



# ROSSINI NOTES

**VOL. 149 NO. 2 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club**

**Winter 2020**

## **From Our President**

The year 2020 is now underway with fires in Australia, a deeply divided country, wars raging and climate change taking us into a new era of bomb cyclone storms, floods, droughts and more environmental catastrophes. It seems hard to find a way to process all of this and still go about my daily life without deep concern and fear for the future - not only for our country but for the world, for myself, for my children and grandchildren.

We desperately need to find common ground and unite us as a country, and as people inhabiting the same planet.....our beautiful Earth. What better tool to soothe our fears and weariness other than music as we attempt to mitigate what is happening around us?

Music is a powerful healing tool. A dear young friend of mine who has been given a terminal diagnosis of cancer is now taking piano lessons, prescribed by her doctor to help trigger parts of her brain to recover. Music makes us feel joy or it can make us weep. It can make us feel angst, or it can make us feel like dancing. If we allow it to, it can inspire us into action.

2020-21 will be the season that this historic club, founded by women, celebrates our 150th anniversary. Details will be emerging over the coming weeks and months. We are planning a gala! Music is a key part of our lives which can instruct our choices and the way we navigate our lives. Music is necessary and vital to all of us. This club deserves to be celebrated to the fullest. And so, stay tuned. Life is a contact sport! Participation is a prerequisite for belonging to our club. Please make a point to become involved if you are not already. Invite your friends to become members or attend concerts, sign up to help at a reception, or contact me to find out other ways in which you might help:

Happy, healthy 2020 to all and.....Let the music play on!!

**Sydney Patten**  
**Portland Rossini Club President**  
**Email: [sydpatten@gmail.com](mailto:sydpatten@gmail.com)**  
**Iphone: 978 771 0552**

## **From Our Program Chair**

We have had four excellent concerts this calendar year. Attendance has been up a little, and Sheila noted that we had taken some ads which have probably increased our audience. Our new president has also been actively working on bringing people in.

I was particularly pleased with the *Richard Roberts Memorial Concert*. Mark Braun provided informative written notes about Richard. This was a concert performed entirely on one or two pianos. My husband is still talking about the Nutcracker selections on 2 pianos! We had a very large audience and a big take at the door!!

Featured performers for this season have, so far, included Hidenori Inoue, a bass originally from Japan; David Brickman, a nationally renowned violinist and friend of Diane Walsh; and Harold Stover, prominent organist.

Upcoming featured performers will be Lydia Forbes and Myles Jordan, of the DaPonte String Quartet; Marcy Rosen, cellist friend of Diane Walsh; Girl Singers of Maine directed by Maria Belva; April Masse, pianist from Portland Conservatory. Other guests will also assist in performances.

A big thank-you to Rossini members who practice and perform for us. They are the mainstay of our organization!

Cecile DeRoche-Cain, Program Chair  
[musikmom810@gmail.com](mailto:musikmom810@gmail.com)  
(207)332-6117

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

### **CALL TO OUR WINTER BUSINESS MEETING**

**Date: Sunday, February 16**

**Time: approx. 4:30PM**

**(following our program/  
reception)**

**Place: Chapter Room,  
Saint Luke's Cathedral**

#### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

**Officer and Committee Reports**

**Update 150th Anniversary  
Celebration**

**Update info on dues and admission**

**Set up up a Young Membership  
Committee**

**Update and decide on ads**

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## 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.

*Article IX, Section 5.* Dues states that “For the current Club season, the annual dues for Active, Privileged, and Associate members shall be proposed by the Executive Board and shall be subject to approval by two-thirds of the members present and voting at the fall business meeting. The sum approved shall not exceed a fifty-percent increase in current dues and, once adopted shall not be subject to change until twenty-four months later.”

**New annual dues:**

**Active - \$50**

**Privileged - \$40**

**Associate - \$40**

**Subscriber - \$40**

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

## New Admission Fee to Concerts Effective September 2020

At its October 20, 2019 fall business meeting, members unanimously voted to increase the donation amount effective in the 2020-2021 season to **\$15** for those under 62 and **\$10** for those 62 and above.

*Article V, Section 2a* of the bylaws state that “Any person not a member of the Club may be admitted to a program meeting upon payment of the stated admission fee.” Currently the donation is \$10 per concert for those under 62 years of age and \$5 for those 62 and older.

**Students are always admitted free of charge.** It has been over a dozen years since this fee has changed. The Executive Board surveyed several area musical organizations. Even the Club’s fee increase is modest by comparison.

## Volunteer Needed!

The Nominating Committee of the Portland Rossini Club is seeking a volunteer to fill an Executive Board position for the 2020-2021 season: 1st Vice President for Programs. We hope members who have not served the Club in any official capacity before will consider becoming an officer.

1st Vice President for Programs: the key responsibility is developing 8 concert programs each season of 75-90 minutes duration; signing up active members to each perform from 1-2 times per season; ensuring a varied mix of vocal, piano, and instrumental pieces per program; attending 3 membership meetings a year: Fall (October), Winter (February), and Annual (May); and several Executive Board meetings. The 1st Vice President for Programs also writes a column for Rossini Notes 3 times a year.

If you are interested in this office, please contact Sheila McGarr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, by March 31 at [smcgarr1@maine.rr.com](mailto:smcgarr1@maine.rr.com)

**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

**2019 – 2020  
Rossini Club  
Concert Schedule  
Cathedral of St. Luke,  
Portland, ME  
3:00 pm  
September 15  
October 20  
November 17  
January 26  
February 16  
March 8  
April 19  
May 17**

**Also For Your Calendar**

**Rossini Business Meetings  
will be Sundays,  
October 20,  
and February 16,  
following our regular  
concert/reception,  
downstairs in the Chapter Room.**

**Our Annual Meeting  
will take place Tuesday, May 19,  
time and place to be announced**

**KUDOS**

**to soprano Shaunna Lucas on the  
birth of her daughter, Michaela!**

**Opera on Tap**

*Congratulations to sopranos Mary Johnston Letellier and Shaunna Lucas on establishing Maine's chapter of Opera on Tap!*

“Opera on Tap is the largest network of performing artists in the country. We take a local, grassroots, and VERY fun approach to community outreach in the name of our art form. We sing anywhere people will let us, aside from concert halls and opera houses”. Co-Managing Divas Mary Johnston Letellier and Shaunna Lucas are ecstatic to introduce the Maine chapter of this outstanding organization. The combination of talented singers and the thriving hospitality culture makes our state the perfect fit for Opera on Tap. Please join us for the Maine chapter of Opera on Tap's inaugural event, “Opera Party on a Winter Wednesday” where we will sing some of opera's greatest party hits. “Warm up with us” as we make our company debut at Cadenza in Freeport on 2/12 at 8pm. Tickets can be purchased at [www.cadenzafreeport.com](http://www.cadenzafreeport.com) or at the Opera on Tap Maine Facebook page.

**Portland Rossini Club  
announces  
2020 Music Scholarship Competitions  
Instrumental, Vocal, and Piano  
\$1500 First Prize, and \$900 Second  
Prize for Each Scholarship**

## HISTORY OF THE ROSSINI CLUB

taken from the  
100th anniversary program of the Portland Rossini Club,  
which took place at Frye Hall, Portland, Maine  
February 14, 1971

In 1921 we believed the Rossini Club to be the oldest musical organization of women then existent in this country. This fact was not realized by the Club until it was established by Mrs. Theodore Thomas at the time of the World's Fair in 1893 at Chicago.

The Club actually started in 1869 and was incorporated on February 18th, 1871, with a membership of thirty-five vocalists and instrumentalists.

In the early days the Rossini Club met with some lack of encouragement. At that time any organization conducted by women alone was subject to a certain amount of ridicule, if not to say, opposition, and was regarded as an experiment. Even the newspapers were slow in recognizing what the Club was accomplishing. This was of short duration, and as years went by the Club won, by merit alone, the hearty good will and active aid of the most prominent citizens of Portland.

There were several meeting places in the early days, such as a piano warehouse, and a room in the City Building, the use of which was given by the City Government. But the even tenor of the Club's ways was occasionally interrupted by the poultry shows, as it was the custom to hold these shows in the City Building and it was thought advisable to seek an abiding place where the vocal demonstrations should be of one order only. So the ladies moved to Rossini Hall on Exchange St., to stay for many years. After some time the Club moved to Kotzschmar Hall, through the efforts of a fine friend, Mr. Horatio N. Jose. The hall is now the Fine Arts Theatre next to the Portland Public Library. Through the friendly co-operation of the Women's Literary Union, we enjoy our present location.

The Rossini Club, in the glamorous days of the past, met the second and fourth Thursday morning, with the hall and balcony completely filled with well-dressed, enthusiastic music-lovers. The Spring Street car, which serviced the streets from the Western Promenade right down to High Street, was filled to capacity with lovely, aristocratic ladies in their best bib and tucker, who never failed to attend every performance of the Club. Of course, the car went downtown further, but when the ladies alighted, to go to Frye Hall on foot, the vehicle was practically empty. This was the faithful audience. The motor-man was known to stop at many of the old brick houses to wait for the ladies, who, rain or shine, attended every Rossini program.

*To be continued*