

## “Music Reaches Out”

(by Guytano Parks)

"It was thrilling to be able to hear chamber music performed in such a lovely, intimate setting . . . and at such an impressively high level of artistry!" and "Experiencing music on an intimate level where you feel the energy and passion of the performers was very exciting." These were among the sentiments expressed by attendees at M.U.S.i.C.'s Cocktail Party held on June 6, 2014 at a beautiful, historic Shaker Heights Tudor residence graciously offered by an avid music enthusiast and patron of the arts.

The guests – new to the experience – were invited to attend this free marketing event by M.U.S.i.C., and were encouraged to wear cocktail attire to meet and socialize with Artistic Director Jodi Kanter and some of her talented performers. The gathering of more than thirty 21 to 40 year-olds marveled at the fact that the musicians were their age or even younger, and enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres while imbibing in wine and M.U.S.i.C.'s signature sangria, Jodi's special mix. It was a splendid opportunity to enlighten and entertain a new and younger audience while introducing them to Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics.

There was a short musical program presented in the ambient tradition of the European salons of past centuries. Another attendee remarked, "I feel as though I'm experiencing something historic and old, while at the same time its vibrancy makes it become new again!" The enthusiastic audience burst into spontaneous applause after the opening movement of Weber's Concertino, performed colorfully by clarinetist Elinor Rufeizen and pianist Natsumi Shibagaki. This was just the beginning of an exciting program that garnered shouts of approval along with the applause for pianist Alexander Kostritsa's brilliant performance of Beethoven's Les Adieux Piano Sonata. An illuminating and compelling reading of Dupont's Sonata No. 6 by two cellists Fedor Amosov and Chauncey Aceret that closed the program, eliciting an attendee of the event to utter: "I've never before been this up close and personal with musicians . . . this experience has turned me on to chamber music and I'll definitely be back for more!"

Committed to providing intimate performance opportunities for emerging world-class musicians in Northeast Ohio, M.U.S.i.C. is now in its seventh season and also provides enjoyment for audiences, helps launch new musical careers, introduces novel performance venues and reaches out to expand the audience for chamber music