

Ridgefield Park Creative Team - Autumn Concert 2017

Performer Bios

Francisco Donaruma, Principal French horn player for Queens symphony Orchestra and Former Principal of the American Ballet Theatre orchestra has been residing Ridgefield Park for last 11 years. His career spans every facet of the music industry—Symphony, Opera, Chamber, Soloist, ballet and pops.— in concert halls, Broadway Theaters, television, radio, recordings and film soundtracks. He can convey a number of compelling anecdotes, such as his experiences in performing with orchestras that backed stars like Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland and opera sensation Maria Callas and Luciano Pavarotti.

Frank also can impart how he emerged as principal French horn player for distinguished orchestras such as the New Jersey Symphony, Kansas City philharmonic, The Royal Ballet, and Baltimore Symphony. He, likewise, can talk about his orchestra experience with the Metropolitan Opera, and how he toured the world with the Phoenix Woodwind Quintet and American Brass Quintet.

Frank's career, including TV appearances with personalities such as Rosie O'Donnell and David Letterman, has many gripping facets.

Masako Yanagita, winner of top-honors in international competitions, has concertized around the world. At present, she is the concertmaster of Springfield Symphony in Massachusetts as well as Queens Symphony in New York. She is also active as chamber musician, a teacher and coach. As a chamber music coach, she is a faculty at Bennington Chamber Music Conference, Greenwood Music Camp and Princeton Playweek.

Masako began her violin studies in Japan at an early age and came to the United States to study with William Kroll at Mannes College of Music. She has recorded many chamber music and solo works and most recently, the entire Schubert repertoire for violin/viola and piano with her late husband, pianist Abba Bogin. She resides in both New York City and Charlemont, MA.

Peggy Dearmond, a pianist of great versatility, has been an active accompanist, chamber and orchestral musician and teacher in the state of New Jersey and the greater New York City metropolitan area for over 30 years. Ms. Dearmond performed as principal keyboardist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for 26 years, and her other appearances in our region include performances with a variety of orchestras and chamber ensembles in the tri-state area, where she has appeared in Carnegie, Alice Tully, Avery Fisher, Merkin Halls, Madison Square Garden and the Mohegan Sun. Her radio and television performances have included broadcasts of chamber and orchestral music on WQXR and PBS stations throughout the country. Ms. Dearmond currently resides in Livingston where she accompanies and teaches a studio of piano students of all ages.