

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB

129TH SEASON

SEPTEMBER 2015

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Celebrating Our 130th Anniversary



Washington International Competition For Strings Winners

Suzanne Richardson

On June 7, 2015, six talented musicians won a total of \$27,000 in prize money and performance opportunities at the 2015 Washington International Competition for Strings (WIC).

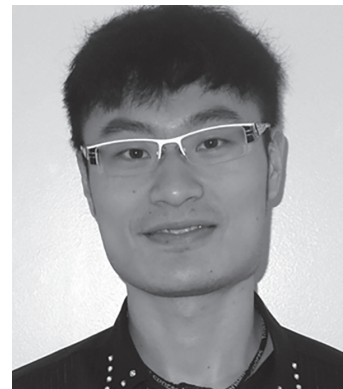
First prize of \$8,000 for violin was awarded to Nadir Khashimov after a fiery rendition of the allegro brusco movement of Prokofiev's Sonata No. 1 in F minor. Khashimov also won the \$1,000 Audience Favorite award. A recent graduate of the Curtis Institute, where he was a student of Pamela Frank and Shmuel Ashkenasi, Khashimov next competes at the Tchaikovsky Competition semifinal in Moscow.

First Prize for viola, also \$8,000, went to Yifei Deng, a student of Li Sheng at Shanghai Conservatory. Deng was a Johansen String Competition Second Prize winner in 2009 and more recently won the 2014 Primrose Competition Concerto prize. First prize winners are also awarded a concerto performance at the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and a solo recital at the Phillips Collection Sunday Series.

continued on page 2



Nadir Khashimov



Yifei Deng

President's Message

Olivia Adler

Welcome back for what looks to be an exciting year. We've accomplished a lot in the past year – our new website was launched and we've now had a full season with our new Chorale Director, Paul Leavitt. Both of the Club's major ensembles, Avanti (under conductor Pablo Saelzer) and the FMMC Chorale, had successful seasons and are well into plans for the coming year. During the last season, our solo and chamber players presented 80 concerts at 15 venues throughout the Washington, DC area, and the coming season will see an increase in programs at the Heurich House Museum at Dupont Circle and at the Lyceum in Alexandria. Starting this year, auditions for performance membership will be facilitated by permitting applicants to submit videos (subject to published guidelines). Plans for a brisk season of student competitions are underway, continuing the

annual competitions for strings, voice, piano, woodwind, brass & percussion, and composition. Our important Outreach program will continue to bring free classical music performances to senior facilities throughout the area.

Two big highlights for the coming year: The Club's 130th anniversary will be celebrated on April 17, 2016 with an opera-themed concert at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, showcasing several of our talented singers, as well as the Avanti orchestra and FMMC Chorale. Please plan to come!

Also, the Board will be looking for new ways to promote informal music-making among its members. We expect soon to add a "Meetup" program to our website to make it easier for members to arrange chamber groups. Stay tuned for a launch announcement!

We are also considering organizing some larger, non-auditioned events, such as baroque chamber orchestra get-togethers and orchestral sight-reading sessions. We'll welcome your ideas and requests! Please email me at oadler@comcast.net

Finally, I hope you will please join us for our opening Friday noon concert on October 2, 2015 at Calvary Baptist Church, followed by our annual President's Reception – good music, good food and good company! 🎶

Olivia

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Obituary • Nancy McKinless

Joseph Pincus

We mourn the passing of Nancy McKinless, long-time member and performer with the Friday Morning Music Club, a former librarian and performer with the McLean Symphony and with George Mason University, and later, when her health permitted, the Annandale Strings. Her enthusiasm for music and for people will always remain an inspiration and an example for all of us who were privileged to know her. With the McLean Symphony, she was the librarian and second violinist. Nancy died on Tuesday morning, May 19. She is survived by her beloved husband, Bob. The mighty McKinless extended family was always on the move, bicycling, hiking, visiting every baseball stadium in the country, and playing music.

On one brutally snowy day in January, Nancy and Bob drove to church and Nancy played at the service: she and Bob escaped any slips or falls on the icy pavement. But that afternoon at home Nancy was standing on a chair changing a light bulb when she fell, breaking her leg in seven places. It was a very serious accident for a senior grand lady. In her hospital bed at the nursing home, Nancy was stuffing music folders and sending emails or making phone calls to the miscreants who had not turned in their previous folders. Within two months she was coming to rehearsals in a wheel chair. Then she came with a walker. Then she came with a cane (and a helping hand from Jody Smalley), and Nancy continued to come despite many other health issues until she just could not get up the stairs from the parking lot. She was the unstoppable, feisty Nancy McKinless, and she taught us this lesson:

Whatever you do, keep doing it. Keep doing it with passion, no matter what. Never give up. Reach out to others, give service to others, expect high standards from everyone, keep smiling, and don't bother to complain or make excuses. Just keep going! Now she is playing in the orchestra in heaven, and I will tell you one thing — the angels better get those music folders numbered! 🎶

Washington International Competition...continued from page 1

Second prize for cello and \$5,000 went to Ben Lash, a graduate of The Colburn School and the USC Thornton School of Music where he studies with Ralph Kirshbaum. Third prizes of \$3,000 each were awarded to violinist Jiazhi Wang, a student of Ani Kavafian at the Yale School of Music and violist Wenguan Li, 2012-Winner of Mannes College of Music Concerto Competition and student of Paul Neubauer. Fourth prize went to Dmitri Silvian, most recently a student of Marc Coppey at the Conservatoire National de Musique de Paris.

The WIC took place June 5-7, 2015, with semifinals at the George Washington University School of Music and finals at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Sponsored by the Friday Morning Music Club Foundation, the competition is open to string players ages 18 – 28 not yet under professional management.

The competition attracted 250 applicants from 29 countries. Twenty-five contestants came to Washington to compete in the semifinals, with six selected for the finals. WIC 2015 judges were violinist Renée Jolles, violist Stephen Wyczynski, and cellist, Hans Jorgen-Jensen. Competition pianists were Audrey Andrist, Hui-Chuan Chen, Mayron Tsong, Colette Valentine, and Patti Wolf.

The judges were impressed both by the level of playing and the FMMC Foundation's work, which, says Hans Jorgen-Jensen, "is unique in



Leslie Luxemburg with WIC judges

supporting young artists through all of their years of development, from 13 through their studies as young adults." Viola judge, Stephen Wyczynski, also commented on the "incredible depth of support for music of the Friday Morning Music Club and Foundation, something unseen anywhere else in the country."

The Washington International Competition rotates on a three-year schedule, with a vocal competition in 2016 and a piano competition slated for 2017. The next WIC for Strings will occur in 2018.

For further information, please contact Leslie Luxemburg, FMMC Foundation Director, wicstrings@gmail.com or Suzanne Richardson, 2015 WIC Competition Chair, wic2015@gmail.com, 202-450-4321. 🎶

2015 JIC First Prize Winners To Be Featured in Concerts

Alice Berman

Two upcoming concerts feature winners of the **2015 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players**, which took place in March 2015 in Washington, DC.

On **Saturday, October 10 at 8:00 pm**, **Hae Sue Lee**, winner of first-prize viola, will perform the **Walton Viola Concerto** with the **Prince George's Philharmonic**. Conducted by **Charles Ellis**, Music Director. The concert will take place at the **Bowie Center for the Performing Arts**, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD. Website: www.pgphilharmonic.org.

On **Sunday, October 18 at 5:00 pm**, all three first-prize winners will perform in the **JIC 2015 Winners' Recital: Lara Boschkor**, first-prize violin; **Hae Sue Lee**, first-prize viola; and **Zlatomir Fung**, first-prize cello. They will be accompanied by collaborative pianist **Frank Conlon**. Repertoire includes works by Brahms, Carter, Debussy, Hindemith, Paganini, Tsintsadze, Wieniawski and others, plus the World Premiere of the new work commissioned for the 2015 JIC, "**Shades of Red**" by **David Froom**. The concert will take place at the **Church of the Annunciation**, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Admission is free. More information: JohansenComp@aol.com; 301-946-9531. ♫

From The High School String Competition Chair, Jeongseon Choi

The annual high school string competition (awards in memory of Gustave N. Johanssen, Jr.) is fast approaching. It will be held at the National Presbyterian Church on Nov. 21 from 9 am to 3 pm. The application deadline is on Nov. 7. *Please get the word out.*

FMMC Concert Calendar

SEPTEMBER and EARLY OCTOBER 2015

Friday, September 18, 8:00 p.m.
Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

Avanti Orchestra of the FMMC, Pablo Saelzer, conductor; Sara Daneshpour, piano.

- RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No. 3.
- DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 8.

Sunday, September 20, 3:00 p.m.
The Lyceum.

- SHARON GUERTIN SHAFER: Six Unaccompanied Poems. **Sharon Guertin Shafer**, vocal soloist.
- HINDEMITH: Sonata, op. 25 no. 1. **Shearom Chung**, viola.
- GUASTAVION: *10 Cantos Populares*, **Steven Schwarz**, piano.

Sunday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.
Westminster at Lake Ridge.

- ELLIOTT CARTER, NED MOREM, SAMUEL BARBER: Selected songs. **Gail Collins**, mezzo soprano; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano. Selections for solo viola. J.S. Bach: from Suite no.3, Sarabande, Gigue. Vieuxtemps: Capriccio.
- HINDEMITH: from Sonata, op. 25, IV. **Hyejin Kim**, viola.
- KARL DAVYDOV: *Silhouettes*, op. 41. **Igor Zubkovsky**, cello; **Susan Kolker**, piano.

Saturday, September 26, 3:00 p.m.
Greenspring.

- PIAZZOLLA: *Histoire du Tango*. **Benjamin Altman**, guitar; **Alison Lowell**, oboe.
- J.S. BACH: Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006. **Destiny Mermagen**, violin.
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata, op. 57, ("Appassionata") Allegro assai. **BARTOK: Improvisations on Hungarian Peasant Songs**, op. 20. **Tzu-Yi Chen**, piano.

Tuesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m.
Dumbarton House.

- DOWLAND, FORD, CAMPION: Lute songs. **Deborah Thurlow**, soprano; **Charles Mokotoff**, lute.
- J.S. BACH: Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006. **Destiny Ann Mermagen**, violin.
- FRIEDRICH ERNST FESCA: Flute Quartet in D Major. **Susan Hayes**, flute; **David Brown**, violin; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Sarah Hover**, cello.

Friday, October 2, 12:00 noon
Calvary Baptist Church. The opening concert of the season. President's reception to follow the performance.

- BEETHOVEN: Sonata in F Minor, op. 57 ("Appassionata"). **Tzu-Yi Chen**, piano.
- RACHMANINOFF: Selected songs. **Yeji Yoon**, soprano; **Brad Clark**, piano.

- RAYMOND GUIOT: *Divertimento-Jazz* for four flutes. **Laura Benning**; **Gwyn Jones**; **Maria Rhode** (guest); **Cynthia Rugolo** (guest), flutes.

Sunday, October 4, 7:30 p.m. at Riderwood.

- BRAHMS: Sonata in E-flat Major, op. 120 no. 2. **Tianlai Lu**, clarinet; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.
- CÉSAR FRANCK: Sonata in A Major. **Susan Yeh**, violin; **Victoria Bragin**, piano.
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, op. 57 ("Appassionata"). **Tzu-Yi Chen**, piano.

Thursday, October 8, 11:00 a.m. at Collington.

- PROGRAM TBA

Friday, October 9, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church.

- DINOS CONSTANTINIDES: Selections from *Greek Miniatures*, vol. III. **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- AARON COPLAND: Selections from *12 poems of Emily Dickinson*. **Liana Valente**, soprano; **Yuri Chayama**, piano.
- DANIEL BALDWIN: *Landscapes* for clarinet, bassoon, French horn, and piano. **Nancy Genovese**, clarinet; **Susan Wilson** (guest), bassoon; **Margaret Dikel** (guest), horn; **Barbara Wing**, piano.

VENUES

Calvary Baptist Church

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

Collington Retirement Community

10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville, MD.

Dumbarton House

2715 Q Street NW, Washington, DC.

Greenspring

7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, VA.

The Lyceum

201 S Washington St., Alexandria, VA.

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD.

Riderwood Village Chapel

3110 Gracefield Rd., Silver Spring, MD.

Westminster at Lake Ridge Retirement Community

12191 Clipper Dr, Lake Ridge, VA



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September 2015

Chorale To Begin Rehearsals in October

Peter Baum

The FMMC Chorale, under the direction of Paul Leavitt, will begin its preparations for January 15 and 16, 2016 performances on Sunday, October 25, 2015. Rehearsals will be held in the Parish Hall of the Church of the Reformation (212 East Capitol Street, Washington, DC) from 1:30-4:00 PM. Music for this early 2016 concert will include Bach's *Wachet Auf* (Cantata 140) and Leavitt's *Magnificat*.

Soloists interested in participating in this concert should contact Mr. Leavitt at chorale@fmmc.org.

For additional details about the Chorale, see its pages on the FMMC website (fmmc.org) under Performance Opportunities. ♪

From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxemburg

It is always a pleasure to welcome all FMMC members back at the start of a new year filled with excitement and activities. This year, 2015-2016, promises to be no exception!

Recent winners of both JIC and WIC will be performing on a monthly basis. We will be sure to remind you and hope you make a point of attending. First of all, you can enjoy the outstanding music, but also you can show your support for these amazing young artists who have been chosen to put a public face on the FMMC.

My recent work on the Foundation budget for 2015-2016 reminded me of what an amazing feat we pull off every year to produce such impressive results on what is really a limited amount of money. The budget for the 2016 voice competition, for example, is only slightly more than \$50,000. Included in this figure is \$22,000 in prize money. The balance has to cover the costs of hiring three world class judges and paying all their expenses to

bring them to Washington DC, rent of the Terrace Theatre, paying preliminary judges, accompanists, programs and many other things. Unlike the FMMC, the Foundation receives no dues and must fund everything out of our limited resources and investments. Were it not for our generous donors, consistently our beloved Sally Potter and Viola Musher, but others as well, we would not be able to constantly raise the standards and our status. Please consider taking advantage of the recently added possibility of contributing directly to the Foundation using a credit card via the PayPal link added on the Foundation page and help us make this new season one of the brightest and best ever! ♪



Leslie