Chamber Music Amici News

Creating Community Through Great Music

Chamber Music Amici **2023 Fall Newsletter, Volume 15, No. 1**

15TH BIRTHDAY PARTY CELEBRATION A HIT

A good time was had by all who attended our 15th Birthday Party Celebration: fun auction items; good food; informative presentations about Amici's past, present, and future; an audience performance of *Happy Birthday* led by Artistic Director Eunhye Grace Choi at the piano; a little chamber music by a student group; a preview of a performance from an upcoming concert including one of our guest musicians; and we honored several people who have been instrumental in our success over the past fifteen years.

Next

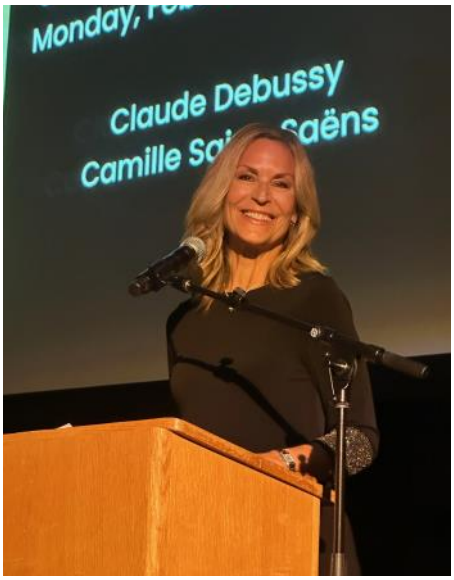
Brahms 190
3:00 PM Sun, Dec. 10
7:30 PM Mon, Dec. 11

Details on back page

THIRD MATCHING DONATION CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

Three Matching Donation Challengers from the past two seasons renewed their challenges at the event. Thank you, thank you, thank you! A paddle raise at the event brought in $11,600 towards their $15,000 Matching Donation Challenge, and donations from those who were unable to attend the event added another $3,400, earning the full match and raising a total of $30,000 for Chamber Music Amici! Hooray!

TOP DONORS AND FOUNDING SUPPORTERS RECOGNIZED (see page 3)



It was a wonderful evening for our 15th Birthday Celebration. Thank you Storm Kennedy for being our MC

15TH BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES & WISHES FOR CHAMBER MUSIC AMICI

"I remember Victor Steinhardt asking me one day 16 years ago, whether I knew of any good chamber music opportunities, now that he was about to retire from teaching at the UO School of Music. That question led us to create Chamber Music Amici. Thank you, Victor, and Happy Birthday, Amici!"
Sharon Schuman, Founding Artistic Director

Happy 15th Anniversary, Amici! What an incredible cultural icon the friends and family of Chamber Music Amici have fostered over the past fifteen years! I feel truly blessed to carry on this remarkable legacy and will continue to bring together exceptional music and artists to our community.
Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

"I feel very blessed to have been, and continue to be, a part of CMA since the beginning. The musicians, board members, and volunteers are top-notch and very giving of their time. As Amici has grown, I continue to be grateful for being able to serve our patrons in very personable ways: filling ticket orders, completing donation requests, or answering questions." **Loi Heldt, Executive Director**

"The visits from Chamber Music Amici are highlights of life at Cascade Manor. Kudos to the original founders of Amici d'Amici, who sponsored the early concerts here. We appreciate the Amici values: the quality of the musicians, one-hour concerts, the variety of pieces and players and the accessibility. May Amici continue for the next 15 years!"
Nonna Haydock, Board Member

When Chamber Music Amici first began, I had an active piano trio with Victor Steinhardt and my wife Kathryn Lucktenberg. We had a close friend, John Deak, who was a distinguished composer and the associate principal bass in the New York Philharmonic. Chamber Music Amici performed one of his compositions, "Wager at the El Dorado Saloon," at one of our earlier concerts. It was a particularly wonderful and engaging work that required the performers to speak dramatically while playing. **Steven Pologe, Founding Musician**

"The founding musicians called their new group *Amici* (Italian for friends), because that's what they were, and because their vision included the audience as friends too. That seemed a little corny to me 15 years ago, but it doesn't anymore!" **Bruce Heldt, Founding Board President**

"The connection between the art commission contest and our enchanting chamber music has been nothing short of magical. Through the power of music and art, we've woven the threads of creativity, inspiration, and togetherness. This unique synergy has touched the hearts of our community. Happy 15th Birthday, Chamber Music Amici!" **Michelle Ferguson, Marketing and Development Team Member**

"Looking back on our 15 years, and looking forward to the next 15, I am so excited that Amici has been able to return to schools for in person outreach including the BEST program, and I cannot wait to see how we continue to expand our impact on local youth. Thank you to everyone at Amici who makes the magic happen, and to everyone who supports us! Happy Birthday, Amici!"
Tory Heldt, Board Member

Staff
Eunhye Grace Choi
Artistic Director

Loi Heldt
Executive Director

Bruce Heldt
Donor Relations

Michelle Ferguson
Marketing

Core Musicians
Eunhye Grace Choi
Lillie Manis
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman

Board of Directors
Lillie Manis, *President*
Laurel Ross, *Vice. Pres.*
Tory Heldt, *Secretary*
Eunhye Grace Choi
Scott Clarke
Nonna Haydock
Steven Pologe
Sharon Schuman

TOP DONORS AND FOUNDING SUPPORTERS RECOGNIZED

At our 15th Birthday Party Celebration, Chamber Music Amici recognized the following important contributors to our success.

Prior to Chamber Music Amici's first season the following **FOUNDING SUPPORTERS** had the foresight and confidence to donate the working capital that the organization required to operate:

Lynn & David Frohnmayer
David Guy
Chris Holzapfel & Bill Bradshaw
Perry Patterson
Peter & Josephine von Hippel
Howard & Vicky Fine/Bob Lacy

Our **TOP 15 DONORS** over our first fifteen years include the above Founding Supporters plus the following:

Diana Gardener
Verda Giustina
Andy Grant
Julie Haugen & Tom Brase
Jenny Jonak & Mike Bragg
Jonathan & Molly Stafford
Ray & Cathie Staton
Marion Sweeney
Linda and John Van Peenen

It is no exaggeration to say that without their support Chamber Music Amici would not have been able to continue performing its excellent chamber music concerts these past fifteen years.

A seventh Founding Supporter, and Amici's largest financial supporter over the past 15 years, is Isler CPA. To recognize Isler's foresight, perseverance, and generosity, **we presented Isler CPA with the *Yvonne and Jim Wildish Award* for supporting Chamber Music in our community**.

Finally, **in recognizing our remarkable donors, we must not forget Jerry Webking**.

Although Jerry only attended a few Chamber Music Amici concerts, way back in seasons 3, 4, and 5, and was a very modest donor during his lifetime, he very generously remembered Chamber Music Amici (and other local arts organizations) in his will. When Jerry passed away a few years ago, the bequest Chamber Music Amici received from his estate represented the single largest gift that Chamber Music Amici has ever received. His bequest also provided a sufficiently comfortable cushion of equity just before the pandemic arrived to allow Chamber Music Amici to focus on opportunities presented by the pandemic rather than on mere survival. The impact of Jerry's fiscally responsible generosity and foresight can be a reminder to us all that even after we are gone, we can support those organizations that are meaningful to us during our lifetime with a simple and easy to add provision in our wills or trusts.

Willamette Violin Academy string quartet performing chamber music at our birthday party.

ENRICHMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

By Lillie Manis

Amici is thrilled to be continuing our more regular schedule of in-school visits and performances, which were limited due to the pandemic but returned with renewed energy last season. These collaborations with area K-12 music teachers allow Amici to bring live performances into our schools, sharing in-person music-making with kids who may never have otherwise attended a concert. In 2023-24, we'll be repeating our partnership with the BEST afterschool program at Cesar Chavez Elementary in Eugene. The BEST afterschool program is based at Title-1 schools throughout the 4J District, and the students who participate are specifically selected by their classroom teachers as needing extra academic support and care and receive tutoring and arts and physical education classes every day after school. Amici will continue to provide guest performances and presentations of various instruments for the kids -- an 'instrument petting zoo' model, but with even more hands-on opportunities to play strings, brass, winds, and more! In addition, Amici will continue to present masterclasses for area students with our distinguished guest artists (see article below), collaborating with both University of Oregon music students, as well as local pre-college musicians.

JANET SUNG RESIDENCY

By Eunhye Grace Choi, Artistic Director

Chamber Music Amici started October 2023 with a wonderful season-opening concert *Viennese Three* at the Wildish Theater. Amici musicians were delighted to work with two phenomenal guest artists, Jacqueline Cordova-Arrington (flute) and Janet Sung (violin). Ms. Sung, visiting from Chicago, had a busy week of meeting students around the Eugene and Springfield area during her residency with Amici. Janet gave masterclasses with two student groups from the University of Oregon and a group of high school students, including one student from Bend. As the Artistic Director of the prestigious summer academy “Meadowmount School of Music” and Professor of Violin at DePaul University, Janet shared her insight and passion with the young students. Ms. Sung especially enjoyed Eugene’s food scene and beautiful autumn scenery around town throughout her stay. Thanks to Janet Sung for sharing her wonderful musicianship, inspiration, and friendship with us during her visit! We look forward to having her visit us again.

$5 STUDENT & ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBER TICKETS AND FREE LAWN SEATING AT SUMMER CONCERTS AT MT. PISGAH ARE BOTH SUCCESSFUL!

By Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

In response to the challenges presented by COVID, Chamber Music Amici added a Sunday Matinee performance to its Wildish Community Theater series and added a new outdoor summer concert series in the White Oak Pavilion at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

The Matinee performances gave us the capacity to grow our audience, which we didn't have when our single performances were often sold out. But just as important, the extra capacity allowed us to expand our $5 student ticket offering to include accompanying family members. We've always offered $5 student tickets, but very few young students ever took advantage of them in the past. Last year, our first to offer these new family prices, attendance by students tripled from the first concert to the last and we are hoping to at least double the number this year. We see these $5 tickets as a part of our educational enrichment efforts.

Our new outdoor summer concert series has two major goals. First, to present Chamber Music in a truly enchanting environment. And second, to provide lawn seating that is both affordable and welcoming, especially for families with young children and to those who might not otherwise think of attending a Chamber Music concert.

Based on the responses of those who have attended one of these concerts we seem to have been successful in achieving both of those goals.

SUMMER CONCERT SUCCESS!

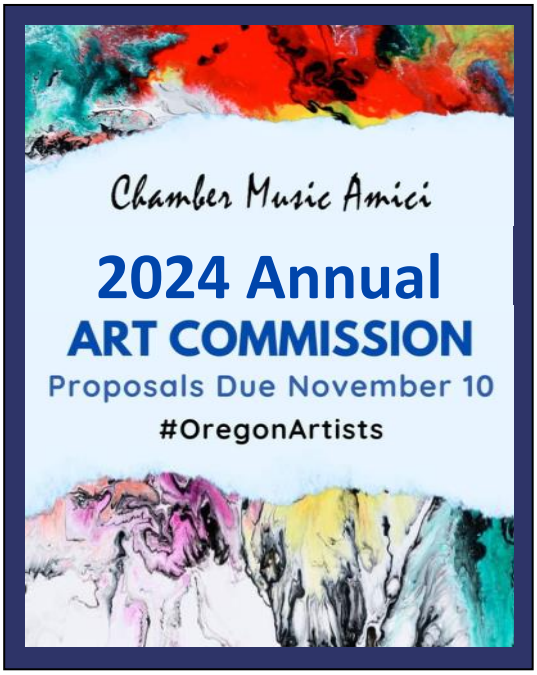
Amici's summer outdoor concerts were a pure delight, set against the breathtaking backdrop of picturesque Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. The White Oak Pavilion served as the perfect stage for our talented musicians. The acoustics were exceptional, ensuring that every note was enjoyed by the audience.

Families and music lovers of all ages gathered together, enjoying these sweet summer concerts. While many chose the comfort of the White Oak Pavilion's seating, others enjoyed the free lawn seating under the expansive shade of the magnificent oak trees. This was a testament to the unifying power of music and the great outdoors. We are excited to continue the well-loved summer concert series next year.

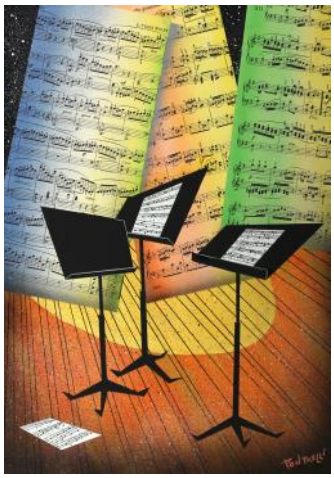
ART & MUSIC UNITE: CALL FOR ARTISTS

Chamber Music Amici musicians, board, and staff understand the profound connection between music and all forms of art. We are thrilled to present a distinctive opportunity for an Oregon-based artist to illuminate our community with their artistic brilliance.

Join Our Artistic Journey in 2024-2025!
Artistic Commission: Create three new pieces.
Award: $2,000
Artistic Diversity: All art forms welcome!
Exhibition: Art show during April 2024, at the Emerald Art Center, including a reception.
Deadline: Proposals by Nov 10, 2023, winner announced Nov. 17
Spread the Word: Help us share this amazing opportunity!
More Details: chambermusicamici.org/amici-art-contest



2023-2024 WILDISH COMMUNITY THEATER SERIES CONTINUES


Perfect Passage

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

December 10 & 11: *Brahms 190*

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

February 11 & 12: *One and Only*

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

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: *Opus One*

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

A NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EUNHYE GRACE CHOI

I have a unique opportunity to accompany my husband Wonkak Kim (who was recently awarded a sabbatical from the UO), and my family to South Korea and Europe during the Spring of 2024 to pursue some exciting musical projects. While I will continue to work with the amazing staff and musicians of Chamber Music Amici remotely, I am thrilled to have three phenomenal pianists join us for the second half of this season's programs. Of course, I will return later this summer with much renewed inspiration and spirit to play more amazing chamber music with my Amici colleagues.

BEQUESTS

By Bruce Heldt, Donor Relations

In 2019 Chamber Music Amici received an unexpected bequest in an amount that was roughly equal to one year's expenses. Prior to that, our near sell-out audiences, loyal donors, and fiscally responsible management had allowed us to thrive despite having accumulated just a minimum of equity.

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, that bequest provided sufficient equity to allow us to turn the challenges presented by the pandemic into opportunities. Because of that new equity, we were able to take the financial risks involved with adding a Sunday matinee performance to our Wildish Community Theater concerts and a brand new outdoor summer concert series. These two additions allow us to better pursue our mission by (1) growing our audience; (2) increasing the number of young people and their families attending our concerts by expanding our $5 student tickets to include accompanying family members; and (3) adding an outdoor concert series at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum where we can offer free lawn seating that is attractive to young children and their families as well as to others who might not otherwise attend one of our regular indoor concerts. Our fiscal responsibility would not have allowed us to take those risks prior to receiving the bequest.

Since bequests are usually unexpected in both amount and timing, they usually do not play an important part in an organization's day to day operations or it's annual budget. What they can do, however, is provide extra cushion for taking risks, or funding for a one-time project, or seed money for a new idea. Please keep Chamber Music Amici in mind when planning the legacy that you want to leave. A bequest is simple to implement, easy to afford because of the timing, and can be in any amount.

THREE-YEAR PLEDGES

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, Chamber Music Amici has committed to a multi-year investment to make our new summer outdoor concert series at Mt. Pisgah successful and sustainable. We have made a similar commitment 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. If you support these future looking commitments we have made, we encourage you to make a similar commitment to us.

When you make your next donation to Chamber Music Amici, consider including a THREE-YEAR PLEDGE. Tell us that you expect to continue your support for the next three years! While these pledges will not be legal obligations and are subject to discontinuation or modification by you at any time, they would represent a vote of confidence in our future and tell us that you agree with the work we are doing and the direction we are taking. It will also show granting agencies and other donors the strength of our expected future support.

Each fall, with our annual fundraising letter, we will provide you with an opportunity to renew your pledge, to "roll it forward" for the next three years. You can also use that renewal opportunity to change the amount of your pledge or to cancel it, if desired. Of course, we hope you will continue (or increase!) your pledge each year.

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

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SUPPORT COMES FROM

Oregon Arts Commission · Lane County Cultural Coalition (Arts • Heritage • Humanities) · Springfield Arts Commission

FRIENDS OF AMICI

Rainbow Valley Design and Construction · Melinda Handy, Certified Public Accountant · Euro Asian Automotive · Stadium Automotive · Classic Pianos, A Passion for Pianos · Cascade Manor

SEASON SPONSOR

Isler CPA, Certified Public Accountants & Business Advisors

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

NEXT: December 10 & 11

$5 Student Tickets
Family members are also $5

Chamber Music Amici

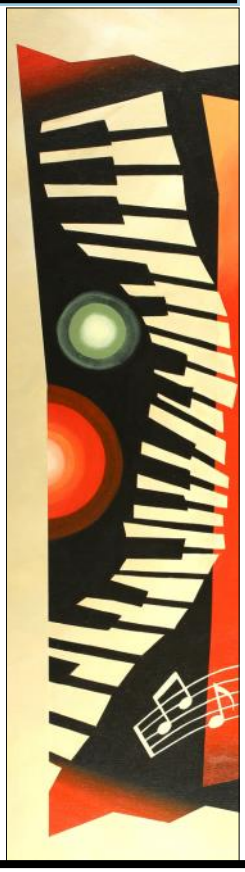
Richard E. Wildish Community Theater, 630 Main St., Springfield, OR

3:00 PM Sun, Dec. 10 • 7:30 PM Mon, Dec. 11

Brahms 190

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

Pre-concert talks 45 minutes before concerts
Post-concert desserts on stage after each concert

Tickets: $32 to $45; Students & Accompanying Adults $5

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