

# MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK



Ma'alwyck Newsletter 3.0

November 2020

## Artists

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Founder & Director, Violinist  
Sten Isachsen, Guitarist  
Norm Thibodeau, Flutist

## Board Members

Michael Barnas, Chair  
Deborah Esrick, Secretary  
Samuel Zimmerman, Treasurer  
George de Piro  
Laura Dike  
Kathleen Quandt  
Sharon Roy

## Staff

Caroline Fleming Brown, Grant Writer  
Irene DeGraff, Administrative Assistant

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org](http://www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org)

## Follow Us



Dear Friends,

Our last newsletter was in early 2020, and I find it hard to comprehend exactly how much has changed for Musicians of Ma'alwyck and for the world since those first few days of January. 2020 was to be our big 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration year; and we have certainly traveled through this year in a way we could never have anticipated. But somewhere in the ashes there is always an ember to be stoked, and I believe that MofM has been able to build a nice fire. We remain musically active in a virtual format, and we have had the chance to produce some creative and artistically satisfying projects, despite COVID's restrictions. I want to share with you our 2020 year. You will find pictures and more material about specific events on the following pages.

Before the virus dictated our lives, the first two months of 2020 were fabulous. January was a whirlwind of activity with our *Clara* subscription concert, which celebrated the legacy of Clara Schumann. We were joined by guest artists Theodore Arm and Sasha Margolis, violins, and two up and coming young musicians from the Empire State Youth Orchestra, violinist Georgia Burt and violist Avi Patel for a wonderful program of music by Bargiel and Brahms. We were the concluding concert in a several day long festival on Clara Schumann organized by the Albany Symphony.

***Celebrating Clara, Sunday, January 12, 2020***

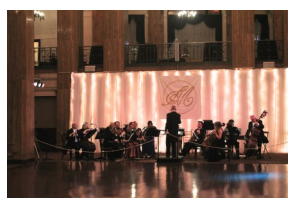
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy**



February was no less exciting, with our first annual (and hopefully not our last) **Viennese Ball**. More than 100 guests waltzed and dined and listened to great music performed by an MofM orchestra conducted by Brett Wery. MET opera soprano Emalie Savoy joined us for arias by Johann Strauss II and Franz Lehar.

**Schaltjahr (Leap Year) Viennese Ball, Saturday, February, 29, 2020**

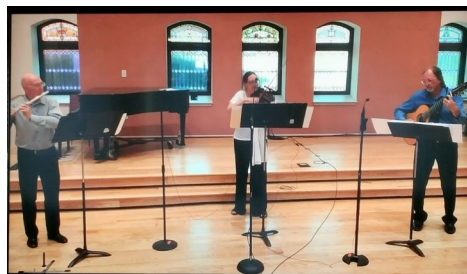
**90 State Street, Albany**



(Continued)

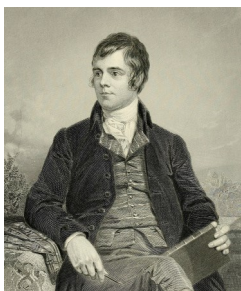
March was a different story as the reality of the corona virus set in. Concerts disappeared in a matter of days, not only for March, but into June and way beyond. After a few weeks of disbelief and confusion, I reached out to First Reformed Church in Schenectady, where we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship for nearly a decade, to see if they wanted some music for their congregation. That initial offer turned into a weekly concert on Sundays at 3pm that continued until November 22nd, we played nearly 40 concerts!

### Sunday Musical Sanctuary First Reformed Church, Schenectady



By April we started to find our stride with a concert from my home (Ma'alwyck 1712) of Scottish music. This concert was originally set to be at the Schuyler Mansion, but this was no longer an option. The livestream from my house was our first experiment with the technology, and of course it was a learning experience, but a good one. And it encouraged us to explore more possibilities.

### Musicians of Ma'alwyck at Ma'alwyck , April 26 @ 3pm *Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot*



Rather than describe each virtual event that we have done since (and there are a lot), I thought I would list some of the highlights.

### *Songs of the Suffragists* Albany Public Library June 13 Albany Institute of History & Art August 26



## Remembering.....

### Petia Kassarova



Musicians of Ma'alwyck lost our founding cellist **Petia Kassarova** on July 20. A fabulous musician and wonderful performer, Petia passed away after a long struggle with ovarian cancer. We are devastated to lose her and miss her greatly. You can read a longer tribute on our website, which also includes a link to her last performance with us.

### Mary Jane Dike



A bastion of the arts community and a long-time friend to Musicians of Ma'alwyck, **Mary Jane Dike** passed away on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. A dancer, arts activist and loyal patron, Mary Jane supported our group since its very first days. She was a regular in our audiences and could be counted on for her generosity. She will be sorely missed. You can read more about her in MTC No 28.

*Mary Jane, who's passion was music and dance. She always wanted to keep the arts alive, especially in this area. Ann-Marie, please continue to make music that brings joy to everyone.*

Helga Prichard



Recording of a CD and virtual concert and two mini-documentaries at Hyde Hall  
View *Times Union* feature article on our website under "News"



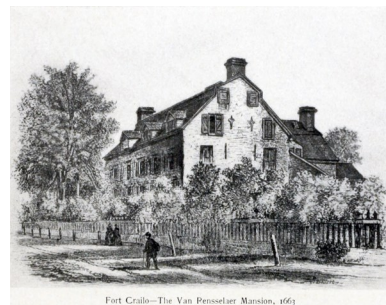
Played at Caffè Lena, which was livestreamed August 14, 2020



Filming a concert with Albany Pro Musica at the Troy Music Hall for broadcast in the spring on WMHT-TV

Filming two concerts sponsored by the Consulate General of the Netherlands with Dutch repertory  
View *Daily Gazette* article on our website under "News"

Crailo State Historic Site, November 13, 2020

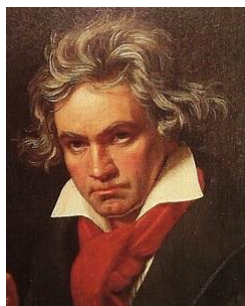


Fort Crailo—The Van Penseleer Mansion, 1863

Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, November 20, 2020

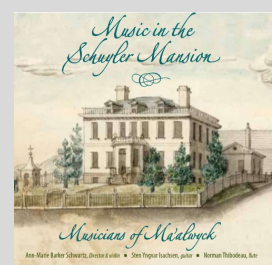


**Beethoven 250th Anniversary Celebration Concert**  
**Sunday, November 1, 2020 , Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site**

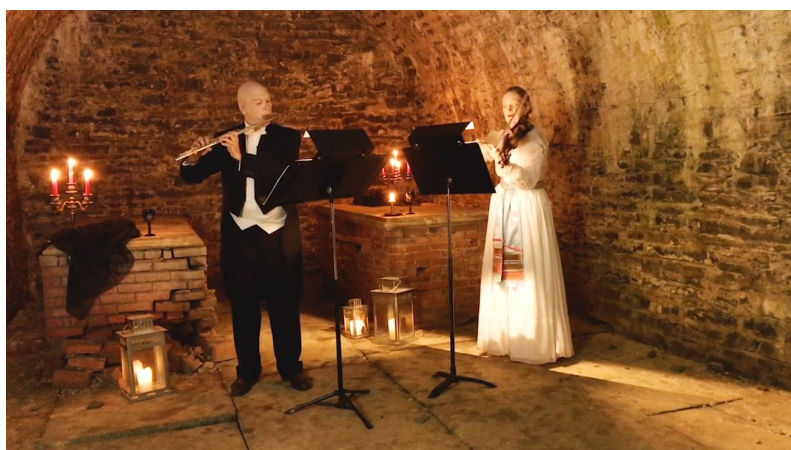


## Another Way To Support

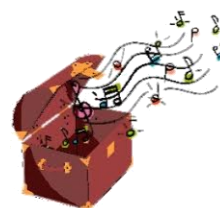
Recorded in the historic acoustically superb Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, our CD features the historic repertory the ensemble is renowned for. The Times Union review referred to the CD as a "charmer." Our CD is available from our website.



**Filming of a monthly "short" video with music and other artistic media or historic sites**  
***Music From the Crypt, Hyde Hall, October***



**Weekly Musical Treasure Chests**  
**View each edition of Musical Treasure Chest on our website**



I am proud that we salvaged our year. And I am delighted that we turned what was, early on, a bleak, depressing scenario into a creative, exciting environment. And while it's still disappointing to perform without audience present, it's been made up for a bit by virtual concerts.

Normally this time of year I would send out our annual fund letter, asking for support. Instead, in this strange time, I thought I would let you see that we are very much continuing to make music and to offer artistically valid and satisfying experiences. I hope that you will consider our efforts worth your support and that you will help launch Musicians of Ma'alwcyk from our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary towards our 25<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you, and please join us for one of our virtual performances.

Sincerely,

*Anna-Maria Barker Schwartz*



## Upcoming Events!

November Short  
Tribute to Petia Kassarova

December 14, 2020 @ 8pm  
*Open For Take-Out Virtual Concert Series*  
The Linda WAMC's Performing Arts Studio

December Short  
Beethoven 250<sup>th</sup> birthday special

January 17, 2021 @ 2:30pm  
*Beat The Snow Concert Series*  
Schenectady County Public Library

January Short  
12<sup>th</sup> Night at Schuyler Mansion

This season is supported in part by grants from:

The Community Foundation of  
the Greater Capital Region



JM McDonald Foundation



J. M. McDonald  
Foundation

## Virtual Concerts on MofM YouTube Channel

Robert Burns from the Ma'alwyck House  
From Caffè Lena

Celebrating 100 Years of the Vote

Music From The Crypt

Hyde Hall Courtyard Concert

Beethoven from the Schuyler Mansion

Dutch Program 1: Crailo

Dutch Program 2: Schuyler Mansion



## Welcome Sharon Roy & Caroline Fleming Brown!



Our newest Board member, **Sharon Roy** retired from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where she was director of academic and research computing. She is a writer of personal essays and fiction. She has read her work on WAMC's *The Roundtable*, at the Arts Center

of the Capital Region, and at writing conferences, and published essays in the Albany Times Union and professional journals.

As a singer, she was a member of Albany Pro Musica for over 30 years and served on the board. For many years she was a soprano soloist in the choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy. Currently, she is a member of Albany Pro Musica's Masterworks Chorus and the Burnt Hills Oratorio Society.

Sharon grew up in Michigan and earned a BA in English from the University of Michigan, MAT at Johns Hopkins, and DA in English at UAlbany.

She was married for 49 years to Harry, a professor of biology at RPI, who shared her enthusiasm for travel, French, music, books and conversation, and the Musicians of Ma'alwyck. Sadly, Harry died in 2018. They have one son, who lives with his wife in Jackson Heights, Queens.



**Caroline Fleming Brown** joined the Musicians of Ma'alwyck administrative team in June. She is a former violin student of mine, who attended Barnard College as a French and Russian major, and then worked as a French instructor at Cheshire School in Connecticut for several years. Following that she worked in the Brick Store Museum as an Engagement Coordinator in Kennenbunk, Maine as Assistant to the Director at the

Bowdoin College Museum of Arts. She is currently working on her Masters of Arts in Museum Studies at the Cooperstown Graduate Program and working for us as our grant writer. We are delighted to welcome Caroline to our "team."

## Creative Arts Sale

Just in time for holiday shopping, purchase one of these items at discount prices and support MofM. Items are delivered within the Capital Region at no charge. To order, email Irene@musiciansofmaalwyck.org or phone 814-441-0852. All items are new and make unique Christmas gifts.



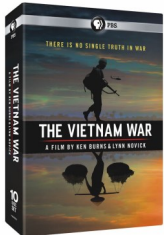
### **An Original Acrylic Painting by Helga Prichard, 14x16"**

"Centerfield" by Helga Prichard is an original acrylic painting and has been matted and framed. Helga Prichard studied art and modern dance for pleasure while earning a bachelor's degree in Natural Science from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY. In art the study of shape, color and form and in dance the use of time, space and energy sharpened her awareness of the beauty surrounding us. A realistic landscape painter at first, she now more and more lets her impressions govern the presentation of the subject matter. Price: \$135



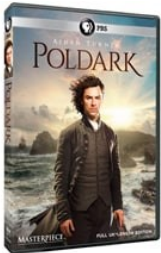
### **Goddess of Mercy Buddha Statue**

Top Collection H 7.25" W 6.5" Water & Moon Quan Yin in Royal Ease Pose Statue in Cold Cast Bronze - EXQUISITE CRAFTSMANSHIP - Premium sculpted cold cast bronze - real bronze powder mixed with resin. Hand-painted in bronze finish to give a high-quality antique look without sacrificing the details. Donated by Segel Violins. Price: \$45



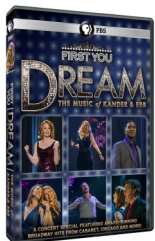
### **The Vietnam War: A Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, 10 DVD set**

This immersive ten-part, eighteen hour documentary film series directed by acclaimed filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, tells the epic story of one of the most divisive, consequential and misunderstood events in American history, as it has never before been told on film. Price: \$75



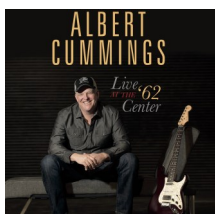
### **Masterpiece: Poldark, Seasons 1-3, 9 disc set (full UK-length edition)**

Ross Poldark rides again in a swashbuckling new adaptation of the hit series that helped launch MASTERPIECE in the 1970s. Aidan Turner (The Hobbit) stars as Captain Poldark, who returns to Cornwall after the American Revolution to find that his fighting days are far from over. Feeling betrayed by everything he loves, Ross must rebuild his life, embarking on a risky business venture and finding love where he least expects it. This striking saga is based on the novels by Winston Graham and set against the dramatic Cornish coastline. Price: \$90



### **First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb DVD**

First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb First You Dream is a landmark television event: a tribute to John Kander and Fred Ebb, the legendary Oscar, Emmy, Tony and Grammy award winning songwriting team whose Broadway shows include Cabaret, Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman, The Act, Curtains and The Scottsboro Boys and timeless songs. Price: \$19



### **Albert Cummings: Live at the '62 Center (2017) CD**

Ivy Music Company release of the live performance of Albert Cummings at the Williams College '62 Center for Theatre & Dance in Williamstown, MA. Price: \$11



To allow us to continue our artistic activities through live streaming and recording during this pandemic, we need your ongoing support. The generosity of our friends allows us to perform in historic venues throughout the Capital Region. **For a donation of \$100 or more, receive a MofM 20th anniversary commemorative wine glass.**

Select one of these options to donate:

- Submit this form with check or credit card information to:  
Musicians of Ma'alwyck, 511 Mohawk Ave, Scotia, NY 12302
- On-line on our website under "Support"

### Levels of Support

Benefactor (\$1,000 +) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$500-999) \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Patron (\$250-499) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to **Musicians of Ma'alwyck**

Your gift is tax-deductible.

Thank you!



**Musicians of Ma'alwyck**

**511 Mohawk Ave**

**Scotia, NY 12302**



*Thank  
you*

Thank you to those that have donated generously to help sustain MofM, including:

**Auriel Camerata**

**Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region**

**Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York**

**Dike Family**

**GE Foundation**

**Hyde Hall**

**JM McDonald Foundation**

**Price Chopper**

**Stewart's Shops**

### **Share Your Email 3 Reasons To Go Paperless !**

- Keep up with current activities with weekly eblasts, including the Musical Treasure Chest
- Save postage & printing costs
- Use your generous donations for artistic endeavors, not administrative expenses

To add your email address, simply email:  
[Irene@musiciansofmaalwyck.org](mailto:Irene@musiciansofmaalwyck.org)

Emails are not shared & you may unsubscribe at any time