

PRELUDE

Volume XLVI, No. 9 May 2018 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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



SUCCESSFUL YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE

The May Guild meeting on May 16 will be the last regular membership meeting for the 2017-2018 season. It will be a special time to look back at this year and plan for another special year.

Our guest speaker, Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong, will talk to us about the Symphony's for 2018-2019 season.

The musical presentation will feature Ching Lee and Suzanne Shapiro in a duet. Read more about these two amazing members on page six..

You are welcome to bring your friends, neighbors, and people you have talked to about the Guild and introduce them as they learn more about us and what we accomplish.

We will have an update on the forthcoming Guild events for the summer. Please sign up as a volunteer to fulfill our needs for these events..

Join us for this final meeting of the year and enjoy Bonnie's special nibbles as you meet and socialize with friends.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is proud to present the following slate of candidates for election and installation at the Annual Meeting in June:

President: Suzanne Shapiro
Executive Vice President: Inga West
Treasurer: Corky Hughes
Secretary: Juliet Bender
Vice President Fundraising: Ginger Fifield
Vice President Education/Social: Ada Weeks
Vice President Promotion: Susan Ashton

It is a great pleasure to nominate these talented, enthusiastic members to lead the Guild in our 51st year.

ESG MEETINGS

The *ESG Board meeting* is Wednesday, May 2, 1:30 p.m. at the Quail Run Clubhouse, 435 Covey Lane, Eugene. Please note date change.

The *General meeting* is Wednesday, May 20, 10:45 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 2777 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The *Annual Meeting* on June 19th will be held at the Country Inn, 4100 County Farm Road, Eugene. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. The presentation of our annual donation to the Eugene Symphony Association and the election and installation of Executive Board members will follow lunch. Confirm reservations by June 12 with Carol Welch (541) 344-5187. Guests welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members

Hooray, the first of May!
Hopefully we will be able to start our planting, mowing and window washing soon. This Spring is a little bitter-sweet for me knowing that I am coming to

the end of my tenure as your President but also looking forward to having more personal time for my patio plantings. But there is no rest for me right now, Spring brings with it many wonderful Guild events.

Many of us are enjoying working together to establish the 11 Musical Chairs parties taking place from May through September. As I look through the little green book, I find I want to go to every one of them. Talk to friends and neighbors and make your reservations now. These parties are part of the social benefits we get from belonging to the Guild in that we usually meet new people and perhaps make a new friend. Would you believe, the Guild has been holding Musical Chairs parties for over 30 years? Kudos to Francee Hillyer and her team for weaving together such a fun season.

Of course, I am looking forward to our 21st Music in the Garden tour on June 10. I'm hoping every one of our members are involved in some way in our most lucrative fundraiser.

Many positions have been filled and ticket takers will be called soon. Please say "yes" and find out how much fun it is to be involved in presenting this production to the community. With five beautiful gardens this year you are bound to find a new idea or purchase a plant to take home. Sue Ashton and Betsy Patton are staying ahead of schedule as they start implementing the activities required to bring it all together.

Be sure to attend our May General Meeting which will be the last General Meeting of the season. Francesco Lecce-Chong will be our guest speaker. We have asked him to talk about his schedule and how he created the concert series for the 2018-2019 season. Invite friends and neighbors to the meeting so they get exposure to our purpose and feel our strong community. Of course you will want to attend the Annual Meeting on June 19th at the Country Inn. Scott Freck and other Eugene Symphony Association staff will be on hand to receive our donation. We will elect and install our new officers and new members will receive their one-year pins. This is the culmination of our efforts for the year and a fun celebration of our successes.

So much is still to come and I look forward to seeing you all at our events this spring and summer. Carolyn

2018 YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

Several Guild members were on hand to help Katy Vizdal, Symphony Association Education Director, in the Guild's second annual scholarship presentations. There were 17 young musicians from the region who competed for four scholarships at the University of Oregon's Music Department on April 15.

Excitement built listening to Junior and Senior Division competitors and awaiting the decision by the judges. Judges were several Eugene Symphony musicians as well as Francesco Lecce-Chong. First and second place winners and awards were violinist Avery Hsieh (\$500) and cellist Adrian Hsieh (\$250). Avery and her brother, Adrian, are from Corvallis and we are sure we will be seeing them at some of our events.

Nine musicians competed in the Senior Division. The first place winner was David Lee on the marimba, (\$1000 award) and the second place winner, Brynna Paros on flute (\$500 award). Jon Caponetto on the bass trombone received Honorable Mention. All of the musicians were talented and dedicated young people.

The Guild donated \$1,500 to the scholarships. This is in addition to our annual contribution to the Symphony. We can all be proud of our participation in helping the youth of our region and in supporting the Symphony's efforts to seek out and support local talent.



BANDING TOGETHER

Music in the Garden has a little over six weeks to go! This is exciting but there is much work left to do before the June 10th tour.

Here are a few projects for all of us to tackle:

Start selling tickets. Contact friends and neighbors to sell the three tickets assigned to active members and sell more to other contacts you have!

Help with poster and flyer distribution. If you don't follow a prescribed route of businesses, take some handbills and hand them out to your neighbors, nail boutique, hair salon, church or homeowners association office.

Bake lots of cookies and deliver to Sylvia Kaufman. She will pop them in her large freezer. Call her first at 541/844-9596 to be sure she is at home to receive them. Deliver cookies to Sylvia no later than 3 p.m., Friday, June 8.

Liaisons are getting acquainted with the owners of their respective gardens and assessing what is needed in terms of tables, chairs, signs and any potential concerns they may have.

We may need additional help with loading canopies and supplies on June 9. Please call Sue (541) 255-7323 or Betsy (541) 434-9188 if you can help between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed early on June 10 to place directional signs on street corners before the tour begins. Let Sue or Betsy know if you can help with this.

Try to attend these Music in the Garden promotional events:

May 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Guild sponsored First Friday ArtWalk. There will be a drawing for three pairs of tickets to the Garden Tour.

Saturday, May 12, noon to 4 p.m. Gray's Garden Center Mothers' Day, volunteers are needed, please call Sue Ashton to help.

Library Promotion of MIG, Saturday, June 2, 2—3:30 p.m. at the Eugene Public Library.

Garden Party, Friday, June 8, 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Gerot Garden

So much has already been accomplished and our appreciation goes to all of you on the Music in the Garden team. "Many hands make light work," and this is indeed the case.

—Sue Ashton and Betsy Patton

First Friday ArtWalk. Stops on the ArtWalk tour on May 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Stops on the tour are:

—Vistra Framing, 4th & Lawrence

—Lincoln Gallery, 4th & Lincoln, across street from Vistra

—New Zone, 8th & Charnelton

—Maven, 8th & Charnelton

—Passion Flower, Broadway & Oak

People gather at the first stop (Vistra Framing) and introductions begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. Each stop is approximately a half hour with interviews with owners and/or guest artists. Guild member Ada Weeks will lead the group from one gallery to another introducing the gallery folks and talking about the Guild.

Guild members will hand out handbills promoting Music in the Garden along with fliers about the Guild. We would like a nice turnout of Guild members attending the ArtWalk.

First Friday ArtWalk is presented by Lane County Arts Council.

Music in the Garden Committee meeting, Flintridge Village Clubhouse, 2307 Ridgeway Dr., Eugene, Tuesday, May 22, 1 p.m.



MUSICAL CHAIRS IN JUNE

June 3—TALENT IN THE MAKING

A Program and Discussion by Lillian Manis for 50 guests

Relax, settle in and enjoy a musical performance by two ensembles of young, talented musicians from the University of Oregon's Community Music Institute. As you listen to their chamber music program, you'll be certain that each of these youthful musicians was born with outstanding talent. But, not according to the tenets of the Suzuki method, created by Shinichi Suzuki, who based his teaching approach on the belief that musical ability is not an inborn talent, but an ability that can be developed. On that note, it will be an enlightening afternoon as Lillian Manis, Assistant Director, talks about the Institute's unique programs, which include the Suzuki method of instruction and chamber music playing. An appropriate finale to this delightful event will be provided by coffee, tea and sweet refreshment.

June 14 —TAKE ME OUT TO THE (LADIES) BALL GAME

A Talk by Former Pro Baseball Player, Lois Youngen for 35 guests

Not many women we know can claim to have been a professional baseball player! However, Lois Youngen can do just that, since she played in the "All-American Girls Professional Baseball team" which ran for 12 years from 1943 to 1955. Be prepared. It certainly wasn't baseball as we know it today, for, according to a quote from a Register-Guard story about Ms. Youngen, the girls wore one-piece dresses while playing and, "were expected to look like Betty Grable and play like Joe DiMaggio." Youngen usually played catcher, and the \$50 a week she made covered her college tuition. A film, "A League of Her Own," released in 1992, relates the story of this league and, according to Youngen, "...captured the spirit of our league and the spirit of the women who played." Come hear the fascinating story of a professional baseball player told from the unique viewpoint of a female player. Adding to the spirit of the occasion will be genuine baseball fare of hot dogs, pretzels, chips, ice cream and beer.

June 22 —MURAL, MURAL ON THE WALL

A Walking Tour of Eugene's Murals for 25 guests

Here's a riddle for you. What do Eugene's murals have in common with the city's claim as, "Track Town, USA?" And, to further confuse you, how does a former slug queen fit into the mix? Give up? Many of murals are part of the 20x21 Mural Project, an initiative of the City of Eugene Cultural Service's Public Art Program. The aim is to create 20 or more world-class outdoor murals in Eugene between now and the 2021 IAAF World Championships to be held in Eugene. Artists from around the world will create the murals, giving them a global interpretation. Get the inside track on this innovative project when Debbie Williamson, 2011 Eugene Slug Queen (known as Holly GoSlugly), and now Communications Director of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, gives a slide show and a short tour of the downtown murals. Debbie's passion for art and especially art education led to her involvement in the 20x21 Mural Project. Okay, riddle solved! Now, on your mark, get set, and dash to the Octagon Building on East Broadway where appetizers and wine make this a winning event!

MAY CONCERT PREVIEW

Our final concert of the 2017-18 season on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. will feature symphonies by Haydn and Mahler. Austrian Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809) was one of the most prolific composers in history. Standard listings give 104 symphonies, 83 string quartets, 52 piano sonatas, 23 operas, four oratorios, and a large number of choral works, songs, masses, concertos and chamber music. Known as the “Father of the Symphony,” Haydn spent much of his career as a court musician for the wealthy Esterhazy family at their remote estate. Yet his music circulated widely, and for much of his career he was the most celebrated composer in Europe. He was a friend and mentor of Mozart and a teacher to Beethoven.

Symphony No. 88 is one of his most popular works. The first movement begins with a seven-note theme that is extensively developed. The second movement theme is introduced by the oboe and cellos followed by a charming set of variations. The third movement, a minuet, has the characteristics of a rustic peasant dance, and the final movement

is presented in a Rondo style with interesting and varied treatment of the themes.

Gustav Mahler (1860 -1911), an Austro-Bohemian late-Romantic composer, was one of the leading conductors of his generation. The most distinctive features of his *Symphony No. 5* are a trumpet solo that opens the work with the same rhythmic motive as the opening of Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Fifth Symphony*, the horn solos in the third movement and the *Adagietto* for harp and strings that is said to be a love song to Mahler’s wife Alma. The *Adagietto* is perhaps his most famous composition and is the most frequently performed of his works. Leonard Bernstein conducted it during the funeral mass for Robert F. Kennedy at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Manhattan, on June 8, 1968.

Please join us for a concert preview with Music Director, Francesco Lecce-Chong on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Studio 1, sponsored by the Eugene Symphony Guild.

—Melva Boles

STAY TUNED



The Eugene Symphony’s Happy Hour with Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong will be at the First National Tapouse, 51 W. Broadway, Eugene, on Monday, May 14th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

There is no cost to attend and coffee, tea, wine, beer, and cocktails will be available for purchase. Francesco will discuss the music you will hear at the May concert and answer your questions.

Also, **Behind the Curtain—Symphony News** will return in June.

“MUSICIANS” OF THE MONTH

We are in for a treat! After viewing the amazing creative talents of some of our members at the April meeting, we will now be astounded by the musical talents of Suzanne Shapiro and Ching Lee, accompanied by Nan Helsabeck.

After receiving her B.A. in vocal performance, Suzanne won several awards and performed as soloist with choruses and churches in New York City and New Jersey. After moving to Eugene, she sang with the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus and the Eugene Opera Chorus. She has had roles in many operas and is currently a member of the Eugene Symphony Chorus.

Ching graduated from the Central Conservatory of Beijing and worked in the opera house for five years. She won a scholarship in the Master’s program to Temple University. She has sung leading roles in many well-known operas.

SOCIAL NOTES

Book Club (second Monday) The Book Club will meet on May 14 at Edna DeHaven's at Willamette Oaks, 455 Alexander Loop. Meet Edna in the lobby at 7:00 p.m. We will continue reviewing *The First Congress* (non-fiction) by Fergus Bordewich. Please give Edna a call at (541)345-7640 to let her know you are coming. If you are interested in joining the book club, come check us out.

Guild Bridge Group (second Friday) The Guild Bridge Group will meet at the home of Bonnie Fromhold, the second Friday of May the 11th, from 1 to 4 p.m. Please call Bonnie at (541) 686-0107 to reserve your place.

Armchair Travelers (fourth Monday) Armchair Travelers will be held at Bonnie Fromhold's home, 2175 Fairway Loop, Eugene on Monday, May 21st, 7:00 p.m. (541) 686-0107. Julia Bender will present a talk on Ecuador. Call if you can join us.

Yoga (every Thursday) 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.

PERSONAL INTERLUDES

THE MAGICAL CLIBURN COMPETITION

On April 14, 1958, at the height of Cold War, a lanky young Texan performed in the first Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow. Van Cliburn helped to tear down cultural barriers years before *glasnost* and *perestroika*, demonstrating the powerful ability of classical music to reach across national barriers. It happened that Cliburn had a genuine love for the Russian people, and they returned it. We have pictures of him receiving endless gifts after concert performances and pretty young Russian women surrounding him wherever he went. He was just twenty-three years old and had a winning smile.

After the competition in Moscow, in which a Russian (Soviet) pianist was supposed to be chosen, Khrushchev was informed by the judges about the magnificent playing of Cliburn, and asked, "Is he the best?" The judges answered in the affirmative and Khrushchev told them to award the prize to Van Cliburn. After that he played concerts in a number of cities under the baton of Kirill Kondrashin and became enormously popular. He eventually returned to the United States and received a ticker tape parade on Madison Avenue in New York, the first time a musician had been so honored. On that day he became not only a cultural hero, but an unofficial diplomat. He was subsequently honored by every United States president and invited to play in Washington.

Nixon, a pianist himself, is pictured beaming after a White House recital.

Van Cliburn (1934-2013) has said "There is something about the indescribable beauty to be found in the pages of great classical music. It is the inexpressible in human communication. It supplants everything, and it gives us depth, raises our consciousness, and gives us hope." He was beloved not only for his momentous gift as a brilliant musician, but also for his transcendent spirit as a great humanitarian. His legacy is a testament to the power of classical music and the importance of sharing it with the world.

We had the pleasure of hearing the 2013 Cliburn winner, Vadym Kholodenko, play with our own Eugene Symphony. He was also gracious in giving a preconcert lecture on the Wednesday before the concert. Last summer, it was my pleasure to go to Fort Worth and hear the entire competition, which added up to about seventy piano concerts. It was held in Bass Hall, a handsome, fairly new concert hall in downtown Fort Worth. The winner was South Korean pianist Yekwon Sunwoo, and perhaps he can come to Eugene in the future, but actually any one of the six finalists, including two Americans, would be most welcome in our wonderful Hult Center.

—Phyllis Villec

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR OUR SCRAPBOOK

I am in need of any photos that were taken at our Holiday Performance Event on Nov, 11, 2017. Also appreciated will be any photos of Guild events from the last two years.

Please contact me after May 4 or send me some copies so that I can use them in our Guild Scrapbook. Thank you. Sylvia Kaufman

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 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

Happy Birthday wishes to our members with May birthdays:

Evie Beals, Bonnie Fromhold, Susan Greenwald, Cyndy Lane, Marjorie Ogle, Betsy Patton, Caralee Roberts, Sandra Weingarten.



ESA's Eugene Summer Concert will be Saturday, July 21st, 8 p.m. at Alton Baker Park. The Eugene Symphony Guild tickets will be available at the Hult Box Office on June 13th at noon. Each member will be allotted four tickets to this free concert.



Eugene Symphony Guild
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