

Chopin Club Newsletter

November, 2010

2010-2011 SEASON

All Musicales, including President's Day, are held on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the Music Mansion, 88 Meeting Street, Providence, RI 02906, at the corner of Congdon Street. Please leave the driveway free for food drop-offs and handicapped parking. Weather cancellations are based on any parking bans in effect in Providence.

Scholarship Fundraiser Concert

September 26, 2010

Musicale dates:

November 14, 2010

December 12, 2010

January 9, 2011

February 13, 2011

March 13, 2011

April 10, 2011

President's Day

May 15, 2011

Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With great pleasure, I welcome you to the 132nd season of The Chopin Club, second oldest organization of its type in America. We shall continue to promote appreciation of fine music, and to provide counsel and guidance to our talented Chopin Young Musicians and Chopin Student Musicians, whose development we shall specifically encourage and support by awarding scholarship monies for them to continue their musical studies beyond high school.

For many of us, our monthly musicales are an important refuge from the din and chaos of the world around us. Perhaps the greatest tradition of The Chopin Club is our ability, through beautiful music, to refresh minds and

hearts. Our thanks to all of you who make this possible. I hope that you will spread the word, and that you will continue to actively support our mission and our activities.

As evidence of our commitment to foster greater bonds, as an adjunct to our musicales, we shall periodically honor prominent members of our Musical Arts Community for their contribution to the vital and treasured environment which we in Providence all love and appreciate so dearly.

Our season opened with our Scholarship Fundraiser, with Barbara Speer playing an all-Chopin concert to commemorate our namesake's 200th birthday. A capacity crowd enjoyed an all-Chopin program featuring a very special performance of all four Ballades. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund were received from members and non-members alike. We were especially gratified to announce receipt of a very significant gift from the Friends of the Music Mansion, in honor of Mary K. Hail, of \$5,000 *annually*. We thank Barbara for her generosity and extraordinary contributions in donating her talent and service to the Club. We also gained three new Associate members, who were prompted to attend and join by a very successful publicity campaign led by Regina Andrews.

At our first traditional Musicales & Tea on Sunday, November 14th, the program included fine performances by two of our members, pianists Masako Fidler and Lynda Gulley, as well as two outstanding guest musicians that they invited, Marina Irgon (violin) and Julianna Tauschinger-Dempsey (soprano). Again, the music room was filled, and the audience was treated to an amazing concert, concluding with standing ovations for our performers. Photos from the performance can be seen on our website's Gallery page.

Our website, www.chopinclub.org, is rich with information about our club, its members, and their activities. We've made donations easy and secure to make through our PayPal feature on the Donate page. Our Resources page is a great place for members to publicize their events. Members should send notices to our webmaster at Joan_Lusk@Brown.edu, as should requests to link the member's name in the membership list to his or her e-mail account.

Haig Yaghoobian
president@chopinclub.org

NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dr. Patricia M. Lawlor is chair of the Membership Committee. **Susan Kelley** has assumed the chairmanship of the Scholarship Committee. **Regina Andrews** is chair of Publicity and has developed a media plan. **Birgitta Whited** chairs the Friendship Committee and ask that members inform her of deaths and illnesses that the Club should take note of. Margaret Gidley will help her. **James and Marian (Mimi) DeCesaris** are now officially co-chairs of Hospitality and Tea. **Donald Rankin** and **Haig Yaghoobian** have joined the Investment and Advisory Committee. The Nominations Committee is currently open and volunteers are welcome.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Lenny Donadio applied as a graduating high school senior, Joseph Godfrey as a student about to begin graduate work, and Mo Tian as a continuing graduate student.

The Scholarship Committee was enthusiastic about all of them and awarded a total of \$13,000. In addition, we approved the awarding of service awards to members of both the Chopin Student Musicians and the Chopin Young Musicians, as recommended by the counselors of these two clubs.

DUES AND DONATIONS

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

Donations to the Scholarship funds can be made at any time. Many thanks to all you donors for your support. The Scholarship Treasurer is **Elizabeth Reardon**, 56 Harwood Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818.

CHOPIN STUDENT MUSICIANS

CHOPIN YOUNG MUSICIANS

Our youth clubs are also starting a new season. The **Student Musicians** meet on the first Sunday of the month, October to May, at 6:30 p.m. The **Young Musicians** meet on the first Saturday of the month, October to May, at 2:30 p.m.

Five of last year's Student Musicians are now in college, at least three of them majoring in music. Lenny Donadio is at Hartt Music School, Alex Gorelick at the University of Rhode Island (voice major), Matthew

Marion at Rhode Island College (music major), Polina Oganessian at the University of Virginia and Xiaotian (Dennis) Wu at Dartmouth College. Past President of the Young Musicians John C. Black was the Sunday Church Musician (organist and piano) at Barrington Presbyterian all summer. He plays the Saturday Mass at Holy Ghost on a permanent basis and in September began as staff organist at Middletown United Congregational Church on Sundays. In addition to his accomplishments on the keyboard, John studies violin and plays numerous brass and woodwind instruments. For summer fun, he and his family constructed an organ from a pedal board, 2 manuals, Midi interface, and Hauptwerk tone generator, built a case to enclose it and acquired an old oak organ bench. John started 9th grade in September.

The counselors and advisors of both youth groups invite everyone to attend their musicales at the Music Mansion and hear these talented young people.

CORRECTION TO THE YEARBOOK

M. Jane Fierstein

phone: 401-353-6299 (not 6229)

Newsletter Notes:

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

The next deadline is **March 1, 2011.**

Joan Lusk

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