Notes from Symphony East I

The Symphony East Web site: www.symphonyeast.org

~ Alelcome, 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).

Reservations for lunch and program: All reservations for attendees must be received by the April 17 deadline. The price of the event is a <u>flat fee</u> of \$30.00 which covers the luncheon and program. <u>No walk-ins for the meal</u> will be accepted as the exact quantity of food has to be ordered ahead of time (it will be a served meal - be sure to choose the main dish that you prefer). A person who does not want to have lunch can relax and enjoy the musical program with a \$10.00 guest admission (no food). If you reserve and can't attend, SE must still pay for the food and the performers, so thank you for your check for \$30.00. If you are able to provide a ride to the meeting for those who are not able to drive, doing so would be a kind offering. If you are needing transportation, contact a member living nearby or make an arrangement with member Elaine Stevens.

😊 🕽 🎜 The April reservation form is below. Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée.

Thank you. រ 😳 រ\$រ\$រ\$រ 😳 រ\$រ\$រ\$

►► \$ ☺ From our Treasurer: \$\$\$\$

As of March 17, 2025, the ending balance is \$8,334.87. The remaining entertainment budget is \$675.00, leaving a spendable balance of \$7,659.87. For the March meeting, the income was \$999.00 and the expense was \$1,283.10 resulting in a \$284.10 loss. Reminder: According to the by-laws, annual dues are payable at the September meeting and the deadline is December 1. Any member who joined after the March meeting has already paid for the 2025-2026 season. Prompt payments are appreciated by the Membership Chair and the Treasurer. A portion of dues is given "to financially support the Pittsburgh Symphony" - one purpose of Symphony East as an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Symphony Association.

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UpdateYour Yearbook: 🖉

Symphony East welcomes a new member: Sandy Rubright, 79 Greenbriar Drive, Leechburg, PA 15656 724-994-8872 wpmaa@yahoo.com

Symphony East notes another activity in Season 63: 👻 🎝 🎜

May 19 - SE's anticipated end-of-season fundraiser — see the information below. *Aria412* presents a *Potpourri of Hit Broadway Show Tunes*

Guests are always encouraged to attend and are welcome!

Save the Date! - The performer for the December 1, 2025, meeting will be Mikey Dee.

Election of officers for the Executive Board.

► Note: Election of Symphony East's officers occurred at the March meeting, in accordance with Article III of the By-laws. The volunteer candidates for the offices were: Pat Frick for President; Romaine Miller for Secretary; Lynn Staab for Treasurer. Noting that no one has yet volunteered to serve as Vice President, Diane Kaufmann (recovering from a serious illness) has indicated that she now feels capable of accepting this position. At the April meeting, members will vote on her candidacy. All candidates presented at the March meeting were elected by acclimation. The elected officers will be installed at the May meeting.

While considering the subject of board members, would you give thought to volunteering to be a board member other than as an elected officer, possibly as a co-chair for one of the positions. If your interest is kindled, you can discuss the possibility with anyone on the board. Thank you!

President's Message:

It appears that Spring is finally on its way. Time to think of spring planting and preparing for summer. A time of change. It is also the time when we begin planning for the coming season of Symphony East. New officers, new programs, new friends. Your board does its best to make our meetings enjoyable. Much goes into planning for the coming season. We welcome our new program chairperson, Sandy Rubright, to the board. It occurred to me that many of you do not know who makes up the board. We have four elected offices - President Pat Frick, Vice President Diane Kaufmann, Treasurer Lynn Staab, and Recording Secretary Romaine Miller. Sue Kemper edits the year book, Nancy Dalverny chairs the calling committee, Bob Kemper is membership chairperson, Gene Dalverny is the newsletter editor, Roger Schneider chairs publicity, and Dee Gallagher manages reservations. I make the menu choices.

If you were not able to attend the last luncheon and hear The Brass on the Bluff, you missed a very good program. The music was very good, the musicians were pleasant, and we learned how the horns make their musical notes by way of nine feet of tubing and a kitchen funnel. Our program for April will be a change of pace, featuring the flute and much more. Don't miss it. I look forward to seeing you on April 21.

Lat Frick, President



Invite Your Friends!

Act fast and invite your friends to our May 19th "Best of Broadway" fundraiser! Invitations for your use will be available at our April 21st program. We will reserve tables for groups of six or more!

PSO & PSA News: http://www.PittsburghSymphonyAssociation.org Newsletter: *Staccato Notes*

Some PSA Upcoming Events:

The Pittsburgh Symphony Association is the PSO's primary volunteer fundraising Organization.

On Thursday, April 24, our first jazz event, **All That Jazz**, featuring six- time Grammy winner Marty Ashby from the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild will take place at Chartiers Country Club. He will discuss the history of jazz in Pittsburgh and be joined by nine of Pittsburgh's finest jazz musicians who will play many of your favorite songs. Jean Horne is heading up our advertising and marketing for this exciting evening. Details are included in this newsletter.

You also do not want to miss our annual hat luncheon on May 6 at Le Mont Restaurant. This year's theme is the Kentucky Derby. Make sure you wear your finest chapeau!

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 <u>not</u> 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.

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Supporting the PSO for over		
	leeting, Luncheon,	
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 Na	ne 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: T		ient:
Although I cannot attend, please accept this contribution to benefit the PSO:		
Please send this reservation form and check payable to <i>Symphony East</i> by <i>Thursday, April 17,</i> to: Dolores Gallagher, 140 LaVale Drive, Apt. 404, Monroeville, PA 15146 (ph. 412-628-7132)		