



# *Bravo!*

## Newsletter: Winter 2004-2005

Dedicated to Music Appreciation, Education, Performance—Today & Tomorrow

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### President's Notes



This past year has been full of wonderful events. Concerts by the Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (ROC) have been outstanding, ending the year with the *Winds of Christmastide*, providing a beautiful rendition of favorite

Christmas carols. At this concert, the Orchestra and Chorale honored Maestro Jere Lantz for his twenty-five years of leadership by surprising him with a performance of *The Dress Rehearsal*, composed especially for the occasion by Rochester native, Robert Oudal.

In December the Guild Board hosted a holiday social, chaired by Ione Schloegel, Pauli Krieger and Ella VanLaningham, in appreciation of our members. We celebrated with wine, hors d'oeuvres and good conversation.

A Past President's Scholarship Fund, proposed by Past President Pauli Krieger, has been established to build reserves to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Rochester Music Guild in 2014. Those interested may contribute to the Fund by submitting contributions to our Treasurer, Glenn VanLaningham. In addition, donations continue to be most welcome for our ongoing scholarship programs and support of ROC.

I would like to thank Guild members for contributing their time and effort in such an important role in the cultural strength of our community. In addition, I would also like to thank Board members for filling in, when needed, while I have been attending the master's program at St. Mary's University.

*Susan Claypool, President*

### Thank You, Members

Many many thanks to all of you for your contributions which support our many endeavors. At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors

approved a new budget to include support of educational programs such as our *Lunch & Learn* series, the upcoming *Clara's Visitor* on the life of Clara Schumann, the Rochester Orchestra & Chorale, scholarship awards to young people, and a new music appreciation initiative in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester. None of this would be possible without your generosity.

In mid-December, a Directory was sent to 178 members. Since that time, we have added two more members: Nancy **Rohde**, 2510 Oslo Court NE, Rochester, MN 55906 (280-6390; barohde@juno.com); and Carla **Nelson**, 931 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902 (288-2159; carlanelson@carlanelson.org). Please welcome these two members and add their names to your Directory.

*Ella VanLaningham and Majel Hall, Co-Chairs*

### Books! Books! Books!

Don't forget the special discount arranged for Rochester Music Guild members for our cookbook, **Recipes of Note for Entertaining**. You can purchase one or more cookbooks for only \$6.00 each! They are perfect for hostess gifts, birthdays and bridal showers or for everyday. Call Sylvia at 282-5132 to purchase yours.

Thanks to all who purchased books at Barnes & Noble during the November 8-13 Bookfair. Your participation resulted in the addition of \$408 to our music scholarship budget. We are very appreciative of the opportunity provided by Barnes & Noble for local nonprofits—a win-win project.

*Sylvia Swede, Chair*

### *Winds of Christmastide*

On December 17, decorations went up at Presentation Hall in the Mayo Civic Center. Wreaths and garlands were hung from the balcony

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and red bows and garlands from the stage, all twinkling with lights. Trees went up in the lobby and red bows with long streamers hung from the pillars to greet the audience for the *Winds of Christmastide* concert given by the Rochester Orchestra & Chorale on December 18.

Our talented crew of volunteers sipped cider, wrestled with extension cords and tree stands, snipped, wired, and taped and had the whole place looking beautiful within a few hours. After the concert, as the flow of concertgoers thinned out, many of these same volunteers went into action untaping, undoing, and undecorating until everything was quickly boxed and on its way back to storage.

We want to thank all of you who helped and say that we enjoyed working with you all; it was a great way to get in the holiday mood: Carolyn Rorie, Richard Bedard, Carl & Carol Schroedel, Marjorie Ginn, Diane Hellie, Ella & Glenn VanLaningham, Judy & Steve Kereakos, Don Sudor, Dave Frogner and Paul Carpenter. We also thank those unnamed who lent a hand in the take-down.

Special thanks to Sears, Target and Wal-Mart North who donated hats, scarves and mittens which were displayed on the "hat tree" and given to Interfaith Hospitality Network.

We look forward to your volunteer support next December!

*Barb Frogner and Marg Carpenter*

## **HoNk\*SQuEAK\*ScRaTcH\*BOOM!**

On January 15, 285 potential band and orchestra players from the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades came to "toot a horn, bang a drum, scratch a violin" and try out other instruments at the invitation of the Rochester Orchestra & Chorale. Resulting happy sounds emanated up and down the corridors at Mayo Civic Center from early morning until late afternoon.

The Rochester Music Guild provided wonderful volunteers who braved a cold winter day to help Orchestra volunteers with the event. Our thanks go out to Evelyn Cashman, Thurston Davini, Vickie Gullickson, Marlys Ostby, Esther Pfeifer, Joanne Schenck, Ella VanLaningham, Libby Witzeman, Marian Block, Pat Friederichs, Jean

Gutschenritter, Dick and Majel Hall, Dorothy Hartman, Betty and Bob Sande, Carol and Carl Schroedel and Pauline Walle. A special-thank you goes to Esther Pfeifer for recruiting Joanne, Marlys and Libby. All worked very hard and what a great experience was provided for the young people; it was fun, too!

*Majel Ann Hall*

## **Guild Scholarships Supporting Young Musicians**

The Music Guild Scholarship Competition on February 5 is bringing thirty-four young talented musicians to the Rochester Community and Technical College to compete for \$3400.00 in scholarship funds.

The winners of the competition will perform on Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church. The public is invited to the recital and a reception following the performance. Please put this on your calendar and come to enjoy the artistry of our young people.

The Scholarship Committee is working with Larry Kent, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, to sponsor a music appreciation initiative at the Club with funds from the Guild. The plan is being developed, and a report will follow.

*Ione Schloegel, Chair*

## **Herberger's Community Day Saturday, February 26**

Members "earn" money for Guild education and scholarship funds by buying and selling coupon books and filling various "working" roles in the store during Herberger's Community Day. Last year, over \$900 was received to help sustain our goal of supporting music in Rochester.

Coupon books are available for \$5.00 and offer a wide range of discounts. The \$5.00 can be recouped through discount coupons and is a direct contribution to the Guild. New this year, Herberger's has graciously agreed to allow discounted presale for the four days preceding Community Day. The shopper selects the merchandise and leaves credit card information; the salesperson then rings up the sale on February

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26 with the appropriate discount. The merchandise can be picked up over the next few days. Thanks to Herberger's for this new flexibility.

To buy a book in advance (or pick up several to sell), please contact a Board member.

*Lois Kennel*

### **Lunch & Learn February 28 at Charter House**

On February 28, Maestro Jere Lantz will once again be entertaining (and educating) us with a peek at the March 5 Rochester Orchestra & Chorale concert, *Brass to the Basics*. Do join us at Charter House at 11:30 for a soup and salad buffet followed by the program. The cost is \$8.50. Bring a friend. To be on the list to receive a flyer or to make a reservation, call Betty Sande at 288-2953.

Many thanks to Betty Sande for handling reservations and to Barb Frogner for preparing the flyers for mailing while I am down south enjoying warmer climes. I will be thinking of you as you enjoy Lunch & Learn with Jere on February 28.

*Ruth Vigness, Chair*

### **Garden Of Note Benefit With Sargent's: April 2-June 2**

Our scholarship program and pledge to the Rochester Orchestra and Chorale will receive the profits from the Garden of Note Sale hosted in partnership with Sargent's Garden Center and Landscape Nurseries.

Our guild volunteers will be selling \$25 vouchers (\$5 tax deductible) redeemable at both Sargent's locations beginning April 2. The vouchers expire June 2. The vouchers can be used for almost all items sold at both locations.

Volunteers will be calling their former buyers and selling to new customers. The vouchers will be available at the April 23 Rochester Orchestra & Chorale concert and by calling Shirley Edmonson, 288-7553, or Carla Nelson, 288-2159, [carlanelson@carlanelson.org](mailto:carlanelson@carlanelson.org).

New volunteers are always needed. Give Shirley or Carla a call if you can sell for the Guild – customer lists are available.

*Shirley Edmonson, Carla Nelson, Co-Chairs*

### **Shirley Edmonson *True Dedication to the Arts***



It was 1973 when John and Shirley Edmonson left the cultural life of New York and found themselves in a community of 50,000 people in rural, mid-America. Challenged by the quality of concert music in Rochester at that time, Shirley joined the Rochester Music Guild with the confidence that the Rochester Orchestra could improve, if an inspired community truly supported them with encouragement and funding.

Not a musician herself, Shirley appreciates the quality and comfort of a concert performance. John does as well, and shares his musical talents as a member of the Rochester Chorale. None of their four children became performers; however, all of them have enjoyed and supported the arts in communities where they now live.

Shirley's talent lies in raising money for good causes. At one time she was spearheading fundraisers for four different organizations for four different causes. She chuckled at the various methods used over the years to raise funds for the ROC: dinner parties, dances, a "Clue Game," garage sales, flower sales, and many others. For several years she led the Geranium Sale drives held each spring. She even recruited her children to help, at times "not of their own will."

Recognized by members of the Guild for her labors and dedication, Shirley has been elected not once, but five times to the presidency of the organization. She currently co-chairs the *Garden of Note* sale which nets annually approximately \$5,000 for support of the ROC and the scholarship programs.

When asked what has given her the greatest satisfaction in these many years of service to the Guild, she said it has all been enjoyable, but two things stand out: witnessing the quality of music increase in Rochester, and making so many wonderful friends through music and the Rochester Music Guild.

*Glenn VanLaningham*

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***Clara's Visitor***  
**Saturday, March 12**  
**First Presbyterian Church**



Stephanie Wendt, concert pianist and author of this poignant portrait of Clara Schumann, felt compelled to create this play after she discovered a collection of Clara Schumann's compositions. Wendt found the music to be astonishingly beautiful,

but also filled with great sorrow.

The production is structured as a mystery. It is the spring of 1854, and Clara's husband, the famed composer, Robert Schumann, has been committed to a mental asylum. Clara is left alone to care for her eight children. Into this mixture of pain, anxiety, and overwhelming responsibility, enters the "visitor," a man fourteen years her junior, handsome, full of promise, and a musician like herself. *Clara's Visitor* weaves together Clara Schumann's words and compositions and presents a riveting story of love and loss, courage and frailty. Critics call Stephanie Wendt's synthesis of piano and theatrical performance utterly sublime while brilliantly reflecting the emotional complexities inherent in the Schumann's marriage and music.

Born in New Zealand, Stephanie Wendt began her piano studies in Australia at the age of five. She is the winner of numerous competitions and has performed as soloist and chamber musician on five continents. Her concert venues have ranged from Avery Fischer Hall in New York to a maximum-security prison. She holds degrees in piano performance from the Curtis Institute of Music and Indiana University, and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

This program is made possible through the generosity of the Judy and Jim Sloan Foundation through the Rochester Music Guild, the Marjorie Lidstrom Scholarship Fund through the Rochester Area Keyboard Club, and Charter House. Proceeds will benefit Rochester Music Guild and Rochester Area Keyboard scholarship funds.

**\*Seating will be limited.** Tickets will be available at the Rochester Orchestra & Chorale office (286-8742), through Rochester Area Keyboard Club members, or by calling Marilyn at 281-8341. Adults: \$10 (\$12 at the door); students: \$5 (\$6 at the door).

*Marilyn Riederer, Chair*