

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## January 2010

The Schubert Club of Fairfield County, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 2338, Stamford, Connecticut 06906



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The Schubert Club of Fairfield County is one hundred years old. We began as a small group of singers who wanted to share their love of beautiful music, and has evolved to include piano, guitar, harp, strings, flute/woodwind and composers.

We have many singers in our club. Nine of them are also members of Musica Plenti (a wonderful group of talented vocalists that are involved in many Schubert Club activities). This year we are planning to create new vocal opportunities and look forward to a Centennial performance honoring them.

We have many Centennial celebrations in the works, so look for upcoming flyers to notify you of these special events.

Many of our pianists are also organists and I would love to increase their opportunities for performance. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in a workshop or recital featuring organ. It can be an ensemble or solo or anything you would like.

The Schubert Club is about its members. We are open to suggestions and aim to please. We want to create the venues you are interested in. Our lively Board meetings are about you. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you cannot join us and would like to present an idea to the Board, please email me with your thoughts.

Thank you to Tracy Ellwanger for putting the Young Musicians Festival on Facebook. Now you can have easy access and up-to-date information about the YMF at any time.

I have been President for five wonderful years and have one remaining year to complete my third term. In June 2011, a new President will be inducted. You are invited to nominate a candidate for this position. I am available to discuss the responsibilities of President with any potential candidate.

I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Abundant Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Farbman, President

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development has been terrific this year. The reduced fee has attracted a new and larger audience. To recap, in September, Bob Durso discussed how to manage the technical difficulties of pieces written by Schubert. In December, Scott Burnham partnered with pianist Ilya Itin to analyze and perform portions of Schubert's final sonatas. There were moments when Scott was so connected to the beautiful harmonies, that he appeared to be in a trance.

We will continue to honor Schubert in the upcoming lecture/masterclass given by Frank Levy in April at the Long Ridge Music Center. We have two tentative young pianists registered for the masterclass.

If you have a student studying Schubert, who is interested in performing in this masterclass, please contact Shari Weisz.

Our programs are all set for next year and are very varied. Sondra Tammam will discuss how to manage the technical difficulties in Scarlatti Sonatas on October 8, 2010; Eugene Kaminsky will lecture on the teaching pieces of Kabalevsky on November 20, 2010 and Shiau-uen Ding will present the lecture/masterclass on Liszt on March 12, 2011.

## HELP WANTED

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Westport is seeking a full-time organist for Sunday services (10:00 a.m.) and Wednesday evenings (7:30 p.m.). Sunday services include prelude, three hymns, solo, offertory and postlude. Wednesdays, prelude, three hymns, and postlude. Present instrument is an Allen organ. Salary is negotiable.

We also need substitutes if you are interested in playing but can not commit to a full-time position.

Please contact Jennifer Foster at [j.m.foster@att.net](mailto:j.m.foster@att.net) or 203-226-0673.

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The Ridgefield Academy has a Choir Director Position available for grades 4-8. Please contact them if you are interested.

## NEW DATE

The Solo Singers in Ensembles will move their Spring program to the first Sunday in May, May 2, 2010. Same time and same place as listed in the Yearbook; 3 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 844 Newfield Avenue, Stamford.

The Singers' program in November had a variety of ensembles, 12 in all with 29 performers. Our singers enjoy these opportunities for expanding their repertoires in challenging ways.

Do come and hear the wonderful talent we have in our club.

As of this writing, we haven't yet started this year's January Series: My Favorite Music. However, the programs have filled up nicely with a variety of music--from Bach to Broadway. We hope you were there.

## YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE

A new year, a new Showcase! This year the date is May 2, at 4:00 PM, at the First United Methodist Church in Stamford.

"We would be delighted to have another varied program that includes singers, pianists, as well as other instrumentalists," says Marilee Tremlett, YAS Committee Chairman. "We will also be happy to hear some duets, trios...use your imagination! "

The Young Artist Showcase is presented by FUMC as part of its popular concert series, FIRST at FIRST at FOUR, made possible in part with public funds from the City of Stamford through the Stamford Cultural Development Corporation. The goal of the Showcase is to offer more of Lower Fairfield County's talented young artists the opportunity to have invaluable performance experience in front of an appreciative, supportive audience. Admission to the Showcase is free to the public.

Auditions will be scheduled in late March and/or early April,

## 10th Annual International Women Composers Festival

Patrice Fitzgerald would love to have the benefit of club members' shared knowledge regarding compositions and/or performers in connection with two related events coming up in the spring.

In the Hartford area, she will be producing the 10th Annual International Women Composers Festival. She is the co-chair of one event, the *Concert Pro Femina*, which is to be held on Saturday, March 27th at the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

She plans to present substantially the same concert at the Unitarian Church in Westport, on a March or April date to be announced, probably as the newly formed Fairfield County Festival of Women Composers.

Past concerts have included music for a small chorus, solo singers, solo instrumentalists, or small chamber ensembles. with works by composers ranging from Hildegard von Bingen, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Clara Schumann to Libby Larsen and our own Alma Hamilton.

"We are always looking for new works," Fitzgerald says. "The only stipulation is that the composer is female, and that the compositions can be considered classical, as broadly defined. Typically we set the concert up with perhaps 10 different segments of 8 – 10 minutes each, so no single work can be much longer than that."

For the 2010 concerts she has a tentative list of works which includes a newly commissioned song cycle called "Water Music," a small chamber piece by Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, a choral piece by Alma Hamilton, and some new works for solo voice and organ in Hebrew.

If you have the music as well as the title for something that you think might be appropriate in any of these categories, send it to Fitzgerald.

"We would also like to hear about possible performers. Unfortunately, there is no pay involved, though we would love to learn about possible sources of support — an ever more difficult challenge in the arts!"

Patrice Fitzgerald  
360 York St., Stratford, CT 06615  
860-490-2085

## CHAMBER MUSIC CENTRAL

Chamber Music Central is gearing up for its 14th annual summer chamber music festival for students 8-18! Brochures have been mailed out and inquiries have begun. A very exciting time of year!

We are proud to announce our new, permanent summer home and newly formed collaboration with The Unquowa School in Fairfield. We are thrilled to be working with an educational institution that is so creative, thoughtful, enthusiastic and committed to excellence in each discipline. They are providing a beautiful campus, air conditioned classrooms, a supportive and welcoming staff and many school parents who are so excited about what we are doing and about how their own children can benefit from our programs. It bodes so well for the future and we are grateful for this opportunity to enhance the musical possibilities in the growth of our young people.

Through an audition process in March, pianists, strings and woodwind players are placed into well-matched trios and quartets and appropriate music is assigned and mailed out well in advance - music that can be prepared and performed successfully in the 2-week time frame. "Serious fun" is the goal - - working as a cohesive group, learning to really listen and enhancing expressivity. Focused rehearsals and coaching sessions with our superb faculty, Master Classes and theory classes plus pizza parties and games round out a stimulating and exciting chamber music experience. Contact info: 203-227-0662 [chambermusiccentral.org](http://chambermusiccentral.org).

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## NEW SCHUBERT CLUB MEMBERS

Thomas Mooney  
26 Red Top Road  
Riverside, CT 06898  
(203) 918-7288  
[moonster33@gmail.com](mailto:moonster33@gmail.com)

Kate Hope  
P.O. Box 641  
New Canaan, CT 06841-0641  
(203) 981-3618  
[hope2music@yahoo.com](mailto:hope2music@yahoo.com)

# Membership Highlights

Nancy Weber has been very busy. She co-chairs YMF with Tracy Ellwanger and also has time to play with The Shoreline Trio. On December 12th the Trio performed at The First Presbyterian Church in Fairfield. It was called Classical Christmas - A Program of Peaceful Music. Nancy played five classical solos (Chopin, Satie and Debussy). The trio did three selections (Beethoven, Clara Schumann and Mendelssohn). They were joined by Soprano Beverly Blanchard and Nancy's husband Ray on flute to perform three unusual Christmas Carols. Everyone enjoyed the performance and the delightful reception .

Nancy is page turner for the Stamford Symphony special concerts and writes the programs for The American Chamber Orchestra. A new position for her will be chairing the new American Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition which will be held at the end of February 2010.

Our Dr. Joe Utterback is at it again. His Missa Jazzis, a jazzy take on the old Roman Mass, (I've seen it and it really is jazzy) has had several performances - most recently by the Greater New Haven Choral Society. He's composed several new organ pieces, piano works and a new piano/organ set, Celebrations, recently premiered by David

Allen Wehr and Dr. Andrew Shenton. Dr. Joe is currently completing a piano/flugelhorn piece which will see its premiere at his annual Palm Sunday Concert. Keep those wonderful pieces coming!!!!!!

For additional information, please contact Dr. Joe.

In September of 2009, Svetlana Fiorito accepted the position of Music Director at the Long Ridge Music School.

One of her students Chelsea Guo became a winner of the 24th Annual Washington International Young Artist Competition in Washington D.C. Chelsea was featured on WQXR Classical Music, the New York Times News, and The McGraw-Hill Young Artists Showcase hosted by Robert Sherman. She performed Variations on Paganini Theme by I. Berkovich.

Sean Lee won 1st Prize at the "Crescendo" International Piano Competition. He is going to perform at Carnegie Hall on January 24 and then he is going to be a soloist with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra performing Concerto # 1 by S. Prokofiev.

Patrice Fitzgerald and Richard Leslie are performing a benefit concert on January 30th at the Unitarian Church of Hartford. On February 13th they will do another benefit concert as part of a dinner dance at the Lordship Congregational Church in Stratford.

On March 6 they are performing as the "Torch & Tango Trio" in Farmington as a benefit for the Vallis Musicae choir tour of Argentina coming up in July (which we hope to be a part of). Patrice and Richard are members of the Chamber Choir at the Unitarian Church in Westport. They have a newly formed group named SCORE - Southern Connecticut Opera Recital Ensemble. SCORE is looking for performing opportunities at assisted living facilities. Please contact Patrice if you've got any suggestions .

Patrice will be part of "From Russia With Love" on 2/14 at the New Britain Museum of Art, singing a Russian art song and a duet from Queen of Spades - In Russian! They will also be singing Broadway songs as part of the Drama Service being put on by the Unitarian Church of Hartford that same morning.

Patrice and Richard are doing a May 7 concert "Jazz with Dr. Joe" at the First Congregational Church of Stratford.

Eugenie Rocherolle's new "Sonata No. 1 for Flute and Piano" in three movements (Hal Leonard) had its first performance on a Connecticut Composers concert in Wilton October 4 with flautist, Moira Crow, and the composer at the piano. The work was performed again on the annual Wilton Kiwanis Holiday Concert December 5.

Eugenie will present some of her new piano collections at MTNA on a Hal Leonard Publishers Showcase. She will play from an original solo collection, "On the Jazzy Side," duets from "Two's Company," and her arrangements of songs from Rodgers & Hammerstein musicals: "Rodgers & Hammerstein: Selected Favorites." The three collections include a companion CD. Two compositions, "Rhapsodie" and "Journeys End" will be included in an upcoming compilation of Hal Leonard composers featuring music in the romantic style.

She will perform her two piano "Blues Concerto" with Donna Breen Stamm on the Hartford Duo Piano Concert March 14 at the Hartt School of Music.

"Piano Trio No. 3: Century Music," a commission from Chamber Music Central of Westport, was premiered March 8 at Trinity Church in Southport by the Trio Esprit. An eight page feature article, "Eugenie Rocherolle: An American Treasure," by Suzanne Guy, appeared in the March/April issue of *Clavier Companion* magazine commemorating Rocherolle's 30 years of publishing piano repertoire.

Eugenie writes:

*Just to let you know that my new collection of arrangements of Rodgers & Hammerstein is so "hot off the press" that when I opened the package of copies that arrived today, I almost burnt my fingers! (-:*

*I really enjoyed this project, having long been an admirer of their wonderful songs! The title of the collection is: RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN: SELECTED FAVORITES (Hal Leonard). Do check it out.*

*Next will be a collection of original solos, ON THE JAZZY SIDE, so be on the lookout for that, too, probably in late February or early March. Has to be ready for MTNA.*

*Both of these new releases come with a companion CD which I recorded.*

*Wishing you a healthy, happy, and productive new year!*

*Eugenie*

Will Duchon will give a piano recital playing *Carnival Scenes from Vienna, Opus 26* by Robert Schumann and the *Sonata in B Minor* by Franz Liszt at the Gunn Memorial Library.

Gunn Musicians Series with Will Duchon,  
Saturday, January 16  
at 2 pm  
Gunn Memorial Library  
5 Wykeham Road  
Washington, CT 06793  
860-868-7586  
[gunnlib@biblio.org](mailto:gunnlib@biblio.org)  
(Snow Date: January 23,  
2 PM)

Sandra Shaw Murphy and Rita Lapcevic are playing a duet concert for the Westport Public Library on Sunday, April 11 at 2:00 p.m.

The Silvermine Duo-Pianists have their "Spring Gala" concert at Silvermine School of Music, Sunday April 18, at 4:00 p.m. They also have a duet performance at the annual Dogwood Festival at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church in Fairfield on Friday, May 7 at 1:30 p.m.

The Greenfield Hill Congregational Church Chancel Choir and Men's Chorus have a performance Saturday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Dogwood Festival - Sandra Shaw Murphy Music Director.

ALL THESE PERFORMANCES ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

Alexandra DiRoma has won second place in the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition.

She will be performing in New York City for this in the Fall. Ms. DiRoma was previously a first place winner of The Golden Voices of America Competition and made her Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall in the October of 2009. For more information, please visit [www.baivc.com](http://www.baivc.com).

**Accordionist Mary Tokarski to be featured "in concert" with the Prince George's Philharmonic in Largo, Maryland**

Concert Accordionist, Mary Tokarski will be the featured soloist with the Prince George's Philharmonic Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. on February 13, 2010 at the Queen Anne Auditorium at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland - Charles Ellis, Conducting.

Tokarski will be performing "Aconcagua: Concerto for Bandoneon and Orchestra" by Astor Piazzolla. The work, commissioned for a 1979 radio broadcast, resembles a baroque concerto grosso. The "tango nuevo" Piazzolla championed during his lifetime is hinted throughout, especially in the slow movement. The finale, a rhythmic Presto, contains a breathtaking melody, and progresses to a powerful, emotional closing.

Performing both nationally and internationally as a soloist, with Symphony Orchestra, and in a duo known as "Buttons & Keys" (with Bulgarian pianist Dessie Vaughan), this year Tokarski has traveled to China to perform with the Mantovani Orchestra; to New Zealand with the Auckland Symphony; and to Arizona, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Washington D.C., Tennessee, Minnesota, California, and Nevada right here in the United States.

As a workshop presenter, Tokarski is sought-out by numerous associations for presentations on all aspects of music, performance, and Master Classes.

In February of 2011, Tokarski will appear with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra in Hamden, Connecticut performing Gary Daverne's "Rhapsody for Accordion and Orchestra".

For 20 years she served as Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center in North Haven, Connecticut, where she taught piano and accordion, as well as conducted the choral & ensemble programs, and supervised the pre-school programs. Tokarski currently teaches piano and accordion at her home in Northford, Connecticut.

She also served for many years as a Music Educator in the North Haven Department of Education's Early Childhood Development Program at Green Acres Elementary School, is currently 2nd Vice President of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) as well as on the Board of Directors with both The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and the ATG which are the two national member organizations of the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes, (IMC-UNESCO).

For information and tickets, call 301-446-3245 or visit [www.pgphilharmonic.org](http://www.pgphilharmonic.org). For more information on how to book a concert, Tokarski can be reached at 203-484-5095 or by email at [mary.tokarski@comcast.net](mailto:mary.tokarski@comcast.net).

Edith Sullivan's 15-year-old student Connie Zhou, a sophomore at Staples High School in Westport, won the first prize of \$500 in the Musical Club of Hartford's Piano Competition on January 9 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, where the Winner's Recital was held on January 31 at 2:00 and the award presented. Connie was the youngest of the students who participated in this competition.

Schubert Club President Rhea Farbman was chosen by *The Connecticut Jewish Ledger* newspaper as one of 18 Jewish Movers and Shakers for the year 2009. "The award honors individuals involved in bettering our region," explains the Ledger. "Farbman helps bring music into the community."

Rhea's many projects include leading preschoolers at The Conservate Synagogue of Westport, or in musical prayer at a Tot Shabbat at Beit Chaverim Synagogue of Westport/Norwalk, or students at Congregation B'nai Israel religious school in Bridgeport. She also directs The Keshet Project, the longest-running Jewish program in Connecticut for developmentally challenged adults.

**PIANO FOR SALE**

**\$3,000.00**

4'8" 1965 Fischer baby grand, S/N 209272.

French Provincial solid cream color. Holds tuning very well. Last tuned a year ago by Leonard Bernstein's former tuner of 25 years

Call Pat 203-877-4054 evenings, for appointment.

# Addendum

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The members of the Schubert Club thank Colin Stoddard for being Webmaster and designing our beautiful new Centennial Logo. Colin, it's beautiful.

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Natalie Ryshna Maynard's students Marcus Russi and Cormac Cumiskey performed "Brasiliera" from Milhaud's *Scaramouche* for the November 8, 2009 Benefit Concert for "Music for Youth" at Trinity Church in Southport.

Her former pupil, Zach Weiner, who won the Koffler Award in 2008 and is double majoring at Stanford University in Piano and Symbol Systems (a brand new major!) has been chosen to perform in Vienna in October of this year in a major Schoenberg Festival.

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Marcia Preston has a new CD coming out by the first week in February. It's called *Lost in Motion*. Some of Marcia's originals were performed last year at a Schubert Club workshop and they were terrific. We look forward to hearing her new songs.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, we must report that two long-time Schubert Club members passed away recently.

**Harriet L. Pinkert**, who lived in Cos Cob, died on November 20, 2009. She was a pianist who was one of four members on two pianos performing regularly for our performance workshop. She also played many duet programs with Dorothy Slutz in area senior residences and facilities.

Pianist/teacher **Dorothy Dalonzo** of Stamford left us on December 27, 2009. Her longtime involvement in the musical life of the area will be fondly remembered by many. Dorothy was active in the Schubert club performance workshop, serving as its chairman, also in the student Festival and Awards program. She was also active in helping high school pianists attend summer programs and secured a place in the Tanglewood student program for a SC pianist for several summers.

Her friend, Joyce Mitchell, is planning a tribute to Dorothy and would love to have reminiscences in writing:

Joyce Mitchell  
39 Vernon Place  
Stamford, CT 06902.  
(203) 324-3708