



# Upbeat

Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc.

Summer 2021



## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The performing arts have undergone a difficult time. Venues were shuttered, performing groups could not meet to rehearse, audiences were asked to stay home. Yet in this difficult time, we found that we needed the arts all the more. Performing music organizations found new ways to bring music to their audience at home via live-streaming and other internet-based solutions. Music educators found new ways to teach their students with zoom lessons and virtual classes.

**These memes tell the story of the past year facing the Covid-19 pandemic.**

If you have tickets to a live event or show that has been cancelled due to covid-19 - please consider donating the money to the theater instead of asking for a refund. Thousands of local artists and art organizations will be going through a catastrophic season this year and any contribution will help.

IF YOU THINK  
ARTISTS ARE USELESS  
TRY TO SPEND YOUR  
QUARANTINE  
WITHOUT MUSIC, BOOKS  
POEMS, MOVIES  
PAINTINGS AND  
GAMES

We are proud to share that in these difficult times, the Syracuse Sounds of Music Association has soldiered on as an advocate for the promotion and support of music in Central New York. We have achieved our mission with...

- a \$10,000 sponsorship to Symphoria
- twelve grants, totaling \$36,000, given to non-profit music organizations.
- the Sally Whittle Memorial Scholarship competition
- growing our membership to SSMA
- advocacy of music organizations through both social and print media

**Thanks to the generosity of our members and the community,  
our fundraising efforts have continued.**

- The **Encore Thrift Shop** was closed during the Spring of 2020 due to Covid-19. The shop re-opened in June and is doing a wonderful business reselling donated women's fashion and home goods.
- Music Matters, our annual October evening fundraiser was cancelled. It was reimagined as an online Silent Auction in February 2021 earning much needed funds for our mission.
- Membership annual dues and generous donations have been received.
- Intermezzo, our annual holiday luncheon was cancelled. It will take place on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Cavalry Club in Manlius reimagined as "Christmas in July."

We look forward to the future in Central New York with you! It's made all the better with the proliferation of wonderful music organizations, that together with your help, we will keep alive.

All the best,  
Jennifer Loh, SSMA Board President

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

*Barbara Brown, Chair*

Traditionally, the SSMA ends the year with a June luncheon meeting hosted by the Board of Directors. The general membership is invited, and the event features a few special guests. The student winners of the annual Sally Whittle Scholarship Competition join us for lunch, and they share a short performance of their music. The June 2020 Annual Meeting was to take place at the Craftsman Inn and was chaired by outgoing board member Barbara Brown.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, our Annual Meeting had to be conducted virtually so that we could remain safe in our homes. On June 15, 2020, the Board of Directors met over zoom. Ballots were mailed to the members so that each could then select a current Board member as proxy for the purpose of electing the new slate of officers and the board. Each member was able to vote aye or nay, and the proxy committee placed their votes at the zoom meeting. The new slate was approved by a majority.

**Officers were inducted for the 2020-2021 year.**

**President:** Jennifer Loh    **Vice President:** Wendy Carl Isome    **Secretary:** Sandy Wettingfeld

**Treasurer:** Barbara Barnell    **Assistant Treasurer:** Sheila Sostrin

**New Board Members:** Jane Roller, Sue Jacobs

**Returning Board Members:** Mary Thompson, Renee Wiles

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

*Jean Edminster, Chair*

**Committee Members:** Wendy Carl Isome,  
Jen Loh, Donna Miller, Donna Neuhauser

Members of Syracuse Sounds of Music Association finally got to enjoy some time in person together at the Annual Meeting held on Monday, June 7 at The Craftsman Inn in Fayetteville, New York. Guests were given a choice of Spinach Salad, Manicotti, or Chicken Marsala. The room looked just lovely with table decorations designed by Wendy Carl Isome. Following a performance by talented 2021 Sally Whittle Scholarship Award winners, Laura Alvaro and Evelyn Simanowski, there was a raffle for three fabulous gift baskets created by Sandy Wettingfeld, Wendy Carl Isome and Jean Edminster. Jean Edminster and Wendy Isome kept in touch with The Craftsman to ensure Covid rules were followed.



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**President:** Jennifer Loh    **Vice President:** Wendy Carl Isome    **Secretary:** Jean Edminster

**Treasurer:** Barbara Barnell    **Assistant Treasurer:** Sheila Sostrin

**Retiring Board Member:** Stephanie Ladd

**New Board Member:** Michele Mider

**Returning Board Members:** Barbara Brown, Ruth Perkins



## MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL EVENT

A spectacular Radisson home was the scene for a Membership Social on May 26, 2021 for 30 women who were finally able to convene in their summer outfits. The ladies of SSMA and guests were entertained royally at what looked like the showroom of Mackenzie-Child's with this fabulous event.

The dining room table was loaded with delicious canapés, and the guests had their choice of rosé wine or Aperol Aperitif served in beautiful glassware. Dessert included chocolate covered strawberries, decadent chocolate, and carrot cakes.

President Jennifer Loh welcomed the group, explained the mission of SSMA in supporting music organizations in CNY and stressed the importance of the Encore Thrift Shop, as well as, highlighting future SSMA events.



## MEMBERSHIP

*Wendy Carl Isome, Chair*

*Committee Members: Jane Roller*

April showers may bring May flowers but for the SSMA it brings a growth in membership!!!! Membership features.....

- 1. Our fundraising success, the Encore Thrift Shop.** The shop is run by SSMA Board Members and staffed 100% by a volunteer base. All Encore proceeds are presented as grants to non-profit groups... both small and large. This year we hope to raise \$50,000 for grants. Volunteers for 2 hour shifts at ENCORE are always welcomed.
- 2. Our mission to increase the number of SSMA members.** Members receive SSMA invitations to all SSMA events plus get the newsletters but most importantly membership helps fund grants.
- 3. Our goal to recruit new SSMA Board members.** We are looking for energetic members who can contribute to our success.

***Membership is growing!***

For more information, please contact Wendy Carl Isome at 315-559-2892.



## MUSIC MATTERS

Andrea Calarco, Chair



For many years, Music Matters has been our preeminent Fall Fundraiser. It is an evening of a seated dinner, silent auction and raffle, and live music dedicated to honoring an individual or group from the field of music whose work serves the community of Central New York.

In light of the unusual events of 2020, we had to take a different path! Instead of our typical live event, we had an *On-line Silent Auction*, and we chose to honor our many supporters as **SSMA Ovation People of the Year**, through whose membership, monetary donations, and Encore Thrift Shop patronage, we were able to continue our work supporting Central New York music organizations.

The auction utilized the [biddingowl.com](http://biddingowl.com) website, which exclusively serves non-profit organizations. The prizes and packages available were all donations from our generous supporters! We were able to put together 50 lots and the bidding was lively over the week-long auction. While it was not the same as a live auction, **we were able to raise close to \$4,000 for our grant program** from the safety of our homes.

We thank everyone who participated and look forward to see you all in person, because the next **MUSIC MATTERS GALA** is **IN PERSON!** Look for this in **OCTOBER 2021!!!!!!**

## SSMA GRANTS IN MUSIC PROGRAM

Sandy Wettingfeld, Chair

Committee Members: Jen Loh, Janet Mallan, Donna Miller, Andrea Calarco, Sheila Sostrin, Stephanie Ladd, Renee Wiles

The Covid-19 pandemic created a most challenging situation for both SSMA and organizations that received grants for use in 2020. Because in-person performances were impossible, grant recipients were forced to innovate and reimagine their projects in order to complete them. In an effort to accommodate our grant recipients, SSMA delayed the 2020 deadlines for completion as well as for new applications, moving them forward from November 2020 to January 2021.

In February 2021, *The Syracuse Sounds of Music Association* awarded grants to twelve local, non-profit organizations. Grant recipients were selected based on an application process that requires basic information about each organization and a full description of the project(s) for which funds are being requested. The organizations selected must be located in Onondaga County, or in one of its 4 contiguous counties, and must benefit communities within them. We support groups in a variety of categories who strive to encourage and promote music, and/or music education through community outreach and performances.

**A total of \$36,000 was awarded this year to the following organizations:**

- Brady Faith Center
- Central New York Jazz Arts Foundation Inc.
- Central New York Association of Music Teachers
- Front Row Players Inc.
- Skaneateles Festival
- Society for New Music
- Symphoria's Healing Harmonies
- Symphoria's Youth Orchestra
- Syracuse Children's Theatre
- Syracuse Chorale, Inc.
- Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music
- Syracuse Opera

For more information about upcoming SSMA grants and the application process, please visit our website this fall, at [syracusesoundsofmusic.org](http://syracusesoundsofmusic.org).

Stay-up-to-date with SSMA events and activities

[syracusesoundsofmusic.org](http://syracusesoundsofmusic.org)



## 2020-2021 SYMPHORIA SPONSORSHIP

SSMA proudly fulfilled our commitment to support Symphoria with our annual \$10,000 sponsorship awarded in the fall of 2020. The primary purpose of the funds was to underwrite the Holiday Pops performances. The funds also were used throughout the season to support Symphoria's Kids Concerts series and the "Kids for Free" ticket program.

The 2020 Holiday Pops concerts took place December 18th and 19th. The audience participated from home via livestream in one of three performances that weekend. Conducted by Principal Pops Conductor, Sean O'Loughlin, Symphoria played with a reduced ensemble that featured guest singer Ronnie Leigh.

Symphoria continues to find new and creative ways to connect families to orchestral music with the 3-concert Kids series. On Halloween, Symphoria offered a concert titled "Beethoven's Ghost." In February, they explained what music and science have in common with "The Science of Sound." And in April, Symphoria performed the famous "Peter and the Wolf" narrated by Chris Cresswell.

Finally, SSMA's generous sponsorship helps defer the cost of the "Kids for Free" ticket program. All audience members under the age of 18 attend any concert at no cost! This program helps to remove barriers for families wishing to introduce music to their children.



2021-22 Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. Board of Directors



## SALLY WHITTLE SCHOLARSHIP

*Donna Miller, Chair*

*Committee Members: Andrea Calarco, Steve Pekich, Renee Wiles*

For more than two decades, the Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. (formerly the Syracuse Symphony Association) has awarded the Sally Whittle Memorial Scholarship for Musical Excellence to an outstanding Central New York high school senior who plans to study music, instrumental or vocal, or music education, in college. Each year, the SSMA receives grant applications from many talented students every year with no exceptions.

It is the mission of the Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. to support music and music education throughout Central New York. Information about the Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. can be found at [syracusesoundsofmusic.org](http://syracusesoundsofmusic.org).

### 2020 Sally Whittle Award Winners



**Anneke Van Slyke** is proficient in voice, flute, and piano. She was a member of Fayetteville-Manlius Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. She also attended the prestigious New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSMA) Choral Studies program. Anneke was also a member of the National Honors Society. Anneke is currently attending Baldwin Wallace University majoring in vocal performance. Her future goal is to perform in staged operas.



**Eric Wenner** plays clarinet, piano, and alto saxophone. He has been Principal Clarinet with the Symphoria Youth Orchestra, and Principal Second Clarinet, All-State NYSSMA Orchestra. At West Genesee High School, Eric was in the Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Chorale. Eric has studied with Symphoria Principal Clarinet, Allan Kolsky, and pianist, Steven Rosenfeld. He also attended the NYSSMA Summer School for the Arts School of Orchestral Studies, and the two-week Boston University Tanglewood Institute Clarinet Institute. Eric is currently attending the University of Rochester, majoring in clarinet performance. His aspiration is to be Principal Clarinet in a professional orchestra.

### 2021 Sally Whittle Award Winners

**Laura Alvaro – West Genesee H.S.**

**Laura will be attending Ithaca College, majoring in Flute Performance.**

Laura has participated in OCMEA All-County (5yrs), NYSSMA All-State Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, Onondaga County Music Educators Festival Orchestras and Bands since 7th grade, Syracuse Youth Orchestra (3 years) both flute and piccolo. Laura served as principal chair in West Genesee High School Wind Ensemble and Symphony Youth Orchestra (3 years) and serves as cantor in two local churches.



**Evelyn Simanowski – Adirondack High School**

**Evelyn will be attending Houghton College, majoring in Vocal Performance.**

Evelyn is proficient in Piano and French Horn as well as Vocally. In the past Evelyn has been in several Musical Theatre productions. In high school she has been a member of all the choirs as well as Concert Band and Jazz Band. Since 7th grade she has participated in NYSSMA solo festivals and All-State. This year she was selected to participate in New England Conservatory Virtual Choir.





**OPEN HOURS:**  
TUES - FRI 11 - 4  
SAT 11 - 3

119 BROOKLEA DRIVE  
FAYETTEVILLE, NY

SYRACUSESOUNDSOFMUSIC.ORG



## THE ENCORE THRIFT SHOP

**Meg Aufmuth and Sandy Rosenfeld, Co-Managers**

Thanks to our volunteer staff and our loyal and growing community support, The Encore Thrift Shop continues to be is largest source of funding for our Grants. Although we were closed for a few seeks in Spring of 2020 due to the Pandemic, we reopened in June.

We continue to receive generous donations of women's clothes, artwork, jewelry, china, books, and housewares for resale. In addition to the goods sold directly from the store, we feature selected items for sale on eBay as well as Facebook MarketPlace. Many new and valued items are saved for Music Matters and other auction events.

Encore is run entirely by our Board Members and staffed by Board Members and other interested volunteers. We always welcome new volunteers, if SSMA members are interested in retail for a charitable cause. Our seasonal changeovers occur in Spring and Fall, and new items arrive daily. We always welcome donations. No appointment is needed.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



## RICHARD JAY ALEXANDER EVENT

**Sandy Rosenfeld and Lou Anne Colaneri, Co-Chairs**  
**Committee Members: Jennifer Loh, Andrea Calarco, and Vicki Feldman**



The Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. will welcome Richard Jay-Alexander 'home' to Syracuse at a luncheon on Thursday, April 27, 2022 at 11am Collegian Hotel & Suites (formerly Genesee Grande Hotel). He will 'meet and greet' from 11 am to 12pm and after the event. Lunch will be served at noon, after which he will share stories about his life and career. Reservations will be due by April 21st, 2022.

Richard Jay-Alexander is celebrating 44 years in show business. Born in Solvay, his love for theatre began in elementary school at a production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, presented by the St. Cecilia Players at his school. After high school, he attended SUNY Oswego, where he majored in theatre and music. After graduating from college, Richard moved to San Francisco, where he got lead roles in *The Boys from Syracuse* and *The Heartbreak of Psoriasis*, starring Divine. In the fall of 1975, he moved to New York City to begin an event filled, exciting career in show business.



## FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Festival of Trees, which happens in Holiday Season at the Everson Museum is not a fundraiser for SSMA, but we do sponsor and contribute one or two decorated trees or wreaths for auction.

This year was no different, as Meg Aufmuth again made-up a festive tree that sold at auction early on! This is a benefit for the Everson with a long history here in Syracuse and although certain restrictions had to be instituted for this year, the Festival went well.

**THANKS, Meg!**





## **Support from CNY Community Foundation**

In February 2020, the Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc. received a grant award from the Central New York Community Foundation for a new computer and office software. We thank the Community Foundation for their generous support!



**Syracuse Sounds of Music Association, Inc.**

**SUPPORTING MUSIC IN CENTRAL NEW YORK**

P.O. Box 85 • Fayetteville, NY 13066

email: [syracusesoundsofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:syracusesoundsofmusic@gmail.com)

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**[syracusesoundsofmusic.org](http://syracusesoundsofmusic.org)** 