

PRELUDE

Volume XLVI, No. 7 March 2018 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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



CITY OF EUGENE PROCLAMATION

Whereas: The Eugene Symphony Guild is an all-volunteer organization that supports the Eugene Symphony through fundraising, community education, and volunteer services; and,

Whereas: Founding members of the Guild were instrumental in helping to form, finance, and support the Eugene Symphony in its early years; and,

Whereas: The Guild has played an important part in the Symphony's successes over the course of more than 50 years, contributing a combined total of over \$1.3 million to its operating budget; and,

Whereas: The Guild also continues its support of community education by supporting the Concert Preview series before each concert, by assisting with elementary school Youth Concerts, and by sponsoring the Young Artist Competition through scholarships for aspiring musicians; and,

Whereas: Members of the Guild support the administrative staff by performing the duties of greeter and receptionist five days per week throughout the year; and,

Whereas: The Guild's membership now includes over 100 volunteers taking part in many events and activities through the year with a passion for assisting the Symphony to enrich lives through the power of music; and,

Whereas: The Eugene Symphony Guild is celebrating its 50th Anniversary year in the 2017/18 season, and is holding various events to commemorate its legacy,

Now, therefore....

On behalf of the people of the City of Eugene, I, Mayor Lucy Vinis, hereby recognize the Guild as one of the premier volunteer support groups of the arts in Eugene by extending congratulations for the past half-century of service, and wishing its members good fortune in continuing its service to the Eugene Symphony and our community in the coming years.

Signed, Lucy Vinis, Mayor of Eugene, January 25, 2018

ESG MARCH MEETINGS

Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 11:30 a.m., lunch at the home of Carolyn Abbott, 478 Covey Lane, Eugene.

Governing Board Meeting: same date, 1:30 p.m., Quail Run Clubhouse, 435 Covey Lane.

General Meeting: Wednesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 2777 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (across from Autzen). Socialize with friends and new members, and enjoy a special anniversary cake as a final salute to our 50 years.

GUEST PERFORMER

Cheryl Wefler plays second oboe in the Eugene Symphony as well as principal oboe in the Oregon Mozart Players and Eugene Opera Orchestra. She will be our guest performer at the March 21 General Meeting.

When she's not busy rehearsing and playing, Cheryl makes reeds for oboists all over the country at her business, Cascade Oboe Reeds.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members:

As I look out my window in mid-February, at big fat buds on plants and trees, I know it is supposed to get very cold and possibly snow. I'm anxious for spring to arrive so I can get outside and plant. Speaking of spring, be sure to come to our March 21 General Meeting, one day after the first day of spring!

We'll talk at the meeting about our Musical Chairs parties as well as what is going on with Music in the Garden. I am so grateful for all the people in our Guild who have so many creative ideas and are willing to put those ideas into motion. Thanks to all who have already said yes to working on one or more of the committees we currently have going. And, by the way, we can bring friends who are not members to help with activities. That gives them a chance to experience the Guild's culture as well as giving us extra hands.

A big thank you to our member Scott Freck, who is Executive Director of the Eugene Symphony, and to Francesco Lecce-Chong, who brought us the beautiful February concert. We are so fortunate to live in this culture-rich and nature-rich area. This concert was another step in reaching out to a broader part of the community. And wait until next year, with more great concerts ahead. If you have not received a 2018/2019 brochure, drop by the Hult or contact the Symphony office, at

541-687-9487 ext. 100, and ask to have one mailed to you. The creative programming it reflects is one of the reasons we are proud to support the Symphony.

We've had a lot of behind-the-scenes work parties lately, people stepping up to help stuff envelopes, stuff the program books, cull mailing lists, plan events, develop promotional materials, and set up tables for meetings. A lot of our work is done with no glory or public acknowledgement. But working together to accomplish a task is also fun, and we get a chance to make friends with those we did not know. I appreciate all of you and know who you are! Thanks for keeping the wheels of the Guild turning.

In the April Prelude and at the General Meeting we will announce the nominations for our 2018/2019 slate of officers. Nancy Holloman, Melva Boles, Marilyn Deaton, and I make up the nominating committee. Please call one of us if you would like to hold an elected position on the Board (see page 1 of our Roster for a list of positions) or if you know someone whom you want to nominate (after checking with them for their permission).

I hope you have a wonderful March and a fun St. Patrick's Day. See you on March 21.

—Carolyn

Annual Survey

Last spring we conducted a survey to determine whether we were implementing practices and policies that were the most advantageous to our members and to the Guild's success. At that time, we found the change of meeting frequency and location were working well for most people. This spring we will do another survey concerning the timing, frequency, and location of our monthly meetings, as well as the content and length of the meetings. We will also be asking for suggestions and ideas. Be on the lookout for this survey in April or May.

BANDING TOGETHER

The *Musical Chairs committee* has planned 11 fabulous parties for 2018. Does a British mystery dinner pique your interest? How about a Chinese feast along with entertainment? Say "si" to a Mexican fiesta on The Tate outdoor patio. Or tour murals, complete with slides, led by a former Eugene Slug Queen. This is only a sampling of 2018 parties.

These parties can only succeed with help from our members. Say yes when called by party hosts to join the fun, or call Francee Hillyer at 541-485-8065 for information on helping with one or more of the parties.

The **Music in the Garden committee**, co-chaired by Betsy Patton, 541-434-9188, and Sue Ashton, 541-255-7323, is meeting on Thursday, March 1, 1 p.m., at the Flintridge Village Clubhouse, 2307 Ridgeway Drive, Eugene.

The **Garden Party committee** is busy planning the June 8 Garden Party. Salads, appetizers, and desserts are needed from the great chefs of the Symphony Guild. Sign up at the March General Meeting or contact Ginger Fifield at 760-550-0515 or gfifield11@gmail.com.

The **Johnson Brothers Spring Kick-Off Party** will be held on Saturday, March 17, 12-5 p.m. The Guild will have a table promoting Music in the Garden and the Guild. Contact Ginger Fifield at 760-550-0515 if you can help at the Guild table for a two-and-a-half-hour shift. It will be a fun afternoon to enjoy food and art vendors as well as music while you contemplate which spring plants to purchase.

The **Artwalk** will be chaired by Ada Weeks, 541-896-3135.



CHANGES and TRANSITIONS

Tooting a Horn: *Fanfare for Volunteers!*

Welcome to new ESA office volunteers and thanks to all office volunteers for stepping up and filling most of the monthly shifts. Your work is greatly appreciated by the Guild and the ESA staff.

Thanks also to those who volunteered to stuff brochures into envelopes at the ESA office on Tuesday, February 13, and put inserts into programs at the Hult Center on Wednesday, February 14.

Happy Birthday wishes to our members with March birthdays: Rebecca Callison, Barbara Cook, Verda Guistina, Sylvia Kaufman, Carolyn Manewal, Lucile McKenzie, Heather Nolle, Sally Olson, Nina Rogers, and Marguerite Zolman.

New Members

Edwena Matychuck, 2050 Good Pasture Loop, #141, Eugene 97401, 541-844-1673 (home), 541-999-2210 (cell), edmilo@comcast.net

Jerril Nilson, 2128 Lawrence St., Eugene 97405, 541-953-7537 (cell), 541-484-0651 (business), jerril.nilson@comcast.net

Jerril Nilson was accepted as an Honorary Member of the ESG in November.

Delpha Camp (correction), 76 W. 29th Ave. #2203, Eugene 97405, 541-434-4164 (home), 541-913-2447 (cell), delphacamp@gmail.com

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News



Greetings Guild Members, These surely are exciting times for the Eugene Symphony family! In the middle of February we revealed our lineup of concerts for the 2018/19

season, which includes a three-program arc celebrating the life and work of Leonard Bernstein; performances of musical landmarks such as Verdi's *Requiem*, Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto*, and Mendelssohn's bubbling *Italian Symphony*, as well as a special presentation of the original *Star Wars* film with the orchestra playing John Williams' iconic soundtrack live. It promises to be a blockbuster year, and we hope you will all join us at the Hult Center.

At the February concert, our spectacular collaboration, *The Four Seasons of the McKenzie River*, came to fruition. Created in partnership with the McKenzie River Trust and Travel Lane County, we projected photographs and videos from 65 different artists on a huge screen. A sold-out house of enthusiasts (for music, the outdoors, and both, we surmise) was rapt with attention as Francesco, violin soloist Rachel Barton Pine, and the orchestra performed Vivaldi's timeless music on stage. What a night for all!

Turning the page to March, which is nearly as busy, we look forward to our second set of elementary school Youth Concerts on Tuesday, March 13. This time around will be the culmination of Carnegie Hall's *Link Up* curriculum. It will be especially fun because we get to perform a brand-new program called *The Orchestra Swings*. Based on jazz rhythms and colors, the students will hear music by Scott Joplin, Duke Ellington, Leonard Bernstein, and

George Gershwin. Thank you in advance for the Guild's assistance in bringing these concerts to our young people!

Finally, March also brings our seventh symphonic series concert along with an old friend of mine, cellist Zuill Bailey. On March 15, he performs a relatively new cello concerto by American composer Michael Daugherty entitled *Tales of Hemingway*. Each of its four movements is based on a different novel by Ernest Hemingway. Bailey's recording of the piece (made with another old friend, Giancarlo Guerrero, and the Nashville Symphony) won the Grammy Award in 2017. That week Zuill will travel hither and yon, to schools, businesses, and even RiverBend Hospital as part of an exhaustive residency project. You will be charmed and inspired by his energy and enthusiasm for connecting people with music.

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

LAURA AVERY VISITING MASTERS

Master Classes: Eugene Symphony guest artists provide public coaching sessions for local student musicians. This will be the last Master Class for this season.

Zuill Bailey, cello

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

4:00-5:30 p.m.

The Studio, Hult Center
Free and open to the public

50TH ANNIVERSARY TEA CELEBRATION

The 50th Anniversary Tea on January 20 was a beautiful climax to our anniversary celebrations and a positive atmosphere in which to begin our next 50 years! Everyone enjoyed the newly remodeled accommodations at the Eugene Country Club and the beautifully decorated tables laden with delectable finger sandwiches, scones, fruit, and petite fours. Guests were greeted with lovely music by cellist Dale Bradley, and happy reunions of past presidents and members brought smiles to many faces.

Shelley Kurtz, our mistress of ceremonies, added a delightful spark with her warm and friendly personality. She was, for a long time, a beloved news anchor on KVAL-TV and is well-known to many of us. She presented a short history of our Guild and was then joined at the podium by Amy Jo Butler, retired long-time violinist with the Eugene Symphony. They recognized each of the Guild's 18 past presidents who were present. Each received a cheerful nosegay of flowers in a glass vase and a copy of our Guild history.

Scott Freck, Executive Director of the Eugene Symphony, recognized the important role the

Guild has played over these 50 years and thanked us for the amazing \$1.3 million we have contributed to the Symphony.

To wrap up the festivities, music was provided by Cob Brio, three talented young violinists.

So many lovely notes and comments have come in from attendees telling how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Here are excerpts from a few: "What a fabulous celebration! One of the nicest events the Guild has ever sponsored." "I think the past presidents had a ball! Thanks for your efforts to find them." "My flowers are still quite lovely, and please know that the food, the music, and the history, as well as all the past presidents, made for a memorable afternoon." "You and your committee deserve a standing ovation for orchestrating the lovely high tea for the 50th anniversary celebration."

And I want to add my most sincere thanks to my wonderful committee: Carolyn Abbott, Christine Hogan, Betsy Patton, Melva Boles, Sue Ashton, Sandra Weingarten, Ginger Fifield, Pat Ross, and Amy Jo Butler. They are the best!

—*Sylvia Kaufman*



Past Presidents: Betty Lou Snyder and Christine Hogan

Past Presidents: (*back row*) Susan Greenwald, Carolyn Abbott, Kay Hanson, Connie Regali, Nancy Coons, Emilie York, Paula Salerno, Cyndy Lane, Sylvia Kaufman, Edna DeHaven. (*front row*) Marilyn Deaton, Amy Jo Butler, Sandra Weingarten, Melva Boles, Susan Steele, Judy Hicks.

MARCH CONCERT PREVIEW

The March 15 concert features world-famous cellist Zuill Bailey and music of Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona (1895-1963), American composer Michael Daugherty (born in 1954), and Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). Lecuona's *Malaguena* (1928) is probably the single most famous composition by a Cuban composer. The piece is based on a flamenco form and was originally the final movement of a piano work Lecona played on tours. It was eventually recast as a song and later an orchestration by Ferde Grofe, who also orchestrated *Rhapsody in Blue* for George Gershwin.

Michael Daugherty used four Hemingway novels as inspiration for *Tales of Hemingway*. He wanted this work to be about the cello, so he wrote the cello part first and orchestrated around it. A recording of this cello concerto with soloist Zuill Bailey and the Nashville Symphony conducted by Giancarlo Guerrero won three Grammy awards in 2017.

The second half of the program features *Valse Triste* (1903-1904) and *Symphony No. 5* (1915, rev. 1919) by Jean Sibelius. *Valse Triste* was a hit that achieved even more popularity when Jean's brother-in-law, Arvid Jarnefelt, wrote a play inspired by the music. In the play, an old woman dances with a man she believes to be her deceased husband, who turns out to be Death himself.

Sibelius said that the grand theme in his *Fifth Symphony* was inspired by swans. "Today I saw 16 swans. God, what beauty. They circled over for a long time and disappeared into the solar haze like a silver ribbon." The symphony is based on the dynamic development of the first four notes of the horn theme that open the work. Francesco Lecce-Chong says, "Sibelius found his own unique voice with music that sings and soars, but also bears witness to a fractured, struggling Europe. The music ends in a moment of catharsis and one of the most memorable finales ever conceived."

Don't forget to join us in Studio 1 at 6:30 p.m., before Thursday's concert, for an entertaining and informative Guild-sponsored preview with Francesco Lecce-Chong.

—Melva Boles

STAY TUNED

Mark your calendars for the April 19 Eugene Symphony concert *Earth and Sea*. Francesco will conduct works by Dukas, Wagner, and Debussy. Programming includes the west coast premiere of *Sonorous Earth* by Augusta Thomas Reid, featuring Third Coast Percussion members, who will regale us with bells from cultures all over the world.

A HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Eugene Symphony will have a Symphony Happy Hour with Francesco on Monday, March 12, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. We will meet him at Slightly Coffee Roasters, 545 E 8th Avenue A, Eugene. Street parking is available on 8th Avenue. There is free parking in the Northwest Community Credit Union parking lot nearby. There's no cost to attend, and coffee, tea, wine, beer, and cocktails will be available for purchase. Francesco will discuss the music you'll hear at the March 15 concert. For the record, he'll do these get-togethers every concert week that he's in town, which includes March, April, and May of the remaining season. Watch this space.

YOUTH CONCERT – THE ORCHESTRA SWINGS

The Silly Hat Society strikes again! Make sure Tuesday, March 13, is highlighted on your calendar for our next Youth Concerts at the Hult Center, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. If you haven't yet signed up, it's not too late. Call Sandra, at 541-466-3247, to volunteer. And bring a friend! We'll see you then, and thank you for helping make this a great experience for the students.

PERSONAL INTERLUDES

Eugene's New Friend

I arrived first at Perugino and treated myself to a cappuccino, one of the best I've had in years. That boded well. Francesco was running slightly late for Coffee with Francesco, a gift from the Eugene Symphony Association that I'd won as a door prize at the Symphony Guild's January meeting. My appointment was with Francesco Lecce-Chong, the new Music Director and Conductor of the Eugene Symphony.

Francesco arrived, talking quickly about moving to Eugene and getting settled. Personable and friendly, he's a cyclone of positive energy. The excitement in his behavior is catching. He wants to use his time in Eugene for growth and learning. He said his family liked Eugene when they visited, and he seems comfortable here too. (All he needs is a bicycle to fit in perfectly.)

I told him about the Symphony Guild drawing, teasing him about being a door prize, which surprised him. I told him the energy level at our meeting rose measurably, into a happy kind of buzz, when our members learned what the prize would be. He was a new hero/star that our room full of seasoned concert goers and Symphony supporters all wanted to meet and know better.

Francesco was interested to know what music I like and want to hear, even though I don't

play an instrument or sing and have never studied music. His questions told me a lot about him and what Eugene has in store. He inhales the world around him and wants to find ways to express it back.

His first official concert after being chosen Eugene's Music Director was last summer's free concert at Cuthbert Amphitheater in Alton Baker Park. His eyes lit up talking about what a great thing it is for families to listen to music together. He's looking forward to the Symphony's family concert this April 29. He also wants to use his abundant energy to bring even more music and music involvement to youth than the Symphony has done in the past.

Francesco is still finishing his contract with Pittsburgh through June. He enjoyed his earlier work in Milwaukee, and he obviously hopes to build and expand his career with Eugene. This young man will be anchored in our town for at least the next four years. It will be exciting to see which of his many talents shine the brightest in this arena. A pleasant and magnetic person to spend time with, he is very expressive and communicates easily. His personality will bring a new electricity to Eugene.

I came home with the distinct feeling that I had made a new friend, and Eugene has too.
—*Judy England*

SOCIAL NOTES

Armchair Travelers (fourth Monday)

Armchair Travelers meet on March 26 at 7 p.m. at the home of Bonnie Fromhold, 2175 Fairway Loop, Eugene, 541-686-0107. Karlie Roberts, our scholarship recipient, will give the March program on her travels through South America.

Book Club (second Monday)

The Book Club will meet at the home of Sandra Harland, March 12, 7 p.m., 50 Ruby Ave., Apt.122, Eugene. The book this month is *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper. Come join us. 541-687-2814.

Guild Bridge Group (second Friday)

Guild Bridge will meet Friday, March 9,

1-4 p.m., at the home of Bonnie Fromhold. Call Bonnie at 541-696-0107 to reserve your place.

Yoga (every Thursday)

Yoga with Helen is held on Thursdays, 10–11 a.m. Call Nancy Holloman at 541-228-1805 or Darian Fadeley at 541-942-9851 if you are interested.

Pre-Concert Dining (before each concert)

A popular gathering for members is dinner at the Sixth Street Grill, 5:30 p.m. on Symphony concert evenings. Someone is now needed to organize and make reservations. If this tradition is to continue, please volunteer to make this fun event keep happening.

Feel free to print a copy of the *Prelude* when it is delivered to your email address. 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 of each month prior to publication. Thank you for your cooperation.

—Judy England, *Prelude* Editor



Eugene Symphony Guild

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Happy St.
Patrick's
Day