



RE·IMAGINE
Mendelssohn

2016 · 2017
SEASON

CLASSICAL · FOLK · JAZZ · AND MORE

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS · PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center

a *Place* and a *Space* for the *Arts*

815-964-9713

www.mendelssohnpac.org

406 N. Main St. Rockford, IL 61103

The 56th Annual
Chandler Starr Miller
Scholarship Competition

Winner's Recital and Reception

Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Mendelssohn Hall

The Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center, through its Scholarship Competition, endeavors to foster a love of music and joy of participation in the performing arts. The unique humanness of each individual is developed through creative expression and self-esteem which results from a high level of achievement. The spirit of competition should always be subordinated to the satisfaction of working toward and accomplishing a goal. The many benefits of participation in music include memory and the concentration of skills, poise, self-discipline, and the familiarity with great music and musicians which enhances the quality of life at all ages.

-Eleanor Stanlis (1922-2000) former chair,
Chandler Starr Miller Scholarship Competition

Special Thanks From MPAC:

Thank you to CSMSC Chair Sharon and Brad Whitlock for their years of hard work organizing the competition.

Thank you to the many committee members and volunteers who help MPAC in our mission to present exciting, personal, interactive music experiences and enrich our community by fostering and supporting the performing arts in Rockford. We couldn't exist without you!

Welcome to Mendelssohn!

Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center was vested the Mendelssohn Club on October 4, 1884, by Rockford Social Leader Mrs. Clara Blanche Ellis Starr (wife of prominent banker Chandler Starr and daughter of Col. Edward F. W. Ellis for which Ellis Arts Academy is named). Wanting to enhance music for women in the community, Mrs. Starr entertained a group of local music lovers in her home on North Main Street. They chose the name Mendelssohn Club in honor of the world famous, German composer, pianist, organist and conductor Felix Mendelssohn. Hailed by Prince Albert as “a Second Elijah” who “weaned our ears from the senseless confusion of mere sound,” Felix Mendelssohn wrote symphonies, overtures, chamber pieces choral works and songs during the mid-1800s, which were treasured favorites of many of the original members of Mrs. Starr’s new music club.

Incorporating in 1894, the Mendelssohn Club grew from a group of local musicians and enthusiasts performing for one another into a community music organization. Club membership was available to everyone in the Rockford area and an annual concert series with regional, national and internationally known musicians was established. Mendelssohn became more than just a music club. In 1899, George Briggs, husband of an avid club member, constructed the distinctive Mendelssohn Hall at 513 West State Street as a memorial to his wife. At that time, the question of providing furnishings for their new hall and the need for funding dominated club “social sessions”. In response to this need, the ladies decided to publish a cookbook based on their common interest and expertise in the culinary arts. In 1909, coinciding with the club’s silver anniversary, The Mendelssohn Club Cook Book was published containing 1,394 recipes with instructions for cooking and serving them, as well as menus for social functions. Mendelssohn Club met at their West State location until 1909, when they moved to a new building on North Main Street. Mendelssohn Hall was demolished in the mid-1980s, and is now the site of the Rockford Mass Transit District’s downtown terminal.

The organization continued to grow, and in 1936, in order to give people an escape and refresher during the Great Depression, members of the Mendelssohn Club started the Community Concert Series (now Rockford Coronado Concert Association). Rockford’s first nine-foot, Steinway grand piano was purchased by the organization in 1949, and concert pianist Arthur Rubinstein, named one of the greatest pianists of the 20th Century by The New York Times, played the dedication concert on January 24, 1949. Thanks to a generous matching grant from members of the Emerson family (local manufacturing magnates) the Mendelssohn Club began construction on their very own building in 1950, at 415 North Church Street. Completed in 1952, the Starr Center was dedicated and the first concert was presented in its 220-seat auditorium.

As audiences grew, Mendelssohn season performances expanded to various locations including the Coronado Theatre, Tebala Shrine Temple, Rockford Woman’s Club and local churches. Music programs for local youth were formed including the Chandler Starr Miller Scholarship Competition, first held in 1961, and Young Musicians Series. In 1985, the Mendelssohn Chorale was founded by Ralph Nielsen, father of Cheap Trick’s Rick Nielsen, and continues to perform throughout the community.

In 2005, Mendelssohn purchased the historic Emerson House at 420 North Main Street. The first floor was historically renovated to be used as performance/event space for Mendelssohn programs as well as community rentals. After 120 years, the Mendelssohn Club was re-named Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center (MPAC) in 2006, marking a transition from a private club to a community arts center. With a generous donation from Dr. William and Leah Baskin, MPAC acquired the former First Presbyterian Church building at 406 North Main Street in 2012, allowing Mendelssohn to offer more music opportunities and define itself as both a place and space for the arts.

Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center now stands as the oldest continuously operated music organization in the United States and a staple of the Rockford cultural and arts scene. As a community arts center, *our mission is to present exciting, personal, interactive music experiences while enriching our community by fostering and supporting the performing arts.* On top of concerts, music programming, educational workshops and master classes, MPAC serves to support a growing art scene in downtown Rockford by being a home and venue for many areas arts organizations operating as Community Arts Partners on the Mendelssohn campus. Since its inception, MPAC has proudly presented such marvels as Isaac Stern, Vienna Boys’ Choir, Robert Merrill, Dave Brubeck, Jean Pierre Rampal, Dawn Upshaw, and Odetta to the Rockford region.

Now in our 132nd year, MPAC presents an exciting 2016-2017 concert season offering a wide range of music genres. Our quintessential chamber-style performances provide an intimate and interactive concert experience, making it the music of friends! We invite you to explore the exciting array of musical opportunities being offered this coming season, including outstanding performances that celebrate the cultural and historic diversity of the music of our community, the 2016-2017 season includes exciting, creative collaborations, intimate retrospectives, and compelling new genres honoring and examining historic and classical forms. Join us for our concert series, participate in an educational program or performing opportunity, or explore a community event on our campus!

2017 Scholarship Winners

ELEMENTARY PIANO

Teacher

Steven Chen
\$50 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Eva Woo

Preston Iser
\$35 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Eva Woo

Kaitlynn Jones
\$10 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Charlotte Bendorf

Grace Tropp
Sarah Pearl Anderson
Honorable Mention

Anne Marie Olson
Anne Marie Olson

JUNIOR PIANO

Teacher

Sabrina Meng
\$100 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Inger Langsholt

Olivia Gatto
\$75 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award

Tetyana Torzhevskia

Gracie Webb
\$25 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Merle Langs

Kristina Puzin
Honorable Mention

Merle Langs

ELEMENTARY STRINGS

Sarah Pearl Anderson
\$50 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Mary Ann Anderson

Annika Klonicki
\$35 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Mary Ann Anderson

Addysen Feng
\$10 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Hui Wang

JUNIOR STRINGS

Sabrina Meng
\$100 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Rachel Handlin

Aria Beert
\$75 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award

Hui Wang

Erin Templin
\$25 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Ann Montzka-Smelser

Savannah Jackson
Marisel Schalck
Honorable Mention

Rachel Handlin
Lisa Chodorowski

SENIOR PIANO**Teacher**

Laura Caswell
\$250 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Rianna Caswell

Julia Luo
\$150 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award

Eva Woo

Leah Birdsall
\$100 Irene Glasford Award

Charlotte Bendorf

Hsing-Yng Louh
 Ella Domingo
Honorable Mention

Marilyn Cade
 Merle Langs

SENIOR STRINGS

Benjamin Rodriguez
\$250 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Linc Smelser

Annaliesa Caswell
\$150 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Rachel Handlin

Grace Frielink
\$100 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award

Linc Smelser

Kjelden Beidenbac
 Lydia Snyder
Honorable Mention

Robert Beidenbach
 Lisa Chodorowski

SENIOR VOICE**Teacher**

Ella Domingo
\$250 Stella Rankin Memorial Award

Beth Fredrickson

Chandan Puri
\$150 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Martha Dahlberg

Siena Oliveri
\$100 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Beth Fredrickson

Elliot Peterson
Honorable Mention

Beth Fredrickson

Ella Domingo
SPECIAL AWARD: \$500 Jean Coppoletti "Joy and Inspiration" Award

Beth Fredrickson

SENIOR NON-STRING ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS

Claire Cifonie
\$250 Chandler Starr Miller Award

Nanette Felix

Paul Davis
\$150 Jane Lyons Memorial Award

Dave Nelson

Lauren Bear
\$100 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award

Nanette Felix

Jonathan Myers
 Kathryn Cifonie
Honorable Mention

Matt Guschl
 Jacques Saint-Cyr

COLLEGE DIVISION

Teacher

Andrew Willette
\$500 Blanche Ellis Starr Award

Scott Conklin

Chantel Davis
\$250 L.A. Frisbie Miller Award

Mathias Tacke

Brenton R. Blaesing
Honorable Mention

Paul Laprade

Scholarship Award Biographies

BLANCHE ELLIS STARR Along with several area musicians, Mrs. Blanche Ellis Starr began Mendelssohn Club in 1884 meeting in their homes to perform. Following the incorporation in 1894, she was the President for 38 years. Mrs. Starr was the organist at Second Congregational Church for several years; she directed many of the opera performances that were produced by Mendelssohn.

CHANDLER STARR MILLER was the grandson of Blanche Ellis Starr, the founder and longtime President of the Mendelssohn Club. He was the secretary of Barber Colman Co. for many years. His wife, Frances Frisbie Miller, was very active in arts organizations in Rockford and at Rockford College.

JANE LYONS (1928-2014) This award is made possible by the great generosity of Jane Lyons. Jane was a long time resident of Rockford who loved music and was an avid supporter of Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center. She was an educator and her gift to Mendelssohn will continue to support the education of our young musicians.

JEAN COPPOLETTI (d. 2010) was born in Rockford and attended Auburn High School and Rock Valley College. She had a beautiful soprano voice, which she trained when an anonymous patron paid for her voice lessons in high school and college. She moved to Florida in her 20s and performed with many vocal groups during her career, including the Nova Singers and the Noel Vocal Quartet, who performed on Princess Cruise Lines. She was also soprano soloist for two Florida churches. The Jean Coppoletti “Joy & Inspiration” Award was established to aid young singers who sing with joy and inspire others.

L.A. FRISBIE MILLER, son of Chandler Starr Miller and Frances Frisbie Miller, lives in Nebraska and consistently contributes to the support of the Scholarship Competition.

IRENE GLASFORD, 1902-2000, pianist, teacher, and author of several books on piano pedagogy, became a student member of the Mendelssohn Club at age 7. She performed in many Mendelssohn Club programs, with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra, and in piano ensembles. Irene was devoted to her music, her faith, her students, and the Mendelssohn Club. Irene received the Mendelssohn Club Starr of Excellence Award in 1988 for her contribution to music in the Rockford community. Her son Jim and family live in Texas.

STELLA RANKIN (d. 2005) was a well-known and beloved voice teacher for 30 years who coached students who went on to Broadway and other outstanding careers. She was a longtime supporter of the arts and touched the lives of hundreds of students, teaching up until nine days before her death at age 79. Star pupils include Marin Mazzie, a Tony Award nominee for Broadway performance, and Jodi Benson, the voice of Disney’s The Little Mermaid. A committee of Stella’s friends and supporters raised in excess of \$10,000 in her name, largely through donations from former students, to be used for scholarships.

About Our Concert Series

Main Stage Series

Our Main Stage concert series, held in the grand yet inviting Mendelssohn Hall, features exciting and beautiful performances from international artists, guest chamber ensembles, and some of our area's best musicians. Join us for a diverse series of concert events that explore the evolution of Classical music through today!

The Web Series

The Web has brought the very best regional, national, and international Folk, Blues, Americana, World music, and more to Rockford since its birth in 1972 as Charlotte's Web. MPAC is proud to bring these exceptionally talented artists working in the Singer-Songwriter, Folk, and Blues traditions to our campus for the first time for the 2016-2017 Web series!

Jazz at Emerson & Music on Main

Celebrate the wealth of talented music professionals in our area at our Jazz@Emerson and classically inspired Music on Main series! Savor these intimate concerts with libations and light refreshments in the resonant parlor of the historic Emerson House. Jazz@Emerson takes place one Sunday afternoon a month and Music on Main is scheduled on select Monday evenings.

Don't forget to join us after every event for a post-concert reception to interact one on one with our performers!

Tickets are available at MPAC's offices, over the phone, or online at our website. Save on your ticket purchases by buying in advance! Contact our offices for information on a season subscription.

Remaining 2016-2017 Concert Season Calendar:

3-5-2017	3:00 p.m.	Avalon String Quartet
3-12-2017	3:00 p.m.	Frank Calvagna & Vince Chiarelli
3-20-2017	5:30 p.m.	Spring Organ Music
3-24-2017	7:30 p.m.	Quince Vocal Ensemble
4-3-2017	5:30 p.m.	Solos and Duos for Flute and Piano
4-7-2017	7:30 p.m.	MSG Acoustic Blues Trio
4-9-2017	3:00 p.m.	Carl Cole & Co.
4-21-2017	7:30 p.m.	Rockford Chamber Brass
5-7-2017	3:00 p.m.	The Jodi Beach Trio

7th Annual Join us for a lively evening of Irish Festivities in support of MPAC's programming!

Irish Pub Night

Friday, March 3, 2017

Featuring live Irish entertainment, a buffet by Meads Longwood Meat Market, cash bar by Rockford Brewing Company, games, gift baskets, and raffle.



406 N. Main St
Rockford, IL 61103

6:00 p.m.

Cocktail Hour (cash bar)

7:00 p.m.

Irish Dinner and Entertainment

\$50 per person

\$365 per table

Seating is limited. Visit us online or call

815-964-9713 to reserve your seat!

www.mendelssohnpac.org



Music by
Joe McShane



Dinner from
Meads Longwood
Meat Market