

Notes from Symphony East

DOUBLE ISSUE

The Symphony East Web site:
www.symphoneyeast.org

~ Welcome, Everyone ~
Our 64th Season is continuing
during Autumn 🍁

"Bringing to YOU
Musicians at their Best"

Monday, November 17, 2025

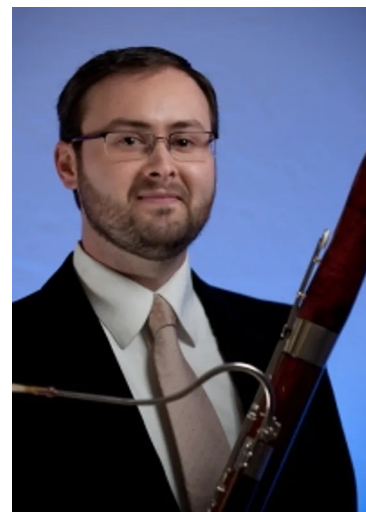
at the Lamplighter Restaurant, 6566 William Penn Hwy., Delmont, PA 15626

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.

Performance: Bel Suono Chamber Ensemble



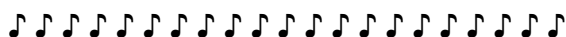
The Bel Suono Chamber Ensemble is a chamber group comprised of professional musicians located in the Pittsburgh area who strive for high quality performances of a diverse range of music from the chamber music repertoire.

Nolan Petote is a freelance musician and teacher based in Pittsburgh. He has performed numerous times with the orchestras of Charleston (SC), Albany (NY), South Florida, Wheeling, Westmoreland, and Johnstown. He maintains a large private clarinet and saxophone studio at two locations in the Pittsburgh area and through teaching online lessons. He is also the woodwind coordinator of the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra and the administrator of the Newlonsburg Music Academy. Mr. Petote holds a Masters in Music Performance and Advanced Music Studies Degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and a Bachelors of Music Performance Degree from Duquesne University (2012 Magna Cum Laude graduate). He played clarinet in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2007 to 2010.

Julia Simeone has been surrounded by music ever since she was born and violin became an instant passion for her since she was three years old. She graduated from Seton Hill University with a degree in Psychology and from Slippery Rock University with a degree in Violin Performance studying violin with Dr. Warren Davidson and cello with Dr. Paige Riggs. She actively performs around Pittsburgh as a member of the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, a member of PYCO School of Music Faculty, and frequently playing in musicals for various productions. As a very enthusiastic and patient Suzuki-Certified violin teacher, she believes that learning music not only assists students in growing their artistic capabilities, but also expands into every aspect of their life. As a psychology major, she learned how important it is to be empathetic of others' situations, so she recognizes that every student is different and strives to tailor each lesson to suit each

student's needs. she ensures that each lesson is a positive and enjoyable experience by maintaining open communication between the student, parent, and teacher, helping her students grow as musicians and people. When Ms Simeone is not playing or teaching violin, she enjoys running, writing, painting, and spending time with her wonderful family. Her Treble Clef Creations consists of a variety of hand-painted violins. The name stems from the treble clef hidden in each painting which began with painting damaged and poor quality violins to repurpose them with a second life.

Steve Ehrin is a freelance musician in the western Pennsylvania area. He is a member of the Butler County and Johnstown Symphony Orchestras and has played with many of the other regional symphony orchestras. In addition to his orchestral work, he is an active chamber musician as bassoonist with the Bel Suono Ensemble and WindFluence Woodwind Quintet. Complementing his performance work, he is a dedicated professional musical instrument repair technician specializing in woodwind and brass instruments. Mr. Ehrin is a graduate of the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University. From 2001 to 2003, he played bassoon in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra.



NOTE THE PRICE BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS:

Reservations for lunch and program: All reservations for attendees must be received by the November 13 deadline. The price of the event is a flat fee of \$30.00 which covers the luncheon and program for Symphony East members - the event price for non-members is \$35.00. No walk-ins for the meal will be accepted as the exact quantity of food has to be ordered ahead of time (it will be a served meal). A person who does not want to have lunch can relax and enjoy the program (a \$15.00 donation is requested). 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 or \$35.00. 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. Lots of free parking!!



♪ ♪ The November reservation form is below. Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée.

Guests are always encouraged to attend and are welcome! Thank you.



Your new Yearbook: 📖

The 2025-2026 Yearbook was available at the September meeting. The various changes from over the past season - including the information about new members (you may introduce yourself) - are included. If you were not at the meeting, your member copy will be mailed to you.

Welcome to new member and PSA's President-elect Ruth Ann Pritchard, 2211 Ben Franklin Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237 pritchard47@comcast.net

► ► \$ ☺ From our Treasurer: ♪ ☺ ♪ \$ ♪ \$ ♪ \$ ♪

As of October 20, 2025, the ending balance is \$4,521.92. The remaining entertainment budget is \$1,600.00 leaving a spendable balance of \$2,911.92. For the October meeting, the Income was \$1,080 and the Expenses were \$918. Entertainment costs: September \$750; October \$150.

According to the by-laws, annual dues are payable at the September meeting and the deadline is December 1. Any new 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.

By popular request, the 50/50 raffle will be reinstated at membership meetings. ◀



Symphony East extends condolences to Romaine, his dear friend, and to his family on the death of Jean-Paul Vergnes on October 13, 2025. He was a most remarkable person, a patron of the arts in Pittsburgh, including the PSO.

President's Message:

Fall is upon us and time for indoor activities. We will meet for lunch and program at the Lamplighter on Monday, November 17. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information about the program and a reservation form for your luncheon choice. The big event is coming up on December 8, the holiday fundraiser. The fundraiser committee has been meeting and planning since early summer. The committee is a very creative and well organized group. They have many surprises for you as well as our usual basket raffle. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a reservation form. Invite your friends to attend and help make this the best fundraiser of all time.

We were sorry that Mario, the Italian tenor, canceled for October. As I understand it, he received an invitation to sing at the Vatican. Hopefully we can engage him again at a later date.

A friend of mine would say "Yawal come, ya hear?" I will see you in a few weeks.

Pat Frick, President



Monday, December 8, 2025

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

Socialize, Peruse the Baskets from 11:00 a.m.—

Lunch 11:45—12:50 Program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Symphony East's Holiday Gala

Performance: Donna Groom - popular vocalist with a program of holiday cheer!

Donna Groom began singing at 18 months and learned to play the piano at 2 1/2 years old. She also learned to play the pipe organ and played regularly for service at 9 years old. An accomplishment was performing the Grieg Piano Concerto with a symphony orchestra at 15. She had formal training with concert pianists and organists;



attended Duquesne University on scholarship; graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in organ and sacred music; and then became lead female vocalist with the famed vocal group *Jimmy Beaumont & The Skyliners*. As a professional studio musician and singer, Ms Groom has written and recorded many TV and radio jingles, has two CDs selling in Japan and was a featured guest artist on several others. She has acted as vocal contractor and/or background performer on several of the popular PBS "My Music" series, ranging from doo wop to country, and was also consulted and helped with post-production. She has held music director positions in several churches in the area; is on the faculty at Lincoln Park Performing Arts School as a vocal instructor; was awarded the Henry N. Mancini Achievement Award in 2003; is a member of the American Guild

of Organists Pittsburgh Chapter where she holds the Colleague certificate; is a member of AFTRA; and is a past president of the Lions Club aiding in programs and medical research for the blind.



The ***Our. Annual Sounds of Joy!*** reservation form is below.

Reservations for lunch and program must be received by the December 4 deadline. The price of the event is a flat fee of \$40.00. A person who does not want to have lunch can relax and enjoy the program (a \$15.00 donation is requested).



Please consider
donating a basket
to this year's holiday gala!

You can save a stamp and envelope by sending the reservation forms and the separate checks for the November and December meetings together to Dee Gallagher.



Symphony East's Holiday Gala

A Jingle Bell Bash!

December 8, 2025

11:00 AM

Mark your calendar and plan to kick off the holidays with friends at our annual holiday gala! Donna Groom, popular vocalist and cruise ship entertainer, will lead the fun at the "Jingle Bell Bash" with a program of holiday cheer.

Why not invite your friends and enjoy the time to relax together before the holiday rush begins? We will gladly reserve tables for six to eight guests who wish to sit together (you can include your seating request on your reservation form!)

Be sure to enter the drawing for the **Grand Prize of a chauffeured evening of dinner and the symphony concert - seated in the best seats of the house at Heinz Hall!** There is also the chance to participate in a fabulous basket raffle, holiday treasure gift drawings, and a "share the wealth" opportunity.

We hope to see you there!

Questions? Please call Nancy Dalverny (412-373-0711) or Diane Kaufmann (724-327-9095)

Don't forget to invite your friends!

Now — A Special Request:



Come to Help!

Join the fun on Sunday,
December 7th,
from 2:00-5:00 PM
at St. Alban's Church
as we meet to
assemble baskets!

Many hands make light work!

The fundraising committee has been hard at work since July but we still need your help! Please consider donating a themed basket, new or gently used items to be incorporated into baskets? Your help on December 7th, as we gather to create the raffle baskets would be most welcomed. We will meet from 2:00-5:00 PM at St. Alban's Church. Donations of empty baskets, rolls of cellophane, Scotch tape, festive ribbon, and basket shred are needed.



**WE
NEED**

Empty baskets
Rolls of Cellophane
Scotch Tape
Christmas Ribbon
Basket Shred
Colored Tissue Paper
Package Ties



**Donations
for Baskets
Needed!**

Gently used items such as jewelry, scarves, purses, gift cards, stationery, Christmas décor, or wine, coffee, tea, chocolate, etc.

Call Nancy Dalverny to donate.

►► **Symphony East notes more activities in 2026:** 🎄 🎵

► **"Eight Bells" Men's Octet on March 16, 2026; April 20 Fundraiser - Trio Granata "String Impressions"; and May 18 - Mikey Dee - Remembering Violet Matteo.**



RESERVATION FORM

for

Ck.# _____]

Date: _____]

Season 64: Meeting, Luncheon, & Program

In the Ballroom at the Lamplighter Restaurant, 6566 William Penn Hwy, Delmont, PA 15626 (724) 461-1031

Monday, November 17, 2025 - 11:00 A.M. (Social time begins) 11:45 A.M. (Dining time)

Deadline is Thursday, *NOVEMBER 13, 2025*

I/We will Attend _____

First Name

Last Name

Indicate your choice of entrée: #1 Chicken Florentine or #2 Meatloaf

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

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

Number of nonmembers @ \$35.00 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, November 13*, to:
Dolores Gallagher, 140 LaVale Drive, Apt. 404, Monroeville, PA 15146**



RESERVATION FORM

for Our Annual Sounds of Joy!

for



Ck.# _____]

Date: _____]

Season 64: "Jingle Bell Bash." featuring Donna Groom Fundraiser, Luncheon, & Program

In the Ballroom at the Lamplighter Restaurant, 6566 William Penn Hwy, Delmont, PA 15626 (724) 461-1031

Monday, December 8, 2025 - 11:00 A.M. (Social time begins) 11:45 A.M. (Dining time)

Deadline is Thursday, *December 4, 2025*

I/We will Attend _____

First Name

Last Name

We will enjoy a Buffet Meal with Lamplighter Desserts and Beverages. A Cash Bar is offered.

My guest(s) will be: _____

Number of attendees @ \$40.00 each for the event: _____ 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, December 4*, to:
Dolores Gallagher, 140 LaVale Drive, Apt. 404, Monroeville, PA 15146 (ph. 412-628-7132)**

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

Upcoming Event

Symphony East Luncheon
Mon, November 17, 2025
11am
Lampighter Restaurant
Murrysville

PSA Book Club
Wed, November 19, 2025
10am-12 pm
Mozart Room, Heinz Hall

**Holiday House Tour
Launch Party**
Wed, November 19, 2025
6-9pm
Lake Macleod, Gibsonia

Holiday House Tour
Sat, November 22, 2025
11am-4pm and 5pm-8pm
Lake Macleod, Gibsonia

Holiday Luncheon
Tues, December 2, 2025
10am-2pm
Duquesne Club

Reservation/
Registration
forms are on the
PSA Website

The symphony, like most performing arts organizations, relies on fundraising to make up the majority of its roughly \$35 million annual budget.

This year marks the second year in a row the orchestra broke the \$1 million mark at its gala, which is its largest annual fundraiser. In 2023, the gala raised just under \$1 million, and in 2022, it was about \$900,000.



Community news:

► The fourth Thursday evening of the month is *Calliope Folk Song Night (now includes karaoke)* at the **Monroeville Public Library**, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. All ages are welcome at this informal gathering of persons who want to sing together and share songs (just listening is ok, too). All Library programs are free; no registration required.

For more information:
412-372-0500

