

PRELUDE

Volume XLVII, No. 1 September 2018 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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



Introducing the 2018-2019 Eugene Symphony Guild Board of Directors:

From left to right: Juliet Bender, Secretary, Inga West, Executive Vice President, Sue Ashton, Vice President Promotion, Suzanne Shapiro, President, Corky Hughes, Treasurer, Carolyn Abbott, Past President, Ada Weeks, Vice President Education and Social. Missing from the photo is Ginger Fifield, Vice President Fundraising.

Board and General Meeting Information

September 19, Eugene Symphony Guild *Board Meeting*, 10 a.m. and *General Membership Meeting*, 10:30 a.m., with 10:15-10:30 a.m. social. Masonic Lodge, 2777 Martin Luther Blvd., Eugene. **"Where do we go after 50?"** will be a round-table discussion of fundraising, social and general goals. Both this and the major Fall Harvest Festival event in October needs our attention as we begin this year and see what is in store for our next fifty years. Bonnie Fromhold will be our hostess, and plan on joining the after meeting lunch group, Which restaurant will be decided at the meeting. The musical presentation will be Jane Allen, principle harpist for the Eugene Symphony. See note on page 7.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

What an exciting year this promises to be for the Eugene Symphony Guild.

We have an exceptional orchestra and Music

Director and a full season of must see and hear concerts. In a few weeks on September 27 our Symphony opens the season with music by Bernstein, Block and Shostakovich. I am familiar with all of these works and guarantee that a very interesting and entertaining concert is in store for us. If you do not have a ticket yet for this program hurry to the Hult Center box office and get one.

A long time ago I wrote an article for my high school newspaper about music as the universal language that unites people around the world. I feel that in these times of turmoil we need music in our lives more than ever to bring us together and advocate for peace. I can't imagine a movie, or life itself without music. Imagine watching a Star Wars movie without music! Fortunately, we don't have to since there will be a spectacular presentation by our symphony of a live performance with the film *Star Wars: A New Hope* this December.

One of the joys I have had since joining the Symphony Guild and volunteering in the ESA

office is getting to know the ESA staff. Every person in the office is a joy to know and work with. I am pleased to say that the Guild and ESA share a close and cooperative partnership which is very rewarding. Soon there will be new staff members in the ESA office and I look forward to meeting them and working with them. If you have not yet met all the ESA staff, introduce yourself at a concert or ESA event and start a friendship.

Another great event will be the Guild's Harvest Festival on October 27. The day will be filled with music, appetizers and silent auctions. There will be a bake sale in our sweet shop, vintage clothing and related items in the vintage clothing shop, several vendors with gift items, and a children's corner with activities for kids including an instrument petting zoo. This is the season's biggest fundraiser for the Symphony Guild so please spread the word to friends and neighbors and encourage them to attend. Tickets at \$15.00 for adults will be available through the Guild and on our website.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the opening night of the Eugene Symphony season concert, our September meeting on the 19th, and encourage everyone to help out when called upon for the Guild's Harvest Festival in October. — Suzanne

Thank You Notes To So Many

Many thanks to the contributors of six fabulous baskets featured at our 2018 Music in the Garden Fundraiser. Contributors included Synergy Therapeutics, Los Dos Amigos, McKenzie Honey Farm, Long's Meat Market, Capitello's Winery, Territorial Winery, Walnut Ridge Vineyard, Brigadoon Winery, RoxyAnn Winery, Shamrock Flowers and Gifts, The Cleanery, Barry's Espresso and Bakery, The Cozy Restaurant, Sweet Life Patisserie, Eugene Symphony Association, Newman's Fish Market, Author Noah Strycker, Down to Earth, Alan Beicher and numerous Guild members. If you don't already frequent these businesses, please consider supporting them.



BANDING TOGETHER



Members, we are excited to be announcing our *Fall Harvest Festival* fundraiser for the Eugene Symphony Guild.

The Festival will take place on October 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. in Eugene. We chose this day for several reasons, taking into consideration the best time to hold a fundraiser during the holidays; competition from similar events and, of course, the University of Oregon football schedule. The activities were chosen at the first meeting of the Committee, taking the best ideas from last year's event and considering the feedback from that event.

A list of Committee members and Chairs of the various parts of the Festival can be obtained from Ginger Fifield or Carolyn Abbott. Although many people have already jumped in to be involved in the planning and several meetings have been held, there is still time for interested members to help. If you have not been asked but would like to help, please call Ginger or Carolyn. Likewise, if you receive a call from us asking for your help, please say yes.

Items that will be needed for the Festival are:

Vintage Clothes (note article below describing this), see Melva Boles;

Baked Goods (our famous Guild Sweet Shoppe), see Nancy Holloman;

Items for Silent Auction, (be very specific,

minimum value of \$25). See Edwena Matychuck, Ada Weeks, Carolyn Abbott, Ginger Fifield.

Please, inform one of the above if you want to donate or obtain something from a business. We do not want to duplicate requests.

Other activities going on at the Festival will be: continuous live music, complimentary appetizers and beverages, a Children's' Corner (singing, face painting, art work), an ESA Instrument Petting Zoo, plants and bulbs and several vendors. Cost is \$15. Children 10 and under are free.

This should be a really fun event for you, friends and family. We're having fun planning it and hope to see you and many others there!

Our 2018 Fall Harvest Festival will feature "Vintage Fashions". Please consider donating clothing and accessories that you may have treasured at some point in your life, but are now willing to share with others. Think stylish hats, purses, shoes (classic, timeless, lightly worn), scarves, handkerchiefs, jewelry and clothing (skirts, dresses, tops, matching ensembles, etc.). Think 50's, 60's, and 70's fashions and beyond. Call Melva Boles at 541-954-7549 (cell) or 541-344-1365 (home), or Connie Regali at 541-484-1284.

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>



Happy Birthday Wishes

To our members with September birthdays. Congratulations!

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

* * * * *

Marty Madden celebrated her centennial birthday at her daughter Linda's home on Sunday, July 19. Congratulations and all best wishes from your Guild friends, Marty!

Thank You Notes

Dear Eugene Symphony Guild members,

Thank you so much for your wonderful gift of \$30,000 to the Eugene Symphony and our 52nd season. We are honored by your trust and investment in us, and in the arts and culture that make our community so vibrant and special.

Thanks to your support and the support of generous and committed donors like you, the Eugene Symphony is proudly fulfilling our mission to enrich lives through the power of music. Your ongoing support plays a significant role in sustaining the quality of our onstage, community engagement, and education programs.

On behalf of all of us at the Eugene Symphony; musicians, board, staff and volunteers, thank you again.

With gratitude,

Scott Freck
Executive Director



Dear Members,

This is just a quick note to thank all of you for the lovely pendant given to me at our June Annual Meeting. This traditional gift to the outgoing President is very meaningful and identifies those who have gone before and given so much to the Guild. I see the Past Presidents from the last 15 years wearing it at important functions and casual meetings. It means a lot to me to join their ranks so thanks very much.

I also want to thank everyone who has worked so hard for the Guild over the past 2 years while I was President. You amaze me with your devotion, loyalty, creativity and just plain hard work. I have great belief in the future of the Guild because of these characteristics and know that you will carry on successfully by adapting to changing times and dreaming new dreams.

In a recent conversation with Dave Pottinger, President of the Eugene Symphony Association, he told me how impressed he is, not just with the results, but the spirit and professionalism of the Guild. He didn't know much about us when he joined the ESA Board, but now sincerely appreciates and values all that we do. How nice to hear and I wanted to share this with all the members. Thank you, Dave.

Carolyn Abbott,
Immediate Past President

SOCIAL NOTES

Starting this new 2018-2019 season we have some new ideas along with some changes:

Pre-concert Dining has been canceled due to the difficulty getting to the concerts on time; **Yoga** has also been cancelled as our teacher is no longer available. A special thanks to yoga teacher Helen Park for working with us this spring. Nancy Holloman is interested in a **Weekly Walking Hour**. Also, there is some interest in a late afternoon **wine social** much like the Meet and Greet we used to have at Valley River.

Please call Melva at 541-344-1365 if you are interested in either of the two proposed groups and/or have other ideas for an Interest Group.

These groups are continuing for 2018-2019: **Book Club**, **Armchair Travelers**, and **Bridge**, and information for each is as follows:

September 10, **Book Notes**, meets at 7:00 p.m. Hosted by Sandy Harland, 541-687-2814, at Terpening Terrace, 50 Ruby Avenue, discussing *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, by Alan Bradley. We will also start reading *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee to review in October.

Armchair Travelers meets on September 24, at 7:00 p.m., hosted by Bonnie Fromhold at 2175 Fairway Loop, Eugene. Her number is 541-686-0107. Come hear of Phyllis Wolf's travels on a 2 1/2 week Viking River Cruise to Moscow, St. Petersburg and more. Come for some delectable treats and insights into another culture.

Guild Bridge Group will meet on September 14, at 1:00 p.m. at Nancy Holloman's, 920 Lariat Drive. Her number is 541-228-1805 to confirm.

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News



Personal Interludes

Greetings, Guild members!

I hope you have had a fun and satisfying summer, filled with wonderful memories to carry into the cooler days and longer nights of fall. We had a very busy July at the Symphony, with two outdoor concerts, a series of Instrument Petting Zoos in public libraries, a fun night with Francesco throwing out the first pitch at the Eugene Emeralds game, and more. In August we were hard at work on grant applications, artistic planning for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, and hiring for a few staff positions. Now our Annual Meeting and Opening Night are right around the corner.

In lieu of my usual column, this month I've been asked to submit a few thoughts for the "Personal Interludes" feature of the Guild newsletter. I'll admit, when intrepid editor Judy England asked me to write something for it, I was reluctant. In 27 years in the orchestra management world, I have indeed met some truly astounding human beings, and I worried that writing about some of those encounters would come off as horribly self-aggrandizing. I'd like to think that I've never been one to puff out my chest and boast broadly about what I've done and all the cool people I know, and instead greatly prefer to talk about our work as a team, and how we brought people closer together.

At the same time, writing this article has allowed me to reminisce fondly about my experiences and reflect on how fortunate I've been to work with and get to know many of the greatest musicians of our time. The vast majority of the conductors, instrumental soloists, and vocalists with whom I've collaborated have been wonderful people, full of big ideas, strong opinions, unquenchable curiosity, and boundless love for the world and

the people around them. I learned early on in my career that they all needed to have somebody like me to facilitate the details, make the arrangements, acquire the resources, and generally help make their art possible.

So, with that preamble in mind, here are a few random recollections in rapid-fire fashion. Many of them have a backstory, so if you want to know more, just ask next time we bump into each other.

I remember...tremulously turning pages for Jeffrey Kahane as he accompanied my boyhood idol Yo-Yo Ma in Stravinsky's quicksilver *Suite Italienne* in a sold-out recital at Portland's Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall...listening to Bobby McFerrin sing a glorious set of Beatles songs during his sound-check with only me and the sound technician in the hall...giving violinist Sarah Chang a driving lesson on dark country backroads in the wilds of North Carolina after a concert in Pinehurst...playing pick-up basketball in Portland's North Park Blocks with Joshua Bell (*you can take the boy out of Indiana, but you can't take the Indiana out of the boy*)...trading terrible puns with the 'Clown Prince of Music' Victor Borgé backstage before his concert...escorting Coretta Scott King to a press conference about the release of a CD honoring her late husband's legacy...chatting with crooner Tony Bennett at bucolic Koka Booth Amphitheater in suburban Cary, N.C., (which he said was 'beyootiful')...watching baseball in the musicians' lounge with violinist Pinchas Zukerman...having octogenarian flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal fall asleep in my car as I drove him to Salem for a runout concert...getting to introduce Elvis Costello to the orchestra at a rehearsal...tackling the vaunted Pinehurst #2 golf course with my other boyhood idol, cellist Lynn Harrell six weeks before the U.S. Open was held there...bringing coffee to James Taylor and his band at baggage claim at PDX, as they'd taken a 5 a.m. flight from San Francisco before a 10 a.m. rehearsal in Portland... Con't.

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

Scott Freck, **Personal Interludes**, Continued,
...interviewing mezzo-soprano Frederica von
Stade about obscure French dialects at a post-
concert panel...making my first announcement
to the Oregon Symphony musicians, knees
shaking, while singer Mel Tormé looked on
impatiently...playing pool until the wee hours
with baritone Douglas Webster after the last
of four performances of Bernstein's MASS...
winning \$20 at golf from saxophonist Branford
Marsalis after a seemingly endless string of
defeats at his home course in Durham, N.C. ...
playing an impromptu piano duet with Pink
Martini's Thomas Lauderdale at his funky loft
in Portland...and my personal favorite,
stepping on the back of soprano (and
notoriously fiery diva) Kathleen Battle's gown,
while she was in it...and living to tell the
tale...

Then there are the meals...so many post-
concert dinners, it's hard to fathom. This
business is predicated on late nights, as most
conductors and soloists don't eat much before
performances, and then have energy to burn
as they relive what just happened on stage.
Most are creatures of habit, so tend to have
favorite haunts. My favorite memories in this
category fall into two columns: regal affairs in
the 1990's at The Heathman Hotel in Portland
with the late James DePreist, then Music
Director of the Oregon Symphony, and his
sublimely gracious wife Ginette; and raucous
evenings at Poole's Diner in Raleigh, N.C. with
North Carolina Symphony Music Director
Grant Llewellyn and whatever soloists or
orchestra musicians came along. Many happy
hours were spent in both restaurants, with
conversation flowing from topic to fascinating
topic like water running downhill. (Here in
Eugene, we tend to wind up either at Le Bar
at Marché or at Izakaya Meiji, which stays
open later, and whose bone-broth ramen may
be Francesco's favorite meal in town. Just in
case you're curious.)

As much as I love the music itself, I think the
panoply of orchestral literature is among the
greatest achievements in the history of
humankind, I love the process by which an
orchestra, conductor, and soloists come
together to make it perhaps even more. It is
never predictable, and is always filled with the
best of humanity's aspirations and flaws. It
has been an utter privilege to help these
extraordinary people bring their art to the
public, and sow the seeds of inspiration for all
of us to enjoy.

—Scott Freck

Eugene Symphony 2018/19 Season
Laura Avery Visiting Masters Series
(Tuesdays of concert weeks) 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

9/25/18

Julie Albers, cello
Hult Center Studio
Cello Master Class

10/16/18

Ran Dank, piano
Hult Center Studio
Piano Master Class

11/13/18 *Unconfirmed*

eighth blackbird,
contemporary ensemble
Hult Center Studio
Chamber Ensemble Master Class

12/4/18

Chloë Hanslip, violin
Hult Center Studio
Violin Master Class

Continued in 2019, more listings will be in
future issues.



September Concert Preview

OPENING NIGHT

Our opening night will start your toes tapping to the jazzy suite from the Broadway hit *On the Town*, which opens the program. This suite not only opens the concert, but begins a three-month celebration of Leonard Bernstein's centennial. Bernstein was an American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist, and was among the first conductors born and educated in the U.S. to receive worldwide acclaim. Marin Alsop, our Music Director Laureate, was a protégé of his. Orchestras all over the country and throughout the world will be honoring him in his centennial year.

Next we hear Ernest Bloch who was born in Switzerland, later moved to the United States, and eventually made Oregon his home. As a child he studied violin, but at a young age vowed to become a composer. It was his epic work *Schelomo*, referring to King Solomon, that earned him recognition as a world-class composer. This was the first of many compositions in his "Jewish Cycle," based on the feelings he experienced from his Jewish heritage and his studies of the Bible.

The soloist, American-born cellist Julie Albers started playing violin at age two, and by age four, switched to the cello. As a winner of several prizes, she has performed with major orchestras here and abroad. She is currently principal cellist of the Saint Paul Chamber

Orchestra, and in addition plays in many chamber ensembles. She is recognized for her superlative artistry, radiant performing style and intense musicianship. What a treat to have her perform this magnificent work here, in this return visit to Eugene. She performed Tchaikovsky with the Symphony in December, 2013.

At its premier in 1937, Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony* received a standing ovation of over thirty minutes! This triumph was Shostakovich's redemption after falling into disgrace with the Soviet regime. Some of his earlier music was displeasing to Stalin, and his professional career was in doubt. So frightened was he for his safety that he kept a packed suitcase under his desk! With this work, carefully composed to adhere to Stalin's standards, he once more achieved acceptance. However, Shostakovich slyly managed to incorporate a subtext bearing testimony to the despair and terror of that time. It is apparent that if his audience recognized his intention, Stalin did not.

Don't forget, Symphony Guild Concert Preview with Francesco and Julie, Thursday, September 27, 6:30 p.m. in The Studio, before the concert. Join us for the beginning of another exciting season of music. — Sandra Weingarten.

Laura Avery Visiting Masters Series with Julie Albers, Cello Master Class, Tuesday, September 25, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., The Studio at the Hult.

Stay Tuned

Heads-up for our October 18 concert which will feature David Schiff's *Stomp*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 8*, and Bernstein's *Symphony No. 2* which is based on W. H. Auden's Pulitzer Prize winning poem of the same name, *The Age of Anxiety*.



Musician of the Month

Jane Allen has been principal harpist with our Symphony for many years, and also is an active teacher to many accomplished students. In addition, she plays for many community events such as weddings, brunches and, of course our Music in the Garden and other Guild functions.

For the past five years, Jane has collaborated with Patricia Lambert, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in arts management at the University of Oregon, for many of these events.

How wonderful to have harp music to open our season!





Step Up—Show Up ESA OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for a little structure in your life? A quiet, cool, clean, pleasant office environment where duties are light but your presence is needed and appreciated? Guild volunteer receptionists provide valuable in-kind services which supplement our annual cash donation to the symphony.

Please consider volunteering for one half day per week. You will act as receptionist, greeting visitors, answering the phone, transferring calls to staff, accepting deliveries, and assisting musicians in finding their scores for the next concert. There may be a copying project, filing to do, a mailing you can prepare or a small data entry project for one of the staff. The Office Volunteer manual at the front desk will answer your questions before you even think of them. And if there are no projects you will have time to write a letter or two, work on a personal project or read a good book. Most importantly, you will be the smiling face and the friendly voice of the Symphony for many people.

The Guild will need ten people per week starting the first of September. Shifts are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact Nancy Holloman, 541-228-1805, to indicate your interest. We look forward to adding your name to the Office Volunteer team.

There will be a meeting of all Office Volunteers on Thursday, September 27 at 10 a.m. in the staff conference room to review procedures. If you have never volunteered and would like a good introduction to the job you are warmly invited to join us.



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



“Music is ... a higher revelation than all wisdom
and philosophy.” Ludwig van Beethoven