



The “Half Note” Newsletter



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WELCOME TO OUR 2015-2016 SEASON, OUR 70TH! We are excited to present another slate of the world’s best chamber musicians, some up and coming, and some well-established; some from the US, some from overseas. Our thanks, as always, to our good friends up at the Chamber Music Society of Williamsburg (CMSW), with whom we work very closely to bring you the very best musicians at what we think is a great value.

7:30pm

New Concert Start Time!

CONCERT START TIME... PLEASE NOTE!! This year’s concerts will **START a half hour earlier than in years past at 7:30pm.** This is in response to patron feedback, particularly those with children or early start times the next morning. Doors will open for our pre-concert reception at the usual time of 6:30pm, and Dwight Davis will start his pre-concert talk at 7:00pm but will wrap up around 7:20 or so in order to be ready for **concert start at 7:30pm.**

ALTERNATING VENUES. We are alternating concerts between two venues this year. Again in response to customer feedback, we are returning to the **Chrysler Museum of Art’s Kaufman Theater for Concerts 2, 4, and 6.** **Concerts 1, 3, and 5 will remain at St Patrick Catholic School in Larchmont,** where we’ve been so warmly received the past three years. We hope the mix will allow everyone the chance to sample two delightful, yet very different venues. Many of our patrons have come to know and love the intimate confines of St Pat’s, along with its nice reception space; meanwhile many folks remember fondly the panache Chrysler Museum of Art offers. So we are attempting to please as many people as possible, and ask that even if you are particularly partial to one venue that you give them both a good try and continue to give us your feedback. As always, your Board will take a hard look as the year unfolds to see if further adjustments are necessary in 2016-2017.

RECEPTIONS. At press time, we are working with our host venues to provide an enjoyable, yet reasonably affordable, pre-concert experience for our patrons. We will be working with a new caterer at St Pat’s; and we are continuing to evaluate options with the Chrysler Museum of Art’s caterer, Cuisine & Company. Because of the significantly higher costs associated with the Chrysler and our commitment to holding ticket prices steady in this year of change, we do not anticipate being able to offer post-concert beverages/snacks at the Chrysler: hopefully this won’t be a big showstopper, as we expect the musical experience to more than make up for it. Regardless, as we always do, we will make every effort to ensure the musicians are available in the lobby after the performance for you to meet.

FREE CONCERT

“CONCERT ZERO.” To help spread the word about the Feldman and our return to the Chrysler, and thanks to the Museum’s support, we are very excited to partner with the Museum in announcing a **FREE** concert at the **Chrysler Museum of Art** on **Sunday afternoon September 13, 2015 at 3:00pm**. We will feature a locally renowned ensemble, the **Ambrosia Quartet**, comprised of distinguished artists from the Virginia Symphony. Elizabeth Coulter Vonderheide (violin, appearing for Simon LaPointe), Mayu Kuroda Cipriano (violin), Beverly Kane Baker (viola), and Rebecca Gilmore Phillips (cello), will present an hour of light classics – just the thing for a hot Sunday afternoon in late summer. A special pre-concert tour of the Chrysler at 2:00pm is also planned: please bring a friend to sample what the Feldman and the Chrysler have to offer!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE FELDMAN!

The Number One thing you can do to help our treasured Tidewater institution survive for future generations to enjoy is to **BRING A FRIEND!** We will be providing a complimentary ticket, good at any concert, with all season subscriptions to help encourage you to share the pleasure of the world’s best music right here at home.

And as is no surprise, your continued generosity by way of **CONTRIBUTIONS** is critical to continuing the tradition. Ticket prices cover less than half the cost of the performances: your generous contributions are what make our series possible. If your budget allows, we would ask you to consider enclosing as much as you feel comfortable giving to ensure our ability to continue to operate.

We are also very grateful for our **VOLUNTEERS**. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the Board or otherwise volunteering, please see a Board member for more information. Specific skill sets in demand include marketing and advertising, fundraising and development, and bookkeeping and accounting. It takes hard work and a lot of energy, but the satisfaction of seeing the many smiles on our patrons’ faces as they leave our concerts makes it all worthwhile!

CHAMBER MUSIC 101. We were delighted to have Dwight Davis along with Janet Kriner and two of her fellow musicians to help initiate some new audience members into the joys of classical music with an adult learning class as part of the Evenings at St Patrick series back in March. We plan to offer this fun learning experience again, so please keep your friends in mind who might like to join us!

VIENNA PIANO TRIO. What an exciting event we had with the Vienna Piano Trio (VPT) back in March! We have been working with their agent to see when they can return to Tidewater, but unfortunately the dates won’t match up for this season. (She did want us to pass on what a classy audience we have with the Feldman... with such a harrowing journey to Norfolk, the two musicians who did make it said it was the first time they’d ever gotten a standing ovation at the beginning of a concert! So thanks for making them feel so welcome.) Anyway, we are investigating with the Virginia Arts Festival the possibility of adding an additional concert at the end of this season as our make-up for the shortened VPT concert: if we can make it happen this year, we will... more to follow!

“MUSIC WORTH HEARING!”

WHAT MAKES LIVE MUSIC SO SPECIAL? There are as many reasons why the music we present is “Music Worth Hearing” as there are listeners in the audience. Some come to find an escape from the daily routine, others to learn something new, and still others to see people who have studied to be the very best in their field present the results of their labors. And some come just to hear human beings communicate ideas through beautiful sounds, melodies, and rhythms from different times and different places. Whatever your reason, you, the audience, are the critical part of making music.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Without such a wonderful audience, there would be no music. So thanks for making it all happen, and we look forward to seeing you again this season!