Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Chamber Music Amici

2022 Fall Newsletter, Volume 14, No. 1

Jessica Lambert and Alex

THANK YOU AMICI!

By Jessica Lambert

After several wonderful years with Chamber Music Amici, I am stepping aside to pursue a couple of personal projects although I hope to be a guest in the coming seasons! Grace and Loi invited me to write about my time with Amici so let me start off with a list of favorite musical memories. A partial list because it's something like 70 concerts over seven seasons!

The school concerts we did, especially with three amazing teachers: Laurel Ross, Amy Danziger, and David Adee. The Cascade Manor concerts which are central to my Amici experience. The Debussy Sonata with Victor Steinhardt in my first Amici concert as a Core member. Guy Few and Nadina Mackie Jackson with Lussier's "Le Dernier Chant de Ophelie" and Buhr's "Man Will Only Grieve." Jazz violinist Alex Hargreaves's marvelous concert improvisations. Maybe just one more? Bach: "Erbarme Dich."

I should stop: Loi told me I only had 250 words. But I loved how our community grew stronger over our shared experience of Covid. When we had to postpone concerts we all worried not only about the people we cared for, but also how our musical lives were affected. I deeply admire how Grace, Loi, and Bruce found new reserves of energy and created a model which supported our listeners as well as the Core and our guest artists through those months. It was an astounding feat and I think we came through with flying colors.

Jessica Lambert and Victory Steinhardt at Cascade Manor, October 26, 2016.

Loi, thank you for so many productive, fun sessions and for the energy and compassion you bring to everything you do; Bruce, thank you for your comprehensive approach to keeping Amici growing and reaching out to our community in meaningful ways; and Grace, thank you for your new vision for Amici! And to my fellow Core members, past and present, just about my favorite thing in this world is playing music with friends - thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Lastly, the one thing that makes playing chamber music with friends even better is playing with friends for friends! To all our Amici family, and most especially Sharon, my deepest thanks for bringing me into your community and live, local chamber music. I look forward to seeing you all in February!

GREETINGS FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR by Eunhye Grace Choi

Chamber Music Amici is ready to fill the Wildish Community Theater with some truly exquisite and eclectic music we curated for this upcoming season! Each concert showcases a uniquely themed program that encompasses both popular and lesser known composers and their works. For example, our "All-Spanish program" features Enrique Granados' marvelous piano trio, a work that most people would be hearing for the first time! Even our "All-Schubert program" in February includes the seldom performed two short piano trios.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce fabulous guest artists who will perform with Amici for the first time. Sunmi Chang is an internationally acclaimed violinist who will perform two works by British composers, Arthur Bliss and Edward Elgar for our season finale concert in June. After graduating from Yale School of Music, she became a tenured member of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra from 2009 to 2015. Cole Blume, tenor, will sing some selections of Schubert Lieder in our February concert. He grew up in Eugene and enjoys working with choirs both for singing and directing. He has also worked for Oregon Bach Festival's Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy.

I am excited to welcome back Tomás Cotik and Namhee Lim who brought so much joy to both our audience and musicians last season. Finally, I am deeply grateful to Jessica Lambert, our former core musician, who will share the stage with us for February and April concerts.

PRE-CONCERT TALKS TO CONTINUE

We will continue our pre-concert talks prior to each concert at the Widish Theater. We are very grateful to Abigail Fine for providing these talks last season and welcome Dr. Terry McQuilkin to the stage on Sundays (2:15 PM) and Mondays (6:45 PM); we hope you join us! Terry will also provide program notes this season. **Welcome, Terry!**

Terry McQuilkin, DMA, received degrees in music composition from the University of Southern California and the University of Oregon. His catalogue of original compositions and arrangements includes works for piano solo, chamber ensembles, wind band, orchestra and chorus, including commissions from Downingtown (Pennsylvania) Public Schools and the Delgani String Quartet. In 2006 the Oregon Music Teachers Association recognized him as the organization's Composer of the Year.

Dr. McQuilkin taught music composition at the University of Oregon for 19 years. As a writer and music critic, he contributed hundreds of reviews and features for the music pages of the Los Angeles Times and the Eugene Register Guard.

Staff

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

Musicians

Eunhye Grace Choi
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman

Board

Don Hirst, *President*
Tory Heldt, *Secretary*
Kelly Lantz, *Treasurer*
Eunhye Grace Choi
Nonna Haydock
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Laurel Ross
Sharon Schuman

Contact Us

174 E. 16th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
PO Box 50824
Eugene, OR 97405
Phone or Text: (541) 953-9204
info@ChamberMusicAmici.org
www.ChamberMusicAmici.org

Resident Company of the Richard E. Wildish Community Theater

2022-2023 WILDISH COMMUNITY THEATER CONCERT SERIES

Sundays at 3:00 PM and Mondays at 7:30 PM

October 23 & 24 All That Baroque

Jean-Philippe Rameau Cantata L'Impatience • **Johann Sebastian Bach** Aria from Cantata BWV 32, "Liebster Jesu, mein Verlanger" • **Antonio Vivaldi** In furore iustissime irae, RV626, motet • **Georg Philipp Telemann** Trio Sonata in G Minor **Johann Christian Bach** Quintet in D Major, Op. 11 No. 6

October guests: Alice Blankenship, violin; Arnaud Ghillebaert, viola; Margret Gries, harpsichord; Camille Ortiz, soprano; Emma Simmons, violin; Joseph Wenda, oboe

December 11 & 12 Spanish

Joaquín Turina Piano Quartet in A Minor, Op. 67 **Manuel de Falla** Suite Populaire Espagnole for Violin & Piano **Enrique Granados** Piano Trio, Op. 50

February 5 & 6 Schubert Celebration

Notturno for Piano Trio in E flat Major, D. 897 • "Sonatensatz" Piano Trio in B-flat Major, D. 28
Set of Lieder (selections TBD) • Fantasia for Piano Four-Hands in F Minor, D. 940

April 23 & 24 Obsession

Ludwig van Beethoven - Piano Trio in C Minor, Op. 1 No.3 • **Nikolai Medtner** - Piano Quintet in C Major, Op. Posth

June 4 & 5 British at War

Arthur Bliss - Piano Quartet in A Minor, F. 18 • **Edward Elgar** - Piano Quintet in A Minor, Op. 84

GUESTS, December: Tomás Cotik, violin • **February**: Cole Blume, tenor; Jessica Lambert, violin; Namhee Lim, piano • **April**: Jessica Lambert, violin • **June:** Sunmi Chang, violin

SWEET LIFE PATISSERIE

Thank you Sweetlife Patisserie.
Post-concert receptions are back this season!

SUMMER BREEZE TO MAGICAL SUNSET

by Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

Chamber Music Amici completed a successful 2022 Summer Concert Series at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. I am overwhelmed to witness your happiness and enthusiasm during and after the concerts.

It was a very special two nights that Namhee Lim and I played the all piano four hands program right next you! I appreciated the opportunity to share music, friendship, and summer breeze with my dear friend and superb pianist in July.

We had a special celebration to give more spotlights to those "forgotten" composers and works in August; I vividly remember the moment the sun went down and beautiful lights were turned on in the Pavilion.

Thank you for your generous support and participation. I cannot wait to go back and play in the Pavilion next summer!

"Interesting programs and top notch musicians!".

Above left, top to bottom: Sunset at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum; Namhee Lim and Eunhye Grace Choi on Piano Four Hands progam (7/26/22); Jessica Lambert, Lillie Manis, Steven Pologe, Wonkak Kim performing Hummel's *Quartet for Clarinet and String Trio in E-flat Major* (8/31/22).

THANK YOU, JESSICA! by Sharon Schuman

I first met Jessica Lambert about 30 years ago when she moved to Springfield. As Assistant Concertmaster of the Eugene Opera orchestra, I often heard other violinists behind me in the section—people that I know and like. This time was different, though. Suddenly I heard a sound that I did not recognize. It was accurate, rhythmic, crystal clear, confident, powerful, and stunning in its beauty. I turned around and saw a small, 20-something stranger, smiling at me. I knew right then I had struck gold.

Jessica did not stay in our community. Life took her to the Midwest, then years later to Portland and Corvallis. But I always remembered her sound, and by the time we reconnected, I was Artistic Director (AD) of Chamber Music Amici, and I thought she would be the perfect person to take over that job from me and to lead us with her consummate virtuosity. In 2015, just before she became AD, she performed with me Prokofiev's sonata for two violins, a high point of my Amici experience.

Then she became AD for five wonderful years. She was never expansive with her words, but when it came to music there was no style or composer that she did not master, and she always made it look easy. She also attracted top guests to collaborate with us, and she programmed concerts that our audiences loved.

During this period, Jessica spent many hours on the road, commuting from Corvallis for our meetings, rehearsals, and concerts (on top of her substantial violin studio, her Concertmaster and soloist responsibilities for the OSU orchestra, her summer festivals, and her chamber music workshop). Sometimes we managed to rehearse in Corvallis, but most of the time she made the trek to Eugene. Eventually this schedule took its toll, and Jessica decided to shed her AD and Core Musician responsibilities. Lucky for us, she is not shedding Amici! She will continue her relationship with us by becoming our most valued guest violinist.

Jessica will participate in two Amici concerts in the 2022-23 season, and hopefully, many more in seasons to come. She remains for me a stunning violinist and violist who inspires me to try to become a better person and a better player. Thank you, Jessica, for your many gifts to Amici!

Pictured at top of the page: Victor Steinhardt, Sharon Schuman, Jessica Lambert, Steven Pologe, Pilar Bradshaw.
Pictured at right: Jessica working with Head Start in Juction City

SEASON SPONSOR

ISLER CPA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

FRIENDS OF AMICI

EURO ASIAN AUTOMOTIVE

STADIUM AUTOMOTIVE

RAINBOW VALLEY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Melinda Handy
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

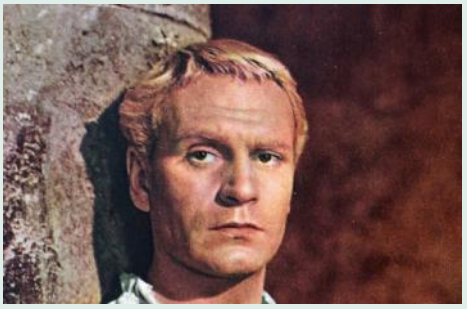
CLASSIC PIANOS
A PASSION FOR PIANOS

Cascade MANOR

When you visit businesses that support Amici, please let them know you appreciate their support of Chamber Music Amici!

To BEQUEST. . . OR NOT TO BEQUEST

Our Spring newsletter brought you "A Tale of Two Bequests" explaining how two recent bequests have impacted Amici's finances, and, more importantly, our artistic options. This second column on bequests brings perspective on the "bequest-ion" from. . . . . PRINCE HAMLET, C.F.P.*



To bequest or not to bequest, that is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to offer
some small part of your present good fortune,
or take arms 'gainst our unforeseen future
troubles and by bequest to end them, or,
better still, to help us achieve our dreams.

To die is to gift us no more, unless
that gift is a bequest to us, dear friend:
the fiscal means forthwith for us to fend
away the thousand natural shocks that
art is heir to. 'Tis a consummation
devoutly to be wished for by us, and,
we hope, by you too: consider bequest.

To gift, to own no more: Ay there's the rub.
For aft' your gift you may have needs before
you've shuffled off this mortal coil that would
give you pause. And there's the respect that makes
calamity of long life and makes you
rather forgo gifts now in favor of
needs you know not of yet, yet know might come.

Thriftiness thus makes cowards of us all
and the native hue of philanthropy
is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought.
Gifts of both future and present moment
with this regard are oft' turned awry and
lose the name of immediate action.

To gift, to own no more: Ay there's the rub
except that by such gift 'aft death (bequest!)
may dreams come true, with many thanks, and too,
no fiscal detriment to you.

*(**C**ertified **F**ictional **P**erson).

THANKS TO OUR LOYAL DONORS by Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

Last fiscal year our ticket sales bounced back to 75% of what they were before the pandemic, while our expenses grew 7%, primarily as a result of adding a second performance of each Wildish Community Theater concert. The increased audience capacity from adding the repeat concerts provided a little more "breathing room" for audience members and gave us a chance to see whether Sunday matinee performances would be popular. They were!

Although the marginal cost of adding the repeat concerts was not large, due to continuing pandemic concerns we realistically did not expect all of our patrons to immediately return to our live concerts, so we intentionally budgeted a small deficit for last year. Thanks to the large bequest that we received just before the pandemic, we had sufficient equity to consider a small deficit as an affordable investment in the future growth of our audience. Prior to the pandemic we usually had very few empty seats at our concerts, which presented an obstacle to future audience growth.

Fortunately, an unexpected small bequest that we received last year more than covered the extra cost of the added repeat concerts and allowed us to end the year with revenue and expenses virtually equal. But we couldn't have done that if our donors hadn't remained loyal and continued their support at pre-pandemic levels for the second year in a row. **THANK YOU FOR STICKING WITH US, LOYAL DONORS!**

An unexpected bonus at the end of last fiscal year was the receipt of a $10,000 grant from the **C. Comstock Clayton Foundation** to support our new Summer Concert Series. Combined with a matching donation challenge from three of our donors at the end of last year that raised $30,000, we started off our new Summer Concert Series with **a $40,000 VOTE OF CONFIDENCE!**

MEET AMICI BOARD MEMBER KELLY LANTZ

Hi! My name is Kelly and I'm the newest board member for Chamber Music Amici! I have two Bachelor's degrees from Louisiana State University, one in Accounting and the other in Music Performance, specifically the clarinet. I'm also a Certified Public Accountant, so I lend a hand to the finance side of things with Amici. It's so fulfilling to be able to finally combine my love of music with my accounting expertise in a way that helps further the reach of music in the community. I've learned a ton from Amici in my short time here including how to be a fully remote board member! Even though I call Oregon home, I currently live in the Caribbean on the island of Grenada. My fiancée is currently studying here to become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, so we've had the privilege of also calling Grenada home for the past couple of years, and what an adventure that has been. We've trekked through jungles, gone fishing off cliffs, ridden horses through the island mountains, and, of course, sipped rum punch by the ocean. Being able to connect with Amici remotely on a regular basis, however, has really helped me feel like I'm still connected to the Oregon music scene. It's been so lovely to serve their needs with my abilities and I'm looking forward to many more seasons of working together to create community through great music.

Chamber Music Amici
174 E. 16th Avenue, Suite 122
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Non-Profit
US Postage **PAID**
Eugene, OR
Permit No. 325

Creating Community Through Great Music

Richard E. Wildish Community Theater

Sunday, October 23 3:00 PM & Monday, October 24 7:30 PM

All That Baroque

Composers Jean-Philippe Rameau • Johann Sebastian Bach • Antonio Vivaldi
Georg Philipp Telemann • Johann Christian Bach

Musicians Alice Blankenship • Arnaud Ghillebaert • Margret Gries • Camille Ortiz,
Steven Pologe • Emma Simmons • Joseph Wenda

Family Discounts

Our $5 student ticket price now applies to parents and guardians accompanying the students as well.

For Concert Details and Tickets
ChamberMusicAmici.org / 541-953-9204