

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



137TH SEASON

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## *Please Welcome our new Managing Director Laila Linden*

We are excited to introduce our new Managing Director, Laila Linden, who starts her position with us on May 4. Laila comes well prepared for the job, with an MBA from George Washington University and years of experience as an operations management executive. She has extensive experience improving brand awareness and visibility. Laila is extremely organized and comes with the highest praise from her previous employers and employees alike. Laila is currently a soprano with the National Chorale at Strathmore and a former member of Choralis Chorale in Falls Church. Passionate about music of all kinds, she has a particular love for classical. We look forward to working with her. 🎵



Laila Linden

## *Honorary Members To Be Announced at Annual Meeting*

At the February meeting of the Board of Governors, the FMMC Honorary Membership Committee presented nominations for three individuals to receive Honorary Membership. Their names, along with letters of support, were unanimously approved by the Board and will be formally presented to the membership at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

The first is Lois Smith Jones, long-time active member of FMMC, a pianist, and one who has performed extraordinary service to the Club and the FMMC Foundation over many years. Serving as a member and Chair of several committees, she was President of FMMC from 2001–2005. A valued trustee of the Foundation, she has assisted Directors in past years and continues to lend important efforts to the Washington International Competition. Currently, she oversees the Club's recital series at the Chevy Chase Woman's Club. For music in the community, she has been

President of the Montgomery Chapter of Maryland State Music Teachers Association, and as a highly respected teacher of piano, she frequently adjudicates festivals and competitions. One sponsor praised Lois for "...admirable qualities of leadership, commitment, generosity, and collegiality...she embodies the qualities that best reflect the mission and goals of our organization and its leadership."

The second musician to be honored is Carla Heubner. A native of Chile, and a student of the great Claudio Arrau, she is considered one of Washington's finest musicians with an important performing career. She is also known as founding and artistic director of the "IN SERIES" at Mount Vernon College beginning in 1982. Since 2008, the series became the resident company at Source Theater. The highly successful series produced concerts and operatic productions featuring

*continued on page 3*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the President
- 3 Louise McClelland Urban
- 4 Johansen International Competition News
- 5 Ross-Roberts HS Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion, 2023
- 5 FMMC Stands Out at the History Network
- 6 FMMC Concert Calendar
- 7 From the Foundation Director
- 8 Membership Update



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## From the President

Leslie Luxemburg

Our annual meeting and luncheon will be held on May 5 at DACOR Bacon house. I hope many of you have made plans and are looking forward to it as much as I am. In addition to celebrating our three new honorary members, we will hear our long-time member and honoree Jerome Barry talk about how he and his wife Lisette founded the Embassy Series almost 30 years ago and the challenges and rewards since then. We will be entertained by the outstanding young cellist Romain-Olivier Gray. He is a member of a very exclusive group of performers who have won awards in both the Johansen International Competition for Young String Players and the Washington International Competition for Strings. Romain-Olivier will be playing the Stravinsky *Suite Italianne* and I can't wait to hear it!



Romain-Olivier Gray

As a reminder, May 5th is also the date of our annual meeting when heads of all our various committees and activities give reports on their accomplishments over the past year. The meeting will be from 10 AM to 12 PM in a downstairs meeting room at DACOR Bacon House and is open to all interested members.

The Washington International Competition for Voice will be taking place at the end of May, over Memorial Day Weekend. We invite all of you to attend the finals in the Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, May 28th at 2 PM. Regardless of your individual musical discipline, attending the WIC finals is always inspiring, and I am sure the caliber of the singing of the six finalists will be thrilling. As a reminder, attendees get to vote on our special audience prize, which adds a level of compelling interest to the proceedings.

This year the first-place award will be named in honor of Louise Urban McClelland,



a devoted long time FMMC member for whom the WIC for Voice has a particular significance, and who has participated in helping run the voice competition several times over the years. Louise has not been in robust health recently and is currently living in a senior community in Fairfax Virginia. She is honored to be acknowledged in this loving fashion. Donations to cover the award have come from many of her former devoted students and colleagues, but additional funds are certainly welcome. They can be made on the FMMC website by going to the donation section, indicating the Washington International Competition, and specifically mentioning they are in honor of Louise. 🎵

*Leslie*

## Louise McClelland Urban

Fleta Hylton

This year's first prize in the Washington International Competition (WIC) will be named in honor of Louise McClelland Urban. A longtime member of the Friday Morning Music Club, Louise has been devoted to the work of the FMMC Foundation and the Washington International Competition for Voice in particular. She served as a member of the Foundation Board, preliminary round adjudicator, consultant on suitable judging panel members, as well as being a host to, and mentor for, competitors. The funds for the award have been donated by her devoted students and colleagues, as an indication of their great affection and esteem.

Louise McClelland Urban has had a vocal career that encompassed performing, teaching, and literary scholarship. After her Fulbright vocal studies in Vienna, she joined the Voice Faculty at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1965 and performed in solo recitals and orchestral, oratorio and operatic appearances in the Greater Washington area. She was heard at the National Gallery of Art, Westminster Art Song Festival, and the Kennedy Center.

She and her late husband, Gerhard Urban, were among the first board members of the Vocal Arts DC. Known as a specialist in the songs of Hugo Wolf, Louise is the translator of the Austrian composer Hugo Wolf's "Letters to Melanie Kochert" and was also a book reviewer for the American Music Teachers Journal and a manuscript reader for the Oxford University Press and Simon & Schuster. Her Wolf lecture recital took her to many universities and Song Festivals throughout the US: She was awarded the Hugo Wolf Medallion by the Austrian government for her work performing and promoting his music in the US.

Louise Urban left her mark as a highly successful voice teacher here in DC, and her students won many major performance competitions, including the NSO Young Soloists Competition, the Paul Robeson Competition and the Naumberg International Competition. Her students were also Metropolitan Opera Regional Finalists in 1984, 1986, and 1993. Many of her students have gone on to perform professionally, and many have also gone on to become teachers in higher education.



Louise McClelland Urban

Now fully retired, she was always an ardent supporter of the Friday Morning Music Club, and she was a preliminary judge for many years for the FMMC vocal competitions. 🎵

### *Honorary Members...continued from page 1*

promising young performers, many of whom progressed to important careers. The operas were successfully produced with modest budgets and small theater space and made available for affordable ticket prices to the public. The Westchester Residence is now the beneficiary of her musical expertise as she brings them free innovative programs ranging from chamber music and operatic evenings to events featuring Black-American choral traditions and Latin-American composers, often including lectures. From one sponsor, "Her amazing artistic ability and creativity and her sponsoring of artists has made an enormous difference in the Washington musical scene..."

The third candidate, Maestro Joel Lazar, is a longstanding member of FMMC

and one of Washington's most celebrated musicians, acclaimed by the Washington Post as "...one of Washington's premier conductors of both new and old music..." He was music director of the JCC Symphony Orchestra for 20 years, and is currently director of the Symphony of the Potomac and the Washington Sinfonietta. His remarkable conducting career has included the Theater Chamber Players, the Alexandria Opera Americana, the IN SERIES, and from 1997-2001, cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra. There have been appearances and appointments with countless orchestras within the US and Europe.

A graduate of Harvard University, he studied with Pierre Boulez, Walter Piston, and Randall Thompson. He has lectured

and conducted at Harvard University, New York University, and the University of Virginia. An honorary member of the Bruckner Society of America, he worked with legendary master interpreter of Mahler and Bruckner, Jascha Horenstein, assisted with recordings and important articles and program notes about those composers.

From one sponsor (and member of the orchestra), "...there is always great respect and admiration for his conducting and rehearsal technique as well as his wonderful ability to encourage ...in the most positive and professional way..." And from another letter, "...while he has achieved deserved recognition, I believe he is still something of an unsung hero." 🎵



# Johansen International Competition News

Harriet Kaplan

The winners' concert of the 2022 JIC took place on February 26, 2023 at Annunciation Catholic Church in Washington, DC. The performers were the three first-prize winners, Jinan Laurentia Woo, Seoyeon Ryu, and Luka Coetzee, with FMMC member and church music director Frank Conlon collaborating on piano. Many thanks to Frank for organizing the concert, including a nice reception, as well as for facilitating a generous donation from the church toward JIC expenses. Selected videos from the concert are available on the JIC YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyViPg7qNCFU8U3F3z5oUyA>).

The program included *Sonata in F minor, op. 120, No. 1* for viola and piano by Johannes Brahms; the first movement (Preludio) from *Suite for Solo Cello* by Kristof Penderecki; movements 1 and 2 (Allegro and Scherzo – pizzicato) from *Cello Sonata in C Major, op. 65*, by Benjamin Britten; *Adagio and Allegro, op. 70*, by Robert Schumann; *Scherzo-Tarantelle, op. 16*, by Henryk Wieniawski; *Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor, L. 140*, by Claude Debussy; and *Caprice d'après l'étude en forme de valse de Saint-Saëns* by Eugene-Auguste Ysaÿe. Of note also was the world premiere of DC-area composer Jessica Krash's work commissioned for the 2022 JIC, *The Imagined Wisdom of Bella Pavis*, performed by Jinan Laurentia Woo, who won the prize for the best performance of this piece during the competition.



Seoyeon Ryu, Luka Coetzee, and Laurentia Woo taking final bows. Photo by Clay Fink.



Laurentia Woo and Jessica Krash. Photo by Michael Casassa.

We thank the volunteers who contributed to this event, especially Judy Silverman, who recruited and organized all volunteers; Ann Franke and Dan Alpert who hosted Luka; Carol Bartholomew, who hosted Seoyeon; Ben Wallis who provided his driving services in addition to acting as stage manager for the concert; Joung and Jungnim Cook who helped our Korean winner (and who have donated generously to the competition over the years); Simon Finlow who manned the welcome table at the church during the competition; and of course Frank Conlon, for his many contributions not only for this concert but for arranging winners concerts since 2009. 🎶



Ann Franke, Luka Coetzee, and Dan Alpert. Photo by Michael Casassa.



Joung Cook, Seoyeon Ryu, and Jungnim Cook. Photo by Michael Casassa.

*“Summer summer summertime /  
Time to sit back and unwind.”*

“Summertime” by DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince

## Ross-Roberts HS Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion, 2023

Carole Falvo and John Hoven

After two years of being virtual due to covid, the 2023 Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion returned to a live competition on March 18, 2023 at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation. Limited to 16 contestants to fit in the 1-day competition and having 32 submitted applications, there was a long wait list. Of the total applications received for flutes (12), oboes (3), clarinets, (5) bassoons (1), alto sax (4), horns, trombones (2), and percussion (2), the 16 whose applications were received first presented a competition among 4 flutes, 1 oboe, 4 clarinets, 1 bassoon, 3 alto sax, 1 horn, 1 trombone and 1 percussion.

The judges for this competition were Mark Simon, Wendy Chinn, and Susan Hayes. The FMMC-provided accompanist was Frank Conlon.

We congratulate the following winners and welcome them into FMMC as student members:

*1st Prize* – Tyler Anderson, clarinet, West Springfield HS, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

*2nd Prize* – Lydia You, oboe, River Hill HS, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

*2nd Prize* – Ayush Mishra, percussion, River Hill HS, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

*Honorable Mention* –

Noelle Hahn, flute, Marriotts Ridge HS, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Martin Meister, trombone, Centennial HS, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Recommended for membership into FMMC: Daniel Lee, alto sax; Sara Bock, clarinet; Angela Shen, clarinet; Evan Chu, clarinet; Olivia Liu, alto sax; LJ Johnson, flute; Kathryn Lang, flute; Daniel Bi, french horn; Mahilan Guha, alto sax; Joshua Wu, flute; Griffin Harrell, bassoon 🎺



Tyler Anderson—  
First Prize



Lydia You—  
Second Prize



Ayush Mishra—  
Second Prize



Noelle Hahn—  
Honorable Mention



Martin Meister—  
Honorable Mention

## FMMC Stands Out at the History Network

Mary Alice Davidson

Again this year FMMC was the only musical organization invited to participate in the History Network on Friday afternoon, March 24<sup>th</sup>. This signature event included displays from 57 local groups and was held in the spacious Main Hall of Martin Luther King Memorial Library.

President Leslie Luxemburg and Archivist Mary Alice Davidson staffed a table with handouts highlighting FMMC's many programs. The colorful display included FMMC's 2022–2023 Concert Series, posters from the recent Avanti and Arioso concerts, and the April 4<sup>th</sup> Master Class with Ann Schein.

The poster borrowed from FMMC's Program Director Yooni Lee that announces the monthly Friday Chamber concerts at 10<sup>th</sup> and G was a showstopper, since it promoted a "FREE Chamber Concert Today." The highly visible announcement gave Leslie and Mary Alice an opportunity to share programs from past

chamber concerts and underscore the two remaining concert dates this season on April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Participants were also intrigued by the FMMC name and history and were surprised to learn that all concerts are free. Many were musicians who had played or sung previously but were unaware of the various ways local musicians at all levels can participate in FMMC's many performance options. Samples of FMMC's newsletter were also on hand to give attendees further insights through profiles of student members and outreach opportunities.

FMMC is well-known within the local history community because of its past interactions with two of the organizers. The DC History Center archives houses extensive documents chronicling decades of FMMC and FMMC Foundation history.

*continued on page 7*



# FMMC Concert Calendar - May 2023

## Thursday, May 4, 1pm, at Strathmore Mansion

- Puccini, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Wagner: Various songs and arias. **Mark Bublitz**, tenor; **Gillian Cookson**, piano
- Mozart: Sonata in D Major, K. 311. **Joan Mizrahi**, piano
- Beethoven: Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, op. 11. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; Samuel Smith (guest), cello; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

## Thursday, May 4, 8pm, at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

### Arioso Chorale, Paul Leavitt, Director

- Paul Leavitt: *Stabat Mater*
- Verdi: Four Sacred Pieces
- Arvo Pärt: *Bogoróditse Djévo*
- Elena Yunek: *Bogoróditse Devo Raduysya*
- Tomas Luis de Vitoria: *Regina Caeli Laetare*

## Friday, May 5, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Debussy: Sonata for Cello and Piano. **John Kaboff**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Daniel Cueto: *Estudios Criollos*. **Kayondra Reid**, clarinet
- Chopin: *Ballade No. 3*. **Andre Leonard** (guest), piano

## Saturday, May 6, 8pm, at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

### Arioso Chorale, Paul Leavitt, Director

- Paul Leavitt: *Stabat Mater*
- Verdi: Four Sacred Pieces
- Arvo Pärt: *Bogoróditse Djévo*
- Elena Yunek: *Bogoróditse Devo Raduysya*
- Tomas Luis de Vitoria: *Regina Caeli Laetare*

## Sunday, May 7, 7:30pm, at Riderwood Community Chapel

Please note the FMMC Series at Riderwood is not open to the public.

- Beethoven: Sonata in A-flat Major, op. 110. Chopin: Scherzo No. 4 in E Major. **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Crusell: Quartet in C Minor, op. 4. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Janet Frank**, cello

## Thursday, May 11, 3pm, at Ingleside at King Farm

- Chopin: Selection of works. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Debussy: *Premiere Fantasy*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Ellen Hwangbo**, piano
- Vivaldi: *All'ombra di sospetto*, Cantata for soprano, recorder, and basso continuo, RV678. Bach: "Höchster, was ich habe," from Cantata No. 39 (*Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot*), and "Stein, der über alle Schätze," from Cantata No. 152 (*Tritt auf die Glaubensbahn*). **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Carole Falvo**, recorder; Ellen McGlone (guest), viola; **Edwina Moldover**, cello; Bonnie Schuen (guest), harpsichord

## Friday, May 12, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Bach: *Ciaccona* from Partita No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1004. **Mary Findley**, violin
- Debussy: *Estampes*. **Ryan McNamara**, piano.
- Faure: Piano Trio, op. 120. **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Janet Frank**, cello

## Friday, May 19, 12 pm, at Live! at 10th & G

- François Narboni: *Syrinx en Résonance*. Herman Beefink: *Birds*. **Laura Benning**, flute; **Gwyn Jones**, flute, **Cynthia Rugolo** (guest), flute
- Pauline Viardot: Selection of songs. **Polly Baldrige**, soprano; **Victoria Bragin**, piano
- Rachmaninoff: *Variations on a Theme of Corelli*. **Yuri Chayama**, piano

## Saturday, May 20, 4 pm, at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- Program to be determined

## Saturday, May 20, 7:30 pm, at the Cultural Arts Center, Montgomery College, Silver Spring, MD

### Avanti Orchestra, Pablo Saelzer, Conductor

- Antonio Juan-Marco: *Jardín de Violetas*
- Brahms: Symphony No. 2

## VENUES

### Ingleside at King Farm

701 King Farm Blvd.  
Rockville, MD

### Live! at 10th & G

945 G St., NW  
Washington, DC  
(Metro: Gallery Place 9<sup>th</sup> St. exit or Metro Center)

### Lutheran Church of the Reformation

212 East Capitol St., NE  
Washington, DC  
(Metro: Capitol South or Union Station)

### The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike  
N. Bethesda, MD  
(Metro: Grosvenor)

### Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

7995 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD

### St. George's Episcopal Church

915 N. Oakland St.  
Arlington, VA  
(Metro: Virginia Square GMU)

### Westminster at Lake Ridge

12191 Clipper Dr.  
Lake Ridge, VA

## Outreach in Action



FMMC Outreach musicians May Ing and Bob Park presenting Eight Pieces for Violin and Cello by Reinhold Glière at the Arlington Central Library's Memory Café on March 28th.

## From the Foundation Director

Grace McFarlane

This year's brilliant display of tulip, daffodil, and hyacinth bulbs as well as spring blossoms on plum, cherry, magnolia, and redbud trees is a reminder that we have come to the final newsletter for the year. As I look back on the events of this past year, it has been refreshing to return to normal with in-person Foundation-sponsored events: concerto performances with the Avanti Orchestra and National Philharmonic, featuring 1<sup>st</sup>-place JIC and WIC winners at the Church of the Epiphany, Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, and the Music Center at Strathmore. A brilliant masterclass with WIC 2015 Violin winner, Nadir Khashimov and a stunning display of virtuosity from our three JIC winners in recital with Frank Conlon, as well as a benefit concert from Jiao Sun, WIC 2021 Piano 2<sup>nd</sup>-Prize winner, rounded out the year of outstanding events. What incredible performances!

We look forward with great anticipation to our final event of the year, the 2023 WIC Voice Competition, which will be held the weekend of Memorial Day, May 27-28. One of our competition judges, Aprile Millo, unfortunately had to cancel due to health reasons, but we are delighted to welcome James Morris, renowned bass-baritone, who has graciously agreed to step in. He will serve on the panel alongside our other distinguished judges, Sylvia McNair and Antony Walker. A panel of five preliminary judges – Robert Baker, Jerome Barry, Thomas Reilly, Nancy Smith, and Deborah Thurlow – have completed the task of selecting the 16 semifinalists who will travel to Washington DC to compete for the top prizes. The quality of applicants is extremely high-level, and we expect high level performances from these brilliant artists.

The semifinals will take place in the Phillips Hall (Basement level) of



the Music Building, George Washington University, 801 22<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC, on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. The finals will be in the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 pm. This year's First Prize will be named in honor of Louise McClelland Urban, longtime Foundation board member who also worked tirelessly in support of the WIC Voice competitions. All events are free and open to the public. The audience gets to vote on their favorite performer in the finals on Sunday, so plan to attend, bring a friend, and come to support of these talented performers.

At the conclusion of another year of service, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our incredible Foundation Board of Trustees for their faithful guidance, wisdom, and support. We have accomplished much and are poised to achieve even greater successes in the coming year. It has been my privilege to serve as Director. I look forward to our continued collaboration next season.

I hope to see you at the WIC Voice competition at GWU and at the Kennedy Center.

Wishing you all the best for the summer. 🍷

*Grace*

*FMMC Stands Out at the History Network...  
continued from page 5*

DigDC, a digital part of MLK's archives, includes recordings and programs from FMMC's Composer Concerts in the 1960s through the 1980s and will soon include photos and documents discovered in MLK's cache of FMMC scrapbooks.

The History Network is a signature part of the free three-day DC History Conference, which was launched in 1971. The interdisciplinary community conference considers the past, present, and future of the DMV. According to Karen Harris, senior manager with the History Center, registration for this year's conference doubled to more than 800 registrants from the DC area. The 57 booths participating in the History Network featured such organizations as the Black Broad Branch Project, The DC Preservation League, and Trust for the National Mall 🍷



President Leslie Luxemburg explains the fine points of FMMC programs to interested participants.





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

## *Membership Update*

### *New Performance Members*

Noah Alden Hardaway, Solo Piano, Winchester, VA 22601  
Ji yun Lee, Solo Piano, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
Elissa Miller-Kay, Solo Piano, Washington, DC 20008  
Jack Stabile, Solo Piano, Oakton, VA 22124

### *Sue Goetz Ross Student Competition for Voice*

Joshua Bates, Baritone, Arnold, MD 21012  
Juliana Cardine, Soprano, Midland, VA 22728  
John Solomon Collins, Bass/Baritone,  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743  
Grace Hebeisen, Mezzo-Soprano, Boyds, MD 20841  
Anna Hubbard, Soprano, Poquoson, VA 23662  
Elizabeth Lentz, Soprano, Baltimore, MD 21202  
Sophia Merbaum, Soprano, Perry Hall, MD 21128  
Lourdes Rodriguez, Soprano, Hyattsville, MD 20784  
Josh Slutsky, Bass, Ellicott City, MD 21042  
Maya Watson, Soprano, White Plains, NY 10605  
Annabelle Welford-Small, Soprano, Baltimore, MD 21202

### *Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion*

Tyler Anderson, Clarinet, Springfield, VA 22152  
Daniel Bi, French Horn, Clarksville, MD 21029  
Sara Bock, Clarinet, Potomac, MD 20854  
Evan Chu, Clarinet, Fairfax, VA 22030  
Mahilan Guha, Alto Sax, Potomac, MD 20854  
Noelle Hahn, Flute, Ellicott City, MD 21042  
Griffin Harrell, Bassoon, Stafford, VA 22554  
LJ Johnson, Flute, Fairfax, VA 22033  
Kathryn Lang, Flute, Fairfax, VA 22030  
Daniel Lee, Alto Sax, Potomac, MD 20854  
Olivia Liu, Alto Sax, McLean, VA 22101  
Martin Meister, Trombone, Ellicott City, MD 21042  
Ayush Mishra, Percussion, Clarksville, MD 21029  
Angela Shen, Clarinet, Rockville, MD 20850  
Joshua Wu, Flute, Chantilly, VA 20151  
Lydia You, Oboe, Clarksville, MD 21029 🎷