

A HISTORY
of
THE GUILD
of the
GREENVILLE SYMPHONY

2003-2018



*Researched and written by
Carolyn Beckie*

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INTRODUCTION

As the Guild entered its 60th year it offered the perfect opportunity to look back at accomplishments and challenges. With a reputation for being an especially well-organized volunteer organization, it has also had time for fine-tuning policies and activities.

A good example is the original mission statement:

*The mission of The Guild of the Greenville Symphony
is to promote, support and assist the Greenville Symphony
through direct volunteerism and fundraising*

The current version paints the mission with a broader brush:

*The mission of The Guild of the Greenville Symphony
is to enrich lives, inspire minds
and encourage community support of the Greenville Symphony
through volunteering and fundraising*

Other thoughtful changes can be found in the following pages. Some are related to the economy, as in the 2008 recession. Geographic patterns show a strong tilt to the eastside and growth in Simpsonville. More women in the workforce mean a greater reliance on retirees. And the biggest change? Small steps that finally plant our feet in the digital age. Many efforts will be needed to continue the balance between southern formality and modern convenience, continuity and innovation.

It is hoped that this current effort will serve as a timely guide to where we have been and a thoughtful resource for the future.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Guild began when the emerging Greenville Symphony Orchestra (GSO) was ten years old. In response to a national movement for orchestra leagues, a few women met to discuss the formation of an organization to capture enthusiasm and support for the Orchestra.

The Greenville Symphony Association backed the effort. A steering committee was named and at a meeting in September, 1958, The Guild of the Greenville Symphony came into being. There were 125 women at that meeting where Mrs. C. F. Haynsworth (Dorothy) was elected the first president.

They went straight to work and held a musical garden tour in 1959, successfully combining elements of performance, a fashion show and a garden tour. It wasn't until 1979, however, that the guild's longest series of fundraisers debuted – The Tour of Homes. Six houses in the Huntington area were lent by neighbors of the 1979-80 Guild President, and drew visitors like a magnet. These tours have continued to this day, winning national awards from the American Symphony Orchestra League.

In 1958 The Guild became co-sponsors with the Junior League and the American Association of University Women music appreciation hours prior to each concert of the season, thus planting the seed for our concert previews. In 1977 the dues were raised to \$5.

In 1979 The Guild gained great satisfaction from the fact that our president was invited to attend the meetings of the Symphony's Executive Committee. In 1984 Carol Toth, a former Guild president, was nominated for the presidency of the Greenville Symphony Association. She was the first woman in Greenville to be honored in this way. In 1985 a second Guild president, Karen Lawton, was elected to the presidency of the GSA.

By 1985 the Guild realized the importance of soliciting corporate support for larger scale fundraising ventures. For five years, TV auctions from local car dealerships provided a total of \$450,000 to the GSA.

The growing activities of the Guild needed a place where records could be consolidated. In 1988 they found a space in the Greenville Mall. It worked well until 1994 when a major remodeling of the mall began under new management. New space was offered but turned out to have some major disadvantages, such as no electricity! Several more moves occurred over the following three years until space was obtained at McAlister Square Mall, beginning in 1997. At this time also the increased complexity of Guild projects raised the question as to whether part-time assistance be necessary to support all the activities. The first administrative assistant was hired in 1998.

Balls and Galas

In 1996, a Gala was held at the new BMW Zentrum, featuring entertainment, live and silent auctions, and a drawing for a new BMW Z3 roadster. For many years the Gala included a drawing for a BMW. Usually this was part of a Gala, although a car offering was held in the spring of 1998, in the absence of a Gala. Contributions from these Galas have exceeded \$500,000. The 2001 Gala was held at the re-opening of the old Poinsett Hotel as the Westin-Poinsett Hotel.

Education

Many active members of the Crescent Music Club and The Music Club of Greenville contributed to the music education of the community. In fact the Crescent Youth Symphony played a number of concerts for youth during the 1950's, including a lollipop concert for the very young. The lollipop concerts were later adopted by the Greenville Symphony Association in 1976.

By the 70's many thousands of schoolchildren heard the GSO at concerts in schools, churches and auditoriums. At the time of Maestro Rickett's retirement, the GSO, with much Guild participation and public school assistance, was providing extensive education activities for young people. In addition, under support from the Rushing Foundation, a Piano Competition for high school and outstanding middle-school students was started in 1987 under the direction of Mary Louise Mims, and later Carol Smeaton.

Guild members worked with local cultural organizations and participated in activities of the American Symphony Orchestra League. The 1987 Mozart Festival, chaired by Karen Lawton, was called by the ASOL “the best organized, best produced, and most successful education project in the nation during the year.” The Guild received other major citations from the Volunteer Council of the ASOL, the City of Greenville and the South Carolina Arts Commission. All this made the orchestra known outside the Upstate and was one of the driving forces in Greenville’s development from the earlier era of being a major textile center into a city of varied cultural and commercial interests.

The above is based on previous histories – *The 30th Anniversary of The Guild of the Greenville Symphony, 1958 – 1988*, by Elizabeth Montgomery and *The History of The Guild of the Greenville Symphony, 1988 – 2002/03* by John E. Tompkins including notes by Pat Quarles. These narratives are wonderfully expressed and are kept in the Guild office, as only a few copies are available. They are also available in digital format.

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*BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS*

Elected Officers

President
VP Administration
VP Education
VP Fundraising
VP Membership, added in 2005
Recording Secretary,
 Corresponding secretary,
 position retired in 2004
Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer
Immediate Past President

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and immediate past president.

Appointed Officers

Historian
Photographer, added 2011
Member-at-Large
Parliamentarian

Ex Officio

GSA Executive Director
GSA President

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

These committees are the heart of the Guild. They are more organizational and less a committee that actually meets. Each chair has guidelines to follow from an Operations Manual and is responsible for making sure activities are evaluated.

People are not one way, one thing or one note. People are dynamic symphonies, each movement a different mood.

Unknown

VP ADMINISTRATION/PRESIDENT ELECT

Bylaws Revision

The Guild follows a well written set of bylaws as published in the Membership Directory. The parliamentarian is available to interpret the bylaws when needed. Bylaws are subject to a yearly review.

Finance

This committee advises the Board on all matters related to finance: budget requests, preparation of the annual budget, amount of the pledge and allocations of the annual gift to the GSO. Arrangements are made for a professional accountant to perform an internal review at the end of the year.

Endowed Chairs

The Guild Oboe Chair Fund was created in 1986 by a gift of \$60,000 from the Guild. Successive gifts, largely from the Guild, resulted in a fully funded Oboe Chair in perpetuity. The Guild Cello Chair Fund was created in 1990 with a gift of \$20,000 from the Guild. It is now (2018) 73% funded. Guild members have also contributed individually to endowed chairs: Bev and Jim Whitten, trumpet; Nancy Stanton, timpani; Beth Lee, keyboard.

All chairs are to be maintained in perpetuity and are managed by Brown Bros. Harriman, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The investment policy allows the Greenville Symphony Orchestra to take 5% of the market value each year to fund salaries of the principal chairs. These salaries include performances for Lollipops and Once Upon an Orchestra.

Mailings

For many years the Guild paid a bulk-mailing fee each year in order to send over 200 newsletters to members. Beginning in 2016 the Newsletter has been sent via email with only a few sent by regular mail. For events, usually the print company handles the mailing.

Marketing/Publicity

Publicity of all kinds – print, media, digital – has seen many changes since 2003. The initial dependence on the print world and magazines now shares space with the internet. Website ticket sales are growing along with publicity online for main events.

Although a publicity chair is named for each major event, it often happens that the chair works on all major fundraisers because the success of the role depends on a well-nurtured network of professionals who can respond to Guild requests.

Newsletter

The newsletter, Guild Notes, has a long history as a timely communication for members. Details of upcoming events, acknowledgements of volunteers, and a president's column are still main features. Color was added in 2010 and photos have added to its appeal.

Nominating

A committee of six, all appointed by the president, begins meeting in the fall and presents a slate of eight officers at the March membership meeting. A written slate is sent to the membership before the annual meeting in May. Voting takes place at that time.

SOVA – *Southeastern Orchestra Volunteer Association*

SOVA began in response to a need for a support organization for symphony volunteers. This support was already available at the League of American Orchestra's (LAO formerly ASOL) annual conference presented in different cities in the U.S. But attending was not always economically feasible for Guild representatives. Pam Weaver, one of several LAO Volunteer Council Sustainers, envisioned a volunteer support group on a more practical regional level. To this purpose SOVA was born. Currently serving the Carolinas and Georgia, an annual two-day meeting provides motivating speakers and targeted resources.

Long Range Planning

Not every year has an active long range planning committee. This committee reviews the activities of the Guild and makes recommendations for improvements.

Symphony Office Special Projects

This “umbrella” committee fits the bill when help is needed by the GSO for one or two-day projects. Volunteers usually assemble at the GSO office to stuff envelopes, put up posters, or assist with auditions.

Telephone Committee

Originally used to notify members for weather related cancellations, it is no longer needed since most members can be reached by email.

Historian

For the better part of 15 years, a scrapbook has been assembled each year to show annual activities. As an important document of Guild history, the photos and news clippings are of special importance. A large, elaborate scrapbook exists for each year between 2006 and 2018.

VP EDUCATION

Everyone needs to learn to speak music! Beth Lee

Chamber Orchestra Dinners

Masterworks Orchestra Dinners

At first look it appears that dinners are in the wrong category, but it was actually a thoughtful choice to balance the responsibilities of VP Education with other vice presidential duties. The supremely popular dinners for the players occur on long rehearsal days. The logistical challenge of moving supplies from the office to a room behind the stage was eased several years ago by having our administrative assistant deliver the supplies to the Peace Center or Gunter Theatre. Two large wheeled cases are

delivered the day before the dinner. A parade of casseroles (all from the same recipe), salads, rolls, desserts, drinks and coffee then takes place for the hungry line of players!

How many dinners? For average numbers, there are four Chamber dinners @ 50 players each = 200 and six Masterwork dinners @ 90 players each = 540, a grand total of 740 dinners!

Michelin Children's Concert Ushers

Michelin Children's Concert Lunch for the Orchestra

One of the Guild's favorite activities is ushering excited fourth and fifth grade students from their buses to their concert seats. Included are students from public, private and home- schools. For many, the concert is their first live performance in a large theater. Long lines of children reach around the sides of the Peace Center, all waiting to file inside to find their seats. They wiggle with excitement, listen to their teacher's reminder about courteous behavior for their voices and where to put their feet when seated. Audience favorites are *Star Wars* and *The Planets*. Student conductors, who are prepared by their music teachers and auditioned by letters of interest, are excitedly received on the podium by their classmates. Teachers are sent preparation materials focusing on instrument recognition and composers; Benjamin Britten's *Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra* is often featured.

The Orchestra uses the Friday morning performance as a rehearsal for a Masterworks Concert, making efficient use of paid performers. When budget cuts threatened, Dick Wilkerson from Michelin stepped up to support the program by providing funding for busses. Currently the bus support is for Title I schools; other schools charge a small fee. Lunch for the musicians is provided by the Guild.

Middle School Concert Ushers

The desire to serve the educational community from toddlers to teens was completed in 2013 when middle

school concerts began at the Kroc Center. These performances are presently given in Gunter Theatre, so the students can experience an authentic concert environment and demonstrate appropriate audience skills.

Lollipops and Once Upon an Orchestra

There has been a long tradition of the Guild helping host Lollipops concerts for toddlers and early elementary children. Around 2005, volunteers read a book coordinated with music performed by several first chair players. Now the children are enthralled by Traysie Amick, principal teaching artist with the South Carolina Children's Theatre, as she weaves story and music. *Timbre Tales*, a catchy title which always needed an explanation, began at the South Carolina Children's Theatre. Those Tuesday concerts have yielded to *Once Upon an Orchestra*. Venues have also changed: earlier Lollipops could be found at the old Greenville Mall or the Art Gallery. Currently the series of six Lollipops performances have settled into a regular Saturday morning pattern at Hughes Library downtown plus either a Greer or Simpsonville library performance. Education Directors include Carol Roosevelt, previous to 2005, Ruth Berry, 2006, and Dr. Braxton Ballew, 2007 – present.

VP FUNDRAISING

*Your support is truly an **OPPORTUNITY** to invest in the arts in our community. Our Symphony is one of the most attractive features that we offer.*

Margaret Wasson

The following fundraisers are designed to fulfill a pledge to the Symphony. Any funds exceeding the pledge are directed to Symphony wish lists and Guild priorities. More information is found in the appendix.

Tour of Homes

The homes tour began in 1979 with six houses in the Huntington neighborhood off Roper Mountain Road. It has been popular ever since, and is the longest, continuously – running fundraiser for the Guild. Residents of Greenville, particularly women, have a healthy curiosity for visiting interesting homes, especially larger homes decorated in unique styles. Also, no other organization has opted to copy the format. Perhaps they found out the large number of volunteers, about 350, it requires to support the three day event. Finding homeowners willing to share their home for several days is an awesome gift to benefit the Orchestra and the cultural life of the community. Locating those willing homeowners takes months of effort. As a fundraiser it is hard to replace. Between generous sponsors and ticket sales, and sometimes a boutique and luncheon, profits total between \$35,000 and \$52,000. So it is that the homes tour is a long-running tradition still going strong.

Condo Rondo

An a-ha moment happened in 2009 as members watched the breathtaking development of downtown condos. No members lived there at the time, so curiosity was high about what it would be like to live in the Main Street area, to be able to walk to concerts, plays and a growing variety of restaurants. As a homes tour veteran, the Guild was ready for a new tour. Condo Rondo, a *tour around downtown*, occurs only in even years and has been very popular. The one-day tour takes place during Artisphere and does not require as many volunteers as the fall homes tour.

The Black and White Ball

The Ball acquired its Black and White title in 2005; earlier events were often referred to as Galas. The elegant, black tie evening often begins with a photographer taking couples portraits; guests browse the silent auction items while conversations increase in volume as the wine flows and appetizers are passed. The number of silent auction items has varied widely – from over 200 to less than 60. Tables of ten are dressed to suit the theme – from gold “violins”

nestled in a floral arrangements, to three foot cascades of lilies and ribbon.

The highlight of the evening is the live auction – sometimes foreign trips, local destinations, perhaps a fur, a stunning jewelry piece, and once, two seats on a private plane to pick up Yo Yo Ma in Houston. A BMW was raffled each year from winter 2004 through winter 2009. After all this the band begins to play and the guests leave their seats for a twirl around the dance floor. Tickets for the BMW drawing were \$100 each, enabling these fundraisers to earn a very significant amount.

Smaller Fundraisers

These are fundraisers on a smaller scale, netting between \$500 and \$2,000. The first four were initiated by Margaret Wasson, who could always be counted on to come up with a clever title.

Sip, See and Silent Auction at the Holiday Party

Summer Interlude at Gerald West Interiors

Highballs & Hobnobbing at Talbots in Greenridge

A Whale of a Sale, an upscale yard sale

Summer Fling, the Guild hosted an open house for an Earthcraft certified home

Art Show and Sale my Michael Story at a President's Reception

Amazon Smile, a small percentage of a sale

Macy's Charity Day

Salons

When Gene Griz and her husband, John, moved to Greenville in 2014, Gene brought more than enthusiasm for the Orchestra. For many years she had mentored gifted young pianists. Several of them auditioned for the Maestro, and he contracted two of them to perform with the Symphony. Arrangements were also made for several of these extraordinary artists to participate in salons in private homes. The tickets sold raised several thousand dollars, a welcome addition for the years without Condo Rondo.

VP MEMBERSHIP

*There wasn't **anything** we wouldn't do for the good of the Guild!*
Bev Whitten

As the newest standing committee, beginning in 2005, it has the most diverse list. Many have a direct relationship for attracting new members, always a major goal of the organization. During the time period 2003 – 2018 there have always been three categories of membership: Active, Supporting and Life. Membership dues have changed over the years. The last update was in 2016.

Active membership is for those who enjoy doing the work of the Guild, join a committee, and participate in the development of Guild projects. A single membership was previously \$30, couple \$50; currently \$50 and \$80.

Supporting membership, previously called associate membership, a category for those who support the Guild mainly through financial means. This membership was \$60; currently \$100 per person.

Life Membership is a one-time contribution, usually for an inactive level. It was \$500 until 2011; currently \$1000 per person.

Honorary Life Membership is awarded to members for unique service to the Guild.

Recent honorees are Margaret Wasson, past president of the Guild, Karen Lawton, past president of the Guild and past GSA president, Maestro Edvard Tchivzhel, and Pam Hunter, Office Manager of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra.

A Membership Committee meets several times a year to arrange new and prospective member coffees, prepare new member folders, and plan strategies to attract and retain new members. The number of active members in 2003 was 163. The numbers dipped in the middle years to under 100, but soon gained strength in the last nine years when the range was 110– 140.

Concert Previews

Concert previews are held on Friday mornings before each Masterworks Concert. They take place in homes or community venues such as the Fine Arts Center or the Governor's School of Arts and Humanities. When a home is the site, a popular gathering place is always the dining room for its inviting Southern table artfully set with an assortment of bite-size refreshments.

Since 2003, the formal setting for the previews has undergone gradual, yet noticeable changes. The last time to see a silver tea service at one end of the dining table and a silver coffee service on the other end was about 2013. Members with a steady hand would pour for Guild members and guests, each one balancing their glass cup and plate. Now, fewer guests drink coffee and more guests drink water, furnished from a handsome glass urn. The floral arrangement is furnished by Guild volunteers instead of a professional florist. In the community venues, the refreshments may be served more casually. However, some traditions remain: members still bring trays of their homemade savories or sweets. And those members who bring food are exempt from a \$5 contribution toward rental chairs.

The friendly atmosphere for members and guests takes place the first hour; the Maestro's presentation in the second hour is still punctuated with musical excerpts of the coming concert. Sometimes the guest artist will perform as a special treat, as allowed by the performance contract.

Courtesy

The Courtesy position began in 2006 when Ellen Powell volunteered to send cards to ailing or bereaved members. She is still sending them. Out of respect for her commitment, members refer to her as the Countess of Courtesy twelve years later.

Holiday Party

This event has been observed from before 2003 and there is no doubt that one of the things that the Guild does best, is hosting a party. The Past Presidents' Council takes charge here, and decides if the event will be morning or evening, with alcohol or without, and whether there will be entertainment.

Past Presidents' Council

Besides taking charge of the Holiday Party, the Council organizes a fall reception, the Presidents' Reception. The purpose of the party depends on both the placement of the apostrophe and the desire of the president. It has honored past presidents, current president, new members and/or volunteers. Usually held in private homes, in 2017 it was called the Member Appreciation Reception and members enjoyed gathering at the Lindsey Plantation in Taylors. The Council also acts as an advisory body if the Guild meets "a bump in the road." In this case all past presidents are called to a meeting to offer their insight, alternatives, and solutions.

Directory Coordinator

The Directory is considered the "bible" of the Guild since it contains the bylaws, officers and committee assignments, calendar of dates for every function, list of members, sponsors, and even birthdays. It is printed in August and is usually given to members at the August luncheon meeting.

Floral Coordinator

This more recent role is for members who love gardening. Some are willing to share their harvest and supply an arrangement for many concert previews. Professional florists still donate their services for the Tour of Homes and Condo Rondo.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE MYSTERY OF THE NIVEN BOWL

For many years a beautifully shaped silver bowl by Tiffany has been given to an outstanding Guild volunteer. Called the Niven Bowl, it has left many wondering just who Niven was. After asking many members to recall the story behind Mr. Niven, thanks to Pam Hunter at the GSO Office and her computer skills, we not only have clues, we have the facts.

Those facts led to the Hughes Main Library, Carolina Room, for local history. A separate file area houses clippings from many types of print for notable Upstate citizens. And it is there that several newspaper articles described this leading citizen of Greenville.

Malcolm P. Niven was born in Dunedin, Florida, in 1914. He graduated from University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; he did postgraduate work at Harvard Graduate School of Business. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel and was a veteran of World War II. In 1948 he founded Carolina Manufacturing Co. which produced the world's largest number of individually packaged handkerchiefs called *Hav-A-Hank*. The factory also produced the original *Tiger Rags*, bandannas for Clemson University, as well as being the exclusive manufacturer of Willie Nelson's bandannas.

Mr. Niven served the community as president and board member of many local institutions including a charter member of the Pleasantburg Rotary Club, a trustee of Presbyterian College, a charter member of the Century club of Greater Greenville YMCA, and a Board member of the Poinsett Club. He was also a trustee of Westminster Presbyterian Church and gave the Tower and Carillon of 24 bells. Importantly, he served on the boards of the Greenville Symphony Association and the Greenville Hospital System.

Originally the Malcomb P. Niven Silver Bowl was awarded to Edwin Snape III of the Symphony Association in 1971. It was awarded quite regularly through years that followed. Past president Karen Lawton ultimately suggested the bowl be given to the Guild to recognize volunteer service.

It is still presented for outstanding volunteer service at the Annual Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony in May.

Malcolm, known as “Mack”, passed away in 1999. Wouldn’t he be pleased that his idea of a beautiful sterling silver bowl for volunteer service is still fulfilling its purpose? Thank you, Malcom P. Niven, for your generous foresight.

From 2002-2003 to 2017-2018 the following Guild members received the Niven Bowl:

Margaret Wasson	Ettalee Kearns	Mary Stahl
Jane Clarke	Pat McDonald	Ginny Johnson
JoAnn George	Donna Comstock	Phyllis Wilkes
Sue Fisher	Roz Smith	Debra Strange
Susan Monaghan	Charlie Sabo	Ellie Mioduski
Nancy Stanton		

HONORS AND AWARDS

Don't just think about what we have done in the past. Think about how we can best support our Orchestra. Think outside the box!

Pam Weaver

Honorary Life Membership

This award is presented to members for their unique service to the Guild.

Karen Lawton began her service as Guild president in 1985, followed by decades of leadership. Past positions included Treasurer of the Symphony Guild, President of the Greenville Symphony Board, and Executive Director of the Symphony. Her long association with home tours ranged from leading a Keller-Williams Realty docent team to tour sponsorships for many years. She was also a major part of fundraising efforts including TV auctions and BMW car raffles.

Margaret Wasson, past president and motivator-in-chief for Guild volunteers has served in multiple roles. Her positive persistence serves her well for chairing major events, obtaining sponsors and organizing orchestra dinners. This persistence is evident as two blocks in her neighborhood have a total of ten members, including five former presidents.

Edvard Tchivzhel, Music Director and Conductor, attends a Guild concert preview for each of five Masterworks concerts. These Friday morning events are highlighted by the Maestro's descriptions and insights of the music to be performed. He and wife, Luba, are frequent guests at many Guild events in support of the Guild mission.

Pam Hunter is Office Manager for the Greenville Symphony Association. In addition to her official duties, she is advisor, researcher, and friend to all in the Guild. No detail is too small for her attention and everyone appreciates her cheerful approach.

The League of American Orchestras

The League of American Orchestras (LAO) presents a national convention each year. A Volunteer Council, as part of the LAO, plans forums and roundtables for volunteer organizations such as ours. Pam Weaver, Volunteer Council member, encouraged Guild attendance to meet a cross-section of volunteers and enlarge our vision. In the first decade of 2000 the Guild did enlarge their vision and won several awards.

2000 – Certificate of Excellence in Fundraising, *Homes Tour*, Edna Thompson, Tour Chair, Pam Weaver, Guild President.

2006 – Gold Book Award for *Orchestra Dinners*, Margaret Wasson, Chair, Silver Award for BATS, *Be at The Symphony*, (young musicians assisting at the dinners), Pam Wagner, Guild President.

2009 – Gold Book Award, power point presentation for 2007 *Black and White Ball*, Peggy Hill and Pat McDonald, Chairs, Carolyn Beckie, President.

When budgets tightened, fewer members attended and since a Guild member had to attend the convention to receive an award, fewer projects were submitted. Members who did attend reported a stimulating experience and a rare chance to hear a major orchestra in a famous concert hall. Besides Pam Weaver, who attended yearly, Guild attendees have included:

2003 – San Francisco	Lois Wenstrup, Margaret Wasson
2004 – Pittsburgh	Edna Thompson, Margaret Wasson
2005 – Washington D.C.	Kay Ganser, Pam Wagner
2006 – Los Angeles	Carolyn Beckie, Peggy Hill
2007 – Nashville	Peggy Hill, Pat McDonald, Nancy Stanton
2008 – Denver	Peggy Hill, Pat McDonald, Nancy Stanton
2009 – Chicago	Jane and Ian Clarke, Peggy Hill
2010 – Atlanta	Jane and Ian Clarke
2017 – Baltimore	Phyllis Schrage

THE OFFICE

Early on, the Guild shared office space and secretarial resources at the Greenville Symphony Office at 200 South Main Street downtown. Meetings were rotated among members' homes. It eventually became clear that raising thousands of dollars so informally needed a better solution. The search began for a reasonably priced office space. The result was a series of moves that allowed the organization to function more efficiently.

- 1997 McAlister Square Mall
- 1999 Greenville Mall, 1025 Woodruff Rd., near front entrance
- 2004 Greenville Mall, 1025 Woodruff Rd., Box 44, theatre side of the mall, named "The Fishbowl" because of tall windows.
- 2007 McAlister Square, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, D 9, just inside the main entrance. Notification of a raise in rent from \$500 to \$700 prompted "no thank you" that resonated all the way down the hall! Instead, the move was made to the east end.

2014 McAlister Square, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, B-11-5 for two rooms, one office-sized and one Smaller room. This location is less visible and requires secure card access since the adjoining offices include DSS Child Care Licensing. The office can be accessed from the front entrance or several rear entrances, followed by a knock on the Guild office window for someone, usually the office administrative assistant, to open the door.

The Guild is fortunate to have both an office and a part time administrative assistant as many Guilds do not have either one. Office hours are 9:00 to 1:00 Monday through Thursday. They are an invaluable part of the Guild family.

Kathy Andruzzi – 1998

Veronica Glanton – 2007

Craig King – 2005

Jennifer Mullins – 2013 to present

Michael Stahl – 2006

Two other highly skilled, yet unseen, members for Guild- related projects are Laura Blume for her inspired graphic designs for many of our event materials and Jerry Gabbard, MG Grand Day Spa, for his continuing assistance with the Guild website.

SPONSORS

The GSO is very fortunate to partner with companies in Greenville because of their generous support of the arts. For many years symphonies have been known for being a dependable measuring stick for the cultural climate of a community. This reputation helps attract new businesses, and in turn, corporate support has nourished the Symphony.

The GSO has made great strides in engaging the community. It offers targeted programs to a wide range of ages and presents many styles of orchestral music for toddlers to teens, in schools and concert halls, with classics to pops, from holidays to memorials, and trios to a 90-piece Orchestra.

Companies have recognized the inclusive goals and have responded generously by sponsoring Guild fundraising events.. Some have made long-term commitments, and are gratefully recognized – Michelin North America, BMW Manufacturing Company, The Lawton Team @ Keller

Williams Realty, Northampton Wines, Family Legacy, Westin Poinsett, Greenville Health System, National City Mortgage, Bennett's Frame & Art Gallery, TruColor Printing, Greenville News, Greenville Journal, and Upstate Event Services .

Recognition of womens' leadership capabilities were found in the 1980s. Carol Toth, Guild President in 1982-1983, was elected to the presidency of the Greenville Symphony Association (GSA). She was the first woman from the Guild to be named to that position. Karen Lawton, Guild President 1985-1986, was also elected president of the GSA.

Recent members who have taken leadership positions on the GSA Board of Directors include Pam Weaver, Roz and Stan Smith, Nancy Stanton, Debra and Tom Strange, in addition to Guild presidents and vice-presidents who attend during their terms of office. Pam Weaver continued her advocacy for orchestras through LAO on the Volunteer Council, and founder of SOVA in 2005. Nancy Stanton accepted a new challenge by accepting the presidency of SOVA in 2017-2018,

THE GUILD THROUGH THE SEASONS

2003 – 2004 Edna Thompson, President

My term was extremely rewarding - learning about the management of the orchestra, and getting to know wonderful people like Bob Howard and Jerry Dempsey. Sponsors were generous in a good economy, and the BMW drawing was especially profitable.

Board meetings were usually held in the old Greenville Mall on Woodruff Road, now the Greenridge shopping area. For variety, some meetings were in other locations, such as a tour of the Peace Center, or the annual meeting at Holly Tree Country Club. Kathy Andruzzi was Administrative Assistant at the time.

After many years of home tours, a new twist was planned – a designer showhouse. Instead of hosting five or six homes over a three day weekend, one unoccupied home would be open 16 days. A large number of designers would each have a room to furnish, a result that would require a great deal of coordination between everyone involved. The Thornblade home on Guajard Street was well-received, and included a boutique and tea room in the nicely appointed garage.

The spring gala, *A Grand Venetian Ball*, featured many guests wearing masks and entertainment by an opera singer. An exciting climax was the “Opportunity Drawing” for a BMW Z4 Roadster.

Highlights of the Season

- An additional Masterworks concert at Clemson University
- Performance with Furman University Greenville Chorale
- Performance with the South Carolina Ballet, *The Nutcracker Ballet*
- Lollipops in the Art Museum, *A Carnival of Animals*
- *A Celebration of YoYo Ma* in the spring

Ongoing Activities

- Dinners for Chamber and Masterworks players
- Concert Previews on Friday mornings, with a social hour followed by the Maestro's comments on the Masterworks program
- Ushering for Children's Concerts

2004 – 2005 Margaret Wasson, President

My year was very enjoyable; I would even have done an extra year. I went to the office every day. The American Symphony Orchestra League was in Pittsburgh, and was very stimulating.

Embarrassing moment? No one told me to have a Thursday night dinner instead of the usual Friday night. They had to order pizza.

At this time the monthly Board meetings were held in the office facing the theatre in the old Greenville Mall. Concert previews provided a gracious social hour for members and potential members/guests and were held in private homes. Refreshments and stylish table settings always added to the convivial events.

During the second hour, everyone would gathered to hear the Maestro describe the musical works in detail, with personal stories and short excerpts on a CD. Occasionally a guest artist attended, if contract allowed, to speak and demonstrate the work to be performed. These *Informances* were held six times a season for Masterworks concerts.

Highlights of the Season

- High school music students from the Fine Arts Center and the Governor's School were invited to serve at Orchestra dinners. The initiative was titled BATS – Be At The Symphony.
- The Piano Competition for Young Artists was held at the Governor's School.

Ongoing Activities

- Holiday Party, *Sip, See and Silent Auction*
- Tour of Homes: *The Homes of KingsBridge* on the Eastside included café and boutique.
- Ushers for the Children's Grade School concerts took place in February.
- The Spring Gala was at Greenville Country Club. *A Riverboat Rendezvous* featured food stations named for ports on the Mississippi River, DJ, and a jazz ensemble at the entrance.

2005 – 2006 Pam Wagner, President

Pam encouraged members to invest time in learning more about technology. She modeled it herself by using the computer to conduct Guild business. She also used monthly meetings to demonstrate the growing possibilities of technology.

Highlights of the Season

A Designer Showhouse, *Plantation on Pelham*, was created for a 16-day tour. In addition to the newly built house, the original Plantation House served as a successful Amadeus Café and Mozart's Market Boutique. In an effort to reach more visitors, special events were offered, such as a Showhouse Garden Tour, and the Life and Times of Mozart, all presented by local experts. However, poor attendance at these events demonstrated that the amount of time visitors were happy to spend – tour, lunch and shopping – did not support additional events. The Showhouse itself, a decorating marvel and financial success, was a strain on so many volunteers. No attempts have been made to repeat the concept.

Ongoing Activities

- Several Member/Board meetings were held at Stax Grill.
- Holiday Wine and Cheese, 4pm to 6pm
- Black and White Ball at the Poinsett Club
- BMW car raffle sponsored by Century BMW
- The Presidents' Membership Reception was held at Mary Burnet and Ellis Johnston's home.

Pam's vision of a membership ready to embrace technology was enlightened. She surely would have been pleased to see the progress which has been made. Pam passed away in 2006.

2006 – 2007 Carolyn Beckie, President

For me, the ability to attend Symphony Association meetings allowed for a fascinating peek into the nuts and bolts of orchestra management. And also the chance to attend a concert at the new Disney Hall in Los Angeles while attending a League of American Orchestras Conference.

Embarrassing moment? The morning I locked myself out of the house while getting ready to host the annual luncheon in May. My slippers and flying red robe must have entertained the neighborhood!

Change was in the air in the summer of 2006. The Guild had been notified in spring that their Greenville Mall Office was closing. A large amount of office supplies and décor were stored in a room in the Mall, but there was no power, no windows, only total darkness. A portable lamp was hooked up to a very long extension cord, which snaked down the hall to an outlet in Sports Authority.

The new site would be McAlister Square on Pleasantburg Drive. Michael Stahl became Administrative Assistant, followed briefly by Craig King. In late August the Carolyn became ill in New Jersey and could not return until fall. President elect Nancy Stanton took the helm in the interim. Veronica Glanton was hired in the late fall.

Highlights of the Season

- The *Spotlight Series* began, offering opportunity for players to choose a broad spectrum of repertoire for small ensembles. The intimate venue at Centre Stage allowed the audience to become acquainted with musicians, musically and personally.
- Chamber Concerts added Friday nights to their regular concert schedule on Saturdays and Sundays.

- *Summer Interlude* at Gerald West Interiors was a social/fundraiser combo.

Ongoing Activities

- The Symphony Tour of Homes was in the Crescent & McDaniel Neighborhood, *Gracious Living, Past Meets Present*.
- Greenville County Youth Orchestra conductor Gary Robinson announced a *Shoulder to Shoulder* experience for first chair Symphony players and talented high school musicians.
- The Black and White Ball offered the opportunity to win a 2007 BMWZ4 coupe.
- The Daniel Piano Competition moved to Furman University.

2007 – 2008 Nancy Stanton, President

Our Black and White Ball celebrated the 60th anniversary of the GSO with a spectacular Diamond Jubilee at the Poinsett Club, which was decorated with sparkling trees, festive lights and beautiful flowers. The silent auctions were held in the meeting rooms upstairs with each room having a specific theme. Scotch tasting was held in the Governor's Room. There was "an opportunity" to win a BMW Coupe, which was parked outside with a big red ribbon. A delightful dinner was followed by dancing and a live auction. It was a memorable evening!

Funny happening: Fundraising VP, Maureen Decker, roamed the lobby of the Peace Center selling \$100 BMW tickets and even sold a ticket to the new head of BMW!!

The GSO celebrated its 60th anniversary of the Orchestra with a new Executive Director, Ken Johnson, and a new Education Director, Braxton (Bo) Ballew. Aligning with the 60th was a statewide residency of the National Symphony Orchestra. A special performance, local workshops and masterclasses were scheduled for the community in many locations. When Nancy tended to her ailing husband in spring, past president Carolyn Beckie took the helm for a period of time.

Highlights of the Season

- Joint Board Meeting at Northampton Wines & Wine Café marked the beginning of an annual luncheon event with paired wines. New officers meet with retiring officers.
- *Summer Fling Fundraiser* saw the Guild host an Open House for Addison Homes' Earthcraft Model Home. The two-day event earned \$5,000.
- Holiday "*Fun*"draiser featured a silent auction benefitting the cello chair. A holiday singalong fitted right in with the social atmosphere of the holiday.

Ongoing Activities

- Guild Monthly Meetings included lunches at City Range and a tour of Westin Poinsett Hotel.
- Homes Tour – *Hidden Hills, Hidden Treasures*, in Chanticleer neighborhood. Concerto Café and Boutique were at Jerry Dempsey's home.

2008 -2009 Pat McDonald, President

Getting to know so many different people involved with the Symphony was very rewarding. And the attendance and excitement at the 50th Luncheon was a culmination of everything about the Guild and its integral role in the Symphony organization.

The most surprising thing was attending the President's Reception and discovering it was not in my honor!

50th Anniversary Luncheon

In the fall of 2008 the Guild marked its 50th Anniversary. A festive luncheon at the Poinsett Club was attended by 150 members and recognition given to 27 former presidents. Past president Shirley Keller and her committee organized photo collage boards. A professional video, arranged by Peggy Denny, highlighted key events of the past. A professional photograph was taken, now displayed in both the downtown Symphony Office and the Guild Office. The flowers were from Northside Nursery. The entertaining trio of singers included Judy Bainbridge. The event was an example of long term friendships that develop from thousands of hours of volunteering.

Yo-Yo Ma with the GSO signaled a continuing artistic relationship between the Maestro and the world famous cellist. When it was time to plan auction items for the Ball, Michelin agreed to allow two persons to travel on the Michelin corporate jet that would fly to Houston to pick up the artist and his cello. Accompanying the two winning bidders, Nancy Stanton and Margaret Jenkins, were the Executive Director, Ken Johnson, and a representative of Dixon Hughes, sponsor of the concert.

Highlights of the Season

- A Gold Award, was presented to the Guild for a power point presentation featuring the Black and White Ball. The Award Ceremony took place at the American Symphony Orchestra League Annual Conference in Denver. Pat McDonald and Peggy Hill were in attendance to receive the Award.
- Concert Preview attendance averaged 40 members and guests; all were held in private homes.
- *Lollipops* concerts traveled to Simpsonville and Greer; *Timbre Tales* was presented in the South Carolina Children’s Theatre with Traysie Amick, Principal Teaching Artist.

Ongoing Activities

- Homes Tour *European Charm in Cobblestone* included Café Schubert and Unique Boutique
- Talbots @ Greenridge offered *Highballs @ Hobnobbing*, an evening event of fun and fashion discounts.
- *Patriotic Pops* was performed at an outdoor venue in Simpsonville on July 4, and again in Sapphire NC on July 5.
- A Joint Board meeting was held in May at Northampton Wines.

2009 – 2010 Peggy Hill, President

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Guild’s success is how we had fun while working for something we believed was important. I was worried that we would not make our pledge that year. When the idea for a Condo Rondo came up I hoped we would make \$5,000. We made \$14,000!

The big headline of the year was “something new under the sun” –“ Condo Rondo”. A self-guided walking tour of six downtown condos surpassed

expectations. Scheduled during *Artisphere*, the one-day tour took place in May, one day before Mother's Day. Curiosity for the booming growth in condos and a catchy title resulted in a healthy demand for tickets, \$15 pre-tour, \$20 tour. The Guild decided that it would be offered on alternate years to sustain its future.

Highlights of the Season

- Cascades Verde was the site for the Black and White Ball, A *Noteworthy Event*. A sought- after live auction item was a luxurious week in a private beach home in DeBordieu, South Carolina.
- A *Masterworks Concert* was offered at Brooks Center, Clemson University

Ongoing Activities

- A Holiday High Tea at Louise Sill's residence was enjoyed by many members and friends.
- Lollipops formed a joint venture with the Art Museum for *Carnival of the Animals*.
- The annual homes tour, *Revisiting the Past*, took place in the North Main neighborhood. The Ladner home welcomed Patron Party guests with luminaries on the curving driveway.

2010 – 2011 Jane and Ian Clarke, Presidents

The most memorable time for Ian and me was the visit to Chicago for the League of American Orchestras Convention. There was a special anniversary concert of Dvorak's music which included some actors and actresses acting out his life in skits during the performance. I thought it would be wonderful if we could do something like that in Greenville. I think the most surprising part of our tenure was how supportive people outside the Guild were. There were many times when all we had to do was ask.

Guild meetings were held from August through November, January through April, with an annual luncheon and officer installation meeting in May. Attendance averaged about 25 members who learned about coming projects needing volunteer help. It was also a time to sign up for food

needed for Orchestra dinners or refreshments for concert previews. The title of this meeting has undergone many variations – from Board Meeting (is it only for Board members?) to Membership Meeting to Monthly Membership Meeting to Guild Monthly Meeting.

Highlights of the Season

- A Guild Monthly Meeting was held at the Bob Jones Museum & Gallery at Heritage Square. Box lunches were available; a Museum Tour was hosted by Erin Jones.
- SOVA (Southeastern Orchestra Volunteer Association) chose Greenville for its annual Volunteer Roundtable. This event attracted volunteers from Georgia and the Carolinas. It was held at Christ Church Social Hall downtown.
- *The Music Matters Movement* was launched on May 1, at Plantation on Pelham.

Ongoing Activities

- An extra fundraiser, *Whale of a Sale*, was an upscale yard sale that resulted in Guild members mostly buying from other Guild members.
- Concert previews were held at The Woodlands at Furman, Cascades at Verdae, plus private homes.
- *Bravo Montebello!* Tour and Patron Party required navigating the twists and turns of the neighborhood; lunch and boutique were at St. James Episcopal Church
- The Black and White Ball, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, was a glitzy affair at the Westin Poinsett Hotel.

2011 – 2012 Donna Comstock, President

Joining this incredible organization allowed me to meet and work with many amazing people while learning new skills and supporting our orchestra. There were many memorable moments, but our Black and White Ball stands out. Fortunately, the Maestro and Luba Tchivzhel celebrated their 20th year since their dramatic departure from Russia, so we had a theme: From Russia with Love. Our “Freedom Table” held all the people involved in their

defection. The International Ballet dancers somehow managed to afford costumes from Russia and entertained us throughout the evening.

With remarkable consistency each Guild calendar year follows a menu of basic activities – from the Presidents Reception to the Annual Luncheon to meet new officers. However, this year offered one heartwarming exception. His name was Peter Rosset and he was 11 years old. The Make a Wish Foundation helped Peter achieve his dream when he performed a private piano recital on the Peace Center stage. His audience, including the Maestro and friends, applauded his resounding success.

Highlights of the Season

- The 20th anniversary of the Tchivzhels' defection from Russia deserved special attention. first with a reception following the October Masterworks concert; second, a Black and White Ball, *From Russia with Love*, honored them with a Russian folk ballet performed at the Westin Poinsett Hotel.
- Michelin's Children's Concert in January featured *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. Planetary images on a huge screen provided a striking video as the awestruck students listened.

Ongoing Activities

- A Guild Monthly Meeting, tour and lunch was held at the BJU Museum and Gallery at Heritage Green.
- The first meeting of the year was at Northampton Wines, followed by lunch and wine comments by Richard deBondt.
- The second Condo Rondo was very well-attended and bodes well for the future on even-numbered years.
- Thornblade homes were featured for the fall tour.

2012 – 2013 Phyllis Wilkes, President

Recognizing that Debra Strange wanted to become active in the Guild, I quickly suggested that she become secretary. She was happy to do so. Little did we know that she would take on the presidency later, and serve two terms!

A most surprising thing happened at a Guild Monthly Meeting during a back stage tour of the Bob Jones Theater. An unexpected step in a dark, narrow hallway sent me flying. Fortunately, I had bruises but no broken bones.

Several educational activities deserve a spotlight this season. The well-established *Shoulder to Shoulder* experience with the Greenville County Youth Symphony was replicated for the Carolina Youth Symphony. Titled *Side by Side*, 77 CYS musicians performed with eleven of the GSO's principal players for one concert.

The first *Middle School Concert* was held at the Kroc Center. Instrumental students from several middle schools were bused to the Kroc auditorium for a live performance.

Lollipops scheduling became a challenge with three interested sites - Smith Library in Greer, Hendricks Library in Simpsonville, and Hughes Library, downtown – and time for only two performances.

Timbre Tales took place at SCCT on Tuesday afternoons with Traysie Amick “reading” a story accompanied by the musicians.

Highlights of the Season

- An active listening strategy was offered to new audience members. An MP3 was loaded with information about the Orchestra and the program to be performed. Listeners could be reassured about concert etiquette and tips for musical understanding. The program was sponsored by Ronald McDonald House Charities.
- The Black and White Ball, *Starry, Starry Night*, featured a room-size reproduction of Van Gogh's famous work. There were 181 auction items.

Ongoing Activities

- Guild Monthly Meetings alternated between McAlister Square and local restaurants.
- The Presidents Reception featured an art show and sale by Michael Story.
- Tour of Homes, *Prelude to the Park*, included residences on Ridgeland, McDaniel and Crescent.
- SOVA attendees on their way to the annual Roundtable in Hilton Head, drove to Augusta, Georgia to avoid floods in Columbia

As my term as President was beginning, our administrative assistant quit to go to a fulltime position. After many exhaustive interviews, we interviewed Jennifer Mullins. We knew immediately that she was the “ONE”. Jennifer was hired and has been a tremendous asset to the Guild. We are all thankful for the outstanding contribution that she has made.

During a pre-visit to the Patron Party Home, the outside landscaping was being trimmed and I started a conversation with the yardmen to compliment them on the appearance. Little did I know that the yardman I was talking with was actually the homeowner! Throughout the evening this became our little joke.

The SOVA (Southeastern Orchestra Volunteer Association) was begun in 2005. A hearty exchange of ideas and resources emerged in a 2-day conference each fall in Georgia or the Carolinas. Sue enjoyed attending SOVA for the ideas expressed by professional speakers and the instruction from other volunteers.

Highlights of the Season

- Guild Monthly Meeting was at the BJU Portrait Museum on Heritage Green, *The Art of Sleuthing*; a box lunch and meeting took place in the Board Room.
- First appearance of Vadym Kholodenko, Van Cliburn Gold Medalist, who performed with the Orchestra and played several selections at the Concert Preview in the Lambert home. When he asked Sue how long he should play, she answered – about half an hour. And he did!

Ongoing Activities

- The homes tour theme was *Lifestyles*, in Hollingsworth Park, Collins Creek and East Parkins Mill. A Crescendo Café at Cascades Verdae and Boutique by inSIDEout at Home added to the event.
- A third Condo Rondo was held in May on Artisphere weekend.

- The Black and White Ball, *An Evening of Magic*, included a magician, auctions, dinner and dancing at the Westin Poinsett.
- The Annual Meeting was held at the Poinsett Club to introduce new officers, present check, enjoy lunch and entertainment.

2014 – 2015 Roz Smith, President

My term as Guild president started off with a double whammy. First, to prevent a big increase in rent we decided to move. It required lots of sorting, boxing and cart-pushing down the hall to B11 -1, still in McAlister Square. The new location paled in comparison to the old one which was next to the entrance.

Second, a pulmonary embolism struck as a complete surprise halfway through the year. With only our two main fundraisers - Tour of Homes and Black and White Ball - I admit to feeling very relieved when we achieved our pledge.

Yo-Yo Ma returned to Greenville for a special performance in October. A favorite with both the Maestro and the audience, he had also appeared in 2004 and 2009. As Mr. Ma explained, his work outside of the concert stage focused on *the transformative power of music in peoples' lives*. His ability to reach listeners continues to be uniquely powerful.

The search for a new executive director took two years. Roz was on the search committee and spent many hours in meetings during this time. Finally, Sherwood Mobley was named Executive Director of the Symphony. He was a professional percussionist for 23 years, with the timpani as his principal instrument. Known for his cheerful demeanor and positive outlook, he was previously Manager of Orchestra Personnel and Operations, and also Interim Executive Director.

Highlights of the Season

- The July 4th Concert in Heritage Park, Simpsonville was held for the eighth year. The Maestro dressed for the occasion with white tails emblazoned with red, white and blue sequins which glittered as he conducted. Charges of \$25 per car were very popular with families.

- Two back to back Michelin Children’s Concerts included three talented student conductors chosen by the Greenville Symphony Association.
- Middle School Concerts at the Kroc Center were scheduled for 10:00am and 12:00pm.

Ongoing Activities

- The September *Presidents’ Reception* was held at Peggy and Ed Good’s home.
- *Chanticleer & Hidden Hills* homes were chosen for the Tour of Homes; a mother-daughter fashion show and lunch were popular.
- The Black and White Ball theme was *Legends*, inspired by Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade*. Susan Monaghan arranged a jewelry pre-party which helped underwrite a blue sapphire pendant for the live auction.

2015 – 2016 Debra Strange, President

A proud moment was being able to meet that year’s pledge. It was such a big goal and seeing everyone work so hard to achieve it was a big accomplishment.

My almost embarrassing moment was at our summer retreat to motivate our members for Downtown Condo Rondo. Carolyn had changed the words to “Downtown” and we sang it - a capella- together.

The saddest and most unexpected event of the season was losing our Executive Director, Sherwood Mobley, on February 26, 2016 after a brief illness. He joined the Greenville Symphony in 1991 as Principal Timpanist, after receiving music degrees from the Boston Conservatory and the New England Conservatory. He was named the Executive Director in December 2014.

A Service of Remembrance and Special Music was given at First Baptist Church where he was a deacon and Sunday school teacher. Members of the Orchestra volunteered to perform works which had special meaning for Sherwood. Flowers on the silent timpani symbolized the sudden loss as family members and colleagues spoke of life with Sherwood.

Highlights of the Season

- It is no secret that one of the things the Guild does best is host parties! The three main events – Presidents Reception, Holiday Party and Patron Party – all demonstrate gorgeous settings, bountiful food beautifully displayed with spirited members and friends sharing a special time together. Who can forget the luminaries lighting the driveway to the Patron Party at the Ladner's home?
- The *Wyche Memorial Concert* in April paid tribute to another one of Greenville's community leaders, the late Tommy Wyche. The Orchestra performed *Moonbeams*, one of his compositions arranged by Maestro Tchivzhel.
- Children's Concert performances moved from problematic winter scheduling to November. The Middle School Concert venue was changed from the Kroc Center to Gunter Theatre for a larger and more authentic experience.

Ongoing Activities

- Guild Monthly Meetings heard presentations by Angie Jones, Music Librarian and Caroline Ulrich, Principal Flute.
- The Homes Tour was *North Main, Now & Then*, except the *Now* part was a rain marathon which put a huge dent in attendance.
- *Musical Masquerade* was the Black and White Ball theme at the Westin Poinsett.
- SOVA attendees were treated to stimulating ideas plus a stay at the *Sea Pines Resort* on Hilton Head Island.

2016 – 2017 Debra Strange, President

The GSO's "Cirque de la Symphonie" translated into a perfect Ball theme, "Cirque de Lumiere". We had beautiful decorations at the Westin Poinsett and great teamwork from the decorating committee. The holding room for flowers was not air-conditioned the previous night, so the flowers really drooped. Fortunately they revived once the cool air returned.

A strange moment occurred at the Annual Luncheon in May when I was turning over the gavel to Betsy Cates. I

must have planned a final comment, but when I started to speak, all that came out was “bye”!

The Great Escape was the Masterworks theme for the opening concert, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Maestro’s defection from the Soviet Union in 1991. It was time to reflect on the daring escape of Edvard, wife Luba and son Arvid.

Cirque de la Symphonie brought a dazzling new dimension to the Peace Center. The performance was choreographed to a wide range of classical selections. Aerialists flying overhead with such sensitivity to the music was an experience the audience still talks about.

Highlights of the Season

- McAlister Square announced plans for raising the rent to \$250 for four hours in a classroom. We had been using a classroom for Guild monthly meetings seven times a year. We couldn’t pay the new rent, and we didn’t need four hours. Alternate venues were found in the interim.
- The Guild Newsletter went online instead of being mailed to members.
- The May Masterworks Concert, *Triumph of the Human Spirit*, was dedicated to the memory of late Executive Director, Sherwood Mobley. The concert included Mozart’s *Overture to Don Giovanni*, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusic* and Mahler’s *Symphony No. 6 in A minor, the Tragic*.

Ongoing Activities

- A tour of *White Oaks*, a mansion modeled after the Governor’s Mansion in Williamsburg, was part of the fall Homes Tour in Green Valley, *Mansions to Modern*.
- *Cirque de Lumiere* was the theme for the Black and White Ball with shimmer and glitter reflecting everywhere. Electronic methods of payment continued to improve.
- Concert preview attendance was strong enough to justify more public spaces: ICAR Presentation Hall, the Governor’s School, and the Woodlands in addition to private homes.

Serving as Guild President was very interesting. I learned so many things about running a small business, how much the GSO brings to the Greenville County community, how a Greenville Symphony Association Board of Directors runs the symphony, and so much more. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as President.

An embarrassing moment happened at the first big event in September. Our GPS sent us on some strange path and the we ran into a sign that said “bridge closed” (the rivers were overflowing from lots of rain). We arrived just when the festivities began but the signs directing people to this Member Appreciation Event were still in our car. Jennifer’s good directions enabled everyone to find the location without the signs - thank goodness.

The GSO decided to have a Halloween Pops Concert and brought back the *Cirque de la Symphonie* to perform again. They were extremely popular the past spring and were equally popular for Halloween. The second Valentine’s Pops concert again featuring Edwin McCain was also a big success. After a thorough search, Julie) Fish was hired as the new Executive Director for the GSO.

Highlights of the Season

- In September, member Estela Lindsey kindly offered her Lindsey Plantation as a site for our Member Appreciation Event (previously called the President’s Reception). She normally offers her site for weddings but it was a wonderful place for a party to begin the Guild year of activities.
- Thanks to Phyllis Schrage the Guild engaged an on-line ticket selling company (Vendini) to sell tickets for the Tour of Homes. About 150 tickets were sold without even advertising this service!
- We celebrated the 60th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the Guild with a glittering ball at The Thornblade Club. The ball decorations were full of sparkle. There was scotch tasting, a “wine pull”, silent and live auctions, plus dancing after dinner. It was a glamorous evening and Marilyn Monroe stopped in to sing “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend”.

- We had one salon concert at the home of Gene and John Griz. They brought back Dmitri Levkovich and we were delighted to hear his marvelous piano playing again.

Ongoing Activities

- The Guild monthly meetings continued to be held in different places. There were two meetings in the Sear's Recreation Center at McPherson Park. Daniel Kirkpatrick entertained us with tympani and at another meeting Braxton Ballew talked about the GSO's community engagement programs and then he played his double bass. At another meeting long-time Guild member, Bev Whitten, regaled us with stories of past events and happenings of the Guild.
- The Tour of Homes was held on Crescent Avenue and one home on McDaniel. There were quite a variety of interesting homes, from elegant to eclectic and It was very well attended.
- The Holiday Party was held at the home of Peggy and Steve Davis. Tasty holiday refreshments were enjoyed by all and then we were treated to a few seasonal songs by the Music Director of First Presbyterian Church and his wife.

APPENDIX

The Guild presents two large checks each year to fulfill its pledge to the Symphony – one at the Holiday Party in December, and the other at the Annual Luncheon in May. Funds exceeding the pledge are designated by considering the Symphony wish list and Guild priorities.

Our events and the volunteer leaders who made them successful:

Downtown Condo Rondo		
<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Chair</i>
2009-2010	Peggy Hill	Margaret Wasson
2011-2012	Donna Comstock	Nancy Ladner Edna Thompson
2013-2014	Sue Fisher	Edna Thompson Pat McDonald
2015-2016	Debra Strange	Edna Thompson Phyllis Schrage
2017-2018	Betsy Cates	Phyllis Schrage Sandy Sanford

TOUR OF HOMES

<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Homes Tour</i>	<i>Chair</i>
2003 2004	Edna Thompson	<i>Designer Showhouse I</i> Guajard, Thornblade	Dorit Reichental
2004 2005	Margaret Wasson	<i>Kingsbridge</i> , Eastside	Ettalee Kearns Jo Gerring
2005 2006	Pam Wagner	<i>Designer Showhouse II</i> Plantation on Pelham	Edna Thompson
2006 2007	Carolyn Beckie	<i>Crescent & McDaniel</i> <i>Gracious Living Past</i> <i>Meets Present</i>	Jane Clarke JoAnn Pulley
2007 2008	Nancy Stanton	<i>Hidden Hills, Hidden</i> <i>Treasures</i> , Chanticleer	JoAnn Pulley Janice Dickenson
2008 2009	Pat McDonald	<i>European Charm in</i> <i>Cobblestone</i>	Janice Dickenson Sherrill Howayeck
2009 2010	Peggy Hill	<i>Revisiting the Past</i> North Main	Ginny Johnson Donna Comstock
2010 2011	Jane & Ian Clarke	<i>Bravo Montebello!</i>	Donna Comstock Ginny Johnson
2011 2012	Donna Comstock	<i>Thornblade</i>	Sue Fisher Margaret Wasson
2012 2013	Phyllis Wilkes	<i>Prelude to the Park -</i> Ridgeland, Crescent, McDaniel	Carolyn Beckie Margaret Wasson
2013 2014	Sue Fisher	<i>Lifestyles Collins Creek</i> , Hollingsworth	Margaret Wasson Jeanne Perkinson
2014 2015	Roz Smith	<i>Chanticleer & Hidden</i> <i>Hills</i>	Kimberly Cooley Nikki Zurenko
2015 2016	Debra Strange	<i>North Main Now and</i> <i>Then</i>	Donna Comstock Alexandra Harrison
2016 2017	Debra Strange	<i>Mansions to Modern</i> Green Valley	Betsy Cates Nancy Teachey
2017 2018	Betsy Cates	<i>Classics on Crescent</i>	Nancy Teachey Alexandra Harrison

BLACK AND WHITE BALL

<i>Year</i>	<i>Ball Theme</i>	<i>Chair(s)</i>
2003 2004	<i>Grand Venetian Ball</i> Thornblade Club	Louise Sill
2004 2005	<i>Riverboat Rendezvous</i>	Louise Sill
2005 2006	<i>Black & White Ball</i> Poinsett Club	Pam Knauss
2006 2007	<i>Black & White Ball</i> Poinsett Club	Peggy Hill Pat McDonald
2007 2008	<i>GSO Diamond Jubilee Ball</i> Poinsett Club	Tammy Barber Heidi Aiken
2008 2009	<i>Black & White Ball</i> Poinsett Club	JoAnn Pulley Nancy Stanton
2009 2010	<i>A Noteworthy Event</i> Cascades Verdae	Pat McDonald
2010 2011	<i>Puttin' on the Ritz</i> Westin Poinsett	Jane Clarke
2011 2012	<i>From Russia With Love</i> Westin Poinsett	Sue Fisher Ginny Johnson
2012 2013	<i>Starry Starry Night</i> Westin Poinsett	Jane Clarke Donna Comstock
2013 2014	<i>An Evening of Magic</i> Westin Poinsett	Debra Strange Terri Steck
2014 2015	<i>Legends</i> Westin Poinsett	Debra Strange Terri Steck
2015 2016	<i>Musical Masquerade</i> Westin Poinsett	Eva Beale
2016 2017	<i>Cirque de Lumiere</i> Westin Poinsett	Debra Strange
2017 2018	<i>Diamond Jubilee Ball</i> Thornblade Club	Sharon Kelley Betsy Cates

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