

LEROY ANDERSON

F O U N D A T I O N

SPRING 2023

Concerts at the Leroy Anderson House have taken place since 2018 during the months of September through mid June. Performances are indoors October through April. Concerts are outdoors on the terrace and lawn in May, June and September.

Yale Octet Southbury Public Library Friday, May 12, 2023

The Yale Octet from the Yale School of Music will perform the Octet in F Major by Franz Schubert at the Southbury Public Library on Friday, May 12, 2023 at 3:30 pm. The concert is made possible by the Leroy Anderson Foundation.

Candlewood Brass Quintet Leroy Anderson House Saturday, May 20, 2023

The Candlewood Brass Quintet will present an outdoor concert of classical and popular music at the Leroy Anderson House at 3:00 pm. The Rain Date for this concert will be the following day, Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 pm.

The musicians are Ed Dickman, Trumpet, Anthony Nunes, Trumpet, Margaret Fitzgerald, Horn, Mike Fitzgerald, Trombone, John Gaiser, Tuba. The quintet will give the world premiere of the Thomas Hundemer arrangement of *Summer Skies* by Leroy Anderson. This concert is given in memory of Eleanor Anderson.

Westfarms Quartet Leroy Anderson House Saturday, June 10, 2023

The Westfarms Quartet will perform the Beethoven String Quartet No. 13 in Bb Major, Op. 130. The Outdoor concert is at 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Admission is free but reservations are required. The Rain Date for this concert will be the following day, Sunday, June 11 at 3:00 pm.



Leroy Anderson House, April 2023

Photograph by Marc Russell

NEWS and NOTES

Open Days

The **Leroy Anderson House** welcomed visitors on most weekends in November and December of 2022, and in February, March and April of 2023. People came from towns in western Connecticut, New York City and Lincolnshire, England.

One of the busiest weekends for visitors to the Leroy Anderson House each year is on **Connecticut Open House Day**. Of all of the historic sites that are open on that day in Connecticut, the Leroy Anderson House is one of the few sites which holds a live concert and is open on both Saturday & Sunday, June 10 and 11, 2023. Admission is free.

Volunteers for the Leroy Anderson Foundation

Thanks go to our volunteers who helped to make our events a success: Deb and Mitch Chester, Darcy Thurrott, Adrian, Cynthia, Zander and Simeon Bos, Lin Darcourt, Gillian Griswold, Polly Kacerguis, Fran McDougall and Sandy Carlson.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Leroy Anderson Foundation for their membership donations and for volunteering on Open Days and Concerts.

Rita Porfiris and Anton Miller

Leroy Anderson was celebrated at the [Woodbury Public Library](#) in January 2023. The Gallery featured an exhibit of materials from the Leroy Anderson House. Violinist [Anton Miller](#) and violist [Rita Porfiris](#) gave a superb concert on Saturday, January 7, 2023. Their program included music by [Leroy Anderson](#), [Irving Berlin](#), [George Gershwin](#), [Aaron Copland](#), [Victor Herbert](#) and [Jerome Kern](#).

Many thanks to the [Woodbury Public Library](#), the [Woodbury Library Gallery Committee](#) and the [Friends of the Woodbury Library](#).

Tackar till (thanks to) Anton and Rita who moved permanently to Iceland the following day.



Anton Miller, violin and Rita Porfiris, viola

Photograph by Marc Russell



Adella Carlson, clarinet

Photograph by Marc Russell

Adella Carlson

Adella Carlson of Woodbury gave a recital at the Leroy Anderson House on Grassy Hill Road on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. She presented a program of contemporary clarinet music by living women composers.

Adella is currently enrolled in a Master of Music Performance program of study at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Adella has been playing the clarinet since she was 10 years old. She graduated from Nonnewaug High School and Eastern Connecticut State University with a B.A. in Music.

Darcy Thurrott of Woodbury greeted the audience of thirty people on behalf of the Friends of the Leroy Anderson Foundation. "It was an inspiring and beautiful afternoon of excellent music," commented Sharon Sherman of Woodbury.

"Performing at the Leroy Anderson House was a wonderful experience," said Adella.

"The audience was warm, welcoming, and enthusiastic; the acoustics were beautiful; I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to perform at the composer's home in Woodbury, my hometown."

VIDEO: Adella Carlson



Ilan Zajtman and Riana Heath

Ilan Zajtman, piano and **Riana Heath**, violin, presented a program of music by Chopin, Ravel, and Beethoven at the Leroy Anderson House on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Zajtman and Ms. Heath performed the **Polonaise Fantaisie in A-flat major**, Op. 61 by **Chopin**, the “**Posthume**” Violin Sonata no.1 by **Ravel**, and the **Violin Sonata** no.10 by **Beethoven**. As an encore, they played **The Music in My Heart** by **Leroy Anderson**.

Mr. Zajtman was born in Lyons, France into a family of musicians. He studied piano at the **Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse** in Lyons and in Paris. Ilan has been a student of piano at the **Yale Graduate School of Music** since 2020.

Mr. Zajtman states that he approaches great works with humility, fully abiding by the words of Franco-Swiss pianist and conductor Alfred Cortot (1877-1962):

"A great artist is not the one who is ignorant of technique but the one who forgets it".

Riana Heath is an outstanding American-Japanese violinist who expresses herself passionately in both solo and chamber music. Often praised for her warm and soulful sound, she has given public performances in various concert halls throughout Europe, North America and Southeast Asia, providing her audiences with a wide range of repertoire.

Ms. Heath has lived in Montreal, Canada and Salzburg, Austria and has studied violin and viola with many of the world's leading violinists and quartets in the United States and in Europe. Currently a recipient of the Stephen & Denise Adams Scholarship, Ms. Heath is pursuing her Master of Music degree at the **Yale School of Music** under the tutelage of Prof. **Syoko Aki Erle** and Prof. **Soovin Kim**.



Ilan Zajtman, piano and Riana Heath violin

Photograph by Marc Russell

"I feel incredibly blessed to be able to play the violin. It gives me a sense of purpose and belonging in this world - that is to bring people together and share the joy of music. As a musician I try my best to give musical experiences which uplifts and enriches the hearts and souls of humanity. Music is such a magical language that connects people from all around the world. Although I'm fluent in five languages, I consider music to be by far my favorite means of communication"

- Riana Heath



Westfarms Quartet

Photograph by Marc Russell

STRINGS AT A COMPOSER'S HOME by Howard Fielding

Leroy Anderson was the mid-century modern composer whose home in Woodbury, Connecticut was appropriately Mid-Century Modern. The house is owned by the composer's family foundation and is open on select weekends as a museum of his life and legacy. Several times a year, the home hosts concerts as part of a series. Usually these are outdoors on the lawn, but some more intimate performances have been in the living room around the composer's piano.

The performance by the Westfarms Quartet that was originally scheduled for June took place Saturday, September 10, 2022. The Connecticut-based quartet features regulars Mike Winer, violin, and Dylan Lomangino, viola. On Saturday, they were joined by Selah Kwak on violin and Kaila Piscitelli on cello.

The Leroy Anderson House is in a quiet residential neighborhood perfect for an afternoon concert. Acoustics were fine for the nuanced performance of Mendelssohn's Quartet No. 2 in A Minor Op. 13 and Haydn's "Sunrise" Quartet No. 63 in Bb Major, Op. 76, No. 4. The quartet was accompanied only by the birds and crickets of the surrounding woods.

The quartet performed Anderson's "Blue Tango" as an encore, much as the Boston Pops would with the composer's works at the end of a concert. "Blue Tango," Anderson's first big hit, sounds quite different when played by a string quartet but still delighted the audience.

Afterward, a newcomer to the concert series described the afternoon as "a little bit of Tanglewood" - which is exactly what it was meant to be.

Tanglewoodbury. It sort of has a ring to it, doesn't it ?

- Howard Fielding, September 2022



Imperial Brass
In Concert May 21 2022

Leroy Anderson House
Woodbury, Connecticut
National Register of Historic Places

Imperial Brass

The Imperial Brass Band of Westfield, New Jersey gave a superb concert at the Leroy Anderson House on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 3:00 pm. The audience and the band appreciated the deep shade and gentle breeze which added to the enjoyment of the band's fine musicianship.

The program, titled "Americans We", included music by Leroy Anderson, George Gershwin, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Henry Fillmore, Adrian Drover, Dag Wirén and Emil Söderström.

Formed in 1991, the 25-member Imperial Brass is conducted by Ronald Waiksnoris. The Imperial Brass is one of the best brass bands in the US. They have recorded many of Leroy Anderson's compositions all superbly arranged by Mark Freeh.

Watch this video of images by Marc Russell from the concert set to Serenata by Leroy Anderson recorded in 2017 by the Imperial Brass for their compact disc.



[Video link: Imperial Brass](#)

Imperial Brass

Photograph by Marc Russell

**Many thanks to the
Friends of the Leroy Anderson
Foundation
for their membership donations
and for volunteering
on Open Days and Concerts.**

**Please support the programs
at the Leroy Anderson House.
Thank you !**

Link: [Donation Form](#)

Joseph Darcourt Takeshi Nagayasu

Beethoven Sonatas

Sunday, April 24, 2022 3 p.m.

Pianist Takeshi Nagayasu performed Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A Major Opus 101, movements 1, 2, 3, and 4. Cellist Joseph Darcourt and Mr. Nagayasu performed the Beethoven Cello Sonata in A Major Opus 69, movements 1, 2 and 3. Joseph and Takeshi also performed "Forgotten Dreams" by Leroy Anderson.

Takeshi Nagayasu is a student in the master's program at Yale School of Music. He received his B.A. in Piano from Juilliard. This was Mr. Nagayasu's first performance at the Leroy Anderson House.

Joseph **Darcourt** began to study cello in 2016 at age 10. He was a student of John Popham at Juilliard MAP from 2017-19. Since September 2019, Joseph has been a student of Astrid Schween in Juilliard's Pre-college Division. Over the past six years, Joseph has been a part of the String Ensemble, Symphony, and Orchestra first in MAP and then in Pre-college, respectively.

In summer 2018, he participated in the Interlochen Junior Strings Camp; in summer 2019, he participated in the BU Tanglewood Junior Strings Intensive and the Sphinx Performance Academy at Juilliard; in the summers of 2020 and 2021, he participated in the online Vivac-e Cello Festival and International Cello Institute, respectively.

Joseph had his Carnegie Hall debut in 2019 at age 12. At that time Joseph Darcourt was named the first place winner of the international American Protégé Concerto and Musical Talent competitions. In 2023, he received the Gold Medal award for the AADGT 'Passion of Music' Festival and subsequently performed back in Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. He is from Long Island, New York.



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MUSIC FROM THE LEROY ANDERSON HOUSE

Schumann Cello Concerto

Sunday, March 26, 2023

On Sunday, March 26, 2023 **Joseph Darcourt** and **Takeshi Nagayasu** performed the **Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129**, Mov. 1, 2 and 3 by **Robert Schumann**. Not satisfied with their performance of the third movement, Mr. Darcourt and Mr. Nagayasu approved the video made by **Mark Thayer** of Pomfret, Connecticut of the first two movements of the Schumann Cello Concerto. The video may be viewed on the YouTube channel of the **Leroy Anderson Foundation**.

VIDEO: Darcourt / Nagayasu perform Schumann Cello Concerto



LEROY ANDERSON HOUSE

Historic House Museum

The Leroy Anderson House was the home of the American composer Leroy Anderson and his wife Eleanor Anderson. Leroy Anderson commissioned Modernist architect Joseph Stein to design the house which was built in 1953. The Leroy Anderson House was named to the National Register of Historical Places on December 31, 2012. Following the death of Eleanor Anderson, the house and surrounding 35 acres were transferred to the Leroy Anderson Foundation, a non-profit, charitable organization, and was designated as a historic house museum on March 27, 2018.



Trumbull Public Schools Music Educators

Trumbull Public Schools Music teacher Yulia Fedorov organized a visit to the Leroy Anderson House for 25 music educators from the Trumbull Public Schools on Monday, March 21, 2022. The music teachers enjoyed learning about Leroy Anderson and seeing where he lived and worked. Mild temperatures and sunshine enabled the group to enjoy a catered lunch outdoors on the terrace.



The whole experience was very inspiring and I am still thinking about it daily. You gave me and my colleagues something precious that will stay with us and that we can impart to our students. Everything was absolutely wonderful! Bravissimo!

Mike McGrath,
K-12 Music Team Leader
Trumbull Public Schools
Trumbull, Connecticut

Short video of scenes at the Leroy Anderson House in Spring with music by Yulia Fedorov.



[Video link: Leroy Anderson House](#)

Late Summer - Early Autumn

Westfarms Quartet

Leroy Anderson House

Saturday, September 9, 2023

The Westfarms Quartet will present a concert of classical music on the Terrace and Lawn at the Leroy Anderson House. The Rain Date for this concert will be the following day - Sunday, September 10 at 3:00 pm. Admission is free but reservations are required.

Arts Alliance of Woodbury

Leroy Anderson House

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

The Leroy Anderson Foundation is pleased to welcome the Arts Alliance of Woodbury for one of their quarterly gatherings to socialize and discuss members' current projects.

Fanfare Brass Quintet

Leroy Anderson House

Sunday, September 24, 2023

The Fanfare Brass Quintet will present a concert of music for brass instruments. The first half of the program will include music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical periods. The second half of the program will feature popular music from American musicals. The concert will take place on the Terrace and Lawn at the Leroy Anderson House. Admission is free but reservations are required.

Exploring the Creative Process

Leroy Anderson House

Autumn 2023

Presentations and workshops in various visual art forms will be presented by area artists. These programs are being curated and organized by Sandy Carlson, author, teacher and Woodbury's Poet Laureate. Detailed information about each program will be available this Summer.

Paintings and Sculpture

The Private Art Collection

of Leroy and Eleanor Anderson

Leroy Anderson House

The Leroy Anderson Foundation has begun a project to research and document the private collection of paintings, water colors, prints, photographs and sculpture of Leroy and Eleanor Anderson.



Significant works in the collection include *The Firebird* which Leroy Anderson commissioned from Woodbury artist [Russell Benjamin Huff](#), the portrait of Leroy Anderson which Eleanor Anderson commissioned from [Isabel Wadsworth](#) and a sculpture which Leroy Anderson commissioned from [William H.M. Talbot](#).

The project will culminate in a publication featuring descriptions of the art as researched by art curator [Marc Chabot](#), photographs of each work by photographer [Marc Russell](#) and biographies of the artists including [Woldemar Neufeld](#), [Claire Leighton](#) and [Virginia Murray](#).



Thanks to all those who have made donations in support of the programs at the Leroy Anderson House. Become a Friend of the Leroy Anderson Foundation. Your tax-deductible donation in any amount is appreciated. Thank you !

Link: [Donation Form](#)