



A m a d e u s

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Newsletter

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

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Special Welcome to our New Members

- Dr. A. Frank Adams, III
- Lane H. Moore
- Barbara Peeler
- Rev. Neal P. Ponder, Jr.
- Joe & Anne Sullivan
- Don Walls
- Suzanne Shull

Facts about Mozart:



A Genius

- At age 4, he could learn a piece of music in half an hour.
- At 5, he was playing the clavier incredibly well.
- At 6, he began composing.
- At 7, he was able to detect minute discrepancies in the tuning of two violins.
- At 8, he wrote his first symphony.
- At 13, he had written symphonies, concertos and sonatas, and was known throughout Europe.

Happy Birthday Mozart and Thank You!

It's time to celebrate the 256th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and that's a great time to thank our patrons and leaders. Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta *members who have joined at the Patron level or above* are invited to a 6 p.m. dinner Sunday, January 29, at the home of Mary



Mozart's birthplace at Getreidegasse 9, Salzburg

Ann Hill-Meehan. Act quickly because space is limited and news of the gracious events Mary Ann has held in the past is legendary.

To join or upgrade your membership to one of the Patron levels, visit the organization's Web site www.MozartAtlanta.com, see the Membership area, then click on Join Now for a membership application. Pro-Mozart Atlanta patron-level sponsorship begins at \$175 for individuals and \$220 for couples. Other patron levels are Silver, \$300/345, and Gold, \$550/595.

The January 29 event will include a social hour, an Austrian-inspired dinner-buffet, followed by a musical program featuring, of course, the music of Mozart and others. The Candlelight environment will impart the mood of social gatherings during Mozart's era. This special occasion honors both patrons of the organization as well as our current and past leaders.



The Mozart family on tour

Pro-Mozart Atlanta past presidents Kay Selvage, Marilyn Dietrichs, Kevin Pritchett, Kay Alvelda, and, of course, Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, are already committed to being on hand, as is current President, Herb Buffington; they will be there sharing Pro-Mozart's growth over the many decades.

"Our patrons represent many walks of life," Buffington says. "We have business people from Coca Cola, IBM, and the insurance industry, plus physicians, financial advisors, bankers, artists, and many are musicians themselves. All told, this event is a big thank you to the many Metro Atlanta residents who give of their time and talent to ensure the community has an opportunity to enjoy quality, accessible classical music."

To reserve your spot at the dinner – space is limited – and for further information about the January 29 event, contact Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, 770-772-4185.

Pro Mozart Scholarship Competition

Each year the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta sponsors a competition to select an outstanding musician to attend the International Summer Academy of Mozarteum Institute in Salzburg, Austria, which offers an extensive range of musical masterclasses.

This annual competition will be held Sunday February 12, 2011 at 2:00 PM, Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309. The Judges will announce their decision at a reception following the competition.

Pro - Mozart's Annual Holiday Gala

It was a formal affair with superbly dressed guests; the atmosphere was lighthearted and joyous seasonal music floated throughout the Gala affair. Glenridge Hall was abuzz with conversation, laughter and music of harpist, Bethany Leak and pianist, Randy Elkins as revelers enjoyed the beautiful historic grandeur of Glenridge Hall and studiously poured over the silent auction items, enthusiastically placing their bids on a number of enticing items.

As the dinner hour drew to a close, the guests gathered for the highlight of the evening; fabulous music entertainment by Christopher Sarzynski, piano, and Jennifer Zuiff, Soprano, accompanied by Randy Elkins and an award presentation to Atlanta music luminaries Elizabeth Nohe Colson and Gregory Colson.

The annual Holiday Gala, the primary fundraiser for the Pro-Mozart Scholarship Fund, was an elegant and successful event.



Elizabeth Nohe Colson, Helen Bickers,
Herb Buffington, Gregory Colson



Honorary Consul General of Austria
Mr. Ferdinand Seefried and Mrs. (Monique) Seefried



Randy Elkins, VP Programs



Christopher Sarzynski, Pro-Mozart
Society Scholarship Winner, performing



Members & Guests Enjoying the Holiday Gala Music Program



Jennifer Zuiff, 2011 Scholarship Winner, performing

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.

Albert von Molk, a canon and consistorial councilor at the Cathedral in Salzburg, was asked by many a series of questions about Wolfgang's early life. Molk described all the Mozart family as good-looking; that Leopold and Maria Anna were the handsomest couple in Salzburg and Nannerl herself was a regular beauty; though Wolfgang had been small, frail, and pale in complexion with a slightly larger head than most people and was completely lacking in all pretensions of face and form. Growing up, he did not have athletic opportunities as children do today because he was mostly at the piano. Even apart from his music, he was and remained almost always a child. He would always have a need of a father and mother and supervision. He was unable to promote himself as his father had done for him when he was young. His father had greatly disciplined him musically, but Wolfgang had never learned to discipline himself in moderation or judicious choice of pleasure. These were the prejudices or gossip of Salzburg. And yet, out of all this, Wolfgang gave us music that superseded most all composers.





A Message from Our President

Greetings to all of our members and friends,

Our season got off to a great start with a November 5 concert at the Benson Senior Multipurpose Complex in Sandy Springs. It was nice to experience a new venue and to have folks from the Benson Center join our members and other guests. A real bonus of the day was that several Benson residents became new Pro-Mozart Atlanta members, and we welcome them.

Of course the music of Sara Shafer (soprano), D. Ray McClellan (clarinet), and Timothy Shafer (piano) was a wonderful draw, followed by a delicious treat - food by new member Max Zimmermann at the meet-the-artists reception.

Then, on Saturday, December 3, more than 125 people crowded Historic Glenridge Hall in Sandy Springs for our annual Holiday Gala Noel, which raises funds for the scholarship fund. The event was very successful. I continue to hear positive comments of the elegant affair and funds are still coming.

This year's gala was dedicated to the Elizabeth Nohe Colson and Gregory Colson in recognition of musical excellence and outstanding service to the musical community. As many of you know, Elizabeth maintains one of Atlanta's premiere voice studios and was named by *Classical Singer* as the Best Voice Teacher in the United States in 2005. Greg recently retired from a 60+ year career as a church musician and was for two decades head of the music department at Georgia Tech.

Many people gave generously of their time and resources to make our 2011 Gala Noel such an unqualified success, and I especially want to thank the core gala committee members: Marilyn Dietrichs, Shirley Ebert, Bryan Freeman, Claire Hanson, Joy Simms, Rex Simms, Lance Solaroli and Randy Elkins (who also contributed his talent playing the piano). Thanks also to Kevin Pritchett, with help from Hugh James, for the beautiful decorations, and also for Hugh's work on the silent auction. And my sincere gratitude to everyone who donated items to the silent auction. You all are the very best, and it was a pleasure and an honor to work with you on this important annual event. Plans already are afoot for the 2012 Holiday Gala, to which I hope *you* will lend your time and talents!

In the meantime, the Society's patron-level members will be celebrating the 256th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Please read more about the January 29 party elsewhere in this issue. Special thanks to Mary Ann Hill-Meehan for again opening her beautiful home for this highly anticipated event.

Next up is our 2012 Scholarship Competition Finals on Sunday, February 12, at 2 p.m. at Peachtree Christian Church (1580 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta 404-876-5535). As always, the final round is free and open to the public. Finalists will present a repertoire before a panel of judges and a live audience. Judges for the 2012 Music Scholarship Competition include professional musicians as well as music professors and instructors, many of whom are members of the Pro-Mozart Society.

The winner will be presented in concert during the spring of 2013. Previous competition winners have found their study at the Mozarteum – provided through the \$4,000 scholarship – to be exciting, challenging, and rewarding.

I look forward to seeing you and the new friends you bring to Pro-Mozart Atlanta, and I appreciate your past and continued support of this great organization. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you.

Yours for great music,

Herb Buffington, President

The Pro-Mozart Society Up-Coming Events

January 29, 2016, 6:00pm, Patron's Circle (Mozart's Birthday Party), at the home of Mary Ann Hill-Meehan
1155 Lake Shore Overlook, Alpharetta, GA 30005

February 12, 2012, 2:00pm, Pro-Mozart Scholarship Competition, Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

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

Reminder

The Scholarship Competition is not to be missed and is a heavily attended event. The winner is announced at a reception following the competition.

When: February 12, 2012 at 2pm

Where: Peachtree Christian Church, 1580 Peachtree Street, NW,
Atlanta, GA 30309

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



First Class Mail

Change of address requested