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**[www.theatreguildsimsbury.org](http://www.theatreguildsimsbury.org)**

## Elizabeth Paonessa

IT IS WITH GREAT RESPECT AND AFFECTION THAT WE REMEMBER ELIZABETH PAONESSA WHO PASSED AWAY ON THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2004 AT THE AGE OF 92.

ELIZABETH UTAH (PALMIERI) PAONESSA, of Bloomfield, wife of the late Louis Paonessa, died Thursday, (July 29, 2004) at Greenbriar Health Center in Nashua, NH. She was born in New Britain, daughter of the late Genaro and Marie (Ronccanella) Palmieri and had lived in Simsbury prior to moving to Bloomfield several years ago. Mrs. Paonessa worked at the Travelers Insurance Company, for the U.S. government during World War II and as a buyer for Raphael's and Sage Allen Department Stores. After the death of her husband in 1978, she moved to Simsbury and became active in community, theatrical, and political organizations. She served as secretary and board member for the Seniors of Simsbury, co-founded a seniors' bridge group, held several offices during her membership in the Farmington Valley Chapter of AARP and worked for the historical society of Simsbury. She was a member and Parliamentary Chair for the Woman's Club of Simsbury, a member of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, member of the Affordable Housing Coalition and hosted Christmas house tours as a fund raiser for ABC house. Elizabeth was secretary of the Simsbury chapter of A Connecticut Party, campaigned for several political candidates, regardless of political affiliation, and served as Justice of the Peace for Simsbury. Mrs. Paonessa had received the first Hometown Hero award given by the town of Simsbury and was the only person to receive the award a second time just a few years later. She was a member of the biography society of Avon where she portrayed Catherine the Great and Mary Todd Lincoln. She played a woman stricken with Alzheimer's disease in "About Mama," an instructional tape for Child and Family Services, Inc. She started performing with the Theatre Guild of Simsbury in 1985, when she played the Queen of Transylvania in "My Fair Lady" She acted in "Life with Elizabeth," "Oceana" and other original works for local theatre groups. Elizabeth is survived by her two daughters and a son-in-law, Carole and Gordon Clarke of Amherst, NH and Darcie Peterson of Bloomfield; three grandchildren, Adam Clarke, Elissa Kahn and Louisa Sokolowski; eight great grandchildren and one great, great granddaughter. She was predeceased by her six brothers and sisters. For many of us, Elizabeth is like a unicorn - a free spirit who is forever young.



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## Bill Albert & John Callahan Memorial Production Design Scholarship Fund

In memory of Bill Albert and John Callahan, we are accepting donations for our new scholarship fund called the Bill Albert & John Callahan Memorial Production Design Scholarship Fund. This fund will allow the Theatre Guild of Simsbury to present a scholarship each year to a Simsbury High School graduating senior who is interested in pursuing a career in production set design. In this way, we believe we can foster interest in and commitment to set design and construction, two skills that are always needed in community theatre and professional theatres alike.

We would also like to thank those of you who have donated to this scholarship this past year. It is a wonderful way to encourage students to pursue this field and eventually contribute their talents to the community theatres down the road.

Our first recipient of this scholarship was Greg Maine who graduated from Simsbury High School in June, 2004 and is now attending Central Connecticut State University and studying production design.

Donations may be made in the name of Theatre Guild of Simsbury for the Bill Albert & John Callahan Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Simsbury Bank. Your donations can be made directly at the bank or you can mail your donations to the Theatre Guild of Simsbury, P.O. Box 1776, Simsbury, CT 06070.

We are also accepting donations for our long-standing scholarship, the Theatre Guild Scholarship, given to Simsbury High School graduating seniors in recognition of excellence in the performing arts. The 2004 scholarship was awarded to Nick Barone.

For any further information, please call 673-6302.



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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Theatre Guild of Simsbury is a volunteer organization with many people donating their time and expertise. We are proud and honored to have such volunteers in our midst. With the addition of our Studio Theatre of non-musical plays and other endeavors, our need for individuals who want to lend their time and talents grows. To continue the high caliber productions we've been known for these past 31 years, we need your help.

### **We need:**

- ♦ **Board Members**
- ♦ **Production Support:**  
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- ♦ **Fund Raisers/Special Events Coordinators**
- ♦ **Grant Development**

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### **MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

Tracy Arcari, Chip Janiszewski, Amanda Maragnano, Foster Reese, Dianne Rothenberg

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### ACT ONE

**Scene 1:** *Printing House Square*

**Scene 2:** *Bartholdi's Studio in Paris*

**Scene 3:** *Bennett's Office*

**Scene 4:** *The Quai by the Pont Ste. Michel (Under a Paris Bridge)*

### Act II

**Scene 1:** *Cabin on RMS "Aurania"*

**Scene 2:** *Crossover (The Waterfront)*

**Scene 3:** *North River Dock*

**Scene 4:** *Train Scene (On Tour)*

**Scene 5:** *Salon in the Fifth Avenue Hotel*

**Scene 6:** *Outside Walballa Hall*

**Scene 7:** *Inside Walballa Hall (The Policemen's Ball)*

**Scene 8:** *Outside Walballa Hall*

**Scene 9:** *Interior of Castle Garden*

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**Backstage Crew:** *Cathy Zizka (Stage Manager), Heidi Bengraff (Asst. Stage Mgr.), Denise Liebig, Kate Reynolds*

**Business Patron:** *Steve O'Brien (Chair), Penny Carroll, Darlene Davis, Marcie Gordon, Chip Janiszewski, Jeff Schlichter*

**Costumes:** *Linda Valdes, (Costumer) Tracy Arcari (Wardrobe Assistant), Laura Garger*

**Hospitality:** *Mary Lou Kerr*

**House Manager/Ushers:** *Marcie Gordon (Chair), Evelyn Holland, Foster Reese, Joyce Wagner*

**Patrons & Cast Party:** *Amanda Maragnano (Chair), Jeff Schlichter, Laura Garger, ellen Deckers, Karen Sidel*

**Personal Patrons:** *Elaine Nord (Chair)*

**Program:** *Kathryn-Ann O'Brien, Steve O'Brien, Darlene Davis, Marcie Gordon*

**Props, Photos:** *Tracy Arcari (Chair), Lisa Camargo, Rosemarie Beskind, Terry Corbin, Ann Leiper*

**Publicity:** *Dianne Rothenberg (Chair), Penny Carroll, Darlene Davis, Marcie Gordon, Chip Janiszewski*

**Sandwich Boards:** *Bill Noss, Darlene Davis, Marcie Gordon, Mark Vogel, Noella Belliveau, Karen Sidel, Rosemarie Beskind, Penny Carroll, Jeff Schlichter, Darik & Elizabeth Velez*

**Set Construction:** *Michael Hunter (Chair), Rick Anderson, Dick Brigham, Ernie Ehrhardt, Dane Woodberry*

**Set Painting:** *Darlene Davis (Chair) Michael Hunter (Co-Chair), Noella Belliveau, Rosemarie Beskind, Penny Carroll, Karen Sidel, Ron Sturm, Darik Velez, Laura Newinsky*

**T-Shirts/Sweatshirts:** *Ellen Deckers*

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**Ron Sturm (French Ambassador, boy, millionaire, stove, and Pinky)**

This is Ron's first play since acting in high school over a decade ago. His most memorable off-stage performances since then have been done in numerous countries, including China, Ecuador, Thailand, England, Italy, and Egypt to name a few. These experiences have been in the capacity of eco-volunteerism, teaching, a TV commercial for China's best brew (Bai Bing), media education, studying, and travel. Raised in the United States Air Force, he draws from a broad and diversified international background to bring life to his characters and character to his life. Ron wishes to thank his parents, friends, and mentors over the years around the globe. He dedicates this performance to Reggie, Oscar, Buddy (both of them, and their respective owners), and Lucy.

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**MUSICAL NUMBERS****Act I**

**"Extra, Extra"** - *Newsboys & Ensemble*

**"What Do I Have To Do To Get My Picture Took?"** - *Maisie, Horace and The Dancers*

**"The Most Expensive Statue in the World"** - *Pulitzer, Bennett, The Mayor, The Singers and Dancers*

**"A Little Fish in a Big Pond"** - *Horace, Maisie and The Sharks*

**"Let's Take an Old-Fashioned Walk"** - *Horace, Monique, The Singers and Dancers*

**"Homework"** - *Maisie*

**"Paris Wakes Up and Smiles"** - *Lamplighter, Monique and Ensemble*

**"Only for Americans"** - *The Countess, Horace, The Singers and Dancers*

**"Just One Way to Say I Love You"** - *Horace and Monique*

**Act II**

**"Miss Liberty"** - *Entire Company*

**"The Train"** - *Monique, The Train and Reception Delegation*

**"You Can Have Him"** - *Maisie and Monique*

**"The Policeman's Ball"** - *Maisie, The Dandy and The Ensemble*

**"Homework (Reprise)"** - *Maisie*

**"Follow The Leader Jig"** - *The Ensemble*

**"Me and My Bundle"** - *Horace, Monique and Company*

**"Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun"** - *Maisie*

**"Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor"** (Poem by Emma Lazarus) - *Monique and The Singers*





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high school and college productions as Gerald in "Me and My Girl," El Gallo in "The Fantasticks," Perchik in "Fiddler on the Roof," and roles in "42nd Street," and an original musical, "Villains." "Miss Liberty!" marks Darik's return to the stage. During the day he teaches astronomy and physics at Westminster School. He wishes to thank his wife, Elizabeth, and his family for their never-ending support and encouragement both on and off stage.

**Art Hetherington (the Mayor)** - Art, a retired science educator, has been in theatrical performances since elementary school days. He joined TGS on stage in 1987 as Hassler in "Pajama Game," and was an ensemble member in "Oklahoma," "The Music Man," "Girl Crazy," "42nd Street," and "Me and My Girl." Prior to this, he played various roles in productions with Canton Benefit, Westfield Women's Club, and New Britain Repertory Theater. In 1992, he and his wife bought a gingerbread cottage on Martha's Vineyard, which needed considerable renovation. This kept him from performing with TGS. He is happy to be back on stage this fall as The Mayor.

**Laura Secour (Maisie Dell & Choreographer)** - Laura is pleased to be making her TGS debut. A native of San Francisco, and a graduate of the Musical Theatre Department at AMDA (NYC), Laura has choreographed for Washington H.S. (CA.), College of Marin (CA), Manchester H.S. and Summit Studios where she currently teaches dance, acting, and voice. She toured nationally with the Chamber Theatre Co. of Boston production of "Encore!" Favorite roles include: Lucille Frank in "Parade," Anna in "Burn This," Ado Annie in "Oklahoma," Lucy (Understudy) in "Jekyll & Hyde," Sheila in "A Chorus Line," and Alma in "Summer and Smoke." Other credits include: "West Side Story," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Of Thee I Sing," "Pirates of Penzance," and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" Laura wishes to thank her loving and amazingly supportive family, and Tony for being so awesome.

**Karen Sidel (The Countess Dupont)** - We liked Karen's performance of Lady Boxington in last year's "My Fair Lady" so much that we invited her back this year and promoted her to Countess! She's also been Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine in two performances of "The Lion in Winter." And Lady Cynthia Muldoon in "The Real Inspector Hound," so maybe there's some royalty in her acting blood. Karen has worked with several area groups over the past 15 years, including The Windsor Jesters, Manchester Theatre Festival, New Britain Rep, Canton Benefit Productions, and the Park Road Playhouse in West Hartford. Karen also directed the TGS Studio Theatre production of "Night of January 16th" in September. She thinks TGS is very brave to give a non-singer such a big song, and she thinks she's brave for doing it!



## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**Rick Anderson (Bennett):** Riding in on the tails of the outrageous mustache he wore as Karpathy in last year's TGS production of "My Fair Lady," Rick as Bennett gets a shot at one of his favorite theatre roles - the character villain. He has appeared in more than two dozen community theatre shows over 20 years, many with the Suffield Players, where he currently serves on their board. Among his credits have been Jorgy in "Other People's Money," Jerry in "Zoo Story" (which won two ACTConn awards), Teddy in "Arsenic and Old Lace," Captain von Trapp in "The Sound of Music," Harold Hill in "The Music Man," Chris in "All My Sons," Richard III in the "Last Trial of Richard III," Colonel Puckerup in "Victoria Falls," Blore in "Ten Little Indians," Charles in "Love Letters," Malcolm and Duncan in "MacBeth," and Dracula in more shows than he'd like to admit. However, it is TGS's high standard musical venue that draws his insistence to test his voice here. Love to Les.

**Megan Magden Postle (Monique Dupont):** Originally from Seattle, Washington, Ms. Postle received her BA/BM in vocal performance from the University of Washington School of Music. She started her career as a dancer but discovered her love of singing later. Megan has appeared as Lisa in "Life Story; a Song Cycle," at the Montage Theater in Hartford. Outside of Connecticut she has played Sister Mary Leo in "Nunsense" in Seattle, WA, Suor Genovieffa in "Suor Angelica" in South Dakota and Jane in "Street Scene," also in Seattle, and as Maria in "West Side Story" in Seattle and San Francisco. She is married and would like to thank her husband for all of his support and love. She is thankful to be performing in Simsbury - and we are grateful that she is too!

**Chip Janiszewski (Pulitzer):** Chip has been with TGS for many years now. Back in 1999, he performed in "Fiddler on the Roof" as the Constable. He has since worked with us in "How to Succeed in Business," "Sweet Charity," "Annie Get Your Gun" and "My Fair Lady." He is a graduate of Northwest Catholic High School and Providence College. He would like to send his love to Nancy, his wife of 26 years - "Thanks for putting up with the early Sunday dinners!" They are blessed with two wonderful sons, Matt (22 years old) and Billy (18 years old), both of whom are Music Education majors at UConn and will be bringing the arts to our youth for years to come. It is from them that he claims he has inherited any acting and singing talent that he has! (He pointedly refused to comment on his dancing!)

**Darik Velez (Horace Miller):** Darik's on-stage career began in sixth grade when he was cast as one-fourth the part of Joseph in a school production of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat." He was hooked! Following this, Darik performed in

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## "MISS LIBERTY" SYNOPSIS

**A love story that spans two continents, and America's search for the girl who represents our symbol of freedom...MISS LIBERTY.**

Journey back to 1885 when the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty was about to be dedicated, thanks to the monies given by the readers of the two rival newspapers, the New York World and the Herald. Meet Horace Miller, a newspaper photographer with more heart than sense. Always looking for the meaning behind the picture, he gets fired when he photographs the statue lying in its crates rather than the flashy ceremony. Deciding he doesn't belong in a big town, he vows to return home to Indiana until his friend Maisie (who, unbeknownst to him, happens to be in love with him) convinces him to go to Paris to find the girl who posed for the statue. In hopes of regaining his job, he goes, and there he meets Monique, whom he mistakes for the Liberty model. Thrilled to have found her, he tells Maisie, who convinces his old boss that this story will beat the pants off his biggest competitor, Joseph Pulitzer. Unable to resist the thought of besting his arch rival, Bennett wires a huge sum of money to Horace to bring Monique back with him for "Miss Liberty's American Tour." Helplessly caught up in the romance of Paris, Horace falls madly in love with Monique and convinces her to return with him. At the last minute, he discovers that he has the wrong girl, and in the biggest lie he's ever told, they set sail for America. Maisie finds herself trapped in a love triangle when they return, Monique uncovers Horace's lie, and complications abound when they all find out that Pulitzer personally knows the sculptor who created the Statue of Liberty. Eventually, the deception is revealed, but a happy ending is inevitable when the public rallies around MISS LIBERTY.

Based on a true story, the well written script and delightful score ensure a wonderful production, complete with an incredibly moving version of Emma Lazarus's poem "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" set to music.

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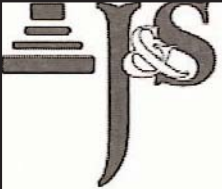
Brian Nardi at Nardi Family Chiropractic

**Cathy Zizka (Stage Manager)** - Although Cathy is new to TGS, she has over 15 years of production experience with several local community groups including Little Theatre of Manchester, Producing Guild, and Theatre District. Her involvement in over 30 productions includes stage manager, props, costumes, decor, and set design and set construction. When not stage managing, she can usually be found backstage during shows as part of the set, lighting or sound crews. Cathy has also held the positions of President, VP Business, and Treasurer at The Little Theatre of Manchester in the 1980s.

**Heidi Bengraff (Asst. Stage Manager)** - Heidi has been active with TGS since 1990 both on and off stage and is happy to return as Assistant Stage Mgr. for the chance to work with Cathy Z. She has worked with many area groups over the past 25 years in a variety of capacities from Stage Manager to dance chorus, and is currently on the Board of Directors for her "home" group, the Manchester Musical Players. She will miss Mr. B back stage this year, but both Heidi and he wish to thank their "TGS family" for their continued caring and support. Much success with "Miss Liberty"!

**Willard Minton (Music Director)** - This is Will's third year music directing for TGS. He has had a life-long involvement in musical theatre and has directed shows for TGS, Warner Theatre, Gilbert School, Summertime Players, Pleasant Valley Players, and Little Theatre Workshop. He played in the orchestra for more than 50 shows throughout Connecticut, including more than 20 productions with TGS. He also was a former choral/band director. Currently Will is leader and member of the Valley Swing Shift, an 18-piece "Big Band," a co-leader and member of the Harmonious Brass Choir and Sr. Choir Director at Church of Christ of Winsted. Will has a Bachelor of Music degree from UConn, a Master of Music Education from University of Bridgeport, advanced study in music education at CCSU, as well as conducted workshops with Michael Lankester and Frederick Fennell. Will is pleased to be joined again in the orchestra pit by his wife Patty. Many thanks to the cast, crew and orchestra for their hard work and dedication!

**Laura Secour  
(Choreographer &  
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## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR, LUD BALDWIN

“Miss Liberty!” is a marvelous Broadway show, encompassing the colors of vaudeville, the discipline of a good book, and the glorious music of Irving Berlin. The Theatre Guild this year is taking a considerable risk, reviving a show that hasn't been done in the state since 1983, when it was produced at Goodspeed Opera House. This musical was born in the shadow of South Pacific, and in spite of that considerable competition managed to run on Broadway for almost a year.

It harkens back to an era when things were a bit simpler, and the country had fewer demands on the national conscience; a time when love songs carried a bit more weight. This is happy, sweet, pure and innocent entertainment, full of polish and dash, and the original choreography of Jerome Robbins coupled with Robert Sherwood's book entranced the audiences that were already enraptured by Berlin's music. It has been a wonderful revelation, as the rehearsals progressed, to realize what a classic we have uncovered. Who knew when we began this journey that it would have such a fabulous ending- a show that brings us together as a cast, which reminds us of the glory of being Americans.

With little precedent to guide us, we were able to find the laughs, share the joys, and revel in the music we are presenting here. We hope you will enjoy it as much as we have

## DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHIES

**Lud Baldwin (Artistic Director)** - Lud Baldwin has been directing shows with the Theatre Guild since 1978, when he joined Peter Harvey to guide the first memorable “Hello Dolly.” He returns this year to direct his 15th show, and in all of those years, he has never had a less than wonderful time with this talented and dedicated group of community professionals. From working with talented people like Carol Hermes, Jeri Vayda, Bill Albert, and John Callahan, to being amazed at the fantastic sound that comes from the pit each year, to coordinating the efforts of the able and cooperative technicians, to welcoming the generous sponsors and supportive audiences that fill the auditorium every year, Broadway shows in Simsbury have been a favorite part of his career. Thirty years of teaching at the Kingswood-Oxford school, and of performing and directing with most of the major community groups in central Connecticut, have taught him that it really doesn't get much better than this. He sends thanks to all of you for giving up the time at home and coming out to share this show with the Guild.

### PERSONAL PATRONS

#### ANGELS

**Laura and Gregory Garger**

### PERSONAL PATRONS

Rosemary & Mike Beskind

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Penny & John Carroll

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Karen Sidel

Bill and Judy Sweeney

BG Zietz

### SPONSORS

Tracy Acari

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Betsy Maguire

Laura Swenson

## THANK YOUS

Theatre Guild of Simsbury would like to express special thanks to all persons and businesses who generously donated their time, materials and services, and helped to make this production possible.

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Puppets designed by Joe Motowidlak

Simsbury Light Opera Company

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The Warner Theatre



## CAST OF MISS LIBERTY!

**Maisie Dell** ..... *Laura Secour\*\**  
**James Gordon Bennett** ..... *Rick Anderson*  
**Joseph Pulitzer** ..... *Chip Janiszewski*  
**Horace Miller** ..... *Darik Velez*  
**Police Captain (Gendarme)** ..... *Mark Vogel*  
**The Mayor** ..... *Art Hetherington*  
**Bartholdi** ..... *Jeff Schlichter*  
**Monique Dupont** ..... *Megan Magden Postle*  
**The Countess** ..... *Karen Sidel*  
**Carthwright** ..... *Andrew LaPlante*  
**Lamplighter** ..... *Jeff Schlichter*  
**French Ambassador** ..... *Ron Sturm*  
**Richard K. Fox** ..... *Steve O'Brien*  
**Newsboys** ..... *Michael Carpenter, John Deckers, Amanda Pysh, Elizabeth Velez*

**Ensemble** - *Tracy Arcari, Sue Baldwin, Noella Belliveau, Rosemarie Beskind, Lisa Camargo, Julia Carlson, Penny Carroll, Terry Corbin, Laura Garger, Ginny Hetherington, Mary Lou Kerr, Andrew LaPlante, Ann Leiper, Amanda Pysh, Elizabeth Velez, Mark Vogel*

**Dancers** - *Tracy Arcari, Noella Belliveau, Rosemarie Beskind, Lisa Camargo, Julia Carlson, Penny Carroll, Terry Corbin, Laura Garger, Amanda Pysh, Elizabeth Velez*

\*\* An unfortunate accident has prevented our original Maisie, Kelly Gallagher, to perform in "Miss Liberty!" just 3 weeks before the show opened. We all wish Kelly the best and miss her presence!!



John T. Barrett D.D.S.  
 860-623-3244

## ORCHESTRA

### Willard Minton, Director

Patricia Minton ..... flute  
 John Christie ..... clarinet, alto saxophone  
 Bill Conner ..... clarinet, tenor saxophone  
 Ted Cowles ..... clarinet, flute, tenor saxophone  
 Dean Hildebrandt ..... baritone saxophone  
 Kevin Cornell ..... trumpet  
 Marlene Pavano ..... trumpet  
 Dave Carpenter ..... trumpet  
 Mitch Friedman ..... horn  
 Sean MacDonald ..... trombone  
 Ernie Adams ..... bass trombone  
 Jean Conner ..... violin  
 Mary Morrison ..... violin  
 Kayla Denny ..... violin  
 Jenny Courtney ..... violin  
 Glenn Herzig ..... violin  
 Nancy Najarian ..... viola  
 Rob Lindauer ..... viola  
 Alicia Shpur ..... bassoon  
 David Wright ..... bass  
 Jack Summers ..... percussion  
 Diana Lawler ..... piano



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 OLIVER B. DICKINS  
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 (860) 658-4100  
 Fax (860) 658-9200  
  
 One Phelps Lane      Simsbury, CT 06070