

PRELUDE

Volume XLVI, No. 5 January 2018 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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



Congratulations! 50 Years!

50th Anniversary Afternoon Tea

Saturday, January 20, 2018, Eugene Country Club

255 Country Club Drive, Eugene, 1:00 Social Hour, 1:30 Tea

*Join us as we celebrate 50 years of service and fun,
raising funds to support the Eugene Symphony!*

Shelley Kurtz, Master of Ceremonies

*Entertainment by Con Brio Trio and a look back at a half
century of events and people. Tickets \$40. Reservations by
January 17th. Questions? Contact Betsy Patton,*

541-434-9188 betsyeugene@comcast.net;

<https://eugenesymphonyguild.org/50th-anniversary>

GUILD SPONSORS JANUARY CONCERT

The Symphony Guild will be the proud sponsor of the January 25th concert at the Hult. This concert features Grieg's *Piano Concerto* and Schubert's *Symphony No.9* with Jon Kimura Parker as the guest artist. As sponsor of the concert, the Guild receives free tickets to box seats. There are currently four tickets available for members who would like to sit in box seats. Please contact Carolyn Abbott, 541-485-3143 or email cjabbott2@comcast.net to reserve your space.

A benefit to Guild members for this concert, members may purchase tickets at a 20% discount. There will be a code number to use at time of purchase. Please contact Carolyn for the code number if you wish to purchase tickets with this discount.

Last but not least, Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis will be reading a proclamation from the stage at the concert in honor of the Guild's 50th Anniversary. Let's have a big turn-out for the January concert; wear your Guild pins and cheer when we're acknowledged. Thanks to the Symphony Association for this acknowledgment of our important place in the arts culture of Eugene.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

A very Happy New Year to all of you! As always, the start of a new year is a reminder to me that this is a chance for a new beginning, as well as a reflection on the year gone by.

For the Guild, the end of the calendar year is only half way through our fiscal year, which runs from July through June. However, the six-month period is a good time to take stock of our goals and to adapt or reconfirm them.

One of our highest priority areas has been to increase our membership numbers. We started the year with 96 members, added 10 new members and sadly lost 2 members who died. Our count now is 104. We have already exceeded our Strategic Plan goal of adding 2% from July 2017 thru June 2018. We need to raise our goal!

Another high priority goal is to increase our donation to the Eugene Symphony Association by 5% in June, 2018. We are well on our way to meeting that goal thanks to successful fundraisers like Musical Chairs and the Holiday Performance Festival.

I want to thank all the members and the leadership team for committing to the plan and working towards reaching those goals. We knew we could do it, and we are. Nice work everyone and let's keep it up!

Our Holiday party at the Valley River Inn was a lot of fun and it was good seeing so many members there enjoying themselves and not doing any work! I've received lots of good comments and expressions of

appreciation. You deserved it, members, and if you want to see a video of three of us making slight fools of ourselves, let Sandra Weingarten know and Ryan will send you the video!

We have lots of fun and important things coming up such as our 50th Anniversary Tea at the Country Club on January 20th; our sponsorship of the January 25th Grieg & Schubert concert; Youth Concerts, the Symphony Guild's Young Artist Competition; new Musical Chairs parties and of course, our 2018 Music in the Garden. We need everyone's support in putting together these important and fun events.

The importance of attending our monthly meetings in 2018 cannot be stressed too much. By coming to meetings, our members gain knowledge of the activities and events of the Guild as well as connecting with other members and making new friends. If you're not coming to meetings where old and new ideas are formulated and explained, you're missing out on a very important part of membership. At our meetings we hear results of events, learn about new ones, vote on important issues, celebrate birthdays, enjoy great music, meet new members, enjoy refreshments and stay "in the loop." A lot of work goes into putting together interesting and communicative programs. Please make a resolution to join us regularly at our monthly meetings.

As we start into the new year, I'm enthused and excited about what lies ahead. We're making progress, reaching goals, having fun and working together to support our wonderful Symphony. Let's keep it going!
Best wishes, Carolyn

PLEASE TAKE NOTE AND SEE IF YOU CAN HELP

Do you have a 3-tier serving plate? A pretty teapot? May I borrow them for our 50th Anniversary Tea on January 20? Please contact me ASAP and I will arrange to get them (and return them later).

Also, as previously requested...I do still *need a photo of you* from the 1968 era. We are creating a photo poster to show where each of us were "age-wise" when our Guild was being formed. These photos without names will be displayed at our January General Meeting and the Anniversary Tea. You will have a chance to guess their identity. The names will be revealed at the Tea.

Send or give your photo to Sylvia Kaufman before January 10. Put your name on the back and where it was taken. Photos will be handled carefully and returned to you. *Thank you for your help.* Sylvia Kaufman

Behind the Curtain - Symphony News

Greetings, Guild members!

Well, would you look at that? The calendar says 2018! Happy New Year one and all. I hope that you



and yours had a delightful holiday season full of lasting memories...

Speaking of memorable, we had two wonderful performances last month in December. First, Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong led the orchestra,

chorus, and quartet of phenomenal soloists in a Messiah for the ages. The electricity in the room was palpable from the first downbeat of the sinfonia that opens it to the last lingering “Amen” of the eponymous “Amen Chorus.” All in all it felt like....an EVENT. I’ve heard from so many patrons that it was their favorite performance ever of this beloved work. Resounding kudos to our magnificent musicians!

Then, a few days later a sold-out hall was blown away by the grace, power, and athleticism of Cirque de la Symphonie. It was truly heartwarming to see so many families with children in attendance, girls in adorable holiday dresses, boys smartly besweatered, and joy visibly displayed on all of their faces. I was struck by the juxtaposition of the

two performances – they were very different, of course, but both were successful in bringing together people from all over our region to join in a communal experience. Well done all!

Now, back to that calendar page from above. January is here and that means we get to celebrate the official 50th anniversary of the Eugene Symphony Guild! I will bring laudatory words on behalf of the Eugene Symphony Association (and Francesco’s regrets, as he is away until the end of the month) to the tea on January 20.

Then, on January 25, we will recognize the Guild at our Symphonic series concert in two ways. First, the Guild is the Concert Sponsor, with all of the rights and privileges appertaining thereto – including a discount on tickets for all Guild members (Guild President Carolyn Abbott will distribute details). We’re also anticipating a special guest to deliver a proclamation of praise for all that the Guild has done for this community in its five decades of tireless activity. Huzzah!

Thank you so much for your work, and see you soon.

My best,
Scott Freck
Executive Director

Dust Off Your Instrument and “Play it Again!”

Eugene Symphony’s popular *Play It Again!* Adult Chamber Ensemble program brings together amateur musicians (18 and older) who wish to dust off their instruments and play again!

Play It Again! participants will be formed into chamber ensembles with musicians at their skill level. Each ensemble will receive six coaching sessions with professional Eugene Symphony musicians. The ensembles meet biweekly (musicians determine schedule together) for rehearsals, discussion, and skill-building activities that culminate with a public performance at the First Christian Church in downtown Eugene on May 27, 2018. \$75 participation fee.

For more information contact Education & Community Engagement Director Katy Vizdal at katy.vizdal@eugenesymphony.org 541-687-9487x116 or visit <http://eugenesymphony.org/education/community/play-it-again>.

JANUARY CONCERT PREVIEW

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), Norway's greatest composer, composed his *Concerto in A Minor* in 1868 when he was only 24 years old. The work was premiered on April 3, 1869 in nearby, Copenhagen, Denmark. Some sources say that Grieg himself, an excellent pianist, was the intended soloist, but was unable to attend the premiere due to prior commitments. The concerto provides evidence of his interest in Norwegian folk music; in the last movement, similarities to a Norwegian folk dance and imitation of the Norwegian folk fiddle (Hardanger) have been noted. Grieg revised the work at least seven times, usually in subtle ways but amounting to over 300 differences from the original orchestration. The final version of the concerto was completed only a few weeks before his death, and it is this version that has achieved worldwide popularity.

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) was Viennese born and bred. His father, a music teacher, detected his son's talent early and gave him

music lessons. At college, Schubert experienced his first opera performances, and also discovered the music of Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Mozart both of whom he held in the greatest awe.

When he left college in 1814, Schubert taught at his father's school, an experience that he detested. From 1814-1819, he composed the *Mass #7 in F Major*, symphonies, piano sonatas, operas, chamber music and nearly 150 songs, all written out of a determination to earn money from his music so that he could escape teaching. He died an untimely death at the age of 31. Although Schubert produced masterpieces that were performed and admired in his lifetime, a large body of work was left with his brother Ferdinand, including this symphony. Later, it would take Robert Schumann, an astute judge of music, to discover and promote Schubert's *Symphony No. 9* "great." Melva Boles

All Guild Members are invited to the Symphony Association annual Gala which is on February 3, 2018. This is only a month away! Usually the Guild has at least one table full (8). So far we have 5, so maybe we could get 2 tables this year. This year's Gala will be a change in format; not as many auction items, more time to talk, a performance by Music Director, Francesco Lecce-Chong and some Symphony musicians. Of course, dinner, drinks, dancing to Swing-Shift music and 50% of cost is tax deductible. Individual tickets are \$175, but if you join a table of 8, it is \$150. Please call me if you would like to be included in a Guild table.

Carolyn Abbott 541-485-3143.

STAY TUNED

February 15th, 2018 -- The much anticipated Four Seasons of the McKenzie River concert with seasonal river photography which will be projected above the stage as the orchestra plays Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. The concert begins with *Tumblebird Contrails*, composed by Gabriella Smith a longtime friend of Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, and finishing with Edward Elgar's, *In The South*.

YOUTH CONCERT THANK YOU!

A big *Thank You* to all you Guild members who helped usher at our November 14 Youth Concerts. Wasn't the concert great? As always, our support is greatly appreciated by the Symphony staff as well as the Hult Center staff and ushers. We couldn't do it without you!

A special shout out of thanks to Bev Andrews and her telephone committee, Joanne Berry, Sylvia Kaufman, Pat Ross, Bonnie Fromhold, for making the phone calls, and to Betsy Patton for all her work on the phone and behind the scenes. Thanks also to Doreen Kilen and Sylvia Kaufman for "womening" the cloak room, and to Suzanne Shapiro for assigning schools to our volunteers. You are all great!

Sandra Weingarten

MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH

Henry Henniger is Principal Trombone for the Eugene Symphony, and has been on the University of Oregon faculty since 2010. Henry has a distinguished career as symphonic player, soloist, recording artist and educator, working in many parts of the world in all capacities. Currently, in addition to the Eugene Symphony and Oregon Ballet Theater, he participates in the Oregon Brass Quintet and the Orebonians trombone quartet.

Come meet Henry, learn more about him, and hear him play at our January 17 membership meeting, and see and hear him on the January concert.

Happy Birthday wishes to our members with January birthdays;

Juliet Bender, Deborah Hiatt, Mary Sue Keating, Ching Lee, and Mary Elma Shotts.

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

JAN. 23, 2018

Jon Kimura Parker, *piano*

Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

FEB. 13, 2018

Rachel Barton Pine, *violin*

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

MAR. 13, 2018

Zuill Bailey, *cello*

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

CHANGES AND TRANSITIONS

Tooting a Horn:

Fanfare for Volunteers!

Francee Hillyer has agreed to chair the Musical Chairs parties in 2018, She is already planning a meeting of all interested members on January 24 (save the date, a time will be announced).

Susan Greenwald has agreed to chair the Membership Committee for the rest of the season.

Two new Guild members have joined the volunteers in the ESA office by taking regular weekly shifts. They are Becky Callison and Juliet Bender. Two more new members are also interested in working in the ESA office and will, hopefully, be plugged into the schedule January.

THANK YOU! We all appreciate your stepping up with your leadership to make this Guild be more effective and successful.

SOCIAL NOTES

Book Club

The Book Club will meet at the home of Susan Aston, 1818 Hemlock St. on January 8, at 7:00 p.m. Susan's phone number is 541-255-7232.

The book this month is "Echo," by Pam Munoz Ryan. This is a beautifully crafted story. It has mystery, adventure and a powerful sense of hope and heart, "a masterpiece." Come join us for a most enjoyable evening and ...cookies.

Guild Bridge Group

The Guild Bridge Group will meet the second

Friday, January 12, 1-4 p.m. at the home of Nancy Holloman, 920 Lariat Drive, Eugene. Please call Nancy at 541-228-1805 if you would like to play.

Armchair Travelers

Armchair Travelers will meet on January 22 at 7 p.m. at the home of Bonnie Fromhold, 2175 Fairway Loop, Eugene, 541-686-0107. The topic will be European Travels with Melva and Shawn Boles.

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 is subject to available space. Thank you for your cooperation.

Judy England, Prelude 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>

Thank you to the two members who edit and correct the material sent in for the *Prelude*. I keep learning more each issue and Barbara Miner and Karen Ailor are wonderful mentors. Thank you, Editor



Eugene Symphony Guild
115 West 8th Avenue, Ste. 115
Eugene, Oregon 97401

A square graphic with a white background and a border of blue and white snowflakes. The text "Happy New Year!" is written in a large, bold, black serif font, and "2018" is written below it in a similar font.

**Happy
New Year!**
2018