

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



128TH SEASON

MAY 2014

VOL. 48, NO. 5

## *Performers Wanted for the Next Choral Workshop*

**PETER BAUM**

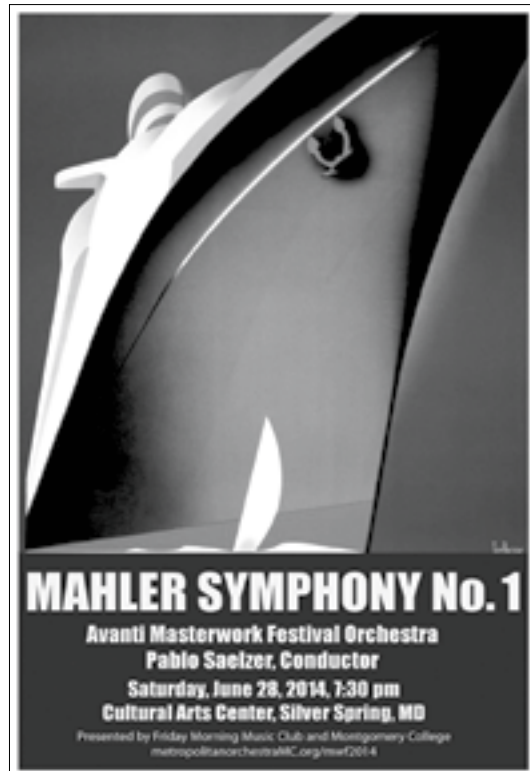
May is traditionally one of the busiest months in the musical year. This makes it even more important to save May 31st on your calendar. That's the day the FMMC Chorale Director Search Committee has secured the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church (1328 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036) for the third of its four workshops. In these workshops, candidates for the position of Chorale Director demonstrate their ability to prepare the chorus and orchestra for a performance after a limited but very focused set of rehearsals. The third workshop will be directed by Dr. Yoon Nam, currently the Director of Traditional Music at the Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, VA.

Registration for this third workshop will start at 9:00 am for the chorus. The chorus will rehearse at 9:30 am, break for lunch at 12 noon – bring your own lunch or eat out at one of the many restaurants in the area – and continue to rehearse at 1:00 pm. Orchestra members will begin a separate rehearsal at 1:00 pm, the chorus joining them at 2:30 pm. The concert will begin at 4:00 pm and should last no more than one hour. Be sure to invite your friends and family to join us for the concert. As in the previous two

workshops, the music selected covers the spectrum of choral works and includes music by Brahms, Haydn, Schubert, Bruckner, Rheinberger, Lauridsen and Martin. Whenever possible, the committee will also post links to PDF files of the music selected so workshop attendees can review the music in advance of the workshop.

People interested in singing in the chorus should email Peter Baum at [peterbaum@cox.net](mailto:peterbaum@cox.net), or sign up directly on the workshop web page [www.fimmc-chorale-director.weebly.com](http://www.fimmc-chorale-director.weebly.com). Be sure to indicate the voice part you want and whether you are a FMMC member. Orchestra members should also contact Peter Baum or visit the web site to sign up, indicating their instrument.

A final workshop will be held in July. The purpose of the workshops is to allow the singers, instrumentalists, the search committee and FMMC's Board of Governors to evaluate the candidates chosen by the committee from over 15 people who submitted applications in October and November. Participants in the chorus and orchestra are asked to complete a survey after each workshop and give their input on how well they felt the candidates did as teachers and leaders in this highly compressed event. 🗣️



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Please submit new addresses  
and address changes to:

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## President's Message

**CAROL WOLFE-RALPH**

**H**appy Spring! It's finally here. It also seems to be the busiest time of year for those in the music profession. FMMC has been busy with its annual student competitions. Many members may not realize that we run three instrumental competitions, a voice competition and a composition competition. I know from personal experience that it takes a lot of time and energy to run events like this, so thank you, Edith Tatel, Mark Handel, Mira Yang and Chen-Li Tzeng for your dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank our Student Activities Chair, Christine Kharazian, for all of her support. Another exciting event just around the corner is the final round of the Washington International Competition which will be held in June. This year's competition features pianists and is in the able hands of Bonnie Kellert. Next month, we hold the annual membership luncheon and meeting on Friday, May 9, at the Army Navy Country Club. Our guest speaker is Jenny Bilfield, President of Washington Performing Arts Society. She is truly a dynamic individual, and I guarantee that her message will be inspirational. I would also like to recognize a lovely person, Anne Zim, who has been unanimously voted by the Board of Governors for the special citation of Honorary Membership. Perhaps you don't know Anne personally, but it would surprise me if you don't know her name. She has been a rock-solid supporter of the FMMC for many years. She recently stated in a note to me that "The FMMC has given me one thousand times the effort I have given it!" I don't know whether that's possible, Anne, because you have given so much of yourself. On behalf of the membership, thank you! It has been a busy year! Take care.

*Carol*




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## News

**FROM LI-LY CHANG**

**M**usical Arts International's season finale will be held on Sunday, May 25th at 3:00 pm at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 9545 Georgia Avenue, in Silver Spring, MD. The concert will feature violinist Qing Li, cellist Ken Ding, and pianist Li-Ly Chang. The program includes Zoltan Kodaly's Duo for violin and cello, Op. 7, Haydn's Piano Trio in F-sharp minor, and Fauré's Piano Trio, Op. 120. A reception and discussion will follow the concert. There is free parking in front of the church and on Flora Lane. The Metro stop is Forest Glen on the red line.

Not only have Qing Li's solo performances garnered critical praise; as principal second violinist with the Baltimore Symphony, she is also admired as one of the country's most accomplished orchestral players. Ken Ding, who performs with the National Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony,

is also a cello coach for the Maryland Classics Youth Orchestra. Li-Ly Chang, who has performed in Asia, Europe and the USA, is currently the director of the International Young Artist Piano Competition.

Tickets: Adults \$20, Students/Seniors \$15. Please call 301-933-3715 for ticket information. [www.musicalartsinternational.org](http://www.musicalartsinternational.org)

**And also...**

The International Young Artist Piano Competition Finals will be held from June 26th through the 28th featuring music East and West. The Winners' Concert and Awards Ceremony will take place on June 29th at 2:00 pm. All events will be held in the Ward Recital Hall, Catholic University of America. The event is free and open to the public. See [www.musicalartsinternational.org/IYAPC](http://www.musicalartsinternational.org/IYAPC). For the schedule please call 301-933-3715. 🎧

# Where Are They Now?

## Johansen International String Competition Updates

FELICE KORNBERG

Ordinarily, members of the JIC committee collect information from past winners for this column. But recently, violist **Junping Qian**, prize winner in the 2006 Johansen International String

Competition, sent us the following update. The committee would like to share it with you:

“To me, this competition was a door opener for my career and for my life as an international citizen. That was the first time I had ever traveled abroad.

As the winner of this competition, I began to feel confident in my work. The following year, I won first prize in the China National Viola Competition. Two years later, I got into Curtis and was also invited by the Kronberg Academy. Also because of this competition, I had many new opportunities in my school and in my country. Later I became the principal violist in the Verbier Festival Orchestra. I couldn't be more grateful to the JIC Competition.”

“You may not know this, but I always wanted to become a conductor. After I got into Curtis, I met probably the best conducting teacher in the world, Otto-Werner Mueller. I soon realized that conducting is what I really want to do. My viola teacher at Curtis, Roberto Diaz, supported this move. I started to take all the required courses for a conducting major and have had many opportunities to conduct concerts at Curtis and in China. Now I am earning my master's degree in conducting at the College Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati. I'm still playing my viola, just because I love to play.”



JUNPING QIAN

Cellist **Su-Jin Lee**, prize-winner in the 2006 Johansen International String Competition, travelled to Cuba this past March as one of the musicians from the Ravinia Festival's Steans Music Institute (RSMI). Led by violinist Miriam Fried, who is the director of RSMI's piano and strings program, the group performed as part of the island nation's Festival de Música de Cámara.

Su-Jin has performed extensively in the United States and Europe at such world-renowned venues as the Louvre Museum, Sibelius Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Rose Studio at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall's Zankel

Hall. An avid chamber musician, she has coached with Gil Kalish, Nobuko Imai, Menahem Pressler, Miriam Fried, Ida Kavafian, Michael Tree, Wu Han, David Finckel, and Paul Neubauer, and has collaborated with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Donald Weilerstein, and Roger Tapping. In addition to the Steans Institute at Ravinia, she has participated at the Music@Menlo Chamber Music Institute, the Perlman Music Program, and the Aspen Music Festival, working closely with teachers such as Ronald Leonard, Frans Helmerson, Ralph Kirshbaum and Richard Aaron.

In May, 2013, as part of a joint Columbia/Juilliard program, she received her B.A. in psychology from Columbia University and completed her undergraduate cello studies at the Juilliard School with Timothy Eddy, with one semester at the Paris Conservatoire with Philippe Muller. She is currently pursuing her master's in music at the New England Conservatory of Music where she studies with Laurence Lesser. 🎧



SU-JIN LEE

## Performance Applications for 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 season of chamber music and solo recitals sponsored by the FMMC begins early next fall and continues into the spring. Every effort will be made to give all performers their choice of venues and dates. Details, including guidelines, venues and times, are on the application. Application forms will be available on-line at [www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org) under “Performance Series and Opportunities.” Applicants are encouraged to fill out the form on line. Those who wish to submit a paper application should contact the program director, Jeongseon Choi, by email [js.choi@verizon.net](mailto:js.choi@verizon.net) or by phone 301-983-4804. 🎧

# FMMC Concert Calendar

MAY, JUNE, AND JULY 2014

**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 11:00 AM**

**The Mansion at Strathmore**

- MOZART: Sonata in G Major, K 301. **Destiny Hoyle**, violin; **Martin Labazevitch**, piano.
- SPOHR: Six German songs, op. 103. **Melissa Mino**, soprano; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Felicia Weiss**, piano.
- HANDEL: *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*. BORODIN: *Tarantella*. **Barbara Peterson Cackler** and **Rosanne Conway**, piano four hands.

**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 12:00 NOON**

**Calvary Baptist Church**

- GEORGE BUTTERWORTH: *Love Blows as the Wind Blows*. **John Turner**, tenor; **Gail MacColl** and **Connie Milner**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Joanna Taylor**, cello.
- SPOHR: Six German songs, op. 103. **Melissa Mino**, soprano; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Felicia Weiss**, piano.
- BACH-LISZT: Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 543. DEBUSSY: *L'Isle Joyeuse*. BACH-BUSONI: Choral Prelude *Wachet Auf*. **Enoch Gordis**, piano.

**THURSDAY, MAY 8, 7:00 PM**

**Greenspring**

- PROKOFIEV: Sonata. **Susan Hayes**, flute; **Barbara Cackler**, piano.
- BEETHOVEN: Piano Trio in C Minor, op. 1, no. 3. **David Brown**, violin; **Heejung Jung**, cello; **John Earle**, piano.
- LISZT: *Rhapsodie Espagnole*. **Richard Shin**, piano.

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 10:00 AM**

*Annual meeting and luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club.*

Meeting at 10:00 am, reception at 11:30 am, luncheon at 12:00 noon.

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 3:00 PM**

**Steinway Gallery**

*FMMC student members.*

**TUESDAY, MAY 13, 12:00 NOON**

**Dumbarton House**

- RAMEAU: Two arias from *Platée*. PURCELL: "If Music Be the Food of Love." **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Jan Timbers**, violoncello; **Sharon Ollison**, harpsichord.
- HANDEL: Opera arias and duets. "Piangerò la sorte mia" (*Giulio Cesare*); "Se fiere belva ha cinto" (*Rodelinda*); "Io t'abbraccio" (*Rodelinda*); "Caro! Bella!" (*Giulio Cesare*). **Nancy MacArthur Smith**, soprano; **Karen Mercedes**, contralto; **Heidi Schuller**, flute; **Rachael Bredefeld**, oboe; **Barbara Gholz** and **Miriam Goldberg**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Jan Timbers**, violoncello; **Sharon Ollison**, harpsichord.
- HAYDN: Quartet in D Major, op. 50, no. 6 ("The Frog"). **Barbara Gholz** and **Carol Bartholomew**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Brigitta Czernik Gruenther**, violoncello.

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 12:00 NOON**

**Calvary Baptist Church**

- MAIKO CHIBA: Five Songs. **Kimiko Shimada**, soprano; **Maiko Chiba**, piano.
- DVOŘÁK: Quintet in G Minor, op. 72. **Cecilie Jones** and **Joyce Rizzolo**, violins; **Robert Huesmann**, viola; **Jan Timbers**, cello; **Cyndy Elliott**, bass.
- GRIEG: Selected songs. **Gail Collins**, mezzo-soprano; **Enoch Gordis**, piano.

**SATURDAY, MAY 31, 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

**First Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall)**

*Choral workshop and concert.* Concert starting at 4:00 pm is open to the public.

Choral workshop directed by **Dr. Yoon Nam**. Selected choral works TBD.

Persons interested in participating as singers or in the orchestra should contact Peter Baum peterbaum@cox.net or visit the Choral Workshop website at www.fmmc-chorale-director.weebly.com.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 9:30 AM TO 6:00 PM**

**George Washington University  
Rome Hall**

*Washington International Competition semifinals.*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2:00 PM**

**Kennedy Center Terrace Theater**

*Washington International Competition finals.*

**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 PM**

**Dumbarton House**

*A program commemorating the War of 1812.*

- HENRY ROWLEY BISHOP: String Quartet in C Minor. **Barbara Gholz** and **Connie Milner**, violins; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Sarah Hover**, violoncello.
- PHILIPPE LAROQUE: *The Battle of New Orleans* for piano and narrator. **Karen Mercedes**, narrator; **Ruth Locker** (guest), piano.
- An operatic medley from works by H.R. BISHOP, VICTOR PELISSIER, JOHN WHITAKER, MICHAEL KELLY, JOHN ADDISON, JOHN BRAHAM and MATTHEW PETER KING. **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Karen Mercedes**, contralto; **Brian Lee** (guest), tenor; **James Harkless**, baritone; **Ruth Locker** (guest), piano.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 7:30 PM**  
 Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

*Avanti - the orchestra of the Friday Morning Music Club, Pablo Saelzer, conductor.*

- MAHLER: Symphony No. 1.

**SATURDAY, JULY 19, 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**  
 First Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall).

*Choral workshop and concert.* Concert starting at 4:00 pm is open to the public.

- Choral workshop directed by **Nicholas A. Brown**. Selected choral works TBD. Persons interested in participating as singers or in the orchestra should contact Peter Baum peterbaum@cox.net or visit the Choral Workshop website at www.fmcc-chorale-director.weebly.com.

**VENUES**

**ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB**  
 2400 S. 18th St., Arlington, VA

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 755 Eighth St. NW, Washington, DC (Metro: Gallery Place)

**DUMBARTON HOUSE**  
 2715 Q St. NW, Washington, DC

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 16th and O Sts. NW, Washington, DC (Metro: Dupont Circle)

**GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ROME HALL**  
 801 22nd St. NW, Room B-120, Washington, DC

**GREENSPRING**  
 7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, VA

**KENNEDY CENTER TERRACE THEATER**  
 Washington, DC (Metro: Foggy Bottom)

**THE MANSION AT STRATHMORE**  
 10701 Rockville Pike, N. Bethesda, MD (Metro: Grosvenor)

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER**  
 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD

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

# Piano Master Class

Members are reminded of the master class/coaching session to take place on Wednesday, May 7th, from 10:00 am to noon at the International Piano Archives. Internationally renowned pianist-pedagogue Thomas Schumacher will coach three pianists from the FMMC.

The International Piano Archives (IPAM) is located in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland at College Park. Donald Manildi, curator, will be the host.

Admission is free, but contributions to the FMMC Piano Coaching Fund are welcome. For information, please contact the committee: D. Fleming 301-365-6828, S. Kim 202-966-6490, M. Traver 301-699-8854, or C. Rozier 202-362-8068. 🎧

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

**Chad Lilley**  
 Student Solo Saxophone

chudnik96@gmail.com

**Olivia Staton**  
 Student Solo Flute

Olivia.staton@gmail.com

**Cathy Xue**  
 Student Solo Flute

**Gladstone Butler**  
 Student Solo Percussion

gstone.butler@gmail.com

**Caitlin Redding**  
 Student Solo Mezzo

Caitlin.n.Redding@gmail.com

**Joseph Chee**  
 Student Solo Bass/Baritone

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**John Chong Yoon Noh**  
 Student Solo Tenor

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 Student Solo Baritone

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**Grace Gilday**  
 Student Solo Soprano

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 Student Solo Baritone

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 Student Solo Soprano

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 Student Solo Soprano

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 Student Solo Soprano

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**Shankar Balasubramanian**  
 Solo Violin

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**Susan Yeh**  
 Solo Violin

syen101@gmail.com

**Scott Borg**  
 Solo Guitar

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**Dr. Liana Valente**  
 Solo Soprano

liana@omegatower.com

**Carole Falvo**  
 Solo Clarinet

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**Gi Na Nam**  
 Chamber Piano

gnhong@yahoo.com

**Naoko Maeda**  
 Solo Piano

naokopianist@yahoo.com

**Judith S. Block**  
 Solo Piano

judithsblock@gmail.com

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## 2014 Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Student Voice Competition

Five prizes and five honorable mentions were awarded at the March 29, 2014 Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Student Competition for Voice. First prize (\$1000) went to mezzo soprano Caitlin Redding; second prizes (\$700) were awarded to bass baritone Joseph Chee and tenor John, Chong Yoon Noh; third prizes (\$500) went to baritone Jonathan Champ and soprano Grace Gilday. Honorable mentions were baritone Jovon Eborn and sopranos Shafali Jalota, Norika Zehnder, Karen Lackey and Nicole Hodgins. All prize winners and honorable mentions receive one year's free membership in the Friday Morning Music Club. Twenty-seven competitors – voice students aged 17-22 –

braved a cold and rainy Saturday to participate. The judges were Sharon Christman of Catholic University of America, Stanley Cornett of the Peabody Institute and Patricia Miller of George Mason University. Awards were based entirely on total points awarded by the judges. All of the participants received the judges' comments at the awards ceremony held at the conclusion of the competition. Frank Conlon and George Peachey served as accompanists for the performers. Steve Roberts, the generous sponsor of this competition was present for the entire event.

**Mira Yang**, Competition Chair

**Christine Kharazian**, FMMC Student Activities Chair 🎶

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## 2014 Woodwind, Brass, & Percussion Competition

For the second year in a row, an alto sax player from DeMatha Catholic High School has earned First Prize in the FMMC's Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass & Percussion held March 8, 2014 at the National Presbyterian Church. Chad Lilley was this year's winner of the \$1,000 first prize (alto saxist Eric Rierson was last year's First Prize winner). The judges this year awarded two second prizes of \$700 each to flutists Cathy Xue (Montgomery Blair High School) and Olivia Staton (James Madison High School). Percussionist Gladstone Butler, also of DeMatha Catholic, was awarded an honorable mention. No third prize was awarded. All contestants used their own

accompanists and the judges determined that the musicianship of each was at such a high level that all should be eligible for admission to the FMMC as student members-without-audition. We are grateful to FMMC Member Steve Roberts for his continued gracious support of this competition not only financially, but with his time. Steve regularly attends the entire competition and awards the certificates.

2014 Judges Mark Simon, Susan Hayes, and Charles Ostle commended all the contestants on the high level of their musicianship, the rigor of their repertoires, and their impressive memorization.

Co-Chairs: **Edie Tatel** and **Olivia Adler** 🎶

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## Anne Zim to be Honored at Annual Luncheon

The FMMC Board of Governors has unanimously approved the nomination of Associate Member Anne W. Zim to receive the special citation of Honorary Member. This nomination will be presented to club members at the Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon on May 9.

The FMMC has benefited greatly over the years from the dedication and remarkable efforts of Anne Zim. Since becoming FMMC Finance Director in 1999, she has guided many projects that have brought financial stability to the club. She is responsible for obtaining numerous grants over the years from the Dallas Coors Foundation, grants that have helped support our Avanti orchestra's Kennedy Center concerts. She arranged a partnership with the Smithsonian

Institution featuring FMMC performers and lecturers in a special music series. She has also chaired a number of benefits for the club and orchestra including the FMMC's 125th Anniversary Celebration, a formidable undertaking that culminated in a combined orchestra-vocal gala at the Schlesinger Concert Hall.

Letters of support for this nomination were received from Dina Fleming, Jo-Ann Royer, Yvonne Sabine, and Jan Timbers. They, along with many others who have worked closely with Anne, have the highest praise for her dedication to music and to our organization.

The Honorary Membership Committee includes Lois Jones, Clair Rozier, and Mary Kathryn Traver, Chairman. 🎶

## From the Foundation Director

LESLIE LUXEMBURG

This year's Washington International Competition for piano will take place on June 7th and 8th. We hope that as many of you as are able will plan to join us at the finals on Sunday the 8th at 2:00 pm in the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center. It is always entertaining to try to outguess our esteemed panel of judges, Ilana Vered, Jerome Rose and Ralph Votapek. Regardless of their decisions, every audience member gets to vote for the finalist they think is best and thus worthy of taking home the audience-prize. The judges and the audience don't always agree but, whatever the outcome, one is certain to come away having heard some outstanding young pianists.

It's not too late to sign up to host one of our semifinalists and have the unique opportunity of hearing them practice in your home before the competition! Who could resist having one's own "Hauskonzert!" Please contact me directly to express your willingness to be a host.

We could not continue every year without the generosity of FMMC members who sponsor some of our financial prizes. In particular I would like to recognize Sally Potter whose support covers our first prize (the Lewis A. Potter Award), Ann Schein who provides the funds for the third prize (the Ann and Betty Schein award), and Viola Musher who funds

the audience prize (the Amelia Stieglitz Wishner and Viola Musher Award) and who continues to take a personal interest in "her" winners year after year!

Another competition under the umbrella of the FMMC Foundation, the 2015 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players (violin, viola, cello, ages 13-17), is set for March 18-21, 2015 in Washington, DC. More than 10,000 brochures with applications have been printed and mailed to string teachers and music schools across the world. The brochures provide details about eligibility and repertoire requirements, along with information on how to access the online application on the JIC pages of the FMMC website ([www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org)). Please share this information with gifted young string players and their teachers.

Serving as Foundation Director this year has been an adventure and a privilege. I could not have done it without the help and support of my Foundation Board and so many members of the FMMC Board as well. Thank you! 🎶



## Avanti Masterwork Festival Presents Mahler Symphony No. 1

This June, FMMC conductor Pablo Saelzer will direct the Avanti Orchestra's fifth annual Masterwork Festival in collaboration with Montgomery College. The 2014 festival will feature Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D major.

The Masterwork Festival is an opportunity for highly accomplished musicians – professional, amateur, and student – to come together to study, rehearse and perform a symphonic masterwork. The performance will take place on Sunday,

June 28, 7:30 pm, at Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Rehearsals will be held Monday through Friday, June 23-27, from 7:30 to 10:00 pm, in the Music Building on the Rockville Campus of Montgomery College.

For more information, contact Nan Cooper at [orchestra@fmmc.org](mailto:orchestra@fmmc.org) or visit [www.metropolitanorchestramc.org/mwf2014.htm](http://www.metropolitanorchestramc.org/mwf2014.htm). 🎶

### THE EXCHANGE

Members (and members only) can place announcements for music and/or instruments they want to buy, sell or give away, or for musicians they need for ensembles or specific performances. Announcements must be as brief as possible. Because space is limited, the Exchange will operate on a "first come, first served" basis. Send submissions to [newsletter@fmmc.org](mailto:newsletter@fmmc.org).

**NEEDED:** Instrumentalists to perform an original clarinet quintet (string quartet plus clarinet) at an FMMC composers' concert in the 2014-2015 season. The piece is ten minutes long and is written in a quasi-klezmer style. Please contact David Rubenstein 703-464-0234 or [dave.rubenstein@verizon.net](mailto:dave.rubenstein@verizon.net).



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## Gluck at 300

ROBIN FRIEDMAN

In celebration of the 300th anniversary of Christoph Willibald Gluck's birth (1714-1789), Art Haus Musik has issued a three DVD set called "Gluck 300."

Gluck, an Enlightenment humanist, used Greek myth to bring together passion and reason in his music. The operas and the performances in this collection make Gluck accessible to a contemporary audience.

"Orfeo ed Euridice" recounts the Greek myth of a musician who enters hell to rescue his wife. The DVD of a 1991 performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, is directed by Harry Kupfer and conducted by Hartmut Haenchen. It sets the opera in a modern city with the hero a rock singer in tight jeans, a leather jacket, slinging a guitar. Countertenor Joachin Kowalski offers a passionate performance of Orfeo.

Stuttgart's Staatsoper presents a 2006 performance of "Alceste" with Constantinus Carydis conducting. The opera tells the story of a heroic wife who offers her life to spare that of her husband, Admete, who the gods have decreed must die. This production also is presented in contemporary dress, with the two primary characters presented, rather ironically, as

upwardly mobile career-types. Soprano Catherine Nagelstad portrays Alceste. Catriona Smith leads the chorus.

"Iphigenie en Tauride," probably Gluck's greatest work, has had frequent revivals in recent years, including a performance by the Washington Opera two years ago. It recounts the friendship between two young men and the heroism of Iphigenie, the sister of Orestes, who serves as priestess in a pagan court. This presentation dates from 2001 at the Zurich Opera House. William Christie, the renowned conductor of early music, conducts the "La Scintilla" orchestra in an imaginatively staged performance. The opera, celebrating the victory of Enlightenment over barbarism, features soprano Juliette Galstian as Iphigenie. 🎵

**NOTICE:** After this issue, the Newsletter will take its annual summer vacation. We'll be back in September, with batteries recharged. Have a good summer!

**Winston Davis**, Newsletter Editor