

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



138TH SEASON

MAY 2024

VOL. 58, NO. 9

From the President

Leslie Luxemburg

May is here already. How is it possible that another year has gone by so quickly? Season's end is a perfect time to applaud some of the extraordinary members of this year's leadership team. The FMMC has kept going for so many years because of the devotion and diligence of every one of our volunteers. Even so, some individuals are truly outstanding and deserve a special mention. In particular, our new Managing Director Laila Linden who has gone above and beyond with her devotion to both the big picture and the small details, striving to get everything running smoothly, all the while exhibiting great good humor and patience. Laila and the ever hard-working and capable Joanna Taylor have proven to be a great team. As always, Anne Zim is an extraordinary constant in our star lineup, exhibiting her devotion over the course of so many years.

I also want to give a shout out to the strong leadership running this year's Foundation. Director Grace McFarlane and Piano Competition Chair Simon Finlow, with the assistance of Yuri Chayama, have ensured a smooth process as we anticipate the latest iteration of the Washington International Competition at the end of May.

Many exciting events await. Here is a rundown of those I don't intend to miss: Coming up first, on Friday, May 3rd, is our FMMC annual meeting and luncheon at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. Judging by the previous events at this venue, I am anticipating a warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as the opportunity to showcase our FMMC piano when winners of our student voice and piano competitions perform for us.



Leslie Luxemburg

The very next evening, Saturday, May 4th at 7:30 pm, is the fourth and final Avanti Orchestra concert this season. This series introduced four different conductorial candidates auditioning to take over in the fall. I know many of you have made it a point to attend all of them and to participate in this very exciting process by filling out the participation survey afterwards. The orchestra committee will have a challenge ahead winnowing down the choices to just one. Don't spoil your chance for a perfect attendance record, plus the opportunity to meet our only female candidate at this final concert. Following Avanti, on May 11th at 3 pm, there will be a unique concert featuring one of our outstanding new members, bandoneonist Heyni Solera, and her duet partner, fellow bandoneonist Rodrigo Avalos, when they present their special Tango Meets Classical concert for us as a benefit for the FMMC general fund.

Finally, Memorial Day weekend brings this year's WIC for piano to George Washington University with the semifinals all day on Saturday, May 25th, and the final round starting at 2 pm on Sunday, May 26th at the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center. All reports are that it is an extraordinary crop of young pianists and well worth hearing. Details on specifics of location and time for all these events are listed in the Newsletter calendar and on our website.

It will be a great pleasure to share these springtime special events with many of you! 🎶

Leslie

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Arioso: Chorale to Close Season with Trip to New York City

Peter Baum

Arioso Chorale and Orchestra presented its final Washington concert on April 11 and 13 with a program dedicated to French composers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Works by Francis Poulenc, Gabriel Fauré, Maurice Ravel, and Lili Boulanger made for an interesting and varied program. Soloists Gabrielle Levy, Diane Atherton, Leslie Luxemburg, Allan Palacios Chan, and Ross Tamaccio were featured in many of the numbers on the program. The concerts were livestreamed on the Church of the Reformation website and

the recording is available on their YouTube channel.

While Arioso's local season is complete, there remains one more concert to prepare. Arioso has been invited to sing on the Litha Symphony Orchestra's Gala Concert (and silent auction) that will take place in New York City at the end of June. More than 40 singers will make the trip and sing at the Church of the Holy Apostles on June 29. The program will include works by Samuel Barber, Paul Leavitt, George Bizet, and Carl Orff.

After the summer break, Arioso will reconvene at the

end of August to prepare for the 2024-2025 season. While not completely set, the concerts will again probably be in October, January, and April. Details of the season will be announced in later editions of the newsletter.

The Chorale and its orchestra are always looking for more club members to join us on the stage and would love to hear from you about your interest in supporting this major club organization. If you would like to join us, please contact Peter Baum at chorale@fmmc.org. 🎵

Martin Luther King Librarian to Keynote the Annual Luncheon

Leslie Luxemburg

We are delighted to welcome Karen McCool, the new music librarian at the Martin Luther King Library, as our luncheon guest speaker. We look forward to hearing about her custodial responsibilities, especially as they relate to FMMC, as well as the interesting path that took her to this position.

Karen I.B. McCool is the Music Librarian at the District of Columbia Public Library where she manages the Kindler score collection, circulating music collections, and music programming (among other things). Before DCPL, she held librarian positions at Radford University and the Catholic University of America. She currently serves the Music Library Association as Assistant Web Manager, and as a member of the Conference Planning Task Force. Her research interests include user experience testing for web design, emerging technologies in music librarianship, and music therapy librarianship. Karen received an MA in Musicology and an MS in Library and Information Science from the Catholic University of America, and a BS in Music Education with Honors from Towson University. She performs throughout the DC area on bass and violin (though she also has past performance experience on lots of other instruments, like baritone sax, percussion, piano, trumpet, viola, and voice) and resides in Silver Spring, MD, with her husband and two precious cats. 🐾



Karen McCool

Outreach in Action

Joanna Taylor

We thank FMMC violinist Marion Li Richter and pianist Chen-Li Tzeng for entertaining a roomful of Brighton Gardens residents and guests with an enjoyable musical program! 🎶



Dear FMMC Members, our **Outreach Program** venues welcome you to share your music with their audiences, for whom live music invigorates well-being and quality of life. Thank you to so many of you who have already volunteered this season!

We still have opportunities this spring, listed below.

Please write to outreach@fmmc.org to sign up.

Thank you so much!

Arlington Central Library Memory Cafe:

Start time is 2pm. May 23

Brighton Gardens of Friendship Heights (baby grand piano):

All start times are 2pm. Sat June 15, Sun June 23.

Friends Club of Bethesda (baby grand):

All start times are 11:30am. Mon July 1, Thur Oct 31, Mon Nov 25.

Georgetown Senior Center at St. John's Episcopal Church (grand piano):

Monday 1pm: June 10

Providence of Fairfax Senior Living Community (Yamaha grand piano):

Saturdays 2pm: June 8, June 22.

Membership Update

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

New Members

Alexis Arthur, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Nottingham, MD

Wallace Brown, Student Baritone, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, College Park, MD

Matthew Chang, Student Piano, FMMC Local Competition Winner, Bethesda, MD

Peter Dreux, Solo Violin, Vienna, VA

Phyllis Gerstell, Associate Piano, Washington, DC

Cynthia Hu, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, McLean, VA

Johnny Knight, Student Piano, FMMC Local Competition Winner, Alexandria, VA

Zack Lam, Student Piano, FMMC Local Competition Winner, Bethesda, MD

Magnolia Autumn Flynn-Lebischak, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Sykesville, MD

Elizabeth Lentz, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, New Bloomfield, PA

Sophia Lin, Student Piano, FMMC Local Competition Winner, Falls Church, VA

Nadia Lischke, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Washington, DC

Lauren Maho, Student Mezzo-Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Richmond, VA

Isabel Marcus, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Clarksville, MD

Jason New, Student Baritone, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Bowie, MD

Thai Nguyen, Student Piano, FMMC Local Competition Winner, Leesburg, VA

Sojin Oh, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Baltimore, MD

Ian Pathak, Student Tenor, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Springfield, VA

Nuria Shin, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, College Park, MD

Delaney Stewart, Student Mezzo-Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Baltimore, MD

Jhamere Thompson, Student Tenor, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Upper Marlboro, MD

Maya Watson, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Baltimore, Mei Mei Wei, Associate Violin, Rockville, MD

Emma Wilansky, Student Soprano, FMMC Student Voice Competition Winner, Annapolis, MD

Lily Ye, Associate, Rockville, MD Kidus Yohannes, Student Piano, FMMC Local Competition Winner, Washington, DC 🎶

Presenting Two Nominations for Honorary Membership in FMMC

Mary K. Traver

Two Honorary Memberships in FMMC will be formally presented at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on May 3rd. The names of the musicians to be honored, along with letters of support, were presented to the Board of Governors in February and were unanimously approved.

The first honoree is **Grace McFarlane-Bottelier**, longtime member of FMMC and well-known pianist and teacher, who currently serves as Director of the FMMC Foundation, a position she has held since 2020. She is praised for her expertise and dedication to the aims of the Foundation and to the continued success and prestige of the Washington International Competitions.

In addition to FMMC, she is President of the Washington Music Teachers Association, has served as Director of the Eastern Division of the Music Teachers National Association, and chaired the MTNA Local Association Grants Committee and MTNA Forum on Arts Awareness and Advocacy. As performer, she made her New York debut in 1982 in Carnegie Hall as a member of the Trio dell'Arte. She has performed as soloist and chamber artist in the US, and Canada, Mexico, Argentina, China (where she accompanied her husband on a 5-year

assignment and performed extensively and conducted master classes). She has taught at the University of Maryland, Peabody Preparatory, Wheaton College, Judson College, and Levine School. She currently maintains an active teaching schedule in her home studio. In October 2023 she was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame.

Letters of support for this nomination came from Junko Takahashi, Chen-Li Tseng, and Simon Finlow, whose letter of support included the following, "I have worked closely with Grace on the Foundation Board of Trustees...and have been constantly impressed by her absolute devotion to the work and goals of the Foundation. She has faced the enormous demands of serving as Director with equally enormous strength and enthusiasm."

The second musician to be honored is **Peter Russell**, well known in the vocal world, who has served as artistic and administrative director of Vocal Arts DC since 2012. He previously served in executive roles as General Director of Opera Colorado in Denver, as Director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, and as General Director of WolfTrap Opera Company in Virginia. A co-founder of

Washington Concert Opera, he is also a frequent guest lecturer on opera, including for the Smithsonian Institution's Resident Associates Program and for Georgetown University's Continuing Education Series, and has frequently adjudicated vocal competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, Partners in the Arts, and the Washington International Competition for Voice. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in Music History from Yale University.

Letters of support came from Leslie Luxemburg, Yvonne Sabine, and Denyce Graves. The letter from Denyce Graves included... "I'm certain I am one of many who have benefited from Peter's interest, guidance, friendship. His legacy is secure, and he has been an Arts Administrator *par excellence*. He's built programs, planned seasons, managed people, chosen repertory, written program notes, completed professional research in the service of this beautiful, fantastic, wonderful art: this high-art called Opera... With my whole heart, I support and recommend the proposal of Peter Russell." 🎵

Avalos-Solera Duo Concert to Benefit FMMC

Marta Howard

The FMMC's first Solo Bandoneon Performance member, Heyni Solera, and her duo partner, Rodrigo Avalos will present a concert at 3:00 PM May 11 at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington DC, 20003. The duo will perform tango music arranged for two bandoneons and selections from their recent CD, *Bach en Bandoneon*. The Avalos-Solera Duo is embarking on a tour of the U.S. and has graciously offered this concert to benefit the FMMC's general fund. To donate, look for the QR code on this page or go to fmmc.org and search for "donate." Contributions will also be accepted at the door. 🎧



Friday Morning Music Club
Presents

BACH and THE BANDONEON: *Tango Meets Classical*



Featuring the Avalos-Solera Duo
Rodrigo Avalos and Heyni Solera, bandoneons

Saturday, May 11, 2024

3 PM

PROGRAM

Selections from the music of
Johann Sebastian Bach

Arrangements of works by Leopoldo Federico, Jose
Dames, Anibal Troilo, and Astor Piazzolla

Original compositions by the Avalos-Solera Duo

Reception to follow at the rear of the sanctuary.

Lutheran Church of the Reformation
212 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20003

Donations welcome to support
FMMC's General Operating Fund.

Suggested donation \$35

Visit fmmc.org/donate or scan QR code.



From the Foundation Director

Grace McFarlane

Still trying to find the words to express my feelings in my final newsletter column as Foundation Director. Reflecting on these last four years I am flooded with many memories. I had no idea when I joined FMMC as a performing member over 30 years ago how important a role this organization would play in my life. I valued the opportunity to perform in the weekly concerts. Not until I served on the Foundation Board of Trustees, first as co-chair of the WIC 2020/21 Piano competition, then as Director of the Foundation did I come to appreciate the special bonds of friendship, collaboration, and collegiality fostered amongst fellow club and board members. There have been challenges, including navigating the complexities of the covid pandemic, but they have been outweighed by the joys of sharing wonderful musical experiences and supporting and promoting talented young artists.

The Foundation's primary focus has been to organize and manage the two international competitions – the Washington International Competition and the Johansen International Competition for Young String Players. I found joy and satisfaction as we successfully navigated the process from the planning stages through the preliminary, semifinal, and final stages of each competition – 2020/2021 Virtual WIC Piano Competition, 2022 WIC Strings and Composition, 2022 JIC, 2023 WIC Voice, and currently, 2024 WIC Piano. Coordinating recitals, masterclasses, and welcoming back winners of our competitions for area performances and liaising with host families was always a delight.

This year's sixteen WIC Piano semifinalists have been selected and all have accepted the invitation to travel to DC for this year's competition. Special thanks to the five preliminary judges – Frank Conlon, Slava Gryaznov, Elissa Miller-Kay, Anna Ouspenskaya and Ryo Yamagitani – who offered their time, expertise, and professional assessment of the wide range of international

applications from 135 contestants, and who expressed their amazement at the outstanding level of performance from these young artists.

We look forward to welcoming to DC our three internationally-acclaimed jurors – Olga Kern, John O'Connor, and Santiago Rodriguez – for the semifinals at George Washington University on May 25th. From the sixteen semifinalists, the jurors will select six finalists to compete in the Terrace Theater of the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, May 26. Audience members will also be able to vote for their favorite performer.

A unique feature of the WIC competitions is the opportunity all semifinalists are afforded to receive personal, professional feedback from each of our three distinguished judges at the conclusion of the semifinal round. Several past contestants have expressed their appreciation for this time with the judges, getting personal advice that is especially relevant at the start of their developing careers.

The 2024 Competition Chair, Simon Finlow and Assistant Chair, Yuri Chayama, have done a superlative job running this competition, and we hope you will plan to attend. You will enjoy some amazing performances!

The Foundation relies on the generous support of member donations and bequests to fund our international competitions. It is not too late to support these competitions with a financial contribution. Gifts to the Foundation's general fund as well as bequests to support a specific competition are welcome, and all contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at foundation@fmnc.org, or the Foundation Treasurer, Charlotte Saslowsky, at cpharrell@yahoo.com.

In June I will be stepping away from the role of Director of the Foundation, but hope to remain actively involved in the organization as we continue to fulfill



our mission to support the education of young musicians. I am grateful for the sage advice and support from my predecessors, Leslie Luxemburg and Frank Conlon, and would like to express my special thanks to our dedicated Board of Trustees for their commitment and support.

I look forward to seeing you at a future event as we continue our artistic journey, making and sharing the joy of music together. Warmest wishes. See you at the WIC ~ 🎵

Grace

FMMC Concert Calendar - May and June 2024

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

Friday, May 3, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Reger: Suite No. 1 in G Major, op. 131c. **John Kaboff**, cello
- Beethoven, Schoenberg, Mozart, and Wagner: Selected songs. **Mark Bubnitz**, tenor; **Gillian Cookson**, piano
- Chopin: Fantasy in F Minor, op. 49. **Eun Suk Cha**, piano

Saturday, May 4, 7:30pm, at Cultural Arts Center, Silver Spring

- Avanti Orchestra, Chi-Yuan Lin, conductor*
- Jessie Montgomery: *Strum for String Orchestra*
 - Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major. **Brannon Cho**, cello
 - Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5, op. 64, in E Minor

Sunday, May 5, 7:30pm, at Riderwood Village

Please note that Riderwood concerts are not open to the public.

- Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, op. 57 (the "Appassionata"). **Elissa Miller-Kay**, piano
- Beethoven: String Quartet, op. 59, No. 1. **Erin Ryan** (guest), violin; **Rachel Hixson**, violin; **Corby Johnson**, viola; **Ryan Bridgland** (guest), cello

Thursday, May 9, 3pm, at Ingleside at King Farm

A Pianofest

- Afro-Cuban music selections. **Alvaro Puig**
- Ravel: *Mother Goose Suite*. **Jung-Yoon Lee** and **Yuri Chayama**, piano four hands
- Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue*. **Frank Conlon**

Thursday, May 9, 7pm, at Dumbarton House

- Danzi: Duet in C Major for Viola and Cello. **Caroline Brethauer**, viola; **Sarah Hover**, cello
- Beethoven: String Quartet, op. 59, No. 1. **Erin Ryan** (guest), violin; **Rachel Hixson**, violin; **Corby Johnson**, viola; **Ryan Bridgland** (guest), cello

Friday, May 10, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- French song selections. **Marian Drake**, mezzo-soprano; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano
- Ravel: *Mother Goose Suite*. **Jung-Yoon Lee** and **Yuri Chayama**, piano four hands
- Jennifer Higdon: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; piano TBD

Saturday, May 11, 3pm, at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

- Bach and the Bandoneon: Tango Meets Classical*, a concert to benefit the Friday Morning Music Club, featuring the Avalos-Solera Duo: **Rodrigo Avalos** and **Heyni Solera**, bandoneons
- Selections from the music of Johann Sebastian Bach
 - Arrangements of works by Federico, Dames, Troilo, and Piazzolla
 - Original compositions by the Avalos-Solera Duo

Saturday, May 11, 4pm, at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- Clara Schumann: *Liebst du um Schönheit, Er ist gekommen in Sturm und Regen*. Rebecca Clarke: *The Cloths of Heaven, The Cherry-Blossom Wänd*. Poldowski (Lady Dean Paul): *L'heure exquise*. Pauline Viardot: *Les Filles de Cadix*. **Gail Collins**, mezzo-soprano; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano
- Robert Schumann: *Fantasy Pieces for Clarinet and Piano*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano
- Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue* (for woodwind quintet, arr. Joachim Linckelmann). **Terri Manolio**, flute; **Susan Ashmore** (guest), oboe; **Andy Tangborn**, clarinet; **Leila Duman** (guest), bassoon; **Ken Hawes**, French horn

Friday, May 17, 12pm, at Live! at 10th and G

- Antonio Salazar Arroyo, Franz Lachner: Selected songs. **Mandy Brown**, soprano; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Patrick O'Donnell** (guest), piano
- Jennifer Higdon: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; piano TBD
- Respighi: *The Pines of Rome*. **Sophia Pallas** and **Julian Trail**, piano four hands

Saturday, May 25, 9:30am, at George Washington University

Washington International Competition for Piano, Semifinals

Sunday, May 26, 2pm, at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Washington International Competition for Piano, Finals

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 pm, at Ingleside at King Farm

Rising Stars Concert, featuring winners of the November 2023 FMMC High School String Competition

- Bach: *Chaconne* from Partita no. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1004. **Ryan Li**, violin
- Dvorak: Cello Concerto in B Minor, op. 104, third movement. **Caleb Fan**, cello
- Pablo de Sarasate: *Carmen Fantasy*, op. 25. **Enzo Baldanza**, violin

VENUES

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

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



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

Student Recital

Five of our very talented student members played a beautiful recital on April 10 for an enthusiastic audience at the Friendship Heights Community Center, accompanied by Dr. Jeongseon Choi and Andrew Kraus. 🎶



From left to right: Addison Ellis-Otovo (viola), Anna Bray (piano), Zack Lam (piano), Elizabeth Wnek (violin), Aidyn Ellis-Otovo (violin)