

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



133RD SEASON

FEBRUARY 2019

VOL. 53, NO. 6

From the President

Yvonne Sabine

Here we are in the beginning of 2019! Hopefully we are all refreshed from our Christmas-New Years holiday. We have lots of wonderful concerts planned for February, so get out your calendars and plan to attend. Check out the calendar in this newsletter for details on where and when.

In January's newsletter I made a plea for more volunteers to help run the Club. Needless to say, we still need volunteers—especially a couple of members to help with the upcoming spring luncheon to be held on Friday, May 10 at the Chevy Chase Club. This is a time limited job but a very important one. Please contact me immediately at 703-356-5408 or at y.sabine15@gmail.com if you can assist with this important job.

The next FMMC Chorale concert is January 25 and 26 featuring Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* and Mozart's *Davidde Penitente*, K. 469, conducted by Paul Leavitt. It will be held at the Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol Street, NE as usual.

I've been looking through our history in "The First 100 Years of the Friday Morning Club of Washington, DC" by Charlotte Shear (www.fmmc.org/images/fmmc_docs/fm-mcfirst100yrspart1.pdf) and would recommend it to you. This detailed history of the club tracks its beginnings from a group of women who met in their homes, to the club we know today. Reading the history has increased my deep appreciation for this wonderful organization. The club has depended on volunteers like you for 132 years as it continued to expand and grow. In the preface, Ms. Shear states, "I have realized that a continuing core of women (and men in the last 20 years) cared deeply about the role of the club in their personal lives and sustained it by their dedication. By providing a place of meeting, they nurtured the musical talents and growth of the performing members and assured them of a loyal, supportive, and musically knowledgeable audience. These performers are now in the mainstream of Washington's musical life."

The club has survived for 132 years because of the dedication and volunteerism of its members. Let's not let it down now. Please think about what the club has been offering you and consider lending your time to keep this wonderful organization running. 🎵

Yvonne



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High School Piano Competition

Chen-Li Tzeng

The Friday Morning Music Club Stubbs-Henbest-Davis Memorial Competition for High School Pianists will take place on April 6, 2019 at the National Presbyterian Church. The application deadline is March 11, 2019. Application forms are available on the web: www.fmmc.org under "Local Student Competition." Contact competition chair Chen-Li Tzeng at highschoolpiano@fmmc.org with any questions. 🎵



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Dallas Morse Coors Foundation Awards Grant to FMMC

The Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts has approved an FMMC grant request for \$4,000 for the November 11, 2018, concert held at the Cultural Arts Center, Silver Spring. The concert was presented by the Avanti Orchestra of the FMMC and featured Youjin Lee, last spring's first prize winner for violin at the 2018 Washington International Strings Competition. This is the nineteenth year in a row that the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation has generously supported the FMMC.

The Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts was established by Mr. Coors in 1990 for the purpose of supporting the performing arts, principally in the greater Washington, DC area and at Cornell University.

The Foundation is administered by a trustee with the assistance of an advisory committee knowledgeable about the performing arts in the Washington area. Successful applicants need to have demonstrated artistic excellence, innovation, community outreach, and strong management and financial stability.

The FMMC is extremely fortunate to have such a loyal supporter of our Club! 🎶

Chorale Heads towards Its Second Concert

Peter Baum

The Chorale's second concert of the 2018-2019 season is scheduled for January 24/25 and, depending on when you see this, there should be time to attend in person. The concerts will be held at the Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol St., NE) starting at 8 PM each evening.

The two works programmed for this concert, one by Mozart and one by Poulenc, were created approximately 170 years apart. Mozart's *Davidde Penitente* (KV 469) was composed in 1785. At the time, Mozart was in a hurry to meet a deadline and took the Kyrie and Gloria from his *C-Minor Mass* (KV427) that he had partially completed three years earlier, added a couple of arias, and used Italian texts instead of Latin. As was usual for Mozart, the resultant work was successful and he achieved his objectives as a composer. However, this work is rarely performed today.

Poulenc's *Stabat Mater*, composed in 1951, is the second work on this program. Poulenc wrote the piece to commemorate the death of a friend and, despite the serious nature of the text, composed a work that varies from somber to frivolous. As with many of Poulenc's other works, strong elements of jazz pervade the music that is scored for five voice parts. In contrast to the rarely heard Mozart, the *Stabat Mater* is

a very popular work and performed with great regularity by choruses.

The Chorale, supported by a full orchestra, will be joined by soloists Rhiannon Vaughn and Annie Schwartz, sopranos, and tenor Tae Kwak on the Mozart. Soprano Michelle Fegeas will sing the solos in the Poulenc.

With the completion of this concert, the Chorale will turn its attention to the preparation of music for its third concert. The theme of the final concert of the season will be Opera Meets Broadway and will feature music from a number of well-known works. Soloists (all voice parts) interested in singing should contact Paul Leavitt at chorale@fmmc.org to schedule an audition. 🎶

Membership Update

New Members

Linda A. Mundy
Associate
Milton, DE 19968

Tanya Lee
Chamber Piano
Bowie, MD 20720

From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxemburg

If it's February already, then the deadline for the 2019 Washington International Competition (WIC) for Voice is not far away. February 15th is the cutoff date for applications, and Competition Chair Katie Katinas and the entire Foundation Board are anticipating an especially strong group of vocal applicants this year. Please make a note of the dates of the competition that fall on Memorial Day weekend; Saturday May 25th for the semifinals and Sunday May 26th for the finals. The finals take place at 2:00 PM in the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center.

For the first time in the history of the WIC, an orchestra will accompany the finals. The Washington Chamber Orchestra is an excellent local group, founded in 2014, conducted by their up-and-coming young maestro Jun Kim. We are excited that the finalists and our audience will all enjoy an enhanced experience.

For the semifinal round on Saturday, this year's accomplished team of accompanists will be our ubiquitous and esteemed Joy Schreier, who will be joined for the first time by Wei-Han Wu. The semifinal repertoire will consist of art songs in several languages, as well as an oratorio selection. On Sunday, each chosen finalist will present two opera arias accompanied by the orchestra. This will give the judges an overview of the range of each singer's talent and will enable them to make an informed decision regarding the winners. As a reminder, audience members who are present for the entire final round can vote on the special audience prize, named in memory of our beloved FMMC supporter Viola Musher. Clearly you will want to be there!

It stands to reason that there are greater expenses involved in using the orchestra. This year, more than ever, we



would love to count on your financial support of the WIC. A stress-free way to donate is to attend our 2019 WIC benefit. An outstanding participant from the 2011 WIC for piano, Fanny Azzuro, will be coming all the way from Paris to play our only scheduled benefit recital on Monday, April 22nd at 7:30 PM at the Steinway Gallery in North Bethesda. Fanny will present a one-hour program of French and Russian music that will be preceded by a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. She is sought-after and highly regarded here and abroad as both a recitalist and a chamber music participant. Specific details will follow, but we sincerely hope you will take advantage of this delightful opportunity to support our efforts to enhance our competitions and ensure their continuing relevance. We have a long and storied history and a great deal of which to be proud. 🎵

Leslie

Invitation for Pianists

Mary Ellen Lavelle

Piano Group II, an FMMC music-at-home group that began in 1990, has been losing its members to relocation, illness, or age. Consequently, we are inviting Friday Club pianists to join us on the fourth Tuesdays of the coming months through April. The format is simple: Beginning at 10:30 AM, each pianist performs a classical music selection, followed by a luncheon that sometimes lasts until 1:30 if we linger over dessert. The happy benefits are not only social, but include exposure to piano repertoire, experience performing on an unfamiliar grand piano, and the testing of a personal work in progress. Our current group includes three men and three women, both solo-piano and associate-piano members.

Those interested, please contact Piano Group II Chairperson Mary Ellen Lavelle for dates and locations of the coming musicales and for making a reservation for your attendance. Email: maryellenlavelle@verizon.net or call: 240-731-6370. 🎵

FMMC Concert Calendar

FEBRUARY and
EARLY MARCH 2019

February

Friday, February 1, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- IVES, BURLEIGH, CARPENTER, ORNSTEIN, FOOTE: American Songs from the First World War. **Karen Mercedes**, contralto; **Ruth Locker** (guest), piano.
- CHOPIN: Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, op. 54. SCHUMANN: *Novelettes*. **Simon Finlow**, piano.
- SARASATE, PONCE/HEIFETZ, GERSHWIN: Selected duos. **Shy-Luen Chen** (guest) and **Kelly Hsu** (guest), violins; **Li-Ly Chang**, piano.

Thursday, February 7, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- AMY BEACH: *Pastorale*. GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE: Choral et Deux Variations. **Deborah Hazel Johnson** (guest), flute; **Laura Langbein**, clarinet; **Brian Harris** (guest), oboe; **Ken Hawes** (guest), horn; **Teresa Meeks**, bassoon.
- SAINT-SAËNS, THIMAN, KEEL, MENDELSSOHN: Selected duets. **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Ben Wallis**, baritone; **Ruth Locker** (guest), piano.
- GREG ANDERSON: *Papageno!* **Barbara Peterson Cackler** and **Rosanne Conway**, piano four hands.

Friday, February 8, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- BURGMÜLLER: Duo for clarinet and piano. **Lana Em**, piano; clarinet TBA.
- CHOPIN: Scherzo no. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 31; Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat Major, op. 51. SCHMIDT: *All of Me*. **Yuri Chayama**, piano.
- STRAVINSKY: *L'Histoire du Soldat*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.

Sunday, February 10, 3:00 pm at The Lyceum, Alexandria

- MOZART: Trio in E-flat Major, K.498 ("Kegelstatt"). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Joan Mizrahi**, piano.
- DEBUSSY: Selected Preludes from Book 2. **Charles Timbrell**, piano.
- STRAVINSKY: *L'Histoire du Soldat*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.

Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 pm at Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville

- CHOPIN: Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat Major, op. 51; Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 31.
- JON SCHMIDT: *All of Me*. **Yuri Chayama**, piano.
- WOLF: Selected lieder. **Anissa Hartline Orsino**, soprano; **Sarah Strauss Himmelfarb**, piano.
- YORK AND REICH: Selected duos. **Charles Mokotoff** and **Ben Altman**, guitars.

Thursday, February 14, 12:00 noon at Old Town Hall, City of Fairfax

- HAYDN: Sonata in D Major, , Hob. XVI/42 . **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- CHELSEA KOMSCHLIES: Selections from *Book of Spells*. **Susan Brandt**, flute; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet.
- VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Suite for viola and orchestra. HÉLÈNE FLEURY: Fantaisie, op. 18 for viola and piano. **Danielle Wiebe**, viola; piano TBA.

Friday, February 15, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- HAYDN: Sonata in D Major, , Hob. XVI/42 . **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- CHELSEA KOMSCHLIES: Selections from *Book of Spells*. **Susan Brandt**, flute; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet.
- VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Suite for viola and orchestra. HÉLÈNE FLEURY: *Fantaisie*, op. 18 for viola and piano. **Danielle Wiebe**, viola; piano TBA.

Friday, February 15, 1:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

- CLARFIELD: *Love is a place*. MENDELSSOHN: Selected works for flute and piano. **Toby Rotman**, flute; **Karin Staudenmayer**, piano.
- PIAZZOLA: Selected movements from *Histoire du Tango*. **Tianlai Lu**, clarinet; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.
- MENDELSSOHN-HENSEL, MENDELSSOHN, RUBINSTEIN, SECUNDA, BERNSTEIN: Selected solos and duets. **Michelle Fegeas**, soprano; **Mark Bublitz**, tenor.
- GERSHWIN: *Cuban Overture*. **Jeongseon Choi** and **Misoo Lim** (guest), piano four hands.

Saturday, February 16, 1:00 pm at the National Presbyterian Church Student Composition Competition Finals

Friday, February 22, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church Composers Concert

- LESLIE BENNETT: *A Spiritual Journey with D. H. Lawrence*. **Jonathan Hoffman**, tenor; **Frank Conlon**, piano.
- GARRISON HULL: *Piano Sonata No. 2 ("Riverside")*. **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.
- BRANIMIR KRSTIC: *Barcarola*. **Branimir Krstic**, guitar.
- STEVEN SCHWARZ: Works for piano and cello. Cello TBA; **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- SHARON GUERTIN SHAFER: *Seasons; Reflections*. **Liana Valente**, soprano; **Sharon Guertin Shafer**, piano.

Friday, March 1, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- BEETHOVEN: Sonata in F Minor, op. 2, no. 1. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.
- SELECTION TBA: **Hyejin Kim**, viola.
- VIVALDI, HANDEL, MOZART AND BRAHMS: Selected solos. **Anne Bentz**, soprano; **Julie Pointing** (guest), oboe; **David Chapman**, piano.

Sunday, March 3, 7:30 pm at Riderwood Retirement Community

- PROGRAM TBA

Thursday, March 7, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- ALBERTO GINASTERA: *Cinco Canciones Populares Argentinas*. **Polly Baldrige**, soprano; **Mark Pfannschmidt**, piano.
- GLUCK: *Ballet* from Orphée et Eurydice, arr. Greg Anderson. ARENSKY: *Silhouettes*, op. 23 (selections). BARBER: from *Souvenirs*, op. 28, VI: *Galop*. **Irina Koulikova** and **Alice Ji**, piano four hands.
- ROGER FISKE: Sonata for clarinet and piano. **Phyllis Crossen-Richardson**, clarinet; **Janet Crossen**, piano.

Friday, March 8, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- BACEWICZ: *Capriccio*. **Christine Kharazian**, violin.
- DAVID RUBENSTEIN: *Shifting Sands; Dance of the Sprites at Daybreak*. **Jeffery Beaudry**, piano.
- RAVEL: Sonata no. 2 in G Major. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.

Friday, March 8, 8:00pm at the Church of the Epiphany

Avanti Orchestra, Pablo Saelzer, conductor, Christopher Schmitt, piano.

- HANDEL: Water Music Suite No. 1.
- MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 17, K.453.
- ELGAR: Introduction and Allegro, op. 47, with the Strings Avenue Quartet.
- HANDEL: Water Music Suite No. 2

VENUES

Calvary Baptist Church

755 Eighth St. NW
Washington, DC
(Metro: Gallery Place)

Church of the Epiphany

1317 G St. NW
Washington, DC
(Metro: Metro Center)

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

8900 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA

Jordan Kitt's Music

11726 Parklawn Dr.
N. Bethesda, MD 20852

The Lyceum

201 S Washington St.
Alexandria, VA

The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike
N. Bethesda, MD
(Metro: Grosvenor)

National Presbyterian Church

4101 Nebraska Ave. NW
Washington, DC

Old Town Hall, City of Fairfax

Corner of Main St. (Rt. 236)
& University Dr.
Fairfax, VA

Riderwood Village Chapel

3110 Gracefield Rd.
Silver Spring, MD

Meet the Composers Group

Mark Simon

Musicians will agree that one fundamental need is to perform. But even more fundamental than that is the need to create music. The Friday Morning Music Club has around 25 active composers who belong to a Composers Group that gives them a platform from which to present their latest creations. There are four concerts of music by the group's members every year, the next one being on Friday, Feb. 22 at noon at Calvary Baptist Church.

I participated in the group's first presentation of the year, on Dec. 14. This is a particularly attractive time to attend an FMMC event, since it's the last concert of the year and includes a free holiday lunch—hosted by the Club.

Free lunch aside, another thing said not to exist is interesting and listenable new music. This concert also proved that not to be true.

First up was *A Pebble from the Brook*, a short and engaging work for oboe, horn and piano by Jonathan Newmark, with Newmark himself at the piano. He came back later to play a movement from one of his piano sonatas. Mark G. Simon performed his somewhat virtuosic *Three Etudes* for bass clarinet solo. Leslie Bennett, with Jonathan Hoffman, tenor, and Frank Conlon, piano, presented a trio of compositions based on Emily Dickinson poems, and Sharon Shafer accompanied tenor James Stevens in *Poems of a WWII Veteran*, a tribute to her own father through settings of his poetry.

FMMC composers write in a variety of styles and one can expect a great deal of diversity in a program of their works. One thing all of our composers share is the tremendous amount of effort and dedication required before the program even begins. The compositional process itself can be lengthy, but once completed the music must be copied. The players must then be found and rehearsed. It takes a special kind of performer to be willing to take the risk of devoting time to learning an unknown entity, as opposed to good old Beethoven. But Beethoven got to be Beethoven because there were performers willing to play his music and audiences willing to listen. So the FMMC Composers Group is providing an essential service necessary for the renewal of our art. 🎧

“The musical experience needs three human beings at least. It requires a composer, a performer, and a listener, and unless these three take part together there is no musical experience.”

Benjamin Britten

Johansen International Competition (JIC) Update: Sharon Park

Judy Silverman

It is always a great pleasure for members of the JIC Steering Committee to catch up with former winners of our competitions. I was recently in touch with violinist Sharon Park, who tied for third prize in the 2003 JIC. After winning her JIC prize, Ms. Park earned a BM from the New England Conservatory, an MM from Juilliard, and a DMA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was awarded second prize and the audience favorite prize at the 2014 Bruce Ekstrand Memorial Performance Competition, a top prize at the Stradivarius International Violin Competition, and the ARTS Award in music from the National Foundation of Advancement in the Arts. She has been a soloist, recitalist, and chamber and orchestral musician, performing in venues such as the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Zipper Hall at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, Merkin Hall, and the Verona Arena in Italy.

Ms. Park has traveled as a member of an ensemble with New England Conservatory composer and theory professor Pozzi Escot, giving performances of the professor's works in Vermont, Boston, and Hawaii. She is a founding member of the Azur String Quartet, which the *New York Times* praised for "a supple, convincing" performance of Walter Piston's Fifth String Quartet during the Focus Festival at the Juilliard School's Peter J. Sharp Theater.

Ms. Park serves as principal second violin of Central City Opera and acting principal of Boulder Philharmonic, performing frequently with the Colorado Symphony and Boulder Bach Festival Orchestra. She was recently appointed adjunct faculty for chamber music at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She also has released a CD of the six sonatas of Eugene Ysaÿe. I was privileged to hear this CD, and it is wonderful. Interested persons can purchase it through Amazon or iTunes (www.sharonparkviolin.com/album). Ms. Park also can be heard in a number of performances on her YouTube page (www.youtube.com/channel/UClukL6ih7kDu3CZCip37DnQ).

In addition to her solo and chamber music performance career, Ms. Park is passionate about music education and community outreach and is determined to bring world-class performances and music education to local communities. Her extensive experience in arts administration draws on her performing experience. Recent arts management engagements include positions as music curator at the Dairy Arts Center, marketing and operations man-



Sharon Park

ager for the Colorado Music Festival and Center for Musical Arts, and operations manager at the Colorado Suzuki Institute.

Her chief mentors have included Edward Dusinberre, Ronald Copes, Donald Weilerstein, Robert Lipsett, Michelle Kim, and Alice Schoenfeld.

Ms. Park sent this comment about her experience with the JIC:

I am so thankful for the support of the JIC. Having participated and won in the competition during a pinnacle point in my career, it truly helped shape the path I took as a musician, making it possible for me to further develop my musicianship and continue pursuing my dreams. Thank you so much to everyone at the JIC and for continuing to support the future generation of musicians! 🎻

"If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing."

Sir James Barrie, Peter Pan

Concerts Featuring 2018 JIC Viola Winner Beatrice Chen

Violist Beatrice Chen, 2018 JIC first-prize winner, will be performing on several concerts in the DC area in the spring of 2019.

Sunday, March 17, 5:00 PM. Atlas Performing Arts Center (1333 H St NE, Washington, DC), Capital City Symphony, Victoria Gau, conductor, Bartók *Viola Concerto* (see full program at www.capitalcitysymphony.org/events/2018/8/24/mythical-melodies)

Monday, March 18, 2:00 PM. Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads (3440 South Jefferson Street, Falls Church, VA): Mozart *Clarinet Quintet* with Albert Hunt and the Chen String Quartet (Robert Chen, Laura Park Chen, Beatrice Chen, Noah Chen)

Sunday, March 24, 3:00 PM. The Lyceum (201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia): same program as March 18

Sunday, May 5, 7:30 PM. Riderwood Village (3140 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring, MD): Beethoven String Quartet Opus 18, No. 6 (Chen String Quartet) and "Eyeglasses" Duo (Beatrice and Noah Chen); Dohnányi *Serenade* (Laura, Beatrice, and Noah Chen); Ysaÿe *Ballade* (Robert Chen) 🎻



Beatrice Chen

Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion March 23, 2019

Applications are being accepted for the 2019 Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. The competition will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019, from 9 AM to 3 PM at the National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The application deadline is March 2, 2019.

For additional information and application forms, visit www.fmhc.org or contact highschoolwind@fmhc.org.

FMHC members are cordially invited to help as host/usher the day of the competition. Please reply to the chair at highschoolwind@fmhc.org. 🎻

Encourage Your Students to Apply!

“No matter how corrupt, greedy, and heartless our government, our corporations, our media, and our religious & charitable institutions may become, the music will still be wonderful.”

*Kurt Vonnegut,
A Man Without a Country*



Friday Morning Music Club
 755 8th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001

Thank You To Our 2018 Donors!

The Friday Morning Music Club is deeply grateful to the following generous donors who supported our efforts through December 31, 2018, to promote musical culture among our members and the community.

Maestro

The estate of Sally West Potter
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 Sue Goetz Ross

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Maestro - \$5,000 or more
 Concertmaster - minimum \$1,000
 First Chair - minimum \$500
 Section Member - minimum \$100