

# Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Presents

*Lafayette Visits the Schuylers*



**Sunday, May 2, 2021 @ 4pm**

**Schuylers Mansion State Historic Site**



In February of 1778 Lafayette visited the Albany region to head up an invasion of Quebec that never occurred. He remained in the Albany area for about six weeks, meeting with General Philip Schuyler and strategizing about the war. This concert imagines a dinner for Lafayette at the Schuyler Mansion (while likely, we have no proof that it happened) and a subsequent serenade for the honored guest comprised entirely of French music.

Funding for this program was provided in part by a grant from the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and from the donors to Musicians of Ma'alwyck. Thank you.



# Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Director & Violin

Norman Thibodeau, Flute

André Laurent O'Neil, Cello

## Guest Artists

Alfred V. Fedak, Harpsichord

Heather Chan, Violin

## *Layfayette Visits The Schuylers*

**Sunday, May 2, 2021 @ 4pm**  
**Schuylers Mansion State Historic Site**

## Program

François-André Danican Philidor (1726-1795)

Sinfonia IV in B-Flat Major from *The Art of Modulation* (1755)

Adagio Allegro ma non troppo Aria (Gratioso)

Michel Blavet (1700-1768)

Sonata V in D Major, op 2 for Flute and Continuo (1732)

"La Chauvet" Largo Allegro "Le Marc-Antoine" Rondo/Aria "Les Regrets" Tendrement  
Allegro/Fuga "La Dédale" Gavotte

Joseph Bodin de Boismortier (1689-1755)

Sonata V in A Major, op 51 for Flute and Violin (1734)

Larghetto Presto Sarabanda Allegro

Jean-Baptiste Breval (1753-1823)

Sonata IV in G Major, op 28 for Cello and Continuo

Allegro Tempo di Minuetto: Grave (Variations on 'God Save the King')

François-André Danican Philidor

Sinfonia III in G Major from *The Art of Modulation* (1755)

Moderato Aria 1 & 2 Giga (Allegro)

Musicians of Ma'alwyck is grateful to the Staff of the Schuylers Mansion State Historic Site, Heidi Hill, Site Manager and Michelle Mavigliano, Interpretive Programs Assistant for their help with this concert.

## Program Notes

Last year I read a novel about Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, and while the book was fictional, it was still based on historically documented events. One of the chapters described a meeting between Lafayette and Eliza in 1778, and this description sparked the idea for a concert to fête Lafayette when he might have been a guest at the Mansion. Of course, I selected all French repertory, pieces and composers he might have well been familiar with—they all worked in the court in Paris and played in the best orchestras. I did throw in one piece that post dates Lafayette’s 1778, because I couldn’t resist. The Brevet sonata was written in 1787, but its use of the “God Save the King” melody as the basis of a substantial variation movement, was too loaded with humorous insinuation to omit from the program, plus our cellist plays it beautifully.

I hope you enjoy the premise of the program. I can imagine an elegant dinner with the charming Lafayette as the guest of honor, perhaps with James Monroe in attendance as well (as he was in some of the same meetings with Lafayette in Saratoga and Albany in 1778). The conversation would have been animated and full of discussion of the war and battles and strategy. The Schuyler were known as wonderful hosts, and I am sure the meal would have been lavish and after dining, the guests and family would have gone upstairs for entertainment.

### *The Spirit of Philidor* Video Short by Byron Nilsson

Available May 2nd on MofM YouTube Channel



## Biographies

**Musicians of Ma'alwyck** is a flexible-size chamber ensemble in residence at the Schuyler Mansion New York State Historic Site and Schenectady County Community College. Founded in 1999 by violinist and director Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, the group specializes in music performed in America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of the performing materials are drawn from the Special Collections of the New York State Library. In 2002, Musicians of Ma'alwyck performed by invitation for television producer Norman Lear in celebration of his purchase of the last private copy of the Declaration of Independence. Musicians of Ma'alwyck has been presented on National Public Radio, WMHT-FM and WMHT-TV. In 2009 the ensemble produced the 1783 opera *The Poor Soldier* by William Shield, drawing national attention. Musicians of Ma'alwyck was named the best chamber music ensemble of the Capital Region for both 2008 and 2009 by *Metroland*. In the spring of 2019 and 2020 Musicians of Ma'alwyck was nominated for an Eddie Regional Music Award.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck first commercial CD, which Joseph Dalton of the *Times Union* praised, calling it "elegant and charming," is *Music in the Schuyler Mansion*. Our second CD *Hyde Hall and the Silver Goddess* was just released.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck also performs regularly at Hyde Hall, the 19<sup>th</sup> century home of the George Hyde Clarke family. Musicians of Ma'alwyck can be seen in a series of video shorts on Youtube in various historic locations, including Hyde Hall.

**Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz**, founder and director of Musicians of Ma'alwyck, attended Boston University, where she studied with Roger Shermont and received a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance. Concertmaster of Albany Pro Musica and many of the choral orchestras in the Capital Region, and a former member of the first violin section of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and Barker Schwartz currently performs with the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra. She received her Master's degree in American History from the University at Albany (New York), where she specialized in research of music in America during the 1700s and 1800s. A Cunningham Research Resident at the New York State Library, she worked on early 19<sup>th</sup>-century musical activities in Albany, culminating in a production in 2009 of George Washington's favorite opera *The Poor Soldier* by William Shield and John O'Keefe. Ms. Schwartz was a producer for Dorian Recordings, and continues in that capacity for the award-winning Baroque ensemble REBEL. Their last recording, devoted to music of Telemann, was in the 2014 Grammy pool.

Ms. Schwartz has taught music history at the University at Albany and Siena College. She is the adjunct professor of violin and viola at Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) and at Union College.

**Norman Thibodeau** has been a member of Musicians of Ma'alwyck since 2006. He also performs with the wind quintet Fünf and Vermont Virtuosi, and has performed with the Maverick Chamber Players. He was assistant principal flutist of the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México and has played with almost all the professional orchestras in and near the Capital Region of New York State. In 2008, he was guest solo artist for the Skidmore College Flute Festival. He has recorded solo flute works of Anthony Holland for Albany Records, and has had both live and recorded performances broadcast on NPR. He embraces variety and versatility in his performing life, having performed on a range of flutes from baroque traverso to contrabass flute, plus a quarter-tone flute with a sliding headjoint.

A composer as well, Norman has works published and recorded by ALRY Publications and Albany Records. Norman was trained at Peabody Conservatory and the University at Albany. His teachers include Irvin Gilman, Robert Dick, Stephen Preston, and Britton Johnson. Norman teaches flute at Schenectady Community College, Union College and the Berkshire Music School. He also teaches extended flute techniques each summer at the Wildacres Flute Retreat, and has taught flute at Colgate University, the College of St. Rose, and the University at Albany.

Additionally, Norman is a trained practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method, an approach to movement education that musicians in particular have found highly beneficial to their performance level and comfort.

## Biographies

**Heather Chan**, violinist, is a native of Schenectady. She attended Brigham University and the Eastman School of Music receiving both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Violin Performance and Computer Science. She currently works at GE Global Research as Lead Ultrasound System Engineer. Heather also maintains an active performing schedule. She is concertmaster of the Union College Community Orchestra and the Music Company Orchestra. She subs with both the Glens Falls and Schenectady Symphony Orchestras and she is a member of the Upper Catskill String Quartet.

**Alfred V. Fedak**, born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, holds degrees in Organ Performance and Music History from Hope College and Montclair State University, and has done additional study at Westminster Choir College, Eastman School of Music, and in Austria and England. His organ studies were with Prudence Curtis, Roger Davis, Roger Rietberg, and Jon Gillock, and his harpsichord studies were with Arthur Haas. A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Mr. Fedak also holds the AGO's Choirmaster Certificate, and since 1986 has been a member of the Guild's national Board of Examiners. Widely known as a composer of church music, he has over 300 choral and organ works in print, and his numerous hymn tunes appear in dozens of hymnals throughout the English-speaking world and Asia. The winner of many honors and awards in both organ performance and composition, including the AGO's prestigious S. Lewis Elmer Award, he has performed and lectured widely throughout the US and abroad. His highly-reviewed 2008 CD, "Come, Creator Spirit," features nearly 80 minutes of his original organ compositions. He has lectured and/or performed throughout most of the United States, and as a recitalist, accompanist, or church musician, has performed in 11 foreign countries. Mr. Fedak served on the editorial committees that produced two hymnals: *Sing! A New Creation* and *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, and since 1990 has worked as Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Capitol Hill in Albany. He is also organist/choir director at Albany's Congregation Beth Emeth; harpsichordist/organist with Capitol Chamber Artists; a member of the adjunct music faculty at SUNY Schenectady, and accompanist/composer-in-residence for the Hudson-Mohawk Chorale. [www.alfredfedak.com](http://www.alfredfedak.com)

**André Laurent O'Neil** loves to stay active in many diverse musical projects, ranging from performing on and with period instruments (including the viola da gamba and fortepiano), to teaching modern cello, playing chamber music, and composing. A deep and lifelong interest in Johann Sebastian Bach's Solo Cello Suites has led him to record all six for CD release this March. André performs regularly with Capitol Chamber Artists and Bennington Baroque, is principal cellist of the Union College Community Orchestra, Studio Instructor at Union College, and is the newly appointed principal cellist of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. He also collaborates frequently with Musicians of Ma'alwyck. Farther afield he is the principal continuo baroque cellist and gamba player for New Trinity Baroque, with whom he performs several times a year in Atlanta, Georgia and Belgrade, Serbia. He is an alumnus of the Empire State Youth Orchestra.

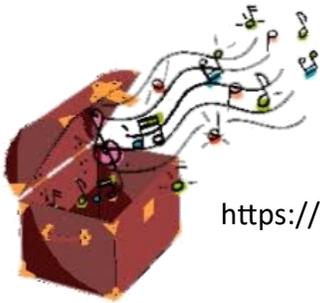


Watch Virtual Concerts on MofM  
YouTube Channel

**Musicians of Ma'alwyck  
Latest CD**



***Hyde Hall and the Silver Goddess:  
Operatic Brilliance of Auber, Bellini, Meyerbeer & Rossini from the Drawing Room***



**MUSICAL TREASURE CHEST**

Weekly issues available on website:

<https://musiciansofmaalwyck.org/musical-treasure-chest>

**Musicians of Ma'alwyck Board of Directors**

Michael Barnas, Chair

Deborah Esrick, Secretary

Samuel Zimmerman, Treasurer

George de Piro, Laura Dike, Kathleen Quandt, Sharon Roy

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Founder and Director

Caroline Fleming Brown, Grant Writer

Irene DeGraff, Administrative Assistant



# **Musicians of Ma'alwyck**

**511 Mohawk Avenue**

**Scotia, New York 12302**

**814-441-0852**

**[www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org](http://www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org)**