

## 1994 - Piano

**Susan Adolphson Henke**

Susan Henke participated in the 1994 RMG scholarship competition; her repertoire was Rhapsody #2 in G Minor, Opus 79, by Johannes Brahms, and the Allemande from French Suite #5 by J.S. Bach. The competition provided a focus for Susan's efforts, and it was a thrill for her to study this music in depth. Susan used the music camp scholarship prize towards the 1994 Lutheran Summer Music Camp held at Saint Olaf College. During this four-week camp, Susan entered the concerto competition with the first movement of Piano Concerto #3 by Sergei Prokofiev. Susan had eight piano lessons with Dr. A. DeWayne Wee, a member of the St. Olaf College music faculty. Overall, these experiences were important in making the decision to apply for and eventually to attend Saint Olaf College.

Susan's first piano teacher was Marjorie Lidstrom. After Mrs. Lidstrom's death in 1990, Susan's studies continued with Kathryn Simpson Sandquist until college, when Susan studied with Dr. Wee.

Susan was awarded a Winston Cassler music scholarship, and graduated with a double major in Music and Biology. Susan and her husband (Corey) met during their first year at Saint Olaf, when she was his accompanist. Currently, Susan works full-time in the Clinical Genome Sequencing Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic. Also, Susan is 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 Corey on the French horn. Susan also sings in the Zumbro Lutheran Choir



Aaron Anderson started his music education when he began studying violin with Linda Thompson at the age of 4. He added piano lessons at age 7, studying with Barbara Bartleson. He continued these studies throughout high school, playing in SEMYO and the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony, and in the Rochester Symphony for one year. He graduated from all Suzuki levels on both violin and piano, and was selected twice to solo at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis as part of the graduation. After completion of the Suzuki levels, he went on to study violin with Ray Shows, first violinist of the Artaria String Quartet, and piano with Horacio Nuguid. He was a Rochester Music Guild Scholarship winner, placing second in violin in 2008, and first in violin and third in piano in 2010. He also won the 2010 SEMYO concerto competition on violin, and has soloed with the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony twice.

Aaron attended Carnegie Mellon University, graduating in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in music performance. During his undergraduate years, he studied violin with Professor MaryBeth Schotting. He played in the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic for two years, and toured with the orchestra to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Aaron is returning to Carnegie Mellon this fall to pursue a master's degree in robotics, and plans to continue pursuing music for pleasure.



Katie's musical journey began at age 4 when she started taking Suzuki violin lessons from Linda Thompson. Little did she know what a huge impact this would have on her life and how it would guide and spur on her musical endeavors in high school and beyond. When she was 8, Katie also began Suzuki piano with Barbara Bartleson and brought both instruments to a high level, graduating from all Suzuki levels in both instruments and being selected four times to solo at Orchestra Hall for the upper levels. Katie also played violin in the South East Minnesota Youth Symphonies for nine years (sitting concertmaster and co-concertmaster for 4 years), the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony for 5 years (sitting assistant concertmaster for 3 years), and in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies top orchestra under Manny Laureano for one year. Katie was active in the Rochester-based string quartet Omnia Musica as well as attending the Stringwood Summer Chamber Music Camp for three years and participating in honors quartets each year, opening for the Artaria String Quartet at three of their concerts. At that time, Katie began studying violin under Ray Shows, the first violinist of this quartet. Katie also won the 2012 SEMYO concerto competition and was twice invited to solo with the Mayo symphony orchestra.

Rochester Music Guild impacted Katie with a new appreciation and love for the music world as it challenged her to prepare and perform to the best of her ability. Over the years Katie has placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the junior piano division, 3<sup>rd</sup> in junior strings, 2<sup>nd</sup> place twice in Senior Strings, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Senior Strings. Currently, Katie is attending Cedarville University in Ohio, where she is in the University Honors program pursuing a major in Nursing and minoring in Bible and Music Performance. She sits assistant concertmaster in the Cedarville University Orchestra and studies violin under Professor Carlos Elias. She looks forward to continuing to bring joy to others through pursuing musical advancement while focusing on helping others with their more physical needs through the area of Medicine. Long-term she plans to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice and continue playing music in the local scene.



## 1989 - Piano

**Michelle *Argue* Swiglom**

My music teacher from when I started piano until graduation from high school in 1992 was Carol Prescher, at Hoffman Studio. Carol was such a fabulous teacher, always so positive and enthusiastic.

After high school I attended St. Olaf College, and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Chemistry. While at St. Olaf, I also studied piano pedagogy and taught beginner piano lessons. Then I went on to Medical School at the University of Minnesota, and completed my medical degree in 2000.

I now work as a Family Physician in the Twin Cities. In my free time I also play piano at my church (I accompany the Children's Choir) and help my daughters with their piano practicing. I have twin girls who are in their 3rd year of piano lessons at the Yamaha Music School. It's such a joy to see my girls loving to play piano, too! Here is a recent photo of my family.



Curtis Bahn is an improvising composer involved in relationships of body, gesture, technology and sound. He holds a PhD in music composition from Princeton University, and studies Hindustani classical music as a formal disciple of acclaimed sitarist, Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan. He has taught at Columbia University, Brown, NYU, Princeton and CUNY. His music has been presented internationally at venues including Lincoln Center, Sadler's Wells - London, Palais Garnier – Paris, Grand Theatre de la Ville – Luxembourg, as well as numerous festivals, small clubs and academic conferences. He has composed music for and performed with the Trisha Brown and Merce Cunningham Dance Companies. Curtis recently received a grant to study and collaborate with artists in India through the Asian Cultural Council. Bahn is currently Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director for the Arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy New York.

*- from an online biography*

The Rochester Music Guild Scholarship was one of my first opportunities to experience the scope of musical life outside of Rochester. I had been fortunate to have excellent local teachers, beginning the String Bass under the wonderful instruction of Georgia Daniel, and later being exposed to Jazz by William Marinac. The Scholarship allowed me to attend the Congress of Strings in Cincinnati. Through contacts I met there, I was given a full scholarship to attend the Interlochen Arts Academy; after graduating I was given a full scholarship to the conservatory at Indiana University. I played professionally in New York City for many years before returning to school to complete my PhD at Princeton University.

Without the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship this would not have been possible.

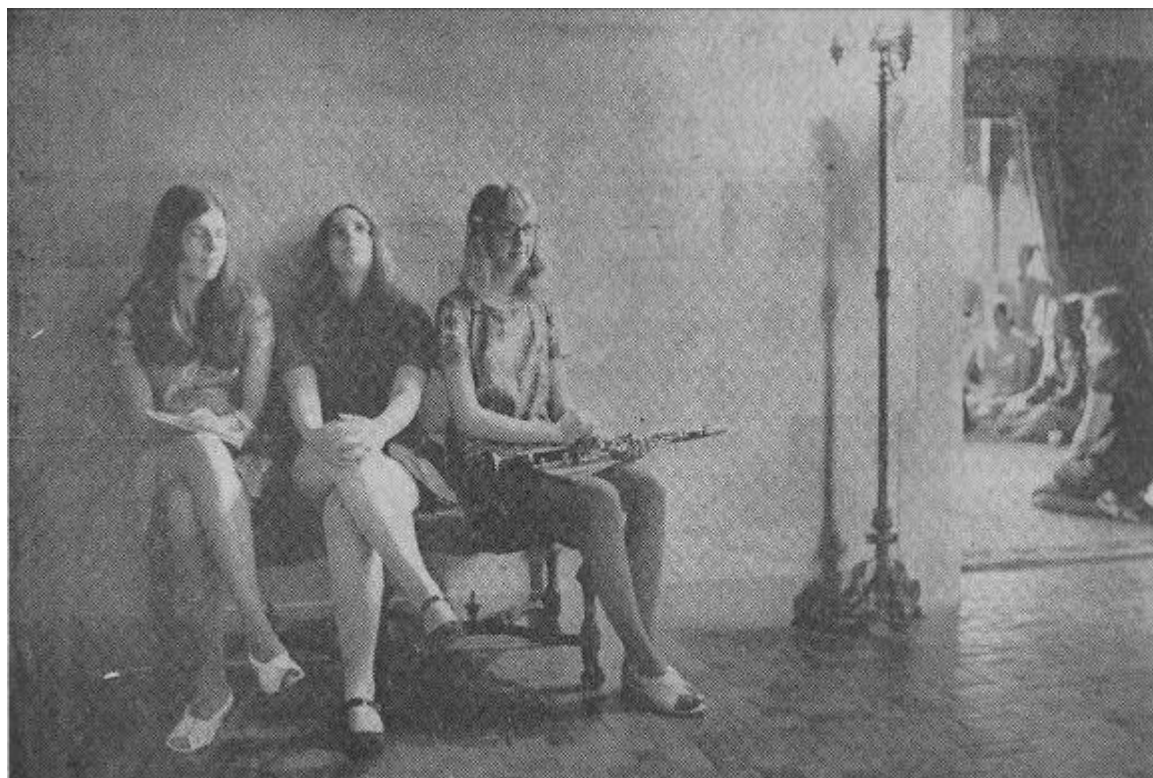




By the time I was in sixth grade, I knew I wanted to become a music teacher! Throughout my junior & senior high school years, I enjoyed many musical opportunities on both my clarinet & piano. I am grateful to have received a music scholarship for clarinet from the Rochester Music Guild to attend a summer music camp! This helped fund my attendance at the Midwestern Music & Art Camp in Lawrence, Kansas! This was a five-week camp with different guest conductors each week. It was exciting to perform with outstanding young musicians from around the country as well as to work with prominent conductors. It was an amazing experience! During junior high & senior high school my private clarinet teacher was Gordon Danuser. My piano teacher was Marjorie Lidstrom. I am also grateful for all of the wonderful school music teachers that I worked with through the years!

I have enjoyed teaching elementary music for over 20 years. That has included teaching kindergarten through sixth grade general music classes and fifth and sixth grade band. Currently, I enjoy creating music with primary age children. I accompany the senior choir at my church as well as play for school vocal concerts and contest soloists. My clarinet skills have transferred to playing soprano, alto, tenor and bass recorders in ensembles. I attended Luther College for music education with both clarinet and piano as my major instruments. Later, I explored certification classes in the pedagogies of Orff, Kodaly, and Dalcroze.

I am so thankful to have grown up in a musical home. My parents supported, encouraged and attended "hundreds" of concerts in which my brother, Warren, and I performed. Many people have played an important role in nurturing my musical life. Thank you Rochester Music Guild for your role in allowing me to attend a summer music camp! It was a life-changing experience, both musically and personally!



**WAITING THEIR TURN** — Three young ladies await their spot on a musical program outside the Plummer House living room. From left they are Denise Abrath, an accompanist; Sue Sande, violinist, and Diane Bandel, clarinetist.

The performers are on their way to summer music institutes with financial help from Rochester Symphony Guild. They played for each other and for teachers and parents last week. (P-B Family Fare Photos)

I won the Music Guild Scholarship in 1978 playing Chopin's Etude. My teacher was Orville Ross, and I attribute much of my budding talent to him, and also to Mrs. Marjorie Lidstrom, who was my teacher during high school. I had taken piano lessons since second grade. Piano and guitar both became passions of mine once I entered high school. I accompanied the girls chorus and was involved with the MMTA competition. I had the privilege of making it to the 10-piano concert one year where we performed at the Guthrie. I also performed and accompanied solo performances during high school and played organ and guitar for the church and weddings. I played Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue in the Luther Festival during high school.

The Rochester Music Guild had a great influence on my life , allowing me to feel more comfortable with competition and performance. This helped me tremendously through my adult years as I had opportunities to compete and perform in different venues, teach and speak before audiences. It also taught me the grace and practice of continuing when I had a senior moment, the stage presence necessary to continue to the end without giving up, as if nothing went wrong. In 1979, I won the Miss Byron pageant and the talent award playing a medley of the Warsaw concerto and Bumble Boogie, which truly fit my personality. At the state I played Malaguena.

I graduated from Lourdes High School in 1978 with a music and academic scholarship to the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, where I pursued a major in piano, with a minor in voice. I was a member of a jazz ensemble while there. Eventually I focused on Music Therapy and was accepted in the Music Therapy program at Colorado State University. From there, I decided to pursue a new direction and entered a massage school in Boulder, CO. I incorporated music skills in a new and creative way, and have continued in private practice for the past 30 years, and loved every moment. In the late 1980s, I added dancing to my practice, and taught workshops in Mexico, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. I have also participated in various forms of drumming, including Native American, Djembe and Taiko, and in city events, such as the International Festival and the lantern float at Silver Lake. I believe music is truly the nectar of the soul and it will always be an important part of my life.



I currently play (oboe) with the Grove City Community Winds, a community band composed primarily of area music teachers. I also play (oboe) in public and private recitals with the group, Women in Music Columbus. My most recent solo performance was on November 17, 2013.

I am a staff and charge registered nurse (R.N.) on a busy inpatient critical care unit at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. I am also a second-year doctoral student at the Ohio State University College of Nursing. I plan to graduate with my PhD in nursing and public health in spring/summer 2016.

The Rochester Music Guild competition made me a better performer and a more polished musician. It provided me with the opportunity to collaborate with professional musicians and to learn a great deal not only about music, but also about myself. Thank you!





I live in Minneapolis with my partner Naomi and our daughter. While I did not pursue music as a profession, I have been an active amateur musician my entire adult life. I was involved in several musical ensembles at Concordia College - Moorhead where I received my undergraduate degree. In the Twin Cities, I play several instruments including piano, hammered dulcimer, and cimbalom as well as oboe and English Horn. Currently, I am the principal oboist in the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, and I perform frequently with the Klezmer folk ensemble, Eisner's Klezmer.

I have also become a composer, and have had a number of choral works performed throughout the United States and Canada and published by Yelton-Rhodes Music. My breast cancer oratorio *Where I Live*, commissioned in 1999, is still receiving extensive performances across the country, and has raised over \$20,000 for local women's cancer organizations. My choral works include many pieces for women's voices, as well as some works for men's voices and SATB. My most recent commissions include a choral work for the Brattleboro Vermont Women's Chorus in honor of their tenth anniversary, and a collaboration with a local dance ensemble. I welcome inquiries about my compositions and can be reached at [dianembenjamin@aol.com](mailto:dianembenjamin@aol.com)

Finally, I'm a proud "Suzuki mom" for my violinist daughter, and enjoy accompanying her on the piano, much as my mother did for me.

I still vividly remember winning the Rochester Music Guild competition, especially the first time when I was only 14. It was a big confidence booster, and helped launch me on my musical journey. Thank you and best wishes for another 50 years.



The privilege of competing in the Guild scholarship competition—and of exploring music through the piano, violin, and voice—taught me many lessons I carry with me today. These include the value of self-discipline, hard work and perseverance to achieve a long-term goal, and the joy of self-expression through the arts.

My teacher was Horacio Nuguid, and I was part of Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota during grades 7-12. I also sang in chapel choir in college. I attended Northwestern University for college and New York University for a master's degree in science, health and environmental journalism. Finally, I completed medical school at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Currently, I am a physician in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and a medical writer for news outlets including *The New York Times*, *Reuters Health*, and *Scientific American*.

Thanks for all of your work!



In high school, I studied piano with Dr. Horacio Nuguid and sang in the Honors Concert Choir. My musical studies helped me grow personally and professionally and continue to complement my academic endeavors. I am especially grateful to Horacio for his continued mentorship.

I received my B.A. in Chemistry from St. Olaf College, where I studied piano with Dr. Christopher Atzinger and sang in the St. Olaf Chapel Choir. I am currently in graduate school at UW-Madison pursuing a PhD in biochemistry and enjoy playing the piano in my free time.



The Rochester Music Guild competition is a wonderful opportunity for young musicians to prepare and perform. The competition was a highly anticipated annual event for me during my school years and contributed to my development as a pianist.

I studied with Gretchen Wilson for 13 years and benefited greatly from the care and attention she provided to her students. Following my graduation from Mayo High School in 1994, I relocated to Massachusetts to attend Wellesley College, where I received a B.A. in Religion and Russian Area Studies in 1998. While at Wellesley, I studied piano and voice and participated in a small choral group. After spending several years abroad in Russia and Ukraine, I returned to the U.S. and accepted a job at Harvard Kennedy School, where I worked on international education programs for ten years. I received an Ed.M. in International Education Policy from Harvard in 2006.

I currently live in Boston, Massachusetts where I oversee operations for international pathway programs at Northeastern University. My daughter – the first of three children – started piano lessons last year. I am enjoying the journey of musical discovery again through new eyes! The family photo was taken right after my daughter's spring piano recital.



Aimee began singing at an early age, and sang with the Honors Choirs of SE Minnesota from 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. In high school Aimee studied under Cynthia Dario-Good and competed in the Rochester Music Guild's voice competition, where she was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Aimee was involved in the Women's Chorale for one year and the College Choir for three years while at Northwestern College. She studied under Robin Helgen during that time, and obtained degrees in both Biology and Psychology.

Aimee is currently working on a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of South Dakota and has been involved in the Men's and Women's Chorus. Music will always be an important part of her life, and she is grateful for the encouragement and scholarship money received at the Music Guild competition.





## 1985 - Violin

## James Buchan

James Buchan was the 1985 Rochester Music Guild winner of a full scholarship to attend the six week, AFM Congress of Strings in Dallas. A native of Winona, he studied violin with the eminent pedagogue Josef Gingold at Indiana University. As a performer, James was a member of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas' New World Symphony in Miami, and the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, USA and Italy. With these ensembles he toured the globe, performing concerts throughout North America, Europe and Asia. He has recorded for Sony Classical, Argo, Virgin Classics and Nuovo Era.

As an educator he has held positions at Viterbo University, Yew Chung International School in Hong Kong and has served on the conducting staff of the Southeast Minnesota Youth Orchestras in Rochester.

Eager to pass on his love and knowledge of music, the violin, and ensemble playing, he continues to work with students throughout the region as a conductor and guest clinician as well as maintain a private studio in Rochester of the highest level. His students continually garner recognition at local, state and national levels.

Recently James has adjudicated, as an alumni, for the New World Symphony in Toronto, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore and for the 2011 inaugural Minnesota (ASTA) Chamber Music Competition in Saint Paul.



As a result of the Rochester Music Guild Competitions, I was motivated to strive to improve my musicianship, predominantly by working and practicing more intensely. I was very much influenced by both of my childhood music teachers, Robert Clements on cello, and Carlo Braendlin on piano. I was fortunate to study with both of them for over seven years. With their guidance and encouragement, I learned to believe in my musical ability, something that was difficult for me at times.

I went on to obtain a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where I studied with Paul Kosower. I was then hired by the St Cloud Public Schools, and taught orchestra there for six years, followed by two years of high school choir. During that time I performed with the St Cloud Symphony, and worked on a Masters of Music Education degree at St Cloud State.

I moved back to Rochester with my family in 1984 to open our own business; spouse is Douglas Porter. I joined the Rochester Symphony that fall and have performed with them every season since. I also taught private cello lessons for many years. Music has always been an essential part of my being. It is a constant companion for me, whether listening or playing. I love to share it with others, and feel fortunate to be able to do so through performing.



**2010, 2013 - Violin****David Campeau**

David Campeau has played the violin for 10 years, studying with Mary Carlson, Charles Li and James Buchan. He was a member of the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra, 2008-2013, and a member of the Mayo High School Orchestra, 2009-2013 (concertmaster, 2011-2013).

David is a rising sophomore at MIT, majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. During his freshman year, he was a member of the MIT Symphony Orchestra. He is thankful to the Rochester Music Guild for their support and encouragement of young musicians.



**1993, 1994, 1996 - Piano**

**Matthew Camrud**

I am a partner and financial advisor with Brighton Jones, LLC, an independent, fee-based advisor managing over \$3 billion for 800 clients nationwide. I went to St. Olaf College and earned a degree, magna cum laude, in Economics. Did some graduate work in order to sit for the Certified Financial Planner exam, which I passed in 2004.

I also studied piano with Dr. Kenneth Graber throughout my college years. Carol Prescher was my music teacher for most of junior high and all of high school - she was awesome. I am still playing the piano, but with two small children and a busy professional life, not nearly as much as I would like to. I play at church occasionally and for Rotary club meetings in Bellevue, WA.

I believe that a healthy, competitive mindset, like that fostered by RMG's competitions, helps inspire students to work harder, practice longer, and aim higher than they otherwise would in the absence of the opportunity to compete.

Here's to another 50 years for RMG - congratulations!



Music has always held a profound importance in my life. Through hundreds of hours spent studying, practicing and listening to music, it has become an integral and indispensable part of my person. I have also learned a great deal from this time. My musical studies have taught me about the lasting satisfaction one could feel in working to accomplish something great. Music has taught me to discipline myself, and to attack my goals with singular passion and focus. Looking back at 11 years of playing the piano, there are certain moments scattered throughout that never fail to motivate me and bring me joy. The Rochester Music Guild was one of those landmarks. For its competitions, I had to learn tremendously difficult pieces. Not only learn them but understand and emotionally connect to them. And although I may have forgotten their notes, the power and impact those pieces had on me will remain forever. My success at the Rochester Music Guild competitions is one of my proudest achievements and a representation of the great happiness that music has brought me.

I am currently in my freshman year at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. My piano teacher is Professor Edwin Lawrence. Along with regular lessons, I also work as an accompanist for cellists who need pianists to play chamber music. I plan to major in Chemistry and Economics. Although my career will likely stray far from the realm of music, thanks to piano, I will be able to access its world at any moment. And for that, I am truly blessed.





Rochester Music Guild provided me with a unique experience, understanding, and appreciation of music. My teacher was Nancy Lee Sherden. I may not sing as much as I used to, but I have an immense appreciation for the arts. My wife and I often travel to Denver to enjoy a wide variety of shows. Last summer, we drove my motorcycle down to Santa Fe to meet my parents. While there we attended the Santa Fe Opera. What a blast.

Everyone says I look like Ryan on High School Musical. A couple years ago, our music teacher and I sang "What I've Been Looking For" from the musical for the kids in our school. Did a dance and all. This was a lot of fun and the kids loved it. Other than that, I pretty much quarantine my singing to the shower. I will pull out my guitar every now and then to hammer out a tune.

I am currently the principal of Liberty Common School in Fort Collins, CO. Liberty is a K-6 Charter school where we teach the Core Knowledge Curriculum to 610 students. I graduated from Cornell College in 1997 and then attended Winona State University from 1997-1998 where I earned a Masters in Elementary Education. I have since attended Colorado State University where I received my education administrator license.

I am currently married to Shannon Altenhofen and have a beautiful daughter Emma who is a senior in high school. Emma plans to attend the University of Oregon next year. We have a cat, Bernie, and a dog, Lena. We love Colorado and spend much of our time outside hiking, fishing, biking, skiing, and running.



## 2014 - Flute

## Sidney Clarke

Sidney Clarke, a native of Rochester, has won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the 2014 Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition. Since 2011, Sidney has participated in the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Festival and has received her first gold cup. Sidney started playing flute at age 8 and piccolo at age 12 with Cathy Arhelger from the Rochester Academy of Music. She has played everything from classical to contemporary music for SEMYO for the last three years. Sidney also enjoys playing flute with the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band at Willow Creek Middle School.

This summer, Sidney is looking forward to participating in the Dorian Middle School Music Camp at Luther College. Beyond her musical activities, Sidney is either reading, walking the family dog, gardening, or weather permitting - climbing trees.



My name is Elisabeth (Beth) Comeaux and I am married to Dan Dressen, tenor and Associate Provost of St. Olaf College.

The support that I received from the Rochester Music Guild went far beyond the financial gift(s) that they provided. What it did for me was to acknowledge that I had talent--talent that could possibly have a future in the arts, and even more specifically, a career as an opera and concert singer. The impact that it had on my young life is very clear and helped to shape my life as a singer and as a person.

My teacher was the wonderful Nancy Lee Sherden. My musical studies after graduating from high school occurred at the University of Minnesota School of Music as a voice major (Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance).

For 19 years I was blessed to sing professionally as an opera and concert singer, leading me across the nation (and abroad) to major opera houses and orchestras. In 2007, I made the decision to return to college and obtained a Masters in Business Communication from the University of Saint Thomas.

I am married to Dan Dressen, tenor and Associate Provost of St. Olaf College. Currently, career-wise, I am the Director of Institutional Support (grants and sponsorships) for Minnesota Opera. I sing on occasion with those organizations with whom I have a deep connection and for the sheer love of it. I am profoundly grateful for the first career that I have been blessed to have – and equally so for the second. And it all began with the Rochester Music Guild and Nancy Lee Sherden.



Garrick Comeaux began his musical formation at an early age in piano studies, bass viol and cello as well as private voice lessons. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead and sang under the direction of Paul J. Christensen, then dedicated his energies in vocal studies at Indiana University Music School in Bloomington. In 1981, he moved to Rome, Italy, where his studies in voice continued at the Music Conservatories of Santa Cecilia in Rome and F. Morlacchi in Perugia, Italy. In 1986 he took residence in Munich, Germany, continuing his vocal studies and performing as a member of the *Bayerischer Rundfunk Konzertchor* – Munich under Sir Colin Davis and in concerts and recordings conducted by directors such as Sawalish, Solti, Maazel, Sinopoli, Barenboim and Bernstein. A keen interest in early baroque music began in the years spent in Germany performing various works and oratorios.

Comeaux has worked extensively over the years with various early music groups, predominately in Italy but throughout the European continent. In 1996, he founded Consortium Carissimi in Rome, Italy, with the aim of presenting – above all – the sacred and secular music of early Roman Baroque. As well as works by Carissimi, the ensemble performs pieces by his contemporaries that, either because of similarity of style or because of their freshness and inventiveness, have often been mistaken for music by Carissimi. Consortium Carissimi also devotes much of its research and concert activity to composers such as Graziani, Rossi, Pasquini and Sances, thus providing a clearer picture of the extraordinary effervescence that existed in the music world during the early Baroque period in Rome.

Comeaux returned to the United States in 2005 after 25 years of life in Italy and Germany, with extensive experience in early music, both as a singer and as a conductor. He is now Artistic Director of the state-side ensemble of the Consortium Carissimi, exploring the larger works of the early baroque for concerts. He is also director of Liturgy and Music at St. Joachim and Anne Catholic Parish in Shakopee Minnesota.



## **2014 - Cello**

## **Matthew Dangerfield**

Matthew Dangerfield is 12 years old, and has been playing the cello for nearly eight years. During the 2013 - 2014 school year, he played in Minnesota Youth Symphonies' Philharmonic orchestra. He enjoyed participating in the Rochester Music Guild competition, and appreciates their support. He currently studies with Hong Wang.





**2013, 2014 - Violin****Megan Dangerfield**

Megan Dangerfield has been playing the violin for almost 10 years. She began her music studies with DeAnn Spencer and currently studies with Adrienne Dangerfield. In the 2013-2014 school year, she loved playing in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies' Philharmonic orchestra. She's grateful to the Rochester Music Guild for the enriching experiences the Scholarship competition offers.



**1988 - Winner****Becky DeBus**

Music was a big part of my life growing up. I took piano lessons from Beverly Madsen from the age of 5 all the way through my senior year of high school. In addition I started playing the violin in 4th grade. Playing in orchestra gave me the opportunity to make music with others and led to many close friendships. Playing piano and participating in the Rochester Music Guild competitions gave me a different opportunity to excel through mastering difficult pieces and competing with other talented musicians.

After high school I chose St. Olaf for college because of its math and music programs. The math led me to my current career as a statistical programmer for Medtronic, but music has continued to be a big part of my life. I have continued to play in chamber and community orchestras and I continue to play piano on my own time. Both of my sons began piano lessons when they were 5. I've had the wonderful opportunity to play duets with both of them and I look forward to where their music education will take them. My spouse is Michael Hemenway.



## **1976, 1978 - Violin**

**Lisa DeRemee**

A violin student of Georgia Daniel, Lisa won an RMG-sponsored scholarship to attend the American Federation of Musicians' Congress of Strings in summer 1978 after graduating from John Marshall High School. The eight-week session at the University of Washington, Seattle, was the high point of her musical studies.

Since then, she has continued to play her violin in community orchestras and chamber ensembles and is currently a member of the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra. Lisa works for the state of Minnesota Management and Budget, and lives in the Twin Cities with her husband, Patrick McCormack, and teenage son Ian, who is a budding jazz pianist.



Stephen Distad is Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, a 7500-member church in Houston Texas. Stephen has previously served at First Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina, as well as Director of Music at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester, Minnesota. He has also served as Organist at First United Church in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Stephen received his Bachelor's Degree from Drake University under the direction of Carl Staplin and Guy Bovet where he received the young artists award given by the National Endowment for the Arts. He received his Master's Degree from Baylor University studying with Joyce Jones where he was also a graduate assistant. Stephen also studied for a year with Marie-Claire Alain in Paris and completed his residency at the Eastman School of Music.

Stephen has performed in various places including Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas Episcopal in New York City, Notre Dame in Paris, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Durham Cathedral and Coventry Cathedral. In 1993, he originated the "Phantom of the Opera" concerts that have been performed throughout the United States and includes many audio and lighting effects.

He also has a comprehensive and unique website for brides on how to choose music for their weddings called [myperfectweddingmusic.com](http://myperfectweddingmusic.com).

Online bio: A Minneapolis native, Steven Edmund recently returned to the Twin Cities. He moved to Springfield, MO, in 2006 from the Southeast Kansas region where he spent over 20 years actively performing and teaching. Upon his arrival in Springfield, Mr. Edmund took a break from his musical activities to pursue other interests. However, his musical roots have drawn him back, and he returns with a renewed sense of excitement and inspiration in the areas of performance and teaching.

Mr. Edmund gained much performance experience and was the recipient of numerous performance and scholarship awards by the time he graduated from high school. He was the first prize winner of the Music Teachers National Association, High School Division for two years in a row. He was also the first prize winner of the Minnesota Youth Symphony Concerto competition, appearing as soloist at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. Mr. Edmund completed his Bachelor of Music degree at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI, as a student of Theodore Rehl. While at Lawrence, he continued to receive many music honors, including a full tuition scholarship at Brevard Music Center in NC. He was first place winner of the Hiawathaland Piano Competition, and won first prize at both the State and District levels of the National Federation of Music Clubs in Milwaukee, WI. Additionally, Steven performed a joint solo recital for Wisconsin Public Television, and appeared as soloist for the annual convention of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs in Beloit, WI.

Mr. Edmund pursued additional study at San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he was a student of pianist Mack McCray. While in San Francisco he won first prize at the Alameda Symphony Mozart Festival Young Artist Competition. Mr. Edmund received his Master of Music degree from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS. As a graduate teaching assistant, Steven taught class piano as well as private instruction. He was twice first prize winner of the Waddill Chamber Music competition. While in Pittsburg, Steven performed extensively throughout the region in both a solo and collaborative capacity. After receiving his degree, Mr. Edmund spent a year studying with Sylvia Wang at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. While there, he won first prize at the Kankakee Valley Symphony National Piano Competition.

Mr. Edmund has performed solo and chamber recitals throughout the U.S. and appeared as soloist with many orchestras. He is presently a piano instructor at MacPhail Center for Music in the Twin Cities.





Some of my earliest memories are from playing the piano at group recitals around Rochester. Growing up, studying the piano taught me to focus and gave me the ability to feel comfortable while performing in front of an audience. I always looked forward to the Rochester Music Guild competitions as they were a wonderful chance to meet other Rochester area musicians. My piano teacher and mentor was Gretchen Wilson.

I graduated from St. Olaf College in 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. Currently, I am completing my Master's in Physician Assistant studies at Des Moines University and am looking forward to joining the health care profession in a few short months!



**2013 - Voice****Timothy Fitzgerald**

Tim is graduating this spring from Lourdes High School. Currently, he is involved in the Lourdes High School Concert and Liturgical Choirs, Center Street Singers, Holy Spirit Youth Choir and All-State Mixed Choir. He previously sang with the Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota (Treble, Chorale and Concert Choirs). His music teacher is Mr. David Phelps and he previously studied under Kimberly Collins.

Tim will be attending St. John's University in the fall majoring in music and theater. He received St. John's Vocal Music Scholarship.



Elizabeth Frankel is a junior at Century High School. She has studied viola for 12 years, and she began taking voice lessons in September 2013. She thanks her teachers, Linda Thompson and Connie Maragos, for their unending talent and support. Elizabeth plans to study psychology with the aim of helping teens recover from eating disorders.

*It is with immense gratitude that I write to you regarding my recent experiences with the Guild. Over the past few months, you have provided me with some of the most enriching musical opportunities I have ever had. The teenage years are often filled with uncertainty, which - in my case, at least - frequently manifests itself in nervousness over public music performance. Participating in the scholarship competition, however, has taught me one of the most important musical lessons I could ever learn: just enjoy the music, and everything will take care of itself from there. Throughout the competition, I was able to grow so much as a musician and as a person by embracing this lesson, and I owe all my thanks to you. Thank you for providing talented judges, dedicated volunteers, and generous scholarships for advancing the musical journeys of young musicians. As I eagerly embark on the exciting musical journey to come, I will never forget the growth and opportunity that the Rochester Music Guild has allowed me to have.* - letter received from Elizabeth after the 2014 scholarship competition



Rochester was a rewarding and fertile musical experience for me my entire childhood. I sang at the First Presbyterian Church, the Zumbro Lutheran Church, the Rochester Boys Choir, and participated in as many musical and theatrical venues as possible. These performances included The Sound of Music, The Music Man (Rochester Civic), numerous shows at John Marshall HS and many competitions in preparation for my Bachelor's Degree from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music (Voice Performance). The Guild was a terrific opportunity to perform under pressure and my monetary gift certainly helped!

After a nine-year career in Professional Theatre including The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, National Tour and Broadway run of "Show Boat", "Preppies" at the Promenade Theatre, as well as numerous regional theatre shows, I began teaching HS Choir and Theatre Classes in NYC. Two years later, I moved to Eastchester MS and HS in Eastchester NY., where I have remained as the Choral Director for 24 years. I have been Asst. Director of the NYCGMC and performed at Carnegie Hall 40 times, making my conducting debut there on my 40th birthday!

My mentors in Rochester included Harold Cooke, Chuck Blatner, Gerald Near and Larry Reynolds, the Fentons, and especially Lloyd Ketterling and Roy Brottlund for their encouragement and guidance. My work in Eastchester and in NYC has touched the musical lives of over 7000 students in my four Choirs and my Adventures in Music Program.

As is usually the case, I am beyond busy, planning concerts, musical events and sharing my life these last 25 years with my husband, Michael Favitta and our numerous Labradors (over the years). We enjoy the shows of NYC, the mountains of the Catskills in upstate New York, and summers (albeit short) in Fire Island Pines.

Tatyana German is currently a junior at Luther College double majoring in Psychology and Music with a Vocal Performance emphasis. She has had many people who have helped her along her path as a musician starting with her grandfather, David Nasby, who gave her theory, voice, and piano lessons starting at a young age. Tatyana has also studied voice with Leslie Meyer, Shelly Winemiller, and Carla Hanson. Her current teachers are Dr. Beth Ray Westlund for voice, Dr. Jessica Paul for vocal coaching, and Dr. Du Huang for piano.

Right now she is in the midst of finishing her 18-credit course load while preparing for her school's opera *Suor Angelica* where she will be playing the role of Sister Dolcina. She is also preparing for a second opera, *Thump*, which was created by a senior composition major at Luther. Tatyana is also a member of this year's Nordic Choir directed by Dr. Allen Hightower. This summer she will be performing in the SE Minnesota Honors Choirs' production of *The Music Man* directed by Becky Quetone where she will be playing the role of Ethel Tofflemier. She will also be participating in Luther's Fall Opera Scenes in the 2014-2015 year. Tatyana performed her junior recital at Luther in March and is currently gathering and preparing for her Senior Recital in Spring 2015.

As one can see, Tatyana is very active in the performance world, for she hopes to one day make it to the Royal Opera House in London, England as a professional opera singer. It may be surprising that Tatyana was initially not looking at a career in music, but after much persuasion and many pep talks, she chose to follow the music path. One of the things that swayed her towards the music world was the Rochester Music Guild competition that she did her Senior Year. She placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in her division and it gave her hope and confidence that if she worked hard, she truly had a chance in making it in this tough career choice. She also did the Rochester Music Guild competition in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and although she did not place, she sang for and met her current voice professor, Dr. Beth Ray Westlund. This competition has not only given her some opportunities to perform music at a young age, but has greatly affected her life and is a constant reminder that she *is* capable, despite what she may think on a bad day!



## 1975 - Saxophone

## Tony Gibbs

Tony Gibbs has received international acclaim as a 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, performing for dignitaries (including 3 US. presidents) and many celebrities including Roberta Flac, Andy Williams, Marilyn Horne and Jim Nabors. He has been heard on National Public Radio, as well as Radio Free Europe. He has been a soloist at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and a soloist with the Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble. A performer on numerous concert series, Tony has performed with the Coast Guard Chamber Players in New London, Connecticut, and the Armed Forces Saxophone Ensemble at the World Saxophone Congress. He holds a master's degree from the University of Connecticut, and a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, where he studied with Fred Hemke.



Looking back, I really appreciate what the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship competition offered me as a young guitarist: a goal and an audience. Not only did the competitions focus my practicing, they also put me into contact with judges who were always both knowledgeable *and* willing to help. When I was fortunate enough to play in the winner's recital, these competitions gave me the opportunity, as nerve-racking as it was at the time, to perform for a group of people who were eager to listen and support young musicians. Currently, I am a junior at the University of St. Thomas, where I am pursuing a double major in philosophy and business economics, and where I am a member of the UST Guitar Ensemble. It is safe to say I am loving music more than ever.





Like everyone involved with Rochester Music Guild, I love music. I grew up singing, started piano lessons at age 5, and played oboe in junior high and high school. My most influential piano teacher was Carol Prescher; I also studied briefly under Sue Leonard and Elena Bai Pang. At Brigham Young University, I earned a BA in Humanities and an MA in English. Various scholarships (including Rochester Music Guild) allowed me to study abroad in Jerusalem and London. For the past ten years, I have taught English composition at BYU. Music continues to play an essential part in my life. I taught piano lessons for several years, have played as an accompanist and church organist, recently joined a community choir, and attend concerts as often as possible.



## **2010 - Piano**

## **Christina Hagan**

Christina Hagan won first place in the 2010 Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition, Senior Piano Division. She studied piano with Sue Leonard at Hoffman Madsen Studio. She also won first place in the Hoffman Senior Awards competition in 2012, and was an 8-time winner for the MMTA State Honors Concert.

Currently Christina attends Baylor University in Waco, TX where she will be a junior in the fall. She is in the Honors program, majoring in Biology and minoring in Statistics. She sings in the BRH choir at Baylor, and plays the piano at her church and at programs on campus.



**2013, 2014 - Piano****Mary Hagan**

Mary Hagan placed 2nd in the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition Junior Piano Division in 2014 and 3rd in the Junior Piano Division in 2013.

Mary studies piano with Beverly Madsen at Hoffman Madsen Studio. Mary is a 7-time winner for the MMTA State Honors Concert, and she won 1st place this spring in the Rochester Clements Competition. She enjoys playing the piano for patients at Mayo Clinic, for residents at an assisted living community, and for services at her church.

She is an avid tennis player, training at the Rochester Athletic Club since she was five years old. Mary just completed 9th grade at Schaeffer Academy where she earned a Varsity letter in academics.



**1999 - Winner****Karl Hammond**

Karl Hammond participated in the Music Guild competition in high school as part of his lessons under George Smith. He then went to Caltech to study chemical engineering. While at Caltech, he sang in the Chamber Singers and Men's Glee Club as well as being a violist in the Caltech Chamber Music program and/or the Caltech-JPL-Occidental orchestra. He then moved back to Rochester for a year, singing in the Choral Arts Ensemble as well as the Zumbro Lutheran choir, before starting graduate school at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. At UMass, he sang in the Chamber Choir and performed the roles of the Monster and the Tree in the Five College Opera Company's productions of *La Liberazione di Ruggiero* and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, respectively. He defended his Ph.D. dissertation in 2009, and is now a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He sings in his church choir, and is currently a part of a Gilbert and Sullivan Revue with church and community singers from Knoxville. He also played the part of Billy Bigelow in *Carousel* in 2012.



Jeremy Hanson grew up in Stewartville and studied piano in Rochester with Marjorie Lidstrom and Pat Alcott. They both encouraged him to participate in the Rochester Civic Music Guild competitions. These experiences were invaluable to Jeremy's musical growth. Together they worked to take his performance skills to a higher level, focusing on technique, style, and performance practice. The Rochester Civic Music Guild awards were a confirmation of Jeremy's progress and an encouragement towards even deeper musical study.

He received his Bachelor of Music in choral/general music education from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin, and completed his Masters in music theory at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since 2004, he has been teaching individual and group piano, theory and composition at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis. He is also an instructor with MacPhail's summer piano camps. Jeremy served as president of the Association of Professional Piano Instructors (APPI) from 2007-2013.

In addition to teaching, Jeremy enjoys composing and arranging. He frequently gives educational presentations on the use of computers in the teaching studio, music notation software, and piano practice techniques. His most recent musical endeavor has been learning to play the ukulele.



My name is Jessica He, and I was born in 1999. I am fourteen years old and I am a freshman in Century High School, Rochester, Minnesota.

In 2005, I began taking piano lessons. I competed in many competitions, and I, with the help of my teacher, created my own compositions. After eight years of piano lessons, I quit in 2013. Also in 2005, I began swimming lessons and I started to participate in Chinese dance. Swimming is my favorite sport and now this is my ninth year being an all-year-round competitive swimmer.

Four years ago, I began to learn how to play the flute and I took, and still am taking, flute lessons from Mrs. Cathy Arhelger. I enjoy playing flute, and I am continuously working on my skills for playing both the flute and piccolo. I have played flute in middle school band, and I play in my freshmen concert band.

Although I spend a lot of time with school, sports, and music, I love to read adventure books and fold origami in my free time.



I studied piano with Sue Leonard here in Rochester from first through twelfth grade, and this mutually dedicated relationship had a greater impact on my life than I originally anticipated. Sue taught me with intelligence, grace, and fine musicianship, and encouraged me to get involved in many piano events over the years. The Rochester Music Guild's competition was one of those significant yearly challenges that stretched me and brought my music to a higher level.

While earning a BA in mathematics at St. Olaf College, I studied both piano and voice, and sang with Chapel and Cantorei choirs. While earning an MA in mathematics at University of Wisconsin-Madison, I toured with Concert Choir under the direction of Robert Fountain. Later, I began a BM in piano at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and finished the degree in vocal performance at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. I eventually earned K-12 certification in general and choral education through PLU, as well as national certification in piano teaching through Music Teachers National Association.

Now that my daughter is in college, I returned to Rochester only a year and a half ago to enjoy more time with other family. I am taking new students in my home piano studio and enjoying singing with the First Unitarian Universalist and Zumbro Lutheran choirs. I have also enjoyed working as a substitute teacher for the Rochester Public Schools. I received a small state grant for lessons with Horacio Nuguid to prepare a piano recital. I am an active member of both the Rochester Area Keyboard Club, for which I will serve as co-vice president next year, and our local Piano Performers group. Under the auspices of RAKC, I facilitate the annual recital series, Young Musicians of Southeast Minnesota, for teenage musicians.





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 and very rewarding to win 1st place in the winds division, as well as 3rd place 2 previous years. Taking private flute lessons since the age of six and piano lessons starting at age ten completely changed my life. Through music I have learned discipline, the joy of hard work, and teamwork, among other things. Music has also given me so many opportunities to give to others by sharing my music at nursing homes, for charity events, with family and friends, etc. My musical studies influenced me so much that I now hope to one day be a flute professor and professional orchestral flutist.

I first started studying flute under Nancy Osteraas at age six. At the end of my junior year of high school I began studying under Dr. Sonja Giles at Iowa State University. In May 2014 I graduated from ISU with my Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance with a Mathematics Minor. I played in the ISU Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Flute Ensemble, holding principal/rotating principal flute in all the groups. I also took voice lessons and continue to play piano. In the fall of 2014 I will begin pursuing my Master of Music degree in Flute Performance at Penn State University, where I will be the flute graduate teaching assistant.



If you had told me in middle school just how great a role music would play in my life in years to come, I don't think I'd have believed a word of it! Thankfully, through the support and encouragement of my parents, sister, and several very special music teachers over the years (the wonderful Sue Leonard from age 6 to 18, Kenneth Graber and Kent McWilliams during my college years at St. Olaf, and a brief but wonderful two years with Claudia Chen during graduate school at the University of MN School of Public Health), playing the piano eventually grew from something I simply did to something I completely love.

I now find myself the part-time music director at my church, Trinity Presbyterian (PCA) here in Rochester, playing piano for Sunday services and conducting our small church choir. I have also thoroughly enjoyed singing soprano in the Choral Arts Ensemble for several seasons over the past 5 years. My time in Rochester, however, will soon be coming to a close; my husband and I will be relocating to Durham, NC, where he will begin a fellowship at Duke University in hematology/oncology. At least initially, I will likely pursue work there in health-related research, hoping for a job similar to the research assistant position I held in Mayo's Biomedical Ethics Research Program for 6.5 years. Without a doubt, finding musical outlets and opportunities in the Durham area will also be high on my priority list once we get settled in our new surroundings.



In adolescence, Rochester Music Guild competitions had one primary impact on my life: they made me practice. More politico than pianist, looming competitions drew me away from C-SPAN and to the piano where I dutifully rehearsed lest I humiliate myself or disappoint my kind, patient teacher, Carol Prescher. In adulthood, I realize the Rochester Music Guild gave me more than competitive motivation. It created opportunities that instilled in me a life-long appreciation of music, collaborative learning, artistic community, and, yes, discipline that reaches far beyond 88 keys.

That discipline served me well in myriad pursuits. An attorney and lobbyist, I have worked in every branch of government, on Capitol Hill, and in two state legislatures. I graduated *summa cum laude* from Gustavus Adolphus College and William Mitchell College of Law, where I served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Law Review*. After school, I clerked for the Minnesota Supreme Court and represented the state's largest trade association. An aspiring healthcare expert, I have been quoted in *The New York Times* and am currently on leave from Stanford's Graduate School of Business to serve as a Senior Policy Advisor to the state during ACA implementation. Beyond work, I am an avid writer who was recently published in a *McSweeney's* anthology and I also serve as an adjunct law professor at my alma mater.

My musical activities today are for pleasure, not performance, but I remain grateful for their Rochester origins. After all, only Chopin can remove the pain of a day spent studying insurance policy.



## 2013 - French Horn

## Annika Johnson

Annika Johnson is a tenth-grade home-educated student from Pine Island. Her parents are Dave and Suzy Johnson. She has played in Minnesota Youth Symphonies for the past three years and in SEMYO for several prior to that. She also plays in her church orchestra. Annika studies piano with Sue Leonard, French horn with Caroline Lemen, and voice with Carla Thelen Hanson. She also sings in RAACHE Choirs' *Arioso* audition choir. She found it challenging and fun to compete in the RMG competition, and was grateful for the award she received last year for second place.



Cailyn is a junior at Mayo High School. She has been studying piano for 10 years and currently takes lessons from Dr. Horacio Nuguid in Rochester, MN. Cailyn's musical accomplishments include performing in the MMTA Honors Concert, receiving multiple scholarship awards from the Rochester Music Guild, and being chosen to perform in the Dorian Keyboard Festival honors recital at Luther College. She has also attended the Sun Valley Summer Symphony Music Workshop and the Young Artist World Piano Festival for three years.

Most recently, Cailyn performed Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 19 with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale in their Playing with the Pros program. In addition to piano, Cailyn figure skates at the Rochester Figure Skating Club, dances with Minnesota Ballet Theatre, and sings with Bella Voce Young Women's Choir. She also volunteers at church and is a member of National Honors Society at Mayo High School.

Celeste Johnson participated in the Rochester Music Guild competition as both pianist and singer, and this combination of interests has continued to focus her career pursuits. With a style described as eloquent by the *Baltimore Sun*, she is deeply inspired by the unique power of words and music functioning in artistic tandem and constantly seeks diverse opportunities as a collaborative performer. In recent seasons, she has played with innovative Baltimore organizations such as the Occasional Symphony and Classical Revolution, at home in an ensemble of any size.

Celeste is especially passionate about opera coaching and recently has been chorus master and pit musician for Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and assistant coach for *Hansel and Gretel*, both productions of the Peabody Opera Department. Her thoughtful playing earned Celeste a nomination by the piano faculty at Baylor to represent the keyboard division in the Dean's Honors Concert of 2011, the same semester she received the Baylor School of Music Bernard A. and Bessie Hess Smith Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. The following year, as a self-employed freelance accompanist, she toured the east coast as the pianist for Baylor University's A Cappella Choir.

Celeste recently completed a Master of Music degree in vocal accompanying at the Peabody Conservatory, where she studied with Eileen Cornett. Celeste received a Bachelor of Music from Baylor University in 2011, studying with Jane Abbott-Kirk. She has studied with Sue Leonard, Dr. Esther Wang, Dr. Teresa Dybvig, and been a participant in master classes with Margo Garrett, Martin Katz, and Dawn Upshaw. This summer, she will work as a piano intern at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.



Evan LeRoy Johnson, tenor, graduated in May from the University of Kentucky in Lexington with a B.M. in vocal performance where he was the student of Metropolitan Opera star, Cynthia Lawrence. He is originally from Pine Island and will soon be residing in Philadelphia. He enjoyed several roles in the University of Kentucky Opera Theater including Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Enjolras (*Les Miserables*), Ubaldo Piangi (*Phantom of the Opera*), Dr. Cajus (*Falstaff*), Benvolio (*Romeo et Juliette*), and Frederic (*Pirates of Penzance*). He also sang the role of Rodolfo for the November 2013 concert featuring Act I of Puccini's *La Boheme* with the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra. He was the 2013 recipient of the Encouragement Award at the Kentucky district's Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions. Evan has participated in master classes with Christine Goerke and Joan Dornemann and is a 2014 participant in the Young Artist Vocal Academy with the Houston Grand Opera. Summer programs have included Opera Orvieto in Italy (2012) and Chautauqua Music Festival (2013).

This summer Evan will be participating in the Central City Opera's artist training program in Colorado as an Apprentice Artist. Following that he will begin his Master's studies in vocal performance at the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Marlena Malas.

Evan benefited from the positive feedback he received during Rochester Music Guild competitions and recitals. It inspired him to do his musical best. He is thankful to all who have contributed to the organization and to his former Rochester teachers: Sue Leonard, Bob Scoggins, the late Nancy Lee Sherden, and Carla Thelen Hanson.





Isaac Johnson, son of Dave and Suzy Johnson, is a home school senior from Pine Island, MN who began playing the trombone at the age of ten. Isaac began his early studies with Bob Stroetz. He currently studies with Randy Stroetz and coaches with Dr. Jeremy Kolwinski of University of Northwestern Minnesota and Douglas Wright of the Minnesota Orchestra. He played in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies' *Symphony Orchestra* under the direction of Manny Laureano for the past three years. He was a member of SEMYO's *Concert Orchestra* with Adam Lange-Pearson for several years prior to that.

Isaac was selected as the high school concerto competition winner with the "President's Own" Marine Band and performed the first movement of Tomasi's trombone concerto with the ensemble in April of this year. In 2014, he was named a Young Arts winner, an Evergreen scholarship recipient, and a Groth Music scholarship winner. He was 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 selected as an alternate with the National Youth Orchestra in both 2013 and 2014. He was a winner in the Junior and Senior Wind divisions of Rochester Music Guild in 2012 and 2013. Rochester Chamber Music Society featured him as one of three high school soloists at its January 2013 recital. Isaac was an Emerson scholar at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp in Michigan in 2012.

*"Rochester Music Guild helped prepare me for future competitions and performances. I am grateful for the experience this organization provided to me. The generous awards helped me pay for additional musical studies. I thank all who have contributed to this organization and made it such a valuable part of the Rochester music community!"*

Isaac will be attending Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music to study trombone performance with Jeremy Wilson this fall.



I will always be grateful for the musical experiences I had growing up in Rochester. The skills I learned as a pianist, from dedication to creativity to the ability to handle pressure, have served me well throughout my life. My piano teachers, Dawn Riley and Sue Leonard, always found ways to motivate me to improve and progress, including participation in Rochester Music Guild competitions.

Since leaving Rochester, I've had excellent educational opportunities and earned a PhD in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from Indiana University. I now work for United Technologies as a Manager of Environment, Health and Safety. I've done very little musically in recent years, but I hope to get back to it one day.



Rhett is a lifelong music lover and was fortunate to grow-up in a home surrounded by music (father is Lloyd Ketterling: choral conductor John Marshall High School for 30 years) and art (mother is Patte Ketterling: local Christian symbolist artist). He took piano lessons from Marguerite Hoffman at Hoffman Studios for 11 years (she was patient), and took vocal lessons in high school from his father and from Sidney Suddendorf. In addition to winning the Rochester Music Guild vocal competition as a high school senior, he was one of five soloist winners at the annual Dorian vocal festival at Luther College. Rhett used these two scholarships to help him attend Luther college, where he majored in Biology and minored in chemistry and music (vocal performance). While studying voice with Dr. David Judisch at Luther, he gave a junior vocal recital and participated in several choirs, including three years in Nordic Choir under the direction of Weston Noble.

Rhett subsequently attended Mayo Medical School and Mayo Graduate School of Medicine where he received his Medical Degree and board certifications in anatomic/clinical pathology and clinical cytogenetics. He was a Howard Hughes Medical Student Fellow and is now a Full Professor in Mayo Medical School in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology with 350+ published manuscripts and abstracts in the fields of genetics in hematology/oncology.

Rhett has continued his involvement with music in Rochester by participating in a capella groups including the Choral Arts Ensemble (CAE) and Sonata. He is a frequent soloist at Zumbro Lutheran church and weddings and funerals. His family, including his 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. Both Morgan and Trevor attended Luther College and were members of Nordic choir (Trevor also won the same Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther 25 years after Rhett!). 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, premiered by CAE.

The Rochester Music Guild provided Rhett an opportunity to participate in a competition with students from other local schools, meet other vocal performers, and performers with remarkable instrumental talents. In addition to a venue for performance, the scholarship money was applied toward college tuition which further nurtured his involvement and dedication to music.



My name is Jiwon Kim. I am a freshman at John Marshall high school. I considered playing the flute in 5<sup>th</sup> grade when musicians came to my elementary school and had students try out instruments to see what they would do well with. When I tried the various instruments, I found that the flute was the most enjoyable to play (actually, flute was the only instrument which I could make a sound!)

About one year after I began playing the flute, I started taking private lessons from Mrs. Amy Unseth. This helped me develop my technique and perform classical pieces such as the Mozart G Major Concerto, which I played in the Music Guild Competition in 2014.

The first time I entered the Music Guild competition was in 2013. This competition gave me a chance to see my weakness and strength. My music teacher and I reviewed the adjudicator comments and studied to overcome my weakness. Due to the valuable critiques, I could improve myself and become a winner in the junior division of the wind.

Mrs. Unseth also directed me towards SEMYO where I learned to play in an ensemble setting. The things I learned early on in SEMYO greatly helped my performance in the band programs provided by the school district.

I am now in the Concert Orchestra in SEMYO and the first flute in the Concert Band at John Marshall. I enjoy playing the flute although I find it very challenging to produce the sounds I want.



The Rochester Music Guild competitions and my piano studies under Sue Leonard were a beautiful experience when I was growing up. Ms. Leonard was so encouraging and inspiring in her teaching, I couldn't help but want to do my very best. Participating in the RMG and other competitions provided me not only with motivation to continue improving my musical skills; it also offered me a way to share my appreciation for all that Ms. Leonard taught me. Under her tutelage, I gained confidence, poise, discipline, and most of all, a love for classical music. Sadly, I no longer practice piano, but if and when I move from NYC, I plan to pick it up again.

I graduated from Mayo High School in 1999 and went on to study Economics at Dartmouth College; more recently, I earned my MBA from NYU Stern. After several years as a private equity investor, I am now a start-up and fitness consultant, having started my own company Fitphile LLC ([www.fitphile.com](http://www.fitphile.com)). Although I have been living in NYC for several years now, I will always consider Rochester my home.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story. I look forward to reading the stories of other RMG alumni and future students to come!





Joseph Kuipers, born 1984 in Rochester, MN, made his solo debut in his native Minnesota, performing the Elgar Concerto at the age of 16. Since then he has performed at festivals and music centers around the globe, including the Ravinia Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Le Festival International du Domaine Forget, Kronberg Academy, Ascoli Pinceno Festival, Carl Orff Festival, and the World Cello Congress III.

Joseph completed his undergraduate studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In order to immerse himself in the European Music Tradition, he subsequently studied for five years in Germany and Switzerland. In 2008, Joseph received an Artist Diploma from the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim, Germany. Most recently he completed his Master of Musical Arts from the Musik-Akademie der Stadt Basel, Switzerland.

Dedicated to the music of our time, he has worked extensively with composers of our time, and has performed with the Ensemble für Neue Musik Basel, Neue Musik Ensemble Mannheim, Second Instrumental Unit, New York, and the Callithumpian Consort of Boston. Together with his sister Rachel he is co-artistic director, and cellist of the Marinus Project, an international collective of chamber musicians dedicated to the tradition of classical music in our time. Marinus is the “Ensemble in Residence” at Washington and Lee University and Eastern University. In April 2011 the Marinus Ensemble received a \$200,000 unlimited artist development grant to further the Marinus Project. As a committed teacher, Joseph has a private studio of cellist in Plano/Dallas, TX; served as teaching assistant to Michael Flaksman; taught at the Carl Orff Festival, Italy; and the Biningen School for Gifted Children in Switzerland. He is also on faculty at Eastern University, PA.

He plays a cello from Francesco Gobetti, known as “The Marinus” ca. 1710. Aside from his musical activities Joseph is an avid photographer, chess player, and trout fisherman and can often be found in the great outdoors with his Australian Shepherd dog, Yelka.



Twenty-four year old Harpist Hannah Kuipers was inspired to play the harp by her first teacher, Judie Tennenbaum, of Rhode Island. Subsequently, she has received national and international honors in performance, including a Victor Salvi Foundation Award in 2007, Second Prize and Prix Renie in the American Harp Society National Competition 2007, and an invitation to perform Renie's Ballade Fantastique at the 10th World Harp Congress in Amsterdam.

At age thirteen, she soloed with the Concert Orchestra of Southeastern Minnesota, performing Handel's Concerto for Harp. After this first encounter as a soloist, a great love was found and Hannah since soloed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, MacPhail Center for Performing Arts Orchestra, Indiana University's Symphony Orchestra and Lubbock Symphony.

While attending Indiana University, Hannah performed extensively in operas, ballets, and musicals. She was a two-time first-prize winner for the Indiana Matinee Musicale Competition, both as an undergraduate a diploma student. She completed her Bachelor of Music in Harp Performance from Indiana University (2009) in three years. She was a member of the Golden Key International Honors Society, and was the frequent musical entertainer for distinguished dignitaries. She was honored with a Performer's Certificate during her Senior Recital and in May 2010 earned her Performer's Diploma.

Hannah's pursuit of music and love of nature has taken her to Canada, The British Isles, Italy, Australia, Scandinavia, and Africa. She was been privileged to study with premier harpists and has performed live on public radio on piano, harp, and voice. During the 2010-2011 Season, Hannah was Principal Harpist for the Lubbock Symphony. While residing in Dallas Texas, she was a mezzo-soprano for the Texas Voices, a professional vocal chamber ensemble and a founding member of the Dallas Civic Wind Ensemble. In 2011, Hannah was the Residential Harpist for the Cunard Cruise Line, touring all over the world on both the Queen Mary 2 and the Queen Elizabeth Ocean Liners.

Currently Ms. Kuipers is the Principal Harpist of the Santiago Philharmonica in Santiago, Chile.





Praised for her expressive playing and rich evocative tone, violist Rachel Kuipers Yonan began her career in Minnesota, playing chamber music with her siblings. She was encouraged in music by the Rochester Music Guild, and in the following years has become a presence in the music world, performing as a soloist and chamber musician in concert halls across the US, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and China.

In 2011, Rachel founded the Marinus Ensemble with her brother, cellist Joseph Kuipers. The Ensemble is a passionate group of artists, dedicated to engaging audiences through interactive performance of great music. They have been the Ensemble-in-Residence at Washington and Lee University since 2012.

Beyond her own innovative work with Marinus, Rachel has been invited to perform at festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival, Prussia Cove's Open Chamber Music, Festival Mozaic, the Taos Music Festival, and the Perlman Music Program. She has collaborated with such artists as Roberto Díaz, Joseph Silverstein, and Robert Levin; and coached extensively with Pamela Frank, Peter Wiley and Edgar Meyer.

Currently, Rachel serves as Director of the Marinus Ensemble, and is on the faculty of Eastern University. In 2011, she completed her Diploma in Viola Performance with Roberto Díaz at the Curtis Institute of Music as the H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest Fellow. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Rice University in 2008 with a degree in Viola Performance under James Dunham and a concentration in German Literature.

Beyond music, Rachel loves playing with her son, reading the literature of Byatt, Berry and Greene, and traveling to out-of-the-way places.



Marisa Lin, 18, was born in Fujian, China and moved to Rochester, Minnesota when she was six months old. She began piano lessons at the age of six with Rosanna Nuguid, and now studies with Dr. Horacio Nuguid. Among her honors and awards include first place in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) Senior Young Artists competition in 2012, third and second place in the MMTA Junior Young Artists competition in 2010 and 2011, and being selected as one of the thirteen Featured Round Artists in the 2014 MPR Varsity Competition. She was also a winner of the Austin Concerto Competition, SEMYO Concerto Competition, and the Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum Mozart Concerto Competition. She is currently a senior at Century High School and will be attending Stanford University.

*Competing in the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition has greatly helped me in refining my musical abilities. I participated in the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and each year it has provided a wonderful opportunity for me to grow as a performer. The Rochester Music Guild is the only competition I know that encourages direct judge-competitor interaction which allows the performer to take something very personal away from the competition room. Regardless of my major, music will always be part of my life, a passion which has been nurtured through the Rochester Music Guild.*



**1973 - Trombone****Steve Linnes**

I am currently teaching at two schools, a private Christian high school and a local charter school for junior high. I am playing trombone in the local municipal band as well as in a local swing band. I also play guitar in the worship team at a Methodist Church downtown. I teach private lessons in all the band instruments and all the string instruments including guitar. It keeps me very busy! It's also a lot of fun!

Girardeau, MO.

Studying music was one of the most formative experiences of my youth. From my appreciation of music as one of our most evocative expressions of emotion, to the lessons I learned from my teachers that nothing worth achieving is accomplished without disciplined assiduity, I hold my memories of playing violin with the greatest fondness. I am extraordinarily grateful to organizations like Rochester Music Guild for giving young musicians the opportunity to pursue the rewards of mastery and excellence.

Violin teachers: Linda Thompson, Georgia Daniel, Beedarn Pang, and Prof. Charles Gray.

I am a lawyer in the Twin Cities. I am currently serving a one-year clerkship at the Minnesota Court of Appeals before joining a downtown-Minneapolis law firm in September 2014. I received my undergraduate education at Carleton College and my J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law. I continue to play violin in my free time.



## **2012, 2013, 2014 - Piano**

## **Jonathon Mattson**

Jonathan Mattson is entering his senior year at Schaeffer Academy in Rochester. He has been studying with Dr. Paul Wirth in Roseville for the last three years. Prior to that he studied with Basia Vanderzanden in Rochester.

He enjoys playing every week for the residents at the Charter House in Rochester and occasionally at his school and church. He plans to study piano performance in college with the goal of pursuing a career performing or teaching. He is an avid Minnesota Twins fan and in his spare time, besides listening to classical music, he enjoys reading, hiking and downhill skiing.

Some of his accomplishments include 1st place in the SEMYO Piano Concerto Competition, 2nd place in the Schubert Club Scholarship Competition senior division, 2nd place in the Thursday Musical Scholarship Competition senior division, 1st place in the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship competition in both junior and senior divisions, 1st place in the Clements Scholarship Competition in both junior and senior divisions, 1st place in the Bunny Just Piano Festival and Honors Recital participant for 3 years in the Dorian Keyboard Festival at Luther College.



Ian is a senior at Lourdes High School, where he participates in the Marching Band and Concert Band. He has been in the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra (SEMYO) for seven years, and was chosen to be in the Minnesota All-State Band the past two years. Ian also participates in a number of vocal music groups: the Lourdes Choir; Center Street Singers; and a five-person a cappella group, Quintessential Harmony. In addition to his musical activities, Ian is an Eagle Scout, has been a member of the Lourdes Cross Country team for six years, and is active in the Lourdes and Minnesota All-State math teams. After high school Ian plans to attend the University of Minnesota Twin Cities to study math and music.

*I would like to extend my most sincere thanks for putting on the competition. The 2014 competition was the first music competition I have ever entered, and it was a wonderful experience. The organization, judging, and recital were all excellent, and I cherish the chance I was provided to hone my own musicianship, share the joy of music with others, and witness spectacular playing by other young musicians. Many Thanks!!* - letter received after 2014 competition.



**1998, 2000 - Bassoon**

**Elizabeth McMillan Kiscaden**

As a student, I appreciated the Rochester Music Guild competitions, as they gave me a goal to practice for. Music was an important part of my life when I was younger; I played the piano, clarinet, bassoon, and even the tuba. Today, I still play the bassoon and piano and participate in ensembles in my region.

I received a Bachelor of Music in bassoon performance from the University of Minnesota, where I studied with John Miller, the principal bassoonist of the Minnesota Orchestra. During my undergraduate years, I spent a year studying music in Vienna, Austria, where I studied with Michael Werba, principal bassoonist of the Vienna Philharmonic.

I received a Master's Degree in Library Science with a specialization in medical librarianship in 2007. I have worked at a number of medical and academic institutions since graduation. Today, I am the Head of Library Services at the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa. I live in Iowa City with my husband, Rochester native Michael Kiscaden, and my dog Tammy.





**1989, 1990, 1991 - Cello**

**Amy *Mezacapa* Crockett**

Amy Crockett began her cello instruction at the age of 8. As a student, she attended Suzuki music institutes at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Ithaca, NY, and Montreal, Canada, as well as Chamber Music for Strings at Madeline Island Music Camp. She 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 and performed in the United States and Europe with the Orchestra. 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 11 seasons with the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis before moving to Rochester. She has performed with the Rochester Symphony and Chorale, and currently teaches private cello lessons in Rochester where she lives with her husband, Eric, and three children, Cate, Nick, and Emma.



Luke Miksanek 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.



My most memorable impression of going to Congress of Strings in New York City in the summer of 1986 was the way Mozart floated in the air the first time we played one of his divertimentos. I had not known Mozart could be like that, and it was a number of years before I experienced it again. Certainly the musicians were talented, but it was the beautiful playing that stayed with me for the last 28 years and became the measuring stick for all my musical ventures after that.

In Rochester I took lessons from Robert Clements and in my senior year in high school, Jeannie Wightman, whom my parents remembered as Jeannie Douglas. Bob Clements taught me the joy of perfection, and Jeannie's immense energy showed me what could be done with a cello. I graduated from Carleton College in '88 with a degree in English, but arthritis in my hips prevented me from playing for six years. Fortunately, that went away, and today I play as a member of the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra and with my family in our Irish band. I also teach cello privately, beginning violin and Irish fiddle.

I regret not being able to be in Rochester on June 7, but I have a good reason. I get to listen to my daughter play the Bach Chaconne on her senior recital—which I haven't heard from a high school student since—you guessed it—Congress of Strings.



Rafael is currently working as a systems engineer in the space industry for Northrop Grumman in Los Angeles, CA. After graduating from Lourdes High School in 2008, he went on to receive a B.A. degree in Music as well as a B.S. degree in Astronautical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

At USC, he has had the opportunity to continue his passion for the violin, taking lessons under renowned Hollywood concertmaster Endre Granat. He has also had the opportunity to play with a variety of conductors including Michael Tilson Thomas and Carl St. Clair, as well as in recording sessions for various student films.

Rafael's musical studies, and the experience given to him by the Rochester Music Guild competitions has taught him many lessons, including discipline and appreciation of the arts, and has helped to kindle a passion in music that Rafael wishes he can pass on to others in the future.



My mother and voice teacher, Suzan Ockey, encouraged me to do the Rochester Music Guild competition for three years. I also studied with George Smith my final year of high school. This competition gave me performing experience and the confidence I needed to audition for the Brigham Young University music school. There I met my husband who is a wonderful pianist. Because of this competition, I learned that I love to perform and have been doing so any chance I get ever since.

I went on to earn my Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in vocal performance from BYU. While there, I won the Young Artists in Voice Competition, and was named Female Singer of the Year in 2011. Some of the roles I did while at BYU were Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Hero in *Beatrice et Benedict*, and The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*. After finishing my master's degree, I moved to St. George, Utah where I was a resident artist with St. George Opera and performed the role of Madame Vogelsang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*. I attended the Atlantic Music Festival for two summers where I performed numerous concerts and opera scenes. I am currently teaching voice at Dixie State University in St. George, UT.



Jennifer Odell Cadwell holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Drake University in Flute Performance and Master of Music degree in flute/piccolo performance from Webster University. She has published many articles with Flute Talk Magazine. Currently, Jennifer is an Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul where she directs the handbell program. Her ensemble has appeared on PBS. She also serves as the director of music for children's and youth music at Centennial UMC in Roseville where she has five ensembles. In addition to playing the flute and singing, Jennifer loves to ring handbells and has been ringing since 1987. She rings professionally with Bells of the Lakes in the Twin Cities; and serves as their president. Jennifer is an active handbell clinician at area and national handbell events.

While growing up in Rochester, Jennifer was taught voice lessons by Nancy Lee Sherden and flute lessons by Mary Manges and Kay Sahlin. Jennifer placed in the RMG competition each year she competed 1992-1996. The music guild competition was unique in the fact that all music was required to be memorized, which served as an excellent challenge each year. She used her winnings from the competition to attend music camp, drive to St. Olaf for lessons, and purchase a piccolo. It was a competition she looked forward to each winter, and she enjoyed playing in the recital and hearing friends perform as well.

In addition to her music, Jennifer is busy raising the next generation of musicians; her two young daughters, Genevieve and Jacqueline.





## 1975 - Violin

**Nancy Oehler Love**

You might say that I got back to the Midwest - Iowa - the long way around. The early years of my musical training were like that of many musicians. We had a violin, so I played it. They offered lessons through the public school program, so I took them. It wasn't until I was in 8th grade that I knew I was hooked. Nobody ever had to tell me to practice. I won the coveted concertmaster chair in my school and all-region orchestras. I excelled in state music contests. To top it off, I treated myself to a month at the Meadowmount School of Music, to study with the finest, practicing five hours a day while monitors patrolled the halls.

Fast forward from North Dakota to the University of Wyoming: I had completed my first year of studies in the Bachelor of Music degree when I won the Congress of Strings scholarship in 1975. It was a great summer experience and I have always been grateful for having had the chance to be a part of it.

Fast forward to the beginning of my career: Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Brisbane Australia, 1978-1980; Puerto Rico Symphony, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1981; Quebec Symphony Orchestra, Quebec Canada, 1982-1992 (assistant principal second violin); The Kings Violins, Quebec, Canada, 1992-1995.

I said goodbye to the stage in order to pursue a new field, Arts Management, which brought me back to the U.S. in 1997. From there, I entered Columbia Theological Seminary where I earned my Master of Divinity degree. In 2003, I moved to Iowa where I served a small church and met my husband Larry Love. And that is indeed what you might call the long way around!





As a life-long musician, vocal performance has always been important to me. I was a member of the Honors Choir of Southeast Minnesota for eight years (up until my graduation from high school) and studied voice with Siri Strommen-Campbell in Rochester. Piano and French horn were also part of my musical activities, and continue to be even now. In 2009, I placed first in the Rochester Music Guild's vocal scholarship competition, and went on to receive a Weston Noble vocal music scholarship from Luther College. While at Luther, I studied voice under Jonathon Struve, and was a member of Luther's choirs through all four years.

This coming August 2014, I will begin my studies at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Pediatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago, Illinois, and hope to bring my music with me as I continue my studies.



Senior Jenna Petersen has been playing flute since 4th grade, and cannot adequately express her gratitude toward everyone who has supported her along the way, including Laurie Priniski, her flute teacher, Jan Matson, her accompanist, and especially her generous and supportive family. Besides flute, Jenna is also greatly invested in choral music, as a 10-year participant in Honors Choirs of SE MN. This year, Jenna has been distinguished as a student conductor of Concert Choir, and is excited to be conducting during their spring concerts. For Jenna, music has been a lifelong pursuit which will continue after she graduates from Schaeffer Academy this spring. She plans to study music alongside her major interest of chiropractic, with the hopes of teaching flute and being a community leader in music someday.



Soprano Amita Tara Prakash has appeared in numerous opera productions, ensembles, chamber groups, and organizations with the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, the Universities of Michigan and Minnesota, surrounding areas in Minnesota and Cincinnati, and New York. 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. She 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.

Awards include the Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Lexington, Kentucky, first place in the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters Vocal Competition in Ann Arbor, first place in the 3A division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition in St. Cloud, Minnesota, in 2002, second place in the 5A division of the NATS competition in 2003, and first place in the Intermediate division of the Schubert Club Competition in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ms. Prakash also received the Jessye Norman Graduate Fellowship in Voice at the University of Michigan.

Ms. Prakash is a Rochester native. She received a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She also completed an Artist Diploma in Opera Performance at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She currently resides in Cincinnati (with her blind, elderly pup), where she sings classical/opera vocal repertoire professionally, as well as teaches private voice lessons. She has programmed a recital, featuring topics relating to civil rights, anti-war sentiments and Abraham Lincoln, all of which are very important issues to her. She is taking this recital on tour around Cincinnati and surrounding areas.

*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. My thanks go to all Music Guild Members, my high school voice teacher, Suzan Ockey, my college and graduate voice instructors, coaches, and opera directors, -and, most importantly, my parents for their constant love and support.*



I am so proud to be a part of the musical community that is celebrated with the Guild's 50th Anniversary. Competing in the Rochester Music Guild Competition was an extremely positive experience. It helped me – a shy and self-doubting high school freshman – realize that I had talent and was worth listening to. Standing in the middle of a room by yourself and singing to a judge is terrifying. But I did it and did it successfully. I will be forever grateful to my high school voice teacher Suzan Ockey for encouraging me to compete, guiding me along the way, and encouraging me to keep music in my life.

I sang in school choirs throughout college in Michigan and law school in New York, with the Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center, with the Minnesota Chorale in Minneapolis and, most recently, at the wedding of a dear friend in California. Music and, particularly the power of voice, are gifts that can be shared and appreciated without regard to location, profession, or life circumstance. Today, as an attorney, I often think back to my singing competitions before I stand up in court and argue to a judge. I find myself thinking that the experiences are not all that dissimilar, that I have talent, and that I am worth listening to.



I know I received the Congress of Strings Scholarship through the Guild and believe I might have also gotten a scholarship towards playing in SEMYO. Congress of Strings was an awesome experience from which I gained so much and decided at that time that a career in music was a possibility. During the 8 weeks in Cincinnati I met great people (Barry Green), played wonderful performances and got to see Yo-Yo Ma in concert and Pete Rose on the ball field.

I went to U of MN as a viola major but decided that teaching was more my thing and have since taught orchestra grades 4-12 in the School District of LaCrosse for 25 years. I still play in Rochester Symphony as well as LaCrosse, Winona and Austin Symphonies. I have conducted the LaCrosse Youth Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra and currently direct a small orchestra at Wesley Methodist as well as a fiddle group that performs for area groups and at Irishfest. I teach private violin and viola lessons at SSE Music and I also play organ at my church. I am very lucky to have lots of musical opportunities and can't imagine doing anything else.



My piano teachers were Marguerite Hoffman and Sue Leonard.

After high school, my passions shifted from music to the visual arts . After a 15+-year career in graphic design, I 'retired' to become a full-time ceramic artist. Today I work harder than I ever have but enjoy every minute of it! Feel free to visit me in my home studio, just one hour north of Rochester!

Although I am only marginally involved in playing music, I apply the principles of music to my work in clay every day. Learning and competing in music taught me that perseverance and discipline can lead to a successful career in the arts.





The Rochester Music Guild competitions helped me develop a sense of focus and purpose in my saxophone playing. I learned so much about how to prepare my performances to the best of my ability, and this helped me later in life, particularly at Luther College when I performed junior and senior recitals. I studied saxophone under David Townsend in elementary, middle and high school. In college, I studied under Dr. Michael Chesher and Melissa Reiser.

While at Luther, I played in Jazz Band and Concert Band, and I also sang in choir. After college, I spent two seasons as a member of Grand Symphonic Winds in the Twin Cities, and I sang in Choral Arts Ensemble for three seasons. I have also taught private saxophone lessons over the years. Currently, I play for services occasionally at Bethel Lutheran and Charter House, and I have accompanied the SE MN Honors Choirs.

I graduated from Luther in 2002 with a double major in mathematics in computer science. Over the past twelve years I have worked at IBM and Mayo Clinic; I have been at Mayo for nine years and I currently work as a statistical programmer analyst in Health Sciences Research. I also hold jobs with the Rochester Honkers and Rochester Ice Hawks. My favorite activity outside of work is running; I have run six full marathons, thirteen half marathons, and numerous other distances.

The picture is of my wife Samantha and me playing a duet at our wedding in 2010.





Erik Rohde is a violinist and conductor, currently living and working in Minneapolis, MN. He was a scholarship winner of the Rochester Music Guild competition in 2000 and 2002.

His violin studies began with Linda Thompson when he was 4 years old, and he has since studied with Bee Darn Pang, Ray Shows, Mark Bjork (University of Minnesota), and Frédéric Bardon (Lyon, France). 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.

Rohde 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). Rohde 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.

Rohde currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Erin, and their two sons.



## **2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 - Violin**

**Alexander Scheel**

Alex Scheel is a current junior, home-schooled, and is studying violin with Aaron Janse of the Minnesota Orchestra. The most memorable Rochester Music Guild competition for him was the 2013 competition, adjudicated by Pamela Arnstein and Roger Frisch, both fine musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra. This inspired him to pursue Minnesota Youth Symphonies and attend summer camps for music, including Stringwood and the Foulger Festival.

His other hobbies include Model United Nations, programming, and creating websites. He will be pursuing a computer science degree in college and always intends to play music in local groups.



Abby Schneekloth is a sophomore at Mayo High School. She studies voice with Carla Thelen Hanson and sings in the Concert Choir of the Honors Choirs of SE Minnesota. Abby also studies harp with Elinor Niemisto, principal of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra. She is grateful for the role of former teachers in her musical development: Horatio Nuguid, Rosanna Nuguid, Gretchen Wilson and Mary Schneekloth.

Abby enjoys musical theatre and has performed most recently in Mayo High School's *Crazy for You*. She has also appeared in *Sound of Music*, *Annie*, *Oklahoma* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*.

In addition to her musical interests, Abby participates in debate and is a member of the Rochester Nordic Cross Country Ski Team.



David Shaffer-Gotschalk began piano lessons at the age of seven in Rochester with Mary Lu Cervania. He transferred to the studio of Orvis Ross and remained with Ross through high school. He was the recipient of a Rochester Music Guild Scholarship in 1973.

After earning his Bachelor of Music from Wartburg College, Shaffer-Gotschalk operated an independent piano studio for 8 years in Michigan. He returned to graduate school in 1986, completing a Master of Music in Piano from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado. His teachers have included Eugene Hudson, Charles Fisher and Robert Spillman. From 1992-2013, Dr. Shaffer-Gotschalk was Professor of Music at Virginia State University, where he earned an Outstanding Faculty Award. Shaffer-Gotschalk retired from VSU and has returned to Rochester, where he teaches and coaches piano students and teacher-colleagues.

Over the years, Shaffer-Gotschalk has performed extensively as a soloist and collaborative pianist. His repertoire encompasses music of the 18th century to the present, including works of the 20th century avant-garde. He has premiered several works, including the first recording of Allan Blank's Sonata for Piano. Shaffer-Gotschalk has also recorded the complete 24 Negro Melodies, Op. 59 (1905) by the Afro-English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Shaffer-Gotschalk's early training in Rochester laid the foundation for professional success. He credits especially Orvis Ross with providing the foundation of his artistic aesthetic: that music is both personal and communal, and necessary for our humanity and our future.



Emily Shin studied flute with Nancy Osteraas, Kay Sahlin, Tyra Gilb, David Fedele, and Tara O'Connor, and piano with Sue Leonard. The Rochester Music Guild Competitions were a platform and inspiration for her to pursue music as a potential career. She graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy at Interlochen, MI, and then went on to Columbia University for her undergraduate studies in music. There, she continued to be active in music, as she was principal flute in the Columbia University Orchestra, and had many solo appearances on campus and around New York City. Following this she went on to medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons on the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program.

She is currently graduating from her Orthopaedic Surgery Residency program at National Capital Consortium/Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and will continue on to do a year of hand surgery fellowship at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Now, she credits her music studies for her creativity, patience, and dexterity in her budding medical practice. She hopes to be an advocate for musicians' musculoskeletal health and be able to treat musicians and improve their lives in meaningful ways.



**1973, 1974, 1975- Oboe**

**Laurie *Smith* Gill**

Laurie and her husband Bob moved to Pierre, South Dakota with their four children in 1991.

Laurie is a graduate of South Dakota State University, majoring in Commercial Economics. She spent 10 years working as a business manager in non-profit settings, prior to coming on board with the South Dakota Department of Health where she worked for 13 years. Laurie worked in the private sector as the Clinic Administrator at Avera Medical Associates Clinic in Pierre, and in June 2011 she had the honor to join Governor Dugaard's Cabinet where she currently is the Commissioner of the Bureau of Human Resources.

Laurie currently serves on the boards of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce, Capital University, the South Dakota Municipal League, the South Dakota Retirement System and the Capital City Beautification committee.

Serving as a Pierre City Commissioner since 1999, Laurie was sworn in as Mayor in July 2008 and will start her third term in July 2014.





**1990, 1991, 1992 - Violin**

**Erin *Spackman* Rushforth**

Erin is a book lover, freelance violinist and Suzuki violin teacher, runner, francophile, and food aficionado. She loves to travel with her husband, Michael, and savors the sweet moments of parenting her 4 children. Violin teachers: Susan Narveson, Mary West, and Liz Arbus (briefly). B.A., M.A. French studies from Brigham Young University.

San Antonio, TX





**1997, 1998 - Cello**

**Neal Spackman**

I remember how confident I felt after winning a Guild competition--like all the hours of practice had paid off in this one event. My wonderful cello teacher was Kristi Knecht, who helped fill me with a love for music. I graduated from Brigham Young University in Middle East Studies/Arabic and currently work with tribes of settled Bedouin south of Makkah in converting areas of desert into forest as the basis of a new local economy. Musically, I dabble in the Oud and play cello for my kids occasionally.

Thank you for all your efforts in this--I will not be able to attend, but I appreciate all the work that it must take.



Winning the Rochester Music Guild competition helped me have the confidence that I could excel at piano--and other things throughout my life--through dedication and hard work. I graduated summa cum laude with a BA in humanities from Brigham Young University in 2001, and then I received an MA in international affairs from The George Washington University in 2005.

For a number of years, I worked in the field of humanitarian assistance and lived in the Washington DC area. I currently reside in San Diego with my husband and 18-month-old son. While I am not currently taking music lessons, I love playing the piano for my son, who loves hearing it and playing it himself.



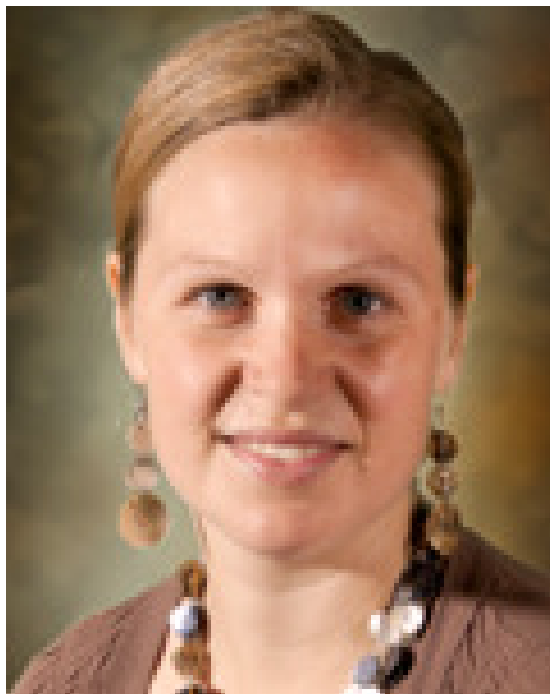
**1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 - Violin**

**Rixa *Spencer* Freeze**

Music was my passion growing up. Well, let's be honest—it was a chore until I was old enough to want to practice on my own! My mom, DeAnn Spencer (also a violin teacher) kept me going with violin lessons and provided me many opportunities to perform, rehearse, and study with outstanding musicians. I was also fortunate to have a music mentorship with Rick Kvam's Honors Choir. During high school I took lessons at the U of M with Mark Bjork. I began my undergraduate years planning on majoring in violin performance, but ultimately switched to American Studies and academia.

I pursued a Master's degree in American History at Ohio University and a PhD in American Studies at the U of Iowa. My fields of emphasis were the history of medicine and American environmentalism. I have an academic and personal passion for all things related to childbirth, maternity care, and breastfeeding.

I am currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN. I am married to a Canadian writer and academic, and we have four children ages 1-7. We spend our time renovating old houses, gardening, and teaching our children French. We're looking forward to a sabbatical year in Nice, France starting this August.



## 1970 - Winner

(Paul) Eric Street

Eric Street is Professor of Music and coordinates keyboard studies at the University of Dayton. 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.

*I studied piano with Carol Prescher and voice with Almyra Whitehead. I remember winning with the Chopin A Major Polonaise (along with the Ravel Sonatine and perhaps something else) in my Senior year at JM, which was 1970-71. I auditioned as a pianist, and I'm so grateful for the encouragement the Rochester Music Guild gave me at that pivotal time. Thanks so much for all the good work the Rochester Music Guild does and has done. 50 years is a long time! Congratulations to you all.*



## 1967, 1970 - Winner

**Randy Stroetz**

Being the son of a former professional trombonist and music teacher, I began enjoying and making music at a very early age. I attended Central Junior High (now site of Dan Abraham Healthy Living Center) and Mayo High School in Rochester. Playing trombone and string bass in the Rochester Symphony during high school, I had the privilege of being involved at a high level as Rochester hosted several notable artists (many now deceased): Victor Borge, cellist Jacqueline du Pré, Jack Benny, and Doc Severinsen to name a few.

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. I have been employed at Mayo Clinic for 34 years, currently as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and work in Pulmonary Research. Music, though, has been my passion, attending Lawrence University Music conservatory, studying trombone with my 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 former long-time Chicago Symphony trombonist. I was recently fortunate to play with The King's Brass, a touring professional group.

Two current highlights are playing trombone with the Med City Brass and, since 2007, teaching Isaac Johnson, my father's last student. Isaac is an extremely gifted and accomplished trombonist, recently winning first place in the President's Own Marine Band youth competition (first time for a trombonist!) earning the privilege to perform with them in Washington DC.



**1988, 1989 - Violin**

***Diane Terpstra Vandewater***

I had planned on going into music as a profession and performed in the Rochester Symphony for four years; however, because I was unable to afford to go to college, I wound up playing studio gigs in the Minneapolis, MN, and later Austin, TX, areas. This led to vocal gigs, as well. My music teachers were Joan Elkins and Mary West.

I am currently a jazz singer in the West Michigan area. I have not picked up my violin in about 3 years.

I graduated from Dakota County Technical College and do medical transcription for a group of physicians in Austin, Texas. I work remotely from my home in Michigan.

Music continues to be a big part of my life, and I love going to/singing with the symphony. I have switched instruments, however, from violin to voice.



I am a sophomore at John Marshall High School, and I have been playing trumpet since age nine. I currently study privately with Ashley Hall, my inspiration and role model. I participate in the John Marshall Symphonic Winds and Jazz Ensemble led by Chris Jarvis, and I commute to St. Paul each Saturday to play in Minnesota Youth Symphonies. Last year, in 2013, I won the Junior Winds division of the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition and used the prize money to help pay my tuition at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. I attended the two-week trumpet workshop where I gained solo and small ensemble experience, listened to faculty concerts each night, and made many great friends. This summer I will attend Brevard Music Institute, where I will play in the Brevard Concert Orchestra, a wind ensemble, and a brass ensemble. I will also receive private lessons and take music theory and music history classes throughout the six weeks.

I hope to study music in college and graduate with a degree in Trumpet Performance. I am not sure at this point whether I will then pursue a career as an orchestral musician, soloist, small ensemble member, or instructor, or even work in a different field, but I know that I want to continue music the rest of my life.





Theodore Pranoto Thayib is a Freshman at Lourdes High School. He is involved in various music activities at school, including jazz band, marching band, concert band and winter drumline. He still keeps up with his cello and piano. He is currently studying cello with Peter Howard and piano with Horacio Nuguid.

At the Rochester Music Guild scholarship competition last year, Theo won second place in the Junior Strings division and third place in the Senior Piano division. In 2012 he won first place in the Junior Piano division. He has also won a few other music competitions. In the SEMYO concerto competition playing cello, he won in 2013 with the Concert Orchestra and 2011 with the Philharmonic Orchestra. In the Clare Clements scholarship competition playing piano, he won first place in 2013 and third place in 2012 in the Grades 7-9 division and second place in 2011 in the Grades 4-6 division.

In addition to music, Theo also enjoys sports: tae kwon do, table tennis and soccer, as well as chess.



Jessica currently earns her keep in theatre administration as the Stabilizer for nonprofit CLIMB Theatre in Inver Grove Heights, MN. She began her nonprofit career in 2005 working as an administrative assistant and bookkeeper for a fine art school and gallery, Art Lab Inc. on Staten Island, in NYC. After relocating to Minnesota in 2008, Jessica spent five years working as the office manager for St. Paul-based non-profit, Children's Law Center of Minnesota.

Jessica remembers the Rochester Music Guild competitions as something her teachers encouraged participation in, and she felt that the feedback she got from each competition was valuable. Her voice teachers have included Connie Maragos, Rochester, MN (High School), Dr. Janette Ogg, Shenandoah University, and Joann Cruikshank, Webster University; she is currently studying with Melissa Hart of Golden Valley, MN. She also studied voice and piano under Diane Toogood, Rochester, MN (Elementary and Middle School) and in choral work, Rick Kvam, Jerry Smith and Diane Toogood.

Jessica has an extensive background in theater, which includes a BFA in Musical Theater from Shenandoah University in Virginia, and over ten years of professional theater experience working both backstage in a variety of capacities (stage manager, director, ASM, etc.) and as a performer, in New York, Virginia, DC, Maryland, Missouri, London (UK), and Minnesota. In addition to working full time as a non-profit administrator for the last nine years, Jessica has continued to work on theater jobs/ projects in her spare time, including in 2011 serving as the Business Manager/ Assistant to Producers for Cardinal Theatricals production of THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW in Minneapolis.

She also blogs, writes short stories under a pen name, draws illustrations for clothing she sells online, designs e-book covers, and tap dances. She lives with her husband in Woodbury, MN.



## 1990 - Flute

**Sandra Tiemans**

I grew up in Rochester, Minnesota and started piano lessons at age 5 with Jan Olson. I later studied the flute privately with Cathy Arhelger and Kathy Ripley. My band directors included Mr. Erickson at Willow Creek Junior High School and Mr. James (Jim) Ripley at Mayo High School. I frequently performed with pianist, Jan Matson, for various competitions in the Rochester area. I also attended various music festivals at Luther College and Saint Olaf College and was a member of the Minnesota All-State Band.

After graduating from Mayo High School in 1990, I graduated cum laude from Lawrence University in 1995 with the Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. I then pursued a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance from the University of North Texas, where I won the 1997 Concerto Competition. I have performed for three National Flute Association conventions and participated in the Texas and Aspen Music Festivals.

I am currently the Piccoloist/3rd Flutist with the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra. I have also performed with the Dayton Philharmonic, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Pueblo Symphony Orchestra. In 1997, I enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed with The Air Force Band of Flight in Dayton, Ohio. In 2000, I became a member of The United States Air Force Academy Band in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where I perform with the Concert Band and Marching Band and serve as the band's Superintendent of Personnel.



## **1979 - Piano**

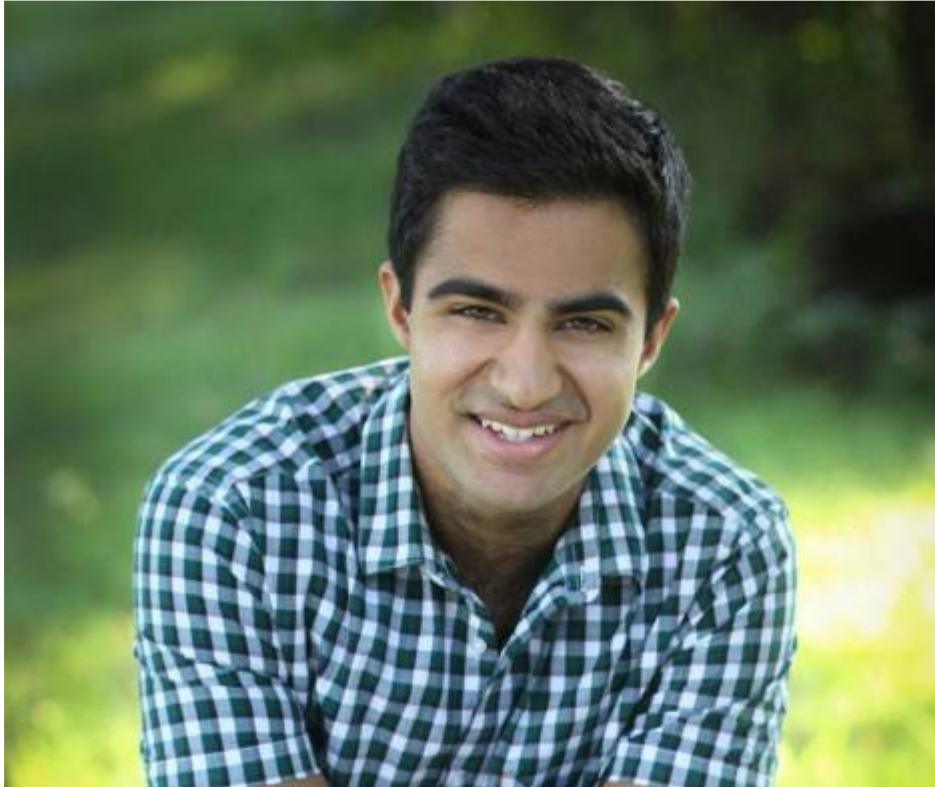
**Dawn "Kate" VanLaningham**

My parents could hardly keep me from the piano when I was only three or four years of age, and finally enrolled me for lessons at the Hoffman Studio when I was five. My teacher soon asked Marguerite Hoffman to instruct me, and I continued my study with her through high school. Along the way, I was involved in numerous piano competitions, and was honored with several awards. Very memorable was the Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition, and the competition at Luther College. Colleen Riley and I became best friends and performed many two-piano pieces in programs and recitals. A memorable experience was performing in a multi-piano concert on the stage of Northrup Auditorium in the Twin Cities.

I did not pursue music in college but rather became, first, a police officer and then a registered nurse. Since receiving my RN degree at the University of Minnesota, I have worked in the Twin Cities in pediatric nursing. I have recently undertaken a role playing keyboard for a blues band, necessitating some new musical skills, but enjoying the challenge.



I am a senior at Mayo High School and I have been playing bassoon for just over three years now! I am very grateful to have been awarded this scholarship and I plan to use it for college tuition at either the University of Wisconsin Madison or the Music Conservatory at Lawrence University. I keep myself busy by playing bassoon with the South Eastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra, volunteering at Mayo Clinic, and serving as President of the International Court of Justice for Model United Nations Minneapolis.



Henry Wang is currently in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Century High School in Rochester, Minnesota. He started learning piano at the age of five. He currently takes piano lessons from Professor Alexander Braginsky at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. The high level environment introduced to Henry by Professor Braginsky has allowed him to improve dramatically over the past three years. From winning local competitions like the Rochester Music Guild Junior and Senior piano competitions to being selected as a competitor in the recent inaugural Midwest International Junior Piano Competition held in Northern Iowa, Henry has garnered numerous accolades at almost all levels of competitions. This past year, Henry has received the first place in the West Central Division of the MTNA Senior Piano national competition and then won the Chopin Prize at the national finals. Most recently, he won the prestigious Schubert Club Senior High Piano 1<sup>st</sup> place award. Not only does Henry play in competitions and concerts, he also plays for the community in venues such as the Gonda building. Currently, he plans to double major in piano and a math or science-related study in college.

Henry is also a stand-out academic student at school and particularly loves math and science. In 2012, Henry 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. Henry also enjoys reading novels and is active in sports, too.





I was a student of Nancy Sheridan of Rochester and Rosie Miller of Zumbrota. Both of them actively encouraged me to take part in the Rochester Music Guild competitions and I won a scholarship in 1988. It was an amazing honor to be recognized as such and I put the money towards my education at the University of St. Thomas.

While at St. Thomas I remained active as a liturgical cantor and as part of the jazz ensemble. After finishing university, I moved to Seattle where I was part of the Seattle Men's Chorus for a number of years. While with the SMC, I even had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York.

I am a commercial photographer now, based in London, England. My spouse is Lee Curry. Although I no longer perform as a singer, I thoroughly enjoy live performances and continue following my passion for the creative world through my photography.





Soprano Karen Ann Baron (née Whidden) 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 studied with voice teacher Nancy Lee Sherden and piano teacher Carol Prescher, and sang with the Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota for many years. In 2006, the Rochester Music Guild awarded her the Carter Douglas Scholarship for her accomplishments in voice and piano. Encouraged by her mentors, Karen continued her education by completing degrees at Brigham Young University and the Chicago College of Performing Arts, both in Voice Performance.

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. Karen's operatic credits include Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, the Queen in *The Princess and the Pea*, and the Second Knave in *The Magic Flute*. She is also a private voice teacher in the Chicagoland area.

Karen and her husband Adam currently reside in Evanston, IL, along with their cat, Jack.



Andrew studied violin with Ms. Georgia Daniel, Ms. Linda Thompson, and Ms. Bee Darn Pang. Since winning the Music Guild competition, he performed on the NPR radio show “From the Top” (2001) and was awarded the David L. Fulton Prize for Orchestral Excellence as a member of the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra (2006). While at the University of Chicago, Andrew also performed with the University of Chicago New Music Ensemble and the University of Chicago Motet Choir. He was selected to perform with the Pacifica Quartet in the “University of Chicago Presents” performance of Handel’s Messiah.

Andrew holds a masters degree in secondary mathematics education from The City College of New York and has completed graduate work in philosophy at the University of Chicago. He currently lives in New York and teaches math at Brooklyn Technical High School. In 2013 he was awarded the Math for America “Master Teacher” fellowship which recognizes leadership and excellence in the field of secondary math education.



I am very grateful for the scholarship support I have received as the 2012 Rochester Music Guild First Place Winner in the Junior Winds Division and the 2013 Second Place Winner in the Senior Winds Division. These awards have helped me pursue my passion for bassoon performance, including my selection as Principal Bassoonist in the National High School Honors Orchestra this year at the Louisville Center for Performing Arts in. The process of preparation for the RMG competitions also contributed to my selection as Principal Bassoonist in the 2013 Minnesota All State Orchestra at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, MN, and in receiving a bassoon trio 2013 Best-In-Site Award at the Minnesota State High School League Ensemble Competition, under the direction of my teacher, Mr. Christopher Jarvis.

Through summer programs such as the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, the Interlochen Arts Academy, and the Advanced Double Reed Institute, I have been fortunate to study under acclaimed bassoonists of the Minnesota Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Baltimore Opera, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. I have been able to expand my musical interests as high school Drum Major, pit orchestra bassoonist, and Jazz Ensemble saxophonist. As a rising high school senior, I look forward to continuing musical involvement in school and the community this coming year and to continuing to pursue my passion for music in college. I very much appreciate all the support that the Rochester Music Guild has provided for my musical endeavors.



## 1989 - Guitar

## Benjamin Woolman

Ben Woolman is an accomplished guitarist, composer, instructor, performer, and has established a place for himself on the long historical line of fine Minnesota-bred guitarists. His music can be heard around the world on cable, Internet, and terrestrial radio outlets in over 50 countries, spanning 6 continents, and among programming for Minnesota and National Public Radio. He has been a guest columnist for Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine and Guitar Teacher Magazine, a featured artist in Akustik Gitarre Magazine - the premier European acoustic music magazine, and a contributing instructor for the DVD series, Acoustic Guitar Licks Goldmine, released by Hal Leonard Corporation - the world's largest music print publisher. His compositions have been included in various film soundtracks and he has 10 recordings - solo and compilations - credited to date, which have received numerous accolades, including favorable reviews from the leading acoustic music publications: Acoustic Guitar Magazine and Vintage Guitar Magazine.

Woolman is an active board member of the Minnesota Guitar Society and holds a BFA in Guitar Performance, with honors, from the University of Wisconsin/Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Cooperative Guitar Program, Milwaukee, WI. Regarded as an engaging and inspiring performer, Ben has over 15 years' experience traveling the US showcasing his distinctive concert programming. Like his recordings, his concerts are a cosmopolitan blend of original compositions and arrangements spanning a wide range of repertoire from the 1920s to the present century. They are both a nod to the history, as well as a contemporary representation, of fingerstyle guitar. In addition to his solo work, he performs with the instrumental duo, New Roots Duo, whose debut CD, Roots Run Deep, was voted best local folk/roots album of the year by Mpls St Paul Magazine. Woolman lives in St. Paul, MN where he works as a performer, composer, teacher and writer. -- from the webpage <http://www.benwoolman.net>.



Senior Katie Wright is the daughter of Dr. Scott and Mrs. Jann Wright. Katie has sung in choir all her years at Schaeffer Academy, takes private voice lessons, and has performed in major musical roles in *The Sound of Music* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at Schaeffer. She's an instrumentalist as well, playing French horn and piano, and participating in the Academy and jazz bands. She won first place in the Rochester Music Guild competition in 10th grade and also won ensemble awards in the MSHSL competitions.

In addition to her musical pursuits she is learning German, having lived with a host family in Germany for part of the summer; she has also acted in school plays, served on Student Council since 9th grade, and worked on the school newspaper for 2 years. Katie is attending the University of Puget Sound, majoring in International Business and German with a music minor.



**1968, 1970 - String**

**Maynard Yost**

I received scholarships from the Rochester Music Guild in both 1968 and 1970 to attend summer music programs. I still look back on those experiences with fond memories. I pursued music professionally for a while after undergraduate school but then earned an MBA and have spent the bulk of my career in the non-profit sector managing funding for global health projects. After living and working in NYC for 30+ years, I am now self employed as a consultant and living on a farm in Vermont. A friend dared me to audition for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra chorus and I have been singing with them for the past seven years. I was even challenged to accompany them on the piano last spring. It was fun reviving those muscles - fingers and mind!



Jadelynn Zhang will be a sophomore at Mayo High School this coming fall. She enjoys learning and making music as well as performing. Starting piano at age 5, she has since earned multiple piano competition awards. She currently works with Ms. Sue Leonard and has been her student for four years.

When asked how she has been impacted by Rochester Music Guild competitions, she says, "Participating in the Rochester Music Guild Competition has given me the opportunity to see my full potential and test what I am capable of. In addition, I was able to get feedback on my playing to further improve my skills."

Aside from piano, Jadelynn enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, and playing the guitar for fun.

