

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB

Celebrating Our 130th Anniversary



129TH SEASON

JANUARY 2016

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President's Message

Olivia Adler

I hope everybody has been having a wonderful holiday season.

The Club's 2015-16 year, already at its halfway point, is an especially rich one, marking two significant anniversaries. In addition to the Club's 130th anniversary celebration year, this season is also the 10th year of conductor Pablo Saelzer's association with the Avanti orchestra. I would like to take this occasion to congratulate Pablo on the success of his work with this group and its significant contributions to several major missions of the Club and its Foundation. First, Avanti has become a wonderfully high-quality performance ensemble with devoted and enthusiastic members. Second, it attracts new members to the Club. Third, Avanti makes major orchestral works available to the public for free. And last, but far from least, Avanti supports the Foundation's mission to identify and support gifted younger musicians by ably showcasing winners of the Foundation's international competitions. Kudos to Pablo and to Avanti!

Another major effort by the Club – from its earliest years – had been support



for new music. I hope you attended the December concert at Calvary Baptist by the Club's Composers Group – an opportunity to hear what this particularly creative group of Club members is up to. Additionally, I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to attend

the January 15 and 16, 2016 concert of the Club's Chorale. The program will mix the familiar with the new – Bach's *Wachet Auf* and a fascinating *Magnificat* by the Chorale's conductor, Paul Leavitt. I am just one small voice in this group, but to my admittedly biased ear (confirmed by comments from unbiased passers-by) the group sounds wonderful. Following a holiday season marked by the beloved traditional music, please make room on your calendars to start 2016 with something fresh for your musical ears! (The concerts will begin each evening at 8:00 PM at Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol Street NE). 🎶

*Happy
New Year!*

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Ross-Roberts High School Competition

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. The competition will be held on Saturday March 12, 2016 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The application deadline is February 27, 2016. For additional information and application forms, visit FMMC.org or contact highschoolwind@fmmc.org. FMMC members are cordially invited to help as a host or to usher the day of the competition. Please reply to the chair at highschoolwind@fmmc.org. 🎶



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From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxemburg

I hope many of you were able to attend the recent Washington National Opera production of *Appomattox* with music by Philip Glass and libretto by Christopher Hampton. The WNO is to be commended for presenting this greatly revised and highly successful version of an opera that originally premiered in 2007. While the original production dealt primarily with scenes set during the Civil War, this update includes a new second act incorporating events that happened 100 years later when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed. Those events show the influence of the Reverend Martin Luther King on President Lyndon Johnson's decision to move forward with the bill. Although Glass is primarily known as a minimalist composer, *Appomattox* reaches a higher level of accessibility by incorporating, for example, familiar hymns.

It is particularly gratifying to us at the FMMC that two of the major and most lauded singers in the production were recent winners of the Washington International Competition for Voice—Soloman Howard who won first prize in 2013, and Crystal E. Williams who won second prize in 2010. Soloman played Frederick Douglass in Act I and Martin Luther King in Act II. Crystal portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln's dress-maker Elizabeth Keckley in Act I and Coretta Scott King in Act II. Both singers brought these well known historical figures to life through the power of their voices and acting abilities. The entire cast presented the timely subject matter with great commitment and skill.

Now that January is here, it is exciting to anticipate our 130th anniversary celebration on Sunday April 17th! In addition to a festive performance of highlights from perhaps the world's most beloved operetta featuring a marvelous cast of young singers as well as the Avanti Orchestra and the FMMC Chorale, a totally appropriate champagne reception will follow. What a delightful prospect to help us get through the winter. 🍷

Leslie



Soloman Howard



Crystal Williams

Ushers are needed for the Friday noon concerts at the Calvary Baptist Church, 755 8th St. NW, Washington, DC. Ushers must be there at 11:30 AM to hand out programs for the concert. Two ushers are needed for each concert. If you are able to serve, please call Anna-Stina Ericson at 202-363-5937, or email her at annastina26@gmail.com.

News from the Avanti Orchestra

Nan Cooper

FMMC's Avanti Orchestra directed by Pablo Saelzer presented its annual Kennedy Center concert in the Terrace Theater on November 12. President Olivia Adler opened the evening by welcoming our audience and recognizing two FMMC anniversaries: Maestro Saelzer's 10th anniversary as music director of Avanti and FMMC's 130th anniversary. Washington International Competition winner Yifei Deng then joined the orchestra in an exciting performance of Walton's Viola Concerto. The audience brought Mr. Deng back to the stage for an encore performance of the modern Chinese classic "Moon Reflected on Second Spring" by Abing. The work originally composed for erhu was enjoyed by all, but especially by the children in attendance. The orchestra closed the program with Brahms' Symphony No. 2. Avanti appreciates the audience's warm reception of our concert.

We were especially delighted to see Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School students and their families in the audience. They attended by invitation of Avanti and soloist Yifei Deng, who had



visited the school earlier to perform an outreach concert for the students.

The orchestra thanks photographer Rin-rin Yu of Red Kite Studios, who took some wonderful concert photos. To view the photos, visit redkitestudios.net and click on Special Events, or visit Avanti's Facebook page.

Our next performance is on Friday, February 5, when cellist Zlatomir Fung will join Avanti and Pablo Saelzer to perform Boccherini's Cello Concerto in B-flat at the Church of the Epiphany. Also on the program will be Grieg's Holberg Suite and Mozart Symphony No. 33. 🎵

FMMC Chorale in the Final Stages of Preparation for the January Concert

By: Peter Baum

After a very successful trip to Germany as part of the Unity Choir in October, the members of the Chorale are eagerly awaiting their chance to present its second concert of the season on January 15 and 16. The concert will be held at the Church of the Reformation Sanctuary (212 East Capitol NE) starting at 8:00 PM.

The program for this performance is a mix of old and new. The Chorale will be singing J.S. Bach's Cantata 140 (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, which was composed in 1731, and Paul Leavitt's *Magnificat*, which was premiered at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC in December, 2012. The NYC Master Chorale gave the NYC premiere in December, 2013. In preparing for the concert, Mr. Leavitt said, "This choral work for soloists, mixed chorus and orchestra is a meditation on "The Cantic of Mary" from the Gospel of Luke, "My soul magnifies the Lord", and is Mary's response to the Annunciation that she is to bear the Christ child. Together, both works evoke a response to a spiritual call from on high."

The Chorale will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra, and soloists will be featured in both pieces. Soloists for the Bach include: Soprano Anissa Hartline Orsinom, Tenor Rick Knight, and Bass Daryl Yoder. Soloists for the Leavitt include: Soprano Harlie Sponaule, Alto Linda Maguire, Tenor Rick Knight, and Bass Daryl Yoder. As is standard for FMMC concerts, the events are free and open to the public. Bring your friends and enjoy the evening. 🎵

A Report from the High School String Competition In Memory of Gustave E. Johansen

Jeongseon Choi

The annual high school string competition (awards In Memory of Gustave E. Johansen, Jr.) was held on November 21, 2015 at the National Presbyterian Church. As usual, the level of performance was very high. The judges, Claudia Chudacoff from NSO, Victoria Chiang from Peabody and Bo Li from BSO, had a hard time deliberating.

Of the twelve competitors, the winners are: First place—Caleb Park, cello with a \$1000 prize; Second place—Evelyn Song, violin with a \$700 prize; and Third place—Yukino Takahara, violin with a \$500 prize. Eleanor Shen and Kenneth Naito, both on violin, received Honorable Mentions.

All the winners including the Honorable Mentions get a one-year membership in FMMC. I'd like to express my thanks to volunteers Olivia Adler, our club president who stayed all day helping, and Chen-Li Tzeng who is the HS Piano Competition Chair and Strathmore/Steinway venue coordinator. 🎻



Caleb Park



Evelyn Song



Yukino Takahara

Get to Know the Board

Following is a continuation of our series on the Club's Board of Governors. We hope you will get acquainted with these members who dedicate their time and energy operating the Club.

Nan Cooper, Member-at-Large, learned about the FMMC through its orchestra conductor, Pablo Saelzer. Since 2008, with much assistance from Mr. Saelzer and Joanna Taylor, Nan has served as manager of the Club's orchestra, Avanti. She also serves on the FMMC Finance Committee. Nan is the Executive Administrator for Connecticut Swimming, Inc., a USA Swimming member organization composed of approximately 6,200 athletes, 700 coaches and officials, 67 swim clubs, and a very active volunteer Board of Directors. (USA Swimming is the National Governing Body for the Olympic Sport of swimming.) When she isn't glued to the computer, Nan enjoys the DC area

ethnic restaurants, reading, and dreaming about Himalayan treks.

Carol Fromboluti, Newsletter Editor previously served as the Club's Outreach Coordinator. Growing up in Baltimore, she attended the Peabody preparatory department from age 8 to 16 when she left for college. After dabbling with the clarinet and the guitar, she returned to the piano when her son, an accomplished pianist, left for college and she took his lesson time with his teacher Liova Kaplan. An amateur all the way, she continues to take lessons and practice earnestly. Several years ago she joined the FMMC Piano Associates and it has helped improve her playing and provided an

avenue for performance. After graduating from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and attending Washington University in St. Louis, she worked for the US Department of Education as a public affairs specialist, writing speeches, press releases, and booklets that translated educational research for use by teachers and parents. In her final assignment at the USDOE she managed two of three arts education grant programs. She lives with her husband Chris and a Duck Tolling Retriever named Artie. She misses her two grown children who have moved out of the area. 🎻

Music at Home

Friday Morning Music Club sponsors three groups of pianists under the umbrella of Music-at-Home. I asked them to tell us about their groups and here, in their words, is what I discovered. Carol Fromboluti

Piano Group 1. This group is comprised of mostly retired amateur pianists (plus one piano teacher), most of whom are enjoying the luxury of time at the piano after years when family and work precluded much opportunity to play. We meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM, play for one another for an hour or two, then enjoy lunch--always delicious! Our members are at varying levels of proficiency and the only requirements for membership aside from membership in the FMMC are a love of music and a fairly serious commitment to learning and improving our musical skills. Besides solo performances, we have some four-hand players. Occasionally, members who act as accompanists or who play with a chamber group will invite those musicians to join us. This is always an interesting and enjoyable departure from our normal practice.

We are a fairly fluid group with members moving out of the area and new members moving in and we are always eager to welcome new member. We do, however, prefer that members have a grand piano, though we have made some exceptions to that rule when there is an acceptable alternative. Members as of this submission are:

Georgiana Acchione, Phyllis Daen, Bill Ellis, Kay Logan, Noreen Lyday, Jane Ring, Elizabeth Santucci, Chris Ehemann, Anita Plotinsky, Judy Wanger, Nancee Simonson, and Dan Shapiro. For more information on Piano Group 1 contact Noreen Lyday at lydayn@uw.edu.

Piano Group II. Decades ago, FMMC member Mary Brantley initiated the inspired "Piano-in-Homes" program for bringing together club-member pianists to share repertoire experiences monthly in their homes. Building confidence in public piano performance became an added benefit, as did developing an easier facility playing on the different pianos in each other's homes. Following the musicales, a luncheon added social and

culinary enjoyment. Eventually the original Piano Group 1 grew too large and our Piano Group II emerged, continuing to concentrate on piano performance, although we invited our one clarinetist member to join us when we lost his pianist wife, dear Marge Dakin, to cancer a few years back. Another change was the happy decision to invite spouses to our final musicale each season.

We are currently eight members who meet monthly, 8 times a year, on the third Tuesday of the months September through June. The Recital begins at 10:30 AM and luncheon follows. We are enjoying a repertoire this year of several Scarlatti, Mozart and Beethoven Sonatas, Brahms Intermezzi, Chopin Scherzos and Nocturnes, "Six Studies in English Folk Song" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Debussy's "Estamps", some Rachmaninoff Preludes, and works by Gershwin and Samuel Barber. Members are Georgiana Acchione, Frank Conlon, Bill Dakin, Gina Denny, Berthelle Denton, Mary Ellen Lavelle, David Loewenstein, and Chen-Li Tzeng.

Piano Group II is a great treasure in the lives of its members, and we welcome new pianists. If interested, please contact Mary Ellen Lavelle at maryellenlavelle@verizon.net or 240-731-6370.

Piano Group III. This group is made up of solo, duo and chamber pianists of FMMC and meets the third Tuesday of the month beginning in October. We do not meet in December. Each of us takes a turn at hosting the meeting. Playing begins at 10:00 AM, after which we enjoy coffee and a chance to visit. Much of the playing is a prelude, if you will, to an actual performance—an opportunity to try out a work first for friends. In addition to solo performances, we sometimes invite other instrumentalists to perform chamber works with us. Our season ends in May when traditionally we meet at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo for our Spring Luncheon.

We have had many wonderful performances. We have a duo-piano partnership, Barbara Wing and Elizabeth Lane. They perform at the Levine School once a year. Their performances for us are always a trial run for their annual concert, and always most enjoyable for us. Members of Piano Group III are: Barbara Wing, Elizabeth Lane, Lois Jones, Gina Denny, Karen Davis, Adelaide Edelson, Diane Pyles, Joan Mizrahi, Vicki Bragin, Judith Bloch, Veronique Gobet, Dina T. Fleming.

For information on Music-at-Home Group III, contact Dina Fleming at dinat-fleming@gmail.com 📞

New Members

Heather Crow
Mezzo-Soprano
Vienna, VA

Caleb Park
Student Cello, Solo Cello
Columbia, MD

Evelyn Sing
Student Violin, Solo Violin
Rockville, MD

Yukino Takahara
Student Violin, Solo Violin
Reston, VA

Eleanor Shem
Student Violin, Solo Violin
N. Potomac MD,

Kenneth Nairo
Student Violin, Solo Violin
Eldridge, MD

Dan Zhang
Orchestra Viola, Performance Junior
Leesburg, VA

FMMC Concert Calendar

JANUARY / EARLY FEBRUARY 2016

Thursday, January 7, 11:00 a.m. in The Mansion at Strathmore

- DEBUSSY: Four *Préludes*: La puerta del vino; Ondine; Général Lavine—eccentric; Feux d'artifice. **Charles Timbrell**, piano.
- RACHMANINOFF: Не пой, красавица (Do not sing, my beauty); Здесь хорошо (How fair this spot); Весенние воды (Spring waters). **Yeji Yoon**, soprano; piano TBD.
- PIAZZOLLA: *Histoire du Tango*. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.

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

- MOZART: Sonata in C Minor, K.457. **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- BRAHMS: Four Vocal Quartets, op. 92. **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Miriam Radakovich** (guest), alto; **Brian Lee** (guest), tenor; **Ben Wallis**, bass/baritone; piano TBA.
- BEETHOVEN: Duet *With Tivo Eyeglasses*. **Helen Fall**, viola; **Sarah Hover**, cello.

Wednesday, January 13, 12:00 noon at the Steinway Gallery.

- LISZT: *Rhapsodie Espagnole*. **Richard Foo**, piano.
- BACH/GOUNOD: *Ave Maria*. MOZART: Sonata K. 304 in E Minor. **Berthelle Denton**, piano; **Carolyn Plummer** (guest), violin.
- LAITMAN: *Within These Spaces*. **Katie Katinas**, soprano; **Ruth Locker**, piano.

Thursday, January 14, 11:00 a.m. at Collington

- STRAVINSKY: *L'Histoire du Soldat*. **Marion Richter**, violin; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Lana Em**, piano.
- WOLF: Selections from *Italian Songbook*. **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Ben Wallis**, baritone; **Ruth Locker**, piano.
- J.S. BACH: Toccata in E Minor. Gershwin: Four Preludes. **Elizabeth White**, piano.

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

- J.S. BACH: *Italian Concerto*. **Hanyin Chen**, piano.
- LOWELL LIEBERMANN: Sonata, op. 23. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Rosanne Conway**, piano.
- MOZART: String Quartet in B-flat major, K.159. **Connie Milner** and **Gail MacColl**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Joanna Taylor**, cello.

Friday, January 15, 8:00 p.m. at the Church of the Reformation and Saturday, January 16, 8:00 p.m. at the Church of the Reformation FMMC Chorale,

- PAUL LEAVITT, CONDUCTOR.
- J.S. BACH: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Cantata 140)
- P. LEAVITT: *Magnificat*

Thursday, January 21, 11:00 a.m. in The Mansion at Strathmore FMMC Composers Concert.

- KURT STERN: *Suite 11 in 5 Mini-Movements*. **Faith Stern**, **Marilyn Austin** and **Bill Spector**, flutes.
- ANNE MCANINCH: *Free*. **Clemente Acevedo**, piano.
- LAWRENCE INK: Sonata for two flutes. **Lawrence Ink** and **Caroline Rohn**, flutes.
- EMMANUEL DUBOIS: *Les Détours de l'amour*. **Yulia Petrachuk**, soprano; **Tatiana Loisha**, piano.
- ROBERT AND MARTHA HANROTT: *Fantasy Octet*. **Mary Padilla**, oboe; **Santana Moreno**, clarinet; **Amy Smith**, horn; **Sandy Choi** and **Connie Milner**, violins; **Maria Montano**, viola; **Heejung Jung**, cello; **John Park**, bass; **Joel Lazar**, conductor.

Thursday, January 21, 12:00 noon at Old Town Hall, Fairfax

- SCARLATTI, BUZZOLENI, CARISSIMI: Selected Italian art songs. **Peggy McNulty**, soprano; **Gillian Cookson**, piano.
- CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: Sonatina, op. 205. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.
- LISZT: *Rhapsodie Espagnole*. **Richard Foo**, piano.

Friday, January 22, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- HINDEMITH: Sonata for viola solo, op. 25, no.1. **Shearom Chung**, viola.
- LIGETI: Étude No. 4. CHOPIN: Four Études, op. 10. **Nikola Paskalov**, piano.
- BIZET (ARR. MICHAEL WEBSTER): *Carmen Rhapsody* for flute, clarinet & piano. **Shaughn Dowd**, flute; **Jihoon Chang** (guest), clarinet; **Erik Apland** (guest), piano.

Friday, January 29, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- FRANCK: Sonata for violin and piano. **Hidetaro Suzuki**, violin; **Zeyda Ruga Suzuki**, piano.
- GERSHWIN: *Rhapsody in Blue*. **Chen-Li Tzeng** and **Jeongseon Choi**, piano four hands.
- SELECTION TBA. **GWYN JONES**, FLUTE.

Thursday, February 4, 11:00 a.m. in The Mansion at Strathmore

- TCHAIKOVSKY: Sonata (selected movements). **Tzu-Yi Chen**, piano.
- YORK BOWEN: Sonata in F Minor, op.109. **Phyllis Crossen-Richardson**, clarinet; **Janet Crossen**, piano.
- RICHARD STRAUSS: Four Songs, op. 27: Ruhe, meine Seele!; Cäcilie; Heimliche Aufforderung; Morgen.
- EMMANUEL M. DUBOIS: Ave Maria, op. 29. **Yulia Petrachuk**, soprano; piano TBA.

Friday, February 5, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- MARCELLO/BACH: Adagio from Oboe Concerto in D-flat major. BACH/RACHMANINOV: Prelude from violin Partita in E major. DELMO/RACHMANINOV: *Morceau de Fantaisie*. POULENC: *Improvisation*. **Donna Baldwin**, piano.
- MARTINU: Sonata No. 1 for flute and piano. **Joan Cobbs**, flute; piano TBA.

Friday, February 5, 8:00 p.m. in the Church of the Epiphany. Avanti Orchestra of the FMMC, Pablo Saelzer, conductor; Zlatomir Fung, cello, first-prize winner, Johansen International Competition.

- BOCCHERINI: Cello Concerto in B-flat, G.482
- GRIEG: Suite *From Holberg's Time*
- MOZART: Symphony No 33

Sunday, February 7, 3:00 p.m. at The Lyceum

- BEETHOVEN: Duet *With Tivo Eyeglasses*. **Helen Fall**, viola; **Sarah Hover**, cello.
- SELECTED SONGS: **Ben Wallis**, bass/baritone; piano TBA.
- BRAHMS: Sonata in E-flat Major for piano and viola, op. 120, no. 2. **Hyejin Kim**, viola; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.

Wednesday, February 10, 12:00 noon at the Steinway Gallery.

- PIAZZOLLA: *Histoire du Tango*. **Benjamin Altman**, guitar; **Allison Lowell**, oboe.
- SCHUBERT: Sonata in B-flat (selections). **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.
- MAHLER: *Rückert Lieder*. **Daryl Yoder**, baritone; **Jung-Yoon Lee** (guest), piano.

VENUES**Calvary Baptist Church**

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

Church of the Epiphany

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

Church of the Reformation

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

Collington Retirement Community

10450 Lottsford Road
Mitchellville, MD.

The Lyceum

201 S Washington St.
Alexandria, VA.

The Mansion at Strathmore

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

Old Town Hall

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

Steinway Gallery

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

The FMMC Foundation is in need of a Treasurer

The basic duties of this office are as follows: attendance at monthly Foundation Board meetings, payment of invoices, depositing of cash receipts, and the sending of necessary financial information to the outside accountant. This can be a rewarding opportunity for someone who wishes to become more involved in our worthy organization. If interested or have questions about the position, you may contact FMMC Treasurer, JoAnn Royer at 703-370-2167. 🎵

WIC Winner Yifei Deng Reaches Out to Elementary School Students

By Linda Zhang

On Wednesday, November 11, 2015 Washington International Competition winner Yifei Deng performed an outreach concert at the Washington Yu Ying School, a Mandarin Chinese immersion school in Washington, DC. Avanti Orchestra concertmaster Sandy Choi and violinist Linda Zhang attended and assisted with the presentation. Pianist and FMMC friend Cheryl Branham accompanied Yifei during the performance.

Mr. Deng performed to an audience of 200 students from third to fifth grade. He played pieces of Chinese music such as “Moon Reflected on Second Spring” by Abing, a piece originally written for the erhu. He also played excerpts of the Walton Viola Concerto. The students got to compare the differences in the character of the music. Ms. Choi and Mr. Deng also demonstrated the differences between a violin and viola by playing excerpts of Mozart’s 3rd Violin Concerto and *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*.

The students asked questions in English and in Chinese throughout the presentation, and they had a lively discussion with Mr. Deng.



FMMC Student Composition Competition: \$1000 First Prize

Mark Handel

When some people go to concerts, they only want to hear pieces that they already know and love. For me, it’s better to hear several works that I don’t know, even if I only end up liking one. That’s why I chair our Greenwood Memorial Student Composition Competition—it’s important for me to encourage new music. So, I’m asking for your help. We need to encourage budding composers. If each of you can find and encourage just one student to participate, we will have a great event. The Neva Greenwood Memorial Student Composition Competition is open to students in grades 9–12 who are residents of DC, MD, or VA. The competition has several cash prizes, with a top prize of \$1000. Entries are due by Monday, January 11, 2016. The Finals Concert will be on Saturday, February 27, 2016, 1PM, at the National Presbyterian Church in DC. Put that date on your calendar so you can attend.

Complete information and an application can be found at <http://www.fmmc.org/competitions/local-student-competitions/>. A flyer for the competition can also be found at that site. Flyers may be posted at schools, or any other location that you think will be useful. Mark Handel, Sc.D., Competition Chair Neva Greenwood Memorial Student Composition Competition hscomposition@rcn.com 202-297-0059 [but email is best] 🎵



Friday Morning Music Club
801 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Zlatomir Fung: A Closer Look

By Judith Silverman

Celloist Zlatomir Fung, age 15, won the first prize cello and \$10,000 at the 2015 Johansen International Competition, which is sponsored by the FMMC Foundation. He will perform the Boccherini Cello Concerto in B flat with the FMMC Avanti Orchestra and conductor Pablo Saelzer on Friday, February 5, 2016, at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW, Washington, DC. The concert is at 8:00 PM and admission is free.

Zlatomir is a student of renowned pedagogues Richard Aaron and Julie Albers, herself the cello winner in the very first JIC held in 1997.

Identified by ViolinChannel.com as a Rising Star, Zlatomir is quickly building a reputation as an emerging concert artist of outstanding potential. Praised for his “mature and profound musicality,” he has performed as a soloist with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Symphony Pro Musica, New England Philharmonic and other groups.

He won gold medals at the 2014 Stulberg String Competition and the 29th

Irving Klein Competition, and placed second in the cello division of the 20th International Brahms Competition in Portschach, Austria. In 2012, he was the silver medal winner of the cello division of the Seventh International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in Switzerland. He has appeared on NPR’s “From the Top” four times.

He has performed many recitals including Boston’s Jordan Hall, and in NY at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, as well as at our own JIC Winners’ Recital in Washington DC.

Zlatomir has a special interest in contemporary music, fostered in part by his experiences at Aspen Music Festival. “The Annual Contemporary Festival at NEC Prep School has been an inspiration for me,” he said. “I started playing contemporary music at 11 for living composers and this led me to the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. I’ve also learned two commissioned pieces for competitions – one was ‘Shades of Red’ by David Froom for the JIC. I try to pay attention to every detail

a composer writes into the music score. Then in the end I add my own ideas.”

Zlatomir plays on a Gary Davis cello made in 2000. Mr. Davis is a local luthier from Foxboro, MA who only makes cellos; he is a former cellist himself. Zlatomir feels this cello has a very beautiful tone although it is a bit “temperamental in different climate conditions.” He loves his Evan Orman bow made in 2015. He wrote, “It possesses a palette of colors and nuances that never ceases to amaze me.”

Asked when he first heard about the JIC, he mentioned that he “first heard about it when I was 11 and planned then to enter the 2015 competition.” He felt the competition was “very welcoming and inspiring.” He added that, “Winning the JIC first prize in cello was a great honor for me! The preparation process for the competition was very valuable in itself because it provided motivation for improvement and growth. Performing for the jury and audience was a great experience! I particularly enjoyed meeting other string players. The performance opportunities that the JIC has provided me with are outstanding. Thank you!” 🎻