

♪♪ Notes from Symphony East ♪♪

The Symphony East Web site:
www.symphonyeast.org

~ Welcome, Everyone ~
Our Season 63 continues !

*"Bringing to YOU
Musicians at their Best"*

Monday, April 21, 2025

at the Lamplighter Restaurant, 6566 William Penn Hwy., Delmont, PA 15626

Socialize from 11:00 a.m.—Business Meeting 11:30-11:45

Lunch 11:45—12:50

Program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Program: Gemma Stemley, flutist (& more)



Gemma Stemley is a writer, poet, retired college administrator, and musician, having played the flute for several years professionally. She was born in Trinidad and Tobago and emigrated to the US more than twenty-five years ago. However, she has strong ties with Trinidad through her family who still reside on the island. She now pays regular visits home, especially to coincide with carnival or Christmas.

As a poet and musician whose art reflects a deep connection to the land of her upbringing, she epitomizes the true Caribbean spirit. Her poetry explores the intimate emotions of growing up in the one place where she can only receive a birth certificate and where her ancestors are buried. Ms Stemley has performed on several college campuses, where she was hired to play her Caribbean music. She has also made appearances to read her poetry.

Ms Stemley has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the West Indies and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Clarion University. She is ABD (All But Dissertation) having completed coursework for her PhD in Literature and Criticism from Indiana University of Pa. She taught classes at both Clarion University and Cheyney University in International Women's literature while working as an administrator at both of these campuses. Being an avid reader in world literature, she is especially influenced by Caribbean, African, Indian, and African American writers. She loves the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks, Derek Walcott, and Rabindranath Tagore.

Ms Stemley volunteers to play music for the senior community in Pittsburgh. She is also an advocate for continuing education beyond High School as she and her husband, Calvin Stemley, award three scholarships each year to graduating seniors who are African Americans. She has published two books, one (published in 2021) received an award from the National Indie Book of Excellence. An exploration of the meaning of home and entitled "Finding Home: A Sentimental Journey." Her most recent book "Sharing Spaces: Poems of the Heart" is a collection of her poems and was published in November 2024.

Husband Calvin Stemley - an accomplished musician, educator, and performer (a saxophonist who plays standard jazz selections, etc.) - has accompanied Ms Stemley as she recited her poems (e.g., at Monroeville Public Library three years ago in May).

Symphony East Presents the Best of Broadway!



Save the date! Invite your friends! Join the fun as Symphony East presents the very best of Broadway hits at our annual fundraiser on May 19th! In keeping with our tradition of “no show” fundraising appeals, Symphony East asks members to make their annual donation to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra early this spring and then to relax and enjoy the wonderful entertainment provided by Aria412 at our May 19th fundraising finale!

Be on the lookout for our brochure detailing the fundraising fun in your mailbox soon. Prizes for anyone who makes a donation to the PSO through Symphony East will include the chance to win the first prize of chauffeured transportation and two tickets to the CLO production of Camelot on Wednesday, June 18th, at 7:30 PM. Second prize winners (yes, there will be more than one) will receive two complementary tickets to an end-of-season BNY Mellon Grand Classic Concert by the PSO. The third prize winner will receive a \$50 gift card to The Eagle Restaurant, a convivial eatery dishing up Southern classics (just across the street from the Benedum!). Please return the donation envelope (included with the brochure) by Friday, May 16th to be included in the drawing at our May luncheon.

Please give generously and then come to enjoy the hits from your favorite Broadway shows. We'll save you a seat!

Donations Needed for May 19th Best of Broadway Fun!



Symphony East needs your help to stock the Tony Awards Gift Table at our May 19th luncheon. We are not raffling baskets but please donate individual items - wine, gift cards, stationery, items which you wish to regift, or any new or gently-used item which someone else might love! Bring your items to the April 21st program or call Nancy Dalverny (412-373-0711) or Romaine Miller (412-996-4915) for pick-up.



RESERVATION FORM
for

Ck.# _____]
Date: _____]

Season 63: Meeting, Luncheon, & Program

In the Ballroom at the Lamplighter Restaurant, 6566 William Penn Hwy, Delmont, PA 15626 (724) 461-1031
Monday, April 21, 2025 - 11:00 A.M. (Social time begins) 11:45 A.M. (Dining time)

Deadline is Thursday, APRIL 17, 2025

I/We will Attend _____

First Name

Last Name

Indicate your choice of entrée: #1 Caribbean Chicken Salad or #2 Pineapple Glazed Ham

My guest(s) will be: _____

Choice of entrée: # _____
Choice of entrée: # _____

The meal offerings will be a served meal and with Lamplighter Desserts

Number of attendees @ \$30.00 per meal: _____ Total payment: _____

Although I cannot attend, please accept this contribution to benefit the PSO: _____

**Please send this reservation form and check payable to *Symphony East* by *Thursday, April 17*, to:
Dolores Gallagher, 140 LaVale Drive, Apt. 404, Monroeville, PA 15146 (ph. 412-628-7132)**