

July 24, 2016

Dear GMF Friends and Supporters,

We are delighted to announce that the 2016 Geneva Music Festival was one of the most successful in our organization's history—and we credit you, our amazing people, for that! The Festival would not be possible without the vigilance and dedication of our board, the hard work of our volunteers and generous financial contributions.

The 2016 season represented our sixth year of presenting engaging music to audiences throughout the Finger Lakes. The robust schedule included 15 concerts and two dance events over the course of 17 days. A host of world-renowned guest artists presented a diverse range of performances, including our first vocal concert. Also new this year, we dedicated a week-long celebration to Latin music and dance.

Ultimately, more than 1,000 people attended GMF concerts and events at intimate venues in Geneva, Canandaigua, Auburn and Skaneateles. Among these was our new concert home, an acoustically-pristine space in Froelich Hall of the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts. We truly appreciate this opportunity, generously underwritten by Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

GMF finished the 2016 season in the black! For this we thank the generous contributions of Hobart and William Smith Colleges; Finger Lakes Community Arts Grants; the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester; the Rochester Community Foundation; The John Ben Snow, Emerson, Rickey, and Delavan Foundations; CNY Foundation; the Wyckoff and Williams Family Foundations and the Rotary Club of Geneva. They provided the support that transformed GMF 2016 from an idea to a reality.

We know that financial conditions can change quickly, so we will continue to take seriously our role as stewards of our precious community resource by planning and budgeting realistically. Contributors to GMF can rest assured that we will use your gifts responsibly.

Since all of our successes are due to the efforts and creativity of our musicians, staff, board, contributors, volunteers, and audience, we thank each of you for being an important part of the GMF Family.

Geneva Music Festival Season Summary

The 2016 season ran from June 2 through 18, opening in the Gearan Center's Froelich Hall with our first-ever vocal performance, by baritone Dashon Burton. He was accompanied by Christopher Janwong McKiggan and the two gave an encore performance the following evening at First Presbyterian Church in



Skaneateles. Burton was winner of the 2012 ARD International Music Competition in Munich and founding member of Grammy Award Winning Ensemble Roomful of Teeth. Janwong McKiggan won a top prize as laureate at the prestigious 12th UNISA International Piano Competition. They performed an elegant rendition of lieder, art songs and spirituals that captivated audiences, who described the concert as “magical.”

On June 3 and 4, audiences were graced with an impeccable performance of works of Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schumann by Artistic Director Geoffrey



Herd, Eliot Heaton and Natalie Lin, violinists, Cavani Quartet violist, Eric Wong, gifted cellist Max Geissler and the return of pianist Christopher Janwong McKiggan. The concerts concluded with the dazzling Schumann Piano Quintet and were enjoyed by audiences at both Froelich Hall and Willard Memorial Chapel in Auburn.

The following week marked the Geneva Music Festival Latin Cultural Celebration. It kicked off on June 8 with harpist maestro Jorge Diaz-Herrera entertaining with folk songs performed on a Venezuelan harp. The following two nights featured chamber music, including passionate performances of works of Piazzola and Ginastera performed by the previous week's artists and violist Colin Brookes, pianist Cahill Smith, guitarist Ken Meyer and bassist Gregory Robbins.



A Latin Dance Social at Ravines brought new flair to the Festival on June 10. Houston-based Amaya dance team had everyone dancing within the first hour and dazzled the crowd with professional dance demonstrations as the evening came to a close. Latin Dance boot camp the following day drew even more prospective dancers with an afternoon of salsa and bachata instruction. The Latino Cultural Celebration came to a close Saturday evening when an audience of more than 100 enjoyed an unforgettable performance of Tango Nuevo music by Argentinean Bandoneonist JP Jofre and the GMF chamber ensemble, in Froelich Hall.



GMF's final week began with a rousing bluegrass concert at Ravine's Winery on June 12. GMF artists were joined by bluegrass artists Gabe Schliffer and Scott Calpin for a lively concert enjoyed by more than 80 toe-tapping, foot-stomping audience members.

The week progressed with new music performed by winner of the De Linkprijs for contemporary interpretation, cellist Hannah Collins and Spectral Quartet violinist Clara Lyon, on June 10 at Ravines Winery in Geneva. In a performance that can only be described as mesmerizing, the duo performed a variety of contemporary works including "Silent Moon" by Augusta Read Thomas and "Talking in Circles" by Robert Hornstein.

From June 12 through 14, GMF featured a trio of organ recitals across the Finger Lakes by Joseph Ripka, first prize winner of the 2008 Dublin International, 2008 Fort Wayne National and 2008 San Marino/Elizabeth Elftman National Organ Competitions. Flawless renditions of works of Buxtehude, Bach, Bovet, Litaize and Durufle were enjoyed by audiences at Westminster Presbyterian in Auburn, United Church in Canandaigua and The Presbyterian Church in Geneva.



To conclude the Season, violinist Laurie Smukler joined the Geneva Music Festival to perform chamber works of Russian Masters June 17 in Froelich Hall and June 18 at First Presbyterian Church in Skaneateles. Smukler is esteemed teacher and chamber musician, professor at Juilliard and music director of

Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival. The concerts opened with an elegantly refined performance of Alexander Borodin's "Sextet in D" and concluded with Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence." Once again, Froelich Hall was filled to capacity and enthusiastic audience members at both venues were treated to flawless performances filled with the passion that that is the hallmark of GMF artistry. The concerts attracted more than 175 attendees and provided a memorable conclusion to a great season.



GMF also presented a variety of special performances and events specifically for children. Among these, students at Geneva High School were treated to a vocal recital by Dashon Burton and Christopher Jan-wong McKiggan, chamber works of Latin composers were performed for students at Auburn High School and a master class

was held for violin students at St. Peter's Arts Academy. Toward the end of the Festival, music of contemporary composers was enjoyed by children at the YMCA in Geneva and an interactive presentation of music of Russian composers was held for students at North Street Elementary School.



Prior to the start of the season, GMF also presented a Spring Benefit Gala with a special performance by cellist Hannah Collins and pianist Solon Gordon. On April 8, 2016 more than 100 patrons were treated to a variety of delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by the Festival's Board of Directors and fine wine provided by Hermann J. Weimer Vineyard.



Bringing classical music to audiences in northern Finger Lakes and beyond, the Geneva Music Festival showcases the talents of some of the finest classical musicians from around the world, including the many extraordinary musicians with roots right here in the Finger Lakes. Through its impeccable performances, diverse offerings, and creative programming, GMF is quickly winning recognition as one of the most respected, successful, and innovative arts organizations in the Finger Lakes region. We thank you for your support for this season and look forward to another great year in 2017!

