



OCTOBER 2020

NOT THE GETAWAY CAR IN A ROBBERY

See Pages 3-4 for Swing for the Symphony Golf Tournament Details

 CHARLESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE, INC.
Inspiring the love of music for generations to come

KEYNOTES

Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

When the CSOL 2020 Swing for the Symphony Golf Tournament Committee met (by Zoom, of course) for the first time on May 13th, we collectively wondered if there was any way we could actually pull off the event scheduled for October 5th. We were faced with many challenges: We were a bit late getting started to plan the event; we were very uncertain as to whether we could actually recruit enough golfers to play given the pandemic and the reluctance of people to gather in a public setting; generating sponsorships to help underwrite the tournament seemed daunting. We wanted to try a new way to fundraise, by conducting an online auction as part of the golf event using software none of us knew anything about. The Charleston Symphony had cancelled all their events from mid-March through the end of the season with no promise of what the fall season would look like. These concerns arose in the first 10 minutes of our first Golf Tournament meeting. You can imagine how the rest of the 2-hour discussion went.

Fast forward to October 5th: We were blessed with a beautiful day of sunshine and perfect temperature. A total of 97 players registered and paid to play golf (out of

Continued on Page 2

BEETHOVEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

-- at the -- **2020 SYMPHONY** Tour of Homes on Kiawah Island



Date: November 7, 2020 **Time:** 10 am to 4 pm

In addition to the tour, enjoy a celebration of **BEETHOVEN'S 250th BIRTHDAY** 11:30 am – 5:30 pm, Freshfields Village Green. Featuring musicians from the Charleston Symphony. Tour ticket not required for the Birthday Celebration. Food & beverages will be available for sale.

SHOP AT SCORE

the CSOL's fun and chic pop-up shop.

\$55 advance tickets through 11/6 - \$60 at the door
Online at www.csolinc.org, at Indigo Books in Freshfields Village or Kiawah Island Municipal Center, 4475 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy. Day of tour tickets available on Freshfields Village Green.

Support provided by BJ D'Elia  Daniel Ravenel  Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY  48 and  KIWAH ISLAND

Masks Required - Social Distancing Enforced
Proceeds benefit the Charleston Symphony and CSOL Music Scholarships

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 100 slots available). In spite of our initial concerns, we generated corporate and private sponsorships and donations to give the event a good financial starting point. More than 30 CSOL volunteers put up signage on and around the course, decorated and set up the auction display space at the Country Club of Charleston, checked in guests, sold mulligans and greeted and guided visitors around the CCofC Clubhouse and campus. The Charleston Symphony Brass arrived in the afternoon, entertaining everyone with great music during our before-dinner beverages and snacks. The online auction was launched 10 days in advance of the Tournament with a succession of promotional emails to get the bidding started early. By dinnertime on Monday, the bidding on cellphones was fast and furious (no technophobes in this crowd).

By all accounts, it was a fun day of golf, food, music, prizes and great auction offerings. Importantly, it was financially successful which was a primary goal of our first in-person CSOL event since Covid restrictions were imposed. It's also a bellwether of other great events that the CSOL has planned for the season ahead.

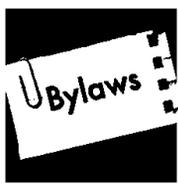
Many orchestras throughout the country cancelled in part or whole their music seasons, furloughed employees, and dramatically reduced their programs. The Charleston Symphony has been a great model for the CSOL over the last 7 months, demonstrating time and again, the art of the possible when optimism leads. In spite of uncertain times and ever-changing public safety mandates, the CSO leadership through their creative and responsible approaches to delivering music to their audiences, their agility in quickly modifying plans as new situations arise (almost on a daily basis!) have been an inspiration to the CSOL. We're ALL working together to keep the music playing here in Charleston.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers, sponsors, donors, golfers and guests who helped make the 2020 Swing for the Symphony Golf Tournament a success. Special thanks to Don and Kitty Reid, Country Club of Charleston Host Sponsors.

I look forward to seeing you at the Symphony Tour of Homes on November 7. If you haven't signed up yet to volunteer at the Tour, please go to Sign Up Genius – we need you!



Stay safe and be well.
Lyn
 Lyn Magee, CSOL President



Join the Bylaws Committee:
 The Committee meets as needed when a motion is approved by the Board to amend the Bylaws or Standing Rules. In fact, the work of the Committee typically doesn't require meetings at all; most communication is by email.
 This is a great way for new members to get involved and learn more about the CSOL (or if attending meetings isn't your thing!) Please contact Martha Thomson, Bylaws Chair at 610.291.3757.



NEEDED: Bust Of Beethoven

The Tour of Homes Decorations Committee

needs décor for the tent which will host the Friday night Volunteer Party and the 250th Birthday Bash on Saturday. Can you loan a bust of Beethoven(!), larger musical scores and notes, old instruments, etc.?

Contact Marty Penkhus,
penkhus@icloud.com

USHERS NEEDED

For upcoming CSO Masterworks and Pops Concerts at the Gaillard:
 October 23, 24 & 30,
 December 4, 5, 18 & 19

Contact Kiana Kim
kkim@gaillardcenter.org

TOUR OF HOMES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Go to CSOLinc.org
<https://csolinc.org/sign-up-genius/>

CHECK OUT THE SMIZE!

(Huh? The Smiling Eyes Above the Masks)

Swing for the Symphony Golf Tournament & Reception

Musician Sponsors

James Brown
Thomas DeWall
Ornella & Bob Gebhardt
Paul Hilstad
David Savard

First Prize Donors

Seabrook Island Club
Kiawah Island Club
Country Club of Charleston
Clyde & Jill Hiers

Golf Handicap & Format/Rules

Director John Ward

Donors

Debbie & Fritz Goulding
Deb & Jim Barr
Rich Segal



SCORE: Jewelry At The Tour Of Homes



“You might call it a 6th sense: I recognize quickly if an item is going to be a good seller. It’s a combination of something that’s a good value but also unique and pretty.”

That’s how Gail Wamboldt describes why she is a good merchant, designer and salesperson. Gail (and her co-chair of Merchandizing, Anne Warf) are members of the CSOL Board. They lead the Committee that’s responsible for running SCORE, the pop-up shop that generates a substantial amount of money for the Symphony and helps fund the CSOL’s scholarships.

And in addition to her formal role, Gail is also a top consignor at SCORE – she designs jewelry that her fans describe as “classy,” “chic,” “versatile” and “the difference between being dressed and well-dressed.”

None of this is a surprise once you understand Gail’s business background. Her college degree was in fashion merchandizing and she grew up in big time retail enterprises: Hahnes, Nordstrom, Liz Claiborne, to name a few. Gail’s career was unusually multi-faceted in that she moved easily between merchandizing as a buyer and store operations as a store manager. Translation: She can generate revenue *and* manage expenses. (Few are proficient at this; Gail is).

Gail moved to Mt Pleasant in 1997 and worked in real estate – something she’d done successfully up north. When she and a girlfriend missed out on purchasing a necklace they saw at a Summerville craft show, Gail thought, “I can make that!” And did. When she wore her new creation to the office, it was admired by many. She took orders and that was the start of her new passion and career.



When Gail reflects on her lifelong interest in clothes, she says, “I always noticed what other people were wearing who looked good, but I always put my own spin on it.” She says high-end catalogues like Neiman Marcus inform her aesthetic in general, but in specific, “The stones talk to you. Sometimes, I’ll buy something and have no idea what I’m going to make with it. But I really look at the stones, and they speak to me. It comes together.”

Wearability matters to her. “I want to create jewelry that you’ll wear with a white blouse and jeans AND with your little black dress. Well-designed jewelry works with many outfits and it adds the necessary sparkle.”

Gail is in her element when she talks about SCORE. “Anne and I want shopping at SCORE to be something people anticipate as much as seeing the homes on the TOH or visiting the designers’ rooms at the DSH. That means providing a fresh mix of merchandise that’s special, unique and priced right. Our goal is to make money for the Symphony and CSOL education initiatives by surprising and delighting customers.”

Be sure to shop Gail’s and SCORE’s other fine makers’ jewelry at the Tour of Homes. SCORE has invited its top consignors to participate (you voted on them by your past purchases!) It’s the perfect time to start holiday shopping or reward the truly deserving (YOU).

Dear SCORE:

I love the old-fashioned CSOL tassels made from retired Symphony music - but we don't do holiday décor anymore; setting up and taking down the tree is just too much work. Any suggestions about how to use the tassels other than as an ornament?

Signed

Perplexed on the Peninsula

From Anne Warf, SCORE Co-Chair:

So glad you asked. We think the tassels should be displayed year-round, highlighting a sweet dresser, attached to a key of a charming amoire or as a special gift to a deserving musician or music fan. Hope we've captured your imagination.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE CSOL TASSELS BENEFIT CSO AND CSOL MUSIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES



CSOL CSOL CSOL CSOL
\$CHOLARSHIPS





spotlight

ON KATHERINE ST. JOHN

Katherine St. John is beginning her 29th season with the Charleston Symphony, having joined in September, 1992. She plays Second Bassoon; from 2009 to 2015, she served as Acting Principal Bassoon. In addition to performing with the CSO, Kathy plays chamber music regularly, teaches talented young bassoonists throughout the Charleston area and taught for several years at CSU as Adjunct Professor of Bassoon.

Kathy grew up in Atlanta, GA, and received her Bachelor of Music in bassoon performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. While in Ohio, Kathy was Principal Bassoon of the Canton Symphony for 4 years before moving to Charleston. She was Acting Principal Bassoon with the Akron Symphony for a season and Second Bassoon with Pro Musica, a chamber orchestra in Columbus, OH. In Cleveland, she freelanced as Principal Bassoon with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Cleveland New Music Association and the Ohio Ballet.

Q: Your bio mentions you have an affinity for dark chocolate -- true?

A: (Laughs) I like trying different brands but I may be reformed: I was given some healthy chocolate bars – sugar-free, dairy-free, gluten-free, ethically-sourced, etc. They're awful. I learned my lesson; I'll stick with Ghirardelli or Godiva.

Q: How did you start playing the bassoon?

A: My twin brother joined the school band (he subsequently dropped out) and when I wanted to join, I was told they needed a bassoon player. If I only knew what I know now about the fickleness of bassoon reeds. Many days, the weather changes and your reed checks out on you. Rarely is it all unicorns and rainbows. Reeds are just that temperamental. As a result, I have reeds at various stages of the break-in process, the goal being your reed peaks right *after* your performance ends. For each Masterworks performance, I prepare anywhere from 6 to 8 reeds and use 3 or 4 of them.

It wasn't until I went to a summer festival in Valdosta, GA that I thought, "I want to do this as a career." In hindsight, I was a teenager and thought I was (like all teenagers do) invincible. I've learned – again – the audition process is one of the hardest things you can do for a living. Everyone who auditions is superbly qualified. The question is, do the judges like *your* sound?

So, one's sound. I started taking lessons from the Principal Bassoonist of the Atlanta Symphony and he had a dark sound I loved. I auditioned for and was accepted at the Cleveland Institute of Music – known for producing bassoonists with that darker sound.

Q: Hmmm. Dark chocolate, dark sound?

A: Dark and milk chocolate are great and different. The same thing applies to a brighter versus a darker sound. (By the way, the hall in which you play also has a dramatic impact on your sound). I like a warm, dark, round sound, closer to a tuba than a saxophone. But this isn't about good versus evil. It's just about difference.

I had great experiences in Cleveland – I listened to one of the world's best orchestras frequently and was surrounded by talented student musicians. In my senior year, the Canton Symphony hired me as their Principal Bassoonist so I learned how to juggle my school schedule with a big concert each month. It was both terrifying and amazing.

After I graduated, I stayed in Ohio, taking private lessons, practicing, making reeds, participating in summer festivals and taking auditions. In 1992, I auditioned for the Charleston Symphony and was thrilled when I won. I planned to stay for a few years ... and 28 years later, I'm still here.

Q: What have you been doing while staying-at-home?

A: I've continued teaching a number of my students online. One of the first realizations is students need to focus the camera on their fingers, in addition to their faces. And it's a challenge to play a duet with students because of the internet bandwidth delay. (You can tell if you're out of sync by trying to clap together. If you can't do that, you can't play a duet). When a teacher plays a duet with a student, you demonstrate the sound quality, tempo, rhythm. And it gives students a boost – we're playing together. I've made some recordings and given them to students so they can play with me on their own.

I've also been able to spend virtual time with my musician friends using the app House Party to play games. Oh, I don't want to forget: With Charlie Messersmith's (CSO, Principal Clarinet) help, we painted 3 rooms in our house. It would be insane to say this is a good time but it's forced us to stop being busy being busy.

Q: You were here when the Symphony closed in 2010. How do the times we live in now compare to that?

A: No comparison. There's no Them versus Us. Our leadership, Michael (Smith) and Ken (Lam) are engaged with the orchestra – they truly listen. Our Board supports and respects us and our League takes care of us. Even with the spatial distance, we feel united.

REYBURN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SELECTED



CSOL Scholarships for young musicians are alive and well. Six students received CSOL need-based Reyburn scholarships to help defray the cost of their private music lessons during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. The \$270.00 will be sent directly to each student's private music teacher, which will fund (9) 30-minute lessons. With positive recommendations from the teachers, the same amount will be sent in January, 2021, again, directly to the students' teachers.

Ann Birdseye of the CSOL Education Committee has sent an announcement to all area school districts about the 3 types of scholarships will be offered in 2021: College, Matching Grants, and Summer Study. Applications for these must be postmarked by January 19, 2021. Auditions will be held online during March. Email Ann Birdseye at annbirdseye@gmail.com for additional information.



WHEN THINGS GO WRONG,
DON'T GO WITH THEM.

-- Elvis Presley

CSOL 2020 CALENDAR

Oct. 21	Virtual Wine with the Maestro	Join Ken Lam for an Online Interactive Presentation on the First Masterworks	5:00 PM
Nov. 7	Symphony Tour of Homes; Beethoven's Birthday Celebration	Kiawah Island; Freshfields Village Green	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM; 12:00 PM – 5:30 PM
TBD	Virtual Wine with the Maestro	Join Ken Lam for an Online Interactive Presentation on the Second Masterworks	5:30 PM
TBD	Virtual Wine with the Principal Pops Conductor	Join Yuriy Bekker for an Online Interactive Holiday Pops Presentation	5:30 PM

WAS BEETHOVEN
ANGRY OR DID HE NEED
UNDER EYE CONCEALER?



At the *Virtual Wine with the Maestro* on October 21 at 5:00 PM, Ken Lam will not discuss cosmetic application.

But, he will focus on Beethoven's life and compositional background of his first 2 symphonies, from Beethoven's birth to about 1802, when he was 32. (He'll also provide tips on how to get the most from the digital platform and watching the CSO concert at home.)

BRING THE LIBATION OF
CHOICE OVER TO YOUR
COMPUTER SCREEN & ENJOY
BEING A CSO INSIDER