

PRELUDE

Volume XLV, No. 1 September 2017

Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter



Happy 50th Anniversary!

SEPTEMBER

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, September 20

10:30 am

QUAIL RUN CLUBHOUSE

435 Covey Lane, Eugene

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 20

9:00 am

Directions:

From Eugene: MLK Blvd east to Lindley Lane, right to Colt Drive, left to 435 Covey Lane

From Springfield: Centennial Blvd west to Lindley Lane, left to Colt Drive, left to 435 Covey Lane

(Colt Drive turns into Covey Lane)

Please park on the street, do not block drives.

Eugene Symphony Guild

presents

“Cheers to 50 Years”

*Please plan to join us for our kick-off party
celebrating 50 Years of support for our
wonderful Eugene Symphony.*

Sunday, September 10, 2017: 4:00-7:00 pm

Valhalla Winery

838324 Vineyard Lane, Veneta, \$12 per person

Spend a lovely afternoon with music by

Mike Curtis, Terra Nova Trio

Stroll amid elegant vintage cars

Delight in models attired in vintage fashions

Doll-up with a vintage hat for a charming photo

Savor a complimentary glass of fragrant Valhalla wine

Enjoy a bite to eat from the visiting food cart

We look forward to having you celebrate with us!

Contact Betsy Patton, 541-434-9188;

betsyeugene@comcast.net



President's Message: Dear Members,

As I'm writing this in August it's hard to imagine that our Symphony season is about to begin. Yet it is, and what an exciting year we will have! Welcome back to all members who renewed and welcome to 3 new members who are starting the year with us. Be sure to notice the temporary change of location for our September Board and General meetings. The Masonic Lodge will be ready for us again in October.

(Continued, page two)

Mission Statement: *The Eugene Symphony Guild supports the Eugene Symphony through fundraising, community education, and volunteer services.*

Message from Carolyn Abbott, continued...

Our year is going to start off with a blast, well actually 4 blasts. See the notice for our 50th year kick-off celebration Front Page in the newsletter. Sylvia Kaufman, Christine Hogan and their committee have been working on this since spring and it is almost upon us! Let's have a big turnout on Sept. 10th at Valhalla Winery where we're offering an event similar to one of the Guild's first fundraisers.

Francesco Lecce-Chong will be putting in an appearance at our first General Meeting on September 20th. But before that, the 19th will bring back Renee Fleming, on the road after her official "retirement" from opera last spring. What a great program it will be and I hope everyone has tickets. The 28th bring us our full Symphony with "Circles of Life". What an exciting month and an opportunity to see our Guild friends after the long summer!

A special thanks to all our hostesses of Musical Chairs parties that have been going on through the summer. You still have a chance to reserve your chairs for 3 more parties. I hope everyone has been to at least one party this year. Our members are our base, and we encourage you to bring friends and family to enjoy these educational and fun gatherings.

In order for the Guild to be the vibrant and productive organization it has been for the last 50 years, we need the support of every member to be involved in our events and activities. We need more members so that the work is spread over more hands. We need members who will take leadership roles so that our existing leaders can take a break and catch their breath. We have such a great group of competent and committed members, I'm confident this can be accomplished. Let me hear your voices saying "yes" when asked to be on a committee or chair an event. That's the spirit that led us through the last 50 years, and we want to leave our legacy to future members, as our founders left a legacy for us. Please put your talents to work for the Guild.

See you at the General Meeting September 20th!

Best Regards, Carolyn

DID YOU KNOW? The Hult offers parking passes to concert ticket holders at \$30 for 6 passes which saves you \$6. Call the Hult at 541-682-5000 or go on-line at Hultcenter.org. Also did you know, the Symphony has 3 levels of subscribers: full season ticket holders; 5 concert ticket holders and 3 concert ticket holders. The 3 concert package is a good one to purchase if you've not been a subscriber in the past and want to get a chance to find out what it's all about. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU PURCHASE ANY OF THESE PACKAGES FOR THE FIRST TIME. Call Carolyn Abbott at 541-485-3143 or Suzanne Shapiro at 541-342-4795. *You may win a prize!*

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Post birthday congratulations to those of us who celebrated our birthdays this summer:

July birthday ladies were Sandra Harland, Suzanne Shapiro, Nancy Holloman, Linda Cummens, Eileen Russell and Carol Welch.

August birthday ladies were Marilyn Deaton, Sue Ashton, Helen Anderson, Pat Ross, Marion Shiflet, Christine Hogan, JoAnne Ellis, Phyllis Villec and Joanne Berry.

Congratulations to our September birthday members Mary Durfee, Edna DeHaven, Inga West, Barbara Ness, Kay Hanson, Sharon Strahm, Paula Salerno and our ESA Executive Director, Scott Freck.

ESA Guild office volunteers are crucial to the financial support we provide the ESA. If you think you might be interested in taking one or more shifts a month in the office please contact Suzanne Shapiro, mrses70@gmail.com, to find out more. Training and support are given volunteers plus you get a chance to meet and greet guests and our new music director, Francesco Lecce-Chong, who is frequently in the office. The ESA staff are very friendly and supportive of our help.

Behind the Curtain, news from the symphony

Scott Freck, Eugene Symphony Executive Director

Greetings, Guild members!

It is the dawning of a new era in many ways. First and foremost, the Eugene Symphony has a new Music Director & Conductor, Francesco Lecce-Chong. More on that in a minute.



It's also the beginning of the 50th anniversary year for the Guild, and I know many exciting plans are underway to celebrate your work and reinforce the importance of your contributions to the Eugene community. Many, many congratulations!

Finally, it's also the start of this new email version of *Prelude*, coordinated by the impressive Judy England. I hope you'll find the new format and enhanced content will be interesting and informative.

I do hope you were able to join us at one of our free outdoor concerts in July – whether in Eugene, Cottage Grove, or Roseburg. We had spectacular, if slightly warm, weather for all three nights, with terrific crowds at each. All told we reached over 10,500 Oregonians that week. And what a debut for Francesco! The orchestra was beaming during rehearsal (and positively cracked up laughing when he unveiled his lightsaber baton during *Star Wars* at the concert) and the audiences were all wowed by his musicality and engaging stage presence. If that week was any indication, we're in for quite a season!

Speaking of which, our 52nd year of music continues in September with two fantastic concerts that you won't want to miss. To open our Hult Center season, on Tuesday, September 19 we welcome soprano superstar Renée Fleming for a return engagement some 10 years after her Oregon debut here in 2007. Affectionately called "The People's Diva," Ms. Fleming has been a star on the operatic – not to mention global - stage of the highest order. She even sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl in 2014, the first opera singer to be invited to do so. Her concert program is full of familiar arias, some of her favorite songs, and Samuel Barber's luminous *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, a youthful remembrance of a simpler time. Please join us to welcome her back to Eugene!

Then, on September 28, we inaugurate our Symphonic series of concerts on Thursday nights – *now with the new start time of 7:30 pm....pssst, pass that on.... Yes, I said 7:30 pm!* We begin our subscription season with two well-known works and one very new one, the latter by Grammy Award-winning American composer Augusta Read Thomas. That week, Gusty, as she insists on being called, will begin a residency project that puts her together with students of all ages and the public in various settings to talk about her music and particularly her fascinating process for creating it. It all leads up to April when we give the West Coast Premiere of a work for percussion quartet and orchestra, called *Sonorous Earth*, that the Eugene Symphony co-commissioned along with the Chicago Philharmonic.

Also on the Opening Night program are Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the powerful Joyce Yang at the Steinway Model D, and Tchaikovsky's epic and fateful Symphony No. 4. Francesco is positively chomping at the bit to get into the Tchaikovsky with the orchestra in rehearsal....it should be a truly thrilling evening!

As always, thank you for all that you do for the Guild and the Symphony, and I hope to see you soon!

My best,
Scott
Scott Freck
Executive Director

LAURA AVERY

VISITING MASTERS

Master Classes - Eugene Symphony guest artists provide public coaching sessions for local student musicians.

Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 pm

Free and open to the public

SEPT. 26, 2017

Joyce Yang, *piano*

Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

OCT. 17, 2017

Conrad Tao, *piano*

Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

NOV. 14, 2017

Simone Porter, *violin*

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

Behind the Curtain, news from the symphony

CONCERT PREVIEWS by Sandra Weingarten **WELCOME FRANCESCO!!!**

Our symphony season is starting off with a bang – or rather an aria, as we welcome Renee Fleming and her long-awaited return to our stage. Recently retired from her position with the Metropolitan Opera, it is a true pleasure to welcome her here on *Tuesday, September 19*.

While best known for her many operatic roles, Ms. Fleming has also been heard singing French chansons as well as jazz and indie rock. Conductor Sir Georg Solti said of her, “In my long life, I have met maybe two sopranos with this quality of singing.” (The other he mentioned was Renata Tebaldi.) In addition to her many operatic roles and appearances world-wide, she has performed in recitals and on concert stages. Did you recognize her voice on the soundtrack for *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*?

Ms. Fleming has also been a guest on many popular television shows, ranging from *Sesame Street* to *The View*, to the *Tonight Show* and others. More recently, she expressed a preference for concert appearances rather than opera, saying that having learned over 50 operas, she is unlikely to learn many more. Indeed, her next venture will be the Broadway stage, as she will be making her Broadway musical debut as Nettie Fowler in a revival of *Carousel* in the spring of 2018.

Those of us who regularly attend the Metropolitan Opera simulcasts at the movie theater, have often seen her hosting as well as performing; introducing the opera and interviewing the singers. And perhaps some of us saw her in the simulcast of her final Met performance in *Der Rosenkavalier* in May.

What a thrill to have her here, singing for us!

Thursday, September 28 marks the beginning of the subscription season, and we will be treated to two familiar works in addition to a new work by our composer in residence, Augusta Read Thomas. Please check the Symphony website for more about her activities here during her residency.

A native New Yorker, “Gusty” studied composition at Yale and Northwestern University. She has taught at Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University School of Music and served as composer-in-residence for the Chicago Symphony. Her music is said to avoid such traditional styles as sonata form and folk song, although one can hear the influence of jazz in her use of improvisatory-sounding rhythms and colorful harmonies.

Hang on to your solar eclipse glasses, for our program begins with the “absolutely radiant” Aureole. Conductor Victor Yampolsky said of this work: “Her music attempts to translate our visual experiences of overwhelming brightness and cosmic storms of the sunlight into aural experience of orchestral colors and rhythms, which she achieves with remarkable mastery and originality of composition.”

We move from the astronomical to the traditional with a performance of Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 1*. Although this was his first piano concerto to be published, it was actually published after the first performance of his *Piano Concerto No. 2*. Both of these concertos reflect Beethoven’s familiarity with the styles of Mozart and Haydn, however abrupt harmonic shifts come from his own personality and style.

Korean-born Joyce Yang will be our soloist. Her aunt bought her a piano for her 4th birthday, and gave her her first lessons. She took to the piano instantly, went on to win many awards, and by age 10 entered the School of Music at the Korean National University of Arts. In 1997, she moved to the USA to study at Juilliard. She performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra when she was just 12. In 2005, as the youngest contestant at the Van Cliburn Competition, she was the Silver Medalist, as well as the winner of two additional awards.

Just 24, she has been acclaimed as “the most gifted young pianist of her generation,” and captivated audiences around the world. Be prepared to be captivated – this will be a thrill!

As if that isn’t enough excitement, after intermission, we will hear Tchaikovsky’s dramatic *Symphony No. 4*. It is with this symphony that Tchaikovsky departed from the traditional symphonic forms and let emotion and melody take over, unleashing an unprecedented flow of melody. This was in part due to the turbulent changes in his life, including his marital crisis, and can serve as autobiography. The opening fanfare, repeated in the finale, has given this work its nickname of “Fate.” It will be our fate to hear this tremendous masterpiece!

You won’t want to miss this opening night of our subscription season, and the chance to once again welcome Francesco to the podium!

COMING IN OCTOBER - The Eugene Symphony presents

PIANO FIREWORKS—Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor, Conrad Tao, piano

- ◆ Mozart: Symphony No. 31, “Paris”
- ◆ Ravel: Piano Concerto for the Left Hand
- ◆ Liszt: Totentanz
- ◆ R. Strauss: Tell Eulenspiegel’s Mary Pranks

This eclectic program juxtaposes piano pyrotechnics with elegance and roguish fun. Mozart’s “Paris” is light and graceful in spirit. Ravel’s concerto, commissioned by a pianist who lost his right arm in World War I, is literally played with just the left hand! Liszt’s *Totentanz* is a dark and thrilling theme-and-variations for piano and orchestra, and Strauss’ shortest tone poem paints a portrait of a mischievous trickster.

SOCIAL NOTES

Pre-Concert Dining:

YOU ARE INVITED— to dine with the Eugene Symphony Guild at a pre-concert dinner at the Sixth Street Grill before the concert this month. We will gather at 5 pm to eat, socialize and have fun. Call Darian Fadeley, 541-942-9851, to reserve your place at the table. Thank you and hope to see you!

Don't forget, the new concert start time is now 7:30 pm!

Book Club:

Book club meets September 11th at Glenda Hay’s home, 252 Spyglass Dr. 7 pm. Our book to review is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. We welcome new members and if you can come, call Glenda at 541-206-7375. Read the book and come join our fun loving group.

Arm Chair Travelers:

Arm Chair Travelers will meet on September 25 at 7 pm at the home of Bonnie Fromhold. The subject is an exciting journey to South Africa with people, animals and history, presented by David Pottinger, President of the Symphony Board of Directors.

Guild Bridge Club:

Bridge Club will meet on the second Friday of September 8, at 1 pm at the home of Bonnie Fromhold. Come for good cards and good laughs. If you’ve ever played bridge and you can still count to 13 you will fit right in! Please call Bonnie at 541-686-0107 to reserve your place.

In the Works -Yoga:

Plans are being made to create a new event; Yoga, for our guild members. We have a location, a teacher, possible Thursday or Saturday morning times (10 am) all starting in October. If you have an interest, email, text, or call Nancy Holloman at 541-228-1805/ nmholloman@gmail.com with your comments or to reserve your space.

DON'T FORGET!!
CHEERS TO 50 YEARS!

Sunday, September 10, 2017 4:00—7:00 pm, \$12.00 per person

Valhalla Winery, 838324 Vineyard Lane, Veneta

We look forward to having you celebrate with us! Contact: Betsy Patton,

betsyeugene@comcast.net 541-434-9188

Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://eugenesymphonyguild.org/50th-Anniversary>

MUSICAL CHAIRS IS IN THE HOME-STRETCH!

AMAZING..We are in the home-stretch of the 31st edition of our “Musical Chairs” parties with only THREE fabulous parties left to participate in this year.

***Saturday – September 16** - AUTHENTIC HAWAIIAN LUAU AND WEE HOUSE TOUR – “Dress up or not, and enjoy a late afternoon authentic Luau repleat with all the things Hawaiian”;

***Tuesday – October 17** – AFTERNOON TEA AT THE SHELTON MCMURPHEY JOHNSON HOUSE – “Harvest Time, tea time, welcome the Fall season with tea and a tour”.

***Wednesday – November 15** – SO MANY BIRDS, SO LITTLE TIME – “A wonderful family event.”

A special thanks to Barbara Miner for her patience and generous help in guiding me to this PRELUDE's first digital edition. Judy England, Editor

Feel free to print a copy of the Prelude when it is delivered to your email address for future reference. Current and past issues of the Prelude can be found on the Guild website,

<https://eugenesymphonyguild.org/membership/newsletter>

All material for the Prelude is due on the 15th and no later than the 20th of each month prior to publication. Any material received after the 20th will be moved to the following month's publication. Thank you for your cooperation. Editor



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Eugene, Oregon 97401

STAMP

Mailing address for those who
Do not have internet and receive
Via U.S. Mail...