

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



140TH SEASON

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From the President

Albert Hunt

As another holiday season begins, I feel deeply grateful for music and for the Friday Morning Music Club. Music has been my lifelong anchor and joy, and for the past fifteen years, FMMC has been at the heart of that experience. I've had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people—performing musicians, music lovers, and talented organizers. It is something truly special in my life.

I'm writing just after hearing the Arioso Chorale and Orchestra's fall concert, and I was swept away by the beauty and spirit of the performance. The Chorale sang with precision and vitality, the soloists were outstanding, and the orchestra played with warmth and confidence. A few weeks earlier, Avanti's concert featuring Johansen Competition winner Joshua Kováč was another highlight. His playing was stunning, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 that followed was performed with such heart. I've also been delighted to hear several chamber music concerts around the area, each one showing FMMC at its best—sharing music freely and generously with the public.

December continues with a calendar full of concerts, student events, and holiday programs. I hope you will attend at least one and bring someone new to share the experience. What FMMC contributes to the life of classical music in our community is truly remarkable.

This month also includes our annual December concurrent meeting of the FMMC Board and the FMMC Foundation, followed by the FMMC Composers Series concert and holiday treats—a lovely way to celebrate the season together.

As we close the year, I hope you will consider a gift to support the music you love. FMMC keeps dues modest, so your gifts sustain our free concerts, student programs, and the orchestras and choruses that bring joy to so many. FMMC can offer high-level music free to the public because of you. Thank you for helping keep classical music alive and accessible for everyone. 🎵

With gratitude,

Albert



Albert Hunt

FMMC Auditions

In-person auditions for performance membership with FMMC will be held on January 30, 2026, at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. Applications for audition must be received by January 9. The application and other details including repertoire requirements can be found at fmmc.org/auditions. Please contact Marta Howard at auditions@fmmc.org with any questions. 🎵

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Highlights of the October FMMC Board Meeting

In the President's report, Albert emphasized once again that FMMC is faced with many difficult decisions involving finances, volunteers, membership, and the future, and encouraged additional volunteer support. He also reported that the Board will hold a retreat during the afternoon of January 18, 2026, with the objective to foster the feeling of community among the Board and build a consensus on decisions.

Outreach: most dates between January and May have been set, and the dates and locations are now online. Interested members can sign up through FMMC's subscription to SignUpGenius.

Avanti: Melody Lin has joined as the orchestra's librarian. She has extensive

experience as an orchestral librarian, having worked with a handful of orchestras in New York. Melody is also an accomplished violinist and will be a wonderful benefit to Avanti. Conductor Chi-Yuan Lin recently met with Albert, Laila Linden, and Anne Zim concerning a potential collaboration between Avanti and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO). She prepared a preliminary budget and proposal for TECRO with two concerts highlighting Taiwanese soloists and composers in 2026. TECRO would provide partial financial support for the performances (between 25% and 35%). Approval is expected in the first quarter of 2026.

Public Relations: Lydia is working to bring on an intern to assist, and will soon approach colleges with arts management programs to search for someone. Regarding rebranding, there was more extensive discussion on rebranding of the FMMC name, but no specific decision was made. Input from the FMMC community is welcome.

Foundation: fundraising for the Foundation will no longer pass through the Club, and instead, donations will go directly to the Foundation. The Club, however, does receive money from the Foundation, as it contributes 15% of the operating costs and some costs of the Avanti concert when it features a WIC winner. 🎵

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!

Arioso: Great Performances This Fall; Our Next Concerts in Mid-Winter

Peter Baum

On October 30 and again on November 2, the Arioso Chorale and its orchestra entertained a combined audience of about 180 attendees in its first concert set of the 2025–2026 season. Playing works by Josef Rheinberger and Felix Mendelssohn, the 38 singers and 35 orchestra members delivered a solid performance which, on the November 2 performance, was live-streamed. The live-stream feed is available on YouTube at [Arioso Chorale and Orchestra – Mendelssohn and Rheinberger](#). The video has been viewed by over 260 people to date.

Arioso is planning its next concert for mid-winter (Feb. 26 and Mar. 1). The principal work on the program will be Paul Leavitt's *Magnificat*. Arioso last performed this work in 2015, the second season under Paul's direction. Additional works are still under discussion. The first chorus rehearsal for the February concert will be on Sunday, January 4, 2026, and the first orchestra rehearsal will be on Monday, January 5. Rehearsals and the concert performances will be at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol St, NE). For further information, please contact Peter Baum at chorale@fmmc.org. The program for the third concert in this year's season has not been decided at this time. The third and final concert is scheduled for Thursday, April 30 (8:00 PM) and Sunday, May 3 (4:00 PM).

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. 🎧

FMMC at the MLK Jr. Library

We're delighted to renew our relationship with Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library after a long pause caused by a bureaucratic snafu. It's good to be back on track and making music in this beautiful, central space. FMMC is presenting three concerts at MLK this season. The opening concert on November 8, 2025 was warmly received, drawing an appreciative audience. The program featured expressive opera arias performed by Marje Palmieri, a radiant reading of Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* by Eunju Kwak and Jeongseon Choi, and a powerful, compelling performance of Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8. A shout-out to MLK, Jr Library's star librarian, Karen McCool. She was a well prepared, highly professional friendly host. We're grateful for this renewed partnership and look forward to sharing more great music at MLK. 🎧

Foundation News

Daryl Yoder, Director

Change is afoot! Albert Hunt wrote in his President's column last month about the Club considering the use of the initials FMMC as the public form of the name. The Foundation is also considering changes in how we present ourselves, moving towards using Washington International Competition (WIC) and Johansen International Competition (JIC) as the primary identifiers that the public sees, with the FMMC Foundation name much more in the background. We hope that this would help make our different missions and activities clearer to members, donors and the public.

A related change has already taken place which you may notice if you are used to including donations to the WIC and JIC in your annual FMMC giving. The competitions have been removed from the Club donation page and now appear on the Foundation website, fmmcfoundation.org, where donations go directly to the Foundation account. This does require an additional step if you wish to support both organizations (and I hope you will!), but it means Club administrators no longer need to track and pass along the Foundation's donations, and donors should be clear as to exactly what their donations on each website are and are not supporting.

But some things are not changing, and it is once again that exciting time of year when applications have begun coming in for next spring's competition. Once again, we get to be wowed by the level of talent and artistry in the current crop of young musicians. The huge potential in the students and young professionals that we encounter every year is always extremely clear. It is a privilege to play a small part in helping that potential to blossom. We do hope you'll join us in that by donating if you're able, by volunteering during the competition in May, by spreading the word to young singers you may know, or simply by attending as an audience member to hear these remarkable musicians in person. If you ever have questions about what we do or how you can help, please be in touch at foundation@fmmc.org. I'll always be happy to hear from you. 🎧

See us online!!

We're proud of our two large ensembles – the Avanti Orchestra and the Arioso Chorale and Orchestra! Here they are on their YouTube channels for all to enjoy. Thanks to Jerome Glick for his efforts on the Avanti Channel!

www.youtube.com/@AvantiOrchestraDC

www.youtube.com/@ariosochoraleandorchestrafmmc



Johansen International Competition: Where Are They Now? Ella Park

Jeanne Rosenthal

Ella Eunsuh Park, a JIC 2025 violin semi-finalist from South Korea, illustrates the value of the JIC in early career development. Ella is an exciting young artist with significant accomplishments already under her belt. Since 2015, she has garnered multiple first prizes at major Korean competitions, including the Ewha Kyunghyang Concours (2019), the 23rd Strad Competition, and the Kwon Hyukjoo Music Competition (2023). She also advanced to the grand finale of the Seongjeong Music Competition and had the opportunity to perform with the orchestra. At the age of eleven, she made her orchestral debut with the Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra, and in 2019, she gave her first solo recital at Kumho Art Hall. She is currently studying with Jihye Hong at the Korea National University of Arts.

I was one of Ella's hosts during the competition and she graciously answered some questions about her JIC experience and other aspects of her musical life and life outside of music.

Are there memories of your JIC experience that you feel helped shape your participation in other competitions and/or career plans?

During the JIC Competition period, I had the privilege of staying with wonderful host families. Living briefly alongside them, away from my parents, they were incredibly warm-hearted, and they made sure I had a comfortable and welcoming environment, so I was able to spend that time in the best way possible. What remains in my memory from the competition is not the result, but the warmth of the families, the conversations we shared, and the feeling of being part of another

loving home. I distinctly remember the day one of the grandmothers suggested we put the practicing aside for a moment and take a walk around the neighborhood. That spontaneous walk proved to be a more meaningful moment than any time spent on rehearsal. Realizing that a competition could give me memories like these regardless of the outcome gave me the courage to try again. I want to extend my most heartfelt gratitude to my host families (Jeanne, Deborah & Neal). They have fundamentally shifted my perspective and given me such a precious gift.

Did learning the contemporary piece affect your attitude towards contemporary music?

For me, contemporary music used to feel difficult to even approach. I assumed it would be hard to find a story within the music or to relate to it emotionally. But once I actually began working on it, I realized that wasn't the case at all. The unique shapes of sounds that the composers sought to express are actually fascinating, and the process of learning the techniques and understanding the intention required to express them has been incredibly meaningful. It was genuinely enjoyable to discover new meanings in certain intervals or phrases that another performer had approached differently. Through this experience, I came to understand the unique charm of contemporary music that is distinct from earlier periods.

What is your favorite piece you're currently working on?

Recently, I have been working on Hindemith's Viola Sonata, Op. 11 No. 4, a piece I had long hoped to study.



Ella Park

Hindemith, a composer of the early 20th century, does not reject traditional form or tonality outright, but instead weaves them together with the harmonic language and sound colors of his time. There are so many fascinating elements in this work—the free, fantasy-like flow of ideas, the folk song phrases, and the way a single theme continues to transform throughout the piece. The reason I love this piece is the third movement. Even amid the quick harmonic changes, there is a brief, clear moment that feels very sincere, and I'm always struck by it. The more I study this piece, the more I discover.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of music?

Outside of music, I enjoy table tennis and photography. I first learned table tennis from my Dad and later joined a school team, eventually winning first place in a competition. Since then, I've enjoyed playing casually. I also like taking photos, particularly of the atmosphere of different places. 📷

WIC Winner Updates

Two of our 2022 prize winners, Sydney Lee (1st prize, cello) and Gabrielle Després (2nd prize, violin), have been named as Rising Artists with the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach. Congratulations! 🎶

FMMC Concert Calendar December 2025 and Early January 2026

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

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

- Mendelssohn: Two Pieces; Two Etudes; *Album Leaf*. **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 Rising Stars Series—Piano Winners

- 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 Major, 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**, violin; **Rachel Hixson**, violin; **Corby Johnson**, viola; **Ryan Bridgland** (guest), cello; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

Wednesday December 17 @ 7pm at Friendship Heights Community Center

FMMC Student Recital

Sunday January 4 @ 7:30pm at Riderwood

Please note this concert is not open to the public.

- Beethoven: String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, op. 130. **Reed Trevelyan**, violin; **Nathan Giguere** (guest), violin; **Victor Lin**, viola; **Paul Marshall** (guest), cello

Thursday, January 8 @ 1pm at The Strathmore Mansion

- Ambroise Thomas: From *Hamlet: A vos jeux, mes amis...* (Ophelia's Mad Scene). **Sally Freeland**, soprano; **Topher Ruggiero**, piano
- Debussy: Four Preludes. **Charles Timbrell**, piano
- Mozart: Trio in E-flat Major, K. 498 ("Kegelstatt"). **Olga Yanovich** (guest), violin; **Victor Olmsted** (guest), viola; **Irina Koulikova**, piano

Friday January 9 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

The FMMC Composers Group will present works by member composers: **Leslie Bennett**, **Jonathan Newmark**, and **Sharon Guertin Shafer**

VENUES

Friendship Heights Community Center
4433 S. Park Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD
Metro: Friendship Heights

Ingleside Retirement Community
701 King Farm Blvd.
Rockville, MD

Riderwood Senior Living Community
3140 Gracefield Rd.
Silver Spring, MD

St. George's Episcopal Church
915 N. Oakland St.
Arlington, VA
Metro: Virginia Square GMU

Sherwood Community Center
3740 Blenheim Boulevard
Fairfax, VA

Strathmore Mansion
10701 Rockville Pike
N. Bethesda, MD
Metro: Grosvenor

Woman's Club of Chevy Chase
7931 Connecticut Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD

FMMC Membership Update

The following members joined or renewed during the past month.

Anne Curley, Avanti Orchestra Bassoon, Arlington, VA
Jameson Dickman, Avanti Orchestra Double Bass, Arlington, VA
Addison Ellis-Otovo, Student Viola, Washington, DC
Aidyn Ellis-Otovo, Student Violin, Washington, DC
Cecelia Kramer, Associate Violin, Arlington, VA
Douglas Kramer, Arioso Orchestra Trombone, Arlington, VA
Eliana Schenk, Avanti Orchestra Oboe, Rockville, MD

Erika Singer, Associate, Glen Echo, MD
Sonya Subbaya Sutton, Solo Piano, Washington, DC
Christopher Tolbert, Avanti Orchestra Trumpet, Fairfax, VA
Ephriam Wolfolk, Arioso Orchestra Double Bass,
Fort Washington, MD
Sharon Bingham Wolfolk, Solo Viola, Chamber Viola,
Arioso Orchestra Viola, Fort Washington, MD 🎻

FMMC Musicians Had a Busy Year!



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: _____

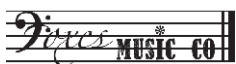
If you would like to make this a recurring monthly donation, please use our online donation form at fmmc.org/donate.

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.