

# MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK



Ma'alwyck Quarterly Newsletter 2.2

March 2019

## Artists

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

## Board Members

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

## Staff

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,

Tintinnabulation! What a wonderful onomatopoeic word, and one that resoundingly describes an effect in our upcoming concert featuring Russian, Americans inspired by Russia and purely American works. I am so excited about this program and composer Daniel Godfrey's talk on *From a Dream of Russia*, as well as the stunning images provided by Sonja Stark and the Dawes Arboretum. And, of course, following the concert will be a hearty Russian meal prepared by chefs Byron Nilsson and Susan Whiteman. I cannot wait!

Since our last newsletter we have kicked off our celebratory events for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. University Club of Albany hosted us for a very well-attended *Under Four Flags* presentation. Following the performance there was lively discussion about the 1918 film and Max Caplan's new music score. Our second event was March 4<sup>th</sup> at Druther's in Albany, where brewmaster and Musicians of Ma'alwyck board member George de Piro treated us to a great sampling of his award-winning brews, followed by a simply superb dinner with amazing beer pairings. We all had a truly fun evening. Thank you to both the University Club and George.

Our next celebratory events are in June, with *Taste of Albany & Troy* food tours. Musicians of Ma'alwyck teams up with foodie Amy Koren Roth and her popular *Taste Tours* for two amazing afternoons of food, music, history, architecture and camaraderie. Sample wonderful, unique foods at restaurants in downtown Albany and Troy, while Amy shares the rich culture of this region. Amy is passionate about food and its tie to the vibrancy of the region, while MofM is equally passionate about the area's history through music. It is a perfect pairing.

Ann-Marie



Musicians of Ma'alwyck is proud to announce it has been nominated for the first Eddie Music Award in the classical music category!

"The inaugural Capital Region Thomas Edison Music Awards, **6 p.m. Sunday April 14 at Proctors**, is an opportunity to amplify, empower and celebrate professionals working in the area's wide-ranging music scene."

## Upcoming Events



### Subscription Concert #3 *American Dreams Of Russia*

Saturday, March 30 @ 3 PM

First Reformed Church (NEW Covenant Hall), Schenectady



[www.albanytula.org](http://www.albanytula.org)

Daniel Godfrey's *From a Dream of Russia* for clarinet, violin and piano is paired with Glinka's *Trio Pathétique* and Rick Sowash's *Daweswood Suite* as well as music of Gliere and Maude Powell for a special afternoon of Russian and American music. Professional cinematographer/editor of PilotGirl Productions, Sonja Stark, has compiled a beautiful montage that will complement the Godfrey. Her video footage and photographs were shot during her many trips to Russia with the Albany-Tula Alliance. Stark is the Public Relations Committee Chair for the sister-city organization. The Dawes Arboretum has supplied stunning images to accompany the *Daweswood Suite*. We are delighted, as well, to have composer Daniel Godfrey join us for this unique concert with a **pre-concert talk at 2:30pm**. Musicians of Ma'alwyck core members **Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz** and **Petia Kassarova** are joined by guest artists **Paul Green**, clarinet and **Noah Palmer**, piano. Tickets \$25/10.

**Free Preview** - Wed, March 27 @ Noon, SUNY Schenectady (SCCC), Room 215, Music Bldg

**A Russian Feaster Overture**—Three-course dinner following March 30<sup>th</sup> performance by Chefs Byron Nilsson & Susan Whiteman. Menu includes: Blinis savory & sweet, Beef Stroganoff & noodles, and Olivier salad. Tickets \$35, reservations by March 23, limited to 50.

### *By The Hearth*

Sunday, April 14 @ 2:30 PM

McChesney Room in the Schenectady County Public Library

This charming program features music for guitar and violin by Giuliani, Bizet, Telemann and others. As well as featuring a stunning period transcription of melodies from Meyerbeer's opera *Les Huguenots* and a fun set of American Colonial dances. Free and open to the public.



### Subscription Concert #4

#### *The Match*

Sunday, May 12 @ 3 & 5 PM

Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, Albany

Celebrate Mother's Day with an afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> century French music and the recreation of the famous 1787 fencing match between the Chevalier de Saint-Georges and the Chevaliere d'Eon fought before the Prince of Wales. Saint-Georges was not only one of the greatest swordsmen of his day, but also a gifted violinist and composer. We examine both his skills as we perform his flute & harp sonata paired with songs for mezzo-soprano and harp by Hinner and Sterkel and delightful works for instruments of Jean-Baptiste Cardin and Philippe Meyer. Musicians of Ma'alwyck core artists **Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz** and **Norman Thibodeau** are joined by mezzo-soprano **Tess McCarthy** (you may remember her from the lead role in last season's opera *Aleda*) and harpist **Elizabeth Morse**. The fencing match (description on our website) will be recreated by a professional fight choreographer and will occur between performances out on the lawn of the Schuyler Mansion. Learn more about these fascinating opponents, and their connections to the Schuyler family, as well as witness a recreation of their fencing exhibition, choreographed by Professor Karla Kash of the SUNY Albany Theater department, and Ian Mumpton of Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, and enacted by student performers cast from the SUNY Albany Theater Department. A reception will be offered as well. Seating limited. Tickets \$30/\$15.

**Free Preview** - Friday, May 10 @ Noon, SUNY Schenectady (SCCC)

## Celebratory Events

A special series of events for you to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us!



### Taste of Albany Tour

June 5, 2019 @ 1pm

Tour Stops:

- Albany Pump Station
- First Church of Albany (short musical interlude)
- Ama Cocina
- The Hollow Bar & Kitchen
- Stacks Espresso Bar
- Olde English Pub

Tickets \$85, limited to 20, reservations by May 29<sup>th</sup>

### Taste of Troy Tour

June 12, 2019 @ Noon

Tour Stops:

- Brown's Brewing Company
- Illium Cafe
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church (short musical interlude)
- The Whistling Kettle
- little pecks
- The Dutch Udder Craft Ice Cream

Tickets \$75, limited to 20, reservations by June 5<sup>th</sup>

## Around Town



"Under Four Flags" at University Club of Albany



"Under Four Flags" at University Club



Druthers Beer Tasting



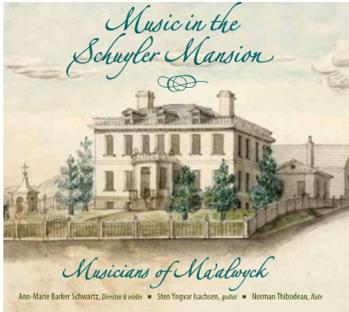
### Caroline Isachsen

With a very heavy heart, we mourn the loss of Caroline Isachsen, wife of our founding member and guitarist Sten Isachsen, who passed away on March 9th after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Caroline was best known as Mother Judge, and as a singer/songwriter and the manager of The Best Damn Open Mic Ever. She was a fantastic mentor and promoter of talent in the area, in addition to her own amazing skills as a singer. Caroline performed with Musicians of Ma'alwyck several times, proudly singing as a suffragist in the chorus of *Aleda* last June, and delivering a heart-rending *I heard the Bells on Christmas Day* with Sten and I this past December at the St. Luke's Christmas concert. Caroline was a consummate artist who gave her audiences more than 100%, she was also a tremendous friend to Musicians of Ma'alwyck. Her loss will be greatly felt.



## Musicians of Ma'alwyck

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## Welcome New Board Member!!



**Laura Dike** is currently retired from the Corporate world having previously served as GM Operations for Stemgent and Asterand Biosciences. Prior to that she was Operations Manager for BD Biosciences, Gentest Division and R&D Manager. She has served as a consultant for several companies in the areas of operations, research and Mergers & Acquisitions. Currently, she is developing a family owned business. She holds a Ph.D in Biochemistry from Boston University School of Medicine and has taught at Stonehill College and Boston University School of Medicine. She trained as an opera singer as an avocation, and worked with several companies in the Boston area including Longwood Opera Company and Opera Lab. Laura strongly supports the arts and the importance of bringing live performing arts to children and new audiences of all sorts. She looks forward to supporting Musicians of Ma'alwyck as a board member.

### Historical Tidbit

Musicians of Ma'alwyck has a newly established 2019 residency with **Hyde Hall**, the estate of George Hyde Clarke, but did you know that Clarke was a prominent Albany lawyer (as well as an important New York State political figure), who was a musical dilettante. Clarke was an honorary member of Albany's Euterpean Club (an early Albany music club that included Stephen Van Rensselaer and Edmund Genet). They performed in Albany and were frequently guest conducted by Richard Willis, the first music director of the West Point Band, which was founded in 1817. The Club serenaded the Marquis de Lafayette for the opening of the Erie Canal.