

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



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## *The Arioso Chorale: A Successful October—Preparing for January*

Peter Baum

The Arioso Chorale and Orchestra presented two concerts in October to standing ovations from two groups of enthusiastic concert attendees. The concerts featured four spectacular soloists (soprano Alyssa Cox, mezzo-soprano Javon Charles, tenor Opal Clyburn-Miller, and bass Daryl Yoder). In addition, the Arioso Chamber Singers opened the concert with two excellent examples of the polyphonic style of music. Clearly a big success.

On November 12, the Chorale began work on a composition by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, who in 1898 set to



Daryl Yoder, baritone, Opal Clyburn-Miller, tenor, Javon Charles, mezzo-soprano, Allyssa Cox, soprano

music the Longfellow poem *The Song of Hiawatha*. The work consists of three cantatas of which the Chorale will present *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* and the *Death of Minnehaha*. The Chamber Singers will also be featured in this concert, presenting *Fern Hill* by John Corigliano, who set the poem by Dylan Thomas to music. It was last updated in 1999.

Orchestra rehearsals began on November 27 and the need for violins and violas is great. If you are interested in joining in, please let me know at [chorale@fmmc.org](mailto:chorale@fmmc.org).

The Chorale and orchestra will present this concert on the evenings of January 25 and January 27, beginning at 8 PM in the Sanctuary of the Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol St. NE). The Chorale will be joined on stage by a quintet of soloists. As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. Contributions to help defray costs are gratefully accepted. Additional details will be posted on the FMMC website ([fmmc.org](http://fmmc.org)). 🎵



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## *From the President*

Leslie Luxemburg

Following the example set in September, October ended on a musical high with concerts by the Arioso Chorale and Orchestra on Thursday, October 26th, and Saturday, October 28th at the Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill.

Artistic Director Paul Leavitt inspired his well-trained chorus and orchestra to perform at their very best. An outstanding quartet of soloists, Alyssa Cox, soprano, Javon Charles, mezzo-soprano, Opal Clyburn-Miller, tenor, and Daryl Yoder, baritone, delivered their vocal lines with great professionalism and beauty of tone.

The FMMC is justifiably proud to be able to have both Arioso and our Avanti Orchestra in such top-quality form this year. Hopefully many of you were able to attend the second concert in the Avanti series on Saturday, November 18th at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center. Your attendance, in addition to your submissions of the audience surveys after the concert, does a great deal to support us in the ongoing process of selecting a new conductor for Avanti. As a reminder, you will have two more opportunities next year, on March 9th and May 4th. Even if you haven't made it so far, attendance at any of the concerts, and submitting any of the surveys, helps the orchestra committee in their evaluation process. It is inspiring to observe these talented young conductors and I have already made a vow to attend all four concerts.



Leslie Luxemburg

The next opportunity to observe our esteemed FMMC Steinway in action in its new digs at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase is coming up on Friday, December 15th. Please join us for the composers' concert there at noon, to be followed by our annual holiday reception and lunch. This is always a nice opportunity to greet colleagues and friends, and share a moment of seasonal fellowship before the end of the year. As a reminder for those of you who put off your end-of-the-year charity donations until the last minute, now would be the perfect time to get it done. It is only with your support that we can maintain our high musical standards.

With gratitude and best wishes for a season of blessings and peace. 🙏

*Leslie*

# Johansen International Competition News

## Updates on Winners

By Harriet Kaplan

A review of a concert given by cellist *Santiago Cañon-Valencia* (2012 JIC, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize) that took place in the summer of 2023 at the International Cello Institute held at St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minnesota, was published on *Interlude*, a website devoted to music (<https://interlude.hk/the-international-cello-institute-and-brilliant-cellist-santiago-canon-valencia>). The review includes video clips and detailed notes about the works performed.

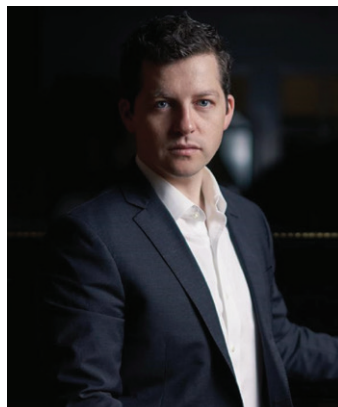
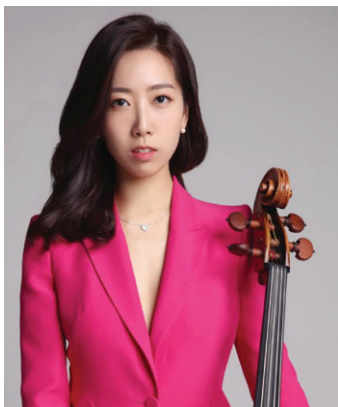
Cellist *Luka Coetzee* (2022 JIC, 1<sup>st</sup> prize) won first prize in the international Paulo Cello Competition, which took place in Helsinki, Finland, in October 2023. The prize included 20,000€ and a cello bow made by Rista Vainio. More information and videos of her performances can be found here: <https://yle.fi/a/aihe/a/20-10005566>

Violinist *Maria Loudenitch* (2012 JIC, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize) performed at the National Museum of Asian Art on November 16, 2023, as part of their Musicians from Marlboro series. Cellist *Brannon Cho* (2012 JIC, 1<sup>st</sup> prize) and violist *Haesue Lee* (2015 JIC, 1<sup>st</sup> prize) will be performing on the second concert in the series on December 7, 2023.

Cellist *Christine J. Lee* (2006 JIC, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize) performed a recital with pianist Henry Kramer at the Phillips Collection on Sunday, October 29, 2023. 🎧



Maria Loudenitch



Christine J. Lee and Henry Kramer



Santiago Cañon-Valencia



Luka Coetzee winning her prize;  
photo by Niko Huusko



Musicians from Marlboro ensemble with Haesue Lee, right, and Brannon Cho, second from right

## FMMC Concert Calendar - December and Early January

Before attending a concert, please check the FMMC website calendar for the most current information.

### Friday, December 1, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Franck: Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano
- Mendelssohn: Piano Trio no. 2 in C Minor, op. 66. **Tanya Lee**, piano; **Robyn Tessin**, violin; **Taka Ariga** (guest), cello

### Friday, December 8, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Stanford: Clarinet Sonata, op. 129. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; piano TBD
- Chopin: First movement from Cello Sonata in G Minor. **Earl Williams** (guest), cello; **Jack Stabile**, piano
- Fauré: Selection of Songs. **Ben Wallis**, bass-baritone; **Janghyo Yoo** (guest), piano

### Friday, December 15, 12pm, at Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

- The FMMC Composers Group will present works by member composers: **Leslie Bennett**, **Li-Ly Chang**, **Mark Simon**, and **An-Ming Wang**.

### Wednesday, December 20, 7pm, at the Friendship Heights Village Center

The FMMC Student Division presents FMMC student members in recital.

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

- The FMMC Composers Group will present works by member composers: **Leslie Bennett**, **Li-Ly Chang**, and **Paul Leavitt**.

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

- Borodin: *Polovtsian Dances*. **Chen-Li Tzeng** and **Jeongseon Choi**, piano four hands
- Spohr: Six German Songs for Soprano, Clarinet, and Piano, op. 103. **Marjorie Wellman**, soprano; **Carol Falvo**, clarinet; **Lois Jones**, piano
- Debussy: Piano Trio in G Major. **Bonnie Shuen** (guest), piano; **Kay Kakazawa** (guest), violin; **David Pearl**, cello

### Thursday, January 11, 7pm, at Dumbarton House

- Mozart: Violin Duet in D Major, op. 70 no. 6. **Makiko Taguchi** and **Eunju Kwak**, violins
- Mozart: Quintet for Clarinet and Strings. **Ginger Anders** (guest), violin; **Subhashini Bollini** (guest), violin; **Amelia Colarco** (guest), viola; **Jenny Petrow** (guest), cello; **Andy Tangborn** (guest), clarinet
- Bernhard Crusell: Quartet in C Minor, op. 4 no. 2 for Clarinet and Strings. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Adam Gonzalez**, cello

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

- Beethoven: Cello Sonata no. 4 in C Major, op. 102, no. 1. **John Kaboff**, cello; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Jake Heggie: *The Deepest Desire: Four Meditations on Love*. **Deborah Thurlow**, soprano; **Susan Hayes**, flute; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano
- Barber, Ginastera, Piazzola: Three passionate dances. **Andrew Kraus**, piano

### VENUES

**Dumbarton House**  
2715 Q St., NW  
Washington, DC

### Friendship Heights Village Center

4433 South Park Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Metro: Friendship Heights

### The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike  
N. Bethesda, MD  
Metro: Grosvenor

### St. George's Episcopal Church

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

### Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

7931 Connecticut Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD

## Book Review:

### *This Is Your Brain on Music—The Science of a Human Obsession* by Daniel Levitin

This review is taken from Amazon

In this groundbreaking union of art and science, rock-turned-neuroscientist Daniel J. Levitin explores the connection between music—its performance, its composition, how we listen to it, why we enjoy it—and the human brain.

Taking on prominent thinkers who argue that music is nothing more than an evolutionary accident, Levitin poses that music is fundamental to our species, perhaps even more so than language. Drawing on the latest research and on musical examples ranging from Mozart to Duke Ellington to Van Halen, he reveals:

- How composers produce some of the most pleasurable effects of listening to music by exploiting the way our brains make sense of the world

- Why we are so emotionally attached to the music we listened to as teenagers, whether it was Fleetwood Mac, U2, or Dr. Dre
- That practice, rather than talent, is the driving force behind musical expertise
- How those insidious little jingles (called earworms) get stuck in our head

A Los Angeles Times Book Award finalist, *This Is Your Brain on Music* will attract readers of Oliver Sacks and David Byrne, as it is an unprecedented, eye-opening investigation into an obsession at the heart of human nature. 🎧

## From the Foundation Director

Grace McFarlane

As I write this column, the blustery weather outside is a reminder of the changing seasons as fall makes way for winter, the old year is passing and a new one is on the horizon. What will it bring? In these unsettling times, we are reminded of the power of music to comfort and provide solace, to heal, and to give hope amidst despair. I remain grateful for the community of music lovers represented in our organization and the opportunity to serve in our various artistic endeavors.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 PM, Julian Rhee, violin, and Chelsea Wang, piano – two “alums” from both our competitions – will return to perform a free concert on the prestigious Roth Concert Series at the Annunciation Catholic Church, curated by our own Frank Conlon. Julian was the first-prize violin winner of the 2018 Johansen International Competition (JIC), and Chelsea was a finalist in the 2017 Washington International Competition for Piano (WIC). No tickets are required but a free-will offering will be accepted. The program includes works by Schumann, Debussy, Ysaye, Bloch, Schubert, and Rota. There will be a reception following the concert. The church is located at 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC (one block west of Wisconsin Avenue). For further information, contact 202-441-7678.

The main event promoted by the Foundation this season, the WIC for Piano, continues to attract inquiries and there are several applications already in

progress. In the capable hands of Competition Chair, Simon Finlow and Assistant Chair Yuri Chayama, we anticipate once again a very successful competition. Mark your calendars for next May 25 & 26, 2024 and plan to attend the semifinals as well as the finals.

The triennial Johansen International Competition for Young String Players will not take place until March 18–20, 2025, but the JIC Steering Committee continues to work diligently on all the details to ensure yet another outstanding competition.

My task of serving as Director of the Foundation would not be manageable without the assistance, guidance, commitment, and encouragement of our dedicated Board of Trustees. At this year's end I wish to say a special *Thank You* to each one for their service. It is indeed an honor to serve alongside these remarkable colleagues.

The Foundation is grateful to our many donors, patrons, and sponsors whose support makes our competitions possible. The success of all our programs relies on these gifts and bequests. Please consider making a year-end donation to the FMMC Foundation. Your gift will help us continue to support the next generation of deserving artists, and to enrich our musical community.

To contribute or to endow a specific prize for our competitions, you may donate online or download our



mailable donation form. Please make sure to designate your contribution for the FMMC Foundation. Visit [www.fmmcfoundation.org](http://www.fmmcfoundation.org), click on “Donate” and check the box: “FMMC Foundation International Competitions.” Checks should be made payable to the *FMMC Foundation, Inc.*, and mailed to *The FMMC Foundation Treasurer, 755 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.*

Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions: [foundation@fmmc.org](mailto:foundation@fmmc.org)

Wishing you all the very best for the holiday season. May the joy of music continue to warm your hearts and bring hope and peace throughout 2024. Happy New Year! 🎵

*Grace*

## Membership Update

The following members joined after publication of the FMMC 2023–24 *Yearbook & Membership Directory*

### *New Members*

Charles (Buzz) Gagnebin, Associate Violin, Springfield, VA

Connie Gagnebin, Associate Piano, Springfield, VA 🎵



Friday Morning Music Club  
755 8th Street, NW  
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## Outreach Musicians Spread Holiday Cheer Across The DMV

Joanna Taylor

This month, a host of Outreach Program volunteers are adding to the holiday spirit.

For December 6 at the Bender JCC of Greater Washington, Solo Flutist Teresa Meeks has organized both a flute trio and a woodwind quintet to perform. On December 12, the Arlington Public Library Memorial Cafe will welcome Arioso Chorale Alto Annette Reilly and several colleagues to lead a “Holiday Singalong.” At Providence of Fairfax, Solo Pianist and Vocal Coach Nancy Smith will present “Singersmith Studio in Concert” on December 16, with several of her students slated to perform solos and duets, some drawing on their musical theater experience.

Later that day, Solo Violinist Robyn Tessin and her piano/violin/cello trio will perform a separate concert for the residents. And at Brighton Gardens of Friendship Heights, multiple December dates will feature FMMC players—Solo Bandoneonist Heyni Solera, Solo Violist Hyejin Kim, and Student Piano Competition winner Yuhan Li.

We are deeply grateful to the above musicians for lifting the spirits of our Outreach audiences this December, and to all who have shared their music throughout the fall. We look forward to warming up winter 2024 with a whole new set of Outreach performances! Stay tuned! 🎶

## Meet Heyni Solera

Marta Howard

One of the newest Performance Members in FMMC is Heyni Solera, Solo Bandoneon. From her wide experience with ensembles Arco and Aire, Las Almas Tango Duo and the Pan-American Symphony, Heyni has proven to be a master of this instrument. Many will know the concertina-like sound of the bandoneon from tango music, but Heyni can also be heard performing Bach on the album, *Bach en Bandoneon*, as half of the Avalos-Solera Duo. Heyni is also an ethnomusicologist, composer, arranger, media producer and lecturer, as well as a 2020 Wammie award winner for Best Latin Song, *La Bordona*. When not connected to her bandoneon, Heyni works as a nurse anesthetist. We look forward to hearing her play between trips to Argentina! 🎶