

The Symphony East  
Web site:  
www.symphoneyeast.org



*"Bringing to YOU  
Musicians at their Best"*

# *Notes from Symphony East*

**Monday, May 20, 2019 at Redstone Highlands  
4951 Cline Hollow Road, Murrysville, PA**

**Socialize & submit payments from 10:30 a.m.—Business Meeting 11:00-11:30  
— Lunch 11:45—12:50**

**Program will begin immediately at 1:00 p.m.**

## **Program:** Voice students from the CMU School of Fine Arts School of Drama Acting and Music Theater



Symphony East welcomes **Claudia Benack** along with some of her students to perform for our audience. Ms. Benack is a well-known Pittsburgh vocalist and Associate Teaching Professor, Voice at Carnegie-Mellon's School of Drama. She received both her BFA and MFA degrees in Vocal Performance from CMU's School of Music where she studied voice with Beatrice Krebs and Opera Workshop with Mildred Miller. She continued her vocal studies with Ellen Faull of the Juilliard School, the late Margaret Hoswell of the Manhattan School of Music, and Gary Race, formerly of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Iowa. A leading soprano for twenty years with Pittsburgh Opera Theater, she performed frequently with Pittsburgh Opera, the PSO, the Pennsylvania Opera Workshop, and other regional opera companies. A true advocate and promoter of healthy singing through solid vocal technique and training, Ms.

Benack continues her studies in vocal teaching by attending singing workshops throughout the country and working with numerous vocal therapists and throat doctors. She also maintains her own thriving private studio. The favorite part of her career has now become watching and enjoying her former and present students appear in countless national tours and regional productions.

For this presentation, Ms. Benack will be bringing four talented current students of the program to present a varied program of musical theatre repertoire:

Safiyah Harris is from Miami Florida; Georgia Mendes is from Los Angeles;  
Miller Kraps is from Louisville, Kentucky; and Allison Ferebee is from Clarkville, Tenn.



*Reservations for lunch and program:* If not called by the Calling Committee or you were not able to answer the call, please phone: Linda Casper, (412) 897-3236, by Wednesday, May 15.

**At the meeting, please have ready your completed check for \$20.00 - made out to Symphony East - and submit it before 11:00 so that everyone can attend the business meeting on time. Persons arriving after 11:00, please be sure that your payment is collected and noted as paid. If you reserve and can't attend, please send your check for \$20.00 to our Treasurer, Lynn Staab (4310 Sardis Rd., Murrysville, PA 15668).**

► *Attending only the program?* A \$10.00 donation is requested. *No one is required to have the ability to play a musical instrument in order to attend meetings or become a member.* ◀



### ➡ *President's message:*

Hello Members,

The past few months have flown for me. With the raining days, it seemed like maybe I had moved to London. I think everyone is in agreement this has truly been the toughest winter on us all. It's in the teens one day then 64 the next. Looking forward to sunny days and the upcoming meeting on May 20.

At the board meeting we had a long discussion on ways to raise money for the Pittsburgh Symphony. We would appreciate all members helping with their ideas. You can call the board members or write down your thought and give to to anyone on the board. Our Christmas Party has been a success and now we need to find a second fundraiser — any ideas are welcomed.

The consensus is Violet really picked a winner with the program in February. Thanks to her hard work we have enjoyed many great performances.

April was a sad month with the passing of Gloria Urbanik, a wonderful friend and member. Always willing to help in any way. She had a very fulfilling life. We were so blest to know her.

Looking forward to having Pat Frick as Vice President. Welcome aboard Pat.

Each member has joined SE to make a difference and each one is important to the growth of SE.

Have a wonderful summer. See you all in September. Think about new ideas and fundraising to help the club grow.

Thank You 😊. **Linda Casper, President**



### *Installation of Officers elected for the Executive Board.*

▶ ▶ **Election of Symphony East's Officers** – The following slate of officers for the 2018-2019 season was presented to the members at the March meeting: Linda Casper – president Pat Frick – vice president

Romaine Miller – secretary Lynn Staab – treasurer

After it was asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor and hearing none, this slate of officers was elected by verbal vote. **Installation of these officers - President Linda Casper, Vice president Pat Frick, Secretary Romaine Miller, and Treasurer Lynn Staab - will take place at the May meeting.**

**Congratulations and thank you! ◀◀**



### **Proposed By-law Amendment**

A proposal was passed at the May Executive Board meeting that *Symphony East By-laws Article V - Meetings* be changed to: "If practical, meetings shall be held the third Monday of the months of September, October, March, April, and May." Article VII provides how the By-laws may be amended.

The board's discussion concerning changing the meeting months included the information that attendance has been low at recent February meetings (partly because of weather); that there no longer is a major fundraiser in April; that a fundraiser similar to the "No Show Tea Party" could be done in February and some other event could be again held in November; and that January meetings were moved to February years ago because of concerns about weather conditions affecting attendance in January.

There will be more discussion at this month's membership meeting and a vote on the amendment can be taken at the September meeting. Of course, thoughts and ideas related to this proposal can be sent to the Board at any time.



**Yearbook update:** Diana Galbraith's new address: 33 Garden Court, Verona, PA 15147

Symphony East offers condolences to the families of two longtime members:

May Funk who died on April 1, 2019, twenty-eight days short of her 98th birthday anniversary.

Gloria Urbanik who died on April 10, 2019, at the age of 94.

Also, our condolences are extended to Romaine Miller whose brother, AJ Walker, died on April 26.



Several members, including Gilli and Enid, have experienced health issues recently and are slowly regaining strength and health. Warm days will help. Cards and phone calls are always nice gestures of caring!

►► ***Our members enjoy learning of joyous events, such as this:***

🌻 **Rehearsal Day** was celebrated on April 11, with five SE members watching Leonard Slatkin conduct the morning rehearsal (Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Mr. Slatkin's elegy for his parents) and then proceeding to a delicious lunch with PSA members and guests.

At the luncheon, Nancy Dalverny unexpectedly met a childhood neighbor who is a recent new member of PSA as is her husband. Obviously, membership in PSA and Symphony East has serendipitous benefits.

In the PSO program booklet, it is noted that the PSA has an Affiliate Leadership Council. The Council's member is Linda Casper, Symphony East President.



The 16th Annual Three Rivers Community Band Festival was again a successful set of four concerts performed in the Upper St. Clair Theater. Festival founder and chief organizer Roger Schneider played his euphonium, congratulated the festival's organizers and participants, and announced winners of various items at the cookie reception that concluded the festival.

Jim Cunningham from WQED was the program host (10 years - [https://pittsburghsymphony.org/psa\\_home/biographies/guest-artists/jim-cunningham](https://pittsburghsymphony.org/psa_home/biographies/guest-artists/jim-cunningham))

►►💰😊 **From our Treasurer:** 🌻💰🌻💰🌻💰🌻💰



For the March meeting: Income (29 persons @ \$20.00 + 1 absentee @ \$20.00 + program only @ \$110.00) + Share the Wealth @ \$70.00 (Be-Be donated her winnings) = \$780.00 and Expenses (entertainment \$500.00 + lunch (32 @ \$9.00) = \$788.00 Loss: \$8.00.

Symphony East thanks the Music Performance Trust Fund's underwriting contributions: \$451.85 for the season.

In February, clarinetist Victoria Luperi donated her \$200.00 performance fee to Symphony East. The profit for that day was \$292.00. The balance as of February 28, 2019, was \$8,379.42, however \$300.00 of that balance was in the Symphony East Program Enhancement Fund.

As of March 31, 2019, the account balance (minus the Program Enhancement Fund of \$500) was \$7,915.24.

**As noted below, SE did donate \$1,500 for a Piano Key. To complete our annual donation to the PSA, the Board decided to send another \$3,500 — \$562 was already allocated from our dues — for a total 2018-19 season's donation of \$5,000.**



### Notes from the March meeting:

► Jackie Demetris, president of the PSA, reviewed upcoming PSA events including the upcoming Rehearsal Lunch and the fundraisers – Sweepstakes, Symphony Salon, and the Steinway Piano Fund. She suggested that SE consider donating \$1,500 to the fund, as this would allow us to underwrite a key on the keyboard. The name of SE would then be engraved on a plaque in Heinz Hall.

**[SE did donate \$1,500 for a Piano Key at the end of March. PSO's letter of thanks is copied below.]**

► Linda has been informed by the management of the dining room that only one table at a time should go to the salad bar. This will make it easier for the resident diners to get their salads.

► The delivery of the newsletter went smoothly this month. Ulla Strait and Nancy Dalverny were thanked for helping the calling committee, as Enid Mansfield and Diane Kaufmann were not available to make their calls. It is important, in the event that you are not home to receive the reservation call, that you reply to Linda Casper with your reservation information.

► The PSA has 3 pages in the PSO program: a listing of the officers of the PSA and Symphony East, a page explaining the PSA, and a PSA donor page. Anyone who contributes a minimum of \$600.00 to the PSA for the PSO will be named on the PSA donor list.

► **50/50 Raffle:** BeBe Stroebel had the winning ticket. She donated her \$35.00 to SE.

### ► Fund Raiser

The April fundraiser to help the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will be a NO SHOW TEA PARTY. Each member will receive, by mail, an invitation to enjoy the 'tea party', a tea bag, and a form to be returned with a donation. Each donation will be entered into a raffle to win a full year of Symphony East Programs FREE. This is a value of \$100.00.

[Each member should have already received an invitation - see the copy below - and, perhaps, have made a donation by the time this newsletter is published. If necessary, you may use the invitation copy and give your donation to Lynn Staab **before the May meeting begins** so as to be entered in the raffle.

**The drawing will be made during the business meeting.]**

►► **Symphony East notes more activities in 2019:**  

A reminder concerning subscriptions to the PSO concerts:

►► SE members are entitled to the 25% subscription discount. It is not retroactive, so you must mention that you are a SE member when you get the subscription or renew.

► **PSO & PSA News:** <http://www.psa75.org> Newsletter: *Staccato Notes*

**The 2019 Sweepstakes is in progress;** it is PSA's signature fundraiser. The logo has become recognizable to the thousands of cultural arts supporters in the Pittsburgh area. The fabulous prizes include a \$5,000 first place cash prize and a new "An Evening with Melia and Maestro" prize. In April, thousands of entries are mailed to supporters throughout the Pittsburgh area, and in June, winning numbers are drawn. Did you receive your form in the mail? **Postmark deadline is 6/10/19.**


You can call: 412-392-3303.




**Reminder:** There is a Symphony East section on the PSA Web site.



►► **Orchestra Appreciation Break**, May 16, Heinz Hall, approximately 11:00 a.m. break

 A resource for musical (including PSO concerts) + other cultural events: <http://www.wqed.org/cultural-calendar/month>

 **Monroeville Arts Council's 36th Annual Summer Concert Series** at a new location: the auditorium of Garden City United Methodist Church, 500 Laurel Dr, Monroeville, PA 15146 (just off Garden City Drive).

No admission charge <https://monroevilleartscouncil.org>

**July 14 – Etta Cox**

**July 21 – East Winds Symphonic Band group**

**July 28 – Latin Jazz**

**All on Sunday afternoon, 4-6 p.m.**

~~~~~

**As noted in the By-laws, anyone joining SE after the March meeting has membership through the next season.**





## SYMPHONY EAST

An Affiliate of the Pittsburgh Symphony Association  
"Bringing YOU Musicians at their Best"

The Honor of Your Absence is requested at the  
**NO SHOW TEA PARTY-RSVP** at bottom

You are cordially invited to enjoy a delightful afternoon of utter leisure at home!  
We are going to have a

### Non-Event

We'll need your help, you see,  
To fulfill our mission to help the Pittsburgh Symphony

Just give the minimum, or More \$\$\$ if you like  
We're asking no work of you...

But we do need your full support.



Please have a heart

Dig down deep with glee

Just stay home, relax a bit, and have a cup of tea!

Make Payable-Symphony East  
Remit to - Lynn Staab 4310 Sardis Rd Murrysville, Pa. 15668

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\$25      \$35      \$45      \$50      Other \_\_\_\_\_

Each donation will be entered into a raffle to win  
A full year (5) of Symphony East Programs FREE  
Value \$100



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
MANFRED HONECK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

April 9, 2019

Ms. Lynn Staab  
Pittsburgh Symphony East  
4110 Saltsburg Road  
Murrysville, PA 15668

Dear Ms. Staab,

THANK YOU for your generous support in helping the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra unlock a new Steinway Concert Grand Piano. Fulfilling our vision of providing Great Music in Every Life for our region requires strong commitment of the community. We simply couldn't implement our core classical and pops programming, as well as our free programs for children, adults, military personnel and their families, special needs individuals, and hospital patients without the generosity of donors like you.

Your generous gift of \$1,500 to underwrite a key was received on April 8, 2019. We are honored to recognize you as *Symphony East* in the program book. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. We look forward to seeing you in Heinz Hall when we unveil the NEW Concert Grand Piano with a Grand Celebration in 2020. If you have any questions about your gift, please contact Myra Toomey at 412.392.3320.

Sincerely,

Jodi B. Weisfield

Jodi B. Weisfield

Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer

Tax-deductibility: The Pittsburgh Symphony is a not-for-profit institution. Your entire tax contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law, less the fair market value of the benefits you use.

Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 | 412.392.4900 | pittsburghsymphony.org

Anthony L. Bucci, Board Chair | Mella Tourangeau, President & CEO