

**University of Toronto
University Arts Women's Club (UAWC)**

NEWS – EVENTS
<https://uawc.artsci.utoronto.ca/>

Volume 2 No 2

December 2019

At our first General Meeting of the season on Thursday, October 17, 2019, the University Arts Women's Club (UAWC) members and guests gathered together in a congenial atmosphere at St. Thomas's Anglican Church Hall.

At this meeting attendance was higher than usual as we prepare for the new year. Gay Thomson, our President, welcomed all members including six new members to our celebrations for the 90th Anniversary year. Gay also reported that a project is underway by our Archivist Sue Russell to compile and record UAWC History Book #3 for the period 2000 - 2020. Past Presidents are being contacted to provide a history of their tenure. Also, Sue is looking for memories of the club from all the members, everyone is asked to submit their anecdotes and memories to her in writing. The Convenors of all four Interest Groups spoke about their interests and activities. Currently, we have 30 members in Antiques and Art Appreciation, 8 in Gourmet Lunch, 10 in Reading, and 13 in Theatre. Gay added that additional members and ideas are welcome for any new groups.

Later, Christine McClymont our Programme Convenor, introduced the guest speaker Dr. Bill Found, University Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. The title of his presentation was '*A Career in Paradise: The Caribbean Islands*'. He took us on a Caribbean Odyssey touching on the ever changing geographical, historical and cultural aspects of the Caribbean region and upon his own research, writing and documentary-film productions currently focused on the evolution and management of Caribbean landscapes. His entire talk was punctuated with a series of spellbinding photographs – mostly of his own making. Along with the amazing geology and topography of the region he talked about the increasing threat of environmental challenges from hurricanes, most recently the ones that devastated Avoca Island, Bahamas and Puerto Rico, as well as the threat from plastics in the oceans and seas which has a significant impact on Caribbean beaches. Volcanic and earthquake activity have also caused immense devastation. Our speaker took us through Caribbean history and the impact of colonialism and slavery. He also mentioned the current archaeological exploration in St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Puerto Rico, and Anguilla where artefacts have been found dating from many thousands of years ago. We were heartened to learn that Bill continues to research and mentor graduate students from and in the West Indies. After an interesting question and answer session, which included questions on the impact of the sugar trade and the environmental impact of the unusual bloom of Sargassum, Christine thanked him. We all greatly benefitted from his photographic skills and Bill said: it was great fun doing the presentation, and meeting a number of UAWC members.



Dr. Bill Found, University Professor Emeritus, (Geography and Environmental Studies), York University

On November 21, 2019, at our second General Meeting Christine McClymont introduced Alison Mackay, Principal Double Bass Player with Tafelmusik (retired). Christine stated that the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra is based in Toronto and was founded in 1979. She told us that Alison had played both violin and double bass with Tafelmusik for forty years. Currently, Alison is active in the creation of multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural programming for Tafelmusik.

As our guest speaker, Alison was invited to take the podium. She mentioned that there are seventeen permanent musicians with Tafelmusik all of whom are specialists in historical performance practice. They often perform with a choir and play on period instruments. Her talk, *'Toronto Treasure Series: New Creations for Tafelmusik'*, included information about three major multimedia concert projects.

The Galileo Project was in celebration of 2009's International Year of Astronomy. Alison was intrigued by the idea of melding baroque music and astronomy together. *The Galileo Project* was entirely revolutionary, unique and satisfying in its over-all concept. Inspired by the 400th anniversary of Galileo's telescope (which coincided with the earliest beginning of the baroque style of music and with the birth of opera) it included music from Galileo's contemporary various composers.

House of Dreams, a theatrical celebration of baroque art, music and paintings included a stage director, narrator, and projected images. Alison's creation of this concert has toured across North America, Australia and New Zealand and has been released on DVD. It was shot in London, Paris and Venice.

The Indigo Project (to be performed February 27 – March 1, 2020) will present the music of European and Indian societies in the 17th and 18th centuries. This concert is Alison's latest project which explores the vast social, cultural, and political implications of the powerful blue dye. She explained that the tropical plant called *indigofera tinctoria* has been cultivated for thousands of years in the south of Asia and Africa. It is an intense blue dye, which came to be known in the ancient world as "indigo," a Greek word that means "from India." Indigo was used for silk gowns of aristocrats, denim-working clothes, and simple garments of farm workers.

After a short Q and A period, Gay Thomson thanked Alison for introducing us to the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir Concerts.



Alison Mackay, Principal Double Bass Player with Tafelmusik (retired)



from left to right: Alison Mackay, Principal Double Bass Player with Tafelmusik (retired). Laetitia Lancellotta, Education & Outreach Coordinator

This year the Christmas Party was held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, once again at the President's residence U of T. It was the first time University of Toronto Women's Association (UTWA) joined us. Members and guests started arriving at around 11:30 a.m. A delicious lunch was provided by Delmanor Wynford Retirement Living, Don Mills - Janice Hicks, Marketing and Community Relations and Bernie Attard, Culinary Services Manager, served the first course. There was also a delicious cake celebrating the 90 years of the UAWC existence. The Christmas Charity chosen by our President Gay Thomson was St. Stephen's Community House. They develop and provide a range of programmes to identify, prevent and alleviate social and economic problems for communities and individuals primarily in downtown Toronto. Their Executive Director, Bill Sinclair said: We provide childcare, youth, senior, newcomers, and housing services and many more services for the neighbourhood. He appreciated our support and generous donations totaling \$680.00.

UTWA Scholarship recipients from U of T were our guests as well. They were students from 5th year Ph.D. East Asian Studies, 4th year Neuroscience, 3rd year Life Sciences, 2nd year Faculty of Master of Information, and 3rd year Department of Earth Sciences. Maeve Palmer, a soprano in Master of Music Voice Programme U of T, with her beautiful voice performed Mozart's "Geme la Tortorella" from "La finta giardiniera", and Donizetti's "Le Fille du Regiment - Chacun le sait" with piano accompanist Vlad Soloviev. Also, Tyler Greenleaf, Alumni Development Officer, and Jonathon Millard, Director Stewardship Programs & Services, were among our U of T guests. Following the traditional singing of carols the event was concluded at 3:00 p.m.



Bill Sinclair, Executive Director - St. Stephen's Community House



from left to right: Vlad Soloviev, Pianist. Maeve Palmer, U of T Master of Music Voice Programme Student-UTWA Scholarship Recipient. Tyler Greenleaf, Alumni Development Officer U of T



Maeve Palmer, U of T Master of Music Voice Programme Student - UTWA Scholarship Recipient (standing). Vlad Soloviev, Pianist (seated)

Anyone interested in joining UAWC is invited to contact Kathy Imrie, Vice-President of Membership, at 416-920-9153 or kathleen.imrie@utoronto.ca

Compiled by
Maggy Stepanian

December 19, 2019