

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



138TH SEASON

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From the President

Leslie Luxemburg

Welcome to 2024--a new calendar year. January is a good time to look ahead and take stock of our aspirations for the current season at the Friday Morning Music Club. I am happy to report that our musical activities are flourishing. The performance caliber of our chamber series, Arioso Chorale, and Avanti Orchestra concerts has been extremely high as reflected by audience reactions. I found it most gratifying at the Avanti concert on Saturday, November 18th when strangers turned to me at intermission to share how impressed they were with the performance. Conductorial candidate Dietrich Parades Baralt led an engaging and lively performance. It was a great thrill to have our first-place violin winner from the 2022 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players, Jinan Laurentia Woo, join the orchestra for the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.

This spring we will have the opportunity to welcome two more past competition winners. Pianist Yi-Yang Chen, 2017 WIC winner, will play the Beethoven Piano Concerto #3 with Avanti on March 9, and cellist Brannon Cho, 2012 JIC winner, will join Avanti for the Haydn Cello Concerto #1 on May 4th. I am already excited about both these concerts, and I would imagine you are as well! I find it especially meaningful to have these former international competition winners return and share their amazing talents with us. It is indicative of their appreciation for our recognition and help at a significant time in their musical journeys.

January is also a good time to consider your membership in the FMMC and whether you are taking advantage of all



Leslie Luxemburg

it has to offer. Have you been working on some new repertoire or revisiting old favorites? Try it out by signing up to participate in our Outreach program with its multitude of locations and a guaranteed warm and receptive audience wherever you go. Joanna Taylor will be delighted to hear from you and help you find a venue sure to suit your schedule. Do you find you have more time available these days? Please consider helping with one of our committees. Public relations could use people interested in spreading the word about all we do, as well as your fresh publicity ideas. Managing Director Laila Linden is the person to contact, as she coordinates these committees. There is room for additional ushers at our Arioso and Avanti concerts. Contact Angelina Wong (Avanti) or Peter Baum (Arioso) to add yourself to the list. Don't forget--participating as an audience member is always welcome. Finally, consider whether you would be interested in joining the Board of Governors or the Foundation Board for

the 2024-2025 season. These positions are handed over in June, and while meetings and activities don't start again until September, some activity takes place over the summer. This will be my last year as FMMC President, and there are sure to be other vacancies as well. Expressing an interest in assuming a leadership role in the next few months ensures a learning opportunity during the spring and a smooth transition. Please contact the Nominating Committee for more information about potential openings. Working together we can help make this year one of our best ever! 🎶

Leslie



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Student Profile: Aidyn Ellis-Otovo

Christine Kharazian

The following is an edited version of an interview between Christine Kharazian and student violinist Aidyn Ellis-Otovo

#1: I know you were very young when you started to play music. Do you remember your first encounter with the violin?

I don't exactly remember my first encounter with the violin because I was pretty young. However, one of my first violin *playing* memories is coming home after purchasing my first instrument. I was four or five years old and played it horrendously. I didn't know how to hold it, how to use my bow, or anything really. My parents don't play strings and couldn't help at all. I just remember playing random out-of-tune notes with a huge smile on my face. I was ecstatic! I just knew I was going to love playing this instrument!

#2: You have quite extensive experience in solo and chamber music. These two types of music making are so different, they require different mindsets, and skills. Which one is your favorite and why?

I enjoy playing both chamber and solo music. Chamber music holds a special place in my heart because I love the way chamber music combines solo and ensemble skills. I also appreciate how it's easier to connect with the piece I'm playing and my chamber mates because it's a smaller group. It's really a chance to experience the music in a deeper, more meaningful way.

#3: I am curious to learn more about your YouTube channel. What is it about, how did you start it?

My YouTube channel is dedicated to digital animation. I create animation set to pop music. My current channel is a revamp of my first channel which featured a variety of dancing toys. The first channel was really fun to create, but I eventually grew out of that phase. Now, my animation allows me to be just as creative. What's funny is that my appreciation for popular music is limited to my video production. My genre of choice for listening and playing is strictly classical with this exception.

#4: What are your musical goals?

My ultimate musical goal is to become a soloist. However, my five-year goal is to be admitted to a top conservatory to study



Aidyn and Addison Ellis-Otovo

violin performance. In order to make this goal a reality, I have shorter term aspirations of earning placements in respected summer intensive and pre-conservatory study programs. Access to top-tier programs isn't a given for even the most dedicated students. So, I am very grateful for each opportunity to perform and to learn from those with more experience.

#5: Tell us about your collaborations with your sister. Is it fun to have another string player in the family?

My sister, Addison, and I play in the same orchestra at Peabody Prep and play in two chamber groups. It's great having another string player in the family. We have a lot of fun together and help each other grow musically. Sometimes things get competitive. But, overall, we just have a great time. A bonus is being able to share knowledge. For example, I attended Luzerne Music Center this summer and Addison attended Meadowmount. In the end, it's almost like we each attended both camps. We shared information from our experiences to help each other advance. It really helps to have a sibling who has similar goals.

#6 What projects have you done through FMMC and what does the membership mean to you?

My FMMC participation has included a recital at the Friendship Heights Community Center and a masterclass with Nadir Khashimov. This membership gives me the opportunity to perform and have masterclasses with some of the best musicians in the area, including student competition winners and esteemed professionals. It also gives me an opportunity to share my passion with others. For me, this membership is invaluable. 🎻

FMMC Student Musicians Triumph at Strathmore Mansion

On the day after Thanksgiving, FMMC's student recital at the Strathmore Mansion attracted a large number of families and friends. Eight student performers shared their talents in a delightful afternoon concert featuring selections from an assortment of composers. The event ran very smoothly thanks to FMMC's efficient Student Activities Chair, Cyndy Rice Elliott. After the concert, many attendees went on to explore the Mansion's galleries and exhibitions. 🎶



From left: Elizabeth Wnek (violin), Addison Ellis-Otovo (viola), Aidyn Ellis-Otovo (violin), Harrison Benford (piano), Enzo Baldanza (violin), Caleb Fan (cello), Amelia Baisden (cello), Joshua Thrush (bass)



FMMC Concert Calendar - January and Early February

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

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**, 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

Sunday, January 14, 3pm, at Collington Retirement Community

- Glière: Eight Pieces for Violin and Cello, op. 39. **May Ing**, violin; **Robert Park**, cello
- Bach: Adagio from Sonata no. 1 in G Minor for Solo Violin, BWV 1001. **Makiko Taguchi**, violin
- Bernstein: Selected Songs from *Mass* and *Peter Pan*. **Marjorie Wellman**, soprano; pianist TBD
- Poulenc: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano

Thursday, January 18, 12pm, at Old Town Hall

- Liszt, Fauré, Regine Poldowski: A French song sampler. **Nancy Smith**, soprano; **Rosanne Conway**, piano
- Luis Antonio Calvo: Intermezzi. Ernesto Lecuona: Afro-Cuban Dances. **Alvaro Puig** (guest), piano
- Robert Muczynski: Sonata for Flute and Piano, op. 14. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Rosanne Conway**, piano

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

- Gade: Piano Trio, op. 42. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Janet Frank**, cello; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Moyses: *Hommages*. **Heidi Schuller**, flute; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano
- Janacek: *In the Mists*. **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

Thursday, January 25, 8pm, at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

- Arioso Chorale & Orchestra**, **Paul Leavitt**, Director
- Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: *The Song of Hiawatha*
 - John Corigliano: *Fern Hill*

Saturday, January 27, 8pm, at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

- Arioso Chorale & Orchestra**, **Paul Leavitt**, Director
- Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: *The Song of Hiawatha*
 - John Corigliano: *Fern Hill*

Thursday, February 1, 1pm, at Strathmore Mansion

- Haydn: Sonata in C Minor, Hob. XVI:20.
- Granados: *Quejas o la maja y el ruiseñor*, from *Goyescas*. **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Garrison Hull: *Le Pont Mirabeau*. **Marje Palmieri**, soprano; **Stephen Brown**, piano
- Glière: Eight Pieces for Violin and Cello, op. 39. **May Ing**, violin; **Robert Park**, cello

Friday, February 2 at 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Gade: Piano Trio, op. 42. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Janet Frank**, cello; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Chopin: Nocturne in E-flat Major, op. 9 no. 2. Nocturne in C Minor, op. 48 no. 1. **Shuai Wang**, piano
- Laitman: *In Sleep the World is Yours*. **Marian Drake**, mezzo soprano; **Kari Jorgensen Diener** (guest), oboe; **Rosanne Conway**, piano

Thursday, February 8, 3pm, at Ingleside at King Farm

- Bach: Toccata in C Minor, BWV 911. **Ellen Hwangbo**, piano
- Yuko Uebayashi: *Au-Dela du Temps* (Beyond Time). **Laura Benning** (flutes) and **Cynthia Rugolo** (guest), flute; **Ellen Hwangbo**, piano
- Brahms: Sonata no. 1 for Cello and Piano in E Minor, op. 38. **Harriet Kaplan**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano

VENUES

Collington Retirement Community

10450 Lottsford Rd.
Mitchellville, MD

Dumbarton House

2715 Q St., NW
Washington, DC

Ingleside at King Farm

701 King Farm Blvd.
Rockville, MD

Live! at 10th & G

945 G St., NW
Washington, DC
Metro: Gallery Place 9th 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

Old Town Hall, City of Fairfax

Corner of Main St. Rt. 236 & University Dr.
Fairfax, VA

St. George's Episcopal Church

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

From the Foundation Director

Grace McFarlane

As we turn the pages of our calendars to the new year 2024, it's a good time to pause and reflect on the events and experiences of the past year and to look forward to new opportunities ahead.

Highlights of 2023 include the successes of WIC Voice competition which showcased outstanding singers vying for top prizes, selected by a stellar jury panel: Sylvia McNair, James Morris, and Antony Walker. WIC '23 winners, Matthew Hill, Magdalena Kuzma and Adia Evans continue to garner accolades in the vocal world. What a privilege to listen and learn from the insightful masterclasses led by past WIC '15 winner, Nadir Khashimov, violin, and previous competition judges, Ann Schein and Robert McDonald! We welcomed back Jiao Sun, our WIC '20/21 Second Prize winner, for an enjoyable and memorable benefit piano recital.

Throughout the year we enjoyed brilliant solo and concerto performances featuring past winners of the WIC and JIC competitions. Indeed, this was a successful year with a rich feast of music making!

And it continues—In the search for a new conductor, the FMMC Avanti Orchestra will feature JIC and WIC winners in concerto performances: Yi-Yang Chen, piano (March 9) and Brannon Cho, cello

(May 4). As a part of their performance prizes from the WIC Strings '22, the three winners will be featured in Sunday afternoon performances at the Washington Conservatory of Music: January 28, SoHui Yun, viola, with Yejin Lee, piano; February 25, Jaewon Wee, violin, with Michael Adcock, piano; and April 28, Sydney Lee, cello, with Pressenda Chamber Players. All concerts will begin at 3:00 PM. Mark your calendars.

With a February 15th deadline for applications approaching, we anticipate another successful WIC Competition for Piano, which will take place next May 25–26. We look forward to welcoming our distinguished panel of judges: Olga Kern, John O'Connor, and Santiago Rodriguez. Our Competition Chair, Simon Finlow, and Assistant Competition Chair, Yuri Chayama, are responding to steady inquiries from potential applicants.

The FMMC Foundation relies on the generous personal and corporate gifts contributed in support of the WIC Competitions. We are grateful for our faithful friends who give faithfully year after year, and welcome new donors and award



sponsors. At the start of this new calendar year, I wish to express my sincere thanks to our dedicated Board of Trustees, with whom I've had the privilege of working together to pursue the mission of the Foundation.

What a privilege to share the joy of music, the solace it brings, the power to heal the spirit! It is my prayer and hope that this new year will bring you joy, blessings, hope, and peace. 🎵

Happy New Year!

Grace

Book Review:

Notes from the Green Room: Coping with Stress and Anxiety in Musical Performance

by Paul G. Salmon and Robert G. Meyer

The following notes are from Amazon:

Notes from the Green Room explains the causes of musical performance anxiety and suggests methods for dealing with it effectively. The authors show how proper preparation as well as techniques such as learning experiments, relaxation training, tension management, and graded exposure to groups of various sizes can relieve the compulsion that often accompanies an individual's performance. An essential resource for musicians at any level. 🎵



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

Outreach Presents

Thank you to FMMC solo pianist Sasha Beresovsky for his recent Outreach performance at Brighton Gardens!



Membership Update

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

New Members

Enzo Baldanza, Student Violin,
Local Student Competition Winner, Arlington, VA

James Bartelt, Avanti Orchestra Percussion,
Falls Church, VA

Ryan Li, Student Violin, Local Student
Competition Winner, Ellicott City, MD

Caleb Fan, Student Cello, Local Student
Competition Winner, Rockville, MD

Renewing Members

Joshua Thrush, Student Bass Viol, Local Student
Competition Winner, Vienna, VA

Harry Rosen, Arioso Orchestra Cello, Oakton, VA
Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Solo Piano, Bowie, MD 🎹