

MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK



Ma'alwyck Newsletter 4.0

June 2021

Artists

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Founder & Director, Violinist
Sten Isachsen, Guitarist
Norm Thibodeau, Flutist
André Laurent O'Neil, Cellist

Board Members

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

Staff

Caroline Brown, Grant Writer
Irene DeGraff, Administrative Assistant

Contact Us

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

511 Mohawk Ave
Scotia, NY 12302
(814) 441-0852

Annmarie
@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Irene
@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Visit us on the web at
www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org

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Dear Friends,

Summer is here with an intensity that could have only been imagined a few weeks ago. In the air is a hint of freshness and rebirth, in a literal sense as flowers and trees spring to life and in a figurative sense, as the world reawakens from its COVID-imposed hibernation. Concerts with audiences in person will return, albeit with distance and attendance restrictions, but with human bodies reacting to the music created in a real acoustic. I cannot tell you how exciting and inspiring it is.

As I look back over the last six months since our last Musicians of Ma'alwyck newsletter, in one sense I feel a sense of disbelief and in another a sense of immense pride: not only did we survive, we found a viable path for our music and creativity, reinventing ourselves virtually. I will share with you in pictures and narrative our activities, and many of the performances are still available on our Youtube, and I invite you to view them.

Since October we have made seven video shorts, sort of the chamber music version of MTV! What fun we have had making these. Our first was filmed in the crypt at Hyde Hall (and it was indeed creepy), followed by my tribute to our late cellist Petia Kassarova (the music was from a Bulgarian collection she gave me, and the piece was choreographed and danced by Laurie Zabale Cawley).



Oct 9—*Music From The Crypt*



Nov 28—Tribute to Petia

We continued the dance theme with a minuet performed to 18th century Dutch music at the Schuyler Mansion as part of their 12th Night celebration. We upped our professionalism for our next video celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday by collaborating with director Byron Nilsson, who has been involved with all our video shorts since. For Inauguration Day we offered a humorous video about Martin Van Buren.



Dec 16—Beethoven Serenade



Jan 6—Twelfth Night Minuet



Jan 20—Mr. President Be Seated

Our latest videos have been about the composer and chess player Francois Philidor and a very special look at Albany's Kenmore Ballroom (set in 1932 with dancers Florin Vlad and Natalia O'Connor, and filmed by Chromoscope).



May 2—*The Spirit of Philidor*



May 9—*Kenmore Ballroom Audition*

A thank you to our sponsors: Stewart's Shops, Price Chopper, the JM McDonald Foundation, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Foundation. These video shorts are up on our Youtube channel and have received hundreds of views, more than we could have ever anticipated. We will continue making shorts, they introduce our music and historic sites in a wonderful way to a new audience, and they are a valid artistic endeavor.



J. M. McDonald
Foundation



But video shorts are not the only activities we have been engaged in. We have presented numerous virtual concerts, including two for the Schenectady County Public Library Beat the Snow Concert Series (one a Beethoven birthday celebration and the other a women’s suffrage program); two concerts for WAMC’s ‘Open for Takeout’ Series; a CD release party at the venerable Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs; a concert filming for the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie and a concert filming at the Schuyler Mansion (Lafayette Visits the Schuylers). All of these concerts are also available on our or the venue’s Youtube channel. We are immensely grateful to each of these organizations for providing the opportunity and support to make these performances happen. It was a lifeline during a time of no in-person concert activity. And, I would be remiss to not mention the fabulous collaboration we had with Albany Pro Musica and WMHT-TV on the Celtic Dreams program, which was viewed around the world by thousands. Simply incredible!

Musicians of Ma'alwyck will be featured twice on the ESYO Soundwalk which debuted in late May in Albany's Washington Park. Please visit the ESYO website for more details.



Jan 17—SCPL Beethoven



Mar 14—SCPL Women Suffrage



Jan 4—The Linda WAMC



Feb 26—CD Release Party at Caffe Lena



May 15—Old Stone Fort



March 14 . 4pm | Virtual & WMHT TV



May 2—Lafayette Visits The Schuylers

This is not the end, but the beginning; we have so much concert activity scheduled for the summer that I cannot believe it. Hyde Hall, whose director **Jonathan Maney** is ever adventurous and committed to highly artistic programming, has invited us to present a series of four concerts from June through September. I cannot tell you how excited I am about these programs. The first will be a celebration of our new CD *Hyde Hall and the Silver Goddess*. This CD was recorded last July in Hyde Hall and features music from their archives. The concert will be on Thursday, June 24th outside on the glorious grounds of the estate (under a tent). Please come and hear some of the repertory from the CD, as well as learn about the music-making of the Clarke family and cap the evening off with a very special lighting ceremony. The following night, June 25th, MofM pairs up with three former Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists for a delightful operatic evening featuring the 1817 comic one-act opera *The Ship's Captain*. Two sisters, a curious will left by their recently deceased guardian, and the arrival of a mysterious stranger set the stage for the plot of this tuneful and clever work by Carl August Blum. The libretto has been translated to English by **Byron Nilsson**, who is the stage director for this production. If you cannot make the trip to Hyde Hall, we will also be performing it on Sunday, June 27th at Freedom Park in Scotia and on Monday, June 28th at the lovely historic Strand Theatre in Hudson Falls. I really hope you can join us for one or both of these programs.

The third program will be July 23rd and feature music of Dvorak and George Templeton Strong Jr. I am especially delighted to announce that violinist **Jorg-Michael Schwarz** will be joining us a guest artist. Jorg is a member of the award-winning ensemble REBEL and has performed around the world. He is a player of the highest caliber and a superb musician. We are honored to have him be a part of this program. The fourth program will be The Full Clarke Experience and include a concert of music from the family's archives, as well as an elegant meal crafted from their dinner party menus. Reservations are necessary (seating for the dinner is limited). This event will be on September 10th.

And finally, we will be performing for Cherry Valley Artworks on August 18th, playing a program entirely of Scottish music, instrumental and vocal. The concert will be held outside at Tuscarora, a gorgeous Italianate style 19th century house with stunning mountain views just outside of Cherry Valley. A more perfect setting is hard to imagine.

At our annual Board meeting we welcomed **Laura Dike** as our new Chair. We thank **Michael Barnas** and **Deborah Esrick** for their years of service as our Chair and Secretary, respectively.

I will finish out this newsletter with an exciting announcement: cellist **André Laurent O'Neil** will become a permanent member of Musicians of Ma'alwyck. André, who has often been featured with the ensemble over the past years, including performances in Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night* and in our Dutch programs last fall, is a Capital Region native and returned to the area permanently after spending time performing in Holland. 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. We are most happy to welcome André to Musicians of Ma'alwyck, and we will feature him in our fall Schuyler Mansion concert.

In closing, I appeal to you to support Musicians of Ma'alwyck. We have continued to make our way through the last fifteen months, offering music to you in a virtual format free of charge. But we need your financial contribution to continue. We are deeply appreciative of your continued interest and enthusiasm for our programming, and we cannot do it without you.

Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Presents

The Ship's Captain:

An 1817 Vaudeville Opera

Directed by Byron Nilsson



The Ship's Captain, a one-act opera produced by Musicians of Ma'alwyck, will be performed in 3 local venues.

Two young single sisters, a curious will left by their uncle guardian, and a mysterious young man figure in this Gilbert and Sullivan-esque plot of the delightful 1817 vaudeville opera *The Ship's Captain*. Carl August Blum, a popular composer and actor, crafted this clever one act piece using entirely melodies of Mozart, Beethoven and German folk-songs. Like Mozart's *Magic Flute*, the dialogue between the songs tells a story on many levels. Written for three singers and three instrumentalists, *The Ship's Captain* will leave you laughing at the antics and humming the memorable melodies.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck has reconstructed several historic operas, including Thomas Arne's *Alfred* and William Shield's *The Poor Soldier*. This production features three former Glimmerglass Festival Young Artists: **Yvonne Trobe** and **Jelle Lachance** as the sisters, and **Charles Eaton** as Waller. The production is directed by **Byron A. Nilsson**, who also translated the libretto into English.

June 25, 7:30PM, Hyde Hall, Cooperstown

\$20 adults, \$10 students

<https://hydehall.org/events-2/>

June 27, 7PM, Freedom Park, Scotia

\$10 adults, \$5 students

<https://musiciansofmaalwyck.org/>

Tickets at event only

June 28, 7PM, Strand Theatre, Hudson Falls

\$15 general, \$10 seniors, \$5 students

<https://www.mystrandtheater.org/events>



Album Release Concert and Celebration for *Hyde Hall and the Silver Goddess*

June 24 | 7:30 PM

Listen to live performances from the album and hear directly from the artists as they discuss their process. You'll learn how they explored the archives, transcribed works, and recreated some of the lost music. Following a lively discussion and concert, there will be a tribute to project supporters and a lighting ceremony in the Grand Staircase Hall. Free Event.

The Ship's Captain

June 25th | 7:30 PM

George Templeton Strong and the Clarkes

July 23 | 7:30 PM

George Templeton Strong chronicled the musical scene in early America in his diaries. His sons were friends of the Clarke family and spent time at Hyde Hall. A string trio of Strong's son, a well-respected composer, is coupled with music of Antonín Dvořák. Readings from Strong's detailed diaries paint a picture of musical life in America.

- \$20 Adults, \$10 Student/Youth (age 10-17),

September 10 | 6 PM

The Full Clarke Experience Special Concert and Dinner Fundraising Event

An evening of flute and violin music from Hyde Hall's collection pairs perfectly with a sit-down dinner whose dishes are meticulously recreated from menus in the archives. Pretend for an evening that you're one of the Clarkes. Tickets to attend only the concert will be available (formal attire is required for participants at dinner).

- Concert Only: \$20 Adults, \$10 Student/Youth (age 10-17), reservations required
- Concert + Dinner in Hyde Hall's iconic Dining Room: \$295, reservations required

<https://hydehall.org/events-2/>

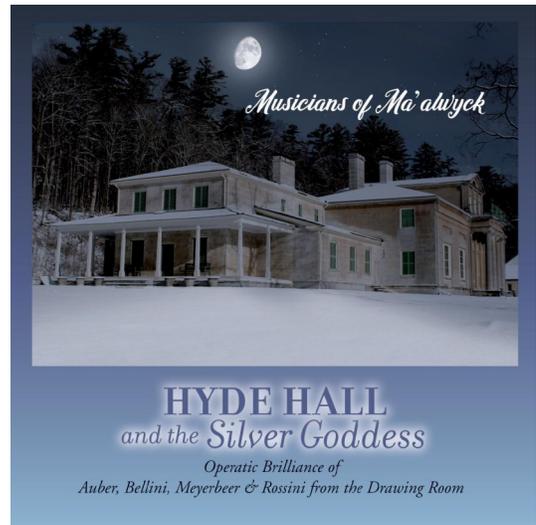
Welcome to the newest member of
Musicians of Ma'alwyck:

André Laurent O'Neil

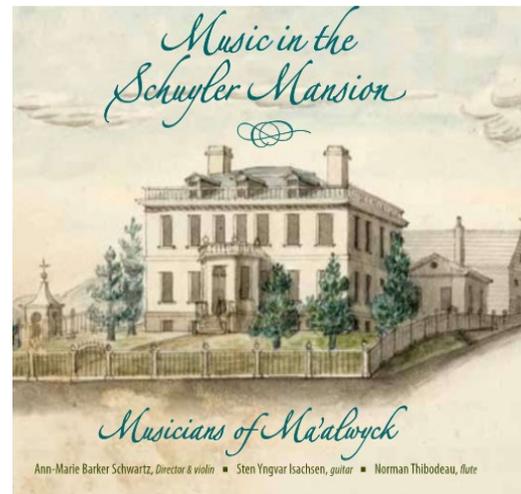


André Laurent O'Neil loves to stay active in many diverse musical projects, ranging from performing on and with period instruments (including the viola da gamba and fortepiano), to teaching modern cello, playing chamber music, and composing. A deep and lifelong interest in Johann Sebastian Bach's Solo 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.

Latest CD From Hyde Hall



Debut CD From
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Order CDs on-line at:

<https://musiciansofmaalwyck.org/cd>

Virtual Concerts on MofM YouTube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCqOTwOhu1FhpKpeWLAlpMw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqOTwOhu1FhpKpeWLAlpMw)

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In Memory of Erica Chase Salerno

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Musicians of Ma'alwyck

511 Mohawk Ave
Scotia, NY 12302



To allow us to continue our artistic activities through live streaming, recording, and live performances, we need your ongoing support. The generosity of our friends allows us to perform in historic venues throughout the Capital Region. Submit this form with check or credit card or donate on-line on our website under "Support".

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