Chamber Music
Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Fall 2019

Bach, Handel and Telemann

"We are delighted to share with you a concert celebrating the wonderful friendships Telemann enjoyed with Handel and Bach, friendships that spanned decades and hundreds of miles. I like to imagine the excitement in the household when a letter arrived from a distant friend, read aloud by candlelight and talked about over dinner!" So wrote Jessica Lambert in the program for Oct. 7th.

"I call them the class of '85, meaning 1685 of course, though, of the three, Telemann was actually born four years sooner," is how Margret Gries began her preconcert talk at the Wildish Theater. *"I am so pleased that Telemann is being recognized tonight as an equal of Bach and Handel. It was not always this way. Years ago, when I proposed Telleman as the subject of my doctoral dissertation, the music department said I would not be allowed to pick such a minor composer. So instead I switched to philosophy and wrote about Descartes."*

The philosophy of music performance, not Descartes, was the thing on her mind in October. As she explained to the preconcert audience, harpsichord players have at hand a tool that piano players do not: given the unequally tempered pitches across the keyboard, the performer can choose among different ways to play something—each of which produces a distinct mood in the listener resulting from the particular dissonance between the chosen harpsichord strings and the pitch that would emanate from a "perfectly tempered" instrument.

Weeks of activity led up to this Wildish Theater performance.

First, the musicians took a look at the music. Says Jessica Lambert, *"The process of preparing new music for a concert is probably slightly different for everyone. My habit is to play through it a couple of times before making any decisions on fingerings and bowings, then I start listening more closely to my own playing, perhaps listen to a couple of recordings, and only then get down to real business."*

Second, starting September 29, the musicians began gathering for rehearsals.

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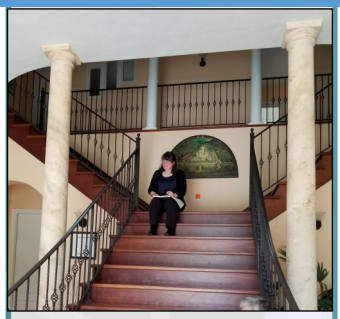
Concert Sponsor
WILDISH

Phots at left (top to bottom): Amici reception; dress rehearsal, Wildish Theater; home rehearsal; pre-concert talk, with guest musician Margret Gries; Amici education outreach at Two Rivers—Dos Rios Elementary School.



Amici Musicians

Jessica Lambert
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman*

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Third, they begin to perform the works in public. The inaugural audience consisted of students of Two Rivers—Dos Rios Elementary school in Springfield, several classrooms at a time, who heard Amici play Bach's Harpsichord Concerto #3. Teacher Amy Danziger had been preparing students for this event for weeks, having taught them some words that fit each movement's opening measures. So, before the first movement "Allegro" they sang the following to the identical tune:

What a day! What a day, what a day, oh gosh what a day.
I will hug my dog and put my helmet on
and then I'll grab my bike and I'll
pedal pedal pedal pedal pedal 'til I'm sore, and then I'll
pedal pedal pedal pedal pedal even more ...

The following afternoon, Amici travelled to the Cascade Manor Auditorium. As residents and guests entered, David Meredith reminded them that Amici had been there to perform every single one of their concerts, starting from the very first in June 2009! Afterward, everyone gathered for refreshments and conversation—just as Amici does following every performance at Wildish Theater.

The next evening, there was one last rehearsal so that guest musicians and core players alike could adjust to the acoustics of the Wildish Theater itself. The result was a Monday evening performance that brought forth a standing ovation from a full house. Bravo!

Photos above (clockwise): Cascade Manor concert; home rehearsal; dress rehearsal, Wildish Theater; education outreach at Two Rivers—Dos Rios Elementary School.

Chamber Music Party

"When we musicians want to relax and have fun, we throw a party where everyone brings the group a favorite tune or two to play together." That's how Jessica explained it to Amici board members when inviting them to attend the Oct. 27th party. There would be room, she said, for parents and a few guests to come and eavesdrop on several professional musicians and eleven student musicians.

This idea of introducing young musicians to the time-honored custom of music parties came up last season. Once a place and time were identified, Amici musicians and teachers reached out to young local musicians with an invitation.

Responding were Emma Clarke, Bethel Hsu, Hiram Hsu, Solomon Hsu, Mary McCoy, Owen McCoy, Amelie Phillips-Meadow, Sophia Phillips-Meadow, Nina Vivek, Sabine Voelker and Hinoki Weitzel.

Come the evening of the 27th, the musicians in various small groupings were ready to share the following with each other: Bruch's Piano Quintet, Beethoven's Quartet Op. 18/1, Haydn's Piano Trio #1, Mozart's Quartet K458, Haydn's String Quartet in G Major, Mendelssohn's Quartet in E-flat Major and Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

"I'm pleased this turned out to be so popular. It's a good thing I was able to borrow so many chairs from the neighbors!" said Kathy Lieberman, who had lent her home (and Yamaha piano) to the event.

Between the tunes each chose to play, students mingled with guests having refreshments in nearby rooms. Yet at the close of the evening everyone convened in and near the living room for Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. *"I just love playing with friends,"* was Emma Clarke's summary.

The Next Generation by Jessica Lambert

I am so excited to tell you about our Next Generation concert, when we feature six superb teenage musicians performing with Amici professionals. I have wanted to do this for four years and I'm thrilled that this is the season it happens!

An opportunity like this can be a transformative experience for a young musician, affirming their devotion to music and leading to a lifelong passion. We will present a program of two deeply Romantic works: Brahms' Sextet No. 1 and Dvorak's Piano Quintet No. 2 – just the kind of music I absolutely adored playing at that age. I am so happy that Pilar Bradshaw is joining us on this concert for the Brahms Sextet, making this occasion all the more meaningful to Amici.

Our young musicians include three students from Corvallis and three from Eugene. All of them have clearly shown a steadfast commitment to artistic excellence and perform with energy and expressiveness. I think you will be delighted to hear them and see that chamber music is thriving in this next generation.

April 13, 2020: The Rooster and the Fox

by Sharon Schuman and Colin Pip Dixon

A mediaeval illumination of *Renart et Noiret*, unknown

Our April 13 concert will feature original chamber music by Colin Pip Dixon, commissioned by Chamber Music Amici. This work for piano, string quartet, and bassoon, will include narration of an original translation by Sharon Schuman of "The Nun's Priest's Tale," the only beast fable among Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

"The Rooster and the Fox" is about the near-death experience of Chaunticleer, a courtly rooster; the admonitions of Pertelote, his wife and amateur psychologist; and the efforts of a sly fox to trap and eat chicken for dinner. Amici's performance will combine chamber music with the words of this tale.

Dixon was chosen to create the music, because, as Artistic Director of The Elsewhere Ensemble, he specializes in composing music intertwined with literature in performance. He has composed pieces based on Chekhov stories and the works of Oscar Wilde, for performances in Paris, New York, and Beirut. Our narrator for "The Rooster and the Fox" will be Dixon's father, MacIntyre Dixon, an actor based in New York City, who has spent his career on Broadway, in movies and on television.

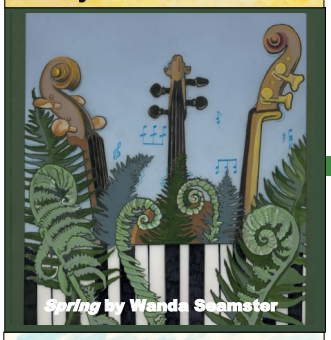
This project gives core violinist Sharon Schuman, who taught Chaucer for decades, an opportunity to bring together two diverse strands of her career: music and literature. She explains, "This tale is full of humor, drama, insight, and love. I made as literal a translation as I could, excerpting highlights. Presenting it with music that reinterprets it for the 21st century will be a joy."

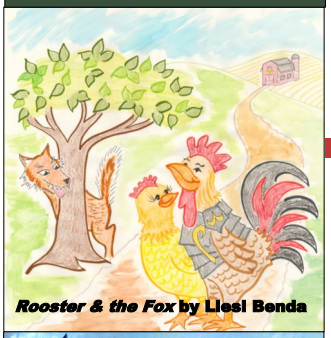
According to Dixon, "This project presents an opportunity to learn more about Chaucer's tale and its context, in which very different people compete to tell the best story they can, as they make their way on foot from London to Canterbury. I hear them walking along, joined first by the piano, then the bassoon and strings. I want it to be magical. The fable, on the surface, has a childlike quality, but at its core there is nothing childish about it. I wanted the music to be infused with a childlike sense of fun and wonder, yet enriched by layers of sophistication and humor. It is extraordinary that after 600 years, the *Canterbury Tales* is still with us. This beast fable reaches forward to us today, and the music I am writing reaches back towards Chaucer's time, hopefully creating a unique experience that is uniquely ours."

"The Rooster and the Fox" was inspired in part by Amici's performances of Peter Schickele's "The Emperor's New Clothes," a reinterpretation of Hans Christian Anderson's original tale. Over 2,000 children from grade schools in Springfield, Eugene, and Cottage Grove were bussed to the Wildish Theater to enjoy the original choreography we commissioned from The Eugene Ballet. Today, teachers all over the world can use our free video and curriculum.

Colin Pip Dixon, composer/violin

This time around, we decided to commission original music created for the words that are being narrated, and to make this composition part of a regular Amici concert. We hope you look forward as much as we do to creating a dialogue between one of the great authors of English Literature and a composer who refracts that literature through the lens of his own contemporary mind.





Chamber Music Amici

2019/2020 Concert Line-up

Beethoven 2020—Monday, December 16, 7:30 PM

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Trio No. 2 in G Major, Op. 1 No. 2
Robert Schumann Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44

GUESTS Eunhye Grace Choi **piano,** Jason Duckles **cello,** Anthea Kreston **violin**

Robert Schumann: "Nature would burst should she attempt to produce nothing save Beethovens."

Around the World—Monday, February 3, 7:30 PM

Alexander Glazunov Five Novelettes for String Quartet
Arthur Foote Nocturne and Scherzo for Flute and String Quartet
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Flute Quartet No. 1 in D Major K. 285
Alberto Ginastera "Impresiones de la Puna"

GUESTS Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington **flute,** Victoria Wolfe **cello**

Schumann: "Does it not seem as if Mozart's works become fresher and fresher the oftener we hear them?"

Next Generation—Sunday, March 8, 3:00 PM

Johannes Brahms Sextet No. 1 in in B-flat Major, Op. 18
Antonín Dvorak Piano Quintet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 87

GUESTS Pilar Bradshaw **violin,** Julia Daniels **viola,** Michael Gu **piano,**
Adrian Hsieh **cello,** Avery Hsieh **violin,** Sarah Rosier **cello,** Katie Siegfried **viola**

Dvorak: "Mozart is sunshine."

Chaucer and Dohnanyi—Monday, April 13, 7:30 PM

Ernst von Dohnanyi Piano Quintet No. 2 in E-flat Minor, Op. 26
Chaucer Project

GUESTS Hung-Yun Chu **piano,** MacIntyre Dixon **narrator,**
Arnaud Ghillebaert **viola,** Hal Grossman **violin**

Peter van de Graaff: When there is something stressful or discordant in my life, I most often find myself turning to chamber music for solace.

Sparkling Jewels—Monday, June 8, 7:30 PM

Darius Milhaud Suite Op. 157b for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano
Robert Schumann Piano Quintet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 87
Victor Steinhardt Running Blue for Clarinet, Violin and Piano

GUESTS Wonkak Kim **clarinet,** Eunhye Grace Choi **piano**

TICKETS
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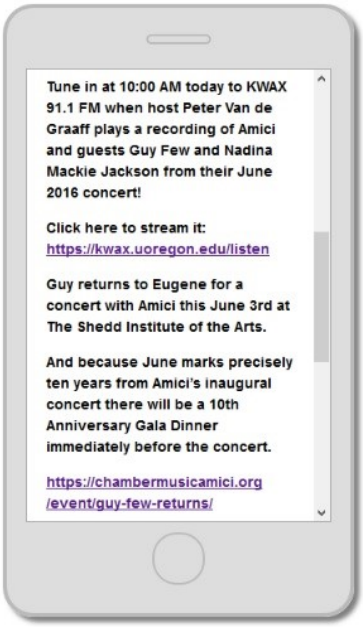
Keeping in Touch with Amici



It's easy to stay in touch with Amici all season long with updates:

- **Email blasts**
- **Musician Blogs**
- **Facebook/Instagram**
- **Amici website**

That way, you'll know when radio interviews or coverage has been scheduled (upper left).

Concert reminders and videos can be at your fingertips (upper right).

You'll see musician postings on our website, a new feature (lower right).

Take Amici Survey, Get a Free Ticket

Visit our website between now and December 31, complete our patron survey and receive a voucher for a ticket to any concert this season! Go to chambermusicamici.org, and click on the "Take our Survey" link. Amici wants to know how you came to Amici and more! Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and we will send you a voucher good for a ticket.

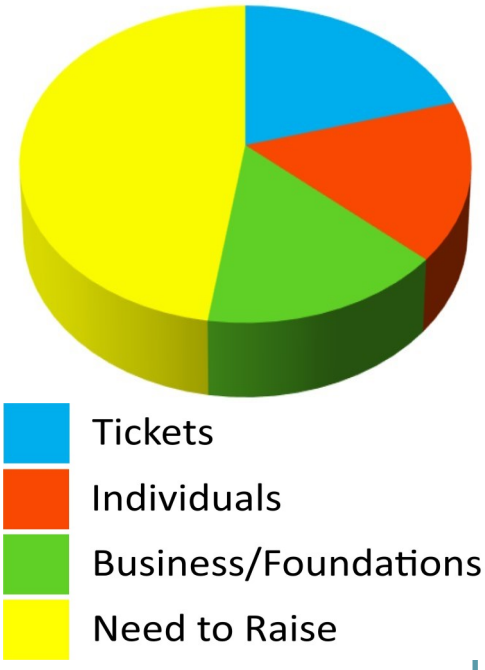
Call to Artists: Submissions Due January 10

Join us Friday, February 14 for our annual art contest reception at the Emerald Art Center in Springfield.

As part of the City of Springfield's Second Friday Art Walk Amici will host a reception and provide live chamber music beginning at 5:30 PM.

“If Music Be The Food of Love, Play On...”

by David Meredith



To me, music is the food of love and life alike. That’s why most of my annual charitable giving goes to music organizations. Chamber Music Amici is on my list, as it is for 100% of Amici’s musicians and board members. We are glad to count ourselves among the 387 homes and businesses that contributed and bought tickets last season.

During our 2018-2019 season, Amici collected ticket revenue of $43,867 toward annual expenses of $155,355. The remainder came from gifts, grants and sponsorships. It is this extra support that brings Amici to the Wildish Theater stage and then sends our musicians beyond the concert hall to play in schools and the community ... at no charge.

Please renew your support soon, because we have high hopes for this year. We return to Head Start centers (where Sharon Schuman leads preschoolers in chanting “Today I played the violin! Today I played the violin!”) and schools and youth orchestras where musicians of the next generation are already playing.

As of September 30, we stood at 48% of revenue needed to raise for the season.

You can give online at www.chambermusicamici.org. You can give by check. You can even send a check, directing us to set up monthly deductions.

If you can consider it, please make a pledge of any term and amount (call us for the form). For supporting Amici through a bequest or other planned gift, consult your trusted advisors—we can supply any needed documentation.

Play on, Amici!

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 David Meredith at *dmeredith@chambermusicamici.org*.

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Monday, December 16, 2019—7:30 PM

Beethoven 2020

We are very excited to present our December concert with Amici's new core member, pianist Eunhye Grace Choi and guests Anthea Kreston and Jason Duckles for a concert of Beethoven and Schumann on December 16 in the Wildish Theater in Springfield.

The choice of Beethoven is clear: our concert marks the global inauguration of the celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday! His piano trio in G Major dates from 1795, first performed at a private home with Beethoven himself at the piano. Our choice of Schumann pairs splendidly with Beethoven. Schumann revered Beethoven and, like many composers, felt he lived and worked in Beethoven's titanic shadow. In the case of his piano quintet, Schumann created a monumental shadow himself, inspiring countless musicians with this quintessentially Romantic work.

Tickets at chambermusicamici.org or 541.953.9204

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