

# Portland Chamber Music Newsletter



November 2016



On November 12th our small group performed in front of nearly 100 people in the South Tabor neighborhood. We were reminded once more that music brings hope, unity and optimism.

Portland Chamber Music brings the healing power of music to our community and welcomes everyone regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, veteran or marital status.

Our goal is to increase access to music by making neighborhood concerts free, geographically close and highly approachable. We also strive to showcase meaningful but often forgotten musical works written by marginalized and oppressed composers.

Our holiday fundraiser is almost a week away! Please help us raise funds to continue this important work. Join us and make a positive impact on your community! Every dollar donated goes directly to support our outreach programs.

**Saturday,  
December 10, 2016  
at 6:30 pm  
Holidays Around  
the World  
Fundraiser  
Concert &  
Sing-a-long**

Advance Tickets \$20  
At the door \$25

The evening will include  
a Raffle & Silent Auction.

Classic Pianos of Portland, Recital Hall  
3003 Southeast Milwaukie Ave., Portland, OR 97202

**Get your advance tickets today!**



## Coming Soon

**December 10, 6:30  
p.m.**

Holiday Fundraiser  
Classic Pianos Recital Hall  
3003 Southeast Milwaukie  
Ave, Portland, OR 97202

**March 4, 2017, 6 p.m.**

*Bright Voices of the  
Darkest Hour: Music and  
the Holocaust*

Classic Pianos Recital Hall  
3003 SE Milwaukie. Ave,  
Portland, OR 97202

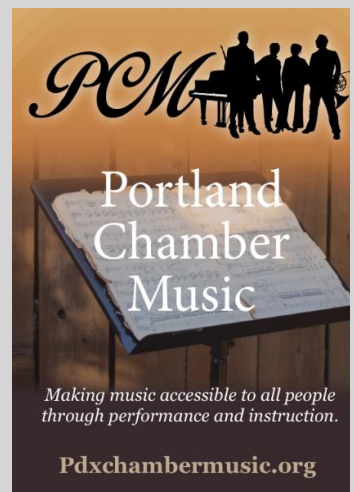
**March 18, 2017, 7 p.m.**

Vernon Neighborhood  
Concert  
Leaven Community Center  
5431 NE 20th Avenue,  
Portland, Oregon 97211

**April 8, 2017, 7 p.m.**

Woodstock Neighborhood  
Concert

Holy Trinity Lutheran  
Church  
7220 SE Cesar E Chavez  
Blvd., Portland 97202



Portland Chamber Music is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is fully supported by donations and grants from the communities it serves.

If you believe that music is important to the life of a community, we invite you to [support us with a tax deductible contribution.](http://Pdxchambermusic.org)

Our interviews with PCM musicians.  
Is there a question you'd like to ask?  
Let us know!

## Interview with Jennifer Crocket, clarinet

By Nora Barnett

### *Tell me a little about yourself*

I have been playing clarinet since I was ten. I went to De Paul University for clarinet and then I quit for a number of years. Then about 6 years ago I dug it back out and started taking lessons and worked my way back into playing.

I play with a couple of symphonies around the area and I enjoy chamber music. I love playing with Anya's group. I'm also the director of the Liberty Theater in Astoria.

### *What brought you to Astoria?*

My husband plays violin with a band. Part of his band moved out here a couple of years ago, and he and I found ourselves visiting Astoria almost every weekend. We kind of got priced out of Portland. We wanted to buy a house and there was no way we were going to be able to afford that in Portland. Astoria was natural progression. We just loved the city and we could actually afford to live here as freelance musicians.

### *Are you a full time musician?*

I was, until I took over as director of the Liberty Theater about 6 weeks ago. I've been a freelancer for the last 5 years and I just started the director job at the Liberty.

### *Do you still perform as a freelancer?*

I still play with the Wallowalla Symphony and I play with the Yakima Symphony and I play chamber music with the Portland Chamber Music.

### *Why the clarinet?*

I wanted to play cello, but my mom and my grandmother played clarinet, so I was kind of just handed a clarinet. But I've ended up liking it. My parents used to take us to the Nutcracker. I grew up in Chicago. We went to see the Nutcracker with the Chicago Symphony, and the Waltz of the Wallflowers is a clarinet solo. That's when I totally fell in love with clarinet.



### *Do you have any favorite genres of music?*

Kind of everything! I've always really enjoyed music that was scandalous or caused riots. Especially as a theater director, we struggle with programming because art and music often are uncomfortable and push boundaries, or at least should be.

A lot of people forget that a lot of my favorite composers, like Stravinsky and Holst, created riots. I've always enjoyed pieces like that. Or things that are forgotten about or people might not know much about.

### *What's it like being a clarinetist right now?*

I think just being a musician in general right now puts you in an interesting spot. The arts have been so misunderstood and devalued for so

## Portland Chamber Music

### Musicians

Lynda Hess, flute

Jennifer Crockett, clarinet

Meghan Van Cleave, violin

Gemma Taylor, French horn

Jonathan Cheskin, cello

Michael C. Liu, piano

Anya Kalina, soprano

Deborah Gitlitz, Storyteller

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long that it has pushed musicians into a corner a little bit. Part of my personal mission is to get musicians to educate the community and get the community more engaged in the arts. That's why I play with Portland Chamber Music. I love the outreach and education aspect that Anya has with Portland Chamber Music. Having a narrator explain to the audience what they're about to listen to gets them involved and engaged - that's what's really needed in the arts. Carlos Kalmar does it with the Oregon Symphony audiences and I've always respected it. He tells you what themes to listen for or which instruments are playing characters. Even as a person that's played and listened to music all my life there are things I haven't heard and don't know about.

It's that breakdown and engagement that I think has been lost over the years and is what has made music really elitist. Or at least perceived as being elitist. Not everyone knows what they are listening to and it can be alienating.

*What made you decide to stop playing the clarinet and what brought you back to it?*

I put it away when I was on the audition circuit because it was mid-nineties and there were a lot of orchestras starting to fold. I know there's only about 18 major symphonies left in the United States, and there's only about 2 clarinetists, 3 most in each. You get out of college and you're like "oh great, there's 36 jobs in the entire country, and hundreds of musicians showing up from around the world to try to take each one." I had kind of spent my entire life training for this moment and just failed. So I packed it up and at the time I couldn't imagine any other sort of career in music. Now, obviously, years later, I

realize there's all these different careers you can do and still be involved in the arts, but at the time it was like performance or nothing for me.

I moved to Oregon when I quit and I didn't even tell anyone that I played clarinet or that I went to school for it. I often equate it to having a limb amputated and then you meet all these friends that never knew you with that limb anyways. Then a friend of mine from Chicago moved to Portland and was like "dig out your clarinet, let's play some duets" and then it was on. I'm incapable of enjoying anything as a hobby so it became a full time career again.

It was like all of a sudden when I pulled out my clarinet and I started playing, I realized that as an adult I do this for me. I don't do this to try to meet some sort of standard. There are so many different ways you can play and enjoy it. Friends of mine were like "why the heck didn't you ever mention that you were good at this?"



## Portland Chamber Music

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### Become a Supporter!

If you believe that music is important to the life of a community, we invite you to support us with a tax-deductible contribution.

You can make a one-time donation or give us the best gift possible by becoming our monthly patron at a bridge level of your choosing:

Sellwood Bridge -	\$5
Ross Island Bridge -	\$10
Hawthorne Bridge -	\$25
Burnside Bridge -	\$40
Steel Bridge -	\$50
Broadway Bridge -	\$75
St. Johns Bridge -	\$100

Don't see the donation level that you want? That's OK, too. Just pick the amount you would like to contribute on a recurring basis.

If you would rather write a check, please make your check payable to Portland Chamber Music and mail it to: 3519 NE 15th Ave. #239, Portland OR 97212.

Portland Chamber Music is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (Tax ID: 37-1784427) and all donations are tax deductible.

If you have questions, please contact Executive Artistic Director Anya Kalina or Board President Kimberly Sieffert.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

### Place an Ad in Our Concert Programs.

This is a great way to advertise your business, event or a special announcement.

#### [Program Ad Order Form](#)

Fill out the order form and email it to [portlandchambermusic@gmail.com](mailto:portlandchambermusic@gmail.com).

Then write a check to Portland Chamber Music and mail it to:

3519 NE 15th Ave. #239, Portland OR 97212.

If you have questions, please contact Executive Artistic Director Anya Kalina or President Kimberly Sieffert at [portlandchambermusic@gmail.com](mailto:portlandchambermusic@gmail.com)

Thank you!