

PRELUDE



Vol. XLVI, No. 8, April, 2020 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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

NOTICE TO GUILD MEMBERS

The following is the policy which the board has adopted after a phone conference. We encourage all members to shelter at home and if you need anything, please call a guild member for help. The board and membership meetings for April and May are cancelled as are indoor guild social activities. The Eugene Symphony itself has cancelled its performances through May with hopes to reschedule the concerts later.

Please, everyone, stay safe and healthy. Call a Guild member if you are feeling down and need a friendly hug over the phone.

Suzanne

The Eugene Symphony Guild, understanding that we are in difficult times, and in accordance with COVID-19 federal and state guidelines for limited gatherings and social distancing issued by the CDC and Governor Kate Brown, will be monitoring the situation through the middle of April before taking action to postpone or cancel the 23rd Annual Music in the Garden fundraising event scheduled for June 14.

Music in the Garden raises more than \$20,000 annually that directly benefits the Eugene Symphony Association, and is managed and produced by our committee of Guild members, all volunteers. Generously supported by local businesses, and by ESA musicians offering their talents with live music at garden sites, Music in the Garden is a day long self-guided tour enjoyed by thousands for the past 22 years.

In addition, the Guild's production of its annual Musical Chairs fundraising events has been recalibrated to begin in June and extend through the fall. No events are planned for April or May, and the Guild is prepared to reschedule June events set if necessary. We will continue to monitor the situation and we will keep our membership and the public aware of any changes to events' status.

The safety and health of our members, our garden homeowners, and our community is most important at this time. We urge everyone to stay at home if at all possible, and practice social distancing and thorough hand washing.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

I was prepared to write about how, this time of the year, we could see the results of our fundraising. With Music in the Garden and Musical Chairs parties in planning it is rewarding to attend the concert we sponsor in April, see the results of the Young Artist Competition where we provide scholarships to the senior and junior division winners, as well as the concert previews which we sponsor and which have been drawing standing room only in recent months. Much of that may still happen, but the world has changed in a month.

We are now in uncharted territory in the arts and in our personal lives. With most sports and arts venues shutting down, including the symphony, there will be great financial losses. Even Guild gatherings are on hold until further notice. We do not know when this virus will peak and how many people will be effected. Since testing is limited and spotty it is prudent to limit our activities and for some of us to self isolate. We do not know who may have the virus and not be able to be tested and who may have the virus and show no symptoms. The best guess by medical professionals is that there are many more cases of COVID-19 in the United States than are reported.

Even with this emergency Music in the Garden and Musical Chairs parties are in the works with the April and May MC parties being postponed

until summer or fall. There will be further notice as decisions are made. The brochure will be finalized shortly and sent out and info put on our website. The Johnson Brothers has restructured its open house event scheduled for March to a week long event, but a couple of members planned to go out on March 21st anyway. The Symphony has postponed the March concert until May 30th and Symfest is moved to the Fall. Unfortunately, the Youth concerts were cancelled with the hope that they could be rescheduled. [See update on page 4].

Because my husband is battling lung cancer we are both self isolating on our country property outside of Eugene. We have enough food and supplies to get through weeks of isolation, but are frequently in touch with friends and colleagues by email and phone. It is a great time to catch up on projects at home. We have spent several days cleaning up in the garden and with cold, wet weather I can attack the house. It is a good time to cuddle with my dog, Nellie, for dog therapy time – that is when she is not out chasing squirrels and deer. Neighbors and friends are making grocery store runs for anyone in need. All is covered.

I am sure that everyone is taking adequate precautions in the face of this pandemic. Since most of us are elderly and some have health issues self isolating is in order. I hope all of you stay healthy during this crisis.

Suzanne

YOUNG ARTIST COMPEITION

Past scholarship winners Adrian and Avery Hseih after playing with Chamber Music Amici on March 8, pictured with Sandra Weingarten.

The next Young Artist Competition will be held at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. Stay tuned for a rescheduled date. Contact Sandra if you are available to volunteer.

Thank you to all volunteers!



SOCIAL NOTES and NEWS

Armchair Travelers is cancelled for April.

Book Note's is cancelled.

There will be no **Bridge Club** meeting in April.

There will be no **Social Hour** get-togethers for April or May.

Weekly Walking Hour is scheduled for these April Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m.: April 7, 14, 21 and 28. If you are new to the group, please call Nancy Holloman to be added to the email notification of the starting point. Walks begin in different places each week and are usually on level ground.



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

If you know of a Guild member who is sick, having surgery, or just needs some cheer, please let Sylvia Kaufman know so she can send a card or make a call.

It is with sadness I report that Terry Madden has passed away on March 23rd. Many of you will remember Terry and her mother Marty. They were active members for many years. We lost Marty recently. They will both be remembered in our October memorial service.

***CONCERT PREVIEWS and STAY TUNED
articles will return, hopefully soon***

SHARON STRAHM TRIBUTE

How fortunate we were to have had Sharon Strahm as a Guild member. She gave numerous volunteer hours in so many areas, and always with good humor and a big smile. She joined the Guild in 1992 and quickly became very involved. To name just a few: she served twice as VP of Promotion, twice as VP of Education, Co-chair of hospitality, Chair of numerous ticket campaigns, Co-chair of 1995-96 Christmas Walk and President elect before assuming the presidency in 1999.

But, we really have to crown her "Queen of the Preview Parties"! For several years, she secured the food and wine for that event. We all remember her dear Wes going to the various wineries to pick up the donations that Sharon always managed to land! These were well attended and fun events where the guests enjoyed tasty treats.

Sharon was organized, thorough, dependable, so when she said yes, all knew that whatever the task it would be performed with panache.

A memorial service was held March 14. Sharon leaves the Guild a legacy that should not be forgotten.

Connie Regali

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

EUGENE, OR (Mar 23, 2020)— As local, regional, and nationwide precautions surrounding COVID-19 increase, including Gov. Kate Brown's executive order directing Oregonians to stay home we are taking the necessary steps to reschedule our events while keeping the well-being of our musicians, staff, Board of Directors, patrons, and the larger community at the forefront of our decision-making.

The Executive Committee of Eugene Symphony Association's Board of Directors and its administrative staff leadership met via a video conference call last Tuesday, March 17 to discuss recent developments and plans moving forward.

"At this time we remain committed to rescheduling rather than canceling our concerts," says Board President David Pottinger. "We want to provide our community with hope, and something to look forward to in the future."

"We are also keenly aware that our musicians, who perform with many other ensembles outside of Eugene Symphony, have seen their incomes impacted by cancelled concerts," says Executive Director Scott Freck. "We know that many of our musicians may be experiencing financial hardship, and so we have crafted our plans with this philosophy in mind: if musicians were hired by Eugene Symphony to perform services in March or April 2020, they will be paid for those services even though the work itself will not happen until a later date. I am grateful for the leadership of our Board and the generosity of our patrons, both of which have allowed us to make this financial decision."

"In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to have beauty in our lives —

especially as we are unable to join together in person to experience art," says Music Director & Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong. "

As many other organizations and musicians are doing, Eugene Symphony is turning to technology to stay connected with our patrons. I've started hosting regular "Watch Parties" on Facebook, where we can all hang out and experience great performances together. My fiancée Chloe and I are also creating music education videos, which are great for parents and children to do together at home."

For a schedule of online events, follow Eugene Symphony on Facebook www.facebook.com/EugeneSymphony or subscribe to Eugene Symphony's e-newsletter at the bottom of the home page of www.eugenesymphony.org.

CONCERT SCHEDULE CHANGES

The following changes have occurred to Eugene Symphony's 2019/20 season. Please note that the Symphonic series concert *Bolero* is still scheduled for Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m.

*Elementary school Youth Concerts scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 are postponed. Eugene Symphony administration is working closely with local schools to make every effort to reschedule them before the end of the academic year, if possible.

*Symphonic series concert *Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto* rescheduled from Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m.

*Symphonic series concert *Beethoven's Fifth* rescheduled from Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m.

*Family Concert *Peter & the Wolf* rescheduled from Sunday, April 26 to Sunday, June 21 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

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Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

Continued, from pg.4

At this time, all program details remain as planned. Other events corresponding to the March 19 and April 23 concerts, such as Symphony Happy Hour, the Laura Avery Visiting Masters master class, Symphony Yoga, and Composer Matt Browne's Residency Activities, are also postponed until the new concert week.

As announced on March 12, pianist and songwriter Ben Folds postponed his national tour until later this calendar year. His originally scheduled appearance with Eugene Symphony on May 30 is now rescheduled for Friday, October 30, 2020 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at eugenesymphony.org or by calling the Hult Center Ticket Office at 541-682-5000.

*The add-on experience "SymFest" that was originally planned in conjunction with the May 30 performance with Ben Folds will not be held on Friday, October 30. Patrons who added "SymFest" to their original purchase will be refunded or can choose to donate the \$10 additional ticket price back to Eugene Symphony.

Patrons with tickets for the originally scheduled concert dates should retain them for use on the new dates. If you are not able to attend on the new date, please consider the following options:

Call the Hult Center Ticket Office at 541-682-5000 to exchange to another Eugene Symphony event.

Donate the value of your ticket as a tax-creditable contribution to the Eugene Symphony. Please contact the Hult Center Ticket Office at 541-682-5000 to utilize this option.

Give your tickets to a family member, friend, colleague or neighbor who can attend on the new date.

Additionally, the 2020/21 Season Release Party for current Symphony subscribers originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 has been postponed until further notice.

Subscribers should watch their email inbox for 2020/21 season sneak previews and more information to come.

As Eugene Symphony's Board of Directors and staff leadership continue to monitor the current landscape and navigate these uncharted waters, they will communicate clearly and directly with patrons if any further changes occur. Information related to these developments is also being posted at eugenesymphony.org.

About Eugene Symphony Now in its 54th season, the Eugene Symphony is a nonprofit and 83-member orchestra based in Eugene, Oregon. Led by Music Director & Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, Eugene Symphony reaches more than 40,000 adults and children annually with live music performances. Recognized as a cornerstone of the performing arts in Oregon's southern Willamette Valley, Eugene Symphony pursues its mission of enriching lives through the power of music by presenting annual classical and pops concerts, as well as music education and community engagement programs, regularly commissioning and premiering new American works, and disseminating its performances via radio broadcasts and recordings. More at eugenesymphony.org.

Personal Interludes - Karalyn Walker

Our lives take us on unknown and exciting paths. No one can attest to that more than new(er) member Karalyn Walker. Born and raised in Manhattan, New York, she traveled and lived around the world until the Eugene area became her home 25 years ago.

Karalyn's youth in New York sounds magical. She took piano and viola lessons, attended Broadway shows, went to art museums. She fell in love with classical music listening to the Young Peoples' Concert with Leonard Bernstein and attended the High School of Music, a city school by audition, located in Harlem. Karalyn attended Hunter College, double majoring in Music and Art history and received a B.A. from the University of Miami. She completed her education at Barry University with a Masters in Social Work, Administration and Community Organization. Feeling her civic-minded convictions growing, she worked on political campaigns, was on the Florida Fine Arts Council, was president of the Art Deco League, belonged to the ACLU and managed her husband's campaign as he ran for a judicial position on the bench. During this time she traveled to many countries and had two children in her spare time. While living in Miami she became acquainted with Debbi Rothschild (another new member of the Guild), working with her on various community projects and running a business. This collaboration resulted in a life-long friendship extending eventually to Debbi and her husband moving to Eugene.

Karalyn later married a man from Kashmir and

moved there with him where they ran a high-end mountain climbing company, leading climbers up the Himalayan Mountains! She can tell wonderful stories about trying to placate and coddle climbers with unrealistic demands for comfort as they trekked up the mountain.

Well, things sometimes fall apart, and when the political situation in Kashmir became too heated, she and her husband moved to Portland. They had friends here and she was drawn to this area. Eventually, she moved to Dexter, bought a house on a creek and lived there alone for 20 years. Then along came David Sprung, sitting next to her at a lunch given in the synagogue, eventually courting her and winning her heart. They will be married in May, 2020! His four children, her two children and all the progeny will come to Eugene to help grandma and grandpa celebrate their good fortune in finding each other. Turns out David is a musician and composer and Karalyn is back in her element of classical music, supporting David as he composes for 2 commissioned pieces, as well as attending symphony concerts, chamber music programs and committing to a V.P. Position with the Guild!

Karalyn has many interests, among them poetry. Go to karalynwalker.com to read some of her thoughts and poetry. She is also very much a people person, cares for the world, has friends all over the country/world and keeps those friends close. You will have a chance to meet David and Karalyn at the Musical Chairs program Life in the Pits, that you won't want to miss!

Be sure to get acquainted with Karalyn (and David) when you get a chance.

By Carolyn Abbott



*Feel free to print a copy of the Prelude when it is delivered to your email for future reference. Current and past issues of the Prelude can be found on the Guild website, <https://eugenesymphonyguild.org/membership/newsletter>
Editor: Judy England*

HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

We are in very challenging times, and there are a thousand ways to put that into words. It is words we use to reach across to others and share this experience, help others, learn solutions and get through the day. No one wants to be near this virus but we have neighbors and family who may be vulnerable and we are concerned on what seems like a thousand different side problems building in the background.

While all the news from around the world is frightening there was an amazing story which rose from Italy with the kind of remarkable simplicity. It was the most refreshing moment in news I have seen in far too long. Neighbors in a community of apartments or condos started singing to each other from their balconies and playing their instruments to spend their quarantine time sharing what could be reached across their plaza.

This morning on the news was Yo Yo Ma playing the cello for people home bound and to bring the generosity of music to all. It was the little clue that seemed most needed and I want to pass this little bit of wisdom along.

We have in our reach one of the most wonderful gifts to share, free to all and to ourselves. Turn the TV channel to the music channel and play your favorite music. R & B, Classical, Rock, Country.... I frankly don't care which kind but play what brings you memories of good times, play what makes you feel at peace or happy and by all means play an instrument if you can and share your gift where ever you can.

Of all the forms of healing in this wide world and all the doctors and chemists, and all who are furiously working to mend this pandemic each person has within their reach the gentle reminder that we can each help to heal our space with the kindness of music.

Never underestimate the simplest of healing powers. It comes from us, it is for us, and is to be shared with others. There is power with hope in the air and one of its healing wings is music. Go ahead, play that funky music, it's healing.... Editor *[Ed. note: read ESA article for scheduled online events, pg.4]*



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April



"I know that the most joy in my life has come to me from my violin." - Albert Einstein