Greetings, Associates,

It’s February already and Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow. We’ll have an early Spring this year, so he says! We’ve celebrated Valentine’s Day and Presidents’ Day. The next date(s) the BSO family anxiously awaits are when the reports from the State Work Group, the Vision Committee, and Michael Kaiser are released. All reports are expected within the month.

We missed you if you were not able to attend the January Membership Meeting. From my perspective, the event was excellent. The attendees included Associates, BSO executives, and Meyerhoff and Strathmore Governing Members and Advocates. Everyone was abuzz during lunch catching up, talking about the future, and waiting for the encouraging words of the speakers -- Peter Kjome, Andy Balio, and Fred Lazarus. Catonsville’s Historic Overhills Mansion served a delicious lunch and a sampling of tasty cookies and flavored popcorn. See more and some photos in this News Notes.

Your Board has been busy working on a variety of fundraising events; of special note is the list of BSA events planned for the spring.

**Symphonic Scenes of Maryland**, our Playing Card Project, still has cards needing sponsors. A Big Shot Out and a Big Thank You to all who have sponsored a card(s)! Now, for those who have yet to sign up, it’s time to come to the table and play for a card. Check out your email. Freddy Silverman recently sent you all the information. It is also available at: [https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/umb-media-library/media/1163078/symphonic-scenes-of-md-playing-card-project-bsa.pdf](https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/umb-media-library/media/1163078/symphonic-scenes-of-md-playing-card-project-bsa.pdf). Hope you can take advantage of the opportunity and make an investment in the success of the playing card project.

**Music Adventures**, join the BSA for three evenings in a small group with a BSO Musician. You can purchase tickets for the series or an individual event at the BSO Ticket Office.

The next **Winey Wednesday** will feature BSO Bassist, Jonathon Jenson, at the Quarry Lake home of Susan Chouinard. Join us for conversation, comradesry, hors d’oeuvres, and music. Wednesday, March 18th. Get your reservation soon.

A highlight for all, even without the privilege of having a Designers’ Show House in 2019, the BSA was able to present Peter Kjome, President and CEO of the BSO, a donation of $30,000.
Join us for the **2nd Second Fiddle Shoppes**
Saturday, April 25th from 10am-3pm, Grace United Methodist Church at the corner of North Charles and Northern Parkway. This repeat performance will feature Door Prizes, Boutique Crafts, Home Designers’ wares, our outstanding Encore Shop, and a sampling of BSO Symphony Store items. Enjoy a slice of pizza as you take a break from shopping. It’s a day when everyone can find something unique to take home.

**Kitchens of Note and Symphony of Chefs (KON),** In Monkton, MD, Hunt Country (just 15 minutes from Towson), on Wednesday, May 20th, 10am-3pm. Come and visit six Super Special Kitchens with decorated table tops and floral arrangements and taste the savory and sweet treats from six local Chefs.

**Spring Membership Meeting,** Wednesday, March 4. Invitation will arrive soon.

**Annual Membership Meeting and Election of BSA Board** for 2020-21. Stay tuned for date and location!

Enjoy the February issue of our *News Notes.* It is full of facts and info on BSA events and Fundraisers.

In closing, I wish the New Year and New Decade of the 2020’s is a time of health, peace and 20/20 vision for you, your families, and friends.

Our volunteers are the best and most important asset of the BSA. Thank you for your support.

Best regards

Marguerite

**January Membership Meeting**

We were pleased to welcome so many BSA members, Governing Members, and BSO patrons from Strathmore, to our General Membership Meeting on January 8 at Overhills Mansion. We were treated to presentations by CEO Peter Kjome and by Fred Lazarus, a member of the BSO Vision Committee. They touched on many topics under discussion by the Vision Committee and by the Legislative Committee, both of which are developing proposals and plans for the future of the BSO. In addition, Andy Balio (BSO Principal Trumpet), told the group about the Future Symphony Institute which he founded. The Institute’s mission is to formulate a strategy for the renaissance of live classical music. Go to [https://www.futuresymphony.org/about](https://www.futuresymphony.org/about) for more information.
On February 11, the BSO announced a five-year Strategic Plan. Click here to read the full press release if you missed it: https://www.bsomusic.org/misc/bso-updates/bso-announces-five-year-strategic-plan/

Among other things, the plan is to enhance the artistic offerings of the orchestra, improve the patron experience, strengthen the array of educational programs, expand the orchestra’s presence throughout Maryland, and collaborate with other Maryland institutions and artists. The plan is the result of deep analysis into performance and industry trends, as well as input from former Senator Ed Kasemeyer, Chairman of the State Workgroup on the BSO, and the advice of Michael Kaiser, the leading national consultant on cultural organization turnarounds. The BSO has also announced recently that extraordinary gifts totaling $7 million have been raised.

Save these dates!
For your convenience, here are the dates of several upcoming BSA activities. More information about them is found in this edition.

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 4

Winey Wednesday
Wednesday, March 18

Music Adventures
Tuesday, March 17
Monday, April 27
Tuesday, May 12

SHIFT Festival at the Kennedy Center
Wednesday, March 25

Second Fiddle Shoppes
Saturday, April 25

Kitchens of Note & Symphony of Chefs
Wednesday, May 20
We have made progress on our card project but still have a way to go. Please consider sponsoring a card (or a few!) in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of someone or something meaningful to you. We have beautiful photos of sights and scenes all over the state so get your friends, family, neighbors, and business associates to sponsor cards as well. $100 for a number card, $150 for a face card. We will print four different decks, each representing a section of the orchestra -- Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. You can specify which deck, card, and scene photo you’d like. For every card sponsored you will receive one deck for free and may buy additional decks for $5.00 per deck. Help the BSA raise funds for music education and remember or honor someone or something you love in the process. The personalized decks will make nice gifts and stocking stuffers! For more information, go to: https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/umb-media-library/media/1163078/symphonic-scenes-of-md-playing-card-project-bsa.pdf.

**BSA Odds & Ends**

**Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee will accept suggestions for candidates for Officer positions until March 15. The duties of these Board positions are defined in Article VI of the Bylaws. Members are encouraged to volunteer for a greater role in the BSA.

If you want to be considered for or to recommend another member for a position, please contact Sara Levine, Chair of the Committee. Other members of the Committee are Sandy Feldman, Vikki McAdory, Florence McLean, Betsy Osterman, and Debbie Stetson.

**Trustees**

In addition to the officers of the BSA who are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting, the President may appoint up to three Trustees who are also members of the Board of Directors. The Trustees often oversee particular activities of the organization or assist the President as needed. President Marguerite Walsh has appointed Mary Carroll Plaine, Freddye Silverman, and Debbie Stetson as Trustees for the current program year. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated members on the Board.

**Instagram**

You may already know that the BSA has been on facebook for several years. But did you know that the BSA is now on Instagram! If you are, too, follow: BaltimoreSymphonyAssociates.

**So, What’s Wufoo??**

Wufoo is an online payment app which the BSA is now offering to its members. You can use this to make payments for donations, register and pay for meetings, membership (both new and renewals), and specific events that the BSA sponsors. You can also register guests.

It’s simple to use and very intuitive – just select the appropriate choice from the drop-down list and the required data fields will appear. Once you have filled in the information and click “Submit” you will be automatically sent to Paypal.
for the financial transaction. If you already use Paypal, great! If you don’t you will be asked to enroll which is as easy as entering your email address and a password of your choice. Paypal is very secure and it will maintain your credit card information.

There is a link to the form near the top of the BSA page on the internet: https://www.bsomusic.org/giving/baltimore-symphony-associates-bsa/. Or you may go directly to the form via: https://baltosymphonyassoc.wufoo.com/forms/z22uh7i1anod3u/

Try it when making your next BSA donation or registering for the next meeting! Please direct any questions to the BSA Office Manager at 410-783-8023.

Meet LaRay

LaRay Johnson began work as the BSA’s part-time Office Manager on December 1. Prior to joining us, she served in both the Maryland and Georgia Air National Guards for a total of 12 years. LaRay attended Howard Community College where she received her degree in Science. She later attended The University of Maryland Dental School where she received her degree in Dental Hygiene.

She is very passionate about education and health and wellness. In addition, she is an avid reader and loves beauty, fashion, music, and the theater. Fun Fact: LaRay played the clarinet from 3rd-10th grade and attended the Baltimore School for the Arts To Work in Gaining Skills (TWIGS) program in middle school.

Generally speaking, LaRay will be in the office most Monday afternoons, Tuesday afternoons, and Thursday afternoons. On Fridays, she works remotely. If you don’t reach her right away, she will certainly return phone calls and respond to emails from members.

Family Concert Luncheons

The BSA has sponsored two successful family concert luncheons so far this program year. Here are some photos from these events. Upcoming luncheons are on February 22 and on April 4. Contact Sara Levine or RuthAnn Shepard if you would like to volunteer for one of these fun-filled activities.
A “Winey Wednesday” gathering was held on December 11 at the home of Sara and Marshall Levine. The other hosts were Louise Reiner and Diane Burkom, with RuthAnn Shepard as Chair. Judy Kahl provided additional support. There were 32 paying guests plus the 4 committee members. Lisa Steltenpohl, Principal Violist of the BSO, performed. The total raised was $840. See the included flyer about the next “Winey Wednesday” on March 18.
Baltimore Symphony Associates

Please join us for

“Winey Wednesday”

Appetizers, Comradery & Music

Wednesday
March 18, 2020
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Your Hosts
Susan Chouinard  ❖ Carolyn Lassahn  ❖ Betsy Osterman  ❖ Marge Penhallegon

Guest Musician
Jonathan Jensen

Home of Susan Chouinard
2900 Stone Cliff Drive, Apartment 411
Baltimore, MD 21209

Cost: $25 Members/$30 Non Members

**No refunds**
(Reservations limited)

For More Information Contact
associates@bsomusic.org  410-783-8023

Send your reservations to:
Baltimore Symphony Associates, 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

------------------------------------------------------------------
Name(s)___________________ Email___________________________
Address________________________________________________________
Phone(s)_______________ / ______________ # Of Reservations_______
Payment:
CK: $___________ CASH: $________________________
CC: (Circle) Visa MC AMEX
CC#_________________________ Exp. Date________________________
Changes for the Symphony Store

Have you been to the Meyerhoff since the start of the year? You may have been surprised when you went to the Symphony Store for some pre-concert shopping only to find that the Store has been moved! Its former space is now an eatery. The decision to move the Store was made by BSO management as part of its plan to enhance the patron experience – many concertgoers had asked for more food and drink options at the Hall. The Store is now located opposite its former location, under the staircase. Hats off to VP Larry Albrecht for managing the move and to his main assistant, Xavier Roura, who worked hard on relocating the inventory. Susan and David Hutton are also dedicated Store volunteers. Thanks to Rebecca Cain, BSO Director of Hall Operations, for her assistance with the move. Stop in soon and shop!

Thank you, Sara & Marshall

The BSO recently announced that BSA members Marshall and Sarellen Levine provided financial support for the creation of the Young and Free program designed to reduce economic barriers to attendance for young people at BSO concerts.
Showing a little love to our musicians

On February 12th, RuthAnn Sheppard, LaRay Johnson, and Marguerite Walsh joined forces and spent a delightful two hours preparing the BSA's Valentine Sweet Gifts for the Musicians. The sweet gifts presented a variety of individually wrapped Ghirardelli Chocolates, Life Savers, York Peppermint Patties, Hersey's Kisses, Haribo Goldbears, Valentine Messages, and A Mega Maryland Lottery Ticket. The gifts were placed on the Musicians' chairs at the February 13th morning rehearsal. Let's hope one of them hit the lottery!

Symphony in the City

Join the BSO as it steps out into the community and offers three more free concerts. These concerts are part of the Beethoven 2020 celebration.

   Wednesday, February 26, at Morgan State University.

   Wednesday, May 20, at Patterson Park.

For details, go to: https://www.bsomusic.org/symphonyinthecity

A note from member Linda Hartke

You don’t even have to go to the concert hall to hear amazing music and Maestra Alsop speaking about and demonstrating the power of music! Here are a few highlights you can watch and listen to on your computer, tablet or phone!

Opening concert: An International Call for Unity and Joy

Listen and watch the very first of this year’s six different versions of the Global Ode to Joy performed in the opening concert of the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos. With a message of freedom, joy, and unity, Conductor Marin Alsop leads the European Union Youth Orchestra with the Choir of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and exceptional soloists from China, Japan, South Africa, Brazil and Italy.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, they perform the Scherzo and Finale of his Ninth Symphony, including a new rendition, with a new text adapted for our times, in Portuguese, of the Ode to Joy. (42 minutes)


Marin Alsop: On Music and the Human Spirit
On the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, conductor Marin Alsop shares lessons on how music can help cultivate joy in the darkest of times. (27 minutes)


Diplomacy through Music: Spreading Joy and Hope

Interview with Marin Alsop by CGTN at Davos 2020 with a glimpse into to plans for the Beethoven anniversary Global Ode to Joy project. She talks about the power of spreading joy and hope through the universal language of music. (9 minutes)


Music Adventures Return!

Another season of informative, intimate, and cozy gatherings with our fabulous BSO musicians is ready and waiting for you to register. Space is limited; register as soon as possible. See you there!

Tuesday, March 17, Qing Li, Violin, “Musical Journey”

Monday, April 27, Colin Sorgi, Viola, “Bach and Friends: The Viola Suites and Their New Companions”

Tuesday, May 12, Schuyler Jackson, Bassoon, “Preparing for Upcoming Performances as a Bassoonist”

5:30 PM: Meet and greet with refreshments
6-7 PM: Musicians’ presentations

Classes may be purchased as a series or individually. Note that April’s session will be on a Monday night.

SERIES PRICE: $85 for BSA members | $100 for non-members PER CLASS PRICE: $30 for BSA members | $35 for non-members

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Zamoiski Green Room

$4 parking in the Cathedral Street Garage available through the Ticket Office

Tickets available at BSOmusic.org. For the BSA Member discount, please contact the Ticket Office at 410.783.8000
2nd Second Fiddle Shoppes

Join us for a fun day of shopping with your favorite designers, boutique vendors, and the famous ENCORE! Shop. Win a raffle prize (drawn every hour), have some pizza, and listen to BSO musicians.

Baltimore Symphony Associates presents

The Second Fiddle Shoppes

Decorative furnishings & décor from previous SYMPHONY DESIGNER SHOW HOUSES

plus

Local crafters – hand-made jewelry, candles, accessories, & more.

Bargains galore in the ENCORE! Shop: “nearly new” household items, jewelry, toys, & more.

Food – Pizza, hot dogs, snacks, & beverages

“Pop-up Concert” presented by BSO musicians

Saturday, April 25, 2020

10 AM – 3 PM

Grace United Methodist Church-
Fellowship Hall

5407 N Charles St., Corner of Northern Pkwy--Parking in rear

$2.00 donation at the door - Door Prizes

The BSA supports the Educational Programs of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

ENCORE! At Second Fiddle

YOUR DONATIONS NEEDED!

For this one-day event we will be collecting only top-quality donations that are sure to sell! Remember, 100% of ENCORE! proceeds directly benefit our beloved Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the truly remarkable educational and community outreach programs our musicians, staff, and volunteers provide.

SO ... PLEASE TAKE STOCK AND START SPRING CLEANING! We will happily accept your generous donations of ...

- Dishware & flatware sets (NOT Grandma’s flowery old china, please)
- Glassware sets (NOT odd grocery store quality or souvenir glasses)
- Attractive serve ware (platters, bowls, etc., clean and undamaged)
- Serving or decorative trays in different sizes and designs
- Good quality small tables, chests, chairs, lamps and accessories
- Good-as-new, clean and working small appliances
- Table linens (NO STAINS – NO IRON!)
- Nicely framed prints and paintings, home décor items
- Coffee table books, best sellers, cook books, DVD’s & CDs

- Jewelry (fine or costume), handbags, wallets, scarves,

- Gently used, CLEAN children’s toys and COMPLETE games, puzzles

- Baskets, gift boxes, gift sets

- Gardening tools and accessories

TO DONATE YOUR ENCORE! “SECOND FIDDLE” TREASURES, CONTACT:

Trudy Wexler or JoAnn Ruther through the BSA Office Manager at 410-783-8023. VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED TO HELP TRANSPORT DONATED ITEMS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 24. GIVE JOANN or TRUDY A CALL IF YOU CAN HELP. THANK YOU!

Plan to join the BSA for our third Kitchens of Note and Symphony of Chefs to be held on Wednesday, May 20, in beautiful Hunt Country – Monkton, Maryland. Six fabulous homes, with designs ranging from traditional to very contemporary. You’ll see the kitchens and dining areas, beautiful tabletop and floral arrangements by local designers, and also get to sample creations from some wonderful local chefs. Our committee has worked very hard to ensure that this is a fun and informative experience. See the accompanying article about our call for volunteers – but even if you can’t volunteer, join us for a wonderful day. For full details, click on this link.
http://www.kitchensofnote.org/home.html

Volunteers needed for our Kitchens of Note spring fundraiser! Do your part to assure the success of this important fundraiser!

House Monitors are needed for each house as well as a few staff positions at the starting point, Inverness Farm and Brewery.

House Monitors must be able to stand for 2 ½ hours during their shift. There are no sitting positions in the houses. There will be two shifts:

- morning shift, 9:30-12:30
- afternoon shift 12:00-3:00.

Monitors will be able to tour the houses either before or after their shift. Shuttles will transport volunteers to each house.
Winter 2020
Duties include checking that all guests are wearing an ID bracelet which will be given to them when they check in at Inverness Brewery. Also, Monitors are to make sure guests put on the provided booties before entering the house, to deposit them when exiting the house, and to keep guests on the correct flow of the kitchen and dining areas, which will be roped off accordingly. Volunteers will be given written descriptions of each home with its relevant history and design background so you can answer questions from attendees if the homeowner is not present.

**Staff positions** at Inverness Brewery

There will be a few sitting positions available mostly for the morning shift for: 1. selling tour tickets 2. checking in guests, collecting their names, addresses and emails and giving them a tour bag with a program and ID bracelet and 3. Selling raffle tickets (two shifts needed here)

**Tickets.** All volunteers must purchase a $60.00 ticket (discounted from the cost to the public), which includes a year subscription or renewal to Baltimore Magazine, the house tour, access to the chefs’ preparations, and admission to the Toast to the Tour party immediately following the event. Volunteer discounted tickets **cannot** be purchased on-line or at the ticket outlets. Checks, made out to the Baltimore Symphony Associates, should be sent to Margaret Galambos % BSA Office Manager. Your check will be acknowledged when it is received.

House assignments and further instructions will be sent closer to the event. To sign up or for more information, please contact: Margaret Galambos or Judy Kahl through the BSA Office Manager at 410-783-8023.

---

KON Raffle Tickets -- $10 each of 3 for $25. The drawing will be held on the day of the event.

**What’s your favorite restaurant?** The KON Committee is having a Dine Around basket as one of the raffle prizes. Go to the restaurants you patronize, tell them about KON, and ask for gift certificates (in any amount $25 or more).

Please forward the names and contact information of businesses that you think we should ask for a donation to Florence McLean through the BSA Office Manager at 410-783-8023.
SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras

SHIFT celebrates the vitality, identity, and extraordinary artistry of orchestras and chamber orchestras by creating an immersive festival experience in the nation’s capital. As part of the next festival, the BSO will present a concert in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on March 25, 2020. Please consider joining us on a chartered bus to and from the event. The cost is $75 per person and includes transportation, a concert ticket, and tours of the Kennedy Center and its new venue – REACH. Dinner is on your own at one of the Center’s eateries or a nearby restaurant. If you provide your own transportation, the cost for the ticket and tours is $35 per person. To register, call 410-783-8124 or email to membership@BSOMusic.org. Be sure to mention that you’re a BSA member.

The BSA happily welcomes the following new members. Please be sure to introduce yourself when you see these folks at a meeting or when volunteering. Welcome to the BSA!

Renewed:
Jean and Henry Lubke

LaVerne M. Grove

New:
LaRay Johnson (Office Manager)
Joan Piven Cohen
David Joseph
Loretta Engel
Sandie Weisfeld
Rona K. Greene
Margaret (goes by Peg) McKibbin
It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Audrey Pinkney, long time member of the BSA, passed away on November 17, 2019. She was an active volunteer usher and usually attended events with her dear friend, Corinne Coleman.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING FROM FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY**

**February:** Marshall Levine, Betsy Osterman, Pat Perriello, Lydia Robinson, Xavier Roura, Harriet Silverstein, Fraser Smith, Karen Solheim

**March:** Jane Barton, Loretta Engel, Debbie Fabiani, Richard Fawcett, Bev Harden, Linda Hartke, Sara Levine, Ellen Mogol, Betty Reeves, Beverly Sager, RuthAnn Shepard, Freddye Silverman, Dorothy Stone

**April:** Merry Alterman, Aliza Friedman, Estelle Harris, Randy Jacobs, Vikki McAdory, Mona Mohamed, Bob Palmieri, Iris Pressman, Fred Schutzman, Nancy Smith, Ken Stetson, Penny Witter

**May:** Betty Borcherding, Larry Chambers, Faith Dean, William Feuer, Bernie Finn, David Hutton, Ron Lassahn, C. Michael May, Gail Potashnick, Kathleen Wales, Trudy Wexler

**Congratulations, Fraser!**

BSA member and dedicated BSO supporter C. Fraser Smith recently published his fourth book. Many of you know Fraser from his decades-long affiliation with the *Baltimore Sun* as a reporter and then Sunday op-ed columnist. He’s also been a commentator for WYPR and weekly columnist for *The Daily Record*. *The Daily Miracle, A Memoir of Newspapering* recounts Fraser’s long career as a journalist. He talked about his book at Red Emma’s on January 19. In recognition of Fraser’s support of the orchestra, Lisa Steltenpohl, Principal Viola, and Lachezar Kostov, Associate Principal Cello, played a musical selection before the talk.

Fraser signs for Ellen Pendleton Troyer