



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 151 NO. 3 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Spring, 2022

From Our President

“Music is the great uniter. An incredible force. Something that people who differ on everything and anything else can have in common.”
— Sarah Dessen

The Rossini Club has had an extraordinary year in spite of everything. The world has served us up pestilence, wars, fires and flooding of biblical proportions. And yet, the Rossini Club is still here! We have brought you to your feet and we have brought you to tears! Our fervent hope is to continue to provide you with quality programming in the months and years to come.

In this issue of *Rossini Notes*, I am on bended knee once again asking for your involvement. Our Board is working harder than ever to keep things going, some people taking on several key positions at once. This is, after all, a club, and therefore, while attendance at concerts is important, involvement in Club activities keeps things running smoothly. So, I'd like to thank my incredible Board for their commitment to this cultural organization with a history in Portland going back 151 years! At the same time, I'm asking you to be involved. As Uncle Sam used to say..... WE WANT YOU!

Our Rossini Club Annual Meeting is on May 22 at 6 PM in the courtyard at Bill's and my home in Falmouth. We'll be inside if the weather is rainy or cold. The purpose of the meeting is to review general Club business and especially to vote on officers for the Club. We urge you to attend this important social/business get-together and to bring something to share for the potluck. If you haven't already,

(continued in column 3)

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

CALL TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING and Potluck

**At the home of
Sydney Patten
221 Foreside Road
Falmouth**

**Please RSVP
Sydney
978-771-0552**

**Date: Sunday, May 22
6:00 pm**

BUSINESS AGENDA

**Officer and Committee
Reports**

**Elect our officers for our
152nd season**

(continued from column 1)

you will receive an invitation very soon from our super Secretary, Torrey Gimpel! WE WANT YOU!

The Club has undergone several changes in the past few years. One of them has been the creation of an outdoor concert. Every cloud does, in fact, have a silver lining and so it was that the pandemic was responsible for our creation of these outdoor concerts. People have enjoyed them so much that they are becoming a new Rossini Club tradition. This year, our outdoor concert will be at the Portland Community Squash Center on Noyes Street in Portland in August. You will be receiving more details soon. It is very family oriented and welcomes people from a variety of differing ethnicities. I'm hoping that we may be able to attract new members as a result of this concert. The program for this concert is not yet etched in stone, but it will be a bit different from our standard fare. To be continued..... and of course.....WE WANT YOU!!!

My best,
Sydney

Sydney Patten
President, Portland Rossini Club
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From Our Program Chair

After a busy in-person fall concert series, we reluctantly had to turn back to the medium of Zoom after the rise of the Omicron variant. Our January concert was to be the Annual Tribute to Richard Roberts featuring pianists. We decided to postpone that concert and instead we had a Zoom concert featuring archived performances by Rob and Kim Lehmann, Diane Walsh, Danielle Vayenas and Malinda Haslett.

The February in-person concert was held at a new venue, the Portland Conservatory's new concert hall in the West End. Repertoire focused on, but was not limited to, the work of African-American composers, William Grant Still and Florence Price.

The March in-person concert mounted the Richard Roberts Memorial Concert that had been postponed in January. The April concert, also at St. Luke's, featured a sudden withdrawal of a performer owing to the illness of the accompanist. In short order, we substituted the spectacular guest duo of Lydia Forbes and Myles Jordan who treated us to a virtuosic performance of a Ravel duet.

Not to be outdone in novelty, the May program will feature mostly younger guests, plus the return of a former member after a number of years, Miriam Schwanauer. A young winner of the Ocy Downs Scholarship competition will play, two sopranos, students at USM's Osher School of Music will sing, and Miriam's daughter Stella Faux will join her mother in a duet.

Our Treasurer kept us on the straight and narrow in many different ways. And Beth acquainted me with the publicity procedures.

This May marks the first term of a new Program Chair, Susanna Adams, with the help and support of Jonathan Prak and Sydney Patten.

Susanna Adams, Program Chair

THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2021 - 2022

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Communications Committee Chair: Sheila McGarr
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From Beth Harmon

Please allow me to introduce Dale Ashby, a longtime Rossini Club friend and member. More than twenty years ago, Dale came onboard as our Stage Manager, under the tutelage of our beloved member and Program Chair, the late pianist, Richard Roberts.

Dale eventually became our volunteer videographer, making high quality DVDs available to performers. He made CD's of Roberts' performances available on sale after Richard's sudden death. During COVID, it was especially helpful to have access to Dale's videos for us to watch when we couldn't meet in person.

It has been very helpful for me personally to see and purchase videos of my own performances from Dale. Even though, at worst, it can be an excellent learning experience, they usually affirm that our efforts as performers are worthwhile. Over the years, Dale is understandably proud of the equipment he has managed to accumulate. With his skill and experience, this translates into a fine video and sound that can proudly be shared with our friends and family. Performers – Do talk to him if you wish to see and/or purchase a video of your performance.

Comments or Thoughts or Something to Share?

Please email to *Rossini Notes* editor,
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