates. I guess I can say that we're spoiled to have this opportunity to hear what's out there.

*Continued on column 3*

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## To All Members

### CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING

#### A Potluck Luncheon

- **Date: Sunday, June 2**
- **Place: At the home of Eleanor Lehmann**

44 River Woods Drive  
Scarborough

RSVP to Eleanor 839-9165  
<[julylehmann80@gmail.com](mailto:julylehmann80@gmail.com)>

#### BUSINESS AGENDA

**Officer and Committee Reports**

**Annual Report**

I'm calling for the Annual Meeting. It will be Sunday, June 2nd starting at 12:30 PM at the home of Eleanor Lehmann in Scarborough. It will be a potluck, so please bring your favorite dish to share!

A quick note: I will be requiring photos from all of our Rossini Club Performing Artists and adding them to all future concert flyers. So expect an email from me when the time comes. If you don't have a headshot, I'd be more than happy to coordinate a session. If you have any additional questions, you can always feel free to reach me at [jonathan.prak@maine.edu](mailto:jonathan.prak@maine.edu).

Your Rossini Club President,  
Jonathan Prak  
<https://www.rossiniclub.org>



## From Our Program Chair

We have had a successful program year. In April, Laura Kargul's piano studio at USM gave an invitational program, which I am hoping will become an annual event. In January, the Amethyst Chamber Choir based in Brunswick mounted a successful program. I had been finding it difficult to find members willing to perform at our monthly meetings, and I hope that I (or my replacement) will have an easier time of it next year. Were it not for these guests last year, we might have had to cancel concerts. I hope that everyone will be busy this summer practicing their repertory and will have approximate performance months in mind (N.B. Richard Roberts memorial concert in January or February).

We have not yet selected dates for next season's concerts because we rely on other organizations publishing their dates so that we can avoid conflicts (and it's early for most, except PSO, to have dates nailed down). The membership will be notified as soon as we have dates. If anyone has comments on dates chosen (e.g. the next concert being on Memorial Day weekend) please let me know.

Susanna Adams, Program chair

## From Our Scholarship Chair

In January, I started contacting high school and college teachers in Maine to inform them of this competition. Applications have been VERY slow coming in. I have reminded teachers twice that deadlines were approaching.

The application period for the competition on June 8 closed on May 15. We have 6 or 7 pianists, 3 instrumentalists and ONE vocalist. I have been beating the bushes for more vocal applicants and may still accept some, so let them know they should apply. I am busy trying to set the audition schedule. This proves to be quite a challenge, since candidate and accompanists have busy schedules and request certain times for auditions. I will have the schedule set soon to email to judges and applicants. Our competition will take place at St. Luke's Cathedral and will start at 8:30 a.m. (with a chance for the piano contestants to try out the piano). The formal auditions will begin at 9 a.m. I have two helpers, and of course Jonathan will be available.

Besides the prizes for the three scholarships (piano, instrumental and vocal) we have a prize for a contestant showing musical promise (any genre) called the Marie Thomas Prize. This was instituted this year to recognize our younger contestants. Our age range is 17 and up, so we get quite a few contestants who are applying for graduate school and have experience and longer training. Since the early end of the age range is of a junior or senior in high school, we would like them to have a better chance at prize money.

Susanna Adams, Scholarship Chair

### OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2023-2024

President:	Jonathan Prak jonathan.prak@maine.edu
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## Volunteer Needed!

As Chair of the Nominating Committee for Officers for the 2024-2025 season, I am seeking a volunteer to serve as Program Chair for the Club. For two years now, Susanna Adams has performed double-duty as both the Program Chair and Scholarship Chair. These two tasks are too many responsibilities for one person. Program Chair duties include seeking volunteers from the Club membership as well as guests; providing general details about the program so that the advance flyer can be prepared for distribution to members, friends, website, and social media.

The remaining officers and program chairs have agreed to stay on for another season.

Sheila McGarr  
Nominating Committee Chair  
smcgarr1@maine.rr.com