



**January 11, 2021**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PANDEMIC PROVIDES MONTCLAIR EARLY MUSIC WITH  
OPPORTUNITY TO GROW**

Montclair Early Music (**MEM**) has found the pandemic an opportunity for growth. They are proud to announce highly qualified additions to their Board of Directors to further their mission to:

- Promote interest in early music (before 1750), the recorder and other period instruments, and
- Provide an opportunity for people of all levels to play socially or perform music as part of an ensemble.

To make these plans a reality – Markus Gottschlich, Bernard Schoenfeld, Christopher Bleeke and Wilma Hurwitz have joined the MEM Board bringing with them their special musical and communication talents.

**Markus Gottschlich** is an Austrian-born pianist, composer and Steinway Artist who has lead a number of nonprofits in the cross section of music and education including the Miami Beach Jazz Festival, Jazz Academy Miami, the New Mexico Jazz Workshop, and most recently Jazz House Kids and the Montclair Jazz Festival. Apart from performing, writing commissioned works and music for film, Markus is a sought-after educator and curator of music series and festivals.

A member of the Board since 2019, **Bernard Schoenfeld** has been appointed Chairman of the Board. He is retired from many years working in various capacities for a major New York financial institution. His positions included senior economist, portfolio manager, and investment consultant to major public, corporate and Taft-Hartley pension funds as well as noted foundations.

Schoenfeld's love of the recorder and early music inspired him to join **Montclair Early Music**. Learning the recorder as a child he went on as an undergraduate to perform as a soloist, accompanied by harpsichord or guitar and as a member of the University of Maryland Madrigal Singers. Over the last several years he has performed with various amateur groups playing Israeli folk music on recorder, guitar, flute or percussion.

**Christopher Bleeke** works as an elementary music teacher for Belleville Public Schools. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers, the State University in New Brunswick. Along with conducting his choirs, he enjoys teaching his third and 4th grade students to play recorder and has been a strong supporter of **Montclair Early Music's** Elementary School Recorder Contest. Several of his students have been winners of the contest.

**Wilma Hurwitz**, a Montclair-based public relations/marketing consultant, was invited to join the Board this year after successfully publicizing **Montclair Early Music** group's October 2020 outdoor performance of "A French Masque" featuring special performance by four 4<sup>th</sup> grade medieval recorder students in Montclair and Bloomfield schools. Her "French Masque" publicity program secured **MEM's** recognition by key local media (*Montclair Local News* and *Montclair Times*) as well as citations in the websites of the Montclair Board of Education and Township of Bloomfield Schools. Wilma brings 15+ years of success leveraging the visibility and

expertise of Fortune 500 companies, top universities, community colleges, local governments and non-profit institutions.

**MEM** has openings on its Board for an accountant and someone with development background.

For more information about **Montclair Early Music** and upcoming events, visit [www.montclairearlymusic.org](http://www.montclairearlymusic.org).

**Montclair Early Music (MEM)** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization comprising amateur and professional musicians. It was established in 2010 by Julienne Pape with the objective of raising awareness and appreciation of Medieval and Renaissance music. Recent events include a French Masque (October 2020), Christmas in Italy (December 2019), a Wassail Celebration (January 2019), Shakespeare and his music (October 2018), St. George & the Dragon (December 2017) and Robin Hood at the May Faire (May 2017).

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CAPTION: Montclair Early Music: October 2020 "Masque" performance in Avis Memorial Gardens

Julienne Pape, President and Founder of Montclair Early Music (left), presenting awards to four 4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school student artists performing at October 4 concert in Montclair. From left to right: Lyle Harmon and Coco Luraschi -students at Edgemont School in Montclair; Lindsay Chabla and Maya Herrera-Shimokawa from Belleville School #5. Far right - Chris Bleeke, music teacher for Lindsay and Maya at Belleville School #5 and a new Board member in 2021.

Photographer: Nicolas Dufour, Montclair Early Music