



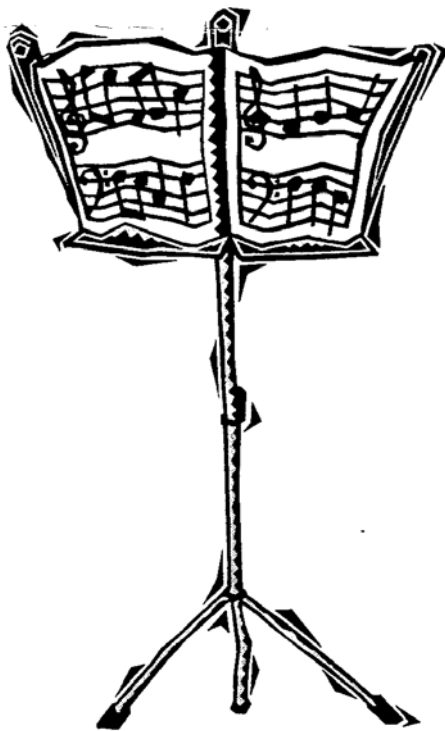
Notes

The Official Newsletter of the
Vermont Music & Arts Association, Inc.

Volume 25, No. 2

February 2011

Theme and Variations ...



Good news and bad news. The good news is that our esteemed vocal and piano coach, Nicole Aldrich, has completed her doctorate in music and has accepted a position at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Congratulations, Nicole!

The bad news is that our esteemed vocal and piano coach Nicole Aldrich has completed her doctorate in music and has accepted a position at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. As a new member of the faculty there, she will be unavailable to join our coaching staff this season. As for next season, time will tell. Our music directors, Gerall Hieser and June Infantino have instituted a search for a sub/replacement for her. We all know that Nicole is a tough act to follow. Fingers crossed.

On the bright side, all of our other coaches and our art instructor are on board for the season. Yeah!

Thanks again to all who helped out with donations towards our new music stands and much needed repairs to our harpsichord. Thanks to Barbara Thomashower Lakota for her great efforts in organizing the repair project. No small feat.

I am sure we have all been looking forward to our 2011 brochure. Don't put it aside. Get your application in early so that the best balance of instrumentation can be achieved for each of the three weeks.

I think that in many areas of the country, we have all had enough snow. I, for one, am ready to put away the snow shovel, looking forward to an early spring and to summer in Vermont.

VMAA Board of Directors: 2010-2011

Lois Tepfer, president
Joan Lusk, vice president
Joan Miller, secretary
Lincoln Brown, treasurer
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Web site: www.vermontmusicandarts.org

VMAA Financial Report

For the fiscal year ending 9/30/2010
Prepared by Lincoln Brown, treasurer

VMAC 2010

Revenue:

Application fees & registrations \$97,557.00

Expenses:

LSC charges	\$62,666.00
Staff fees & travel	38,896.00
Office Administration	456.11
Operations	632.89
Art Supplies	184.58
Social events	545.18
Dues to VMAA	2,600.00
Total Expenses	\$105,980.76
Net VMAC income/(outgo)	(\$8423.76)

VMAA General Fund

Opening checking balance, 10/1/2009 \$9,273.65

Income:

Net VMAC income/(outgo)	(\$8423.76)
Dues	2,675.00
Contributions	5,333.00
Sales – T-shirts, totes, socks	317.00
Sales – rummage	111.00
Bank Interest	23.71
Total Income	\$35.95

Expenses:

Administrative	\$134.74
Promotional Expenses	1918.07
Insurance	2,345.25
Annual Operations	1031.26
Special Operations	1343.60
Library	466.77
Sales Items	365.00
Scholarships	200.00
Total Expenses	\$7,804.69
Income/(outgo) balance	(7,768.74)
Transfer from investments	7,000.00

Closing checking balance, 9/30/2010 \$8,504.91

Investments:

Account Valuation as of 10/1/2009	\$103,831.43
Account Valuation as of 9/30/2010	109,189.44

The Bottom Line

Checking account balance	\$8,504.91
Investment Valuation	109,189.44
Fixed assets (library, etc.)	28,250.00

Total assets, 9/30/2009 \$145,944.35

VMAC on Facebook

Aha. At least one happy camper has posted recently to VMAC's Facebook page. If you are on Facebook and haven't joined our group yet, please do so. This space offers a convenient forum for staying in touch with VMAC friends, sharing photos and comments about seasons past, the one to come, or what you're doing in between. To check it out, go to Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>) and search for VMAC, and our group should pop up.

Sigrid's Back-Rubber

Sigrid Falt had a back-rubber with her last summer which many people liked and asked about. You can find it at PositivePressure.com, (610) 754-6204.

Your Generosity

Those numbers in parentheses in the financial report at left, unfortunately, are deficits. But there's some good news, too, especially in the breakdown under "income": Contributions are up considerably over the previous year, helping maintain a positive bottom line – which helps keep increases in the cost of attending to a minimum. Many thanks to all who gave. Another way to help the bottom line is to increase attendance, so please encourage your chamber-music friends to come! You can request additional brochures, or direct people to our Web site (<http://www.vermontmusicandarts.org>), where they can find more information and download an application form.

Madness? Nonsense!

Working through one of the suggested works for this summer, Schumann's Piano Trio No. 1 in d minor, I confess I was mystified when I came to the slow movement. Where are the voices and harmonies going? Always to some unexpected corner, which makes it hard for me to "get" the piece. We've all heard people dismiss pieces like this with comments like, "Schumann was obviously not at his sanest when he wrote that." So I was happy to find an essay by the cellist Steven Isserlis arguing that it's time to put that old canard to rest. Writing in the September 2010 issue of *Gramophone*, Isserlis says that Schumann "tended not to compose during his periods of depression; he would wait until he felt better – or use music as a path back to health." It's misleading, he says, to describe any of Schumann's works "as the product of madness, thus implying that he was not in full control of the composing process." Isserlis champions Schumann as a forward-looking genius, "writing stream-of-consciousness music that takes us to realms undreamt of by other composers of his time." And he cites this mystifying slow movement as an example. Of its opening section, he writes: "In this extraordinary passage, we are led into the world of depression, an eerie room without a window of hope (and yet suffused with extraordinary beauty)." I may never "get" this music, but Isserlis's words give me plenty of inspiration to keep trying. –C.H.