

Greetings from The Music Corner!

I would like to announce our new Music Corner column. The Good Lord willing and the 'creek don't rise' I will write a monthly note for inclusion in our newsletter. Donald Waxman, a well-known composer, close friend of almost 40 years, and World War II veteran, is celebrating his 100th birthday with a concert of his music on March 8, 2026 at Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL. He has asked violinist Saul Bitran and me to open the concert with his piece, Pastoral and Fantasia, which he wrote for us. It will be an honor to be part of that celebration. Donald will close the program with a new set of compositions - three musical portraits and he has told me that one of them will represent me - yikes!!

Rhonda and I lived in Boca Raton, FL (1986-2014) and for more than a decade of that time I would go to the Waxman home at 7:00 on Saturday evening where Donald's wife Jho (who was a fabulous pianist and teacher,) and I would spend a couple of hours playing repertoire for each other, critiquing each other's playing, discussing all my students' problems and I would try out pieces for upcoming concerts. Shortly after 9:00 Donald would come in and we would be immersed in the world of 20th Century music, or other music that he had selected to discuss and play. Jho and I were often assigned pieces to learn... At 10:30 sharp Donald would leave us and go out to prepare a light repast, something savory, fresh coffee and always the finest french pastries available in south Florida.

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On my many trips to France and Germany I would go to the bakery early on the morning of my return and bring fresh pastries home. Donald and Jho had spent a year living in France as the recipient of the prestigious Guggenheim fellowship and they loved all things about France. O the halcyon days...

I hope you can forgive my reminiscences of that precious happy time. While I am gone my thanks are to Deacon Goins and Ellen Light who will be guardians of the music at FPC. I would appreciate your thoughts and prayers as Rhonda and I are away.

Blessings,
Harold

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