BAFFA’S Bulletin Board
Winter 2020

Message From the President

Welcome to the winter edition of BAFFA’S Bulletin Board. I am Andrea Edwards, President of the Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts (BAFFA). It has been several years since BAFFA has elected a new President, so I think it is only fair to tell you a bit about myself. I have been playing the violin since grade school and loved music so much I majored in Music Industry in college. Although my ultimate career took me down an IT / Management path, I always stayed active in music and the arts by performing and volunteering for the orchestras I performed with. I’ve been with BAFFA for almost 15 years now and have served on the board for most of them. Aside from performing in the orchestra, I have served on the board first as a general member and then as Publicity Director, Orchestra Manager, Vice President and now, President.

BAFFA’s 51st season has been a busy one so far. We have had two successful concerts by the Orchestra and Chorus and the BAFFA Carolers were proud to be asked to perform at Miracle on Main Street in Sayville and at the Civil War Christmas at St. John’s Church in Oakdale. The Gallery also hosted Four Perspectives, the Bell Street Artists and Plein Aire Limner Society (PALS) between September and December. All events were a success and we are proud of all of our performers and artists. You can read the details in the body of the newsletter.

We also had several successful Fundraising events. Our annual Journal and Membership drives raised close to $20,000.00! The fundraiser in December to see A Christmas Story raised $1850, and the clothing drive and concert donations brought in additional dollars. We are close to meeting our budget, but still have a little way to go. Check out the “Membership” and “How you can help BAFFA” sections for ways you can help us meet our budget.

As you read through this issue of our newsletter, I hope that you will see our many accomplishments and look forward to attending our upcoming events. Your contributions are helping make all this happen and that is definitely something to be proud of. I know I am.

Sincerely,
Andrea

BAFFA - Calendar of Events
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Feb. 1st -March 7th
Women Sharing Art –“Points East” – BAFFA Gallery

March 14th-15th
Elementary Art Show – BAFFA Gallery

March 21st & 22nd
Middle School Art Show – BAFFA Gallery

March 28th
BAFFA Symphony Orchestra presents Select Symphonies
At the Bayport-Blue Point High School at 7:30pm

April 5th
BAFFA Chorus presents Beautiful Music
At the Patchogue Methodist Church
at 4:00pm

April 26th -May 3rd
High School Art Show – BAFFA Gallery

May 16th
Spring Clothing Drive Fundraiser

June 6th
BAFFA Pops Concert- Forecast Music!
Featuring the BAFFA Symphony Orchestra and the BAFFA Chorus
At the Bayport-Blue Point High School at 7:00pm

June 20th
Garden Tour Fundraiser
Fall Concerts

On Saturday, November 23rd, the BAFFFA Symphony Orchestra did a fabulous job presenting their program entitled *Music Between Friends*, the music of Brahms and Dvorak, at the Bayport-Blue Point High School. Our wonderful orchestra members, under the direction of Dr. Richard Wright, continually treat audience members to top-notch performances.

The following day, over 60 BAFFA Chorus members performed the *Mass of the Children* and other pieces by well-known composer John Rutter at the St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sayville. They were joined by a children’s chorus made up of singers from five different churches across Suffolk County and a select chamber orchestra. An extra treat for this standing room only audience was to hear St. John’s new pipe organ. This beautiful concert was an extra special event because we were able to provide an opportunity for our youth to participate in a very professional performance. We are grateful to Martha Campanile for coordinating this major event and conducting all three groups.

Please click here to see both concerts on YouTube.
A Christmas Story - A Huge Success

On December 6th BAFFA had its first theatre party fundraiser at the Noel S. Ruiz Theatre in Oakdale to see the musical version of the popular holiday show, *A Christmas Story*. We sold 106 tickets to the show and offered 10 fabulous raffle prizes. Our guests were treated to a reception with light refreshments in the Onyx Room, which is next to the theatre. The show was wonderful and this event raised $1850 for BAFFA plus it also provided BAFFA members and their families an opportunity to socialize with one another.

Many thanks to the fundraiser committee: Ann Armoza, Judy Hester, Sandie Immoor, Marge Monheit, Sue Miller and Donna Smosky for this successful venture. We would also like to thank the staff at the theater for their excellent cooperation.

How You Can Help BAFFA

There are so many ways you can help BAFFA whether it’s for the chorus, the orchestra or the art gallery! Anything you, your family, or your friends can contribute will have a tremendous effect, whether you help with money, time, talents, or contacts. Consider joining one of the many committees we have including this newsletter, membership, fundraising, facilities, and special events! Ask any board member for more information.

BAFFA is always in need of volunteer help and in-kind contributions, even during the summer months. Does someone in your family have experience with grant writing? Could you write a letter of support for us to send along with our grant proposals? Do you have contacts that can help us with our printing? Perhaps you have a friend with a flair for graphic art and publication design who could help us design our journal, brochure, newsletter and concert fliers. We can always use your help at concerts with ushering, selling tickets, and setting up and tearing down the stage. Please speak with any board member about how you can contribute to BAFFA. For a listing of board members, please go to the BAFFA website, www.bafffa.org, and click on “About BAFFA” and scroll down to the bottom.

MEMBERSHIP
It’s not too late to join.

Even though our official membership drive takes place in the fall, it is not too late to join BAFFA. Your membership is always welcome. Membership begins at $25 a year and has different levels so that our members can contribute whatever they feel comfortable with. Please visit our website at www.bauffa.org and go to “Membership.” You can either pay by credit card online or send a check made out to “BAFFA” and mail it to: PO Box 16, Bayport, NY 11705. Thank you for your support.
BAFFA Victorian Carolers

A group of 23 members of the BAFFA Chorus, identified as the BAFFA Victorian Carolers and dressed in Victorian garb, delighted their audiences with two caroling events. On November 30th, they paraded for the seventh year, in the Miracle on Main Street parade in Sayville and then sang carols up and down Main Street. In addition, they performed inside some of the local stores.

On December 14th, the Victorian Carolers also performed for the second consecutive year at the Civil War Christmas event, sponsored by the Oakdale Historical Society, at the St. John’s Episcopal Church in Oakdale. The carolers kicked off the tree lighting ceremonies with the singing of Oh Christmas Tree and then performed a program of carols that were popular during the Civil War. In addition, they gave a very brief history of each of the carols. They have already been invited to perform again next year. We were delighted that our Chorus Director, Martha Campanile led us at this event.

BAFFA Musician’s Orchestra Handbook Published

Extra thanks to Tina Barkan, Andrea Edwards, Rich Rushton and Dr. Richard Wright for the countless hours they spent compiling an outstanding Musician’s Orchestra Handbook for BAFFA. Developed over the last six months, the handbook identifies and describes in detail the many different roles and responsibilities of our symphony orchestra and its members. It is meant to be a guide to answer any organizational questions that orchestra members might have. It is complete with diagrams and color-coded seating charts. Truly the end result is something we can take great pride in. We hope the orchestra members will thank the team for their dedicated effort to produce this guide.
Sharing Local Cultural Events on Long Island

In addition to participating in either the BAFFA Symphony Orchestra or the BAFFA Chorus, many of our members are also involved in other musical groups on Long Island which help to enrich our culture. Likewise, artists whose works are featured at the BAFFA Gallery are also involved in other exhibits on the island. While announcements are sometimes made about these events at our rehearsals, we would also like to share this information with you on a Local Culture on LI link on our BAFFA website. This would enable viewers to quickly take a look to see what is going on around Long Island by our local musicians and artists.

If you are involved in another musical or artistic group that you would like to list on this link, please contact the BAFFA office at baffagallery@gmail.com or call (631) 589-7343.

BAFFA's Third Clothing Drive is Coming Up

Mark Your Calendars

Last year BAFFA registered with Savers to enable us to participate in clothing drives as a way of getting clothing and bedding to them as well as to raise money for BAFFA.

In October we collected almost a ton of clothing and we hope to do at least as well when we have our next clothing drive in the spring. If you are replacing some of your items with new things you got for the holidays, please save your used items for BAFFA.

We will collect items at rehearsals on 5/6 and 5/13 and deliver them to Savers on 5/16. Additionally, donations can be dropped off at the Gillette House on 5/12, 5/14, and 5/15 between 10am and 12:30pm. Also, if you have a van and could help out with transporting, please speak to Lynette Rushton, Chorus Manager or Tina Barkan, Orchestra Manager. Thank you.

Garden Tour ~ June 20, 2020

Every other year, BAFFA partners with the Sayville Garden Club to sponsor a unique Garden Tour fundraiser. In addition to visiting beautiful south shore gardens, guests are treated to music by local musicians, artists painting the lovely vistas and light refreshments. This year’s tour will take place on Saturday, June 20th. If you would like to share your musical talents for this event, please contact the BAFFA office at (631) 589-7343 or email us at baffagallery@gmail.com. Mark your calendars now for this much-anticipated event.
A Multitalented Woman
Getting to Know Martha Campanile

After serving as BAFFA's choral director for 25 years, the conductor of the Choral Society of Moriches for 20 years, one of the conductors of the Brookhaven Choral Festival for many years and presently the music director of the Patchogue Methodist Church, Martha Campanile has become a familiar face to the music world. Read our interview with Martha to learn more about our fascinating, multitalented director.

This is your 25th year as BAFFA's choral director. You have a very interesting and inspiring story about how you started conducting, not just for BAFFA, but also for the Choral Society of Moriches at the same time. Would you be willing to share that story?

Yes. 25 years ago my son died in a tragic car accident at age 19. His friends sent many Mass cards and I would try to attend as many Masses as I could before going to school in Sachem. At one morning Mass the scripture was the 150th Psalm-about music and the congregational response was, “In this is our salvation”. After the Mass I went home for a quick breakfast and the phone rang. “Hello, this is Stanley Hartman from the Choral Society of the Moriches and we would like to invite you to be our choral director.” Just as I was about to give him my answer, the phone beeped and I said, “Hold on please this might be my daughter calling.” It was Mark Barton and he said, “Martha, the board of BAFFA would like you to be our new choral director.” I said, “Yes” to both gentleman and indeed the beauty of sharing beautiful music with wonderful people has been my salvation.

During the 25 years you have been involved with BAFFA, what changes have you seen in both the chorus and BAFFA?

The chorus has grown from about 20 to 50 or 60 depending on the program. We have had four different accompanists including Bob Veech, Liz Kee, Ann Marie DiSibio and Deanna Muro. The orchestra has had three different conductors, Bartolomeo Ferrara, Howard Cinnamon and our current conductor, Dr. Richard Wright.

It is always a joy to see new faces in BAFFA and there are also many people who have contributed so much to BAFFA and have either moved or died that I miss. The friendship that comes from sharing music is a lifetime experience. It is like a family or a community who lifts up beauty and shares many intrinsic values like trust and cooperation and who listen with a concern for each other as well as the music.

Throughout the years, the BAFFA board has always been supportive and led by dedicated people with their unique styles.

You conduct a popular Sing and Stretch class at the YMCA in Patchogue. In addition to that, you are at the Y regularly. What activities do you participate in there?

Total Body Conditioning - Cardio Kick Boxing - Pure Strength - Studio Cycle - Tabata - Yoga - Swimming.

Do you think there is a connection between your many physical activities and music?

YES! When you do breath management, as you inhale and exhale and when you exercise, they both bring strength to the core. Both require discipline and challenge to try something new. In music and in physical activities, when you work together you get stronger together. Also, both disciplines provide stress relief and energize the heart and the spirit.
When did you become interested in music and who do you think had the greatest influence on your musical development?

I have always been interested in music. My father was a professional accordion player and he was always playing and perfecting his gifts. I started piano lessons at age 7. I sang in the Junior Choir at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Bellmore. My father taught me accordion and I also played string bass and bassoon through junior high and high school. It was after playing bassoon for a performance of the Messiah in my freshman year of college that I made the switch to vocal study. I wanted to sing!

Greatest influence? Probably Dr. Paul Willworth, my first conducting teacher. He also played trumpet in the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) when extra trumpets were needed. Dr. Willworth was so musical and always strove for the best sound possible.

I also think of Mr. Aldefer at Mepham High School. He was so encouraging after my father died when I was in 10th grade. The spiritual qualities of text and music came through in his conducting and teaching. He expected and encouraged you to be your best.

How old were you when you began accompanying others on the piano?

When I was 14 and in junior high, the music teachers would tell their students who needed accompanists for NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association), “Ask Martha” and they did. I also started playing for Sunday School Services at St. Johns Lutheran Church and at Sunday evening services for the Church of the Nazarene in Bellmore.

You are widely recognized as an outstanding pianist, accompanist, conductor and teacher. Which, if any, of these roles is your favorite?

I love them all! As a pianist, I love the melody, harmony and various periods and styles, including Bach, Chopin, Scott Joplin, and so many others. Playing the piano brings you into the moment requiring total focus. It is piano therapy. As an accompanist, I love the teamwork. You become the nurturer and supporter. It’s a special trust relationship.

Being a conductor is so special as you take the notes by the composer and share with the choir and audience. You become a “copper wire conductor” when it is right and especially beautiful. I get a chill up my spine and that has happened with children’s choirs, high school choirs, church choirs and, of course, my community choir, BAFFA.

As a teacher, I have taught and enjoyed the challenges and joys of teaching preschool through college students. The “aha!” moments are priceless. The beauty of sharing in the growth of knowledge and musicianship at any age is rewarding. Seeing a student go on stage and sing with confidence and knowing that I was a part of building that confidence is very special.

I cannot select a favorite between being a conductor, a teacher, an accompanist or a soloist. They are all connected and I feel blessed to be able to do them all.

What advice would you give parents who would like to give their children an appreciation of music?

- Sing in the car and have music in your life.
- Attend a Broadway show together.
- Go to a ballet.
- Experience a concert in the park.
- Encourage learning an instrument of the child’s choice.
- Encourage participation in band, orchestra and chorus to develop teamwork and community.
- Listen to those childhood classics together like Peter and the Wolf, Hansel and Gretel or the Nutcracker and enjoy the family time together.
Is there anything else you would like us to know about you or your family?

I have been blessed with a wonderful supportive husband. He has such a great set of ears and will tell me honestly what I need to hear. Our family enjoyed special musical times together that made lifetime memories. Our daughter and grandchildren continue to have music in their lives. Grandson Michael plays the trombone and granddaughter Marina plays the trumpet as well as being a ballerina. Our daughter Christine encourages musical family events including concerts and Broadway shows. The music lives on!

One more thing I would like to add is that answering these questions has given me an opportunity to look back and appreciate all the people who have helped me become me. The gift of music is one I wish to continue and share forever.*

*Editor's note: We hope Martha will continue to teach, share, inspire and lead forever too.

We are looking for…

As you may know, both the BAFFA office and the BAFFA Art Gallery are located in the Gillette House in Sayville. The Town of Islip is in the beginning planning stages of refurbishing the Gillette House and is on the lookout for any old photos of this historic building that was constructed in 1848.

If you, or anyone you know may be able to help out with this, please contact the Islip Historian, George Munkenbeck at: Historian@islipny.gov

Also, for those of you who might like to learn more about this interesting home, please click on the link below.

https://www.suffolkcountynews.net/stories/from-sea-captain-to-supervisor

Thank you for your cooperation with this.