

President's Message

Jan Hladik



It has been quite a year. Hurricane Ian was devastating to several of our members. Each of us has come through it in various, different ways. Many are still in the recovery stage. Some activities had to be cancelled. One activity that was hard hit was our News of Note.

When I heard that Barb Coons was moving, I thought "Oh No". She was so faithful in doing so many things. We could always depend on her. But my worry was for nothing, as Barb once again stepped up and said she would continue doing the NON until the end of the season. And here we are at the end of the season. Barb, you will be missed! It is hard to put into words all the things you did besides the NON, and I'll probably miss a few: securing sites for the luncheons, being the liaison between the society and the lunch venue, helping at luncheon check in, doing registration for many events. Barb left big shoes to fill. Hopefully others will be inspired to step up and fill some of the void. You will be remembered as an example of a good volunteer, always doing what you could. Blessings to you in this new chapter of your life.

There's going to be a new beginning for all of us with the reorganization. The status quo just wasn't working any more so we needed to change. We are changing

the ways things are done to accomplish our goals to support education, community involvement and the Symphony through and with our fund raisings events. Anne Wardlow and Liz Marnul along with the Symphony Board of Trustees and the Symphony Office have done the groundwork for the reorganization which will bring us all together working for the same goals. There are many details that are yet to be worked out, so this is an ongoing process. A part of the process is to determine on which team your talents will be best utilized. You will be getting a letter with more information and an opportunity to voice your preferences. And you can join more than one team if you wish. It's important for the Society (new name?) and for your continued membership and participation.

At this point a lot is unknown, and I know stepping out into what may seem like totally foreign territory can be scary. Trying new things can be invigorating, exploring new things can be an education as you use your talents in new ways. A baby's first steps are shaky and there are some falls, but they get up and go again until they are running everywhere. So, the Society is taking baby steps into a new future and soon we will be up and running full force ahead.

Jan Hladik

Inside This Issue

Pages 2 & 3 Evolution of the Symphony Support Organization
Page 4 Thank You, Jan
Page 5 Executive Director (including next year's programming highlights)
Page 6 Symphony of Treats, Treat Pictures—Lunch with Roger
Page 7 April Luncheon
Page 8 Happy Birthday
Page 9 Fashion Show Recap, Thank You, Sue, Ads
Page 10 Symphony Society Membership Renewal Form

Update on Evolution of the Symphony Support Organization

For several months, members of the Southwest Florida Symphony Society, Southwest Florida Symphony Board of Trustees and staff have gathered in meetings to ponder ways to strengthen, modernize, simplify and revitalize the volunteer organization that supports the Southwest Florida Symphony. The thoughtful involvement of so many people has been inspiring and is greatly appreciated.

Members of the Symphony Society who attended the April luncheon were introduced to the following basics regarding the modernized support organization.

Dues, Benefits & Name

The Symphony support group will continue to be membership based, with dues and benefits for being a member. Dues will remain at the current level, i.e. \$50 for Active members who will participate in the work of the organization and \$75 for Patron Members who wish to support the organization without a commitment to serve.

In addition to benefits currently offered to Symphony Society members, additional benefits, in the form of discounts and experiences, are being developed.

We welcome suggestions on a name of the support group. We are looking for a friendly name. The simpler the better. Please send any suggestions to Liz Marnul (lizinswf@live.com) or Anne Wardlow (awardlow@yahoo.com).

Team Structure & Transactions

The support organization will have a Team structure. Active members will participate in Teams according to their interests.

Teams will include: Fundraising, Education & Scholarship, Community, Hospitality, and others.

Each Team will include at least one member of the Board of Trustees who will serve as the Team's liaison to the Board and as a resource to facilitate the Team's work. Staff will also support Team efforts as necessary.

Each Team will designate a "lead" to coordinate Team efforts and represent the Team at regular meetings of all Team Leads.

With this new structure, there will be no need for a Board, officers, minutes, etc.

Transactions will be automated and done online.

Monetary transactions and accounting will be handled at the Symphony level.

Processes will be more modern and simple, once all the new procedures are in place. It will take a lot of initial work to simplify and modernize transactions, but it will be worth it!

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Newsletter

A monthly digital newsletter, called “The Score”, will be distributed to the Symphony’s email list. A new volunteer, who has designed and published digital newsletters professionally, has generously offered to publish the new digital newsletter for the Symphony. It will include Symphony information, feature articles, articles about musicians, and reports on activities of the Teams.

Luncheons & Social Events

The Hospitality Team will organize and plan all social gatherings, including luncheons, Happy Hours, brunches, etc. which offer members an opportunity to gather for social enjoyment. Luncheons will be offered, but not every month. Instead, luncheons will be presented periodically which will be compelling events of interest to a wide audience, rather than a business meeting.

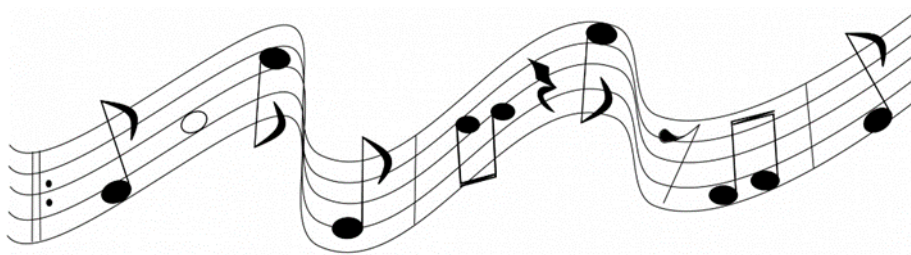
What to Do Now?

While there are still lots of details to be worked out, members attending the April luncheon expressed enthusiasm for the new plan.

Society members are encouraged to submit dues for next season, along with a contribution to the Scholarship fund. A Scholarship Team is already forming.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates! In the next few months, we will be asking for members to select and participate in Teams of their choice.

Anne Wardlow
Liz Marnul



Thank You, Jan Hladik!

2022-2023 was a very challenging year in which to serve as President of the Southwest Florida Symphony Society. But, Jan, you rose to the challenge and inspired us to keep going despite the difficulties that our community and many members had to face following a devastating hurricane.

With your leadership, we were able to raise almost \$40,000 to support bringing outstanding music by the Southwest Florida Symphony to our community.

Please accept our most sincere thanks and admiration for your perseverance and leadership.

Southwest Florida Symphony Society

Executive Director's Message

Amy Ginsburg



That's a wrap! Hurricane notwithstanding, we've had a pretty stellar year. Those who were able to return to Southwest Florida after the storm joyfully attended Maestro Radu and our new concertmaster, Orin Laursen's inaugural season with us. We had a great response to this year's Young People's Concert, entertaining and educating close to 1800 kids, we welcomed Robert Van Winkle to our administrative staff....and we all continue to be smitten with him!...and next year, the Society will blossom into something beautiful and exciting. Please keep an eye on your inboxes and our website for developing information on upcoming events and opportunities throughout the summer! Yes, you read that correctly; we will hold occasional summer events to keep our community engaged and nurture the relationships we've fostered through live music.

Finally, we can announce concert dates and programming highlights for our 63rd season and you are (outside of our musicians) the very first to see these highlights! Here's what's on tap for next season:

Saturday, October 21, 2023 – Brave New Pops [R.E.M. Explored](#) – the music of 1980s/90s alternative rock band R.E.M. reimagined for orchestra AND a Concerto for Violin, Rock Band & Orchestra

Saturday, November 4, 2023 – MasterPops! This is both a Masterworks and Brave New Pops: [The Marcus Roberts Jazz](#) Trio performs a jazz arrangement of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue

December 9 – 11 Holiday Pops at three locations throughout Lee and Charlotte Counties [Andrew Lipke](#) returns with his Holiday Pops program written and arranged specifically for the Southwest Florida Symphony. If you missed the 12 Days of Florida Christmas last year, now's your chance to catch it!...and it is spot on.

Saturday, January 6, 2024 – [Charles Yang](#), violinist from Time for Three is our celebrity guest artist who will, once again, fuse traditional and contemporary orchestral music. Charles will perform the Ravel Tzigane, then will offer a few musical surprises.

Saturday, February 3, 2024 – Locally beloved pianist [Alexandra Carlson](#) returns to perform Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto.

Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Our very own “rock star,” [Orin Laursen](#) is our soloist on this program, performing the Beethoven Violin Concerto.

Thursday, April 4, 2024 – We close the [Tribby Arts Center](#) Concert Season with Maestro Radu Paponiu making his long-awaited debut for an exclusive Tribby engagement, featuring Jillian Prescott Scholarship Competition winner who began his career right here in Southwest Florida, pianist, Arturo Fernandez, performing Bach's Piano Concerto in D minor.

Saturday, April 13, 2024 – Prodigy cellist, [Sterling Elliott](#) closes out our Masterworks Season with the Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations

Saturday, May 18, 2024 – Andrew Lipke returns to conduct our Final Brave New Pops of the season, the Orchestra meets [MTV Unplugged](#). This program, also curated and arranged by Maestro Lipke, connects the dots between orchestral music and its influence on acoustic rock & roll. It will also feature a multimedia component taking Gen Xers and their parents who consumed MTV in its heyday on the coolest trip down memory lane.

Have a wonderful, restful summer. Hopefully we'll catch you at one of our summer events and we expect you're as eager to jump into next concert season as we are!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Symphony of Treats

Dolly Ross was finally able to hold her **AFTERNOON TEA, SOUTHERN STYLE** Party at the Wisteria Tea Room in Fort Myers in March. Those attending had a fun afternoon and felt quite 'Southern' and gracious in their finery. Dolly was a perfect Southern Belle.

Nancy and John Petralia outdid themselves this year with a wonderful, intimate **TRUE SICILIAN DINNER** at their home in Fort Myers. The table was beautiful, the conversation stimulating, and, of course, the dinner itself was a real treat. Nancy and John are frequent travelers and know true Sicilian foods. They even had the book they wrote about their Italian travels available if anyone wished to see it. Thank you so much, Nancy and John.

Jan Hladik's **NORTHERN ITALIAN DINNER** party on April 14, was, as always, a huge success: food wonderful, served with a smile by her neighbors. and fun had by all. This is one Treat that is looked forward to every year and books immediately. *MANY THANKS JAN!*

LAST TREAT OF THE SEASON! SUNDAY BRUNCH, Sunday April 30, 11:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the Villages at Country Creek in Estero. Cost: \$40.00. Additionally, bottomless mimosas or bloody Marys for \$5.00. For reservations, call Kim at (410) 262-8224.

It is impossible to close the Treat Season without a last SHOUT OUT OF THANKS to all our hosts and hostesses and all of you who have supported these events. We have SO MUCH FUN together!

We had a beautiful tea party at Wisteria Tea Room hosted by Dolly Ross. We made lovely holiday arrangements and had lunch with Linda Knight at the Berne Davis Gardens. Lunch with Roger, hosted by Roger and Gloria Selander, was great fun. The Soup Night planned by a new member last season, Pat Short, was a fun-filled evening. And of course, our dinner parties with Jan Hladik and Nancy and John Petralia, were, as always, wonderful. Additionally, we had several great events planned that, because of circumstances beyond our control, were cancelled: Bob and Reina Schlager wanted to do a Far Eastern dinner and Sue Matthews was ready to host the fun Kitchen Social, and Verena and Michael Schneider-Christians love to do their wine party. But, again, they had to be cancelled. Despite the problems encountered but due to the generous contributions made by guests this season, the Treats still showed a profit of nearly \$7,000. You all are so loving in your help to us for the Symphony of Treats that it is truly not enough to only say THANK YOU!

We are not certain what fun activities will occur next season. Already planned is a GET TOGETHER at KITCHEN SOCIAL on Tuesday, April 12, 2024. Mark your calendar!

We want to wish all of you a joyful Spring season and safe travels. Until we meet again. . .

*Kim Wittstadt, Sue Wells,
and Rosanne Taylor*

TREAT—Lunch with Roger February 7, 2023



A recent Symphony of Treats event was a lunch and a demonstration with Steuben glass artist Roger Selander and his wife Gloria. There was a prize awarded and Bee Horner was the lucky winner of a hand-engraved vase incorporating musical motifs including a figure from the 2022-2023 Yearbook cover.



Luncheon—April 7, 2023

Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club

The final luncheon of the year was held on April 7 at Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club. Once again, the tables were decorated with beautiful centerpieces made by Kitty Satterfield. Steffanie Pearce gave a presentation on Gulfshore Opera with video highlights from productions. Project Chairs gave their final reports.



Centerpiece by Kitty.



Steffani Pearce of Gulfshore Opera

Finally Anne Wardlow gave a report of the Symphony Trustee Board discussion on the future of our group. Liz Marnul also spoke. Anne, Liz and current Society President Jan Hladik are on the Symphony's Board of Trustees. They're considering a new name incorporating the word Friends so if anyone has any suggestions contact Anne or Liz. Things will certainly be different next season but keep your renewal dues rolling in - and tell your friends. (See pages 2 & 3 for more information about the evolution.)



Pat Neuman for the Van Sickle voice competition



Christina Mehta and Verena Schneider-Christians for the Love of Music gala



Stacia Featherston and Bonnie Gray for the Spring Into Fashion luncheon (sorry about the shot, Stacia)



Anne Wardlow speaking about the evolution of the Society.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS
Anne Wardlow had earlier reported on Key Signatures, which was held at the beginning of the season. Not present were Kim Wittstadt for the Symphony of Treats, which is ongoing, and Linda Farris for the Bridge Marathon.



Additional pictures shared by Kitty Satterfield.



May	
05/02	Fred Manion
05/04	Robert E. Diefenbach
05/06	Linn Bussmann
05/07	Mary Kort
05/09	Mary Daley Jacobs
05/15	Bette Neuman
05/15	Ron Click
05/21	Bee Horner
05/27	Cynthia (Cindy) Hart



June	
06/01	Barb Coons
06/04	Vickie Strich
06/06	John Wright
06/11	Carol Fuechsel
06/15	Joan May
06/15	Susan Mack
06/16	Joan Fedorak
06/18	Kim Wittstadt
06/19	Paula Mattras
06/20	Thelma C. Gunter
06/22	Mary Finver
06/24	Rosanne Taylor
06/29	Jeffrey Cull



July	
07/01	James Scott, III
07/06	Alexandra Bremner
07/09	Carol S. Robinson
07/11	Gloria Selander
07/18	Ellen R. Schneider
07/19	Annie T. Mrozinski
07/21	Lora L. Manion
07/22	Johanna Veneman
07/22	Marsha Klamner
07/25	W. M. "Bill" Otey, III
07/29	Terry Conesky
07/31	Mary Francis
07/31	Heather Messmer

August	
08/02	Roz Lesser
08/07	Lee Tauck
08/08	Joyce Weiman
08/09	Radu Paponiu
08/10	Michele A. Holcomb
08/12	Marguerite "Mimi" Gearing
08/13	Lois M. Welsh
08/15	Mary M. March
08/19	Linda Farris
08/20	Robert M. Brosey
08/20	(Kitty) Hermine Satterfield
08/21	Esther Moreno Kulhavi
08/24	Michael Schneider-Christians
08/24	Carol Edmier
08/26	Deborah A. Wilson
08/30	Liz Marnul

NEW MEMBER

Bonnie Merryfield

FASHION SHOW: Spring into Fashion March 3, 2023, The Landings Yacht Club



We thank our Symphony Society members and guests for the great time we had at our annual style show. Bonnie and I were happy that it all went well, plus we raised money for our Symphony.

Stacia Featherston & Bonnie Gray



Sue Matthews

No matter how many ways I say "thank you" to



Sue Matthews, it's not enough. Without her teaching me about Publisher, giving me computer tips, sharing information and pictures and proof reading *News of Note* for the past five years, I would not have been able to be successful publishing the newsletter.

Thank you, Sue.

Barb Coons, Editor

Pictured the left, the models: Donna Munizzi, Paula Mattras, Jean Nicholson, Bee Horner, Marsha Klammer, Verena Schneider-Christians, Christina Mehta, Pam Simon

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Symphony Society Membership Renewal 2023-2024

Please mail renewal form to:

Symphony Society Membership Committee, 2455 La Salle Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33907-5812
The fiscal year is July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 Receipt by Aug 1, 2023 ensures Yearbook listing

Choose your membership level and note your additional donation for the scholarship fund:

\$50 ☐ Active (I will participate in Society events, join a committee, organize a Treat, etc.)

\$75 ☐ Patron (I am not able to provide any active participation this year)

\$_____ ☐ Symphony Society Scholarship-Education Fund donation. Music study scholarships are awarded to talented local youth following an annual competition in December.

TOTAL \$_____ Circle payment option: Check payable to SWFLSS AmEx MCard Visa Discover

Credit Card Acct. No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____ CVV/Security Code: _____
MM/DD

Spouse: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

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