

PRELUDE



Vol. XLVIII, No. 8, April, 2021 Eugene Symphony Guild Newsletter

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

2021/2022 Elected Officer's Slate

The Pandemic has caused so much uncertainty and instability in everyone's lives, making it more difficult for people to commit to taking on responsibilities in the coming months. However, the Guild is so fortunate to have current leadership that are willing to continue serving although possibly in different positions. Following is the Slate of Officers being nominated for next year's Guild:

President	Sandra Weingarten (with help from Suzanne Shapiro and Carolyn Abbott)
V.P. Education & Social	Ginger Fifield
V.P. Fundraising	Sally Robinson
V.P. Promotion (including Membership)	Karalyn Walker Sprung
Secretary	Sue Ashton
Treasurer	Kam Chan
Past President	Suzanne Shapiro

Thanks to all the above for their willingness to serve in these positions. Please note that this is Sandra Weingarten's third non-consecutive term as President, with Suzanne Shapiro finishing her third consecutive term this year. Carolyn Abbott has served two consecutive terms as President in the recent past. All three of us simply cannot serve

in the President's position again after this coming year. Also, we do not think it is healthy for the Guild to rely on just a few people for leadership over and over.

With the easing of the Pandemic, we will initiate new recruitment events as well as emphasize increasing membership throughout the year as it becomes safe to hold gatherings and events. Please help us to increase membership by talking to your friends and neighbors about your enjoyment of the Guild and inviting them to attend our meetings.

Also, we ask all current members to assess your own skills and interests as to where you could help on the Board in elected or committee positions. We need every member's energy and efforts toward our purpose of supporting the Symphony. After more than 50 years as significant supporters of the Eugene Symphony, we need to rally ourselves to become as relevant as we have been in the past. This is a difficult time for the Symphony and they need our help more than ever. We are needed, so let's all, Active members and Sustainers, contribute our skills to the effort!

Carolyn Abbott
Nominations Committee Chair

APRIL GUILD MEETINGS

Board meeting: April 14 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM, and connection information will be sent to board members.

Membership meeting: April 21 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM. There will be social time with ice breaker by Sharron Smith, at 10:30 a.m. meeting (watch for a ZOOM invitation including connection information to come via email from Jerril). A drawing of names of those present will be held for a surprise gift certificate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is showing it's flowers and occasional warm sun. A chipmunk is searching for bird seed on the ground with all the garden birds. The frogs are singing at night. It is time to clear

all the brambles that have grown over the winter out of the blueberry patch and plant two more bushes. We are all getting our Covid shots or are about to do so and the Symphony is able to record concerts in the Hult Center. These are all things to be thankful for and will raise the spirits as we near the end of this pandemic. Obviously masks and hand washing will last for quite awhile but we hope that in the future that too will end.

It has been wonderful to hear concerts by the Symphony String Quartet and the Symphony String Players. The music was so beautiful and lifted the soul. I am sure the musicians are thrilled to be performing again. It was so good to see them as well as hear them. I know that we all hope to be able to attend live concerts next year in Silva concert hall. We dearly miss our musicians and conductor and the magic they make with their music.

The Guild has been very busy in spite of our separation. We hold meetings via ZOOM and are planning our monthly membership meetings, our virtual Music in the Garden, and putting together the new board to be voted on in June. Since social distancing is still expected into summer, we will again hold a phone vote for the new board in June in place of enjoying our annual June luncheon. We have one Musical Chair party scheduled for the end of August which will be a tour of Brownsville and hope to add more next fall.

We are also hoping to hold in person membership meetings next fall and will keep you posted about that.

Several Guild members are taking on the task of surveying all of our records and supplies at the ESA office to determine which ones we should keep and which ones we do not need. Don't panic! We do not plan to eliminate any of our historical records and pictures but are considering giving them over to the Knight Library records department for safe keeping. We will not do this unless we are assured of easy access to our materials. We want to limit the amount of space we take up in the ESA office with all our "stuff".

I think most of you do not know that my husband was diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer in both of his lungs. He had parts of each lung removed and when the cancer showed up again he was put on a new oral cancer drug. When that drug ceased to keep the cancer at bay, he was put on another new cancer drug which worked until recently. He now has new tumors in his left lung and his local oncologist and his Portland oncologist agree that he needs to be put on chemo therapy to see if that will help for a while. If you do not see me at a meeting or two it will be because I am taking care of him or that I am having surgery to replace one or both of my hips. I have enjoyed being president of the Guild these past three years, but am tired at this point with everything that I have on my plate. I will gladly let Sandra Weingarten take over this summer for her third non-consecutive year as president, but will do many chores for her and serve as past president.

Enjoy spring and stay healthy.

Suzanne

Guild Groups and Activities

Weekly Walking Hour is scheduled for these Tuesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m., April 6, 13, 20, and 27. 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 is currently alternating city street walks with nature walks. Participants have been planning delightful walks in their own neighborhoods.

The Music in the Garden Committee is Planning for our Virtual Music in the Garden!

We are closing in on a Videographer! Sandra Weingarten and her Production team will be conducting final interviews the week of March 22, so by the time you read this, we will have made our final decision, and be embarking on the pre-production phase of our *event!*

Nancy Holloman has secured an additional Garden Sponsor: Roger Langeliers Construction, a concrete contractor out of Coburg – great news! She is still working on obtaining additional sponsors to help us.

We are excited to announce that we will be asking the broader community to participate in our Music in the Garden Event by submitting their “Garden

The **Guild Book Club** meets via Zoom the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in participating should call Sue Ashton. On April, Monday the 12th, members will discuss *Desert Flower* by Waris Dirie. The May selection is *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins and June’s is *The Evening and the Morning* by Ken Follett.

Stories” – 60 second videos or soundbites, describing a garden memory, a special plant, garden feature or gardening experience. These will be used to promote Music in the Garden via social media in the lead-up to the Event, and some may even be used within the video itself. We are excited to be involving the community in this way, given that Music in the Garden is such a community-wide, popular yearly tradition. You may have already received details on how to submit your Garden Story entry, if not, they’ll be coming soon – so, tell your friends, family and neighbors!

Next month we will start featuring some of our beautiful gardens on this year’s “Virtual Tour” – stay tuned!

Sally Robinson,
Co-Chair, Music in the Garden 2021

Squeezed in at the last minute: Jody Johnstone, new email: jodyjohnstone@bhhsnwrep.com



A poem by Karalyn Walker Sprung, titled, “Hoping for Spring” was printed in the last Prelude without Karalyn Walker Sprung’s name as credit. Mea culpa! This lovely photo at left is from Karalyn, too!
Carolyn Abbott sent this photo at right from Shore Acres Estate in Coos Bay in March.



Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

Eugene Symphony to release three more *Soundwaves* virtual concerts featuring string ensembles conducted by Francesco

These recorded performances will premiere online at 7 p.m. on April 1, May 6, and June 3

EUGENE, OR (March 19, 2021)— The centerpiece of Eugene Symphony’s pivot to online programming during the pandemic has been its *Soundwaves* series of virtual concerts. Initially featuring archived concert video from prior seasons, the series now features new concert recordings. With government allowance to return to the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in February, Eugene Symphony and Music Director & Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong have been performing and recording in high-definition video and audio.

Three remaining performance recordings will premiere online on April 1, May 6, and June 3.

“We learned so much during our first week back in the Hult Center about how to best utilize all the new cameras and technical gear,” says **Executive Director Scott Freck**. “As a direct result of these difficult times, we’ve essentially become a media production company, when before our focus was only on the live performance itself. Challenges are inevitable as we all navigate this new terrain, and I am proud of how our entire team, including Eugene Symphony and Hult Center staff along with outside partners, have taken them on head on and made these remarkable video programs that showcase the orchestra’s artistry to the community in a whole new way.”

Programs for the remaining *Soundwaves* concerts are listed below.

“My intention for these programs is to continue to find ways to showcase our talented string players and also to highlight living and lesser-known composers whose repertoire lends itself well to smaller ensembles,” says **Music Director & Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong**. “Of course, we’ll also have some of the major works for string orchestra like Dvořák’s *Serenade* alongside even more popular works like Bernard Herrmann’s iconic music from *Psycho*. Whatever the music, all of us are so thrilled to be back on stage together again, and these programs are a celebration of the creative spirit. We look forward to sharing our joy and hope for a brighter future with our amazing community!”

Soundwaves IV – Premiering April 1

Dmitri Shostakovich: Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: Novelletten, Op. 52 (No. 1 & No. 4)

Florence Price: Andante moderato from String Quartet No. 1 in G Major

Edward Elgar: Serenade in E minor, Op. 20

Soundwaves V – Premiering May 6

Hildur Guðnadóttir: From the Other Place

Bernard Herrmann: Suite from *Psycho*

John Williams: Air and Simple Gifts

Antonín Dvořák: Serenade

Soundwaves VI – Premiering June 3

Zhou Tian: Nocturne

John Cage: Second Construction

Chen Yi: Shuo (with Conducting Fellow Daniel Cho)

Terry Riley: In C

Ralph Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis

Soundwaves virtual concerts are accessible in the following ways:

* On **April 1, May 6, and June 3 at 7 p.m. PST**, each will premiere on eugenesymphony.org, where they will remain available to anyone anywhere in the world, without a password for one week, with a suggested donation of \$15 per household.

* Following the public viewing period, each video will be available on-demand through a password-protected site for Eugene Symphony donors and members who give at least \$120 per year (or \$10 per month).

What: Eugene Symphony’s *Soundwaves* series eugenesymphony.org

Prices: Free; suggested donation of \$15 per household **When:** Premiering at 7:00 p.m. PST on April 1, May 6, and June 3, 2021. Available for one week after premiere.

Lindsey McCarthy, Associate Executive Director, ESA

Executive Director, Scott Freck, is on a well deserved vacation, his column will continue in May. Ed.

Behind the Curtain — Symphony News

GOOD NEWS IN A CLASS BY ITSELF....

Key of E: Eugene Symphony's new Private Lesson Program

By Katy Vizdal, Education & Community Engagement Director

"She is absolutely beaming since her first lesson. Again, thank you so much for providing her this opportunity..." shared a parent after his daughter had her first viola lesson ever!

In January 2021, 42 music students from the Eugene-Springfield area were notified that they had been nominated and selected for a new scholarship opportunity, to study one-on-one with a professional Eugene Symphony musician! Established earlier this school year, the Symphony's new Private Lesson Program is providing scholarships to local middle and high school band and orchestra students that don't have the opportunity otherwise to study privately. Studies show that individualized music education opportunities, like private lessons, can positively impact student confidence, self-esteem, and overall school performance.

In the fall, the Symphony put a call out to Eugene, Springfield, and Bethel school district music educators, asking for nominations for motivated students from their band and orchestra programs that display enthusiasm for their musicianship, but who aren't currently taking private lessons. We encouraged nominations for students that display a positive attitude towards learning in general, and we were ecstatic to receive 42 nominations! Each student that was nominated, was invited to participate this year. In addition to receiving eight free private lessons, each student also receives a modest material stipend to go towards music or supplies.

One of the music educators who nominated their student for the program shared with us, "[The student] told me all about it [his first lesson] this morning. This

program is going to change his life. Thanks for the opportunity!"

The Eugene Symphony Private Lesson Program was established earlier this year during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way of continuing to serve young musicians in our region safely, and thus all private lessons are taking place virtually - a music lesson trend that has become even more common during times of social distancing. The private lessons started in February 2021, and so far the feedback has been really positive.

"I enjoy studio teaching and it's exciting to have new students, especially ones who have not previously had any lessons. It's easy to have an impact; even with good band directors, they haven't had the direction that the instrument requires. The initial gains are often huge and awe inspiring to the students and to me, too. ZOOM is working quite well in my studio. We are not able to play duets, yet, but as long as the wifi is working, we can get a lot done!" says Dave Bender, one of eighteen musicians teaching as part of this new program.

We are also partnering with the Eugene-Springfield NAACP Branch #1116 to provide 10 private lesson scholarships specifically for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) students.

"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."

Katy Vizdal,
Director, Education & Community Engagement

"Cellist Kathryn Brunhaver teaches local student via ZOOM as part of the Eugene Symphony's new Private Lesson Program



Eugene Symphony Guild History Items 2002-Spring 2009 by Melva Boles



In September of 2005, the Eugene Symphony Guild celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a dinner party and wine auction at Sylvan Ridge Vineyards. (left & below)



In 2006, the Guild had a booth at the Coburg Antique Fair for the first time. (above)



Presidents Sandra Weingarten and Dorothy Kays

The 2007-08 Ticket Campaign, of which the goal was 20 new Symphony season subscribers each year, resulted in recruitment of 27 new subscribers. Lovely annual Spring Serenades were held. (left)

Folkways and Coldwater Creek fashions were among the featured fashion show clothing companies. Christmas Walks, Music in the Garden and Musical Chairs Parties continued to be successful fund raisers in season 2007-08 also. (right)



Eugene Symphony Guild History 2002-Spring 2009, (con't) by Melva Boles

Giancarlo Guerrero is a six-time GRAMMY® Award-winning conductor, Music Director of the Nashville Symphony and NFM Wrocław Philharmonic and Principal Guest Conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon.

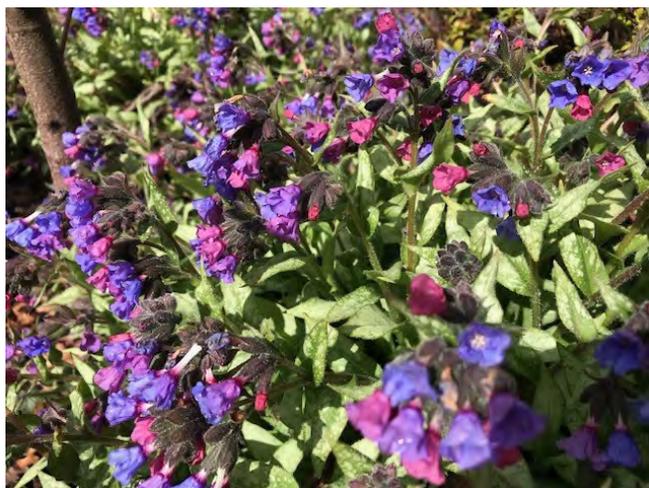
Born in Nicaragua, Guerrero immigrated during his childhood to Costa Rica, where he joined the local youth symphony. He studied percussion and conducting at Baylor University in Texas and earned his master's degree in conducting at Northwestern. Given his beginnings in civic youth orchestras, Guerrero is particularly engaged with conducting training orchestras and has worked with the Curtis School of Music, Colburn School in Los Angeles, National Youth Orchestra (NYO2) and Yale Philharmonia, as well as with the Nashville Symphony's Accelerando program, which provides an intensive music education to promising young students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. In 2002, Giancarlo Guerrero became Eugene Symphony's 7th Music Director.



Here are three recent photos from my Garden:

1. Pulmonaria — Lungwort [blue]
2. Japanese — Kerria [yellow]
3. Camellia — [red]

Sally Robinson



Until Things Heal.....

Last September, 2020, life along the McKenzie River changed, perhaps forever, from the Holiday Farms Fires. When we returned, we found massive destruction on both sides of the river for miles. Many families lost everything but their lives, and slowly many are choosing to find ways to rebuild and reconnect.

My home is up river from the fire and its trajectory so we were spared much of the deep losses of our neighbors. Life still is a slow process of rebuilding; we finally received phone service the last week of February. Although I can use the fire department Wi-Fi signal on a temporary basis it is five miles from home, and I try to avoid making the round-trip drive more than once a day when I can.

For the time being we have the amazing woman Fire Chief, "Rainbow", who helped to save countless lives, staying in our guest house since her own home was lost; her husband stays when he

can but also lives at a place down river closer to his work in town. We have only one "phone line" to the property, the old-fashioned way over wires, so we have adjusted to the old mid-century "party-line" cooperation and keep our sense of humors! Keep the calls short! This is our new norm for the next few months.

We hope to have internet brought to our home again within the next two months. Much will depend on the cooperation of agencies and companies which seems to be happening as this is written. As long as I have access to the Fire Department's internet *it is still the very best way* to communicate and keep me informed. Do not call me at home for Guild matters, for now.

Thank you all for your kindness and understanding during this unusual situation.

Judy England, Editor,

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



Eugene Symphony Guild

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APRIL



"Throughout the ages, music has been with us both in good times and bad. It doesn't always have to be uplifting. There's something about having a sad song that allows you to exist in the doldrums, move through it and out of it."

—Caitlin Warbelow, on "How Music Helps People Through Tough Times", from *Ruralite Magazine of Lane Electric Co-op*, March 2021