

# HIGH NOTES

## Milestone Opportunity for a Milestone Year

by Jessica Whitehill

The Asheville Symphony Orchestra has a rare opportunity next season to celebrate legendary American poet and author Maya Angelou. The Asheville Symphony Guild is providing financial support for this opportunity while also celebrating its own milestone.

The Asheville Symphony has commissioned American composer Richard Danielpour for a piece based on Angelou's final published work, "Love's Exquisite Freedom." Star soprano Angela Brown will perform alongside the ASO in the opening night's program on Saturday, September 19.

The inclusion of Danielpour's composition on the opening night's program will make for a special evening as the ASO kicks off a year-long celebration of the Asheville Symphony Guild's 50th anniversary.



Composer  
Richard Danielpour

"Usually we see that when a major composer like Richard Danielpour is commissioned, many orchestras join together as a consortium," says ASO Executive Director David Whitehill. "But we're doing this on our own, as a way to help make opening night special and a way to recognize and celebrate the Guild's 50th anniversary and also recognize everything that is special about the ASO."



Maya Angelou

Danielpour had worked several times with Angelou before her death in May 2014 in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was aware the ASO was commissioning the piece and had given the project her blessing.

"Love's Exquisite Freedom" celebrates the power of love to liberate us from loneliness and the importance of accepting love.

"As an organization we have a responsibility to not just perform but also create and make new work," Whitehill says. "We're thrilled that we can add to the art form thanks to Maya Angelou, Richard Danielpour and Angela Brown."



Soprano Angela Brown



## We Honor our Founders

In 1955 Charlotte Lunsford and Mimi Cecil, both active members of the community, were asked to help organize a Symphony Guild to raise funds and friends for the Asheville Symphony Orchestra. They diligently sought support throughout the community and the Guild officially began in the 1955-56 season.

In recognition of their efforts on behalf of past, present and future Guild members, the May luncheon will become known as:

### The Mimi Cecil and Charlotte Lunsford Annual May Luncheon



Newspaper clipping from 1981: Charlotte Lunsford and Mimi Cecil, with conductor Robert Hart Baker and Guild president Mrs. W. A. Corner





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Betty Paine

**2015 – 2016**

## Guild Executive Committee

President – Carolyn Hubbard

1st Vice President – Katie Osborn

2nd Vice President – Lucy Borland

Treasurer – BA Schenk

Recording Secretary – Olivia Zahler

Corresponding Secretary – Ellen Nutter

Advisor – Betty Paine

## Asheville Symphony

David Whitehill, Executive Director

## Guild Committee Chairs

Communications – Nancy Stewart

High Notes – Otis Philbrick

Hospitality – Honey Solomon

Libretto – Otis Philbrick

Membership/database – Dawn Grohs

Music Education – Barbara Stickle

Musical Feasts – Virginia Erwin

Travel – Bill Roskind

50th Anniversary Committee – Mary Kirby

**Symphony Office — (828) 254-7046**

## Asheville Symphony Guild

PO Box 18651, Asheville NC 28814

[www.ashevillesymphony.org/guild](http://www.ashevillesymphony.org/guild)

## High Notes

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October and December

Our 50th Anniversary Kick-off luncheon was a great success with 15 past presidents in attendance including the founders Charlotte Lunsford and Dini Cecil Pickering representing her mother, Mimi Cecil. What a great way to start the first of several special activities as we honor traditions and provide for transitions.

As my term as Guild President comes to its official end I am so grateful for the many members who played such an important role in making this another wonderful year.

A huge thank you to Board members, to those who chaired or worked on committees and special projects, to those who attended our activities and events, to those who helped promote the Guild within the community and to ever helpful David Whitehill and the ASO staff.

Like the proverbial "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link," an organization only succeeds if its members participate. I hope everyone will consider playing some role, large or small, as we continue the celebration of **50 and FORWARD.**



Betty Paine

## Welcome new Guild Members

Koni and Cary Findlay  
Barbara von Hauzen  
Brian and Andrea Kellum  
Peter and Bebe Landis  
Leslie Newman  
Karen Keeler Rogers and Robin T. Rutledge

If you haven't renewed your membership for the coming year, please do so now using the form below, or download a form from [ashevillesymphony.org/guild/membership](http://ashevillesymphony.org/guild/membership).

**Note: Musical Feast booklets will be mailed at least two weeks prior to the general mailing to Guild members who have joined by June 30.**

## Asheville Symphony Guild Membership

☐ New member ☐ Renewal **Annual Dues: July 1 to June 30: \$50 per household**

(please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/partner's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form and check to Asheville Symphony Guild, PO Box 18651, Asheville, NC 28814**

**Don't miss Chip Kaufmann's entertaining talks  
"Behind the Notes" at 4 p.m. on the second  
Tuesday of each month at Deerfield.**



# The Year Ahead . . .

Fifty years ago, Mimi Cecil and Charlotte Lunsford organized the Asheville Symphony Guild to support the ASO financially and socially. During the upcoming year, we celebrate the growth of the Guild with a number of special events. Several of these are described below, and more will be announced as the year goes on.



## Opening Concert Breakfast

Get to know your orchestra up close and personal at the annual opening concert breakfast — Saturday morning, September 19th at Thomas Wolfe. As the orchestra comes together for their first concert of the season, the Guild provides breakfast for the musicians—always a fun event! Mark your calendars and please contact Honey Solomon at [annsolomon31@me.com](mailto:annsolomon31@me.com) or (828) 505-9885 if you would like to help.

## Save the Date for the 50's Pot Luck

The 50th Anniversary Committee is hard at work on an eventful season offering several activities in honor of the Guild's 50th year. You won't want to miss it!

### 50's Pot Luck

August 19th 5 p.m.

Governor's Western Residence  
(Invitations to follow)

## Other 50th Anniversary events

In addition to the Pot Luck supper described at left, the following are some of the special events are being planned for the coming year. Stay tuned for further announcements of additional events.

### Opening Night Dinner

Enjoy a meal with friends before the concert.

### Evening Guild Program

For those who work during the daytime and cannot attend Thursday morning Guild Programs.

### MusicWorks! Recital

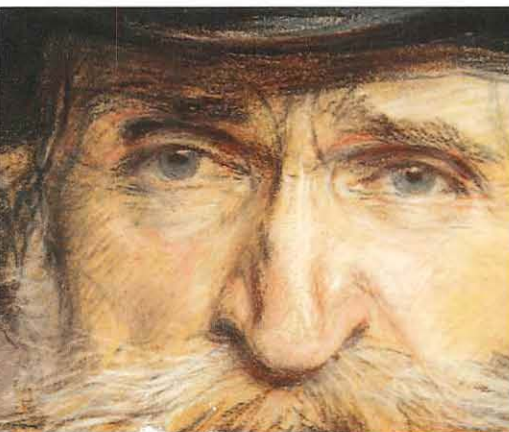
See the results of this wonderful program.

Of course, the Guild exists to support the Symphony, and Daniel Meyer has chosen a wonderful variety of pieces to complement this special year. Starting with the Guild-supported commission of a setting of Maya Angelou's "Love's Exquisite Freedom," we'll hear Verdi Opera Arias, Bruch's Violin Concerto, Holst's *The Planets*, the Beethoven Violin Concerto, a Mozart Piano Concerto and Verdi's *Requiem*.

The year will end with an ASO co-commissioned work featuring the return of acclaimed Zuill Bailey to Asheville, followed by Dvorak's familiar *New World Symphony*.

Be sure to purchase tickets early for the best seats.

Giuseppe Verdi



David Kim, violinist



Mozart



Zuill Bailey, cellist





# Meet your Executive Board for 2015–2016

## **Carolyn Hubbard** *President*

Carolyn's passion is the ASO. She was Guild President for the 2007–2008 season, and President of the ASO Board in 2010–2012 for their 50th Anniversary.

She grew up in Roanoke, VA, received a BS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and an MBA from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management in Lake Forest, IL.

Carolyn came to Asheville 15 years ago from the Chicago area where she was in finance with a pharmaceutical company. Her interests are art, yoga, hiking and travel. Her son lives in Greenville, SC, with his wife.



## **Lucy Borland** *Second Vice President*

Lucy Borland grew up all over the United States and spent eight years as a child in France. She has been living in Asheville full time for five years.

Before Asheville she lived in the Chicago area and was a volunteer, a grants writer and a Realtor. In Asheville she is involved in the Children's Welfare League and enjoys all aspects of our rich cultural community.

She is looking forward to participating in the Guild for another outstanding year.



## **BA Schenk** *Treasurer*

BA Schenk was born in Indiana and grew up in Florida. She attended Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia, and graduate school at UCLA in Los Angeles.

She is now a mostly retired ornithologist who used to spend her time doing research on the seabirds nesting on remote islands in the Pacific and Caribbean.

She is currently on the Board of our local Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society, where she serves on the Finance and Fund Raising Committees. She is also active with the American Association of University Women. BA and her husband, Gary, moved to Asheville ten years ago from Alexandria, Virginia.



## **Olivia Zahler** *Recording Secretary*

Corresponding secretary, first vice-president, Musical Feast chairman – the three positions I have held as a guild member since joining the guild in 2008. All three have helped me get to know the membership and especially learn about this community. Planning monthly guild programs introduced me to various local musicians and



their talents. Working with an enthusiastic committee to plan twenty-five different events allowed me to discover new venues and willing hosts. The most rewarding aspect of any guild position is that of getting to know so many guild members, the office staff and the talented musicians in the symphony.

I moved to Asheville in 2005 after living in Tennessee and growing up in Mississippi. I am the mother of two daughters and a son and grandmother of six. When Gary and I are not traveling to great places in this wonderful world, I also enjoy knitting, needlework, and gardening.

## **Ellen Nutter** *Corresponding Secretary*

Having lived in larger cities with substantial orchestras — New York, Denver, Rochester NY, and Baltimore — Ellen was delighted to find such an excellent orchestra in Asheville. Ellen and husband Dave retired from their city planning consulting business and moved to Asheville in 2010. They are enjoying living in Montford, volunteering, taking courses at the College for Seniors, and especially, being able to spend time with their children and two local grandchildren.



## **Betty Paine** *Advisor*

Betty cannot imagine a life without music. She studied piano for many years, was church organist, played the double bass in the Dean's Little Symphony in college and later with several community orchestras.



Her career started as an elementary teacher and moved into the field of Communications and Marketing. She was the Executive Director of an activities center in Michigan which offered many cultural activities including everything from children's Suzuki classes to a Chamber Music series with members of the Detroit Symphony.

In addition to her love of classical music she enjoys drawing and painting, writing short stories, hiking, travel, and has a passionate reading habit.

## **Katie Osborn** *First Vice President*

Katie and her husband, Phil, moved to Asheville in 2012 after retiring from careers with the U. S. Treasury Department. Katie grew up in central Missouri where her mother was Director of Music for the local public school system, and later built the Music Education Program at the local Junior College. Katie studied piano, cello, flute, and singing through high school. Although she did not major in music, Katie continued to study piano and cello at Stephens College in Columbia, MO.



Over the years since she has never lost her love of music, sharing it with Phil through attending orchestra concerts in the locations where their careers took them – Kansas City, Joplin, Washington, Philadelphia, & Cleveland. All the while, she has looked forward to finally having the time to continue her mother's legacy through participating in support of music and music education. The ASO and the Asheville Symphony Guild are an opportunity more wonderful than she ever imagined, and she is thrilled to be serving as 1st VP for Programs for the 2015–16 year.



# MUSIC EDUCATION

## Spotlight on Young Musicians

by Jessica Whitehill

One of North Carolina's top young pianists triumphed at the Asheville Symphony's recent Spotlight on Young Musicians and earned an opportunity to play next season with the ASO and Music Director Daniel Meyer during the Young People's Concert.

**Kiffen Loomis**, a 16-year-old Asheville resident who performed Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, was the top musician out of 12 who entered the Concerto Division of the competition. He also won a cash prize along with second-place finisher **Steven Chen**, 18, who performed a movement from the Dvorak Cello Concerto and third-place winner **Milo Norlin**, 16, who played a movement

from Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 ("Jeunehomme").

A total of 18 students participated in Spotlight on Young Musicians. Six performed in the Solo Division for comments and a noncompetitive rating, with two receiving Judges Choice awards. **John Norlin**, Milo's twin brother, played a movement from the Mozart Clarinet Concerto and 12-year-old violinist **Mischa Dzubay** performed Kreisler's *Praeludium and Allegro*.

The judges were Dr. Mira Frisch, associate professor of cello at UNC Charlotte, Dr. Clara Yang, assistant professor of piano at UNC Chapel Hill, and Dr. Jessica Lindsey, assistant professor of clarinet at UNC Charlotte.

Spotlight on Young Musicians is open to any string, woodwind, brass, percussion, harp,

classical guitar, and piano students ages 19-or-under who have not graduated high school at the time of the application due date. Entrants must reside, study or attend school in one of the 24 counties in Western North Carolina.

**Margery Kowal**, a violist in the ASO and a member of the Guild, announced after four years she was passing the chairmanship of Spotlight on Young Musicians to ASO oboist and education coordinator **Cara Jenkins**.

"It has been very rewarding and a privilege to get this worthy event started and I hope it will continue to grow and serve our very finest young people for many years," she said.



Kiffen Loomis



ASO Executive Director David Whitehill presents certificates to the competition winners

TJ Kane

## Here's an update on some of our former Guild Scholarship Winners.

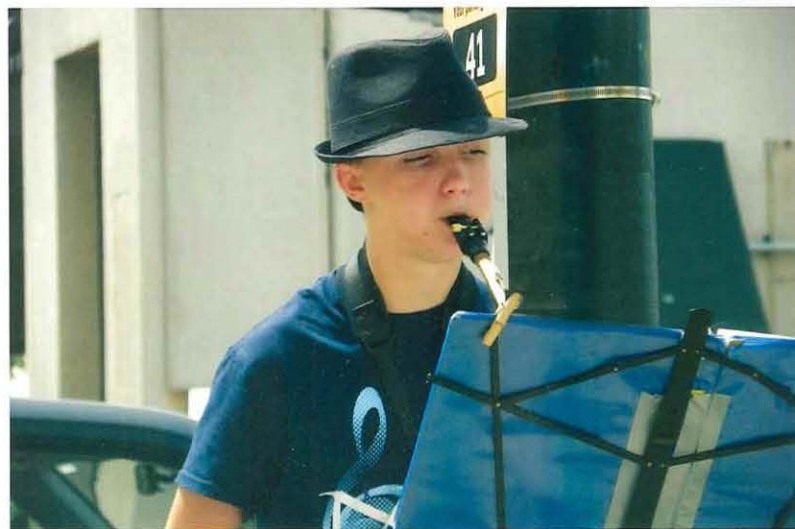
from Charlie Laiken

**Angela Wheeler**, trumpet, and **Joyner Myers**, clarinet, both won a full music scholarship to Mars Hill College.

**Liam Pulsifer**, euphonium, won a full scholarship to Duke University.

**Alex Stewart**, oboe, All-District All-State High School.

**TJ Kane**, Alto & tenor saxophone, All District, All-State High School. TJ was accepted at Brevard Music Camp studying with Joe Lulloff.





## Travel to Nashville — 2016

by Bill Roskind

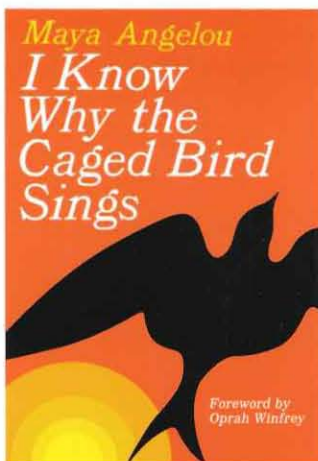
We've had some very favorable responses to the proposed Nashville trip. Thirty of our friends have said they want to go and we are beginning to plan it now. The trip dates under consideration are early next year and involve either three or four nights in Nashville. It will occur sometime between the last weekend in April and the first weekend in June. A couple of new venues and experiences are also being considered, and only a few more seats are open on the bus. This trip is always a lot of fun, and it's inexpensive. We'll add your name to the list of travelers if you call or email Bill Roskind at (828) 253-2580 or [wlrbus@att.net](mailto:wlrbus@att.net).



Old and new in Nashville — The Grand Ole Opry's famous Ryman Auditorium and the iconic AT&T building

### Help us build our Music Library

We are looking for books about music in general and biographies of composers, conductors, and musicians of all kinds. Search your shelves and consider a donation to our new music library. Donors will be recognized with a bookplate in each book contributed. When cataloged, all books will be available for check-out. For more information, contact Betty Paine at (828) 277-0542 or [bettyjpaine@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjpaine@yahoo.com).



Nashville evening skyline

### Read with us

Daniel Meyer has chosen a literary theme for the ASO's 2015–16 season. The Guild is organizing three book discussions, open to the public, to take place during the year. Watch for information about the first one in September when we discuss *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. The very special world premiere and ASO commission based on the text of one of her last poems will be played at September's opening concert.



# MUSICAL FEASTS

## A great reason to join the Guild!

by Olivia Zahler

For years you have joined the Guild to show your support of the Symphony because of your interest in music and your desire to support the Symphony financially. This year the Guild board approved a policy that adds another benefit to your membership.

**Musical Feast booklets will be mailed to Guild members at least two weeks prior to the general mailing.** You must be listed as a Guild member by June 30, 2015, to receive this benefit.

You have supported Musical Feasts as the major fund-raising project of the Guild, and now you will have an opportunity to register for the 2015-16 events earlier than

the general public. Please consider this as a benefit of your Guild membership and renew it promptly when ordering next year's concert tickets or by mailing in your \$50 renewal fee.

This year's Musical Feast committee is especially grateful for your attendance and support. This has been a banner year!!



The wait staff at The Cliffs progressive dinner!



Walnut Cove progressive dinner dessert table



Left: Elizabeth and Rick Devereaux with speaker Micah Hanks at Reynolds Mansion

Right: Brunch at the Edgerton's after birding at Beaver Lake

Below: Touring the Buncombe County Landfill







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Asheville NC 28802

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#### REMINDER :

Please turn in your tickets if you are not going to be able to attend a performance — other people are waiting for them!

Please keep the Guild informed of your contact information. Send your changes to [guild@ashevillesymphony.org](mailto:guild@ashevillesymphony.org).

Check us out! Latest news at [www.ashevillesymphony.org/guild](http://www.ashevillesymphony.org/guild)



## GUILD AND SYMPHONY EVENTS CALENDAR

### June

- 9 Tuesday** *Behind the Notes* with Chip Kaufmann  
Community Center, Deerfield, 4 p.m.
- 13 Saturday** Musical Feast:  
Springtime in the French Countryside

### July

- 14 Tuesday** *Behind the Notes* with Chip Kaufmann  
Community Center, Deerfield, 4 p.m.

### September

- 8 Tuesday** *Behind the Notes* with Chip Kaufmann  
Community Center, Deerfield, 4 p.m.
- 17 Thursday** Guild Program  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 10 a.m.
- 18 Friday** Symphony talk with Daniel Meyer  
Reuter Center, 3 p.m.
- 19 Saturday** Guild sponsored orchestra breakfast  
Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, 9 a.m.
- 19 Saturday** Opening Night pre-Concert Dinner  
Details to be announced
- 19 Saturday** ASO CONCERT—Opening Night  
Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, 8 p.m.

### August

- 11 Tuesday** *Behind the Notes* with Chip Kaufmann  
Community Center, Deerfield, 4 p.m.
- 19 Thursday** *50's Potluck*  
Governor's Western Residence, 5 p.m.

#### Event Locations:

**Deerfield Community Center Blue Ridge Room**  
1617 Hendersonville Road, Asheville

**Reuter Center, UNCA** from Broadway,  
follow Campus Drive to STOP sign; turn left

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
10 North Liberty Street, Asheville

**Governor's Western Residence**  
45 Patton Mountain Road, Asheville

**Thomas Wolfe Auditorium**  
US Cellular Center, 87 Haywood Street

*Guild programs will be canceled  
only if the Asheville City Schools  
CLOSE due to the weather.*