



# The Score

Volume 36 Issue 2

November/December 2025

[www.toledosymphonyleague.org](http://www.toledosymphonyleague.org)

[www.toledosymphony.com](http://www.toledosymphony.com)

Dear Friends,

By all accounts, we are off to a busy 2025-2026 season. The Opening Luncheon was held on September 19 at Belmont Country Club. During lunch, TSO President Zak Vassar was presented with a downpayment towards TSL's 2025-2026 pledge. The name of TSL's sponsored practice room at Toledo Center for Live Arts was revealed as "Toledo Symphony League Coats - Keener Studio," in honor of the many years of dedicated service to TSL's Remembrance Fund by Dorothy Coats and Janet Keener. It was wonderful that Dorothy Coats was in attendance for the surprise announcement. Brett Loney, Live Arts Toledo VP of Development, was presented with TSL's first payment towards the \$35,000 studio contract.

Merwin Siu, Live Arts Toledo Artistic Administrator and Natalie Conklin, Live Arts Toledo Artistic Operations Manager headlined the September 9 Tune In Tuesday event, chaired by Mary Beaber and Beth Bowman. Merwin and Natalie entertained with stories of the care and feeding of visiting guest artists. Plans are underway for the next Tune In Tuesday, November 11.

Joni Fought and Michelle Heilman spearheaded TSL's spectacular Pretty In Pink event on October 3. It was truly wonderful to see so many smiling faces at Belmont Country Club! Hats off to all committee members for your hard work on this successful fundraising event.

Chick Flick, under the helm of Marcia Helman, was a wonderful event. The movie, Practical Magic, was screened. It was a fun way to get into the Halloween spirit.

The November General Board meeting is scheduled for November 20 at Buckeye State Bank. We typically meet at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and breakfast treats and get down to business at 10:00 a.m. Musician Survival Bags will be "stuffed" following the meeting. All TSL members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Marlene Uhler, Jane Wurth, and Joni Fought are planning a December 11 holiday party at the Toledo Club. Be sure to watch your email for details, as you won't want to miss out on the fun! See the attached flyer on page 7.

Getting down to more serious business, candidates are being selected to serve as TSL officers for the 2026-2027 term. If you are called to serve, I urge you to say "yes." I can honestly share that serving as an officer is a great experience. Perhaps this is the year you consider joining the team!

Thank you, as always, for your support.

*JoAnn Phipps*

JoAnn Phipps  
TSL President



TSL president, **JoAnn Phipps**, presenting Zak Vassar, CEO of Live Arts Toledo, with a check for a portion of our pledge to Toledo Symphony Orchestra at Opening Luncheon on September 18.



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## The Toledo Symphony League supporting the Toledo Symphony Orchestra for 74 Years!

The mission of the Toledo Symphony League is to provide financial, educational, and volunteer support to the Toledo Symphony Orchestra so that it may provide quality musical performances for the entire community.

### THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025-2026

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President**

**JoAnn Phipps**

**Treasurer**

**Janna LaZelle-Lake**

**Corresponding Secretary**

**Emma Oravec**

**Recording Secretary**

**Mary Beaber**

**Vice Presidents of Membership**

**Marlene Uhler & Sherie Robarge**

**Vice President of Scholarships, Awards & Grants**

**Beth Bowman**

**Vice President of Symphony Activities**

**Beverly Wolcott**

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (PINK BOOK)

### New Members:

**Mrs. Gerald L. Ames (Gwen A.)** 8/11

114 Treetop Pl.; Holland, OH 43528

[gwenlake@aol.com](mailto:gwenlake@aol.com)

419-261-0750

**Ms. DeAnn Gorun Baker** 6/10 419-297-5055

8543 Pilliod Rd.; Holland, OH 43528

[deann@deannbaker.com](mailto:deann@deannbaker.com)

**Mrs. James Gibbs (Carol)** 5/4 419-467-7302

1817 W. Sterns Rd.; Temperance, MI 48182

[cgibbs64@msn.com](mailto:cgibbs64@msn.com)

**Ms. Judy Gorun** 9/19

419-283-6172

8616 Stone Oak Dr.; Holland, OH 43528

[judy@judygorun.com](mailto:judy@judygorun.com)

**Mrs. Michael Sordyl (Sharon)** 3/28

2962 W. Course Rd.; Maumee, OH 43537

[sharon.sordyl@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.sordyl@gmail.com)

419-787-9528

### Member Updates:

**Mrs. Martha Wright Moon**

8500 Beatton Ct.; Plano, TX 75025

**Irene Brooks**

[irenebrooks516@gmail.com](mailto:irenebrooks516@gmail.com)



**Dorothy Bonser, Marcia Helman, and Susan Lang** enjoying Tune In Tuesday on September 9 at Belmont Country Club.



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## General Board Meetings

**November 20, 2025**

9:30 a.m.—Social

10:00 a.m.—Meeting

Buckeye State Bank

12301 Eckel Junction Rd., Perrysburg

We will be filling the

**Musician Survival Bags**

after the meeting.

**All TSL members are welcome to attend**

**TSL General Board Meetings.**

**No General Board Meeting in December.**



September 9 Tune in Tuesday speakers, Natalie Conklin (Artistic Operations Manager) and Merwin Siu (Artistic Administrator) with Beth Bowman at Belmont Country Club.



**Joyce Stenberg** received her Crescendo award from president **JoAnn Phipps** at the Opening Luncheon on September 18.

## TUNE IN TUESDAY - Beth Bowman & Mary Beaber

Tuesday, November 11, is our second Tune In Tuesday. Nathan Bersee, Director of Orchestra Operations, will speak. Nathan holds a BA in music from BGSU, an MBA from Tiffin University, and a MA in Music Performance, Double Bass from UT. Nathan is also a veteran so he is especially appropriate for a Veterans Day Tune In Tuesday.

March 17, 2026 is our third Tune In Tuesday. In a nod to St. Patrick's Day, Cheryl Trace and Merwin Siu, TSO violinists will entertain us with airs and reels that reflect the Emerald Isle.

Merwin Siu Artistic Administrator, and Natalie Conklin, Artistic Operations Manager, captivated 50 guests at the September 9 Tune In Tuesday. They shared the ins and outs of guest talent contracts and management. The speakers were informative and funny.

As a friendly reminder, Tune in Tuesdays are held at Belmont Country Club. Social hour begins at 11:00 a.m. with lunch at noon. Tune in Tuesday co-chairs, **Mary Beaber** and **Beth Bowman**, look forward to seeing you there. See the flyer attached to this Score.



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## Musician Survival Bags - Helen Patton & Phyllis Wadley

Thanks to the many folks who have contributed to our annual Musician Survival Bag (MSB) Project The orchestra travels in the winter months sharing their holiday music throughout Toledo and neighboring communities. TSL shows its appreciation for this extra work by gifting stuffed totes to orchestra members. It's our pleasure to give, and they love to receive! We will be stuffing the totes after the 10:00 a.m. General Board Meeting on November 20 at Buckeye State Bank in Perrysburg. All TSL members are welcome to attend the meeting and help. Contact us if you need your donation picked up. Send checks with MSB on the memo line to the treasurer, **Janna LaZelle-Lake**.

The bags will be delivered before the 6:00 p.m. rehearsal at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Sylvania on Wednesday, December 3.

Helen Patton (419-304-8411) &  
Phyllis Wadley (419-699-5591)



Pretty in Pink committee members **Michelle Heilman, Mary Beaber, Marcia Helman, Kris Young, Judi Uhrman, Joni Fought, Patty Stevens, Michelle Blythe, Barbara Brown, Helen Patton, and Phyllis Wadley** getting ready for the big event.

## Pretty In Pink - Joni Fought & Michelle Heilman

Pretty in Pink was held on a beautiful, sunny fall day on October 3 at Belmont Country Club. League members and their guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and beautiful fashions from Ragazza and Dillard's. The committee challenged themselves to make the event come together in short order, collecting and organizing raffle items and silent auction items up until the very end.

Special thanks to the committee members: **Mary Beaber, Michelle Blythe, Barbara Brown, Marcia Helman, Helen Patton, JoAnn Phipps, Patty Stevens, Marlene Uhler, Judi Uhrman, Jane Wurth, and Kris Young.**

We still have a few openings to join three of the Silent Auction Events.

The Breakfast Club (\$30)

Contact Marcia Helman 419-297-4763

Cooking Class at Jane Wurth's (\$30)

Contact Jane Wurth 419-261-0658

Bowling Party (\$40)

Contact Joni Fought 419-509-6068

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who contributed to making this event a huge success! TSL raised over \$17,000 on this event!



## Young Artists' Competition

**Kathy Scheer**

The Young Artists' Competition will take place on January 10, 2026 at Toledo Center for Live Arts located at 4747 Heatherdowns Blvd.; Toledo, OH.

The Young Artists' Competition winners' concert with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra will take place on March 1, 2026 at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle. There will also be a Side-by-Side concert with Toledo Public School students.

If you are interested in volunteering for this competition on one or both of these dates, please contact **Kathy Scheer** at [mkscheer80@yahoo.com](mailto:mkscheer80@yahoo.com) or call at 419-262-8812.



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**New members, Judy Gorun and DeAnn Baker, with Phyllis Wadley** enjoying Tune In Tuesday at Belmont Country Club on September 9.



**Dorothy Coats** receiving recognition for her dedication to the Youth Orchestras, accompanied by her daughter Marilyn, from TSL president **JoAnn Phipps** at the Opening Luncheon. TSL is sponsoring a practice room at Live Arts Toledo called Toledo Symphony League Coats-Keener Studio, named for **Dorothy Coats** and **Janet Keener**.



**Beverly Wolcott** and **Sherie Robarge** greeting guests at the Pretty in Pink Fashion Show Event on October 3 at Belmont Country Club.



## Chick Flick – Marcia Helman

The curtain fell on another successful Chick Flick dinner and movie night as close to fifty attendees watched Practical Magic while dining on KFC chicken, **Beth Bowman's** mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, plus delicious desserts made by **DeAnn Baker, Judy Gorun, Emma Oravec, and Mary Beaber** which were gobbled up quickly. Thank you to **Janna LaZelle-Lake** for the generous wine donation, all those who donated 11 raffle baskets, and our raffle ticket sellers, **Barb Bettinger** and **Joyce Stenberg**. A very special shout out to **Liz Villarreal-Rowe** for securing the main dish, KFC chicken! Other committee members who helped were **JoAnn Phipps, Joan Tobias, and Beverly Wolcott**. Thank you to all who attended this Party of Note!

With the sale of raffle tickets and reservations this event made \$2800 to help support the League's efforts.



**JIM MCGOWAN**

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## Leaguers Who Lunch -

**Marlene Uhler**

Leaguers Who Lunch is meeting again this year. Our first luncheon was October 8 at the Real Seafood Company. On November 12, we are meeting at the Old Bag of Nails Pub at their newest location: 2920 ProMedica Parkway; Toledo, OH. Please RSVP by November 7. We will be in a party room with 5-6 tables. We will have separate checks. Customary tip is 15-20%. Any complaints, please let Marlene know.

If you would like to join the group, contact **Marlene Uhler** - 419-260-3872 or [maruhler@hotmail.com](mailto:maruhler@hotmail.com). To join the group, it is a \$50 donation to TSL.



Leaguers Who Lunch was at Real Seafood Company on October 8. **Sue Pokorney, Beth Bowman, Emma Oravec, Jean Ryan, and Marlene Uhler** enjoyed the event. Thank you, Marlene, for scheduling the lunch. There were about 20 TSL members in attendance.

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME - Barbara Brown

Welcome to new members, **Marty Stiffler, Gwen Ames, Sharon Sordyl, Judy Gorun, DeAnn Baker, and Carol Gibbs**. These ladies received welcome notes delineating the benefits of TSL membership and suggestions as to how to become included in all aspects of the organization by using the Pink Book. Please reach out to these new members and continue to make them feel welcome.

Each new member receives a Pink Book, a personal welcome note, and encouragement to become involved in League and Symphony/Jazz/Ballet events.



## CHIMERS MAKE THOSE BELLS RING - Barbara Brown

Toledo Symphony League Chimers are **Kate Adams-Nameche, Judy Helm, Sherie Robarge, Pam Shoffner, Janet Spencer, Marty Stiffler, and Joan Tobias**. These news ambassadors share information with our members who do not use email. What a terrific way to stay in the loop! Thank you, ladies.

This year, our Chimers have made calls to inform members of TUNE IN TUESDAY and CHICK FLICK event details and updates.

## Remembrance Fund Scholarships Kimberly Danes

Auditions for scholarships will take place on Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8, 2026. If you would like to volunteer to assist, contact **Kimberly Danes** at 419-261-8697.

Scholarships will be awarded at the Toledo Symphony Youth Orchestra concert on May 11, 2026, at BGSU.



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## **Toledo Symphony League Holiday Party**

**Toledo Club**

235 14th St.; Toledo, OH

Event in the Red Room Downstairs

**Thursday, December 11**

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Lunch, Cash Bar, Presents, Fun, and Gift Exchange

\$50.00 per person

If you want to participate in the Gift Exchange, please bring a gift wrapped and valued at \$25.00.

View the wreaths and trees that benefit local charities.

The Club is beautiful this time of the year. Bring a guest.

**A jolly old surprise awaits!**

Please send your checks made out to **TSL** to:

Marlene Uhler

104 Eagle Point Drive

Rossford, OH 43460

Due to the parties happening at the club, we will be having a buffet with an assortment of foods, entrees, and desserts. We will not accept personal dietary requests on the day of the event. Please order any special dietary requests by December 8 at the latest.

**RSVP by December 8**



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## TUNE IN TUESDAY

### November 11

Nathan Bersee, a veteran and Director of Orchestra Operations, will speak.

### March 17, 2026

Cheryl Trace and Merwin Siu, TSO violinists, will perform Airs and Reels that reflect the Emerald Isle.

### Belmont Country Club

29601 Bates Rd., Perrysburg, OH

Social Hour 11:00 a.m. to Noon

Luncheon at noon

Program to follow

**COST: \$45.00/each event**

SEND RESERVATIONS TO TNT - Mary Beaber: 4533 Blackstone Dr. E; Maumee, OH 43537

\_\_\_\_\_ will attend (Please indicate number of seats to be purchased)

November 11 \_\_\_\_\_ March 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to TSL)