

# PRELUDE

Volume XLVI, No. 6 February 2018 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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



## MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Music in the Garden will be held on Sunday, June 10. Sue Ashton and Betsy Patton are co-chairing this event.

Music in the Garden is the main fundraiser for the Guild each year. Historically it has raised the most money, with proceeds going to the Eugene Symphony. We have selected five beautiful gardens, all in the River Road area. The garden owners are enthusiastic and ready to go.

Putting on an event like this requires months of preparation and 100% participation by all active Guild members. There are many aspects to Music in the Garden, including garden liaisons, publicity, musicians for each garden, sponsors and vendors, garden party, ticket sales, scheduling, plant sale, raffle, poster development and distribution, signs, and baking cookies.

Our first planning meeting, on Thursday, March 1, 1:00 p.m., will be held at the Clubhouse of the Flintridge Village Condominiums, 2307 Ridgeway Drive. Please come to this important meeting, even if you're not ready to commit to participating. It will give you an overview of what areas we need to fill and ideas of how to participate. The more workers we have, the easier it will be for all of us. And it will be fun!

### *ESG February Meetings*

*The Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 14  
1:30 p.m. at the Quail Run Clubhouse  
435 Covey Lane, Eugene*

*The General Meeting, Wednesday, February 21  
10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge  
2777 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
(across from Autzen Stadium)*

*February's General Meeting will be Valentine-themed and fun for all. You can bet Bonnie will have great decorations and nibbles. We will listen to and talk with principal clarinetist Mike Anderson, and possibly have a surprise guest speaker. You'll hear where we are on our Musical Chairs planning and other business matters. Come meet your friends and greet our new members.*

### COMMITTEE NEWS

Much is being planned for this year's fundraising parties and events.

Check out the new group information source, "Banding Together," on page five for committees and their schedules.

Join friends and make new ones in the planning and implementations of these fun events.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all members!

Happy Valentine's Day. You are all my Valentines. I'm writing this article in the spirit of love that the season brings and thinking of all the time,

energy, and investment that Guild membership entails. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your continuing support of our purpose, supporting the Symphony and helping them fulfill their goals.

I can tell you from first-hand knowledge that our Symphony is very well managed, especially for a community our size. A good part of the Guild president's responsibilities is to interact with the Symphony Association by attending meetings, interacting with staff, and maintaining good relationships with them. So I see some of the inner workings of their board. They have a great board of directors, association president, executive director, and staff who are constantly striving to keep up with the times by initiating new outreach programs and new educational programs, to increase diversity, and to improve access to our wonderful Symphony. This is an organization well worth our support. They value our contributions and recognize us in many ways.

On that happy note, Happy Official 50th Birthday to the Guild. There is no other arts support organization in Eugene that has had the success over the years that the Guild has enjoyed. Other arts organizations would love to have such a dynamic, sustainable group helping to support them. There is always room

for improvement, and we do continually look for new and better ways to do things. While the nature of volunteerism is changing, we are a live, healthy, growing organization looking for ways to adapt to new realities.

At the same time that we celebrate the legacy of our past, let's also look toward the future and be mindful of the legacy we are leaving for the next half-century. Our Strategic Plan is one tool that helps us identify and stay focused on areas of improvement. We need interested members who will join the Strategic Plan Committee to help lay the groundwork for the future. Please let me know if you would like to help on this committee.

Thanks to our wonderful 50th Anniversary Committee for their tireless work over the past two years to prepare and bring about events such as the tea on January 20. They worked together so well as a team and had so much fun doing it. (Sylvia's Friday morning treats kept us all going.)

Looking ahead, we are starting plans for Musical Chairs, Music in the Garden, scholarship awards, youth concerts, and our annual meeting. We will also be working on nominating officers for the 2018/2019 season. It will take us all working together to accomplish these important events. Please volunteer, say yes if called, and have *fun* while participating.

Wishing you all a fun and love-filled Valentine's Day. Carolyn

### Many Thanks To So Many!

I'd like to thank Suzanne Shapiro and Caroline Manewal for their excellent efforts in organizing and leading the Office Volunteer group's reception and training session on January 19. Thank you also to the member volunteers who attended the meeting. It is so great to see our new members helping in the office. Suzanne and Caroline have done a great job of updating our documents, recruiting, training, and scheduling in the office. There is always room for more volunteers, so if you'd like to join this part of our organization, learn more about the Symphony, meet Symphony staff, and use some skills you may not have used for a while, call Suzanne or Caroline to be added to our wonderful office volunteers. Thank you all.

## BANDING TOGETHER

*Musical Chairs committee* has met and begun planning eight parties for 2018. The next planning meetings are February 7 and 28 at Central Lutheran Church, 18th and Potter, 1 p.m. Please join us at these meetings or call Francee Hillyer, 541-485-8065, to help with 2018 parties.



*Music In the Garden committee* is co-chaired by Betsy Patton and Sue Ashton. Our first planning meeting will be on Thursday, March 1, 1:00 p.m., at the Clubhouse of the Flintridge Village Condominiums, 2307 Ridgeway Drive. There are many opportunities to get involved in this wonderful event, including garden liaisons, publicity, musicians, sponsors and vendors, ticket sales, plant sale, poster distribution, and baking cookies. Please come and join us for this very important meeting and see how you can become involved in this wonderful fundraising event. For questions call Betsy at 541-434-9188 or Sue at 541-255-7323.

*Garden Party committee* is calling all exceptional party hostesses. We're planning a party and want it to be the best ever. Although this event is a few months away, planning has begun. Please join the committee and help get this party going. Contact Ginger Fifield at 760-550-0515 or Francee Hillyer at 541-485-8065 to join this fun committee.

*Artwalk committee: TBA*

*Fall Fundraiser committee: TBA*

## A Toast to the Tea Committee

What a great opportunity to thank our 50th Anniversary Committee for the Afternoon Tea and 50-Year Celebration on January 20 at the Eugene Country Club. Their work is coming to an end. They have worked on many projects over the past two years and deserve a big pat on the back. They are Sylvia Kaufman, Chair; Christine Hogan, Betsy Patton, Sandra Weingarten, Pat Ross, Sue Ashton, Ginger Fifield, Melva Boles, Amy Jo Butler, and Darian Fadely. Thanks for your dedication, creativity, and implementation skills in carrying us through this important historical time. Carolyn

## CHANGES and TRANSITIONS

### **Tooting a Horn: Fanfare for Volunteers!**

Two more names have been added to ESA office volunteers: Mary Durfee and Carole Warner. With their help, the monthly schedules are close to filling up. Thank you to all regular and new members for volunteering in the Symphony offices, which helps keep their costs down.

**New Member:** *Sharron Smith*  
1657 Rosy Turn, Eugene, 97404  
541-688-2778, [rosyturn@comcast.net](mailto:rosyturn@comcast.net)

**Happy Birthday** wishes to our members with February birthdays: Judy England, Barbara Havas, Dorothy Kays, Maxine McWhorter, Connie Regali, and Jan Ward.

# Behind the Curtain - Symphony News

Greetings, Guild members!

I hope this finds you well *and* basking in the glow of a successful 50th anniversary tea and wonderful concert last week on January 25. How great was it to have Mayor Lucy Vinis laud the Guild to the rafters on the auspicious occasion of your celebration? All that praise is well and truly deserved.



Now, on to February, which is always a busy month in Symphonyland despite its brevity. First, we have a party of our own on February 3, our annual Gala fundraising event. As before, it generates enthusiasm and much-needed financial support for all of our onstage, community engagement, and music education programming. Together, these programs reach more than 50,000 children, families, and adults across six Oregon counties every year. I know the Guild is always well represented, and thank you in advance if you're coming to the Hilton that night.

Next, we are practically giddy with excitement for one of the most anticipated concert events we've had on stage at Silva Concert Hall in many years: our *Four Seasons of the McKenzie River* project. Created in partnership with the McKenzie River Trust and Travel Lane County, and with support

from a host of sponsors and funders, including the Hult Endowment, this innovative approach to a time-tested work will bring relevancy, regional pride, and joy to the audience. More than 120 photographers submitted over 600 images and videos, the best of which have been edited together into short films that will be projected onto a big screen above the stage while the orchestra and stellar violin soloist Rachel Barton Pine perform Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. This will be an experience unlike any other, and the hall is filling up fast. If you want to attend, act quickly please!

Lastly, February is also when we announce the details of our 53rd season. Our Music Director, Francesco Lecce-Chong, has crafted an amazing blend of familiar favorites alongside newer fare (including more music by Oregon's own and women composers). A three-concert arc celebrating the life and music of American icon Leonard Bernstein on the occasion of his centennial year will also be presented. There's so much to love, and I can't wait for you to hear about it soon.

Thank you so much for all that you do for the Guild, the Symphony, and our community. Hope to see you soon.

My best,  
Scott Freck  
Executive Director

# Behind the Curtain - Symphony News



## Invitation to Subscribers

On Tuesday, February 13, subscribers are invited to hear from Francesco about our upcoming 2018/2019 season. This event will take place in the lobby of the Hult Center from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The ticket office will be open that evening to assist with subscription renewals. Subscribers will receive a postcard soon with more details.

## YOUTH CONCERT IS COMING!



Mark your calendars, everyone. Our next Youth Concert is on Tuesday, March 13. This will be the culmination of this season's Link Up program. This concert, titled "The Orchestra Swings," will incorporate jazz rhythms. Watch how the students respond to this new element and see the elation of those students who get to play on stage with our orchestra.

When the telephone committee calls be sure to say *yes!*

## LAURA AVERY VISITING MASTERS

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

Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public

### February 13, 2018

Rachel Barton Pine, violin

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

### March 13, 2018

Zuill Bailey, cello

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

## *McKenzie River Photos*

The Eugene Symphony received more than 600 imagery submissions, and a jury that included mayors of both Eugene and Springfield culled them down for the final production. The February 15 concert is going to be a marvelous evening to celebrate two of our most treasured natural and cultural resources here in the Willamette Valley: the Eugene Symphony and the McKenzie River. Details about the imagery submissions can be found at: <http://eugenesymphony.org/events/concerts/2017-2018-season/the-four-seasons-of-the-mckenzie-river>.

## ***FEBRUARY CONCERT PREVIEW***

At last! Our February concert is the culmination of a year long project to enhance Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* by projecting images of the McKenzie River solicited from photographers all year. This is just part of the program, which has a decided nature theme.

The concert opens with *Tumblebird Contrails*, composed by 24-year-old Gabriella Smith.

She is currently the Composer Lab and Workshop Fellow with the Nashville Symphony, where she works with former Eugene Symphony Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero. Her inspiration for this piece was watching a pair of ravens swooping over the Pacific Ocean near her Northern California home. She succeeds in capturing the power of the waves and ecstasy of the birds. Her music brings to mind shifting sands, sunlight on waves, and wild bird sounds.

In keeping with the nature theme, the program closes with Edward Elgar's *In the South*, a tone poem inspired by the town of Alassio on the Italian Riviera, where Elgar and his family vacationed one winter.

Featured in *The Four Seasons* is violinist Rachel Barton Pine, who was born in Chicago, began studying violin at age three, and soloed with the Chicago Symphony at age ten. At age fourteen, she earned money by playing at weddings as well as with symphonies, and said that she used a lot of makeup and pretended to be older than she was.

Since then she has soloed with orchestras around the world as well as giving recitals and making recordings. The New York Times noted her "bravura technique and soulful musicianship."

What a treat it will be to hear her here in Eugene!

Don't forget the Eugene Symphony Concert Preview with Francesco and guest artist Rachel Pine at 6:30 p.m. in The Studio at The Hult Center before the concert.

Sandra Weingarten

## ***STAY TUNED***

Save the date, March 15, 7:30 p.m., when the Eugene Symphony will present a stunning performance of Michael Daugherty's *Tales of Hemingway*, performed by world-renowned cellist Zuill Bailey. Included in the program are the *Valse Triste* and *Symphony No. 5* by Sibelius.

## **MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH**

Michael Anderson has been principal clarinetist of the Eugene Symphony for 30 years, and a member of the orchestra under all of its eight music directors. A native Oregonian, he has a remarkable career as a soloist, has performed with orchestras throughout the West, and has participated in many recordings. Meet Mike at our February meeting.

## What's That Like?

*Personal Interludes* is a new section of the Prelude where our members can share their music-related stories and experiences. It started because I wanted to know, "What's it like to hold the door open for Itzhak Perlman?" Sandra Weingarten wrote first by sharing her experience of singing in the Symphony Chorus in Handel's *Messiah*. Next is Karen Ailor writing about an unforgettable chance encounter. At our January meeting, thanks to the Eugene Symphony Association, the raffle prize was Coffee With Francesco, and I won! Soon it will be my turn to answer, "What's it like?" Do you have a story to share?

Judy England, Prelude Editor

### PERSONAL INTERLUDES

#### The Unnamed Guest Performer

Sometime in the 1970s I flew to the Bay Area for a short visit with a former college roommate, who still lived a couple miles from the UC Berkeley campus. She called before I left and told me to plan on staying over Sunday night because she had faculty passes to the Greek Theater, where they were celebrating contributions by the Hearst family to the University, including the Greek Theater itself. She remembered my Phoebe Hearst scholarship (named for William Randolph's mother), and said there was also going to be a surprise musical performance. It sounded boring, but I said okay.

We visited wineries, toured the San Francisco opera house, and enjoyed a performance of Lohengrin. (The SF Chronicle review said the crystal swan boat looked like it came from Gump's.) On Sunday afternoon, we headed to the Greek Theater, where we had amazing seats. After speeches by UC dignitaries and a few Hearsts, the SF Symphony filed in. They played a couple short pieces. Then Kurt Adler introduced his guest: Luciano Pavarotti! I couldn't believe it. He was in top form, and sang several wonderful arias. I'd had tickets to see him the previous year, but he was in Italy with a throat malady on the night of the performance.

Then Adler said they had to return to SF for a PBS fund drive. A short reception was scheduled before they left, for those who had special tickets. As we exited, we just happened to pass the roped-off reception area, where a college girl was barely checking tickets. I told Jill I was going to chat with her and try to breeze through. It worked. But Jill froze. Uh, uh. Is this the right kind of ticket? Uh, uh. I wanted to throttle her. But it turned out the faculty passes *were* the special tickets. So we were legal, hadn't known it, and could have missed it.

We queued in the reception line, entering a small tent. The great man was there, alone, sweating profusely and mopping his brow with a hanky. I was overwhelmed to see him so close-up. I complimented him on his performance. Jill, who had spent a month in Italy with a UC Berkeley travel-study group and learned a few Italian phrases, said something in Italian. He beamed, answered in Italian, and kissed her hand. She was light-headed, reeling, floating when she exited the tent. She accepted her refreshments holding her hand up like an injured paw, as we waited to see him one last time as he departed.

Adler and Pavarotti hustled through the small crowd. Just before they passed us, a woman on the other side of their path held out her plate to Pavarotti. He took a clump of grapes that had been dipped in sugar and frozen. He said "Grazie," stripped the stem in one mouthful, and tossed the stem, which landed on my foot. I wrapped it in my napkin, intending to have it cast in Lucite. Unfortunately, it disintegrated before I got around to it. I never saw Pavarotti in person again. I still have the napkin.

Karen Ailor

## SOCIAL NOTES

### ***Book Club***

The Book Club will meet on February 1 at 7 p.m. at the home of Glenda Hay, 252 Spyglass Drive. The phone is 541-206-7375. We have an excellent new book this month, *Fire and Fury*, by Michael Wolff. Come join us in our discussion about inside the Trump White House.

### ***Guild Bridge Group***

The Guild Bridge Group will meet the second Friday, February 9, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the home of Nancy Holloman, 920 Lariat Drive. Please call Nancy at 541-228-1805 if you would like to play.

### ***Armchair Travelers***

February Armchair Travelers will be held at Bonnie Fromhold's home on Monday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. Presenters are Melva and Shawn Boles, who will share their October 2017 trip to New York City, and to Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Montreal, Canada.

### ***Yoga***

Yoga with Helen is held on Thursdays, 10 a.m., for an hour. Call Nancy Holloman at 541-228-1805 or Darian Fadeley at 541-942-9851 if you are interested.

*All material for the Prelude is due on the 15th of each month prior to publication. Any material received after the 20th is subject to available space. Thank you for your cooperation. Judy England, Prelude Editor*



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***Happy  
Valentine's Day!***