

Our name will change to **Valley Classical Concerts** . . . See back page story!

MUSIC *In Deerfield* ► NEWSLETTER January 2016

Best wishes for 2016 from Music In Deerfield to our audience, supporters, and friends!

With this NEWSLETTER we share information about great chamber music still to come this season; the people who help make it happen; what it takes to bring first-rate musicians to the Valley; and an invitation to be in touch and be a friend.

The Music In Deerfield 2015-16 Season – A Delight for All

"I believe in Bach, the Father, Beethoven, the Son, and Brahms, the Holy Ghost of music".

This and other similar declarations by the celebrated 19th-century pianist and conductor Hans von Bülow originated the enduring concept of classical music's "Three B's -- Bach, Beethoven and Brahms." Well, we'll have to put Father Bach's music aside for a future season. But in the three remaining Music In Deerfield concerts for this winter and spring, it will be all Beethoven and Brahms -- in other words, some of the greatest chamber music ever composed. Pretty great performers, too. Let's look ahead.

First, on February 7 at 4:00 p.m., just two-and-a-half hours before kickoff of America's most anticipated annual sporting event, some of Beethoven's best will make it a super Sunday when the Miró String Quartet, making their third Music In Deerfield appearance, play all three of the "Razumovsky" Quartets, Op. 59.

Composed in 1806, Beethoven's "Razumovskys" are masterworks of what is known in musicological geek-speak as Beethoven's "middle period," when he also composed such genre-defining works as the "Eroica," Fifth and "Pastoral" Symphonies, the "Emperor" Concerto, the "Kreutzer" and "Appassionata" Sonatas and the "Archduke" Trio. One could even analogize these works' place in Beethoven's output to that of such great "middle period" albums as "Rubber Soul" and "Revolver" in the career of the Beatles. In the intense performances of the Miró, by any measure among the finest classical ensembles in America, this will be a program both to excite a classical newbie and to satisfy the most discerning connoisseur. And you'll be able to make it home for the first play.

The Latitude 41 Trio made a splendid impression when they played Schubert and Saint-Saëns a few seasons back -- remember? They'll be back to help us celebrate the Vernal Equinox on Sunday, March 20 at 4:00 p.m., when they'll perform the complete three Piano Trios (i.e., Trios for piano, violin and cello) by Johannes Brahms. In addition to their wealth of melody, emotion, and virtuosity, what makes these works especially interesting in Brahms's output is that the first of the Trios is also the last -- the Trio in B major, Op. 8, composed by the baby-faced 21-year old Brahms in 1854, but substantially revised by the gray-bearded Brahms 35 years later.

Pianist Jonathan Biss knows his Beethoven -- he's written eloquently about Beethoven, he has an on-line course on Beethoven, (available on the Coursera website and app), and is in the midst of a nine-year project to record all of Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas. And on Sunday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m., Jonathan Biss will conclude the Music In Deerfield season with, you guessed it, Beethoven. But he won't be alone. Joining him will be the prize-winning violinist Miriam Fried -- who happens also to be Jonathan's mother. And together, they'll perform three of Beethoven's Sonatas for piano and violin (yes, that's the customary order of instruments), including the lovely "Spring" Sonata. See you there!

Music In Deerfield People

The face and voice of Music In Deerfield for more than 30 years, Artistic Director ***John Montanari***, needs little introduction. He was also the voice of classical music on New England Public Radio/WFCR for 38 years until his retirement in late 2013. But perhaps you don't know that John has always done his "job" at MID as a volunteer. That's right, we can't pay John what he's worth, so we pay him nothing! In addition to his work for MID, John does some teaching for Leisure Studies at Amherst, is involved with other music organizations around the Valley, and cooks delicious exotic food with his wife, Karen Tarlow.

Another voice of MID, the one you'll hear on the phone, is that of ***Melanie Finn***, Administrative Assistant to the Board since May of 2015, and our only paid employee. Melanie handles pretty much everything that you take for granted—the myriad administrative tasks that keep the organization functioning. She also maintains our website and Facebook page, acts as liaison with the Chamber of Commerce and sponsor organizations, and never fails to act on an opportunity to promote MID. She's also an active public schools and Girl Scouts volunteer who, right now, would love to sell you a few boxes of cookies.

A key volunteer, whose face and voice will seldom be in evidence in the course of her MID work, is ***Karen Tarlow***, our Concert Manager. A traffic director and hand-holder *par excellence*, Karen coordinates with the musicians, their management, and Smith College staff, with the goal of ensuring that a hundred logistical details she handles remain invisible to our audience. Although retired from her UMass faculty position, Karen is still an active composer. Outside the music world, she volunteers at the Dakin Animal Shelter, and she and John both enjoy traveling.

About the Music In Deerfield Board of Directors

Our mission: to bring exciting performances by the finest chamber musicians to the Pioneer Valley.

Our job: to set policy; create budgets; give, and raise, financial support; review artists' contracts; manage concerts; recruit and supervise volunteers; do outreach and promotion; and work with our Administrative Assistant to keep the organization moving forward.

Among Music In Deerfield's most valued assets is a loyal core of friends—subscribers and financial contributors whose support is critical to our survival. (Please see ***Why Your Support Counts***, p. 3) But we need your help in other ways as well.

- ▶ Help us expand our audience. Spread the word about our concerts. If you are a contributor at the \$100 level or above and you'd like to introduce someone to the series, call the MID office and request a pair of complimentary tickets.
- ▶ Help us let families with children—and students—know about our special pricing for them. (\$5 children/\$10 accompanying adults/\$10 students with ID)
- ▶ Be in touch. No one likes surveys, so we avoid them; but the Board would like to hear from you. Email the office to share your thoughts about concerts, concert days/times, artists you've especially enjoyed.
- ▶ Help distribute promotional materials; serve on a committee. Thank you!

Gail Markley, *President*

Eleanor Rothman, *Vice President*

Richard Teller, *Secretary*

Charles Johnson, *Treasurer*

John Montanari, *Artistic Director*

Karen Tarlow, *Concert Management*

Lewis Popper, *Artist Contract Negotiation*

Liz Bedell

Allen Tupper Brown

Marie Waechter

Don Wheelock

Melanie Finn, *Administrative Assistant to the Board*

Music In Deerfield – P.O. Box 60424 – Florence, Ma 01062

413-586-0458 – info@musicindeerfield.org - www.musicindeerfield.org

Why Your Support Counts - It's all about the music!

At Music In Deerfield we are well acquainted with the concept—and practice—of frugality. We're proud of the quality of the concerts we produce with modest total expenditures, thanks to our one part-time employee and those who do professional work without pay. Here are some facts and figures for our current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2016):

Concert income is budgeted to cover close to 62 percent of expenses.

Contributed income is budgeted to cover just over 34 percent of expenses,

• Six concerts	\$44,000
• Administrative costs including one part-time salary	\$38,000
Total expenditures	\$82,000
• Concert income budgeted	\$51,000
• Contributed income budgeted	\$28,000
Total income budgeted	\$79,000

The fact is that while amounts budgeted for expenditures (primarily artists' fees) are fixed, amounts for both concert income (primarily ticket sales) and individual and business contributions are based on what experience leads us to expect. The latter amounts can, and often do, fluctuate for reasons we don't always understand, making the income gap wider than we anticipate. 2015-16, thus far, is such a year.

Another fact: There will never be a time when we can thrive financially without the help of our patrons, friends, and the larger community. Even when we are fortunate enough to cover all expenses, we have a responsibility to lay the groundwork for future seasons by building a modest financial cushion. This is why we continue to ask that you contribute something beyond the price of your tickets. Equally important is that you encourage others to experience the wonderful performances, which even the most sophisticated audio equipment cannot duplicate.

A final, but most important fact: Music In Deerfield would not be bringing you music at all were it not for the generous collaboration of the Smith College Music Department, which makes possible the use of Sweeney Concert Hall six times a year rent-free. A great gift to music lovers throughout the Valley!

Music In Deerfield is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization.

To make a contribution go to www.musicindeerfield.org or use the remittance form below.

Thank you!

To: Music In Deerfield
P.O. Box 60424
Florence, MA 01062

Date: _____

Enclosed is my/our donation of \$ _____ * \$4.00 Credit Card Processing Fee

Check

Visa/MC/American Express # _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV#: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Please add my email:

Name as listed for Concert Program: _____

MUSICInDeerfield

P.O. Box 60424

Florence, MA 01062

Music In Deerfield Becomes Valley Classical Concerts

Music In Deerfield has presented first-rate performances of great music since its inception at Deerfield Academy, where the first season of chamber music concerts was launched in 1979. That year the renowned Concord String Quartet (long-since disbanded) presented the entire cycle of Beethoven's 16 String Quartets in a series of six concerts.

For some years, performances moved among venues in Historic Deerfield, Greenfield, Northfield, Northampton, and Charlemont. Ultimately, in a fortuitous collaboration with the Smith College Music Department, the series found a home at Sweeney Concert Hall – a venue beloved of audiences and musicians alike for its fine acoustics.

With time, the name Music In Deerfield began to cause confusion for potential patrons not familiar with its long history. Thus, with ties to Deerfield now purely historical, the Board of Directors decided that the time was ripe to give the concert series a new name. The Board invited our audience to participate in this process, which they did with considerable enthusiasm. The wide variety of suggestions, far from creating confusion, actually helped the Board focus on what the name needs to convey. Ultimately, we wanted to state, as clearly as a few words could convey, what we do. Our single purpose is to enrich the cultural life of Pioneer Valley residents by presenting the finest performances of great music. ***Valley Classical Concerts*** - It's just that simple!

This name will become official beginning with the 2016-17 season.

Special Thanks to Major Corporate Supporters of Music In Deerfield's 2015-16 Season

New England Public Radio

Greenfield Savings Bank

Greenfield Cooperative/Northampton Cooperative Bank

The Daily Hampshire Gazette

Loomis Village & Applewood Retirement Communities

And to our individual contributors: Thanks for your loyalty. Without you there would be no Music In Deerfield.