

PRELUDE

Vol. XLVIII, No. 5, January, 2021 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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



Happy New Year

Even the words, New Year, sound hopeful and positive. It is so *easy* to say goodbye to this 2020 year. Yet as I paused waiting for the words to describe what to look forward to, I found it stunning to rely on basic simplicity of health, happier times, with wonderful music, and friends. So many past years I have had a wish list of *things* which now seem selfish or myopic.

This world, the whole round orb in total, has been changed by this pandemic and the adjustments are to be faced bravely by each of us individually. I live with the fact of fire in my neighborhood, and our world of friends and family lives with health or environmental dangers of unfathomably grand dimensions.

Still, it is all balanced by remarkably simplistic solutions to prevent this broad new reality. To approach this staggering future dependent on human behavior, of purely do-the-right-thing activity, is both hopeful and frightening. Can I trust my fellow humans and myself to do the right thing?

As I sit and listen to beautiful recorded music and share in the hope for a safe, healthier future with live gatherings and musicians playing, I am truly hopeful these changes have caused some of the most important personal adjustments humans have ever been forced to make and we have cautiously moved to a better, healthier and safer world.

Here's to a truly happier NEW Year. Ed.

Eugene Symphony Guild Meetings:

Board meeting: January 13, at 10 a.m. social time, meeting time 10:30 a.m. (via Zoom).

Membership meeting: January 20, at 10 a.m. social time, 10:30 a.m. meeting (via Zoom).

Please see pages three and four for an enlightening and informative report about the December Guild meeting. Help is available to get started with the ZOOM connections, and the more who learn can mean the more who can share and enjoy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As a new year is upon us there is hope for a better 2021 in all aspects from health to economy. Our Symphony Guild is in good shape at this time and meetings are being scheduled to plan for Music in the Garden and

Musical Chairs Parties. There will be alternate plans for all events depending on the state of the pandemic and social restrictions. So far our Fall Non-Event Fundraiser is progressing nicely and I still have hopes that we will meet our goal of \$10,000 by the end of December.

We are saddened at the necessity, due to COVID19, that the ESA was forced to cancel the November concert. The staff and Scott Freck have had to make difficult decisions at this time and I want them to know that we support them totally. We are all looking forward to the time when our musicians are able to perform in the Hult Center again.

There are many things that I am thankful for in spite of the pandemic, as we start a new year. I am thankful for the support of the Guild board members: Corky Hughes, Kam Chan, Sally Robinson, Jerril Nilson, Karalyn Walker Sprung, Ginger Fifield, Melva Boles, Judy England (our super Prelude editor) and especially my two co-Presidents, Carolyn Abbott and Sandra Weingarten, for stepping up to help me this year.

I am thankful for the great assistance to the board given by Sylvia Kaufman, Nancy Holloman, Caroline Manewal, Sue Arne, Glenda Hay, Pat Ross, Dorothy Kays, Debbi Rothschild, and Juliet Bender. You ladies help us function by providing your special talents and time. I should not forget the fantastic assistance that Don Hirst provides us by licensing our website annually and providing tech support. A special shout out to Scott Freck who continually works to keep the Symphony going and has been a wonderful supporter of the Guild.

I am thankful for all of our members who support us with your membership and help during our fundraisers. We could not survive without you Helen Anderson, Ginger Bopp, Amy Jo Butler, Rebecca Callison, Delpha Camp, Barbara Cook (my duet partner for MIG), Claudia Crawford, and Linda Cummens (a special friend). Thank you to our members, Marilyn Deaton, Edna DeHaven Joy Dressie, Jeanette Engel, and Darian Fadeley (our tiny house proponent). We could not survive without the support of Lyn Fischrup, Bonnie Fromhold (our Armchair Travelers hostess), Galina Groza, Sandy Harland (our Armchair Travelers organizer), and Deborah Hiatt. Or without the support of Lin Hirst (our web guru's spouse), Starly Hodges, Christine Hogan, Chris Johnson (it is so great to keep in touch via email), Kaye Johnston (we miss you and hope you are doing well in Washington), Jody Johnstone, Dorothy Kays, MarySue Keating, and, our ray of sunshine, Doreen Kilen.

I am grateful to Betty Kjeldgaard, Cyndy Lane (I hope your recovery is going well), Cornelia Lester Edwina Matychuck, Lucile McKenzie, Maxine McWhorter, Saundra Murray, Marjorie Ogle, Karen Olsen, Sally Olson, Cecilia Perry, Kay Llene Prather, Connie Regali, Eileen Russell, Paula Salerno, Mary-Elma Schotts, Sharron Smith (our ice breaker leader at meetings), Betty Lou Snyder, Betty Soreng, Cathie Staton, Phyllis Villec, Jan Ward, Emilie York, and Marguerite Zolman for all that you contribute to the Guild to help raise money for our Eugene Symphony.

I am certain I have missed someone and, if so, it was totally unintentional and I wholeheartedly apologize. I just want all of you to know that you are in my thoughts and I hope that this new year is a far better and healthy one for each and every one of you. You are the blessings of this organization. Thank you.

Suzanne



A GUILD ZOOM MEETING FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER!

On Wednesday December 16, a festive group of Guild members gathered together on Zoom for the annual Holiday Party. Those present were: [L-R top row:] Linda Cummins, Jerril Nilson, Sylvia Kauffman, Jane Allen, Sally Robinson, [row 2] Sandra Weingarten, Carolyn Abbott, Sue Ashton, Suzanne Shaprio, Melva Boles, [row 3] Ginger Fifield, Juliet Bender, Karalyn Walker Sprung, Phyllis Villec, Chris Johnson, [row 4] Cecelia Perry, Kam Chan, Sharon Smith, Delpha Camp.

Holiday spirits were high, several members wore snowflake earrings, while Kam sported her red reindeer antlers and Jerril her fabulous holiday sweater.

Sharron started off the fun with a Holiday Icebreaker: "What was the best or most exciting Holiday gift that you have ever received.

We heard a variety of answers ranging from a special watch to a hamster cage! Even those

who secretly unwrapped their gifts before Christmas – we won't tell, Sue!

Conversations went on to unusual Christmas trees (Tumbleweed?!), and to fun Holiday memories, like Jerril's description of sledding traditions of Lawrence Street, and then to what we were doing this Holiday. Nancy talked about a trip she was taking to California for Christmas. Juliet said that this year she and her sister will be making and eating Paella over FaceTime, as they can't get together for Christmas as usual. Sharron has been doing puzzles and has decorated her living room. Carolyn said that she has decorated even more than usual and has all 43 of her nutcrackers displayed! Sylvia told us about the lighted Christmas village she has displayed in her dining room window, for her and her neighbors' enjoyment. Sandra said we might be inspired to start up the Guild Christmas Walks again!

(Continued...)



Ed. Note: These charming ladies are enjoying the Guild Holiday Zoom meeting and want every member to join the fun..... but, if you are not certain about joining this most distinguished group, see what could happen when you miss out.....*on the next page...*

A Guild Meeting Filled With Holiday Cheer! (Continued..)

Linda Cummins then read an excerpt from her Radio Play: *“Treasures in the Attic”*, a touching story about a farm family undergoing hardships at Christmas time after the Second World War. It was lovely and I’m sure there wasn’t a dry eye after her reading.

Jane Allen then came into the meeting to talk and play her harp, a welcome tradition from past Guild Holiday parties. She explained how she came by her lightweight harp. It was a gift from Laura Avery - and the benefits of it: besides being so lightweight, it can be wiped down easily to disinfect; a huge advantage during this pandemic! We were then treated to some beautiful harp music, including many of her own arrangements of traditional carols and lovely English Folk tunes. It was wonderful!

Sandra then gave us a brief history of Hanukkah in celebration of the current Jewish Holiday and showed us the Menorah that she and Ryan are lighting every evening. Beautiful. It was a timely reminder of the many Faiths and Religions that are celebrated throughout the world.

“The Night Before Christmas” was recited by Suzanne, bringing back happy Holiday memories for many. We then went on to music and song,

starting with “All Through the Night”, sung beautifully by Suzanne. The merry group then tried their hand, with much hilarity, at some communal singing with Suzanne and Sandra leading: Jingle Bells, White Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, with Kam sporting a red nose, Deck the Halls and Auld Lang Syne.

To conclude the member offerings of readings and music, Suzanne read a poem suggested by Chris Johnson, *“An Apache Prayer”*. It was a beautiful ending. [on back page] A brief period of social time followed with members sharing pictures and memories – even their dogs!

Suzanne wished us all a Happy Holiday and members echoed with their good wishes. A fun and festive time was had by all!

Sally Robinson



A Distinguished Group of Elegant Ladies.... having a great time!

Guild Groups and Activities

Weekly Walking Hour is scheduled for these Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on January 5, 12, 19, and 26. 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. The group has been having a wonderful time exploring areas of Eugene and Springfield.

The Eugene **Symphony Guild Book Club** will hold its first meeting of the year on Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. The book to be discussed is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The Book Club welcomes new members. If interested, please call Sue Ashton to get on the list for the Zoom link for the discussion.

Are you making New Year's Resolutions to exercise more? If so, there are a number of great programs available via Zoom. River Road Parks and Recreation offers fitness classes on Zoom. Guild member Sue Ashton especially likes Senior Gentle Yoga which is offered on Monday,

Wednesday and Friday mornings. Sue informs me that sign-up is free for seniors who qualify under the Silver and Fit program as well as other insurance programs. The Eugene YMCA is currently closed, but it is possible to sign up for its Virtual Hub which offers a wide array of virtual classes for a membership fee of \$20 per month.

Also, Carolyn Abbott's favorite Zoom class at Willamalane is Strong Bones-Strong Bodies taught on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 by Cindy O'Brien; currently the class is free with registration through Willamalane. Melva Boles likes Breathing and Stretch Yoga Tuesday and Thursday morning with Tim Greathouse, Instructor of Tae kwon do and Program Director at Core Star Center. Tim connects with students via Facebook. If interested, follow Tim on Facebook; his classes appear on Facebook Live. Donation of \$5 can be made through PayPal. Breathe, Stretch and Strengthen as you move into 2021!

Melva Boles



Just a little late, but...

It has been such a pleasure to get to know so many wonderful ladies of the Eugene Symphony Guild this year. My hopes for next year are to know more of you, hopefully in person, if not then by the miracle of Zoom. I want to especially thank Jerril Nilson for all of the time she has put into setting up these Zoom adventures for all of us to connect. I want to especially thank Judy England for publishing the Prelude under these wild and crazy circumstances.

Some of you may know that I write poetry and haiku. So, I would like to give you all some haiku for the season. The first haiku was to be experienced; Jupiter and Saturn came together on December 21 and was one tenth degree apart.

It won't happen again in two hundred years!

Wishing you all Good Health, Good Music, a Joyful Holiday and Happy New Year.

Darkness still not done.

Celestial wonders coming,

Will the skies be clear?

Profound gratitude!

Miracles of connection,

Blessings to you all.

Karalyn Walker Sprung



Holiday Bouquet photo from Karalyn Walker Sprung

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News



Greetings Guild members –

First and foremost, I hope you enjoyed a lovely holiday season with your families, whether near or far, and in-person or via Zoom or some other synchronous

communication platform...this has been such a frustrating year with so many traditions either suspended or altered, so hopefully you found a way to keep connected!

As I wrote in last month's Prelude, due to the State of Oregon's increased COVID-19 restrictions, we had to cancel plans to record performances with a chamber orchestra in November and again in December. Losing both of those projects was tough, I'll admit, as we were so excited to convene the musicians again and Francesco had crafted beautiful meaningful programs to share with you and our community. We had great response to our video version of "The Color of Sound" from April 2019, though, and we remain undaunted in our resolve to continue to deliver our mission of *enriching lives through the power of music*.



To that end, we are now pivoting to other ideas, including an 'alumni reunion' of sorts as Francesco will speak to three of his predecessors, Marin Alsop, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, and Giancarlo Guerrero about a variety of topics. A video version of that chat will be shared with Symphony donors in mid-January, and I'll see to it that Guild members have access.

Moving forward, we're working on a couple of other video projects that can be recorded outside of the Hult Center, which is so heavily restricted by the State's guidelines. I look forward to sharing more on that front soon. We're also now beginning a new private lesson program for deserving middle- and high-school students who couldn't otherwise afford individual instruction. This initiative is made possible by support from a variety of funders, including PacificSource Health Plans, the Chambers Family Foundation, and of course individual donors.

Finally, with vaccines being rolled out across the country, we are hopeful that our usual concert activity will resume by next fall, and are planning a blockbuster 2021/22 season to which we hope our audiences return enthusiastically! So, some light is beginning to shine through at the end of this long tunnel, I'd like to think...

Thank you as always for all you do for the Guild, the Symphony, and this community we all love.

My best,

Scott

Scott Freck

Executive Director

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

Eugene Symphony & Eugene/Springfield NAACP Announce New NAACP Private Lesson Scholarship for BIPOC students

The Eugene Symphony and Eugene/Springfield NAACP are excited to announce the establishment of the NAACP Scholarship Opportunity, available to regional BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students, as part of Eugene Symphony's new Private Lesson Program. Eugene Symphony's new Private Lesson Program is available to regional students who do not otherwise have the opportunity to take private lessons. The program will serve 34 talented young music students in the Eugene 4J, Springfield, and Bethel School Districts.

Students are nominated by their school music teacher to receive the scholarship, which consists of eight (8) free private lessons with a professional Eugene Symphony musician, as well as a modest stipend for lesson materials. The new NAACP Scholarship Opportunity will provide this private lesson opportunity to ten additional students, specifically BIPOC students, in our region. Studies show individualized music education opportunities, like private lessons, can positively impact student confidence, self-esteem, and overall school performance.

"We are thrilled to launch this new program, and especially to partner with the NAACP, to provide increased access for more young people to experience the transformational power of music in their lives," says Eugene Symphony Executive Director Scott Freck. Eugene/Springfield NAACP Executive Director Eric Richardson adds, "We need to take every chance to give our youth encouragement and additional opportunities for growth during these difficult times." The

Eugene Symphony Private Lesson Program was established this year during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way of continuing to serve young musicians in our region safely.

All private lessons will take place virtually – a music lesson trend that has become common during times of social distancing. After students have been nominated for this opportunity by their school music teachers, they will be selected through a process which involves input from both Eugene Symphony and Eugene/Springfield NAACP. The deadline to nominate students for this opportunity was Friday, December 18. Participating students [are] notified at the beginning of 2021, and lessons will take place from January to April 2021. The NAACP Scholarship Opportunity is generously funded by the Eugene/Springfield NAACP Branch #1119. The Eugene Symphony Private Lesson Program is made possible thanks to sponsorship support from PacificSource Health Plans, and grants from the Chambers Family Foundation and Woodard Family Foundation.

Katy Vizdal
Education and Community Engagement
Director



Eugene Symphony Guild—History 1974-1984, Part 2

By Melva Boles

(Continued from November Prelude)

By 1974, the Association had hired a full-time manager and found an office; Guild members began volunteering shifts there. The Guild membership grew to 130 members and was designated, along with the City of Eugene, as a Grand Benefactor of the Eugene Symphony (defined as organizations that donated \$5,000 annually). The Ensemble Education Program became the Educational Outreach Program. The Program cost of \$10,000 was funded by the Guild, the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Committee for the Humanities; in 1981, The Outreach Program was selected by the American Symphony Orchestra League Volunteer Council as one of the eight most outstanding music education projects in the nation.

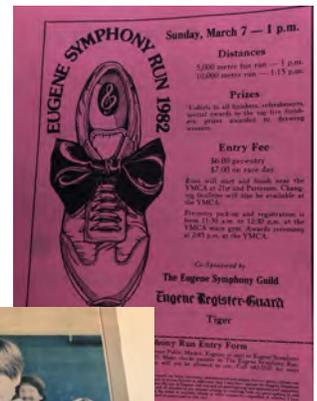
The first Eugene Symphony “Run” was held in 1979; these runs continued annually until 1984 and were popular with the community. In fall of 1979, A Christmas Tea and Boutique was held at the Chancellor’s home. In December of 1983, the Guild had its first Christmas Walk; three beautifully decorated homes featured music and there was A Sweet Shoppe with pastries for sale at one of the sites. This fundraiser tradition continued through 2014.

On September 28, 1982, The Eugene Symphony gave its first performance in the Silva Performance Hall with Marilyn Horne as guest artist. Concert Previews sponsored by the Guild were held the day of the concert at noon in Studio 1; attendees were encouraged to bring their lunch. In 1983, the Guild established a Listening Series that continued for a number of years; later, lunch was offered with the Series. The Educational Outreach program extended its offerings by inviting students to live performances of the Symphony. The concerts attracted 4,500 students from 60 schools. Instructional packets, along with tape recordings, were sent to the schools prior to the concert.

Founding conductor Lawrence Maves retired in spring of 1981; William McGlaughlin became the conductor in the fall of 1981 and served until spring of 1985. Many of you may recognize Maestro McGlaughlin as the former broadcast host of St Paul Sunday Mornings and current host of Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin.

Melva Boles

1. Symphony Run poster
2. Educational Outreach Program
3. Guild members, including current member Emily York
4. Students participate in Youth Concerts at the Hult



May the sun bring you new energy by day
May the moon softly restore you by night
May the rain wash away your worries
May the breeze blow new strength into your being
May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all
the days of your life.

Apache Blessing,
Sent by Chris Johnson

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



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January

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings
to the mind, flight to the imagination and
life to everything. Plato