

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



140TH SEASON

NOVEMBER 2025

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The President's Corner

Albert Hunt

Over the years, many members have wondered if the name Friday Morning Music Club really captures who we are today. After all, our concerts take place seven days a week, and the word “club” hardly describes the scope of what we do — we offer orchestral and choral concerts, chamber music, outreach in schools, student competitions, and master classes.

At the same time, we treasure our history. FMMC was founded nearly 140 years ago by a group of pioneering women musicians who wanted to create an outlet for performance. From those beginnings, FMMC grew into a vital cultural force in the Washington area, helping to found both the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington Performing Arts.

Today, that legacy extends through our independent subsidiary, the FMMC Foundation, which hosts internationally recognized competitions and carries our impact to a global stage. It's an extraordinary history, and one we're proud to honor.

But history alone won't carry us into the future. We also need to be inviting, contemporary, and appealing to new audiences who may not know our past. One bright member suggested a simple but effective idea: let's present ourselves publicly as FMMC — a strong, modern brand — while making the full name, *Friday Morning Music Club*, less prominent in programs and publicity.

This is not a done deal, but it is under strong consideration. The goal would be to keep our heritage while also projecting a fresh, forward-looking identity. Alongside this possible shift, it also makes sense to take a fresh look at our logo. Our current design is elegant and ornate, but perhaps not as contemporary as we need to make new connections outside the organization. A refreshed look could help us communicate that FMMC is inviting, dynamic, and forward-looking.

For example, possible taglines might include:

FMMC — Classical Music for All!

or

FMMC — Classical Music. Live. Free.

Maybe you have a suggestion! I'd love to know what you think about this direction. Please share your thoughts with me at president@fmmc.org.



Albert Hunt

In addition to a possible rebranding and logo change, we will have many changes on the Board after this season, with several Board members rotating out, as noted later in the newsletter. And, we are currently still in need of a **Treasurer**. This is an important position, and if you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Managing Director Laila Linden or me for more information. FMMC needs you!

We're excited to announce that our **Annual End-of-Year Giving Campaign** will begin soon! Keep an eye on your mailbox — campaign materials will arrive **by Thanksgiving**. To learn more about FMMC costs and to donate now see page 7. 🐾

Albert

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Organized in 1886

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please go to
www.FMMC.org
and update your
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If you do not have
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September FMMC Board Highlights

The Board is sharing highlights from its September meeting to keep members informed about key decisions, updates, and ongoing initiatives. We want you all in the loop and connected to what's happening!

Chamber Program:

Yooni Lee's report noted that the Chamber Program is in great shape, with more than 250 performance applications received during the summer. Venue chairs are working to program upcoming concerts.

Budget: As required in the FMMC Bylaws, the Final FY26 Operations Budget must be approved by the Board at its first fall meeting, which it was in September. The final budget of \$330,929 estimates an alarming deficit of \$74,819. While expenses have been cut and are predicted to be \$7,000 lower than last year, income from foundations and government could drop from \$84,000 last year to as low as \$30,000 this Fiscal Year. As of June 30, 2025, FMMC has about \$260,000 of assets without donor restrictions. This pot of funds would cover any deficits incurred.

Nominating Committee: There are currently several Board openings, including Treasurer, Finance Director, and Yearbook Editor. Additionally, Albert will complete his term as President at the end of the 2025-26 season, and Anne Zim, Treasurer, and Mary Alice Davidson, Secretary, also both intend to vacate their positions in June. Anyone interested in these positions can contact Laila or Albert for more information.

Outreach: 46 outreach performances were scheduled between late August and December of this year, an increase from the 36 performances normally undertaken in this period. By early September, 31 of the 46 performances had taken place. A few spots are still available in November and December.

Public Relations: New chair Lydia Leong outlined her plans for FMMC's PR this season, including a Publicity Toolkit that can be used to solicit ads for FMMC's printed programs and the Newsletter. The Toolkit will include a template for the ads and contracts. She will also reach

out to senior centers to ensure that FMMC concerts are included in their publicity. She also hopes to expand FMMC social media connections and would welcome a volunteer or intern to help make that happen.

Managing Director:

Laila reported that three new advertisers have ads in the 2025-26 Yearbook. Next year, Laila will work toward attracting large donors, including local businesses and organizations, to the FMMC. Laila reiterated the importance of members contributing to the newsletter and social media.

President's Report:

Albert joined others in noting that FMMC faces not only a financial crisis, but also a crisis of volunteers. He reiterated his plan to finish out his term as President at the end of 2026, and noted the upcoming departures of Anne and Mary Alice. These positions are extremely important for keeping FMMC functioning. It is crucial that these positions be filled. 📢

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

The 2026 Ross Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion will be held on April 11, 2026 at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington, DC 20003. The application deadline is March 21, 2026. For additional information visit www.fmmc.org or contact highschoolwind@fmmc.org.

Encourage your students to apply!

Foundation News

Daryl Yoder, Director

By the time you read this, the season of giving campaigns will be almost upon us. First, I hope you participate in the Club's campaign! And second, I hope you will also consider giving to the FMMC Foundation. If you're wondering what your donation could support, I've compiled a wish list below. Included are examples of what financial growth could allow us to do that would help to make our competitions more supportive and career-boosting for all who participate, and not simply places where a few lucky winners go home with checks.

It starts with working to make the competitions themselves accessible to as many people as possible. For this year, I am thrilled and grateful that together, Board members have made a giant step in that direction, generously contributing more than \$10,000 to allow us to eliminate the 2026 WIC application fee! We would love to make that change permanent.

Wish list item 1: Eliminate or greatly reduce application fees.

Another barrier to participation is the cost of traveling to DC for those who advance to the live rounds of the competition. Flying across the country is always expensive – add in another ticket for your cello and it gets worse!

Wish list item 2: Travel stipends for competitors.

So now the flock of semi-finalists has arrived in DC. How do we send them all home with a valuable experience? First, we make sure that everyone has a chance to talk to the judges and receive feedback; many competitors cite this as one of the most significant parts of the weekend. Giving them even more time to meet and connect with judges, with each other, with local conductors and presenters, and with the public can be extremely valuable, potentially leading to mentorships, performing opportunities, and collaborations that can have career-long impacts.

Wish list item 3: Reception(s) and/or social event(s) around the competition.

Equally valuable is ensuring that presenters and conductors who could hire competitors are in the audience listening. How much more value would that have if it extended beyond the live audience in the DC area to include other events?

Wish list item 4: High-quality streaming and recording of the competition. This allows competitors to hear and learn from their performance.

And this is just a start! With the right resources, there are many ways we can help create a competition experience that leaves everyone feeling supported, valued, and boosted on their way, whether or not they go home with a prize. If you would like to add your donation to our efforts, go to fmmcfoundation.org and follow the prompts. Happy giving and thank you! 🎵

Daryl

CHIARINA CHAMBER PLAYERS

APPALACHIAN SPRING

Copland's iconic Appalachian Spring for 13 players pairs with Mendelssohn's joyful string octet. Works by John Williams and DC's Mary Howe round out this grand program.

NOV. 9, 2025 | 7:30PM

St. Mark's Capitol Hill

**Tickets available at
chiarina.org**

**Receive 25% off
your ticket purchase
with the promocode:**

FMMC25

Johansen International Competition News

Danielle Stoebe, Administrative Director, JIC

We are pleased to announce that Jeanne Rosenthal has agreed to serve as the Johansen International Competition Chair after Michael Casassa's term ends in June 2026. Jeanne is a trustee on the Foundation Board, and has been a dependable volunteer for the JIC and WIC. She's already working closely with our JIC Steering Committee to learn her new role, and we look forward to her leadership in future competitions.

Jeanne recently retired after 47 years at Westat, a research firm headquartered in Rockville. For several years leading up to her retirement, she was a Vice President in the Health Sector, managing a portfolio of epidemiologic, biomedical and public health research primarily supporting the National Institutes of Health. Jeanne is also an avid amateur violist. As a teen, she studied with Edward Ormond of the Cleveland Orchestra, and continued lessons in college and after she moved to the DC area in the late 1970s. String quartets are Jeanne's particular passion, and she regularly plays with three groups. She is also a member of the Tempo Giusto string chamber group. Her involvement



Jeanne Rosenthal

with FMMC has included occasional chamber performances, a few years with Avanti, and more recently, volunteering at JIC and WIC. Jeanne's nephew, Sam Rosenthal, is an accomplished violist, who was a finalist in the 2018 JIC. He is currently completing an artist's diploma program at the Kronberg Academy. He is the recent first prize winner of the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition and performed at Wigmore Hall in London on October 3 – with Jeanne and other family in attendance! Jeanne has a daughter and two grandchildren who live close by, keeping her very busy and bringing great pleasure.

Upcoming Performances of Winners

Matthew Lipman (2009 JIC, 1st prize viola) is performing at WolfTrap on November 16, 2025 at 7:30pm. *Tessa Lark* (2006 JIC, 1st prize violin), Joshua Roman, and Edgar Meyer will be performing at Shriver Hall in Baltimore on November 16, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Correction

Julian Rhee (2018 JIC, 1st prize violin) is performing a recital at **Ingleside at King Farm** on December 13, 2025 at 2pm (not Ingleside at Rock Creek). 🎻

A Dad's Musical Legacy

Ian Ross, Newsletter Editor and Avanti Violinist

My Dad was a professional trumpet player, educator, composer/arranger, and writer. He unfortunately passed away in 2023, but his mark remains with his students, music colleagues, and family. About a year after his death, I was contacted by a musical organization in upstate New York that he helped found in the early 1960s. The organization had been contacted by a researcher in the United Kingdom who was compiling stories of mid-20th-century American classical music fandom. Unbeknownst to my family, Dad had written a letter to Leonard Bernstein in 1950 at the age of 15. My Dad grew up in a small town in the Catskills, where the only access to music and the arts was

picking up radio stations from New York City and Canada, both a few hours away. He had heard several New York Philharmonic concerts on the radio, which must have inspired him to write to Bernstein. To my knowledge, he never heard back from Bernstein or his staff, and likely forgot he had written the letter. Following Bernstein's death in the early 1990s, his family had his fan letters sent to the Library of Congress. In the early 2020s, the UK researcher began reviewing correspondence that had been sent to Bernstein over the years. I reached out to the researcher, and my sister and I spent more than an hour talking with her over Zoom in late 2024 about our Dad's unlikely path

from a modest rural upbringing to a career in classical music. Our discussion not only gave us even greater appreciation for our Dad's legacy, but also reminded us of the lasting power and inspiration of music. The researcher also interviewed several living Bernstein fans, many of whom discussed the unique American influence Bernstein had on classical music. Her blog and interviews are in the link below. The stories are an inspiring testament to how music can affect many from generation to generation. 🎻

<https://dearmaestro.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/letter-writers/>

A New Chapter

Renée Roberts, Solo Performance Member

Since retiring last November, I've been very happy to be able to do all my non-work activities every day. Instead of having to choose only one of them to fit in the few hours remaining after an exhausting work schedule, I now have much more flexibility, and can choose based on upcoming events. For example, should I go to the horse show next weekend? If so, I'd better spend most evenings doing dressage on my horse. Enter a pickleball tournament? I'd take a few lessons, drill a bunch with my partner, and play practice games against rotating opponents.

Now with the freedom of time, I can't be happier with my day.... I swim early in the morning followed by pickleball for a few hours and riding my horse in the early afternoon. After eating and walking with my husband, I still have the rest of the afternoon and early evening to practice! What a delight! The progress I've made just being able to be consistent is so rewarding in all my activities!

But the MOST fulfilling thing I've done in this year of free time is participate in the FMMC Outreach Program. Organized and arranged by the amazing

Elizabeth Whitman through an easy-to-use sign-up genius app, the program has allowed me to play an hour of all my newly learned music for many different people at many different venues. I initially did it to get ready for the "solo musician" audition for the regular FMMC concerts. However, I discovered that sharing music with these audiences far surpassed my personal need to practice performance of my pieces. Instead, it has given me immense joy in SHARING the music and the moment. No criticism or judgment, just pure gratitude emanates from the audience and envelopes you in a wonderful sense of joy. And surprises you.

During one performance in a memory care unit, there was one lady muttering unintelligibly throughout the performance. But after the performance, she looked at me and clearly said "that was lovely, dear." So heartwarming! And many times, I hear amazing stories of the residents' experiences or their children's experience with music.



Performing at Homecrest with my prerecorded piano accompaniment

If you haven't already, I highly recommend signing up and spending an hour of your time sharing your passion for music with an audience to whom it seems extra meaningful and important. It definitely rekindles my love and joy in playing, and reminds me of the purpose of practicing and playing at all! 🎶

FMMC Membership Update

The following members joined or renewed after the publication of the 2025-26 Yearbook and Membership Directory:

Ishya Anbuselvan, Student Composer, Herndon, VA
 Kathleen Fenton, Arioso Chorale Soprano, Silver Spring, MD
 Emily Graber, Avanti Orchestra Viola, Washington, DC
 Miya Grimard, Student Viola, Falls Church, VA
 Karen Helbrecht, Arioso Chorale Orchestra Cello, Alexandria, VA
 Justin Kijun Lee, Solo Cello, Oakton, VA
 Rene Molina, Arioso Chorale Cello, Washington, DC
 Erin Ryan, Associate Violin, Alexandria, VA
 Mark Serrano, Associate Piano, Fairfax, VA
 David Spiegelthal, Arioso Chorale Orchestra Clarinet, Centreville, VA
 Jared Yoakem, Solo Piano, Silver Spring, MD 🎶

FMMC Concert Calendar November and Early December 2025

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

Saturday, November 1 @ 2pm at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- J.S. Bach: Sonata No. 1 in G Minor. **Benjamin Gascon**, guitar
- Ambroise Thomas: *À vos jeux mes amis...* *Partagez-vous mes fleurs!* (Ophelia's mad scene from *Hamlet*). Kaija Saariaho: *Si tu t'appelles l'Amour* (from *L'Amour de Loin* [Love from Afar]). **Sally Freeland**, soprano; **Topher Ruggiero**, piano

Sunday, November 2 @ 4pm at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

Arioso Chorale & Orchestra
Paul Leavitt, Artistic Director
and Conductor

- Josef Rheinberger: *Stabat Mater*
- Mendelssohn: Psalm 42, Psalm 95, and *Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich*

Friday, November 7 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, op. 27, no. 2. **Elissa Miller-Kay**, piano
- Respighi: *Déita Silvana*. **Mandy Brown**, soprano; **Tatiana Loisha** (guest), piano
- Grieg: *Holberg Suite*. **Reed Trevelyan**, violin; **Sarah Calderon** (guest), violin; **Nathan Giguere** (guest), viola; **Kurt Usowski** (guest), cello

Friday, November 7 @ 1pm at Strathmore Mansion

- Victor Herbert, Ernest Charles, Roger Quilter, Richard Hundley, Easthope Martin: Selected Songs. **Nancy Peery Marriott**, lyric soprano; **Frank Conlon**, piano
- Judith Shatin: *Chai Variations on Eliahu HaNavi*. **Joan Mizrahi**, piano
- Florence Price: *Moods for Flute, Clarinet and Piano*. **Teri Manolio**, flute; **Andy Tangborn**, clarinet; **Susan Alexander**, piano

Saturday, November 8 @ 3pm at Martin Luther King Memorial Library

- Various composers: Opera Arias. **Marje Palmieri**, soprano; **Stephen Brown**, piano
- Tchaikovsky: *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* (Memory of a Dear Place). **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano
- Shostakovich: Quartet No. 8. **Reed Trevelyan**, violin; **Nathan Giguere** (guest), violin; **Victor Lin**, viola; **Paul Marshall** (guest), cello

Friday, November 14 @ 12pm at Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

- J.S. Bach: Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, Adagio and Fugue. **Benjamin Gascon**, guitar
- Schubert: *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* (The Shepherd on the Rock); Meyerbeer: *Hirtenlied* (Shepherd's Song). **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Carole Falvo**, clarinet; **Judith Block**, piano
- Debussy: Preludes: *Des pas sur la neige*, *La fille aux cheveux de lin*, *La cathédral engloutie*. **Topher Ruggiero**, piano

Friday, November 14 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- J.S. Bach: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue. **John Sutherland Earle**, piano
- Schubert: Sonatina in A Minor for Piano and Violin, op. post. 137. **Irina Koulikova**, piano; **Olga Yanovich** (guest), violin
- Loeffler: Five Songs for Mezzo-Soprano, Viola, and Piano. **Marian Drake**, mezzo-soprano; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano

Friday, November 21 @ 12pm at Live! at 10th & G

- Mel Bonis: *Scènes de la forêt*. **Teri Manolio**, flute; **Ken Hawes**, horn; **Susan Alexander** (guest), piano
- Brahms: Sonata in E-flat Major, op. 120, no. 2. **Jane Vourlekis**, viola; **Jessica McKee** (guest), piano
- Bizet: *Jeux d'enfants*, op. 22. **Sophia Pallas** and **Julian Trail**, piano four hands

Saturday, November 22 @ 7:30pm at the Church of the Epiphany

Avanti Orchestra

Chi-Yuan Lin, Conductor

- Caroline Shaw: *Entr'acte* (String Orchestra)
- Brahms: *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 4

Sunday, November 23 @ 3pm at the Lyceum

- Shostakovich: Piano Trio in E Minor, op. 67. **Deborah Chen** (guest), violin; **Marion Richter**, cello; **Chen-Li Tzeng**, piano
- Schumann: *Kinderszenen*. Debussy: *General Lavine—eccentric*. **Charles Timbrell**, piano

Friday, December 5 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Mendelssohn: Two posthumous pieces, Andante cantabile in B flat Major and Presto agitato in G Minor; two études, in B flat Minor (op.104, no.1) and F Minor; *Album Leaf* (*Song Without Words*) in E Minor, op.117. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Korngold, Quilter, Coates, Beach: Selected Songs. **Tara Mecham**, soprano; **Barbara Wilkinson** (guest), piano
- Khachaturian: Trio for Clarinet, Violin, Piano. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano

Friday, December 5 @ 12pm at Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

Composers Group Holiday Concert

- The FMMC Composers Group will present works by member composers: **Leslie Bennett**, **Li-Ly Chang**, **John Hiltgen**, and **Ron Planting**

Thursday, December 11 @ 7:30pm at Ingleside at King Farm

FMMC Piano Rising Stars Concert

- Kapustin: Sonatina in G Major, op. 100, *Allegro non troppo*. Chopin: Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, op. 60, *Allegretto*. **Derek Yang**
- Beethoven: Piano Sonata in A-flat Major, op. 110, I. *Moderato cantabile molto espressivo*. Rachmaninoff: Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, op. 36, I. *Allegro agitato*. **Clark Hu**
- Ravel: *Gaspard de la nuit*, M. 55, III. *Scarbo*. Scriabin: Selected Etudes, op. 8. **Zack Lam**

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

- Haydn: Piano Sonata in E-flat Major, Hob. XVI/52. **Jack Stabile**, piano
- Reger: Suite No. 1 for Cello. **John Kaboff**, cello
- Widor: Suite for Flute and Piano, op. 34. **Takeaki Miyamae**, flute; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano

Friday, December 12 @ 12pm at Sherwood Community Center

- Scriabin: Piano Sonata No. 5. **John Sutherland Earle**, piano
- Shostakovich: Piano Quintet in G Minor, op. 57. **Erin Ryan** (guest), violin; **Rachel Hixson**, violin; **Corby Johnson**, viola; **Ryan Bridgland** (guest), cello; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

Curious About Costs?

Our membership dues cover
less than 7% of the year's budget.



\$30

Suggested donation for a standard concert ticket.



\$95

Underwrite pay-what-you-can dues for one member.



\$250

Tune the piano for one concert.



\$500

Print and mail one monthly newsletter.



\$600

Print and design the program for one major concert.



\$1,500

Advertise the Arioso Chorale's season.



\$6,500

Rent our Chamber Series venues for the entire season.



\$15,000

Rent the Terrace Theater for one Avanti Orchestra concert.



\$30,000

Fund our orchestra and chorale conductors' honoraria.



\$70,000+

Cover our income deficit due to free admission policy.



DONATION FORM

TO DONATE ONLINE:

fmmc.org/donate



We accept one-time donations or monthly recurring donations.

TO DONATE BY MAIL:

1. Fill out the form below.
2. Make your check payable to: FMMC
3. Return the form and check to FMMC, 755 8th St., NW, Washington, DC 20001

The Friday Morning Music Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Donor Information:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

FMMC is rebuilding the unrestricted General Operating Fund, the backbone of all our activities. Please consider donating directly to the General Operating Fund.

- ☐ General Operating Fund\$_____
- ☐ Arioso Chorale Fund\$_____
- ☐ Avanti Orchestra Fund\$_____

Total Contribution \$_____

☐ Check here if you wish to remain anonymous

Is this contribution in honor or in memory of someone?

☐ Yes, in honor ☐ Yes, in memory ☐ No

If so, whom?

Name: _____

Whom should we notify about your donation?

Name: _____

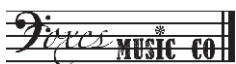
If you would like to make this a recurring monthly donation, please use our online donation form at fmmc.org/donate.

If you would like to donate to the Washington & Johansen International Competitions administered by the FMMC Foundation, please visit <https://fmmcfoundation.org/support/donate>.



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

Thank You to our Supporters and Partners!



Martin Luther King Jr.
Memorial Library



Musical Arts International

James Colwell Piano Restoration



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

This project is supported in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.