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2019

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Wishing the MCO a successful season!
ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

The Music Company Orchestra, incorporated in 1974, is a 60-piece volunteer community orchestra. Its members come from all walks of life and many different backgrounds. Conducted by Dr. Gerald Lanoue, the orchestra plays a wide range of light classical and pops repertoire.

The MCO is dedicated to bringing the excitement of live orchestral music to audiences of all ages and economic backgrounds, and enthusiastically plays venues throughout the greater Capital Region, ranging from traditional concert halls to public parks, community events, schools, retirement centers and nursing homes.

The MCO performs most concerts free to the public, and also offers scholarships to music students at three capital district high schools.

The MCO is a not-for-profit organization.
Gerald Lanoue, bassoonist and conductor, is a Bennington, Vermont native. He performs throughout the capital region and Vermont with the Middlebury Opera, Pro Musica Orchestra, Hubbard Hall Opera Orchestra, Sage City Symphony and Funf woodwind quintet. He is the Conductor and Music Director of The Music Company Orchestra and Associate Conductor of the Sage City Symphony. After completing studies at the Crane School of Music. Dr. Lanoue received a Masters and Doctorate at the University of Southern California. He studied bassoon with the late Stephen Mayxm, former principal bassoonist of the Metropolitan Opera. Conducting studies were under the batons of Douglas Lowry, former Dean at the Eastman School of Music, and John Barnett, the former associate conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Dr. Lanoue has instructed at the University of Vermont, Bennington College, Riverside Community College and Santa Monica College. He has served as Principal Bassoonist for the Bakersfield Symphony, Los Angeles Classical Ballet, Redlands Symphony and the American Youth Symphony. Notable performances have been with Daniel Lewis, Yehuda Gilad, Jerry Goldsmith, Michael Kamien and Zubin Mehta.

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Weddings, Cocktail Hours, Parties, Other Events
# The Music Company Orchestra
Dr. Gerald Lanoue—Conductor & Music Director

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**Tim Albright**, bass, is a Social Studies teacher in Greenville NY. Tim was a member of the Indiana All State Orchestra in high school. He is the father of two, and a grandfather, and lives in Scotia NY. Tim’s parents were both musicians, his father a former musical performance professor. His parents have both passed away and he dedicates his playing to their memory.

**Judy Bachorz**, flute, joined the MCO in 1977. She has served on the Board of Directors as treasurer, publicity chairperson and vice president. She is a member of the Memorial Concert Band of Colonie, the Capital Area Flute Club and the Adirondack Flutes. In addition to her musical activities, Judy volunteers at a local food pantry and is a RISE reader for WMHT. She is a retired elementary teacher, a proud grandmother of three and lives in Malta.

**Anna Benninger**, violin, is a recent graduate from Siena College (Summa Cum Laude) with her bachelor’s degree in creative arts and minor in English. As a scholar of music with a concentration in violin and sacred music, she has enjoyed working with populations of all ages and currently teaches violin lessons. Anna has played the violin for fifteen years and has performed in venues throughout the Northeast, such as Jordan Hall, Kodak Hall, and Troy Music Hall. Anna has studied violin under the direction of Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Artistic Director of the Musicians of Ma’alwyck, for five years and organized a full-length violin recital as her senior capstone project at Siena. The performance featured repertoire representing an array of time eras and cultures and included two works by female composers. Additionally, Anna has worked as a student conductor for the Siena College Chorus and Chamber Singers and is currently a teaching assistant at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for the "Treble" children’s choir. Anna’s goal as a violin instructor is not only to teach her students the technical skills required to play the violin well, but also to teach them to become skilled musicians and lifetime lovers of music.

**Louise Binns**, violin, studied music at Boston Music School and with S.J. Leibovici of the Boston Symphony. She played with the Quincy Youth Orchestra, Boston Conservatory Orchestra and the Glen Falls Symphony. She taught strings at Granville and Hartford NY. She is also a cake decorator specializing in novelty and wedding cakes.

**Carol Blom**, violin. Growing up on Long Island Carol began her musical studies in the Hempstead Public Schools. She attended Muskingum College Conservatory, receiving a Bachelor of Music in Oboe performance. Continuing studies at Ohio University, Carol received a Master of Fine Arts in Oboe. After teaching in Catskill, NY Carol and her husband moved north to the Saratoga

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Springs area. She directed the South Glens Falls High School and then High School and Middle School Orchestra programs, regularly working with County and Area All-State Music Festivals. Carol is a member of the National Evaluation System Music consulting team and as such assesses prospective Music Teachers for New York State. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota Women's International Music Honor Society. Carol is also the Registrar for the Greater Saratoga Area Girl Scouts, being a Lifetime Scout herself. Retiring in 2002 after 20 years of teaching stringed instruments Carol joined the Union College Community Orchestra in 2002 and the Music Company Orchestra in 2005.

**John Boyer**, trombone, grew up in Salamanca, NY, where he performed with the Salamanca Tower Musicians, a brass ensemble specializing in both Renaissance and Civil War era music. He holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from SUNY Fredonia, studying trombone with Richard Fote and Edward Bahr. In addition to teaching instrumental music throughout his career, he has been a trombonist with many area groups including the Rex Pryor Orchestra, the Mohawk Valley Symphony and Brass Quintet, the Schenectady, Catskill, and Utica Symphonies, numerous town bands, and the SUNY Cobleskill Jazz Ensemble. He is a charter member and former conductor of “A Pretty Good Band” in Lake Pleasant, NY. **Bob Brannon**, Violin, grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He began violin in 7th grade orchestra and continued through High School. While attending Wofford College, he joined the Spartanburg Symphony Orchestra. After graduating with a BS in Physics, he went to Clemson University, where he played in the Anderson symphony and earned a Ph.D. in Physics in 3 years. Bob moved to Central Ohio to work as a Senior Research Scientist at The Owens Corning Research Center. He played in the Welsh Hills Symphony, The Land of Legend Philharmonic and the South East Ohio Symphony while working at OC for over 21 years. He moved to southern Ohio to work on Government projects with the US Army, Air Force, Navy and the DOT. While there, he played in the Northern Kentucky Symphony. Bob now lives near Mayfield, NY, and plays with the Union College Orchestra and the Sage City Symphony. He continues to work in the field of Composites and is the North American Technical Director for the world’s third largest manufacturer of Fiberglass. Bob’s other passion is Astronomy! He has an
observatory on his property with 4 telescopes and work on projects with the Minor Planet Center and look for Near Earth Asteroids with teams all around the world. Three new asteroids were discovered in the past three years. 2019 will be his first year playing with MCO.

Karl Brosch, viola, has played in college /community orchestras since arriving in the Capital District in 1977 as a student at RPI and has played with the MCO since 1995. He enjoys playing chamber music with friends from the orchestra. He believes the motto “music for a lifetime, not for a living” fits him well. For a living, Karl works as a biochemist for Health Research.

Heather Chan, violin, holds a Master’s Degree in Violin Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music where she studied with Zvi Zeitlin, and a Bachelor’s degree with majors in Computer Science and violin performance where she studied with Monte Belknap. She also holds a Master’s Degree in Computer Science from Brigham Young University. Heather has been studying the violin since the age of 4 and has performed on tours in Germany, the Czech Republic, China and Korea. Prior to college, she also studied piano and flute. Heather is currently working as a systems engineer in the Ultrasound Systems Lab at GE Global Research.

David Civale, French horn, has been performing with the MCO for over 24 years. He has a B.A. in History from Union College and a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Logan College in St. Louis, MO. He recently completed his program as Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician and hopes to work with Olympic athletes at an international level. He is currently a member of the Colonie Memorial Band and the Dead Spartans. He has performed with the Empire State Youth Orchestra(1980-84), Union College Chamber Orchestra, Garnet Quintet, SUNY Albany Orchestra, Johnstown Town Band and various other chamber groups and pit orchestras. He is a chiropractor in the Town of Glenville, is a member of the Scotia Rotary and is the president of the NYS Chiropractor’s Association. Dave also enjoys outdoor activities with his dogs and spending time with his girlfriend, Mary. He lives in a Glenville farmhouse above his office.

Jennifer Cornell, violin, played throughout high school but then set it aside while pursuing a career as a chef. She started playing again after a nearly 30 year hiatus after discovering and joining the MCO in February of 2015. Jennifer is so happy to
have found this group of talented musicians and to be playing again. She also plays with the Union College & Community Orchestra, The Etude Club of Schenectady and The Music Study Group.

Mary Cosey, violin, from Granville, NY, joined the orchestra in September, 2012, and is thrilled to be part of the group. Mary retired in September 2015 from the Washington County Dept of Social Services after 24 years of service.....now she has more time to PRACTICE! Mary's goal with MCO is to be “the most improved player of the year.”

Elizabeth Day, flute and piccolo, is a 14 year member of MCO and a recently retired teacher. She is a charter member of the Memorial Band of Colonie, Capital Area Flutes, and The Tempest Wind Quintet in addition to various community groups throughout the area. She has been active in liturgical music for 45 years and is currently the organist and choir director for St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Mechanicville. She attributes her love of music to her mother who was a church organist for over 60 years. She thanks her Mom for showing her that the music we create brings joy to the people we share it with. In 2005, the State Education Department named her the New York State Teacher of the Year and she served as an ambassador for teachers and education throughout the State of New York. She is an active member of the National Network of State Teachers of the Year, serves as chairperson of the New York State Teacher of the Year Policy Council, and is a Clinical Supervisor for SUNY Albany.

Irene DeGraff, violin, joined MCO in late 2012. She inherited her love of the violin from her Portuguese born father. A native of Massena, NY, Irene studied violin for 8 years as a student and participated in All-State Orchestra for 3 years in high school. After pursuing a B.S. Degree in Chemistry, Irene had a long career in analytical chemistry and product management living throughout Upstate New York and Pennsylvania. Retirement and relocation to her husband’s hometown in 2011 provided the opportunity to rekindle her love of the violin and fulfill a retirement dream. Irene started taking lessons again in 2012 from Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, director of Musicians of Ma’alwyck and violin instructor at Schenectady County Community College. She is now a staff member of this chamber music ensemble as their Administrative Assistant. Irene enjoys an active retirement playing pickleball and volunteering at church. She lives in Scotia with husband, John.

Louise Dickinson, viola, has been

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playing with MCO since 2013. She grew up in a musical family and has been playing viola since the 3rd grade, continuing to play through college. She grew up in Oklahoma and Texas, ultimately getting an Engineering degree at Texas Tech and moved to Upstate NY in 1996 for work at GE. She currently works as an Engineering Manager for GE Power in Schenectady. She and her husband recently moved to a beautiful orchard & farm in Rotterdam, NY where they also manage the Hungry Chicken Country Store on their farm.

**Shannon Dietz-McCann**, violin, a graduate of Siena College, Shannon began playing piano when she was eight, and violin at age 12. As a student at Guilderland High School, she was a member of the orchestra, chamber ensemble and pit orchestra. After a 10-year hiatus from the violin, she rediscovered the joy of music. A member of the SUNY community orchestra (1998-2002), Shannon joined MCO in 2004.

**Carol Douglass**, cello, has played cello since she was 9 years old. She retired from the NYS Teachers’ Retirement System in 2002, where she had been an Actuary for 23 years. Carol holds a BA in mathematics from the University at Albany and an ASA from the Society of Actuaries. She taught high school mathematics for 11 years prior to entering the actuarial field and still tutors those who need help in mathematics. She is a former member of the Schenectady, Little Falls, Pittsfield and Stockbridge Symphonies. Carol has been a member of the MCO for 33 years and recently joined the Esperance Town Band. She met her wonderful husband, Dale, in the orchestra. She has two sons, three stepsons, and eleven grandchildren.

**Dale Douglass**, clarinet, has played both clarinet and saxophone since his school days in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Carnegie-Mellon University with a Ph.D in Electrical Engineering. He has three sons, two stepsons, a lovely wife and eleven grandchildren. Dale recently retired from Power Delivery Consultants and has formed his own company, Douglass Power Consulting, LLC. He plays 1st Alto with the Capital Dance Orchestra and tenor saxophone with MCO’s own "Red Hot Rhythm Royals" Dixieland Band. He also plays in the Esperance Town Band.

**Jennifer Fullam**, bassoon, grew up in Ohio where her father introduced her to organ lessons at the age of 6. She soon followed with flute in elementary school, bassoon in junior high and the baritone horn in marching band in high school. Her love of bassoon led to a music scholarship at Miami University (in Ohio) where she played in just about every music ensemble available while pursuing a
degree in physics. After taking a job with GE in Schenectady, Jenni continued her music hobby in various groups in the area. She has recently taken up the cello. That leaves only percussion as a section yet to explore. She continues to study bassoon and works as a metrology engineer for IBM in her spare time.

**Peggy Gerardi**, viola, began playing in high school but then stopped a few years later. In the intervening years she honed her skills as a professional seamstress; did costuming for many school programs, Schenectady Light Opera and others. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English and Technical Communication from Russell Sage College; raised two daughters, both of whom are musicians. She began playing again in 2001. After a few years of lessons, she joined the Union College Orchestra and then MCO. She served as secretary of the MCO Board from 2008—2013, and looks forward to many more years of participation in the orchestra.

**Janet Gerbino**, trombone, a native of Pennsylvania, is a retired elementary instrumental music teacher from Saratoga Springs City Schools. Having taught music for 35 years at all levels in the Capital Region, she holds a BS degree in Music Education from Mansfield University, PA and MS degree from the College of Saint Rose, Albany, also attending Ithaca College. Learning to play the piano at the age of 7, Janet then pursued the trombone in 4th grade and played with many ensembles throughout her high school and college years. A big thank you goes to her sisters, parents and grandparents for their love of music, which led her to a lifelong career of teaching and performing music. Janet joined MCO in 2015 and is a former member of the Mohawk Valley Orchestra and the Shenendehowa Clifton Park Senior Orchestra, currently performing with both the Gloversville and Johnstown Civic Bands and the Red Hot Rhythm Royals. Janet is the Organist-Choir Director with St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Scotia. She has one daughter and 2 granddaughters and lives in Scotia with husband, Tom and their beautiful orange cat, Tony.

**Kathy Hargis**, trumpet, retired Elementary/Intermediate Band Director from Ballston Spa CSD in 2008, where she taught for 22 years of her almost 35 years of music teaching. Kathy received her BA from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA and her MEd from Penn State University and a MALS from Skidmore College in Adirondack Education. Having been a soloist and trumpet player in the Albany area for over 25 years, she really enjoys playing trump-
pet in the orchestra and several bands including the Skidmore College Community Band as well as the Glenside Town Band. She also enjoys biking, hiking, reading, studying a variety of subjects and has a passion for the Adirondacks.

Jean Hayes, principal flutist, is a charter member of the MCO and has served on the Board as secretary and program chair. She is a member of the Etude Club and the Music Study Club, both in Schenectady and frequently performs at their meetings and in their public concerts. She particularly enjoys playing chamber music. She has recently retired from teaching private flute lessons, Suzuki-method and traditional-style. She has played flute and piccolo in various community orchestras, bands, pit orchestras, and chamber music ensembles. She has a B.A. in English from The College of Wooster (Ohio) and a M. Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh. She has experience teaching elementary school, English as a second language, preparation for the GED exam, and college study skills and developmental writing at SCCC. She currently works part-time at The Open Door Bookstore in Schenectady. She and her husband, Walt, live in West Glenville. She is grateful to her parents, John and Dorothy Brand, for inspiring and supporting her education and musical endeavors, and for their many years of supporting the MCO.

Dawn Hobbs, cello, has studied music at the University of South Carolina, The Governor’s School for the Arts at Furman University and at SUNY Albany. She has played with numerous groups in South Carolina, Texas and New York. She is currently interested in the intersection of music and psychology and holds a B.A. in Psychology from SUNY Albany.

Alan Holmes, clarinet, Graduate of Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY; MCO Treasurer; P/T Business Contract Risk Consultant; Formerly, Program And Technical Manager with the Clarkson University School of Engineering (Graduate School, Capital Region Campus). Senior level management for marketing, contracts, purchasing, facilities, consultants, etc., in support of the power engineering community, including GE, NYISO, and Siemens PTI. Orchestra and Dixieland Band member since 1995. Active in community affairs which have included Schenectady Business Development, Junior Achievement, sports coaching, church choir, nineteen years service to the Consistory of Niskayuna Reformed Church

Paul Houpt, trumpet, has been playing trumpet since 5th grade. Growing up New Jersey, he studied...
privately through high school, playing in the concert band and jazz ensembles in addition to musical theater and New Jersey area All-State. After many years away from the trumpet, he joined the MCO in 1991 and has been actively playing since. In addition to the MCO, Paul is a member of the Colonie Memorial (concert) Band, the Guilderland Town Band and has played with the Union College Community Orchestra and the Gloversville Town Band. Dixieland jazz is a passion and he is the trumpet player with the Red Hot Rhythm Royals, an MCO spinoff. He played for several years with the Williamsburg (Va) Concert (band), an annual gig for adult musicians from all over the USA and the Northeast Music Festival in Lake Placid, NY. When not playing music, Paul is an enthusiastic bicyclist and sailor. Paul retired in 2012 from a 46 year engineering career that included Bell Labs, MIT mechanical engineering faculty and GE Global Research in the field of automatic control systems. All his degrees are in electrical engineering. Paul has been an active community volunteer and serves on the board of Schenectady's museum of science ("MiSci").

George Jolly, cello, began music playing trumpet in grade school. Forced off the trumpet by his braces, he took up recorder which he played in the Collegium Musicum, the early music ensemble at Oberlin College. After medical school in Philadelphia, he began cello. He has played in the Skidmore and Campeche (Mexico) Orchestras. He now plays chamber music with the Cottage Street Players in Saratoga Springs. For several years, he played (a solid 2nd trumpet) with the Ballston No. 2 Union Fire Company marching band. George retired from medical practice in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics in 2012. He lives with his wife, Caroline, in Middle Grove, NY. In retirement, George is busier than ever, tending the garden, baking bread and making cheese, maple syrup and cider. George recently built his first violin and built the cello he is playing in the MCO. He is enjoying his eight grandchildren.

Elizabeth Karns, violin, from Amsterdam, NY has been playing violin for 14 years. She played in the Empire State Youth Orchestra her Sophomore and Junior year of high school and performed at Carnegie hall with them her second year. She is currently in the middle of a gap year before heading off to Grove City College in the fall, where she will study biology. In her free time she enjoys writing, hanging out with friends, and anything involving the outdoors.

Edith Kliman, viola, believes in the motto "Life without Music would be a Mistake". After beginning piano lessons at age 6, she switched to the violin at age 10 and continued playing violin in various orchestras throughout her school and college years. While a member of the Erie, PA Community Orchestra, she switched to the viola. She continued playing that instrument with the West Valley, CA Community Orchestra. When she moved to the Capital District in 1977, she immediately joined the Ballston Community Orchestra, now called the Music Company Orchestra, where for many years she was the sole viola player. She also plays with other orchestras and chamber groups.

Carol Kniskern, trumpet, has a fond appreciation of art, music and antiques and is presently working at her own business-Granny’s Other Place and Granny’s Parlour in her home. She has been a member of the MCO for several years. Ken Tucker, a trumpeter with the Orchestra, is
Carol’s brother.

**Kristine Leyden**, bass, has returned to the upright bass after a long break. She played in Colonie Central high school and one year at the College of Saint Rose. Since then she has become a registered nurse. Since she is no longer working nights she is rediscovering her love of music. She discovered MCO when they performed for a SICM fundraiser.

**Bud Lindner**, violin, is a retired engineer and manager from GE Silicones. A serious music student in high school in Pittsburgh, he put the violin aside to pursue an engineering degree at RPI and a career in industry. Upon retirement, he resumed playing the violin and has enjoyed playing with the Music Company Orchestra and small chamber music groups.

**Alexandria LoDico**, cello, recently graduated from Clarkson University with a B.S. in Digital Arts & Sciences. She also minored in Communications and Mathematics. After graduation she moved to Saratoga Springs to begin working for a local web design company. Alex has played the cello since 4th grade, and is excited to join the orchestra after taking a break from playing in college. In the summer, she enjoys kayaking and goes on an annual kayak trip on the Oswegatchie river in northern NY.

**Doug Long**, French horn, has been playing French Horn for 20 years, but he took 35 years off from 1968—2002. Doug also plays trumpet, piano and sings. He received a music scholarship to attend SUNY Fredonia where he majored on the French Horn. He also studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Antwerp, Belgium. He is the founder and director of the Joytones, a regional community chorus for people with Alzheimer’s and their care givers. While retired in North Carolina for eight years, he was principal horn with the Rutherford County Symphony and founded a brass quintet. Presently, he plays horn with the Skidmore College/Community symphonic band and the Adirondack Community College symphonic band. Among his best musical experiences were performing at Lincoln Center in NYS while in college, and singing in a choral festival at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Andrea McConnelee**, violin, started playing the violin in 3rd grade. She continued playing throughout high school and was a part of all-state orchestras and choirs. She is a recorded vocalist and violinist with a local Christian rock group. She continues to sing and play the violin in
her church and for weddings and other events. Andrea retired from the New York State Unified Court System after serving as a Judge’s secretary. Previously, she enjoyed many years of employment in the Niskayuna school district. In addition to music, Andrea enjoys her “land” in Cobleskill where she and her husband grow, harvest and sell horse hay. She also enjoys cross country skiing, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, gardening, tennis, biking, reading and spending time with her four grandchildren. Andrea and her husband, Jack have two grown children and have lived in Glenville, in their starter home, for 46 years.

Kathleen McNerney, percussion, saw an advertisement in 1973 to “join with others to make music” and joined the MCO as a charter member seeking to put her early British Royal Academy piano training to work. She adapted these talents to percussion with encouragement from one of MCO’s early conductors. Kathleen credits MCO as a welcome outlet while raising her six children, and a continued source of enjoyment today along with her eight grandchildren and volunteer work at Saratoga Hospital and a student of A.L.L. (Academy for Lifelong Learning)

Nancy McPhaul, French horn, enjoyed a 40+ year career in the not-for-profit world serving as the founding Director of Hospice of Saratoga, Assistant Executive Director of Home Aide Service of Eastern NY, and VP of Development of Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, where she led staff and volunteers in a capital campaign raising $3.9M to build women’s health care facilities in Schenectady, Saratoga, Glens Falls, Gloversville and Utica. Nancy spent a year at the American Church in Paris as Director of Education. She holds an MA in Management, Vermont College of Norwich University, and a BA in Religious Studies, Shorter College, Rome, Georgia. She served on the Saratoga Hospital Board of Trustees, 1990-1999. In retirement, Nancy started a business providing personal assistant and financial services to the elderly. Also in retirement, a lifelong love of music led her to fulfill a childhood dream of studying and playing the French horn. She is an avid walker, enjoys birthdays, classic cars and is thrilled to be a part of MCO.

Carol Meyer, violin, is a retired chemist. She has played in college/community orchestras for years and joined the MCO in 2004. She enjoys playing chamber music with friends from the Orchestra.
Christine Neumann, violin, has been playing the violin for 16 years. When Christine was 8 years old she told her mother that she wanted to play the violin, and she has been playing ever since. Christine played through the Burnt Hills School system music program. She also studied Suzuki violin with Brigitte Brodwin for 11 years, Pat Gray for 1 year, and Suzanne Miller for the last 3 years. She enjoys working at Halfmoon Works assisting with wood projects to be sold at various gift shops throughout the Capital District, including Artique on Crescent Road. Christine also works at Capital Care Pediatrics in Clifton Park where she assists with administrative tasks. To further develop her professional career, she attends LifeSong Day Program in Clifton Park. Christine is also a long time member of the music ministry of Our Lady Grace Roman Catholic Church in Ballston Lake. Christine especially enjoys playing her violin since it is a family heirloom given to her by her uncle Connie. Christine feels that MCO has made her a better violinist, and she enjoys playing with so many kind and fine musicians.

Samantha Patron, violin, is taking up the instrument again after several years. She started playing violin in high school and had the opportunity to perform at Avery Fisher Hall (now David Geffen Hall) in New York City with the West Catholic Conservatory of Philadelphia, PA. After high school, she stopped playing until she and a friend from work decided to dust off their instruments and join MCO in the fall of 2017. Samantha holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Temple University and works for Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, NY. Aside from music, she enjoys practicing different styles of dance and powerlifting.

Allison Piracci, oboe, discovered her love of music at an early age. She began studying violin at the age of 6 and added the oboe in fifth grade in order to play in the school band. Over the course of her middle and high school years, she participated in the school band, a woodwind quintet and numerous All-County and All-State festivals. The highlight of her early school years was the concert tour to Spain that she participated in as a member of the Empire State Youth Orchestra under Francisco Noya. She went on to study oboe with Andrea Bonsignore at Mt. Holyoke College and after changing majors, continued to participate in the SUNY Oswego College Community Orchestra. She is thoroughly enjoying being a member of the MCO after taking many years away from playing to start a career and family. She currently works as a Senior Quality Consultant for MetLife and resides in Niskayuna with her husband and two daughters.

Jacob M. Reiter, tuba, joined MCO in September 1996. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, and an MS in Computer Science at Union College in Schenectady. He is currently an Engineering Manager with Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory. Jake is active musically in the Capital Region, playing in the Union Fire Company Marching Band in Ballston Spa, as well as the Ballston Spa Community Band. His musical background includes the All-Ohio State Fair Band and Ohio Music Education Association Regional Orchestra while in High School, and the Concert and Marching Bands at the University of Akron.

Ann K. Seidman, violin, has a BA and MA in history from Brooklyn College and taught elementary school in
Brooklyn before moving to the Capitol District with her husband Peter. She was a substitute teacher for the Shenendehowa and BH-BL School Districts. Ann has been a member of the MCO for 27 years and is the past President of MCO. Ann also plays with the Union College Orchestra and Sage City Symphony, Bennington, VT. While concertmaster at Union, her husband bought her a brand new Frirsz violin. She has played with Opera Excelsior under the baton of Corine Salon, Victor Klimash and David Griggs-Janower. In addition, Ann is the membership chair of the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club and races a Flying Scot sailboat. She is a member of Free Spirits International Rowing Team. She and her husband Peter are traveling all around the world to places like Antarctica, Greenland, Iceland, Europe and New Zealand with Greece and the Galapagos on the horizon.

**Beth Smith**, timpani, joined the MCO in 2002. She has played percussion since 5th grade, including during her undergraduate years with the Brown University marching (football) and skating (hockey) bands. Beth has degrees in Mechanical Engineering and was a Program Manager at GE before leaving and homeschooling her three sons, all now at Stanford. She teaches and lives, as artistically as she can, in Clifton Park with her husband and Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

**Jennifer Stratton**, cello, is happy to be part of an orchestra again! She has always been encouraged and inspired by her parents’ love of music and her mother’s professions as a bass player in the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and an Elementary String Music teacher. Jen’s musical interests started in elementary school with piano playing followed by ‘cello and French Horn, although ‘cello became her exclusive focus by the end of high school. During the years, Jen has participated in various bands, orchestras and ensemble groups, including the Hudson Valley Youth Symphony, the Union College Orchestra, and the Albany Medical College Chamber Orchestra. Her professional education includes undergraduate majors in Biology and Music at Union College, medical school at Albany Medical College and residency at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse. Jen returns to the area as a Family Physician at the Queensbury Family Health Center with Hudson Headwaters Health Network.

**Jeannette D. Storch**, oboe, is a Principal IT Professional at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Vassar College and a master’s in Operations Research and Statistics from RPI. She has been active in instrumental and vocal music all her life. In addition to MCO, she occasionally plays with other local groups.

**Charlie Thompson**, horn, is currently the President of Music Company Orchestra. He is retired from Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory after a career of 34 years. His musical background began by studying violin, then switched to cello in high school and continued through college at Oberlin. He began playing horn during a fellowship at Rice University. Since coming to the Schenectady area in 1972, Charlie has played in the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra, the Guilderland Town Band, the Memorial Band of Colonie, the Union College Community Orchestra and various other community groups. Charlie also performed with the Central New York Summer Orchestra and the Santa Barbara Chamber Philharmo-
nia for European tours.

Harmon Tunison, trombone, is an active area musician in the Albany Schenectady Troy area. He is involved with numerous community bands and orchestras as well as musical theater with local high schools and the Schenectady Light Opera Company. During the day Harmon is a research scientist for the Naval Nuclear Laboratory located in Niskayuna NY. Harmon holds Masters and Doctoral degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Nebraska in both Analytical and Inorganic Chemistry. Harmon resides in Scotia with his wife Jan, and sons, Ben and Alex.

Maria Westbrook, cello, grew up in the Chicago area and Cleveland, where she studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and played with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. While earning a BS in Chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill she also studied cello, and participated in orchestra and various chamber music groups. Her doctorate is also in Chemistry from the University of Georgia, and she moved to the Capitol region in 2014 to work at Knolls Laboratory.

David Wilkinson, violin, has studied with Mary Chase and Angelo Frascarelli and has performed with the RPI Symphony Orchestra, the Stockade Strings, the Capital Philharmonic, Opera Excelsior, and several other chamber ensembles. Mr. Wilkinson also performs with the Union College Orchestra and the Sage City Symphony. David holds a BS in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is employed with the NYS Office of Victim Services. David also operates a mobile disc jockey service, spinning tunes for weddings, graduations, and other occasions.

Sharon Wormwood, viola/violin grew up in New Hartford playing violin in a musical family. She performed with the Rome Festival Orchestra in Italy in 1978. She has been a member of both the Utica and Catskill symphonies, under the baton of Maestro Charles Schneider for over 30 years. This led her to finally getting her teaching degree in music, after working for 15 years for AT&T. She ran the string program at Myles Elementary School and then was hired by the Whitesboro School District. teaching all levels until 2014, retiring as the High School Orchestra Director, and closing her private studio. She moved to Clifton Park in 2018 to be closer to family. She has 3 married children and 5 grandchildren. In addition to the MCO, she has joined the AASO and Clifton Park Senior Orchestra, playing violin, and sings in First Presbyterian Church of Albany. She now specializes in teaching string instruments to adults, both beginners and those picking it up again after a long absence. Her belief is 'so much music, so little time!' When she's not making music, she enjoys sewing and traveling.

Jane Yoon, violin, just recently joined the MCO, upon moving to Albany. The Buffalo native has been playing the violin on and off since childhood, most recently with the University of Rochester Symphony Orchestra (2003-2017). She is an attorney by day and in her free time, can be found knitting, biking or cross-country skiing.

Martin Zavadil, trumpet, retired from the Shenendehowa Central School District where he was the Director of Bands at the West High School. He received his undergraduate degree at Fredonia SUNY and has done extensive graduate work at the Lake Placid Institute, SUNY Potsdam (Saratoga-Potsdam Insti-
tute), Ithaca College, Long Island University, Marywood College, University of Minnesota, including conducting with Dr. Frederick Fennell, Dr. William Reveli, Col. Arnald Gabriel and Prof. Kurkoff. Mr. Zavadil is an All-State adjudicator for NYSSMA, has served on the Executive Board of the New York State Field Band Conference, and has conducted several All-County and Area All-State Festivals. With 37 years of teaching experience, Mr. Zavadil has taught all levels of public school instrumental music. He has twice been recognized by his colleagues for outstanding service in the field of Music Education and has been selected to "Who's Who" by his students several times. He is an active performer in the Capital District area, having studied trumpet with Edward Carroll, international trumpet soloist, director of the Lake Placid Institute, and graduate professor of brass studies at CALARTS. Mr. Zavadil is the current conductor of the Schoharie Valley Concert Band, and Hand Bell Choirs at his church. He is a member of New York State Band Director's Association, National Band Association, American Concert Bands, International Trumpet Guild, and the Saratoga Musical Union. Mr Zavadil resides with his wife Sherrie in Ballston Spa.
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Concerts for the Community...
As part of our mission of bringing the excitement of live concerts to those who would not ordinarily attend them, the MCO has given concerts at the Clifton Park Library, the Crossings in Colonie, the Kingsway Community Center in Schenectady, Coburg Village in Clifton Park, Prestwick Chase in Saratoga Springs and Avila in Albany. The MCO performs annual holiday concerts at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, sponsored by the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Rotary, in conjunction with their Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, St. Joseph’s Church in Scotia, the Niskayuna Reformed Church and the Faith Baptist Church in Rexford. In addition, the MCO has performed concerts in the community to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association, Friends of the Mayfield Library, the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Education Foundation, the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry of Albany, CAPTAIN of Clifton Park, for the Saratoga’s Universal Preservation Hall at Proctors Theater and at Schenectady High School for SICM (Schenectady Inner City Ministry).

For further information ... 
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Visit the orchestra’s website at: mcomusic.org
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<th>2019 Crosstrek</th>
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