



QUARTER NOTES

FASO'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2014



Dear FASO Members,

We have almost made it through this cold and snowy winter. I hope you are all doing well. Looking forward to spring!

Speaking of spring, we do have fun events coming up this spring to raise money for our ASO!

On Tuesday, April 8, you can enjoy a 3-course dinner at the Killarney House in Davidsonville. The dinner is \$25, and Killarney will donate \$10 of that right back to the ASO. This is a win-win situation. Please come out for a good dinner for a great cause.

Our annual celebration of spring, Champagne Sunday, will be on April 13. Watch for your invitation in the mail. Good food, champagne, music, and the company of friends, all in a beautiful waterfront home. I hope to see all of you there.

We are planning several fund raisers during the upcoming months. These include a wine tasting party, a Mexican fiesta, and a big celebration for the opening concerts in September.

I invite you to become involved in helping with any of these events. FASO values all of our members, and wants to make you feel welcome and a part of what we do. I would love to have your help in any way you choose. It really is fun, a great way to meet people, and support our symphony. Contact me for more information about our upcoming events. And I would really love to hear your comments about what we do and how we can do better. My phone is 410-703-3554. My email is paula.abernethy@gmail.com

Thank you for being part of FASO! Hope to see you soon.

--Paula Abernethy, president

ALL HAIL KING AND QUEEN OF THE MARDI GRAS



On February 22, the gracious home of Joe and Tessie Ballard was the site of one of FASO's series of in-home fundraisers, a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" party. The hospitality was charming; the food was homemade and great. That's Tessie in the apron overseeing the coronation. At this party, the "Guess Who" was two: QUEEN MARTHENA COWART (in real life, FASO's treasurer) and KING STEVE HOWARD. This event brought in more than \$2,000 for the ASO.

■ Photo by Bernadine Crosby

Big News about Maryland Hall **Everything you wanted to know but were unable to ask**

Are you curious about the big changes planned to turn Maryland Hall's auditorium into a concert hall? Worried that you might lose your favorite seats in the remodeling? Delighted that the acoustics will be (we hope) dramatically improved? Thrilled that the violins and cellos will be closer to the audience thanks to a stage extension?

The answers to those and other questions will be provided on **Monday night, March 24** when Maryland Hall's patrons (that's us!) are invited to Patrons Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. We will hear spokespeople for the ASO, Live Arts Maryland, the Annapolis Opera and other

companies who will explain how the changes will improve the audience's experiences and the artists' performances. Plan on attending. **RSVP to Stacey Dezelon 410-263-5544 ext 26.**

Meanwhile, here are answers to some FAQs from Jeth Mill, ASO executive director:

Q. Will I still have my favorite seat?

A. Three rows of seats will be lost when the Maryland Hall stage is extended into the audience and a small orchestra pit is created underneath. The whole theater will re-seated. All the seats will be renumbered. And parterres built along the left and right side of the theater will provide a whole new form of premiere seating. Subscribers will be offered choices of new seats.

Q. But I love my seat.

A. The new seats will be wider and roomier and the sight lines better. You may want to move to a parterre (stage-level seating stretching from the back of the hall to the stage, on the sides of the hall). You may like your new seat even better.

Q. What will the place look like when the new season begins in autumn?

A. Over the summer, a \$2 million project will: 1. Change the slope of the auditorium floor for the better. 2. Add parterres on the right and the left, box office-like seating at stage level that will also be accessible to the handicapped. 3. Install new comfy seats. 4. Add a mini-orchestra pit. 5. Add an extension (removable) to the stage. 6. Fabricate an orchestra shell. 7. Provide risers on stage for musicians. 8. Install new lights over the stage extension. 9. Add window shutters. 10. Preserve the inspirational phrase above the old proscenium. All this is Phase 1.

Q. Will there also be new wings added to the building?

A. Yes, constructing new wings, complete with new elevators and a new 150-seat community theater (in the old gym) are part of Phase 2 and will come later. Together with the summer phase, the total cost is projected to be \$18 million.

■ By Carol R. Richards, editor

A-Ticket A-Tasket; Here's FASO's Gift to the ASO Gala

Pictured atop the next page is just a sampling of the contents of the gigantic gift basket put together by FASO to be auctioned off at Saturday night's ASO "Roman Holiday" Gala at Loews Annapolis Hotel. The contents of the basket are worth more than \$500. Actually, there are so many treasures that we had to find a second basket to hold them all.

FASO members contributed theme-oriented goodies, ranging from an Audrey Hepburn Barbie Doll (Audrey starred in the film, "Roman Holiday") to a \$100 dinner at Osteria, along with books, DVDs, red-and-white-checked table attire, a "Roman Holiday" pillow, bottles of Italian wine, Italian beer (red and amber), Italian chocolates, cookies, pastries and of course pasta. If you have ever considered running for FASO's Board of Directors, we hope you recognize that the board members have a lot of fun doing projects like this one.

Thanks to Jim Cheevers for his chairmanship, Carol Lee for packaging the baskets, Paula Abernethy for leadership. Hope to see you at the ASO Gala.



Ah, Rome! Treasures to feed the soul of your inner Audrey Hepburn or Gregory Peck.

Clip and Save Calendar

March 15, Annapolis Symphony Orchestra Gala, “Roman Holiday.” 6:30 p.m.
Loews Annapolis Hotel.

March 24, Patrons Night, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Maryland Hall auditorium. What the remodeling of Maryland Hall means to you. **RSVP to Stacey Dezelon 410-263-5544 ext 26.**

April 4 and 5, 2014, Lexus Classic Series 4, Bartok, Violin Concerto No. 2; Dvorak, Symphony No. 6 in D major. Soovin Kim, guest violinist. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

April 8, Dinner at Killarney House. Order the \$25 prix fixe dinner and Killarney House will donate \$10 to the ASO for each diner who says he or she is there to benefit the symphony. 584 West Central Ave., Davidsonville. Reserve at 410-798-8700

April 13, Champagne Sunday. Mark your calendars for FASO’s fabulous spring fling at the home of board member Dr. Karen Gonzalez. Meet fellow friends of the symphony; graze on homemade afternoon treats; enjoy live music. Watch for invitations in the mail. \$40. Note, this is a change of date.

May 2 and 3, 2014, Lexus Classic Series 5, Ravel, La Valse; Rachmaninov, Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor. Jon Nakamatsu, guest pianist. 8 p.m. Maryland Hall, José-Luis Novo, Conductor.

May 13, FASO Annual Meeting and luncheon, Loews Annapolis Hotel. a

June 7, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner fundraiser/Mexican Fiesta. Watch for invitations.

Sept. 27, tentative, Kickoff Event introducing the new Maryland Hall!