

PRELUDE



Vol. XLVI, No. 2, October 2019 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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

T.H.A.N.K. Y.O.U.

Calling all 2019 Music in the Garden helpers. Ginger Fifield, Suzanne Shapiro and I want to thank everyone who worked on our largest fundraising event this 2019 year. Although taking place a few months ago, the impact of the event is ongoing, enabling us to donate our pledge to the Symphony Association as well as helping us meet our financial responsibilities going into the Fall season.

As you know, there are so many jobs involved to put on a quality MIG event that it takes almost everyone in the Guild making some contribution. I thought about naming names of everyone who helped, but I would certainly accidentally leave someone out. You all know who you are and we thank you so much. Some people do the same job every year and are "old pro's" at it. Some take on new responsibilities each year and have done almost all jobs. Wherever you fall in those categories, you are all indispensable!

Of course, the first step each year is to recruit the Co-Chairs. They start putting together the Committee the first of the calendar year. Committee members take on such jobs as finding sponsors, planning publicity, finding musicians and vendors, distributing tickets to our ticket outlets, membership ticket distribution, ticket takers, plant sales, refreshments, and being liaisons. These are by no means all the positions on the committee, but this gives you an idea of the scope, planning and execution taking place in order to put together our most fun and effective fundraiser.

To our hard-working Committee members we certainly take our hats off. You are the spokes in the wheel and we could not do it without you.

Many others help the Committee members, perhaps putting together lists, keeping records, making signs, and of course, baking cookies! You all help us build the energy that keeps everything on track. We could not do it without you either.

So, thank you members and even friends of members! Some people just like to help with something the day of MIG and we thank them also. We are making a special plea this year to our members, that you keep MIG in your mind the rest of the year and think about something you would like to do to help next year. We need all the help we can get and do not want to twist people's arms. But this is why we join the Guild, to fundraise for the Symphony as well as meet new friends and contribute to the education of our region's youth. Working on MIG certainly involves all of those points and besides that, it is fun!

See Carolyn or Ginger or Suzanne for more information about specific jobs in which you might be interested. We have instructions on what to do and when for each position. Please step up and contribute your talents and be on the MIG team in 2020.

Thank you.

Carolyn Abbott & Ginger Fifield, Co-Chairs for MIG 2019; Suzanne Shapiro, President & Ex-Officio Chair



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends,

Fall is totally here. I see the rain falling outside my window and the temperature is cool. Fall is evident in the Symphony office as well as the season gets underway and the

Guild is also in full swing with membership meetings at our new location at Elmer's restaurant. Our new fundraising campaign is about to start with plans under way and a new member open house planned for November.

We, the members of the Eugene Symphony Guild are very important to the Eugene Symphony Association in the money we contribute to various functions and volunteer time provided for office projects. We are important enough to be given three seats on the ESA Board and our president serves on the ESA Executive Board. Our mission is extra important to the youth projects such as ushering for the Youth Concerts and providing scholarship money for the winners of the Young Artist Competition. We also sponsor the pre-concert previews. This is what we work so hard for, is so worthwhile and needed because we have such a wonderful orchestra.

I encourage members to volunteer as much talent and energy as you can to help the Guild support

these things. I also invite members to take part in one or more of our social functions such as Armchair Travelers, Bridge Club, Book Notes Club, Weekly Walking Hour, and Bar Hopping. These groups give us opportunities to meet new friends and strengthen ongoing friendships. This also happens in committee work which makes our fundraising projects happen. Please volunteer to serve on a committee or even chair one when the requests come for Musical Chairs, Music In The Garden, the Garden Party and the June luncheon. The work is light when there are many hands to help. The Guild can't accomplish what it does without your help.

Don't miss the October membership meeting when we will again have a question and answer session with our Music Director and Conductor, Francesco Lecce-Chong, and are introduced to Lindsey McCarthy by Scott Freck in her new position in the ESA.

Don't forget to bring books for the book exchange box and take books at the end of the meeting. There will also be prizes for the drawings. Join members for lunch afterwards at Elmer's. AND bring a friend to a meeting.

Suzanne

October Meetings, Places and Times

The October Board meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at Quail Run Clubhouse, 435 Covey Lane. The General Membership meeting, Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. social time, 10:30 a.m. meeting time, location is Elmer's restaurant in Valley River to the left of Valley River Inn.



Join us for the October Guild meeting at our new place! Elmer's Restaurant has set aside a special room for us, and we can meet for lunch, brunch, whatever afterward. Next meeting Maestro Francesco Lecce-Chong will be our speaker on October 16. Plan on joining us!

SOCIAL NOTES and NEWS

Armchair Travelers will meet on Monday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. at Bonnie Fromhold's home. Melva Boles will present photos from her 2019 spring trek to Paducah, Kentucky, for the annual American Quilt Society "Quilt Week" and a Girl Friend Getaway to Asheville, North Carolina. Featured will be the largest privately owned house in the United States, the incomparable Biltmore Estate built for George Washington Vanderbilt II between 1889 and 1895. Still owned by Vanderbilt descendants, it remains one of the prominent examples of Gilded Age mansions.

Book Note participants will be reading and discussing *Becoming* by Michelle Obama; The meeting will be at Sandy Harland's at 7:00 p.m. on October 14. The November book is *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly, and the meeting will be at Glenda Hay's on November 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Bar Hopping enthusiasts will gather at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, at Claim 52 Kitchen located at 1203 Willamette Street. Please join us as we explore new venues and enjoy this special monthly social time with one another. Hope to see you there!

The **Second Friday Guild Bridge** group will be held on Friday, October 11, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Nancy Holloman's home.

Weekly Walking Hour is trying a different day of the week than Tuesday. If you are new to the group, please call Nancy Holloman to be added to the email notification of the date and starting point. Walks are scheduled from 9:30-10:30 a.m.; they occur in different places each week and are usually on level ground.

MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL REMINDERS

There are opportunities for members to help the Guild by representing the Guild at lobby tables at three to four concerts this season. This is a great opportunity to talk up the Guild to patrons who stop by and promote membership to those interested.

*There will be wine and appetizers at a **New Member Social Time** this Fall on Thursday, November 7 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at a downtown location. Members may attend if they bring a friend, relative, neighbor or acquaintance who is interested in finding out more about the Guild and is interested in joining. We need new members and each one of us is the best liaison with the community to bring in new people.*

Start thinking about who you can bring. Suzanne



Suggestions for the Board...

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Guild Board please email them to Suzanne Shapiro, mrses70@gmail.com, and all emails will be shared with the board and the sender will receive a response from the board president following the board meeting. Every member is encouraged to share their thoughts with the board at any time for consideration and a response.

Senior Division Young Artist Competition winner 2019, Michelle Sulaiman, wowed those in attendance at the ESA Annual Meeting September 19, with her piano virtuosity and expressive playing.

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News



Greetings, Guild members -

Our 54th season of music, community engagement, and music education is now fully underway, and the excitement is palpable! We had a wonderful opening concert with Francesco,

violin soloist Bella Hristova, and the orchestra, and now look forward to our next program just a few weeks away.

That concert is chock full of wildly colorful and fascinating music, beginning with a short work by our Composer-in-Residence this season, Matt Browne. Called *'Barnstorming Season,'* it depicts the terrifying feats of daring attempted (and often accomplished) by air show pilots in the 1920s. Matt will be in town for the performance, and will also begin a multi-week residency project leading up to the Pacific Northwest premiere in March of his Symphony No. 1, *"The Course of Empire,"* which Eugene Symphony co-commissioned with Santa Rosa Symphony as part of Francesco's innovative "First Symphony Project.

The October 17 program continues with Felix Mendelssohn's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, which he wrote as a gift to his equally talented sister. To play it, we welcome twin sisters Christina and Michelle Naughton, in keeping with sibling revelry and all. Then, we'll experience Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, one of the most compelling hours of orchestral wonder you will ever hear.

Speaking of Francesco, by the way, I hope you heard the news that the Board of Directors has extended his contract as Music Director & Conductor until at least the 2022/23 season. He

loves Eugene, and by all accounts Eugene loves

him back, so it feels to me like a true win-win as he'll be with us for this season and at least three more after it. Huzzah!

Finally, I wanted also to make sure you have heard the news of my brief sabbatical this fall. After seven years in my role here as Executive Director (and 21 seasons at two other prior orchestras), it's time for me to take a breath and refresh my professional resources. I'm taking a class in strategic management and will visit a handful of other orchestras in some of America's greatest cities to meet with their leaders and be inspired by their performances. I'll be away for six weeks from October 21 to December 2, and look forward to returning with fresh ideas to bring to bear here in Eugene. While I am gone Associate Executive Director Lindsey McCarthy will assume my duties, and I'm sure you will all love working with her.

As ever, thank you for what you do for the Eugene Symphony Guild and the Eugene Symphony! See you soon!

My Best,

Scott
Scott Freck
Executive Director



Symphony Yoga begins October 16th at Wild Light Yoga Center

Join Eugene Symphony horn player and certified yoga instructor Lydia Van Dreel for a classical music-themed yoga class, featuring music selected from upcoming concerts. Slow, gentle yoga suitable for all body types and all levels of experience. Discount available to Guild members.

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

Laura Avery Visiting Masters- 2019/20 Master Class Schedule

The *Laura Avery Visiting Masters* program provides aspiring professional and student musicians in the southern Willamette Valley with opportunities to develop their skills through master classes, workshops and demonstrations by distinguished guest artists from the Eugene Symphony's season.

All master classes are free and open to the public.

OCTOBER 15, 2019

Piano Recital and Q&A

Christina & Michelle Naughton, *pianos*

4:00-5:00 pm | Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Cello Master Class

Anne Ridlington & Eric Alterman, *cellos*

4:00-5:30 pm | The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

DECEMBER 10, 2019

Piano Master Class

Aristo Sham, *piano*

4:00-5:30 pm | The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

JANUARY 21, 2020

Violin Master Class

Elina Vahala, *violin*

4:00-5:30 pm | The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Piano Master Class

Jeffrey Kahane, *piano*

12:00-2:00 pm | Beall Hall, University of Oregon School of Music and Dance

MARCH 17, 2020

Piano Master Class

Daniel Hsu, *piano*, 4:00- 5:30 pm

The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

APRIL 21, 2020

Viola Master Class

Roberto Diaz, *viola*

4:00-5:30 pm | The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

MAY 12, 2020

Cello Master Class

Joshua Roman, *cello*

4:00-5:30 pm | The Studio, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

Interested in participating in a Master Class?

Contact Katy Vizdal,
Education & Community Engagement Director
at katy.vizdal@eugenesymphony.org, or call
541-687-9487 x 1116.

Interview with Francesco Lecce-Chong

Continuing the conversation with Francesco Lecce-Chong, from July 25th, this section includes the discussion on recommendations for reading. This is the first of three books mentioned.

What book recommendations do you have for music lovers?

“I recommend *Absolutely on Music* by Haruki Murakami which is an intimate conversation about music and writing between Haruki and his close friend Seiji Osawa, the former conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.”

In this book, Murakami fulfills a personal dream to sit down with his friend acclaimed conductor Seiji Ozawa to talk, over a period of two years, about their shared interest in music. Ultimately, this book gives readers an unprecedented glimpse into the minds of the two maestros. It is essential reading for book and music lovers everywhere.

OCTOBER CONCERT PREVIEW

Meet Matt Browne, our Composer-in-Residence! Matt has received many honors for his music, which has been described as “witty”, “beautifully crafted and considered”, and having “unbridled humor” by various critics. We will be able to judge for ourselves when we hear his composition *Barnstorming Season*. (Next March we will hear the Pacific Northwest Premiere of his *Symphony No. 1*, as part of Francesco Lecce-Chong’s ‘First Symphony Project’.)

What could be better than one piano soloist? Why, two, of course. And they are twins! Born in Princeton, NJ, raised in Madison, WI, they began taking piano lessons from their mother at age four. They studied at the Curtis Institute and Juilliard. Their piano teacher at Juilliard said of them, “When they play together, they seem to have one mind and one body – it’s extraordinary...”. Initially they practiced and played individually, but at age 18, at the request of a concert presenter, they performed as a duo, and a whole new career was born. In 2010, they debuted at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the Mann Center for Performing Arts with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Since then, they have performed with orchestras throughout the United States and the world.

In this concert, they will delight us with Felix Mendelssohn’s *Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra*, composed when he was 14 years old, and first performed with Felix and his older sister Fanny as soloists. Considered an immature work, he didn’t publish it, but about a decade later he revised it, and it was published, thus allowing us to hear this work by one of the most important composers writing concertos in the early nineteenth century.

When Mahler’s *Symphony No. 1* was first performed, it was not well received. Mahler revised it and revised it again until finally, it was published in its current four-movement form. It was given the name *Titan* in modern performances and recordings even though Mahler used that name only for the early performances. He conducted more performances of this symphony than any of his other works.

Do not forget the Eugene Symphony Guild sponsored Concert Preview in The Studio at 6:30 p.m., prior to the concert.

Sandra Weingarten

STAY TUNED

Mark your calendars for November 14 when our cellists Anne Ridlington and Eric Alterman perform Vivaldi’s *Concert for Two Cellos in G Minor*, and the Symphony Chorus joins the Symphony in the glorious *Mozart Requiem*.

For all you Star War fans, purchase your tickets for another *Star Wars* extravaganza scheduled on November 2. Melva Boles



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Come to the October Guild meeting to hear Maestro Francesco Lecce-Chong describe the upcoming season for the Eugene Symphony in a question and answer format for us. Also, Executive Director Scott Freck will introduce Lindsey McCarthy who will act as his temporary replacement while he takes a six week education sabbatical at George Washington University.

Office Volunteers Gather to Mark the End of an Era

One aspect of Guild support to the Eugene Symphony is providing volunteers to the office for special projects such as large mailings. For many, many years we also provided full time volunteer coverage of the receptionist position. Changing times and new technology led to the decision to discontinue that service. August 16, 2019 marked the last day of Guild reception coverage. Office volunteers gathered in Nancy Holloman's garden on August 29 to share stories and mark the End of An Era. Guild events have to have music! So Sharron Smith and Suzanne Shapiro delighted the group with two numbers.



Always Room for Thanks

I would like to thank Suzanne for the time and energy and leadership she contributes, and for being so calm in the midst of chaos. Sandra Weingarten

A huge thank you to Judy England as she saved me from having a nervous breakdown! She spent hours with me and my computer. Sylvia Kaufman

(It was a pleasure working with you. je)

A Big Thank You to all the lovely ladies who helped make the Whiteaker Dinner a success: Chris Johnson, Marilyn Deaton, Francee Hillyer, Sylvia Kaufman, Nancy Holloman, Dorothy Kays, Sue Ashton, Jan Ward, Juliet Bender, Nancy Woolfson, Suzanne Shapiro and Ginger Fifield. Special kudos to Sylvia Kaufman for taking the reservations for the party. What a team!!!!
Melva Boles

Please feel free to use this space each month to thank someone or several people. Unsigned thanks are also welcome. Ed.

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>



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



OCTOBER

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without." Confucius

Ask not what your Guild can do for you, but what you can do for your Guild.

Your name _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I am interested in helping the Guild by participating in the following activity/activities:

_____ Music in the Garden Committee _____ Music in the Garden

_____ Musical Chairs Parties Committee _____ Musical Chairs Party

_____ Garden Party Committee

_____ June Annual Luncheon and Officer Installation

_____ Membership Committee

_____ Promotion Committee

_____ Sit at Lobby Table before Season Concert and at Intermission:

_____ September 26 _____ October 17 _____ April 23 _____ May 14

_____ Fundraising Committee

_____ Education Committee

_____ Office Work Parties

_____ Guild Website

I feel that I can best help the Guild by:

Please use this form as your reminder; or you can either print a copy for yourself, mail a copy to the ESG office, address below, or obtain a copy at one of the meetings. Fill it out to help the organizers of the above activities know who to call when volunteers are needed. Thank you for volunteering!

ESG, 115 West 8th Ave., Ste. #115, Eugene, OR 97401