

IN MEMORIAM

Lucia Lancelotti Caito, President of the Chopin Club 1952-1954 died at the age of 99 on December 24 in Warwick. Born and raised in Providence, she graduated from the Royal Music Academy of Bologna, Italy, she was, until recently, the oldest performing concert pianist in Rhode Island. As a teacher, a founding member of the Philharmonic Children's Concert Series, a board member of the Newport Music Festival, the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Chaminade Music Club, she contributed greatly to the musical life of RI. Barbara Speer played Chopin at the funeral service, as requested by the family.

CORRECTIONS TO THE YEARBOOK

Address correction:

Marnee S. Colburn 14 Pratt Street, Providence, RI 02906

New e-mail

Deborah Concannon dkbiehle@aol.com

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Maria Carella, 120 Bay View Drive, Jamestown, RI 02835
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Newsletter Notes:

If you have news of members, please notify your editor, preferably by e-mail or by letter—
The next deadline is **September 15, 2011.**

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Chopin Club Newsletter

March, 2011

PRESIDENT HAIG YAGHOBIAN RESIGNS

On January 6th, President Haig Yaghoobian wrote to members of the Board:

Dear Friends:

After much deliberation, and input from a number of you, I've been forced to conclude – with great regret – that it would be in the best interest of the Chopin Club for me to resign as President now. The demands of my new job in Burbank, CA are very great, and will not permit me any latitude in my schedule for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, as I mentioned in my previous message, there are significant logistical problems with airline schedules, making it impossible for me to get back and forth in a timely way.

Clearly, this is not what you or I expected at the time of my election last May. I am very sorry about the turn of events, but I cannot, in good conscience, pretend to be able to execute my duties properly, under the circumstances.

I suspect that an organization in its 132nd year of existence will likely withstand the minor jolt of one person leaving, and will keep on operating just fine. That said, I am going to miss our working together, our camaraderie, and most especially, the opportunity to enjoy our fine programs.

Although I cannot continue in the role of President, I am certainly able and willing to continue to be a resource to you to the best of my ability, even from 3000 miles away. In particular, I would be happy to remain a member of the Investment Committee, if you are so willing, and continue to provide guidance on those matters, as I have done.

Over the past 54 years, since my first involvement with the Chopin Club, the Chaminade Club, and the Music Mansion, I have moved away from and returned to live in Rhode Island no less than six times. Who knows...perhaps there will be a seventh?

Until we see one another again, please accept my heartfelt wishes for many more wonderful musical years.

Sincerely,

Haig Yaghoobian

RESPONSE OF THE BOARD

Vice President Barbara Speer has been Acting President. In consultation with the Board, she has appointed a Nominating Committee (a standing committee that had not been filled last Fall), consisting of Betty Jane Berberian, James DeCesaris, Margaret Gidley, Edith Hemenway and herself. The Nominating Committee is charged with finding a new President as soon as possible. The news will be posted immediately on ChopinClub.org.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD

Deborah Concannon became a member of the Board on February 13.

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

All members are invited to attend the May 1st Graduation Concert of the Chopin Student Musicians at 6:30 PM at the Music Mansion.

CHOPIN YOUNG MUSICIANS

The Young Musicians were disappointed to have their February meeting cancelled due to the frigid weather and ice accumulation. We look forward to meeting in March for a mix of the American music that would have been played in February, and the ensemble playing that we plan every year for March. The meetings have been well attended so far this season, and there have been some wonderful performances by the students.

MUSICAL EVENTS AND MEMBER NEWS

URI Piano Extravaganza! is adding a new event for adult amateur pianists. This is an opportunity to play a Steinway concert grand piano, meet other piano lovers and receive friendly comments by adjudicators. Memory is not required. Solo or duet. Deadline: March 25. Details are on this website: <http://www.pianoextravaganza.org>.

Marina Irgon and Masako Fidler will be playing the complete Brahms Sonata for Violin and Piano in G-major, Opus 78, for Marina's senior recital

on May 26 in Grant Recital Hall, Brown University. They are scheduled to play the first movement in the March 13th musicale.

Lucy Mauro and Donald George, who performed on Presidents Day 2010, have published a CD "Love is Everywhere: Selected Songs of Margaret Ruthven Lang, Vol. 1." A companion CD-R provides printable scores, song texts and even some copies of her manuscripts. Lang was a Boston composer at the turn of the century. The CD was just selected as WETA in Washington's Pick of the Week for January 31, and is on iTunes New and Noteworthy and is the featured CD for the Naxos Music Library newsletter in February.

Elizabeth Monacelli is the new music director of the Fallbrook (CA) Chamber Orchestra. She will be performing in June in Music on the Hill's concert series featuring musicians from Rhode Island.

Acting President Barbara Speer performed Bach's *Partita in G Major* on the Community Music Works Bach Festival in November at the Bell Street Chapel and played an all-Chopin program at Laurelmead. She was also invited by Chopin Club member Manabu Takasawa, piano faculty at URI, to be a judge at his URI Piano Extravaganza in April and at the Fitchburg College Competition in May.

Jesse Holstein, Heath Marlow, and Jeff Louie (piano), will be presenting an all-Schubert program at the Bell Street Chapel on Sunday, April 3 at 3 pm. The program will include a Rondo for violin and piano and the E-flat piano trio. The concert will benefit the Fred Kelley Memorial Fund at Community MusicWorks which provides scholarships so that CMW students can attend summer music camps. All are welcome, and there is a convenient parking lot behind the Chapel. See <http://communitymusicworks.org> for details.

On May 1 at the Chaminade Club in Attleboro, Jorge Gardos (violin), Burton Fine (viola) and Donna Gardos (cello) will give a second performance of the Dohnanyi Serenade that they will play in our April 10th concert. Burton Fine, former principal violist of the Boston Symphony, came out of retirement and joined this trio. They plan to give a full recital in the fall, in Massachusetts.

Watch for more events and more precise information for these on ChopinClub.org/resources.