

AVERILL PARK

COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

November 2019 Newsletter

APCO BOARD 2017-2018

Sarah Popiel, Board President

Christina Desmond, Musical

Director & Co-conductor

Skip Persia, Co-conductor

Viola Persia, Treasurer

Jack Ishman, Secretary

Robert Serenka

David Mitchell

Kathy Pagano

Betty Lou Eddy

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR...

The early snows of late fall have arrived and with it, a reminder that performances that celebrate the winter holiday season are happening soon.

With that in mind, our orchestra is gearing up for **the winter concert, which is going to be on Saturday, December 14th at 3:00PM**, with a snow date of Sunday, December 15th at 4:00PM. Like last spring's concert, **the performance will be at the Averill Park High School, with the reception after the concert in the cafeteria.**

**Note the change in day from our usual Sunday to Saturday, so that we could put a snow date in place in case the weather doesn't cooperate for our first choice this year.

We have a fun and varied program for you this season, with some wonderful holiday and wintery selections, along with show tunes from Guys and Dolls, beautiful melodies from "Scheherezade," two jazzy favorites, Take Five and Charlie Brown Christmas, the stunning English Folk Song Suite and some contemporary works, such as In

the Fading Light of Autumn.

Whether you are performing, or just enjoy attending the concerts as an audience member, we look forward to seeing you and your friends and families at the concert!

Enjoy the beautiful snow, but stay warm!

Sincerely,

Christina

"How is it that music can, without words, evoke our laughter, our fears, our highest aspirations?" — Jane Swan



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here is a link to our Google calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=aGFpamV0NWt1ZWRTZTlibDFibWxzGZoYWdAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xLmNvbQ>

Our Webpage: <https://apcorchestra.org>

Welcome to our new Board Members!

We were sad to see so many local high school students who participated in APCO graduate and move on to college adventures, but we are happy they are thriving as they strive to meet new goals. Among them, we had to part with Emily Jaworski and Hadley Chan, who were among our first Board members and actively participated in our process of establishing ourselves as an official non-profit organization.

This left two vacancies, which have now been filled by violinists, Kathy Pagano and Robert Serenka. They are both dedicated musicians and we are excited to have them provide their insight and skills in this additional new capacity. Welcome to our Board of Directors, Kathy and Bob!

Looking for places to perform as chamber groups:

If you know of any places that would like some chamber musicians to perform during December or January, please contact Christina Desmond.

See our APCO members perform in other local music events...



The [Capital Area Flute Club](#) is playing in conference room 6 of the Empire Plaza on December 8th at 1:15pm.

The [Capital Area Flute Club](#) is playing at Crossgates Mall on Sunday, December 22nd 12-2pm.



The [Harmonious Winds](#) (Jack Ishman, Sarah Johnsen Popiel, Vila Persia) are playing for First Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, 362 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 on December 6th at 6pm.

Orchestra on the Commons holiday concert is Friday December 13th at 1 pm at the Clifton Park Community Center, 6 Clifton Common Ct., Clifton Park, NY 12065

MEMBER PROFILE

Name: John Zweig

Instrument: Trombone

How long have you been a member? Since 2006

What made you want to join?

I wanted to start playing again after a long break.

How and when did you get into playing music?

I started playing trumpet in the 7th grade.

What's something that people might be surprised to know about you?

I served for 20 years on the Averill Park school board and 15 years on the BOCES board. Our daughter, Jessica, is now President of the Averill Park board. She is the third generation to hold that position. Algonquin Middle School was built on the farm where I was born and grew up.

Besides APCO, what do you like to do in your free time?

I play in two other music groups.

What's the best vacation you've ever been on?

A 10-week trip to Alaska.

COMPOSER'S CORNER

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)



Clara was born in Leipzig, Germany as Clara Josephine Wieck. Her father was a noted German piano teacher and her mother a famous singer. Her parents divorced when she was five and she was raised by her father, who soon found her to be a musical prodigy. A strict man with an unyielding nature, her father planned her career and life down to the smallest detail. She received daily lessons on piano, violin, singing, theory, harmony, composition, and counterpoint and was required to practice for two hours every day.

She made her official debut at the Gewandhaus concert hall in Leipzig in 1828. She met another young pianist that same year, Robert Schumann, while performing at the home of a local doctor.

Robert was nine years older and was so impressed by Clara's playing that he stopped studying law and devoted himself to music, taking lessons from her father and renting a room in their household for a year. Clara toured Europe in 1831 and 1832 with her father, even appearing with the famous violin virtuoso Niccolò Paganini in Paris. While touring Vienna from 1837 to 1838 and playing to sell-out crowds, she was praised extravagantly in print by composer Franz Liszt, who attended one of her concerts. Edward Grieg called her "one of the most soulful and famous pianists of the day".

Clara turned 18 in 1837 and Robert proposed, to which Clara happily accepted. Her father had other ideas, however. He strongly opposed the marriage and refused to give his permission. Only by suing him in court was the couple finally allowed to marry in 1840. The couple kept a joint musical and personal diary for the rest of their lives together. Clara premiered many works written by Robert and wrote piano versions of his orchestral pieces. She was the main breadwinner in the family through her concert tours and was in charge of the finances and household affairs. They had 8 children together.

Over the course of her 61-year concert career, Clara collaborated most often with violinist Joseph Joachim, whom she met in 1844 when he was just 14 years old. They played 238 concerts together and were most noted for playing Beethoven's sonatas for violin and piano. Clara and Robert also remained good friends with composer Johannes Brahms for much of their lives, with Clara giving advice on some of his compositions in progress.

By 1854, Robert was struck with a debilitating mental illness and spent the final two years of his life confined to a sanatorium. Clara was not allowed to visit him during this time until he was near death,

finally seeing him two days before he died. She was supported and consoled by many friends in the musical world in the years following his death, including Brahms and Joachim. She continued to tour for many decades, spending time in the United Kingdom and throughout continental Europe. Her busiest years as a performer were between 1856 and 1873.

Besides playing, Clara also composed throughout her life. Her first work was composed in 1831 when she was just 12 years old. She wrote mainly piano concertos up until her marriage, after which she turned to choral works and lieder (setting poetry to music). Her chamber works include the Piano Trio in G minor from 1846 and Three Romanzen for Piano and Violin from 1853. These were both performed by Joachim for George V, the last king of Hanover, who called them “a marvelous, heavenly pleasure”. She found it harder to find time to compose as she grew older, however, as her responsibilities increased. Most of her music was never played by anyone but her and her pieces were largely forgotten until experiencing a resurgence in the 1970s. Her music is increasingly performed and recorded today.

Clara died of a stroke in 1896 and was buried next to her husband in Bonn. Today she is known as one of the first pianists to perform from memory, making it the standard for concerts. She was also instrumental in bringing recognition to her husband’s compositions and promoted his works throughout her life. She was a great contributor to modern piano playing technique and taught piano as the only woman at the time on the faculty of the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt, including 68 future professional musicians as her students. In tribute, she was featured on the 100 Deutsche Mark banknote from 1989 until 2002 when the euro was adopted.



Performances of Clara’s compositions:

Nocturne Op. 6 No. 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMlmJ94WcUs>

Six Lieder Op. 13 No. 1 "Ich stand in dunklen Träumen":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyIOMIY8I24>