

Chopin Club Newsletter

March, 2010

PRESIDENT'S DAY, Sunday, April 11

"Love is a comedy in France, a tragedy in England, an opera in Italy and in Germany, a melodrama." So said Heinrich Heine, one of the greatest German poets and a revolutionary in his own right. This year's President's Day will present the multimedia performance "The Old Wicked Songs of Heinrich Heine", featuring tenor Donald George, pianist Lucy Mauro and Narrator Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, in a musical, literary, and artistic presentation giving a vivid idea of the atmosphere of the salons of the 19th century for which the poetry, music, and artwork were created. The performance features art song settings of Heine's poetry by such composers as Mendelssohn, Brahms, Strauss and Ives, among others, on the first half and Robert Schumann's Dichterliebe on the second half, along with projected images of Heine and his contemporaries.

Donald George, an established lyric tenor in the opera houses and concert halls of Europe, has sung at the Paris Opera, La Scala and Royal Opera of Brussels, to name a few. Lucy Mauro's recent performances include those at Coolidge Auditorium at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, is an artist of many talents, more often celebrated for her mezzo-soprano performances on the world's opera and concert stages, but today heard as Narrator.

Please join us at 2 p.m. for the concert and reception at the Music Mansion

2010-2011 SEASON PREVIEW

The first event of the season will be a concert celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Chopin, performed by Barbara Speer on Sunday, September 26th, and benefitting the Scholarship Fund. Details will be posted on ChopinClub.org/events.

The regular season will start in November rather than during the Columbus holiday weekend, but will present the customary six musicales, on Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 13, and April 10. President's Day will fall on May 15, .

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last year has been an exceptional one in the Chopin Club, with a wonderful variety of performances by our members and guests, heartwarming and delicious teas, and increased activity by the Student and Young Musicians. Our web-site has been extremely helpful and I'm sure will continue to expand.

I thank all the Board members as well as the committee Chairs, each of whom has been constant and hard-working; I must mention especially Emily Anthony, who

has given us such outstanding programs, Mimi DeCesaris and Jane Rankin, who between them have managed to create feasts for the eye as well as provide for the inner man, and Joan Lusk, who has served in a triple-role of secretary, web-creator, and web-master. I should also mention Haig Yaghoobian, who has been an exemplary stage-manager, as well as helping to inaugurate the web-site and assisting in numerous other projects.

The Chopin board thanks the following for providing the refreshments so far this year: Betty Jane Berberian, Cathy Bledsoe, Brienne Brown, Deborah Concannon, James and Marion DeCesaris, Dawne De La Cruz, Karen Dingley, Margaret D. Gidley, Lynda Gulley, Edith Hemenway, Sue Kelley, Francine Land, Robert Salmani, Patricia Sikora, Ralph Solmonese, Gloria Spivack, Mary Jane Tyszkowski, and Linda Zambrano

Several people have commented that they enjoy having the homemade refreshments. To volunteer to make 2 dozen or more goodies for a particular musicale, please call Jane Rankin at 401- 884 -0669 to tell her what you'll bring. Small cookies, breads, squares, sandwiches, veg. platter are appropriate.

CHOPIN STUDENT MUSICIANS

The Chopin Student Musicians had a 200th birthday celebration of Chopin on Sunday, March 7th. The Warwick Beacon was on hand to interview Dennis Wu, the President, and report on the performances; there's a link to the March 9th article and photo on ChopinClub.org/StudentMusicians. At the next meeting, April 11th, student elections will be held. On May 2nd, the students will hold their Graduation Concert. All are invited

CHOPIN YOUNG MUSICIANS

President John Black writes on behalf of his sister Christian (Vice President) and himself to thank the Chopin Club for their support. He is in the 8th grade and will be graduating this year. "My experience has been great. We are really happy and thankful that there is such a wonderful thing as the Chopin Young Musicians!"

From Lynda Gulley and Brienne Brown, Co-Counselors: Chopin Club Young Musicians Club had a fun recital on March 6 that included several duets. We heard everything from "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" to a lovely four-hand arrangement of Franz Schubert's "Serenade in D Minor".

Next month, we will be having our election for officers to serve in 2010-2011. On Saturday, May 1 at 2:30 PM we will have our Graduation Recital in which seven of our eighth grade members will be honored as they move up to the high school Chopin Club Student Musicians.

We currently have twenty-seven members in our group, and are very appreciative to the adult Club for its support.

MUSICAL EVENTS

The Resources page on our website, <http://chopinclub.org/Resources>, is frequently updated with notices of upcoming concerts. Among these is a benefit concert on April 18 by Barbara Speer, piano, Jesse Holstein, violin, and Heath Marlow.

Also on our website Resources page you will find Haig Yaghoobian's 2008 Bell Street Chapel Scriabin concert in mp3 format, with program notes. Listen on line or download, free.

DUES AND DONATIONS

Dues notices for 2010-2011 will be going out soon. Please pay the new treasurer promptly (Robert Salmani, 162 Wheeler Ave., Cranston, RI 02905) and also **let us know about any changes in name, address, telephone, or e-mail by June 1**. This helps greatly to get your Yearbook published on time, and lets the Committee Chairs plan before everyone disappears for the summer. Thanks for your cooperation.

Please also consider contributing to the Chopin Club over and above the dues so that we can continue our fine programs.

Donations to the scholarship funds can be made at any time. Many thanks to everyone who has donated; your support is much appreciated. The Scholarship Treasurer is **Elizabeth Reardon**, 56 Harwood Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818.

Please also consider contributing to the Chopin Club over and above the dues, so that we can maintain our various programs and activities.

MEMBER NEWS

New e-mail addresses

John Andrews		jmandre721@aol.com
Dawn Chung		dawnpiano@gmail.com
Margaret J. Frazier	(corrected)	mjfrazier1@gmail.com
Karen Romer		ktromer@verizon.net
Mrs. Melvin (Mary) Korman		finkor@verizon.net
Robert J. Reall		helenreall@aol.com

New phone numbers

Ms N. Boulanger
M. Jane Fierstein

yearbook no. is not in service
401-353-6299

New members

Active:

Masako Fidler, piano
Jorge Gardos, violin

Associate:

Janette M. Lallier
Katherine Sheridan
Janet Tenczar

Resignations:

Active:

John Metz

Associate:

Nancy Connor

Newsletter Notes:

If you have news of members, please notify your editor, preferably by e-mail or by letter—

The next deadline is **June 1, 2010**.

Joan Lusk, 73 3rd Street, Providence, RI, 02906

Joan_Lusk@Brown.edu