Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Fall 2017

Q&A with Alex Hargreaves

Our October resident artist has a chat with Jessica Lambert. More details about the residency on the back page.

WHAT FORMAL MUSIC TRAINING HAVE YOU HAD?

I took classical violin lessons on a weekly basis growing up, with Jessica Lambert being my final teacher before going off to college. My training in jazz and fiddle styles came more from summer workshops, and occasional intensive lessons with teachers that I would seek out. I attended the Berklee College of Music where I received an artist diploma in jazz performance.

WHICH MUSIC ARTISTS INSPIRE/INFLUENCE YOUR MUSIC AND WHY?

It's extremely difficult to narrow it down, and it probably partially depends on what day you ask me, but I'll try my best! John Coltrane is definitely high up on the list. He transcends any sort of conventional musical boundaries that exist, and plays with an emotional rawness that is so direct and powerful. Another one of my favorites is Miles Davis, a true improvisational genius who was always evolving, both as a musician and as a band leader. Bill Monroe (the father of bluegrass) was a similar type of musical visionary in that sense. None of these artists are violinists obviously, but have all had a profound influence on me, not only because of the beautiful art they've created, but also due to the musical aesthetics they developed that are now an integral part of all American music.

On more of a violinistic level, Billy Contreras, Stuart Duncan and Darol Anger have all greatly inspired me. They have been so generous with their time and knowledge, and are all incredibly innovative improvisers and fiddlers. **Turn to *Q&A*, page 2**

Amici to Honor Black History Month

Our February concert profiling eminent black composers includes a sonata for violin and piano by Chevalier de Saint-George. A decade older than Mozart, he was born Joseph Bologne, the illegitimate son of a French plantation owner and an African slave. By all reports his father loved his son and brought him, with his mother, to France where he received a superb education. Bologne became a celebrity as a master swordsman, guard in King Louis XV's protection detail, violinist, and composer. In later life he fought on the side of the revolution as the colonel of Europe's first all-black regiment. An active abolitionist, Saint-George worked with groups in England and France to abolish slavery and fought off an assassination attempt linked to his work for abolitionism. If you would like to read more about this incredible figure, here are two recent biographies of Saint-George: "The Black Mozart: Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges" by Walter E. Smith and "Monsieur de Saint-George: Virtuoso, Swordsman, Revolutionary: A Legendary Life Rediscovered" by Alain Guédé.

Amici Musicians

Jessica Lambert
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman*
Victor Steinhardt

**Founding Artistic Director Emeritus*

Thanks, Pilar,
Thank you for 8 years of leadership and exquisite musicianship. We look forward to paying with you in December and June, and in years to come!

Board of Directors

Sue Keene
Co-President
Sharon Schuman
Co-President
Georgette Silber
Treasurer
Amy Danziger
Secretary
Don Hirst
Jessica Lambert
Kathy Lieberman
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Laurel Ross
Victor Steinhardt

Staff

Jessica Lambert
Artistic Director
Loi Heldt
Executive Director
David Meredith
Development Director

Lillie Manis joins Amici

You already know her from guest appearances with Amici, the latest being last February's concert Tango & More. Now she has joined Amici as a core musician! Her first concert in this capacity is this October.

"It is wonderful to have Lillie joining the group," said violinist Pilar Bradshaw, who now moves to the role of frequent guest musician. *"Her playing is exceptional, and her demonstrated skill at working with young students adds tremendously to Amici's capacity for educational outreach in the community."*

"I've known Lillie for years. She is a jewel among local musicians, having grown up in Eugene, performing in the Eugene/Springfield Youth Orchestras before additional training at the Hartt School of the University of Hartford and Columbia University in New York City where she is pursuing a doctoral degree."

Lillie is nationally recognized for her work as a Suzuki educator, and maintains a studio of violin and viola students of age three through college. In the first decade of her teaching career, her string pedagogy graduate students have won college-level teaching appointments and full-time positions at highly regarded community music schools; her pre-college students have won competitions and scholarships to competitive summer music programs and have been selected for masterclasses with internationally recognized artists.

Q&A (continued)

Do you have a favorite composer? Why is he/she your favorite?

Because I'm such a fan of many genres of music, I don't think I could pick one favorite composer. Offhand, I love Brahms and his incredible approach to harmony. I also really like Bartok for his harmonic and rhythmic inventiveness as well as his effortless melding of classical music with various folk styles. And then there's Bach… enough said.

Edgar Meyer, Bela Fleck and Chris Thile also come to mind. They each have very unique compositional styles that combine a classical sensibility with bluegrass, jazz and other contemporary music. They also happen to be virtuosos who have reinvented the way their respective instruments are played.

I also love The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Radiohead, Talking Heads, Thelonius Monk and Stevie Wonder, to name a few.

At what age did you start playing violin? How did you get started playing?

I got my first violin when I was three years old. My parents are both music lovers, and I think they just wanted to provide me with a creative musical outlet. After just messing around on it for a while, I started taking lessons with a Suzuki violin teacher as well as a fiddle teacher when I was four.

Please tell us about your violin.

I play a Jonathan Cooper violin. He's a contemporary maker based out of Portland, Maine. I've had it for over ten years now and couldn't be happier with it.

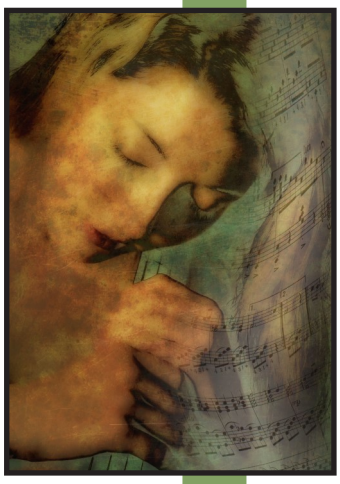
(Jessica's complete interview with Alex will be included in the concert program.)

Chamber Music Amici

The Folk in Classical

Sunday, October 22, 3:00 PM
Monday, October 23, 7:30 PM

Mark O'Connor String Quartet No. 3 **Chick Corea** No Mystery
Balakrishnan Alex in A Major & Spider Dreams **Wilson** Hungarian Folk Songs
Guest Alex Hargreaves, Violin



Bach in the Family

Monday, December 11, 7:30 PM

JS Bach Trio Sonata in G Major
JS Bach Violin Sonata in E Minor
WF Bach Trio Sonata in B-flat Major
CPE Bach Quartet in A Minor
JC Bach Quartet B-flat Major
Guests Molly Barth, Flute; Pilar Bradshaw, Violin; Julia Brown, Harpsichord

Amici Celebrates Black History Month

Monday, February 12, 7:30 PM – The Shedd Institute

William Grant Still Lyric Quartette
Chevalier de Saint-George Sonata in A Major for Violin & Piano
Jonathan Bailey Holland String Quartet No. 2 "Forged Sanctuaries"
Guest Kathryn Brunhaver, Cello

No Strings Attached

Monday, April 9, 7:30 PM

Mozart Quintet E-flat Major for Piano, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn & Bassoon
Poulenc Trio for Piano, Oboe & Bassoon
Svoboda Summer Trio for Oboe, Clarinet & Bassoon
Guests Michael Anderson, Clarinet; Melissa Peña, Oboe; Steve Vacchi, Bassoon; Lydia Van Dreel, French Horn

Brahms on Vacation

Sunday, June 3, 3:00 PM ♦ Monday, June 4, 7:30 PM

Brahms Piano Trio in C Minor and Sextet No. 2
Guest Pilar Bradshaw, Violin; Arnaud Ghillebaert, Viola

SEASON AND SINGLE TICKETS AVAILABLE 541.953.9204, CHAMBERMUSICAMICI.ORG

Art Reception — February 10, 11:00 AM, Emerald Art Center

Season Art Sponsor Linda and John Van Peenen

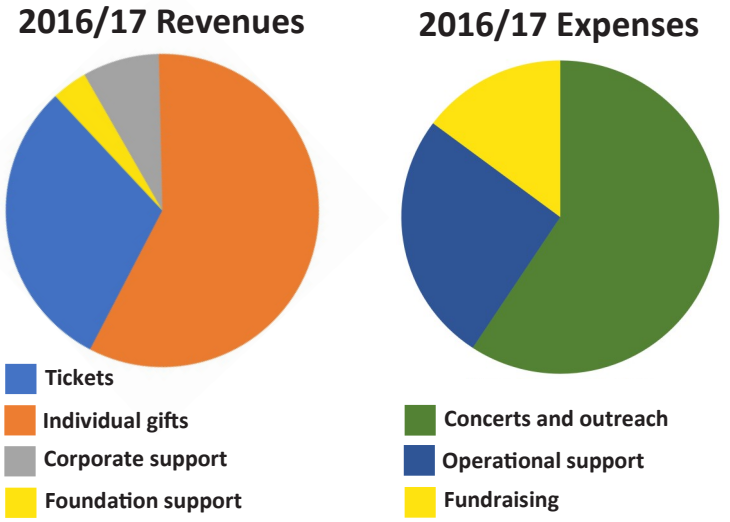
Art (top to bottom right): *Sonata*, Terry McIlrath; *Serafina's Secret*, Paula Goodbar; *Chamber Music Abstract I*, Renee Manford; *Piano by the Window*, Terry McIlrath; *Landscape*, Kate Bollons

Cottage Grove Home Concert

Join Amici and guests
Sunday, June 3, 3:00 PM
Brahms on Vacation
Tickets: 541.953.9204

Thank You, Patrons!

Thank you, patrons, for supporting Amici! Your ticket purchases, contributions and sponsorships (not to mention enthusiasm) set the stage. Combined, these revenue sources brought in the $136,171 that paid for the last season's five concert cycles as well as educational and community outreach activities. Amici's 9th season begins with two concerts in October, Sunday, October 22 (3:00 PM) and Monday, Oct. 23 (7:30 PM). Please renew your support today!



Season Supporters

Season-long recognition goes to firms that sign on as Season Supporter. When you visit them, please let them know you appreciate their support of chamber music! There are still a few opportunities available for your business or a business you patronize to be a sponsor this season. for details contact development director, David Meredith at dmeredith@chambermusicamici.org.

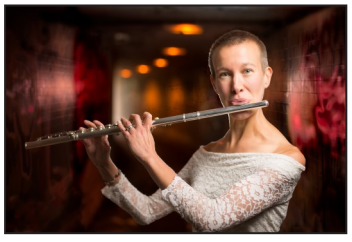
Cascade Manor · Classic Pianos — A Passion for Pianos · Melinda Handy Certified Public Accountant · Rainbow Valley Design and Construction · Isler CPA Certified Public Accountants & Business Advisors

A Wide Array of Guest Musicians

This year's varied musical offerings are made possible by fabulous guest musicians who add their unique gifts to the Amici stage. Please take a moment to thank guest musicians after the concert. And, starting this season, you can support a guest of your choice with a sponsorship. Please call the Amici office to learn the details.

By the way, a gift of any amount puts you among the "Friends of Alex" whose residency is made possible by sponsors and donors.

In the case of special guest Alex Hargreaves, the public is also invited to welcome him to town on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Bier Stein (across from the Amici office at 1590 Willamette Street) starting at 5:00 PM.



Allan Vogel with UO professor Melissa Peña and **masterclass students, June 2017**

"A Gift to Oboists"

"For all the many oboe pieces I've known in my career, I had never heard of this one, until Jessica proposed we play it. Her bringing it to light is a gift to those of us who play oboe!" said Allan Vogel of the Piano Quintet in F Major, written by Theodore Dubois in 1905.

Though written steadfastly in the French Romantic tradition at a time Impressionism was on the rise, it nonetheless contains an unorthodox surprise: the oboe is given the role traditionally assigned to a second violin (with a viola and cello filling out the quintet).

Vogel and Janice Tipton were here in June for a week-long residency made possible by generous sponsors including the many "Friends of Janice and Allan."

School Visits by Janice and Allan

During last June's residency week, visiting artists Janice Tipton and Allan Vogel travelled to Cottage Grove and Springfield to work with music classes. Band students from Gabe Dickinson's class at Cottage Grove High School, Joanna Newton's class at Lincoln Middle School, and Tim Vian's class at Thurston High School benefitted from their enthusiastic and thoughtful workshops.

The most frequent questions had to do with the dynamics of breathing (does this sound familiar to everyone who played a wind instrument in school?) yet students were also eager to learn about rehearsal and performance strategies, styles of music, and the lifestyle of itinerant musicians.

High School workshop with Allan and Janice

Rising Stars at Jessica's Summer Workshop

Jessica is also the artistic director of the Oregon State University Summer Chamber Music Program. Quite a mouthful! The Workshop is a two-week, intensive chamber music program held at Ashbrook Independent School in Corvallis and on the OSU campus. In its fifth year, with 15+ faculty and approximately 85 students each year, the Workshop is rapidly becoming recognized as a magnet for excellent youth chamber music in the Northwest and beyond.

Says Jessica, *"In a typical week we have 40-some string players in 8 ensembles and this year we added pianists for 5 piano trios as well. We have a splendid group of students toting violins, violas, and cellos and a lot of energy. Kids practice 4 to 6 hours a day, attend masterclasses, seminars, and private lessons. We also play a lot of ping-pong! Ashbrook during the day is an incredible place. From one room I listen to youngsters playing a Haydn minuet. Around the corner is a Mozart quartet and beyond that is Ravel and Brahms and the Russian corner playing Glazunov and Shostakovich. And I love it all! I walk through the Workshop halls, inspired and uplifted, knowing the future of chamber music is alive and flourishing!"*

Tickets
www.chambermusicamici.org
541.953.9204

Chamber Music Amici

PO Box 50824
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Non-Profit
US Postage **PAID**
Eugene, OR
Permit No. 325

Concert Sponsor
WILDISH

WILDISH
COMMUNITY THEATER
Resident Company

Alex Hargreaves in Town for Week-long Residency, Concerts Oct. 22 & 23

Newest member of the world renowned, Grammy award-winning, Turtle Island Quartet, Alex Hargreaves is an innovative, cross-genre violinist described as “one of the greatest improvising violinists in America today” by virtuoso mandolinist/composer Mike Marshall, and “the best young jazz violinist in America” by Matt Glaser, artistic director of Berklee College of Music, American Roots Program.

Since 2008, Alex has been performing regularly on stages around the world, including Austin City Limits, Panama Jazz Festival, A Prairie Home Companion, Grand Ole Opry, Cambridge (UK) Folk Festival, Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals, Bonnaroo, Telluride Bluegrass Festival, as well as in France, Italy, Spain, and South Korea. He joined the Turtle Island Quartet in 2016.

Alex’s week in Eugene includes a UO masterclass, several performances at schools, a retirement center and a social service agency, concluding with concerts at the Wildish Theater on October 22 and 23.

Please welcome Alex to town Tuesday, October 17 at a free meet-and-greet at the Bier Stein (1591 Willamette Street in Eugene) from 5:00 until 6:00 PM. For concert tickets call 541.953.9204.

Alex Hargreaves grew up in Corvallis, where he studied under Amici’s Jessica Lambert.

Creating Community Through Great Music