

Exploring the Creative Process at the Leroy Anderson House

The idea for the series of presentations by Woodbury, Connecticut area artists titled *Exploring the Creative Process* came to Rolf Anderson in response to questions from visitors to the Leroy Anderson House who asked about composer Leroy Anderson's creative process. Many people know Leroy Anderson as the composer of "Sleigh Ride" and numerous other popular, light concert pieces. As Rolf explained his father's approach to composing music, he compared and contrasted the stereotypical depictions of a composer writing music at the piano with his father's entirely cerebral method of composing while pacing through the house in the evening, seemingly lost in thought.

In conversations with his brother Kurt Anderson, General Manager of WMNR Fine Arts Radio, Rolf and Kurt agreed that the Leroy Anderson Foundation could expand the audience which the concerts at the house attracted by developing new programs at the Leroy Anderson House centered on visual artists, – painters, sculptors, photographers and textile artists. Their parents had embraced modern art by commissioning and collecting art by local artists. This series of presentations, they felt, would carry their parents' interest in visual art forward and broaden the impact of the Leroy Anderson Foundation.

Rolf had noticed the great work being done by Sandy Carlson, poet laureate of Woodbury, in presenting poetry at the Woodbury Public Library. A relationship between the Arts Alliance of Woodbury and the Leroy Anderson Foundation was growing out of some AAW events which were hosted by the Leroy Anderson Foundation.

Rolf and Sandy met for the first time at the Leroy Anderson House in 2023 and discussed Rolf's ideas. With Sandy's support, her connections to area artists and her boundless energy, she reached out to the members of the Arts Alliance of Woodbury and scheduled the first series of four speakers at the Leroy Anderson House. Now in the midst of the second series of four presenters in early 2024, *Exploring the Creative Process* at the Leroy Anderson House, response is overwhelmingly positive. Rolf and Sandy are already scheduling the third series of speakers for autumn 2024.

The Leroy Anderson House, a historic house museum, is located at 33 Grassy Hill Road. Admission is free. Reservations are required. To reserve a place, send an email to: leroyandersonfoundation@gmail.com.

For complete information about the Leroy Anderson House visit the website:
www.leroyandersonfoundation.org