

# Hudson

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*Monthly*

## Fighting Back

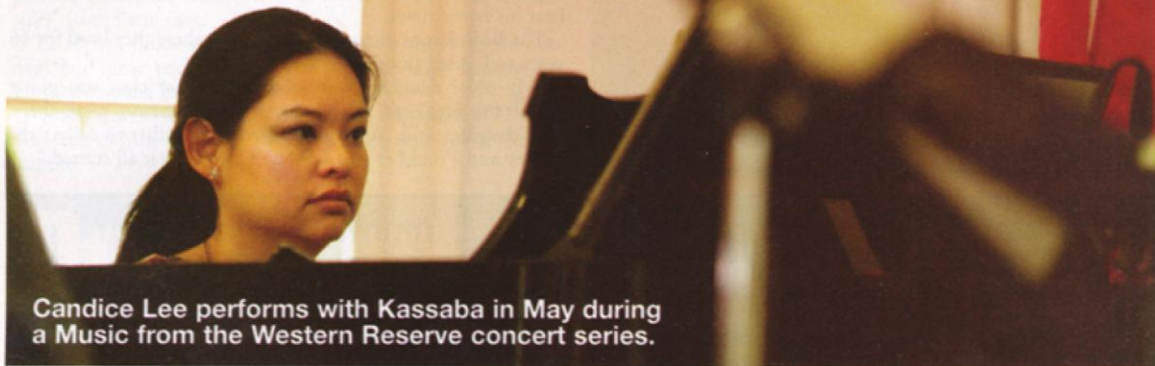
**Members of Ohio's first Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat Team fight to regain control of their lives.**



INSIDE: Listen to some Music from the Western Reserve • Local chef whips up tasty treats

# The sound of Music from the Western Reserve

by Stephanie Fellenstein • Photos by Michael K. Dakota



Candice Lee performs with Kassaba in May during a Music from the Western Reserve concert series.

There's just something about music.

Maybe it's the mournful sound that comes from the bow sliding slowly across the cello. Or perhaps it's the sharp peppy bursts from a trumpet, or the cascading tinkling sounds that come from a piano.

No matter the instrument, Music from the Western Reserve has been captivating audiences for almost 25 years.

"This region is so rich in music and musical talent," says Alison Clegg, president of the Music from the Western Reserve board of trustees. "This is just another venue to promote music in Northeastern Ohio."

With so many musical options, it seemed only logical that a musical series would take root in the area.

The seeds of an idea for that series were planted when John Perry, former general manager of WKSU-FM, visited the music

room at Stan Hywet Hall in the early 1980s. Perry, according to "Music from the Western Reserve," a book by Abe Zaidan, was "immediately struck" by the "beauty" and "atmospheric charm" of the music room.

After pondering the idea, he broached the subject of a musical series with members of local music schools and universities. He also spoke to Robert Henke, the general manager of the Akron Symphony Orchestra; Lola Rothmann, concert manager of the Tuesday Musical series; and representatives of Stan Hywet and WKSU.

While everyone was enthusiastic about the idea, it wasn't until Lola Rothmann suggested someone to head up the project that things really started to take shape.

"I volunteered my husband," Rothmann says smiling, adding her husband, Bruce, a pediatric surgeon, was very supportive of the musical arts.

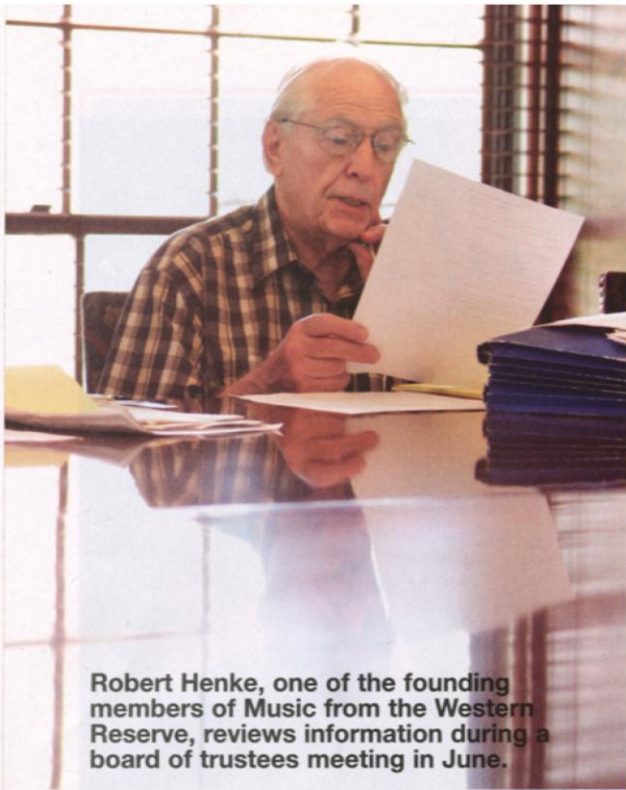
"We toured with the Cleveland Orchestra abroad three times as medical support. He did that at Blossom, too," she says.

After much planning, research and hard work, the first concert of the Music From Stan Hywet series — the predecessor of Music from the Western Reserve — took place Sept. 25, 1983.

The early years saw The Cuyahoga Valley Arts Ensemble, The Oberlin piano trio, The Kent State University Chorale and members of the Cleveland Orchestra perform in the Music Room.

"It was easier in the earlier days to find musicians," says Henke, who has served as treasurer of the board of trustees since the group began. "Everyone is busier than they used to be."

Then, after 19 years, several factors — wear and tear on the music room and changes in the administration at Stan Hywet — contributed to the necessity of picking a new location.



**Robert Henke, one of the founding members of Music from the Western Reserve, reviews information during a board of trustees meeting in June.**

After 115 concerts for audiences of 125 to 150, Music From Stan Hywet announced it was moving to the Chapel at Western Reserve Academy beginning with the 2002 to 2003 series and became Music from the Western Reserve.

*The people behind the music*

**Meet Lola Rothmann and Bob Henke**

Lola Rothmann's collection of photographs is famous. She pulls out a photo of the hallway of her longtime home in Silver Lake. The framed photographs, most of them signed, run from floor to ceiling, the length of the hall. There are pictures of Pavoratti, Beverly Sills, conductors and pop stars like Joan Collins and Joan Baez.

"We entertained a lot in our home," she says, from her new home at Laurel Lake Retirement Community.

Before the collection of photographs and before she met her husband, Bruce, and they moved to Silver Lake, Rothmann grew up in Jamestown, N.Y. She took piano lessons as a child, but went on to major in sociology and political science. She was working as a claims adjuster in New York City when she met her husband.

"My husband was a native of Cuyahoga Falls," she says, adding that when he finished medical school he wanted to practice near his home town.

The Rothmanns moved to Silver Lake where they lived for 46 years and raised three daughters.

"My older daughter was about 7 and her class was going to see the orchestra at the Armory," Rothmann remembers. "My daughter said, 'my teacher needed a mother to collect the money and I told her you'd do it.' That's how it all started."

Sometime after that, Rothmann joined the Tuesday Musical group and met Louis Lane with the Akron Symphony.

Lane needed someone to hire and entertain the musical artists and Rothmann volunteered.

"I've had so many wonderful experiences," she says. "I have notes somewhere around here. They have an autobiography group here [at Laurel Lake] that I would like to go to.

Rothmann recalled one experience with Leontyne Price, an African-American soprano.

"Her brother was a retired general and he was her manager," Rothmann begins. "It was a Saturday evening and there wasn't any office staff at E.J. Thomas Hall. I went down to help out."

Rothmann says Mr. Garvey, the pianist, was unhappy with the pianos.

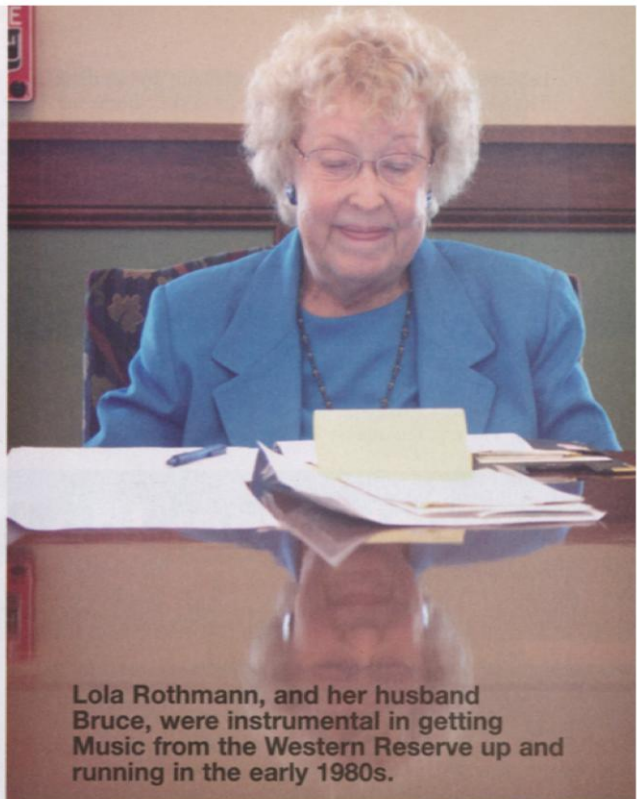
"He pulled them all out until he found one and then asked if we had a page turner," she says. "I said, 'Oh yes. We have a wonderful one. She's a concert pianist.' He said, 'she? Leontyne doesn't appear on stage with other women.'"

Rothmann says she called all over to try to find another page turner and finally told the piano tuner that he would have to do it.

"He said 'fine,' but he was wearing a brown leisure suit with cowboy boots and Garvey said he would have to wear a black suit," Rothmann says.

The piano tuner insisted his brother had one he could borrow, but came back later dressed just the same because his brother couldn't find the suit.

"I was scared to death," Rothmann remembers. "I said, 'we need to hide you back stage and bring you out at the last minute.'"



**Lola Rothmann, and her husband Bruce, were instrumental in getting Music from the Western Reserve up and running in the early 1980s.**

Leontyne never noticed the suit, Rothmann says smiling. The Rothmanns frequently had guests in their home for dinner or to spend the night.

"They would practice with our dog laying at their feet," she says. "Some, like Marilyn Horn, became close friends. It was hard, but very rewarding."

Today, Rothmann is at home in the Villas at Laurel Lake Retirement Community. Bruce passed away two years ago.

"It was a good move for me," she says. "There are really nice people at Laurel Lake."

Henke says his association with the Rothmanns and WKSU's John Perry linked him to the new group.

The idea was originally conceived by John Perry and then the Rothmanns got on board, Henke remembers.

At the time, Henke was general manager of the Akron Symphony. He was responsible for everything associated with the

Symphony from the musicians to the day-to-day operations.

"I knew the Rothmanns from the Akron Symphony," he says. "Because of my association with these people, I got involved. I've been with it ever since. I just couldn't give it up."

Henke says in the early days ticket sales supported the group. "The only expenses were rental fees at Stan Hywet. We really didn't have any advertising. It seemed to work out just fine," he says.

Henke says he is thrilled to feature some of the musical talent in Northeast Ohio. "I would like to continue that," he says. "presenting these people to the community."

Rothmann is also very proud of the Music from the Western Reserve series.

"We try to limit it to people with connections to the Western Reserve," she says. "We want people to know how rich the music is in this area." ♦



# Music from the Western Reserve 2008 - 2009 season

**Sept. 21**

**Lawrence Angell and Friends**

The concert features retired Cleveland Orchestra member Lawrence Angell, current Cleveland Orchestra members Ralph Curry and Mark Jackobs; Paul Kantor, distinguished professor of violin at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Anita Pontremoli, head of collaborative piano at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

**Oct. 26**

**Margarita Shevchenko, piano**

A recipient of the "Special Chopin Prize" at five competitions, music critic Donald Rosenberg called her a "musician to cherish."

**Nov. 16**

**Salzedo Harp Duo**

Jody Guinn and Nancy Lendrim have performed together for more than 20 years. Both hold principal harp positions with Ohio orchestras.

**March 29, 2009**

Hristo Popov, violin/ Jerry Wong, piano  
Virtuoso-violinist extraordinaire Hristo Popov, brings tremendous experience to the concert stage. Mr. Wong's playing has been described as "eloquent and elegant with passion and a finely hone sense of style."

**April 26, 2009**

**The Kent Camerata**

World-acclaimed, this professional vocal/instrumental ensemble have taken their wonderful music throughout the United States and internationally.

**May 17, 2009**

**Frederick Reeder, baritone**

Donald Rosenberg proclaimed him as "singing actor of genius ... he can play virtually anything."

*All concerts are on Sundays at 5 p.m. in the Chapel at Western Reserve Academy. For more information about sponsoring a concert or attending a concert, call Board of Trustees president Alison Clegg at 330-653-5296.*