

STL SYMPHONY
VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

KeyNotes

WINTER
2016/2017
Newsletter of the St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Janice Seele

VP Education

Margaret Lahrmann

VP Fundraising

Gerry Frankenfeld

VP Membership

Penny Bari

Secretary

Anne Bader

**Associate Director of
Volunteer Programs**

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From the SVA President



Janice Seele

We in the St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association (SVA) are remarkably privileged to support the efforts of one of the most highly acclaimed orchestras in the world. Musically, the STL Symphony is outstanding among giants, as evidenced by this year's Grammy nomination for Leila Josefowicz's performance of *Scheherazade.2* featuring Music Director David Robertson conducting the orchestra. This is in addition to our Grammy win for *City Noir* two years ago. As a cultural crown jewel for St. Louis, our orchestra is a critical asset in drawing individuals and companies to the area. As a caring and invested partner in St. Louis, the STL Symphony does inspiring work every day through its education and community programs, cultivating future musicians and audiences and bringing joy and inspiration to those who need more of it in their lives. Now, with the newly adopted strategic plan in place and a firm financial position, our beloved STL Symphony is poised to make an even bigger impact on the area.

This past year, a key focus of the SVA was to increase the engagement level of our members so we could help the STL Symphony with its goals, and the 2015/2016 season brought increased levels of participation. In 16/17, in response to the strategic plan, the STL Symphony is taking on many new initiatives and the SVA will be flexible in moving with the STL Symphony in support of them. In all areas, our ability to be effective advocates and ambassadors for the STL Symphony at Powell Hall and throughout the region is key to future success. This publication highlights some of the current programs of the SVA and the wonderful volunteers who make them happen—and we anticipate discovering exciting new ways to support the STL Symphony over the coming year.

In everything we do, sharing our passion for this orchestra and commitment to welcoming new audiences and listeners is what will drive audience development and the funding needed to keep the STL Symphony and its programs moving forward. I thank each of you for your enthusiasm and dedication. It has been an honor to serve as your president and you have all enriched my life. As always, I look forward to what we can continue to do together!

Warmly,

Janice Seele

PROSPECTIVE AND NEW MEMBERS

Do you enjoy people who love music? This team is seeking SVA members who are good at identifying, recruiting and engaging new members. This committee works to connect these new members' skills and interests with appropriate committees. Committee members host events, mail new member packets, inform committee chairs of new members interested in their committees and gain the satisfaction of welcoming new SVA members. **Sara Fabick, chair: d.fabick@sbcglobal.net or 314-822-1183; Terri Ciccolella, vice chair: tgarten30@att.net or 314-440-6883.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rachael Badell | John Huber | Susan Nall |
| Cathy Bailey | Jim Johnson | Debbie Neustadt |
| Mary Balmer | Nancy Kalishman | Ron Neustadt |
| Marlene Becker | Fran Krame | Sharon Norton |
| Pam Belloli | Jean Light | Barbara O'Donnell |
| Connie Bennett | John Malvin | Lindsay Pattan |
| Cathleen Callahan | Nancy Malvin | Joseph Przybylski |
| Roger Frederickson | Linda Martien | John Summey |
| Sarah George | Rivi Meltzer | Barbara Toumayan |
| Maria Gianino | Terese Messman | Edward Vega |
| Peggy Greene | Jim Moore | Sharon Voss |
| Charles Guenther | Willard Moseley | Emily Williams |
| David Hoya | James Mueller | |

Membership

Membership is the vital first step in Symphony Volunteer Association involvement. The array of membership committees and activities offers a wide range of inviting and stimulating opportunities.

REGULAR MEMBERS

Keeping members engaged in fun and rewarding experiences is one focus of this committee. Continuing Prospective and New Membership's introductory work, this committee maintains membership renewals and informs committee heads about members' expressed interests. The team also plans three membership meetings (fall, winter and spring) within budget guidelines, which are opportunities for SVA members to renew acquaintances and friendships, enjoy a musical program and hear the latest news from its president. The many responsibilities of choosing venues, creating invitations, selecting menus and assisting with table seating and check-in, offer volunteers a wide range of opportunities for satisfying involvement. The Fall Membership Meeting was held at the Missouri Athletic Club and featured Jonathon Reycraft, trombone; Laura Reycraft, viola; and David Nischwitz, the STL Symphony's Vice President for Marketing and Patron Services. **Liz Cox Halpin, chair: lizcox@me.com or 314-308-8102; Rebecca Gorski, vice chair: gorski.9@gmail.com or 618-889-0245.**



Elaine Wichmer, STL Symphony's Senior Major and Planned Gifts Officer; Barbara Levin and Phyllis Traub at the Fall Membership Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Connection and engagement are this committee's dual goals. Its members contact each SVA member by phone or in person, at least once a year, to gather input on interests and to provide any needed individual follow up. **Marjie Smith, team leader: smithmrs@sbcglobal.net or 314-773-4074.**

ONE & DONE

Short on time, but eager to help? This committee's one-shot assignments on an "as needed" basis are designed for you. Activities can range from proofreading a publication to covering a shift at Gypsy Caravan. **Elizabeth Crosby, chair: ebcrosby@millstadt-il.com or 618-476-9120; Kathryn Snodgrass, vice chair: skmdet@aol.com or 314-304-5873.**

ARCHIVES

Want to be part of history? Enjoy working through dusty documents? Archivists are needed to collect photographs and printed information about the SVA and preserve these materials for future historical reference.

TECH TEAM

Supporting the technical needs and programs of the SVA, team members review the information needs and data flow between the STL Symphony and SVA, our data systems, software and apps that ensure accuracy, stability, coordination and ease of use. This team provides needed training to other committees and suggests improvements to current technical systems. Team members should possess strong technical skills across multiple platforms. **Kathy Borges, team leader: borgeskath22@gmail.com or 314-469-7465.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping members up to date and informed is the goal of the Communications Committee. This committee oversees the following projects that support a range of SVA needs.

Anne Carman, chair: annecarman1@gmail.com or 314-769-9945; Jamie Spencer, vice chair: jamiesonspencer@outlook.com or 314-965-4057.

Newsletters (KeyNotes) – In conjunction with the SVA President, Executive Committee and Associate Director of Volunteer Programs, this committee compiles information for the SVA's annual newsletter. Writing, editing and some layout skills are helpful. **Jamie Spencer, team leader: jamiesonspencer@outlook.com or 314-965-4057.**

Playbill – Committee members write articles about the SVA in Playbill, the STL Symphony's concert program. Each issue informs concertgoers about a different SVA project. Writing skills are a prerequisite, as is the ability to work with word limitation and due dates. **Cathy Bailey, team leader: baileychc@gmail.com or 314-822-8769.**

Membership Directory – Committee members compile members' information and produce both a printed and an online SVA membership and activity directory. Computer and editing skills are desirable. (This year's directory was distributed at Winter Heat and is available online at stlsymphony.org/volunteer.) **Susan Pribble, team leader: pribblesusan7@gmail.com or 270-792-6220.**

Photography – Committee members capture moments in SVA history by photographing SVA activities. Digital photography is necessary; computer skills are helpful. **Pam Belloli, team leader: pebelloli@gmail.com or 314-706-1016.**

Bet You Didn't Know...

For many, volunteering with the SVA is a great way to make new friends while serving and promoting a beloved institution. For others, it is also a way to spend more time doing positive work with those they already know and love. Many of the SVA's most active volunteers are mothers and daughters, sisters and longtime friends, as well as spouses who initially sign up to "help out" and find themselves relishing the SVA experience as well.

Elizabeth Crosby, chair of One & Done, initially joined to spend more time with her mother, **Marilyn Gordon** (Education Ambassador team leader) and cherishes the opportunities to work together. Along the way, Elizabeth recruited friends **Connie Wepfer**, **Fran Krame**, as well as **Ron and Debbie Neustadt** to join the SVA, all of whom are now part of either One & Done or Education Ambassadors where they often volunteer together. **Andrea Tegenkamp**, daughter of **Marcia and Bill Whitson**, serves with her parents at both Coffee Concerts and Picture the Music. **Chris Fabick**, son of New & Prospective Chair **Sara Fabick** and **Darryl Fabick**, can also often be found volunteering along with his parents. The family and friend pairings are endless. In short, while the New & Prospective committee works to recruit and welcome new members into the SVA family, many of our current members have potential new recruits in their current social sphere who might love the opportunity to spend more time together volunteering for the STL Symphony. It's worth the invitation!



Margaret Lahrmann, Bonnie Vega, Kathy Borges and Ed Vega at the Fall Membership Meeting

Speaking of new members, the breadth and depth of knowledge and interests that SVA members bring with them is amazing. While volunteering together, we often get just a hint of the total person. Beyond the friendly demeanor is a lifetime of experiences, and part of the fun of volunteering together is the gradual discovery of one another.

Connie Wepfer is one of the SVA's newer and involved members, recruited by **Elizabeth Crosby** through a shared love of horses. Recently retired from AT&T as an accountant, Connie spends her time riding her horse, caring for family, traveling and volunteering for several organizations—though she says



Andrea Tegenkamp and Jim Moore serve with a smile at the Coffee Concert

her SVA volunteer work is the most fun. Born and raised in St. Louis, Connie played violin in her high school's orchestra and chamber orchestra and has fond memories of student field trips to Powell Hall. As a volunteer for Coffee Concerts and Education Ambassadors, Connie gets to welcome a younger generation of students to Powell Hall.

Ed Vega is another recent addition to the SVA, and like Connie, he is a recently retired CPA and spent most of his working years in banking. Ed and his wife have been attending the STL Symphony since the mid-1970s, so volunteering upon retirement with the SVA was a natural fit for him. Ed is an avid golfer, travels extensively and is a voracious reader of both fiction and nonfiction. Ed's natural curiosity and management skills will serve him well as this year's Gypsy Caravan chair.



Connie Wepfer, Elizabeth Crosby and Laura Dwyer, STL Symphony's Associate Director, Volunteer Programs assist Santa at a Holiday concert

Fundraising

A priority for the SVA is providing financial support to the STL Symphony. Over the years, a number of activities have raised significant funding while fostering camaraderie among SVA members.

GYPSY CARAVAN

Now in its 45th year, Gypsy Caravan has raised more than \$3.5 million in support of the STL Symphony. With both outdoor and indoor shopping areas, offsite parking, shuttles and thousands of visitors, Gypsy Caravan relies on the logistical prowess of many volunteers, ranging from a large strategic and tactical steering committee to hundreds of volunteers onsite. The event is a volunteer experience that creates a unique esprit de corps. **Ed Vega, chair: vegaj@msn.com or 618-466-2407; John Carr, vice chair: carrjw@aol.com or 636-778-0789.**

ADVOCACY

State funding of the arts is critical to the cultural and economic vitality of the region. Advocacy committee members support efforts by STL Symphony staff to ensure its continuation. Committee members email, call and write their local legislators about important upcoming events and legislation. **Margaret Gilleo, chair: mpgilleo@att.net or 314-991-1305.**



Penny Bari, Janice Seele and Gerry Frankenfeld celebrate Gypsy Caravan.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Volunteers call and prepare benefit materials for Friends of the Symphony donors up to the \$1,500 level, a large group whose gifts comprise a significant part of the orchestra's annual budget. The opportunity to thank them also helps to initiate a friendly contact and cultivate a more personal connection with these generous donors. **Vi Steinmeyer, chair: vsteinmey@sbcglobal.net or 636-532-4207.**



Education and Community

Developing the next generation of STL Symphony devotees is another priority of the SVA. Working with young people to expose them to instruments and classical music and to elicit their imaginative responses is always rewarding.

POWELL HALL OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers can choose from a diverse range of opportunities: managing the Boutique, providing tours, helping to host Coffee Concerts and welcoming students for education concerts.

Dennis Brommelhorst, chair: dbrom51@charter.net; Ellen Brommelhorst, vice chair: 314-965-0768.

EDUCATION CONCERTS AMBASSADORS

Volunteers provide a wonderful experience for these concertgoers, assisting STL Symphony staff members in guiding teachers and students from their buses and helping them safely and quickly enter and leave Powell Hall. They benefit from the chance to serve as friendly ambassadors, see the children's delighted responses to the music and may also attend that day's concert. Education Concerts begin at 9:30am and 11:00am, with concerts spread through the year. **Marilyn Gordon, team leader: mmgstlmo@aol.com or 314-966-4452.**

SYMPHONY BOUTIQUE

Here's an opportunity for volunteers to interact with patrons interested in purchasing STL Symphony logo items and CDs at Powell Hall. They will be given sales training. Boutique volunteers are highly visible and have the chance to acquaint the public with the SVA's work. They also receive complimentary tickets to attend the concert. The Boutique is open for all concerts, one hour before each concert and during the intermission.

Ellen and Dennis Brommelhorst, team leaders: boutiquesva@charter.net or 314-965-0768.



Liz Deighton assists patrons at the Boutique.

COFFEE CONCERTS

Coffee? Tea? Doughnuts? Here's a chance for volunteers to serve as hosts to Friday morning concertgoers. The interactions encourage volunteers to offer hospitality and develop an easy rapport with audience members. Another benefit is the chance to attend the morning's concert. **Rosemary Schweer, team leader: rmschweer@sbcglobal.net or 314-894-6863.**



POWELL HALL TOURS

Tour guides enjoy a rare opportunity—the chance to share with visiting students and adults the secret and remarkable history of Powell Hall and to point out its architectural beauties. **Alan Fiddleman, team leader: af1776@earthlink.net or 636-207-7404.**



Powell Hall Tour Guides: Alan Fiddleman, Ellen Brommelhorst, Gerry Frankenfeld and Becky Brown

YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Committee members assist with St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra auditions, orientation and rehearsals or concerts as needed. They help these young musicians through the process of checking in, warming up and moving to the audition room. Committee members invariably find it both gratifying and exciting to see the enthusiasm and ability these young musicians bring. **Margie Knapp, team leader:** cmaigle@aol.com or 314-591-5681.



Christine Harris, Cathy Bailey and Julie Ferrie, STL Symphony's Director, Sponsorship Programs, at Whole Foods 5% Day benefitting the YO.

EXPRESS THE MUSIC

The next time you listen to a piece of classical music, close your eyes and try to imagine how you might capture what you are feeling, in words. Express the Music volunteers assist in the implementation of this creative essay competition for students in grades 6-12. Students, whether public, private, parochial, special education or home-schooled, listen to a special selection of classical music and then express their thoughts and emotions through creative writing. Committee members play multiple roles: they contact area schools, select judges, screen the entries and plan what is always a very rewarding awards ceremony.

Cecelia Webber, chair: webber16@juno.com or 314-524-7834.

PICTURE THE MUSIC

How might you convey your feelings or responses to a piece of music visually? This is what students in grades K-6 do every year. Nearly 13,000 students listen to a specific selection and then create their own artistic interpretation through painting, coloring or drawing. Committee members oversee communications with area schools, and they plan, coordinate and participate in all aspects of a judging day and the awards ceremony. They also transport pictures to and from display locations. **Linda Seibert, chair:** lindajbseibert63@gmail.com or 314-991-9811. **Bev Cox, vice chair:** bevey7@aol.com; 314-221-6426.



Front row: Picture the Music 2016 Maestro Award winners Kerrigan Miller and Saskia Dentman; Back row: Ron Klemm, Linda Seibert, Janice Seele

INSTRUMENT PLAYGROUND

Instrument Playground, which operates in a traveling format, gives young students an opportunity to see, touch, play and learn about the many instruments in a symphony orchestra. This program has grown to comprise a large committee that keeps the playground running smoothly. Instrument Playground volunteers take instrument kits into schools and demonstrate the use of the instruments. Volunteers receive enormous satisfaction as they see the delight in children who might otherwise have never been exposed to orchestral instruments, to symphonic music, to a musical score, or, much less, to a conductor's baton or tuxedo. It's a fun and rewarding experience for both students and volunteers. **Jim Dodds, chair:** j-dodds@att.net or 314-991-0704; **Jeff Kaplan, vice chair:** jakappy@gmail.com or 636-812-2083.



Jeff Kaplan helps a young student experience playing the clarinet.

Key Dates

DATE

September 10
September 22
October 6
December 15

2017

January 5
January 22
January 28
February 14
February 21-22
March 3
March 3
March 4
March 9
March 12
March 13-14
March 25
March 29
May 5
May 10
May 29
June 8

EVENT

SVA Board Meeting
Thank-a-Thon
Fall Membership Meeting
SVA Board Meeting

Winter Heat
Family Concert/Instrument Playground
Express the Music Reading Day
Picture the Music Judging Day
Education Concerts/Ambassadors and Tours
Express the Music Awards
Youth Orchestra Concert
Winter Membership Meeting
SVA Board Meeting
Family Concert/Instrument Playground
Education Concerts/Ambassadors
2017 Gala Celebration
Picture the Music Awards Ceremony
Spring Membership Meeting
Education Concerts/Ambassadors and Tours
Gypsy Caravan
SVA Board Meeting

LOCATION

SVA Office
SVA Office
Missouri Athletic Club
SVA Office

Powell Hall
Powell Hall
SVA Office
Centene Center
Powell Hall
Powell Hall
Powell Hall
The Saint Louis Woman's Club
SVA Office
Powell Hall
Powell Hall
The Ritz-Carlton
Powell Hall
St. Louis Club
Powell Hall
The Family Arena
SVA Office

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Arenberg

Jane Beavers

Lauren Blumenfeld

Marion Hughes

Robert Riggs

George Stern

Robert Weinman

Herbert Weitman

Note: All events are subject to change including details such as date and location. Please confirm whenever possible.