



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

Feb 2019

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Letter From Our President

The history of the Music Guild tells us that the Guild was begun as an adjunct to the

Rochester Symphony Orchestra, raising additional funds to supplement the city's contribution. It continues to do that to this day, sponsoring a performance of the RSO. It also helps fund Honk, Squeak, Scratch, Boom, the musical-instrument exploration for 4th through 6th graders.

Equally important is the scholarship competition the Guild runs every spring. While the scholarship funds themselves come from generous Music Guild benefactors, operational funding comes from a SEMAC grant and is being coordinated by Tessa Sawchuk this year. (For additional information, see page 2 of this newsletter or go to <https://rochestermusicguild.org/scholarship-program/>.) Young musicians from around the area compete for scholarships in piano, string, wind, and vocal performance categories. There are two age groups, and three winners in each of the competitions. Winners in the past have continued

their education and training and have become important teachers, performers, and consumers of classical music.

Registration is through February 10th this year, with the judging on March 9th and 10th. Adjudicators (usually college faculty from around the state) are recruited to determine the winners. The top three winners from both age groups and categories will perform in a gala recital on Sunday, April 28th. Please circle that day and plan to attend this free concert. It will be held at Christ United Methodist church, with plenty of seating.

The quality of musicianship and talent is astounding and the concert filled with awe and joy. It's also a chance to see the musicians of the future as they develop and, perhaps, be able to say someday, "I saw her/him when they were just starting out." Mark the date and tell your music-loving friends that this is a great opportunity.

Andy Good
Rochester Music Guild President



Scholarship News—2019

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Tracy Youngberg,
Membership

The 55th Rochester Music Scholarship Competition is right around the corner! Students from all 11 southeast Minnesota counties will be competing for almost \$10,000 in scholarships on the weekend of March 9th/ 10th. We have 14 professional musician adjudicators coming from across the state to provide valuable mentoring to our students and to choose the top 3 from each category (piano, strings, vocal, wind). Please save the date for Sunday April 28th at 1 pm, when the Winner's Recital featuring these talented students will take place at Christ United Methodist Church.

Thank You to the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council:

We are extremely grateful once again to have received a grant from the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) for \$10,000 towards our Scholarship Competition. These funds allow us to recruit outstanding professional musicians as adjudicators, help pay for the exceptional facilities at Christ United Methodist Church, as well as supporting the administrative fees accrued in such an endeavor!

The RMG is so thankful that this activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Tessa Sawchuck and Linda Edd

RMG Membership News

Take a close look at the 2018-19 membership list on page 6 of this newsletter. If you find your name there, **Thank You** for your support of music in the Rochester area through your membership donation! However, if you didn't find your name there, the most likely reason is that your membership donation for the 2018-19 season was not received. Not to worry, it's never too late to make your donation. You can either use the membership form on page 7 and mail it with your check to the address on the form or make your membership donation **online** by going to <https://rochestermusicguild.org/membership/>.

Tracy Youngberg, RMG Membership Chair

Tax Changes Affecting RMG Membership

Rochester Music Guild, like many charitable organizations, has to cope with the tax law changes made in 2017 which increased the standard deduction and thereby reduced the number of potential donors who would itemize their tax deductions, including charitable donations. This has had a negative effect on the number of membership donations received by RMG for the 2018-19 membership season. If you have been a member of RMG in past years, but you didn't make a donation for 2018-19 because you didn't plan to itemize your tax deductions, please consider how your past support has helped:

- encourage young musicians through the RMG annual music scholarship competition
- support music education in the community through free monthly Lunch & Learn events
- support music performance in Rochester and southeast Minnesota through RMG grants.

If your name isn't on the member list on page 7 of this newsletter, and you want to support the mission of the Rochester Music Guild, please add your name to the list by making a membership donation by going to <https://rochestermusicguild.org/membership/>. Thanks so much!

Guy Vig, RMG Treasurer





Education Corner

As the RMG Education Chair, I'm excited to announce the Lunch & Learn events for the spring season.

We have had many great Lunch & Learns this season and will end on a high note. Starting on February 8 we have the first of two presentations by Jere Lantz, *Four Seasons Serenade*. Vivaldi's pictures of nature and Tchaikovsky's soaring melodies will capture your imagination and stir your soul.

Then on March 8 we are fortunate to have the rescheduled Herzogenberg Trio for Oboe, Horn & Piano with Karla Webb, Ronald Beitel, and Jan Matson. "... This is a masterpiece which should be heard in concert."

April 12 brings the second symphony preview. This time featuring Symphony No. 1 "Titan" by Gustav Mahler. This youthful first symphony set a new standard for symphonic writing for the 20th Century.

Finally, we close out the season with a **Special Saturday** Lunch & Learn on May 18. There is only one 24-trumpet musical ensemble in the United States, and it has its home in the Twin Cities, the Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble (TCTE)!

Scott Kruse
RMG Education Chair

For the latest information on the activities of the Rochester Music Guild, check out our website:
rochestermusicguild.org

Welcome to our new Webmaster: Jon Davis

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Garden of Note

The Guild's annual Garden of Note sale began in 1981 and continues to be our top fundraiser. This year the sale will start on Saturday, April 6 and continue through May 31. Vouchers are \$25 each and can be used at Sargents Landscaping and Nursery on 2nd St. SW or on 18 Ave NW. They will be available from your favorite voucher sales person, at the Rochester Symphony concerts on April 13 and 14 and also at the Guild's Lunch and Learn events on April 12 and May 18.

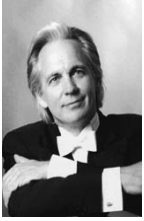
You may also e-mail garden@rochestermusicguild to place your order. For every \$25 voucher sold, the Guild retains \$5 to support local music.

Jolene and Alan Hansen
Garden of Note Co-Chairs

Brava!

Congratulations to DeAnn Spencer, local violin teacher, past RMG board member, and recipient of the **Bravura Award for inspiring student excellence through music education in our local community**. The award is sponsored by First Alliance Credit Union and awarded by The Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras (SEMYO). The community nominated her and a group of her peers selected her based on years of service to the Southeastern Minnesota music community, reputation as a quality music teacher, and willingness to support all youth to pursue music, regardless of income. Thank you for all you do, DeAnn!





Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale

A note from Maestro Jere Lantz...

Calling these notes a “Spring Preview” seems absurd: as I’m writing, it’s below zero and a blizzard is on the way. Still, we Minnesotans have confidence that spring can’t be far behind!

Each of our concerts this spring features a hallmark of music—an immortal work that epitomizes its time and composer, something most of us know of but rarely have a chance to hear in person.

On February 9 and 10, that piece is Vivaldi’s quartet of violin concertos known as “The Four Seasons”—the best-known creation by the Venetian called the “Red Priest.” We’ll do all four seasons, romping from “Spring” thru “Winter” with concertmaster Michal Sobieski leading the way. Mike played with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra for 34 years. A decade ago, he recorded all four seasons with some of his colleagues, a CD that ended up on Target’s best-selling rack. Mike knows how to deliver Vivaldi in top form.

In the second half we’ll play my favorite string serenade, Tchaikovsky’s, one of his pieces he loved the most. He had just finished his “1812 Overture,” an assignment he hated, and wrote this serenade for fun. And fun it is—not as grand but surely as heartfelt as any of his symphonies.

On March 9 (just one performance at Mayo Civic Center), our Chorale joins our Orchestra for what many feel is the highpoint of music for those combined forces, Brahms’ *A German Requiem*. Brahms wasn’t so much writing a German piece but a work intentionally far from the traditional Latin mass for the dead with its emphasis on the wrath of Judgment Day. Brahms chose texts to comfort those who mourn, to bring peace to all who are bereaved. Still there are moments of great drama in this spiritual masterpiece.

Keeping in the spiritual mood, we precede Brahms with *Trisagion* by Estonian Arvo Pärt, a devout member of the Orthodox tradition who is perhaps the most spiritual of living composers. When we offered his *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten* four years ago, we surprised many in the audience with how affecting and accessible Pärt’s work is. This one is based on an Orthodox prayer (“Holy, Holy, Holy”), and it indeed sounds just that—holy.

To close the season on April 13 & 14, we tackle two titans: Leonard Bernstein, whose 100th birthday was noted last August, and a composer Bernstein championed throughout his career, Gustav Mahler. From Bernstein we sample a trio of delights: his sparkling Overture to *Candide* (my candidate for top overture of the 20th century); Suite from *Fancy Free* (three dancing dollops from his first ballet); and his meditative Prelude from *A Quiet Place*, his last work for stage.

Then it’s “The Titan,” Mahler’s First Symphony, one that very much lives up to that colossal title. This is the grandest symphonic canvas ever created by a composer not yet 30, fusing wanderings through the countryside, a folk band, a funeral march, and a final journey from agony to triumph. By the end, we know we have been in the presence of something truly titanic and unforgettable.

See you at the concerts!



Announcement of a Call for Grant Proposals



The Guild announces a call for grant proposals for the upcoming year. Awards are made on the basis of: 1) educational value, 2) number of musicians participating, and 3) size of the potential audience. Forms for the proposals are available from the Guild by emailing pres-elect@rochestermusicguild.org. The application deadline is April 15th, 2019.

Sharon Schmoll
President Elect, Grants Committee

Board Member Spotlight, Sue Visscher

Sue grew up in a musical family. Her paternal grandfather had been a church choir director, and her mom was the first woman to perform a Master's Degree recital on the cornet at Northwestern University. Sue took piano lessons in elementary school, but found a talent for singing in high school, joining both church and school choirs. A few solos and voice lessons, a little musical theater, and then it was off to Indiana University. What better place to major in Finance, but continue to take voice lessons, sing in ensembles, and perform in musical theater?



Years later, a Ph.D. in Finance led to a career culminating as an Associate Professor of Finance at The University of Toledo teaching undergraduate, M.B.A., and Executive M.B.A. courses. In 2001, she and her husband Dan moved to Rochester where Sue began to "practice what she used to preach," working in Management Accounting at Mayo Clinic. One afternoon, she happened upon Choral Arts Ensemble performing for Harmony for Mayo. After the concert, she introduced herself to Rick Kvam and soon afterwards successfully auditioned. After 2 years in CAE, she was promoted to a new Mayo job that required traveling which would interfere with rehearsals. However, several years later and yet another new job at Mayo, she auditioned again and enjoyed many more years with CAE. She also served a term on the CAE Board of Directors. Sue is happy to be joining both old and new friends on the Rochester Music Guild Board in helping to support music in our community. In her spare time, Sue enjoys gardening and traveling with Dan.

More Upcoming Events—**Sat, Feb 23 – 7:30 pm**

Rochester Chamber Music Society – Christ United Methodist Church – free

Sun, Feb 24 – 2 pm

Austin Symphony Orchestra – St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Austin – \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Sun, Feb 24 – 4 pm

First Presbyterian Church – free

A Festival of Music

Tues, Feb 26 – 7:30 pm

Choral Arts Ensemble HS Choral Festival – Lourdes Chapel

Fri, Mar 8 – Noon

Classical Trio – Christ United Methodist Church – free

Rochester Music Guild Lunch & Learn, optional \$10 catered lunch is available at 11:30

Sat, Mar 9 – 7:30 pm

Rochester Symphony, Brahms Requiem– Mayo Civic Center Presentation Hall – \$30, \$20, \$5

Wed, Mar 13 – 12:15 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Rochester – free

Lenten Recital Series – Graeme Shields

Sat, Mar 16 – 7:30 pm (Lourdes Chapel, Assisi), Sun, Mar 17—3 pm (Central Lutheran Church, Winona)

Choral Arts Ensemble & Bach Society of MN \$5 (student) to \$30

Sun, Mar 17 – 3 pm with 2:30 pre-concert talk

Lyra Baroque Orchestra – Christ United Methodist Church – \$25, \$20, \$5, Divine Bach and Handel

Wed, Mar 20 – 12:15 pm

First Presbyterian Church – free, Lenten Series – Brian Williams

Sun, Mar 24 – 4 pm

First Presbyterian Church – free, A Festival of Music

Wed, Mar 27 – 12:15 pm

First Presbyterian Church – free, Lenten Series – Ruth Benning

Wed, Apr 3 – 12:15 pm

First Presbyterian Church – free, Lenten Series – John Varona

Sun, Apr 7 – 3 pm

Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony – Mount Olive Lutheran Church, \$5 adults, \$2 children

Wed, Apr 10 – 12:15 pm

First Presbyterian Church—free, Lenten Series – Lois Marsh

Fri, Apr 12 – noon

Rochester Symphony Preview – Charter House – Northview Room – free, Rochester Music Guild Lunch & Learn: Maestro Jere Lantz, will tell the story behind the music of "The Titans". An optional \$10 catered lunch is available at 11:30 am

Sat, Apr 13 – 7:30 pm, Sun, Apr 14 – 2 pm

Rochester Symphony – Lourdes High School – \$30, \$20, \$5 Gustav Mahler's youthful first symphony

Fri, Apr 26 – 7:30 pm with 7 pre-concert talkLyra Baroque Orchestra – Mount Olive Lutheran Church – \$25, \$20, \$5, German Giants – <https://lyraboroque.org/giants>**Sun, Apr 28 – 4 pm**

First Presbyterian Church – free, A Festival of Music

Sat, May 4 – 7:30 pm

Choral Arts Ensemble – Zumbro Lutheran Church – \$25, \$5 (student), partnering with actors of Great River Shakespeare

Sun, May 5 – 2 pmAustin Symphony Orchestra – Knowlton Auditorium, Austin High School – \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door
Anthony (Tony) Ross, guest principal cellist**Upcoming Events—****For additional details, go to rochestermusicguild.org/calendar/****Events are in Rochester unless otherwise indicated****Fri, Feb 1 – 7:30 pm with 7pm pre-concert talk**Lyra Baroque Orchestra – Mount Olive Lutheran Church – \$25, \$20, \$5 <http://lyraboroque.org/baroquespas>**Sat, Feb 2 – 3 pm**Compass Rose Brass Ensemble – Zumbro Lutheran Church, Rochester — \$10, \$5 www.compassrosebrass.com**Sun, Feb 3 – 3 pm**

Ann Simerlink Vocal Chamber Music Recital – Watkins Manor House, Great Hall, Winona — free

Fri, Feb 8 – Noon

Rochester Symphony Preview – Charter House – Northview Room – free. An optional \$10 catered lunch is available at 11:30 am

Sat, Feb 9 – 7:30 pm, Sun, Feb 10 – 2 pm

Rochester Symphony – Lourdes HS, Rochester – \$30, \$20, \$5

Thurs, Feb 14 — 7 pmRAACHE Choirs — Trinity Lutheran Church — Rochester — free <http://www.raachechoirs.org/>**Sun, Feb 17 – 3 pm**

Rochester Pops Orchestra presents "Musicals, Musicals, Musicals" – Bethel Lutheran Church – \$14, \$12, \$9, Children Free

Sun, Feb 10 – 4 pm

Ann Simerlink Vocal Chamber Music Recital – Calvary Episcopal Church — free

Guild Membership**2018—2019*****Life***

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Guy & Kara Vig
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Dan & Ginny Amundson
Cathy Arhelger
Gail Bishop
Nancy Brubaker
Paul & Margaret Carpenter
Ramona Digre
Bill & Donna Dunn
Kay Eberman

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Richard & Majel Hall
Jeanette Hallbeck
Emily & Jed Harris
Honors Choirs of SE MN
Peter Edl & Paula Horner
Lois & Lowell Johnson
Mary & Mark Johns
Michael & Wendy Johnson
Suzy Johnson
Nancy Kampmeier
John & Grace Kan
Lois Kennel
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Lynne Kirkland
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Janet Woods

Basic

Lee Afdahl
Naomi Atrubin
Dawn Beckley
Emily Bond
Becky Brey
Jean Burrington
Barbara Mae Chase
Barb & David Frogner
Benjamin Gateno
Joyce Gibbs
Jill Gill
Nancy Gilliland
Sonia Gisvold
Pamela Haase
Matt Hafar

Basic, cont'd

Laurie Helmers
Kathryn Horntvedt
Anne Judisch
Cecelia Lamb
Ruth Lincoln
Mary Jane McHardy
Edna Mezacapa
Glenna Muir
Beverly Olander
Mary Pesch
Esther Pfeifer
Jayne Pompeian
Carol Prescher
Rochester Symphony Orchestra
Margaret Schafer
David Schaffer-Gottschalk
Elaine Schmidt
Sharon Schmoll
Gayle Segar
Joyce Sharp
Jo Ann Sheldon
Sing Out Loud
Margo Stich
Sylvia Swede
Susan Tollers
Ruth Van Vugt
Sarabeth Watson
George & Kay Weaver
Jill Wellik
Gretchen Wilson
Joyce Wood

Student

Tim McClure
Declan Sawchuk
Matthew Sawchuk

Rochester Music Guild
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Rochester, MN 55903-5802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bravo! is the official newsletter of the Rochester Music Guild. It is published to inform members and friends about our activities, which support and encourage music, music, music.

Our membership year runs from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.
The Rochester Music Guild welcomes all people who love music!

If you have not yet sent in your membership dues for 2018-2019 please use the form below or go to www.RochesterMusicGuild.org to join us in nurturing music in the Rochester Community.
Thank you!



Name(s) _____
Print your name(s) as you would like it printed in the programs

Address _____ **City** _____

State _____ **Zip** _____ **Home Phone** _____

E-Mail _____
Your e-mail address is kept confidential and used only for periodic notices of special music events.
 Check here if you need a mailed (rather than an electronic copy of our *Bravo!* Newsletter.

Membership (tax deductible) _____ \$5 Student
_____ \$35 Basic _____ \$60 Contributor _____ \$100 Sustainer _____ \$250+ Patron
Your membership dues directly support Rochester Music Guild Scholarships,
Rochester Symphony and Chorale, *Lunch & Learn*, and community educational programs.

I may be able to assist with a Rochester Music Guild activity:
__ Mailings __ Events __ Ushering __ Board __ Committees __ Any/Other
 Indicate if you would prefer to make a gift of stock instead of writing a check.
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