

NEWSLETTER VANGUARD - ALBANY SYMPHONY, INC. NOVEMBER 2021, NO. 169

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I begin my second term as President, I am invigorated by the enthusiasm of this great group and the tireless energy each of you contribute!! We have had both budget and board meetings with significant decisions being made for the coming year and enjoy a remarkable relationship with the ASO Staff who are most helpful and appreciative of Vanguard.

Our volunteer efforts continue in supporting the orchestra with ushering and other auxiliary help at concerts, along with plans for fund raising. The opening concert held at the Palace was a tour de force, magnificent and so welcomed! Many of you volunteered to help make the event seamless. To that end, please know that the Palace upgraded its HVAC System to MERV 13 Filters as recommended by the CDC, sanitizes before and after events and requires masks and vaccination to attend so if any of you are reluctant to attend future concerts, hopefully this information will be helpful. Additionally, concerts will continue to be streamed for the season.

I look forward to the virtual fund raising event we're having in November, "Eat, Drink and Be Merry", and hope that you will all be generous in your involvement, both in contributing as well as buying tickets on items available. Membership notices will also be forthcoming. Let's make this a banner year!

Judith Ciccio, President

Concert Prevues Relocate

Vanguard Prevues have a new home: the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar, NY. A Prevue is an hour-long session held at noon on the Friday before each Albany Symphony Orchestra concert. Conductor David Alan Miller and a Symphony guest – soloist, composer, sometimes both – lead an energetic discussion of that Saturday's ASO musical offerings. Sometimes they provide a sample of the music. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions or make comments. Now that the concert season has begun, the remaining Prevues are currently scheduled for the following Fridays:

November 12, December 10, January 7, February 11, February 25, March 25,
April 22, May 6 and June 3

The relaxed and personal setting makes a Prevue always a pleasurable and engaging hour to learn about the music of concert weekend. Prevues are free and open to the public.

Bethlehem Public Library ♪ 451 Delaware Avenue ♪ Delmar, NY

Susan Jacobsen, Chair

IN MEMORIUM

Sue Yager Cook – 3-14-21
Susan C. Thompson – 3-22-21
Barbara Zautner – 5-24-21



USED INSTRUMENT COLLECTION FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

Vanguard-Albany Symphony, Inc. partnered with the Bethlehem Public Library on September 25 to collect no longer played musical instruments in good condition to benefit underprivileged children in the Capital District. We expected perhaps 10-15 instruments at this collection drive but we were thrilled to be deluged with 46 of them, all donated by generous community members with instruments to spare! My living room, where they were taken late Saturday afternoon, resembled a giant Amazon warehouse 5 days before Christmas! The knowledge that they will soon be in the hands of children who would otherwise be unable to play in their schools' bands and orchestras, thereby experiencing the joy of playing beautiful music, makes us proud to be members of Vanguard

We extend our grateful thanks to Geoff Kirkpatrick, Bethlehem's library director, who was so helpful and enthusiastic about the program as we were and hopes to do this again next year. Town Supervisor David Van Luven was equally delighted and helped to publicize the event. Thanks as well go to Judy Ciccio, Mary Kay Sawyer, Marilyn Hunter, and Joy Emery for all their help. ASO's executive director Anna Kuwabara, busy as she is, joined us as well. Total number of instruments collected in the past few years: 331. Onward and upward, we hope.

Happy fall everyone with plenty of glorious music to brighten your lives. Thank you, David Alan Miller, our inspiration!

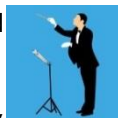
Jill Rifkin, Chair

Help Wanted

Anyone interested in helping at ASO concerts as a greeter, Will Call person or CD seller, please contact Mary Kay Sawyer at:

marykaysawyer@earthlink.net or
518 463-1048 (preferred) or 518 730-6964.

Vanguard would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our outstanding Maestro, David Alan Miller, on 30 years of giving the Capital Region beautiful music. We are fortunate that David has brought this Orchestra to a Grammy award-winning level.



Eat, Drink and Be Merry!

This Holiday Season Vanguard will hold our second on-line fundraiser. We hope that you will once again participate in this event to help raise money for our award-winning orchestra. The theme for this event is *"Eat, Drink and Be Merry!"* and will feature items related to the holidays.

We are asking for your donation of a holiday basket, wine basket, charcuterie board, perhaps a Christmas Wreath, kitchen items related to the holidays, gift certificates of any kind (a holiday ham?), Hickory Farms packages, craft beer basket, a weekend away, whatever your imagination conjures up that will help make the holidays easier and happy for the person winning it! These items will be photographed, placed on the Cheddar-Up website and tickets will be available for purchase on whatever someone might like to take a chance on winning. Ticket prices will range from \$5.00 to \$25.00, depending on the value of the item, and one can purchase as many tickets as they like for any item(s) using a credit card or check. Items should be dropped off at the Symphony Box Office the week of Nov 1 – 5, between 10am and 5pm. If you need help dropping off your donation, please call one of us and we will arrange to pick it up.

The online drawing will run from Nov 21 through Dec 10 on the website, with the drawing taking place on Dec 12. I hope you will consider donating to this event, then come back and purchase tickets on something you might enjoy for the holidays. Thank you in advance for helping us keep the music alive!

Maureen Geis, Chair - 518-439-5055
Anna Bray - 518-438-1960
Diane Davison – 518-688-4729
Kathy DeWeese – 518-874-9114



Jill Rifkin – 518-439-1843
Julia Smart – 518-209-6934
Amanda Irwin – Symphony Staff
Adviser