



NEWSLETTER VANGUARD - ALBANY SYMPHONY, INC. MARCH 2021, NO. 168

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hopefully this finds you all well and learning new avenues to explore, be it a new hobby, a new digital technique, enjoying more reading, whatever. This pandemic will eventually be over and we will all be so much smarter !!!

After a very successful virtual fund raiser in the fall, we planned a virtual "Tea and Symphony" for the holidays. It was a lovely way to gather for sociability while sipping a cup of tea and welcoming the new members. Marilyn Hunter set the mood for the day by playing some holiday music on the piano, then later surprised us with a visit from Santa Claus who told us "girls" that he had heard we had been good ! It was a fun gathering and nice to meet the new members.

The Board of Directors has been meeting regularly via Zoom. One of the things suggested at our January meeting was to reconsider the void musicians are still experiencing given the fact that many of them cannot perform as usual. We, therefore, decided to offer our membership the opportunity to participate again in our Musicians Support Fund campaign. If you'd like to make a contribution, you can do so by sending a check in any amount (made out to Vanguard-Albany Symphony, Inc. with "Musicians Support Fund" noted on the memo line) to: Susan Jacobsen, 15 Sunset Dr., Delmar, NY 12054. Grants are awarded in the amount of \$500 and have been used for food and necessary items. While this is a most humbling experience for everyone, the musicians have been most appreciative (see note from Cathy Hackert on page 2).

The ASO has continued performing concerts (with a much smaller number of musicians) virtually from the Universal Preservation Hall in Saratoga Springs. Hopefully you are all enjoying these wonderful evenings.

Many of you knew Jeanne Bourque, a long time Vanguard Board Member and volunteer extraordinaire, who passed away on Sunday, February 7. She left an indelible mark on our organization with her quick wit, infectious laugh and warm hospitality. Her children suggested donations in her memory for Vanguard which can be done through our website Vanguard-ASO.org or sending a check made out to Vanguard – Albany Symphony, Inc., placing "in memory of Jeanne Bourque" in the memo line to Vanguard, 19 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12207.

Looking forward to brighter times, I remain,

Judith Ciccio, President

Vanguard:
a group of people who lead the development of new ideas, or
a leading position in the development of something

Dear Vanguard,

As the Pandemic struck last Spring and all of our Albany Symphony Orchestra services were either canceled or postponed, the future financial stability of our Musicians looked catastrophic. And indeed it was and continues to be challenging for most of us.

Our Vanguard, you, truly stepped into the role of a vanguard. Your generosity, as a group, to spearhead the Musician's Emergency Fund with your generous donations made the difference for many of us at a difficult time. Your initiative lead to further support from Board members and others concerned with our survival. The Emergency Fund became something that our most distressed Musicians could apply to for help.

As the Chair of the Albany Symphony Orchestra Committee, I know that I speak for our Musicians who want to express our gratitude to you all. Your support for us and our musical endeavors has always been uplifting. Thank you for helping us out at a time that is challenging for all of us.

Catherine Hackert, ASOC Chair

Congratulations again to the outstanding Albany Symphony Orchestra and our Maestro David Alan Miller on the nomination of their sixth Grammy, this time for their world premier recording of Christopher Theofanidis' Concerto for Viola and Chamber Orchestra. Because of COVID, the announcement of the winners have been postponed until Sunday, March 14 on CBS. With fingers crossed, we hope the award will be presented to our well deserved Orchestra and Musical Director. We are so proud of you to have this nomination under your belt once again.

Congratulations

VOLUNTEER WEEK – April 18-24, 2021

Even in this unprecedented time with COVID, our volunteers were still working hard to raise monies for our wonderful Orchestra and musicians. Because of their dedication and hard work, the Board wishes to thank every member of Vanguard – we would not be such an outstanding organization that we are today without you!

IN MEMORIAM

Robert A. Cook (Husband of Sue Yager Cook)
Dr. Myron Gordon (Husband of Karol Gordon)
Merle Winn (Brother of Susan Jacobsen)
Kenneth MacAffer (Husband of Ursula MacAffer)
Dr. Herbert Sipp (Brother of Anna Bray)
Mary Alice Maynes
Jeanne Bourque

******* Juanita Jackson's 90th birthday*******

Juanita's husband, John, informed us that our former President will be turning 90 on March 7. As many of you know, she was a natural leader! She didn't neglect her love of music after her move to the Washington, DC area; she joined the National Symphony Orchestra's volunteer group as well as becoming a member of the Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras. Juanita was a talented singer and wonderful speaker. During one of her trips to the Capital District, she willingly agreed to be the guest speaker at one of our annual meetings. In her later years, she and her husband moved from the DC area and now call Chautauqua, NY their home.

Sending Juanita birthday greetings on her special occasion would be a loving gesture. Her address is: *Juanita Jackson, PO Box 52, Chautauqua, NY 14722*

