



POPS Violinist
Sarah Geller

Ocean City Pops Partners with the Orchestra Engagement Lab

Reinvent, Remix, and Recharge. . . These words certainly ring true for the Ocean City Pops Orchestra, as we prepare for our 85th Anniversary in two seasons and beyond. In a collective effort, we will create new dynamic community engagement projects, inspired by a new commissioned hybrid work by Kenji Bunch (www.kenjibunch.com) for electric violin soloist Tracy Silverman (www.tracysilverman.com).

This summer I had the honor to serve as an ambassador for the Ocean City Pops at the Orchestra Engagement Lab. In its nascent year, The Orchestra Engagement Lab (OEL) convened in Burlington, Vermont with Kenji Bunch and Tracy Silverman, along with musicians, teaching artists and leaders from nine co-commissioning orchestras. The OEL consortium had the best chance to create inspiring community engagement designs that are organically integrated with the music by collaborating before the new work has been composed. And quite fitting for Ocean City, this year's theme: Family.

As a lab, we experimented in crossing boundaries through interactive performances with a concert hall audience, youth orchestra and women prisoners. May the following story reflect how far and wide we can reach to have lasting impact on a community.

In the beginning, most prisoners sat ridged in their chairs with hardened expressions, and seemed to be waiting for some sign that this experience might be worth their time. And with them, OEL sat in great anticipation. Would we be able to successfully impact these prisoners in a journey to self-discovery?

From the Beatles and Carlos Santana to J.S. Bach, Tracy's performance transformed the room. Prisoners' expressions, softened. Many faces, dotted with tears. While the defining moment for each was individual, the room became one with Tracy during his soulful solo J.S. Bach on his five-string electric violin.

Tracy is a Juilliard classically trained violinist who felt constrained by tradition and yearned to find his own voice. He did just that. He explored new genres of music and reshaped his classical roots to become the fearless, inspiring, talented, personable, and open-minded artist he is today.

And on this one evening, within the confines of prison, these women just may have found a voice in themselves that asks them to see the world in a different light, to expand their sense of what the world is. That is art. That is impact.

Through our new partnership with the Orchestra Engagement Lab, Ocean City Pops has an opportunity to reinvent, remix and recharge our role as a cultural icon in our community. Ocean City Pops now carries an innovative leadership role, as a founding member, in this unprecedented project with national scope. Our goal is nothing short of redefining how orchestras approach community engagement and to have a collective impact on the future.

Stay tuned to learn more about Ocean City Pop's up and coming projects, in collaboration with the Friends of the OC Pops and City of Ocean City. Don't miss out on your future! It is ours to make and to be had.

By: Sarah Geller

Dr. Elizabeth Bowden

On July 15th Dr. Elizabeth Bowden was the honored guest at a dinner at Greate Bay Country Club given by the Friends of the Ocean City Pops for her long standing and loyal support of the Pops Orchestra and the Friends. After a wonderful dinner Olga Konopelsky, concertmaster, representing the orchestra, presented Dr. Bowden with a signed and framed photograph of the entire orchestra which we know will be a treasured keepsake. The Friends of the Ocean City Pops also gave Dr. Bowden an engraved crystal vase to recognize and to thank her for her continued support throughout the years. The evening culminated with a concert at the Music Pier sponsored by Dr. Bowden where she was again honored on stage and presented with a dozen roses. Our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Bowden for all the support she bestows on us and also for her support of other cultural venues including but not limited to the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Mann Music Center, the Curtis Institute of Music, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Academy of Vocal Arts plus numerous opera, art and theater guilds in Palm Beach, Florida.



Honoree & Sponsor Dr. Elizabeth Bowden flanked by July 15th Night at the Opera concert soloists: from *left* baritone Wes Mason, violinist Elle Choi, Dr. Bowden, Maestro Scheible, Amanda Leonetti, tenor Cody AustinAustin, & soprano Suzanne Vinnick



Big Success: June 10th Friends Gala Dinner Honoring Frank & Kay Manco

*Mancos are seated and flanked by family & friends
Bill Elliot was emcee for event and many tributes flowed in appreciation of their unending generosity*



Scheible ENCORE Society



Peggy Lloyd pictured above

Expanding our horizons was the goal for the second year of the Scheible Encore Society in 2012. Following a mailing of our new brochure, former as well as new members joined forces to continue building the membership. Currently 62 members support the goals of the Society and that number will keep on growing. This summer the Society reached its initial goal of over \$100,000 in contributions, made possible, in part by two major gifts from two very generous and longtime supporters of the POPS.

Ocean City legendary resident and POPS patron, Peggy Lloyd, presented a check for \$25,000 for the express purpose of expanding the POPS' outreach programs to area young people, as she was for many years, a leading innovator & mentor/teacher of young people in various capacities.

And on July 15th, Dr. Elizabeth Bowden was honored by the entire orchestra and Friends Board of Trustees for her continuous generosity throughout the years (*please read separate article- Bowden*) At this date Maestro Scheible was presented with a surprise gift of \$10,000 from Dr. Bowden towards the Encore Society.

The 2012 members were later invited to enjoy a musical brunch together in celebration of this growth. Greate Bay Country Club was the site of our champagne buffet brunch on Sunday, Sept. 9th. The special treat of the day was a concert for our guests by Cody Austin, accompanied by Jeff Uhlig on the piano. Cody is a world class tenor who has performed often with our Pops orchestra. He is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.

As the current year comes to a close, the membership will be receiving holiday greetings sent with our thanks for their continued support. Just prior to the opening of the Pops 85th season in Ocean City in 2013, the Scheible Encore Society will hold another special event to increase membership.

Thank you for your encouragement and support,
Ginny Coco and Delores Dengler Vitas, Co-Chairs-**Scheible Encore Society**
Chaired by Marie Knight and Judy Perkins FOCP vice-chairs, the 2012 Nominating Committee recommended the

Three Local High School Students Recognized with Scholarships

Three graduating seniors planning to continue their study of music in college were selected to receive a \$500 award. A trustee announced the prize at Award Night ceremonies at Lower Cape May Regional, Buena Regional, and Ocean City high schools.

At the Pops Concert on August 8, the recipients, Kameron Ghanavati (SAY Scholarship), Nismah Osman and Shannon Vandzura (Friends Scholarship) were recognized by Dr. Dominick Potena, scholarship committee chair, and Barbara Fasy, SAY scholarship representative.

Ghanavati attends the University of Delaware; Nismah Osman is studying at the Word of Life Bible Institute, in Pottersville, NY; and Shannon Vandzura is a freshman at the University of Hartford's Hart School of Music in Connecticut.

New FOCF Officers and Trustees

Chaired by Marie Knight and Judy Perkins FOCF vice-chairs, the 2012 Nominating Committee recommended the following to chair the executive committee as well as five new trustees to join the board of trustees.

Chairperson - Bert DeVries
Vice Chairperson - John Petrycki
2nd Vice Chairperson - Dominick Potena
Treasurer - Herbert L. Herman
Assistant Treasurer - Deborah Flint
Corresponding Secretary - Joan Ferko
Recording Secretary - Linda Herbert
Finance Secretary - Robert Snodgrass
Past Chairperson - Ken Hoover

Jon Batastini, Deborah Flint, MaryAnn Gabel, Pat Gillian and Helen O'Brien will join the board in January and bring many talents as well as sincere interest in the Friends' organization and the Pops orchestra.

Jon Batastini, son of current trustee Amelia Batastini, is an attorney in Ocean City and member and officer in the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Exchange Club.

Deborah Flint's 35-years' experience as a secretary, treasurer and controller in Polymeric Systems, Inc. makes her an ideal person to work with Herb Herman, our treasurer, and Robert Snodgrass, our newly appointed financial secretary.

Long-time patron and avid supporter of the Pops, Mary Ann Gabel brings organizational skills acquired through board affiliations with Shore Hospital, the AAUW, the Methodist Church, the Ocean City Yacht Club, as well as business experience in several states.

A familiar person to all summer and year-round residents is Patricia Gillian. Her interest in the FOCF is no surprise as she has numerous years' experience as advisor to the Miss Ocean City Pageant, co-chair of the Miss Night in Venice Contest, and volunteer work with the Howard S. Stainton Society, Shore Hospital, and Ocean City Arts Center, to name only a few in Ocean City and the mainland.

Helen O'Brien has established her interests in Ocean City's music organization with her participation in Cape Shore Choral, St. Damien's choir, and the Masterworks choir.

In addition, the FOCF Trustees approved a second four-year term for **Ken Hoover, Jean Jacobson, and MaryAnne McGrath. Gail Damone and Frank Manco** will join the Advisory Council, chaired by **C. Joel Dickson.**

Celebration and continuous support of the Ocean City Pops Orchestra will be mantra of the Friends as our oldest municipal orchestra in the United States moves into its 85th season in 2013.

Viennese Night
Maestro with Soprano
Colleen Daly & Baritone
Joshua Jeremiah plus Edna
Cellucci, Gerry Ruggieri
DePersia & the Sundermeirs



Viennese Cakes donated
by The Mancos, presenting
sponsors in memory of
esteemed, long-time
manager & conductor
Frank Ruggieri



Join POPS musicians at the ACCC Restaurant Gala March 21st at Bally's Atlantic City

Notes on Annual Summer Luncheon: by Judy Perkins

The Friends of the Ocean City Pops held its 23rd Annual Summer Luncheon at Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point. This year's theme, "Love Notes in the Sand," linked back to Debby Boone, our opening-night featured artist and her hit song, "Love Letters in the Sand."

More than two-hundred guests purchased or bid on 60 gift baskets/items as well as fourteen selections on the silent auction table. Marie Knight handled ticket sales; Gail Damone worked with 26 volunteers to solicit gift items for the baskets and the silent auction and then packed and decorated the baskets; Judy Perkins prepared the program and correspondence. Assisting the chairs were Delores Vitas, Linda Herbert, and Joan Ferko who are very capable of and look forward to chairing the 24th annual event. Not to be overlooked for their "behind the scenes" communications and banking contributions are Nancy Kelly and MaryAnne McGrath.

Many thanks go to all of the volunteers, organized by Linda Herbert, who donated personal gift items or procured merchandise or gift certificates from more than 90 businesses in Ocean City, Somers Point, and Margate City.

Deserving special acknowledgement for their years of support of this luncheon are the Spinning Wheel, Shriver's Salt Water Taffy, Johnson's Popcorn, Manco & Manco, Godfrey Funeral Home, the Circle Liquor Store, and Cathy Finnegan.

Bill Scheible secured the entertainment for the event which included Pops' instrumentalists Mark O'Kain and Jeffrey Uhlig, and student competition vocal award winners Jarrett Porter (2011), a sophomore at the Eastman School of Music, and Amanda Leonetti (2012), a junior at Ocean City High School.

Peggy Lloyd was recognized by Bill with a picture of the orchestra for her substantial contribution to the Scheible Encore Society.

All involved with the luncheon encourage patrons to SAVE THIS DATE: Thursday, August 15, 2012 as we look forward to your attendance at our 24th Annual Summer Luncheon at Greate Bay Country Club, Somers Point.



Above: July Three Tenors Shawn Mathey, Jeff Halili & John Viscardi (Photo taken by Brian Ewing)

Below: Greater OC Theater Co. honors POPS Director William Scheible at AC Country Club Brunch- July 8th - pictured are Kay Sundermeir, Flora Baker & Ginny Coco



Talented Teens Win Prizes from FOCP!



On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, the Friends of The Ocean City Pops hosted the 2nd Annual Esther C. Weil Student Music Competition on the Music Pier, and those of us who remember Esther could hear her shouting BRAVO! after each performance! Eighteen students in grades 9-12 and enrolled in eight high schools in Atlantic and Cape May counties competed. A total of eight students were awarded prizes; First, Second, Third, and – because of an anonymous donation from an audience member – a Fourth!

First place (a cash prize of \$1,000 and a performance with the Ocean City Pops this summer) went to Egg Harbor Township student Alexander Bui (pictured above) for his piano performance of George Gershwin's, "Rhapsody in Blue." The vocalist awarded First place was Amanda Leonetti, of Ocean City High, who performed a Puccini favorite, "O mio babbino caro."

In Second place (cash prize of \$500) was Tyler Sarfert of Oakcrest High for his performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's, "The Bumble Bee" on the marimba. The Second place vocalist was Ocean City High student Carley DelSordo (pictured above), who performed Jerome Kern's, "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man."

Third place awards (\$250 cash prize) were given to Buena Regional student Daisy Greenwell for her performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's, "Concerto for Trombone," and Ocean City High student Matthew Caulfield for his vocal performance of "This Nearly Was Mine" by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The newly added Fourth place award (a cash prize of \$125) went to guitarist Carlos Bedoya of Egg Harbor Township High School who performed Rodrigo's, "Concierto de Aranjuez." The awarded vocalist was Kristina Sakhn of Buena Regional School, who sang Morricone's, "Nella Fantasia."

Scott Breiner, Ocean City musician and choral director of the Cape Shore Chorale, accompanied the competitors and offered invaluable encouragement and support to the competitors in rehearsal and on stage. The competition was adjudicated by Nancy Fox, founder and director of Fox Vocal Arts; Olga Konopelsky, Ocean City Pops concertmaster; and William Scheible, artistic director and conductor of the Ocean City POPS. Henry "Bud" Knight served as master of ceremonies.

The Weil Competition is a significant part of the student outreach program sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean City Pops.

Opening Night Reception for Debby Boone

The opening night reception for Debby Boone was held in the Garden Room of the Flanders Hotel after the June 24th evening concert. John Curto sponsored the event, and 98 people attended. Debby Boone was a delightful guest, and champagne, small pastries, cheese and crackers, and fruit were displayed in the back of the room. Coffee and ice tea were also available. Cathy Finnegan covered the event for the Gazette. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Parsons, Chair



Interested in Volunteering?

Friends of the Ocean City Pops Volunteers are looking forward to a busy year as the Orchestra celebrates its 85th Anniversary. So now is a perfect time for you to join the volunteers, help support the orchestra and enjoy the celebration.

Volunteer as much or as little as you can - there are so many ways to help.

You can be a greeter or assist with the Friends Information Table at the Pops Concerts on the Music Pier, assist in fundraiser activities, the FOCP Summer Luncheon or in student outreach activities.

Whatever your expertise we value your talent and would love to have you join us.

Visit us at www.oceancitypops.org - look for the volunteer information and submit your information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Save the date!
Saturday December 1st!

Ocean City POPS presents
Joy to the World: A
Symphonic & Choral
Celebration of
the Joyous Sounds of
Christmas!
7:30 pm- Hughes PAC, 6th
& Atlantic Sts.



Mail Insignia

OC Pops Embarks on Expanded Outreach Program to Area Youth!

Thanks to increased support from **Ocean City Home Bank Foundation, Scheible Encore Society** & major benefactor **Peggy Lloyd**- the POPS was able to send numerous musicians from the orchestra to more regional schools in three counties this Fall. Children from grades 2-8 enjoyed interaction with violinist Luigi Mazzocchi & pianist Jeffrey Uhlig, as well as up-close demonstrations/workshops with our POPS woodwind musicians- Pamela Whitman, flute, David Schneider, oboe, Arne Running, clarinet & Andrea Herr, bassoon. The enthusiasm from the “kids” was contagious and Ocean City Intermediate School students were especially delighted to meet, benefactor Peggy Lloyd, in person!



Schools served by the POPS regional program this Fall included OC Intermediate, Silver Run Rd. in Middle Township, Dennis Township Middle & Upper Township Middle Schools, Sandman Elementary in Cape May, & Cumberland Christian School in Vineland.

In addition, hundreds of school children took a trip, courtesy of the **Friends & City of Ocean City**, to hear the augmented OC POPS Orchestra with Maestro Scheible on Monday, Sept 17th at Hughes PAC (OC HS) play a new program of music focusing on wildlife- both land and ocean. Featured selections included (with video images) Hohvaness' *And God Created Great Whales*, Native American Music inspired by Eagles (presented by Pamela Whitman), & Elgar's Bear & Moth movements from *Wand of Youth Suites*. The students cheered Maestro Scheible & the POPS musicians at the end of the concert for their swift and fleeting fiddling version of *Turkey in the Straw*.

Pictured above:

POPS Musicians perform workshop at Ocean City Intermediate School in October

POPS Woodwind players are flanked by students & major outreach Benefactor Peggy Lloyd