

The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



140TH SEASON

MARCH 2026

VOL. 60, NO. 7

From the President

Albert Hunt

On January 18, our Board gathered for a very productive retreat, and I want to begin by acknowledging, with appreciation, the commitment each Board member displays by time and again showing up for FMMC. We spent the afternoon reflecting on what brings us together through music, our shared vision for the future, and how we can preserve and grow FMMC's legacy. With our amazing variety of programs and activities, it's easy to stay focused on individual responsibilities, but stepping back together reinforced the simple truth that we are all in this together. We truly do have a remarkable group of folks serving FMMC, and hearing what first brought us here—and what continues to motivate that service—was both grounding and encouraging. It also reminded me that FMMC is built on relationships as much as on performances, and that its future depends on collective effort, including yours.

We had lively discussions about strengthening committees, preparing future leaders, and engaging more members. FMMC is all of us, and I warmly invite you to get more involved. Whether your interests lie in public relations, finance, concerts, technology, publications, or committee work, your participation matters. Please reach out to Managing Director Laila Linden (manage@fmmc.org), and we'll help you get started. I guarantee you will be glad you did.

We also talked about FMMC's public identity and how we present ourselves to the wider community. As part of this work, we are moving ahead with a refreshed look—so please keep an eye out for our new logo and updated materials in the coming months.

Finances continue to be an important topic. While our recent fundraiser produced very positive results—thanks to the generosity of our members—our long-term outlook remains challenging. Expanding corporate and foundation support remains a priority, and personal connections are often the most effective way to do this. If you can help make those connections for FMMC, please let us know—we can explore the possibilities together.

On another note, March promises some wonderful chamber music concerts, and I'm also excited about the Avanti Orchestra's concert on March 27 at the Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College in Rockville. These performances give us important opportunities to share music, build community, and further our mission of bringing classical music to everyone.

Thank you for all you do for FMMC. Your time, talent, and generosity sustain this community, and I'm deeply grateful for your support. 🎵

Albert



Albert Hunt

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 A New Year and a New Venue for Avanti
- 2 Host a Strings Meet-Up at Your Home
- 3 Reed Trevelyan's String Quartet Inspires Young Listeners
- 3 Little Flower 2025-2026 Concert Series
- 3 Bonnie Kellert
- 4 FMMC Foundation
- 4 Johansen International Competition News
- 5 Student Performers Shine
- 5 FMMC Student Member Brandon Sang-Zheng Named MTNA National Finalist
- 6 FMMC Concert Calendar
- 8 FMMC Membership Update
- 8 Reston Community Orchestra Concert



An official publication of the
Friday Morning Music Club, Inc.

Organized in 1886

ALBERT HUNT

FMMC President
fmmc@fmmc.org

LAILA LINDEN

Managing Director
manage@fmmc.org

For address changes,
please go to
www.FMMC.org
and update your
member profile.
If you do not have
access, send changes to:

JOHN SUTHERLAND EARLE

Membership Chair
membership@fmmc.org

find us on **facebook**

A New Year and a New Venue for Avanti

Avanti is hard at work preparing for their first concert of 2026. Music Director and Conductor Chi-Yuan Lin—also the 2024–2026 conductor with the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago—has crafted a program that provides a festive and powerful ode to the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence, including Bernstein's *Candide* Overture, the Barber Violin Concerto, and Stravinsky's *Firebird* Suite (1919 version).

To perform the Barber Violin Concerto, Avanti is thrilled to welcome Coco Mi, first prize winner of the 2025 Washington International Competition, the 2023 Juilliard Concerto Competition, the Inaugural Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra



Coco Mi

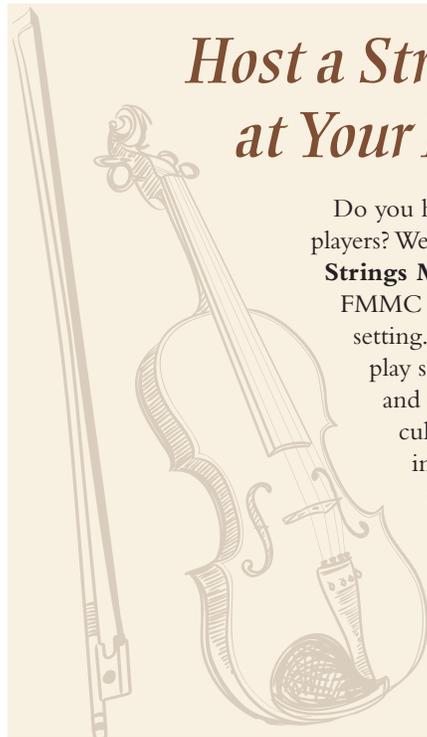
Concerto Competition, and the Bravura Philharmonic Concerto Competition. Currently a 2025–2027 fellow at Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect, Coco holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Li Lin and Laurie Smukler.

This program will be performed at 8pm on Friday, March 27th at Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. This concert marks Avanti's return to Parilla, a venue known for its spacious hall and exceptional acoustics. We hope our audience will make the trip to Rockville for what promises to be an unforgettable evening. 🎻

Host a Strings Meet-Up at Your Home!

Do you have space in your home to welcome 12–20 string players? We're looking for members to host our **2026 Inaugural Strings Meet-Up**, an informal gathering designed to bring FMMC members together in a friendly and supportive social setting. These meet-ups will offer a relaxed opportunity to play string music as a group, connect with fellow musicians, and explore chamber music in smaller ensembles—culminating in informal performances for one another in the comfort of private homes. **No audition is required to participate.**

If you're interested in hosting or taking part, please contact **Marta Howard** at auditions@fmmc.org. We hope you'll join us in launching this exciting new community-building initiative! 🎻



Reed Trevelyan's String Quartet Inspires Young Listeners

Yooni Lee, FMMC Program Director

FMMC Violinist Reed Trevelyan and his string quartet presented a wonderful program on Friday, Feb. 6th at Eaton Elementary School in DC. This was FMMC's third collaboration with Washington Performing Arts in their Concerts in Schools Program. Reed sent us the following comments: "We performed for about 100 (combined) pre-k and fourth-graders, who will be starting with string instruments next year. We prepared a program of distinctive and interesting movements from quartets by Beethoven, Dvorak, Debussy, and Grant-Still, with an encore fiddle tune by the Danish String Quartet. We asked students to listen for distinctive elements in each work, such as

percussive tapping in Grant-Still's *Danzas de Panama*, or for the cello's soaring melody in Beethoven's Op.18 No. 4. We also did some Q&A and discussed our musical journeys from childhood, and extolled the joys of playing music with friends. The kids were an attentive and respectful audience, and everyone had a good time!"

Our partnership with WPA reflects FMMC's ongoing commitment to bringing high-quality live classical music into schools and fostering curiosity, creativity, and appreciation for the arts among young audiences. We are grateful to Reed Trevelyan and his quartet for sharing their artistry and inspiring the next generation of classical music lovers. 🎵



Eaton Elementary School

Little Flower Concert Series Featuring FMMC Members

The Little Flower 2025–2026 Concert Series presents the Juilliard Alumni & Friends Concert on Sunday, March 22 at 4pm at the Church of the Little Flower, 5607 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD, lfp parish.org/concert-series.

The concert features:

Juilliard Alum **Albert Hunt**, Clarinetist (FMMC Member)

Juilliard Alum and Faculty Member, **Kevin Short**

Juilliard Alum, **Virginia Lum**, Pianist (FMMC Member)

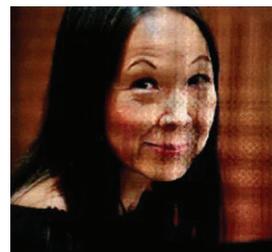
Curtis Alum, **Alison Buchanan**, and Previous 1st Prize Winner of WIC Voice Competition. 🎵



Albert Hunt



Kevin Short



Virginia Lum



Alison Buchanan

Bonnie Kellert to Perform

Bonnie Kellert, an esteemed, long-time FMMC pianist, will perform a solo recital hosted by the Carroll Music Teachers Association on March 27 at 7pm. She will also hold a Masterclass on Saturday, March 28, likely beginning at 9:30AM. The recital is free and open to the public.

Friday, March 27 evening recital:
Carroll Lutheran Village, Krug Chapel
300 St. Luke Circle
Westminster, MD 21158
7:00pm

Saturday, March 28 Masterclass:
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
720 Windsor Drive
Westminster, MD. 21158 🎵

Friday Morning Music Club Foundation

Daryl Yoder, Director

As I write, we are two days from the application deadline for this year's Washington International Competition and watching a potentially record-breaking number of submissions pour in. I am once again so grateful for the generous donations from the Foundation Board that allowed us to have no application fee this year – we are reaping the rewards with this incredible pool of applicants! I hope that we can continue to raise funds to bring down the costs for applicants in an ongoing way. By the time you read this, our preliminary judges will be in the midst of their evaluations, and we should

be two or three weeks away from announcing our 16 semi-finalists who will come to Washington, DC in May.

Please note that we have a **new venue** for our finals this year: we will be at the Harris Theatre at George Mason University in Fairfax on **May 24, at 2 pm**. Come along to hear some wonderful singing and to vote for the audience favorite! The public is also welcome at the semi-finals on May 23 at George Washington University's Phillips Hall, from approximately 9 am to 5 pm (exact times to be announced.)

And finally, another date to save on your calendars:

2023 WIC winner, tenor Matthew Hill, together with FMMC's Jung-Yoon (Yooni) Lee, will present a benefit recital to support this year's competition on the **afternoon of April 18** at 3pm at Western Presbyterian Church in Foggy Bottom. Come along to hear a great afternoon of singing and to support the young musicians participating in the WIC! 🎶

Johansen International Competition News

Danielle Stoebe, Administrative Director

The winners' concert of the 2025 JIC took place on February 1, 2026 at Annunciation Catholic Church in Washington, DC. The performers were the four prize winners: Valery Breshears, violin; Samuel Tatsuki, viola; Joshua Kováč, cello; and Eiline Tai, cello with FMMC member and church music director Frank Conlon collaborating on piano. Many thanks to Frank for organizing the concert, including a nice reception.

Selected videos from the concert are available on the JIC YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyViPg7qNCFU8U3F3z5oUyA>).

The program included music from Bach to Shostakovich. Of note was the world premiere of DC-area composer Mark Simon's work commissioned for the 2025 JIC – *Shredding* - performed by Eiline Tai, who won the prize for the best performance of this piece during the competition.

Thanks to the volunteers who contributed to this event, Jeanne Rosenthal, Michael Casassa, and Judy and Paul Silverman who helped listen during rehearsals. Additionally, thanks to Ben Wallis who acted as stage manager for the concert, and Frank Conlon, for his many contributions and arrangements of the concert.

Upcoming Concert

Valery Breshears (2025 JIC, 1st prize violin) will perform Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Capital City Symphony on March 22, 2026 at 5:00pm. Tickets can be bought here:

<https://www.atlasarts.org/events/ccs-shout/> 🎶



Eiline Tai, Valery Breshears, Samuel Tatsuki, Joshua Kováč, and Frank Conlon taking final bows.



Mark Simon, Valery Breshears, Eiline Tai, Samuel Tatsuki, and Joshua Kováč.



Eunjung Kwak, Judy Silverman, Valerie Matthews, Michael Casassa, Danielle Stoebe, Mark Simon, Valery Breshears, Eiline Tai, Samuel Tatsuki, Joshua Kováč, Paul Silverman, Judy Shapiro, Frank Conlon, and Jeanne Rosenthal.

Student Performers Shine

Kay Reid

We were happy to recently host two performers at the Goodwin House in Alexandria, VA.

Justin Lee performed works by Sergei Prokofiev, Gaspar Cassadó and Pablo de Sarasate. Amelia Baisden performed Sonata for Solo Cello, Op. 25, No. 3 composed by Paul Hindemith and selections from Johann Sebastian Bach, Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011. The performances were well-received. 🎶



Amelia Baisden and Justin Lee

Perform in Italy in 2026!

JUNE 29-JULY 13 2026

- Vocal and Chamber Music Programs
- 15 Nights +2 Day Option in Rome
- 4-star accommodation with AC
- masterclasses, chamber music, festival orchestra and choir, solo performances
- renowned music faculty
- guests welcome
- retreat option available
- ages: students through adults
- financial aid available for students

MORE INFO:
 +1 908-217-6464
 assisifestival@yahoo.com
 www.assisiperformingartsfestival.com

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

assisiperformingartsfestival

assisiperformingartsfestival

FMMC Student Member Brandon Sang-Zheng Named MTNA National Finalist

Brandon Sang-Zheng, a 10th grader at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, and his duet partner Megan Lai, an 8th grader at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, have been named National Finalists in the MTNA Senior Piano Duet Competition. The finals will take place in March 2026 in Chicago, Illinois. The duo earned their place in the national finals after winning the Southern Division of the competition. Both Brandon and Megan are residents of Northern Virginia and are students of Nancy O'Neill Breth.

Brandon is a dedicated student member of FMMC. In addition to his MTNA success, he was awarded an Honorable Mention in FMMC's 2025 George S. Manos High School Competition for Piano. 🎶



Brandon Sang-Zheng and Megan Lai

FMMC Concert Calendar *March and Early April 2026*

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

Friday March 6 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Scarlatti: Four Keyboard Sonatas, K. 532-535. **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- Muczinski: *Moments for Flute and Piano*. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Hon-Cheong Chan**, piano
- Brahms: Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, op. 120. **Kay Reid**, clarinet; **Bora Lee** (guest), piano

Friday March 6 @ 1pm at the Strathmore Mansion

- Rachmaninoff: Six Romances, op. 30. **Mandy Brown**, soprano; **Tatiana Loisha** (guest), piano
- Brahms: Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, op. 108. **Holly Hamilton** (guest), violin; **Virginia Lum**, piano

Saturday March 7 @ 2pm at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- Ron Planting: Two Pieces for Unaccompanied Viola. **Ron Planting**, viola
- Barber: *Knoxville, the Summer of 1915*. **Marje Palmieri**, soprano; **Stephen Brown**, piano
- J. S. Bach: Partita in A Minor for Flute and Piano, BWV 1013. **Heidi Schuller**, flute; TBD, piano

Sunday March 8 @ 3pm at the Lyceum

- David Diamond: *The Mad Maid's Song*. **Deborah Thurlow**, soprano; **Susan Hayes**, flute; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano
- Schumann: Piano Sonata No. 3, op. 14 ("Grand Sonata"). **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano

Friday March 13 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Scarlatti: Selected Sonatas. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Debussy: Sonata for Cello and Piano. **Janet Frank**, cello; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Reinecke: Trio for Clarinet, Horn and Piano in B-flat Major, op. 274. **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **Mark Stanga**, horn; **Bonnie Shuen**, piano

Friday March 20 @ 12pm at Live! at 10th & G

- Beethoven: Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano in B-flat Major, op. 11 ("Gassenhauer"). **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **John Kaboff**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Guastavino: *Sonata No. 1 para guitarra*. **Benjamin Gascon**, guitar
- Poulenc: Sonata for Violin and Piano, FP.119. **Holly Nelson** (guest), violin; **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano

Saturday March 21 @ 3pm at Greenspring Retirement Community

- Yannis Constantinidis: *Greek Miniatures*, Book III. Zhang Zhao: *Melodies of China*. **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- Beethoven: String Quartet, op. 18, no. 4. **Nathan Giguere** (guest), violin; **Sarah Calderon** (guest), violin; **Reed Trevelyan**, viola; **Kurt Usowski** (guest), cello

Friday March 27 @ 12pm at Sherwood Community Center

- Carl Maria von Weber: Clarinet Quintet in B-flat Major, op. 34. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **David Boyle**, cello; **Albert Hunt**, clarinet

Friday March 27 @ 12pm at Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

- J.S. Bach: Partita in C Minor, BWV 997. **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- J.S. Bach: *Sei gegrusset, Siciliano*. Fitzenhagen: *Ave Maria*. **Cyndy Elliott**, **Chris Kosky** (guest), **John Nazdin** (guest), **Scott Giambusso** (guest), string basses
- Schubert: Sonatina in A Minor for Piano and Violin, op. post. 137. **Olga Yanovich** (guest), violin; **Irina Koulikova**, piano

Friday March 27 @ 7:30pm

- J.S. Bach: Sonata No. 1 in G Minor
- Giuliani: *Six variations sur un thème original*
- Mertz: *Fantaisie Hongroise*
- Guastavino: *Sonata No. 1 Para Guitarra* **Benjamin Gascon**, guitar

Friday March 27 @ 8pm at Parilla Arts Center

- **Avanti Orchestra Concert**
- **Chi-Yuan Lin**, Conductor
- Bernstein: *Candide* Overture
- Barber: Violin Concerto, featuring **Coco Mi**, Washington International Competition winner
- Stravinsky: *Firebird Suite* (1919 version)

Thursday April 9 @ 1pm at Strathmore Mansion

- Scarlatti: Four Sonatas. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Bartok: Rhapsody Number 1. **Holly Nelson** (guest), violin; **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano
- Brahms: Two Songs, op. 91. **Marion Drake**, soprano; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano

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

- Beethoven: Sonata in F-sharp Major, op. 78. **Derek Hartman**, piano
- Tadasuke Ohno: Theme and Variations on *Yoimachigusa* (Evening Primrose). Kosaku Yamada: *Karatachi no Hana* (Blossoms of Hardy Orange). Louis Moysse: Theme and Variations on *Cherry Blossoms* ("Sakura Sakura"). **Takeaki Miyamae**, flute; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Brahms: Trio in A Minor, op. 114. **Simon Finlow**, piano; **Karin Caifa**, clarinet; **John Kaboff**, cello

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 cathédral engloutie*, *L'isle joyeuse*. **Topher Ruggiero**, piano

Sunday April 12 @ 3pm at Collington Retirement Community

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

VENUES

Collington Retirement Community
10450 Lottsford Rd.
Mitchellville, MD

Goodwin House
4800 Fillmore Ave.
Alexandria, VA

Ingleside Retirement Community
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

Venues continued on next page

Venues continued...

Martin Luther King Memorial Library

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

Parilla Performing Arts Center

51 Mannakee St.
Rockville, 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

Westminster at Lake Ridge

12191 Clipper Dr.
Woodbridge VA

Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

7931 Connecticut Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD

*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

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.





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

FMMC Membership Update

The following members joined or renewed during the past month.

- Teresa Adams, Associate, Chevy Chase, MD
- Victoria Barnett, Associate Piano, Falls Church, VA
- Dianne Blais, Associate Piano, Associate Cello, Fairfax, VA
- Thomas Gallagher, Associate Cello, Associate Banjo, Associate French Horn, Garrett Park, MD
- Annie Gill, Solo Soprano, Associate Piano, Baltimore, MD
- Arnav Iyengar, Solo Piano, Student Piano, Washington, DC
- Laurel Kuxhaus, Chamber Oboe, Rockville, MD
- Kevin Larsen, Arioso Chorale Bass/Baritone, Cheverly, MD
- Marlys Larsen, Arioso Chorale Soprano, Cheverly, MD
- Maggie Ramsey, Solo Mezzo-Soprano, Alexandria, VA
- John Samuell, Solo Piano, Student Piano, Annandale, VA
- Frank Savage, Associate, Silver Spring, MD
- Matilda Smolij, Solo Mezzo-Soprano, College Park, MD
- David Williams, Associate Composer, Falls Church, VA 🎵



Reston Community Orchestra Concert

The Reston Community Orchestra will hold a concert on March 14, 2026, including a piece composed by FMMC Composer Ron Planting. More information is available at:

π Day: More Than Three for the Ages – Reston Community Orchestra 🎵

Scan for concert information

