Encore
Kris Stewart

Prelude
Christopher Pontrelli

Piano by window
Terry McIlrath

Yellow Music Room
Thomas McKnight

Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Spring 2018

Exciting Collaborations Coming Up

Guy Few

We are thrilled to be celebrating Amici's tenth anniversary next season. We begin in the Wildish Theater, our home, by collaborating with the Delgani String Quartet to perform the Mendelssohn Octet. That concert also includes Arensky's String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, with Pilar Bradshaw returning on violin.

Other concerts include one devoted to female composers, including Jennifer Higdon (Piano Trio,) Amy Beach (Piano Trio in A Minor), and Fanny Mendelssohn (String Quartet in E-flat Major), with guest pianist Grace Choi. We will also focus on works by opera composers, highlighting Verdi's String Quartet in E Minor and Mozart's Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, with pianist Grace Ho. Another concert will feature Haydn's Quartet Op. 20, No. 2, as well the Bruch Piano Quintet in G Minor, with guest pianist Hung-Yun Chu. At the end of the season, we will celebrate our 10th Anniversary with trumpet virtuoso Guy Few at The Shedd Institute for the Arts .

Art for our 10th Season

***Summers' Duet*, Dan Chen**

Amici loves featuring great art in our programs and printed materials. We wanted to do something special for our 10 Anniversary Season, so instead of holding a contest to select five new winners, as we usually do, or featuring a single artist for a whole season, as we did in 2009-10 and 2016-17, we asked you to vote for art you loved from previous seasons.

Many of you participated in this process and selected Terry McIlrath's "Piano by Window" from this season, Dan Chen's "Summer's Duet" from last season, as well as Christopher Pontrelli's "Prelude" and Kris Stewart's "Encore," both from season 4. For our 10th Anniversary Concert in June, 2019, featuring trumpeter Guy Few, *we* chose Thomas McKnight's "The Yellow Music Room," the image that appeared on posters for our very first Inaugural concert in June, 2009.

We are extremely grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with wonderful artists over ten years.

Amici Core Musicians

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Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman**
Victor Steinhardt

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**Founding Artistic Director Emeritus

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Email
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Brahms on Vacation in Cottage Grove and Springfield

Sunday, June 3, 3:00 PM and Monday, June 4, 7:30 PM.

On Sunday, June 3, we present this concert in the intimate setting of Steve and Vera Kilston's *Italian Villa* outside of Cottage Grove. Tickets are $25 and include dessert and other nibbles after the concert. Before the concert explore the lake, the adult seesaw, or the Google satellite display. Reserve your place by calling 541.953.9204.

On June 4, at Wildish Community Theater, this concert features Brahms' Sextet No. 2, composed in 1865, and his Piano Trio in C Minor Op. 101, composed in the summer of 1886.

Guest musicians include Eric Alterman on cello, Alexandre Dossin on piano, Fritz Gearhart on violin and Arnaud Ghillebaert on viola.

Alex Hargreaves Residency a Big Hit in Schools

"The tune we just played is called 'Alex in A Major,' and I like to think I'm the person it was written for—but I'm not. Alex was a little boy who was the composer's neighbor." So said Alex Hargreaves to the hundreds of students at Riverbend Elementary School in Springfield. Before his October visit, they had composed words to fit the tune, which they sang for him.

Alex created musical conversations at several schools, including South Eugene High where he held an improvisation workshop for instrumentalists and singers.

At River Road Elementary / El Camino del Rio, students played marimba and percussion to back up a duet played by Alex and teacher David Adee.

Later in the season, the Yule Ball at Ophelia's Place was a daughter/parent event featuring dancing to music by a quartet of Amici musicians, in costume as characters from Harry Potter. If you would like to join in on one of these educational events next season, call David Meredith at 541.953.9204.

Alex playing with music teacher David Adee, River Road/El Camino Del Rio Elem.

Alex working with South Eugene high school orchestra.

Sempre Amici, Victor!

Founding Core Pianist Victor Steinhardt played his final concert with Amici this season.

"When one thinks of Victor Steinhardt, it is hard not to focus on his lifetime of achievement—a nationally and internationally celebrated pianist, not to mention a creative composer. But, there is another Victor Steinhardt who has been particularly memorable to us—the quiet, patient man with a droll sense of humor and endless compassion, particularly for the very young. Our fondest memories of Victor are from the early days when his own little daughter played the violin and he accompanied her and the other fledgling string players as they struggled to perform 'Song of the Wind,' or perhaps 'Long, Long Ago' on the daunting stage of Beall Hall. Victor vanquished tears, he comforted the 'forgetters,' he constructed novel pianistic closings for the little ones who were baffled by repeats or simply crash-landed. His warm smile provided the encouragement to proceed, and the nod of his head heralded the start of a new theme or tempo. He even tied the occasional shoe lace and tucked in the random shirt tail. It was through these simple acts of kindness that we discovered the depth of this extraordinary human being. It has been a true privilege to sponsor Victor throughout his tenure as a Founding Member of Amici."

Chris Holzapfel and Bill Bradshaw

Trio Pacifica : Steven Pologe, Kathryn Lucktenberg and Victor Steinhardt, late 1990's

"Before we ever thought about starting Chamber Music Amici, Victor mentioned to me one day that he was retiring from UO and interested in playing more chamber music, if I knew any opportunities. When Pilar and I decided to start Amici, Victor was the first person we reached out to. One of the first things he said was, "We will always have guest musicians, right?" That one idea was probably more crucial to Amici's identity than any other idea we had. Thanks, Victor!"

Sharon Schuman

"Victor played with me in my first public performance at Beall Hall when I was five years old. As I continued to take the repeat over and over in the Lully Gavotte, he finally decided to put me out of my misery and hit a huge final chord and whispered "bow now!" I was so grateful. Victor also played with me in my senior degree recital in college, making the Franck Sonata my perennial favorite. The chance to play with him as a grown up in Amici has been a true joy and privilege."

Pilar Bradshaw

Amici Summer Plans

Loi Heldt

I am going to enjoy relaxing on the bike path as well as taking to local trails for hikes. We will be visiting with family, who will be here from Minnesota; Bruce's mom is 94 and still fit to do some traveling. I would like to visit Atlanta for the first time and see our daughter, Tory in her new digs. Oh, and then there is all that fabric, just waiting to be re-worked into new creations....

Jessica Lambert

I am looking forward to playing in the Chintimini Chamber Music Festival in June and will spend most of July at my program here in Corvallis, the Summer Chamber Music Workshop. August vacation plans include some time out in Frenshglen, practicing in the mornings and hiking on Steens Mountain in the afternoons. Probably more practice in evenings because the Mendelssohn Octet and Bernstein Serenade will be looming over me by then!

David Meredith

Off to the woods, again! An hour here, a day there, then in first half of August a week in the High Sierra of California with my three long-time hiking buddies. The loop we're taking through Rae Lakes Basin is only 40 miles, but we'll be going slow because most of it is above 10,000 feet of elevation! (The curious can find this by going straight east from Fresno.)

Lillie Manis

Before and after my time in New York, completing the last summer of my doctoral coursework at Columbia University: I'll be teaching, running the Northwest Suzuki Institute, preparing the repertoire for the upcoming season of chamber music performances and recitals, and spending time with my family.

Sharon Schuman

In June, I will take a bike trip to Italy with my family, and in July I will team-teach a seminar about freedom in Sitka, Alaska.

Steve Pologe

I do not have my plans set yet, but as of now, I expect to teach and perform at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, Vermont, and then travel to Sweden to visit and perform with Semmy Stahlhammer and to then travel with my sister before returning to Oregon.

Volunteer Profile: Fred Crafts

Fred has done announcements for Amici—on KWAX, and from the stage—and he has served as art judge. We put a few questions to him.

What is your earliest memory of chamber music? *"The first chamber group that blew me away was the Julliard String Quartet, many years ago. Such a sound! Such musical mastery!"*

Do you play an instrument? *"I can still play a little piano and string bass but only privately and even then not much."*

What was your profession before retirement? *"Journalist. I've been, among other things: arts reporter/editor for The Register-Guard, arts commentator for KVAL and KUGN, adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Oregon, fine arts editor for the Los Angeles Times, and radio anchorman for KNX/CBS in Los Angeles."*

Who have you interviewed? *"My first in-person newspaper interview was with Van Cliburn, soon after he won the an international piano competition in Moscow in 1960. Since then, there have been many more—Little Richard, Ringo Starr, Dave Brubeck..."*

Which traveling adventure has been most rewarding? *"In 2009, my wife, Marti Gerdes, browbeat me into hiking 200 miles across England from St. Bees on the Irish Sea to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea. I had never done such a thing so I thought it would be impossible and that I would likely die trying. Yet, we accomplished it in less than three weeks (and I did not die), a monumental achievement that changed my life. Since then we have done many long-distance hikes. I cannot wait to go again."*

Thanks to all our volunteers!

Bill & Christie Aspegren, Ray Bates, Rosemary Barr, Pam Brills & Chris Wesely, Rachel Dyer, Laura Gansel, Barbara Gates, Carolyn Flatley-Gilkey, Beate Galda, David Guy, Margaret Hadaway, Carolyn Hannah, John Heintz, Beverly Henderson, Don & Lin Hirst, Marie Keith, Anne Korn & Terry Way, Michael Lawrence, Bonnie Lindberg, Patricia Moore, Mary Morrison, Ron Norberg, Laura Ohanian, Perry Patterson, Gail Pioso, Janet & Richard Reed, Ruth Romoser, Kay Rumsey, Heidi Sachet, David Sonnichsen, Ginny Starling, Betsy Steffensen, Marion Sweeney.

Steven's Coffee — by Steven Pologe

A few years ago, Jeff Eaton, director of the Oregon Mozart Players and a personal friend, passed away rather suddenly. In the two years prior to his passing, Jeff would occasionally present me with gifts of coffee that he had freshly roasted. I found myself attracted to the light, almost fruity quality of his coffees and decided to learn more. I had a popcorn popper that seemed perfect for roasting small quantities of coffee. I found I could roast about 3½ ounces of green coffee in about 5 minutes, which provided me with six or seven cups, enough for one week. Coffee is most delicious when brewed within two weeks of being roasted, so this was perfect.

After about a year of exploring coffees from different regions, I developed some favorites and also realized that my preferences are different from what is most fashionable today. Most of the coffee shops that I visit serve darker roasts. When roasting coffee, the beans have the potential of "cracking" twice. The first crack, necessary in any roasting session, is when the chaff (the outer skin of the raw beans) separates from the beans and is discarded. Usually at the conclusion of the first crack, the coffee assumes a light to medium brown color and continues to darken for the duration of the roasting process. When the second crack occurs (more of a rapid crackling sound than the first), the boundary between medium and dark is crossed, producing beans that are often labeled French Roast or Espresso. I find that if I can time the roasting process so that I finish before the second crack begins, I can often capture a slight acidic quality that gives a subtle fruitiness to the cup.

When I have time to actually enjoy my morning cup, I sip it slowly as if it were fine wine, allowing the coffee to travel along the surface and sides of my tongue to the back of my mouth. Some kind of taste bud sensors or neurotransmitters—that live along the sides of my tongue—are ignited, so that I experience considerable pleasure. Not unlike when I listen to pitch or tone on the cello, I seem to have a more satisfying experience of this one cup of coffee when I am able to remain patient enough to go slowly and carefully while being more attentive to detail.

Here what our friends are saying about Amici...

"We always look forward to our regular Chamber Amici outing. It is a time to pause, to listen to loveliness together, to applaud our local and visiting musicians, and to be a part of our community of music lovers! And when we do choose to indulge, the desserts are fantastic! A perfect Monday night date, indeed!"

Dana Gray & Tony Metcalf

"We like the music and seeing good, long time friends"

Jim & Vonnie Wildish

"Amici brings vibrant music that is rarely performed by musicians of such high quality. We feel fortunate to have this valuable resource here in our community. ."

Linda and John Cummens

"I enjoy the creativity of Amici and selecting programs that are unconventional."

Joanne Hartwig

"I like the wonderful programs with very talented professional musicians. Warm environment meeting the musicians after concert with great desserts!" ***Kathy Lieberman***

"I particularly love Amici's commitment to education and community outreach." ***Susan Moseley***

"I really enjoy the variety of ensembles that perform at concerts, and the distinguished musicians Amici brings to Eugene to play with them." ***John Moseley***

Amici Wish List

Looking for a specific way to support Amici? Here are five timely ways to show the musicians how much you appreciate them. Call Loi, who is now preparing the Season 10 budget, about these items or any other ideas you wish to pursue! Or drop by our office inside the Midtown Arts Center at 1590 Willamette Street—we love visitors.

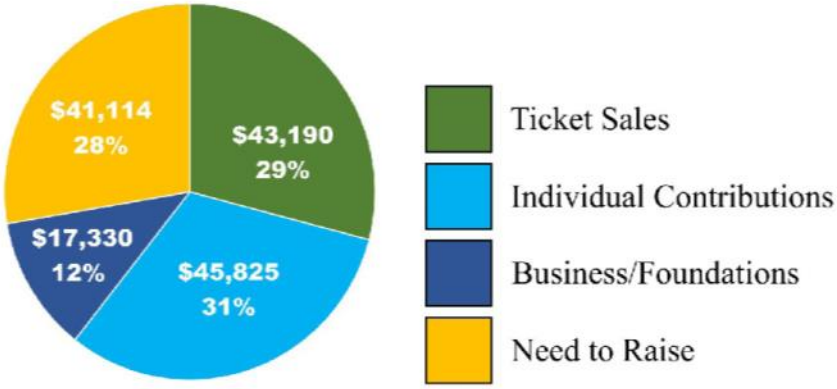
1) Six Manhasset music stands, $285
2) Stand lights for new music stands, $216
3) Roland R-26 portable recorder, $400
4) Sheet music and performance rights for Season 10, $975 PURCHASED
5) Flowers for musicians for season 10, $350

Thank you, patrons!

Your enthusiasm and support bring chamber music to the Wildish Theater and beyond.

Tickets provide less than half what it costs to cover Amici's expenses each season. That's why we are so thankful when patrons make a gift when ordering season tickets, or in support of our outstanding guest musicians, or to increase the number of school visits we make each year.

Please be the wind in our sails!



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$40/Person includes a casual evening of home-cooked soups, salads, desserts and more; silent and live auctions, raffles and much more.

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Reserve your place, call 541.953.9204