

Today's meeting was called to order by President Martin Velten, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Given by Lucinda Stinson.

Arts News: Alissa Carrell presented news of arts events coming up this week.

Announcements:

-Contributions to our Charities account and RI are welcome in order for us to give back to other community organizations and continue our projects.

-Please continue to bring guests to our meeting to interest them in membership.

Happy Bucks:

Steve Kreider for two weeks in Arizona and for birth of his 9th grandchild; Aaron Winters for another grant from Pet Smart Charity for local Human Societies; Nick Boyd for the Lions victory, and first Interact meeting at Loy Norrix—which had to be cancelled due to weather, and the Kalamazoo Central group which will meet tomorrow; Dann Sytsma for a combined performance at Crawlspace Conviction with a youth group, and a performance with his son; Bob Miller for the only Michigan team still playing—the Lions!! Charlie Ofstein for his sons staying calm and helping when he broke his shoulder while they were skiing; and Chad Goodwill for his first meeting as a new member.

Program:

Aaron Bradford introduced our guest speaker for today, Rotarian Pierre van der Westhuizen, Executive and Artistic Director of the Gilmore Piano Festival. Pierre and his wife are both concert pianists and he has held prestigious positions in the music world, the most recent before taking this job in January of 2018, was as CEO of the Cleveland International Piano Competition.

This year's events will be April 24-May 12, and it will be the 35th anniversary of the festival. It will feature classical, jazz, musical theatre, pop, Broadway—something for everyone! He shared several of the featured artists returning or making their first appearance here, including many from other parts of the world. There will be three returning Gilmore artists, and six Gilmore Young Artists. Thirteen of the concerts will be live streamed this year. There will also be films, lectures and master classes which are free and open to the public.

Pierre gave a quick overview of many of the artists who will be featured including Patti LaPone, Broadway musical legend; Pink Martini; Jazz at Bells, and a variety of classical, jazz and other artists labeling several as “you won't want to miss!” To see more information on all artists and performances, check out The Gilmore's website: TheGilmore.org. To encourage us to order tickets now before they are sold out, he offered a Rotary discount. **See the next page** for instructions and details for taking advantage of the discount!

15% Offer - Use Code KR24 Until Feb 5, 2024

- Up to 4 tickets per these events:

- [Sphinx Virtuosi & Awadagin Pratt](#), Monday, April 29, 7:30pm, Chenery Auditorium
- [Yuja Wang](#), Wednesday, May 8, 7:30pm, Chenery
- [Piotr Anderszewski](#), Thursday, May 9, 7:30pm, Chenery
- [Anderszewski & the KSO](#) and 2022 Gilmore Young Artists, Saturday, May 11, 7pm, Chenery

- Enter the code prior to selecting seats

- To apply the code: type KR24 in the PromoCodeHere section on the top right. Click Apply Promo Code.

Enjoy the Festival!