



**NOTES FROM PRESIDENT MAUREEN GEIS  
EVENING IN VIENNA**

Last Spring, the fundraising committee along with Barry Richman, an ASO Board member, began working on our next major event, an evening of wonderful Viennese music performed by the Albany Symphony. With your support we were able to move forward with *Vanguard's Evening In Vienna on March 15, 2025*. This will be a classical evening with dancers on stage at the Troy Music Hall and a reception to follow at The Arts Center in Troy. We hope you are able to join us. Tickets are on sale through the Albany Symphony Box Office, [518-465-4755](tel:518-465-4755) or <https://www.albanysymphony.com/> and scroll down.

*This Spring we hope to have a membership drive to reach out to newly retired individuals who want to help support the Albany Symphony in addition to attending concerts. Please tell your friends.*

In case you haven't heard, the Albany Symphony has a new Executive Director, Emily Fritz-Endres. Emily has a great deal of energy and has accomplished much in her short time here and has been working with us on events.

*As the two-year term for officers of our Board is ending in June, I hope that some of you will accept the challenge as members of our Nominating Committee reach out to you.*

**Enjoy the winter and hope to see you at an Evening in Vienna.**

**A SPECIAL OFFER**

Vanguard and the Albany Symphony are not the only ones bringing the music of Vienna to the Capital Region this spring. On March 29, 2025 Musicians of Ma'alwyck will present their Silver Anniversary Ball at WMHT Studios. They have generously offered those attending both Evening in Vienna and the Silver Anniversary Ball free access to exclusive ballroom dance lessons with Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz. Please visit [musiciansofmaalwyck.org](http://musiciansofmaalwyck.org) for tickets and information.



**Please save the dates for an amazingly musical March!!!"**



**OUR QUILT**

In celebration of ASO's 50th anniversary, members of Vanguard-ASO, Inc. designed, and hand made a beautiful quilt. It included autographs of many world-renowned musicians, maestros, and composers (including Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Beverly Sills, Arthur Fiedler, Zubin Mehta, Itzhak Pearlman, Andre Previn - 55 names in all). A committee has spent many hours discussing the future of what should be done with this very unique item. To date the

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Did you know that traditionally Vanguard has been able to present several ***scholarships to select ASO musicians?*** The recipients of these scholarships, decided by Maestro David Alan Miller, further their studies with renowned musician masters, thereby enhancing their skill level. Last year we were able to give 6 scholarships of \$500. The number and amount of the scholarships is dependent on the donations received by the end of our fiscal year. **Please consider a special donation for the scholarship fund.**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Anyone interested in volunteering at our

following steps have been taken:

- 1) Decision not to use it as a fundraiser which would risk it "disappearing" from the Albany area.
- 2) Appraisal of the quilt, the restoration, cleaning and installation of a hanging system, and the ultimate storage in an acid proof box until a permanent home can be found for it.
- 3) Having it professionally photographed and produced on a firm board to be used as an "advertising tool" at our various functions.

We continue to pursue a permanent home for this lovely, iconic piece of art. We have contacted the Troy Music Hall, AIHA, NYS Museum. If you have additional ideas or contacts, please pass them along to Judy Ciccio, Chair, Quilt Committee.

various events, an ASO concert, or a pop up task at the downtown ASO office, please contact: Mary Kay Sawyer at [marykaysawyer@earthlink.net](mailto:marykaysawyer@earthlink.net) (<mailto:marykaysawyer@earthlink.net>) or call or text 518 730-6964.



#### INSTRUMENTS FOR KIDS

**929 instruments have been collected to date.** The drive at Albany Institute of History and Art generated 8 instruments. 7 more were a surprise. Three different people, who had learned about the program, dropped them off at Jill Rifkin's home! Our instrument drive is on-going. If you have an instrument to donate or ideas of where to solicit them, contact Jill.

Vanguard-Albany Symphony, Inc., 19 Clinton Ave., Albany, NY 12207; [www.vanguard-aso.org](http://www.vanguard-aso.org).  
Mission: All funds support the Albany Symphony Orchestra and its educational programs.

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