

# GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

## KEYNOTES

FALL 2015

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful way to start the New Year! It was a beautiful fall day at the iconic Kent Country Club...a great turnout of members and guests... plus an outstanding and quite unique performance by our Grand Rapids Symphony musicians Jeremy Crosmer - cellist, and Gene Hahn - violinist. Many thanks to Suellen Bandyk and Collette VandenBerg for making the meeting a huge success.

Peter Kjome shared an update of the symphony and conductor search. We will certainly enjoy an excellent series of concerts this season with eight new and returning conductor applicants. John Varineau previewed the upcoming concert which was developed around the theme of Romeo and Juliet.

Just as the Grand Rapids Symphony is in a period of transition, so is our Women's Committee. We need to take advantage of opportunities to recruit new talent with creative ideas to not only grow, but further expand our fundraising and music appreciation support of the Symphony.

At our first general meeting of the 2015-2016 season, a

majority of members in attendance voted overwhelmingly to accept men into the organization. And two men joined on the spot! As a result, we need to more effectively get our story out, define who we are as well as what we do. With the inclusion of men, a "rebranding" and possible name change should be considered. I would like to thank all who shared their thoughts and comments about this change. Please continue to share your insights - we'll discuss this further at our Nov. 5th Board meeting.

This year our main fundraiser will be another Fairy Garden Event. Lauren Outman (Rupert) and Margaret Petersen are going to Chair this event. Please let them know if you would like to work on this fun project.

We are also planning an On-Line Auction during the Fall Season. Lori Curley and Leah Hooks will be Co-Chairing. They are looking for "experiential" donations.

Our Luxury Raffle will be back for next summer's

Picnic Pops. Jean VanderLaan will be helping procure prizes. Penny Greta will be training a new Chairperson. Please let us know if this is something you'd like to help with.

Our first "Member's Perks" event was "Behind the Scenes with Storm Large" on Oct. 2nd after the first Pops performance. With a signature "Pink Martini" drink, cash bar and special desserts, it should be a great way to end a concert evening.

This will be an exciting year as we try new ways to raise friends and funds, as well as repeat some of the tried and true ones. This past year, we donated \$50,000 to the Grand Rapids Symphony through our fundraising efforts with Brookby Enchanted Fairy Garden Walk, our Picnic Pops Luxury Raffle and our continuing sales of the Encore cookbook.

See you at our next meeting on December 3 where we look forward to meeting our new Principal Pops Conductor Bob Bernhardt!

Bonnie Monhart

### **Member Meeting**

December 3, 2015

11:30 Social, 12:00 Meeting

Warner Norcross & Judd

RSVP to Suellen Bandyk  
suziban@comcast.net

Bring a lunch and a friend!!



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Edie  
McCargar

## HIGHLIGHTING....

Earlier this year we lost one of our Past Presidents, Edie McCargar. Edie's unwavering smile, upbeat nature, and her love of music are just a few things we will remember about her.

Did you know that she was instrumental in the development of the Grand Rapids Orchestra as well as what became the Grand Rapids Opera? According to her son, Wright, she was very devoted to the causes and projects she championed and always seemed excited and positive when working on them. While Women's Committee President (1966-1968), she was an active member of the Grand Rapids Symphony Board of Directors during a critical point in the orchestra's history. According to Diane Lobbestael, Edie's leadership and that of her peers, aided in establishing the foundation for the exciting concert programs and education service that we now have in place. She was also one of the very few women that served on the board at that time.

Edie was also a charter member of the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus. She looked forward to the Monday night rehearsals and had a special regard for Albert Smith ("Smitty"), the Chorus Director for many years. Edie was also a long-time member of the Fountain Street Church Choir. She especially enjoyed the Verdi

Requiem.

Edie was particularly proud of the Fifth Grade Concerts. She was on the original committee for getting this education program started and participated in the concerts as an usher for nearly fifty years. Seeing the school children enjoy the Grand Rapids Symphony was a source of great joy to her. Music education was important in the McCargar home as well. Edie, a pianist herself, gave her children piano lessons. Although Wright is the only one of five who pursued a career in music, each played an instrument at some point in their lives.

A dedicated orchestra patron and a consummate arts advocate, Edie spent many hours with our symphony family, whether it was enjoying a concert, working on a committee, or volunteering at fundraising events. Wright said the friendships and relationships she developed over the years meant a great deal to her. He hopes we will remember her positive attitude, her ability to get things done, her love of music and children, and know that her symphony family was dear to her heart.



## BEHIND THE SCENES...WITH STORM LARGE

Storm Large admits she is nothing but non-traditional: from her career path, to her body art, including her unique arrangements of traditional songs. The audience simply loved her style and discourse. Afterwards she spent over an hour at the Women's Committee post-performance reception. Storm was especially personable, quite interesting and genuinely appreciative of the Encore Cookbook we presented. She had actually planned a career change from singer to chef before she got her big break. Members and guests attending the reception had a wonderful time and enjoyed chatting with Storm.

## BROOKBY ENCHANTED FOLLOW UP



After the last fairy house was removed and the garden gate closed, the team that organized Brookby Enchanted met at Karen Roth's to heave a sigh of relief and pat ourselves on the back. It was a challenging project, but it was fun and successful, particularly for a first-time event. We raised \$19,485 to support GRS education programs while engaging with people of all ages and providing the community with a delightful experience.

It would be impossible to list everyone who helped, but here are a few statistics:

34 fairy houses were created by about 50 people  
 41 GRS musicians and friends played in the house  
 280 volunteer shifts were filled over 7 days  
 3200+ visitors attended  
 Dozens of people made cash and in-kind donations

A thousand thanks to ALL of you who supported this project!

*Fairy Haikus...*

Great-hearted mortals  
 Suspended their disbelief  
 To make fairies real

Plenty of hard work  
 A little too much rainfall  
 Still quite satisfied



### Fairy Garden Walk 2016—Upcoming fundraiser

At our August meeting the Women's Committee Board voted to explore doing a second Fairy Walk in 2016. The children who came this year LOVED the goodie bags we sent home with them. We heard many stories of children spending hours creating their own fairy projects at home with them. As you go on walks, work in your yards, visit the beach....wherever you're enjoying nature, please collect natural materials that we can put in goodie bags next year. Seashells, pine cones, interesting pebbles, acorns--whatever you can imagine having a second life in a fairy world, save it for us. The more the better! (You can even buy and donate 'jewels' that you spot.)

Also, if you spot items that would be good for our Fairy Emporium, please tell us.

Thanks!

*See page 4 for comments from some of our Brookby Enchanted guests!*



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GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY  
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

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We are on the web:

[www.grswomenscommittee.org](http://www.grswomenscommittee.org)

Facebook/[grswomenscommittee](https://www.facebook.com/grswomenscommittee)



Brookby Feedback



*This was an excellent introduction to fairy garden houses—very, very lovely!*

*I think the children will remember this for a long time!*

*Lots of fun elements in the fairy houses.*

*This was a genius idea!*

*The scavenger hunt was a great idea. My son liked finding things!*

*What a gorgeous event. We are telling our friends—you should really do this again!*

*What a great experience. My granddaughter is taking viola lessons but never heard a professional play until we heard one at your event!*

*The younger ones didn't want to leave since they were having so much fun finding the fairy gardens. The starter kit bags kept them busy making their own fairy houses.*

*This was terrific! It was done so well!*

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 23-24—James Feddeck conducts Mahler's Symphony No. 1

November 1—John Varineau conducts The Youth Symphony's fall concert

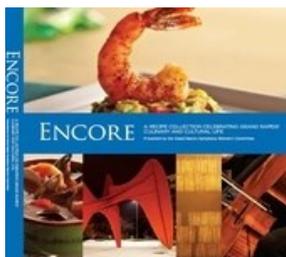
November 20-21—Rune Bergmann conducts German Requiem

November 21— Family Concert featuring music from Frozen and the Snowman

December 3— Member Meeting 12:00-1:00pm

December 3-6—Holiday Pops Concerts in DeVos

December 22-23—Cirque de Noel



Reminder! Cookbooks are still available for purchase—special pricing below:

One cookbook for \$20, Two for \$30, Three for \$40 and Four for \$50

Please contact Kim Roy to get yours today! [kpbmroy@comcast.net](mailto:kpbmroy@comcast.net) or 616-818-9348