

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



139TH SEASON

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## From the President

Albert Hunt

Welcome to a new season of classical music. It is my honor and privilege to begin my first year of service as your President of the Board. As I embark on this adventure, I am grateful for FMMC's incredible staff: Managing Director Laila Linden and Administrative Coordinator Joanna Taylor.

Before anything else, I want to express the entire FMMC community's appreciation to Leslie Luxemburg for her wise leadership as president of FMMC for five years. She kept us playing music through the pandemic, and now we are stronger than ever. Her accomplishments are many, and we thank you very much, Leslie.

We extend an enthusiastic welcome to Maestra Chi-Yuan Lin, newly appointed Music Director of the Avanti Orchestra. Currently, Chi-Yuan is Ryan Opera Center Conductor at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She brings a combination

of innovative energy and wide-ranging experience to Avanti. Please plan to check out the concerts. We are in for something special.

The Friday Morning Music Club is YOU. You make the music, and you love the music. This is the core focus of FMMC. I expect a wonderful season across FMMC. With Arioso Chorale performing some exciting and interesting programs; over 70 chamber music concerts; an energetic composers' group; our at-home performance groups; outreach program; and string, piano, voice, and woodwind high school competitions, our offerings are rich! I hope we can come together as a community and grow our appreciation for all that we are.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our concerts. 🎶

Musically,

*Albert*



Albert Hunt

## Welcome To Our New Newsletter Editor

After many years as your newsletter editor, in October I will pass the baton to Ian Ross. Violinist and violist, he has been a member of the FMMC since 2012 and currently plays with the Avanti Orchestra. Over the last 30 years, he has performed with a variety of orchestras, including the Binghamton Philharmonic, the Catskill Symphony, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Brevard Music Festival Orchestra, and Tempo Giusto, as well as several chamber groups while based overseas for his career. He has worked for the US Government for 28 years and currently serves in an executive role.

Support the newsletter and your fellow musicians, by sharing your FMMC news and activities with Ian. 🎶

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## News from the Chorale

Peter Baum

On June 29, the Arioso Chorale joined forces with the Litha Symphony Orchestra and Litha Symphony Singers in a concert at the Church of the Holy Apostles in New York City. Forty Arioso singers participated along with 20 Litha singers (plus an orchestra of 75). This June concert was the first of three summertime concerts with the theme “The Sounds of Destiny.” The June concert was titled “Gala Fortuna” and, of course, the final number on the program was a set of selections from Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*.

On September 8, Arioso will begin preparing the first of our three concerts at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol St, NE). The fall concert set will be held on November 7 and 9. For these first concerts, the chorus and its orchestra will present Leonard Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms* and Ralph Vaughan Williams’s *Dona Nobis Pacem*. For those interested in playing in the orchestra, rehearsals begin on September 23. Rehearsals are in the Lutheran Church of the Reformation.

The second concert this season will be February 6 and 8. Works by Beethoven and Brahms will be featured. The third and final concert set will be on May 8 and 10. Works by Leavitt and Duruflé are scheduled for this concert.

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 participating in this major club organization. If you would like to join us, please contact Peter Baum at [chorale@fmmc.org](mailto:chorale@fmmc.org).

### High School Competition for Strings

The High School Competition for Strings in memory of Gustave E. Johansen, Jr., will take place virtually this November. It is open to students currently enrolled in grades 9-12 who play violin, viola, cello, or bass within a 50-mile radius of the DC metropolitan area.

Deadline for applications: November 2, 2024

Deadline for video and score (PDF): November 9, 2024

Announcement: November 16, 2024

Please direct any questions to the chair at [highschoolstrings@fmmc.org](mailto:highschoolstrings@fmmc.org).

### Volunteer Performers Needed for the FMMC Outreach Program this Fall!

Welcome to our new Outreach Director, Elizabeth Whitman! The Outreach Program is off to a great start with more than 20 programs scheduled at 6 venues. We now need our talented members to fill these program slots. Any FMMC member who can present a 30-40 minute program of music may perform—no audition necessary. This is a great opportunity to share your passion for music with seniors and others who may lack other access to in-person performances. See below for available slots. More dates arriving soon! Check <https://fmmc.org/news/outreach-concerts/> for the most up-to-date information. Please write to [outreach@fmmc.org](mailto:outreach@fmmc.org) to book a performance or ask a question.

- **Arlington Central Library Memory Cafe:** *Thursdays 2pm.* Sep 12, Oct 24, Jan 23 (2025)
- **Bender JCC of Greater Washington (upright piano):** *Wednesdays 11am.* Oct 23, Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 4, Dec 18
- **Benjamin Gaither Center** (Gaithersburg, MD): *Tuesday Dec. 10, 5:00-5:45 pm* (this performance is for a meeting of a local chapter of AARP and the performers would be welcome to stay for dinner)
- **Brighton Gardens of Friendship Heights (baby grand piano):** *Sundays 2pm.* Sep 15, Sep 29, Oct 13, Oct 27, Nov 10, Nov 24, Dec 1, Dec 22
- **Providence of Fairfax Senior Living Community (Yamaha grand piano):** *Saturdays 2pm.* Sep 7, Sep 21, Oct 5, Oct 19.

## Student Profile: Amelia Baisden

Following is a lightly edited interview by Christine Karazian with 13 year-old cellist Amelia Baisden

### 1. Amelia, you started playing cello when you were 3. Do you remember how it began? Who or what motivated you and what were your first impressions?

Since I started taking cello lessons at a very young age, the question of how I chose my instrument comes up a lot and my response is always met with a few chuckles. The truth is that my mother envisioned me playing the cello before I was born and always planned to sign me up for lessons just after my third birthday. The big turning point for me was when I was six years old: I was sitting in the audience at Carnegie Hall, watching Alisa Weilerstein's captivating performance, and I was truly inspired to pursue a career as a professional musician. Despite attending numerous performances previously, this particular concert clearly stands out in my memory. Watching such a talented female cellist ignited in me a sense of possibility, allowing me to dream about the future and ponder what I could achieve through hard work. My cello journey continued from there. I might not have selected my instrument, but the cello has become my inseparable companion and I'm grateful for the choice made for me over a decade ago because it has brought me to where I am and who I am today.

### 2. You are a winner of numerous competitions. Are you competitive by nature? Do you enjoy the competition process? What are some things you do to be a stronger competitor? Do you feel music competitions support or conflict with the musical creativity?

I have always been competitive, and this characteristic has significantly shaped my approach to music. The drive to constantly improve and surpass my previous achievements has had a profound impact on the way I approach my musical practice and performance. My competitiveness fuels my determination to elevate my

technical abilities. It motivates me to seek out unique interpretations, experiment with different musical styles, and push the boundaries of conventional sound. I find joy in developing innovative ideas that make me stand out as a musician and help me find my voice in the world of classical music. However, during my younger years, my competitiveness led me to compare myself to others, negatively affecting my musical practice and growth. It wasn't until my teacher, Dr. Daniel Levitov, emphasized the idea that progress and effort matter more than the outcome that I began to understand the true purpose of competitions—to push oneself and grow. This realization has made me more open and excited about competitions, as they offer valuable experiences and opportunities to develop new skills regardless of the prize-level results or outcomes.

### 3. There is a saying: A teacher affects eternity. Can you think of something a teacher told you, that you will always remember, cherish, or follow?

Very recently, I had been struggling for some time with a particular piece in my repertoire, working hard to improve, yet feeling stuck and unable to move on. After recording the piece for my teacher, I felt proud and thought that I was finally done with it. However, the feedback I received was that it still wasn't polished enough, and I was free to move on with the understanding that there was still some room for improvement. Initially, I felt frustrated and began to doubt my progress but then I realized that my teacher was right. I needed to improve and polish the piece to become better. This experience made me reflect on the importance of perseverance and dedication to continued development. It taught me that progress often involves overcoming challenges and embracing feedback, even if it's initially disappointing. It also reinforced the idea that seeking improvement is a continuous journey and that setbacks can be valuable learning opportunities. I then decided to accept my



Amelia Baisden

teacher's feedback and work on the piece with renewed motivation. It was a valuable lesson for me, not only in music but also in life. It taught me the importance of persevering and constantly striving for improvement, no matter the challenges that come my way. This experience highlighted the significance of embracing constructive criticism and using it as a catalyst for personal and artistic growth.

### 4. In addition to the FMMC student solo opportunities you play in our Avanti Orchestra. That makes you one of our most active young members, and we appreciate you! What motivates you and what can you share with the other young musicians about the FMMC in your life and the Avanti experience to encourage them to participate?

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of FMMC and Avanti Orchestra. There are plenty of options for young musicians my age in the area to hone their skills at pre-college music programs and youth orchestra organizations and I have been fortunate to participate in several such programs over the years; however, the Avanti Orchestra is very special in that it offers a unique environment and a chance for community members to connect over their shared passion for classical

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# Johansen International Competition News

Harriet Kaplan

As many of you may know, I will be stepping away from the Administrative Director position for the Johansen International Competition by the end of the 2024–25 season. In preparation, the FMMC Foundation has hired Danielle Stoebe to be the new Administrative Director. Danielle will be trained by, and will work alongside, me this coming year. She graduated from George Mason University in 2017 with her BA in Music and a minor in Business. She completed her MA from Boston University in 2023 where she pursued a degree in Musicology with a concentration in Ethnomusicology. Prior to entering her graduate program, Danielle worked at a nonprofit organization called ArtsFairfax as their Arts Education Manager. She helped facilitate education programming services such as the Artist Residency Program in schools and senior centers, professional development workshops, and scholarship opportunities. She also completed an internship with Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, helping to organize their 70th anniversary event and

aiding in research to further develop their education outreach efforts. Danielle is a private music teacher teaching violin, viola, cello, and piano and she enjoys playing the viola in her spare time. We are excited to begin working with Danielle in this busy competition year! Please join me in welcoming Danielle to our FMMC family.

Preliminary judging for the 2025 JIC will take place in January. I reported in an earlier article here that violinist Jody Gatwood had agreed to be a judge, but he has regretfully withdrawn. Filling his position will be violinist Laura Knutson. Laura is a very active freelancer and recitalist in the Washington, DC area. She holds degrees from Eastman School of Music and Northern Illinois University, where she studied with Charles Castleman and Shmuel Ashkenasi. She served as Concertmaster of the U.S. Army Orchestra 2003–2015 and as Concertmaster of the Arlington Symphony 1997–2005. In addition to frequent solo performances and recitals with the U.S. Army Orchestra and Band,



Danielle Stoebe

she has been featured as soloist with the National Symphony, Fairfax Symphony, and Arlington Symphony. Laura resides in Berwyn Heights, MD with her husband, trombonist, Jeff Knutson. 🎶

## Student Profile...continued from page 3

music. This exposure has been incredibly inspiring and has sparked my enthusiasm as I look ahead to a potential career in music. As I envision my future, I aim to unify people from diverse backgrounds and across generations to create a harmonious community. Thanks to Avanti, I have had the pleasure of meeting and sharing the stage with incredible musicians that might have loved music for longer than I have been alive and whom I might not have met otherwise. It's incredible to see the power that music possesses to bring people together. Equally valuable for a young musician in training is the experience of a shorter timeline for rehearsals and concert program preparation under which Avanti operates—especially in comparison to what might be expected from the standpoint of a typical youth or-

chestra concert cycle—as it allows me to gain an understanding of expectations for professional orchestral musicians. I wholeheartedly recommend joining FMMC and Avanti Orchestra, as it excels at uniting people and creating an enriching and inclusive musical community. I look forward to joining my fellow Avanti musicians and Maestra Chi-Yuan Lin again this season!

### 5. I have to ask about your passion for ping pong! Please tell us!

It was during my time at Music@Menlo Chamber Music Institute in summer 2023 that I discovered my love of ping pong. I've never been good at sports but with ping pong, I felt the drive to continue working on my skills to improve and enjoy the downtime with my peers. Outside of music, I have never experienced the same type of drive, dedication,

and the need for a recurring practice of a skill in order to bring my abilities to a higher level through an extended period of time. Upon my return to Washington, DC, I used every opportunity I could to make it to Comet Ping Pong and continue to improve my skill set ahead of my next opportunity to play my Menlo colleagues again this summer. While my favorite thing about ping pong used to be connecting with people I knew and worked with in music circles, the experience of playing on public tables in a local pizza restaurant got me excited about the possibility of growing confidence and developing vulnerability with people who might not be musicians but possess the same values needed to excel in music and ping pong alike! 🎶

## From the Foundation Director

Grace McFarlane

Welcome back to a new year that promises several exciting events for the Foundation. At this time of transition, I wish to express my sincere thanks to our Foundation Secretary, Ruth Doherty, along with Trustees Janice Rosen, Carol Sikkelee and Junko Takahashi for serving our organization faithfully over these past years. We are grateful for their contributions to making our events a great success.

It was my intention to step away from the position of Foundation Director. Unfortunately, a successor has not yet been secured, so I agreed to continue to serve until a new director is chosen. Now, in my third term as Director, I wish to extend a warm welcome to our new board members: Rachel Hixson, who is stepping in as our new Secretary; Carol Bartholomew; John Sutherland Earle; Karen Primack, and our immediate past president, Leslie Luxemburg, who will continue to serve on the board.

I am delighted to announce that Daryl Yoder will chair this year's Washington International Competition (WIC) for Strings, and Yuri Chayama will serve as the Assistant Competition Chair. The distin-

guished panel of judges this year features Jennifer Koh, violin, Yura Lee, violin/viola, and Matthew Zalkind, cello. Plans are already underway, and we anticipate another successful competition, which will open for applications starting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark Simon will once again chair the WIC Competition for Composition, and we look forward to hearing the winning compositions performed during the finals of the WIC Strings in the Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center.

The Foundation will also present the highly acclaimed Johansen International Competition for Young String Players (JIC), overseen by the JIC Steering Committee, chaired by Board Trustee, Michael Casassa. This has always been an inspiring, stellar event showcasing some of the finest string players from around the globe who come to DC to compete for the top prizes.

As I reflect on the very successful year past, culminating in an exciting WIC Piano competition last May 25 & 26, I am reminded of the superb performances of all 16 semifinalists, and especially the six pianists finalist in the Terrace Theater. The

enthusiastic audience was treated to dynamic, artistic, insightful, virtuosic performances! I wish to express my thanks to our WIC Piano Competition Chair, Simon Finlow, and Assistant Chair, Yuri Chayama, for a successful and memorable competition.



This coming November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will welcome back to DC our first-prize winner, Dominic Doutney, to perform his Washington debut in the Nagle solo recital. Mark your calendars:

*Nagle Recital:* November 2, 2024

*JIC:* March 17-20, 2025

*WIC Strings & Composition:*  
May 23, 24, & 25, 2025

I hope to see you at our events this coming year. 🎵

*Grace*

## From the Managing Director

Laila Linden

Welcome to the new season! As the vibrant hues of autumn paint the landscape, I find myself reflecting on the success of our past season! One of our biggest challenges—the Avanti Orchestra conductor search—led to our amazing new Avanti conductor, Chi-Yuan Lin. Chi-Yuan's passion and unique perspective promise to captivate and inspire Avanti musicians and audiences alike. The Arioso Chorale, Chamber Series, and Outreach program presented a variety of concerts that celebrated the rich tapestry of classical music. All this was made possible by our talented and dedicated musicians and the hard-working FMMC committees behind the scenes that keep everything going.

I'm happy to report that FMMC received significant financial support

through grants awarded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation, Dallas Coors Foundation, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), to name a few.

With the new season upon us, FMMC has some new leaders to introduce. Leslie Luxemburg completed her term as FMMC President, and Dr. Albert Hunt has stepped into this crucial role. It was such a pleasure collaborating with Leslie, and I look forward to working with Albert this season! The Outreach Program welcomes a new director, Elizabeth Whitman, whose background is a wonderful fit for this position. We can't thank Joanna Taylor enough for all her dedication and hard work on the Outreach Program over the years! Avanti Orchestra has a new

Orchestra Manager, Cherie Davis, who has already jumped in with both feet and is doing a great job. Former Orchestra Manager Angelina Wong is staying on with FMMC as one of our FMMC Archivists, so we are very happy she is still part of our team! And last, but not least, to our new newsletter editor, Ian Ross, who will start next month.

We invite you to join in this season, whether by attending a concert, volunteering your time, inviting other musicians and music lovers to join FMMC, or making a donation. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of classical music continues to thrive and grow. If I can be of service, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at [manage@fmmc.org](mailto:manage@fmmc.org). 🎵

With gratitude,

*Laila*



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

## FMMC Concert Calendar - September and Early October 2024

Please check the FMMC website Calendar for the most current information.

### Friday, September 27, 12pm, at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

- Granados: "Quejas o la maja y el ruiseñor" from *Goyescas*. Ginastera: *Danzas Argentinas*, Op. 2. **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Grieg: "Solveig's Song" from *Peer Gynt*, and other lieder. **Debora Madsen**, soprano; **George Peachey** (guest), piano
- William Bolcom: *Graceful Ghost* and other miniatures. **Christine Kharazian**, violin

### Sunday, September 29, 3pm, at the Lyceum

- Stravinsky: *L'Histoire du Soldat*. **Ginger Anders** (guest), violin; **Andy Tangborn**, clarinet; **Tanya Li Simms**, piano.
- Pierre Max Dubois: *Quatuor*. **Nancy Genovese**, clarinet; **Christopher Hite** (guest), clarinet; **Claire Eichhorn** (guest), clarinet; **Steve Lawson** (guest), clarinet
- Schumann: *Dauidsbündertänze*. **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

### Friday, October 4, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Schubert: Sonata D. 821 ("Arpeggione Sonata"). **John Kaboff**, cello; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Stanford: Clarinet Sonata in F Major, Op. 129. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- TBD

### Saturday, October 5, 7:30pm, at the Church of the Epiphany

Avanti Orchestra  
**Chi-Yuan Lin, Conductor**

- Beethoven: Overture Fidelio
- Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 26, featuring **Keng-Yuen Tseng**, violin
- Dvorak: Symphony No. 9

### Friday, October 11, 12pm, at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Mozart: Sonata No. 4 in E-Flat Major, K. 282. **Yuri Chayama**, piano
- Saint-Saens: Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 75. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano
- Linnane: Selected Songs. **Mandy Brown**, soprano; **Tatiana Loisha** (guest), piano

### VENUES

#### Church of the Epiphany

1317 G St. NW  
 Washington, DC  
 Metro: Metro Center

#### The Lyceum

201 S. Washington St.  
 Alexandria, VA

#### 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