

M.U.S.i.C. Newsletter

2019 (Vol. 8, No. 1)

Musician News

Two M.U.S.i.C. Stars Win Concerto Competitions!

Greta Pasztor, piano, of Kent State's The Hugh A. Glaser School of Music and **Liam Kaplan** of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music won their respective school's concerto competitions. Greta will perform *Totentanz* by Liszt and Liam will perform Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 2* in 2020.



Congrats!

Opera News

M.U.S.i.C. stars **Shawn Roth**, **Max Cook**, and **Alexis Reed** performed principal roles in Oberlin Conservatory's fall production of Benjamin Britten's opera *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Shawn



Shawn and Max at our May 2019 two-piano salon

was one of the winners of the Michigan District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and will be competing in the Great Lakes Region Auditions in January 2020 for a chance to compete at the finals in New York.



Alexis and Shawn sang a love duet for us in February



"It's been wonderful and exciting performing for M.U.S.i.C." -Amy Tan

Amy Tan, piano, and **Chauncey Aceret**, cello, who have been performing for M.U.S.i.C. since 2015 and 2013, respectively, have accepted teaching positions at a private school in San Francisco. We enjoyed having them on our series, and they will be missed by all.

Alejandro Rodriguez, classical guitarist and frequent performer with M.U.S.i.C., won 1st prize at the 2019 James Stroud Classical Guitar Competition, which took place at Oberlin in March. If you attended our February and December Musical Salons, you would have heard Alejandro perform for us then. We look forward to having him back soon!

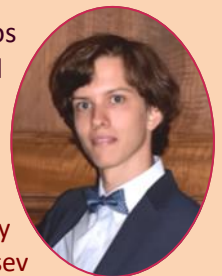


M.U.S.i.C. Commissions Works by New Composers

M.U.S.i.C. commissioned award winning composer and pianist **Arseniy Gusev** to create a work for two pianos for our May 19th program, at the home of Zeda Blau. The work was titled *Thin Ice*. Arseniy recently received the Maurice & Judith Kaplan Award for Uncommon Creativity from the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), as well as the Music & Drama Club Award at the CIM 2019 Honors convocation.

"I'm tremendously grateful to M.U.S.i.C. for the opportunity to write this piece. It is always a true happiness to see how everything that sounds first in someone's head starts sounding in reality."

- Arseniy Gusev



M.U.S.i.C. commissioned and premiered a new work by composer **Chris Neiner**. Entitled *Serenade for the Ghosts*, it was written for a string quartet and clarinet and had its premiere at our Halloween program. The following month, *Serenade for the Ghosts* was performed again as part of CIM's New Music Series.

"As an organization, we are happy to be able to give voice to these rising stars who are giving the world new works while challenging their creativity."
- Jodi Kanter, Artistic Director and the board of M.U.S.i.C.

Photos from M.U.S.i.C.'s Successful September Benefit "Celebrating our Stars"



Herdís Goðmundsdóttir and Liam Kaplan begin our program with Beethoven



Jung Oh and Alex Kostritsa give a moving performance of Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise*

Thanks to all of our patrons that attended, and to the Lucarelli family for hosting us.



It was a glorious day for our event at the Hanna Mansion.



Professor Peter Takács enlightens the audience before his performance

Photos from our 2019 Halloween Musical Salon



**Dr. Andrew Goldberg
One of our board members!**



In the 1920s mood for the evening!



Our elegant hostess, Anya Rudd



Victor Beyens, violin, and friends conclude the evening's Halloween themed program.

Hear from Our Board Members

How did you first find out about M.U.S.i.C.? Why are you on the board?

I learned from a chance meeting with Jodi about what she was up to, and I expressed an interest in M.U.S.i.C.'s mission after attending several concerts.

She'd asked me if I'd be interested in coming on the board, and I considered it an honor, and decided to accept her invitation as a way of continuing my support for young and highly talented musicians in whatever way was needed. I had been an active volunteer for CityMusic Cleveland, and considered her invitation an additional way to further support the mission in an innovative way of advocating for these stars. And stars they are! I believe just about every musician I have heard over the years could get into some of the top orchestras in the country, including our own Cleveland Orchestra.



Julie Frazier

When I consider how many of these stars have blossomed under the tutelage and with the exposure of this archetypal organization, I feel any effort on their behalf is invaluable.

“And stars they are!”



Victor Beyens

I first found out about M.U.S.i.C. during my time as a student at CIM. Wesley Skinner (cello) and I had heard of the organization through some older friends, Chauncey and Solomon, who played for M.U.S.i.C. at the time, and I eventually met Jodi at a recital. Our first performance was the Debussy piano trio with pianist Pierre Desangles. Since then, I have performed countless pieces for M.U.S.i.C. with a multitude of other young musicians that either passed through Cleveland or settled here and made it their home.

I am on the board because I believe I am able to understand the needs of musicians and relay them to the board, while also understanding the needs and realities of an arts organization. I like to try to bridge the gap between musicians and “management.” This is often an issue in arts organizations, and it is nice to have a conduit for discussion and understanding. I like to bring new ideas, from repertoire to performance venues, that maybe wouldn't be thought of by a non-musician. I am also excited for the opportunity to be a part of a board where I get to learn the organizational structure of an artistic institution, which is a great skill for any musician in today's climate.

Major Sponsors: The Bushman Fund • The Cleveland Foundation, Frank H. & Nancy Lyon Porter Fund
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture • The William O. and Gertrude Lewis Frohring Foundation
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About M.U.S.i.C.

M.U.S.i.C. (Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics) is committed to providing intimate performance opportunities for emerging world class musicians in Northeast Ohio. M.U.S.i.C. finds venues, arranges concerts, provides programs, publicity, and refreshments, and pays performers. By its activities, M.U.S.i.C. provides enjoyment for audiences, helps launch new musical careers, introduces novel performance venues, and expands the audience for chamber music. M.U.S.i.C. aims to enhance Northeast Ohio's reputation as an international capital of musical excellence.

Board of Directors:

Michael Bailis, president • Victor Beyens • Frank Buck
Faye D'Amore • Julie Frazier • David Freno
Dr. Andrew Goldberg • Carol Arnold Porter
Arthur Rotatori • Robert Villarreal

Artistic Director:

Jodi Kanter

to contact us: stars@intheconcerts.org or (216) 702-7047

Upcoming M.U.S.i.C. Programs: Watch for our announcements!

Mid-Winter Musical Salons / House Concerts

January 19, 2020 - A Program for Two Pianos and more
February 2020 - “In the Mood for Love”

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Classical Cabaret No. 25

March 2020 at Orange Village Hall

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Spring Musical Salon / House Concert

May 2020 - “Springtime in Paris”

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Classical Cabarets Nos. 26 & 27

July 2020 at Orange Village Hall

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for more information: www.starsintheconcerts.org

Visit us on Facebook for more photos as well
as announcements for upcoming events

Photos from our Cabaret Concerts

Photos by Jon Theobald



Devin Hinzo and Ian Morin perform Poulenc



Pierre Desangles, piano, returned from France, and was happy to perform Victor Beyens' medley of Piaf songs

Allie Switala and Arseniy Gusev perform Shostakovich



Final Bow - notice all the cellos. They performed an arrangement of Ravel's *Bolero*. It was a big hit!



Brian Thornton returns with Chopin

WHAT OUR PERFORMERS ARE SAYING

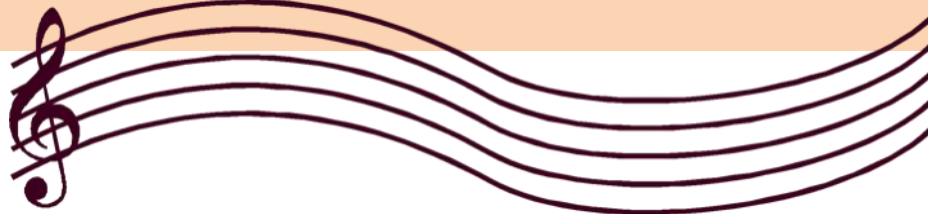
"This concert series is an amazing opportunity to connect with members of the Greater Cleveland community and to gain valuable performance experience!" -Julian Sawhill, viola

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"It's really great to hear how our audiences enjoy these concerts! The energy is palpable." -Ben Rogers, cello

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"It is very motivating to perform at these concerts and to feel not only validated by the performances, but also compensated!" -Shaleah Feinstein, violin



"I take all of our musicians to heart"

Comments by Jodi Kanter, artistic director, from an April 2019 interview by *ClevelandClassical*:

"What makes all the work worthwhile is to see the many young musicians who have gone on to have successful careers. I take all of our musicians to heart - and they become friends.

HEAR FROM OUR AUDIENCE: Why would you recommend M.U.S.i.C. programs to others?

"Excellent, varied programming, lively performances and program notes" -Jonathan F.

"I enjoy the variety of venues and always feel welcomed." -Don & Kathy K.

The quality of artists is incredible, and it's an opportunity to hear them as they launch their careers." -Christina G.