April 15, 2019
Wildish Theater
Higdon
Beach
Mendelssohn

Amici Core
Jessica Lambert
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman

Guest Pianist
Eunhye Grace Choi

Tickets
chambermusicamici.org
541.953.9204

Chamber Music Amici receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.
The Voice on the Phone

by Sharon Schuman

Lori Heldt, executive director, has been vital to Amici since before it existed. It was because of her skills in organization, event production, and artistic design that I approached her to help found this ensemble. Lori was essential, because she knew how to get things done (as opposed to just thinking up things for someone else to accomplish). She was already hard at work—energetic, efficient, and fun—before core musicians were recruited, before the first board meeting was held, before the Wildish Theater was lined up as a venue, and before the inaugural concert was set for June, 2009.

Since those early days and for more than ten years, Lori has remained an essential player for Amici. Her instruments are the computer, the telephone, her art supplies and the concert hall itself. Without her, we would not be able to keep straight all the details of ticketing, performance, education outreach, volunteer management, marketing, fundraising, budgeting, planning, and the thousands of details of day-to-day operations. For many of you Lori is the first voice of Amici on the other end of the phone. For all of us—musicians, staff, subscribers, volunteers, donors, vendors, and collaborators—Lori embodies what the word “Amici” means: friends.

Highlights of Next Season

2019-20 may be Amici’s best season ever. We will pay tribute to our beloved founding pianist, Victor Steinhardt, by performing his “Sonata Boogie.” Victor wrote this virtuosic showpiece for his brother Arnold, first violinist of the Guarneri Quartet. Also on this program of American music will be Samuel Barber’s Quartet that includes his unforgettable Adagio.

Next season also features an all-Baroque concert that includes poignant and thrilling music by Bach and Telemann. On other concerts we will perform Mozart’s Clarinet Quintet, piano trios by Mendelssohn and Beethoven, and a piano quintet by Dohnanyi.

A high point of the new season will be a musical extravaganza that we are calling “The Rooster and the Fox.” This project involves commissioned music by composer Colin Dixon of The Elsewhere Ensemble, for piano, string quartet, and oboe, as well as narration of a Rooster and the Fox.

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Amici thrives....

A Growing Outreach to Students

School Visits

Amici’s first school visit was to Camas Ridge Elementary in 2009. Since that time we make a point of visiting several classrooms on the occasion of nearly every concert. With each group we have conversational performances of selections from the current concert, with Q&As which, thanks to participation by guest musicians on a wide variety of instruments, are always fresh and interesting.

Masterclasses

Years ago, when Guy Few was in town to perform for the Oregon Bach Festival, he found himself on the musicians’ bus next to Sharon Schuman—who planted the idea of his performing with Amici. It came to pass in May of 2014. Amici also created windows of time for him to hold a masterclass at the University of Oregon, as well as a workshop for middle- and high-school students, all at no charge. The practice continues with other visiting performers.

Head Start

Jessica Lambert, with two teeny violins under her arm, began visits to Head Start in 2017. Sharon Schuman joined in recently, and had this to say: “I showed up with two of Jessica Lambert’s tot-sized violins, one of which was her ½-size starter fiddle from when she was five years old. I got the students’ attention with gypsy music. I asked who wanted to play a violin, and they ALL wanted to. They lined up in a very orderly fashion to take turns playing ‘Mississippi Hot Dog’ on open strings, some of them standing in line to do it over and over!”

Advanced Workshops

Advanced students in two local organizations got specialized attention this spring, thanks to a recent gift from two Amici patrons.

One afternoon on the UO campus, Jessica Lambert and Victoria Wolff each met with a small ensemble of the Community Music Institute to hear a work the students had prepared under the guidance of their instructor. What followed was spirited discussion and feedback, with bits of instruction sprinkled in.

The following week, during an evening rehearsal of the ESYO Youth Symphony, Steve Pologe and Jessica Lambert together ran a sectional meeting of all strings combined. The aim was to expand each student’s musical awareness. Offered Jessica, “Try thinking of your orchestra as a conversational performances of selections from the current concert, with Q&As which, thanks to participation by guest musicians on a wide variety of instruments, are always fresh and interesting.

The interested reader is invited to hear the Youth Symphony perform this work, Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2, on May 23rd (www.esyorchestras.org).

Images, top to bottom 1) Amici at Camas Ridge Elem. Inaugural Season. 2) Steven Pologe and Jessica Lambert giving workshop for ESYO. 3) Alex Hargreaves, South Eugene HS Orchestra students. 4) Jessica Lambert with CMI musicians. 5) Sharon Schuman with Head Start students.
A Few Words from Patrons

When Sharon and Loi asked us to write a few words about why we have been such loyal and enthusiastic supporters of the Chamber Music Amici for ten years, we had to think. The first and obvious answer, of course, was the joy of listening to the beautiful music that the CMA plays. However, there is other beautiful music to be had in Eugene, so it must be more than that. Then we thought about the Amici name, which we’d always assumed was chosen to reflect that the musicians are friends playing beautiful music together. But of course you can get that from many of the wonderful chamber music groups that travel to Eugene. So there must be more.

Then it struck us that the name must mean (or could mean) that these are (exceptionally musically talented) friends taking joy in playing music for their (perhaps less talented, at least in this sphere) friends in the Eugene-Springfield community! And everything the CMA does, and the way they do it, fits with that.

We, and a good section of the audience, know the players as friends. We listen in a beautiful and intimate performance hall where most of the audience members know one another. The players talk to the audience between pieces as friends, and each concert is followed by an informal reception, where we eat good desserts and enjoy informal discussions with both our performing and our non-performing friends.

What could be better, or more unique, or more worthy of support? So long may the Amici continue to play with such joy for their Amici, and long may they continue to add their unique contributions to the local musical scene! Thank you, from all of your friends in the audience. You keep playing, and we’ll keep coming!

Pete and Jo von Hippel

A Generous Gift

News has just reached us, as we prepare to celebrate Amici’s first decade, of a generous bequest from Gerald Webking who taught German at South Eugene High School for decades and who attended Chamber Music Amici concerts. We are enormously grateful for his generosity and his faith in Amici.

Thanks to the steady financial support of patrons from the very beginning, we have been able to focus on developing concerts that are short and exciting (and almost always sold out), attracting inspiring guest musicians to join us, reaching a growing number of students with free educational performances, and creating the Amici family.

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Mr. Webking’s support validates these achievements, which we hope you take as much pride in as we do.

Without enthusiastic patrons like you, dear reader, Gerald Webking would never have experienced the excitement of an Amici ovation at the end of a concert, or the fun of dessert on stage with audience and musicians. He would never have been drawn into the Amici family. Thank you for helping to make this happen!

Pete and Jo von Hippel

Be a “Friend of Guy”!

Your support is most helpful as we prepare for Guy’s week-long visit that includes education outreach and our anniversary concert June 3rd. The promotional poster going up soon around town will name all donors, so don’t delay—let us add your personal endorsement of Guy’s talent!

Just write “Friends of Guy” on your check’s memo line.

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Pete and Jo von Hippel

We’ve enjoyed attending Amici concerts since the first season. The skill of the musicians is world class. The small venue of the Wildish is perfect for chamber music. The variety of music is fascinating. And where else can you enjoy a treat on stage with the performers after a concert?

Mark Corley and Suzanne Rowe

Thank you, patrons!

As of the latest accounting, individual support (in the form of tickets, gifts and sponsorships) adds up to 90% of revenue so far this season. Thank you, patrons! The additional 10% from local firms, foundations and grant-making organizations is also a testament to Amici. Together, we sustain our magical Monday evenings.

Individual Contributions, 52%
Ticket Sales, 38%
Business/Foundations, 10%

Amici Wish List

- Guy Few Residency Sponsor—$3,000
- Guest Musician Sponsor—$1,000
- “Friends of Guy”—Any amount
- Workshops with Guy—$500 each
- Flowers for a Concert—$70 each

Here’s an idea! Band together with a few good friends who also love what Amici does and together, as a team, you can make one of our wishes come true!