

# “Would you please open the parlor door so I may listen?”

That question, made by a German officer who was occupying part of her family’s Denmark home during the height of World War II, made a life-long impression on the young Ellen Jabbur. Her mother would play radio broadcasts of classical music concerts twice a week, and the officer – who had been a violinist in the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra before the war – longed to hear the music he so missed. “He was a gentleman,” Ellen recalled, “not like the other soldier who lived with us at the same time. That one was a real Nazi. But the officer was always kind to us. We kids figured that if he was interested in this music, there must be something to it.”

Her mother died when Ellen was just 19, and the young woman took over running the household. She studied to become a nurse anesthetist, came to the United States when she was 30, got married. Throughout it all, she has always carried with her a passion for music and art.

“My husband was 11 years older than I,” Ellen noted. “Although my husband had wonderful friends and colleagues, I decided when I got married that I wanted to build my own community as well, outside of his circle. That’s how I got involved with local arts organizations.”

Ellen has worked tirelessly on behalf of regional cultural institutions, including Albany Pro Musica, where she is a board member.



**ELLEN JABBUR**

“I first learned of APM through my neighbor’s book club,” recalled Ellen. A long-time APM singer and board member was in that same club, and invited Ellen along to concerts and events. “I fell in love with Albany Pro Musica, especially the concerts that go beyond my own taste. I appreciate the artistic license and the endeavor that go into pushing those boundaries.”

“I’ve named Albany Pro Musica in my estate plan for two reasons,” Ellen reflected. “For one, there are financial advantages to making a planned gift – my husband and I went through a similar process with another organization and were able to enjoy a number of tax benefits as a result. Second, and more importantly, I want my passion for the arts to continue through the beautiful music that APM creates. The world needs music – now more than ever – and putting this plan in place ensures that I can help an organization I love, for years to come. I would encourage everyone who shares my love of APM to do the same.”