

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



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From the President

Yvonne Sabine

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all enjoyed the Holidays, especially family, good food, music, and general well-being. It was good to see many of you at the Composers concert and Holiday reception on December 14. We certainly have a talented membership.

As we enter January, it is time to make your new year's resolutions. I hope that one resolution will be to become more active in the Friday Morning Music Club. Many of you pay your dues, perform in concert, and end your participation there. Sadly, that is the extent of your involvement. If you enjoy the Club, think about all it takes to keep it running with a small budget and primarily volunteer staff. So much more needs to be done. Unfortunately, the Club is at a tipping point now. With over 600 members, only about 20 actively contribute to running this wonderful and varied organization. We need volunteers for everything from our next President and Foundation Director, to people willing to spend an hour once in a while to act as ushers at our concerts, and many things in-between. Regrettably, the Club is not sustainable if more people don't start to volunteer. So please, contact me or any member of the board, and we will talk with you about finding an appropriate volunteer activity that is mutually agreeable. We need you!

Similarly, you may have noticed that attendance at some of our concerts is rather thin. If you are a performer and appreciate an audience, remember that you too must be part of the audience when



others perform. With our vast membership, we should be filling the room at many of these venues. The full calendar of events appears in every issue of the newsletter and is posted on our website and on Facebook. Don't just play—listen to others as well.

In other news, we are actively recruiting a Managing Director to take on some of the less glamorous responsibilities of the Club. The duties are listed separately in this newsletter. If you are interested in this position, or know of someone who might be, please apply.

We all need to give a hearty round of thanks to Anne Zim who has been working night and day to take over the duties of Treasurer. Anne is instrumental in keeping the Club going during our recent staffing transitions. As for the website, we are zeroing in on a replacement for our former web contractor and hope to have that contract in place soon.

So, happy New Year. I look forward to seeing more of you more actively involved in 2019. 🎵

Yvonne

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News From the Avanti Orchestra

Nan Cooper

A full house greeted Avanti Orchestra and soloist Youjin Lee, violin, at the November 11 concert held at Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring, MD. Conductor Pablo Saelzer began the program with Mozart's *Serenata Notturna* in D major featuring concertmaster Robyn Tessin and principal players Micah Lemons, violin; Julia Moline, viola; Douglas Rathbun, double bass; and John Fuller, timpani; followed by Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*. The concert concluded with Ms. Lee's expressive performance of Beethoven's *Violin Concerto*, for which the audience showed its appreciation with a heartfelt standing ovation.

Ms. Lee has been a prize-winner at some of the world's most prestigious competitions. In 2013 she won first prize in both the Stulberg International String Competition and the Irving M. Klein International String Competition. More recently she was awarded

first prize and audience prize at the 2018 Washington International Competition for Strings, second prize at the Seoul International Violin Competition, third prize at the Munetsugu Angel Violin Competition in Japan, and finalist at the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition. Currently, Ms. Lee studies with Ida Kavafian at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Avanti Orchestra and FMMC wish to thank the FMMC Foundation and the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts for their support of this concert.

Mark your calendars for Avanti Orchestra's next performance on Friday, March 8, 2019, 8 PM, at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW, Washington, DC. Pianist Christopher Schmitt will per-

form Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 17, KV 453*. Also on the program will be Handel's *Water Music* and Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* with the Strings Avenue Quartet. For more information contact AvantiOrchestra@gmail.com. 🎻



Youjin Lee

Photo courtesy of the Menuhin Competition

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.fmmc.org or contact highschoolwind@fmmc.org.

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

Encourage Your Students to Apply!

find us on **facebook**

From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxemburg

As I write this, what is promised to be an especially snowy winter is already upon us. We are grateful for the uplifting power of music to warm our hearts and help carry us through to brighter days!

Reflecting on recent concerts featuring Foundation competition winners is also inspiring. November featured two such events: Youjin Lee's memorable appearance with the Avanti Orchestra on November 11th playing the Beethoven Violin Concerto, and Yi-Yang Chen's delightful Embassy Series piano recital on November 15th at the Arts Club of Washington. FMMC members who were able to attend one or both of these con-

certs were surely impressed by the level of talent and commitment displayed by these young artists.

Youjin, at 23, is already a seasoned professional who played every note of this challenging work to perfection. Currently a student at Curtis, she had to dash back and forth to Philadelphia to participate in concerts on the two nights preceding her Avanti appearance.

Those of you who heard Yi-Yang in his previous DC outings last year with Avanti and the Cosmos Club knew what to expect. He certainly didn't disappoint! It is a real treat to see such a warm and engaging artist who also ex-



L to R: Jerome Barry, Yi-Yang Chen, Yihan Sun, Leslie Luxemburg, and Jack Yeh-Chin Kuei at the Arts Club of Washington. Photo courtesy of Morris Simon

hibits superior technical and interpretive skills. His program was carefully chosen to entertain as well as impress, and it definitely achieved that goal. Waltzes and mazurkas by Villa Lobos, Chopin, Granados and Alwyn made up much of the program. As a lovely example of "paying it forward" and continuing with the dance theme, Yi-Yang invited his former student Yihan Sun, currently a graduate student at Peabody, to join him in a piano four-hand selection by Barber, "The Hesitation Tango" from *Souvenirs*. The duo played this charming selection with great flair.

At only 28 and already an assistant professor of piano at East Tennessee State University as well as actively pursuing his performing career, Yi-Yang exemplifies all we strive to accomplish with our competitions. Congratulations to both Youjin and Yi-Yang for making all of us proud.

Coming up on January 20th is another concert to brighten our winter days. One of the 2018 JIC winners, cellist Michal Balas, will be returning from his home in Poland to play the Tchaikovsky *Rococo Variations* with the Apollo Orchestra at 4:00 PM. This excellent orchestra presents its concerts for free at various venues in the metropolitan area. I can't imagine a better way to spend a wintry Sunday afternoon. We hope to see many of you there! 🎻

Leslie

Membership Update

New Members

Andrew Tangborn
(Solo Clarinet)
Bethesda, MD 20814

Leslie Kinnas
(Orchestra Violin)
Washington, DC
20016

Michelle Fegeas
Solo Soprano
Fairfax, VA 22030

Myung Ja Oh
Chorale
Silver Spring, MD
20910

Rhiannon Vaughn
Solo Soprano
Washington, DC
20002

Renewal Members

Margaret Fisher
(Orchestra Cello)
Springfield, VA 22152

Steven Fisher
(Associate)
Springfield, VA 22152

Tasha Pulvermacher
Orchestra Violin
Washington, DC
20004

FMMC Concert Calendar

**JANUARY and EARLY
FEBRUARY 2019**

January

Thursday, January 3, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- BRUCH: from Eight Pieces, op. 83 for clarinet, viola and piano, I, II, IV. PAQUITO D'RIVERA: *Afro* (Arranged by Gustavo Tavares) for clarinet, viola and piano. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Felicia Weiss**, piano.
- STRAVINSKY: *The Rite of Spring*. **Jeongseon Choi** and **Misook Lim** (guest), piano four hands.
- EMIL SJÖGREN: Six songs from Julius Wolff's *Tannhäuser*, op. 12. TURE RANGSTRÖM: Flickan under nynån; Pan. **Debora Madsen**, soprano; **George Peachey**, piano.

Sunday, January 6, 7:30 pm at Riderwood Retirement Community

- J. S. BACH and BRANIMIR KRSTIC: Selections for classical guitar. **Branimir Krstic**, guitar.
- PROKOFIEV: Sonata for clarinet and piano, op. 94. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.

Thursday, January 10, 11:00 am Collington Retirement Community

- PETER SCHICKELE: *Dances for Three*. **Nancy Genovese** and **Steve Lawson** (guest), clarinets; **Don Loomis** (guest), bassoon.
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata in A-flat Major, op. 110. **Charles Timbrell**, piano.

Friday, January 11, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- RODRIGO: *Dos Poemas de Juan Ramon Jimenez*. RON WARREN: *Quatro Sonetos de Amor*. **Deborah Thurlow**, soprano; **Susan Hayes**, flute; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- SELECTIONS TBA: **Refiye Tappan**, piano.
- FRANÇOIS DEVIENNE: Duo I. **Heidi Schuller**, flute; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola.

Sunday, January 13, 3:00 pm at The Lyceum, Alexandria

- BRAHMS: Piano Quintet in F Minor, op. 34. **Simon Finlow**, piano; **Robyn Tessin** and **Carolyn Esko Carlson**, violins; **Julia Moline**, viola; **Valerie Matthews**, cello.
- EWAZEN: *Roaring Fork* (quintet for wind instruments). *Morpheus Chamber Players*: **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Jeff Kahan** (guest), oboe; **Alisha Coleman** (guest), clarinet; **Eric Hall** (guest), bassoon; **Wendy Chinn** (guest), horn.

Thursday, January 17, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore Composers Group

- GARRISON HULL: Sonata for Piano. **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.
- JOHN HILTGEN: *Friendship After Love*. **Deborah Sternberg**, soprano, **Anna Nizhegorodtseva**, piano.
- ANMIN WANG: Barcarolle for wind octet.
- JEROME HEFFTER: Duo for Bassoon and Violoncello.
- LAWRENCE INK: Fantasy for Two Flutes. **Lawrence Ink** and **Susan Brandt**, flutes.
- BRANIMIR KRSTIC: Four études for guitar. **Branimir Krstic**, guitar.
- MATTHEW PETERSON: *Vingar, Virvlar*. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Mark G. Simon**, clarinet.

Thursday, January 17, 12:00 noon at the Old Town Hall, Fairfax

- SATIE, CHAUSSON: Selected songs. **Peggy McNulty**, soprano; **Gillian Cookson**, piano.
- POULENC: Sonata. **Andy Tangborn**, clarinet; **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- STRAVINSKY: *The Rite of Spring*. **Jeongseon Choi** and **Misook Lim** (guest), piano four hands.

Friday, January 18, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- HANDEL: "Da Tempeste il legno infranto" and "V'adoro, pupille" from the opera *Giulio Cesare*. **Heather Brown**, soprano; **David Chapman**, piano.
- MOZART: Duo for violin and viola in B-flat Major, K.424. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Susan Russo**, viola.
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata in A-flat Major, op. 110. **Charles Timbrell**, piano.

Sunday, January 20, 4:00 pm at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church Michał Balas, 2018 JIC Cello Winner, in concert with the Apollo Orchestra. Free.

Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 pm at Goodwin House, Alexandria Student Recital

Friday, January 25, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- J. S. BACH: Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, BWV 974 (after Alessandro Marcello).
- MEDTNER: Sonata-Elegy in D Minor. **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- RANDALL THOMPSON: Suite for oboe, clarinet and viola. **Eric Wagner** (guest), oboe; **Nancy Genovese**, clarinet; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola.

Friday, January 25, 8:00 pm at the Church of the Reformation

- FMMC Chorale, Paul Leavitt, conductor
- POULENC: Stabat Mater. MOZART: *Dauid Penitente*, K.469.

Saturday, January 26, 8:00 pm at the Church of the Reformation

- FMMC Chorale, Paul Leavitt, conductor
- POULENC: Stabat Mater. MOZART: *Dauid Penitente*, K.469.

Monday, January 28, 7:00 pm at Miller's Grant Retirement Community

- LOVELADY, ALBENZ, AND YUQUIJIRO YOCOH: Selected works. **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.
- RAVEL: String Quartet in F Major: **David Brown** and **Sheyna Burt**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **David Pearl**, cello.

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.

VENUES**Calvary Baptist Church**

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

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

One Chevy Chase Circle
Washington, DC

Church of the Reformation

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

Collington Retirement Community

10450 Lottsford Rd.
Mitchellville, MD

Goodwin House

4800 Fillmore Ave.
Alexandria, VA

The Lyceum

201 S Washington St.
Alexandria, VA

The Mansion at Strathmore

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

Miller's Grant Retirement Community

9000 Fathers Legacy
Ellicott City, MD

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

Obituary John Stephens

John Stephens, Composer (age 91)

On Sunday, November 18, 2018, John E. Stephens of Kensington, MD, died peacefully at home. Dr. Stephens was the beloved husband of Barbara Bickley Stephens; loving father of Claudette, Cynthia, Roderick, Curtis and Karl; grandfather of Darren, Amanda, Karly, Andrew and Max; and great-grandfather of Addison.

John Stephens was a musician, composer, conductor and teacher who actively participated in the musical scene in the DC area for over 70 years. He received his DMA in composition from Catholic University. Dr. Stephens served as a member of the FMMC Foundation Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Washington International Competition for Composition.

Dr. Stephens founded, and was music director of, The American Camerata for New Music—a professional chamber orchestra that performed a concert series of contemporary music for over 20 years in the Washington-Baltimore area, bringing numerous notable premiere performances to the area. He also founded AmCam Records and released numerous recordings of contemporary music.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to Holy Cross Hospice. 🎵

Position Available: FMMC Managing Director

The Managing Director will have responsibility for overall management of the FMMC's day-to-day operations. This includes:

- Streamlining of administrative tasks,
- Coordinating all FMMC activities by ensuring effective communication among the Club's Board, committee chairs, members, volunteers, and audiences,
- Implementing a strategy for attracting and recruiting new Club members and for improving audience attendance,
- Developing and implementing a fundraising plan that includes enlisting corporate sponsors and creating new community partnerships.

Requirements: At least 5 years experience in membership, marketing, and development and proficiency in Word, Excel, and QuickBooks.

Salary: Starting \$55,000–\$60,000 plus benefits for a 40-hour week. Interested persons should send a resume to WICstrings@gmail.com, or newsletter@FMMC.org 🎵

Working with Sinfonía por la Vida in Ecuador

Albert Hunt

(Editor's note: Several FMMC members have been volunteering in Ecuador, bringing music to impoverished students. What follows is a description of their recent experience.)

The worst thing was the flight. Delayed two hours at Dulles, we had to literally run to make the connection. But it was worth it when we deplaned in lovely Quito, a world heritage city. The next day, we flew to Esmeraldas, an Afro-Ecuadorian city nestled by the Pacific Ocean.

On Monday, November 26, the work began in the Esmeraldas branch of Sinfonía por la Vida. Bonnie Cohen worked with the strings, Lauren Hunt with the brass and cello, and I worked with the woodwinds and the other teachers. In our spare time, Lauren and I prepared the orchestra to play concertos in the culminating concert, while Bonnie worked her heart out repairing the string instruments.

It is difficult to describe how rewarding it is to work with these students. Esmeraldas is a city inundated by the effects of poverty, but the children constantly reveal their love for, and dedication to, music. They are hungry to learn more, and their immediate and continuing growth during the week was beyond remarkable. Also remarkable was the sense of community; students were continually helping each other to understand the musical concepts we were introducing.

On Saturday, we were all excited about the concert. The students were completely focused and played with total enthusiasm.

There is much to love about the experience, but the lack of resources is also obvious. Most of the instruments are in dire need of repair or replacement. (Big kudos to Bonnie Cohen, who spent many extra hours repairing the string instruments.) Another big need is for more teachers. Currently, the students take lessons and play in the orchestra, but they really need to start a wind band. As most of you know, winds tend to play in flat keys and strings in sharp keys. In US schools, full orchestras of winds, strings, and percussion happen in a few high schools, but in Esmeraldas, these young musicians are thrown together almost at the very beginning. It is my ambition, and the ambition of Edison Gualotuña, the conservatory director, to add a wind band so the students can progress more rapidly. There are many other needs, but in my opinion, this is the most important.

Every time I go to Ecuador, I come back inspired by the students. It is so wonderful to be a part of their learning, and I appreciate the opportunity to share the experience with you.

Albert Hunt is the Program Director of FMMC; violist Bonnie Cohen is an FMMC member; and Lauren Hunt is a winner of the FMMC high school string competition. 🎵



Lauren Hunt, Albert Hunt, and Bonnie Cohen with students in Ecuador



Lauren Hunt



Albert Hunt and Edison Andres Gualotuña

JIC News: Updates on Winners

Harriet Kaplan

Cellists **Brannon Cho** (first prize, 2012) and **Zlatomir Fung** (first prize, 2015) won first and second prizes, respectively, at the 2018 Paulo International Cello Competition in Helsinki, Finland. (Zlatomir shared his second prize with 23-year-old Minji Kim from South Korea.) First prize includes an award of €20,000. Brannon also won a “shadow jury” prize awarded by a panel of young professionals. Earlier this year, Zlatomir won first prize in the 2018 Schoenfeld International Cello Competition in Harbin, China. This included a \$30,000 award as well as a solo engagement with the Poznan Philharmonic Orchestra.

Cellist **Santiago Cañón Valencia** (second prize, 2012) won the 2018 Starker Foundation Award, which includes a cash prize of \$35,000. This award is granted to cellists under age 30 who have already begun a significant career, and it is decided on the basis of a video submission.

Violinist **Tessa Lark** (first prize, 2006) was awarded a £20,000 fellowship from the UK-based Borletti-Buitoni Trust (www.bbtrust.com/artists). She is the only American among the 15 young musicians selected for the 2018 awards, which go to both individuals and ensembles to provide financial support for their career goals and projects. See more about Tessa on her page at the Sciolino Artist Management site (www.samnyc.us/artist.php?id=tlark).

Alice Lee, violin (second prize, 2015) won second prize in the 2018 Fritz Kreisler International Violin Competition in Vienna, Austria.

Hae Sue Lee, viola (first prize, 2015) won the 2018 Primrose Viola Competition (\$15,000 award).

Cellists **Sang Eun Lee** (first prize, 2009) and **Christine Jeong Hyoun Lee** (formerly using the name Jeonghyoun Lee; second prize, 2006) have won joint first prize in the 2018 IsangYun International Cello Competition in Korea. Both will receive KRW 30,000,000 (USD \$27,000) plus a number of important debut opportunities.

Junping Qian, viola (second prize, 2006) has been appointed assistant conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, chosen by audition out of 250 applicants. Previous appointees in this two-year position have gone on to lead major orchestras.

Nancy Zhou, violin (first prize, 2009) won first prize (\$100,000 award) in the 2018 Shanghai Isaac Stern Competition. She is now under management of Fazer Artists' Management, Inc., which includes in its roster Sarah Chang, Evgeny Kissin, Emanuel Ax, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Jonathan Biss, Franz Helmerson, Stephen Hough, among other renowned artists. 🎻



Brannon Cho



Zlatomir Fung



Santiago Cañón
Valencia (Photo: Bastisinger)



Tessa Lark
(Photo: Lauren Desberg)



Alice Lee



Hae Sue Lee



Sang Eun Lee



Christine Jeong
Hyoun Lee



Junping Qian with
RSNO Music Director
Thomas Søndergård



Nancy Zhou



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

High School Strings Competition

Jeongseon Choi

As usual, we had a great turnout for the high school strings competition in memory of Gustave Johansen. The judges were Shenf Tsung Wang, violin from the Marine Band Orchestra; Osman Kivrak, viola from American University; and Ben Myers, cello from Goucher College/Howard Community College.

First Place: Brandon Du, violin
(freshman from Centennial HS)

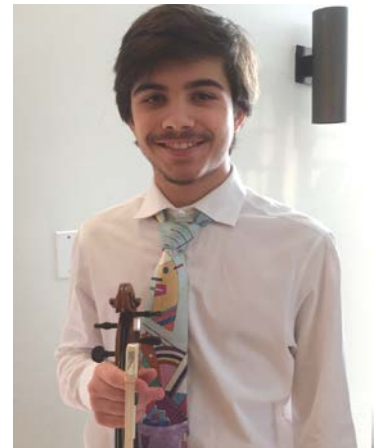
Second Place: Eleanor Shen, violin
(senior from Thomas Wootton HS)

Third Place: Jasper de Booer, viola
(senior from Washington-Lee HS)

Honorable Mention: Nicole Fang
(freshman from Richard Montgomery HS) 🎻



Brandon Du



Jasper de Booer