

## Announcing Our 2014-2015 Season

**September 27, 2014:** The **Brentano String Quartet** returns to our stage with **violinist Hsin-Yun Huang** as guest artist. Its program will comprise Mozart's String Quartet in B-flat Major, Mozart's Quintet for Strings in C minor, and Mendelssohn's Quintet for Strings in B-flat Major. In 1999, the Brentano became the first resident string quartet at Princeton; this fall it moves to Yale. In 2012 the group's recording of Beethoven's late quartet, Op. 131, was the basis of the soundtrack for the movie "The Late Quartet."

**October 18, 2014:** Ukrainian violinist **Aleksey Semenenko**, a first-prize winner of the 2012 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York, will perform as recipient of our sixth Performance Award. In 2013-14 he has made or will have made debuts in New York, Washington, and Boston. He is a member of the Stolyarsky Quartet, which he founded.

**November 1, 2014:** In just a few years, French pianist **Lise de la Salle**, 25, has established a reputation as one of today's most exciting young artists. Her 2005 Bach/Liszt recording was selected as Recording of the Month by "Gramophone" Magazine; her 2008 recording of Liszt's, Prokofiev's, and Shostakovich's first concertos was similarly honored.

**April 18, 2015:** The **Modigliani Quartet**, a recent favorite of our audiences, joins us again by popular request. The Modigliani has performed throughout the world to great acclaim. This year the group became artistic directors of the Rencontres Musicales d'Evian, a summer festival made famous by Mstislav Rostropovich.

**May 2, 2015:** We welcome the **American Brass Quintet** in a debut performance. Formed in 1960, the ABQ has dedicated itself to "music originally written for brass," and substituted a bass trombone for the conventional tuba. Other instruments include two trumpets, tenor trombone, and horn. The group has premiered more than 100 brass works. Its commissions by such giants as Bolcom, Carter, Schuller, and Schuman are significant contributions to the brass-quintet repertoire. The ABQ has been in residence at Juilliard since 1987.

**May 16, 2015:** **Juilliard Baroque** returns for an all-Bach program that includes his Concerto for Oboe, Violin, Strings, and Continuo in F Major, and his Musikalisches Opfer (Musical Offering), BWV 1079. Formed in 2009 by musicians connected with Juilliard's Historical Performance Department, the group unites nine period-instrument specialists who are virtuoso performers, award-winning recitalists, Grammy-nominated recording artists, soloists, and/or principals with every major international early-music ensemble.

## Schubertiade! FOM Salutes The Great Composer April 26



**1868 drawing of a Schubertiade. The composer is at the piano.**

Given Franz Schubert's immense popularity 185 years after his death at 31, it is hard to believe that during his short and often unhappy lifetime, he was neglected except by a small circle of friends who were in awe of his genius.

When Schubert was alive, evenings sponsored by his friends in which nothing but his music was performed became known as Schubertiaden. "With Schubert at the piano," noted music critic Harold C. Schonberg in "The Lives of the Great Composers," "there would be songs, chamber music, four-hand and solo piano pieces—and sometimes food and dancing."

Latter-day Schubertiades keep the tradition going. A Schubertiade Festival which started in a small Austrian town in 1976, noted one critic, has mastered "the seemingly impossible: to maintain intimacy, yet become the most important Schubert festival in the world." Its initial rationale was to accord Schubert his place alongside Mozart and Beethoven. Today, the festival has some 70 events and more than 30,000 visitors annually.

Friends of Music will contribute to the Schubertiade tradition by presenting one of these grand events on **Saturday, April 26 (Sleepy Hollow High School, 8 p.m.)**.

The evening will begin with three pieces for solo piano, played by Michael Brown: *Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat Major, Op. 90 (D.899)*, *Moment Musicaux No. 2 in A-flat Major, Op. 94 (D.780)* and the fourth movement (*rondo: allegro moderato*) from the *Sonata No. 17 in D Major, Op. 53 (D.850)*.

Then come four lieder, sung by baritone Mischa Bouvier, with Yegor Shevstov at the piano: *Rastlose Liebe, D.138*; *An die Laute, D.905*; *Im Abendrot, D. 799*; and *Willkommen und Abschied, D. 767*. Next is the *Sonatina No. 1 in D Major, Op. 137 (D. 384)* for violin and piano, with Brown and Katie Hyun, the latter from the Amphion String Quartet.

After intermission, there will be two more lieder: *Auf der Bruck, D. 853*, and *Die Forelle, D. 550*. The evening concludes with the *Quintet in A Major, Op. 114 (Trout) for piano and strings, D. 667*. String players are violinist David Southorn, violist Wei-Hang Andy Lin, and cellist Michai Marica, all from the Amphion, and bassist

*continued on page 4*



## Young Violin Phenom Performs On April 12

At the age of 22, Taiwanese-American violinist **Paul Huang** already is recognized for his eloquent music making, effortless virtuosity, and compelling stage presence. Those gifts made him the

receiver of Friends of Music Concerts fifth Performance Award, given to a winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York City; he fills that award in the fourth concert of FOM's 60th season on **Saturday, April 12, at 8 p.m. at Sleepy Hollow High School.**

In a program of Italian and Slavic influences, Huang will play Vivaldi's Sonata in D Major, RV 10; Respighi's Sonata in B minor for Violin and Piano; Stravinsky's Duo Concertante; Glazunov's Grand Adagio; and Szymanowski's Nocturne and Tarantella, Op. 28. His piano collaborator will be Jessica Osborne.

In addition to his first prize win at the 2011 YCA International Auditions, Huang won first prize in the 2009 International Violin Competition Sion-Valais in

Switzerland. This 2013-14 season also has included his Lincoln Center concerto debut playing Barber's Violin Concerto with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, his Boston recital debut at the Isabella Stewart Gardiner Museum, and an appearance with the Bilbao Symphony performing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 and Walton's Violin Concerto. He has played in recital or as soloist elsewhere in the United States, and in Mexico, Finland, Hungary, Italy, France, and Taiwan. Last season he made critically acclaimed recital debuts in the YCA Series at Merkin Recital Hall in New York City, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

A dedicated chamber musician, Huang has performed at festivals in Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, Korea, and as a guest in London with the Formosa Quartet. He has collaborated with such notable instrumentalists as Shlomo Mintz and Gil Shaham.

Born in Taiwan, Huang received his first violin lesson at age seven. Since entering Juilliard Pre-College at 14, he has continued studies there, where he received the 2008 Juilliard Achievement Award. He also received the 2009 Chi-Mei Cultural Foundation Arts Award for Taiwan's Most Promising Young Artists.

Huang performs on a 1683 Nicolo Amati violin that has been generously loaned to him.

## St. Lawrence Quartet To Perform With New Violinist



The **St. Lawrence String Quartet** (SLSQ) will grace our stage again **May 10** when it performs Haydn's *String Quartet in C*

*Major, Op. 76, No. 3*; Bartók's *String Quartet No. 4*, and Beethoven's *String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132*. The program is at **8 p.m. at Sleepy Hollow High School.**

The SLSQ has a new second violinist, Mark Fewer, who joined the group in January, replacing Scott St. John. The group stuck to its Canadian roots by hiring Fewer, a Newfoundlander, previously concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony. His eclectic resume includes work as a jazz violinist and a session player in Montreal.

Founded in Toronto in 1989, the SLSQ is the resident string quartet at Stanford University. Its reputation took off after it won the Banff International String Quartet

Competition and Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1992.

The SLSQ reveals surprising nuances in familiar repertoire and illuminates the work of celebrated contemporary composers, often in the course of one evening. John Adams has written two acclaimed works for the quartet. During the summer, the SLSQ continues its long association with the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC.

The Stanford residency includes working with music students as well as collaborations with other faculty and departments using music to explore myriad topics. Collaborations have involved the schools of medicine, education, and law. In addition to Stanford, the SLSQ are visiting artists in residence at Arizona State University. They also run a summer chamber music seminar at Stanford and hold many forays into the depths of musical meaning with music educator Robert Kapilow.

Lesley Robertson and Geoff Nuttall are founding members of the group, and hail from Edmonton, Alberta, and London, Ontario, respectively. Christopher Costanza is from Utica, NY, and joined the group in 2003.

## Friends of Music's Six Decades of Memories

When you've been around for 60 years, you are saturated with memories.

So it is with Friends of Music Concerts. And oddly enough, a warm and fuzzy memory that many subscribers have, more than a decade and a half later, is of an evening that didn't contain any chamber music.

It was a performance by the New York Festival of Song, a group of singers accompanied by two pianists that was founded in 1988. The date of the FOM concert was September 26, 1998, the 100th anniversary of Gershwin's birth. "Then-president David Kornreich was responsible for the all-Gershwin concert, having conceived and implemented the idea, which turned out to be a very successful event," recalls board member William Altman.

"Not only was it the centenary of Gershwin's birth but the concert was held at Ossining H.S. In the summer of 1927 George and Ira lived at Chumley Farm in Ossining and there wrote 'Strike Up The Band,'" Kornreich says.

If Gershwin was with us that evening, albeit in spirit, another titan of American music was with us in the flesh almost 20 years earlier, during our 25th season: Aaron Copland. As attendees were waiting for a concert by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra to begin, the curtain parted and the composer stepped forward, made some brief remarks, and withdrew. Dennis Russell Davies then took over and led an evening of works by J. S. Bach, Joseph Haydn, and Eric Stokes and...Aaron Copland.

What was noteworthy about the Copland was that it was his Second Symphony, also known as the Short Symphony, in a new version for chamber orchestra, with the composer's permission, by Mr. Davies.



"Copland had been living in Rock Hill in Cortlandt Manor since 1960, so it would have been a hop, skip and jump to Ossining High School, where the concert was held," notes Friends president Betsy Shaw Weiner.

One person who has a long view of our 60 years is Audrey Graham of Croton, formerly of Briarcliff Manor. "We were thrilled that there was not only a new musical group, but a chamber group," Graham, 94, recalls. "Croton was an intellectual community that had its own choral society and a lot of residents who loved music." (Friends of Music started as Friends of Music Croton.)

Dorothy Duncan of Mount Vernon got involved with Friends of Music as a teenage usher while in the Briarcliff High School class of 1965. Now a freelance professional clarinetist, Duncan says that

"The concerts then were split between Briarcliff and Croton, and they asked some of the better students to be ushers. I also ushered at Caramoor so received quite an exposure to the best."

One evening, the Beaux Arts Trio needed a page turner. "It was one of the most nerve-racking times for me," Duncan says.

If many Friends concerts have been incandescent, one was not—actually, it was both incandescent and not incandescent. Recalls board member David W. Kraft: "In 1980 there was a power outage in the Ossining High School auditorium during the two-piano program of Claude Frank and Lilian Kallir. They just kept on playing in the dark."

"I recall the incident also. They were superb and the audience was appropriately stunned," Kornreich observes.

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## Emerson String Quartet To Receive High Honor

At presstime, we received the delightful news that our friends at the The Emerson String Quartet will receive the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award – Chamber Music of America's highest honor – during CMA's 2015 national conference in January.

Founded at Juilliard in 1976, the ensemble won the Naumburg Award for Chamber Music the following year, launching its illustrious performance and recording career. In 2004 the Emerson became the first ensemble to receive Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Prize, an honor previously bestowed only on solo instrumentalists. It has played for Friends of Music Concerts 14 times.

The quartet has undergone very few personnel changes. Violinists Eugene Drucker and Philip Setzer are founding members and violist Lawrence Dutton joined only a year later. In 2013, the current cellist, Paul Watkins, succeeded David Finckel, who had performed with the Emerson for 34 years.

The award is named for Richard J. Bogomolny, an influential and visionary chair of CMA's board of directors. It has been presented annually since 1980 to those who have made significant contributions to chamber music.

Recipients include Rudolf Serkin, Felix Galimir, Josef Gingold, Chick Corea, Dr. Billy Taylor, the Guarneri String Quartet, Ruth Felt, Judith Sherman, Marian McPartland (posthumously), and the American Brass Quintet.

## Ossining H. S. Receives Grant From Partnerships in Education

Friends of Music Concerts' spring Partnerships in Education grant has been awarded to the Ossining High School orchestral music department. A one-day residency April 8 by the PUBLIQuartet will supplement the school district's program. The three-year-old, eclectic PUBLIQuartet will lead orchestra and chamber performances, sectional rehearsals, and workshops.

The PUBLIQ is committed to "creative, interactive programming and a deep commitment to audience inclusion," which "injects fresh perspective into the classical-music scene," according to its website. Members have a diversified musical background. "They present standard and rare music from the classical repertoire, as well as contemporary compositions and open-form improvisations that expand the stylistic norms of the traditional string quartet."

Ossining High School has a choir, band, jazz band, orchestra and chamber ensemble. The music department also runs a course called "Give Me the Mic," where students are prepare and perform covers of their favorite songs.

"The school enjoys tremendous diversity and cultural-arts support," notes high school orchestra director Annabel Ibanez. "The auditorium was renovated in January. The orchestra room is very large."

### Schubertiade *from page 1*

Paul Kowert, with Brown again at the piano.

Placement of the lied *Die Forelle* right before the Trout Quintet was an intentional lead in; *forelle* means "trout" in German.

The idea of a Friends of Music Schubertiade germinated with David Kraft.

"In the fall of 1978, I was in residence for 10 days at UCLA, which has a large and active music program," Kraft recalls. "The faculty included a Schubert specialist, Robert Winter, who organized a Schubertiade to mark the 150th anniversary of Schubert's death. I thought it would be a great idea to stage a Schubertiade for Friends of Music's 60th anniversary. When David Kornreich joined me in pushing the idea, it gained momentum. We persuaded the program committee to do something out of the ordinary."

"It became clear that a Schubertiade would be a great jewel in the crown of our 60th anniversary season," notes president Betsy Shaw Weiner. So the two Davids worked with Concert Artists Guild to put the program together.

Ibanez observes that a performance by guest artists for music students, followed by master classes with small ensemble, is of great interest. "Such ensembles could include a section of chamber orchestra, 9th/10th Grade Orchestra, and instrument specific lesson groups." There are 41 students in the music program.

"It is always valuable for students to hear professionals performing," Ibanez says. "This helps students gain exposure to new repertoire and gain advice from working musicians. It can also highlight discussions about position, practicing, or ensemble techniques."

"One of the most gratifying reasons for my being a board member of Friends of Music is our commitment to the Partnership in Education program," says education chair Rosella Ranno. "It is through this commitment that we enlist the aid of young musicians who reach out to music students in ways usually unavailable in public schools. The music educators involved are, of course, vital to the success of our program as well."



photo: Nancy Gold

The Amphion String Quartet worked with Sleepy Hollow junior and high school students in October as part of our Partnerships in Education program.

### Thank you, George...

...is what the Board of Directors said to founding president George Raymond in January when it honored him in celebration of his 95th birthday.

A framed certificate now hangs on the wall of his Irvington residence, presented to him there in between snowstorms by FOM President Betsy Shaw Weiner and board member/Notes editor Dan Harrison. It reads:

*The Board of Directors of Friends of Music Concerts is pleased to honor the organization's first president, George Raymond, on his 95th birthday, with appreciation for his creativity and guiding principles that have enabled 60 seasons of chamber music for Westchester County audiences.*

## News Notes

### Two Ex-Tokyo Players Part of New Piano Trio

Violinist Martin Beaver and cellist Clive Greensmith, the two musicians who did not end their careers when the Tokyo String Quartet disbanded last year, have formed a new piano trio with pianist Jon Kimura Parker: the Melrose Trio. The group first performed in December in Detroit, with Haydn, Shostakovich, and Mendelssohn piano trios. Parker, a Canadian, has guest soloed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, toured Europe with the Royal Philharmonic, and shared the stage with Jessye Norman in Berlin. Beaver joined the Tokyo in 2002 as first violinist. He was a founding member of two Canadian ensembles, the Toronto String Quartet and Triskelion. Greensmith was a member of the Tokyo for 14 seasons and was previously the Royal Philharmonic's sprincipal cellist.

### Lincoln Center Society to Summer in Saratoga

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS) is establishing a new summer home in Saratoga Springs, NY. CMS will present a three-week, six-concert festival at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) August 11-26. It joins summer tenants the Philadelphia Orchestra and New York City Ballet, as well as popular music performers. SPAC has had a chamber-music series since 1991 but Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at SPAC, as it's to be known, brings a longstanding New York series. CMS co-artistic directors David Finckel and Wu Han cited SPAC's idyllic setting and superb indoor acoustics. They anticipate a core group of about 20 musicians to Saratoga.

### Oberlin Sets Contemporary Chamber Degree

The Oberlin Conservatory has created a full-tuition-scholarship graduate-degree program, the Master of Contemporary Chamber Music (MCCM). The two-year program is designed to launch ensembles. Oberlin's undergraduate programs have led to creation of highly acclaimed ensembles including the triple Grammy-winning eighth blackbird and the International Contemporary Ensemble. The MCCM curriculum includes intensive coaching combined with individual applied study. Students will also take graduate-level coursework in theory and musicology, as well as courses that develop entrepreneurial skills. Ensembles will benefit from financial support for touring, recording, and competitions. Successful graduates will be eligible to apply for start-up funding offered through Oberlin's Creativity and Leadership Project. The MCCM is designed for pre-existing ensembles of any instrumentation and from three to seven members.

### Brentano Readies Residence at Yale

As noted on page 1, the Brentano Quartet is becoming resident string quartet at Yale this fall, replacing the Tokyo String Quartet. Yale's music school found itself without a

faculty string quartet for the first time in 37 years, but it didn't take the school long to remedy that. The Brentano will coach young ensembles during the academic year, and at the Yale Summer School of Music and the associated Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. The Brentano had been Princeton's quartet in residence since 1999.

### Rising Star

Friends of Music program committee chair Raymond Kaplan and committee member Rosella Ranno attended the Young Concert Artists audition finals and chose Yunqing Zhou, a 24-year-old pianist, to give a concert for FOM in 2015-16.

### Kudos Galore

The New York vocal octet Roomful of Teeth, which performed on the Grammy telecast, won the award in the best chamber music/small ensemble performance category for their self-titled debut album. Last year, member Caroline Shaw received the Pulitzer Prize in Music for "Partita," four movements of which appear on the album....Among the top classical albums of 2013, according to *The New York Times*, were pianist Jeremy Denk's rendition of J. S. Bach's Goldberg Variations, which includes a DVD featuring footage of Mr. Denk speaking about the work. Also cited was the Keller Quartett's Ligeti String Quartets and the Barber Adagio....The Ariel Quartet has received the Cleveland Quartet Award for 2014-15 and 2015-16. The award promotes a rising young string quartet. Originally formed in Israel, the Ariel moved to the United States in 2004 to study at the New England Conservatory's Professional String Quartet Training Program. The quartet is in residence at the University of Cincinnati.

### Pressler Turns 90, Is Feted

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Award for Extraordinary Service to Chamber Music was presented to pianist Menahem Pressler on his 90th birthday. The presentation was in conjunction with a concert featuring Pressler and long-time colleagues The Emerson String Quartet. In 1955, Pressler founded the legendary Beaux Arts Trio, which performed often for Friends of Music. In celebration of his 90th birthday, Pressler has embarked on a grand tour performing with leading orchestras.

### Classical, Jazz Split Awards

Chamber Music America (CMA), the national network for ensemble musicians, has announced recipients of its 2013 commissioning grants, supporting creation of works for small ensembles. CMA will distribute \$421,950 to 19 ensembles through two of its major grant programs: Classical Commissioning, supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and New Jazz Works: Commissioning and Ensemble Development, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

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**Spring 2014 Concerts  
 At Sleepy Hollow High School**

**Paul Huang, violin**  
 With **Jessica Osborne, piano**  
 April 12, 2014

**A Schubertiade**  
 April 26, 2014

**St. Lawrence String Quartet**  
 May 10, 2014

**Answers to Conductors Quiz**

In the last issue, we provided 30 clues to last names of classical conductors. Only one entry, by Donald and Cynthia Hodes of Dobbs Ferry, had a perfect score. Just behind them was Jan Myers of Sleepy Hollow, who racked up 29 correct answers.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Bruno sub: <i>Bernstein</i>                           | 18. Military rank: <i>Sargent</i>   |
| 2. Eat: <i>Munch</i>                                     | 19. Led two NYC-based orchestras:<br><i>Toscanini</i>                                     |
| 3. ___ of lightning: <i>Boult</i>                        | 20. Last name of two conductors:<br><i>Davis or Jarvi</i>                                 |
| 4. Late New Yorker cartoonist Saul:<br><i>Steinberg</i>  | 21. Animal: <i>Wolff</i>  |
| 5. Rob or Carl: <i>Reiner</i>                            | 22. His last name is a first name: <i>Walter</i>  |
| 6. From Philly to Fantasia: <i>Stokowski</i>             | 23. His last name is a first name: <i>Gilbert</i>   |
| 7. Large city: <i>Metropoulis</i>                        | 24. Lenny mentor: <i>Koussevitsky</i>   |
| 8. Baby's toy: <i>Rattle</i>                             | 25. Led in NY, Chicago, LA, Cleveland:<br><i>Rodzinski</i>                                |
| 9. Born in Argentina: <i>Barenboim</i>                   | 26. Composing giant: <i>Mahler</i>  |
| 10. WW2 killing field, minus a letter:<br><i>Ormandy</i> | 27. Joseph or Stewart: <i>Alsop</i>   |
| 11. Leipzig meister: <i>Mazur</i>                        | 28. Meet me in St. Louis, then DC, then<br>Detroit: <i>Slatkin</i>                        |
| 12. They send cargo: <i>Schippers</i>                    | 29. Longtime leader of orchestra with<br>same name as actress Berry:<br><i>Barbirolli</i> |
| 13. Hard or soft ___: <i>Szell</i>                       | 30. He was married to a real dame:<br><i>Bonyngge</i>                                     |
| 14. One who goes to sea: <i>Marriner</i>                 |   |
| 15. Slava: <i>Rostropovich</i>                           |   |
| 16. Thomachevsky kin: <i>Tilson-Thomas</i>               |   |
| 17. Delius champion: <i>Beecham</i>                      |   |

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*Pianos by Steinway*