

***The Chopin Club honors the following
Past Presidents for their years of service:***

1980-82: Mrs. David S. Wadsworth	1996-98: Mrs. Donald Rankin
1982-84: Mrs. Margaret D. Gidley	1998-99: Ms. Elizabeth A. Monacelli
1984-86; 1991-92: Miss Rosalind Y. Chua	2003-2004: Karen L. Dingley
1986-88: Mrs. John J. Beliveau, Jr.	2004-2006: Mr. Donald Rankin
1988-1989: Mrs. Stephen G. Waters	2006-2008: Mr. Ronald Rathier
1992-96: Ms. Annamaria Saritelli-DiPanni	2008-10: Mrs. Augustus L. Hemenway
2010-2011: Mr. Haig Yaghoobian	



Chopin Club Officers

President: Barbara Speer	Recording Secretary: Joan Lusk
First Vice-President: Deborah Concannon	Corresponding Secretary: Jane Rankin
Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Berberian	Treasurer: Robert C. Salmani



Chopin Club Scholarship

Scholarship Chair: Susan Kelley	Scholarship Treasurer: Elizabeth Reardon
2012 Scholarship Recipient: Nikita Zabinski	

*The Scholarship Award is made possible in part by donations from:
The Samuel & Esther Chester Scholarship Fund
The Mary J. Tyszkowski Scholarship Fund*



Chopin Student Clubs

<u>Chopin Student Musicians</u>	<u>Chopin Young Musicians</u>
Counselor: Karen L. Dingley	Counselor: Joy Weng
Advisor: Manabu Takasawa	Advisor: Deborah Concannon



Chopin Club
Providence, Rhode Island *Musicales* 132nd Anniversary Season
Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Mary K. Hail Music Mansion
Greetings: Barbara Speer, President Providence, Rhode Island

Presidents Day Program
Dedicated to the Memory of Esther Chester

Susan Miron, harp
Burton Fine, violin and viola
Barbara Speer, piano

Two Sonatas.....Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Originally for harpsichord; Transcribed for harp by Susan Miron
Sonata in D minor, K. 213
Sonata in F minor, K. 466

Fantasia for Violin and Harp, Op. 124 (1907).....Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
Burton Fine, violin and Susan Miron, harp

Sonata for Viola and Piano in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1...Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Allegro appassionato
Andante un poco Adagio
Allegretto grazioso
Vivace

Burton Fine, viola and Barbara Speer, piano



Presidents Day Co-Chairs: Betty Jane Berberian and Deborah Concannon

Hospitality Committee: James and Marian DeCesaris

Stage Manager: Randy Alsabe

President of Chopin Young Musicians and Tea Hostess: Lida Dubrova

President of Chopin Student Musicians and Tea Hostess: Doris Xu

*The Chopin Club acknowledges the ongoing support
of the Friends of the Mary K. Hail Music Mansion for its programs.*

*The Chopin Club has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service
as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

www.chopinclub.org

About the Performers



Susan Miron, harpist, has enjoyed a life in music and in writing. With Burton Fine, she has performed as a duo and as a trio, the **Mélisande Trio**, with BSO flutist Fenwick Smith, for over thirty years. They have performed throughout New England, in New York City's Merkin Concert Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, and Geneva's Victoria Hall. She has two CDs with harp and voice, and two featuring her playing her transcriptions of the keyboard works of Domenico Scarlatti (Centaur Records). On a Celtic harp, Ms. Miron is half of the duo **A Bard's Feast** with storyteller Norah Dooley.

Ms. Miron was a prolific book reviewer and essayist for two decades. Among the places she wrote for are *The American Scholar*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *The Wall Street Review*. The past three years she has been a music critic for the online *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* and *Artsfuse.org*.



Burton Fine, violinist and violist, was a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for forty-one years, serving for thirty years as principal viola. In that capacity, he appeared frequently as soloist with the orchestra and as a member of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players.

As a teacher of viola and chamber music, he served on the faculties of the New England Conservatory of Music, the Tanglewood Music Center and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. In addition, he has appeared regularly as violinist and violist with harpist Susan Miron.



Barbara Speer, pianist, has enjoyed a lifelong career as pianist and chamber musician in the New York City area. She has performed at major colleges and universities and in New York at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, and Merkin Concert Hall. In 1996, she received the Eleanor Roosevelt *Woman in the Arts Award* from the American Jewish Congress.

Ms. Speer graduated from Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School. She has collaborated with scores of distinguished artists, including the Emerson and Orion Quartets, Jaime Laredo, Michael Tree, Walter Trampler, Gilbert Kalish, Christopher O'Riley, Judith Raskin and Jan DeGaetani. With her late husband, clarinetist/composer Herbert Sucoff, she co-founded and co-directed the nationally-acclaimed Sea Cliff Chamber Players of L.I. for 28 seasons. Since moving to Providence, she continues to perform as soloist, chamber musician, and has a class of private piano students.

Program Notes



Sonatas, K. 213, K. 466.....Domenico Scarlatti

Domenico Scarlatti was an Italian composer who spent much of his life in the service of the Portuguese and Spanish royal families. He is classified as a Baroque composer chronologically, although his music was influential in the development of the Classical style. Like his renowned father Alessandro Scarlatti, he composed in a variety of musical forms, although today he is known mainly for his 555 keyboard sonatas. These works were brought to the fore during the 1950's by the eminent harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick (the K. refers to his listings). Since then, these scintillating examples of Baroque keyboard elegance and virtuosity have become popular in the repertory of harpsichordists and pianists alike.

Susan Miron has gone a step further in her transcriptions for harp. She will explain her choices and methods from the stage.

Fantaisie for Violin and Harp, Op. 124.....Camille Saint-Saëns

A prolific composer who showed a Mozartean precocity, Saint-Saëns began composing at age six and continued until his death at eight-six. He displayed prodigious talent as a pianist and organist as well. (Liszt called him the world's greatest organist). In the latter part of his career, Saint-Saëns emphasized the more classical and austere aspects of his work, focusing on formal clarity and elegance of line. These qualities were an inspiration to both Fauré and Ravel.

The **Fantaisie**, composed in 1907, comes from this latter period. This colorful and virtuosic duo represents part of the rapid expansion of the repertoire for harp, following the introduction of the chromatic version of the instrument in 1904. A true fantasy, the work is sectional with more than enough flourish allocated to each instrument. Lyrical and flowing, with many key changes, the composer introduces a memorable section before the final return: Spanish-inspired intensity in B minor over an increasingly tempestuous *passacaglia* bass in the harp. Calm is reinstated with a return to the first theme and the piece ends in the atmospheric calm of its A Major beginning.

Sonata for Viola and Piano in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1.....Johannes Brahms

Originally composed for clarinet, this sonata is also a beloved work for violists. There is a complimentary **Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 120, No.2**, composed in 1894, three years before his death. With these two compositions, Brahms's life work was virtually finished.

Like many composers before and after Brahms, there was an individual who served as the composer's muse. After the completion of his Op. 111 **G Major String Quintet** in the summer of 1890, it was Brahms's intention to stop composing rather than fall below the level he felt he had attained. But a visit to Meiningen early in 1891 influenced him to postpone his retirement. In the Meiningen orchestra he heard a clarinetist, Richard Mühlfeld (1856-1907), who so impressed Brahms with his artistry that the composer decided to employ the clarinet in chamber music. Thanks to Mühlfeld, clarinetists, violists, and audiences since that time have enjoyed the four magnificent clarinet works of Brahms. All of them—the **Trio in A minor** for clarinet, cello and piano; the **Clarinet Quintet** for clarinet and string quartet; and the two **Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano** occupy a prominent place in the repertory as some of the composer's finest works.