

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



131ST SEASON

SEPTEMBER 2017

VOL. 52, NO. 1

From the President

Yvonne Sabine

Welcome to our 132nd year of operations. Some highlights of the summer include a Town Hall meeting to discuss the Club's upcoming name change and its roll-out over the coming year; a very sudden notification of the need to change our mailing address and move our files from the old Carnegie Library building where they have been housed for some time; and Fairlie Maginnes' resignation as Director of Concerts in Schools.

Earlier in the summer the Club received notice that we could no longer receive mail or store files in the old Carnegie Library building on Mt. Vernon Square because it has been purchased by Apple who will be remodeling it. So in a very short time this problem was solved thanks to Gail MacColl, Jo-Ann Royer, Anne Zim, and Peter Baum. The Club's new mailing address is: FMMC or FMMC Foundation, care of Calvary Baptist Church, 755 8th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. The telephone number remains the same: 202-333-2075. The

files were moved to their new location in northern Virginia. Thanks to all who took part in this effort.

On June 22, 2017, a successful Town Hall meeting was held to discuss the upcoming Club name change and its roll-out over the coming season. A summary of the proceedings of that meeting are elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am very sad to announce that Fairlie Maginnes has resigned from her position as Director of Concerts in Schools because of family pressures. Fairlie has done a wonderful job in this position, recruiting members to take part in the Washington Performing Arts annual silent auction. Thank you, Fairlie, for your contributions. If you would be interested in taking over this job, please call or email me.

Please mark your calendar for the first Friday concert at Calvary Baptist Church on October 6, 2017. I am sure that Jeongseon is planning a great program for this occasion and it would be wonderful if we had a large audience. As always, the



Yvonne Sabine

concert will be followed by the President's Reception. I look forward to seeing many of you there. 🍷

Yvonne

Update Your Contact Information

Carol Fromboluti

Confused about how to update your contact information? Go to the Club's website, click on the Membership Directory, sign in, and update your profile. If you need to change your email address for purposes of the list serve, send me a note at newsletter@fmmc.org with your old and new addresses and I'll delete the old email and send you an invitation from Yahoo groups to rejoin under your new email. Once you get the invitation, it's up to you to follow the directions to join. 🍷

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An official publication of the
Friday Morning Music Club, Inc.

Organized in 1886

YVONNE SABINE

FMMC President
fmmc@fmmc.org

CAROL FROMBOLUTI

Newsletter Editor
newsletter@fmmc.org

For address changes,
please go to
www.FMMC.org
and update your
member profile.
If you do not have
access, send changes to:

JULIA MOLINE
2nd VP Membership
membership@fmmc.org

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From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxemburg

September brings the start of a new round of Friday Morning Music Club activities, and for the Foundation this will be the most challenging year in our three year cycle. In 2018 we will be holding both the Johansen International Competition for Young String Players (13-17) from March 14-17, as well as the Washington International Competition for Strings and the Washington International Competition for Composition from June 22-24. Members of the Johansen Steering Committee and the Foundation Board have been putting in many hours to prepare for these signature events.

Please put the dates on your calendar now and also consider actively participating to ensure their success. Serving as a volunteer at one of the competitions is a rewarding way to get in on the action, but providing housing for a competitor is an even more personal experience.

Robert Lehrman and Susan Thaul, who hosted Yi-Yang Chen when he was here to solo with the Avanti Orchestra in June could not have put it better:

“Just letting you know what a pleasure it was to host Yi-Yang. Everyone was very appreciative, but they weren’t more appreciative than Susan and I were, not only because listening to him practice downstairs each day was fun for me, and not only because he played so brilliantly, but because Yi-Yang turned out to be such a great person. After the concert we went out to a Korean restaurant and celebrated. Each of the three years we’ve done this has been rewarding. I’m glad you thought of us.”

JIC Committee Chair Judy Silverman or I would be delighted to hear about your interest in helping as either a volunteer for the competition or as a host.

If you missed Yi-Yang’s triumphant and extremely well received outing with Avanti in June, make a point of hearing him at the Nagle Memorial Piano Recital on Tuesday, September 26th at the Cosmos Club. Details on making reservations can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.



Working with appreciative and worthy young artists such as Yi-Yang is what makes all our efforts worthwhile. Another example is the phenomenal young violinist Lara Boschkor who was the First Place violin winner in the 2015 JIC. Lara recently won First Place in the Tonali Competition in Hamburg, Germany in July, 2017 and afterward had this to say about playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in Dresden “... it was very good to have played this Concerto with Maestro Pablo Saelzer before (with Avanti in 2016), so I had some experience...Best wishes to the whole JIC team!”

We welcome our new Foundation Board of Trustees members Marta Howard and Eun-ju Kwak and new Board secretary Rosanne Conway. We are delighted that Judy Silverman has returned to the Board in the position of JIC Chair. We are also grateful for the continued dedication of Composition Competition Chair Mark Simon, WIC Competition Chair Chen-Li Tzeng and Assistant Competition Chair Grace McFarlane, and all the members of the Board and the JIC Steering Committee who work continuously to ensure the success and professionalism of our endeavors. 🎻

Leslie

Washington International Competition for Piano

Leslie Luxemburg

The 64th Annual Washington International Competition for Piano concluded on stage at the Theatre of the Arts at the University of the District of Columbia on Sunday, June 4, 2017. The First Prize was awarded to Yi-Yang Chen, a 26 year old from Taiwan who is finishing his doctoral studies at Eastman after gaining previous degrees from Juilliard and Eastman as an undergrad. Yi-Yang has already accepted a teaching position at Eastern Tennessee State University.

Saetbyeol Kim, 28 from South Korea claimed the Second Prize and Christopher Goodpasture, 27, from the USA took Third. They were joined on

stage by Josquin Otal, 24, from France, Kyle Orth, 26, from USA and Chelsea Wang, 23, from USA, who all received finalist awards. Mr. Orth also was awarded the special audience prize.



Esteemed judges Menahem Pressler, Ann Schein and James Tocco were also present as the decisions were announced, as were the outstanding Competition Chair Chen-Li Tzeng and Foundation Director Leslie Luxemburg.

Pictured left to right: Saetbyeol Kim, Chelsea Wang, Christopher Goodpasture, Kyle Orth, Josquin Otal, Yi-Yang Chen.

Congratulations to all our participants for a memorable competition! 🎶

Concert Review

Robin Friedman

The Friday Morning Music Club Chamber Concert of March 17, 2017, at Calvary Baptist Church featured vocal and instrumental music in a collection of duos. The concert also showcased the dedication of Gail MacColl, who received Club Honorary Membership. Gail enthusiastically hosted the program, helped with the ushering, and did the post-concert chores, including covering and moving the Club's grand piano. Gail is a treasure to the Club.

The concert opened with two gifted pianists, Barbara Peterson Cackler and Rosanne Conway combining their talents to perform as the "Double C Piano Duo." They played a selection of works for piano four-hands arranged by Greg Anderson. The duo performed Gluck's frequently transcribed "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" from *Orfeo* followed by "Tam-bourin Chinois," a virtuosic, Eastern-influenced piece written for violin and piano by Fritz Kreisler. They concluded with a performance of Rachmaninoff's haunting "Vocalise," Op. 34 No. 14 composed for high voice and piano. Transcription is of-

ten an under-appreciated art and Barbara and Rosanne showed their skill, while alternating in the "primo" and "secundo" roles.

Soprano Debora Madsen and pianist Frank Conlon followed the Double C Piano Duo with a performance of French art songs. This was the second Friday Club concert this season that emphasized the beauty of French song. Debora and Frank performed three songs by Claude Debussy to texts by Verlaine and Theodore de Banville, including "pantomime," a lively song about the commedia dell'arte. Singer and pianist then performed two songs by Fauré that set to music love poems by Romain Bussine and Armand Silvestre. The songs were performed with impeccable diction and perfect collaboration between the voice and piano.

The program concluded with a mainstay of the cello-piano repertoire, the Sonata No. 3 in A major, op. 69, an exultant work from Beethoven's middle period. The work received a highly emotional performance from cellist Laurien Laufman and pianist Chen-Li Tzeng. Laurien enjoyed an international career as a cellist after winning the 1975 Concert Artist Guild Competition in New York City.

Chen-Li taught for many years at National Pingtung College in Taiwan where she also toured extensively. Their love of this masterpiece was evident in the combined performance.

At the concert's close, Gail commended the performers for the hour of beautiful music and noted how the concert had brought "smiles to the faces" of those in the audience. We hope more Club members and guests will take advantage of the opportunities to attend the Friday Chamber Series. 🎶

Announcement

Beginning this month, Board representatives will audit selected concerts at our premium venues on an ad hoc basis. The aim of this trial program is to evaluate the entire concert experience, including the venues, acoustics, audiences, publicity, and performances, in order to improve quality and attendance. 🎶

2017 Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass & Percussion

Edith Tatel and Carole Falvo

On March 18, 2017, thirteen gifted students performed with challenging repertoires. Repertoire for winds and brass required pieces from 3 different periods, one unaccompanied, and at least one memorized. This year's competitors exhibited outstanding musicianship on flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, euphonium and tuba.

We congratulate the following winners:

First Place (\$1,000)

Olivia Johann - oboe, gr.11

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Second Place (\$700)

Ashley Hsu - clarinet, gr.11, Wootton High School

Third Place (\$500 each)

Yeama Ho, - flute, gr.12, Winston Churchill High School

Kendra Luedke - euphonium, gr.10, Loudoun Valley High School

Honorable Mention:

Dani Kim - flute, gr.11, Trinity Christian School

Claire Cheng - clarinet, gr.10, Wootton High School

The judges awarded all the above winners Student Membership in the Friday Morning Music Club with the first year free.

In addition, the following competitors were awarded Student Membership in the Friday Morning Music Club:

Joseph Li - clarinet, gr.12, Richard Montgomery High School

Se Young Park - flute, gr.9, Montgomery Blair High School

William Porter - alto Saxophone, gr.11, Suitland High School

Grace Tifford - tuba, gr.9, Brookewood School for Girls

Paul Yoo - clarinet, gr.10, Wootton High School

Annie Zhao - flute, gr.11, Montgomery Blair High School

**The 2018 Ross-Roberts
High School Competition
for Woodwinds, Brass & Percussion
will take place on March 24, 2018. 🎶**



Olivia Johann - 1st Place



Ashley Hsu - 2nd Place



Yeama Ho - 3rd Place



Kendra Luedke - 3rd Place



Dani Kim - Honorable Mention



Claire Cheng - Honorable Mention

Nagle Piano Recital *Tuesday, September 26, 2017* *at the Cosmos Club*

Leslie Luxemburg

This year's winner of the Washington International Competition for Piano, Yi-Yang Chen, will return to Washington to present the Nagle Memorial Piano Recital on Tuesday, September 26th at 7:30 PM in the Warne Ballroom at the Cosmos Club. The performance follows his triumphant appearance playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Avanti Orchestra on June 24, 2017.

We are excited at the prospect of hearing Yi-Yang in this auspicious space which has been the frequent site of many FMMC activities in previous years, including concerts given by the namesakes of the award, Alice and Arthur Nagle, the premier duo-piano team in Washington for decades. While there is no charge for admission, reservations are required and may be secured by contacting Marta Howard at: foundation@track.pup-works.com. Non-members of the Cosmos Club will not be permitted entrance without a reservation. A reception will follow the concert.

Yi-Yang's program also will include works by Rachmaninoff and Debussy, as well as some of his own compositions. This is a great opportunity to hear an outstanding young artist in an elegant venue. 🎧



Yi-Yang Chen

The Outreach Program: An Intro, a Pitch, and the Fine Print

Sheyna Burt

You probably are familiar with FMMC's orchestra, chorale, formal recitals, and competitions. Standing among those amazing musical accomplishments is FMMC's version of Jan Brady – a less heralded but equally important program, a program desperately seeking your attention.

That program is Outreach.

First, a brief introduction: As a Performance, Associate, or Student Member of FMMC, you are eligible to participate in FMMC's Outreach Program. Players and singers are invited to perform small ensemble concerts of approximately one hour at senior facilities, libraries, coffee-houses, and other non-traditional concert spaces. Others, especially networkers, are invited to help spread the word about FMMC's history, concerts, competitions, initiatives, and membership opportunities at schools, houses of worship, and meet-

ings of civic and social organizations.

Second, a heavy-handed pitch: As of the time of publication, Outreach has a list of more than 125 non-traditional venues and each one of them thinks that you are the best at music. Physical ailments, schedules, traveling limitations, and lack of awareness of the Club's activities often preclude the residents and members of these places from attending FMMC's regularly programmed performances. These folks want to be exposed to live music, they want to hear you play, and they want to learn about how they might get more involved with FMMC. These people want music and information, and your involvement in the Outreach Program is a profound and sincerely appreciated act of generosity.

Third, the fine print: As a participant in the Outreach Program, the logistics are yours to arrange; we're here to facilitate, but we leave the organizing to you. You

choose which venues interest you, you choose dates and times, and you choose the music and/or discussion topic. And after all of that choosing, you coordinate directly with the venue to make your mini-event happen. We ask only that you report back to us to let us know what you did and how it went.

Whether you are preparing music for a formal recital, testing out new material, reminiscing over old material, or just looking for more playing time, Outreach is a vehicle for you to express yourself and to shine a light on FMMC for grateful audiences.

To participate in Outreach, or for a complete list of venues, performance opportunities, and general information about the Outreach Performance Program, contact Sheyna at outreach@fmmc.org. 🎧

Avanti Masterwork Festival Concert

Carol Bartholomew

The Avanti Masterwork Festival Orchestra performed the Brahms Symphony No. 4 and the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 to a full house on June 24, 2017, at the Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring. This year there was an added dramatic twist to the program: A week before the concert, Avanti received word that the expected soloist, Alvaro Parra, violinist with the Berlin Philharmonic, had to cancel due to illness. Fortunately, Maestro Pablo Saelzer was able to arrange for Yi-Yang Chen, the recent First-place winner of the Washington International Competition for Piano, to perform the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 with the orchestra instead. The orchestra and the audience so appreciated Mr. Chen's willingness to step in on such short notice and were delighted by his superb performance.

After receiving an enthusiastic standing ovation, Yi-Yang Chen proceeded to perform as an encore a piece he composed

in 2012 in response to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan titled "Memorium: Japan 2011." Avanti is looking forward to performing again with Mr. Chen when he will return in November to play the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1.

The concert also provided the occasion to honor Anne Zim, a longtime supporter, generous friend, and ardent fan of Avanti Orchestra. Warm introductory remarks were made by Jan Timbers, a former Avanti cellist, who was responsible for first introducing Anne to the orchestra many years ago.

One of the special features of the annual Masterwork Festival is that many guest musicians make the effort to travel to DC, sometimes from considerable distances, to join the orchestra for the week. (Unlike other Avanti concerts, the Masterwork Festival involves an intense week of rehearsals every night, followed by the concert the next night.) This year there was enough of a contingent from Chile

that we decided to invite the Chilean ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés to attend the concert. We were very pleased that he was able to join us, along with Antonia Echeñique, the ambassador's wife, Roberto Brodsky, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Chile, Javier Arrey, Metropolitan Opera, Gerardo Saelzer Canouet, and Soledad Guzmán, music teacher, Liceo Armando Robles Rivera.

The Masterwork Festival differs from regular Avanti concerts in other ways: Co-sponsored by Montgomery College since 2010, the one-week festival is when the orchestra and Montgomery College bring together musicians—both FMMC members and non-members, including students—to learn, rehearse, and perform a symphonic masterwork.

Special thanks are due to the ushers and front-of-the-house volunteers: Caroline Hayes, Tiffany Wong, Anne Ukata, and Randy Bartholomew. 🎻

Avanti Orchestra Season Begins

Nan Cooper

Avanti Orchestra of the Friday Morning Music Club begins its 2017-2018 season and 75th year on Saturday, September 16, 7:30 PM at Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center, Silver Spring, MD. Conductor Pablo Saelzer and the orchestra will present soloist Tony Rymer, cello, in a performance of Dvořák's Cello Concerto and Villa-Lobos' Bachiana Brasileira #5, the latter calling for eight cellos and a soprano. Joining Mr. Rymer and the cellists in the Villa-Lobos will be soprano Maggie Finnegan, winner of the 2016 Washington International Competition (<http://www.alpha-artists.com/maggie-finnegan>). Also on the program are Dvořák Slavonic Dances.

Cellist Tony Rymer has performed major concerti to critical acclaim with the Atlanta Symphony, Boston Pops, Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, and Pittsburgh Symphony, among others. He was the Second Prize Winner in the 2014 Enescu Competition, won first prize in

the 2009 Sphinx Competition Senior Division and took 3rd place in the 2009 Stulberg International String Competition. Mr. Rymer is currently a Masters student of Frans Helmerson at the Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik in Berlin.

Mr. Rymer plays a cello made by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume (Paris), on loan from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben.

Avanti is planning three more concerts this season including a performance at Schlesinger Concert Hall in celebration of the orchestra's 75th Anniversary.

Sunday, November 19, 2017, 4 PM, Cultural Arts Center. Soloist: Yi-Yang Chen, piano, Washington International Competition winner. Program: Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto and Dvořák Symphony No. 6.

Friday, March 9, 2018, 8 PM, Schlesinger Concert Hall. Soloist: Javier Arrey, baritone, Metropolitan Opera. Program: Schubert Unfinished



Tony Rymer

Symphony; Mahler Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen; and Strauss Aus Italien Op. 16, movements 1 & 2.

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 PM, Masterwork Festival, Cultural Arts Center. Program: Mahler Symphony No. 5.

See you at the concert hall! 🎻

FMMC Concert Calendar

SEPTEMBER and EARLY OCTOBER 2017

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 pm at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- LESLIE BENNETT: *Conversations With Virginia Woolf*. **Liana Valente**, soprano; **Sharon Guertin Shafer**, piano.
- RACHMANINOV: *Variations on a Theme of Corelli, op. 42*. **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- SHARON GUERTIN SHAFER: *Gene Markowski Songs*. **Liana Valente**, soprano; **Sharon Guertin Shafer**, piano.
- SHOSTAKOVICH: *Sonata, op. 147*. **Shearom Chung**, viola; **Richard Foo**, piano.

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 pm at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center Avanti Orchestra, Pablo Saelzer, conductor. soloists: Maggie Finnegan, soprano; Tony Rymer, cello.

- DVOŘÁK: Slavonic Dances
- VILLA-LOBOS: *Bachiana Brasileira #5*
- DVOŘÁK: Cello Concerto

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 pm at Dumbarton House

- S.L. WEISS AND HENRY PURCELL: Selected works. **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.
- J. S. BACH: Cantata BWV 209, "Non sa che sia dolore." **Deborah Thurlow**, soprano; **Susan Hayes**, flute; **Barbara Gholz** and **Joyce Rizzolo**, violins; **Bob Huesmann**, viola; **Ginny Atwood**, cello; **Sharon Ollison**, harpsichord.
- BEETHOVEN: Quartet in D Major, op. 18, no. 3. **David Brown** and **Sheyna Burt**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Joanna Taylor**, cello.

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Cosmos Club

The Alice and Arthur Nagle Piano Recital, presenting Yi-Yang Chen, first prize winner of the 2017 WIC for Piano. Free, open to the public. Reservations required: email Marta Howard: foundation@track.pupworks.com

Friday, October 6, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church Season opening concert, President's Reception to follow.

- J. S. BACH: *Italian Concerto*. **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- FAURÉ: Selected Songs. **Katie Katinas**, soprano; **Ruth Locker** (guest), piano.
- COPLAND: Sonata for clarinet and piano. **Tianlai Lu**, clarinet; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.

Friday, October 6, 8:00 pm at the Church of the Reformation

FMMC Chorale, Paul Leavitt, conductor. Soloists: Madalaine Vander Linden, soprano; Linda Maguire, alto; Stephane Sénéchal, tenor; bass TBD.

- LEAVITT: *Requiem*

Saturday, October 7, 8:00 pm at the Church of the Reformation

FMMC Chorale, Paul Leavitt, conductor. Soloists: Madalaine Vander Linden, soprano; Linda Maguire, alto; Stephane Sénéchal, tenor; bass TBD.

- LEAVITT: *Requiem*

VENUES

Calvary Baptist Church
755 Eighth Street NW
Washington, DC
(Metro: Gallery Place)

Church of the Reformation
212 East Capitol St. NE
Washington, DC
(Metro: Capitol South or
Union Station)

Cosmos Club
2121 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC
(Metro: Dupont Circle)

Dumbarton House
2715 Q Street NW
Washington, DC

**Montgomery College
Cultural Arts Center**
7995 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD

**Westminster at Lake Ridge
Retirement Community**
12191 Clipper Dr.
Lake Ridge, VA



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Chorale Starts Rehearsals for its Early-October Concert and a Trip to Europe

Peter Baum

On August 20, 2017, the Chorale and Orchestra of the Friday Morning Music Club resume rehearsals for the first concerts of the year. On October 6 and 7, the Chorale will present the Leavitt *Requiem* and other a cappella works at the Church of the Reformation for two “bon voyage” concerts as we embark on our first European tour. On October 17th, the Chorale will join forces with the Flottbek Kantorei and the Emeriti Musici Orchestra for a joint concert at the Hauptkirche St. Trinitatis Altona in Hamburg under Paul Leavitt’s direction. The following weekend both groups will perform with the Lithuanian National Ballet and Opera Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Robertas Servenikas at St. John’s Church in Vilnius.

Paul Leavitt spent time in both Hamburg and Vilnius this summer meeting with the chorus orchestras to rehearse the *Requiem*, and commented, “I spent a week with Flottbek Kantorei and had five rehearsals with them, including two with the Emeriti Musici Orchestra, which is made up entirely of retired players from the three professional orchestras in Hamburg. I also had the chance to see Robertas Sevenikas conduct at a festival he created in Tytuvėnai. He’s a conductor of the highest level, who is quite specialized in opera and chorale works. I’m sure everyone will enjoy working with him in Vilnius.”

There is still time for vocalists to join the Chorale and Orchestra for the concerts this fall in the DC area. Rehearsals

are every Sunday from 1:30 – 4:00 PM in the Parish Hall at Church of the Reformation.

Upon its return to the US, the Chorale will begin rehearsals on November 5, for their second concert that is scheduled for January 12 and 13, 2018. The principal work on this program will be the Mozart *Requiem*. Additional music has not been determined at this time.

Soloists interested in performing on the January concert program should contact Paul Leavitt at chorale@fmnc.org. The Mozart *Requiem* requires four soloists. 🎤