



## Celebrating an American Tradition

The past and the present met in perfect harmony when Rachel Barton Pine and Karen Shaffer celebrated the legacy of Maud Powell in music, words and images in their program “An American Tradition”. More than 60 people attended the event held at the home of Adelaide Kersh in Brevard, North Carolina on September 20, 2010.

The evening opened with “Maud Powell, An American Legend” a PowerPoint presentation developed and narrated by Karen with live performances by Rachel accompanied by pianist Ruth Sieber Johnson, Executive Director of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity.

“We were really celebrating two great American violinists: Maud Powell, a pioneer in music who brought her art to audiences throughout the world as well as great integrity to her art, and Rachel who continues that tradition today as a performer and educator,” Karen explained.

Karen recounted Powell’s life from her birth in Illinois to her death in a hotel room in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on a frigid January night in 1920, just two months after she had suffered a heart attack that was mistaken for “indigestion.”



Ruth Sieber Johnson, Karen Shaffer, Rachel Barton Pine



MP Society Exhibit at the event.

In addition to using Maud’s recordings to illustrate, Rachel performed the *Romance* by Amy Beach, written for Powell and premiered by Beach and Powell at the 1893 Columbian World’s Exposition in Chicago; Samuel Coleridge Taylor’s *Deep River* transcribed by Powell; *Caprice on Dixie* for solo violin in a combined arrangement by Rachel and Powell, and *Nobody Knows the Trouble I See*, the last piece of music performed by Powell two months before her death.

“What an evening,” wrote Karen Lauritzen. “I am still in awe of your commitment to music education and mission to inspire young people, your dedication to Maud Powell. And, add to that Rachel Barton Pine...never in my life have I ever heard the violin played that way.”

“[Karen’s] knowledge and passion for the subject are certainly evident, and what you know about her and her culture is profound,” said Laura McDowell. “How fortuitous that you’ve found such a wonderful professional violinist in Rachel to help with your projects.”

“A wonderful evening of history and music. We loved it,” said Kate Daigle.

“It was a privilege for me to be able to present this program and to create more awareness of Maud Powell, her legacy and the role she played in shaping our musical heritage,” said Karen.



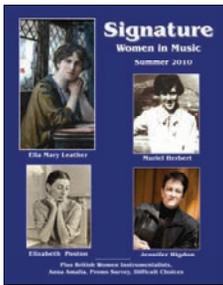
Ruth Sieber Johnson, pianist, with Rachel



Hostess Adelaide Kersh



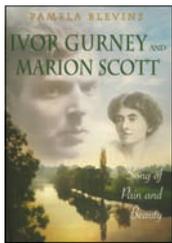
## Signature, Women in Music – Writing Women into Music History



**S**ignature, *Women in Music* magazine, continues its mission to write women back into music history although publication has been slowed without needed support. Editor Pamela Blevins invites writers to contact her about submitting articles. *Signature* is recognized worldwide as a vitally important resource

on the contributions and achievements of women in classical music. The magazine is offered free online on the MP Society's *Signature* web site: [www.signaturewomeninmusic.org](http://www.signaturewomeninmusic.org). The forthcoming issue will feature composer Josephine Lang and her women poets, Myra Hess in America, English composer Bluebell Klean. The current issue features folk music collector Ella Mary Leather, composers Jennifer Higdon, Muriel Herbert, and Elizabeth Poston.

### SAI's Help MP Society's Pamela Blevins Preserve Marion Scott's Legacy



Pam Blevins' biography of Ivor Gurney and Marion Scott (Boydell Press, 2008)

**W**orking from newspaper copies and manuscripts, a team of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity volunteers helped Pamela Blevins move forward rapidly on her book of English musicologist Marion Scott's writings by typing more than one hundred pieces of Scott's reviews, articles, essays, and lectures. "Without their help, it would have taken me many months to type everything myself,"

Blevins said. "The contribution of these volunteers enabled me to focus on the extensive annotations I felt were necessary and freed me to have the time to proof copy and write the introduction."

Marion Scott, a violinist and composer, enjoyed a successful career as a music critic and musicologist that spanned more than 40 years. She was the London critic for the American-based international daily *Christian Science Monitor* for 15 years as well as British newspapers and a number of journals including *Music and Letters* and *The Musical Quarterly*. She was an authority on Haydn and wrote a classic biography of Beethoven.

"Scott's writing gives us unparalleled history of music in Britain from about 1909 until shortly before her death in 1953. She was living music history as it happened," observed Blevins.

SAI members who worked on this project were Natalie Lentz, Anna Ratliff, Carolyn McDill, Debbie Gessey, Elizabeth Roth, Jamie Hettenbach and Chrissie Reiswig.

## Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Maud Powell's Debut



**M**usic Director David Anderson and the Lake Geneva Symphony commemorated the 125th anniversary of Maud Powell's debut on Saturday, November 13, 2010, in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. MP Society advisory board member Rachel Barton Pine performed Bruch's G minor violin concerto 125 years to the day of Maud Powell's New York debut.

Powell performed the same Bruch concerto with Theodore Thomas conducting the New York Philharmonic on November 13 & 14, 1885. Powell was hailed as a "marvelously gifted woman, one who in every feature of her playing discloses the instincts and gifts of a born artist." One critic wrote: "Miss Powell has a great artistic career open before her — one justly earned, which will surely be honorably maintained."



"We took this opportunity to let Southern Wisconsin audiences know a little about Maud Powell," Anderson remarked. The program included a well-written feature about Powell. The pre-concert talk 'From Max Bruch to Rachel Barton Pine' enabled Ms. Pine to talk about her work as Music Advisor and Editor of *Maud Powell Favorites*. Pine has often been referred to as "the Maud Powell of our Time," for her extraordinary artistry and dedication to the education of audiences and young players. She frequently performs Powell's transcriptions and music that was dedicated to Powell to the delight of audiences throughout the world.

David Anderson also serves on the artistic staff of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra in Elgin, Illinois, which sponsors the Maud Powell String Quartet, comprised of students from the Orchestra. MPS board member Kathy Matthews attended the concert.

### News of the MP Society Archive

**L**etters in German to Maud Powell written during the 1890s have been translated by Helmut Schulz. These letters were formerly in the Lineback Collection and include letters from Maud's Leipzig teacher Henry Schradieck discussing his potential move to the U.S. and Maud's early career challenges. Mr. Schulz is also translating many of the articles, programs and reviews in the archive, including those associated with Maud's Arion Tour of Germany and Austria in 1892. Happily, Mr. Schulz gladly indulges in additional research about the subjects of his translations that is enriching our knowledge of Maud Powell's associations.

## Maud Powell Brings New Excitement to Education

**Professor Carol Dallinger** performed a violin recital in honor of Maud Powell at the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana.

**Yoshie Rabottini, a 4th grade student of Lori Fitzgerald**, at the Forest View School, Mt. Prospect, IL, chose to portray Maud Powell in their Wax Museum project.

**Hyunjung Choi**, a DMA student at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, is writing a dissertation on the pioneering violinists in the United States — Camilla Urso and Maud Powell. As a violinist, Choi performs music from *Maud Powell Favorites* in concert and is the first to perform this music in Korea.



In 2010, **The Maud Powell Society provided research assistance** to the Carnegie Hall commemorative book project, the Patrick S. Gilmore Society in Ireland, the National Richard Wagner Society of Washington, D.C., the Schubert Club of St. Paul, a professional violinist from Austria based in Boston, an eleven year old violin student in Wisconsin, and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

In response to **Karen Shaffer's research** on Maud Powell's performances in Michigan, **Margaret VanWeelden** presented a talk on "The Legacy of Maud Powell" to the Detroit alumnae of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity for Alpha A Province Day on March 13, 2010. Similar programs have been presented in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

## Maud Powell featured on National Public Radio

**B**oston radio host **Virginia Eskin** included Maud Powell in her *First Ladies of Music* syndicated program, playing selections from Maud Powell's recordings reissued by Naxos. The program was aired on National Public Radio stations throughout the U.S. The NPR Series of thirteen one-hour radio programs chronicles the history of women in music, including composers, performers, conductors, and patrons.

**Jim Svejda**, famed KUSC radio host of *The Record Shelf*, devoted a two-part program to Maud Powell that aired last winter. His program included selections from Rachel Barton Pine's CD *American Virtuosa, Tribute to Maud Powell* as well as Maud Powell's recordings reissued on the Naxos label.

## Rachel, Maud, & Mahler IPO Recreates Historic Concert



**O**n January 15 and 16, 2011 the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra under the leadership of guest conductor Alexander Platt recreated one of the "supreme moments" of Maud Powell's career — her performance of the Beethoven

Violin Concerto with Gustav Mahler conducting the New York Philharmonic. The original, ground-breaking all-Beethoven concert took place in Carnegie Hall, New York City, on December 31, 1909.

Searching for a way to honor the 100th anniversary of Gustav Mahler's death, Illinois Philharmonic board president Dr. Charles Amenta came up with this novel idea for the IPO concert held in Frankfort and Palos Heights, Illinois. With Rachel Barton Pine as violin soloist, the orchestra rose to the occasion, movingly recreating the historic concert, MPS trustee and board member Joyce McFarland Dlugopolski noted. She described Rachel's performance of the concerto as "beautiful" and "masterful," noting that the audience eagerly anticipated hearing Rachel's original cadenzas for the work. Dr. Amenta described the concert as "Triumphant! Exultant! Ravishing! and Radiant!" Former president of the Chicago SO and League of American Orchestras Henry Fogel shouted his approval with hearty "bravos".

In their pre-concert talk, Dr. Amenta and Ms. Pine talked about Maud Powell and her historic significance as the first American violinist to win international fame and her pioneering educational efforts. An MPS advisory board member, Ms. Pine has brought Powell's music and achievements to audiences throughout the world and carries on the outreach work that Maud Powell championed.

The IPO displayed copies of the original program and photos of Powell and Mahler on two large posters mounted on easels. Godfrey Turner's memoir of Maud's first meeting with Mahler was reprinted in the program. All materials were supplied by the MP Society.

An internationally acclaimed violinist Pine was the music advisor and editor for *Maud Powell Favorites*. Her best-selling recording "American Virtuosa: Tribute to Maud Powell" features music from the collection. Visit Rachel's website at [www.rachelbartonpine.com](http://www.rachelbartonpine.com).



**Maud Powell T-shirts are still available! Check out our website [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org)**

## Maud Powell Arts Celebration Enriches Illinois Valley

The annual Maud Powell Arts Celebration held on August 21 in Peru, Illinois, Maud Powell's birthplace, drew over 250 people to a lively day filled with music and art. Chris Coughlin and Willa Jean Dellinger, co-chairs of the MP Society's Educational Outreach Committee, organized the celebration with the assistance of volunteers and with support from the City of Peru and other major donors.



The morning concert showcased area music students and their teachers at Maud Powell Plaza where Powell's statue stands. Featured were the Illinois Valley Music School, Carol McConaghie, Coordinator; Illinois Valley Flute Ensemble, Sue Gillio, Director; OPUS 11 Music Studio Piano Students of Stacy Konczak and String Students of Constance Deal.

Besides works by area artists, the city hall Art Show featured an image of N. R. Brewer's oil portrait of Powell. Tabletop displays enabled people to learn about the life of Maud Powell and the work of the MP Society and local arts organizations. Colorful Maud Powell T-shirts were seen everywhere, evidencing brisk sales. Peru Mayor Scott Harl cheerfully greeted visitors throughout the event. "The city of Peru fully supports the celebration of the arts in our community," Chris Coughlin remarked.

Evening concert goers responded positively to the new venue — outdoors behind the Peru municipal building where an historic church provided a dramatic backdrop for the appearances by local and visiting artists. The audience enjoyed performances by the Peru Municipal Band led by Larry Butkus, the Kendalwood String Quartet, a Vocal Trio and a Vocal Ensemble, pianist Stacy Konczak, violinist and vocalist Sarah Arter, flautist Rachel Bailey, and tenor Jeffrey Kalina. "This opportunity for the performing artists to work together," Chris Coughlin noted, "has built lasting relationships between local and visiting artists which continue to benefit our community."



The Maud Powell Arts Celebration is an event supported by the Maud Powell Society for Music and Education. It is not connected with the Maud Powell Music Festival, Inc., a completely separate entity which unfortunately no longer enjoys the endorsement of The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education.

MP Society board members Karen Shaffer and Willa Jean Dellinger founded the celebration, first held on Powell's birthday, August 22, in 1995, following the dedication of the Maud Powell statue in Peru's town center. The event takes place on the August weekend closest to Powell's birthday and is eagerly anticipated each summer.

## Noted in brief —

- **The Maud Powell Society web site** keeps you up to date on events and includes many of **Maud Powell's articles**, most of which can be found on the "For Young People" page. The web address remains [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org).
- **Marion Scott biographer and Signature editor Pamela Blevins** received an ovation for her talk titled "The Principle of Friendship" at the English Song Weekend in Ludlow, England on June 2, 2010. Her biography of **Ivor Gurney and Marion Scott, Song of Pain and Beauty**, details the life and work of these two important figures in British music. To purchase: Contact Pamela Blevins at [pblevins@erols.com](mailto:pblevins@erols.com) or 828-884-8500 or use [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).
- Maud Powell biographer Karen Shaffer gave a **Maud Powell presentation** at the Blue Ridge CC Center for Lifelong Learning in Hendersonville, NC on May 3, 2010.
- The **Maud Powell String Quartet** with new members chosen from the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, in Elgin, Illinois, is in its fourth year.
- To obtain Maud Powell's recordings, order any of the four CDs, **Maud Powell, The Complete Recordings (1904-1917)**, Vols. 1-4 (Naxos 8.110961, 8.110962, 8.110963, 8.110993) online via The Maud Powell Society's web site, through the "Publications" page at [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org).
- **Maud Powell Favorites**, an edition of rare violin masterworks including Powell's transcriptions, and violinist Rachel Barton Pine's **American Virtuosa, Tribute to Maud Powell**, Cedille records (CDR 90000 097), can be ordered from The Maud Powell Society. The CD includes selections from **Maud Powell Favorites**. Visit the "Publications" page of our web site for more information: [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org).
- **Orchestras and string players are celebrating the 125th anniversary season of Maud Powell's debut (1885-86)** through special performances honoring Maud Powell. We appreciate their efforts to acknowledge this singular event in American music history. Contact Karen at the MP Society to learn how you can join in.



**Souvenir is the Newsletter of the  
Friends of The Maud Powell Society  
for Music and Education**

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## A Message from The Maud Powell Society's President

Dear Friends,

We've made it! In 2011 we are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Maud Powell Society for Music and Education. It has been a challenge and an adventure to come as far as we have and we could not have reached this significant landmark in our history without your ongoing support.

In 1986 my ambition was simple: to make Maud Powell's name a household word once again and to inspire young people everywhere by the example of her life and art. We have come a long way toward making that dream a reality but we still have a very long way to go. The roles of women in society and in the arts are still lagging behind and this makes our efforts all the more difficult.

With the publication of *Signature, Women in Music*, we expanded our dream to include women whose important contributions to and achievements in music have been lost to current memory. We have a mission to write women back into music history from which they have been largely omitted far too long.

Yet the challenges of getting financial backing for such a magazine are overwhelming. Grants do not apply to us because there is no category for such an enterprise. Telling *her* story does not fit a category – it is not a performing art or community arts program. Advertisers will not advertise because they feel the market is too narrow! Yet *Signature* is read in 85 countries – that includes all of North America, all of western Europe as well as Russia, most of South America, six African nations, most of Asia, even Mongolia!

While music magazines that regularly highlight the historic achievements and legacies of male musicians thrive, publications that feature the achievements of women in history struggle to survive. Yet knowing the stories of women in music is an integral and necessary part of every person's heritage, just as much as the stories of men in music.

Young people are asking questions. Do women ever compose? Can a woman conduct an orchestra? Can a woman be concertmaster? Where are they going to find the answers if we do not write and publish the stories of those whose pioneering efforts have established the right of women to compose, to stand on the podium, to lead an orchestra? Can you name any resource other than our magazine *Signature*?

One enterprising musician in Scottsdale, Arizona, uses *Maud Powell Favorites* as a resource when he presents a weekly music appreciation program for the kindergarten classes in his son's school. He found that the girls want to know if women compose. He answers by telling them about Maud Powell and performs some of the music from *Maud Powell Favorites*.

Sales of *Maud Powell Favorites* have been disappointing yet these volumes represent a part of our musical heritage that deserves to be in every music library alongside volumes of Kreisler, Heifetz and other great violinists. Major music and library publications have refused to review or publicize it so we must rely on word-of-mouth to make it known. Here's where

you can help simply by encouraging your local music libraries and alma maters to purchase *Maud Powell Favorites*, or by purchasing a copy yourself to donate.

But we are making progress. We recently joined the National Women's History Project, a resource whose mission is to recognize, honor and celebrate women's history through affiliations with a variety of organizations in the United States that provide information and educational materials. By joining with them we have expanded our educational outreach and we have already been able to offer help and guidance to a Girl Scout troop. This is only the beginning but an important one because it is young people who hold the future in their hands.

I have begun work on the second edition of the Maud Powell biography which is more in demand now than ever, particularly with the release of the Naxos CDs of Maud's recordings, the publication of *Signature*, lectures in schools, colleges and libraries, and our greater presence on the Internet. The updating process should not take long but what will take time is finding a publisher, a task made even more difficult in a tight economy and by the fact that books about women in music are a hard sell at any time. You can help us here as well – if you know an agent or have a close connection with a publisher please let us know and help pave the way to an introduction. All too often in our world it is not what you know but who you know that matters.

We are looking into making my *Maud Powell, An American Legend* PowerPoint presentation available in DVD format for use in schools. It is a colorful, dramatic program featuring hundreds of illustrations, music examples and narrative. Again, you can help us by putting us into contact with someone who has the technical expertise to make this project happen.

The work of the Maud Powell Society is not limited to Maud herself, it reaches well beyond her to encompass women of all eras. Maud is the symbol for what women can achieve against seemingly insurmountable odds, to break down barriers to open a world of possibilities and opportunities for women in all fields. We see her as a positive role model to emulate and as a teacher who creates awareness and inspires young people to follow their dreams and not let obstacles stand in their way.

We have come a long way in 25 years with your encouragement, belief in our work, and your financial support. Like other non-profits across the nation we are struggling to keep our head above water in a difficult economy. Because we fall between the cracks that would otherwise enable us to obtain grant money and other outside support, we rely exclusively on the generosity of our Maud Powell friends whose contributions make it possible for us to continue our work and to develop new programs for the future. Tax-deductible donations of \$10, \$25, \$50 are the lifeblood of our organization while larger contributions enable us to extend our reach. What you give today will make a difference in the life of a young person tomorrow.

*With warmest good wishes,*

*Karen A. Shaffer*



**Your contributions make all of our work possible.  
The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education is a tax-exempt,  
non-profit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible.**

Dear Karen:

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Maud Powell Society for Music and Education! Keep up the good work! I am proud to support The Maud Powell Society in its efforts to inspire young people with Maud Powell's life story, her recordings, her writings and her transcriptions and to write other important women back into music history through *Signature* magazine. Here is my contribution in support of all the good work you are doing in reaching more people than ever before with the inspiring message of Maud Powell's life and legacy.

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.** I have made my check payable to The Maud Powell Society. **Please be sure to send me the next Friends' newsletter.**

**Trustee \$2,500 annual donation** \_\_\_\_\_

A position of honor, trust and service held by one who is committed to the purpose of The Maud Powell Society and willing to lend their name, financial resources and advice to forward its mission.

**Key Signature \$1000 annual donation** \_\_\_\_\_ Supports publication of *The Maud Powell Signature* magazine.

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\_\_\_\_\_ I have set forth names and addresses of friends you can place on the Society's mailing list.  
(Please list them on the reverse of this form.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer typing help with your Maud Powell collected writings projects.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to connect you with potential major individual or corporate donors.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have subject or sponsorship ideas for *Signature* or would like to write for or help market *Signature*.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in the conference for writers about women musicians.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me information on the Maud Powell children's book or \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return to **The Maud Powell Society, 68 Grandview Ave., Brevard, NC 28712**

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The Maud Powell Society's purpose is to educate the general public about the life and art of Maud Powell and her contributions to American musical life as well as to the art of violin playing. In addition, the Society is established to further Maud Powell's musical ideals by sponsoring educational projects and programs to promote music in education and public awareness of the contributions and achievements of women in music. Founded in 1986, The Maud Powell Society is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, operated exclusively for charitable and literary purposes. Contributions are tax deductible.