The Road to Stardom
Aspiring artists come to Rockport Page 1
Thousands of aspiring young musicians enter conservatories and music schools each year, each hoping to fulfill a dream of a career spent performing the world’s greatest halls and stages. Many continue on to graduate studies, and most prepare for untold hours each day just to be considered for the major competitions. Winning a major competition is often the gateway to the dream they have held since early childhood.

During the Festival this past summer, several aspiring young artists and ensembles (including the Rockport Fellows) were afforded this very opportunity, performing at our great Shalin Liu Performance Center with some of the world’s leading chamber musicians. For this upcoming winter season, Artistic Director Barry Shiffman brings both seasoned artists – pianist Marc-André Hamelin, violinist Rachel Barton Pine, and soprano Adrianne Pieczonka – as well as artists who are either on the precipice of capturing their dream or early in their burgeoning career. You will be able to experience the joy of watching these aspiring artists on February 3, with a concert featuring The Metropolitan Opera’s esteemed Lindemann Young Artist Development Program – a highly competitive program that prepares and places vocalists on the Metropolitan Opera stage. These artists come from the top conservatories around the world, are winners of major international competitions, and perform on the Met stage each season. Alumni of this program who have gone on to great operatic heights include Dawn Upshaw and Sondra Radvanovsky.

One of the current Lindemann roster members, mezzo soprano Emily D’Angelo, just won the prestigious 2018 Operalia Competition in Lisbon. The Operalia’s second prize winner will be recognizable by Rockport Chamber Music Festival patrons as mezzo Samantha Hankey who performed in this year’s Festival! The Met Weekend will also include a broadcast of Carmen, live from the Met stage, informative talks and an opera masterclass. Don’t miss out on hearing the next opera star!
On November 18, Rockport Music patrons will have an opportunity to hear the exciting young Danish Quartet. First-prize winners at the London International String Quartet Competition, their career has not just grown since the win, it has exploded with performance opportunities.

In an interview with the Huffington Post about the work ethic needed to get to this point in their career, they shared:

For us, friendship and music making has always been inseparable. As a quartet, you have to spend extreme amounts of time together. Many hours in the rehearsal room and traveling, plus all the high-pressure performances. Our friendship has allowed us to enjoy life as a string quartet quite a bit and we believe that music thrives when musicians are happy, confident, and enjoying each other's company on and off the stage.

In concert, these talented Danes often share a bit of their heritage by performing some Nordic folk tunes alongside the classical repertoire. Maybe for an encore to their concert of Haydn, Beethoven and Abrahamsen, the Quartet will bring some of their incredible interpretations of Scandinavian folk tunes (visit NPR Music Tiny Desk concert on YouTube). One can only hope.

The tremendous commitment to practicing is a theme among musicians, no matter the instrument, and is a pre-requisite for these artists. Acclaimed violinist Rachel Barton Pine, who comes to Rockport on January 20, states this dedication to craft quite well:

I am a professional practitioner. It doesn’t sound as glamorous as “concert violinist”. If I’ve done my job, all anyone will ever think about is the time I’m on stage performing. No one will even be aware of the 35 hours or more of practice logged before I ever arrived in town to rehearse and perform that 35 minute concerto. The reality is: if you want to be a professional performer, you have to train to be a professional practitioner.

I love to perform and share my art with others, so that’s what I am – a professional practitioner.

Whether in the early stage of their career or a seasoned professional, these musicians have worked an entire lifetime to share the love they have for music with you – their audience. When speaking to these artists, they often express how fortunate they truly feel to be able to do what they do.

METROPOLITAN OPERA WEEKEND
February 2–3, 2019

The Met Opera weekend includes a Metropolitan Opera broadcast of Carmen, as well as a concert by the Lindemann Artists (PICTURED RIGHT) performing arias and art song favorites.

ARTISTS: Gabriella Reyes, soprano | Arseny Yakovlev, tenor | Megan Grey, mezzo-soprano | Nate Raskin, pianist/coach
When we were children, we each came to visit Rockport with our families. When we retired we came to live in Rockport, drawn by the ocean, the magnificent rocky coastlines, and the profound beauty of nature everywhere. We were also drawn by the art of Cape Ann. Visiting the Rockport Art Association, we became engaged by and then in love with Rockport Chamber Music concerts. Here the unique blend of nature and art provides a sense of the harmony of spheres.

As former university professors it might seem natural that we would designate institutions of higher learning as heirs to our estate. However, over the last two decades, too many colleges and universities throughout the country have seen increasing diminishment of financial and programmatic support for the humanities in general and the fine arts in particular.

We have become members of the Linden Tree Society and are leaving a significant portion of our estate to Rockport Music because we feel assured that we are contributing to the future of an organization with a single focus, a single purpose: to support the continuing dynamic presence of live music. We believe the arts in general, and music in particular, provide unique transcendent experiences.

The third section of T. S. Eliot’s Four Quartets is entitled “Dry Salvages” and is set on Cape Ann. These lines from the poem perhaps express the effect of such music.

“music heard so deeply
That it is not heard at all, but you are the music
While the music lasts.”

We wish to help carry forward these transforming experiences of great music to future generations of listeners, performing artists and composers.
The Annual Fund Committee Helps Us Make Beautiful Music

By JEANNIE MCINTYRE, ANNUAL FUND CHAIR

The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of Rockport Music’s fundraising efforts each year and the engine which helps drive the organization. Actually, for most non-profit organizations, this is true. It is the source of approximately one third of Rockport Music’s operational funding.

In an effort to bring a personal touch to the Annual Fund, the Annual Fund Committee was established to support the outreach activities by Rockport Music’s professional staff. The Committee members write personal thank you notes, make phone calls, help with annual fund mailings, among many other efforts to spread the message of our musical mission. Like many of our volunteers, these committee members are “unsung heroes” who reach out to Rockport Music’s constituency and serve as ambassadors for the Annual Fund. It is a vital volunteer role about which people may not know.

The Committee is made up of individuals who are passionate about Rockport Music—some have been part of the organization since the days in the Rockport Art Association and others are relative newcomers. We all enjoy an esprit de corps and sense of purpose knowing that we are helping Rockport Music in its quest for musical excellence, engagement, and innovation.

In the words of our Artistic Director Barry Shiffman, “Musical excellence is the pillar on which our entire purpose rests and which raises the other pillars of engagement and innovation.” These initiatives would not be possible without our Annual Fund, and the efforts would not be as successful without the tremendous assistance of these volunteers.

My heartfelt thanks to our amazingly dedicated Annual Fund Committee volunteers. Together we make beautiful music!

LINDEN TREE SOCIETY

Members of Rockport Music’s Linden Tree Society (an organization honoring our planned giving donors) enjoyed a luncheon hosted by Stephen and Jill Bell at the Emerson Inn in September. After lunch, Rockport High School Orchestra Director Nathan Cohen gave a moving presentation on Rockport Music’s profound impact on his students and the community (SEE PAGE 4).
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JAZZ WORKSHOP

Each summer students from throughout the Northshore come to Rockport for the Rockport Jazz Workshop. Led by Alexa Tarantino, this year’s workshop had over 120 participants over the two weeks. The students and faculty presented multiple concerts and each week culminated with a rousing FlashMob in Dock Square.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP IS GIVEN

Jett Sayess receives the Rockport Music Board of Trustees Scholarship, given in honor of Susan Gray and Alec Dingee and Eve and Phil Cutter. Jett is attending University of Massachusetts-Lowell to pursue music and business. He attended Gloucester High School and was active in both the chorus and Gloucester High School Docksiders Jazz Band. Congratulations to Jett!

Scholarship winner Jett Sayes and Rockport Music Executive Director Tony Beadle.

A Music Teacher’s Perspective

By NATHAN COHEN

EXCERPTS FROM NATHAN COHEN’S TALK AT THE LINDEN TREE SOCIETY’S LUNCHEON IN SEPTEMBER

The synergy between Rockport Music and the school system has been extraordinary for the music program in the schools. When I started teaching here I was coaching chamber music classes. We had our concerts in the local churches... And then the Shalin Liu Performance Center went up.

I wonder if you can imagine that shift. It was a culture shift for us. Our music students get to perform in the same venue where the week before they watched Dave Brubeck or Yo-Yo Ma, or Paula Cole. When a band of 6th graders gets up to play a pop song they’ve arranged, they’ve got Scott [Rodgers] on the soundboard monitoring levels and effects, and there’s a crew making sure that the mic placements are right and Nate [Weaver] is on the lights. They get the full treatment. They’re not just treated as students, they’re treated as musicians. And so they participate as musicians. Our students have the experience that the only limitation is themselves. Whatever they bring to that stage is going to shine in its best light and so it raises the bar for everyone. It has raised the bar for our whole music department in ways I can’t
Viva la voice! Throughout its history, Rockport Music has been no stranger to vocal groups. From the “reigning male chorus” of Chanticleer, the jazzy Manhattan Transfer, and the hyper-caffeinated a cappella blast of Rockapella, the Shalin Liu Performance Center has seen a wealth of vocal talent grace its stage. This fall we are looking forward to a different kind of vocal music; the rustic, harmony-drenched folk of Windborne, who perform a free community concert on November 27.

We first got a taste of Windborne’s enchanting four-part harmonies as guests in Brian O’Donovan’s Christmas Celtic Sojourn a few years back. They return for their own concert with a program called Song on the Times, featuring strident and beautifully evocative songs from working class movements spanning 400 years. Exquisitely arranging long-forgotten protest songs from the U.K. and U.S., the acclaimed quartet delve into tunes from the Diggers Movement in 17th century England, to striking Kentucky coalminers in the 1930’s, from the People’s Charter in Great Britain 150 years ago, to turn-of-the-century protests of women in the New England textile mills. These songs have a rich history that still resonate today. Yet the sheer beauty of these vocal arrangements and the gorgeous ringing harmonies of the foursome turn what could be a dusty history lesson into a rousing, emotional concert that inspires both the mind and the soul.

By CHRISTOPHER BLAGG

Music is becoming synonymous with Rockport through this organization and through your support it has a real and lasting impact...on the young people I work with.

A Music Teacher’s Perspective

By NATHAN COHEN

EXCERPTS FROM NATHAN COHEN’S TALK AT THE LINDEN TREE SOCIETY’S LUNCHEON IN SEPTEMBER

They might not always be able to articulate it, but they recognize greatness. And when greatness is modeled again and again through the kind of support we get through the education outreach program, it inspires our students to work harder.

Nathan Cohen is the Director of the Orchestra and Chamber Music Program in the Rockport Public Schools. He conducts five different orchestras across 4th–12th grade, and coaches multiple chamber groups.

Rockport School’s Orchestra Director Nathan Cohen conducts students during a workshop with the quartet Brooklyn Rider on the Shalin Liu Performance Center stage.

It’s not just access to the space that has been transformative. Top notch ensembles come into our classrooms and perform for our students. They do workshops with our students and often our students perform on concerts with visiting artists. So the highest level of musicianship is modeled for our students. And they recognize it. There’s a fallacy that you can give garbage to kids and they’ll eat it up because they don’t know better. Kids know better.

Music is becoming synonymous with Rockport through this organization and through your support it has a real and lasting impact...on the young people I work with.

Nathan Cohen

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THE GANG IS ALL TOGETHER AGAIN

The Rockport Music staff, previously separated into two offices due to space availability near the Shalin Liu Performance Center, are now together again in our new office. Located just across the street from the Center, the staff moved in less than two weeks before this year’s Gala and three weeks prior to the Rockport Chamber Music Festival opening. It was quite a whirlwind at the time, but we are settled in now and the reality of being altogether in one office building, across from the hall, has been even greater than we could have anticipated! We are thrilled with our new digs, so if you haven’t been by the new office, please do come by and visit!

LOVgren Award doubles

Rockport Music is incredibly fortunate to have such a devoted group of volunteers. From ushering and selling coffee to hosting open houses and housing artists, the amount that individuals have given of themselves is truly breathtaking. So, this year, we just couldn’t choose one Lovgren Award winner. The 2018 awardees were Chris Pitman and Sharron Cohen. Chris volunteers in a host of areas, including concessions and ushering, and for many years, Sharron Cohen has captured all the wonderful education & outreach activities with her camera.

Prior to joining Rockport Music, Josue Gonzalez was the Director of Music at the Conservatory Lab Charter School, an El Sistema-inspired K-8 charter school. He is a graduate of the Perrone Sizer Institute for Creative Leadership and was recently given the Emerging Leader Award from the Arts Schools Network (ASN). Josue graduated with a BM and MM in cello performance and Suzuki Pedagogy from Cleveland Institute of Music while also working in an Arts Management internship at the Cleveland Orchestra.

Rockport Music is thrilled to welcome both Lori and Josue to our team. They both fill positions that are integral to the organization and we hope you will join us in welcoming them to the Rockport Music family.

Welcome Our New Staff

In October, Rockport Music welcomed two new staff members – Lori Correale, Director of Development, and Josue Gonzalez, Director of Education & Partnerships.

Lori Correale has 25 years experience in fundraising and came to us most recently as Director of Major Gifts at Oxfam America. Prior to Oxfam, she has also worked at The Governor’s Academy, the MIT Sloan School of Management, and Boston University Office of Alumni Relations and Development. Lori resides with her family in Rockport.

Prior to joining Rockport Music, Josue Gonzalez was the Director of Music at the Conservatory Lab Charter School, an El Sistema-inspired K–8 charter school. He is a graduate of the Perrone Sizer Institute for Creative Leadership and was recently given the Emerging Leader Award from the Arts Schools Network (ASN). Josue graduated with a BM and MM in cello performance and Suzuki Pedagogy from Cleveland Institute of Music while also working in an Arts Management internship at the Cleveland Orchestra.

Rockport Music is thrilled to welcome both Lori and Josue to our team. They both fill positions that are integral to the organization and we hope you will join us in welcoming them to the Rockport Music family.
Perhaps more than any art form, music thrives on collaboration. In particular, the sharing and blending of musical ideas and talents remains remarkably suited to live performance, something that we at Rockport Music know a thing or two about.

In reality, anytime two or more musicians share the stage, we witness the bloom of artistic collaboration. But what kind of magic is sparked when disparate artists are brought together for a set or even just a song? Those are often the truly special moments. Throughout the years Rockport Music has created countless opportunities for just this type of special one-time collaboration. The 2018–19 fall/winter season is no different, as we present several collaborative concerts.

On November 10 we are hosting another installment of our Rockport Folk Summit series, this time featuring the chamber folk of Laura Cortese & the Dance Cards as well as the rootsy singer-songwriter Ana Egge. The show opens with a performance by Cables & Lines, a talented Gloucester-based folk trio. As in past Summits, each artist performs a set before a rousing, often spontaneous final set where they all join forces. It’s not surprising that it’s these freewheeling collaborative final sets that stay lodged in the audience’s brains.

Later on November 30 a more formal collaboration takes place on the Shalin Liu Performance Center stage. The young Boston-based chamber ensemble Palaver Strings, rising star pianist Ben Cosgrove, and the acclaimed Maine Youth Rock Orchestra will be joining together for a much-anticipated concert called Break featuring the music of Cosgrove, as well as selections from rock heroes like Radiohead and The National. It’ll be unlike anything done before at the hall.

On January 23 a collaboration on a smaller (but equally entertaining) scale comes in the form of the Beantown Swing Orchestra. They return to the hall with a concert that includes a handful of guest appearances from Rockport High School musicians. It will certainly be a rewarding experience for those kids, as there’s no better way to learn and improve than to get on stage with professionals.

Make sure you get in on the collaborative spirit and check out one of these concerts!
An Evening of Appreciation

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Rockport Music hosts an Evening of Appreciation at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester to celebrate its supporters. Guests of this joyous event included generous donors and corporate sponsors who made gifts at the Chord Level and above.

1. Barbara Sparks, Linda Walker and Board Chair Susanne Guyer enjoying the reception. // 2. Gene and Nina Doggett (trustee) visit with new board member Sandra Jesse as well as Mark Glovsky, CEO of Glovsky & Glovsky (corporate sponsor of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival), and his wife Livia Cowen.
3. A wonderful evening was had by all, including Geoffrey Juvelier (left) and Mike Brown (right) of Boston Financial Management as they visited with Trustee Emeritus Joe Mueller and his wife Eileen. // 4. Trustee Jeannie McIntyre in conversation with Helen Soussou. // 5. Lindsay Greimann and Rosemary Pisano having a lovely evening. // 6. Maggie Rosa, JJ Bell and Jan Charles enjoy the reception. // 7. Board Chair Susanne Guyer and Artistic Director Barry Shiffman.
Join us for evenings of music and drinks in the Reception Hall.
See calendar listing.
Music with a View

With the intimacy and oceanview of the Shalin Liu Performance Center, artists and audiences alike are enraptured by the experience. Your generous support enables Rockport Music to continue providing exceptional musical experiences throughout the year in a broad scope of musical genres.

For more information about making a gift to Rockport Music, please contact the Development Office at 978.546.7391 or visit our website at rockportmusic.org/annualfund. Feel free to utilize the enclosed envelope.

The Annual Fund supports:
- Exceptional live music of all genres, including the Rockport Chamber Music Festival & Jazz Festival
- Education and Community Engagement
- Maintenance of the world-class Shalin Liu Performance Center

Thank you for your support!

STACEY KENT
Saturday, December 8
Grammy-nominated jazz singer performing on the heels of her new album I Know I Know