

*If music be the food...*

## **J.S. Bach Mini-Festival** to Benefit Rutherford Food Pantry

### **About the Artists**



**Jane Aulenbach** is a vocalist with the Foggettes. She worked in the Nutley and Lyndhurst Public Schools where she taught instrumental and vocal music in grades K-8 for 34 years. She was musical director and/or performer in at least 30 musicals for High School, College and Community theater (favorite roles: Dolly Levi in "Hello Dolly" and Mother Superior in "Nunsense"). She has been a member of the Rutherford Community Band since high school. A member of the United Presbyterian Church of Lyndhurst, she serves as Chair of the Ministry Committee and Coordinator of the Family Promise Program.



**John Cesar** found his passion for music as a young teen after attending a recital of world-renowned classical guitarist, Manuel Barrueco. He currently is studying under the instruction of world famous performer and teacher, Jorge Caballero, and is in the process to receive his Undergraduate BM in classical guitar performance. He has participated in master classes led by world-renowned guitarists such as Richard Provost, Christopher Ladd, Jorge Caballero, Michael Newman, Mariano Aguirre, Scott Tennant, Michael Partington, Jason Vieaux, and Carlos Barbosa-Lima. He also is a participant in the New York Guitar Seminar at Mannes New School for Music run by Michael Newman, Laura Oltman, and the Hartt School Guitar Festival. Cesar is an instructor of classical guitar, as well as an active guitar soloist and chamber musician in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York. He also runs a classical music concert series in Wayne, NJ. To find out more about John, please visit [www.johncesarguitar.com](http://www.johncesarguitar.com).



**Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church** is an all-volunteer choir that leads congregational singing and provides an eclectic selection of special music, from early plainchant and Renaissance music to contemporary and folk hymns. The choir presents an annual Christmas concert, with additional singers from surrounding communities. Music is important in our church as a means of bringing people closer to the mystery and presence of God, and a way of making our lives more in tune with others and with our understanding of the life of Jesus.



**Martha Day**, vocalist, is a member of the Foggettes. She is also on the pastoral staff of Presbyterian churches in Lyndhurst, Moonachie and East Orange and is a member of the Mental Health Players acting troupe.

**The Foggettes** pop vocal trio specializes in tight girl-group harmonies and rockin' rhythms. They were born of and often make guest appearances with the Foggy Minded Boys, a North Jersey group that offers up free bluegrass, pop, folk, and comedic music entertainment for not-for-profit organizations. Barbara Sabella, Jane Aulenbach, and Martha Day are accompanied by keyboardist Kirk Woodward and featured guitarist Larry Frick. [www.facebook.com/FoggyMindedBoys](http://www.facebook.com/FoggyMindedBoys).



**Larry Frick** is a singer and guitarist with The Foggy Minded Boys and often accompanies the Foggettes vocal trio as well. At Union Congregational Church in Montclair, he sings regularly in the choir, rings in the handbell choir, and has also had many acting and/or singing roles in UCC Players dramatic productions. More than once Larry has lent his talents to the Christmas choir at First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford, and he performed here at the most recent Labor Day walk-in concert. Larry owns and operates his own animal care agency and can be reached at [larryspets@verizon.net](mailto:larryspets@verizon.net).



**Gail Galik**, soprano, has been a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church. Her love of music started at an early age, learning flute with Vincent Borino. She was a member of the children's choir as well as the adult choir at Lyndhurst Methodist Church. As a high school student, she was a member of the Bergen County Chorus and the New Jersey All State Chorus for two years. Later in life, she studied voice with Bill Lowden. During the early part of this decade, she, along with Peggy Hsiao, began a Shepherds Choir for young children. For the last 28 years she has been a member of the Chancel Choir and has been asked to sing for many weddings and church events.



**Tom Gray** has had a passion for church music since childhood and has sung in the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford (FPCOR) since the age of 10. He studied piano with Jack Rodland, the former Minister of Music of the church, and sang in Glee Club at Lafayette College from which he graduated in 1970. He joined Northern NJ's Ars Musica this year, performing Handel's "Israel in Egypt" a week before the Bach fest. Gray is a passionate supporter of the music program at FPCOR. He was one of the key shepherds of the pipe organ restoration project and is the angel behind the new organ in the Chapel. Gray provides the "signature" bass sound that supports the choir.



Organist **Peggy Hsiao** has been Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford since 2001. In addition to playing the organ, she enjoys her work with the Chancel Choir, the annual Christmas Choir, and collaborating with numerous guest musicians for special events at the church. Peggy began to play the organ for church around the age of twelve and later majored in applied music (organ) at Wilson College. She spent many years in Taiwan teaching organ and children's music classes. Her organ teachers have included M. Jean Langlais in Paris, France, and Dr. Jon Gillock while studying for a Master's degree in music at Montclair State College. Peggy is active in the American Guild of Organists and currently serves as Secretary of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the AGO.



Born and raised in Vienna, **Hwa-Chow Oliver Hsu** began studying cello at age 5. He earned a BA in computer science with a minor in Music from Swarthmore College, where he was recipient of the Garrigues Music Scholarship and winner of the 2002 college concerto competition. He earned a Master of Music degree from Mannes College of Music with majors in Cello Performance and Music Theory. Oliver has studied cello with Martin Hornstein, Vivian Barton, Deborah Reeder, and Paul Tobias; pianist Marcantonio Barone and theorist Carl

Schachter also were critical influences in his education. Oliver works as a software engineer but keeps an active music life. Aside from being an avid chamber musician, he plays with and serves on the Board of Directors of the Chelsea Symphony. Though no longer teaching now, he has in the past served on the cello and theory faculty of the Bryn Mawr Conservatory for 8 years.



**Mary Lou Irvine**, a Rutherford resident, holds a BFA in oboe performance from Carnegie Mellon University. She has performed throughout the area with numerous orchestras, concert bands, big bands, churches, opera companies and musical theaters, as well as with new age and folk music artists. She performs on all woodwinds except for the bass instruments.

Pianist **Elena Kloza** is in the 5th grade and celebrates her 11th birthday on the same day as the Bach Mini-Festival. She has been studying piano since she was 6. Her new piano teacher is Ms. Maricel Levandakes. Elena's favorite pastimes include Animal Jam (online with other kids) and playing with little sister Zoe, her kittens Oreo and Snowy, and 2 hermit crabs who have miraculously survived since the kittens want to eat them. Elena has had a lot of fun learning this new Bach piece and hopes you enjoy it too!



Pianist **June Marano-Murray** holds Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees from Manhattan School of Music in piano and accompanying. She has been an opera coach at Manhattan School of Music for over 25 years. Currently she is a voice coach at William Paterson University, the choir director/organist at Second Reformed Church in Hackensack, and organist at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Tenafly, NJ.



Pianist **Melissa Murray** has studied at Manhattan School of Music and Mannes College of Music. She has spent 5 summers at the Luzerne Music Center in upstate NY. She is currently the organist at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Maywood, NJ.



**Dave Miller** learned to play the trombone while in elementary school, performing first in the church where his dad was the pastor, then later as a member of his high school band. He now is a member of the Rutherford Community Band. He sings tenor in the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford, where he also serves as a Deacon.



**Ann Mery**, soprano vocalist, began singing in her church choir at age nine. A native of Rutherford, she is a graduate of Montclair State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and a Master of Arts in Applied Music: Voice Performance. Mery studied voice in Germany, performing with the Trier Opera Company Chorus and as a soloist with the Wittlich Orchestra. She continued her study of voice with Iona Harms of Englewood and performed with the John Harms Chorus as soloist. In addition to teaching music as Music Director of

Queen of Peace Elementary School in North Arlington, Mery continues to be sought after as a soloist for churches and civic organizations in the North Jersey area. Her rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" has been acclaimed as "glorious and spine-tingling!"



French Hornist **Lauren Olivola** is a recent graduate from Montclair State University, receiving her Bachelor of Music in Music Education in January 2015. She has been playing the French horn for 9 years, studying with teachers including Jeffrey Scott and Nancy Billmann. During her time at Montclair State, Lauren was an active performer in Montclair State University's Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, as well as Montclair State's University Singers and other small chamber ensembles. She is currently a freelance musician, substitute teacher and wind instrument instructor at Ackerman's

Music Center, located in Wyckoff, New Jersey.



**Eric Olsen** is "an expert in the art of musical transfiguration" and has a unique ability to re-imagine familiar melodies so that they are "truly born anew" (Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz.com). Eric's latest album *Sea Changes* (Blujazz Label) features the Eric Olsen ReVision Quartet (with saxophonist Don Braden), and was rated "Best Jazz Arrangements of 2015" by Jazz Times magazine. *Sea Changes* is "a stunning rainbow bridge between the worlds of Classical and Jazz" (Travis Rogers). Eric's album *Dyad Plays Puccini* (Ringwood Label) was

rated one of the top 50 Jazz CD's of 2013 by Jazz Times, and was praised as "perhaps the most amazing transformation of cultural enlightenment in the last quarter century" (Brent Black, CriticalJazz.com). Eric has performed at jazz festivals and with symphony orchestras worldwide. He is Music Director and Organist at Union Congregational Church in Montclair, and leads a jazz ensemble in hymns and original works for jazz services. More information is available at [www.ericolsenmusic.com](http://www.ericolsenmusic.com) and [www.dyadplays.com](http://www.dyadplays.com).



**Wesley Ostrander** is a senior at New Jersey City University, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Percussion. He spent his junior year of college at Napier University in Edinburgh Scotland as part of a year-abroad exchange program. At NJCU, Wes performs in the Symphony of Winds and Percussion, Orchestra, Pop Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and the orchestra for school musicals. Wes performed in the North Jersey Region Orchestra during his Junior year of high school, and in the summers attended Drum Fantasy Camp in Cleveland, Ohio. Outside of school, Wes has begun to freelance in New York and New

Jersey, playing in symphony orchestras, pit orchestras and churches. He is a member of the Rancocas Creek Bagpipe Band.



**Phil Reynolds** is an experienced clarinet soloist and has appeared in many recitals and concerts. He is the principal clarinetist with three concert bands. He also co-directs a marching band. In 2010, Phil presented a clarinet, saxophone and vocal recital at the Rutherford Congregational Church, where he sings in the choir. He often has joined the Christmas Choir at First Presbyterian Church and been a performer in the Labor Day walk-in concerts. In college, he participated in the Bowdoin College Summer Music School and later was a clarinet student of Leon Russianoff in New York City. Phil was the

Director of the corporate choir at Mutual Benefit Life. A retired attorney, Phil is a stockbroker with Kenneth, Jerome & Co.



**Barbara Sabella**, vocalist, is a member of the Foggettes. She sings in the choir at First Presbyterian Church and supports their activities. Her early career included backstage work (costuming) in professional stock and off-Broadway theater. Now retired from her bread-and-butter profession of general-topic and medical education writer, she devotes her energies to increasing her involvement in making music in as many ways as she can.



**Karen Schmidt** has been an organist/pianist for over 45 yrs. She played piano from an early age and studied organ privately, putting what she learned into practice on the bench in many churches during her career. She is currently Organist/Choir Director for Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church in Pearl River, NY . She also serves as Dean of the Northern NJ chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She has been an accompanist for solo handbell artist Brian Tricoli for several years. Ms. Schmidt has blessed the next generation with a passion for the arts and the discipline to achieve. Among her grown children is her

daughter, Katie Pearlman a singer-songwriter on LI who also plays percussion for Adelphi University. Chances are Schmidt's five grandchildren will have the opportunity to love and grow in the arts as well.



**Anthony Signa**, a Rutherford resident, studied flute with Thomas Nyfenger and James Copeland Scott at Rutgers University in New Brunswick earning a bachelor's degree in music in 1971 and a master's degree in Flute performance in 1986. He was instructor of woodwind instruments and music theory at Rutgers-Newark from 1982 until 1990. As a free-lance flutist and saxophonist in and around New York City more than 25 years, Signa has had a wide range of performance experiences including playing at Lincoln Center with the

Naumberg and Jupiter Symphony Orchestras and various Off-Broadway shows and recording sessions in Manhattan. As a jazz flutist he has led and co-led groups at Birdland, the Blue Note, and the Village Gate. He has been featured in several jazz groups in live and recorded performances. Signa is currently instructor of instrumental music at St. Mary's in Rutherford and at St. John's in Clark, NJ, and has been in the Rutherford Community Band since 2003.



**Brian A. Tricoli** played over 20 years in handbell choirs before venturing into solo performance. He got his set of 37-Schulmerich handbells in January 2012 and made his solo debut at the Jersey Jubilation Handbell Choir's spring 2012 concert. He performs at church services, fundraisers, nursing homes, concerts and private events in NJ, NY and PA. In 2015, Brian added 3 octaves of Malmark Cymbells to expand his collection to 6 octaves of 76 bells. Brian has had a lifetime involvement in music, learning the trumpet, mellophone, French horn, piano, and organ. He studied music at West Chester University of PA. Currently, Brian rings as a founding member with Jersey Jubilation Handbell Choir and with the Westminsterians at West Side Presbyterian Church, both in Ridgewood. Brian is a Security Officer and EMT for the Passaic County Sheriff Dept. For more information, please visit his website at [www.bellsymphony.com](http://www.bellsymphony.com).



**Kirk Woodward** is a founding member and musical director of the Foggy Minded Boys, and accompanist for the Foggettes. He studied piano under Amelia Moody. He is also a member of the bands 3rd Valve Rock and Full Disclosure. He has worked extensively in theater in New York and northern New Jersey, with the Attic Ensemble (Jersey City), Stage Left (Manhattan), 12 Miles West (Montclair), and the Theater League of Clifton. He is the author of over twenty performed plays, available on the website [www.spiceplays.com](http://www.spiceplays.com). As an actor, he studied with Elizabeth Dillon at the HB Studio and is a member of the Mental Health Players (New Jersey).

Organist **Bruce Xu** is 13 years old. He is currently an 8th grade student with high honor roll in Suffern Middle School in NY. He is also an organist in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chester, NY. In January 2016, Bruce won 3rd prize in UNCSA National High School Organ Competition.

Organist **Reilly Xu** is 13 years old. He is currently an 8th grade student with high honor roll in Suffern Middle School in NY. He is also an organist in Sloatsburg United Methodist Church in Sloatsburg, NY. Reilly plays clarinet in school and was first chair in all-county band in 2015.