

Biographies for 2018-2019 RPYO Board Members



Susan Basu, Ex-Officio Board Member
RPYO Manager 1993-2016



Barbara Brown, RPO Director of Education, Ex-Officio Board Member

Barbara joined the RPO in 2008 and, as the Director of Education, organizes all of the orchestra's education and community engagement concerts and events. Barbara has her bachelor's degree in saxophone performance and anthropology from the University of Washington. In 2008, she received her master's degree in saxophone performance and a performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music.



Maria Donnelly, Treasurer, Voting Board Member

Maria is the current treasurer and proud parent of 2 RPYO members - Brianna who plays the oboe and Ryan trumpet. Maria has been involved as a dedicated RPYO volunteer for the RPYO Retreats and fundraising galas.



Vicky Feathers, Voting Board Member

Vicky has been teaching instrumental and general music in public and private schools, in the states of Wyoming and New York, since 1979. She is a graduate of Ithaca College. Through her private music studio, "Joysounds", Vicky established instrumental music programs in two private schools. Theatrically, she has performed roles on stage, as well as played in pit orchestras, (on woodwinds), for many community musicals. Vicky has been a performer in: The Eastman Community Music School Music Educator's Wind Ensemble, The Hilton Gazebo Band, The Brockport Symphony Orchestra, The Kendall Community Band, The Clarinet Collection, "Remix" (female vocal quartet), a fife and drum corp, some New Horizon ensembles (clarinet choir, Vintage Jazz, flute choir), and toured with the Continental Singers and Brass. She is also a vocal/instrumental soloist for area functions, which included singing "The Star Spangled Banner" while conducting one of her instrumental ensembles for a Red Wings game!

Vicky has been an active member in church, sharing music as a worship leader, as well as a team musician. She has conducted children and adult choirs, instrumental ensembles, directed children's musicals, and has composed and arranged music for the groups she's worked with, as well as for her own performances.

Vicky has two wonderful children. Her daughter Jessica, was an oboist in the RPYO for two incredible years! Her son, Chaz, also plays a mean tenor sax! Vicky and her husband Charles (better known as Chick) live in Hamlin. A few of the things they enjoy are: kayaking, cross country skiing, tennis, camping, photography, and playing with their dog!

Vicky has been on the RPYO board for several years, and finds it important to be a part of promoting the advancement of the RPYO as a high quality music experience for the talented youth of today.



Jeanne Gray, Voting Board Member

Jeanne is a retired music teacher having taught at Corning CSD, Webster CSD, Rush Henrietta CSD and served as advisor to the music programs at Brighton CSD and Avon CSD. Jeanne is currently a member of the viola section of Penfield Symphony Orchestra and serves on PSO Board of Directors. In the past she has served as a member Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Board helping to establish the Education Program as it is today and member of the Committee for a Quality Philharmonic (CQP). Jeanne has chaired the Monroe County School Music Association Board and served as VP and President of New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). She was awarded the NYSSMA Distinguished Service Award in 1997. Jeanne is a graduate of Ithaca College (Bachelors in Music Education), Cornell University (Masters in History) and the University of Rochester (Masters in Administration).

**David Harman, RPYO Music Director Emeritus RPYO Interim Music Director (January-May 2019), Ex-Officio Board Member**

David Harman was Music Director of the RPYO 1993-2014. Dr. Harman received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music and has conducted widely throughout the United States and abroad. In 2017 David retired as Professor of Music at the University of Rochester and as Music Director of its Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Dr. Harman currently serves as Music Director of the Penfield Symphony Orchestra. He has been honored by the Monroe County School Music Association and by Mu Phi Epsilon, the international association of professional musicians, for his significant contributions to the musical life of Rochester.

**Rus Healy, Voting Board Member**

Rus Healy is a longtime Rochester area resident who is an avid supporter of nonprofit organizations and classical music. He has served on the boards of Habitat for Humanity of New York State and Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County. Both of Rus's children are alumni of the RPYO: Gwen, class of 2015, is a graduate student in music therapy; and Trevor, class of 2018, is an undergrad in music education. Gwen and Trevor both chose their career paths in part as a result of their experiences in RPYO. Rus began volunteering for RPYO retreats in 2011 and was retreat coordinator from 2013 through 2017, and now supports the RPYO retreat in an advisory role. He has been a member of the board since 2016.

**Dave Lane, Board Chair, Voting Board Member**

Dave has served as RPYO Board Chair since 2014 and also serves on the RPO board as Education Chair. Dave is a graduate of Eastman School of Music and is a local small business owner.

**Michael Loeb, Voting Board Member**

Born and raised in Rochester, NY, Michael Loeb began playing violin at age 4. He proudly joined the RPYO as a sophomore at Brighton High School and stayed a member thru my graduation. He has extremely fond memories of rehearsals with Dr. Harman, retreats, and holiday concerts in the mall. After high school Michael attended Swarthmore college and played in the orchestra there. He then moved to Syracuse for medical school and residency. He eagerly returned to Rochester and has lived in Brighton and even played some with the Brighton Symphony since 2010. Michael is the proud father of 3 boys (Zachary, Jonah, and Oliver), living at home with the boys, my wife Chantal, and our dog and 4 cats. He works full time with Rochester Regional Health Immediate Care and enjoys working out and helping to coordinate Zoobilation in his rare spare time.

**Molly McDonald, RPO Liaison, Ex-Officio Board Member**

A native of Fairway, Kansas, Molly joined the RPO in October of 2013 as Acting Assistant Principal Second Violin. She has been playing in the first violin section since September 2014. With a Bachelor of Music degree and a Certificate in World Music, McDonald was one of RPO Concertmaster Juliana Athayde's first students at Eastman. McDonald then continued on to complete a Master of Music degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music with William Preucil, concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra. McDonald grew up playing music with both of her parents, and gained exposure to chamber music and orchestral playing through local festivals in Kansas City. In the coming years she attended many other summer festivals including the Interlochen Arts Camp, the Castleman String Quartet Program, the Round Top Festival Institute, the National Repertory Orchestra, Music Academy of the West, and the Tanglewood Institute. Prior to the RPO, she was Assistant Principal Second Violin of the Canton Symphony Orchestra, and she has made appearances with the Kansas City Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the New World Symphony. During her education, McDonald explored Early Music, Balinese Gamelan, folk, and many other styles of music. She is passionate about teaching and playing chamber music, and continues to do both in addition to her position with the RPO.



Dr. James Mick, Music Director, Ex-Officio Board Member

Dr. James Mick is an associate professor of music education at Ithaca College in upstate New York. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in string pedagogy, orchestral rehearsal techniques, instrumental conducting, psychology of music teaching, and contemporary ensembles. A passionate music educator and ardent supporter of public school music programs, Dr. Mick is the immediate past-president of the New York American String Teachers Association and he frequently works with public school students of all ages and abilities. A popular guest conductor, he has been invited to work with students in a variety of settings ranging from individual school and all-district events to all-county and all-state honor festivals. Recent and upcoming all-state orchestra appearances include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, New York, Ohio, and Wyoming. In 2017, he led the RPYO in concert at the esteemed Carnegie Hall in New York City. Dr. Mick is also the past music director of the Ithaca Community Orchestra where he proudly worked with a diverse group of musicians who represented a wide range of ages and experiences. His primary conducting mentors are Alexander Jiménez and Germán Gutiérrez. An active clinician, Dr. Mick has presented at many local, state, and national conferences including the *American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Conference* and the *Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic*. He has also been the featured orchestra/strings clinician at the Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Texas state conferences, and an invited guest speaker at a variety of higher education institutions. An active performer, Dr. Mick has performed double bass with a wide array of ensembles throughout the country including *Symphoria!* in Syracuse, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra, Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Lone Star Wind Symphony, Central New York Winds, Galen Jeter Big Band, Johnny Case Trio, and even a rock band that performed on Austin's 6th Street during the famed South-by-Southwest music festival. He has performed for and taken masterclasses with Gary Karr, Paul Ellison, Jeff Bradetich, Hal Robinson, David Murray, and Joel Quarrington. His primary double bass teachers include Mark Foley, Nicholas Scales, and Henry Neubert. In addition to his playing, Dr. Mick maintains a small private studio of double bass players who often go on to study double bass as music majors in higher education. Originally a native of Kansas, Dr. Mick has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Texas, and high school orchestra and jazz in New York. Dr. Mick holds degrees in Music Education from Florida State University (Ph.D.), Ithaca College (M.M.), and Texas Christian University (B.M.E.). His research interests include performance perceptions, string instrument vibrato, and music preferences. He has most recently published articles in the *Bulletin for the Council of Research in Music Education*, *Contributions to Music Education*, *Music Educators Journal*, and *String Research Journal* along with several state music education journals. He also recently completed a book chapter for the *Oxford Handbook of Preservice Music Teacher Education in the United States* published by Oxford University Press and he is working on another book chapter for the 4th volume of the *Teaching Music through Performance in Orchestra* series published by GIA Publications. Outside of his academic pursuits, Dr. Mick is an avid bicyclist who enjoys spending time with his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Moore, DVM, restoring their c.1883 downtown Ithaca home.



Irene Narotsky, RPYO Manager, Ex-Officio Board Member

Irene was named RPYO Manager in 2016. Prior to that she was the Interim Executive Director of Hillel at the University of Rochester, Interim Executive Director of Hillel at Ithaca College and had a 23-year career as a Kodak research engineer. Irene is in her 10th year as a Pittsford School Board Member and is the Secretary of the Temple B'rith Kodesh's Board of Trustees. She currently serves as a member of the Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA) Steering Committee, as Co-Chair of the MCSBA Labor Relations Committee, as a University of Rochester Writing Program Real Reader (providing mentorship to engineering students), and as Co-President of her Neighborhood Association. Irene holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester. She is the proud mom of three sons, one of whom is an RPYO alum. A naturalized citizen, Irene is proud to call Rochester and America her home.



Linda Orgar, Voting Board Member

Linda is Brighton Central School District retired instrumental music teacher. She holds memberships in the American String Teachers Association, the NYS String Teachers Association, the Suzuki Association of America, NAfME, and NYSSMA. Linda teaches private viola and violin lessons and tutors students at the Rochester Family Mission. She performs in the Finger Lakes Symphony and the Eastman Hammer Dulcimer Ensemble while still learning to play the Hammer Dulcimer at the Eastman Community School. As an alumni parent Linda together with her husband, Jim, served as Co-Chairs of the Parents Advisory Committee. "It is so interesting to be on the Board now and to have a part in helping to promote the high standards that the RPYO has enjoyed in the past."



Jim Orgar, Voting Board Member

Jim is a retired instrumental music teacher from the Brighton Central School District where I taught for forty-two years. During that period I have served in various positions in the Monroe County School Music Association and NYSSMA including being president of both organizations. In addition to the RPYO Board, I am currently serving as Chair of the NYSSMA Resolutions Committee, All State Brass Adjudicator, editor of the trombone solo section of the NYSSMA Manual and Director of the Brighton Summer Arts Camp. My major instrument is the trombone. I am a member of the Eastman Music Educators Wind Ensemble, the Penfield Symphony, the Finger Lakes Symphony and the Finger Lakes Concert Band. During my career and now in retirement, I have found a great deal of satisfaction working with other folks all who have a passion to play music and to promote music in the community and in our schools. They are a wonderful group of people.



Brian Scudder, Voting Board Member

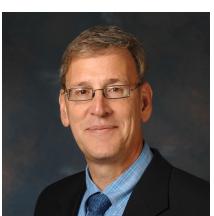


Kelly Scudder, Voting Board Member

Kelly graduated from Fredonia State College with a degree in Finance and received her MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business. She was the Mortgage Department Manager at the Pittsford Federal Credit Union until becoming a mother to Audrey in 2001. Currently a "professional volunteer", Kelly's primary focus is the Lower School Library at The Harley School. Her daughter Audrey is in her 3rd year as a member of the viola section and this is Kelly's second year as a member of RPYO board. She chaperoned for the Carnegie Hall trip as well as for the past two RPYO retreats (where working in the kitchen is always a bunch of fun – really!). Her musical background includes singing as a member of school chorus from 5th to 12th grade and as a former choir member at Christ Episcopal Church in Pittsford. Audrey's passion for music has added a whole new dimension to our family life.



Dan Stare, Voting Board Member



Frederic A. Weingarten, Voting Board Member

After 34 years in public school education, Fred retired from the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, where he served as the Director of Music and Visual Arts. He supervises student teachers from Ithaca College, and in the past has worked with student teachers from Nazareth College and SUNY Fredonia. In 2017, he was a member of the Learning Standards for the Arts Revision Committee in Music, adapting the National Core Arts Standards for New York State. Fred has participated in various activities related to arts education, and currently serves as Chairman for the NYSSMA Curriculum Committee. He is a NYSSMA Certified All-State percussion adjudicator; on the Board of Directors for the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra; and has served as Co-Chair of the Rochester Area Council of Administrators of Music Education (RACAME), and President of the Board for Park Avenue Dance. He has been recognized for his contributions to music education, having been honored by the Monroe County School Music Association as the recipient of the Richard H. Snook Award for significant contributions to music education (2007); recipient of the Outstanding Music Educator's Award in the Special Recognition Category, given by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (1998); awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for participation in the Education and Outreach Committee of the RPO (2001); and received the Distinguished Service Award from NYSSMA (2013). He has presided at conferences regarding arts advocacy and the restructuring of school curricula according to state and national standards. Fred earned his BM degree (with Performance Certificate) from Crane School of Music; MM from Ithaca College; and administrative certification from Brockport College. He is a life long resident of the greater Rochester area, and enjoys bicycling, photography and performing in the Eastman Community School Music Educators Wind Ensemble.



Roxanne Willard, Voting Board Member

Roxanne has been a member of the RPYO board since 2014. Her daughter, Rachel, played flute and piccolo in the orchestra for two years. Roxanne has been a chaperone for the Carnegie Hall trip in 2013, and four retreats. Some of her favorite retreat memories are waking to the rumble of timpani, and hearing the Brass sneak around to perform their morning "reveille". She holds a Bachelors degree in Music Literature from the University of Miami, and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Buffalo. Roxanne currently works as School Librarian in the East Rochester School District and is active as a saxophonist the Honeoye Falls Community Concert Band and the Phoenix Community Band in Phoenix, NY. Her favorite RPYO memory is seeing the orchestra perform a brand new piece in Carnegie Hall.



Jo Whang , Ex-Officio Board Member

Jo served as Parent Chairperson in the 1988-1989 season. This was a volunteer position then fulfilling the duties of the current RPYO Manager. In 1989 RPO created a staff position of RPYO Manager. Jo served in this staff position for seven seasons: Sept 1989-June 1993. Jo has been a board member from 1989 to the present.



Cindy Yancey, Voting Board Member

Cindy Yancey lives in Rochester NY with her husband Geff. Cindy was born and raised in Clarence NY, where she attended school and started her lifelong love, MUSIC! She played in various high school groups including the Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Stage Band, Pit Orchestra, Marching Band, All State and All County Bands, playing clarinet, alto clarinet, and baritone sax. She had the opportunity to study under Ron Sutherland and Bob Lehner. Cindy continued her music interest through college at the University at Buffalo playing clarinet with the Concert Band. Subsequently Cindy played with the Tonawanda American Legion band and in the pit orchestra for Mid-Lakes School productions. In 1994 Cindy joined the Perinton Concert Band playing clarinet and baritone sax and has been a member of the Board of Directors for more than half of that time, serving as Member-at-Large, Vice Chair and Chair for the past seven years. Cindy's career started in Quality Control for General Mills, then as Quality Manager for Cadbury Schweppes Beverages. Next her career moved to strategic sourcing with Heluva Good Cheese and later Bausch & Lomb. She recently retired after fifteen years from Constellation Brands, where she served as VP of Global Strategic Sourcing. Cindy has been involved in and continues to enjoy numerous community activities including the Women's Giving Circle (WGC) which is an extension of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The WGC is focused on helping disadvantaged young women to lead independent and successful lives. Cindy loves animals and has volunteered at Lollypop Farm. Cindy and her husband are members of the DeTocqueville Society of the United Way, and the Cornerstone Society of Rochester Regional Health, where they are supporting efforts focused on customer service. Cindy is a member of the Country Club of Rochester, and the Chatterbox Club. She enjoys playing tennis, gardening, helping to manage their farm in Wayne county and has recently joined the Webster Village Band.