

bsA NEWS NOTES

The NEWSLETTER of the BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATES

June 2020

Hello *News Notes* Readers,

My missive will not be the usual Year End Report of all the Baltimore Symphony Associates' recent efforts and accomplishments as that information is the text of this edition of *News Notes*. Nor will I wax on about the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has disrupted our lives or how inconvenient but necessary the protective measures are. We get enough of that from the media and living our lives. What I want is to share some of my recent thoughts as the President of the BSA becomes the Past President. So here goes!

Being President of the BSA was and continues to be an honor beyond belief. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would attain such an honor.

It was a privilege, fun, and hard work to serve as the

leader of the BSA.

While we did not always agree, we did our best to hear every opinion and move forward with decisions based on the benefit/good of the organization.



One *can* have a board meeting that meets the two-hour limit. Not always but mostly!

Virtual meetings are here to stay. Good but not optimal.

I wish we could have found a Show House. Maybe soon!

We have the brightest, most dedicated, talented, and loyal board members and committee chairs ever.

I enjoyed meeting and getting to know more members of the BSO family and was impressed that they remembered my name and Bernie's.

I do not like Lock Out or Lock In. What a way to begin and end the 2019-20 Season!

I do like BSO music at a key stroke but not as much as being in the audience.

I am looking forward to the 2020-21 Season.

The most recurring thought: Oh no, not another email!

Board of Directors

President

Marguerite Walsh

Secretary

Louise Reiner

Treasurer

Barbara Kelly

Vice Presidents:

Communications

Barbara Dent

Education

Marnie Fallon

Meetings & Programs

JoAnn Ruther

Recruitment & Membership

Sara Levine

Symphony Store

Larry Albrecht

Parliamentarian

Betsy Osterman

BSA Office Manager

LaRay Johnson

Associates@bsomusic.org

410.783.8023

Editor

Barbara Dent

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I will leave you with one more thought: There is a role for each of us to play if we all play with the skills of others and don't try to push a string.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you for helping me serve.

Best regards, wishes, and health.

Respectively,

Marguerite



Members enjoyed a delicious meal and vibrant conversation.



Tiffany Bryan and C. Fraser Smith address the BSA membership.

March Membership Meeting

The last opportunity for BSA members to get together before the pandemic was at the General Membership meeting on the evening of March 4. VP for Meetings & Programs JoAnn Ruther planned a delicious Italian meal catered by Sammy's Trattoria and served family style. A brief business meeting followed dinner during which the BSA recognized Tiffany Bryan, the BSO's Director of Patron Services. Tiffany's position was recently endowed in perpetuity by a generous, anonymous donor -- the BSO's first-ever endowed administrative position. The pleasant evening culminated with a talk by member C. Fraser Smith about his fourth book, *The Daily Miracle, A Memoir of Newspapering*.

We just hope that it won't be too long before we can be together again.



Save these dates!

You may recall that the last *News Notes* included a whole list of upcoming events. Sadly, they as well as the rest of the BSO season fell victim to the coronavirus pandemic. We still hope to sponsor **Winey Wednesday, Second Fiddle Shoppes, and Music Adventures** events sometime during the 2020-21 program year, but these and other activities will depend on decisions by the Governor, Mayor, and the BSO. Please see the article below about plans for Kitchens of Note.

bsA
PRESENTS
*Kitchens
of Note*
Symphony of Chefs

We have chosen a new date for **Kitchens of Note 2020** and are crossing our fingers that the timing works out. The new date is **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**. Please mark it on your calendars. The coordinators of anything you may have signed up for (house docents, registration, etc.) will contact you to make sure the date still works with your schedule. Any tickets that were purchased for the May event will of course be honored in September. Our chefs, florists, tabletop designers, and boutique vendors have all committed to the new date as have most of our homeowners. The plan for the day will be identical in terms of the hours for the tour (10-3), the Boutique in the Barn, and the after party that evening at Inverness which is one of our spectacular homes on the tour. We will keep you posted!

Submitted by Freddye Silverman



**Summer
Sale!!**

Our **Symphonic Scenes of Maryland** project (aka The Card Project) has been long-delayed due to the pandemic and other reasons. Our printing factory is now up and running again and we'd love to wrap this up and send it to print in

the next month or so. As you know, we have to get sponsors for 216 cards.

To push this project along, we are now having a 50% sale. Here's what you need to know:

- All face cards and jokers will now sell for \$75 instead of \$150.
- All number cards will sell for \$50 instead of \$100.
- If you have never sponsored a card, please go to the [BSA's website](#) where you can find all the materials you need – the sponsorship letter, an FAQ, a listing of the available photos, and the Playing Card Sponsorship form.
- If you have already sponsored one or more cards, you will automatically be given a 'free' card for every one you've purchased. You will receive an email shortly about the sale and in replying you can specify the dedications for your new card(s) – In honor of, In memory of, In Celebration of, etc. The number/face card and deck (brass, percussion, woodwind, strings) will be assigned so all you have to provide is the dedication and three choices for photo(s). If you do not respond, your additional card(s) will say 'Sponsored By (Your Name)'. The list of available photos can be seen [here](#). And you can buy additional cards at half-price!
- If you have a favorite photo of a Maryland scene you may submit that to Freddye Silverman via email (freddye.silverman@gmail.com), and as long as it fits specifications, we will use it.

Spread the word to your friends and family too – take advantage of our Symphonic Scenes Sale!

Submitted by Freddye Silverman.



BSA Odds & Ends

Amendment to the Bylaws

Thank you to all those members who voted on the change to our bylaws. Article V, Section 2, now includes this phrase: *The Office of the President may be filled by two members, each with the title of Co-President. The Co-Presidents will share one vote and the duties of the office of President.*

The BSA Board also amended our Standing Rules as follows: *The BSA Meetings, Votes, and Elections may be held by electronic means.* This provision has allowed us to have meetings via Zoom and voting on issues/elections via email. We think you will agree that this is essential during the current pandemic.

Election Time

The BSA Nominating Committee, chaired by Sara Levine, is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2020-21 program year:

Co-President:	Barbara Kelly
Co-President:	Jo Kendig
Secretary:	Louise Reiner
Treasurer:	Florence McLean
<u>Vice Presidents</u>	
Meetings & Programs:	JoAnn Ruther
Communications:	Barbara Dent
Education:	Marnie Fallon
Recruitment & Membership:	Sara Levine
Symphony Store:	Larry Albrecht

Other members of the Nominating Committee were Sandy Feldman, Vikki McAdory, Florence McLean, Debbie Stetson, and Betsy Osterman.

Please send your vote by email or mail to Sara Levine (Levine1711@gmail.com, 1711 By Woods Lane, PO Box 306 Stevenson, MD) by **June 15**. State whether you approve or disapprove the proposed list of nominees. If you mail your response, please do so promptly so it is received by the deadline.

Coming Soon!

Membership Renewals

The BSA's next fiscal year begins in September. This means that it will soon be time to renew your membership. The membership renewal process will be conducted electronically as much as possible. Forms will be sent out later this summer – please respond promptly. You may even use Wufoo as a convenient way to pay your dues. Now more than ever we need to continue our work of supporting the BSO and the musicians as we adapt to the current reality and look forward to being together again.

So, What's Wufoo??

Wufoo is an online payment app which the BSA is now offering to its members. Opportunities to use Wufoo in the next few months will be for your membership renewal, meeting registration for the fall, and any donations you choose to make to the BSA. You can also use Wufoo to register guests for meetings and events.

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 will maintain your credit card information.

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There is a link to the form near the top of the BSA page on the internet: [BSA Page](#). Or you may go directly to the form via: [Wufoo form](#).

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

Musician Appreciation Luncheon Memories from 2019



As you can see from the photos above, the annual Musician Appreciation Luncheon hosted by the BSA has been one of the most enjoyable and well-attended events of the year for the past several years. Alas! The planned 2020 luncheon succumbed to the pandemic! But the BSA leadership still wanted to do something to show how much the musicians and staff are appreciated. We decided to donate \$2,000 in

support of the BSO Offstage programs which we hope you've all been enjoying. The following message was sent by our president to Brian Precht, Chair of the Musicians Committee, and to all musicians to let them know how appreciated they are and how much we miss them.

I want to take this opportunity to say how disappointed the BSA Board and Members are that the Appreciation Luncheon for our BSO Musicians was cancelled. I believe that this is the first interruption since we began the luncheon; one of the many in this strange and difficult season. Despite of all the difficulties, strangeness, and cancellations you and the musicians have continued to lead the way bringing your humor, musical talent, and excellence to your audience. We appreciate visiting your open homes, seeing your pets, and hearing every note played.

With respect and in appreciation of the musicians' continued attention to the patrons, the larger community's interest, and love of the BSO, we wanted to do something special. We decided to donate \$2,000 to the BSO in Honor of the BSO Musicians and help underwrite some of the production costs of BSO OffStage. This amount is equal to what we would have spent to host the Appreciation Luncheon.

*Thank you for helping to keep the Music playing. Hope to see you soon at the hall!
Best regards and wishes for the summer and the 2020-21Season.*



New Online Program for Volunteer Ushers Being Used

During the fall of 2019, BSA member Linda Hartke took on a major task – find a free online program that could help streamline the process of tracking volunteers who provide support at mid-week and weekend morning concerts and rehearsals targeted at youth, family, and donor audiences. Many BSO subscribers may not be aware of the vast number of events that occur at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall each week, or know the large effort it takes to make these events run smoothly. Luckily, the BSA has a dedicated group of almost 100 people who serve as “ushers” for these events throughout the year. Having all these people assist at numerous events is a great thing – having to keep track of who wants to work when and who actually works each event, and being able to communicate to this large group quickly when changes happen, has been a time-consuming and often tedious task. Then Linda discovered SignUp.com!

This free online program allows a system administrator to list all upcoming events where ushering help is needed, assign (or remove) workers to these events, allow volunteers to assign (or remove) themselves to events, send automated email reminders to the assigned volunteers a few days before the event, generate paper sign in sheets to track attendance at the events, and send informational or thank you emails to all, or a select subset, of volunteers. Linda served as the original administrator establishing the BSA’s SignUp account. She entered the event details for January through June and the current list of volunteers. Then, alas, Linda moved out of town. Before she departed, she taught another BSA member,

Diane Burkom, the tasks needed to continue as the SignUp administrator.

This system worked as intended through mid-March and several volunteers began directly interacting with it. Then the pandemic hit and all concerts ceased – a few at a time. Thanks to having this online program, however, it was easy to notify volunteers of the cancellations. Now we are using the system’s group email functions to share BSO Offstage events with our volunteers.

We will need lots of volunteers for the 2020-21 season, once we know which events will actually be allowed to take place. If you think you might want to help, watch for the invitation and the website link, and then Sign Up!

Submitted by Diane Burkom

Thank You, Ushers!

Yet other plans that were cancelled because of the pandemic were luncheons meant to thank and honor those of you who volunteered as ushers for mid-week and weekend concerts, open rehearsals, and side-by-side concerts during the past season. You are so very appreciated and we regret that we could not celebrate with you in person. We don’t know yet what to say about ushering during the 2020-21 season but hope we can count on you when this activity resumes.



Family Concert Luncheon

The third Family Concert Luncheon of the season was on February 22. (Sadly, the April 4 concert and luncheon were cancelled.). Following the *Classical Mash-Up* concert, 42 guests joined the BSA for the luncheon. Thanks to the regular crew of BSA volunteers and to new member Peg McKibbin who helped serve the meal and greet guests.



Concert performers Wytold (Electric Cello) and Christylez Bacon (Beatboxer) talk with guests. One little guy was very happy to meet them.



BSO Update – May 2020

BSO President and CEO Peter Kjome mailed this letter to tens of thousands of members of the BSO family: [President's Letter](#). It describes the many innovative ways the orchestra has responded to the pandemic. If you did not receive a copy and would like to receive future communications from the BSO, you are invited to email your contact information – mailing address, email address, and phone number – to the development office:

Membership@BSOmusic.org. Let them know that you are a BSA member. Don't risk being out of the loop!

Do You Have an Occasion to Celebrate or Recognize? Here's the Perfect Solution...

BSA ALL OCCASION CONTRIBUTION CARDS



BSA General Fund



Libby Younglove Education Fund

Baker's Dozen (13) cards for \$30. Cards are available at all BSA meetings and events. For more information contact Carolyn Stadfeld at 410-549-5157 or cstadfeld@comcast.net.

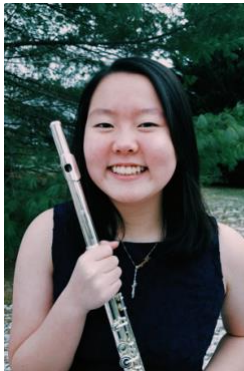
***Baltimore Symphony
Youth Orchestras
2020 Competition
Congratulations to the winners of
this year's BSYO Competition!***

Youth Orchestra

Tied for First Place: Asha Kline, Bassoon, who will attend the Curtis Institute of Music, and Kara Poling, Oboe, going on to the Juilliard School of Music.



Third Place: Hyungjoo Han, Flute



Concert Orchestra: Julia Li, Violin



String Orchestra: Julia Reifsnnyder, Violin



The prizes for this annual competition are awarded by the Libby Younglove Education Fund and the BSA. Libby's husband, Bob Younglove, and his family join the BSA in congratulating the winners!



BSO OffStage – www.BSOmusic.org/OffStage

In this time of social distancing you can stay connected to the orchestra through BSO OffStage, a website launched in March to provide engaging and uplifting digital



content from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Updated daily with new videos, there's something for everyone at BSO OffStage.

If you miss hearing full concerts, visit the "Performance Videos" section of the site for recitals and other performances musicians have recorded in their homes or click on "Podcasts" to listen to recordings of Off The Cuff concerts from previous seasons. Don't miss *Lunch Bachs*, a weekly series where the BSO violists step out from between the

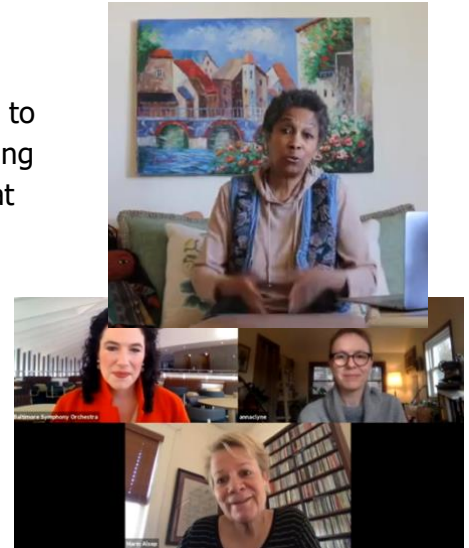
violins and cellos to share some music with you.



To get to know individual musicians better, visit "At Home with the BSO" where you can learn about their hobbies, hear them play with family members and get advice on great cookbooks among other things. If you hope to spend your time learning more about music, play the *Classical Insights* podcasts featuring WBJC's Jonathan Palevsky or sit down for a session of *Learn from the Pros* to find out something new about your favorite instruments from the orchestra. Young kids will love the crafts in

the "Educational Activities" section, including how to make homemade castanets! These tutorials are similar to the crafts for pre-concert activities for Music Box and Family concerts. Special appearances will also take place on the BSO Families Facebook group such as songs by BSO Music Box host Maria Broom.

Lastly, tune in on Thursdays at 5 pm to our Virtual Governing Members Lounge at



BSOmusic.org/GMLoungeLive. Depending on the week you can connect with a rotating panel of guests including Music Director Marin Alsop, our musicians and various guest artists. Listen to stimulating conversation about composers, scores and more and ask a question in the comments to have it answered live.

Spend some time exploring BSO OffStage where you are sure to learn more about the musicians and music of the BSO. Find something that inspires you and share it with your friends. Music is so needed in the world right now and it is great that this content is available for all at BSO OffStage. www.BSOmusic.org/OffStage.

Thank you, Andrew Alness,
BSO Marketing & Advertising Manager

Did you watch the BSO at the BBC Proms on May 9?

The BSO hosted a "virtual Gala" on May 9 by broadcasting the BSO playing at the BBC Proms in London in 2018. The concert was the highlight of the orchestra's tour of England, Scotland, and Ireland that year. This special broadcast was shown on Maryland Public Television. If you watched this exciting performance, you were among over 170,000 other viewers who watched on TV or through MPT's Live Stream app. Not only did this represent a huge increase in MPT viewership for the time slot, it outperformed all regional syndicated programming as well as the evening news. What a night!

Sad Tidings

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of **Dr. Evert "Bud" Cornell**, long time member of the BSA, who passed away on April 16. Bud was a retired educator, author, and avid traveler. Active in a variety of organizations, he served as President of the BSA from 2005 – 2007.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of **Madeline "Mike" England** on May 13. In addition to working as a pediatric nurse, Mike was a lifelong volunteer. She was an active BSO volunteer and a committee chair for the Decorators' Show House and helped develop the Symphony Store.

Former member, **Sally Jane Boone**, passed away on May 25. A retired teacher, she was a longtime volunteer for the Decorators' Show House.



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!

Don Berger & Cindy Moss

409 Wingate Road
Baltimore, MD 21210
301-706-5890 (Don)
donald.berger56@gmail.com

BSA DIRECTORY CHANGE:

Barbara Kelly's new email address:
bakdixie1@comcast.net

Happy Birthday to our Members Celebrating from June through August

June: Kitty Allen, Martha Bromberger-Barnea, Liz Dausch, Barbara Dent, Linda Derengowski, Susan Elinsky, Dawna Freeland, Stephanie Hack, Jean Hartlove, LaRay Johnson, John Kacur, Linda Kacur, Paul Konka, Will Levasseur, Maureen Patton, Janet Schutzman, Susan Weiss, and Bob Younglove.

July: Cindy Moss, Corinne Coleman, Nancy Denebeim, Dawn Dishon, Susan Dugan-Konka, Connie Getzov, LeVerne Grove, Cathy Hiebler, Nancy Kromkowski, Melvin Lessing, Alan Mogol, Yitzie Raphaeli, Katie Stevens, and Miryam Yardumian.

August: Ernestine Boyd, Barbara Chase, Joan Cohen, Anne Duggan, Marylou Farnsworth, Margaret Galambos, Pat Garland, Rona Greene, Eileen Hardesty, Barbara Kelly, Joanne Levasseur, Marty Nichols, Marge Penhallegon, Marilyn Rosenblatt, and Carolyn Stadfeld.