

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



130TH SEASON

DECEMBER 2016

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President's Message

Olivia Adler

If it's December, then it's almost time for the Club's December 16 Composer's Concert and Holiday Party. Composers' Group concerts are always a fascinating chance to hear what members produce and to appreciate the talent in our organization. The December 16 concert will include "Conversations with Virginia Woolf" by Composer Group Co-Chair Leslie Bennett; piano works by Stephen Schwarz; "Songs of Love and Life" by Sharon Guertin Shafer; "First Subatomic Suite" (from *Carnival of the Subatomic Particles*) by Mark Simon; and "Russian Winter," by Emmanuel Dubois. The last piece will have its premier the week before at Carnegie Hall by soprano (and Club member) Yulia Petrachuk and harpist Jacqueline Pollauf, who also will be performing the work for us. Please put this event on your calendar – a chance to hear interesting new music and join other Club members for lunch and a celebration of the season.

Now let me give you an update on the ongoing name change issue. Just to review, you may recall that a survey was conducted last spring to get a sense of members' attitudes regarding the Club's name. The survey was prepared with the assistance of a volunteer provided through CultureCapital who has extensive experience with organization name changes. The response rate to the survey was a little over 18 percent. The responses were fairly evenly split between "change" and "no change," with a considerable number whose answers could only be categorized as "undecided." Moreover, the response rate, which was somewhat lower than



anticipated, seemed to suggest that many members do not feel that the question is particularly important.

The survey, of course, told us nothing about how non-Club members view the Club's name and the value and extent of the Club's "name recognition." It also did not tell us whether the name – which we must admit does not at all accurately describe what the Club does -- has a negative impact on new member recruitment or audience size. This last question is, of course, why the Board undertook the review in the first place. At this point, we anticipate having one more meeting with our CultureCapital volunteer to include an informal "focus group" with other members of her firm. The purpose is to review a number of suggestions for names that might better convey who we are as

an organization. We think it is important to take full advantage of this opportunity to get input from an outside independent expert. We are also seeking legal advice about the technical requirements, should we decide to change the Club's name, so that we will be fully informed about the financial and legal impact. Following this, the Board will deliberate further and we will provide you with an update. This is a very complex matter and I am more than happy to hear any further thoughts from members. Please feel free to email me at fmmc@fmmc.org or, better yet, come to the December 16 Holiday Party and we can talk about it!

One last item: I expect that the Board will give final approval at its December 16 meeting for a proposed amendment to the Club's bylaws to add the Avanti Manager and Chorale Chair as voting members of the Board. This organization never stands still! 🎵

Olivia

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CD Review

Robin Friedman

Paul Bowles, Complete Piano Works, The Invencia Piano Duo, Naxos American Classics Series

American composer and writer Paul Bowles (b.1910 d. 1999) spent over 50 years as an expatriate in Morocco, becoming famous for his dark novel, *The Sheltering Sky*. However, prior to leaving the US he had a career as a composer. Now, the complete piano music of Bowles has been released on two separate CDs as part of the Naxos *American Classics* series.

Two Russian-trained pianists, Andrey Kasparov and Oksana Lutsyshyn, offer sparkling readings of Bowles' music. Bowles was a miniaturist in his piano music, even in his multi-movement works. The musical language is modernistic but accessible. It is concise and lucid with clear lines revealing the influence of his mentor, Aaron Copland. The music draws from American folk, jazz, and Latin American idioms.

The two CDs offer music for both solo and duo piano. The works on the first CD include Latin American dances and musical portraits. There is a set of seven Folk Preludes based on American folk themes and a set of six Preludes in a more abstract style. In addition, there is a short stand-alone piece, "Cornelia Askew at the

Garden," three arrangements of works composed for orchestra, and three arrangements of songs. Short musical tributes to Bowles by Leonard Bernstein and Virgil Thomson also are included and capture the man's dapper elegance and insouciance. The only large work on the program, the modernistic sonata for two pianos, includes two short, fast, percussive outer movements that surround a much longer, meditative slow movement.

The second CD includes the free-flowing "Night Waltz" for two pianos. It also includes a piano arrangement of the song cycle *Blue Mountain Ballads*, a set of five songs Bowles wrote in 1946 to poems by Tennessee Williams. Other works on this CD include two highly compressed sonatinas, a set of Latin American-influenced miniatures, and a boisterous work, the "Turkey Trot," for piano, four-hands.

Pianists in the Friday Morning Music Club may be moved to learn and play some of Bowles' piano works. He was a gifted eccentric whose music is both individualistic and very American. 🎧

Ross-Roberts High School Competition

for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion

Encourage Your Students to Apply!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017 Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. The competition will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, from 9 AM to 3 PM at the National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The application deadline is February 20, 2017.

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 🎧

*"Music is...a higher revelation than all
Wisdom and Philosophy."*

Ludwig van Beethoven

From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxemburg

The Foundation Board has been working since last spring to secure the arrangements for the Washington International Competition for Piano, even though it is not scheduled until June 3-4, 2017. Chen-Li Tzeng, the Chair of the competition, is doing an outstanding organizational job. In fact, our online application site at www.getacceptd.com/WIC has been up since September and there are already several applications in progress, many from international applicants.

One of the most significant features of all the Foundation's competitions is the caliber of our judges. This year's panel is certainly no exception. We are thrilled that three pianists of international stature and renown will join us.



All three of these amazing artists have played with many of the world's great orchestras and in most of the world's great concert halls, far too many to enumerate here. Suffice to say the young pianists who make it through to the semifinal round are in for an awesome opportunity. Getting to perform before, and being critiqued by, this panel is bound to be a once in a lifetime experience. 🎹

Leslie

James Tocco has also had a noteworthy and lengthy career both as a highly respected concert pianist and as a distinguished teacher. He is currently on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as an Eminent Scholar in Chamber Music. Finally, we are honored to welcome Mena-

L'Exchange

FOR SALE: Kawai GS 70--7 ft. 5in concert grand in excellent condition. Blue book value of 1995 model is \$32,800. Available to see in private home of Friday Morning Music club member in Olney, Md. This instrument is considered the finest of the Kawai designs and superior to models built subsequently. Call 703-780-8447.



Ann Schein



James Tocco



Menahem Pressler

Ann Schein needs little introduction to the FMMC community as she has been a long-term, much esteemed, and beloved Club member. Ann was our very first Honorary Member in 1968 and was made an Honorary Member Laureate in 2005! Her notable career as a concert pianist was complemented by many years on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory and as an Artist-Faculty member at the Aspen Music Festival.

hem Pressler as our third judge. He is one of the world's most prominent and revered musicians dating back to the founding of the Beaux Arts Trio. He was an original member and pianist and the only one of the original musicians to remain with the group until it disbanded in 2008 after more than 50 years. Still energetic and vigorous at 91, Mr. Pressler continues his 60-year position as a professor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.



FMMC Concert Calendar

DECEMBER 2016 and EARLY JANUARY 2017

Thursday, December 1, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- BEETHOVEN: Sonata in G major, op. 79. LISZT: *Un sospiro*. **Joan Mizrahi**, piano.
- BRAHMS: *Four Serious Songs*, op. 121. **Gail Collins**, mezzo soprano; **Enoch Gordis**, piano.
- BRUCH: Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, & Piano, op. 83 (selections). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Shearom Chung**, viola; **Steven Schwarz**, piano.

Friday, December 2, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- ARTHUR BLISS: Clarinet quintet. **J. David Brown** and **Sheyna Burt**, violins; **Gray Dickerson**, viola; **Mark Shuping**, cello; **Henry Vergilio**, clarinet.
- ALBENIZ, GRANADOS, JOHANSEN: Selected solos. **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.

Friday, December 9, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- PHILIP PARKER: *Games* for flute and clarinet. ROBERT MUCZYNSKI: Duos for flute and clarinet. **Susan Brandt**, flute; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet.
- SELECTION TBA: **Peirong Lo**, piano.

Wednesday, December 14, 12:00 noon at the Steinway Piano Gallery

- MOZART: Sonata in B-flat major, K.378. **Susan Yeh**, violin; **Chen-Li Tzeng**, piano.
- FAURÉ: Three Barcarolles. **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- SCHUBERT: *Auf dem Sturm*. NELSON: *Four Irish Songs*. **Anissa Hartline Orsino**, soprano; **Jay Chadwick**, horn; **Sarah Strauss Himmelfarb**, piano.

Friday, December 16, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church Composers Concert with Holiday Reception

- LESLIE BENNETT: *Conversations with Virginia Woolf*. **Leslie Bennett**, soprano; **Patricia Parker**, piano.
- STEVEN SCHWARZ: Selected piano works. **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- SHARON GUERTIN SHAFER: *Songs of Love and Life*. **Liana Valente**, soprano; **Sharon Guertin Shafer**, piano.

- MARK SIMON: "First Subatomic Suite" (from *Carnival of the Subatomic Particles*). **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Mark G. Simon**, clarinet; **Helena Cunningham**, violin; cello TBD; **Rosanne Conway**, piano.
- EMMANUEL DUBOIS: *Russian Winter*. **Yulia Petrachuk**, soprano; **Jacqueline Pollauf**, harp.

Wednesday, December 28, 7:30 pm at the Friendship Heights Community Center Student Recital

Thursday, January 5, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- MARGARET GARWOOD: Six Japanese Songs. **Angela Peterson Winter**, soprano; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- MAURICE RAVEL: Trio in A minor. **Deborah Brown**, piano; **Tim Thulson** (guest), violin; **Mary Thulson** (guest), cello.
- CLARA SCHUMANN: Trio, op. 17. **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Igor Zubkovsky**, cello.

Friday, January 6, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- RACHMANINOV: *Six Morceaux*, op. 11 (selections). TCHAIKOVSKY: Suite de Ballet (selections). MOZART: Sonata in D major, K. 381. **Alice Ji** (guest) and **Irina Koulikova**, piano four hands.
- SELECTION TBA: **Susan Russo**, viola.

VENUES

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

Friendship Heights Community Ctr.
4433 S. Park Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD
(Metro: Friendship Heights).

The Mansion at Strathmore
10701 Rockville Pike
N. Bethesda, MD
(Metro: Grosvenor).

Steinway Piano Gallery
11611 Old Georgetown Rd.
N. Bethesda, MD
(Metro: White Flint)

Membership Update

New Members

Willem Van Eeghen

Associate Violin

Karen Hinson

Performing Soprano

Anne McCully Murphy

Performing Alto

Carol A. Newman

Associate Cello

Annete Reilly

Associate Alto

"I've always thought people would find more pleasure in their routines if they burst into song at significant moments."

John Barrowman

*FMMC is delighted to present our monthly
Chamber Series at Steinway Hall*

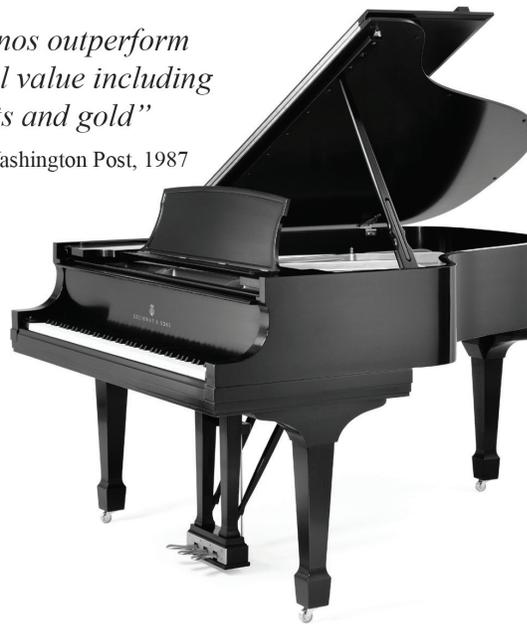


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Washington Post, 1987



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801 K Street, NW
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Call For Orchestra Players To Support The Chorale's January Concert

Peter Baum

The Chorale Orchestra needs your help for its January 13 and 14, 2017 concerts at the Church of the Reformation. We are in particular need of violins, violas, and percussions to make this performance a solid success.

The program of the January concert includes: Stephen Douglas Burton's *I Have a Dream Cantata*; Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Samuel Barber's *Agnus Dei*. In addition, Paul Leavitt plans to premier a newly composed work entitled *In the Beginning*.

Orchestra rehearsals for the Chorale's January concerts began November 7, but additional musicians are needed and welcome. All rehearsals are at the Church of the Reformation sanctuary (212 East Capitol Street, NE). Rehearsals run from 7:30 to 10:00 PM. Additional orchestra-only rehearsals will be on November 21, December 5, December 19, and January 9. Dress rehearsals will be on January 11 and 12 with the concerts on January 13 and 14, 2017. Percussionists, please note that due to equipment rental

limitations, you will only need to be at the January rehearsals.

Interested instrumentalists should contact Peter Baum at choralechair@fmnc.org.

Please note that singers are also welcome even though rehearsals have already started. Join us Sundays between 1:30 and 4:00 PM at the Church of the Reformation. 🎵