Fine Arts Chamber Players
Winter 2016

Simplify the Season

One easy way to tackle your holiday shopping is to make a gift to Fine Arts Chamber Players in honor of the people on your list. When you make a tribute gift, we send a holiday card on your behalf to the honoree. Gift amounts are kept confidential, and donations are fully tax-deductible.

Donations can be made online or use the form on the back of this newsletter.

Alex McDonald named Basically Beethoven Festival Director

Fine Arts Chamber Players announces that Dr. Alex McDonald has been named Festival Director for the annual Basically Beethoven Festival following his success as 2016 Guest Festival Director.

“We are thrilled to have Alex on board,” said Board President Celeste Yeager. “His vision to make the Basically Beethoven Festival intriguing and entertaining for both experienced concertgoers and new audience members aligns perfectly with FACP's mission.”

McDonald added, “It is a tremendous honor to connect our region’s world-class artists with our enthusiastic audience and the timeless repertoire of Beethoven and beyond.”

Begun in 1981, Basically Beethoven Festival was the inaugural program of FACP. McDonald joins FACP Artistic Director Rogene Russell in providing artistic leadership for the organization.

“If 2016 was a sample of what Alex can produce, our audience will be enthralled by his fresh ideas and musical insights,” Russell said. “Hurrah for the future of Basically Beethoven!”
Scholarship Fund update

In June, longtime FACP supporters Don and Norma Stone made a $500,000 gift endowing a fund to benefit student musicians from DISD who have participated in FACP’s music education programs, or who have graduated from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. This endowment will provide college scholarships for the recipients to pursue degrees in music. Established at The Dallas Foundation, the fund is named in honor of Rogene Russell, the artistic director and co-founder of Fine Arts Chamber Players. Through generous gifts from other individuals the Fund now exceeds $620,000 in scholarship money.

Applications are available at DallasFoundation.org under “For Students” and are due February 3, 2017. FACP has selected a committee to review applications and award scholarship funds in early 2017. Committee members are: Don and Norma Stone; Rogene Russell; Rachel Assi, FACP executive director; Virginia Dupuy, professor of voice at Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University; Alex Kerr, Dallas Symphony Orchestra concertmaster; Lysie Levine, The Dallas

Teacher Profile: Alfrelynn Roberts

This is Ms. Roberts’ second year teaching voice lessons for FACP. A soprano, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Hampton University and a Master of Music from Northwestern University. Read the full interview online at FineArtsChamberPlayers.org.

What do you love about teaching high schoolers? When the lightbulb goes off – when they grasp new things about their voices and hear what their voices can do.

What is a particularly memorable performance of yours? At Kalamazoo College, we were under a tornado watch and the sirens went off when I was in the middle of a song. We had to evacuate, so we took the recital to the basement.

What piece of advice would you give your 16-year-old self? At 16, I didn’t know the possibilities of what an opera career could be, so I was hesitant about it. I’d tell her: don’t get discouraged – just keep singing.

And have fun! I was too serious as a kid.

Local media covers FACP programs

The announcement of recent grants awarded by the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation and the Fossil Foundation garnered press attention for FACP’s Music Residency program at David W. Carter High School. Each foundation gave $15,000 to the program, spurring WFAA reporter Demond Fernandez to visit the campus and report on FACP’s work in South Dallas. One Carter student, pianist Kenoly Kadia, was featured as a “Class Act of the Week” on the CW33’s news broadcast. Executive Director Rachel Assi was interviewed on WFAA’s “Midday” news program in October to promote the season opening Bancroft Family Concert. To keep up to date on our press coverage, visit our website at FineArtsChamberPlayers.org.
2017 Preview

January 28, Passing the Torch: Current and former DSO wind players and their protégés perform woodwind octets by Haydn and Mozart.
Erin Hannigan, oboe
Gregory Raden, clarinet
Wilfred Roberts, bassoon
Haley Hoops, french horn
and their students

February 25, Fragments of the Past and Present: Mozart’s bassoon and cello sonata is paired with a chamber arrangement of Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 15 in A major.
Ted Soluri, bassoon
Nathan Olson, violin
Jennifer Humphreys, cello
Anastasia Markina, piano
Doug Howard, percussion

March 25, Brahms Trio: Come hear Brahms’ nostalgic Horn Trio in E-flat Major, op. 40.
Yousef Assi, french horn
Filip Fenrych, violin
Zahari Metchkov, piano

April 15, The Cliburn in Concert: Erik Korngold’s dynamic Suite for Two Violins, Cello, and Piano (left hand), op. 23 is featured.
Claire Huangci, piano
Steven Li, violin
Michael Shih, violin
Allan Steele, cello

May 13, The Cézanne Quartet: The 11th annual Charles Barr Memorial Concert includes Schubert, Mozart, and Bartok pieces performed by the Cézanne Quartet, the Peak Fellowship Ensemble-in-Residence at SMU.

Bancroft Family Concerts recap

North Dallas High School music student Susana Erazo was presented with a clarinet donated by Kathryn Lytle.
Kimberly Cole Luevano, professor of clarinet at UNT, had the chance to visit with Susana before the Nov. 12 concert.

Our Mission
Fine Arts Chamber Players’ mission is to enrich and enhance the quality of life for North Texas area residents, especially families and children, through free concerts of classical music and educational performances.

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Thank you for supporting Fine Arts Chamber Players!