

Quarter Notes

G A R T H N E W E L M U S I C C E N T E R



Enriching lives through
inspired chamber music and
performance arts experiences.

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Cooking Class: Curing Salmon,
Duck and Drying Fruits and
Vegetables
Thu, Apr 11, 2024, 5:30 PM
Chef Josh Elliott, *executive chef*

Emerging Artist Alumni Concert -
War and Injustice: Solace Across G
Sat, May 4, 2024, 3:00 PM
**Alumni of the Emerging Artist
Fellowship**

Spring Wine Pairing Dinner
Thu, May 9, 2024, 4:30 PM
Chef Josh Elliott, *executive chef*

Yerba Mate Tea Concert
Sat, May 11, 2024, 3:00 PM
Garth Newel Piano Quartet



Visit www.GarthNewel.org for Events

Farewell to Shawn Puller, Executive Director

Dr. Shawn Puller announced his resignation as Executive Director of the Garth Newel Music Center on February 16, 2024. He accepted a position as Development Director for the Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, VA, and will begin work there on April 17, 2024. Shawn was initially hired to serve as Garth Newel's Development Director in 2004, but quickly moved up to assume the Executive Director role. In many ways, Shawn was not prepared to be an Executive Director and he likes to say, "I'm just a singer, what do I know about [insert topic]" But Shawn worked hard, asked the right questions, and grew in confidence and knowledge.

Shawn has served as the Garth Newel Executive Director for the past ten years and is credited with dramatically improving the organization's strategy, operations, and finances. When you think about the impact he has had on Garth Newel, it is important to note that Shawn was the organization's leader for 20% of Garth Newel's 50 years. He worked tirelessly to honor the legacy left by Mrs. Kendall and by Luca and Arlene Di Cecco and became one of the preeminent experts on the history of the property as well as the music center.

Shawn also served on a number of Boards and community groups throughout Bath County and the Allegheny region, including the Bath County Chamber of Commerce (as current President), the Visit Bath Tourism Board, the Bath County Arts Association Board, the Bath County Economic Development Authority Board, the Allegheny Highlands Regional Arts and Cultural Attractions Board, and many others. Shawn also serves on the Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant Review Committee and has been an instructor in the Lifelong Learning Institutes for the University of Richmond, the University of Virginia, and James Madison University.

Shawn's friendly demeanor and quick wit won over many first-time audience members and turned them into regular concert goers. Shawn has an incredible ability to put people at ease and establish friendships and lasting relationships. I remember the first time that Nancy and I met Shawn. It was during Archduke Weekend in 2017, and Shawn went out of his way to welcome us and show us around the campus. He was an integral part of the "Garth Newel Experience" and helped make Garth Newel an important part of our lives, as he has done for countless other people.

If there is one word that defines Shawn, it is perseverance. Every day, his goal was to improve Garth Newel, always thinking that he wanted to leave the organization in a better place than he found it. Whether working on infrastructure or facility issues, developing budget plans or meeting with other community leaders, his energetic and engaging personality helped break down barriers and find solutions. Shawn also showed great courage and compassion as he dealt with the terminal illness of his partner, Gordon.

Perhaps Shawn's most notable accomplishment at Garth Newel was his success during the recent Capital Campaign. He demonstrated his fund-raising prowess while working with individuals and foundations with results far exceeding the Campaign's initial goals. At the end of the Campaign, we will have raised more than eleven million dollars, which will help sustain Garth Newel well into the future.

Shawn, we will all miss you and hope that you will continue to come back frequently to share this amazing place with us. You accomplished a great deal over the past ten years and are leaving a positive mark on Garth Newel, and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication, hard work, and many accomplishments. I am confident that you will succeed in your new job and will continue to grow both personally and professionally.

Gene Sullivan, *Chair of the Board of Directors*



Dr. Shawn I. Puller

Instead of Goodbye

Greetings friends,

As many may have heard already, this will be my final note to all of you before my departure. I have accepted a position at the Paramount Theater at Charlottesville as their Director of Development and even as I write this, I am beginning to transition into that new position. Many of you may remember that I was hired back in 2014 as Garth Newel's Director of Development, but with the departure of the Executive Director shortly after I began, I was asked to step in to lead our beloved organization.

I do not have the words to express the whirlwind of conflicting emotions as I embark on this new adventure. The foremost thought is that of gratitude. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities I have had here at Garth Newel. And I have immense pride in all that we have accomplished over these many years. The operative word here is WE. You have heard me say numerous times that Garth Newel means "New Home" and where there is a home, there is a family. We have leaned in and done marvelous things and it is my deepest wish that the dizzyingly successful Capital Campaign has set Garth Newel up for a rich and sustainable future.

Change can be difficult, but I believe in Garth Newel. I believe in the resilience of the organization, its talented staff, its dedicated Board, its faithful volunteers, and its many patrons. Do not be fearful of the future but embrace the opportunity that this moment holds. Lean in, hold hands, and step forward into the future together!



Viennese Cafe Concert
Sat, May 18, 2024, 3:00 PM
Garth Newel Piano Quartet

Founder's Day Premiere
Fri, May 24, 2024, 5:00 PM
Garth Newel Piano Quartet
Tasha Koontz, soprano
Brandon Morales, baritone



Garth Newel Piano Quartet
and Brandon Morales
Sat, May 25, 2024, 5:00 PM
Garth Newel Piano Quartet
Brandon Morales, *baritone*

Archduke Trio
Sun, May 26, 2024, 3:00 PM
Teresa Ling, *violin*
Isaac Melamed, *cello*
Jeannette Fang, *piano*

2024—2025 Program

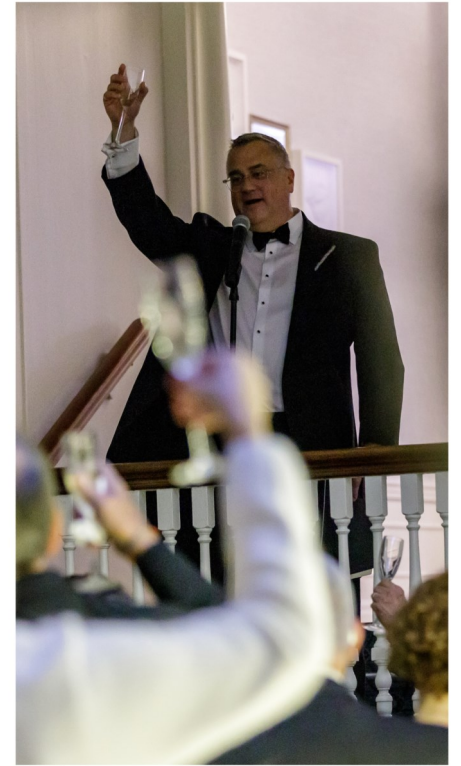
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code; click the URL
when it pops up.



To the many Board Members who uplifted and mentored me, I can only say thank you. None of what we accomplished would have happened without your unwavering support! And to all of you who held me as I walked through my grief during Gordon's illness and death, I say thank you. I do not think I could have managed without your kindness.

But this seems like I am saying goodbye. And that simply is not the case. As Rumi, the 13th-century Persian poet said, *"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation."* And so, it is with me and Garth Newel. So instead of goodbye, I will say instead, "I will see you soon!

All my best,
Shawn Puller



Announcing the Winner of Garth Newel's 11th International Composition Competition

A brand-new piano quartet has been added to the Garth Newel Piano Quartet's repertoire. The Quartet has selected Roberto Sansuini as the winner of this year's International Composition Competition. Hailing from Parma, Italy, Roberto will receive the Glorvina and Richard Lynn New Music Prize along with a travel stipend to attend Garth Newel Piano Quartet's premiere (July 21st) of his new Piano Quartet. In addition, Roberto will be in residence at Garth Newel Music Center's 2024 Summer Festival from July 17th - 21st.

Of the winning work, Roberto said:

"It was with some trepidation that I started writing my Piano Quartet. I felt very strongly the weight of the great romantic chamber music tradition. However, the extraordinary expressiveness of such a formation, the range of colours and nuances that it allows, as soon as I started the work, got me so involved that I forgot all my 'reverential fears.'

My Piano Quartet does not have a title that refers to something 'other,' an image, a feeling, or any other extra-musical content. The listener is free to find what he or she wants in it.



Roberto Sansuini

The piece is in one movement and is divided into four sections of different characters even though only two simple musical elements underlie the entire composition.”

As longtime patrons and friends of Garth Newel, Glorvina and Richard Lynn wanted to support the creation of new works at the music center.

“We sponsor this prize because creating music must always be an ongoing thing. It is important to remind people that new music IS music and the best place to experience it is at Garth Newel. No one performs it better than the Garth Newel Piano Quartet,” said Glorvina Lynn.

Garth Newel Piano Quartet received submissions from all around the globe to this year’s Composition Competition, reaching as far as South Korea, Peru, and Hungary, in addition to submissions from around America.

“It’s amazing to see how the desire to create new chamber music is universal” says Jeannette Fang, pianist of the Garth Newel Piano Quartet. The Quartet offers their great appreciation to all the talented composers who shared their creativity for the competition. 2024 marks the 11th year of Garth Newel Piano Quartet’s Composition Competition, which was created in order to broaden the piano quartet repertoire and to support the Center’s ongoing commitment to contemporary music.

Jeannette Fang, Pianist and Co/Artistic Director



Garth Newel Music Center to Receive *Legacy Award*

On April 21, 2024, the Garth Newel Music Center will be presented with Preservation Bath's Legacy Award for the past achievement of the preservation of the Manor House, a historically significant place in Bath County, Virginia. Preservation Bath, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Bath County’s cultural and architectural heritage, will give their 2024 Preservation Bath Lecture and Awards event on April 21, 2024, at 4:00 pm in the parish hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The speaker for the event will be John Reddick, a distinguished architectural historian, who will discuss the history and culture of the Warm Springs Pools. Also in attendance will be Julie Langan, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Additional speakers for the event will include representatives from Preservation Bath. The organization believes that local preservation efforts promote a more vibrant community, make good business sense, and honor our shared history. The event will be followed by a reception.



The historic Manor House was built between 1923 and 1924, shortly after William Sergeant Kendall and Christine Herter Kendall married and permanently relocated to Bath County. The three-story residence comprises an impressive great room, library, and ten bedrooms, two of which were originally used as art studios. The house was designed by Mrs. Kendall in collaboration with a young Richmond firm at the time, Lee & Lee. After Sergeant Kendall's death in 1938, Christine moved out of "The Big House," as she referred to it, and had another home built on the lower tract of land. Although there were several attempts to utilize the property - a Girl Scout Camp, and a retirement home for artists – they were not realized, and the building suffered from inattention and lack of use. After the property was vacant for 20 years, the elderly Mrs. Kendall was introduced to Luca and Arlene Di Cecco, and from that meeting was born the Garth Newel Music Center. In 1973, Mrs. Kendall began making repairs to the long-neglected Manor House and "Music Shed" (what we now call Herter Hall.) Years of neglect and deferred maintenance to the entire estate left a long list of needs. Upon Christine's death in 1981, she bequeathed the entire property to the Garth Newel Music Center Foundation. Garth Newel Music Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to chamber music performance and education. The responsibility of the property falls on the Board of Directors. In addition to mission-driven programming, a unique and difficult aspect of the organization is the upkeep and maintenance of not only the concert hall and Manor House, but the six added historic buildings spread throughout the 116-acre campus. The organization established itself over the course of the next several decades, but often existed hand-to-mouth; there were no additional funds sufficient to take care of all the necessary repairs! The result of deferred maintenance began catching up to the organization.

A small cottage located in the area between Giles Cottage, the Stables, and the Doubleday Building was demolished in 2008, as it was unsalvageable. In 2012, a thorough examination of the Manor House found extensive rot and damage on the back side of the house. If not addressed, the degradation would escalate to the point where the house would no longer be safe or inhabitable. It was at that time that members of the Board of Directors, most notably Lee Elliott and Michael Wildasin, took it upon themselves to help save the Manor House. Through a significant fundraising effort, brilliant grant writing, and a well thought-through forest management program, they were able to raise the funds necessary to save the historic estate. Additional efforts included Garth Newel's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and the induction of Christine Herter into the Library of Virginia's Virginia Women in History. Garth Newel prides itself on being good stewards and is honored to receive this award from Preservation Bath.



Dr. Shawn I. Puller, *Executive Director*

Visit www.garthnewel.org/about/ for more information about Garth Newel Music Center



Amateur Chamber Music Retreat 2024

Since 2000, Garth Newel has hosted an annual Amateur Chamber Music Retreat. Participants across the East Coast and as far flung as Atlanta, GA have flocked to our intimate enclave to share the joys of playing chamber music. Over the course of four days, these enthusiastic musicians engage in intensive rehearsals and coaching with the Garth Newel Piano Quartet, along with a seminar/masterclass, orchestra reading session, and a final performance. Chef Josh Elliott's delectable dinners pave the way to evenings filled with discussions about chamber music and impromptu sightreading sessions.



For this year's Retreat, we opened applications at the end of October and within 9 hours, a record 12 groups applied (normally we host a maximum of 8 ensembles.) To accommodate 12 ensembles (comprised of 41 participants,) we used every available space for housing, rehearsals, and coaching. We are immensely grateful to John Nowland and Peter Fowler for providing a piano rehearsal space in their lovely home. Our guest coaches this year are Alan Weinstein-cello faculty from Virginia Tech, Erika Boysen-flute faculty from University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and our beloved former colleague, violist Evelyn Grau. All the ensembles shared the fruits of their labor in a marvelous performance on Sunday, March 24, 2024 in Herter Hall. This event was free and open to the public.



If you (or someone you know) enjoy playing an instrument and are interested in the deeply fulfilling art of playing chamber music, consider forming a group and applying for next year's Retreat. All levels are welcome. Those who attend usually get hooked and return year after year. Currently, Chet Swartz (violin) of Covington, VA holds the record for attending every single Garth Newel Amateur Retreat since 2000!

For more information, go to: <https://www.garthnewel.org/education/>

Garth Newel Music Center Search for New Executive Director

The Board of Garth Newel and the search committee have started a national search for a new Executive Director of Garth Newel. We have posted the job announcement on more than 17 job search sites and are actively reviewing resumes as they are received. We have conducted two in-person interviews of highly qualified candidates and will continue to interview other qualified candidates as we receive applications. We have not concluded our search and are not ready to make an offer yet.

Gene Sullivan, *Chair of the Board of Directors*

Herter Society Legacy Program

“With an abiding faith in a sense of worth, charity and community, I am requesting that those in a position to do so pledge financial support to the Garth Newel Music Center through the Garth Newel Music Center Foundation.”

Christine Herter Kendall, January 1981



Photo by June French

We hope readers of Quarter Notes love Garth Newel Music Center enough to consider putting Garth Newel Music Center in your estate plans—your will or a charitable remainder trust. In doing so, a future donor qualifies to be a member of the Herter Society. We are extremely grateful for donations, large and small, and bequests make a big difference. Tickets purchased and meals served cover about 40% of the operating costs of Garth Newel Music Center. Donations and charitable bequests help us cover the rest.



Allan Carlsson of Lexington and his late wife Marian began attending concerts at Garth Newel many years ago when the Di Cecco's were performing, and Arlene DeCecco was preparing delicious meals. Al and Marian became enamored of Garth Newel and according to Al put Garth Newel in their wills because “we enjoyed the music, found it an interesting concept to have a music center at the end of the world, and want it to continue after we're no longer here to enjoy it.”

We hope you will think about it as well. If you are inclined to act on this, please contact Garth Newel for a Herter Society form.

Elizabeth Harralson, *Board Member*

Click [here](#) to find more information about the Herter Society Legacy Program

