

# The Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



137TH SEASON

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## Science and Music: A Lifelong Partnership

Mary Alice Davidson, based on writings from Faith Stern.

Like many FMMC members, Kurt Stern found his way to music as a sideline. Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1926, Kurt and his family moved to the US in 1939. After nearly three years in college, Kurt was drafted in 1945 and was ultimately stationed at Heidelberg, Germany. While there, he studied medieval music composition with an inspiring teacher. Once discharged, he bought a piano and continued his childhood lessons on that instrument.

But chemistry was his passion. Kurt ultimately received his PhD in 1953 and taught and conducted research in electrochemistry at the University of Arkansas and then at the National Bureau of Standards—NBS (now NIST). After a 1968 budget reduction ended that department, Kurt's career took an international twist. He taught in India, joined the Naval Research Laboratory, and earned an international reputation, leading to work in Australia and lecture tours in Europe and Romania. He also taught physical chemistry at the National Institutes of Health graduate school.

**But back to music.** While teaching at the University of Arkansas, Kurt resumed composing and sought help from the chairman of the music department. Fayetteville had a Community Concert series, and the local paper needed someone knowledgeable about, but not connected to, the official music world. Kurt fit the bill, and he became the official music critic of the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. A faculty colleague also formed a recorder group, and Kurt and his soon-to-be wife, Faith, joined and learned more about Renaissance music.



Kurt Stern on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

After moving to Washington, DC, for work, the Sterns became involved with the Washington Recorder Society, and composed and played works for that group's concerts. The two, often joined by their daughter, played recorder and cello at Sylvan Theater, Renaissance Fairs, libraries, nursing homes, weddings, the Kennedy Center, and "just for fun," says Faith.

While still pursuing the piano, Kurt realized he would rather hone his composition skills, and he set off on that path between 1975 and 1980. In 1970, a colleague, who was also a part of a string quartet agreed to perform one of Kurt's works and encouraged him to write additional movements. Through this connection, Kurt met Carol Warden, who

suggested Kurt audition for the FMMC's Composers Group, which opened the door to another chapter in Kurt's musical journey (see Sidebar).

**Membership in FMMC** led to many of Kurt's compositions being performed at concerts by FMMC vocalists and instrumentalists. He was also able to write for a wider range of instruments as he became familiar with their sounds and capabilities. Probably the most ambitious performance was of his cantata, *The Wanderer*, on February 25, 2011, sung by Charles Kopfstein-Penk, baritone; with Meg Baker, harp; Carol Sikkelee, organ; and the FMMC Collegium Musicum. "Unfortunately," says Faith, "the sound engineer went to the wrong venue, so the only

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## *From the President*

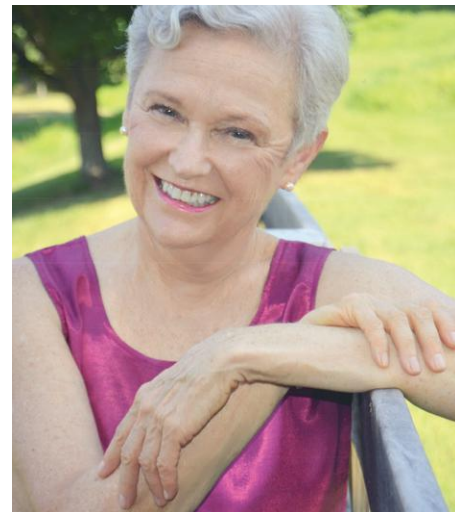
Leslie Luxemburg

**T**his year has gotten off to an auspicious start with two excellent September concerts.

The chamber concert series opened at Live! at 10th & G on Friday on September 16th. It was a very well-chosen and balanced program, and all participants acquitted themselves with distinction. It was especially exciting to welcome a young new piano performance member, Ryan McNamara, and we look forward to hearing him again soon. This venue is convenient to public transportation, close to several garages, and is a very positive addition to our chamber program.

On Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, our Avanti Orchestra presented this year's Johansen International Competition violin winner Jinan Laurentia Woo playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. This most thrilling rendition clearly inspired the orchestra to play their best, under the outstanding direction of Pablo Saelzer. Avanti also performed selections by Brahms and Dvořák. Avanti set a high bar for itself with this concert, and I can promise you if they continue to perform at this level it will be a most spectacular season. The next opportunity to hear them will be their concert at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>, featuring two recent WIC winners, pianist Vivian Chen and cellist Sydney Lee.

Meanwhile, all three of this year's JIC winners will be appearing at Strathmore on October 30<sup>th</sup>, with the National Philharmonic



at 3:00 p.m. This is the very first time we have been offered the opportunity to perform there. It should be thrilling.

I'm sure you share my sense that the pace of life has picked up in recent months, and it is definitely an adjustment to have to sort through the various musical and social opportunities which would have been unavailable to us even a year ago. It already seems somewhat overwhelming at times. Let us hope the past two years have instilled in us the judgement to choose wisely and the wisdom to seek out what is truly important. Together let us try to make this year a truly meaningful one in which we find fulfillment and value in the choices we make.

I know for all of us, the opportunity to participate and share music together is paramount. I hope to see you soon at one of our FMMC events! 🎶

*Leslie*



Avanti Orchestra, photo by Jennie Weyman.



**Friday Morning Music Club**

fmmc.org

# AVANTI ORCHESTRA

**Pablo Saelzer, Conductor**

Andrew Juola, Guest Conductor

Vivian Chen, Piano

Sydney Lee, Cello

**Boyce:** Symphony No. 1

**Beethoven:** Piano Concerto No. 2

**Tchaikovsky:** Variations on a Rococo Theme

**Ravel:** Le Tombeau de Couperin

**Friday, November 11 @ 7:30 PM**

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

*This performance is an external rental presented in coordination with the Kennedy Center Campus Rentals Office and is not produced by the Kennedy Center.*

For tickets, COVID protocols,  
support opportunities, & info:

**FMMC.org/Avanti**



# FRIDAY MORNING MUSIC CLUB

St. George's  
*Chamber Music Series*

**1ST & 2ND FRIDAYS**  
**@ 12 NOON**

[fmcc.org/chamber](http://fmcc.org/chamber)

915 N. Oakland St  
Arlington, VA 22203



Admission is free and open to the public.  
Free parking available.

**2022**  
**Dates:**

October 7 + 14  
November 4 + 11  
December 2 + 9

*Science and Music: A Lifelong Partnership...continued from page 1*

recording we have is one the soloist's wife made with her video camera."

The last FMMC performance of his works occurred on January 19, 2017, at the Mansion at Strathmore where his string trio was played by Marion Richter, violin; Douglas Wolters, cello; and Bob Rosen, piano. Faith adds, "Kurt is very appreciative of the FMMC musicians who performed his works over the years."

In January 2018, Rosen and Faith played Kurt's *Flute Sonata*, and Rosen played the piano solo *Lost in Space* at a concert sponsored by the Composers Society of Montgomery County. Faith adds this insight: "Usually Kurt does not give names to his works. But when he first played this piano piece at our home, our very young daughter and son both said, "That sounds like *Lost in Space*." And so it was named. 🎧

## Smart Thinking Yields Benefits

Kurt Stern served two terms as chair of the FMMC Composers Group, from 1982 to 1984 and from 1994 to 1996. At that time, the chair planned concert programs at the beginning of the season, using works offered by member composers, and made arrangement for their recordings. When the FMMC office closed, Kurt moved the collection of tapes, as well as the group's annual reports and minutes, to the music department of the DC Library.

"When we brought the materials to the library, we were told that other old FMMC files and materials were housed in the library's *Washingtonia* section," says Faith Stern. "We were advised that this would be a more appropriate place for the Composers Group materials."

This prescient decision led to the digital recording of 34 of those concerts and copies of many more programs, which are now a part of the MLK Library's DigDC digital catalogue (<https://www.digdc.dclibrary.org>). Available to the public, the recordings can be searched by individual composers and performers as well as by performance venues and composition titles. Notes are added to each recording, describing details such as type of music (classical or new music) and instrumentation (soprano with accompaniment, string quartet, woodwind quintet, and solo piano, for example). This information now resides in the catalogue in perpetuity.

The hope is that other recordings will be found eventually that can be digitized and added.

## Obituary—Jacqueline Kagan Rosenblatt

Longtime member of FMMC concert pianist and music teacher Jacqueline Kagan Rosenblatt passed away peacefully at age 96 on Sept 14, 2022, while staying with her daughter's family in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. Born in Baltimore, MD in 1926, Jacky lived in Canton with her three siblings, father Dr. Joseph Alter Rosenblatt, and mother Manya Kagen. A Sigma Alpha Iota member, she studied music at Peabody Institute, University of Michigan, with Paul Hindemith at ETH and Alexander Lipsky through the Friday Morning Music Club in Washington DC. Jackie embraced a long joyful life filled with music, travel, and an endless pursuit of knowledge. She is predeceased by her husband of 66 years, inventor and engineer Joel Rosenblatt, her eldest son Joseph Rosenblatt, and her brother Jimmy Ross, and survived by two sisters Hilda Ross and Paula Finck, 3 children Jody, Jeffery and Joshua, 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 50+ family and adopted family members. She will be interred next to husband Joel at the Baltimore National Cemetery on November 3rd, 2022. In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation to your favorite charity or to the Jessye Norman School of Music, Athens Georgia. 🎧

## FMMC Concert Calendar - November and Early December 2022

### Thursday, November 3, 1:00 pm in The Mansion at Strathmore

- RAVEL: *Rapsodie espagnole*, op. 54. **Chen-Li Tzeng** and **Jeongseon Choi**, piano duo.
- GRIEG: Sonata No. 3 for violin and piano, op. 45. **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Jeongseon Choi**, piano.

### Friday, November 4, 12 noon at St. George's Episcopal Church

- BEETHOVEN: *Seven Variations on a Theme from Mozart's "Magic Flute"*, WoO 46. **Youbin Jun**, cello; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano.
- LISZT: *Au lac de Wallenstadt; Vallée d'Obermann* from *Années de Pèlerinage*. **William Bloomquist**, piano.
- MENDELSSOHN: *Andante and Variations*, op. 83a. **Felicia Weiss** and **Jack Stable**, piano duo.

### Sunday, November 6, 3:00 pm at The Lyceum

- BEETHOVEN: Piano Trio in B-flat Major, op. 97 ("Archduke"). **Marion Richter**, violin; **Keng Siong Sim**, cello; **Chen-li Tzeng**, piano.
- DEBUSSY: *La Soirée dans Grenade*. RAVEL: *Valses nobles et sentimentales*. **Charles Timbrell**, piano.

### Tuesday, November 8, 7:30 pm at Goodwin House

- JOSEPH FENNIMORE: *Foxtrot*. **Paul Leavitt**, piano.
- MOZART: Trio in E-flat Major, K 498 ("Kegelstatt"). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano.
- NIELSEN: Wind Quintet, op. 43. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Jeff Kahan** (guest), oboe; **Alisha Coleman** (guest), clarinet; **Wendy Chinn** (guest), horn; **Lisa Eckstein** (guest), bassoon.

### Thursday, November 10, 12 noon at Dumbarton House

- BEETHOVEN: Rondo from Duo #2 for flute and cello (originally for clarinet and bassoon). DANZI: *Andante sostenuto* and *Allegretto* from Duetto III, op. 64 no. 3. **Laura Benning**, flute; **Valerie Matthews**, cello.
- HANDEL: Nine German Arias for soprano and violin. **Veronica Kim** (guest), soprano; **Hyejin Kim**, violin.

### Friday, November 11, 12 noon at St. George's Episcopal Church

- CRUSELL: Quartet in E-flat Major for clarinet, violin, viola, and cello, op. 2. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Eunju Kwak**, violin; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; cello TBA.
- SPOHR: Six German Songs for soprano, clarinet, and piano, op. 103. **Marjorie Coombs Wellman**, soprano; **Carole Falvo**, clarinet; **Sarah Himmelfarb**, piano.
- RAVEL: *Rapsodie espagnole*, op. 54. **Chen-li Tzeng** and **Jeongseon Choi**, piano duo.

### Friday, November 11, 7:30 pm at Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. Avanti Orchestra, Pablo Saelzer, conductor, with WIC Winners

- WILLIAM BOYCE: Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major.
- TCHAIKOVSKY: *Variations on a Rococo Theme*. **Sydney Lee**, cello (2022 WIC winner).
- RAVEL: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*.
- BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, op. 19. **Vivian Chen**, piano (2021 WIC winner).

### Saturday, November 12, 4:00 pm at Westminster at Lake Ridge

- BRAHMS: Sonata in E-flat Major, op. 120, no. 2. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- MOZART: Trio in E-flat Major K 498, ("Kegelstatt"). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.

### Tuesday, November 15, 12:00 noon at The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

- PAULINE VIARDOT: Selected songs. **Polly Baldridge**, soprano; **Vicki Bragin**, piano.
- CHOPIN: Selections. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.
- EDWARD BAGHDASARIAN: *Nocturne*. BARTOK: *Romanian Dances*. SOFI MIKAYELYAN: *Ethnodance*. **Christine Kharazian**, violin; **Andrew Kraus**, piano.

### Thursday, November 17, 12:00 noon at Old Town Hall, Fairfax

- MARTINŪ: Trio for flute, cello and piano. **Laura Benning**, flute; **Valerie Matthews**, cello; **Natasha Duran**, piano.
- FERNANDO OBRADOR and ENRIQUE GRANADOS: Selected songs. **Daryl Yoder**, baritone; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano.
- DEBUSSY: *L'Isle joyeuse*. **Topher Ruggiero**, piano.

### Friday, November 18, 12:00 noon at Live! at 10th & G

- MOZART: Trio in E-flat Major, K 498 ("Kegelstatt"). **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; **Bonnie Cohen**, viola; **Jung-Yoon Lee**, piano.
- DEBUSSY: Selections from *Préludes*. **Topher Ruggiero**, piano.
- BRAHMS: Sonata No. 1 for cello and piano in E Minor, op. 38. **Harriet Kaplan**, cello; **Simon Finlow**, piano.

### Friday, November 25, 1:00 pm in The Mansion at Stathmore

Student Recital

### Thursday, December 1, 1:00 pm in The Mansion at Strathmore

- Selected songs: **Nancy Marriott**, soprano; **David Chapman**, piano.
- CHOPIN: Selections. **Immanuela Gruenberg**, piano.
- J. S. BACH: Sonata in B Minor, BWV 1030. **Gwyn Jones**, flute; **Rosanne Conway**, piano.

### Friday, December 2, 12:00 noon at St. George's Episcopal Church

- LAITMAN, CHAMINADE, POLDOWSKI, LEHMANN: Selected songs by women composers. **Nancy MacArthur Smith**, soprano; **Barbara Peterson Cackler**, piano.
- Piano works from Latin America. **Alvaro Puig**, piano.
- Additional performer TBA.

### Friday, December 9, 12:00 noon at St. George's Episcopal Church

Composers Concert

- LESLIE BENNETT: Two song cycles: *Autumn* and *Vincent van Gogh*. **Jonathan Hoffman**, tenor; **Melvin Goodwin** (guest), piano.
- SHARON GUERTIN SHAFER: *And The Angels Sang* (Five scenes for voice and piano). *Variations on Hymns for solo piano*. **Sharon Guertin Shafer**, piano; **Emily Hantman Tsai** (guest), soprano.

## Venues

### Dumbarton House

2715 Q St. NW  
Washington, DC

### Goodwin House

4800 Fillmore Ave.  
Alexandria, VA

### Kennedy Center Terrace Theater,

Washington, DC  
(Metro: Foggy Bottom)

### Live! at 10th & G

945 G St. NW  
Washington, DC  
(Metro: Gallery Place 9th St. exit  
or Metro Center)

### The Lyceum

201 S. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA

### The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike  
N. Bethesda, MD  
(Metro: Grosvenor)

### Old Town Hall, City of Fairfax

Corner of Main St.  
(Rt. 236) & University Dr.  
Fairfax, VA

### St. George's Episcopal Church

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

### Westminster at Lake Ridge Retirement Community

12191 Clipper Dr.  
Lake Ridge, VA

### Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

7931 Connecticut Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD

## From the Foundation Director

Grace McFarlane

The performing calendar is gathering steam as we head into the cooler months of the fall season. The first FMMC/FMMC Foundation sponsored event of the year was a showcase concert featuring Jinan Laurentia Woo in a brilliant performance of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Avanti Orchestra at the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, DC. Laurentia is a huge talent, with charming poise, professionalism, grace, and virtuosic energy that brought her enthusiastic audience to their feet in well-deserved applause. We expect to hear much more from this amazing young artist.

Following the concerto collaboration with the National Philharmonic Orchestra in the Music Center at Strathmore on October 30, we eagerly anticipate the return to DC of the winners of the 2021 WIC Piano Competition, Vivian Chen, and the 2022 WIC Strings Cello Competition, Sydney Lee, who will perform with the Avanti Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Pablo Saelzer. This concert will take place in the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The program will include the Beethoven 2<sup>nd</sup> Piano Concerto and the Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations. The performance will start at 7:30 pm. There is no charge for admission, but patrons are invited to RSVP and reserve tickets to be picked up outside the entrance to the Terrace Theater. Be on the lookout for further details in your inbox.

The 2023 WIC Voice Competition application is now *live* on the Getaccepted website. We look forward to welcoming our distinguished jury - Sylvia McNair, Aprile Mollo, and Antony Walker - who will adjudicate the semifinal and final rounds next May 27-28, 2023. We anticipate a record number of applicants this year and encourage our FMMC membership to help get the word out to all who might be interested in this important competition. The application is accessible at [app.getaccepted.com/wic](http://app.getaccepted.com/wic).

For questions regarding the application process, contact the Competition Chair, Chen-Li Tzeng, at [wicvoice@fmmc.org](mailto:wicvoice@fmmc.org).

The Foundation relies on the generous support of member donations and bequests to fund our international competitions. Gifts to our general fund as well as bequests to support a specific competition are welcome, and all contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [foundation@fmmc.org](mailto:foundation@fmmc.org), or the Foundation Treasurer, Charlotte Saslowsky, at [cpharrell@yahoo.com](mailto:cpharrell@yahoo.com).

I hope to see you at the Kennedy Center on November 11<sup>th</sup>. 🎧

Grace

### FMMC Directory Correction

*Hye-Yun Chung Bennett*, listed on page 66 of the *FMMC Yearbook & Directory*, is a professional harpist, and her instrument should read "Solo Harp." On page 100, her name should be removed from the "Solo Harpsichord" section. If you encounter any errors in the Directory, either in your own entry or another section, please let us know at [yearbook@fmmc.org](mailto:yearbook@fmmc.org) so that we can make necessary corrections. 🎧





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

## Arioso Chorale: A Complicated Work to Start the Year

Peter Baum

We were delighted that last month the Chorale performed at the Church of the Reformation with Baritone Jerome Barry as the soloist singing the Ernest Bloch *Avodath Hakodesh* (Sacred Service). This mid-20th-Century work uses as its text the Sabbath Service taken from the Union Prayer Book of the Jewish Reform Movement. The Chorale also performed two other smaller works, both written by Paul Leavitt: The *Oseh Shalom*, a prayer for peace, which is used in numerous settings during services in a synagogue. The final piece on the program was called *Chanukah Blessings* which featured soprano soloist Gabrielle Levy in a work taken from the opening prayers that usher in the holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.

With the completion of the first concert, the Chorale is moving back into

the 19th century and preparing a work by Giacomo Puccini. While Puccini is most remembered for his many operas, his first major non-operatic work was the *Messa a voci con orchestra (Messa Di Gloria)*. First performed in 1880, it sat effectively unknown and not played until 1952. Even today, it is a rarely performed work from a truly gifted composer. The Chorale will begin rehearsals on October 30. The concert dates are Thursday, January 26 and Saturday, January 28, 2023. Singers interested in participating in this project should contact Peter Baum at [chorale@fmmc.org](mailto:chorale@fmmc.org).

Orchestra rehearsals will begin in early December. The orchestration calls for a full symphonic orchestra so there will be opportunities for players across the spectrum to be involved. If interested, contact Peter Baum at [chorale@fmmc.org](mailto:chorale@fmmc.org) for further information and the schedule. 🎧

### 2023 Outreach at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

The Friends Club of Bethesda at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church has offered us the following dates in 2023. They have a baby grand piano. Concerts are 11:30am-12:30pm. Their schedule fills up quickly, so please sign up soon by emailing [outreach@fmmc.org](mailto:outreach@fmmc.org).

**Available dates:**

- Wed Mar 22
- Thur Mar 30
- Mon April 24
- Thur May 18
- Wed May 31
- Mon June 12
- Thur June 22 🎧