



Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc.

Winter 2024

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Greetings for a healthy and happy new year that lies ahead. SSMA continues to fulfill our mission and purpose of promoting music in Central New York through fund-raising, education and public relations activities.

As the world has gotten back to its normal pace, SSMA as well continues to flourish in providing increased funding through grants and sponsorships to worthy Central New York musically related organizations. Thanks to the generosity of our members and the community, our fundraising efforts continue.

Since the inception of SSMA in 2011, I am proud to say, we have awarded over \$500,000 to the CNY music community. Each year we have increased our "giving," and 2024 is no exception. We plan to continue the trend and increase our grants and sponsorship funding.

Read on in the Newsletter for all the details of our 2023 activities and accomplishments and what is planned for 2024.

Keep in touch by visiting us at www.syracusesoundsofmusic.org, following us on Facebook, attending our events and stopping by Encore Thrift Shop in Fayetteville to browse, buy or donate gently used women's clothing. Tell your friends about us and encourage them to join and attend our events. The more people involved in spreading the word, the more success we will see.

It is only through the combined committed efforts of our Board of Directors, volunteers and members that we are able to do what we do and keep up the pace so THANK YOU all for being a part of this.



We look forward to celebrating the power of music with you and to keeping the musical arts alive in our community. As I once read, "Music is Life...That's why our hearts have beats!"

All the best in 2024,
Barbara Barnell, President

Stay-up-to-date with SSMA events and activities
syracusesoundsofmusic.org

MUSIC MATTERS



Music Matters continues to be our pre-eminent Fall Fundraiser. On October 9, 2023, Traditions at the Links in Fayetteville sparked with light and music as SSMA held its annual signature event, MUSIC MATTERS. Approximately 100



attendees enjoyed scrumptious buffets of hors d'oeuvres, dinner items and delectable desserts. The tables were artfully decorated with fall themed centerpieces. Each year we recognize someone who has shown extraordinary support and dedication to music in CNY with The Ovation Award. Larry Loh, Symphor!a's Musical Director, was honored with the 2023 Ovation Award. Congratulations Larry...well deserved! Many past Ovation Award winners were present to celebrate with Larry.

Dan Pugh and Cheri Giraud provided the musical entertainment and Larry Luttinger, a past Ovation Award Winner, was Master of Ceremonies extraordinaire!

Raffle baskets and a Silent Auction topped off the evening's festivities. Auction tables were adorned with art from local artists, an array of baskets of wine and gourmet food items, cultural opportunities, restaurant and grocery gift certificates and more.



Thank you to all those who attended, donated goods and services and a special thank you to Cathedral Candle Company and Mark Steigerwald for being our Corporate Event Sponsor.

The event was a huge success!



Barbara Barnell (Event Chair) and Cathy Winger (Silent Auction Chair) Committee Members: Meg Aufmuth, Barbara Brown, Lou Anne Colaneri, Maria Miller, Ruth Perkins, Janet Mallan, Mary Thompson

"CHECKS TO CHARITIES" NIGHT WITH SYRACUSE CORVETTE CLUB

SSMA was pleased to be one of the 16 charities chosen for Syracuse Corvette Club's "Checks to Charities" Night for 2023. Organizations are nominated by members of the Club, and proceeds were mostly from their 30th annual "Vettes at the Beach" All Charity Car Show held this past July in Sylvan Beach, NY.



Barbara Barnell and Sheila Sostrin attended the "Checks to Charities" Night on Thursday, November 16 2023 at Barbagallo's Restaurant and graciously accepted a check for \$2000. SSMA Board of Directors voted to 'pay it forward' and allocate the funding towards our Grants in Music Program.

Each organization gave a brief synopsis of what they do and who they benefit in the community.



MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee was busy at work during 2023 planning events and recruiting new members.



Towne Center Retirement Community Room was the sight of a **Recruitment Meet and Greet** on October 23, 2023. Several potential new members attended and were excited to hear more about our mission and our activities. Board Members were present to talk about all the good things we do and accomplish.

Delicious snacks and lively conversation were enjoyed by all!!

A new Membership Brochure was developed that is a great marketing tool.

Currently, SSMA has 92 members, both lifetime and yearly renewals. We continue to grow as the word spreads about all the wonderful things we do.

Please note that dues for SSMA run from September – August. Membership renewal reminders are sent out in August each year. 3 levels of membership are available: \$100 Maestro, \$75 Forte and \$40 Pianissimo, as well as corporate memberships. Dues may also be paid via our website, www.syracusesoundsofmusic.org.

As a *member* of SSMA you will receive:

- o Invitations to all our events (We encourage you to bring your friends)
- o UPBEAT Newsletter
- o A 50% off coupon for the Encore Thrift Shop
- o The opportunity to get to know music lovers and musicians

As a *Member*, how can you help?

We encourage all SSMA members to help us with planning our events, volunteering at Encore Thrift Shop or becoming a Board Member. Please contact us at ssmaboardmembers@gmail.com should you have an interest or need additional information.

Maria Miller (2023) and Barbara Brown (2024), Chairs

Committee Members: Barbara Barnell, Jean Edminster, Jen Loh, Stephanie Macklin-Macero, Meg Aufmuth, Michele Mider

MEMBER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

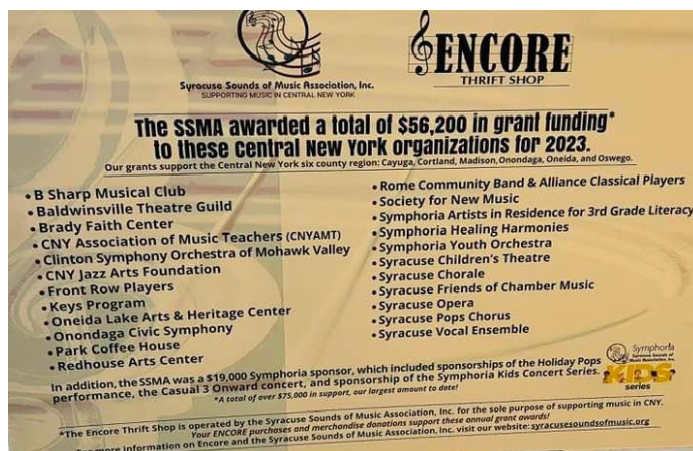
As a thank you for your continued membership in SSMA, a Membership Appreciation Reception has been planned at the home of Barbara Brown, SSMA Vice President, on April 17, 2024, from 2-4pm.

Invitations will be mailed out in March so check your mail. You won't want to miss this one!!!!

Thank you, all SSMA Members for your continued support in our organization and attendance at all our events and activities.



GRANTS IN MUSIC



Grant funding from SSMA is provided to Central New York non-profit organizations (Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga or Oswego counties) that offer music programming, music education, or community support through music and have operated for a minimum of 2 years.

The SSMA Grants in Music Program criteria:

1. Support and encourage student musicians.
2. Implement outreach.
3. Serve a diverse group of people.
4. Benefit the CNY community.

Grants are to be used for music events or projects. Dollar amounts range from \$500 - \$5,000 and must not be used to cover operating expenses or scholarships. Requests may include:

1. Financial support for a concert or performance (hiring guest artists and/or purchase of music)
2. Continuing education projects
3. Student tuition
4. Purchase of instruments or other music equipment
5. Repair of instruments

2023 was a stellar year for our Grants in Music Program. 23 musically related non-profit organizations were awarded grants totaling \$56,200, including 6 new organizations!

Sandra Wettingfeld, Chair

Committee Members: Meg Aufmuth, Jean Edminster, Janet Mallan, Sheila Sostrin

In 2024, we are planning on increasing Grant funding to \$60,000. The process is in the works and recipients will be announced in February 2024.

Jen Loh and Donna Miller, Co-Chairs

Committee Members: Janet Mallan, Sandy Wettingfeld, Jean Edminster and Stephanie Ladd.

SALLY WHITTLE SCHOLARSHIP

It is with sad hearts that SSMA has discontinued the Sally Whittle Scholarship Award Program in 2022 as funding provided has been depleted.

Over the past 23 years 36 recipients of the Sally Whittle Scholarship Program have been awarded almost \$48,000.

Congratulations to all the award recipients, and we hope that we helped further their musical interests.



EVERSON MUSEUM FESTIVAL OF TREES AND LIGHTS

Every year SSMA contributes an item to Everson Museum Festival of Trees and Light, a long time December tradition in Syracuse. In 2023, Meg Aufmuth did a splendid job of decorating a set of mini tabletop trees. Surely a joy for the highest bidder!!!

2023 INTERMEZZO LUNCHEON



The 2023 Intermezzo Holiday Luncheon took place at Bellevue Country Club with all its festive décor on December 5, 2023.

133 attendees enjoyed complimentary cocktails, a delicious luncheon, and delectable cupcakes.

Holiday classics were performed by Symphor!a's String Quartet members Sonya Stith Williams, violin; Edgar Tumajyan, violin; William Ford-Smith, viola and Heidi Hoffman, cello.



An elegant fashion show by Elsbeth Rose East was enjoyed by all who attended. Board Members, friends and Elsbeth Rose Fashionistas all modeled the latest in fashion.

Guests enjoyed shopping at the Intermezzo Boutique. Both Elsbeth Rose East and Encore Thrift Shop had several tables with items for holiday gift giving. Raffle Baskets were surely a hit, setting an all-time record for raffle basket ticket sales at any Intermezzo Luncheon!



We are grateful to all who attended and would like to express our appreciation for all the help and support from the SSMA members.

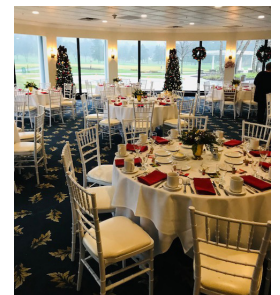
Jane Roller and Pam Baran. Co-Chairs

Committee Members: Barbara Barnell, Stephanie Macklin-Macero, Michele Mider, Maria Miller, Sheila Sostrin

2022 INTERMEZZO LUNCHEON



2022 Intermezzo was held at Bellevue Country Club on December 6, 2022. MallyMae and Frameology provided vendor tables and a fashion show. Guests enjoyed a holiday music performance by Symphor!a's Woodwind Quintet Ensemble. Our thanks to Michele Mider and her committee for all their planning to make this event such a success.



MISSION

The purpose of the Association is to promote music in Central New York. This purpose shall be accomplished through fund-raising, educational, and public relations activities.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

The Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. is an advocate for the promotion and support of music throughout Central New York's six counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oneida, and Oswego. We do this through fundraising activities and events. Proceeds from **ALL** our efforts go toward our **Grants in Music Program** to Central New York non-profit organizations that offer music programming, music education, or community support through music and a major sponsorship to **Symphor!a**.

SYMPHOR!A SPONSORSHIP



In 2023, SSMA awarded Symphor!a \$25,000, the highest dollar amount to date, to underwrite the Holiday Pops concert performances on December 16, 2023, to sponsor the Kids Concert Series, and to sponsor the Coronation Celebration in the Casual Series in March 2024.

Barbara Barnell, SSMA President, made a “check” presentation at both the 1:30PM and 7:30PM performances of the Holiday Pops Concerts. Kelly Covert accepted on behalf of Symphor!a and thanked us for all the support we provide. The audience erupted in applause!!!!

Many Board Members attended both performances, as well as manned an SSMA information table in the lobby.

ENCORE THRIFT SHOP



As we enter our 16th year of operation, Encore Thrift Shop is flourishing beyond all our hopes and aspirations. As in the past, we continue to be the largest source of funding for SSMA grants. Each year we have been able to increase our funding due to an increase in profits.

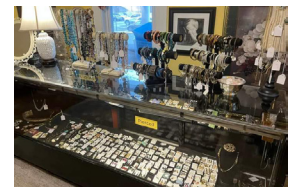
Our wonderful volunteer staff has seen an increase in new recruits, and we continually welcome additional volunteers. Thanks to their generosity we have increased our Saturday hours. Encore shop located at

119 Brooklea Drive, Fayetteville, NY is now open Tuesday through Friday from 11 am to 4 pm and Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm. (315-637-6133).

We continue to receive wonderful donations of lightly used women’s clothing and shoes, jewelry, art work and housewares; some items have come from as far away as Maine and Long Island. A majority of the items are sold in the shop, but many high-end items are sold on eBay as well as Facebook Marketplace. We always welcome your donations; no appointment is needed.



Encore is run entirely by SSMA Board Members, with many duties parceled out to our dedicated volunteers. We always welcome new volunteers for shifts of two and half hours. Volunteers can sign up for a permanent workday or fill in where needed.



All efforts are very much appreciated, and we thank you for your continued support.

Meg Aufmuth and Sandy Rosenfeld, Co-Managers

Stay-up-to-date with SSMA events and activities
www.syracusesoundsofmusic.org
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



ANNUAL MEETING 2023

Barbara Brown welcomed the attendees including SSMA members and guests in the absence of our SSMA President, Maria Miller. New Board Member, Pam Baran, was welcomed, and we bid a sad Good-bye to retiring Board Members Steve Pekich, Kate Wirshing, and Sandra Wettingfeld. Board Member terms are limited according to our by-laws.



Lara Mosby, Senior Manager for Advancement and Community Engagement for Symphor!a spoke about "Healing Harmonies", a 2023 Grants in Music Award Winner.

"Healing Harmonies" is a program sponsored by Symphor!a that hires guest musicians to provide live, in-person music in healthcare and group residential homes, as well as to those who are homeless and/or food insecure in Onondaga and Oswego Counties. The opportunity to attend Symphor!a concerts in person is also offered for those who are able.



Sonya Stith Williams, a member of "Healing Harmonies", entertained attendees with three beautiful selections on her violin. The first piece was Kreisler's "Schon Rosmarin", second was "Spring" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons and last was Massenet's "Meditation from Thais."

Barbara Barnell, incoming President, welcomed attendees and asked Committee Chairpersons to briefly report on events and activities from the past year.

Jean Edminster, Barbara Brown and Mary Thompson, Co-Chairs
2023 Committee members, Barbara Barnell, Jen Loh, Sheila Sostrin

ANNUAL MEETING 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held at Lincklaen House on June 3, 2024. Invitations and information to follow in May with The Slate of Officers and Board Members. A by-laws change is in the works.

Jean Edminster, Barbara Brown and Mary Thompson, Co-Chairs

FASHION SHOW AT TOWNE CENTER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

A spring 2023 Fashion Show at TCRC was so successful that they asked for a repeat performance in the fall! October 21, 2023 was the setting for the second Fashion Show by Encore Thrift Shop at TCRC. As with the Spring 2023 show, all clothing and accessories came from racks at Encore Thrift Shop and TCRC provided resident models. The models were so very poised and elegant and looked smashing in the Encore outfits!!! The audience applauded each woman every time they came down the aisle.



Taking place in their spacious auditorium, 65 residents thoroughly enjoyed the show as well as the music played by Dick Ford. Activity Director Karen Miller displayed the SSMA website information on Encore Thrift Shop on the auditorium big screen for all to see.

SELL we did! We made over \$250 and got the promise of donations and future customers. This was an increase in profits from the Spring Show.

The show was magnificent, and a good time was had by all.

Jean Edminster



Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc.

SUPPORTING MUSIC IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

P.O. Box 85 · Fayetteville, NY 13066

www.syracusesoundsofmusic.org

HISTORY

In 1960, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra was established, and the Syracuse Symphony Association (the Guild's successor) was founded to help support it financially through various means of fundraising.

In the Spring of 2011, the SSO began the transition to a new business model, and officially became Symphor!a in December of 2012. The SSA reorganized, as well, becoming the **Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc.** (SSMA) in the Fall of 2011.

Since then, the SSMA has successfully raised funds to support not only Symphor!a, but many CNY non-profit organizations that present music programming or offer music education.

Board of Directors

Barbara Barnell, President & Treasurer

Barbara Brown, Vice President (appointed in October 2024)

Sheila Sostrin, Asst. Treasurer

Jean Edminster, Secretary

Encore Shop Co-Managers: Meg Aufmuth and Sandy Rosenfeld

Board Members

Pam Baran, Barbara Brown, Lou Anne Colaneri, Stephanie Ladd, Jennifer Loh, Stephanie Macklin-Macero, Janet Mallan, Michele Mider, Donna Miller, Maria Miller, Ruth Perkins, Jane Roller, Mary Thompson, Cathy Winger