



**JUST A NOTE...
...ABOUT MUSIC AT
BONNET HOUSE**

By Krys Haliburton

Fort Lauderdale's cooler months of January to April traditionally bring wonderful music to Bonnet House.

Winter 2013 was no exception, and we enjoyed evening appearances by the Lynn University Piano Trio, Florida Atlantic University pianists, as well as performances by the University of Miami Frost Opera Theater in March, and Florida Grand Opera Young Artist Studio in April.

The sound of music is nothing new here at Bonnet House. Visitors to the Bartlett's winter retreat have always admired the imposing 1872 Steinway square piano in the Music Room, and learned that it belonged to Helen Birch and came with her to Bonnet House after her 1919 marriage to Frederic Clay Bartlett. It was her second-best piano – her Grand remained at Whitehall, their home in Massachusetts.

Helen was an accomplished composer with several published pieces to her credit, including the sheet music on display on the rosewood

From the CEO

Last month, I was fortunate to hear Ford W. Bell, President of the American Alliance of Museums, speak at a function sponsored by Northern Trust. Afterwards, a group of us had dinner with him. He shared some incredible statistics on the Museum industry that I found most interesting. They also made me very proud to be a part of the Museum world. I think you'll enjoy reading them.

“There are 850 million museum visits in the United States every year, A to Z, art museums to zoos. By contrast, attendance at all major league regular season sporting events in 2011 was 130 million (baseball, basketball, hockey, football). If you add in theme parks (including Disneyworld), along with attendance at major league sporting events, you only get to 483 million people, so museums are the most visited attractions in our country. Museums are loved by all Americans and by people who visit our country from abroad. They are not the province or the playground of rich people.

Americans donate a million hours of their time to museums every week in the United States. This includes docents, front desk volunteers, trustees, parents who volunteer for museum-school programs, and so forth. This volunteer number underscores the fact that a museum is an integral and valued part of the community. People look to the museum as a place for lifelong learning, as a place for enjoyable family outings, as a town square, as a place to make friends, as part of the economic infrastructure of the community.

Museums spend more than \$2 billion on educational programming in our country every year. It is important to note that a dollar invested in a museum educational program goes a long way because museums are able to leverage the incredible number of volunteer hours, their facilities, their collections, their exhibits, and their staffs to provide cost-effective programming. Museums today are also involved in formal education. The American Museum of Natural History in New York offers a graduate degree in education; the Minnesota Zoo has its own high school for 11th and 12th graders. And, the California Science Center in Los Angeles runs an elementary school for chil-



dren from their disadvantaged neighborhood on its campus.

The cultural tourism industry in the United States is a \$192 billion industry, of which museums are an essential part. Studies have shown that cultural tourists stay longer and spend more money than other kinds of tourists.

Museums are not a drain on the public coffers. Only 22% of museum revenue comes from government sources. 35% of museum revenue comes from private giving and 30% from earned income. The remaining 12% comes from investment income.

Museums are in some ways quite conservative because they are entrepreneurial and are not a drain on the public coffers. There are 2 million home-school students in the United States, and they benefit from the educational resources offered by museums of all types.

Field trips are not free-range romps through the museum. Today, field trips are geared to specific state educational standards, so that the museum has become an extended classroom.”

Ford W. Bell, DVM
President

Karen Beard

Karen Beard, CEO

Cover photo by J. Christopher Gernert.

Development News

Bonnet House Scores Well at County Grant Panel

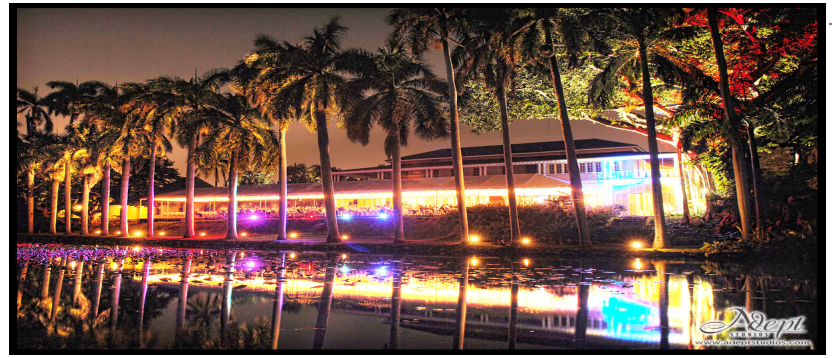
The Broward County Cultural Division works to promote local arts and culture organizations in a variety of ways, none perhaps as important as its grant making program. Each year the cultural division awards operating support grants to cultural organizations as part of a competitive process in which the programming and merit of applicant organization are rated by community representatives.

Bonnet House is considered one of the county's major cultural institutions due to its budget size and its accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. It's application for operating support in the 2013-2014 county fiscal year (that begins in October) was reviewed by a Cultural division panel and received an average score of 95 out of 100. This means that Bonnet House will qualify for an operating grant of \$115,300 next year. Of course this is pending approval of cultural funding by the Broward County Commission.

Grants like this are incredibly important for Bonnet House. Funds received from this grant help offset the large overhead of maintaining a 35 acre seaside estate nearing its 100th anniversary and paying for everyday expenses like repairs, utilities, programming staff salaries, and youth education programs. Though this may sound mundane, it's the foundation on which all of our programming is based. Bonnet House extends a sincere thanks to the Broward Cultural Division as well as the Broward County Commissioners for their support.

Young Artist Music Series Popular with Sponsors

Conceived by long time volunteers and benefactors Connie Folz and Susan Lochrie, the Young Artist Music Series showcases the best emerging talent from local universities and opera companies. Concerts this year feature performers from Lynn University, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Miami, and Florida Grand Opera. What better place could there be than the Bonnet House veranda on a lovely winter evening for enjoying great music?! Bonnet House extends a most sincere thanks to the sponsors who have made the 17th Annual Bonnet House Young Artist Music Series possible. A record number of sponsors have made



the concert series possible this year. Without them, it would simply be impossible for Bonnet House to present the concerts. Sponsors for the series are: Richard S. Ingham, Dave & Sue Hagen, Bill Beaton and Ted Emery Charitable Fund at Our Fund, Bonnet House Alliance, Jeffrey & Belinda Shover, Alfredo Tamburrino & Ted MacDonald, Sumner T. White, Connie and Theo Folz, Herbert K. Reis, Jim Stepp & Peter Zimmer, David L. Webb & W. Lynn McLaughlin, Denis & Susan McQuillen, Northern Trust, Stella Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward, and George Zuber & Anthony Snyder Charitable Foundation at Our Fund. Underwriters are: Whole Foods Market, Eggwhites Catering, and Classical South Florida. Thank you one and all! Planning for the 2014 Season will begin when the 2013 Season ends in April. For information on and the benefits of becoming a sponsor, contact Patrick Shavloske at patrick-shavloske@bonnethouse.org or at 954-703-2603.

Bonnet House Selected To Participate In Launch Of Power2Give.org

Power2Give.org is a crowd-funding website that allows the arts community to fundraise online. Coordinated by Business for the Arts of Broward, we are able to fundraise for a specific project within a 90 day period. An added incentive to give is that all donations will be matched dollar for dollar by the Knight Foundation!

Please take a moment and check out our first project: Windows to Learning. Our goal is to install weather proof windows in our Island Theater where educational programs are held.

The total project cost is \$7,280 and we know we can meet this goal before the 90 days are up - especially with the generous matching gift from the Knight Foundation. Help us reach our goal and offer our youth windows to learning! Visit www.power2give.org to participate.



The Lily Pad

Newsletter of the Bonnet House Alliance

A MESSAGE FROM SUE NESBIT, ALLIANCE PRESIDENT



At this time of the year the Alliance was very busy preparing for our annual Entirely Entertaining XVIII Luncheon. Chairman Sondra St. Martin and Co-Chairman Susan Howell worked endless hours to prepare for this wonderful day! It was a delightful day and we enjoyed the beautifully decorated tables inspired by our

thirty creative designers. Our guests dined on a delicious luncheon prepared by Chef Remi Catering while listening to Oman Pedreira, Master Violinist, from the Symphony of the Americas. The baskets and silent auction were fabulous this year! A very special thank you to our sponsors of this event: Genspring Family Services, Leo Goodwin Foundation, Publix Supermarket Charities, and Ann Powell for their continued support of this event. We also wish to express a thank you to all the local businesses who contribute in so many ways. Lastly, I thank all of the staff and volunteers who made this event possible and successful.

As spring approaches, I hope you will join us at the upcoming events. We will be having our yearly Volunteer Social at LeClub on March 18th from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is always a fun time to become acquainted with your Bonnet House friends. Our next General Membership Meeting and Luncheon will be held on April 22nd at Bistro Mez-zaluna and our program speaker, Ed Odabashian, will discuss the design and manufacture of Oriental rugs. On May 14th, our General Membership Meeting and Luncheon will be held at Lauderdale Yacht Club with the Installation of Officers for the upcoming year 2013 – 2014. I know you will not want to miss this wonderful event and to welcome our new officers.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support and loyal dedication to the Bonnet House Alliance. I encourage the new volunteers to take an active part in the upcoming activities. If you are interested in a board position or committee assignment for next year's events, please contact me. Each and every one of you are very important to the success of the Bonnet House Alliance.

Sincerely yours,
Sue Nesbit

Bonnet House Alliance Board for 2013-2014

I am happy to announce the slate of Officers for the upcoming year.

President - Sue Nesbit
First VP (Programs) Lois Bundy
Second VP (Membership) Claudia Keller
Third VP (Ways and Means) Susan Howell
Recording Secretary – Betsy Kornowski
Corresponding Secretary – Fran Koerner
Treasurer – Steve Schram
Nominating Chair – Peter Bundy



The Lily Pad

Newsletter of the Bonnet House Alliance



Kathy Shampaine, Sondra St. Martin, Susan Howell, Sue Nesbit

A THANK YOU FROM EEXVIII CHAIRS

Dear Staff, Alliance Members, Committee Chairs, Volunteers and Table Designers,

On behalf of the Bonnet House Alliance Entirely Entertaining XVIII Chairman and Co-Chairman, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to Chef Remi and his staff for his delicious luncheon.

To Bonnet House Staff, Alliance Members, Committee Chairs and Volunteers, we appreciate your time, talent and hard work in making EEXVIII a successful event. A special thank you to all of you for the splendid job you did at our event. Your positive attitude, enthusiasm, willingness to help, and attention to detail helped us to succeed in many ways.

To our table designers, we thank you for the beautiful and creative table designs. Without your talents, this event would not be possible. We are so proud to continue this time-honored tradition of gracious hospitality developed by Evelyn Bartlett at the Bonnet House.

To all of our sponsors, Genspring Family Services, Leo Goodwin Foundations, Publix Supermarket Charities, and Ann Powell, we extend a very special thank you for ensuring that our beloved Bonnet House legacy is preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Again, thank you to all of our valued friends and

supporters of Bonnet House.

Sondra St. Martin, Chairman and
Susan Howell, Co-Chairman

Bonnet House Alliance Save the Dates

April 17

Executive Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.; Board of Directors' 11:00 a.m. meeting
at Sue Nesbit's home, 5511 N.E 31st Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

April 22

Alliance General Membership Meeting Luncheon at Bistro Mezzaluna, 1821 SE 10th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale 33316; Cost \$30.00; R.S.V.P. to Suzan Hinckley, 334 NE 7th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 (954)764-6414

May 6

Executive Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.; Board of Directors' 11:00 a.m. meeting
at Sue Nesbit's home, 5511 N.E 31st Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308



Sandy Casteel, Fran Koerner, Marti Howland, Rosalie Rusovick, Susan Howell, Sondra St. Martin, Betsy Kornowski, Kathy Shampaine, Sue Nesbit

May 14

Alliance General Membership Meeting Luncheon (Installation of Officers for 2013-2014)
11:00 a.m. at Lauderdale Yacht Club, 1725 S.E. 12th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316; Cost \$30.00; R.S.V.P. to Sue Nesbit, 5511 NE 31st Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 (954)772-7429

Membership

Membership Renewal to Become Easier On Line

As reported in a previous newsletter, Bonnet House has purchased and is implementing a new database program called Altru. The software unites in one program event and program ticketing, tour admissions, gift shop sales, and membership tracking functions. Converting to Altru has been a major undertaking for the Bonnet House staff, but it has already streamlined many administrative tasks and is proving a useful tool in improving operating efficiencies.

**Renew
Online
Today!**

In the coming weeks, Bonnet House will be moving membership renewal notifications to email. While notices will still be mailed to those members who do not respond to electronic renewal notices (or who do not use email), this new option will make renewal easier for members who routinely conduct business on line. It will also help reduce administrative cost and make Bonnet House just a little more green in its practices. Like many other web functions, members will create a username and password to renew memberships, update contact information, and download useful reports on individual giving. Watch your email over the next few weeks for more information about this new membership renewal option.

JUST A NOTE...ABOUT MUSIC AT BONNET HOUSE (cont'd)

Steinway in the Music Room. Her musical education started early, in Chicago, and her mother, Mariah Root Birch hoped that Helen's talent would blossom under the best teachers available. Later mother and daughter traveled to the music capitals of Europe attending recitals by the leading musicians of the day.

Helen was in her mid-thirties when she met her soul-mate, the widowed Frederic, and we learn that she put aside her pursuit of a musical career when she married him. She adored 12-year old Clay, Frederic's son from his marriage to Dora Tripp, and from all reports she happily stepped into the twin roles of mother and musical mentor to him. The saxophone was Clay's instrument of choice, as we see from Frederic's fine portrait of him in the Drawing Room.



Frederic himself doesn't seem to have displayed any particular performing talent, but we know from his journal *SortofaKindofa Journal of my Own*, that during his bachelor years in Munich there were many musicians among his circle of friends, and that he had "very extravagantly" rented a Pleyel Concert Grand. That was hardly the choice of the complete musical neophyte! Pleyel pianos were the choice of the greatest concert pianists of the time, notably Polish composer Frederic Chopin, who played his first and last Paris concert in the famed Salle Pleyel, the concert hall owned by the manufacturer of these highly-prized instruments.

In his journal, Frederic tells us that while he was studying art in Munich, many of his musician friends were Hungarians. "What wild music we had. I never realized before what depths of sorrow and what heights of joy could be attained by a piano and a few stringed instruments. Sometimes the plaintive wail would just have to break into a wild dance." The musical evenings of those student days featured decanters of cheap but powerful Hungarian Tokay wine, beer, cigarettes and cheroots. "These we arranged, with a few cold cuts, on the huge studio working table like a buffet."

JUST A NOTE...ABOUT MUSIC AT BONNET HOUSE (cont'd)

(A century later at Bonnet House musical events, things may sound the same, but refreshments are a little different, and smoking is definitely not allowed!!)

In France, during his first marriage to Dora Tripp, Frederic acquired the first of a long line of family pets, a fox terrier called Binkie. And Binkie, too, has a place in the musical context of family history. "In a mistaken moment," writes Frederic, "I had taught our receptive Binkie to play the piano if he wanted his dinner. He sat upon the stool and not only pounded the notes directly in front of him, but also hit every one within reach."

At first, everyone thought this very clever and cute, but one day Frederic had had an overdose of doggie music, so he closed the lid before the dog's dinner arrived. Poor Binkie! Hearing the footsteps of the maid approaching with his meal, he jumped on to the stool to perform his usual trick and, instead, hit the closed lid with a thud. He slid to the floor crestfallen and retreated under the sofa refusing to emerge for the rest of that day.

Frederic clearly loved Europe and the lifestyle he enjoyed there, and his reminiscences are full of

the great musical personalities of the day whose performances he attended. Writing his journal thirty years later, he records hearing Melba, Padarewski, Kreisler, Toscanini... memories that he must have once loved sharing with Helen, his musically-sophisticated second wife.

Evelyn Fortune Lilly, whom Frederic married a few years after Helen's untimely death from cancer, certainly shared both his love and his talent for painting. But her musical instincts are less evident. There is, though, a pointed comment on her lack of dancing ability in one of Frederic's paintings: It's one of the series of yellow-framed folk art paintings in the courtyard, which Frederic originally painted to decorate the ceiling of their farmhouse, Nymphenglade, in Davie near Fort Lauderdale. In a self-portrait he shows himself full of verve and movement, while his companion, clearly Evelyn in Bavarian folk costume, looks painfully rigid and uncomfortable. It's as though he's saying, "Look, I've got rhythm and I'm ready to dance, while you, my dear, have two left feet..." And, indeed, at her waist, instead of her

left hand he has painted a foot!

Also there's the yellow-



framed painting of two seated at a piano. It's next to the courtyard door of Music Room.



The Bonfire of the Pianos at Atlantic City

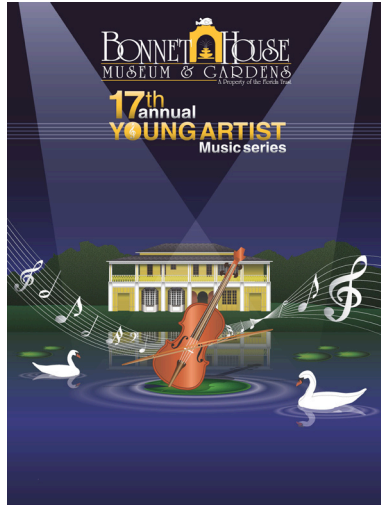
In 1904, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the National Association of Piano Dealers scored a nationwide publicity coup by burning a "funeral pyre" of a thousand square pianos on the beach. The mayor of the city officiated, and the flames of the conflagration were said to be visible for 20 miles out to sea.

The object of this extraordinary destruction was to demonstrate to the general public the worthlessness of the traditional old "square pianos," after the

introduction of the new "winged" grand pianos. For almost the whole of the previous century, a piano in the front parlour had been a prized possession, a mark of affluence and of position in society -- something to be passed down with pride to the next generation.

But when the new style of grand piano was introduced, and well-to-do citizens flocked to trade in their old ones for a new model, the piano dealers were overwhelmed. Firstly, their owners thought that because of the revered place these pianos held in the minds of the families who owned them, they were worth a great deal in trade-in value, and secondly because they just took up so much space! Hundreds of cumbersome old un-tuned pianos filled the dealers' warehouses, and even giving them away was a problem!

Helen Birch Bartlett's piano escaped the conflagration, and is now a comparatively rare example of its kind.



The Newsletter
APRIL - JUNE 2013



Top - CA & Marta from CA Catering along with donor Geri Manning at the Bartellett Circle donor reception.



Bottom - Suzanne Hinkley, Corky Bennett, Betsy Kornowski and Sue Nesbit.



Top - Gail Marshall, Carol Lucas, Joan Wolfe and Phyllis Barns.



Bottom - Staff member, Dianne Ennis & Bobbie Burke, at the Entirely Entertaining Luncheon

UPCOMING EVENTS

Concerts Under the Stars - The final concert of the Young Artist Music Series featuring Florida Grand Opera - Thursday, April 11 at 7:00pm. Tickets still available. Call (954) 703-2614 or visit bonnethouse.org.

Best of Show series scheduled to begin this summer at a local gallery.
 Be sure to visit our Facebook page for schedule and updates.