

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



134TH SEASON

SEPTEMBER 2019

VOL. 54, NO. 1

From the President

Leslie Luxemburg

A very warm welcome to all Friday Morning Music Club members as we begin our 134th year. I am enjoying taking up my new position as your FMMC President after having served for the past six years as the Director of the FMMC Foundation. It is reassuring to hand over the work of the Foundation to Frank Conlon, who is sure to oversee an outstanding WIC for piano in 2020, and to guide the preparatory year in the Johansen International Competition for Young String Players with a steady hand.

I am grateful to Albert Hunt for continuing his dedicated direction of our active chamber music program and to those who are responsible for other wide-ranging facets of our programming. Where would we be without Anne Zim, our stalwart treasurer? Many thanks to David Pearl for joining us as Finance Director and Mary Alice Davidson, who will take over as FMMC Board secretary.

This year marks the first time we will have our new Managing Director Jennie Weyman on board. Even if you are unaware of what Jennie has been doing to improve and streamline our organization and our communications, you are sure to have noticed the professional nature of our recent internal communications and social media posts. Helping to produce the new Yearbook has been only one of the tasks occupying Jennie over the summer.

We should all look forward to particularly outstanding concert offerings this year from the Avanti Orchestra and newly named Arioso Chorale, previously



the FMMC Chorale. First up will be the Avanti Orchestra concert on September 28 at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center at 7:30 PM. This will be closely followed by the Arioso Chorale program on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 1 and 2, featuring one of Bach's most beloved masterpieces, the *Magnificat*. The first Avanti concert will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 10th, and will feature Amanda Palmeiro, our 2019 Washington International Competition for Voice first-prize winner, performing *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* by Samuel Barber and a group of arias. Details of all our concert offerings are found in the Yearbook with updates in the monthly Newsletter and on the FMMC website.

Please make sure to support the FMMC by attending these outstanding concerts. Also, make plans to attend the opening of our Friday concert series on October 4th at 12:00 noon. This special concert will be followed by the President's Reception and lunch.

This year we are issuing a challenge to every FMMC member to attend at least two of our concert offerings during the course of the year. While there are those among us who are devoted and consistent concert attendees, the vast majority of us do not find the time. As musicians, we all realize the extensive effort which goes into preparing our performances and how gratifying it is to share this work with others. Attendance at many of our events has been sparse and disappointing. Please help to make this the year we turn this situation around. I look forward to greeting many of you at the opening concert and reception on October 4th and to the opportunity of working together to make the 134th season an especially memorable one for the FMMC! 🍷

Sincerely,

Leslie

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An official publication of the
Friday Morning Music Club, Inc.
Organized in 1886

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From the Foundation Director

Frank Conlon

I am excited to take over the helm of the Foundation, following last year's successful competition. We are most grateful to Foundation Director Leslie Luxemburg, Competition Chair Katie Katinas assisted by Chen-Li Tzeng, and many other members, for the magnificent success of the year's WIC Vocal Competition. First-prize winner Amanda Palmeiro, second-prize winner Mandy Brown, third-prize winner Shaina Martinez, and finalists Joshua Convers (who won the audience prize), Matthew Hill, and Jacqueline Matava were expertly accompanied by pianists Joy Schreier and Wei-Han Wu in the semi-final round. The Washington Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Jun Kim, accompanied the finalists at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. The enthusiastic audience was treated to a delightful afternoon of operatic selections.

We welcome our new Competition Co-Chairs Grace McFarlane and Junko Takahashi and our new Treasurer Charlotte Saslowsky. This year's WIC is for piano, with the semi-finals taking place on Saturday, May 23rd, at George Washington University, and the finals on Sunday, May 24th, at 2:00 PM at the Terrace Theater. Our distinguished panel of judges includes Simone Dinnerstein, Robert McDonald, and John Perry. Many thanks to Grace and Junko for all that they have done to set this into motion!

I look forward to seeing you at the competition!!

Frank



Arioso Chorale Begins Preparation for Its 2019-2020 Season

Peter Baum

The Chorale will begin its 2019-2020 season on November 1 and 2 with a concert to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation's presence on Capitol Hill. The church, located at 212 E. Capital St., has been our home for the last six seasons. Concerts will begin at 8:00 PM at the church.

The concert will feature J. S. Bach's *Magnificat* in D Major (BWV 243) and Mendelssohn's *Psalm 115, Nicht unserm Namen, Herr* (Op. 31). Additional selections from Paul Leavitt's *Cantata Emmanuel* will round out the program.

Soloists interested in singing in this concert should contact Paul Leavitt at choraledirector@fmmc.org to schedule an audition. The Bach calls for two sopranos, plus alto, tenor, and bass voices. The Mendelssohn requires soprano, tenor, and bass/baritone vocalists.

The Chorale will begin rehearsals on Sunday, August 25, at 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM in the Parish Hall at the Church of the Reformation. The Orchestra will begin rehearsals on Monday, September 16, at 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM in the same location. Choral singers and instrumentalists interested in performing should contact Peter Baum at chorale@fmmc.org.

Please visit the Club website for additional details on this and other Chorale concerts in January and April 2020. All Chorale performances are free and open to the public.

Avanti Orchestra Season Begins September 28

Nan Cooper

The Avanti Orchestra of the Friday Morning Music Club begins its 2019-20 season, its 77th year, and its 15th year with Conductor Pablo Saelzer, on Saturday, September 28, at 7:30 PM. Returning to Avanti's stage is violinist Julian Rhee, a 2018 Johansen International Competition winner, performing Mozart's Concerto for Violin No. 3. Mr. Rhee first joined the orchestra last year in a brilliant performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Also on the program are Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture and Schubert's Symphony No. 9. The concert takes place at Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring, MD.

To read more about Julian Rhee, please visit www.sandiegosymphony.org/about-the-sdso/artistic/guest-artists/member/julian-rhee-violin/

Avanti is planning three more concerts this season.

Sunday, November 10, 2019, 3 PM, Cultural Arts Center, Silver Spring

Soloist: Amanda Palmeiro, soprano, 2019 WIC first-prize winner

Copland: *Quiet City*

Barber: *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

Stravinsky: "No word from Tom - I go to him" from *Rake's Progress*

Falla: *Dances*

Friday, March 13, 2020, 7:30 PM, Church of the Epiphany

Soloists: Christopher Schmitt, piano; Kobi Malkin, violin, 2012 WIC semi-finalist;

Tony Rymer, cello, 2018 WIC winner

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2

Beethoven: Symphony No. 2

Beethoven: Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 7:30 PM, Masterwork Festival, Cultural Arts Center, Silver Spring

Antonio Juan-Marcos: *Pasión de Violetas*

Stravinsky: *The Firebird*

See you at the concert hall! 🎶

From the Managing Director

Jennie Weyman

What a summer! I hope that you all have had a wonderful time these past few months and are as eager as I am to get back to music making. First, thank you all for welcoming me so fully into the organization. I have not met all of you face to face, but am hoping that I will have a chance to do so as the season resumes.

The main task of the summer is—as always—the annual membership yearbook, and the subsequent updates to the website. Joanna Taylor and I have worked tirelessly to get the yearbook squared away and heading to your mailboxes soon (if not already). In addition, while the brand-new website has made our lives *infinitely* easier and is largely complete, we're now building the searchable membership database that we had on our old website, since the yearbook is not always up-to-date as the season goes on.

Beyond that, I have spent a great deal of time examining FMMC's existing practices to identify the ways in which we are succeeding—and ways in which we

are struggling. Above all, the very heart of FMMC is its long-term members, from performers to enthusiasts and to everyone in between. The main focus of my work has, therefore, turned to research: to learn more about you and what it means for you to participate in this group. The same applies to our audiences. If we hope to engage new audiences and new members, the most valuable way to do so is to involve and recognize those of you who already know and love FMMC—and to truly understand what this organization means to you.

An example of this was the additional question regarding volunteer experience on this year's membership form. We can use those responses to engage you differently and establish better administrative functions. Along similar lines, there will likely be a few polls going out over the course of this year, and you can expect to see more attempts at information gathering at concerts as we try to build lists of our audiences. Since we don't sell tickets, it is an added challenge to capture



Jennie Weyman

information on who attends our performances. There are a number of practices and strategies I'd like to experiment with this year to capture as much of that data as possible to make our marketing attempts more effective.

I have been incredibly grateful and appreciative of your willingness to experiment and push ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, I am only an email away at manage@fmmc.org! 🎶

FMMC Concert Calendar

SEPTEMBER and
EARLY OCTOBER 2019

September

Friday, September 6, 1:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

- GERSHWIN: Three preludes for clarinet and piano. **Andrew Tangborn**, clarinet; **Tanya Lee**, piano.
- JUDITH SHATIN: *Chai* Variations on "Eliahu Hanavi." **Joan Mizrahi**, piano.
- FANNY MENDELSSOHN: Trio in D minor, op. 11. **Taka Ariga** (guest), cello; **Kunie Devorkin** (guest), violin; **Tanya Lee**, piano.
- PROKOFIEV: *Overture on Jewish Themes*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Carolyn Wu** (guest) and **Eun Ju Kwak**, violins; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Taka Ariga** (guest), cello; **Tanya Lee**, piano.

Saturday, September 14, 3:00 pm at Greenspring

- *From Poetry to Song*. Emily Dickinson poems set to music by COPLAND, HUNDLEY, LAITMAN, and WALKER. **Nancy MacArthur Smith**, soprano; **Lisa Bloy** (guest), piano.
- BRAHMS: Sonata for clarinet and piano in E-flat Major, op. 120, no. 2. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- SCHUBERT: from *Drei Klavierstücke*, No. 2. LISZT: "Au bord d'une source" from *Années de Pèlerinage*, Book 1. RAVEL: *Jeux d'eau*. **Simon Finlow**, piano.

Sunday, September 22, 3:00 pm at the Lyceum

- BRAHMS: Sonata for clarinet and piano in E-flat Major, op. 120, no. 2. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- MARAIS: *Les Folies d'Espagne* (excerpt) for solo flute. BOEHM: *Grand Polonaise*, op. 16 for flute and piano. **Takeaki Miyamae**, flute; **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- JUDITH SHATIN: *Chai* Variations on "Eliahu Hanavi." **Joan Mizrahi**, piano.

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 pm at Dumbarton House

- J.S. BACH: Suite No. 4 in E-flat Major, BWV 1010. **Noah Chen**, cello.
- Selected Elizabethan Songs. **Deborah Thurlow**, soprano; **Barbara Gholz**, violin; **Edwina Moldover**, cello.
- BEETHOVEN: Septet in E-flat Major, op. 20. **Eun Ju Kwak**, violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Samantha Hegre** (guest), cello; **Cyndy Elliott**, bass; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eric Hall** (guest), bassoon; horn TBD.

Saturday, September 28, 7:30 pm at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

- Avanti Orchestra**, **Pablo Saelzer**, conductor, soloist **Julian Rhee**, violin, 2018 Johansen International Competition winner
- MENDELSSOHN: The Hebrides, op. 26 ("Fingal's Cave")
 - MOZART: Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major, K. 216
 - SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 9 in C Major, D 944

October

Friday, October 4, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

President's Reception to follow.

- WINIFRED HYSON: *Memories of New England*. **Rhiannon Vaughn**, soprano; **Christine Kharazian**, violin; **Lois Jones**, piano; **George Huttlin** (guest), percussion.
- Selected solos for violin. **Christine Kharazian**, violin.

Wednesday, October 9, 11:00 am at the Steinway Piano Gallery, Bethesda

- FAURÉ, DEBUSSY: Selected songs. **Michelle Fegeas**, soprano; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.
- D. SCARLATTI: Four sonatas, K. 296, 297, 300, 301. **Steven Schwarz**, piano.
- REBECCA CLARKE: *Morpheus*; *Passacaglia on an Old English Tune*; *Chinese Puzzle*. **Susan Russo**, viola; **Hilary Van Wagenen** (guest), piano.

Venues

Calvary Baptist Church

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

Dumbarton House

2715 Q St. NW
Washington, DC

Greenspring

7410 Spring Village Dr.
Springfield, VA

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

8900 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA

The Lyceum

201 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

7995 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD

Steinway Gallery

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

FMMC High School String Competition (Awards in memory of Gustave Johansen, Jr.)

Jeongseon Choi

Mark your calendars for the FMMC High School String Competition and urge your students to apply.

Date: November 9, 2019

Deadline: October 26, 2019

Location: National Presbyterian Church

Contact: Jeongseon Choi (highschoolstrings@fmmc.org)

News from the Washington International Competition (WIC)

Janice Rosen

Bonnie Kellert, 1966 WIC piano winner, has been busy. On April 4, 2019, Ms. Kellert gave a presentation on “Ten Technical Issues Facing Pianists and Suggested Solutions” at Jacobs Music in Philadelphia sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association. Ms. Kellert’s discussion and demonstrations included topics such as posture, relaxation, producing a beautiful singing tone, and creating a wide palette of colors. She gave suggestions for developing finger strength, endurance, speed, staccato touches, and how to deal with small hands. Featured repertoire included: Liszt, *Mephisto Waltz*; Chopin, Selected Nocturnes and Etudes; Mendelssohn, *Variations Serieuses*; Scriabin, *Prelude and Nocturne for Left Hand*; and works of Bach and Schumann.

Via email I asked Ms. Kellert to comment on her relationship with FMMC and the FMMC Foundation and the impact winning the WIC competition in 1966 has had on her long career as a pianist and piano teacher.

She responded:

“I have had a LONG relationship with the FMMC Foundation....In 1966, at age 19, I became the youngest first place winner of the WIC Piano Competition. I have always had fond memories of the competition itself, which was held at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

I attended Peabody Conservatory of Music as a scholarship student of Leon Fleisher, earning my bachelor and master degrees in piano performance. While there, I received the WBAL (Radio and TV) Scholarship and the Alexander Sklarevski Award. I was later a semi finalist in the first William Kapell Piano Competition, in 1972.

At the time I won the WIC in 1966, I was still a student at Peabody Conservatory so I wasn’t yet concertizing. Since then, I’ve been fortunate to perform many times as a soloist in the Washington DC area. The overflowing crowd found my teacher, Emerson Meyers, without a seat in the two front rooms. He had to listen from another distant room. I subsequently appeared

at the Phillips two more times as a soloist with glowing reviews... Other local appearances include the Textile Museum, The Lyceum, The National Gallery of Art, Kreeger Auditorium of the Jewish Community Center and Sumner School Museum, when I gave a solo piano recital sponsored by the FMMC. That program was dedicated to honor member Dorothy Bourgin, who had just died.

I have performed in Sweden and Thailand and in 2007 gave a master class at the Shanghai Conservatory. That was a real thrill! Turns out that one of the WIC semifinalists was a student there at the time.

After winning the WIC for Piano I found myself Treasurer of the FMMC Foundation under Director, Josephine Smith. I wasn’t even 30! The responsibility was enormous. No computers in those days! All the paperwork and bookkeeping for the CPA had to be done by hand! Later, my mother, Edythe Kellert, became very involved as the Publicity Chair for both the FMMC and the Foundation under Mary K. Traver. Mom arranged for a huge article in the Washington Post and a television performance for a past string winner and myself on Maury Povich’s program. Under Foundation Director Thomas Mastroianni, I, along with past string winner Evelyn Elsing, shared a benefit recital for the Foundation at Strathmore Mansion. I later came to serve as Chair of the Piano Competition and I gave another benefit recital for WIC while I was Competition Chair.

Whenever I perform or give lecture recitals or act as a judge, etc. I always mention WIC. It was my first time winning an international competition so it will always be close to my heart.

I currently have been mentoring teachers, giving lecture recitals up and down the Eastern Seaboard. I also coach serious piano students, many of whom pursue careers in music. For 22 years



Leon Fleisher and Bonnie Kellert

I served on the faculty of the Levine School of Music and have maintained a private studio in my home for over 40 years. I have served as president of Washington, DC Music Teachers Association, Montgomery County MTA and the Washington, DC Alumni Chapter of the Music Fraternity, Mu Phi Epsilon. I was First Vice President of the FMMC before serving on the Foundation Board and still serve on the boards of WMTA, MSMTA and MCMTA in various capacities.

I am a life member of the FMMC, having been accepted as a student member at the very young age of 11. I have performed as piano soloist and in piano duet, piano duo and as chamber musician in piano trios and piano quartets.

I live in Potomac with my husband, Allen Goldberg, who has been an incredible enthusiast of my musical career. We have two grown daughters and will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this September!” 🎹



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

“Whether we like country or rap or rock, music helps us share ourselves, our dignity and sorrow, our hope and joys. It allows us to hear one another, to invite each other in. Music shows us that all of it matters—every story within every voice, every note within every song.”

Michelle Obama