



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

June 18, 2024

2023-2024 Board Members

President Edwin Peacock

Pres Elect Kim Brattain

Past Pres William Bradley

Secretary John Cantrell

Treasurer Craig Field

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Directors 2023-2025

Patrick Baker

Linwood Bolles

Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

David Head

Joel Ford

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Andy Dinkin



John Tosco, Bringing Music to our Community

by **Rick Handford**

Dr. Tony Zeiss started his introduction of John Tosco by noting that our club has had a matching grant program for music during the last two years which has gone to help fund the Loonis McGlohon statue and a music scholarship program managed through Tosco Music. He thanked the three club presidents that supported this initiative, **Carol Hardison**, 2021-2022, **William Bradley**, 2022-2023, and **Edwin Peacock**, 2023-2024 and especially Executive Secretary, **Christine Cipriano**.

John Tosco is the founder and Executive Director of Tosco Music, a nonprofit organization that has been enhancing Charlotte's community through music for the past 30 years. Tosco Music produces a quarterly concert series that features an eclectic mix of all styles of music. Each Tosco Music Party showcases approximately 15 amateur and professional musicians. These 'music parties' started as informal song circles and jam sessions in John's living room when he first moved to Charlotte. They now take place in the 1,200-seat Knight Theater. Tosco Music also hosts a Beatles Tribute in the same format where only Beatles music is performed. All shows include Tosco's trademark singalongs with the audience. In addition to the family-friendly concerts, Tosco Music raises funds for youth music scholarships and provides other music outreach for the community.

John started by showing a brief video which can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_UUuYZ2KD0&ab_channel=ToscoMusic. As you might expect from the link, when you follow it you not only

get the introductory video, but access to many performance videos collected over the years.

He then thanked our club for its support of music scholarships for young people, which have amounted to \$15,000 over the past two years and doubled the number of scholarships available. Scholarship recipients are recognized at the Tosco Music Parties. Scholarships have provided private music lessons, attendance at music camps, and purchase/repairs to musical instruments. Some scholarship recipients have performed at Tosco's "Open Mic Nights" held at the Evening Muse on the first Tuesday of each month.

He also noted some upcoming events: Free live music outside at the Seoul Food Meat Company in NoDa on July 4th; Free 'Viva la Musica! CLT' at the Visulite Theater on June 27th; and the 20th anniversary Beatles Fab Fest at Knight's Theater on October 4th and 5th (Beatles music on 4th and Paul McCartney music on 5th). Details and tickets are available at toscomusic.org. This is also where you can find information about scholarship winners, activities, and the good work of the organization.

He then introduced two scholarship recipients, violinist Sayuki Peterman (16) and vocalist Nicoleta Cutitaru (17). Sayuki, who lives in Waxhaw and attends Marvin Ridge High School, played a beautiful violin piece by Bach. Nicoletta was a student at Ardrey Kell HS and is now attending the NC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. She was accompanied by Janice Radner on the piano as she sang a lovely French song about summer (as I have no French, I can't describe more fully). Sayumi will be using her scholarship to attend a music camp in Vermont, and Nicoletta to attend a six-week program at Boston University.

John spoke about the growth of the company, primarily organic and by word of mouth until it couldn't fit in his house anymore, eventually reaching a size where the nonprofit could be incorporated in 1999. The musical presentations are of all genres, from Jazz to Classical to Bluegrass to Pop to Rock to Country. He uses music as a way to connect people with others and improve the sense of community in a healthy way that avoids the divisiveness of politics. The music is not only of all genres, but also all ages. He recounted a story about a five-year-old girl singing the song "Tomorrow" from "Annie" at one of the Music Parties in the Knight Theater. They are very selective about the quality of the performances at the Music Parties, but somewhat less so at the Open Mic events where you can see a wider range of performances and support young musicians. The talent is amazing, as today's performances demonstrated.

To hear today's performances, please look to the Rotary Reporter for access to the video. For more information on Tosco Music and its events, go to either of the links provided above and for music lessons go to toscomusicstudio.com. Our thanks to John for his amazing work and to our performers for a great job.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/962483804>
The program introduction begins at approximately 21 minutes and 48 seconds.