



A m a d e u s

March 2012

Newsletter

A publication of the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Inc.

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Special Welcome to our New Members

Pearlene W. Koenig
Suelle M. Swartz

Facts about Mozart:

In the fall of 1762 when Mozart was six, the family was invited to perform by the royal family.



↑ Maria Theresa
In Schönbrunn palace

Following his performance, Wolfgang leapt onto the Empress's lap, threw his arms around her neck and kissed her. The Empress rewarded him with a gold braid gala costume.

Scholarship Competition Winner

Benjamin Rollings is Heading Off to the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria

Each year the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta sponsors a competition to select an outstanding musician to attend the prestigious International Summer Academy of Mozarteum Institute in Salzburg, Austria, which offers an extensive range of musical master classes. Six finalists competed for the \$4,000 scholarship held February 12, 2012. Every year the judges are challenged to make a selection and this year was no exception. They were very challenged to select a winner from six finalists; all exceedingly accomplished artists. The judges announced their decision at a reception following the Scholarship Competition.



Congratulations to Benjamin Rollings, Pianist, for his winning performance. His selections included works of Mozart, Sergi Prokofiev and Robert Schumann. Benjamin graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from The University of South Alabama in Mobile. He has earned extensive recognition as first place winner of several competitions. Besides his studies in piano performance, other musical interests include chamber music, composition, orchestration and organ

performance. Benjamin received a graduate teaching assistantship at The University of Georgia and is currently a pupil of Dr. Martha Thomas.

Pianist, Tyler Walker, is the Runner-Up. Tyler has a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Valdosta State University. He is Organist and Principle Accompanist at the Quitman Baptist Church. Tyler won first place twice in the Georgia Music Educators' Association Solo Piano Competition. He was invited to perform at Atlanta's Spivey Hall during a master class taught by world-renowned pianist Jeremy Denk and will perform during the VSO Youth Concert Program.



Scholarship to the International Summer Academy of Mozarteum

July 16 to August 25, 2012



The International Summer Academy is organized by Salzburg's Mozarteum University each summer during the months of July and August. Offering sixty master classes for 800 to 1,000 participants, it has become one of the world's biggest and most renowned institutions of its kind. Founded in 1916 by Lilli Lehmann to teach voice, the program was expanded over the years to include violin, piano, composition, conducting and opera courses. It has been known as the "Mozarteum International Summer Academy" since 1947.

During the six weeks of summer academy, professional artists from around the globe share their expertise with young talents in two-week courses (three sessions). The Mozarteum

International Summer Academy gives outstanding young musicians an opportunity to enhance their skills with world-famous instructors.



Brent Runnels, Judge, Fyodor Cherniavsky, Judge, Angela Allen Sherzer, Judge
Herb Buffington, President, Pro-Mozart Society, Jeanné Brown, Judge, Joy
Sims, Rex Sims, VP's for Scholarship, Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, Judge, Benjamin
Rollins, Scholarship Winner



Benjamin Rollins, Pianist and Scholarship Winner, Josh Holritz,
Violinist, Lucas Scalamogna, Violinist, Herb Buffington, President
Pro-Mozart Society, Youngmi Moon, Pianist, Tyler Walker,
Scholarship Runner – Up and Pianist, Juliana Spector, Soprano



Members and Guests at Reception following the Scholarship Competition



A Message from Our President

Since I last wrote here we celebrated the 256th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, taking the occasion for our annual patron's party. The January 29 event was hosted by Mary Ann Hill-Meehan at her wonderful home, catered by Gasthaus Tirol Restaurant, and music was provided by the Lenox String Quartet. What a great way to say "thank you" to those who so generously support our Society – an evening at a lovely home with great food and fantastic music.

Just a couple of weeks later it was time for the 2012 Scholarship Competition Finals. The winner was Benjamin Rollings, pianist, and the runner-up was Tyler Walker, also a pianist.

Rollings is a DMA candidate at the University of Georgia and Walker has a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Valdosta State University and was a finalist in our 2011 scholarship competition.

Rollings wins a \$4,000.00 scholarship for study at the Summer Academy of the Mozarteum Institute in Salzburg, Austria. He will then be presented in a concert sponsored by Pro-Mozart Atlanta in the spring of 2013. The other finalists performing that day before the panel of judges and a live audience were Josh Holritz, violinist, Youngmi Moon, pianist, Lucas Scalamogna, violinist, and Juliana Spector, soprano. Special thanks to the competition judges: Jeanné Brown, Fyodor Cherniavsky, Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, Brent Runnels and Angela Allen Sherzer.

Next up is our March concert, Sunday, March 18. Make plans to be with us to hear three talented performers: Fabio Parrini, piano, Kate Steinbeck, flute, and Maria Parrini, cello. The 3 p.m. concert will be at Peachtree Christian Church (1580 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, 404-876-5535). As always, it is free and open to all Pro-Mozart members and our many guests.

Speaking of which, that's a great reminder to invite your friends, colleagues and neighbors to become members. And, if they join at one of our concerts, they get an immediate 10% discount on their annual dues – regardless of the membership level.

I look forward to seeing you on the 18th, as well as at these other great events that round out our 2011-2012 season: April 15 hear Jennifer Zuiff, soprano, who was the 2011 scholarship winner; April 29 is the Members and Friends Spring Fling Concert; and on June 3rd we'll gather for the Pro-Mozart Atlanta Annual Meeting and Picnic. For the latter event, I trust Mother Nature will send us more temperate weather than last year.

In the meantime, please know that I genuinely appreciate your continued support of this great group. It's an honor to work with and serve each of you.

Yours for great music,

Herb Buffington

Notes on Mozart



Taken from the book "Mozart's Women, His Family, His friends, His Music" by Jane Glover. Edited by Marilyn A. Dietrichs for Amadeus newsletter.

Wolfgang and his sister Nannerl did not receive a formal education at all. They were schooled entirely at home at the brilliant hands of their painstaking father, Leopold. With imagination and resourcefulness, he taught his children to read and write, do arithmetic, learn some basic history and geography. Both children had good handwriting, read widely, drew well and were extremely articulate. With music, the children would have absorbed it from the cradle, for Leopold's fellow court musicians were constantly in and out of the Mozart's apartment, rehearsing, playing and teaching. Nannerl possessed great musical ability, but never to exceed her brilliant brother's genius. Mozart appreciated his sister's talent and described her technique as "quiet with an even touch, natural lightness, flexibility and smooth rapidity." He had complete confidence in Nannerl as a musician, for like him, they once paraded across the Courts of Europe. But still Mozart had far more refinement and more original ideas and with a beautiful inspiration, so that even the most excellent musicians wondered how it was humanly possible for such a boy to possess art that could astonish the whole musical world.



The Pro-Mozart Society Up-Coming Events

March 18, 2012, The Parrini Trio, 3:00pm, Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

April 15, 2012, Jennifer Zuiff, Soprano, 2011 Scholarship Winner, 3:00pm, Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

April 29, 2012, Members and Friends, Spring Fling Concert, 2pm, Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

June 3, 2012, Pro-Mozart Annual Meeting and Picnic, 5:00pm, Herb Buffington & Brian Freeman, 3434 Habersham Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305

Be sure to Join Us and Bring a Friend

Our next concert of the season is Sunday, March 18, featuring three talented performers: Fabio Parrini, piano, Kate Steinbeck, flute, and Maria Parrini, cello.

When: Sunday, February 18, 2012 at 3pm

Where: Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta 404-879-5535, Atlanta GA 30309

Browse our Website at www.mozartatlanta.com to keep abreast of Pro-Mozart concerts and events.



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