



ROSSINI NOTES

VOL. 152 NO. 2 Newsletter of the Portland Rossini Club Winter, 2023

From Our President

Happy 2023! As I write, I am hoping that you all are staying healthy, safe, and warm in these plummeting, brutal temperatures. It feels that winter has finally arrived as we had a warm beginning to the season. We're Mainers, and we can and will handle whatever comes our way!

Our Board and Committee Chairs met January 22nd, following the stellar Richard Roberts Memorial Concert. We discussed and corroborated several needed changes to our current *Bylaws*. Our current *Bylaws* state that Subscribers are not allowed to hold office or to vote. We are simply omitting this sentence and allowing any Subscriber to hold office or to vote.

We are also proposing to lower the number of Members required to attend for auditions for those who wish to become performing members. The current *Bylaws* require seven to be present. The proposal is to lower member attendance to a minimum of three.

Our annual scholarship competition has been deferred to biennial, starting June 2024. This will increase prize amounts for the competition candidates, but will also increase the outreach of those competition candidates. Repertoire can be sculpted and polished during this time. These motions passed unanimously.

(continued in column 3)

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

CALL TO OUR WINTER BUSINESS MEETING

- **Date:** Sunday, February 19
- **Time:** approx. 4:30 PM (following our program)
- **Place:** Chapter Room, St. Luke's Cathedral

BUSINESS AGENDA

**Officer and Committee
Reports**

Vote on *Bylaws* change

(continued from column 1)

We are sponsoring a **Piano Extravaganza**, featuring Dr. Laura Kargul's virtuosic piano studio on Sunday, April 30th. Mark your calendars and planners! I highly encourage attendance at this popular, special event, and to please spread the word! Invite your family, peers, friends, friends of friends; All are welcome! We are thrilled to be presenting her studio, using our magnificent Concert D Steinway... a concert not to be missed!

Here's a friendly reminder that our March 5th concert will not be held at St. Luke's Cathedral. It will be at the Portland Conservatory of Music, 28 Neal Street, Portland.

As I conclude this article, I just want to let you know that I appreciate you very much. This Club could not be possible without your never-ending support, and I am honored to be carrying on this tradition with you. I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and I can't wait to see you again!

I hope that you all will read further details about the proposed *Bylaws* changes on page 2 in this newsletter, and will attend our business meeting following the February program.

Your Rossini Club President,
Jonathan Prak
<https://www.rossiniclub.org>
jonathan.prak@maine.edu

From Our Program Chair

Rossini Club concert programs are complete for the remainder of the season. We just enjoyed the annual Richard Roberts Memorial concert in January, which featured many different genres in which the piano participates. Also featuring pianists, the February program at St. Luke's (Feb. 19th) is complete. The March program, which will be held at the Portland Conservatory of Music, 28 Neal Street, features strings and piano and also the return of maineblend vocal ensemble. The April program, back at St. Luke's on the 30th, features piano performances by students in Laura Kargul's studio at USM's Osher School of Music. The May concert, on the 21st, includes vocal and flute selections and a cello sonata.

It has been difficult to assemble programs because members are not offering their services, unlike prior years. I am hoping that all performing members collaborate and practice suitable repertoire over the summer. We have been fortunate that we had many talented winners of the Club's scholarship competition who performed for us last summer and during this year. We are postponing the competition to June 2024, so we won't have that pool of performers to call on in the 2023-24 season. The purpose of this Club is for members to perform for each other!!

Susanna Adams
Program Chair
saviolabow@maine.rr.com

Proposed Bylaws Changes

The last published edition of the Portland Rossini Club's *Bylaws* was in 2012. Since that time, many amendments have been approved by the membership. The Club plans to publish a revised edition in Spring 2023. Recently, the Executive Board and Committee Chairs reviewed an annotated draft of the *Bylaws* for additions and corrections. There are two sections which require approval by the Membership at its forthcoming February 19, 2023 Winter Business Meeting.

One proposed change concerns the Subscriber category of membership and the second affects procedures for auditions for prospective members:

In May 2011, **Article IV, Subscriber** was approved by the membership. The current language states: *Any person who pays an annual fee shall be entitled to admission to all program meetings. They would have no voting privileges any may not hold office.* Since that time, the only **growing** category of membership is that of Subscriber which dramatically limits the pool of potential officers and quorum numbers for meetings.

Proposed change: delete the second sentence entirely. The new **Article IV, Subscriber** would read *"Any person who pays an annual fee shall be entitled to admission to all program meetings."*

A similar numbers issue of members' availability occurs under **Article III, Members, Active Members, Section 1a.1**. The current text states *"Upon receipt of an application, the Chair of the Candidate Committee shall arrange an audition before members of the committee, of which a minimum of seven members representing the Club need be present. After the audition, balloting will be conducted to determine the candidate's status. Two negative votes shall exclude the candidate."*

Proposed change: change the minimum number of Club members from seven to three and streamline the voting process. *"Upon receipt of an application, the Chair of the Candidate Committee shall arrange an audition before members of the committee, of which a minimum of three members representing the Club need be present. After the audition, the members of the committee will meet immediately to determine the candidate's status."*

Sheila McGarr

From Our Scholarship Chair

The Executive Board and I have decided NOT to hold the competition in June 2023. The motivation for this decision included: 1) this year's volatile performance of the stock market in which the scholarship prize money funds are invested, and 2) the perceived need to change some of the procedures and categories of the scholarships (e.g., Have a category for high school students, so that they are not competing with college and graduate students).

At the recent Executive Board meeting, we decided to call for volunteers to form an *ad hoc* Scholarship Committee to resolve some of these issues. Time and place of this committee's meetings would be decided by the members (or, of course, we could still Zoom). Anyone who wishes to participate should email Susanna at saviolabow@maine.rr.com. We have reserved room at St. Luke's for this event on June 1, 2024.

Susanna Adams
Scholarship Chair

OUR OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2022-2023

President: Jonathan Prak
jonathan.prak@maine.edu

First Vice-President-Programs: Susanna Adams
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Recording Secretary: Torrey Gimpel
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2022-23
Rossini Club
Concert Schedule
Cathedral of St. Luke,
Portland, ME
3:00 pm

February 19
March 5 (at PCM)*
April 30
May 21

*Portland Conservatory
Of Music

Comments or Thoughts or Something to Share?

Please email to *Rossini Notes* editor,
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