



**WARING INTERNATIONAL
PIANO COMPETITION**

High Notes

2019-2020 SEASON

SPRING ISSUE

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President
Sandy Woodson



April 30, 2020

My Dear Waring Friends,

In perilous and uncharted times, good news is a welcome respite – and good news we have in abundance!

Let's start with our fabulous fundraising fete, "Paris at Midnight," which was a grand evening of elegant, lively, exciting happenings with a most entertaining and successful auction co-anchored by our evening's Honoree, Brian Harnik. From torch singers to can-can dancers, to glorious piano fireworks by our 2019 Competition winner, Hudson Ragins, and one of our former winners, VJ Venkatesh and his talented piano partner (and new bride) Eva, it was a night of true "Joie de Vivre" – with a lot of "ooh la la"! For those of you who joined us, we thank you, and for those of you who missed this Parisien wow of a party, join us next year as we paint the town red a la New York!

Although our May Salon has been postponed, we have enjoyed quite a year of great music on all fronts, including our beautiful December salon at the home of Andy and Mary Lynn Gladstein, attended by "standing room only" avid music lovers. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Joan RuBane has been appointed our Associate Artistic Director and Producer. Joan and Artistic Director, John Bayless, have been working hard behind the scenes on our 2021 Competition and a revamping of our ever popular "Three Pianos-Six Hands™" performance, entitled "Variations on a Theme." November 4, 2020, at the McCallum Theatre. Save that Date! You won't want to miss this year's concert as John and Joan double up on surprises and musical delights!

Dolores Vinci, one of our talented part-time staffers, has been taking The Waring into small businesses in Palm Springs and Palm Desert, introducing merchants to us and encouraging both financial and professional support. We now have a growing cadre of potential supporters in our business community, thanks to Dolores' efforts.

Julisa and Juan Parker continue their musical outreach program for The Waring all the way down the East Valley with young students at the Salton Sea Elementary School. These youngsters are learning to play the piano (using our portable Waring keyboards) and finding their efforts not only musically rewarding, but also fun and producing unexpected benefits in higher scholastic performance across the board! Kudos to Julisa and Juan and to our budding young musicians.



*President
Sandy Woodson*

Our Executive Director, Ann Greer, continues to bring in grant money and to find hidden gems of support in new areas every day. Thank you, Ann, for all you do to keep The Waring on the right track! Our need to raise funds for the Competition and our outreach programs never ceases, however, and we are always happy to write “thank you” notes for contributions – especially now. So, please keep us in mind as you spend an evening contemplating how to stay active and engaged, writing a check takes hardly any energy at all, but does a world of good and I promise, you will feel happier for it!

We are so lucky, even with all that nature is throwing at us, to have each other in such times and the love and affection all of you have shown The Waring now and over the years. We are immensely grateful.

Stay healthy, stay happy and go do all those things you never had “time” to do!

Sandy Woodson

YOU

KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING!

ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE COMPETITION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

City of Palm Desert The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation Harold Matzner Donna MacMillan
JoAnn McGrath and the Highland Street Foundation Estate of Robert & Eileen “Mike” Pollock

2020 GALA PRESENTING SPONSORS

EL Paseo Jewelers Steve Tobin & Grace Helen Spearman Foundation
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PRELUDE SPONSORS

The Auen Foundation The Sirpuhe & John Conte Foundation & the Stephen Philiposian Foundation
Gwen Weiner & EOS Foundation JoAnn Wellner

NOCTURNE SPONSOR

Mary Ellen & Cooper Blanton

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Lu Barnes Peggy Cravens Dr. Elizabeth Smalley & Garth Gilpin
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Entertainment Patron - JoAnn Wellner

Cocktail Reception Patron - Penny Mason

Event Décor Patron - Peggy Cravens

Valet Parking Patron - Clarke Lewis Family Foundation - Candace Holzgrafe

Table Centerpieces Patron - Sandy Woodson

WOW!

2020

February 29th

36th

ANNIVERSARY

GALA



HONORING
Jan & Brian Harnik
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



*Greetings from Chairman
Peggy Cravens*



Thank you all our wonderful “Waring Supporters.”

Your financial assistance gives us the ability to bring this amazing international competition back to our beautiful valley every two years. It also allows The Waring to expand our outreach programs to schools as far away as Coachella, Mecca and the Salton Sea area.

I know our 2020/2021 forthcoming season will be one you certainly want to be a part of —by attending some of the outstanding events we will be presenting. On November 4th - at The McCallum Theatre-we will be offering a new version of “THREE PIANOS—SIX HANDS”— a must see. Also let me remind you in March of 2021 we’ll be presenting our SENIOR DIVISION COMPETITION at the Pollock Theatre on the College of the Desert Campus where this outstanding competition was born. The competition will be on for one week starting the last week in March. On April 5th the CONCERTO FINAL will again be at the McCallum Theatre. We hope you will avail yourself the pleasure of attending some of these Competition days, most of which are FREE of charge. You will experience the amazing talents of these international competitors.

How blessed the Waring is to have your ongoing loyalty.

Peggy Cravens

FROM THE GALA CHAIR JOANN WELLNER

I am delighted to report that the Gala was simply Tres Fantastique!!! The Westin Ballroom was transformed into an elegant Parisian Nightspot featuring tall crystal chandeliers atop hot pink table settings, 8 foot tall Eiffel Towers surrounding the hot pink bathed walls, and lovely young ladies singing French songs and doing the Can Can...that was what greeted our guests BEFORE dinner!

A wonderful French inspired meal, beautifully presented, concluded with frozen Grand Marnier souffles on plates adorned with silhouettes of Can Can dancers, outlined in hot pink sugar crystals!

Young Hudson Ragins, a 13 year old Waring Competition Winner, wowed everyone with his performance of Saint-Saen’s *Danse Macabre*, and then Vijay Ventakesh, also a Waring Competition Winner and his new bride, Eva Shaumkell, charmed the audience with a 4 hand performance of Saint Saen’s *Carnival of the Animals* and Offenbach’s *Can Can*. Between these two extraordinary performances there was a short, lively “Fund the Need” live auction, at the end of which was an opportunity drawing for a beautiful diamond necklace specially designed and donated by El Paseo jewelers for anyone who bid \$100. The auction was highly successful.

The evening’s stunning musical program concluded with a performance by the Palm Desert High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Michael Cundari, who were back by popular demand and again received a standing ovation, as indeed did all of the musical program’s performers.

By all measures, the Gala was a great success. Attendance was up, enthusiasm was palpable, we had the support of generous sponsors and our guests were beautifully turned out for the occasion!

Special thanks to Frank Goldstin and Ann Greer for their tireless efforts which were indispensable to the Gala’s success. Planning is already eagerly under way for next year!!!

JoAnn Wellner





2020 ANNUAL GALA

Paris At Midnight

THE GALA INSPIRATION TEAM

Pictured on the right—President Sandy Woodson, Chairman Peggy Cravens and 2020 Gala Chair JoAnn Wellner
Brava & Ooh La La!



The Venue—Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa was magically transformed.



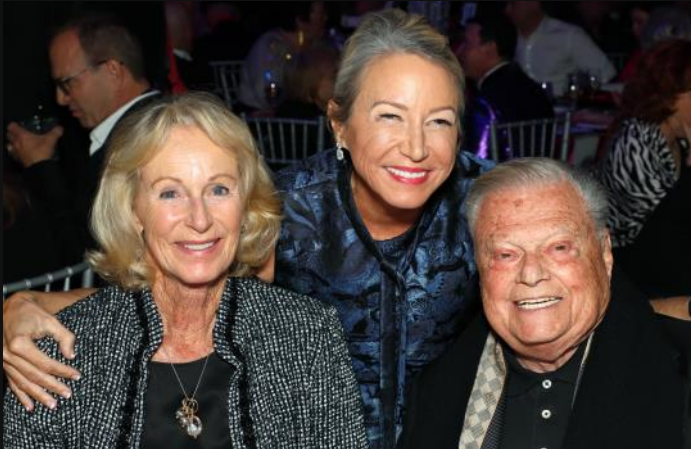
Artistic Director John Bayless (Center) with the spectacular piano duo Vijay Venkatesh and New Bride Eva Shaumkell.



Variety is the “Spice of Life” and that was definitely true at the 2020 Gala.



2020 ANNUAL GALA





2020 ANNUAL GALA





2020 ANNUAL GALA





2020 ANNUAL GALA





2020 ANNUAL GALA



YOU

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



2020

GALA OPENING PRODUCTION

Cabaret Versatile



2020 GALA ENTERTAINMENT



Hudson Ragins

2019 Waring Junior
2nd Place Solo Winner

Vieness Piano Duo

Vijay Venkatesh & Eva Shaumkell
Vijay 2007 Waring 2nd Place Intermediate Solo Winner



Chamber Singers

Palm Desert High School

Michael Cundari

PDHS Director of Vocal Music



**UPCOMING
EVENTS
2020-2021**



NOVEMBER 4, 2020

**THREE PIANOS
SIX HANDS™**

FEBRUARY 13, 2021

**THE ANNUAL
FUNDRAISING GALA**

MARCH 28

TO

APRIL 3, 2021

23RD

**WARING INTERNATIONAL
PIANO
COMPETITION**

APRIL 5, 2021

**WARING INTERNATIONAL
SENIOR
CONCERTO FINALS**

SAVE THESE DATES!



THE WARING PRESENTS

Wednesday, November 4, 2020



**Three Pianos, Six Hands™
“Variations on a Theme”
Featuring Norman Krieger, Lisa
Nakamichi and Jon Nakamatsu
with Artistic Director John Bayless
McCallum Theatre**

Saturday, February 13, 2021



**The Waring Annual
Fundraising Gala
Celebrating New York, New York
Honoring Dennis Flaig-Moore
Westin Mission Hills
Resort & Spa**

March 28 - April 3, 2021



**23rd Waring International
Piano Competition
Contestants Ages 18 to 30
College of the Desert
Palm Desert Campus**

Monday, April 5, 2021



**Waring International
Senior Concerto Finals with
Waring Festival Orchestra
under the baton of Conductor
Lucinda Carver
McCallum Theatre**

**BETTY FRANCIS
IN MEMORIAM**



*We were privileged to have known her, to have worked with
and to have honored her. She will always be special to
The Waring Family and to this amazing community which
she served so beautifully and with such spirit and wit. She
was a wonderful, loving friend and we will miss her always.
The Waring and all our friends and supporters send our love
and sympathy to the family of Betty Francis. But as Betty
would say: "Let the Music Play."*



Community Outreach

"The Waring International Piano Competition in partnership with Parker Music Academy/I.D.I innovative Educational Programs are teaching piano and music, hands on, to underserved youngsters in the East End of the Coachella Valley. Not only are they getting a chance to learn to play the piano, they also are learning communications skills, eye-to-hand motor skills, listening skills, and thinking skills—all of which spill over into their other classes and which have prompted their teachers to express delight and gratitude for this important program that expands and enriches the entire learning process for these children."

WARING INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

2021

Seniors (Ages 18 - 30)



WARING INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

The Waring is very grateful for all of our donors and volunteers for their ongoing support of the Waring International Piano Competition. Thank you for making our 2020 Fundraising Gala so successful. The funds raised go to support our 2021 Senior Competition. Since 1979, Palm Desert has been the home to an International Piano Competition. Every two years The Waring celebrates the love of classical music by attracting contestants and devotees from around the World to Celebrate the work of the Masters.

The 2021 Competition hosts senior competitors ages 18 - 30. Next year we are returning to our original home at the College of the Desert, Palm Desert Campus from March 28 through April 3rd. On April 5th the Concerto Finals will again be held at the McCallum Theatre. In the fall, our Solo 1st Price winner will perform at the prestigious Carnegie-Weill Hall in New York City.

Thank you for enabling us to bring this amazing and inspirational talent to the Coachella Valley for all of us to experience and enjoy!

In addition to the biennial International Piano Competition, The Waring provides educational and community outreach programs that attract all ages. For the underserved schools in the Valley communities, it includes hands-on piano lessons in the classroom and musical performances by Waring Artists. With performing arts among the first programs slashed by budget cuts in schools today, it is crucial to support programs that expose youngsters to classical music. Bringing the joy of playing classical music and performance to our youth ignites their learning aptitude, self-esteem, creativity and social interaction.

KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING

SUPPORT THE WARING — BE A KEY PLAYER

OUR VISION

Classical Music: Alive and Well In the Contemporary World



*CJ Westrick-Bomar, Esq.
Editor and VP Marketing*