

Portland Chamber Music Newsletter



October 2016



We kicked off our free neighborhood concert series on Oct. 15th at St. Peter & St. Paul's Episcopal in the **Montavilla neighborhood**. Over 50 people braved the stormy weather to join us for this performance and to listen to a new piece written by local composer Antonio Freixas. It was simply marvelous. If you missed it, you can see it performed again on Nov. 12th.

On Oct. 29th we performed our second concert of the series at Portland Abbey Arts in the **Portsmouth neighborhood**. We had a wonderful turnout and are delighted to see our North Portland audience growing in numbers this year. If you attended the concert, come back again next year and bring a friend!

Our neighborhood concert series provides free-to-attend performances in the heart of Portland neighborhoods. Our goal is to increase access to music by making concerts free, geographically close and highly approachable.

During this season of giving, please help us raise funds needed to continue offering free neighborhood concerts. Join us at our **Holiday Fundraiser**. Enjoy festive activities and make a positive impact on your community!

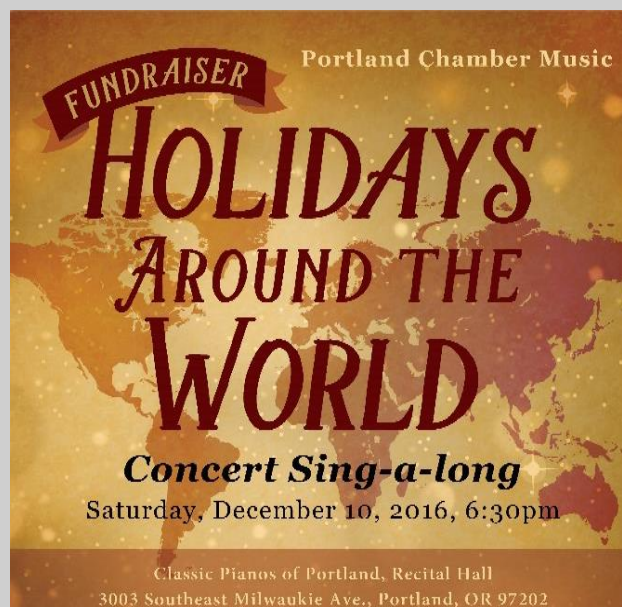
**Saturday, December 10, 2016
at 6:30 pm
Holidays Around the World
Fundraiser
Concert & Sing-a-long**

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

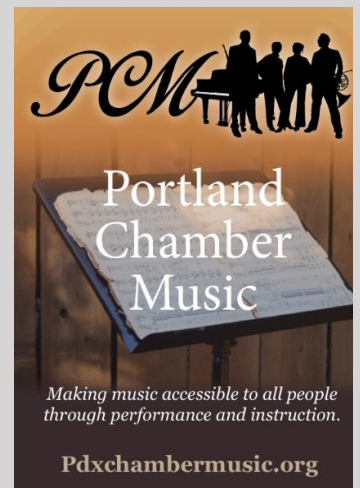
November 12, 7 p.m.
South Tabor/Foster-Powell
Neighborhood Concert
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
5415 SE Powell Blvd., Portland,
OR 97206

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.](#)

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

Interview with Jonathan Cheskin, cello By Nora Barnett

How did you get started playing cello?

I started playing in a Strings program in public school. I picked cello out of an instrument petting zoo. I've been playing cello since I was 10.

Could you tell me a little about your educational and career history?

In college, my parents weren't in favor of music education. I think they thought that I needed a safer profession. I was a liberal arts major at the University of Chicago. While I was doing that I was still playing cello in the school orchestra. I also played in other ensembles.

I ended up studying music history and got into a doctoral program. At the end of the doctoral program, I concluded that the practical side of music was more



fun. I was conducting the youth symphony and giving lessons. So, I got an additional master's degree in music performance in cello and also picked up a certificate in Suzuki training.

What area of music history interested you?

I did a thesis on the history of Italian Opera. The thesis was on a literary genre called Liberal Catholicism. I had a lot of fun doing it. I went to Italy for three summers and I read a lot of articles and visited a lot of libraries and looked at a lot of scores.

Are you a full time professional cellist? Can you tell me what it looks like to be a professional cellist in 2016?

I am heavily involved in teaching. I started a Strings program at the Village Home, which is a home school cooperative in Beaverton. I go there 2 days a week. I give lessons at the Community Music Center in Portland and teach at the Alliance Charter Academy in Oregon City. I also have some private students.

I also play in the Willamette Falls Symphony. So, if you're a professional cellist it's fair to say that you piece it together, and for me it's fun.

You have a family, kids. How do you find time to practice?

I teach a lot, I play during the day. There are gaps during the day when I practice, but it's difficult, to be honest. Sometimes you incorporate it into your teaching as well.

What else would you want the audience to know?

I do a lot of Suzuki teaching. I think it's a fairly unusual thing. There are a lot of Suzuki violin teachers in Portland but not a lot who teach cello. My youngest student right now is 5 years old. I've had students as young as 3 and a half. I find it really fun teaching.

There's this whole aspect of Suzuki which is what we typically call "musical talent" - ability to hear pitches, counting rhythms or whatever. Suzuki proved that if you got a kid in at an early enough age, you could work on it with them and they could develop it. And everything they do with their instrument is second nature by the time they are 10 years old.

I don't want to assert that you can't pick up the cello in high school or at an older
(continued on p.3)

Portland Chamber Music

Musicians

Lynda Hess, flute
Jennifer Crockett, clarinet
Meghan Van Cleave, violin
Jonathan Cheskin, cello
Michael C. Liu, piano
Anya Kalina, soprano

Guest Performers

Deborah Gitlitz, Storyteller
Miranda Scheffel, French horn
Gemma Taylor, French horn

Portland Chamber Music Newsletter



October 2016

age and end up being a great cellist. I know people who have done that. Suzuki thought of it the way you learn language. You immerse a kid in a language when they are really young and it is easier for them to learn. It's not impossible to learn a language when you are older, but it's a lot easier when you are young.

What do you do with your free time?

I have two boys, so that keeps me busy. I like fishing, reading and computer programming. And then practicing.

Final thoughts?

The cello has always been a part of my life. I can never recall a time when I didn't play in an orchestra. It's fun to have an activity that my entire life has been part of. I've done a lot of jobs and education programs but the cello has been the most constant thing in my life.



Portland Chamber Music

Executive Artistic Director
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Deb Lambeth

Graphic Design
Ruth Moorman

Research Coordinator
Nora Barnett

Contact Us

3519 NE 15th Ave #239

Portland, OR 97212

(503) 840-9185

portlandchambermusic@
gmail.com

Pdxchambermusic.org

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

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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!

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[Program Ad Order Form](#)

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

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Thank you!