

— Department of Music Presents —

MUSIC

The Universal Connection

MUSIC FOR AN AUTUMN SATURDAY:

*A concert honoring the
life of Dr. Mary Jane
Corry (1924-2022)*

Colleague, Professor, and Friend

*Studley Theatre
Saturday, November 5
2:00 p.m.*

MUSIC FOR AN AUTUMN SATURDAY

Program

Concerto in C Major for Two Oboes,
Strings and Cembalo, RV 534

Antonio Vivaldi
(1677-1741)

Allegro

Largo

Allegro

String Quintet in C Major,
D 956 – op. post. 163

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Adagio

Allegretto. piu Allegro

Quartet in F Major, KV 370

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegro

Adagio

RONDEAU. Allegro

Joël Evans, Ann Churukian, oboe
Carole Cowan, Marka Young, Marla Rathbun, violin
Christiana Reader, viola
Susan Seligman, Nanette Koch, violoncello
Phil Helm, stringed bass
Ruthanne Schempf, harpsichord

Dr. Mary Jane Corry, Harpsichordist and Musicologist

Dr. Mary Jane Corry, Professor Emerita at the State University of New York at New Paltz, joined the faculty in 1967 and retired in 1993. She earned a Bachelor of Music from Oberlin College, a Master of Music from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Additionally, she studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris and Frau Professor Hindemith in Munich. Early in her academic career, she was on the faculties of SUNY Fredonia and New England Conservatory.

An avid musicologist, Dr. Corry was awarded a two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to research and organize a newspaper database of "The Performing Arts in Colonial America Newspapers, 1690-1783." She also edited several works from the collection of Henry Livingston's Music. In 2014 Professor Corry established the Scholarship for Excellence in Writing at SUNY New Paltz "to recognize and honor a student majoring in music who demonstrates competency and excellence". Dr. Corry also bequeathed a harpsichord, a clavichord and much of her Baroque and Early Music Library to the Collegium Musicum Ensemble at SUNY NP.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Professor Mary Jane Corry Scholarship for Excellence in Writing, SUNY New Paltz Foundation, 1 Hawk Dr, HAB 501, New Paltz, NY 12561-2443.

In her long career as a harpsichordist, Dr. Corry performed throughout the region in chamber and symphonic ensembles such as BachFest, La Grande Écurie, the Lyric Trio, Kairos: A Consort of Singers, the Albany Symphony, the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and on the SUNY New Paltz Concert Series. She served on the Board of Directors of the Ulster Chamber Music Society and Newburgh Chamber Music. She recorded for Albany Records and, in addition to music of the Baroque era, she promoted music of women such as Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre, an early French harpsichordist and composer.

A remarkable, humble, witty, and kind person, Mary Jane, originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, loved traveling to Greece, Spain, Germany, France, and most recently Dubrovnic, Croatia. She enjoyed appearing as a turn-of-the-century musician in “The Road to Wellville”, a comedy-drama starring Anthony Hopkins and filmed at Mohonk. Mary Jane had many wonderful dogs and cats, was an avid tennis player and eagerly followed tournaments. She will be greatly missed by her former students, her musical colleagues, and her devoted friends and family.

Remembrances

Mary Jane suggested the music and performers for today, and specifically requested that there be no speeches, unless her brother Joe wanted to speak. Joe is unable to be here, but we are happy that nieces Jen Corry, Ellen Corry and Emily Schwenker are in attendance. These are some of their reflections.

Dad (Joseph Corry) remembers that Mary Jane used to practice the piano for many hours when she was a teenager. One day, a young suitor came over to the house to see Mary Jane, but she sent him into the backyard to play with her “baby brother” until she was finished practicing. Dad said that he sat in a tree with the young man and talked for quite a while before Mary Jane finally finished her practice session. Mary Jane was 8 years older than Dad, so she always referred to him as “little brother” or “baby brother.” Dad said that Mary Jane was the only one who had good control over their chow dog, Tseng.

Ellen remembers visiting Spain when she was little with Mary Jane. MJ ordered a fried egg for Ellen at a café, and Ellen remembers eating it out of the frying pan. Mary Jane used to go to Greece every summer to spend time on the beach and swim in the ocean. One year we met her there when we were still little. Ellen remembers collecting sea glass with Mary Jane on the beach. On another trip when Ellen was grown up, MJ played an impromptu harpsichord piece at the governor’s palace in New Bern, which made Ellen imagine she was at a pre-colonial soire.

I remember spending two weeks in New Paltz with Mary Jane in 1982 so that I could take an intensive Japanese class at the college. Mary Jane also liked learning languages and I remember her lying on the floor in the living room listening to and repeating after a French language record that she was playing on the turntable. Also during that two week stay at her house, she took me to see West Point. She parked the car in a place where we could see the cadets moving about on the field and she exclaimed, “Look at all the men!” MJ had some fun eating habits - I remember her eating bleu

cheese dressing with a spoon right out of the jar, and one time she got a block of tofu and put ketchup on it just to see what tofu was like. She once told me that she used to go to the grocery store when she was in college and eat the samples, including mustard and ketchup, in order to save money. I remember that she used her oven like a cupboard rather than a tool to cook food. MJ was one of my best pen pals when I was growing up. I always loved writing letters to her, and she always answered with a letter back that was just for me. Dad, MJ, Emily and I once took a driving trip out to Colorado and I remember eating M&Ms in the back seat with MJ. When I was spending my junior year of college abroad in Spain, I spent a week in Paris at Aunt Helen's house and MJ was there as well. Aunt Helen and Uncle Dan always had a cheese board out that was filled with all sorts of wonderful French cheeses, and other types of appetizers. For most of my life, I usually only saw Mary Jane eat small garden salads for dinner, but she actually ate some of the appetizers and cheese off of that delicious cheese board!

Emily says that MJ once gave her a bag of regular M&Ms and a bag of peanut M&Ms for her birthday. She remembers having chicken Caesar salad and margaritas with MJ in Mexico. Mary Jane gave an impromptu concert at a historic house in North Carolina where they were visiting together. Em also remembers the bleu cheese dressing and spinach salads, and of course, a nice glass of red wine! She remembers MJ swimming a lot. When she visited us in Kenya, Dad took some film of her swimming in the deeper water in the ocean near Mombasa. One time, MJ and Jen swam across one of the bays at lake Keesus in Hartland, WI where we had a summer cottage.

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