Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

2023 Spring Newsletter, Volume 14, No. 2 Chamber Music Amici

AMICI'S FIFTEENTH SEASON by Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

Wildish Community Theater Series

2023-2024 marks the fifteenth season of Chamber Music Amici, and I am very excited to share jewels of chamber music for this meaningful year with you! For the season opening concert at Wildish Community theater, we will perform selections by the three luminary Viennese composers, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Haydn's Trio for Flute, Cello, and Piano will be paired with Mozart's Quartet for Flute and Strings and Beethoven's Piano Trio. This will be a wonderful opportunity to savor the spirit of the First Viennese School through rather unique combinations of instrumentation.

2023 would have been Johannes Brahms's 190th birthday, so why not celebrate this revered German master through his chamber music? One of Brahms' earliest chamber music compositions, Piano Trio, Op. 8 and one of his last, Clarinet Quintet, Op. 115, will make a sublime pair to elevate your souls.

Every composer writes their "opus one," whether it was the very first work written by the composer or categorized so by their publisher. In our "Opus One" concert we will introduce two highly accomplished opus one piano quintets by Ernő Dohnányi and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

The Italian composer Gioachino Rossini is considered one of the greatest opera composers and also often called "the Italian Mozart." He would not have minded that his String Quartet for Two Violins, Cello, and Bass is paired and played in the same concert with a String Quintet by his

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2023-2024 Series

Summer

August 1 & 2

September 5 & 6

Wildish Theater

October 8 & 9

December 10 & 11

February 11 & 12

April 21 & 22

June 9 & 10

Look for our season brochure in the mail soon!

MATCHING DONATION CHALLENGE RETURNS!

By Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

Last spring's matching donation challenge was a complete success, raising $30,000. This provided an inspirational and financially important vote of confidence in our plans for a new summer concert series.

The summer concert series returns this year and our donation challengers have also returned! They will match all $1,000 donations made between now and June 30, up to a total of $15,000. This is the opportunity for another $30,000 vote of confidence. If you participated last year, please consider donating again. If you missed last year's challenge, now is the time to register your vote of support for Amici with the enclosed remit envelope.

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ENRICHMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

By Lillie Manis

In the fall of 2022, Amici initiated a partnership with the BEST (Boosting and Enriching Students Today) afterschool program at Cesar Chavez Elementary, providing twice-weekly music exploration classes for a small class of students ages 5 - 10 years old. We had a blast! Students explored the characteristics of different instrument 'families' -- woodwinds, strings, and brass. Amici core musicians Lillie Manis and Sharon Schuman served as "MCs", along with guest musicians who performed on violin, viola, trombone, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, and flute. Students were introduced to the instruments through picture books, recordings, and then live performance, and got to touch, ask questions about, and even make sounds and play a bit on the various instruments of the week. In just a few violin sessions with Lillie, and with a borrowed instrument for each child, the group played short 'songs' using open strings and recorded backing tracks. Other highlights included students taking turns playing the trumpet, creating art inspired by the saxophone, and parading down the hallway playing slide whistles after a presentation about the trombone. We were so grateful to be able to partner with an organization that is designed to reach the students of greatest need: BEST provides targeted academic support during the afterschool hours at Title 1 elementary schools, and the experience is free of charge to students recommended by their home classroom teacher to participate. We're looking forward to returning to Chavez in May and June for another session. Your support of our education programming makes partnerships like these possible!

2022-23 EDUCATION ENRICHMENT HIGHLIGHT

By Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

Chamber Music Amici is having a vey productive year as we resume our in-person education enrichment programs after an almost three year break. We launched a new partnership with 4J's BEST program. Our musicians, with various guest artists, taught seven classes in October and November at Cesar Chavez Elementary School. Amici will be involved with another session in May and June.

Meanwhile, one of our traditional and favorite enrichment programs - visits by our musicians to local schools - was a hit. I am happy to share that we had our first visit to Arts and Technology Academy (ATA) this season. We teamed up with University of Oregon Clarinet Studio and showcased their quartet during our visit in November. The quartet played engaging selections for and worked with the middle school students, inspiring them to explore chamber music by forming small mixed ensembles with their peers.

Our second visit to ATA was in January. Tenor Cole Blume and I visited the school to perform selections from our February "Schubert Celebration" concert program. Students told us they were listening to a professional classical singer perform Lieder for the first time. We also listened to their choir sing for us, and I accompanied them when they did.

Q&A sessions at both visits were highly engaging. What a meaningful collaboration! We look forward to bringing live chamber music to more schools later this season. Thank you for your continued care and support that allows us to fulfill our mission to give our music to the next generation.

A few quotes from students we met at ATA. "*What have you learned*?"

"To never give up on an instrument and keep trying."

"I learned that music is a great way to make new friends and expand your circle of knowledge."

"I learned how practice makes perfect and how if you are dedicated to something and work hard you will become great at it."

"I learned that it takes a lot of perseverance and time to become good, but it is possible to be as good as them."

Cole Blume (center), Eunhye Grace Choi, at the piano

SPRINGFIELD ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS

By Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

Chamber Music Amici was honored to be one of three organizations to be nominated for Arts Organization of the Year for the inaugural Arts & Culture Awards event held at the Wildish Theater on April 8th. The Emerald Art Center (where Amici holds its Art Reception each year) was selected as the winner of the award. Ditch Projects, a nonprofit artist-funded, artist-run studio, exhibition, and performance space, was the third nominee.

Also honored at the event were:

Young Artist of the Year - Mariachi del Sol

Public Art – Bayne Gardner

Arts Advocacy / Business Support – Willamalane Park and Recreation District

Culture Connection – Dawn Malliett

Lifetime Achievement – Ellen Gabehart

The Wildish Community Theater Board, along with many Springfield community leaders and volunteers worked to create this event and look forward to returning next year.

WHY I HELP CHAMBER MUSIC AMICI

by Laurel Ross, Chamber Music Amici Board Member

I serve on the Amici board because I appreciate our commitment to increasing our community exposure through creative means. I love the summer concerts in conjunction with Mt. Pisgah Arboretum where lawn seating is free! I also like that families can attend our Wildish concerts at a reduced rate and even receive a restaurant coupon for downtown Springfield. I am pleased that our education outreach plans in the public schools have been able to start up again with new ideas and energy. I personally enjoy the variety of guest musicians who join our core musicians to make for a wonderful variety of concerts! And finally, I very much appreciate all the work done behind the scenes by our hardworking staff… an absolute essential part of Amici's success.

Laurel is a retired music teacher and worked with artistic directors Sharon Schuman and Jessica Lambert when she taught music at Page Elementary School in Springfield.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING AMICI?

Amici is thriving and has embarked on exciting adventures—adding two Mt. Pisgah concerts that bring our music to new listeners of all ages; adding a Sunday performance that enables children, families, and elders who don't drive at night to enjoy our music; returning to perform in schools and homes—and we invite you to help us plan even more ways to spread the bounty. Now is the time to serve on an Amici committee (education, finance, development), or even consider playing a role on the board of directors. Find out how the sausage is made, or should we say, how the fugue is built.

Call Loi at 541-953-9204, or send an email to lheldt@chambermusicamici.org.

Wildish Community Theater Series

(Continued from page 1)

admired Mozart. *Four on the Floor for Violin, Cello, Bass, and Piano* by Libby Larsen, one of the iconic American woman composers, will be the icing on the cake! If you want to hear what the rich sound of double bass can add to chamber music, this is the concert for you.

Finally, it is time to travel to late 19th century Paris for the season finale concert. You will hear Claude Debussy's Piano Trio, the epitome of French Impressionism, paired with more traditional Piano Quintet by his fellow Parisian composer Camille Saint-Saëns. It is interesting to note that both pieces are their one and only piece written for that specific instrument combinations!

October 8 & 9: *Viennese Three*

Haydn Trio for Flute, Cello, and Piano in G Major, Hob. XV:15
Mozart Quartet for Flute and Strings in A Major, K. 298
Beethoven Piano Trio No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 70/1 "Ghost"

December 10 & 11: *Brahms 190*

Brahms Piano Trio in B Major, Op. 8 and Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115

February 11 & 12: *Opus One*

Coleridge-Taylor Piano Quintet in G Minor, Op.1
Dohnányi Piano Quintet No.1 in C Minor, Op.1

April 21 & 22: *Mozart and Rossini*

Rossini Sonata a Quattro No. 3 in C Major for two violins, cello, & double bass
Mozart Quintet for two violins, two violas, and cello in G Minor, K. 516
Larsen Four on the Floor for violin, cello, double bass, and piano

June 9 & 10: *One and Only*

Debussy Piano Trio in G Major • **Saint-Saëns** Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 14

Outdoor Summer Series: Unforgettable

Are you looking forward to having a picnic while listening to beautiful chamber music at a gorgeous outdoor setting? Two wonderful programs are being planned for you this summer at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

Bring a picnic basket, have a glass of wine, and watch the sunset while listening to Amici's serenade. It will be your unforgettable summer evening.

August 1 & 2: Outdoor Salon Party!

Kreisler selections of Piano trios • **Schoenfield** *Cafe Music* for Violin, Cello, and Piano • **Price** Five Folksongs in counterpoint • **Bolcom** Graceful Ghost Rag

September 5 & 6: The Shepherd on the Rock

Spohr Six German Songs for Clarinet, Soprano, and Piano

Mozart Kegelstatt Trio, K. 498 for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

Schubert The Shepherd on the Rock for Soprano, Clarinet, and Piano

2023-2024 ART

Chamber Music Amici is thrilled to share the artwork of Chris Pontrelli, pictured below, in the coming season. His art will be on display at the Emerald Art Center through the end of April.

Perfect Passage

Sonata Del Sol

Nocturne in Blue

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A LIMERICK ABOUT BEQUESTS?

By Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

In previous newsletters we borrowed from a Dickens novel and we brought you financial advice from one of Shakespeare's tragic heroes. In this issue, we hope to edify with that highest of all literary forms, the limerick!

Our limerick is not mere buffoonery.
It describes a wonderful opportunity
for after you've gone
(and after all that you've done)
to support the arts in our community.

"There once was a couple in Eugene
who loved its musical scene.
They donated what they could,
though 'twas less than they would,
if they but knew what the future would bring.

They did however have the vision
to make this wise decision:
they would give what they could
while in life they still stood,
and for death make testamentary provision.

Their plan was easy to effect:
their wills and trusts would direct
who would get a bequest,
and what to do with the rest,
naming arts groups that'd earned their respect!"

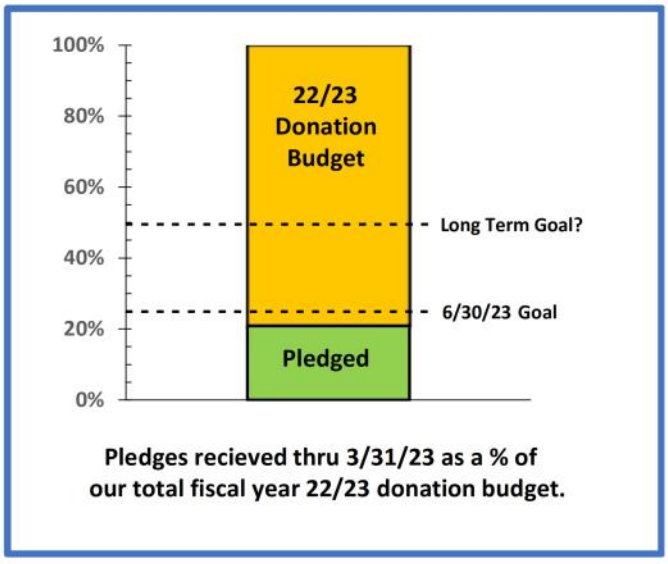
Such advice is quite elementary:
you too can do good testamentary;
but it should get done "now,"
because we all know how,
what doesn't seldom does eventually.

DONOR PLEDGES A SUCCESS

Thanks to our loyal donors, a little bit of help from the federal government, and the high value that Chamber Music Amici places on fiscal responsibility, we are in great financial shape even as we wait for some of our more cautious patrons to return to live concerts. As a result, this past year we decided to make a multi-year commitment to making our new summer series at Mt. Pisgah successful and sustainable and to continuing Sunday Matinee performances of our Wildish Community Theater concerts with a focus on attracting families with young students.

At the same time, we are now able to resume our Educational Enrichment activities in local schools!

To support these future looking commitments, last fall we asked our donors to make a similar commitment to us by making a three year pledge. These pledges would be subject to modification or discontinuation at any time, but they would represent a vote of confidence in our future, to us, to our granting agencies, and to other donors. Initially we hoped that we might get pledges totaling 25% of our annual donation budget by the end of our current fiscal year. With three months to go, we have almost reached that goal. If you'd like help put us over, just return the enclosed remit card.



Pledges recieved thru 3/31/23 as a % of our total fiscal year 22/23 donation budget.

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SEASON SPONSOR

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

NEXT: April 23/24 and June 4 /5

$5 Student Tickets
Family members are also $5
Includes a gift certificate for the family to a near by restaurant

Richard E. Wildish Community Theater
630 Main St., Springfield, OR

Obsession: *Beethoven & Medtner*

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

Guest: Jessica Lambert, violin

British at War: *Bliss & Elgar*

3:00 PM Sunday, June 4 & 7:30 PM Monday, June 5

Guest: Sunmi Chang, violin

Tickets: $28 to $40, students and parents $5

For Concert Details and Tickets

ChamberMusicAmici.org / 541-953-9204