NEXT CONCERT:

A Celebration of Strings

Wildish Community Theater

Sun., Oct. 17 , 3:00 PM
Mon., Oct. 18, 7:30 PM

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Teryn Theodora Kim

Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Vol. 13 No. 1 **Fall 2021**

NEW SEASON, NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPTIONS

By Loi Heldt, Executive Director

Chamber Music Amici is both hopeful and excited about our upcoming season of live concerts. Our June outdoor concert in the White Oak Pavilion at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, and our recent concert in the Jaqua Concert Hall at The Shedd Institute, were well received vivid reminders of the magic of performing in front of a live audience rather than just a microphone and a video camera.

We are also mindful of the safety and comfort of our patrons and musicians. To that end, we will continue to follow the guidance and mandates of local and state governments regarding such things as vaccinations and masks.

For our October concert that means that our patrons will be required to provide proof of either full COVID-19 vaccination or a certified negative test result within three days of the concert. (If you email a copy of this proof to **info@chambermusicamici.org** at least one day prior to the concert, you can leave your proof home and we can put your name on a list to speed up entry into the theatre at the time of the concert.)

Masks will be required to be worn while inside the Wildish Theater. (continued on page 2)

THE NEWEST AMICI

By Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

Hello Amici fans! Those of you have seen me at outdoor concerts during the summer months probably saw my pregnant belly. My scheduled labor day was Labor Day, September 6, but she decided to meet us slightly earlier than her due date. My family and I are very happy to share that our newest family member, Teryn Theodora Kim, was born in August 23rd! The baby and I are in good health and recovering very well. Our baby's name, Teryn, has its roots in English and Old German, and the meaning of Teryn is "late summer."

Tayeon, Wonkak, and Teryn Kim

Chamber Music Amici

Fall 2021
Newsletter
Volume 13, No. 1,

About Amici

Staff

Eunhye Grace Choi
Artistic Director
Loi Heldt
Executive Director
Bruce Heldt
Donor Relations

Core Musicians

Eunhye Grace Choi
Jessica Lambert
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman

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(continued from page 1)

Abigail Fine will return to present pre-concert talks this season, but we will not be offering our usual post-concert onstage receptions this fall.

For all of our concerts at the Wildish this season, Amici has scheduled an additional Sunday matinee performance, to allow for reduced capacity limits and less crowded seating in the hall.

If you are a past season subscriber but are not ready to renew your subscription to our whole season at this time, we will automatically save your seats so that you can renew in the same seats next season. In addition, we will provide you with the same season renewal discount price per ticket if you decide to return to our live concerts at any time later this season.

Pre-concert Speaker
Abigail Fine, Professor of Musicology, UO

2021-2022 SEASON — 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM

October 17 & 18: A Celebration of Strings, Wildish Theater (WCT)

Claude Debussy Sonata for Cello & Piano (arranged for cello & harp)
Camille Saint-Saëns Fantasie for Violin & Harp
Henrietta Renié Trio for Harp, Violin, & Cello
Guest: Rosanna Moore, harp **Amici**: Jessica Lambert, Lillie Manis, Steven Pologe

December 12 & 13 - The Incognito Composer, (WCT)

Charles Ives String Quartet No. 1 , Op. 57
Alexander Borodin Piano Quintet in C Minor
Guest: Anthea Kreston, violin
Amici: Eunhye Grace Choi, Lillie Manis, Steven Pologe, Sharon Schuman

February 13 & 14 - Clarinet Trio Series II - 20th Century, (WCT)

Aram Khachaturian Trio for Violin, Clarinet, & Piano
Nino Rota Trio for Cello, Clarinet, & Piano
Gian Carlo Menotti Trio for Violin, Clarinet, & Piano
Guest: Wonkak Kim, clarinet
Amici: Eunhye Grace Choi, Jessica Lambert, Lillie Manis, Steven Pologe

April 11, 2022—Bunch & Brahms, The Shedd Institute for the Arts

Kenji Bunch String Circle
Johannes Brahms Piano Quartet No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 60
Guests: Kenji Bunch, viola/composer; Monica Ohuchi, piano
Amici: Jessica Lambert, Lillie Manis, Steven Pologe, Sharon Schuman

June 12 & 13—Five on Five, (WCT)

Ralph Vaughan Williams Quintet in D Major for Clarinet, Horn, Violin, Cello, & Piano
César Franck Piano Quintet in F Minor
Guests: Tomás Cotik, violin; Jason Duckles, cello; Wonkak Kim, clarinet; Lydia Van Dreel, horn
Amici: Eunhye Grace Choi, Lillie Manis, Sharon Schuman

To order tickets for the season or individual concerts see the enclosed form.

EUGENE ARTIST AWARDED COMMISSION

By Tracy Ilene Miller

After a three-month statewide call for submissions to Chamber Music Amici's first Art Commission, Amici is excited to announce the commission was awarded to fine artist and lifelong Eugene resident Emily Proudfoot.

Proudfoot, like many artists, develops her art while working full-time — as Principal Landscape Architect with the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division and as project manager for the Downtown Riverfront Park Project. Given her background, landscapes and nature are consistent themes in Proudfoot's work, rendered predominantly in acrylic ink, markers, pens, and collage.

"I paint to inspire more joy and kindness in the world," Proudfoot said. "I use bold colors and textured collage, embrace joyful themes, and insert humor in unexpected places for discovery and, ideally, laughter."

Proudfoot's other commissions are with Thrive Behavioral Health at Eugene Pediatrics; a Knoxville, Tennessee business; and private collectors. She has also appeared locally in several solo exhibitions in area venues.

It can be a challenge for artists to create works for marketing Amici's concerts without specific information about the music. Yet, Amici has had 12 successful years of inviting Lane County artists to submit original works that appear in the season following the contest. This year, Amici moved in a new direction, and decided to commission one artist. This provides Amici an opportunity to give input into the final product and maintain a more consistent design look throughout the season. The commission was open to all of Oregon residents, not only those in Lane County. The response was great, and the proposals varied, just as Amici had hoped.

Amici is overjoyed at the prospect of collaborating with Emily Proudfoot in the creation of three original pieces of artwork to appear in its materials promoting the 2022-2023 season, which begins next September. And Amici looks forward to sharing those pieces, plus a select number of Proudfoot's other works, in the annual reception coming this February. Most of you have attended at least one of these receptions at the Emerald Art Center in Springfield, enjoying an hors d'oeuvres buffet, performances by Amici and student musicians, and a gallery of finalist works. Look for more information early next year on how you can participate in this perennial Amici celebration of art!

REMEMBERING VICTOR STEINHARDT, 1943—2021

Sharon Schuman, Founding Artistic Director

Amici newsletters used to include a feature "Musical Summers" that reported on core musicians' activities. The 2010 issue said, "Pianist Victor Steinhardt performed two of his own compositions at Portland's Chamber Music Northwest: his *Tango* for violin and piano, with brother Arnold Steinhardt; and his *Tango Fantasy* for clarinet, violin, and piano, with clarinetist David Shifrin." I start with this nugget to suggest that Victor's impact on Amici was predicated on the richness if his ongoing musical life.

You could say that Amici was a product of his desire to do more of what he already loved, and do it locally, once the demands of teaching lifted with his retirement from UO in 2007. At that point he asked me, "Do you know of any good opportunities for chamber music?" That was all I needed to hear to set the wheels spinning. The Wildish Theater was brand new. Between Victor wanting to play, and the birth of this small venue with stellar acoustics, I got the idea of creating a chamber ensemble as its first resident company.

I met Victor in 1981 during my very first week in Eugene. Desperate for chamber music, I studied the union's list of musicians and found violist Sharon Gordon. I cold called her, merely because we shared the same first name, asking if she wanted to play chamber music. She did, the very next night.

Memories with Victor

"For the opening concert of Chamber Music Amici's first full season in 2009, Victor and Amici asked me to play clarinet for Prokofiev's Overture on Hebrew Themes. I was thrilled to say 'yes!' Victor was the most wonderful musician and kindest human being I ever worked with. "

Mike Anderson, guest musician

Pictured above: (L) Pilar Bradshaw, Jessica Lambert, Victor Steinhardt. (R) Victor Steinhardt, Steven Pologe, Sharon Schuman, Jessica Lambert, and Lillie Manis. Facing page: (above) Victor Steinhardt, Amy Goeser-Kolb, Pilar Bradshaw. Below left: Victor Steinhardt and Fritz Gearhart. (R) Lille Manis, Victor Steinhardt, and Steven Pologe.

Between quartets, she asked, "Do you want to play again Friday? I'm going over to Victor Steinhardt's. I told him about you, and he said, 'If she's any good, bring her along.'"

So it's Sharon Gordon I have to thank for putting my Eugene musical life on the fast track. Forty years later it's her daughter, core musician Lillie Manis, who brings my Victor Steinhart experience full circle. In our 2021 season she performed his composition *Running Blue* for violin, clarinet, and piano. He attended the performance virtually. Lillie says, "I felt like Victor was there with us in spirit, as the music embodies both his formidable intellect in its intricate rhythmic challenges and the wiggling of his Groucho Marx eyebrows in its jazzy, sly sense of humor. Always a gentleman, he reached out to all of us after the performance to give his kudos and thanks."

Amici supporters Pete and Jo von Hippel take us back to our inaugural concert. Pete says, "A highlight was the Schumann Piano Quintet. Victor could make the piano thunder when that was called for, but what I always found most impressive was the beauty, gentleness and clarity with which he played the quiet sections. Every note was distinct, almost plucked like on a harpsichord. Victor always played within the ensemble, and by doing so made his fellow musicians better."

Fellow pianist Hal Owen takes us back even further to 1969 at the UO School of music, where he and Victor "shared a burning desire to perform Bartók's *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* (1937)." They wound up playing it up and down the coast in Oregon and Washington, in a program called "SEX — VIOLENCE — **BARTÓK."**

That program included improvisations by both pianists, as well as "a ringing cymbal dunked in a tub of water."

Now each of us is left with our own memories of this spectacular musician and friend, who inspires us to try to make music and live life with his particular combination of humility, humor, and love.

"Victor was the most precious pianist with whom I have ever collaborated. Our Amici performance of the Poulenc Sonata has never ever been equaled for me. He shared with me another way to hear music, see music and feel music, and for that I am forever blessed."

Amy Goeser-Kolb, Founding Core Musician

SUMMER CONCERT RECAP

Part two of our 2020-2021 Season included two summer concerts, one at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, and one at The Shedd Institute for the Arts. We had planned both of these concerts to take place at the White Oak Pavilion at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, though as many things the past year-and-a-half, we had to make adjustments.

Guests, Erika Rauer (soprano), Pilar Bradshaw (violin), and Tyler Abbott (double bass) joined us on a program showcasing voice and strings in the beautiful setting surrounding the White Oak Pavilion. Even the birds joined to serenade Erika. We look forward to more outdoor concerts next summer.

On August 31 at The Shedd Institute, *Chaucer's The Rooster and the Fox* by Colin Pip Dixon finally premiered after COVID-caused delays. We were so appreciative of everyone who was able attend and enjoy this wonderful composition by Colin Pip Dixon.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum
Above, Erika Rauer; Above right, Tyler Abbott & Steven Pologe; Right, on the lawn at the White Oak Pavilion

The Shedd Institute
Pictured below: Left, Sharon Schuman; Center, Steve Vacchi, Steven Pologe, Arnaud Ghillebaert; Below, MacIntyre Dixon.

AMICI FINISHES YEAR IN THE BLACK!

Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

During this most challenging time in Chamber Music Amici's history, our wonderful patrons and donors have enabled Amici to live up to our core value of fiscal responsibility. Thanks to you, we ended our most recent fiscal year with revenues slightly more than expenses while presenting a full season's worth of performances and providing a normal level of paid performance opportunities for our musicians.

A critical part of this fiscal responsibility was carefully controlling our expenses during a season that seemed to provide one opportunity after another to incur unbudgeted costs. Yet we still managed to successfully turn those challenges into opportunities. We learned new ways of presenting and recording our music and discovered a wonderful new outdoor venue at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

Equally important, our regular subscribers (together with a few new patrons) bought just enough tickets to our recorded, streamed, and outdoor concerts, that together with a small SBA stimulus grant we were able to completely replace the lost ticket revenue from our cancelled live concerts.

However, the third, and by far the most important part of our fiscal success, was the continued support of our donors at the same level as in a normal year. That told us that you believed in us, that you thought we were doing a good job, and that you wanted Amici to not just survive but to thrive. Rest assured, Amici is thriving and looking forward to an exciting future.

Unfortunately, the challenges continue into this season. Elsewhere in this newsletter, we describe some of our efforts to face these continuing challenges. As it was last year, the key this year will be to earn your continued support through ticket purchases and donations.

Thank you, one and all.

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WILDISH
COMMUNITY THEATER

MIDTOWN ART CENTER First anniversary OPEN HOUSE February 27, 2022

Come celebrate this milestone with us!

Creating Community Through Great Music

Wildish Community Theater

A Celebration of Strings

Sunday, October 17, 3:00 PM • Monday, October 18, 7:30 PM

Pre-concert talk with Abigail Fine, 2:45 PM & 6:45 PM

Claude Debussy Sonata for Cello & Piano (arranged for cello and harp)
Camille Saint-Saëns Fantaisie for Violin & Harp
Henrietta Renié Trio for Harp, Violin, & Cello

Amici Jessica Lambert ***violin,*** Lillie Manis ***violin,*** Steven Pologe ***cello***
Guest Rosanna Moore, ***harp***

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WILDISH
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