

PRELUDE



Vol. XLVII, No. 11, July, 2020 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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

Thank You to the Symphony Association and Staff

I feel the need to let everyone know that the Eugene Symphony Association staff, Board of Directors and Music Director have done an amazing job in keeping the Symphony afloat and planning for the future. I have been so amazed at the high level of professionalism, with new flexible projections that have been displayed by all during this uncertain time of Covid-19 pandemic.

Scott Freck has successfully led our Symphony through the downtime with cooperation from the orchestra itself and with the assistance of David Pottinger, ESA President, and Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director.

The entire staff and music director took a pay cut to help during this time of diminished income. Francesco has kept us enlightened with his and Chloe's weeknight music adventures and the ESA and orchestra let us re-live *The Four Seasons of the McKenzie River*. Thanks to Mary, Lindsay and Lindsey, Katy, Tegan, Kathie and Alexis for all they do.

I want to mention Sarah Smaw last because she has been so professional in her job and has now left the ESA staff to attend school in Portland. I know that everyone who knew Sarah will miss her and we all wish her well.

Thank you, Scott, David, Francesco, staff and ESA board for your careful administration during this most unprecedented time.

Suzanne Shapiro, President ESG

"The sight of this double rainbow really cheered me up that afternoon.... I thought to myself, Mother Nature is reminding us that better things will come back after hard times." Kam



Double Rainbow, from Kam Chan

The Eugene Symphony Guild Board Directors joins the Eugene Symphony Association in support of long overdue actions needed to eradicate the deep roots of systemic racism and social injustice that is entrenched in our country. The Guild, as an organization in support of and in service to the Eugene Symphony, will engage in the difficult conversations and implement changes to create a more inclusive and diverse community.

Eugene Symphony Guild, Board of Directors



THE ROSE PARADE!

Melva sent these rose beauties at right...

Suzanne's roses Bounty, below, from her deck,

....and, rose photo at bottom right is from Sally's garden..



Message from Melva for Us All.....

I miss seeing my Guild friends, but have been keeping very busy quilting, gardening and tending to my 65 roses, as well as helping weed in the Owens Rose Garden located just around the corner from our house. When we moved into our home 40 years ago., there were seven roses on the curb. I only recognized one of them (the Rose of the 20th Century "Peace"). The variety in the picture remained a mystery until four years ago when I picked up a great "Lucky Day" book at the Eugene Public Library called *Chasing the Rose: An Adventure in the Venetian Countryside* by Andrea de Robilant in which my rose was featured. Madame Caroline Testout was named after a French couturier in the late 1800's; this is the rose that made Portland famous as "Rose City." Five hundred thousand Madame Carolines were planted up and down Sandy Boulevard for the 1915 World Exposition. Portlanders created many of these roses by sharing roots and cuttings with one another. I can attest to the hardiness of Madame Caroline as the original rose was placed near a sewer cover; it's been disturbed a number of times though the years by Public Work employees removing the cover to work below. The rose has always said "never mind, just take my loose roots and make another Me, Me, Me!" I now have four Carolines in different areas of the yard. Let me know if you would like one too. Melva Boles



GUILD MUSINGS AND MOVEMENTS

June Installation and Vote for New 2020/2021 Guild Board

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on social gatherings, the annual June luncheon and formal installation of officers has been moved to September 15th. I have been including the incoming board members in our May and June board meetings via Zoom so that they will become familiar with board business, and with this information make a smooth transition.

The proposed new Executive Board of Directors for the Guild is as follows:

President – Suzanne Shapiro
Executive Vice President – Corky Hughes
Treasurer – Kam Chan
Secretary – Sally Robinson
Past President – Carolyn Abbott
V.P. of Education and Social – Karalyn Walker Sprung
V.P. of Promotion – Jerril Nilson
V.P. of Fundraising – Ginger Fifield

In July you will be called by a member of the phone calling committee to obtain your vote for this slate of officers. After the vote the current board will informally swear the new board into place at a board picnic in August. When we finally are able to hold our luncheon/installation the formal swearing in will take place at that time. The new board will take on the governing of the Guild from the informal installation in August.

Those of us on the board have been able to see each other via Zoom meetings, but we miss the rest of you and hope you are all staying well and in good spirits. Members of the board will be planning some sort of get together in the near future that will not put any of us in danger of catching the virus. Please, remember to call any of us if you need anything during this pandemic.

Suzanne



And two from Kam Chan's Garden....



Sally's Hydrangea's



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Many thanks to those members who have already sent in their renewal applications and dues. Some have done so on our website, which is great. It is important that you fill out the forms completely so that we know if changes have been made to addresses, etc.

Also, if you do not have a photo printed in the directory, or if you want to change your photo, please send one to Jerril Nilson, at jerril.nilson@comcast.com. The easiest way to do this would be to take a selfie or have someone take your picture on a smart phone and send it to Jerril.

If you have not already sent your renewal information, please do so now. Also, because of not being able to hold fundraisers for so long, we certainly appreciate those who are sending donations above and beyond their dues. Please consider donating in this way, considering the money you might have spent on MIG tickets, Musical Chairs parties, etc. We certainly are hoping to get some of these events started soon, but probably not until fall.

We look forward to seeing you all back again as members in the 2020/2021 year. We have work to do to benefit the symphony as they continue to come up with ways to bring their music to our community during this difficult time.

SOCIAL NOTES ... IN PICTURES!

HELLO FROM KATY....

Greetings Eugene Symphony Guild! Wherever this message finds you, in the valley, upriver, or elsewhere, I hope you are in good health. I truly miss seeing all of you at the Symphony and around town. Please know, my colleagues and I are all hard at work planning special musical experiences for us to enjoy together again soon.

Working from home these last few months has been a welcome reprieve from my self-schedule-filling orientation. I've been enjoying the extra time with my partner Michael and other housemate Luna, a tabby tortoiseshell cat who is still confused why I'm home all the time (ha ha). My upright piano has been my most popular friend during quarantine, and I've been playing A LOT. The sounds of Chopin nocturnes, Philip Glass etudes, and Alicia Keys tunes have filled my house for months now... (HELP: PLEASE SEND NEW SHEET MUSIC).

When I was 6 years old, my grandmother started paying for my weekly piano lessons, which sparked a lifelong passion for music. The ability to create music, especially during times of challenge and growth, is really centering for me. The music provides a space for reflection and expression, sparking my creativity and helping me to connect with others. I hope all of you are also finding outlets for your own creative growth and self-nurture at this time.

Please know I'm thinking of all of you, and I can't wait to see you all again soon!

Katy Vidal

In the August Prelude the Eugene Symphony will announce the **Young Artist Competition, Summer Edition**. At this time, please know that submissions are now being received by the Eugene Symphony Association. All submissions are due no later than Friday, August 14, 2020. More information will be available for volunteering and date of competition in the August Prelude as well as with the Eugene Symphony Association. Website: <https://bit.ly/3dpTWdG>.

Carolyn's garden, below, and a picture of her garden shopping..... at right. [red scarf and hat]



Suzanne's Bounty! Her flowers, garden, and their fantastic view!

Tell Us How and What You Are Doing...

During these surreal and stressful times, Family connections have become increasingly important – and have kept me grounded, whether it be via phone, text, email, Facetime, Facebook Messenger, Houseparty or Zoom.

One weekly tradition we have started is a Friday evening Zoom cocktail hour, involving Family in Seattle, Maryland, and here in Eugene/Springfield. While sipping our favorite beverage, we can catch up on what everyone's been up to – cooking, gardening, watching shows and movies, reading, homeschooling or working.

Maryland grandson Owen, age 10, might read a chapter from the book he's been writing as a remote learning assignment. Grandson Ethan, age 11, is excited to share which electives he'll be taking in Middle School - Orchestra and STEM – a budding Renaissance Man! And Granddaughter Paige, age 9, carefully shows us each of her cats – and Chihuahua Bella.

Other pets often make an unannounced appearance. Nephew Sean's dog, Lucy, races barking around his Seattle yard with puppy exuberance. Son Ian's cats play in a box in his Maryland living room. And our two cats stalk nonchalantly past the Zoom screen. All this while sisters in law Emma and Gillian lament their beloved cats, now in kitty heaven.

We all look forward to our Friday get togethers – although we of course wish that we were all together for real. But one thing that we have all decided is that these fun cocktail meetings will continue, long after this pandemic is but a distant memory.

Cheers!

Sally Robinson



Sally's Frog-in-the-Purple



My greatest love is art ...watercolors, oils, crafts. I usually don't start these projects because when I do, I get consumed and spend endless hours, days having a wonderful time. But now that I have the time, I have treated myself and have done a watercolor of pinot noir grapes we grew when we lived in the country, and have finished several other paintings. Sylvia Kaufman.



The Times They Are A Changing....



Karalyn and David Sprung's Unique Wedding

On a partly sunny/cloudy day, Sunday May 24th, Karalyn Walker and David Sprung were married in Debbi Rothschild's back garden.

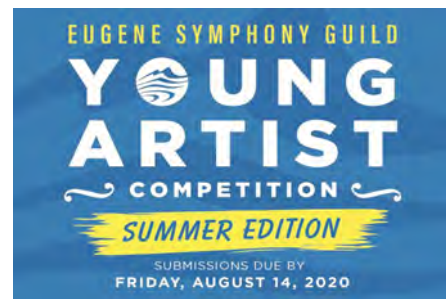
The wedding was performed on Zoom, as Rabbi Ruhi Temple Beth Israel has technical skills and figured out how to do it! There were approximately 80 people on Zoom from all parts of the U.S. Everyone dressed up as if they were going to the wedding and it worked. People said they felt like they were part of it. Karalyn and David's children, spouses and grandchildren were all virtually attending and although there was sadness that they could not be with their parents, it was sweet that family and friends read blessings so they were able to be a part of the wedding. Karalyn and David will hold after wedding parties in the future when we are in a safer time with the virus."

GOOD NEWS!

The Weekly Walking Hour has been reactivated. It is scheduled for the remaining Tuesdays in June as well as July mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on July 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. Note: for information about the group during the month of July, please call Sylvia Kaufman for details.

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.



See note at bottom of page 4 for additional information.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR THANKS

Many thanks to Sandra Weingarten, Sally Robinson, Suzanne Shapiro, Carolyn Abbott, Melva Boles, Jerril Nilson, Kam Chan, Sylvia Kaufman, and ESA staff members for all their help and support in creating this ad hoc creation to keep everyone informed and in touch with each other during this Summer of Pandemic. Judy England, Prelude Editor

And, sad news. Carolyn Abbott has informed us that a former Guild member has passed away. Zdenka Tripp was a member for several years. She and her husband Gordon were big supporters and donors of the Symphony. Gordon's memorial service was held at Hult Center a few years ago.

Zdenka was born in the Czech Republic and lived through both the Nazi occupation and Communist takeover. After the death of her first husband in a car accident she was able to escape with her two young sons to Switzerland and through Germany immigrated to the U.S. She worked at the University of Oregon and lived in Eugene for many years. She's survived by her two sons Lubomir and Petr and her grandchildren.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I hope this unusual summer finds each of you well. I would like to express my gratitude, and I'm sure from all of you, to Suzanne for offering to stay on as President for another year. Her leadership and dedication to our Guild have been inspiring and instrumental in keeping the momentum as we plan for next season. Carolyn, Corky and I have agreed to help in any way we can to make the job easier for her. Information on meetings and events will be released as plans are finalized.



Meanwhile, renewal notices have been mailed, and I encourage each of you to send in your renewal

with completed information form and photo if needed, either by snail mail or on the website (photos to Jerril Nilson at jerril.nilson@comcast.net.)

Your Guild Board has been hard at work (on Zoom and phone) with optimism and realism planning meetings and events and of course fundraising. To date we have given the Symphony Association \$10,000 as part of our pledge for this year. To be sure, our Symphony staff has been hard at work remotely and recently going to a 4-day work week and being one of possibly few organizations to continue to pay its musicians. Imagine the challenge of creating a new season, incorporating the concerts we missed this spring, and sending out season ticket renewals for an unknown future. Our thanks go out to them as well.

How fortunate we are that Eugene Symphony (and

other local performing arts organizations) have been giving online presentations of past performances, and KWAX is also broadcasting performances regularly. Francesco has been active on Facebook and You Tube to entertain and educate us. It's almost like he is here with us, not in Colorado where he grew up. I hope you are able to take advantage of these offerings.

On a personal note, I have been enjoying more time to spend at home and in my community. I have greatly expanded my long-neglected vegetable garden and we have enjoyed asparagus, and now lots of greens, and looking forward to raspberries and blueberries as well as the rest of the veggies. Because the Brownsville Community Library was closed until last week, instead of my regular Tuesday morning volunteer work there, I am volunteering instead at the Community Garden, helping to raise produce for the local food bank. In addition, my schedule has been full, with meetings and classes and even voice lessons, on Zoom. I am fortunate to have property here to spend time outdoors for gardening, bird watching, and a country road for long walks. My luxury is free time for recreational reading – something in short supply in the past. Whenever I sit down to read (or for any other purpose) I immediately have one of my two cats in my lap, and they are enjoying the extra attention.

While social isolation has not been a hardship for me, I do miss seeing you all and the close connections of our meetings and working together on various projects. And of course, I am missing the live performances of our Symphony. Your Board is planning to have a first Musical Chairs party on August 29, and our annual meeting, luncheon and membership meeting on September 15, where we can install our new officers. For now, I will send to each of you my best wishes for your good health and good spirits and look forward to seeing you in person.

Stay well. Virtual hugs,

Sandra Weingarten, Co-Summer President



Sandra & ESG,

I do hope you are faring well during this unprecedented time. As for me, I'm the one who is still going to the office daily. It's very surreal. A bit like working in a ghost town. About once a week Scott is in the office, as well, which feels more normal.

When at home I'm enjoying my backyard and planting more flowers every week. This is a pic of Macy, my terrier, in the yard. She's so tiny you can almost miss her out there. Maybe you could make a game out of it...find the dog in this pic?

Stay well,

Mary,

Mary Scarpinato, ESA [ed note: photo at left is her back yard and there is a little dog in the photo who is adorable.]

FROM THE EUGENE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Dear members of the Eugene Symphony Guild –

On June 8th we sent the following message via our eNews platform which consists of more than 11,000 email addresses, and I wanted to make sure you received it as well. It was signed by Francesco, ESA Board President Dave Pottinger, and me:

Like so many members of our community, we continue to reflect on this turbulent and difficult time in Oregon and across the nation. We share in the pain, anger, and outrage that so many are feeling after the senseless killing of George Floyd and so many other Black Americans. We must all do more to eradicate the deep roots of systemic racism and social injustice that is entrenched in our country. As an arts organization with a mission of *enriching lives through the power of music*, we commit to listening, learning, and providing an outlet, through music, for expressions of our shared grief and to nurture hope. Where music can hold space for feelings when words fall short, we will use it as a platform for community building and to offer opportunities for reflection, healing, and unity.

This message is just the beginning. We have work to do to define what our specific actions will be, and initial dialogue is underway among Board and staff. We would value your input as well, and are working on a forum by which we can receive it. More details will be shared soon.

Further, I'm forwarding the attached letter from Francesco at his request. It is also being sent to the Board of Directors, administrative staff, and musicians and will be sent to our wider community of donors and ticket-buyers today as well.

Thank you as always for all that you do, Scott”

Letter from Francesco Lecce-Chong

June 10, 2020

Dear Symphony Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. I miss sharing music with you all in person, but rest assured that we are tirelessly pursuing every option to bring you music again as soon as possible while keeping our community safe during this pandemic. While I cannot wait to share these plans with you, I write to you today as another wave of grief and suffering washes over our nation. I have personally struggled with how to respond as a leader while avoiding making empty promises or Twitter-length statements. I have settled on a letter directly to you – musicians, staff, board, volunteers, donors, and audience members – because we rely on each other to keep our orchestra vibrant and relevant in our community.

Let me be clear: I know we stand together against injustice and racism. I know that we believe music and creativity provides an outlet to process and perhaps even

overcome violence, pain, and suffering. I know that we believe when we lift up and support those who need a voice in our community, we all are made better for it. Right now, many of us are finding our way to respond to the senseless killing of George Floyd and so many other Black lives – through peaceful protesting, donating, listening, reading, and engaging in conversations with each other.

I also know that many in our community have differing and passionately held views on how musicians and arts organizations should respond during times like this. I think the arts are more important than ever because it is one of the few spaces left in our lives that can bring people together across different backgrounds, beliefs, cultures, education, and the list goes on – it's our one universal language. Having gotten to know many of you on a very personal level, I can appreciate how incredible it is that music is able to bring people together who otherwise might not be able to have a civil conversation over dinner. I think that is something to be celebrated and I continue to believe that music is one of the most powerful forms of conciliation and understanding.

I write to you today not on behalf of the Eugene Symphony or the Santa Rosa Symphony, but as myself, as one voice seeking a path for making our community a better place for all. Even though I know that by voicing my thoughts I have the potential to upset, anger, and disappoint many of you, I believe you deserve to know where your musical leader stands on issues that affect us all. Ultimately, I hope you will remember what binds us together: our belief that music strengthens our community by bringing us closer to one another.

This past weekend, I finally broke down and cried. I attended a virtual service of the church that I grew up in – Boulder Mennonite Church. I had been trying to process my horror and sadness into constructive action all week, but in a “service of lament” in honor of George Floyd, I felt the full force of how little I am able to ease the suffering around us. I still consider myself a Mennonite although I have a long way to go to live up to the incredible work for social justice that is at the center of Mennonite theology. Nonviolent protest is an important part of how Mennonites have helped those who need a voice around the world, whether it was in Iraq or along the U.S./Mexico border. I wanted to give you this background because I think their work serves as a basis for my own thoughts and actions when it comes to inspiring change through music. Mennonites may not be the loudest religious organization right now, but their actions speak far louder than any words and their willingness to engage with communities on both sides of an issue allow for the important work of reconciliation in areas of conflict. This outlook is what I hope to continue in my letter to you today, and my discussions with you all in the long road ahead.

(Continued pg. 9)

I am optimistic that what we are experiencing now will lead to real, lasting change in our country – it feels like the momentum and breadth of support from individuals, businesses, organizations, and a diverse array of leaders to fight racism is becoming the unifying force it needs to be in order to succeed. As far as the vision of orchestras, I am more worried – perhaps because this is a world I know too well. I have lost count of the number of conferences, projects, and press releases over the past decade from orchestras proclaiming the latest way they will be a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion. These one-off projects usually get the orchestra much needed funding from governments and foundations, but the result has been little change or, even worse, backtracking as soon as the funding runs out. The painful truth is, change in the orchestra world takes time, but it can happen with commitment from the right people.

When orchestras focused on the discrimination that was keeping women out of major orchestras in the 1950s, they enacted blind auditions and there was a grassroots change in attitude among orchestra musicians themselves. Even with tenure in place (meaning very little turnover in orchestra positions), from 1963-2014, the Chicago Symphony went from three women to 41 out of 100 and the New York Philharmonic went from zero women to 44 out of 100.

So, what does lasting change in our organization look like when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion? That is the question we must answer in order to begin our work. I take full responsibility for not raising this issue sooner in my tenure and I am wracked by guilt for allowing myself to think that “doing better than other orchestras” was good enough. I am so proud and grateful to be a part of the Santa Rosa Symphony and Eugene Symphony – two organizations whose community work and innovation on stage far outpaces orchestras of our size. Both organizations have many incredible programs in place to empower marginalized groups in our communities like Santa Rosa’s Simply Strings program that gives daily, after-school music lessons at a predominantly Latinx elementary school, and the Eugene Symphony’s *Symphony Connect* program that partners with human service agencies to bring chamber music to populations who may not otherwise be able to come to the concert hall. Programs like these were in place before I arrived because of the foresight, passion, and generosity that you all have for your orchestra and your community.

I know that we will continue to bolster and grow these life-changing programs in the years to come. This leaves me to consider the one glaring fault in our organizations: our programming – the music the orchestra and I make together on stage. I should say first and foremost, I disagree strongly with colleagues right now who have very swiftly committed to having a Black composer on every program next season. The fact

is that our collective programming across the U.S. has failed on every level to bring diversity into the concert hall – living composers, women composers, Black composers, Latinx composers, Asian composers, even American composers are all woefully underrepresented on stage. Committing to only one group will reduce the very diversity we need. Over the past few seasons, you have joined me in experiencing the works of living, American composers as one of the ways to celebrate the eternal vitality of our art form and that has introduced us to important voices like Jessie Montgomery and our upcoming Composer-in-Residence, Angélica Negrón. But I can and must do more. You hired me to bring you thrilling musical experiences and to enrich our community with the transformational power of music. Embracing a more diverse repertoire is not separate from that goal, but a means to achieving it.

I should mention that this does not mean throwing away our so-called “core repertoire.” Beethoven’s “*Ode to Joy*” Symphony is more relevant right now than ever before and the struggles of Tchaikovsky and Brahms bring us comfort in these times. My measure of success will not be simply “checking the boxes” of diversity, equity, and inclusion – but instead finding authentic, integrated, and sustainable ways to support musical voices that reflect our world today. This is why I am not asking for support to take our orchestra in a new direction. Quite the contrary, I intend to lead us in further embracing the work we are doing in our community and to find meaningful ways to support that work even more on stage.

I recognize that I have made some strong statements in this letter. One cannot only be passionate on stage! However, I wanted to speak to you – directly and honestly – because this is an invitation to engage with me and each other in the coming weeks, months, and years. If we are as firmly rooted in our love for music and our community as I know we are, we have nothing to fear in discussing how our orchestra can more fully represent us all. We will disagree and struggle with each other at times, but then we will be back in the concert hall, where we can move through our differences in a shared experience that perhaps helps us better understand each other in the end. I believe we will come together to perform and listen more intensely, more passionately, more devotedly than ever before. I invite you to believe with me, experience that perhaps helps us better understand each other in the end. I believe we will come together to perform and listen more intensely, more passionately, more devotedly than ever before. I invite you to believe with me.

Sincerely yours,
Francesco Lecce-Chong

Sally's Now Famous Chime Clock

In 1921 it was awarded to Frank Chase, as second prize in a celery growing competition, sponsored by the Market Growers Association in Albany, New York.

The celery was dug in the fields that once were right behind our house, then packed in ice and brought by train to New York. First prize of \$100 dollars was won by a local New York farmer. But Frank, my husband's great grandfather, always said that he preferred the clock anyway.

It has lived in this house, in the exact same spot, since 1936, except for a brief time when the house was not owned by family. It is indeed a beloved Chase family fixture and has been for almost 100 years- but I do promise to always stop it when we meet via ESG board meetings on ZOOM! [Ed.Note: No, Sally, don't stop this special clock! It's loud, but now part of our meetings!]

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



ALWAYS ROOM FOR THANKS!

A special thank you to Sally Robinson and all those who were such a big help to me in creating this special issue... Judy E.



Eugene Symphony Guild

115 West 8th Avenue, Ste. 115

Eugene, Oregon 97401

July Prelude



"I think music in itself is healing.." Billy Joel