

Still Time to Subscribe

Subscriptions for the 2022-23 season have been rolling in all summer, and we now have been accepting orders for tickets to individual concerts. But it's not too late to subscribe to the entire seven-concert season for \$140 (a \$105 savings over single tickets). Or you could purchase a flexible mini-series: buy three tickets for \$90 (a \$15 savings) and use them as you like, for example, one each at three concerts or all three at one concert.

As you know, income from all ticket sales does not cover the expenses we incur to bring these concerts to you. By far the largest proportion of our expenses goes directly to our artists; as a non-profit, all-volunteer organization without an office or paid staff, most of our other expenses also are directly related to concert presentation. So when you write your check or order your subscription(s) on line, don't forget that those subscription costs and ticket prices are as reasonable as they are because of tax-deductible gifts from many of our subscribers and other good friends of Friends of Music Concerts. If you join them, your name will be listed with theirs at the back of each concert program.

Student admission is free!

As one way to build audiences of the future, Friends of Music Concerts admits free of charge all students 18 years and under, including students in those school districts that have been part of our Partnership in Education program. You can help by spreading the word – and perhaps bringing a student or two with you when you attend yourself.

If you have questions about ticket availability, you can call 914-861-5050, leave a message, and your call will be returned promptly. 🎵

A Rousing Return to Our Stage for The Emerson

Our 69th season begins on September 17, 2022, with the 18th appearance on our series of the world-renowned **Emerson String Quartet**.

It will, however, be its last. The group will be disbanding in October 2023, forty-seven

remarkable years after it initially formed at Juilliard in 1976. This makes its flagship return to us somewhat bittersweet, and our welcome nostalgic.

We have enjoyed the special relationship we have built together over the years.

The Emerson Quartet, named “America’s greatest quartet” by *Time Magazine*, is one of the most celebrated classical music quartets of all time. The *Boston Globe* has praised them for their “extraordinary fusion of experience and authority with audacity and freshness.” The ensemble is the recipient of not only the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize and Musical America’s coveted “Ensemble of the Year” Award, but also nine GRAMMYS (including two for Best Classical Album) and three Gramophone Awards. The group is Quartet-in-Residence at Stony Brook University, which in 2016 awarded full-time faculty members Philip Setzer and Lawrence Dutton the status of Distinguished Professors and conferred the title of Honorary Distinguished Professor on part-time faculty members Eugene Drucker and Paul Watkins. In 2015, the Quartet received the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, Chamber Music America’s highest honor, in recognition of its significant and lasting contribution to the chamber music field.

Commenting on their retirement as a quartet, violinist Eugene Drucker, a founding member, said, “In addition to the great music we’ve been privileged to share with audiences and with each other, it is the opportunity to connect with close friends that has meant the most to us over the years... We look forward to continuing to perform as individuals and to passing on the fruits of our experience to younger generations of chamber players.” 🎵



Piano Adventures with Jeremy Denk



Our first Sunday matinee of the season (October 9, 3 pm) will bring one of America's foremost pianists to our stage in a challenging, eclectic program. It will include two works by Maurice Ravel (Sonatine and Gaspard de la Nuit); Mozart's Piano Sonata in A Minor, K. 310; J.S. Bach's Toccata in F-sharp minor, BWV 910; Missy Mazzoli's Heartbreaker; György Ligeti's The Devil's Staircase; and Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A-flat Major, Op. 110.

Winner of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and author of the recently-published book "Every Good

Boy Does Fine," Jeremy Denk will be making his third appearance on our series. Proclaimed by the *New York Times* as "a pianist you want to hear no matter what he performs," he has appeared many times at Carnegie Hall and in recent years has worked with such orchestras as Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic San Francisco Symphony, and Cleveland Orchestra.

Denk's recording of the Goldberg Variations for Nonesuch Records reached No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Charts. His recording of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor, paired with Ligeti's Etudes, was named one of the best discs of the year by the *New Yorker*, NPR, and the Washington Post, and his account of the Beethoven sonata was selected by BBC Radio 3's *Building a Library* as the best available version recorded on modern piano. His album of Mozart piano concertos, released by Nonesuch Records in September 2021 and performed with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, was praised by the *Guardian* for its "questing intelligence and energy." 🎵

Once Again, The Robust Dover Quartet

For our second Sunday matinee (November 6, 2022, 3 pm), we welcome the return of this phenomenal ensemble, by popular demand now making its third appearance on our series. Initially formed at the Curtis Institute of Music, the Dover Quartet has been named by *BBC Music Magazine* as one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years. Their program for us will include Josef Haydn's Quartet in C Major, Op. 76, No 3 ("Emperor"); Amy Beach's Quartet for Strings (in one movement); and Felix Mendelssohn's Quartet in E-flat Major Op. 44, No. 3.

After its stunning sweep of all prizes at the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, the group went on to capture grand and first prizes at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and prizes at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. It has received an Avery Fisher Career Grant, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award, and Lincoln Center's Hunt Family Award.

The Dover's recordings have received universal

acclaim. *Strad* described their Cedille Records collection of Beethoven's Complete String Quartets as "meticulously balanced, technically clean-as-a-whistle, and intonationally immaculate." Its GRAMMY-nominated recording of *The Schumann Quartets* was released by Azica Records in 2019. *Voices of Defiance: 1943, 1944, 1945*, which explores works written during World War II by Viktor Ullman, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Simon Laks, was lauded upon its release in 2017 by the *Wall Street Journal* as "undoubtedly one of the most compelling discs released this year."

The Dover Quartet's performance career has included collaborations with artists such as the Escher String Quartet, the pianist Emanuel Ax, the violinist Ray Chen, and Roomful of Teeth. It is the Ensemble in Residence at Curtis, and holds residencies with the Kennedy Center, Northwestern University, and the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival. 🎵

Who Tends to the Pianos We Use?

Sharp-eyed perusers of our printed material will note that they always say, “Pianos by Steinway.” That’s because, whenever a piano is required for one of our concerts, whether it’s to be used by a soloist or by a member of an ensemble, we always rent a piano from Steinway & Sons, now consolidated at their location in Astoria, NY. The day before the concert that piano is shipped up to our performance venue and set up on stage the day of the performance. Then it must be tuned meticulously in order to be at its best. That tuning is done by a piano technician. Ours is **Brigette Orf Sims**, a native of Switzerland who has lived in Armonk for many years. How did she adopt this profession? How did she become attached to Friends of Music Concerts?

Although she had studied piano since she was six years old, she became fascinated by watching piano tuners in action, and, at age 17, decided to undertake an apprenticeship as piano technician and in piano construction.

Doing so involved general education classes but also higher education in music history, wood technology, technology of chemicals and glues, physics, acoustics, and lots of physical work, from using a wood plane to actually tuning a piano. Upon completing her apprenticeship, thus becoming the first woman piano technician in Switzerland, she worked for Jecklin Music Shop in Zurich, the largest such firm in the country; it primarily built and sold pianos, but also dealt in brass and string instruments.

After working at Jecklin for five years and falling in love with Steinway Hamburg pianos, she took a one-year apprenticeship with Steinway. Soon she became a travel concert technician for Steinway, spending five years servicing pianos in Australia (including at the Sydney Opera House), Japan, and Argentina, among other places. Then she became the chief technician for international piano competitions, such as the Liszt in Budapest, the Rubenstein in Tel Aviv, and the International Piano Competition in Sidney.

After traveling for five years, during which she also taught piano technology and gave many seminars,

she came to the United States in 1990 upon signing a two-year contract with the Steinway & Sons factory in Astoria, NY. There she met, in the research and engineering department, the Kentucky man who became her husband. Thus, she settled down with him in Armonk, remaining under contract as an official Steinway piano technician.

Now she has her dream job. She is the chief Juilliard piano technician. With all the steady pounding that pianos receive in practice rooms, studios, and concert halls at Juilliard, there are many facets of rebuilding that come into play, as it were, as well is retuning.

Every three months two pianos are dropped off and two are picked up; there always are at least four grand pianos in her house/workshop.

She also has rebuilt many vintage Steinways, and has been an independent contractor with Faust Harrison pianos.

What about Friends of Music Concerts? She has tuned pianos for both Camille Budarz, a professional pianist

who was the wife of our late former president David Kornreich, and for Rosella Ranno, our program chair and chair of our Partnership in Education program who is herself a professional pianist and instructor. It followed that we would enlist her as our go-to piano technician. She has found it gratifying to work on the fairly new concert grands that we rent, some of which have been Steinway Hamburgs, and to work with our roster of talented artists.

Above all, she is glad to be doing the work she still loves after 45 years. She says, “As I work, the piano comes back to life, once again emitting glorious sound.” What could be better?



Partnerships in Profile

One of our most popular initiatives over the past 30 years or so has been our Partnership in Education program. Funded by special grants, it brings to selected school districts, at no cost to them, young professional musicians for one-day residencies during which they perform and give master classes to the districts' music students. It's a wonderful way to enhance each district's own music program.



During the 2021-22 school year, increased grant funding enabled us to expand the program, so that we were able to offer four such residencies. Three were to public school districts. The Tesla Quartet went to White Plains High School last fall, while last spring the Aizuri Quartet went to Hendrick Hudson in Montrose and the Balourdet Quartet went to Sleepy Hollow. The fourth residency, in a slight departure from past practice, placed the popular PUBLIQuartet at the Purchase College Conservatory.

What's a residency like?

At Hendrick Hudson, for instance, the Aizuri Quartet (Emma Frucht and Miho Saegusa violins; Ayane Kozasa, viola; and Karen Ouzonian, cello), performed works by Ravel, Gershwin, and Riannon Giddens, holding the students' rapt attention. They assisted the students through guided listening, highlighting the composers' backgrounds and explaining their quite different genres. Thus, they provided a key to understanding the music they had played, particularly the Giddens, eliciting from the students excited follow-up questions. Later, during workshops both large and small, quartet members instructed the students in bowing techniques, timing, and expression, among other subjects. Lauren Morabito, the Hen Hud music teacher who has formed its Chamber Orchestra, was present throughout.

Unique to Hen Hud.

A poignant period was the peer mentoring class in which students from the Chamber Orchestra assisted special needs students with their instruments. Ms. Morabito's compassionate students had been the only high school music students in New York State to participate in what is called a United Sound Workshop. Aizuri members also approached these students with kindness and sensitivity.

Applications now are open

for a new round of residencies. Although all school districts will receive a letter inviting them, application forms also are available on our website. Selections from those applications will be made later this fall. We hope, of course, also to receive enough targeted grants to sustain at least four residencies. 🎵



The “Dazzling” Sound of Trailblazing Violist Jordan Bak

We are delighted to introduce you to this young award-winning Jamaican-American musician, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. On the evening of October 15, 2022, Jordan Bak will be joined by piano collaborator Ji Yung Lee to bring us Benjamin Britten’s *Lachrymae*, Op. 48; Paul Hindemith’s *Sonata for Solo Viola* (1937); Vaughan Williams’s *Romance*; Robert Schumann’s *Adagio & Allegro*, Op. 70; and Johannes Brahms’s *Sonata for Viola and Piano in F minor*, Op. 120, No. 1.

Frequently in demand as a concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and educator, Jordan Bak has been building an exciting international career. Highlights have included recent recital debuts at London’s Wigmore Hall, New York’s Merkin Concert Hall, and Baltimore’s Shriver Hall Concert Series, and chamber music tours with Musicians from Marlboro and Concert Artists Guild (CAG) on Tour. He has been heard as a recitalist and chamber musician in the United States at such venues as New York City’s Alice Tully Hall and Bruno Walter Auditorium, Boston’s Jordan Hall, and San Antonio’s Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, and at the



Taos Music School; and in Europe at Switzerland’s Verbier Festival, Conservatoire de Musique de Geneve, and Centre de Musique Hindemith, and the Helsinki Musiikkitalo.

In addition to having been a top laureate of the 2020 Sphinx Competition, Bak is the recipient of the 2019 CAG Victor Elmaleh Competition, the 2019 Samuel Sanders Tel Aviv Museum Prize, and the 2019 John White Special Prize from the Tertis International Viola Competition. He also is a member of the New York Classical Players, and is a featured artist for WQXR’s Artist Propulsion Lab. 🎵

New on Our Website: The Artist Community

It’s a pleasure to emerge from the pandemic once again with a stellar season of live concerts. We want the entire Westchester community to know about them. Therefore, in order to increase our visibility, we’ve initiated a reciprocal marketing program with several arts organizations in the county, inviting them to join us in a sort of mutual aid effort. As of press time, they include:

Caramoor
Hudson Chorale
Jazz Forum Arts
Orchestra14
RiverArts
St. Thomas Orchestra
The New Choral Society
The Pocantico Center
The Schoolhouse Theater

The Symphony of Westchester
The Taghkanic Chorale
The Westchester Chamber Music Society
The Westchester Chordsmen
Not in the county but a favorite of many:
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

When you go to our website (www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org), you will see the list under “Artist Community.” Clicking on one that attracts your interest will bring you to that organization’s own website and the information you want.

We’re glad to be bringing cultural organizations together in this way. We hope you all will find it helpful. 🎵

P.O. Box 675
Millwood, NY 10546
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #6260
White Plains, NY
10610

2022 Fall Concerts

Emerson String Quartet

September 17, 2022 – 8 pm

Jeremy Denk, piano

October 9, 2022 – 3 pm

Jordan Bak, viola, with

Ji Yung Lee, piano

October 15, 2022 – 8 pm

Dover Quartet

November 6, 2022 – 3 pm

2023 Spring Concerts

Curtis on Tour

March 18, 2023 – 8 pm

Albert Cano Smit, piano

April 16, 2023 – 3 pm

Academy of St. Martin in the Field

Wind Ensemble

April 22, 2023 – 8 pm

Because COVID-19 Still Is With Us...

As was the case last season when we returned once again to live performances, we require all attendees to our concerts to be vaccinated against that pernicious bug.

For everyone's protection, we also will require everyone except the musicians to wear protective masks. Any changes to these policies will be posted on our website www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org before each concert, and also will be e-mailed to our on-line mailing list.



Friends of Music Notes is a publication of Friends of Music Concerts, Inc., P.O. Box 675, Millwood, NY 10546, an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information about us and our upcoming concerts, please visit our web site: www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org.

Please address correspondence to Notes Editor, 38 Teatown Road, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520, or e-mail treetops38@aol.com



These concerts are made possible, in part, by a Project Support Grant from ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government, and by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

Pianos by Steinway