

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



134TH SEASON

DECEMBER 2019

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## The Arioso Chorale Opens Its Season with a Successful Concert

Peter Baum

The Chorale's first concert of the season, titled "Psallite," was presented in two performances on November 1 and November 2 to an appreciative audience at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation. The concert celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the Church's presence on Capitol Hill and the program featured works of composers associated with the Lutheran Church both past and present.

Psallite is translated from Latin or Greek meaning "to sing" or "song sung to the harp" and most of the texts sung in the various works were drawn from the Book of Psalms in the Bible.

Six soloists (three sopranos, a countertenor, a tenor, and a bass) were featured on the program, singing with the chorus and the orchestra in Bach's *Magnificat* in D Major (BWV 243), Mendelssohn's Psalm 115 – *Nicht unserm*

*Namen, Herr* (op. 31), and Leavitt's *Ave Verum* (the 9<sup>th</sup> movement from his *Cantata Emmanuel*).

The remainder of the program comprised four settings of Psalms composed by Schutz, Diemer, and Leavitt. While the Schutz was an a cappella piece, the other three all featured orchestral arrangements by Mr. Leavitt specifically composed for this concert.

The Chorale has started rehearsals for its next concert on January 16 and 18, 2020, where it will sing the Verdi *Requiem*. The Chorale invites all singers to join in this effort, as this is a major choral work that needs a big chorus to match an equally big orchestra. The Chorale holds its rehearsals at the Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol St., NE) on Sundays between 1:30 and 4:00 PM.

Orchestra rehearsals for the Verdi will start on December 2 (strings only) and for all parts on December 9. As with the Chorale, the rehearsals are held at the Church of the Reformation from 7:30 – 10:00 PM.

Soloists interested in singing in these concerts should contact Paul Leavitt at [choraledirector@fmmc.org](mailto:choraledirector@fmmc.org) to schedule an audition. Singers interested in joining the Chorale should contact Peter Baum at [chorale@fmmc.org](mailto:chorale@fmmc.org). The Chorale orchestra is always in need of players, particularly string players. Those interested should also contact Peter Baum at [chorale@fmmc.org](mailto:chorale@fmmc.org). 🎵



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## From the Foundation Director

Frank Conlon

As December rolls around, I'm pleased to report that quite a number of pianists have requested information about our upcoming Washington International Competition in May. At this writing (the beginning of November), 20 of them have begun the application process. As the deadline is not until February 15, 2020, we expect many, many more submissions.

This past month we were privileged to enjoy the vocal artistry of three of this year's WIC winners – soprano Amanda Palmeiro, tenor Matthew Hill, and baritone Joshua Conyers. On Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 PM, Julian Rhee, the first-prize violin winner of last year's Johansen International Competition for Young String Players, will present a recital with pianist Dina Vainshtein at Annunciation Catholic Church, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (one block west of Wisconsin Avenue). The program includes the Beethoven Violin-Piano Sonata No. 10 in G Major, op. 96, the Brahms Violin-Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, op. 100, and the Saint-Saëns Etude en Forme de Valse, op. 52, No. 6, among other works. There is no admission charge, but free-will donations will be

accepted. There is plenty of free parking, and the church has an entrance ramp. A reception to meet the artists will follow the concert.

Julian delighted us with his masterly performance in September of Mozart's G Major Violin Concerto with our Avanti Orchestra and a recital at the Fox Hill Retirement Community. Last year, he was awarded the Solo Bach, Commissioned Work, and the Elaine H. Klein Prize at the Irving M. Klein International String Competition in San Francisco, and he appeared at the Kennedy Center as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, receiving his medal at the White House. He was also the recipient of the 2019 Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Scholarship, and was named the winner of the Aspen Music Festival Violin Concerto Competition, giving him a performance with the Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree with Miriam Fried at the New England Conservatory.



Pianist Dina Vainshtein is one of the most versatile and sought-after collaborative pianists today. For nearly a decade she has been affiliated with the New England Conservatory and the Walnut Hill School in Massachusetts, where she teaches chamber music. This promises to be a magnificent concert.

Our Foundation Board Members all join together to wish you and yours a happy and blessed holiday season! 🎄

*Frank*

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift.  
The purpose of life is to give it away."*

William Shakespeare



# From the President

Leslie Luxemburg

Welcome to December and the start of the holiday season. We continue to campaign for more member attendance at our events, and this fall the Club has presented a cornucopia of options. With chamber music, the Avanti Orchestra, and Arioso Chorale concerts, I hope you have been attending some of these wonderful musical offerings. The Holidays and new year will present even more musical opportunities.

December is the time for our annual Holiday Reception in conjunction with the FMMC Composers Concert Series and this year the concert will take place on Friday December 13 at 12 noon at Calvary Baptist Church. Although they are not one of our marquee events like the Chorale and Orchestra concerts, the Composers Group concerts are an FMMC treasure. Currently chaired by Mark Simon, the Composers Group was established in 1944. The December concert will feature works by Leslie Bennett, John Hiltgen, Branimir Krstic, Hillary Kruh, Paul Leavitt, and Sharon Guertin Shafer. It is sure to be a varied and entertaining program.

I was able to catch up with a few of these talented individuals and want to share with you their thoughts about how much it has meant to them to have the opportunity to present their new works in public performances before appreciative and receptive audiences. FMMC Life Member Sharon Shafer wrote that the Friday Morning Music Club has been part of her life since she was an undergraduate voice major at Catholic University in the early 60's. She joined as a performance member before starting graduate studies at the University of Maryland. After completing her DMA in vocal performance she was hired as a faculty member at Trinity Washington University where she served as chair of the Music Department for many years. Now that she is retired from teaching, Sharon finds that FMMC continues to be a vibrant source of enrichment in her musical life. It offered her even greater opportunities once she had become a member of the Composers Group.



Leslie Bennett is a soprano and composer who has found that the FMMC has provided wonderful opportunities to grow beyond what she believed possible. A composer member since 2004 who subsequently qualified in the solo soprano category as well, Leslie served as chair of the Composers Group for many years. In addition to organizing several composers concerts a year, she established a series at Westminster at Lake Ridge which ran for many years.

We are especially pleased to welcome Hillary Kruh to the list of composers, as this newest member of the group only joined FMMC this fall. Hillary is a graduate of Catholic University, with a Master of Music degree from Indiana University. She is based in Baltimore where she has held a variety of musical positions including running a well-established private piano studio. Previously a member of the Baltimore Composers Forum, Hillary looks forward to sharing some of her piano works with us for the first time.

The December concert is always a memorable opportunity to hear exciting new compositions by a representative group of FMMC composers, as well as to stay for a special holiday lunch afterwards. Please join us for the chance to see old friends, perhaps make some new ones, and help usher in the festivities of the holiday season! 🎵

*Leslie*

## For the Members

**Recital by Julian Rhee (first-place JIC violin winner 2018) and Dina Vainshtein, piano, Roth Concert Series,** Church of the Annunciation, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC. December 15, 2019, 5 PM concert. Reception to follow for all, no admission charge but free will offerings are welcome.

**Tempo Giusto Ensemble with violinist Ji Won Song presents a Music for Food benefit concert.** December 15, 2019 at 3:00 PM, St Luke's Episcopal Church 6030 Grosvenor Lane, North Bethesda 20814. Admission free, but donations for Bethesda Help are welcome 🎵

## Membership Update

These new members joined after the publication of the 2019-20 Yearbook. To see their contact information, please log in to the FMMC website and go to the member directory.

Jinyoung Chang  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
Solo Piano

Chantal Dalton  
Washington, DC 20003  
Chorale Alto

Harrison Killefer  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
Chorale Tenor

Hillary Kruh  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
Composer

# Where Are They Now – JIC Winners

Judy Silverman

Christine J. Lee, 2006 JIC second-prize cello winner, has enjoyed a busy musical career since her success at the JIC. It is always a great pleasure to be in touch with JIC winners and it was fun to catch up by email with Christine (known as Jeonghyoun Lee when she competed in the JIC).

Since winning her JIC prize, Christine has earned her BM at Curtis and MM at the Juilliard School. She is currently artist-in-residence at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth, Waterloo, Belgium, where she works closely with Gary Hoffman and Joroen Reuling. She also is pursuing an Advanced Performance Diploma under the guidance of Christoph Richter at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Christine is a regular participant in major international chamber music festivals such as La Jolla Summerfest, Carramoor, Marlboro, Verbier Academy and Festival, Kornberg, and Music @ Menlo, just to name a few, and she has performed numerous solo recitals in the United States, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, and France. She also has had great success in the competition world, including winning first prizes at the Isang Yun Competition (2018), VIVO International competition, and Liszt–Garrison International Competition; winning a prize in the Salieri–Zinetti Chamber Music Competition; and being a laureate of the first Queen Elisabeth International Cello Competition (2017).

I asked Christine what the experience was like for her to prepare for and compete in the JIC. Christine replied:

“It was my first international competition, so there was a lot of excitement during the preparation. I love the focus and motivation that comes with the preparation. Once I got to the competition, things happened so quickly—I tried to focus on performing and enjoying the process of making music, rather than thinking of it as a competition. Participating in a competition is only a stepping-stone to becoming a better musician, but not the ultimate goal.”



Christine Lee

(Photo credit: Feiko Koster)

The JIC asks its semifinalists to learn a newly commissioned work to perform during the semifinals round. I was curious about how she felt about this experience.

“Until then, I had never played a solo piece by a living composer. It was intimidating at first, but my teachers at Curtis helped me to find expression that was suited for that piece. In the end, I actually found performing this piece a free-

ing experience as I felt that I had more room for my own interpretation rather than respecting the traditions that come with master works that have been played countless times. I also believe that this experience helped me prepare in the long run for my final week at the Queen Elisabeth Competition. All the 12 finalists have to learn a commissioned piece by themselves in the final week to be performed with the orchestra at the end of the week, in addition to a concerto of choice. Having previous experience of learning and performing a modern piece gave me more confidence and conviction!”

Christine will be performing in DC with the Young Concert Artists first-prize-winning chamber music group Quatour Hermes at the Phillips Collection on January 12, 2020 at 4PM. The quartet will be exploring connections between music and the visual arts as part of the exhibition “Bonnard to Vuillard, the Intimate Poetry of Everyday Life: The Nabin Collection of Vicki and Rogert Sant.” The program includes Claude Debussy’s String Quartet in G minor; Chausson’s Concerto for violin, piano, and string quartet; and a work by Eugene Ysaye. If you are interested in attending the performance, it is best to call the Phillips Collection (202-387-2151) in advance to secure tickets because these concerts are often sold-out affairs!

To learn more about Christine, check out her website: [www.christine-j-lee.com/biography](http://www.christine-j-lee.com/biography). 🎻

## Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion March 21, 2020

Carole Falvo and William Wright

The 2020 Ross-Roberts Competition will be held in a new location at the University of Maryland School of Music, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in College Park Md. The application deadline is February 29, 2020. For additional information visit [www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org) or contact [highschoolwind@fmmc.org](mailto:highschoolwind@fmmc.org).

**Encourage Your Students to Apply! 🎻**

## WIC Updates on Winners December 2019

Janice Rosen

Since 2014, Mark Anderson (1993 WIC Piano) has been working with Nimbus Records on a project to record all of the solo piano music of German/Dutch composer Julius Röntgen (1855–1932). Anderson became interested in Röntgen's music after a colleague suggested he listen to a recording of this composer's piano music. Anderson immediately liked what he heard and decided the project was right for him.

During the past five years as he researched and recorded Röntgen's works, Anderson has gotten to know the Röntgen family personally, especially the composer's grandnephew and grandson. They were instrumental in allowing Anderson access to the composer's papers in the Medellin Music Institute at the Hague. While in Holland doing research on the composer's scores, Anderson discovered manuscripts of works that had never before been recorded. Anderson's most recent CD of Röntgen's works was published March 1, 2019.

Anderson records exclusively with Nimbus Records and has released recordings of works by Liszt, Schumann, Brahms, Dohnanyi, Copland, Gershwin, Mussorgsky, and Stravinsky.

Anderson has collaborated with conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Nicholas McCegan, William Boughton, George Cleve, and Adam Fischer. In recital, Anderson has appeared at New York's Alice Tully Hall and Weill Hall; the Kennedy Center and the Phillips Gallery in Washington DC; London's

Wigmore Hall; Zurich's Tonhalle; and elsewhere throughout Europe and North America. His solo and concerto performances are complemented by chamber music work, most recently with the Röntgen Piano Trio, a California-based chamber music ensemble. Anderson also enjoys performing 2-piano repertoire with his wife, pianist Michelle Mares.

Currently, Anderson is Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia School of Music and is owner and Executive Director of New World Music Academy in Pleasanton, California.

To learn more about Anderson, visit his website: <http://markandersonpianist.com>. 🎹



Mark Anderson

## High School String Competition

Jeongseon Choi

The High School String competition took place on November 9, 2019 at the National Presbyterian Church with exciting results. We had amazing young musicians.

### Congratulations!!!

First place: Miyabi Henriksen, violin;  
Second place: Colin Hill, cello; Third place: Nicole Fang, cello; HM: Pablo Ronderos, Viola

Thanks to our fabulous judges, Dr. James Stern (UMD), Mr. Bo Lo (BSO, and Ms. Helen Hess (BSO).

Also thanks to Mary Alice Davidson for volunteering to deliver the judges' lunches. 🎹



Miyabi Henriksen



Colin Hill

*continued on page 7*



# FMMC Concert Calendar

## DECEMBER 2019 and JANUARY 2020

### Friday, December 6, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- JORGE CARDOSO and CELIL REFIK KAYA: Selections. **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.
- BACH: Suite op. 30, no. 6. **Danielle Wiebe**, viola.
- MENDELSSOHN: Venetian Gondola Song, op. 30, no. 6 from *Songs Without Words*.
- CHOPIN: *Barcarolle* op. 60. CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: *Alt Wien Walzer*. **Yuri Chayama**, piano.

### Tuesday, December 10, 12:00 noon at Dumbarton House

- IGNAZ PLEYEL: Duo in C Major, B. 546. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Susan Russo**, viola.
- JOHANN KASPAR METZ: Schubertsche Lieder für Gitarre. **Lee Becky**, guitar.
- BEETHOVEN: Trio in C Minor, op. 9, no. 3. **David Brown**, violin; **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Sarah Hover**, cello.

### Wednesday, December 11, 12:00 noon at the Steinway Piano Gallery, Bethesda

- J. S. BACH, C. R. KAYA, and A. YORK: Selections. **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.
- SCHUMANN: *Dichterliebe*. **Daryl Yoder**, bass baritone; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano.
- DEBUSSY: Sonata for cello and piano. **Valerie Matthews**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano.

### Thursday, December 12, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- MENDELSSOHN: Venetian Gondola Song, op. 30, no. 6 from *Songs Without Words*.
- CHOPIN: *Barcarolle*, op. 60. CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: *Alt Wien Walzer*. **Yuri Chayama**, piano.
- HEINRICH SUTERMEISTER: *Capriccio*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet.
- KHACHATURIAN: Trio for clarinet, violin and piano. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.
- CHARLES-MARIE WIDOR: Suite for flute and piano, op. 34, no. 1. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Rosanne Conway**, piano.

### Friday, December 13, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

#### Composers Concert with Holiday Reception

- WORKS BY MEMBERS OF FMMC'S COMPOSERS GROUP: LESLIE BENNETT, JOHN HILTGEN, BRANIMIR KRSTIC, HILLARY KRUIH, PAUL LEAVITT, and SHARON GUERIN SHAFER.

### Sunday, December 15, 5:00 pm at the Church of the Annunciation

A recital by **Julian Rhee**, violin, first-prize winner in the 2018 Johansen International Competition, with **Dina Vainshtein**, piano

### Wednesday, December 18, 7:30 pm at the Friendship Heights Community Center

#### Student Recital

### Thursday, January 2, 11:00 am at The Mansion at Strathmore

- J. S. BACH, C. R. KAYA, and A. YORK: Selections. **Charles Mokotoff**, guitar.
- BRAHMS: Two songs, op. 91. J.S. BACH: Es halt' es mit der blinden Welt, from Cantata BWV 94. **Leslie Luxemberg**, soprano; **Marta Howard**, viola; **Frank Conlon**, piano.
- WEBER: *Grand Duo Concertant*. **Tianlai Lu**, clarinet; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.

### Friday, January 3, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- HANDEL: Da tempeste il legno infranto (*Giulio Cesare*). **Heather Brown**, soprano; **Ruth Locker** (guest), piano.
- BEETHOVEN: Eroica Variations, op. 35. **Tanya Lee**, piano.
- CLARKE: *Morpheus*. **Robin Fay Massie** (guest), viola; **Topher Ruggiero**, piano.

### Sunday, January 5, 7:30 pm at Riderwood Retirement Community

- KHACHATURIAN: Trio for clarinet, violin and piano. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.
- DVOŘÁK: Piano Quintet. **Keng Siong Sim**, piano; **Lydia Leong** and **Benjamin Bodnar** (guest), violins; **Ted McAllister** (guest), viola; **Tasha Fu** (guest), cello.

#### Venues

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

Church of the Annunciation  
3810 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC

Dumbarton House  
2715 Q St. NW  
Washington, DC

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

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

Riderwood Village Chapel  
3110 Gracefield Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD

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

# From the Managing Director

Jennie Weyman

It's holiday season! I can't believe we're only one month away from 2020. This past month we've been busy utilizing the feedback we received from the surveys you submitted. I'm pleased to report that over 150 of you responded, which is proving quite beneficial as we make decisions regarding the Club. Congratulations to the winners of the Kennedy Center Gift Certificates. If you missed the deadline for the drawing, we would still love your feedback; I'll leave the Survey up through the end of December.

One of the clear takeaways from your responses is that the membership is very interested in events where you can mingle, find other musicians to collaborate with, and make music in a casual setting. Because of that, we're in the process of planning a few happy hours to begin in January. Members will receive special perks at these events, but the events will be open to all. If you are interested in helping to plan these events, or know of a venue that would serve our purposes well, please let me know.

In addition, FMMC is going to roll out a new Instructor Directory, which will be available on our website and at student competitions. You will be receiving an email in December with information

on how to be included in that directory. Hopefully, this will prove a valuable member benefit to those of you who teach in the area.

We know that a number of you had difficulties with the Solo and Chamber Performance Application this past spring, so we are also evaluating ways in which to improve the process and make it a bit more transparent. We want to make sure that all of our members are getting opportunities to perform. One way in which we think we can improve performance opportunities is through house concerts. The vast majority of survey-takers had favorable responses to the development of a house concert series and almost 30 participants shared a desire to *host* these concerts. Because of that, we'll be sending out a form sometime in December to collect information from those of you interested in hosting so that we have a better idea of the venues/spaces we have available for such a program.

As many of you know, member dues cover less than 15% of our total operating budget. By now you should have received our annual donation materials in the mail, detailing some of our costs, the different ways you can give, and the funds available for your support. In addition to the tiered



Jennie Weyman

donor levels we introduced last year, we now have donor benefits that increase based on your level of giving, so be sure to review those. FMMC would be incredibly grateful for your support, as it allows us to continue to grow and thrive for years to come. I hope you'll think of us as you prioritize your giving this season.

As always, I'm only an email or phone call away. Happy Holidays! 🎄

*High School String Competition...continued from page 5*



Nicole Fang



Pablo Ronderos

*"An organization,  
no matter how well  
designed, is only as  
good as the people  
who live and  
work in it."*

Dee Hock



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

## *FMMC Members to Perform in a Music for Food Benefit Concert*

Michael Casassa

**T**empo Giusto will present a concert Sunday December 15 at 3:00 PM at St Luke's Episcopal Church in Bethesda to benefit Bethesda Help. Tempo Giusto, which features a number of FMMC members, offers concerts in collaboration with Music for Food. Music for Food is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in local communities. Tempo Giusto's concerts feature prominent young artists as soloists, and guest concertmasters to lead performances. It's an all-volunteer effort, concerts are free, and donations collected online and at performances benefit a local food bank. This formula has been tremendously successful with tens of thousands of dollars raised in recent concerts.

Violinist Ji Won Song will be guest soloist performing Bach's Violin Concerto in E major and Schubert's Rondo for Violin and String Orchestra in A major. A graduate of Curtis and Julliard, Ji Won has won many prestigious international competitions and is building a career as a soloist and chamber musician. Most recently, she was a laureate at the 2019 Queen Elisabeth Competition and a participating artist at Marlboro this past summer. The ensemble will also perform Handel's Concerto Grosso op 6, No 2 and Mendelssohn's String Symphony No 10.

Guest Concertmaster Jane Stewart, a first violinist in the NSO, will lead the performance. Conductor Dietrich Paredes, who has worked with Avanti, will lead early rehearsals. FMMC members performing will be violinists Juliette Appold, Michael Casassa, Robyn Tessin and Willem van Eeghen; violists Nicholas Fobe, Patti Reid and Jeanne Rosenthal; cellists Harriet Kaplan and Valerie Matthews; and bassist Bruce Rosenblum. 🎶