

fmmc

Classical Music for All

140TH SEASON

OCTOBER 2026

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From the President

Albert Hunt, FMMC President

We are off to an impressive start! September gave us a taste of the exciting season ahead through some wonderful performances, but October is when FMMC's musical life really takes off. Our concert calendar becomes increasingly full, rehearsals are underway, and members and audiences are once again coming together throughout the region to share outstanding music.

As October begins, I want to recognize Laila Linden and Joanna Taylor for their extraordinary work on this year's FMMC Yearbook. Producing the Yearbook is an enormous undertaking, requiring countless hours of gathering information, checking details, coordinating submissions, and proofreading to make sure everything is accurate and useful. Laila and Joanna approached this demanding project with remarkable care, patience, and good humor. On behalf of all of us, thank you both for creating such an invaluable resource for our members.

I would also like to recognize the chairs of our local student competitions, in the order the competitions take place this season: Jeongseon Choi, High School Competition for Strings; Mira Yang, Sue Goetz Ross Student Competition for Voice; Chen-Li Tzeng, George S. Manos High School Piano Competition; and Kayondra Reid, Ross-Roberts Competition for High School Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion.

These competitions offer outstanding young musicians far more than the opportunity to win a prize. They give students a meaningful goal to work towards, encourage artistic growth, and provide



Albert Hunt

recognition at an important stage in their development. Winners receive cash awards, five years of FMMC Student Membership, and opportunities to perform in our Student Recital Series.

What students experience is a well-organized opportunity to perform and receive recognition for their accomplishments. What they might not see is the tremendous amount of work that takes place behind the scenes. Competition chairs coordinate applications and performance schedules, secure judges and accompanists, arrange venues, communicate with students and families, and attend to countless details before, during, and after each competition. They make it all look easy through the warmth, grace, and professionalism they bring to this work.

Thank you to everyone whose talent, dedication, and generosity make FMMC's musical community so special. I look forward to sharing another wonderful month of music with you. See you at the concerts! 🎶

Warm regards,

Albert

House Concerts to Celebrate FMMC's 140th Year

What better way to celebrate FMMC's 140th anniversary than to go back to our roots? FMMC dates to 1886 when talented women musicians, because of social mores, could not play in public, so they gathered in each other's parlors to play. We will be announcing a series of house concerts to celebrate and re-create the intimate settings of our foremothers. The programs will be open to any FMMC member (plus a guest). Sign up quickly when the announcements go out since space will be limited. Interesting Fact: In 1890, just 4 years after the founding of FMMC, the women voted to have each of the 25 members pay \$4 a year (roughly \$147 dollars today) to send one student to the newly formed National Conservatory of Music in New York. Dvořák was the school's director from 1892 to 1895. 🎶

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Friday Morning Music Club, Inc.
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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

FMMC
755 8th Street NW,
Washington DC 20001
fmmc.org

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FMMC Concert Calendar

October and Early November 2026

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

Thursday, October 1 @ 1pm at Strathmore Mansion

- Chopin: Sonata in B Minor. **Jack Stabile**, piano
- Shostakovich: Sonata for Viola and Piano, op. 147. **Hyejin Kim**, viola; **Topher Ruggerio**, piano

Thursday, October 1 @ 8pm at Church of the Epiphany

Arioso Chorale & Orchestra Concert
Paul Leavitt, Conductor

- Brahms: "Wie Liebling" from *A German Requiem*
- Mozart: "Lacrimosa" from *Requiem*
- Gounod: "Sanctus" from *St. Cecilia Mass*
- Fauré: "Libera Me" from *Requiem*
- Leavitt: *Stabat Mater*

Friday, October 2 @ 12pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

- Poulenc: Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano. **Laurel Kuxhaus**, oboe; **Nancy Switkes** (guest), bassoon; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano
- Brahms: Violin Sonata in A Major. **Olga Yanovich** (guest), violin; **Irina Koulikova**, piano
- Chopin: Polonaise in E-flat Major, op. 26, no. 2. Nocturne in D-flat Major, op. 27, no. 2. Waltz in A-flat Major, op. 34, no. 1. **Victoria Bragin**, piano

Saturday, October 3 @ 4pm at Church of the Epiphany

Arioso Chorale & Orchestra Concert
Paul Leavitt, Conductor

- Brahms: "Wie Liebling" from *A German Requiem*
- Mozart: "Lacrimosa" from *Requiem*
- Gounod: "Sanctus" from *St. Cecilia Mass*
- Fauré: "Libera Me" from *Requiem*
- Leavitt: *Stabat Mater*

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

- Brahms: Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano, op. 114. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **David Boyle**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 30 in E Major, op. 109. **Seojin Heo**, piano
- Boucard: *Suite Champêtre* for Flute and French Horn. **Takeaki Miyamae**, flute; **Mark Stanga**, French horn

Friday, October 16 @ 12pm at Live! at 10th & G

- Poulenc: *Banalités*. **Melanie Ashkar**, mezzo-soprano; **Emily Baltzer** (guest), piano
- Gershwin: Three Preludes and selected show tunes. **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- Schubert: Violin Sonatina, op. 137, no. 2. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano

Saturday, October 17 @ 3pm at Greenspring Retirement Community

- Schumann: *Märchenerzählungen* (Fairy Tales). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Frank Conlon**, piano
- Schubert: Violin Sonatina, op. 137, no. 2. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano
- Chopin, Rachmaninov, and Tchaikovsky: Selected works. **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

Sunday, October 18 @ 3pm at Collington Retirement Community

- J.S. Bach: Violin Sonata, movement TBA. **Makiko Taguchi**, violin
- Schumann: *Frauenliebe und Leben*. **Maggie Ramsey**, mezzo-soprano; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano
- Dohnányi: Serenade for String Trio, op. 10. **Sherry Chen** (guest), violin; **Corby Johnson**, viola; **Curtis Shugart**, cello

Sunday, October 18 @ 3pm at the Lyceum

- Brahms: *6 Klavierstücke*, op. 118. **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano
- Dvořák: String Quartet No. 13, op. 106. **Reed Trevelyan**, violin; **Sarah Calderon** (guest), violin; **Nathan Giguere**, viola; **Kurt Usowski**, cello

Thursday, October 22 @ 3pm at Ingleside at King Farm

- Brahms: Clarinet Trio in A Minor, op. 114. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **David Boyle**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano
- Schumann: *Five Pieces in a Folk Style*, op. 102. **Cassadó: Dance of the Green Devil**. **Amelia Baisden**, cello; **Bora Lee** (guest), piano

Friday, October 23 @ 12pm at Sherwood Community Center

- Mendelssohn: *Variations sérieuses*, op. 54, MWV U 156. *Andante cantabile e Presto agitato*, WoO 6. **Steven Schwarz**, piano
- Brahms: Violin Sonata in D Minor, op. 108. **Alexander Sutherland Earle** (guest), violin; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

Tuesday, October 27 @ 2pm at Goodwin House

- Brahms: *6 Klavierstücke*, op. 118. **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano
- Clarke: *Passacaglia on an Old English Tune*. *Beach: Romance*, op. 23. **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano
- Clarke: *Three Old English Songs, Three Country Irish Songs, Down by the Salley Gardens*. **Katherine Schram**, soprano; **Reed Trevelyan**, violin

FMMC Concert Calendar...continued

Thursday, November 5 @ 1pm at Strathmore Mansion

- Arno Babadjanian: *Elegy, Prelude, Dance, Impromptu, Capriccio*. **Luke Ratcliffe**, piano
- Beethoven: Sonata in G Major, op. 30, no. 3. **Yun Kang**, violin; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano
- Program TBA. **Nancy Marriott**, soprano

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

- Brahms: Cello Sonata No. 2. **Ken Ding** (guest), cello; **Jaewon Lee** (guest), piano
- Beethoven: Violin Sonata No. 8 in G, op. 30, no. 3. **Yun Kang** (guest), violin; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

Sunday, November 8 @ 4pm at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

Avanti Orchestra Concert
Chi-Yuan Lin, Conductor and Jiwoo Son, Violin

- Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances
- Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 35
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 5

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

- Hugo Wolf: *Lieder*. **Daryl Yoder**, bass-baritone; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano
- Dvořák: Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor, op. 90 ("Dumky"). **Yun Kang** (guest), violin; **David Boyle**, cello; **John Sutherland Earle**, piano

VENUES

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

1 Chevy Chase Circle, NW
Washington, DC

Church of the Epiphany

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

Collington Retirement Community

10450 Lottsford Rd.
Mitchellville, MD

Goodwin House

4800 Fillmore Ave.
Alexandria, VA

Greenspring Retirement Community

7410 Spring Village Dr.
Springfield, 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

The Lyceum

201 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA

Sherwood Community Center

3740 Blenheim Boulevard
Fairfax, VA

St. George's Episcopal Church

915 N. Oakland St.
Arlington, VA
Metro: Virginia Square GMU

Strathmore Mansion

10701 Rockville Pike
N. Bethesda, MD
Metro: Grosvenor

An Afternoon with Avanti

Violinist Yun Grace Kang and Pianist Kuok-Wai Lio

Sarah Hover and Dan Fenstermacher

Members of FMMC are warmly invited to another special afternoon of music, camaraderie, and delicious food in support of the Avanti Orchestra. On Sunday afternoon, October 25th, acclaimed pianist Kuok-Wai Lio and beloved Avanti Concertmaster Yun Grace Kang will perform in the home of one of our members. This special gathering offers a chance to experience chamber music in an intimate setting, connect with fellow music lovers, and contribute directly to the future of our orchestra. We invite you to join us for a memorable afternoon that supports our shared mission of bring-

ing exceptional music to the community. And please bring a friend who shares your love of music and would enjoy being introduced to us! Kuok-Wai and Yun will share an engaging program with commentary, likely to include lovely works by Mozart, Bach, and Chopin.

Reservations may be secured with a donation to the Avanti Orchestra and space will be limited, so early registration is encouraged. A reservation page will be available soon on the FMMC website, and



Yun Grace Kang



Kuok-Wai Lio

FMMC members will receive a notice and link by email. Questions can also be directed to Dan Fenstermacher or Sarah Hover at dan.fenstermacher@rcn.com or salhover@gmail.com. We hope to see you there, so please save the date! 🎻

Where Are They Now?

Spotlight on Seung-Min Kang

Jeanne Rosenthal

Korean cellist Seung-Min Kang was a 2003 first prize winner of the Johansen International Competition and has graciously agreed to share some of her memories and insights about her career path and interests. Seung-Min made her orchestral debut with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra at age eleven. Since then, she has performed with leading orchestras in Asia and Europe, and is a regular guest at prestigious festivals and venues such as the International Mariinsky Far East Festival, Philharmonie Berlin, Konzerthaus Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein Festival, Ricardo Castro Festival, and the Seoul Spring Festival.

Seung-Min is a prize winner of several international competitions in addition to the JIC including the Queen Elisabeth Competition, International Tchaikovsky Cello Competition, Gaspar Cassadó International Cello Competition and Rostropovich Cello Competition.

What are your favorite memories of participating in the Johansen International Competition and how did the JIC help shape the next steps you took in your career?

In my life, I went through two major international competitions as a junior. The first was the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, where I won Second Prize, and the next was the Johansen International Competition in Washington, D.C., where I won First Prize. After that, I took on my first senior competition, the Gaspar Cassadó International Violoncello Competition, and became the first Korean cellist to win the competition.

The Johansen Competition was very special to me. It was my first international competition victory, and in many ways, it was the beginning of my international career. It became an important turning point that taught me how to prepare myself and move on to the next, bigger stage. Even now, I remember the pieces I played and the places where I performed as if it

were yesterday. I also remember the wonderful pianist who accompanied me at the competition. We also achieved a wonderful result together!

Who were your primary mentors and how did they inspire you?

I first became interested in the cello after seeing Mstislav Rostropovich perform in Korea. I was eight years old. He played a recital that lasted almost two hours, and then performed encores for another hour. For three hours, he showed me the incredible possibilities and beauty of the cello. I remember thinking, "I want to learn the cello and play like that someday." That was how I started.

And, almost as if it were meant to be, I eventually had the opportunity to study with David Geringas, who was one of Rostropovich's most distinguished students. Listening to my teacher talk about his years with Rostropovich has been a great source of inspiration for me. Through his stories, I learned not only about playing the cello, but also about how these great musicians approached music, their philosophy, and their attitude toward being an artist.

I was especially inspired by his memories of working directly with composers such as Shostakovich and Britten. Hearing those stories made music history feel very real and personal to me, and they continue to influence the way I think about music today.

Are there any particular composers or works you are currently focusing on?

I have a recital coming up in October featuring works by composers connected through a teacher-student lineage: Schumann, Brahms, and Gustav Jenner, Brahms's only composition student. Jenner is not a composer who is widely known,



Seung-Min Kang

but I find his music very fascinating. I performed his work for the first Korean premiere at the Lotte Concert Hall in Seoul in 2024, and I will be presenting it again this autumn in Daegu.

When I study composers, I usually like to focus on the stories and connections surrounding them within their time and historical context. Last year, for example, I explored Shostakovich and Weinberg in a similar way. *[Additional note from Jeanne: Seung-Min Kang is committed to delivering a culturally diverse and modern repertoire and in that spirit is a fervent exponent of contemporary composers such as Alfred Schnittke, Toshio Hosokawa, T. Mayuzumi, Pēteris Vāks, and Anatolijus Šenderovas.]*

What interests or hobbies do you pursue outside of music?

My original dream was actually to become a painter, and I still haven't been able to let go of that dream. I suppose you could say that painting was my first love. Unfortunately, I developed a very severe allergy to paint and oil paints, to the point that it became impossible for me to continue painting in everyday life. I had no choice but to stop. But through

continued on page 5

2027 Washington International Competition for Piano

Daryl Yoder, Director, Washington and Johansen International Competitions

By the time you read this, applications will have opened for the 2027 Washington International Competition for Piano. We will be welcoming the distinguished pianists Lucille Chung, Orli Shaham and Robert Weirich as judges for the live event in May. Please share the news with any pianists you know, aged 18-30, who might be interested! Last year, the Foundation board undertook a special fundraising effort to offer the competition with no application fee. It remains a priority to make the competition as accessible as possible to all young musicians, but, unfortunately, we are not yet in a financial position to be able to make that change

permanent. However, we have set this year's fee at a substantially lower level than in years past: \$50. Your donations are key to helping us continue this trend and we greatly appreciate each one! (As a reminder, the FMMC Foundation is financially separate from FMMC. You can see how to donate to the Foundation at fmmcfoundation.org/donate.)

Adding time for contestants to connect and network while they are here is another of our goals – if you have been an active musician for any portion of your life, you know how important colleagues can be in connecting you to opportunities and spurring new projects – and this past

year a generous donor made it possible for us to offer a social hour for competitors in the evening after semi-finals were over. We will continue to try to find ways to make the WIC experience as supportive and human-faced as is possible for a competition to be. I enormously appreciate all of the generous gifts that allowed us to take some steps in that direction last year, and thank you in advance for your support as we work to take things further in the years to come! 🎵



Where Are They Now? Spotlight on Seung-Min Kang...continued from page 4

music, I have continued to explore art, and I have found that painting and music inspire each other in many ways. They have given me new ideas and new ways of expressing myself.

Painting and music are different forms of art—one is visual and the other is auditory—but there is something very similar in the way I experience them. With a brush and with a bow, I am drawing and creating my own world. Each art form constantly gives me new ideas and materials for the other.

The theme of my paintings is rain. I imagine rain falling from nature onto the earth and try to capture that scene through my own way of seeing and feeling it. Eventually, I hope to have an exhibition where I can bring my paintings and music together and create a collaboration between the two. You can also explore some of my paintings in the "Artwork" section of my official website. Alongside my work as a cellist, I am currently also working as an illustrator for Auditorium, one of Korea's leading cultural magazines. 🎵

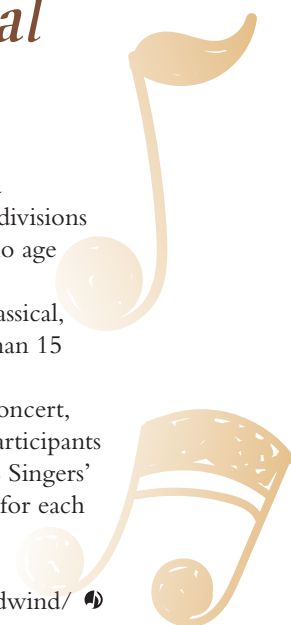
The 2026 AAMS International Competition for Voice

The competition will be held on Saturday, October 24 at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD, for all voice types for three divisions including High School, College, and Young Professionals. There are no age limits. Candidates should apply by October 10th.

Repertoire must include two contrasting pieces of any genre of classical, musical theatre, pop, jazz, or spiritual music, and should be no more than 15 minutes in length (you may pre-cut).

The selected winners will perform a solo at the AAMS Singers' Concert, Justice Forum, REACH, on Saturday, November 14 at 6:00 pm. All participants of the competition will also be performing in Ensemble at the AAMS Singers' Concert. There will be a small scholarship for the first place winners for each division.

More Information: write to: webmaster@aamsopera.com
<https://aamsopera.com/index.php/2020-piano-string-voice-woodwind/> 🎵



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Musical Arts International

James Colwell Piano Restoration



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