



FOM Joins the Digital Age

It took us a while, but we now have our own Facebook page – and several hundred followers. Look for, and click on, the logo at the top right of our home page on www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org. Over the spring and summer, with the helpful assistance of our new public relations agency, Co-Communications, Friends of Music has been publishing a few posts a week on this social media outlet. Some posts let you know of upcoming concerts and artists, details of our 2017-18 season, or changes in venue for a couple of performances. But we also have been publishing reviews from our board members of concerts and musicians they've enjoyed hearing over the past few months.

This new dalliance with Facebook is the start of an effort to turn Friends of Music into a vital resource for our subscribers, as we seek to build an engaged community of classical music lovers. You can be part of that now – and help us spread the word about FOM – by following us on Facebook and “liking” and sharing posts that intrigue you. You also can help us add content by leaving a message on our website's contact page about interesting music-related items you run across. 🎵



photo: Lisa Mezzuoco

A Rousing Return to Our Stage for The Emerson

Our 64th season begins on October 7, 2017, with the 16th appearance on our series of the world-renowned **Emerson String Quartet**. The group has accumulated an unparalleled list of achievements over four decades: more than thirty acclaimed recordings, nine Grammys (including two for Best Classical Album), three Gramophone Awards, the Avery Fisher Prize, Musical America's “Ensemble of the Year,” and collaborations with many of the greatest artists of our time. Their program for us includes Schumann's String Quartet No. 3 in A Major, Op. 41, and two of Beethoven's late quartets: String Quartet in F Major, Op. 135, and String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 127.

Friends of Music Concerts was among the first presenters to welcome the cellist, Paul Watkins, shortly after he joined the ensemble in 2013. The enthusiasm and joy he brought to the collaborative process was immediately apparent. Said *The New York Times* then: “This new group – Mr. Watkins alongside the violinists Eugene Drucker and Philip Setzer, and the violist Lawrence Dutton – complemented their customary power, finesse and unanimity with a fresh, palpable vigor at Tully, and it was electrifying.” *The Times* (London) has added: “...with musicians like this there must be some hope for humanity.”

The Emerson's newest recording, released in April 2017 on the Decca Gold label, is “Chaconnes And Fantasies: Music of Britten and Purcell,” and is the first of their recordings with Paul Watkins. It launched the group's 2017-18 season, which will take them to Latin America (Sao Paulo and Bogotá), Europe (London, Cardiff, Florence, *continued on page 2*



photo: Matt Dine

Let Us Introduce You

To the **Zorá String Quartet**, which will be performing on Saturday, October 21, 2017, in the Kusel Auditorium at Sleepy Hollow High School. The group is the eighth recipient of our Performance Award, chosen from among the winners of the 2015 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York City. Their program for us will include Mendelssohn’s String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13; and Beethoven’s String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132.

After the quartet’s appearance at the Banff (Canada) Music Center, the *Calgary Herald* described the ensemble as “exquisitely well trained, supremely blended, and broadly intelligent in their playing.” Following a more recent concert, *The New York Times* praised their “depth and maturity” as well

as their “affecting impetuosity.” Last June students at Sleepy Hollow High School got a taste of their talent when the quartet was there for a day-long residency of performances and master classes as part of Friends of Music Concerts’ Partners in Education program (see page 3).

Currently based at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, the Zorá made its recital debuts last season in New York and Washington, DC and thereafter performed at Chamber Music Wilmington, the Lied Center of Kansas, Rockefeller University, Harper’s Ferry Chamber Music Series, the

University of Florida Performing Arts Center, the Schneider Concert Series at the New School in New York, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Chamber Music International, and with Curtis on Tour. They have worked with the non-profit organization Reimagining Opera for Kids, and performs at the Wylie House Museum, Waldron Arts Center, and the Art Museum of Indiana University/Bloomington to bridge the chamber music gap better with the community. The group’s members have earned prestigious Chamber Music Performer’s Diplomas from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and served as Graduate Quartet in Residence there under the tutelage of the Pacifica Quartet and Atar Arad. They also have worked intensively with the Takács Quartet and the American String Quartet. 🎵

The Emerson *continued from page 1*

Brussels, and Amsterdam, among others), and around the United States (Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Alice Tully and Carnegie Halls in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, among many others). The group is Quartet-in-Residence at Stony Brook University. In January 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. 🎵

The Inspirational Power of Music

Labor Day is the end of summer but it also marks the start of other events: a musical season, for instance, or the school year, or a college career. Ellen Ryan, a *Washington Post* writer, recently explored, with some successful professionals in that region, the ways music had helped them along. With thanks to her, let us share some.

Said David Skorton, Smithsonian Institution secretary, who as an undergraduate had gone to Northwestern to study psychology: “Playing sax in my roommate’s rhythm-and-blues band got me out beyond campus to see the city of Chicago...over two years I learned what it was like to get up in front of people and to work with people who were way better at something than I was...When you’re playing any kind of instrumental music where there’s improvisation, you learn about this unusual kind of teamwork – harmonic progression – where the person playing the solo is expressing a creative instinct that’s quite individual but yet has to blend in with the rest of the band. That was a real big life experience, because I work with these complicated, decentralized organizations where you want to reward people for having their own ideas and going in their own direction, but it has to be in the context of an overall agreement on which way the ship is headed.”

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), chair of the House Republican Conference who was a pre-law student at Pensacola Christian College, mused: “During college, I enjoyed playing piano in the pit for community musicals. It was amazing watching everything come together from raw rehearsal – [when] nobody knows what they’re doing – to a beautiful, coordinated production. I was always impressed with the talent they bring, very diverse individuals who would never cross paths otherwise coming together around a common purpose, giving something back to the community. The legislative process can be a bit rough at times but if you listen to one another, learn from one another, in the end you can come up with a product that will have a positive impact.”

Marin Alsop, musical director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, who studied violin performance at Yale and Juilliard, said: “Every piece of music tells a story, and every story has a psychological component to it. It plays into the narrative behind the music. And the beauty of music – even more so than literature – is that the message is different for each person listening. I had the most wonderful 20th century literature class my first year at Yale. Passionately analyzing and discussing the Jungian aspects of story all those years ago continues to deeply influence my interpretation of many musical works. I ask myself ‘How is this going to be relevant?’ Well, in having some sense of the world beyond us, historical context, universal narrative – the sharing of stories.”

Think about how music has influenced, and continues to influence, you, even beyond the pure enjoyment of listening. You might be surprised.🎵

Your School District Can Be Among Our Partners in Education

Autumn is the time to apply for this unique Friends of Music Concerts program. Through it we bring to the winning school district(s), at no cost to them, young professional ensembles who perform and give master classes in one or two-day residences, usually in the spring semester. The program is intended to supplement the districts’ own music programs, and help build future audiences for classical music.

The award-winning young artists we engage bring their talents, personal stories, artistry, creativity, and imagination both to the performances they give and to the workshops they teach during these residencies. They are young and vibrant, and have excellent rapport with the students. They have fun. Among past such groups have included the Carducci and Afiara String Quartets, and, most recently, the Zorá String Quartet and the unique PUBLIQuartet.

More information about the program is available on our website, www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org. That’s also where applications can be made. Even if you don’t have children in the schools, you can help your school district take advantage of this opportunity by contacting your Board of Education, a school principal, or a music department head.🎵



What Have You Read Lately?



Some of you will recall that after a brilliant performance last fall by the Takács Quartet, we sold copies of a new book by its first violinist Edward Dusinberre, *Beethoven for a Later Age*. Since Johann Aloys Schollosser's first slim biography, published the year of Beethoven's death in 2817, hundreds of books about the epic composer and pianist have appeared – enough to fill a small auditorium.

Among the more recent and acclaimed efforts: Jan Swafford's *Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph* (2014); *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* (2005) by Lewis Lockwood; and Esteban Buch's *Beethoven's Ninth: A Political History* (2003). Enjoy these reads. They will enhance your enjoyment of this year's concerts, which include lots of Beethoven.

If your tastes also include Bach and cellos, you also might enjoy immensely *The Cello Suites: J.S.Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece* (2009). There author Eric Sibliin weaves together a narrative that is part biography, part music history, and part mystery; it's as haunting as it is fascinating and will have you wondering, as you read, what's next? 🎵

Still Time to Subscribe

Subscriptions for the 2017-18 season have been rolling in all summer, and we have been accepting orders for tickets to individual concerts. But it's not too late to subscribe for the entire season.

Remember, adult subscribers paying \$140 actually are getting six concerts for the price of four at the single ticket prices of \$35. Send your orders now to Friends of Music Concerts, Inc., P.O. Box 675, Millwood, NY 10546, or subscribe on line via our website, www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org.

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 of age and under, as we always had students in public 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 914-861-5080, leave a message, and your call will be returned promptly. 🎵



FRIENDS of MUSIC

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Modigliani Quartet, Again by Popular Demand



Modigliani Quartet, which will perform at Ossining High School on Saturday, November 18, 2017

“Clearly among the world’s greatest,” opined *Le Monde*. “Playing with a Gallic cool, supported by a solid, thoroughly unified technique,” said *The New York Times*. “A gripping and persuasive performance, played with awesome individual and communal brilliance,” described *The Strad*. Our Friends of Music audiences have been equally enthusiastic. That’s why the **Modigliani Quartet**, performing at **Ossining High School on Saturday, November 18**, will be making its fourth appearance on our series. The group’s program will include Mozart’s String Quartet in D Major, K. 575; Saint Saens’s Quartet in E minor, Op. 112; and Mendelssohn’s String Quartet in F minor, Op. 80.

The Paris-based Modigliani, formed by four close friends in 2003, is a regular guest of the world’s top venues and finest chamber music series. In the current and upcoming seasons, the quartet will be touring in Japan, Korea, China, as well as extensively in most European countries. They will return among others to the Wigmore Hall in London for a series of concerts, to Paris’ Philharmonie, Vienna’s

Konzerthaus, Salzburg’s Mozarteum, Warsaw’s Philharmonic Hall, and Tokyo’s Oji Hall. At the beginning of 2017 the Modigliani was the first string quartet to perform in the big Hall of the amazing, newly-opened Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. This fall, in addition to their appearance with us, their USA tour will take them to Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall in New York, Duke University, Birmingham, Alabama, Houston Friends of Chamber Music, Washington, DC, Middlebury College in Vermont, and Harvard University.

In 2014, the quartet became Artistic Directors of the Rencontres Musicales d’Evian, a festival on Lake Geneva in the French Alps first created in 1976 by Antoine Ribaud and then made famous through its former legendary artistic director, the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. Now, after a hiatus of thirteen years, the joint efforts of the Evian Resort and the Modigliani have brought such immediate success that the festival now has returned to being one of Europe’s major summer musical events. 🎵

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

2017 Fall Concerts

Emerson String Quartet

October 7, 2017 – 8 pm

Zorá Quartet

October 21, 2017 – 8 pm

Modigliani Quartet

November 18, 2017 – 8 pm

2018 Spring Concerts

Edward Arron, cello and friends

April 14, 2018

Brooklyn Rider

April 28, 2018

Charlie Albright, piano


May 12, 2018

Change of location for November 18 concert

Because the Sleepy Hollow High School auditorium is to be used for a school district event, our November 18 concert has been moved to Ossining High School. As you may know, its newly-renovated auditorium has comfortable seats and even better acoustics than it had during our previous 25 years there (1976-2001).

Ossining High school can be reached from Route 9, a.k.a. South Highland Avenue, in Ossining. From either north or south proceed to the traffic light at Waller Avenue/Emwilton Place, just south of the center of Ossining. Turn east, up the hill, onto Emwilton Place.

To reach the main entrance, turn left at the first intersection onto Woldon Road. The high school entrance is on the left at about the middle of the block before you reach the next intersection. That entrance leads to a drop-off for handicapped, some handicapped parking, and plentiful patron parking. Some street parking may be available on Woldon Road.

For additional information and a map, please see our website,
www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org 

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www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org.

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Pianos by Steinway.