

JANUARY 2023

## ARTIST SERIES CONCERTS OF SARASOTA

1226 N. Tamiami Trail - Arts Building

941-306-1202 www.artistseriesconcerts.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FRIENDS MEETINGS

Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm

Arts Building – 1226 N. Tamiami Trail

January 12

February 23

April 13

### FRIENDS GALA

\*Music Under the Stars\*

Thursday, March 16, 5:30 – 9:30 pm

Laurel Oak Country Club

2700 Gary Player Blvd.

### SUNCOAST MUSIC

#### SCHOLARSHIP

#### WINNERS' CONCERT

Saturday April 22

1st Presbyterian Church

2050 Oak St. Sarasota

## 2022-2023 OFFICERS

President - Mary Ellen McMahon

1st Vice President - Peter Phillippe

Treasurer - Donna Cubit-Swoyer

Recording Secy. - tba

Corresp. Secy. - Helen Beljean

Member at Large - Bobbie Hamilton

Member at Large - Cathy Mariani

Immediate Past President -

Cyndi Mumm

Editor - Linda Heller

ARNMOS28@gmail.com

Photographer - Terri Tumlin

## See you at our next FRIENDS Meeting

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - NoonArts Building -1226 N. Tamiami Trail 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room

Join us for camaraderie with FRIENDS, participate in planning Artist Series Concerts' projects & events, purchase concert tickets, take a chance on the 50/50 Raffle, nibble on yummy light bites and enjoy entertainment by Krista Marie Laskowski.



Lauded for her "flowering, darkly rich voice" (Boston Classical Review) and "natural, easy stage presence, and ample vocal gift", mezzo-soprano **Krista Marie Laskowski** is "adding an engaging zest" to the American opera and concert stage. Ms. Laskowski was most recently seen performing the role of Amanda in a new production, *OUT Loud*, with Opera Tampa. Earlier this year, she covered Orlofsky in *Die Feldermaus* at Gulfshore Opera and in 2022 she performed in a series of concerts along Florida's Gulf Coast, including engagements in Tampa, Sarasota, Siesta Key, Punta Gorda, Naples and Marco Island.

Ms. Laskowski earned her Master and Bachelor of Music at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Her repertoire includes both standard and contemporary opera, musical theatre, oratorio and song. She debuted at Indianapolis Opera as Flora Bervoix in Verdi's *La Traviata*, and her portrayal of the Marquise de Merteuil in the Boston premiere of Conrad Susa's *The Dangerous Liaisons* was noted "flamboyantly evil in a way that's so very fun to watch" (New England Theatre Geek). Additional performances include *Meg March* (Little Women), *Siebel* (Faust), *Amastre* (Serse), *Florence Pike* (Albert Herring), *La Ciesca* (Gianni Schicchi), *Olga* (Die lustige Witwe), *The Witch* (Hänsel and Gretel) and *Franca Nacarelli* (The Light in the Piazza). Her work on the concert stage includes the works of Bach, Vivaldi, Saint-Saëns, Vaughan Williams and Argento. Additional credits include *Odyssey Opera*, *Opera Tampa*, *Gulfshore Opera*, *Boston Opera Collaborative*, *MassOpera*, and *New Voices Opera*.

What a treat it will be for such an accomplished, gifted artist to join us at our January 12<sup>th</sup> FRIENDS meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar and not miss this opportunity.



**Congratulations to FRIENDS**

**Volunteers**

**Helen Beljean and Linda Heller**

**Our 2023 GALA**

**Honorary Chairs**

**The purpose of Artist Series Concerts FRIENDS is to provide essential support to the activities and projects of Artist Series Concerts while offering FRIENDS members a nurturing, rewarding and positive volunteer experience.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Mary Ellen McMahon



Hello dear **FRIENDS**. Where has this year gone?

We have an amazing calendar of performances and new venues for this season. I do hope you are able to attend and show your support. Our November General Meeting was abbreviated due to Hurricane Nicole, but we did manage to conduct a meeting and enjoy a great performance by **Laura Jensen-Jennings**, violinist, accompanied by Lee Dougherty

Ross on piano. Thank you Laura and Lee. And thank you to **Alice Golub** for volunteering to be Chair of Greeters, organizing & scheduling volunteers to greet concert patrons at Artist Series performances.

I extend my congratulations to our 2023 Gala Honorary Chairs, **Linda Heller** and **Helen Beljean**. I hope to see you at our FRIENDS Gala when we'll honor them for their many years of volunteerism and of course, we'll enjoy a wonderful evening together.

We're excited to let our members know of a new volunteer opportunity. We're looking for a Chair and members to join the 'Finding Committee' to brainstorm ideas on how to enhance our name recognition. Please email me at memfem@comcast.net if you are interested in this new, very important mission.

A way to spread the word is to carry our brochures in your car to share with those interested because you never know when an opportunity will arise to talk about Artist Series Concerts to friends and neighbors. If you know groups or organizations who are looking for speakers, please email either Marcy Miller at m.miller@artistseriesconcerts.org or me at memfem@comcast.net. And if they'd like to schedule a musical performance, please email Lee at jerrylee@artistseriesconcerts.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our next FRIENDS meeting on January 12th.

*Warmly,  
Mary Ellen*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS from Helen Beljean, Membership Chair

**WELCOME Joyce Rosenthal to FRIENDS.** Your membership brings our total to 179!

FRIENDS could not do what we do without the help of all our volunteers. If you have not completed a Volunteer Interest form, please consider doing so. There are many areas of interest in which to find a special job that brings joy to your heart. Forms will be available at the January 12<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Please stop at the table and pick one up and return it to **Donna Cubit-Swoyer**, Volunteer Coordinator or myself. Or if you would like a copy mailed to you, please let me know.



This issue of *ACCENTS* would not have been published without our amazing *ACCENTS* Chair **Linda Heller**. Kudos to her for a wonderful newsletter. And it would not have been assembled, stuffed, labeled, and postage added without YOU – our dedicated volunteers.

I encourage our FRIENDS members to reach out to friends and neighbors and invite them to our January 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting. **Remember: Each One Bring One!**

*Cheers!  
Helen*

*I can be reached by email at [MEMBERSHIP@artistseriesconcerts.org](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@artistseriesconcerts.org)*

## FRIENDS 27th Anniversary Gala



**Laurel Oak  
Country Club  
Thursday March 16  
5:30 - 9:30 pm**

**Live Entertainment  
Open Bar - Great Food  
and Great People!  
... and a Live Auction,  
Silent Auction and Wall of Wine  
for your Shopping and Bidding  
Pleasure**

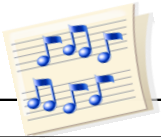
**RSVP EARLY  
(the 2022 Gala was sold out)  
GALA and WALL OF WINE  
NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

**Here's how!!**

- Mail or drop checks off at the office or bring to a meeting! Donations are tax deductible.
- When holiday shopping, purchase that extra bottle to donate to the Wall of Wine - it must be currently valued at \$25 or greater.
- Hassle Free! Donate cash/check and we will do the shopping!
- Donate your empty gift baskets for the Silent Auction.
- Donate Restaurant Gift Cards or unique Gift Certificates.

Co-Chairs Cyndi Mumm and Jane Hunder and the Gala Committee, will graciously accept your Donations and Sponsorships. Contact Cyndi at: [cyndi.mumm@comcast.net](mailto:cyndi.mumm@comcast.net) or Jane at: [hunderjane@gmail.com](mailto:hunderjane@gmail.com)

*Proceeds go to Educational and Community Outreach programs and our Suncoast and Statewide Scholarship Competitions*



**ARTIST SERIES CONCERTS \*SEASON 27 - Ever Onward\***  
 Concert and Artist details at: [www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org/events](http://www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org/events)

**Tuesdays at the  
 HISTORIC ASOLO THEATER**  
 Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 pm  
 DOVER QUARTET  
 Chamber Ensemble

**Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 pm**  
 QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME

**Tuesday March 7, 7:30 pm**  
 MICHELLE CANN, piano

**Tuesdays at the  
 SARASOTA OPERA HOUSE**  
 Tuesday, May 2, 7 pm  
 In collaboration with the Sarasota  
 Ballet Studio Company  
 Tickets: [www.sarasotaballet.org](http://www.sarasotaballet.org)  
 call 941-359-0099

**Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 pm**  
 VIVALDI AND MENDELSSOHN

**Sundays at TEMPLE SINAI**  
 Sunday, April 9, 4 pm  
 FEDER DUO  
 CHERYL LOSEY &  
 ABRAHAM FEDER

**Thursdays at the  
 SARASOTA YACHT CLUB**  
 'LUNCH and LISTEN'  
 Lunch to follow Performance

**Thursday, February 9, 11 am**  
 HANZHI WANG, accordion

**Thursday, March 23, 11 am**  
 SAMANTHA BENNETT, violin

**Thursday, April 27, 11 am**  
 CAMERON CROZMAN, cello  
 MEAGAN MILATZ, piano

**SOIREES at the  
 FISCHER/WEISENBORNE  
 RESIDENCE**  
 Refreshments to follow  
 Performance

**Sunday, January 29, 4 pm**  
**Monday, January 30, 7:30 pm**  
 STEVE MOECKEL, violin  
 JOANNA GOLDSTEIN, piano

**Sunday March 5, 4 pm**  
**Monday March 6, 7:30 pm**  
 DANIEL SOLOWEY, clarinet  
 MILANA STREZEVA, piano

**Wednesdays at the  
 PLANTATION GOLF  
 & COUNTRY CLUB**  
 Dinner to follow Performance

**Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 pm**  
 DANIELLE TALAMANTES, soprano  
 KERRY WILKERSON, bass-baritone  
 JOSEPH HOLT, piano

**Thursdays at  
 SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
**Thursday, February 23, 5:30 pm**  
 MARIA WIRRIES ON BROADWAY  
 ALAN COREY, piano

**Thursday, April 20, 5:30 pm**  
 JIJI, guitar

**TICKETS & INFO**

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org](http://www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org)

**PHONE: 941-306-1202**

Invite a friend to join you at a  
 concert and share an exceptional  
 experience together

**NEWS from Lee Dougherty Ross, Director of Community Engagement**



Happily, there are many opportunities to share music at retirement homes and at club meetings...and they are ongoing!! In December...we are making music at Aviva, Jacaranda Trace, St. Mary's Star by the Sea, Plymouth Harbor and Sarasota Bay Club. Upcoming Outreach events are scheduled at AAUW, the Ivy League and the Hungarian Club. To acquaint everyone with Artist Series Concerts, Program Brochures are always given out.



I am happy to be playing songs of by gone years for people in memory care, and love it when they join in singing, though they don't talk otherwise.

And yes - this March, our State Vocal Competition is returning, although this year it will all be online. In addition, in person auditions for our Annual Suncoast Music Scholarship Competition, for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, will be held on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the winners will be announced at the Scholarship Winners Concert on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, in downtown Sarasota. I'll be calling on volunteers to help with that competition.

***Ever onward....happily and gratefully....Lee***

# FRIENDS Volunteer Stars

## CAROL JENCKES AND JOANNE JEWELL

**Carol** - Ten years ago, after googling 'Best Retirement Communities', my husband & I visited and fell in love with Sarasota ... and five years later we moved to Lakewood Ranch. We feel immensely lucky to have found such a wonderful area. Originally from a suburb of Philadelphia, I met my husband while he was in medical school and I was working as a microbiologist at Jefferson Hospital. We were married in 1976 where we raised our twins and then our daughter in Reading, PA. Our youngest daughter was very theatrical, and it was through her that I met an amazing group of people who realized the importance of training children in the arts. We started a non-profit theater school offering classes in dance, voice, piano and musical theater, as well as classes for children with special needs and financial scholarships for families in need. I saw our students develop self confidence and maturity, lasting a lifetime.

When I was introduced to Cyndi Mumm by my dear friend Joanne Jewell, I was thrilled to learn that the Artist Series Concerts' mission aligned with my beliefs. I knew then that I wanted to volunteer and support this vital organization.

**Joanne** - A native of Northern Virginia, I started my professional career in high-tech with Xerox Corporation, followed by working at Apple and Sun Microsystems as a Marketing Specialist/Executive Sales while living in various locations, to include Fresno, San Francisco, Denver, St. Louis and Dallas. After leaving the world of high-tech, I went to work for several years at Century 21 in Winter Park, CO, where I loved selling in the ski resorts and mountains. In 2016 when we decided to retire to warm weather, my husband and I moved to Lakewood Ranch where we met Cyndi and Howard Mumm. It's such a small world - Howard and my husband realized that they had worked together at Wang Labs years ago. And I'm so grateful that Cyndi introduced me to Artist Series Concerts FRIENDS.

*Carol & Joanne*  
**WALL OF WINE CO- CHAIRS**  
**GALA 2022 & 2023**



As best friends and neighbors, we joined forces and decided to volunteer together on **WOW (Wall of Wine)** for the Gala last year. What a success it was and what a hoot and good time we had !! We enjoyed it so much, we are doing it again this year. Together, let's all make this year's Gala a fantastic success!

**Our dear Jane Rigg** earned her heavenly angel wings on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Jane crossed over in the comfort of her home after a setback with her heart health. As many of you already know, she was an angel in so many ways in her lifetime and she will be sorely missed. Her active and generous participation in the arts community of Sarasota was and is very well known.



Jane and her husband Ed met Jerry and Lee Dougherty Ross while she was Volunteer Coordinator for the Sarasota Opera for 10 years. They were invited to attend their Soirees at L'Elegance and Artist Series Concerts. After some time, Lee approached Jane and asked if she could nominate Jane as President of FRIENDS. During her three years serving as President, she and the Board of Directors initiated several goals and objectives to define the roles of FRIENDS as related to Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota. She served on many committees, was the hostess extraordinaire and chef for all occasion parties. Her open door was always welcoming to all that chose to participate and provided support where needed at all times.

*We will celebrate Jane's life at a Memorial Gathering at Mattison's 41 on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. For questions please, call Helen at 808-895-2107.*

*To honor Jane, donations may be made to: In Memoriam Jane Rigg*

*Artist Series Concerts FRIENDS - 1226 N Tamiami Trail, Suite 300 Sarasota, FL 34236 - 941-306-1202*

**New Member Reception** - **Peter and Tova Phillip**s have graciously offered to host the New Members Reception at their home on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Our very own Director of Artist Programs, Dan Jordan, violinist and Betsy Traba, flutist, will provide the entertainment. *Now that's exciting!* The 28 new members who have not attended one before will receive their invitation the first week of January.



The next scheduled New Member Reception will be on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church following the Scholarship Winners Concert. Look for your email Invitation.!