

MAXWELL SHEPHERD MEMORIAL ARTS FUND, INC. NEWSLETTER

september 2015
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

As President of the Shepherd Fund it is my pleasure to share with you an overview of events for the coming season and provide news from behind the scenes of our organization. Meeting almost weekly throughout the year, I work closely with our Artistic Director, Estrid Eklof and our Vice President, Raymond Petke, on program planning and general operations. Key to every decision we make is the financial health of our small budget. We are especially thankful to all involved in the Fund's life who volunteer their time and energy. This allows for all finances to be completely invested in the presentation and funding of our artists.

Our scheduled events span three seasons. This season begins in October with an organ "informance" spotlighting the Collinsville Congregation Church's famed Flentrop instrument. For the seventh consecutive year our "Joyous Music" ensemble, Quodlibet, returns in December. Spring 2016 will be ushered in with a spirited early music concert and with our annual invitational exhibition of visual delights. Two families will open the doors of their beautiful homes, one offering a celebratory evening of jazz and poetry and the other the intimacy of a private recital given by an internationally acclaimed pianist. We look forward to meeting and greeting you all at our events.

Central to our existence is the dedicated board of directors. We have had two changes in our board this past year. After serving as the Fund's first Financial Advisor, Dennis Cardello has stepped down. We would like to thank Dennis for his expertise and leadership. He will continue to contribute to the Fund as a member of our Shepherd Circle. Our Legal Advisor, Walt Hampton has also left the board. Walt served many years and we are appreciative of his insight and guidance. We welcome two new members of the board, Financial Advisor Kristin Oswald and Legal Advisor Michael Freeman. Kristin is a prominent leader in the business life of the Canton community and also manages her own business in financial planning. Michael brings his experience from many years in corporate legal work and continues to practice privately, providing legal services, especially in the area of entertainment law.



Lois Dodd
View Across the Ditch
Oil on masonite



Brazilian Votive Cabinet
Painted wood
From *The Estate of Poet*
Elizabeth Bishop (1911–1979)

Works from the collection of Kevin Rita see page 3, under Annual Invitational Exhibition

As we begin our 2015–2016 season, we give pause and look back to our successful twelve years of bringing the arts to our community. We have sponsored thirty-six concerts with over one-hundred musicians involved, organized and presented nine art exhibitions, offered two poetry readings, four art workshops, three dramatic monologues, one poetry commission and one puppet show. We have also sponsored four artists and one ensemble in our artist-in-residence program. All these events, both past and to come, are made possible by your ongoing generous financial support. We take great pride in our programs and thank you for being our partners in enriching all our lives.

With warm wishes,

Walter

A. Walter Kendra, President



Estrid Eklof, Raymond Petke, A. Walter Kendra

THE MAXWELL SHEPHERD MEMORIAL ARTS FUND, INC. EVENTS FOR 2015–2016 SEASON

OCTOBER 25

Christa Rakich, organ

NOVEMBER 14

Jazz & Poetry

DECEMBER 13

Music For A Joyous Season

MARCH 12

Pianist Juan Carlos Fernandez-Nieto

APRIL 10

The Sebastians

APRIL 22–MAY 22

Annual Invitational Exhibition

APRIL 23

Gallery Talk

MAY 15

Gallery Talk

for event details see pages 2 and 3





LOOKING FORWARD: EVENTS FOR OUR COMING SEASON

Christa Rakich, organ

**Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. with a reception to follow
The Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church
7 South Street, Collinsville, Connecticut**

One of the great treasures of the Collinsville Congregational Church, and indeed of the east coast of the country, is the organ built by famed Dutch organ maker Dirk Flentrop (1910–2003). We are thrilled to welcome Christa Rakich, renowned organist and harpsichordist, who will give an "informance", a combined recital and talk about the Flentrop organ and the music on her program.

Ms. Rakich is currently director of the musical program at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in West Hartford, Connecticut and Artist-in-Residence at First Congregational Church in Somers, Connecticut. As a Fulbright Scholar she studied for two years with Anton Heiller at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. She has held teaching posts at the New England Conservatory, Westminster Choir College, Brandeis University and the University of Connecticut. Her performing career has taken her throughout North America and Europe and included a series of thirty-four concerts of the complete keyboard music of J. S. Bach.



Jazz with Poetry/Poetry with Jazz: Animals in Music and Word

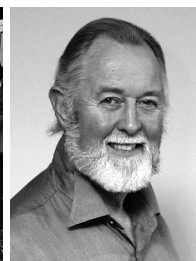
Sir William Trio with vocalist Carol Wrobeski and reader Ben Luxon

Saturday, November 14, 2015 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Home of Elizabeth Cotterman and Gerald Green

100 Cherry Brook Road, Canton, Connecticut

This event is free but space is limited and reservations are required.



Please join us as we present a celebration of our world of animals through music and poetry at the beautiful home of Elizabeth Cotterman and Gerald Green. There will be birds, bees, dogs, cats, panthers, dolphins, bears, and tigers (Oh my!). The Sir William Trio (William Stillinger, bass; James Argiro, piano; Gregory Caputo, drums) will be joined by vocalist Carol Wrobeski and reader Ben Luxon, former baritone with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and the Royal Opera House, London. There will be a "greet and meet" hour, with food and beverages provided, and a chance to view the items in our silent auction. Then take a comfortable seat for the evening's performance, a non-stop "guided tour" of the animal kingdom. (Sorry, no pets allowed!). All proceeds from this event will go directly to the Fund. This event is free with donations accepted. Spaces are limited and reservations are required! Please contact Fund president Walter Kendra at 860.693.2762 by October 24, 2015 to make your reservation.



Our Venues



Collinsville Congregational Church



Gallery on the Green



Canton Public Library

Music for a Joyous Season with the Quodlibet Ensemble

Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. with a reception following the concert

The Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church

7 South Street, Collinsville, Connecticut

Returning for its seventh consecutive December for the Shepherd Music Series, the Quodlibet Ensemble will offer another inspiring concert of chamber music from the Baroque to the present. This concert has become a community tradition and always promises a full house. The group, founded in 2008, has released its first CD of concerti grossi by Arcangelo Corelli. Please join us as we celebrate the festive season with great music!



Juan Carlos Fernandez-Nieto, piano

Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. with a reception to follow

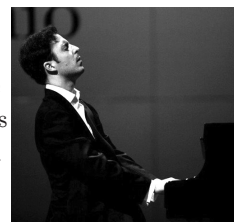
Home of Felicia and Robert Lipson

149 East 69th Street, New York, New York

This concert is free but seats are limited and reservations are required

In a special private home event Spanish pianist Juan Carlos Fernandez-Nieto will give a solo recital on the beautiful Steinway grand piano at the Lipson home on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Juan Carlos made his debut at age sixteen as soloist with the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada (Granada City Orchestra). Since then his career has flourished with major engagements in Spain, Holland, Germany, Puerto Rico, and America.

Juan Carlos performed for the Shepherd





Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church last February to a full and enthusiastic house. A strong demand for seats is anticipated for this event. To confirm your seat, please contact Fund president Walter Kendra at 860.693.2762 by February 27, 2016.

The Sebastians "Over the Alps" with guest soprano Awet Andemicael Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 4:00 P. M. with a reception to follow The Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church 7 South Street, Collinsville, Connecticut

Hailed by the New York Times as "New York's leading young early music ensemble", the Sebastians return to the Shepherd Music Series as the newly appointed Artists-in-Residence with the Shepherd Fund for 2016-2017. They will be joined by guest soprano Awet Andemicael, who thrilled our audience at our March 2014 concert.

The Sebastians are in their fourth year as Ensemble-in-Residence at All Angels' Church in Manhattan. The group has been featured at the Connecticut Early Music Festival and with New York's dell'Arte Opera. As well as offering their subscription music series at All Angels' Church, the Sebastians have collaborated with acclaimed vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire in several engagements in Florida.

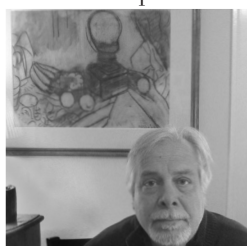


The Annual Maxwell Shepherd Memorial Invitational Exhibition:

Connections From A Life In Art: The Collections of Kevin Rita

Friday, April 22 through Sunday, May 22, 2016 opening reception 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, preceded by a gallery talk by Mr. Rita at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Rita will also give a second talk on Sunday May 15 at 3:00 p.m. "The Polished Lines: A Journey Through Poetry and Prose" Gallery on the Green, 5 Canton Green Road, Canton, Connecticut

For over thirty years Kevin Rita has sought out those things closest to his heart; drawings, objects, music, painting, prose, sculpture and other expressions of the human hand and mind. In those years, working as a collector, curator, dealer of rare books and fine art and fine press publisher, he has had the good fortune to spend both his private and professional life immersed in the things he loves. The exhibition, which will highlight many of Kevin's favorite objects, will offer an opportunity to see how one person has enriched his life and has led to countless personal connections in the world of artistic creation.



Mr. Rita with a drawing by Robert DeNiro, Sr., *Untitled (Still Life with Bust)*, 1960 charcoal on paper

photo: Julie Burnep

LOOKING BACK: EVENTS FROM OUR PAST SEASON

American cellist **Jacques Lee Wood** and Australian guitarist **Simon Powis** opened the 2014-2015 Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church with a combined duo and solo concert on Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 4:00 p. m. Their program included works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Friedrich Burgmüller, Reynaldo Hahn, Franz Schubert, Arvo Pärt, Gaspar Cassadó, Manuel de Falla, and Radames Gnattali. The duo had recently launched its debut CD, *Paperworks*, with a five concert tour of China. The concert was followed by a reception in the church's Collins Hall.

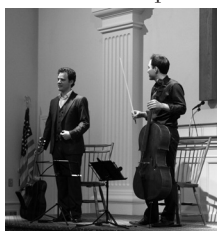


photo: Lisa Brisson

The **Quodlibet Ensemble** presented the Fund's traditional winter celebratory concert, **Music for a Joyous Season**, held on Sunday, December 14, 2014, 4:00 p. m. as part of the Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church. Returning for its sixth consecutive winter performance, works by Arcangelo Corelli, George Frederick Handel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Vivaldi were enjoyed. The concert had an overflow crowd with additional seating brought in to accommodate the more than two-hundred and fifty guests. Even the organ bench in the balcony section was employed to seat the enthusiastic audience. A festive reception was held in Collins Hall following the performance.

Our long and severe winter was warmed by the return visit of the celebrated Spanish pianist **Juan Carlos Fernandez-Nieto** for a Sunday, February 22, 2015, 4:00 p. m. recital for the Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church. His program included works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Robert Schumann and a selection from *Iberia*, by countryman Isaac Albéniz. After a standing ovation, members of the audience and the artist attended a reception in Collins Hall. By coincidence, Juan Carlos Fernandez-Nieto gave his debut recital with the Fund exactly five years ago to the day (February 22). On both occasions the day's weather was challenging with intermittent snow and ice. And on both occasions the Collinsville Congregational Church was packed.



photo: Lisa Brisson

The Annual Maxwell Shepherd Memorial Invitational Exhibition at the Gallery on the Green featured painting and sculpture by the internationally-acclaimed artist **Peter Waite**. The exhibition was held from Friday, April 24 to May 24, 2015. An opening reception took place on Saturday, April, 25 from 6:00 to 9:00 p. m. and was attended by over two-hundred and fifty people. The artist himself was unable to attend, being engaged at the same time by a major exhibition of his Cincinnati Series at the Carl Solway Gallery in Cincinnati. However, Peter was on hand Sunday, May, 3 at the Gallery on the Green to give an informal talk and to meet visitors at a post-talk reception.



photo: Lisa Brisson

The concluding performance of the 2014-2015 Shepherd Music Series at Collinsville Congregational Church was held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 7:00 p. m. and presented the piano and percussion duo **Synchronicity**. Brothers **Garah Landes**, piano and **Gregory Landes**, percussion brought their fusion of classical and jazz music to life with an innovative program that included their own transcriptions of works by Béla Bartók and Alberto Ginastera, solo works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Enrique Granados, as well as three newly commissioned works by jazz artists Steve Kenyon, Jeremy Beck, and Rory Stuart. The audience was mesmerized by the complexity and variety of the music and showed their appreciation with a spontaneous standing ovation.





LETTERS FROM OUR AUDIENCE AND OUR ARTISTS

"Simon and Jacques transported us. How lucky we are to have such music in our midst and such passion shared by those who bring it to us."

— Suzi Smith

"Thank you so much for hosting us year after year. What a wonderful tradition!"

— Daniel S. Lee, on behalf of the Quodlibet Ensemble

"The chamber music concerts on Sunday afternoon in the Collinsville Congregational Church are great! Thank you for making them possible".

— Jerry Zimmerman

"A snowy day...a full house of appreciative people. Thank you again for having me here and let's hope it will continue in the future".

— Spanish pianist Juan Carlos Fernandez-Nieto

"I was particularly taken with Peter Waite's work. Really stunning!"

— David Barclay

"Greg and I would like to thank you very much for inviting us to play in your wonderful series. It was truly a pleasure to work with all of you. The church was wonderful and everyone was so helpful and kind. The audience was terrific, attentive and enthusiastic. We are very grateful to be playing the music that we love for all of you and for the wonderful people that the Shepherd Series has brought together".

— Garah and Gregory Landes of Synchronicity

"We recently moved to Florida so unfortunately we will not be able to attend the wonderful events we grew to love. The magnificent concerts and art exhibits are memories we will treasure. We will miss you and the other wonderful people we met".

— Linda and Wayne Spock

ARTISTS UPDATES

Artist **Peter Waite** had a solo exhibition of his Cincinnati Series at the Carl Solway Gallery in Cincinnati from April 24 to August 1, 2015.

The Claremont Trio (Andrea Lam, piano; Emily Bruskin, violin; Julia Bruskin, cello) gave concerts at The Gardner Museum in Boston in January and April 2015 and at The Library of Congress in Washington, DC. in February 2015.

Pianist **Ryo Yanagitani** is Artist-in-Residence and Artistic Advisor to the Overtures Artists Concert Series since 2013 at the S&R Foundation in Washington, DC. He continues to give concerts with the S&R Foundation's Evermay Chamber Orchestra and the combined Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and S & R Chamber Ensemble. Ryo also gave a solo recital of music by Rachmaninov in May 2015 and presented a discussion and solo performance on WUSA 9 television in September 2014.

Stephen Collins, the Boston-area actor, lecturer, and historical tour guide, presented "Irish Voices", a dramatic reading of works by Yeats, Joyce, Heaney, McCourt and others, at the Southbury Connecticut United Church of Christ's Arts Escape on Saint Patrick's Day 2015.

The Amphion String Quartet (Katie Hun, violin; David Southorn, violin; Wie-Yang Andy Lin, viola; Mihai Marica, cello), members of the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center's CMS Two Program, gave several concerts in the past year including those at BargeMusic in Brooklyn New York; the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center New York; the Van Cliburn Festival Fort Worth, Texas; and a collaboration with the members of the BodyVox

dance company in Portland, Oregon. The quartet's first CD recorded in 2014 on Nimbus Records was hailed by MusicWeb International, "...the

playing of the Amphion String Quartet is remarkably mature and displays impeccable intonation, unity and glorious musicality".

Organist **Ahreum Han**, Principal Organist, Assistant Director of Music, and Artist-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, maintains an active concert schedule that saw her give recitals at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York and at Trinity Church in New Haven, Connecticut. This September she will perform at the Evangelische Kirchgemeinde in Arbon, Switzerland. Ahreum has also been named as College Organist at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Artist **Robert Andrew Parker** had an exhibition of his World War II watercolors at the Arkansas Art Center in February and March 2015. A selection of his illustrations was also included in a group show on illustrated visual journalism at the Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis.

Soprano **Lucy Fitz Gibbon**, soloist with the **Quodlibet Ensemble** in December 2012, was soloist with the Tulsa Symphony in a performance of Mozart's Requiem in January 2015. In February 2015 she sang the role of Dianora in Max von Schilling's opera Mona Lisa with the American Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. This summer she was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center for the second consecutive year.

The Jasper String Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at Temple University's Center for Gifted Young Musicians, has begun its two-year worldwide engagement to premiere Aaron J. Kernis' Third String Quartet, a work that the quartet commissioned. So far the Kernis quartet has had premieres at Chamber Music Northwest in Portland, Oregon and at the Karamoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, New York.

Artist **Robert Dente** is included in a group show, running from June to September 2015, at Brick Walk Fine Art in West Hartford. The show "celebrates the light and heat of summer".

The Jupiter String Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, was featured in the summer 2015 Chamber Music Festivals in Rockport, Maine and Cape Cod as well as the Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. Their most recent recording, "Ravel: Intimate Masterpieces", with harpist Yolanda Kondonassis was hailed by American Record Guide as "a must-have...the recording of Ravel's String Quartet by Jupiter tops them all".

Curator, exhibition director, and artist **Richard Klein** was the juror for the exhibition "Open Call NNE (North Northeast)" held January and February 2015 at the Brattleboro Museum of Art in Vermont.

The Sebastians, Ensemble-in-Residence at All Angels' Church in Manhattan, gave a four-concert series there with music by J. S. Bach and his contemporaries; Vivaldi; Biber; and sacred music of Handel and Vivaldi. They also continued their collaboration with the vocal ensemble Tenet in a performance of motets by J. S. Bach.



The **Modigliani String Quartet** continues their busy career with a three-week tour of Australia in October 2015 and a ten-day tour of Japan in November 2015. The past six months have seen the quartet on a tour of North America, including a concert at Carnegie Hall. Their collaboration with the recording company Mirare has produced five award-winning CDs.

"Deep Lane", the latest book of poems by **Mark Doty**, has been published by W. W. Norton. Doty has another publication forthcoming, "What is the Grass?", a personal rumination on Walt Whitman. Many of our dedicated followers will recall that the Fund commissioned Mark Doty for five poems that were part of "Museum Garden", our first event,

Soprano **Awet Andemicael** was guest soloists with the **Sebastians** in May 2015 for a concert of sacred and secular music by Handel and Vivaldi. This past summer she performed with the cutting-edge orchestral ensemble The Knights at Tanglewood's Seiji Ozawa Hall and at New York's Bryant Park. This autumn she will be Visiting Lecturer of Sacred Music at Yale University's Institute for Sacred Music.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

OR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Maxwell Shepherd Memorial Arts Fund, Inc.
16 South Street
Collinsville, CT 06019
Attn: A. Walter Kendra
860.693.2762
or awkendra@yahoo.com

We are seeking financial support for our printed materials, including our newsletter and our printed music programs. Additional funding areas available for underwriting include sponsorships for our public programs of music, gallery exhibitions, and the presentations of poetry and drama. If you or your business are interested in underwriting a part of our program please contact the Fund at the address above. All contributions are fully tax-deductible and we will be happy to acknowledge your support.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO THE FUND, INCLUDING MATCHING GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:

The Maxwell Shepherd Memorial Arts Fund, Inc.
c/o Collinsville Savings Society
P.O. Box 197
Collinsville, CT 06019

PLANNED GIVING

Please consider the Fund in your estate planning or will.

THANK YOU

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE
FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR HELPING TO
UNDERWRITE THE COST OF OUR
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

THE COLLINSVILLE SAVINGS SOCIETY
PRECISION SOLUTIONS INC. Quakertown, PA

THANK YOU!

**THE FUND WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOR UNDERWRITING
SOME OF OUR COSTS:**

CHESTER PAUL BEACH
CIGNA FOUNDATION (matching gift)
THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY
IBM (matching gift)
LINDSEY A. KEENE TRUST
STEVEN & JUDY KENDRA
RICHARD & DEBORAH LENG
MACY'S/BLOOMINGDALE'S (matching gift)
WALTER MURPHY
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DOUGLAS ROBINS
DUNCAN S. SOMERVILLE, JR.
UNITED TECHNOLOGIES (matching gift)

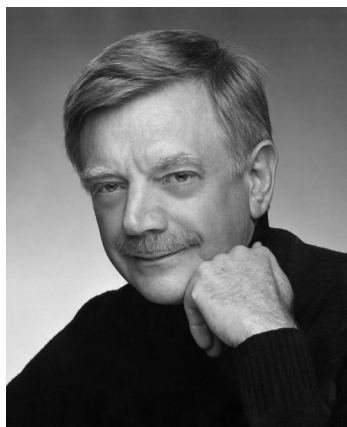
The members of the board would like to thank everyone who has graciously volunteered their time and talent to the Fund including:

Leslie Bok	Lisa Brisson
John Crane	Dan Diodato
Joan Hofmann	Lauren McCoy
Kristin McNally	Walter Murphy
Shirley Mae Neu	Stephen Petke
Laura Salch	Eulah Sheffield
Charles Spencer	Mary Tomolonius
Beth Van Ness	Susan Wittmer
The Reverend James Wheeler	
The Reception Committee of the	
Collinsville Congregational Church	
The Reception Committee of the	
Maxwell Shepherd Memorial Arts Fund	



MAXWELL SHEPHERD (1930 – 2000)

Pianist, teacher, lecturer, and designer



THE MAXWELL SHEPHERD MEMORIAL ARTS FUND WAS CREATED TO PROMOTE THE ARTS, PROVIDE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT TO THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH MAX LIVED AND WORKED, AND OFFER SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ARTISTIC CREATORS AND PERFORMERS. IN SPONSORING OR COLLABORATING ON ARTS-RELATED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, THE FUND SEEKS TO BEQUEATH MAX'S LEGACY OF JOY, EXUBERANCE, AND SPIRIT TO ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES ALIKE.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE

THE FUND WAS HONORED TO SUPPORT THESE FINE ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR:

Canton Public Library
Collinsville Congregational Church
Five Points Gallery
Canton Artists' Guild, MSMAF Open Juried Show Prize
was awarded to Faripour Forouhar



Faripour Forouhar
Hill-Stead Museum Farm
oil on canvas

live
listen

THE MAXWELL SHEPHERD MEMORIAL ARTS FUND, INC.

16 SOUTH STREET | COLLINSVILLE, CT 06019

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