



NOTES

Get Your Holiday Spirit On!

Change of Venue for December Members' Meeting

It's over the river and through the woods we go to Christ Church United Church of Christ at 15 S. Fort Thomas Avenue, Fort Thomas, KY for our Wednesday, December 11 Members' Meeting.

Come and enjoy music in this lovely venue by your fellow members: **Toni Sheffer** playing seasonal favorites on piano and organ; **Deborah Grove** and **Judy Martin**, selections from Leclair's Six Sonatas for Two Violins; **Larry Howard**, violin, **Karen Kruse**, cello and **Janelle Gelfand**, piano - Brahms Trio No. 1, first movement.

One of the best things about our meetings is that they hearken back to the original animus for Matinée's founding. Namely, that friends would have an occasion to perform for one another. Let's show our support!

How Much Better Could a Recital Series Have Begun?

As We Come to the Mid-Season "Break," Let's Review Ashley Hall, Trumpet

Ashley's program featured works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Sammartini, Kreisler, Debussy and Bela Bartok, many arranged by her husband Nathan Tighe. She played with astounding proficiency and musicality, to the great delight of the audience which included many young trumpeters. That brought us to her concluding number, and here we quote the words of music critic and Matinée member **Janelle Gelfand**:

It was her finale — Arban's "Le Carnaval de Venise" — Carnival of Venice Variations that had the trumpeters and non-trumpeters alike leaning forward in their seats to see how on earth she did it. Inspired by Paganini, each variation was a showpiece of technical wizardry more difficult than the last.

Brava, Ashley Hall!



Ashley, center, with former teacher and master trumpeter Marie Speziale, left, and pianist collaborator Rebecca Wilt. Photo: Sally Skillman



Ashley meets young admirers

Ashley explains the several instruments and mutes she used during her performance



Book Will Feature 200 Women Who Significantly Shaped Cincinnati Arts. Our *Janelle Gelfand* is one of them.



“Imagineers, Impresarios, Inventors: Cincinnati’s Arts and the Power of Her” will weave together stories of arts institutions, their leaders and founders, as well profiles of individual women – both living and legacy – who have impacted the arts community. In all, 200 women will be featured, selected from nominations sought throughout the region. It is the first book of its kind recognizing the powerful role women have played in the arts in Cincinnati history and will be available in the summer of 2020. The project is part of an 18-month *Power of Her* initiative led by ArtsWave and presented by Procter & Gamble, coinciding with the centennial of women’s suffrage. **Congratulations, Janelle, and many thanks for being a voice of and for the arts in Greater Cincinnati.**

Then Came Albert Cano Smit: So Young, So Personable, So Unbelievably Gifted!

On October 20, the Anderson Center was SRO! **Albert Cano Smit** dazzled us with Bach, Ligeti, Franck, Beethoven, Scriabin, Hough and Mompou. His youth would lead us to believe that with time, his playing will improve and mature. But on this day, even the most seasoned musicians were left wondering how!



Pianist to pianist: Smit chats with Roxanne and Dave Engle

Albert Cano Smit takes the stage



With a whole host of admirers including Amy Maxwell, center, and Barbara Goosman, seated

First Members' Meeting Reminds Us - Music Lovers Make the Best Friends!

It was a lovely fall day in September when more than 30 of us descended on **Marjorie Fryxell's** lovely home for a delightful musical program, delicious lunch and general merriment. We welcomed new members **Laurinda Dixon**, **Graeme George** and **Amy Maxwell**. Grant recipients **John Pennycuff**, founder and treasurer of Winton Woods Educational Foundation, and **Beth Miller**, director of high school choirs for Winton Woods City School District, spoke about how much the grants have helped them. **Ellen Stephens** did the same for the Southbank Quartet and the music program at Immanuel School of Music, Immanuel United Methodist Church.

For the musical part of the meeting, **Trio Jeng**, soprano, and **Janelle Gelfand**, piano, performed *Cuarto Madrigales Amatorios* by Joaquin Rodrigo. Then **Ellen Stephens**, cello, and **Marjorie Fryxell**, piano, performed *12 Variations on "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen"*, Op. 66 by Ludwig van Beethoven. To close the program, **Virginia Coleman**, clarinet, **Laurel Hinkle**, horn, and **Susan Herman**, piano, performed two movements from the *Trio for Clarinet, Horn and Piano*, Op. 274 by Carl Reinecke.



Trio Jeng, Janelle Gelfand



Ellen Stephens, Marjorie Fryxell



Virginia Coleman, Susan Herman, Laurel Hinkle



MM Administrative Director Judy Martin introduces Beth Miller and John Pennycuff of the Winton Woods Educational Foundation



Say hello to our new members when you see them!



From left: Laurinda Dixon, Graeme George and Amy Maxwell

Remembering Peggy Kite by Janelle Gelfand



Peggy Wulsin Kite, who grew up during the golden era of the Baldwin Piano Co., which her family owned, passed away October 28. She had recently suffered from pneumonia.

Mrs. Kite, who still played on one of the two Baldwin pianos in her Montgomery living room, was born in Cincinnati in 1928. She spoke about growing up in her grandparents' mansion, which sat on 24 acres on Madison Road, and sliding down the banister when the adults weren't looking. Several years ago, she wrote an extensive personal memoir entitled "The Piano Maker's Daughter" about her life as the daughter of Lucien Wulsin II, the chief executive of Baldwin, then America's largest piano company. One of seven children, she liked to say that she was "Opus 6" of the family brood.



She attended Mills College in Oakland, California and knew the Darius Milhauds like family — a relationship that began with Baldwin. Mrs. Kite was a graduate of the University of Michigan.

About two years ago, I was contacted by a Japanese concert manager, Shoji Sato, regarding an upright Baldwin piano that had survived Hiroshima. They wanted to share a story with Mrs. Kite about the piano and its former owner, and news that an album — "Music for Peace" — had been made on the piano by the American virtuoso Peter Serkin. She was slightly amazed (as was I) and delighted to hear about it. She graciously agreed to be interviewed by NHK World Television to give her opinion of the project. I helped facilitate that interview from Japan with my iPhone as she sat in her kitchen.

Mostly, I remember Peggy as a warm, unassuming person who loved and supported classical music and all of Cincinnati's cultural organizations. I never saw her without a smile on her face, and we shared many interesting conversations. I will miss bumping into her at Music Hall.

A memorial service took place on Nov. 23 at the Indian Hill Church, 6000 Drake Road.

Memorial donations may be made to Camp Wekandu, Attn: Daniel Lovell, Division of Rheumatology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, 3333 Burnet Ave., MLC 4010, Cincinnati 45229-3039; or to Matinee Musicale Cincinnati, P.O. Box 75197, Fort Thomas, KY, 41075-9998.

The above is reprinted, with permission, from Janelle Gelfand's blog, Janelle's Notes.



On a Happy Note, Welcome John Leo Muething!

When the hardworking volunteers of the Matinée Board realized the time had come to find a part-time staffer to help with the the club's significant administrative responsibilities, we could not have imagined a more enthusiastic and capable candidate than **John Leo Muething**. With arts involvement that spans many of his young years, and a thorough understanding of social media, marketing, ticket sales and much more, he's become a valuable member of the team in just a few months. Thank you, John, for stepping up at exactly the right time.