

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



134TH SEASON

MAY 2020

VOL. 54, NO. 9

## New Life Member: Carol Burchuk Warden

Congratulations to our newest Life Member: Carol Burchuk Warden! Carol joined FMMC in 1970, and we are so pleased to have her as a cellist. For those of you who don't know, Carol was co-owner of the former Dale Music in Silver Spring, an institution in the Washington metropolitan area since its founding by her parents in 1950. 🎻



Carol Burchuk Warden

### Membership Renewal Reminder

It's that time of year! Considering the current state of the world, we are very much looking forward to our 135th Anniversary! **Please renew your membership with FMMC by July 1, 2020** to ensure your inclusion in the 2020–2021 Annual Yearbook. Even if you do not wish to be included in the Yearbook directory, please renew as early as possible. We have added a place on our form to list your privacy preferences to assuage some of your concerns.

To learn more about member benefits, how to renew your membership, visit our website at [fmmc.org/membership](http://fmmc.org/membership). More information regarding member renewals will go out via mail and email in May.

And, if you have any concerns about affording the cost of dues, please reach out to us to inquire about scholarships and aid. We know this is a difficult time for many, and we want to make sure that you are still able to make music, no matter your circumstances. 🎻

## Arioso Chorale still has plans for a June Concert

Peter Baum

After having to cancel its planned *Messiah* concert in April, the Arioso Chorale discussed the idea of rescheduling the concert in June. Since the Chorale's planned trip to Italy had to be postponed for a year (plans are already in motion to make the trip), there was a chance to use the already scheduled dates of June 11 and June 15.

With the backing of the Club, the Chorale has now reset the *Messiah* concert for June. This, of course, is totally dependent on the availability of the Church of the Reformation as a concert venue and the relaxing of the current "stay at home" restrictions we are all living under.

A final decision to hold the concert will be made by mid-May just before the start/resumption of rehearsals leading up to the concert. Look for an announcement on our website 🎻

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- |   |                                                                |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | From the Foundation Director                                   |
| 2 | 2020 Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Student Voice Competition Winners |
| 3 | From the President                                             |
| 3 | For the Members                                                |
| 4 | Thank You to our Donors!                                       |
| 5 | Coping with COVID-19                                           |
| 6 | Call for Virtual Performances                                  |
| 6 | Invitation to Submit Performance Applications                  |
| 7 | From the Managing Director                                     |
| 8 | Why FMMC is Part of our Legacy Plans                           |
| 8 | Membership Update                                              |



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## From the Foundation Director

Frank Conlon

Many of you may be wondering how the Foundation's competitions will proceed during our current health crisis. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to postpone this year's Washington International Piano Competition that was scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd, and Sunday, May 24th. Harriet Weil at the Kennedy Center has given us Sunday, October 4th, at 2:00 PM in the Terrace Theatre as a rescheduled date. Fortunately, the semi-final round on Saturday, October 3rd will take place at the George Washington University Department of Music as had been previously planned for May. Please be well during this frightening time and take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Thanks so much for all that you do for all of us!  
Be well. 🎵

*Frank*



## 2020 Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Student Voice Competition Winners

*All of these winners receive a complimentary one-year FMMC membership as part of their award*

Michael Butler, first place  
College Park, MD 20740

Cassidy Dixon, second place (tied)  
Far Hills, NJ 07931

Alexandria Zallo, second place (tied)  
Bethel Park, PA, 15102

Jenna Barbieri, third place (tied)  
College Park, MD 20740

Meghan Willey, third place (tied)  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Katelynn Cherry, honorable mention  
Trappe, MD 21673

Callie Cooper, honorable mention  
Vienna, VA 22180

Emily Coyle, honorable mention  
Zuni, VA 23898

Jonathon Edwards, honorable mention  
Baltimore, MD 21206

Jonathan Elmore, honorable mention  
Covington, VA 24426

Ricky Goodwyn, honorable mention  
Carrollton, VA 23314

Rachel Heney, honorable mention  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Francesca Henry, honorable mention  
Germantown, MD 20874

Kaijeh Johnson, honorable mention  
Newark, NJ 07104

Lauren Miles, honorable mention  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Kathryn Morgan, honorable mention  
Towson, MD 21286

Maddalena Ohrbach, honorable mention  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Emma Rocheleau, honorable mention  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Zoe Sheller, honorable mention  
Quantico, MD 21856

Leah Shewmaker, honorable mention  
Smithfield, VA 23430

Jillian Tate, honorable mention  
Waxhaw, NC 28173

Emma Wilansky, honorable mention  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Charles Wolfer, honorable mention  
Fairfax, VA 22033

## From the President

Leslie Luxemburg

What a spring! It has certainly progressed in a way we would never have anticipated even a few months ago. Writing to you in these uncertain times is far from an easy task. Now more than ever it is important to come together as a community—to find solace in each other, to help each other, and to reflect on how lucky we are to be a part of this wonderful organization.

We are members of a community brought together through our shared love of classical music. How lucky we are to have this gift to sustain us through these difficult days. We can work on repertoire we had previously set aside, or simply practice for the sheer pleasure rather than to meet an upcoming deadline. We have time to listen to beloved recordings. All of these are proven mood brighteners.

I have enjoyed listening to the social media posts of the Vienna Philharmonic, playing the Overture to *The Magic Flute*, and the Rotterdam Philharmonic, playing the theme from the Beethoven Ode to Joy, among many other musicians playing from their own homes. So many of our own members have posted inspiring music videos as well.

We much appreciate your forbearance in accepting and dealing with all the necessary cancellations resulting from public health directives. We are keeping our spirits up by planning for a hopeful return to normal activities come fall. We are especially looking forward to our rescheduled annual luncheon on Friday, October 23 at the DACOR Bacon House, where it was originally planned. The program will feature a special music program and a talk by



our guest speaker Robert Shafer, in honor of his recently announced retirement, sharing highlights from his more than 50-year career as an iconic choral conductor in our area. We will also be presenting our 2019 honorees, Denyce Graves and Pablo Saelzer, with their awards. Another major event of the fall will be a celebration of our 135th anniversary year on Friday November 20th with a gala performance by the Avanti Orchestra at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater and an accompanying festive reception to follow.

Please join me in singing my preferred selection, the “Ode to Joy,” as you wash your hands several times a day in the coming weeks. It will be a special pleasure to greet you again in person when it will be safe to do so! 🎵

*Leslie*

## For the Members

Montgomery Philharmonic is providing free summer music activities for you and your students! For adult musicians and students, our Summer Reading Sessions will explore well-known orchestral works from 7:00 to 9:15 on Mondays June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, and August 3.

For middle school and high school students, our Youth Chamber Music Festival will be from 6:00 to 7:00 on Mondays June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, and August 3.

All events will be held at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 610 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. To download music and apply for the Youth Chamber Music Festival, see [montgomeryphilharmonic.org](http://montgomeryphilharmonic.org). Please join us! 🎵



# Thank You to our Donors!

The Friday Morning Music Club is deeply grateful to the following generous donors who supported our efforts over the past year to promote musical culture among our members and the community. Many thanks also to **all** FMMC donors, regardless of their gift amount. For more information on giving, please visit [fmmc.org/donate](http://fmmc.org/donate).

## 🎵 Maestro (\$5,000+)

Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation  
The estate of Sally West Potter  
Stephen S. Roberts, *in memory of*  
*Sue Goetz Ross*

## 🎵 Soloist (\$2,500+)

Dallas Morse Coors Foundation  
for the Performing Arts  
Carol & Chris Fromboluti

## 🎵 Concertmaster (\$1,000+)

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Leslie Luxemburg  
Benzion Rosenblum  
Maude A. Williams, *in memory of*  
*Patrick W. Jacobson*  
Irene Wise Estate  
Anne W. Zim, *in honor of Pablo Saelzer &*  
*Nan Cooper*

## 🎵 First Chair (\$500+)

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Jay & Leslie Chadwick  
William G. Dakin, *in memory of*  
*Marjorie B. Dakin*  
Barbara D. Gholz  
Joan Goloboy, *in memory of Irene Wise*  
Paula Harrell  
John Jaeger  
Linda A. Mundy  
Harry & Deborah Rosen  
Bruce & Lori Rosenblum  
Jeanne Rosenthal  
Judith B. Shapiro, *in honor of*  
*Alice Takemoto & family*

## 🎵 Section Member (\$100+)

Scott & Martha Anderton, *in memory of*  
*Billie Anderton*  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Stephen & Debra Barrett, *in memory of*  
*Irene Wise*  
Carol Bartholomew  
Suzanne Beard  
Judith Block  
Alice Blumer  
Barbara Cackler

Michael Casassa  
Laura Chen  
Jeongseon Choi  
Joyce Galbraith Colony  
Beth Competti  
Coweta-Fayette Music Teachers Assoc.,  
*in memory of Winifred Hyson*  
Alan T. Crane  
Janet S. Crossen  
Phyllis Crossen-Richardson  
Mary Alice Davidson  
Bruce Davies  
Karen Davis  
Edward Doheny  
Adelaide Edelson  
Deborah Edge  
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GEICO Philanthropic Foundation  
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Kelsey Griswold  
Frona Hall  
Beth & Michael Hansen, *in memory of*  
*Billie Anderton*  
L. K. Harmon  
Evelyn Harpham, *in memory of*  
*Virginia Harpham*  
Brooke Higdon  
Marcella Hill, *in memory of Wendell T. Hill, Jr.*  
John Hiltgen  
Marta Howard  
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Ruth Kurzbauer, *in memory of Lisa Kurzbauer*  
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Mary Ellen Lavelle  
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Miriam Laughlin

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Thomas Miller  
Douglas Morton  
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National League of American Pen Women,  
Bethesda Branch, *in memory of*  
*Winifred Hyson*  
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Manuel Porres, *in memory of Elsa Brandt*  
Donald B. Robertson, *in memory of Irene Wise*  
Milton M. Rose  
Yvonne Sabine  
Tommy Sams, *in memory of Cherie Loustaunau*  
Jonathan Sanford  
Arnold & Charlotte Saslowsky  
Richard Sawyer  
Sharon Shafer  
Donna Smith  
Karin Staudenmayer  
Alice Takemoto  
Joanna Taylor  
Kathryn Tessin, *in honor of Robyn Tessin*  
Robyn Tessin  
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Walt Whitman High School English Dept.,  
*in memory of Winifred Hyson*  
Douglas H. & Catherine T. Wheeler  
Barbara B. Wing  
Karen & Tom Wise, *in memory of Irene Wise*  
John Wolff  
Anne Harding Woodworth  
Miyuki Yoshikami, *in memory of Winifred Hyson*  
Robert Young & Virginia Lum, *in honor of*  
*Barbara Gholz*

# Coping with COVID-19

Jennie Weyman

A few weeks ago, we sent out a survey to FMMC members asking for information on how folks were coping, particularly with regard to music. We have loved reading your responses, and want to share some of them with our newsletter audiences in case they provide comfort or inspiration. Thank you so much for your candid responses, and for including the good and the bad. These are difficult times, and it's good to know that, while we might be struggling, we aren't alone.

If you'd still like to take the survey, visit: <https://forms.gle/dJAiy2RK6vGDbrC87>.

## 1. What songs/pieces are helping you through this?

- Bach's Italian Concerto and two-part inventions; Mozart piano sonatas.
- All music. Faure and Debussy especially, but I just recorded a Disney tune and that was fun too.
- As a performer, I'm both listening to and singing through songs by British composer David Jones. His songs always make me smile, even the sad ones. I'm also keeping 'in shape' the set of Beethoven songs I had prepared for my two spring concerts in hopes of performing them next season.
- As a listener, I find Vaughan Williams particularly soul-nourishing. At some point, I will consider singing his songs again.
- Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata"; Debussy "Clair de Lune"; Chopin Nocturne in Eb Major.
- My principal instrument has been violin, but I'm using this time to improve my skills on the piano (long neglected). I've added Bach's Italian Concerto and refreshed all of the two-part inventions in my repertoire. I'm also doing a lot of Mozart's sonatas and some Beethoven. Wonderful to get back to the piano — I think I'd go nuts without it!
- Just about anything, with a slight preference for sacred choral works.
- At the moment songs of Brahms, Enescu, and Britten.
- The musical, *Hamilton*.
- Ysaye Ballade for solo violin! It's like a more melodic Bach on steroids and always fun to try to perfect it with finger gymnastics.

## 2. How are you making music while social distancing?

- I am continuing my private bassoon lessons and practicing various etudes and Vivaldi concertos.
- Composing.
- Piano—it contains all the harmony I need (although it could use a tuning!)
- I've shared a recording and a lullaby with a neighbor who jokingly asked if I would come and serenade him outside his window. I think he was touched. It made me happy and gave me a purpose.
- Honestly, I'm not. I haven't had the heart or motivation, which has been really hard. I know it'll come to me soon, but for now I've been grieving music making and need to come to terms with that.
- I'm just singing *a cappella* at this point, imagining the piano accompaniment in my head. I hope that by end of May I'll be able to get together with my accompanist again to run the "short list" and finalize the set I want to propose.
- Playing the piano, clarinet, and singing in the privacy of my apartment.
- I'm using this time to work on arrangements for flute quartet and flute choir. Currently working on a flute quartet arrangement of Virgil Thomson's "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need."
- Sadly, I'm not doing much of this although this week I hope to start practicing the piano again (not my primary instrument) after a long hiatus. I'd hoped to start lessons this spring, but that's obviously not going to happen.
- Practicing, singing on my own, listening to other choirs online.
- Luckily my son plays cello so we've been doing lots of duets! But also Skype and Facetime lessons are still very helpful.

## 3. What are you doing beyond music that is helping you cope?

- Taking neighborhood walks, watching movies on TV, cooking, checking on friends and family by phone.
- Reading.
- Just trying to get better at singing.
- FaceTime with kids and grandkids and trying to recover my college Russian.
- Long walks.
- I'm doing what I always do when I'm "stuck" at home: I read, watch TV/movies, and engage in social media to keep in touch with friends.
- Going for walks and researching my family tree.
- Cooking and walking our dog!
- Reading some LONG books; thinking about ways to grow string beans and tomatoes when the weather gets warmer; phone calls and emails to check up on friends; and looking for ways to order essentials online.
- Walks, yoga, staying in touch with family and friends by phone and online, and taking advantage of the forced time at home to catch up on household tasks.
- Working at home and maintaining a daily routine. Contacting friends and family by email or phone. Practicing every day, the same as always. Was going for walks, but now have a foot problem.
- I was swimming until the pool closed, then horseback riding until the stable closed, now I'm batting the ball with my family on the tennis court, reading a lot, and getting better on my second instrument (cello!).
- We're hoping to continue our book group via Zoom — if we can figure it out!!

*continued on page 6*

## Call for Virtual Performances

Jennie Weyman

Are you interested in sharing previously recorded performances on our Facebook page? Or are you interested in making music via Facebook Live?

We know you are disappointed that your concerts were cancelled. That's why we are looking for ways to give our members a wider audience while we're trapped inside. We've seen a fair number of you sharing recordings (either live or prerecorded) on social media, and would love to spotlight our members on our Facebook page (with 823 followers), our website, and our e-newsletter subscribers. We've been doing this for the past week, and we've been very pleased with the results.

There are two ways to participate:

1) If you are able to organize a stay-at-home concert (either as a soloist or with family members), and would like to present a short performance via Facebook Live, let us know and we'll schedule one. You are also welcome to simply record that performance and send it to us to post (either as a file or a link).

2) If you have a recording of a previous performance you'd like us to share, send us the video directly, either as a file, a YouTube link, or the Facebook link (you'll need to make it public first). If you're not sure how to go about doing this, let us know, and we'll talk you through the process.

If you opt to participate, please email us at [manage@fmmc.org](mailto:manage@fmmc.org). Just make sure to include the relevant information about the performance and works performed. 🎧

## Invitation To Submit Performance Applications On-line Solo and Chamber Performance Applications Improved for 2020

Albert Hunt

Applications for next year's performance opportunities will run May 1 through June 20, 2020. Online performance applications were initially accepted in 2019-2020. The system worked well, but there were obvious areas in which it needed improvement. In February, FMMC Venue Chairs representing performance spaces met to discuss how the process could be enhanced. We hope the newest version will make the process easier for all involved.

One change we are looking forward to is the opportunity for you to put your name on the "Ready to Play" list. We have numerous cancellations throughout the season, and we are looking for musicians who will be able to perform with only a week's notice. We expect this to provide more performance opportunities to many FMMC musicians. A separate application will be made available following the June 20 deadline for submitting a substitute performance application. Venue chairs will consult this secondary form throughout the year as they work to fill unexpected vacancies.

To apply online, go to [fmmc.org/performance-application](http://fmmc.org/performance-application). Remember that in order to apply, you must be up-to-date on your FMMC membership dues. (When you begin the application process, you can renew your membership.)

For now, please make sure FMMC has your correct email address. When the application process begins we will email more information. To update your contact information, go to [www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org) and update your member profile. Any questions? Please email: [chamber@FMMC.org](mailto:chamber@FMMC.org). 🎧

*Coping with COVID-19...continued from page 5*

### 4. Any other last thoughts, difficulties, or advice?

- I live alone, teleworked for years, and am generally good at being alone for long-ish stretches, so the main difficulty for me has been all the cancellations—my own concerts, and the many arts and other events to which I had tickets, plus having to reschedule some travel plans. Fingers crossed that rescheduling my end-of-May trip to Canada until Christmas won't prove futile because borders will still be closed for tourist travel. As it is, I'm still hoping to take a planned two-week holiday in Germany in September.
- I'd like to encourage everyone to vote on pieces for Montgomery Philharmonic's next season. You can access the survey here: <http://montgomery-philharmonic.org/page-26/RepertoireVote.html> and you may enjoy listening to some new pieces!
- I'm watching performances and listening to concerts by various organizations (e.g. Metropolitan Opera) that are posted on YouTube and other online platforms. Minnesota Public Radio has always had a fabulous online choral stream 24/7 that I sometimes listen to and did so long before the current crisis.
- Consider making lists of things you have been meaning to do, things that encourage you, and things you plan to do in the future. Visit museums online worldwide.
- Struggling with depression is even harder when performing in concerts, exercising, and socializing is taken away, so thank you for trying to keep me connected with my music tribe!

# From the Managing Director

Jennie Weyman

It feels like a lifetime has passed since our last newsletter and I hope you all are staying safe and healthy in these trying times. As you now know, all of our events have been cancelled or postponed through May. Instead of dwelling on the work and performances lost, I am doing my best to turn my focus toward the upcoming 135<sup>th</sup>-anniversary season. While we won't be throwing a large gala, we will be hosting a celebratory reception following the Avanti Orchestra concert on November 20, 2020, at the Kennedy Center. More details are soon to come, but we hope marking this on your calendar will give you something to look forward to!

Please send in your performances and your favorite "Songs of Comfort" so that I can share them with our membership and audiences. I want to make sure that the music doesn't stop, even if we have to.

For the rest of this month's note, I want to share a short excerpt from an article I wrote in mid-March for *Chorus Connection*, a company dedicated to chorus management. While this piece was primarily geared toward arts administrators, it can easily be applied to music makers of all kinds. I felt it only fair to give you an idea of how I myself am coping with our current circumstances, and I hope it provides some comfort, even if only a little.

"What I am here to discuss is the grief that many of us haven't quite had the chance to name just yet. Perhaps it hasn't even registered in some of you, or your choristers, buried beneath the mild chaos and growing anxiety that these cancellations and changes have brought about. But I can feel it, and I know as the days turn to weeks (heaven forbid, months), it's going to become all the more potent.

Those of us in choral administration (or any arts administration for that matter) face a unique situation in that we are not just administrators but artists. Ultimately our stress and frustration surrounding cancellations is connected to our bottom line and the financial sacrifices we're making for the sake of public health. I know

for certain that I am not the only arts administrator who also actively sings with a choir or plays in an orchestra or band. I do what I do with my career because choral music brings me joy; I spend my days advocating for it and other genres of classical music while spending my evenings singing with multiple ensembles and working on a wide variety of projects.

As we are told that we need to halt our work and to distance ourselves from one another, we are faced with an uncomfortable reality: the exact thing that we are asked to discontinue is **the exact thing that we so desperately need for ourselves in these uncertain times**. While I am always drawn to group creation, the desire to come together and make music is only heightened when times are troubled and worries are high. What makes these circumstances particularly difficult is that we cannot come together and provide a musical balm for our wounds. The very balm that could heal and comfort many of us is the same balm that could hurt—or even kill—other people.

So yes, we're grieving the loss of our concerts, the work that has been put in, and the financial stability we absolutely need, but we are also grieving the temporary loss of our art forms and our personal solace. Even if you are not as keenly aware of that grief just yet, it is certain that many of your singers are feeling it—or will be feeling it in the near future. And just like any grief and any loss, it is important to acknowledge it and to recognize it for what it is.

I am desperately going to miss making music with my friends and colleagues. I am mourning the temporary loss of my community, and afraid of what the future holds for us all. I don't quite know how to cope with such uncertainty without music, because I've never had to do it before.



Jennie Weyman

In the days to come, be transparent with your singers and your audience. Don't give them excuses or false promises, but don't give them silence either. With social distancing comes loneliness, which is unavoidable when all we want to do is gather together and create music, and can't.

Use technology to your advantage. Using Zoom for sectional rehearsals is certainly not as ideal as in-person rehearsals, but it reminds your singers that they're not alone and that there is an end to the chaos. It gives them a way to make music, albeit non-traditional.

Remind them that your musical group is a community first and foremost, even if it isn't a "community chorus" under the standard definition.

Remind them that they can always reach out for help, musical or not.

Remind them that even as we are asked to isolate ourselves for the good of the many, no one should be alone.

Remind them that the music will be here waiting for us when we get back."

Stay safe and healthy. As always, I'm only an email away, 📧

*Jennie*





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

## *Why FMMC is Part of our Legacy Plans*

Richard Sawyer

Together, my partner, Jeffrey Beaty, and I decided two years ago to include FMMC in our will, as one way to express our appreciation for all that FMMC has meant to both of us, and to help sustain the club for the future. Our bequests allow us to join FMMC's recently formed Legacy Society.

Let me explain our rationale. I've been an active member of FMMC for about eight years, participating in the Piano Associates group, serving on the FMMC Board, participating in our Outreach program, and attending numerous FMMC concerts. Being part of the Piano Associates has been a wonderful, enriching experience. I've been able to perform music I love, hear the music making of others, and make friends. By participating in outreach to retirement homes and health care facilities, my fellow presenters and I share our love of music with others. Serving on the Board has been a privilege and a gratifying opportunity to work collaboratively with other dedicated Board members in managing and guiding the club in all its activities. Attending FMMC concerts has provided yet another opportunity (for myself and my partner) to hear dedicated members share their music.

FMMC holds a unique and essential role in the Washington area music world: from providing (at no cost) numerous concerts of soloists, chamber groups, our orchestra, and chorale; performance opportunities for Performance, Associate, and Student members; master classes; international competitions; and mentorship of young musicians. FMMC deserves our support to sustain its work, now and in the future.

I encourage other members to reflect on how they have benefitted from being part of FMMC and how it serves the broader community. Please consider joining us as members of the FMMC Legacy Society! There are several options for joining, described on our website at [fmmc.org/LegacySociety](http://fmmc.org/LegacySociety). 🎶

## *Membership Update*

### *New Members*

Donna Davis, Associate Soprano  
Arlington, VA 22209

Robert Feiertag, Associate Piano  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Adrian Goodfellow, Chorale Bass  
Rockville, MD 20851

Michael Hermann, Orchestra Cello  
Washington, DC 20002

Youbin Jun, Solo Cello  
McLean, VA 22102

Joey Pappas, Orchestra Bass Viol  
Potomac, MD 20854

Alvaro Puig, Solo Piano  
McLean, VA 22102

Douglas Rathbun, Orchestra Bass Viol  
Washington, DC 20009

Thomas Zebovitz, Orchestra Cello,  
Composer  
Silver Spring, MD