

*THE  
PURSUIT  
OF  
MUSIC*

*Volume II*

*1981 - 1991*



*100th Anniversary*

*1891 - 1991*

*The Musical Club of Hartford, Incorporated*

**THE PURSUIT OF MUSIC**

*Volume II*

*Compiled by*

*Jane Bartlett and Betty Ohlheiser*

*Dedicated to*

*Priscilla Eliza Rose*



1932

***Priscilla Eliza Rose***  
***1902 - 1991***

As an Active Member of Musical Club for 68 years, Priscilla played a vital role in its development by serving as Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for 30 years (1948-1978) and as a member of that committee thereafter. She vigorously protected and promoted the principles of the club's constitution during several periods of reform. In addition, Priscilla was Historian for thirty

years, Recording Secretary for six years, Nominating Chairman for three years, and collaborated with Esther Ellison in 1953 to initiate Musical Exploration programs.

After attending local schools, Priscilla graduated from the Institute of Music Pedagogy in Northampton and from the Smith College Summer School of Music. She particularly enjoyed her early piano study with Aurelio Giorni, and later with Ward Davenny.

Priscilla's pianism and musical scholarship were highly respected. She performed on countless programs and was a talented soloist and a sensitive accompanist and ensemble player. In the 1930's her unusual interest in new music prompted her to introduce Bartok's piano music to a startled Musical Club audience.

For 70 years Priscilla taught piano, harmony, and pedagogy at various institutions: Hartford School of Music, Julius Hartt School of Music, Hartford Public High School, Mary Burnham School for Girls, Smith College Summer School of Music, and the West Hartford School of Music. She also welcomed pupils at her home studio. Priscilla was a founder and charter member of the Hartford Chapter of the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association.

Through her forebear, Andrew Warner, Priscilla was a charter member of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, which deepened her interest in local history, including Musical Club's. Avidly and tirelessly she searched through its records for material to include in her book, THE PURSUIT OF MUSIC, which was the club's first published history and the centerpiece of its 90th anniversary year.

In dedicating this new history to Priscilla, we honor her steadfast devotion to Musical Club, her sincere quest for its continuing excellence, and her wise leadership for many decades. We also remember Priscilla as a witty observer, understanding counselor, and beloved friend.

## *Introduction*

**THE PURSUIT OF MUSIC, Volume II**, is a continuation of Priscilla Rose's history of the first ninety years of Musical Club. It contains recollections of the last five Past Presidents and a review of the Centennial Celebration.

While anniversaries offer unusual and glorious events, intervening years bring growth and change. In the 1980's Musical Club maintained its tradition of musical excellence as it adjusted to times very different from one hundred, fifty, or even ten years ago.

This account of the last decade helps to explain Musical Club's longevity. Such devotion and resourcefulness have been typical of members throughout the years, ultimately enabling us to share a joyous 100th Anniversary this year and to welcome Musical Club's second century with faith in its goals and resilience.

From the HARTFORD COURANT, April 7, 1991

"The Musical Club of Hartford stands as one of the cornerstones of the region's musical life. A serious-minded mecca for the performance and appreciation of music."

Steve Metcalf  
Hartford Courant Music Critic

## *1981-1983*

### *Audrey Lindner, President*

During these years Musical Club was beginning to feel the pinch of our country's inflation and the impact of the women's liberation movement. More members were joining the work force, preventing them from attending and participating in regular Thursday morning activities.

In 1983 a happy arrangement with the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford made it possible to begin a pattern of holding one program a year there, in conjunction with an art exhibit, on a Sunday afternoon. This accommodated our working members, performers and listeners alike, and the program was well received by the public.

A study of the 1976 revision of the Constitution and Bylaws showed that it needed to be updated again. These were the major changes, completed in 1983: (1) Active Membership would be open to both men and women. (2) Annual dues would be regulated by the Active Membership and not included in the Bylaws. Those who joined in the second half of the year would pay one-half of the annual dues. (3) An Investment Committee was established to hold and review investments and to offer suggestions for future action to the Executive Board.

Although most programs were held at the Town and County Club, others took place at the West Hartford School of Music, A.S.K. House (University of Hartford), Hartford Conservatory, Hartt School of Music, St. Joseph College, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, South Congregational Church, Unitarian Meeting House, Wadsworth Atheneum, Trinity College Chapel, and the Mid-winter Business Meeting was held at Jane Bartlett's home.

Because of the strong desire of Active Members to perform more often, the number of member programs was increased from nine to ten and the first Concerto Day was introduced. This very popular program, utilizing both Active and Associate Members, has continued ever since. However, by the end of my term we had to cut expenses by eliminating one Musical Exploration program, and it was becoming obvious that dues would have to be raised.

Of special interest was a memorable flute concert by Carol Wincenc. Her program included "Poeme," by Charles T. Griffes, which had been played forty years earlier by Ruth Dorsey, flute, and Priscilla Rose, piano.

An outstanding Musical Exploration lecture was given by Betty Allen, an Active Member and former recipient of a Gifts and Scholarships award. She spoke of her life as a world famous singer and of her current duties as Director of the Harlem School of the Arts.

Because of a sad and startling number of member deaths, the Executive Board voted to establish the Discretionary Memorial Fund and to record the gifts in a lovely Memorial Book. This satisfied many members' desire to remember their Musical Club friends in an appropriate way.

It was a joy to serve as President of such a dedicated group of fine musicians who continue to uphold the high standard of music set by our forebears, and who contribute much talent to the entire Hartford area.

## ***1983-1985***

### ***Miriam Kennedy, President***

The theme for the 1983-84 season, Serendipity, was most appropriate, for the year was marked by notable "desirable or lucky discoveries," some by accident, others by design.

Perhaps the most notable serendipitous event was the release of the money in the Gertrude Storrs Perkins Trust to the Musical Club. In April the Executive Board agreed on the following policy statement regarding its use:

"The Musical Club of Hartford is grateful for the money from the Gertrude Storrs Perkins Trust, which was dissolved on January 16, 1984 by a court order. Musical Club resolves to invest that money and use the income generated by its investment for concerts for its members and guests. In a time of increasing costs to the club for all expenses, this money will enable the club to maintain a high



standard of performance in its selection of concert artists without putting an additional financial strain on the club or its members."

To honor the law firm of Robinson, Robinson and Cole, which worked pro bono for the court order, as well as Mrs. Perkins and her desire to make concerts available to a larger audience, the club celebrated by offering tickets for its final concert to OPUS, an organization dedicated to bringing the arts to the elderly. Those who attended that concert by Claudio Jaffe, cello, were gracious and appreciative.

In another "first," members of the Concert Committee worked hard and creatively to get the most for our money by applying for, and receiving, an IBM grant through the New England Foundation for the Arts, to help fund an exciting performance by the Emmanuel Woodwind Quintet.

Other programs during the year featured serendipitous events as well. The Vocal Ensemble joined the String Ensemble on Concerto-Cantata Day in a performance of Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater". The second annual Sunday afternoon program at the Wadsworth Atheneum drew a standing room only crowd and featured the "Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5" for soprano and nine cellos by Villa-Lobos, coached by Mary Lou Rylands. Throughout the season, works composed by club members Gwyneth Walker, Elizabeth Scheidel, and Sarah Meneely-Kyder were featured on our programs.

The presence of snow did not prevent the performance by our Gifts and Scholarships High School Competition winners for a small, enthusiastic audience, but did postpone the Two-Piano Day program from March to a more temperate day in May. Also in May, Associate Members were invited to join Actives at the annual luncheon, starting a new, inclusive tradition.

The 94th season, 1984-85, entitled The Seasons, became a time of heightened awareness of Musical Club's history via videotape and the beginning of preparations for the club's 100th anniversary in 1990-91.

During the summer of 1984, West Hartford Community Access Television created two programs highlighting the history of Musical Club. Producer Sylvia Goldstein, who joined the club shortly



thereafter, interviewed on camera our historian Priscilla Rose, her assistant Jane Bartlett, and President Mimi Kennedy. Several members offered musical illustrations. A second videotape was edited into a concert format. The programs were televised several times during the next two years and became a permanent record for the club archives. It was also shown to the membership at the annual luncheon in May 1985. Subsequent to the filming, Jane and Mimi also made a cassette tape of a conversation with Priscilla, highlighting her wealth of Musical Club memories.

In October 1984, the Council of Past Presidents met to discuss ideas for the 95th and 100th anniversaries of the club. Soon after, Jane Bartlett and Betty Ohlheiser were appointed Co-Chairmen of the Centennial Committee and began planning for our 100th anniversary celebration.

Programs were interesting and varied. Musical Explorations were presented on Charles Tomlinson Griffes and, as a prelude to a concert by organist Thomas Murray, on the organ and its many voices. Two members wrote works for other meetings. Caren Goodin Evarts performed her contemporary minuet for piano, and Bea MacLaughlin composed a piece for the Vocal Ensemble, the first of several works for various performers and ensembles in the club.

During the year, we were saddened by the untimely deaths of Active Members Christine Clegg and Diane Basch, both talented pianists.

At the Mid-year Business Meeting in February, Priscilla Rose presented a pin, to be designated the Past President's Pin, to the Musical Club and its first recipient, immediate Past President Audrey Lindner. Originally given to Viola Vanderbeek by the club on its 65th anniversary to honor her long service, the pin had been designated for Priscilla in Miss Vanderbeek's will.

In the spring of 1985, two projects were considered and adopted by the Executive Board. Laura Holleran, Chairman of Gifts and Scholarships, volunteered to research and maintain records on competition winners and their musical activities and to report to the club by way of the Bulletin. A second proposal, to publish a Performers Calendar with each Bulletin, was accepted with the goal

of informing the membership of concerts not only of Active members but also of potential Active members.

Faced with steep rental increases and the desire to allow the interest on the Concert Fund to grow for use in the 100th year, the Executive Board found it necessary to approve an increase in dues to \$25 for the following season, 1985-86. At a cost of \$1.39 per member per meeting, Musical Club would still be the best bargain in town!

## *1985-1987*

### *Mary Lane, President*

A six-year backward look suggests that successes, not frustrations hold center stage in memory. Limited space allows mention of only a few highlights from my first term--our 95th anniversary year.

The opening program, "Adventure in Reflection," chaired by Mimi Kennedy, culminated with a tribute to our thirteen 50 to 70 year Active Members, six of whom were there. Individual testimonials written by Priscilla Rose were read and later sent to all. Each honoree was presented with a red rose and a specially designed certificate. Afterwards a newspaper picture afforded another memento. Present were Gertrude Jones, Irene Kahn, Priscilla Rose, Virginia Schorr, Juliet Shaw, and Janet Williams.

Unable to attend were Florence Atkins, Mary Clark, Louise Martin, Eleanor Nobbs, Marguerite O'Meara, Florence Skiff, and Evelyn Storrs. Five of us visited them and took each a rose, certificate, and program. Received warmly with enthusiastic words of appreciation, we were requested to convey to the membership their love and continuing devotion to the club. We felt very enriched.

Two original works composed by club members were performed on the "Adventure in Holiday" program by the Vocal Ensemble: "Three Catnip Tails" by Bea MacLaughlin and "Hallelu" by Sylvia Goldstein.

Musical Club received a gift to present a Madelyn Robb Serbin Memorial Concert in March 1986. This tribute from our Past President's husband, Dr. A. Frederick Serbin, provided us with an incredible performance by Anne Marie McDermott, pianist, who is achieving fame today in the United States and Europe.

An illustrated article, "The Glory of Carnegie Hall" (New York Times, May 19, 1985), made us aware that Carnegie Hall and Musical Club share the same birth month and year, May 1891. Carnegie was beginning a \$50 million fund drive for the restoration of the hall, and our board decided to donate \$95.00, a token dollar for each year. We received a thank you letter from Isaac Stern, Chairman of the drive and restoration.

Two Musical Exploration lectures presented men of different personalities, both on fire with love for their subject matter: F. Neely Bruce on "An Overview of American Music" and Professor Julius Elias on "Wagner and Parsifal: An Unholy Alliance."

When the Wagner-Parsifal topic was announced, I scanned the Metropolitan Opera schedule, which listed a performance of Parsifal two days after the Julius Elias lecture. Thinking what a great way to end the season, I set in motion plans for a busload of members to attend. We were very fortunate because the April weather was perfect and the performance glorious. It was an unforgettable, spiritually uplifting experience.

Throughout the season many hours were devoted to discussion and planning for the 1991 Centennial Celebration. Financing and specific events were considered in depth by the Council of Past Presidents, the Centennial Committee, and the Executive Board. By May 1986 plans had been finalized and the celebration seemed headed for a successful conclusion. A few members pledged seed money, followed by pledges from many members, so a budget was adopted providing for a major competition, an endowment for post-centennial years, a booklet updating the 90-year history, THE PURSUIT OF MUSIC, and for two centennial concerts. A gala birthday celebration was planned to take place in May 1991, the actual date of Musical Club's century mark.

NOTE: That this enormously challenging undertaking came to a phenomenally successful conclusion will be evidenced in this booklet. We should realize, also, that although many hands and

heads contributed, it was the vision, commitment, and arduous work of our Centennial Committee Co-Chairmen, Janie Bartlett and Betty Ohlheiser, that brought the dream to fruition.

During the 1986-87 season considerable attention was given by my excellent Board to a renewed understanding of the aims and customs of the club and we were productive in thinking of ways to continue to grow and function well in times of change. We struggled with increasing costs, and sought to adapt to widening geographical locations of our members and their increasing family and financial responsibilities. We suggested a more productive use of Associate Members.

Our ongoing relationship with the Wadsworth Atheneum expanded. We presented a recital in collaboration with its exhibition "American Women Artists, 1830-1930," and agreed to present another, relating to "Women in Music" in November 1987.

In planning for the 1987-1988 season, the Concert Committee decided to feature young artists of impressive stature. I suggested that they engage Vincent Stringer, a winner of our Gifts and Scholarships Competition, whom we had helped financially and whose growth I had been able to watch. The idea was accepted enthusiastically, thus achieving one of our aims--to encourage and assist young, talented musicians.

As my term of office ended, I found myself pleased that we had been able to offer our membership a series of such stunning programs and grateful for the friendships, and for the joy of making music and being moved by music, which propel and bind us to the Musical Club. Reflection always points to the remarkable group of individuals who devote countless hours to produce such programs. Our Musical Club is indeed a miraculous achievement.

## ***1987-1989***

***Laura W. Holleran, President***

My term in office was particularly characterized by change. Odd, since I do believe, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." It was the world that needed fixing (the club had functioned just fine for 98

years), but we could not change the world. Here are excerpts from my President's Report at the February 1988 Mid-year Meeting:

"I truly think, in the near future, some things will have to be changed. Minor things, not the foundations of the club which were worked out by women with amazing foresight and great good common sense. But there is no way they could have foreseen today's economy which forces so many women to work outside the home. Musicians often must expend their energies in the business world in order to pay the bills. Practice time is sporadic, performance time is a luxury, and free time is non-existent. It is becoming harder and harder to man committees and even to schedule performers. We need a broader base from which to draw, especially for committee chairmen and personnel. One recommendation which warrants consideration is the granting of Active Membership to Associates who have demonstrated their devotion to the club and who will bring to us their administrative skills rather than performance skills. We need their help.

Members of Musical Club have become accustomed to the niceties of life. When your diet consists of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms, the finest things life has to offer are your daily bread. Given our penchant for the finest, in other words, we must increase our membership or raise the dues. We must convince members of the music-loving public that being a part of Musical Club during the 100th Anniversary celebration is to be assured of a tiny place in American musical history.

There are other solutions to the personnel and financial problems we are encountering: a new format for the very expensive yearbook, dispensing with hospitality for guest artists, do-it-yourself receptions, less expensive meeting places, fewer programs..."

Looking back on my remarks, I suppose some of them were meant to shock and to call attention to the difficulties the club was having due to changes in the economy.

I was asked by Steve Metcalf in an interview for the article on the 100th Anniversary which appeared in the Hartford Courant, if I saw any obstacles in the path of a continuing Musical Club in the next century. I told him, without hesitation, that I did not; that there had been several impediments to continuing success but that we had faced them and found solutions. The expected opposition



to some of the proposed changes did not materialize at all and the "old guard" in the club understood the need for change and were very supportive. The changes which had been made, I felt sure, would make it possible for the club to enjoy the next century in the happy pursuit of music.

These are some of the changes: A new format for the Year-book. By putting all information into the computer and printing it out in a size which permitted use of standard paper and envelopes, well over \$1,000 each year has been saved. We were encouraged to consider a new meeting place and have enjoyed the cordiality of Westminster Presbyterian Church for several years now. It is far less expensive than the much-loved Town and County Club, the parking is better, and the piano is better. Sight lines are not ideal but, weighed with other considerations including the fact that the sanctuary is bright and pleasing and we are accorded use of the Fireside Room without charge for meetings, this has been a good decision. Business meetings are now self-catered, perfectly acceptable.

Although attempts to secure federal tax-exempt status had been made in the past without success, members of my Executive Board were eager to try again. Treasurer Carol Downs pronounced the idea financially sound and Sudie Blatz and Sylvia Goldstein did all the original research, eventually securing an attorney from Lawyers for the Arts. Charlotte Bagnall and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee labored to bring our documents into line with federal requirements. Associate Members may now attend business meetings, thereby making it possible for qualified Associates to chair certain committees. Associate Membership was opened to anyone who wished to further the aims of the club and no longer required a written invitation to membership. An application form was devised and is available to anyone wishing to join. The democratization of Associate Membership was essential if the club were to apply for federal tax exemption.

It was NOT necessary to change the more stringent requirements for Active Membership. Even the United States government recognizes that musical ability is not democratic. We have, however, more fully recognized the vital contribution of our ensemble performers and our retired musicians and music teachers who have devoted a lifetime to music. Active Membership for men was finally realized.



We did not have to dispense with hospitality, nor have we had to schedule fewer programs. It was NOT necessary to raise the dues. As a result of our new tax status (approved in 1990) we may be honored with donations previously discouraged by estate planners. And, as a result of our 100th anniversary year events, we have attracted interest in the club and many new members. We are in splendid shape to begin our new century. How honored you have made me feel to be permitted to contribute.

## *1989-1991*

### *Carol B. Hunt, President*

"Bloom where you are." That old saying has often calmed my restless thoughts. Musical Club provides a place for many of us to bloom, musically. It acts as a "bud vase" bringing into sharp focus and reminding us of the importance of the individual, and also encourages us to make beautiful bouquets of our combined, unique talents. It does seem to me being 100 years old calls for such poetic thoughts. To me, they express some of the reasons for our longevity.

The Musical Club has had an exhilarating time during its 99th and 100th years. We have had extra special Concerts, Receptions, Musical Explorations, Members Programs, Vocal and Instrumental Ensemble Programs, an International Duo-Piano Competition, a High School Voice, Brass/Woodwind Competition, a trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City, and a 100th Birthday Party Luncheon.

Some other events worthy of note are: (1) In July of 1990, the club was granted Tax Exemption Status by the Internal Revenue Service which was an economic boon to the club. (2) The Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship Trust Fund was established in September of 1990. (3) A committee from the Executive Board updated the MANUAL FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES which was last done in 1960. (4) A special Centennial Year Scrapbook was assembled to keep important memorabilia of the 100th year together. (5) Our Musical Club History, THE PURSUIT OF MUSIC, was brought up to date (from which you are now reading!)

The varied meeting places of our activities for these two years have been the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, Millard Auditorium of Hartt College of Music, University of Hartford, Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Unitarian Meeting House in Hartford, the Town and County Club in Hartford, and the Hartford Golf Club.

There were two branches of our organization guiding the activities of Musical Club during these two years. A Centennial Committee, composed of Past Presidents and other members, raised the needed funds and planned a centennial year that would be memorable. The Executive Board, composed of present officers of the club, was then able to function in its roll of running the regular club activities without being overwhelmed by centennial activities. The two groups worked well together for the benefit of the entire club.

The Musical Club has weathered many changes in its history. It is changing now but is still strong. The members have an abiding love and respect for this venerable club. I wonder if our founders had even an inkling of the durability of what they were beginning. By creating a place for themselves and Hartford to bloom musically, they provided a garden that has lasted a century.

*100th Anniversary*  
*Jane Bartlett and Betty Ohlheiser*  
*Co-Chairmen*

The first event of Musical Club's 100th Anniversary Year was an International Duo-Piano Competition held on May 20, 1990 in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State University. Selected from tapes submitted by sixteen teams, four finalist pairs from the United States, Russia, and Belgium competed. Judges Richard and John Contiguglia, Frances Veri and Michael Jamanis, Michael Lankester, and Leonard Seeber awarded the \$5,000 prize to the Jeleznov Piano Duo from Tashkent, U.S.S.R., a young husband and wife team, graduates of the Moscow Conservatory. After a fine required program, they dazzled in their interpretation of Rachmaninoff's "Suite No. 2."

A Memorial Concert by Anne Koscielny, pianist, was a homecoming triumph. Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford, overflowed with members, guests, and former students and colleagues of Ms. Koscielny. From the rousing opening notes of her Bach "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue", through her sensitive and virtuosic playing of Beethoven's "Sonata No. 1, Op. 14", "Miroirs" by Ravel, "Three Preludes" by Rachmaninoff, and the Chopin "Sonata in B Minor", she was the perfect, intensely inspirational artist to open Musical Club's 100th season. A reception for over 200 people followed the concert.

On November 8, 1990, Ward Davenny, former Director of the Hartford School of Music, Chairman of the Piano Department, Emeritus, Yale School of Music, and currently conducting master classes at the University of Illinois, lectured on "Music in Hartford--Yesterday" and included a performance of piano pieces which were written 100 years ago. As a leading musician in Hartford in the 1940's and 1950's, he had close ties with our club's early leaders, including its founder, Miss Frances Hall Johnson. It was meaningful to hear about them this year. A luncheon in his honor was enhanced by the friendships which still exist between Mr. Davenny and numerous club members. Another homecoming triumph! Later in the day he visited his dear friend, Priscilla Rose, and repeated his program for her because she was too ill to attend the meeting.

Michael Lankester, Music Director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, lectured on "Music in Hartford--Today" on March 17, 1991, and then invited questions. Mr. Lankester's outstanding articulation, knowledge, and ready sense of humor in his lecture and responses produced a most enjoyable learning experience and exchange. His sociability carried over into the luncheon for him afterwards.

Carnegie Hall also celebrated its Centennial in 1990-1991. On March 11, 1991, a bus filled with excited Musical Club members went to New York City to hear an evening concert by the Houston Symphony with Pinchas Zuckerman, viola soloist. The weather was clear, the refurbished hall stunning, the performance excellent, and dessert and coffee at the Russian Tea Room next door was a glamorous, delicious prelude.

Ten historical programs were presented by member musicians throughout the year. Background material, gleaned from our complete and well-preserved archives, imparted to each program the distinctive flavor of its decade. A few unusual highlights were: the Centennial Chorus, made up of thirty former and current members of the Vocal Ensemble, which was joyfully received; a member's compositions for duo-piano, and for voices, strings and piano duet that invited us to celebrate the Anniversary Year; and a string quartet's rendition of "Happy Birthday" as might have been written by great composers or as a waltz or tango. It was so amusing that, by popular demand, it was encored at the Birthday Party.

A feature article by Steve Metcalf on the front page of the April 7, 1991 Hartford Courant Sunday Arts and Entertainment section reviewed some of our history, quoted members and paid tribute to Musical Club's contribution to the well-being and liveliness of classical music in Hartford.

On May 9, 1991, 170 members and guests gathered for Musical Club's 100th Birthday Party at the Hartford Golf Club. It was a beautiful occasion, filled with elation and camaraderie. An historical display was exhibited and 50, 60, and 70 year members were honored. After a tasty luncheon, the pink and white tiered cake (as appealing to see as to savor) was served amid resounding choruses of Auld Lang Syne and Happy Birthday.

The speaker, Steve Metcalf, Music Critic of the Hartford Courant, focused on "Ten Things I've Learned as a Music Critic", then answered questions. Lastly, we presented the club with a \$5,000 endowment check made possible by members' gifts to the Century Fund.

Everyone joined in hailing and congratulating Musical Club. From the reception, with its cheery "Hello's" and nostalgic piano background music, to the afternoon delivery of head table flowers to our oldest member, every part of the day was memorable and fun.

Lucy Shelton, soprano, honored Musical Club by scheduling a performance for the final Gala Centennial Concert into her busy international itinerary. On May 22, 1991 at Millard Auditorium, she was accompanied by the gifted pianist Lambert Orkis and thrilled us with her magnificent voice, superior artistry, and unusual

programming, which included songs by Stravinsky, Mussorgsky, four poems set to music by Oliver Knussen in 1988 for unaccompanied soprano, and songs by Debussy and Mahler. Her encore performance of the 100-year-old vintage song, "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie" was an amusing diversion, setting the tone for the reception that followed.

In closing we thank everyone for an extraordinary year! Let's hope that together we'll be able to share our valuable, viable, and yes, venerable Musical Club for many more years to come.

*Major Contributors*  
*100th Anniversary Fund*

**Gifts and Scholarships Fund**  
**Memorial Fund**  
**Priscilla E. Rose History Fund**

Hope Allen  
Jane Bartlett  
Alice Cheney  
Mary Clark  
Ruth Dorsey  
Eunice Flannery  
Laura Holleran  
Mary Lane  
Betty Ohlheiser  
Genevieve Pfaff  
Audree Raffay  
Priscilla E. Rose  
Jean Schuler  
Mary Shipman  
Hannah Smith  
Janet Williams  
Marybeth Zimmerman



## *The Centennial Committee*

Co-Chairmen . . . . . Jane Bartlett and Betty Ohlheiser  
 Historical Chairman . . . . . Audrey Lindner  
 Treasurer . . . . . Mary Lane  
 Competition Co-Chairmen . . Laura Holleran and Freda Sackter  
 Concert Co-Chairmen . . . . . Audree Raffay and Sarah Swett  
 Finance Co-Chairmen . . . . . Charlotte Bagnall and Mary Dodd  
 Banquet Co-Chairmen . . . . . Miriam Kennedy and Jean Schuler  
 History Booklet Co-Chairmen Jane Bartlett and Betty Ohlheiser  
     Assistants . . . . . Ruth Dorsey and Janet Williams  
     Typist . . . . . Hope Allen  
     Computer Operators . . . . . Laura Holleran and Anne Mayo



*Left to right: Board Member Rosario Morant, Committee Members Audrey Lindner, Laura Holleran, Jane Bartlett, Betty Ohlheiser, Freda Sackter, Mary Dodd. Row 2. Miriam Kennedy, Janet Williams, Hope Allen, Jean Schuler, Ruth Dorsey, Audree Raffay, Charlotte Bagnall, Sally Swett. Insert: Mary Lane.*





**Executive Board.** *Left to right:* Diane Day, Florence Bowmar, Marybeth Zimmerman, Joan Niller, Carol Hunt, Laura Holleran, Sandra Ann Craig, Jean Watson.



*October, 1985*

**50-70 year members.** *Left to right:* Irene Kahn, Juliet Shaw, Priscilla Rose, Janet Williams, Virginia Schorr, Gertrude Jones.



*Left:*  
**Audree Raffay  
with  
Anne Koscielny,  
pianist.**

*Below:*  
**Lucy Shelton,  
soprano.**



*Above:*  
**Lucy Shelton,  
soprano, and  
Lambert Orkis,  
pianist.**



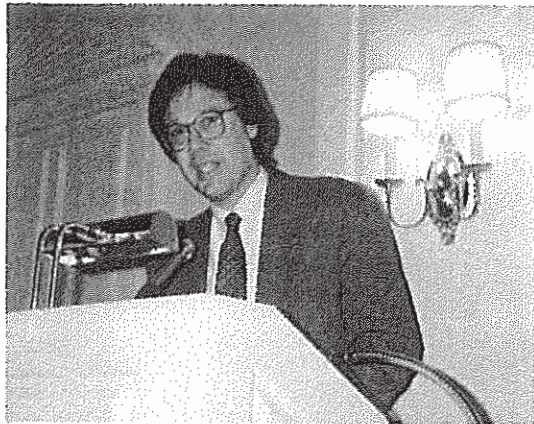
*Right:*  
**Jelesnov Duo,  
Duo-Piano  
Competition  
Winners.**





*Left:*  
**Michael Lankester,**  
**Music Director of the**  
**Hartford Symphony,**  
**and Rosario Morant.**

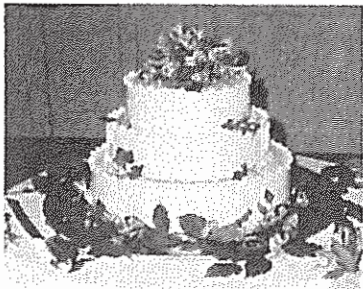
*Below:*  
**Steve Metcalf,**  
**Music Critic,**  
**Hartford Courant.**



*Below:*  
**Freda Sackter,**  
**Jane Bartlett,**  
**Ward Davenny,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Yale Piano**  
**Department,**  
**Emeritus,**  
**Ena Davenny,**  
**Harry Bartlett.**







**100th  
Birthday  
Party!**







*Above:*  
**Hackett,  
Shipman,  
Tweet,  
Smith.**



*Above:*  
**Mayo,  
Lindner.**



*Left:*  
**Centennial  
Chorus,  
Muriel  
Ainley,  
Director.**



*Concert Artists*  
*1981-1991*

- 1981-82     D'Anna Fortunato, *Mezzo-soprano*  
              Robert Tumarkin, *Piano*  
              Carol Wincenc, *Flute*
- 1982-83     Richard McKee, *Bass-baritone*  
              Rose-Nagata-Kreger Trio  
              Eastern Brass Quintet
- 1983-84     Emmanuel Woodwind Quintet  
              Barry Snyder, *Piano*  
              Claudio Jaffe, *Cello*
- 1984-85     Chrysolith  
              Rebecca Flannery, *Harp*  
              Diane Kern, *Flute*  
              Thomas Murray, *Organ*  
              David Finckel, *Cello*; Wu Han, *Piano*
- 1985-86     Franck Avril, *Oboe*  
              Margaret Vazquez, *Soprano*  
              Meliora String Quartet  
              Ian Swenson, *Violin*  
              Calvin Wiersma, *Violin*  
              Maria Lambose, *Viola*  
              Betty Anderson, *Cello*  
              Anne Marie McDermott, *Piano*
- 1986-87     Raphael Trio  
              Steven DeGrootte, *Piano*  
              Lenore Weinstock, *Viola*
- 1987-88     Vincent Stringer, *Baritone*  
              Music for Flute and Harp  
              Diane Kern, *Flute*  
              Sally Ranti, *Harp*  
              Mia Chung, *Piano*



- 1988-89     **Claudio Jaffe and Johanne Perron,**  
                  **Duo cellissimo**  
**Bradley Garner, Flute**  
**Chai-Lun Yueh, Baritone**
- 1989-90     **Portland String Quartet**  
**Harold Martina, Piano**
- 1990-91     **Anne Koscielny, Piano**  
**Lucy Shelton, Soprano, Lambert Orkis, Piano**

***Musical Exploration***  
**1981-1991**

- 1981-82     **Dr. Carlene Hutchins**  
                  "The New Violin Family--a 20th Century View"  
**Donald Harris, Dean, Hartt School of Music**  
                  "The Training of the Young Musician Today"  
                  "Musical Experiences in Paris, France"  
**Betty Allen, Director, Harlem School of the Arts**  
                  "The Life and Times of Betty Allen"
- 1982-83     **Dr. Watson Morrison, Piano**  
                  "Chopin: A Lecture Recital"  
**Prof. Arthur Welwood, Clarinet/Composer**  
                  "The Traditional and Experimental:  
                  "Two Sides of a Composer's Art"
- 1983-84     **Edwin Merck, Assistant Dean, Hartt School of Music**  
                  "Alternatives for Musicians Today"  
**Evan Williams, Teacher of Dance**  
                  "Music and Dance: A Creative Fusion"
- 1984-85     **David Reeves and Dorothy Kemps**  
                  "American 100th Birthday:  
                  Charles Tomlinson Griffes"  
**Richard Knapp, Organist**  
                  "All You Have Ever Wanted to Know  
                  about the Organ"

- 1986-86**     **Prof. F. Neely Bruce**  
                   "An Overview of American Music"  
**Prof. Julius Elias**  
                   "Wagner and Parsifal: An Unholy Alliance"
- 1986-87**     **Nina Deutsch, *Piano***  
                   "The World of Charles Ives--Seen and Unseen"  
**Luiz DeMoura Castro, *Piano***  
                   "Liszt, the Man and His Music"
- 1987-88**     **Janet Weiner LePage**  
                   "Up From the Footnotes: Women in Music"  
**Phyllis and F. Neely Bruce**  
                   "Carrie Jacobs Bond--Music As a Business"
- 1988-89**     **Bea MacLaughlin, *Chairman*, and Committee**  
                   "A Live Peek Behind the Scenes"  
                   (Early music to Romantic)  
                   "A Live Peek, continued"  
                   (Romantic-Contemporary)
- 1989-90**     **Mary Carswell, *Executive Director*,**  
                   ***MacDowell Colony, Inc.***  
                   "Our MacDowell Connection, 1898-1989"  
**Bea MacLaughlin, *Chairman*, and Committee**  
                   "What's in a Name?"
- 1990-91**     **Ward Davenny, *Lecturer-Pianist***  
                   "Music in Hartford--Yesterday"  
**Michael Lankester, *Music Director*,**  
                   ***Hartford Symphony***  
                   "Music in Hartford--Today"



LOWELL P. WEICKER JR.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
06106

April 16, 1991

Dear Members of The Musical Club of Hartford:

Any musical organization celebrating the joyous milestone of 100 is worthy of special praise - and thanks.

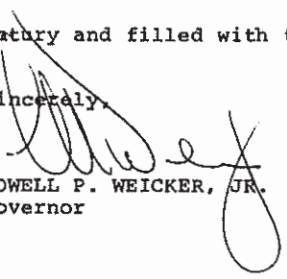
Congratulations and many, many happy returns to The Musical Club of Hartford.

The gift of music itself is so special. But when it is wrapped in support, encouragement, opportunity and recognition, the package glows so much the brighter.

My very best wishes to the club and its members, another example of the treasures of Connecticut.

May your luncheon be worthy of a century and filled with the joyful noises of celebration.

Sincerely,



LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR.  
Governor

LPW:lmf





T H E  
M A C D O W E L L  
C O L O N Y  
I N C

February 27, 1991

Dear Members of The Musical Club of Hartford:

On the occasion of your 100th Anniversary The MacDowell Colony sends its profound appreciation to The Musical Club of Hartford, to its members for what they stand for, for the success of the club and for the real support it has given to the world of music. The Colony's founder, Edward MacDowell, was the first public performer presented by The Musical Club of Hartford at Unity Hall on March 11, 1898. What a serious and fine connection, one which we hope will continue and prosper. We hope your club will continue to provide beautiful music to the Hartford area and the best of companionship for persons devoted to music for yet another century.

Sincerely,

Mary Carswell  
Executive Director

100 High Street  
Peterborough, N.H. 03458  
603-924-3886  
212-966-4860  
603-924-9142 (FAX)

163 East 81st Street  
New York, N.Y. 10028  
212-535-9690  
212-737-3803 (FAX)

May 1, 1991

The Musical Club of Hartford  
c/o Mrs. John C. Hunt, President  
93 Riggs Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06107



Dear Mrs. Hunt,

Congratulations to the Musical Club of Hartford on its 100th anniversary, from a fellow centenarian, Carnegie Hall. With our common birthdays (yours of May 4 and ours of May 5, 1891), we share a century of music making history in America.

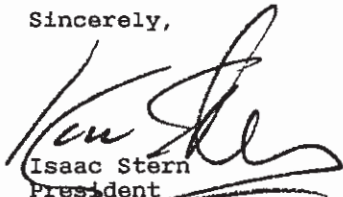
Carnegie Hall is proud to serve as an inspiration to organizations like yours throughout the United States. It is here that every musician dreams of performing, to measure up to all the great artists who have come before -- where performance standards are set for each generation of concert-goers.

This tradition of excellence would not be possible without the efforts of groups like the Musical Club of Hartford. Local institutions like yours help develop cultural awareness in each community, nurture young talent, and make dreams into realities.

The career of one of your scholarship recipients, Betty Allen, attests to this truth. Distinguishing herself in a successful singing career, and currently serving as the Executive Director of the Harlem School of the Arts and a Trustee of Carnegie Hall, Ms. Allen has inspired countless lives. If one child in each generation follows in her footsteps, then the impact of your work will continue to be immeasurable.

The 1990-91 Concert Season at Carnegie Hall is the last season of our first century, but more importantly, the first season of our second century. We trust that it will be the same for the Musical Club of Hartford, and we look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries together.

Sincerely,



Isaac Stern  
President

# THE BUSHNELL

Michael Suisman  
President  
Douglas C. Evans  
Managing Director

May 9, 1991

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of The Bushnell Board of Trustees and Management, I send along greetings to all members of The Musical Club of Hartford.

As you celebrate your 100th anniversary, it is fitting to recognize the significant role that The Musical Club has played in our community. The Musical Club's impact on our cultural, artistic and musical lives as been extraordinary. You hold a special place in the history of Hartford and Connecticut.

And so, congratulations to all members -- past, present, and future. May you rightfully celebrate not only your impressive past, but your bright future.

Sincerely,



Douglas C. Evans  
Managing Director

166 Capital Avenue  
Station A, Box 260898  
Hartford, CT 06126-0898  
203-527-3123



*Major Contributors*  
*The Musical Club of Hartford, Inc.*  
*1981-1991*

1986 Dr. A. Frederick Serbin  
1990 Evelyn Bonar Storrs  
1990 Harry M. Fowler  
1990 Virginia Schorr  
1991 Priscilla E. Rose

*The Evelyn Bonar Storrs*  
*Piano Scholarship Fund*

Evelyn Bonar Storrs became an Active Member of Musical Club in 1918 and was, at her death, a 70 year member. In her will she stated, "I have tried to express my appreciation for the enjoyment and pleasure in having been a member of the Musical Club of Hartford for more than fifty years. With this in mind, I have established the Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for talented and advanced students of piano under the auspices of the Musical Club of Hartford."

The sums we will receive, a portion of the annual interest on her estate, may vary from year to year but they will always be substantial. Thus, we have been given the opportunity to help many young artists.

*Meeting Places 1981-1991*

A.S.K. House	Town and County Club
Asylum Hill Congregational Church	Trinity College Chapel
Connor Chapel, St. Joseph College	Unitarian Meeting House
First Church of Christ, Wethersfield	United Methodist Church of Hartford
Gray Hall, South Congregational Church	Wadsworth Atheneum
Hartford Conservatory	Welte Auditorium, Central Connecticut State University
Hartford Golf Club	West Hartford School of Music
Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford	Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford

## *Past Presidents*

*Miss Frances Hall Johnson	1893-1894
*Miss Grace L. Plimpton	1894-1895
*Mrs. Ansel G. Cook	1895-1896
*Miss Mabel C. Washburn	1896-1897
*Mrs. James P. Andrews	1897-1899
*Miss Frances Hall Johnson	1899-1901
*Miss Mary Bulkley	1901-1903
*Miss Mary S. Robinson (Mrs. Adrian Lambert)	1903-1904
*Miss Lillian L. Bissell	1904-1906
*Miss Mabel C. Washburn	1906-1909
*Miss E. Marguerite Holcombe	1909-1911
*Miss Mabel Johnson	1911-1913
*Miss Mary Bulkley	1913-1917
*Miss Lillian L. Bissell	1917-1919
*Miss Viola Vanderbeek	1919-1923
*Mrs. Nellie Carey Reynolds	1923-1925
*Mrs. Gertrude D. Fothergill	1925-1929
*Miss Mabel Wyllys Wainwright	1929-1932
*Mrs. A. J. W. Myers	1932-1934
*Miss Florence A. Atkins	1934-1936
*Mrs. Norma Allen Haine	1936-1941
*Mrs. Grace Preston Naylor	1941-1944
*Mrs. Stanley B. Weld	1944-1946
*Mrs. Edward N. Allen	1946-1948
*Mrs. Peter J. Scafarello	1948-1950
*Mrs. Wendell P. McKown, Jr.	1950-1952
*Mrs. Maude Hurst Blanchard	1952-1954
Mrs. Ruth Cabbage Dorsey	1954-1955
Mrs. Othniel G. Williams	1955-1956
*Mrs. Esther Nelson Ellison	1956-1957
*Mrs. Grace Tumbridge Fowler	1957-1959
Mrs. Donald H. Burr	1959-1961
Mrs. Myron H. Clark	1961-1963
*Mrs. Ruth B. Hurwitz	1963-1965
*Mrs. A. Frederick Serbin	1965-1967
Miss Geraldine Douglass	1967-1968
Mrs. Llewellyn C. Schuler	1968-1970
Mrs. Leon W. Zimmerman	1970-1972
Mrs. Frank Stafford Jones	1972-1973
Mrs. James N. Bagnall	1973-1975
Mrs. Robert J. Ohlhelser	1975-1977
Mrs. Norris P. Swett	1977-1979
Mrs. Harry O. Bartlett	1979-1981
Mrs. Audrey J. Lindner	1981-1983
Mrs. Miriam S. Kennedy	1983-1985
Miss Mary R. Lane	1985-1987
Mrs. Laura W. Holleran	1987-1989
Mrs. Carol Boehm Hunt	1989-1991

\*Deceased