

# fmmc

*Classical Music for All*

140TH SEASON

APRIL 2026

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## Our Name and Our Future

Albert Hunt, FMMC President

If you've been involved with the Friday Morning Music Club over the past decade or so, you know that we have been rethinking our public-facing image and identity. While our name carries a proud and meaningful history, it does not always clearly communicate who we are today to people encountering our organization for the first time.

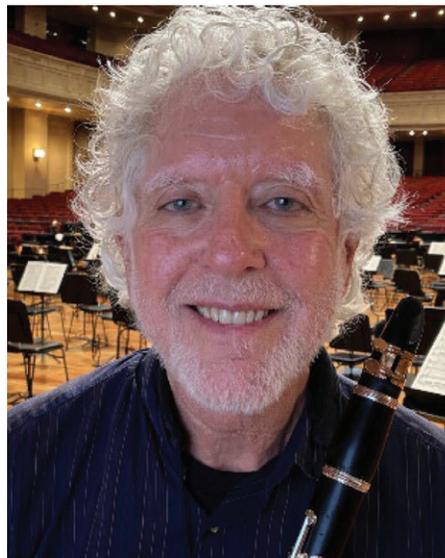
*“FMMC is an extraordinary resource for classical music in our community.”*

FMMC presents consistently outstanding performances and musical activities throughout the DMV, and our goal is to share this treasure with a wider audience.

Because we have decided to move forward publicly as **FMMC**, the next step was to develop a logo that reflects this identity. After much thoughtful discussion, we are using the logo you see at the top of this newsletter as our working visual identity while we continue exploring possibilities for a long-term design.

At the same time, we remain and always will remain the **Friday Morning Music Club**, with its extraordinary legacy and lasting contributions to musical life in Washington. The name Friday Morning Music Club will continue to hold its honored place in our history, on our website, and throughout our publications. **Nothing about the history or mission of the Friday Morning Music Club is changing.**

I'll admit that I still catch myself referring to FMMC simply as “the Club”



Albert Hunt

or the “Friday Club.” Many of us have used those familiar names for years. As we move forward, we will probably begin to refer to FMMC more naturally, especially as newer members join the organization.

Using **FMMC** as our public identity helps us communicate more clearly who we are today and what we offer to the community. Our hope is to reach more people throughout the DMV who may not yet know about the remarkable musical life that exists within FMMC.

Our concerts are free and of outstanding quality, and they represent one of the great cultural resources in our region.

We hope more listeners, performers, and music lovers will discover FMMC and find a welcoming musical home here. 🎶

*Albert*

### Member Showcase

We would like to include profiles of FMMC members in upcoming newsletter editions. The FMMC community is talented and diverse, with distinct and rich backgrounds in a wide variety of trades and professions, including music, business, law, public service, medicine, and beyond. If you would like to be featured in a short article in the newsletter about your background, history, musical life, and association with FMMC, please send an email to the editor at [newsletter@fmmc.org](mailto:newsletter@fmmc.org).

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An official publication of the  
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*Organized in 1886*

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## Why Music?

Leslie Hardware, Arioso Chorale Tenor

Philosophically, one might inquire as to the significance of music. You ask “Why music”? I ask, “Why not?”

Music existed in prehistoric times and is present in every culture and civilization. Discoveries of 35,000–44,000-year-old bone flutes suggest that music predated *Homo sapiens*.

Options for engaging in music are myriad, and its ubiquity seems inescapable. From voluntary private listening or public encounters in an opera house, dance hall, theater, or concert hall, to times we involuntarily experience music as when visiting a shopping mall or restaurant, music surrounds us.

It is ironic that, despite exhaustive study of music, many basic questions remain unanswered. There is a lack of consensus as to its definition, its origins, the purpose it serves, or what it transmits. Whereas DeVries defines music as organized sounds, Luciano Berio believes music is “everything one listens to with the intention of listening to music.” Some believe music is the source of language while others think language gives rise to music.

Stravinsky states music does not transmit anything, but Beethoven’s view is that music conveys emotions. In notes above the “Kyrie” in his *Missa Solemnis*, Beethoven writes: “From the heart: may it go to the heart.”

I, perhaps like many of you, find it unthinkable to imagine what life would be like without music. Impoverished—no doubt. Miserable—perhaps. Fulfilling—certainly not.

Why music? What do its ubiquity and universality say about us? What is it telling us?

Let’s keep listening. 🎧

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## 2026 WIC Voice Competition

Preparations are now underway for the 2026 WIC Voice Competition, and your support as volunteers is essential to the success of this event. Volunteers will have the opportunity to enjoy portions of the competition while assisting.

### Semi-Finals: Saturday, May 23, 2026

The semi-finals will be held at George Washington University (GWU). Shifts are generally divided into an **AM session (9:00AM – 1:30 PM)** and a **PM session (1:30 PM – 5:00 PM)**.

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles:

- Front Entrance Door Attendants
- Contestant Door Attendants
- Audience Door Attendants
- Check-in Attendants
- Practice Room Attendants
- Rehearsal Room Attendants
- Timer
- Page Turner

### Finals: Sunday, May 24, 2026

The finals will take place at the Harris Theatre at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, VA. For this event, we require:

- Welcome Desk Attendants (accepting donations)
- Audience Prize Ballot Counters
- Number Changer
- Stage Rehearsal Attendant

If you are available to assist, please send your **top two preferred roles**, your **available time slots**, and your **cell phone number to Eunju Kwak at eunjukwak69@gmail.com**. We recognize that this falls over Memorial Day weekend and greatly appreciate any time you can provide. 🎧

## Sue Goetz Ross Student Voice Competition

Mira Yang, Competition Chair

FMMC held another successful **Sue Goetz Ross Student Voice Competition** on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Distinguished colleagues—tenor Richard Leech, Ah Young Hong of the Peabody Conservatory, and Melissa Chavez, President of VANATS from Shenandoah Conservatory—served as judges for the competition. Our hard-working piano accompanists were Eileen Cornett and Kee Sun Kwon.

It was inspiring to hear so many talented young singers. Out of 27 participants, we awarded 4 prizes, and an impressive 11 students received Honors, reflecting the high level of artistry among this year's competitors.

The competition continues to demonstrate its impact. Several past winners are now performing around the world, including with the **Metropolitan Opera**, a testament to the strength of these emerging artists and the importance of supporting them early in their careers.

We are very thankful to our long-time benefactor, Stephen Roberts, for his non-stop enthusiastic support of this competition. 🎶



## Honorary Membership

Leslie Luxembourg

The Honorary Membership Committee is delighted to put forward three outstanding candidates for consideration at the FMMC annual general meeting on Friday, May 1st, Peter Baum, Jeongseon Choi and Mark Simon. We are indeed fortunate to have such loyal and talented members. They have already been approved by acclamation by the FMMC Board, and we anticipate a similar outcome from the general membership.

Recommendations were received for Peter Baum from Alan Crane, Mary Alice Davidson and Paul Leavitt. Maestro Leavitt spoke to the “steadfast devotion and tireless efforts of Peter Baum as he has supported Arioso Chorale and Orchestra over the past decades.” He has organized and managed all of the behind-the-scenes activities which allow the Chorale to function efficiently, as well as serving as the principal liaison with the Board and the FMMC as a whole. Alan and Mary Alice remarked on Peter’s long history of invaluable service to the Chorale.

Jeongseon was recommended by Albert Hunt, Christine Kharazian and Chen-Li Tzeng.

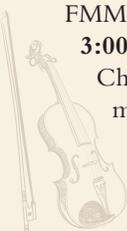
They spoke of Jeongseon’s service in many leadership roles within FMMC, most notably as Vice President of Student Activities and as Program Director, in addition to her continuing to chair the High School Strings Competition. She has accompanied and mentored countless students, both club members and in our area as a whole, and performed in virtually every major venue with great distinction as a well-known professional collaborator and widely recognized dedicated and accomplished musician in the entire Washington musical community.

Recommendations for Mark Simon were written by Michael Casassa, Frank Conlon and Grace McFarlane. Mark is another of our multi-talented colleagues. In addition to being a skilled clarinetist in the Avanti Orchestra, Mark has been a devoted composer and active member of the Composer’s Group for many years. He has single handedly chaired the

Washington International Competition for Composition for several cycles, with great success, bringing in highly acclaimed judges and a large number of talented contestants. Mark integrated several of his skills by composing the piece “Shredding” which was used at the most recent Johansen International Competition for Young String Players to showcase the ability each of the 26 semifinalists to perform new music. One of the judges, the internationally renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine, has added the piece to her own repertoire.

Much gratitude to my predecessor as chair of this committee, Mary Kay Traver, for her expert guidance, and to fellow committee members Frank Conlon and Lois Smith Jones, for their input and support. We look forward to presenting all three candidates at the May general meeting! 🎶

## String Meet-Up



FMMC is initiating a Meetup for string players on **Saturday, April 18,**

**3:00 - 5:00 PM** in Chevy Chase! This is to give all levels - Associate,

Chamber, and Solo - of violin, viola, cello and bass players an opportunity to meet one another and play for fun. Music for various chamber combinations will be provided, and parts will be doubled as necessary. Please bring a music stand, but no anxiety about sight-reading - this is your new comfort zone! Exact location will be provided when you RSVP with your name and instrument to [marta.s.howard@gmail.com](mailto:marta.s.howard@gmail.com). 🎶

# FMMC Concert Calendar *April and Early May 2026*

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

## Thursday April 9 @ 1pm at Strathmore Mansion

- Scarlatti: Four Sonatas. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Mozart: Trio in E-flat Major, K. 498 ("Kegelstatt"). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Bartok: Rhapsody Number 1. **Holly Nelson** (guest), violin; **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano

## Friday April 10 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Beethoven: Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, op. 11 ("Gassenhauer"). **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **John Kaboff**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Kosaku Yamada: *Karatachi no Hana* (Blossoms of Hardy Orange). Louis Moyses: Theme and Variations on *Cherry Blossoms* (*Sakura Sakura*). **Takeaki Miyamae**, flute
- Brahms: Trio in A Minor, op. 114. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **John Kaboff**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano

## Saturday April 11 @ 2pm at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- Richard Strauss: Selected Lieder. **Sally Freeland**, soprano; **Topher Ruggiero**, piano
- Mauro Giuliani: *Six variations sur un thème original*, op. 20. Mertz: *Trois morceaux*, op. 65 (1. *Fantaisie Hongroise*). **Benjamin Gascon**, guitar
- Debussy: *Des pas sur la neige*, *La fille au cheveux de lin*, *La cathédrale engloutie*, *L'isle joyeuse*. **Topher Ruggiero**, piano

## Sunday April 12 @ 3pm at Collington Retirement Community

- Selections TBD. **Makiko Taguchi**, violin; **Jung Yeon Joo** (guest), piano
- Chopin: Selections. **Grace McFarlane Bottelier**, piano

## Thursday April 16 @ 2pm at Goodwin House

- Joseph Fennimore: *Swann In Love*. **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Paul Leavitt**, piano
- Mauro Giuliani: *Six variations sur un thème original*, op. 20. Mertz: *Trois morceaux*, op. 65 (1. *Fantaisie Hongroise*). **Benjamin Gascon**, guitar
- Zhang Zhao: Selections from *Melodies of China*. **Steven Schwarz**, piano

## Friday April 17 @ 12pm at Sherwood Community Center

The FMMC Composers Group will present works by member composers: **Leslie Bennett**, **Ron Planting**, **Steven Schwarz**, and **Sharon Guertin Shafer**

## Friday April 17 @ 12pm at Live! at 10th & G

- Scarlatti: Four Keyboard Sonatas, K. 532-535. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Madeleine Dring: Trio for Flute, Oboe, and Piano. **Teri Manolio**, flute; **Rhett Summers**, oboe; **Susan Alexander** (guest), piano
- Barber: Cello Sonata, op. 6. **Christina Gullans** (guest), cello; **Topher Ruggiero**, piano

## Sunday April 19 @ 3pm at the Lyceum

- Prokofiev: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, op. 94. Schumann: *Three Romances*. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Scarlatti: Selected Keyboard Sonatas. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano

## Thursday April 23 @ 3pm at Ingleside at King Farm

- Beethoven: Sonata No. 5 in D Major, op. 102. Dvořák: *Waldesruhe* (Silent Woods), op. 68, no. 5 (B. 173). **Amelia Baisden**, cello; **Bora Lee** (guest), piano
- Chopin: A Selection of Waltzes, a *Nocturne*, a *Barcarolle*, and a *Ballade*. **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano

## Thursday April 30 @ 8pm at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

- Arioso Chorale & Orchestra**  
**Paul Leavitt, Artistic Director and Conductor**
- Mozart: *Missa solemnis in C Major*, K. 337
  - Schubert: *Magnificat*, D. 486
  - Leavitt: *Magnificat*

## Friday May 1 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Brahms: *Klavierstücke*, op. 118. **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano
- Schumann: Piano Trio No. 1, op. 63. **Reed Trevelyan**, violin; **Taka Ariga** (guest), cello; **Tanya Simms**, piano

## Saturday May 2 @ 2pm at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- Fauré: Selected *Barcarolles*. **Stephen Schwarz**, piano
- Leslie Bennett: *Study in Silver*. **Topher Ruggiero**, piano
- Selected Songs from Poets. **Mandy Brown**, soprano; **Yejin Lee** (guest), piano

## Saturday May 2 @ 3pm at Martin Luther King Library

- Brahms: Two Songs, op. 91. **Marion Drake**, soprano; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Schubert: *Klavierstück No. 2*. **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Arvo Pärt: *Fratres*. **Christine Kharazian**, violin; piano TBA

## Sunday May 3 @ 7:30pm at Riderwood Senior Living Community

*Please note this concert is not open to the public.*

- Granados: *Allegro de Concierto*. **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Brahms: Sonata No. 1 for Cello and Piano in E Minor, op. 38. **Harriet Kaplan**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Brahms: Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano in A Minor, op. 114. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **John Kaboff**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano

## Sunday May 3 @ 4pm at Lutheran Church of the Reformation

- Arioso Chorale & Orchestra**  
**Paul Leavitt, Artistic Director and Conductor**
- Mozart: *Missa solemnis in C Major*, K. 337
  - Schubert: *Magnificat*, D. 486
  - Leavitt: *Magnificat*

## Thursday May 7 @ 1pm at Strathmore Mansion

- Fauré: Piano Quartet No. 1. **Marion Richter**, violin; **Jeanne Rosenthal**, viola; **Deborah Chen** (guest), cello; **Chen-Li Tzeng**, piano
- Gaspar Cassadó: Suite for Solo Cello. **John Kaboff**, cello
- Weber: Clarinet Quintet in B-flat Major, op. 34. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Yun Grace Kang** (guest), violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **David Boyle**, cello

## Friday May 8 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Barber: Selected Songs. **Gail Collins**, mezzo-soprano; TBD, piano
- Weber: Clarinet Quintet, op. 34. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Yun Grace Kang** (guest), violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **David Boyle**, cello
- Prokofiev: Quintet in G Minor, op. 39. **Mark Simon**, clarinet; **Bryan Cooke** (guest), oboe; **Michael Casassa**, violin; **Jonathan Newmark**, viola; **Pete Ostle**, double bass

## Friday May 15 @ 12pm at Live! at 10th & G

- Haydn: Sonata No. 52 in G Major, Hob XVI: 39. **Jared Yoakem**, piano
- Henry Mollicone, Ricky Ian Gordon, and Lori Laitman: Selected Songs. **Debora Madsen**, soprano; **George Peachey** (guest), piano
- Marie Jaell: Cello Sonata in A Minor. **Amelia Baisden**, cello; **Bora Lee** (guest), piano

*Venues continue on next page*

**VENUES**

**Collington Retirement Community**

10450 Lotsford Rd.  
Mitchellville, MD

**Goodwin House**

4800 Fillmore Ave.  
Alexandria, VA

**Ingleside at King Farm**

701 King Farm Blvd.  
Rockville, MD

**Live! at 10th & G**

945 G St., NW  
Washington, DC  
Metro: Gallery Place or  
Metro Center

**Lutheran Church of the Reformation**

212 East Capitol St., NE  
Washington, DC  
Metro: Capitol South or  
Union Station

**The Lyceum**

201 S. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA

**Martin Luther King Memorial Library**

901 G St. NW  
Washington, DC  
Metro: Gallery Place

**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

**Westminster at Lake Ridge**

12191 Clipper Dr.  
Woodbridge, VA



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**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!  
SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**




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*In Memoriam*

Alice Takemoto, pianist and FMMC member for over 50 years, recently passed away at age 99. A child prodigy, she and her family were relocated with other Japanese Americans during World War II. Because of her talent, she received a scholarship to Oberlin College, and later to Washington. Alice was known for her solo performances as well as many collaborative concerts. 🎹

*Read about her extraordinary life and the upcoming memorial service by scanning the QR code:*



# Washington & Johansen International Competitions

Daryl Yoder, Director

Once more, I write as we enter a new stage of this year's Washington International Competition for Voice. Our dedicated preliminary judges, Robert Baker, Kirsten Kunkle, Thomas Reilly, Deborah Thurlow and Jennifer Wilson, have completed their work and our semifinalists will be announced within a few days! The level of artistry among the contestants is truly outstanding and it should be an exceptional weekend of music-making on May 23-24.

This year, we have chosen to solicit donations to name the first prize of the competition in honor of long-time DC-area conductor and honorary FMMC member Thomas Beveridge as he retires. Over the many decades of his time as a central figure in DC's choral scene, Tom has not only supported young singers generally, but the WIC in particular. He has been a familiar face in the competition audience and regularly hired winners and finalists to solo with the New Dominion Chorale, making sure they didn't just leave with a check, but also with professional connections and opportunities.

He has been deeply appreciated as a stalwart friend of the competition. If you would like to contribute toward honoring Tom, go to [fmmc-foundation.org](http://fmmc-foundation.org) and on the donation page you will find a drop-down menu to designate your gift for that. We will be pleased to acknowledge all donors in our competition program.

And finally, don't forget our benefit recital on April 18 at 3 pm at Western Presbyterian Church (where Tom served as music director for a period!). 2023 WIC winner, tenor Matthew Hill and pianist Edward Rothmel will present Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and Britten's *Michelangelo*

*Sonnets* in what is sure to be an excellent afternoon of singing. We hope to see you there!

You can also hear Matthew Hill as Ar-bace in the Washington Concerto Opera's performance of Mozart's *Idomeneo* on May 9 at 6 pm at Lisner Auditorium! 🎧

WASHINGTON  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMPETITION

The Friday Morning Music Club Foundation

presents a

*Benefit Recital*

for the

*2026 Washington International Competition for Voice*

**Saturday, April 18, 2026**

**3:00 pm**

**Western Presbyterian Church**

**2401 Virginia Ave. NW • Washington, DC 20037**

*The recital will feature*

**Matthew Hill**

tenor, 1st prize WIC winner, 2023

and

**Edward Rothmel**

piano

Program includes Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and Benjamin Britten's *Michelangelo Sonnets*.



**Matthew Hill**

**Suggested donation levels:**

**Vocalise \$30-\$59 • Aria \$60-\$99 • Cadenza \$100+**

*Cash & checks (made payable to FMMC Foundation-WIC) accepted at the door, or donate online at [fmmcfoundation.org](http://fmmcfoundation.org), or by mail to*

*Foundation Treasurer, 755 8th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001.*

*The Friday Morning Music Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*



# Annual Meeting & Luncheon

## Friday, May 1, 2026

Woman's Club of Chevy Chase  
7931 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Annual Meeting: 10 a.m.  
Luncheon: 12:00 noon

Guest Speaker:  
Jenny Bilfield, President, Washington Performing Arts

Musical Performance:  
Albert Hunt (clarinet), Bonnie Cohen (viola), and Immanuela Gruenberg (piano)  
will perform Mozart's "Kegelstatt" Trio.

Tickets: \$50

*Includes a delicious buffet, glass of wine, and coffee or tea*

**RSVP Deadline: April 24, 2026**

*Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.*

To RSVP online, please visit: <https://fmmc.org/annual-luncheon-rsvp-form/>

To RSVP by mail, see instructions and form below.

**For Directions, Parking, and to RSVP Online,  
Visit <https://fmmc.org/annual-luncheon-rsvp-form/>**

*Large parking lot located behind WCCC*

### RSVP Information for Annual Meeting + Luncheon:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am RSVPing for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s), enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$50 per person).

I cannot attend, but enclosed is a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support FMMC.

I am also attending the Annual Meeting at 10 a.m.

Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be seated with: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form and your accompanying check to:**

*Friday Morning Music Club, Attn: Laila Linden, 755 8th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001*



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

## *The Arioso Chorale and Orchestra*

Peter Baum

As readers of this newsletter know, the Arioso Chorale was forced to cancel its planned February/March concerts due to the snow storm that completely ruined the rehearsal schedule at a critical, and non-recoverable, time. The Chorale made the decision to shift the program to the third planned concert dates and, as of this writing, the Arioso Chorale and its Orchestra are well into the preparations for concerts on April 30 and May 3. The concerts will be held at the Church of the Reformation and we hope you will come to hear the program consisting of Mozart's *Missa Solemnis* in C Major (KV 337), Schubert's *Magnificat* (D 486) and a newly revised Leavitt *Magnificat*, the original version of which the Chorale first performed just 10 years ago in 2016.

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. We always need more voices in the chorus and there is a constant need for violins to bolster the orchestra. All rehearsals and concerts are held at the Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol, St, NE). If you would like to join us, please contact Peter Baum at [chorale@fmnc.org](mailto:chorale@fmnc.org).

The Chorale's program committee has not begun discussions on our 2026-2027 season, but it looks like the chorale will be traveling again in the fall to revisit the Amalfi coast area of Italy with concerts in Salerno and Naples on an eight-day trip in mid-October. More on this potential trip will be published in future newsletter articles. 🎧

### ***A Celebration of the Antiphonal Brass Music of Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Schütz and other Baroque and Renaissance Composers***

*Narrated by*

Robert Aubrey Davis, Host of  
Baroque and Beyond on SiriusXM

*Directed by*

Sylvia Alimena, Co-Founder and  
Former Conductor of Eclipse Chamber  
Orchestra and Avanti Orchestra

**Saturday, April 25, 3:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
945 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001**

**Free Admission**

This program will transport the listener back to St. Mark's Basilica in 16th-century Venice when that cathedral rang with some of the most glorious music from the Baroque era.