



May 27, 2014

Special Edition: Celebrating 50 Years!

Dedicated to Music Appreciation, Education and Performance
Today and Tomorrow

History Revisited by Jackie James

Recently I had lunch with Shirley Edmonson and Pauline Krieger, two accomplished women whose involvement with the Rochester Music Guild spans nearly its entire history. Pauli was involved from its earliest days and served important roles on the board from 1966 to 1978 as Scholarship chair, Membership chair, Vice President and ultimately President. Between 1978 and 1995, the mantle of leadership passed to Shirley, who held various board positions through the 80's and 90's including Ways and Means chair, Vice President, and three times as President.

Pauli recalls how 70 women met for coffee at Ann Child's house in the fall of 1963 to discuss how they could help provide scholarships for young student musicians and increase support for the Rochester Symphony Orchestra. The women, all with a keen interest in music, included parents of young talented musicians, musicians in their own right, and music teachers. They formed the Rochester Symphony Guild and held their first official annual meeting in January of 1964 with Mrs. Mary Lu Cervania as president.

One of the earliest functions of the Guild was to organize receptions after each of the orchestra's season concerts. Pauli remembers a particularly special reception when Jack Benny, the famous comedian who was also an accomplished violinist, performed with the orchestra for a benefit concert on April 11, 1965. The Guild organized a reception to follow the concert. Fifty dollars bought a ticket to the "Golden Circle" which included admission to the reception and a chance to meet Mr. Benny. According to the minutes of the March 1965 Guild's executive board meeting, special cards for autographing were issued to reception attendees.

Shirley recalls that the organization was "very social." There were often ten or more post-concert receptions each season and the Guild planned and executed them all. There were "lots of parties" at which funds were raised for the organization including Symphony Balls, the Party at Apache (Mall), Historic Plummer House (1999), Kitchen tours (1992-94), the Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale Gala Fundraiser, and a Plummer House Decorators' Showhouse. She recalls many strenuous but enjoyable hours that Guild members spent decorating for Yule Fest, a special Christmas concert at which the Guild also provided ushers and sold food.

Shirley also remembers many fundraising efforts including creating and selling two Guild cookbooks and Guild note cards, as well as the "Garden of Note" geranium sales through Bachman's each spring (Currently, Garden of Note partners with Sargent's Nursery on a voucher program). Garage sales were held in the Edmonson garage on several occasions as a fundraiser for the Guild.



Mrs. D.S. Childs Jr. pours coffee for women who have formed the new Rochester Symphony Guild. About 70 women interested in supporting Rochester's music programs gathered in the Childs' home.

Standing, from left, are Mrs. Glenn Miller, Mrs. Ted Cervania, who will head the group during this formative period, and Mrs. Robert E. Swanson
(Post-Bulletin Photo – 1963)

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(History Revisited continued...)

The income from the fundraisers allowed the scholarship program to slowly expand over the years. At first, the Guild partnered with the Rochester branch of the American Federation of Musicians (Local 437) to provide a Congress of Strings scholarship to a summer music program of that name in Michigan. There was also a Harold Cooke Scholarship that provided funds for students to attend the Hiawatha Valley Music Camp at Old Frontenac, MN. A Junior College Scholarship Fund was later offered and administered by Dr. Henry Charles Smith III, then conductor of the orchestra. Other dedicated scholarships have been added over the years and today's scholarship program provides scholarships totaling about \$7500 each year for middle and high school musicians.



From left: Shirley Edmonson,
Jackie James, and Pauline Krieger

Pauli and Shirley were both active in the early 2000's as well, serving alternately as President. For Shirley, that makes a total of five times as president of the organization! And even today, both are helping with the planned anniversary events in June. They are two dedicated women who have made enormous contributions to establishing the rich culture of music that we enjoy today in the Rochester community. Thank you Pauli and Shirley!!

Scholarship Endowment Campaign

It's a challenging time to dream big, but it is also necessary for the Guild to look towards the future. The 50th Anniversary Committee has set a goal to raise \$50,000 to add to the Scholarship Endowment Funds in order to ensure these funds are self-sustaining. In recognition of the Guild's 50th Anniversary, all donations of \$50 or more will be recognized at the Presidents' Reception on Friday, June 6, 2014. Past Presidents and Scholarship Chairs of the Music Guild and members of the arts community will be invited to join in the celebration.

Your endowment donations significantly impact both the present and the future. It is a lasting gift that ensures the continuation of the Music Guild's mission to foster music appreciation, education and performance. Your gift – no matter the size – makes it possible for us to sustain the Scholarship Endowment Funds. Please consider donating to one of the existing endowment funds, or creating a new fund to honor an individual in a special way.

As of May 11, 2014 the Scholarship Endowment Fund donations have been very generous. Please consider adding your donation to help reach the \$50,000 goal that has been established.

Thank You to Guild Members Living at Charter House

During the last several weeks the Guild's 50th Anniversary Committee has sent three large mailings to its members, area private teachers and past winners of Guild scholarships. Accomplishing these mailings would not have been possible without the help of Guild members currently living at Charter House who assembled the mailing and sealed the envelopes.

Our thanks go to the following people:

Lois Kennel, Billie Needham, Cecilia Lamb, Janet Woods, Jane Destro, Jo Sheldon, Betty Qualey, Ann Groover, Jeannine Karnes and Pauli Krieger. Guild member Carolyn Rorie and Charter House resident Selby Beeler also joined us.

Scholarship Alumni Recital

“A MUSICAL HOMECOMING”

50th Anniversary Scholarship Alumni Recital

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 7:00 P.M. ~ CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Free and open to the public. A reception follows.

On Saturday June 7, the Rochester community will have a rare opportunity to hear an extraordinary recital featuring fourteen outstanding musicians, all of whom were once winners of a top award in the Rochester Music Guild's student scholarship program. Now adults and living in various parts of the country, these fine musicians have graciously accepted our invitation to perform in the Guild's 50th anniversary Musical Homecoming Recital.

Here is a list of the performers you will be able to hear at 7 pm that evening and a little bit of information about them. The year(s) they received a Guild scholarship is (are) in parentheses. When you read about them below, you will agree that this is a concert not to be missed!

Randy Stroetz (1967, 1970) - trombone performing with the *Med City Brass*

Randy is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at Mayo Clinic and works in Pulmonary Research. Music, though, he says, has always been his passion. The son of a former professional trombonist and music teacher, he attended Lawrence University Music Conservatory, studying trombone with his father, Robert Stroetz, former Philadelphia principal Henry Charles Smith, Derald De Young, former Minnesota orchestra principal Steven Zellmer, and, recently, a few lessons with Frank Crisafulli long-time former Chicago Symphony trombonist. He recently played with *The King's Brass*, a touring professional group and now plays with the Med City Brass. "I remember winning the Rochester Music Guild competition in the early 1970's and feeling very fortunate to gain this recognition. I am convinced this had a part in my decision later to study music in college at the Lawrence University Music Conservatory in Appleton, Wisconsin."



Eric Street (1970) – piano

Eric is Professor of Music and coordinates keyboard studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio. He earned his MM and DM at Indiana University School of Music under Menahem Pressler, with additional study in Vienna under Paul Badura-Skoda. As a pianist he has won acclaim on six continents, with performances in thirty-five countries. An active ensemble artist, Eric Street has toured the world as part of "Side by Side" piano duo, and accompanied more than two dozen singers from the Metropolitan and New York City Opera rosters. He has toured as pianist with the Dance Theatre of Harlem and recently performed in China.

Tony Gibbs (1975) - alto saxophone

Tony is an internationally acclaimed classical saxophone soloist. He and his wife, Benita Rose, were top prize-winners in the 2008 International Chamber Music and Ensembles Competition as the Rose-Gibbs Duo. As principal saxophonist of the U.S. Coast Guard Band, he has toured the world, performed for dignitaries (including three US presidents) and many celebrities. He has been heard on National Public Radio, as well as Radio Free Europe and has been a soloist at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and with the Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.



Kathryn Horntvedt (1981) – piano (performing with Susan Adolphson Henke – see below) Kathryn is currently living in Rochester, has a home piano studio and sings with the First Unitarian Universalist and Zumbro Lutheran choirs. She is an active member of the Rochester Area Keyboard Club (RAKC) and will serve as its co-vice president next year. Under the auspices of RAKC, she facilitates the annual recital series, Young Musicians of Southeast Minnesota. She holds K-12 certification in general and choral education as well as national certification in piano teaching through the Music Teachers National Association.

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Rhett Ketterling (1982, 1983) – tenor

Rhett, a life-long resident of Rochester, is a pathologist/cytogeneticist at the Mayo Clinic. He grew up in a home surrounded by music (father is Lloyd Ketterling: choral conductor at John Marshall High School for 30 years) and art (mother is Patte Ketterling: local Christian symbolist artist) and is a graduate of Luther College where he sang in the Nordic Choir for 3 years under the direction of Weston Noble. Locally, he has been a member of Choral Arts Ensemble and Sonata, and is a frequent soloist in weddings and funerals. His family, including wife Judith, daughter Morgan and sons Trevor, Graham and Spencer, are all very involved in music and have participated in choral music, orchestra, and band. Their most recent family musical endeavor is a 10 year commissioning project, The Lloyd Ketterling Christmas Carol, which commissions a new Christmas Carol each year for 10 years in honor of Lloyd Ketterling. Each year's new carol is premiered by Choral Arts Ensemble in their annual Christmas concert.

Amy Crockett (1989, 1990, 1991) – cello performing with *Trio Grazioso*

Amy Crockett holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College where she performed with the St. Olaf Orchestra for four years under the direction of Steven Amundson. At St. Olaf she studied with Dr. David Carter and toured with the orchestra in the United States and Europe. After graduating, she completed a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling and Psychological Services from St. Mary's University. While in the Twin Cities, she performed for eleven seasons with the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis before moving to Rochester where she now lives with her husband and three children. She has performed with the Rochester Symphony and Chorale, and currently teaches private cello lessons.

Susan Adolphson Henke (1994) – piano

Susan works full-time in the Clinical Genome Sequencing Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic. She is also the second piano/harpsichord/celesta player with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra. At Zumbro Lutheran Church, Susan occasionally plays piano, harpsichord and organ to assist with liturgical music or to accompany her husband Corey on the French horn. Susan also sings in the Zumbro Lutheran Choir.

Amita Prakash (2001, 2002) – soprano

Amita holds currently lives in Cincinnati, Ohio where she sings classical/operatic vocal repertoire professionally, as well as teaches private voice lessons. She has received several vocal awards in recent years and has appeared in many opera productions, ensembles, and chamber groups associated with the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the Universities of Michigan and Minnesota. She was hired by the Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program for their 2011-2012 season. She was also a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall in a concert of works by composers from the University of Michigan and recently performed a solo recital at the Cincinnati Art Museum, as well as the Vivaldi *Gloria* with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and the Christ Church Cathedral Choir. She was asked to return as a soloist for the Cincinnati Opera's 90th anniversary Gala Concert in 2010. "The Rochester Music Guild had a huge impact on me pursuing the arts professionally. Because of the wonderful opportunity it gave me, I realized that I could, indeed, sing professionally. I started to believe in myself."



Erik Rohde (2000, 2002, 2003) – violin

Erik is a violinist and conductor, currently living and working in Minneapolis, MN. He holds degrees in Violin Performance, Biomedical Engineering, and has just completed his doctorate in Orchestral Conducting, studying with Mark Russell Smith. He currently conducts the Buffalo Community Orchestra in Buffalo, MN, and teaches in the Twin Cities at the MacPhail Center for Music and Trinity School. Erik has maintained a diverse career advocating for new music, conducting for the Minneapolis-based Contemporary Music Workshop, and giving violin recitals and chamber music performances at new music festivals, including recently the *Outside the Box Festival* (Carbondale, IL), *New Horizons Festival* (Kirksville, MO), and the *2012 Alba Music Festival* (Alba, Italy). He has also recently performed as a part of the Schubert Club Courtroom concerts series with pianist Mark Bilyeu. Additional awards include prizes given by the Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association Solo Competition in 2005 and 2007, including a specially created award for the Best Performance of Solo Bach.

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Karen Whidden Baron (2006) – soprano

Karen has grown from singing in children's choirs and high school musicals to performing in concert halls across the United States. She credits the Rochester music community for providing the education and support she needed as she chose to make the leap into the academic and professional music world. Karen has appeared as a recitalist at venues such as the Temple Square Performance Series in Salt Lake City and at the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville, Maine. Most recently, Karen performed Darius Milhaud's *Chansons de Ronsard* with the Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra after winning second-place prize at their Young Artist Competition. Karen is founder and soprano of Chicago's vocal chamber quartet, Fourth Coast Ensemble. For the 2014-

2015 season, she has accepted a Vocal Chamber Music Fellowship at the Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago. She currently resides in Evanston, IL and is a private voice teacher.

Irissa Hubka (2007, 2009, 2010) – flute

Irissa graduated from Iowa State University in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance with a Mathematics Minor. She played in the ISU Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Flute Ensemble, holding principal/rotating principal flute in all the groups. She also took voice lessons and continues to play piano. In the fall of 2014 she will begin pursuing a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance at Penn State University, where she will be the flute graduate teaching assistant. "The Rochester Music Guild competition helped encourage me to polish my music to a higher level than was required for the recitals in which I regularly performed at that time. It was fun and motivating to have something special to work toward."

Luke Miksanek (2010) – violin

Luke participated in Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras for nine years and played in the Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale for two years. He attended the Madeline Island Music Camp, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Eastern Music Festival (EMF) summer programs. While pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at Vanderbilt University with Christian Teal, Luke worked as a research assistant in the musicology department, wrote music criticism for *ArtsNash* and *Nashville Scene*, and went on tour with the university orchestra in China at the end of 2012. He graduated in May 2014 and, having been granted an EMF Young Artist Merit Award, will return to EMF this summer before pursuing graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Leslie Shank in the fall.

Henry Wang (2011, 2013) – piano

Henry is a sophomore at Century High School in Rochester and currently takes piano lessons from Professor Alexander Braginsky at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. He was selected as a competitor in the recent inaugural Midwest International Junior Piano Competition held in Northern Iowa, and has garnered numerous accolades at almost all levels of competitions. This past year, Henry received first place in the West Central Division of the MTNA Senior Piano national competition and then won the Chopin Prize at the national finals. This spring, he won the prestigious Schubert Club Senior High Piano first place award. When not practicing or competing, Henry also enjoys playing for the community in venues such as the Gonda building. Henry is an ardent student of math and science; and in 2012 was a National Mathcounts finalist representing the State of Minnesota. Most recently, he was first overall for the regular season of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League.

Isaac Johnson (2011, 2012) - trombone

Isaac is a home school senior from Pine Island, MN who began playing the trombone at the age of ten. Currently, he studies with Randy Stroetz, Dr. Jeremy Kolwinka of University of Northwestern, and Douglas Wright of the Minnesota Orchestra. He plays in the Symphony Orchestra of the Minnesota Youth Symphonies under the direction of Manny Laureano and has also been a member of the Southeast Minnesota Youth Orchestras. Isaac was selected as the high school concerto competition winner with the "President's Own" Marine Band and recently performed with the ensemble in Washington DC in April. He was named a 2014 Young Arts winner, a second place winner in the Schubert Club and Thursday Musical competitions in 2013 and has been a finalist in the Minnesota Orchestra's Young People's Symphony Concert Association competition. Isaac was an Emerson scholar at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp in Michigan in 2012. This fall, Isaac will be attending Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music to study trombone performance.



Highlights of Rochester Music Guild's 50-Year History

How many of these events can you remember?

- Fall 1963** A group of Rochester women gather to discuss the need for an organization to support music in the community.
- January 30, 1964** First "annual" meeting held with 70 members present. Mary Lu Cervania is elected founding president of the "Rochester Symphony Guild."
- 1965** Congress of Strings and Harold Cooke Scholarship awards given for first time.
- 1970** Rochester Music Guild joins the Rochester Arts Council.
- 1973-1974** Members assist Louise Hill with preservation of *Heritage House*. The home had miraculously survived the 1883 tornado and was once again threatened with demolition when Louise Hill, a Guild member, stepped in to preserve it for the community. Members helped raise money and donated time cleaning, painting, and restoring the home after it was moved to Central Park.
- 1975** Rochester Music Guild successfully incorporates as a non-profit organization.
- 1975** Orvis Ross Scholarship begun.
- 1974-1980** Rochester Symphony Balls are held.
- 1978-1979** *Kinderkonzerts* held for Rochester school children with help from Guild members.
- 1979-1995** Annual *Yulefest* Christmas Concerts with the Rochester Orchestra.
- 1983-present** At first a Geranium Sales Fundraiser, later is *Garden of Note*
- 1988** *Recipes of Note* cookbook published. Reviewer Sarah Johnson, in the 2006 issue of *The Land* magazine, called it a cookbook "with a touch of class ... a feast for the eye, ear, and taste buds."
- 1981-1987** The *Party at Apache* Fundraiser held annually.
- 1986** Sid Suddendorf Memorial Scholarship begun for high school senior music students (Mayo and John Marshall High Schools).
- 1987** First Carter Douglas Memorial Scholarship awarded.
- 1988** *Recipes of Note for Entertaining* cookbook published with sample menus and accompanying music selection recommendations from Jere Lantz, Rochester Symphony Orchestra conductor.
- 1992-1994** Kitchen Tours held.
- 1994** Sally Duffy Memorial Vocal Scholarship established.
- 1998-2010** *Honk, Squeak, Scratch, Boom* event for area elementary school students provided hands-on introduction to musical instruments.
- 1998** Scholarship competition expanded to provide awards to students in grades 8-12 within a 50 mile radius of Rochester.
- 1999** Historic Plummer House Decorators' Showhouse fundraiser held.
- 2000** Georgia Daniel Memorial Scholarship established.
- 2004** 40th anniversary events held, including Alumni Scholarship Recital.
- 2005** *Clara's Visitor*, an educational play/concert about Clara Schumann's life, presented by the Rochester Music Guild with funding from the Judy & Jim Sloan Foundation.
- 2005** Century High School Senior Award begun to match the Sid Suddendorf Senior Awards given at John Marshall and Mayo High Schools.
- 2007** Carl Schroedel Memorial Scholarship established.
- 2010** Junior Division of Scholarship Competition established with contributions from Peggy Andersen, in memory of her husband Dr. Howard Andersen, and from Tom & Sue Spackman.
- 2014** Endowment campaign begins to raise \$50,000 to fund scholarship program in perpetuity. June events organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Guild.