

PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

144th Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM
Sunday, February 22, 2015

President
Program Chair

Elizabeth Harmon
Richard Roberts

February Twilight
Little Elegy

John Duke (1899-1984)

Après un rêve
Chanson d'amour
Mandoline

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Rachel Keller, soprano
Mark Rossnagel, piano

Sonata in E minor, Op. 38
1. Allegro non troppo
3. Allegro

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Barbara Graustein, cello
Leah Neuchiller, piano

Sonata No. 6, Op 13
Night Fancies, Op. 3
Toccata, Op 153

Samuil Feinberg (1890-1962)

Benjamin Dale (1885-1943)
York Bowen (1884-1961)

Derek Herzer*, piano

*Guest

We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance or group

*Please join us for a reception following the program
Our next program will take place here March 15*

Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs

Today's Performers

Barbara Graustein, Cello: Barbara grew up in Glencoe, Illinois and attended New Trier High School. She received her music degree at Oberlin College where she played in the orchestra and sang with the Oberlin College Choir. On choir tours she sang as well as played cello in the Bach Cantatas. After graduating from Oberlin, she taught third and fourth grade in Evanston, Illinois, in Beirut, Lebanon, and then in Portland, Maine, where she married John. Barbara played cello in the Portland Symphony Orchestra for 16 years and now plays in various ensembles, sings in the Choral Art Society Masterworks Chorus and in the Royal River Chorus, which is part of Sweet Adelines International. Barbara and John have two grown sons, both physicians. They all enjoy skiing, tennis and biking. Barbara became a member of Rossini Club in 2006.

Derek Herzer, Piano: We welcome our guest, Derek Herzer. Originally from Gaylord, Michigan, Derek began teaching himself to play the piano at the age of 17. He was accepted into the piano performance program at Western Michigan University and received his bachelor's degree in piano performance in 2010 and his Master's from the University of Southern Maine. While at USM, Derek performed with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra and has been both a finalist and a winner of several competitions. Before moving to Maine, Derek was on the faculty of Crescendo Academy of Music and The Gilmore Piano Camp in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He has begun to specialize in the research, study and performance of obscure and neglected works from the early- to mid-twentieth century. He is on the piano faculty at Bay Chamber Music School, Music Makers, Portland Conservatory of Music and is the accompanist for the Oratorio Chorale.

Rachel Keller, Soprano: A new member of Portland Rossini Club, Rachel first began vocal training as an undergraduate music major in York, England, her native land. There she also sang early music with the Yorkshire Bach Choir and she performed supporting roles with York Opera. Her focus shifted when she pursued Music Therapy graduate studies in Cambridge, England. After this training she immigrated to Philadelphia, USA where she began to further explore and work in the Music Therapy field. She continued to pursue vocal tuition whilst always enjoying a variety of performance opportunities, including singing with Ancient Voices, an early music ensemble at the University of Pennsylvania. Rachel and her husband moved to Maine in 2002. Since then she has devoted most of her time towards mothering their two children. She recently resumed vocal studies with Kathleen Grammer and she is excited that vocal practice and performance have become an important focus in her life once again. She currently sings with Portland's Choral Art Society and the St. Mary Schola and she is an active soloist in the Greater Portland area. Her other interests include yoga, running, hiking, Nordic skiing, photography, gardening and keeping up with her growing children.

Leah Neuchiller, Piano: Leah Neuchiller studied piano from the age of 9 and began college as a music major at Brandeis University, where she studied with the French pianist Evelyn Crochet. She later earned a Master's in Social Work degree at the University of Michigan, and went on to have a career as a clinical social worker and psychotherapist. Music continued to be a passionate avocation, however, and after she moved to Maine in 2006, music once again became central to her life. Since that time, Leah has studied piano with Laura Kargul, and will soon complete the Master's degree program in Piano Pedagogy at USM. Leah teaches piano at L'Ecole Française in South Freeport and in her home studio in Cumberland Foreside. She is a member of the Maine Music Teachers' Association, the Marston-Kotzschmar Club, and plays in various chamber groups. Leah became a Rossini Club member in 2012.

Mark Rossnagel, Piano: Mark holds a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from SUNY Binghamton and is finishing his Master's in piano performance at the University of Southern Maine, where he studies with Laura Kargul. In 2014, he joined the faculty at USM to teach two courses of class piano, and began his tenure as music director at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland. He is active in the Greater Portland musical community as both soloist and collaborator and enjoys teaching piano to students of all ages and levels. Mark joined Rossini Club in 2014.