Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Vol. 13 No. 2 Spring 2022

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Season Finale: *Five on Five*
Wildish Theater
June 12 & 13
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MUSIC IN THE PAVILION

By Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

There will be plenty of elegance, humor, virtuosity, and friendship at our second summer concert series! It will open with only one piano on the stage but with two performers. Piano four hands is possibly one of the oldest and the most intimate forms of chamber music. With seemingly unlimited variety of repertoires spanning most of the Western Classical Music's history, the ensemble is highly versatile and flexible. As it has entertained countless listeners both at private homes or salons and in larger concert stages for hundreds of years, you will enjoy this special collaboration by Amici's Artistic Director Eunhye Grace Choi and the acclaimed guest pianist Namhee Lim from South Korea in the beautiful Pavilion at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. The duo will perform popular works by Mozart and Saint-Saëns as well as a fascinating piece called "Romance Del Plata" by Carlos Guastavino, one of Argentina's foremost composers.

Summer Concerts

7:00 PM
Tuesdays & Wednesdays

July 26 & 27
Four Hands Piano

August 30 & 31
The Quartets

Tickets online

The second and final concert of our summer series will bring together Amici's string musicians and two guest wind players. Joining the standard string trio or quartet with a wind instrument was a favored practice for composers during the Classical and early Romantic periods. The expanded textural and timbral effects are truly outstanding. Music by Mozart, Beethoven, and Stamitz for strings with clarinet and bassoon will accompany your evening surrounded by the wonderful scenery of Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

Chamber Music Amici

2022 Spring Newsletter
Volume 13, No. 2

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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ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

by Lillie Manis

Chamber Music Amici's Enrichment Committee is excited to be embarking upon a new endeavor. We are partnering with the BEST after-school program to create a regular, multiple-visit music education residency in fall of 2022. BEST is housed at multiple Title-1 elementary schools in 4J. At each school, the program provides high-quality academic, social, and emotional support to students selected by their classroom teachers as being in need of additional intervention. In addition to their own instruction, BEST works with arts and enrichment non-profits in the Eugene area to provide regular classes for their students: visual artists, musicians, music therapists, and now... Amici! Our preliminary plans include building a curriculum that will introduce older elementary students to various orchestral instruments. Kids will get to hear a musician perform on his or her instrument, play recordings that feature that instrument, and learn as much as they can about it hands on -- a deeper version of the popular "musical instrument petting zoo" model! We also plan to connect students in BEST's existing music programs to local teachers for individual instruction at no cost to the families, and to cap off each residency with a live performance by Amici and our guests, in conjunction with a regular, subscription-series concert. We're so excited to build something wonderful for some of our area's most underserved students, and we couldn't do it without your support! Thank you.

VIVA LA ART!

Chamber music is art and Chamber Music Amici loves art in many forms.

This season we commissioned our artwork for the first time. It was a pleasure to work with Emily Proudfoot as she created art for us to use in the coming season. We welcomed her show at the Emerald Art Center with an opening on Friday, February 11, including a reception and live music. A string quartet from the Community Music Institute at the UO performed.

Art reception, February 11, 2022

Community Music Institute, Chamber Players
Lark Quartet: Sarah Dunn, violin; Bethany Christensen, violin;
Sabine Voelker, viola; Timmy Cho, cello.

AMICI d'AMICI

Chamber Music Amici has been performing concerts at the Cascade Manor Retirement Center in South Eugene since our first concert. Musicians and residents cherish these performances. The musicians like being able to perform an additional concert and the residents appreciate the convenience of the Manor's Auditorium.

In 2008, when Founding Artistic Director Sharon Schuman, asked Cascade Manor resident Bob Lacy to be a Founding Supporter of Amici, it was Bob's hope that concerts at Cascade Manor would happen regularly. Thirteen years later Amici performs each of its regular concerts at Cascade Manor. In 2016, a few Cascade Manor residents took it upon themselves to start a committee comprised of dedicated Amici lovers, ***Amici d'Amici***, with the goal to help raise awareness and financial support for Amici, which would ensure Amici concerts would continue on campus, and to make sure that new residents don't miss out on a single concert.

During the most challenging times of the past two-plus years, all concerts recorded by Amici were presented to residents through their in-house TV channel 982. Amici also performed its first outdoor concert at the 29th St. Courtyard on campus.

Amici now performs seven concerts each season at Cascade Manor and each concert is followed by a reception hosted by an Amici d'Amici committee member or two. We look forward to sharing these special days with you for seasons to come!

"Music is always welcome, especially when it is brought to our 'door' (and ears) lifting our spirits... What a gift! We look forward to every concert with great pleasure and anticipation."

— Eunice Kjaer, Cascade Manor Resident

CHALLENGE ANNOUNCED: An anonymous Cascade Manor resident will match all gifts received before June 30, dollar for dollar, up to $5,000.

Left: Reception goodies, April 9, 2022. Below: April 9, in Cascade Manor's auditorium for Bunch and Brahms.

CHALLENGE ISSUED FOR $1,000 DONATIONS

As you can read elsewhere in this Newsletter, Chamber Music Amici is planning to continue its inspiring concert experience last summer at the White Oak Pavilion at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum with a two concert series this summer. As is often the case with new ideas, this new concert series requires some initial investment of time and money and involves some risk as well. Recognizing this, we spoke with a few key Amici donors who both endorsed the idea and responded with a challenge to other Amici supporters.

Their challenge is this: They will match all donations of $1,000 or more made by June 30, up to a total of $15,000. A mailing to a small number of our larger donors together with a paddle raise opportunity at our April 11 FunRaiser has resulted in $11,000 of that challenge being raised so far.

You can use the return envelope included with this newsletter to participate in this challenge: we need just four more donations of $1,000 or more by June 30 to earn the full match and start our new summer series in the fiscally responsible way that remains a core value of Chamber Music Amici. Of course, challenge aside, donations of any amount are welcome!

April 11: 2022-2023 Reveal and FunRaiser. We kicked off our Challenge at our Dinner at The Shedd on April 11. All funds raised are going towards next season.

YOU CAN HELP:

SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR CHAMBER MUSIC, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO A CONCERT

In response to potential COVID related audience size restrictions, Amici added a Sunday matinee performance for all of our Wildish Theater concerts this season. Next season we will be continuing those Sunday performances. The marginal cost of a repeat concert is a small investment relative to the benefits of potentially doubling the size of our audience and donor base. But we need your help. Spread the word about how much you enjoy Amici concerts. Invite your friends. Make our Sunday matinee concert the start or end of a Sunday afternoon adventure! Help us to create “community through great music” and “promote the development of a new generation of music lovers.”

2022-2023 SEASON AT THE WILDISH COMMUNITY THEATER

Greetings from Amici's Artistic Director Eunhye Grace Choi

One of the great joys of my responsibility as Artistic Director of Chamber Music Amici is to curate programs of great variety and bring together so many phenomenal musical collaborations. Our opening, all-Baroque, concert will bring in fresh perspectives on both familiar and lesser known vocal chamber music by old masters. Revisiting some of our favorite Romantic composers, we will explore the vast musical universe that Schubert created during his short lifetime while also attempting to draw some interesting connections between Beethoven and Medtner.

In our all-Spanish program in April, we will introduce great treasures by prominent composers who charted that country's rich musical history. Finally, we will be jointed by a remarkable violin guest in June, performing late-Romantic works by Benjamin Britten and Arthur Bliss, who responded to the grim realities of the First World World with their unyielding artistic spirit and inspiration. I hope you can join us in our exciting journey to such diverse program and impressive lineup of guest artists!

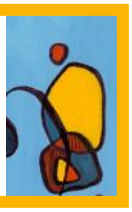
2022-2023 Season art commissioned by Emily Proudfoot. Above, *Blue Flower* below, *Red Flower*.

October 23 & 24

All That Baroque
Rameau • Bach • Vivaldi
Telemann • Soler

December 11 & 12

Obsession
L.v. Beethoven
Nikolai Medtner



February 5 & 6

Schubert Celebration
Fantasia for Piano Two-Hands
Notturno for Piano Trio in E flat Major

April 23 & 24

Spanish
Joaquin Turina • Manuel de Falla
Enrique Granados

June 4 & 5

British at War
Arthur Bliss
Edward Elgar

SEASON SPONSOR

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Season-long recognition goes to firms that sign on as a Season Supporter. When you visit them, please let them know you appreciate their support of Chamber Music Amici!

CLASSIC PIANOS
A PASSION FOR PIANOS

RAINBOW VALLEY
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

EURO ASIAN
AUTOMOTIVE

STADIUM AUTOMOTIVE

Cascade
MANOR

Melinda Handy
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A TALE OF TWO BEQUESTS

Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

It was the Best of Times. Chamber Music Amici had recently received an unexpected bequest in an amount that was roughly equal to one year's expenses! Amici has valued fiscal responsibility from its very beginnings, when it attracted sufficient contributions prior to its opening season to make sure that cash flow would not be a concern. But with this large bequest, Amici now had sufficient equity to allow it to consider artistic and performance options that were not previously possible.

It was the Worst of Times. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced the cancellation of concerts, led to a loss of ticket revenue, and generally made it difficult for Amici to pursue its mission of "Creating Community Through Great Music" and "Promoting the Development of a New Generation of Music Lovers," let alone consider what this recent bequest might allow.

It was the Spring of Hope. Chamber Music Amici had just chosen its third Artistic Director and was looking forward to the fresh new ideas these planned periodic changes of leadership were intended to bring.

It was the Winter of Despair. The pandemic had not gone away and continued to pose challenges and uncertainty for all.

It was the year 2020. In short, the period was very much like the present.

Now, in the year 2022, Chamber Music Amici's fiscally responsible practices, together with the receipt of some Stimulus Grant money that replaced lost ticket revenue, have allowed Amici to preserve both its hard earned equity and the full value of the large bequest it had received.

And just when the Omicron surge brought more uncertainty and hard times a second, smaller bequest was received that was just large enough to shore up our current year budget, so that we could continue to plan for the great expectations we have for a new outdoor summer concert series. We will also continue the presentation of two performances of each concert at the Wildish Theater, so that we can expand our audience and patron base.

What is the moral of this Tale? By adding a simple bequest provision to your will (which need not hurt like the "**Dickens**") you can support "**Great Expectations**" for Amici, even in "**Hard Times**."

THANKS TO YOU WE THRIVE — Donations since July 1, 2021

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Joyce Benjamin, James and Hannah Dean, Tom and Nancy English, Verda Giustina, Nonna and Roger Haydock, Phil and MJ Hillstrom, Isler CPA, Benton Johnson, Dorothy Kujawa

$5,000 and above
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WILDISH COMMUNITY THEATER

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Creating Community Through Great Music

Richard E. Wildish Community Theater

Sunday, June 12 3:00 PM & Monday, June 13 7:30 PM

Tomás Cotik, ***violin***

Jason Duckles, ***cello***

Five on Five

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Quintet in D Major for Clarinet, Horn, Violin, Cello & Piano

César Franck *Piano Quintet in F Minor*

Amici Eunhye Grace Choi, Lillie Manis, Sharon Schuman

Guests Tomás Cotik, violin; Jason Duckles, cello; Wonkak Kim, clarinet; Lydia Van Dreel, horn

Tickets ChamberMusicAmici.org / 541-953-9204

Wonkak Kim, ***clarinet***

Lydia Van Dreel, ***horn***