

MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK



Ma'alwyck Quarterly Newsletter 1.1

January 2018

Artists

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz,
Founder & Director, Violinist
Sten Isachsen, Guitarist
Norm Thibodeau, Flutist
Petia Kassarova, Cellist

Board Members

Michael Barnas, Chair
Deborah Esrick, Secretary
Samuel Zimmerman,
Treasurer
George de Piro
David Duquette

Staff

Irene DeGraff, Administrative
Assistant

Contact Us

Musicians of Ma'alwyck
511 Mohawk Ave
Scotia, NY 12302
(814) 441-0852

Annmarie
@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Irene
@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Visit us on the web at
www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Like us on **Facebook**

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We are beginning a quarterly newsletter; there are so many exciting events happening between our subscription concerts, and I want to keep you up-to-date. We had a very busy fall with two subscription concerts, our annual gala (which will now regularly be in the fall) and performances and special musical events throughout the area, including a fundraiser for the Yates Mansion in September (with a very catchy Governor Yates march composed by our flutist Norm Thibodeau), a celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Schuylar Mansion to the public in October, a recording session for Union College composition students in November and our annual appearance as part of the Holiday House at the historic Ten Broeck Mansion in December. In November we presented for the first time in public, substantial scenes from our upcoming opera *Aleda or the Flight of the Suff Birdwomen*. This public performance was at the NYS Museum as part of the Researching NY Conference, and there was tremendous buzz about it.

The next few months, in addition to our February subscription concert (Feb. 9th, 7pm at SCCC), members of the ensemble will perform for Albany Pro Musica's High School Choralfest at the Troy Music Hall on January 14th (in three works of composer-in-residence Oja Gjeilo). Sten Isachsen and I give our annual Beat the Snow concert at the Schenectady County Public Library on Sunday, January 28th at 2:30pm. This concert is usually standing-room only, and we have some very special musical treats planned, so arrive early for this not to be missed performance. Speaking of library performances, Sten and I will also perform at the Clifton Park-Half Moon Public Library on Sunday, March 25th at 2pm. Last year, our first appearance there, we welcomed a capacity crowd.

We have a very exciting event earlier in March. Musicians of Ma'alwyck will be performing for a unique art exhibit at the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls. See the special paragraph in this newsletter on the event.

Thank you for your interest in Musicians of Ma'alwyck. And I hope to see you at the February 9th concert.

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Director





Organist, pianist and composer, Florence Price (1887-1953) was the first African-American woman to have her music performed by a major symphony orchestra (Chicago Symphony-1933) and was admitted into ASCAP in 1940. Musicians of Ma'alwyck performs her *Five Folksongs in Counterpoint* in February.

Sweet Power

University of Albany Performing Arts Center
February 7 @ 7:30pm

Schenectady County Community College
Carl Taylor Auditorium
February 9 @ 7pm

Musicians of Ma'alwyck members **Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz**, director and violin and **Petia Kassarova**, cello, along with guest artist **Andrew Snow**, viola, join forces with members of the acclaimed **Capital Trio** (in residence at the University at Albany) for a several day presentation of performances. On Weds. February 7th at 12 noon in the Carl Taylor Auditorium at Schenectady County Community College, the combined ensemble will present a free preview of excerpts from its program *Sweet Power*, which features music of Kodaly, Florence Price and Dvořák. That same evening the ensemble will perform both the Price and Dvořák at the University at Albany at 7:30 pm (for tickets and information call the Performing Arts Center box office at 518-442-3995) On Thursday, February 8 at 10am we offer a special high school program at UAlbany (contact the PAC at 518-442-3995 for information). And on Friday, February 9th at 7pm in the Carl Taylor Auditorium at SCCC we present the full *Sweet Power* program. Tickets available at www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org or 814-441-0852.

Five Folksongs in Counterpoint of African-American composer Florence Price, who set spirituals into classical style, including "Calvary," "Oh My Darling Clementine," "Momma's Little Baby," "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot." The two groups will also perform the *Piano Quintet* of Dvořák, a champion of the music of his homeland of Bohemia who encouraged Americans to find their voice in their musical roots of spirituals, folk songs and Native American melodies. The program opens with the whimsical *Intermezzo* for string trio of Zoltán Kodály. Kodály was also an advocate for the music of his native Hungary, as well as the developer of an important system of music education.

Musicians of Ma'alwyck, in residence at both the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site and at Schenectady County Community College, is renowned for its innovative collaboration and historic programming. The Capital Trio, marking its 21st year together, has been in residence at the University at Albany since 2008. They have participated in summer festivals in Maine and Michigan and held university residencies at Williams College, Long Island University, Bates College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, SUNY Oswego, Clark University and SUNY Potsdam.

Upcoming Events

Jan 14 @ 5pm
Troy Music Hall
Albany Pro Musica's High School Choral Fest

Jan 28 @ 2:30pm
Schenectady County Public Library
Beat The Snow Concert Series

Feb 7 & 9
3rd Subscription Concert
SCCC & U Albany
Sweet Power

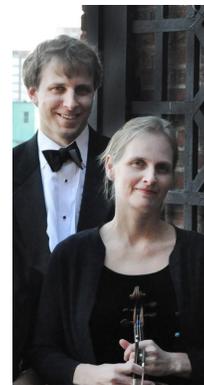
Mar 10 @ 7:30pm
Hyde Collection, Glens Falls

Mar 25 @ 2pm
Clifton Park Library

Apr 29 @ 3 & 5pm
4th Subscription Concert
Schuyler Mansion
From the Archives of Hyde Hall

May 12 @ 1pm
Hyde Hall
From the Archives of Hyde Hall

Jun 8-10
CLYNK, Scotia
Aleda: Flight of the Suff Birdwomen



Members of
Capital Trio:

Duncan &
Hilary Walther
Cumming

Historical Musical Tidbit

One of the first documented musical performances in Albany was a performance in April 1797 at Mr. Angus' Assembly Room by J.H. Schmidt on the forte-piano in a program of Hadyn Stamitz, Vanhal and others. The Albany public was described as "proverbially close-fisted."

Did You Know?

- Musicians of Ma'alwyck began in 2000 with a single concert at the Schuyler Mansion
- The name is taken from the 300-year old home of Ann-Marie & Fred Schwartz and the name means "bad place!"
- Their first CD "Music in the Schuyler Mansion" was released in February of 2017
- Sten is part of 2 other non-classical groups—Mother Judge and the Railroad Boys
- Norm is licensed in the Feldenkrais Method of somatic education
- Petia is from Bulgaria and her first professional job was as principal cellist of an orchestra in Brazil!
- Ann-Marie also works as a recording producer and had a CD in the 2015 Grammy nominations pool
- Musicians of Ma'alwyck performed by invitation for TV producer Norman Lear in celebration of his purchase of the last private copy of the Declaration of Independence
- Musicians of Ma'alwyck is a member of Chamber Music America, a national service organization for ensemble music professionals

Aleda

or The Flight of the Suff Birdwomen

one-act chamber opera in three scenes

Music and libretto by **Max Caplan**

Commissioned and produced by Musicians of Ma'alwyck, **Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz**, Director

Stage Direction by **Krysta Dennis**

Musical Direction by **Timothy Reno**



Set in Staten Island in 1916, the opera tells the true story of a unique women's suffrage demonstration attempted by early female pilot Leda Richberg-Hornsby and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (N.A.W.S.A.). Equipped with a bi-plane, a cargo of votes-for-women petitions, and a huge banner reading "Women want liberty too," the suffragists endeavored to fly over New York Harbor during a national celebration at the Statue of Liberty in order to "bomb" President Woodrow Wilson with petitions. The elaborate plan ended in something of a fiasco as a gale of wind forced a premature crash-landing in a Staten Island swamp (luckily no one was hurt) – yet the attempt stands as a testimony to the courage and inventiveness (not to mention dramatic flare) of these women in their struggle for the right to vote. The presentation of the opera coincides with the 100th anniversary year of the passing of women suffrage in New York State.

We are delighted to bring the Suffbird story to life, and you can help. There are many different areas at many different levels possible for underwriting (and, of course, you can just make a general donation as well), including individual singers and instrumentalists, stage, music and lighting directors, sponsor the composer and more. Each level of sponsorship will include mention in the opera program and, at certain higher levels, invitations to private receptions, VIP seating, subscription tickets, rehearsals and a chance to meet the person you have sponsored.

Underwrite a performance: \$5,000 _____
Underwrite the composer: \$3,000 _____
Stage or Music Director: \$2,500 _____
Lighting, set, or costume designer: \$1,500 _____
Singer: \$1,250 _____
Concertmaster: \$1,250 _____
Member of the orchestra: \$750 _____

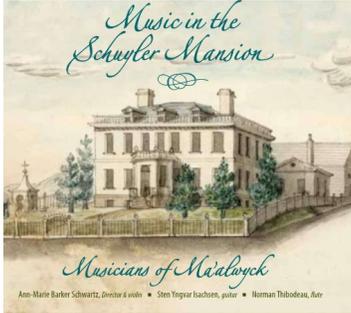
Our spring newsletter will tell you more about this landmark musical production, which will be held at CLYNK in the Glenville Industrial Park.



BULK MAIL
ENDICIA

Musicians of Ma'alwyck

511 Mohawk Ave
Scotia, NY 12302



MAIL ADDRESS

**Musicians of Ma'alwyck to Perform
at the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls**

Celebrate the special exhibition 'Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau' with a fresh new look at the work of this important twentieth century master at The Hyde Collection with REIMAGINED. This event will feature strategically placed models as living mannequins, contextualized in rooms of the historic home, Hyde House. The scenes will create dioramas that pay homage to Alphonse Mucha's work..

A pre-event VIP reception will provide a first look at the 'Exploring Mucha' exhibition in the Rotunda Gallery and feature the Musicians of Ma'alwyck performing an excerpt from the group's upcoming commissioned opera 'ALEDA - The Flight of the Suff Birdwomen.' VIP guests will also get to witness the procession of models as they move into position in Hyde House for the evening's event. Light fare will be included. A cash bar for beer and wine will also be available.

General Admission: \$20 includes admission to the REIMAGINED event and all museum exhibits including 'Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau' and 'Exploring Mucha.'

VIP Admission: \$100 includes above with the addition of the open bar reception, early preview of the 'Exploring Mucha' and the 'ALEDA' preview.

DATE: Saturday, March 10

VIP RECEPTION: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION: 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

REIMAGINED is a 2440 Design Studio production in collaboration with Electric City Culture and the HYDE Collection.



Musicians Honored

Musicians of Ma'alwyck director and violinist **Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz** was recently honored, along with several other local musicians, with an award for sustained musical excellence by the Albany Musicians Union, Local 14 AFM. The certificate cited contributions to the musical life in the Capital Region including excellence in programming and local music history research and presentation.