Bach at Noon – an Oasis of Joy in Memory of Alice Anne Miller

by Bridget George

Joan Miller Moran was a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Bach Choir and sister of our dear Joan, for helping us continue this program that brings so much joy to so many.

New Board Member Julie M. Macomb

WE ARE DELIGHTED to welcome Julie Macomb as a new member of our Board of managers.

Julie, an Associate at Norris McGlaughlin & Marcus, devotes her practice to business law. She is actively involved in the day-to-day legal counseling of businesses, formation of business entities, mergers and corporate restructurings. In her health care practice, Julie works with hospitals, physician groups, clinical laboratories, medical staffs, and nursing homes. In her economic development practice, Julie handles public financing, legal entity formation and planning, and working with the Lehigh County Industrial Development Authority, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, and Northampton County New Jobs Corp. Julie’s real estate practice is focused on commercial lending disposition of properties. Julie also handles liquor law-related issues. Julie sits on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton District Main Street Program and co-chairs the Design Committee for the Program. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) and the Board of Directors of Community Music School. In 2017 Julie was honored by Lehigh Valley Business as a Woman to Watch, an award presented to someone age 30 or under who is stepping up to help shape tomorrow’s Lehigh Valley. She is a graduate of Widener University School of Law, J.D., and University of Maryland, B.A.

Guanantor Spotlight – Meet John Koontz & Family

by Cheryl Dungan

John Koontz, NJ

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Guarantors!

Every time a new Guarantor joins our Bach Choir family, it is cause for rejoicing, especially in this 120th Birthday season. So let’s give a warm welcome to the Guarantors who have joined us since the 2017 Bach Festival and when you see them at our events, please make a special point of greeting them.

Jay P. Brennenman, PA
Margaret Brownell, MA
Carol & Frank Cornwall, NJ
Marylou Fulford, NJ
John Kostant, NJ
William Krauf, DE
Jan C. MacLannon-Kennedy, MA
Bruce A. Maza, PA

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Palms, PA
Deborah Prince, PA
Kathryn Quinn, NJ
Mary Anne Tilney, MA
George Watkins, VA
Thomas Wotring, MD
Nancy S. Ziegler, PA

Alcie Anne Miller, a great friend of The Bach Choir and sister of our dear board member Joan Miller Moran passed away on June 11, 2017. Joan has recently let us know that The Bach Choir will be receiving a very generous gift to name our annual July Bach at Noon Concert in Allentown in loving memory of Alice. The gift comes in part from the Century Fund, established by Donald P. Miller, Joan and Alice’s father, and in part from Joan herself. Alice was one of the original trustees of the Century Fund and a faithful lover of the music of Bach and The Bach Choir until the very end of her beautiful life. Although Alice suffered from Parkinson’s disease, her compassion, wisdom, humor, love of bold and joyful colors, and shining soul, never dimmed. She continued a life of service and philanthropy that spanned the globe. She also never missed a Bach Festival, always attending with her sister Joan, until the year before she died. She always expressed what a blessing the music was for her, her favorite chorus being the ecstatic “Sanctus.”

It couldn’t be more fitting that one of our Bach at Noon concerts – an oasis of joy and peace just like Alice herself – be named in her honor. We are sure Alice is smiling down on Joan’s loving gesture. We also know how much Alice would have loved the most recent July Bach at Noon at St. John’s Lutheran Church. She would have appreciated the diversity of the special groups that attended and loved their great enjoyment of the music and Greg Furungiel’s words that help us better understand its brilliance and spiritual depth. The music on this occasion was Bach’s Cantata no. 80 “A mighty fortress is our God” and a Bach Concerto with 16-year old pianist Kristina Moditch from Moscow. Groups that were part of the overflowing audience included 12 K-12 teachers from across the country attending a Bach Institute at Moravian College, a group from the Phoebe home in Allentown, and a group of youth from Community Bike Works. A feature in the Morning Call captured the spirit of the “Biking to Bach” adventure:

It’s a great experience for these kids to get exposure to music and the arts,” says Boehrer, one of the leaders on the ride. “They really seemed to love it even though it’s a strange setting for these inner-city kids to sit through for nearly an hour.”

One of the kids who really loved the experience was 14-year old Nashara Brown, a Bike-Works student leader. “I really liked everything that went on, and how they introduced us. It was also really cool to be able to park our bikes right up front, right against the altar... the lady closest to the conductor could really sing, and I thought that I’d love to be in her position someday,” says Nashara referring to soprano Rosa Lameiros. “And that 16-year old from Moscow was really great.”

Thank YOU & Bless YOU, Alice and Joan, for helping us continue this program that brings so much joy to so many.

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