

Vanguard

NEWSLETTER VANGUARD - ALBANY SYMPHONY, INC. OCTOBER 2022, NO. 171



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's usually "swing into spring", but we are definitely "swinging into fall" with all of our activities!! Welcome back to everyone – there is something planned for everyone and I hope you'll be able to attend these events!! Multiple meetings have taken place over the summer and much has been lined up, from the Victorian Tea just done in September, to a Tiffany windows tour in Troy and a jazz brunch at June Farms in October, to a spring event being planned and ultimately, our annual luncheon in June. Much planning has already gone into making this a stellar year and a great deal of thanks goes to our fundraising committee headed by Maureen Geis. While enjoying the camaraderie amongst members, these events are also intended to raise monies to support our annual donation to the glorious Symphony so I hope you will come out in force!

The Board meets regularly. In addition to the regular operational duties of the organization, there are several successful ongoing programs. The Musical Instruments for Students program has donated 440 instruments to local schools in the past several years. We have provided volunteers for the American Music Festival and Trail Blaze NY. We continue to provide volunteers to the ASO for concerts and the occasional mass mailings as well as for Tiny Tots Concerts and there is a wonderful website to keep you updated, all accomplished by our members.

As we begin our second year of this term, I'd like to thank the people who have volunteered and/or attended events and especially thank the entire board for all of their time, energy, direction and continued support. You make it all possible! They are Maureen Geis, Marilyn Hunter, Susan Jacobsen, Diane Davison, Mary Kay Sawyer, Marie Sturges, Joy Emery, Reese Satin, Kathy DeWeese, Julia Smart, Tina Raggio, Jolene Dirolf, Pat Frank, Lynne Nisoff, Lois Spicer, Carol Whittaker, Anna Bray, Lucy Neubauer, Mary Rodriguez, Ramon Rodriguez, Jill Rifkin, Tina Bosco, Paula Rollins and Rosemary Brown.

Judith Ciccio, President

Vanguard Prevues for ASO Concerts

Prevues of ASO concerts have been offered by Vanguard for a number of years. Until COVID struck, they were held at the Albany Public Library at noon on the Friday before each concert. After COVID receded enough to allow indoor gatherings once again, the Friday Prevue sessions were held at the Bethlehem Public Library.

The Prevues featured a personal chance to hear about each concert via conversations between composers and soloists and Conductor David Alan Miller. Sometimes sample passages would be played to illustrate various points or increase appreciation of an unusual instrument. Guest composers and soloists talked about their lives – and their lives in music.

The experience of COVID for many people grew to be extended cautions against public gatherings. Ultimately, this helped spell the end of Prevues. As a result, they will no longer be held on the Friday-noon schedule. While plans are not yet complete, Vanguard and Symphony leadership are collaborating on the development of other concert-related activities tailored to each program. Future concert announcements will include details of these activities as they take shape throughout the season.

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to all of you who were able to help and to those who attended the *Victorian Tea* which was enjoyed by many. A special thanks to Kathy and Bill DeWeese for their donation for the use of the Women's Club and to the members of the Fundraising Committee who gave so generously to this event.

In order to be successful in raising money for the Symphony, we need your help! Please feel free to join us. We often need help in setting up for an event or just developing ideas. I know that it may not be possible to attend an event, however, a donation also helps to bring in money.

We're excited about our upcoming events!

--October 19 – Beautiful Tiffany Window Tour in Troy – learn about their prevalence in Troy. View the gorgeous examples in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Troy Public Library and Bush Hall. Tea and refreshments after at Bard and Baker. Spaces are limited!

--October 23 – a *major event* to help us raise \$\$ - a Jazz Brunch at June Farms. Delicious food prepared by Chef Will Brown in an inviting Fall setting will make for a perfect Sunday getaway.

--Our committee has been hard at work scheduling events to support our Albany Symphony. We are in the process of finalizing an event at June Farms in the Spring that will, over time, take the place of the Show House, a very successful fundraiser.

PLEASE get involved, check your email, go to Vanguard-ASO.org. The Symphony and Vanguard need your help. Please join us at these events to help or simply come to enjoy. If unable to join us, PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION.

Your Fundraising Committee:

Maureen Geis-518-225-1140, Diane Davison-518-630-6507, Kathy DeWeese-518-874-9114, Julia Smart- 518-209-6934, Jill Rifkin- 518-439-1843, Judy Ciccio-518-439-6503, Deb Hoffman-518-469-6166, Marilyn Hunter-518-279-9353 and Anna Bray

Membership

The membership committee sent printed reminders and renewal forms to the entire membership by mail on September 3. Everyone should have received them the week following Labor Day. We hope to issue a Directory as soon as possible after the payment deadline of September 30, so please send your dues -- by check or online – as close to that date as you possibly can. Questions? Please call or email Susan Jacobsen, 518.439-0459, jacobsens847@gmail.com, or Pat Frank, 518.291-0374, patcazfrank46@gmail.com. Thank you!

DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR VANGUARD - ALBANY SYMPHONY, INC.'S FALL USED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS DRIVE

Search Your Homes for Buried Musical Treasure to Benefit Capital Region Children In Need!

September 24 - 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. -- Clifton Park-Half Moon Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park

October 2 - 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – I Love Books, 380 Delaware Avenue (Four Corners) Delmar

November 5 - 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. -- Book House, Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany

For further information, contact Jill Rifkin, Chair, Musical Instruments for the Students, Vanguard – Albany Symphony, Inc., jrif@aol.com, 518-439-1843



Help Us Help our Albany Symphony!

The launch of our great ASO's upcoming 2022-2023 season signals very busy times ahead. Of course, there are concerts but also behind-the-scenes activities to plan, prepare and execute so every pair of hands and your presence are most appreciated.

Might you join the list? Concert tasks include: helping at concerts by offering a friendly greeting to patrons, answering their questions, covering the Will Call table, selling merchandise or being there for a *very rare* on-the-spot need when volunteers lighten the load and speed up the process! Perhaps you could assist with a mass mailing which was done this week for subscribers' tickets or go to a designated site for a special event to represent Vanguard and the ASO.

If you would like to join a list of volunteers for such activities, please contact:

marykaysawyer@earthlink.net or sawyer193@gmail.com



Phone: (518) 463-1048 (preferred) or (518) 730-6964 (call or text)

IN MEMORIAM

Harry Sturges – husband of Marie Sturges
Felicia Heffernan - Life member
Kawthur Jabbur – former ASO Board member