

The Bellingham Music Club
Oct. 7, 2015, 10:30 am
Trinity Lutheran, 119 Texas



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

President's Message

We launched our Centennial Season with the glorious and ambitious Gala Concert on June 21! We are well into our 100th season, and your enthusiastic support continues to gratify us beyond all expectations. Your response in the renewal of BMC memberships, plus the many newcomers joining us for this 2015-16 concert season, has been completely awesome. You have not only joined our club but have reached out to us with your continued donations. We are grateful and humbled.

This BMC concert series is a year-long centennial celebration, and what would a celebration be without a party? We are so honored to welcome back stars of last year's Broadway show! This morning is a world premiere!!! The centennial season features past award winners returning to "home plate" to share their talents and success, plus three concerts of "newbie" competition winners. Hear and feel the joy in the music that these musicians are playing. *Veni, vidi, vici!* These musicians come to perform, to entertain and to WOW you! EVERY CONCERT will be their personal gift to the BMC.

Frank DeFreytas has been our "go to" man in the care of the piano and has kept us in tune for seasons of concerts. Frank did double duty for the Gala Concert this past June when he supervised the care of two concert grand pianos involving transport. THANK YOU, from all of us, for taking on such a heavy load! Throughout this extraordinary season of award-winning musicians and professionals, all concerts that include a piano will require the instrument to be tuned. This is both an obligation and a courtesy for such accomplished artists as we have on our schedule.

A very sincere and appreciative thank you to **Barbara DeFreytas** for being our official hostess at Trinity Lutheran. Barbara has graciously organized the pre-concert coffees twice a year, plus the lovely receptions after the December and June concerts. Barbara and Lee Cole are co-hosting coffee hour this morning. Stop by and say hello.

Special thanks also to **Charlie Way**, our tireless and talented club treasurer whose wise counsel keeps our budget in balance, and our membership chair, **Will Ellender**, who has been particularly busy these past weeks!

Thank you for your recent donations: **Deborah and Mike Anderson, Joan Biasini, Kay and Dick Carr, Addis and Jim Chapman, Isabelle Cormier, Robert Cullen, Margaret DeMaine, Vernon Greenstreet, Lorina Hall, Clyde and Patricia Hiss, Andrine and Erwin Knapp, April Muegge, Mark and Erin Schlichting, Elaine Walsh, and Evelyn Wright.** Your generosity is most appreciated!

Wishing you wonderful listening,
BMC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank DeFreytas".

Piano for sale



Nancy Heyer, a BMC member and frequent accompanist, says a student is upgrading to a Steinway grand piano and needs to sell a beautiful **Steinway upright piano**. "I have played it and it is, by far, the best upright piano I've ever experienced, both in tone quality and action," Nancy reported. The family of the student is asking \$5,000, about what one would pay currently for a new Yamaha upright. For details, contact Nancy at theheyers@msn.com, or the piano's owner, Deborah Oksenberg, at doksen@yahoo.com or 714-6165 and 920-6675.



Board Notes

The just **revised BMC Membership Handbook is ready** for you today! If you have paid for this year's membership, just ask Will or Charlie for your new copy. It contains program dates, competition details, names of officers and committee chairs, bylaws, plus contact information for your best friends! Be sure to have a look at our fascinating history, with pictures, at the back of the book.

We regret the passing of **Terry Parakh**, a long-time BMC and Whatcom Chorale member. Terry will be remembered for her gracious smile and always perfectly matched outfits! Sincere condolences to her husband Jal.

BMC welcomes new members **Martha Benedict, Lorina Hall, Ruth Heft, Suzanne Krogh, Helen Moran, April Muegge, and Barbara Ryan.**

Upcoming events

The Whatcom Symphony Orchestra will perform works by **Bernstein and Beethoven at 3 pm, Oct. 11** at Mount Baker Theater in Bellingham, featuring Canadian concert violinist James Ehnes. Tickets are \$14, \$44 or \$49. For information, call 734-6080 or visit whatcomsymphony.com.

Met Opera Live in HD: Remember to fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to receive tickets for Wagner's **Tannhäuser** with **James Levine** conducting. Performance time at Regal Barkley Theaters is **Saturday, Oct. 31, at 9 am.**

Next month, world-famous bassoonist Martin Kuuskmann, along with WWU professor, pianist Jeffrey Gilliam, will perform for us. This special appearance is a huge event and a great honor for the BMC. Mr. Kuuskmann will dedicate his concert to our BMC student competitions, in the hope of raising extra money to encourage young musicians of Whatcom County. For that reason, tickets for the **concert on Thursday, Nov. 5**, are \$20, available today in the lobby, online at bellinghammusicclub.org, and in person at Village Books and Piper Music. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm. at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Ave., and will feature works by Donizetti, Saint-Saëns, Schumann, Arvo Pärt, and an Estonian work for solo bassoon. Kuuskmann and Gilliam will perform a shorter version of the recital here at Trinity on **Wednesday morning, Nov. 4, at 10:30 am. Remember, our Student Award basket is always hungry. Don't forget to throw in a few bucks!**

BMC is on the program of the Whatcom County Historical Society next month. President Kristin Van Schelt, awards chair Gail Haines and program chair Isabelle Cormier will talk about our club's history, its philanthropic endeavors and Centennial Season programs. The presentation will include entertainment, and will take place in the Rotunda Room at the Whatcom Museum on **Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 pm.** Admission will be free for museum members, with a \$3 suggested donation for others.

From now on, the **BMC high school Piano Competition** will honor **Nancy Bussard**, an incomparable piano teacher and accompanist. Nancy has been associated with the Bellingham Music Club since 1951, when she was invited to perform as a singer at the Music Club's annual summer Homecoming Concert for returning college students.

A special centennial event is planned at Lairmont Manor in 2016, almost exactly 100 years after the club's inaugural event. Mark your calendar for an Anniversary Concert and Afternoon Tea on Sunday, **Feb. 21, from 2 to 4 pm** at Lairmont. Details will be revealed as we get closer to the date.



Find everything about the BMC on our website www.bellinghammusicclub.org

Contributions or corrections? Contact the Newsletter Editors:

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Ben Buchanan is a 4-year combat veteran of the Iraq War. After a tour that took him to both Iraq and Afghanistan, he completed his service in 2011 and began working on his associate's degree in Eugene. He spent 3 years acting in many theaters in Oregon. Some of his previous work includes *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Company*, *Into The Woods*, *Hair*, *Grease* and *The Bridegroom of Blowing Rock* (for which he was nominated for the Irene Ryan National Acting Award). He transferred to Western Washington University in 2014 to complete his baccalaureate, and has just finished writing, producing, and acting in *Faust* as part of a company led by Rich Brown at the university. This will be his 18th production since his completion of service in the Armed Forces.



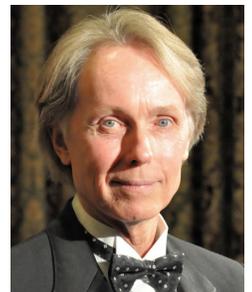
After studying voice at the University of Texas, **Sherrie Kahn** moved to New York City to continue her studies. In addition to performing in opera and musicals such as *Guys and Dolls* and *The Sound of Music*, Kahn specialized in liturgical music and oratorios. For many years she sang at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. In 2006, Kahn and her family relocated to Bellingham. Since then she has been involved in volunteer work for Skagit Opera, North Sound Youth Symphony and the Bellingham Music Club. An active recitalist, Kahn has appeared as soloist with Whatcom Chorale.



Originally from Olympia, **Megann Schmidt** now lives in Bellingham with her fiancé and two 20-pound cats, Gizmo & Gadget. She graduated from Bellingham Technical College with a degree in dental assisting and now works for Barkley Boulevard Dental Care. Recent performance credits include *Mark Twain in Fairhaven* (Daisy Kogull), *Charlotte's Web* (Fern), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive Ostrovsky), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Truly Scrumptious), *The Pajama Game* (Gladys), *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda), and last season's *A Broadway Cabaret*.



For 34 years in Los Angeles, **Martin Bray**'s most demanding audiences were his kindergarten students. He honed his dance skills with the theatrical dance troupe, Company LA, and studied musical theater performance with Karen Morrow. Retiring to Bellingham, Martin joined the Bellingham Theatre Guild in three productions, *Annie Get Your Gun* (chorus), *The Pajama Game* (Max), and the *Musical Birthday Bash*. He was a featured performer in last season's *A Broadway Cabaret*.



Scott Henderson started piano lessons at age 8, studied composition at the Manhattan School of Music and earned a degree in composition at Indiana University. Between 1985 and 1992, he was resident composer with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, writing shows for Beatrice Arthur, Eileen Brennan and Joan Rivers, as well as arrangements for Elizabeth Taylor, Joanna Gleason, and others. His compositions are published by Yelton Rhodes Music. He recently served as executive director of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra and musical director of *A Broadway Cabaret*.



Born into a musical family in Bellingham, **Martha Benedict** has had a lifelong passion for music and theater. Some favorite roles as she's moved around various cities: *Threepenny Opera* (Mrs. Beachum), *Cabaret* (Fräulein Schneider), *The Mikado* (Katisha), and *The Diviners* (Norma Henshaw). A recent highlight was working with Kathryn Murray, creating, producing and directing the Bellingham Theatre Guild's 85th anniversary *Musical Birthday Bash*, and co-producing *A Broadway Cabaret*. Other life pursuits have included teaching school, cooking for Alaskan expeditions, and professional scuba diving in Hawaii.



Special thank you to:

Martin Bray for choreography

Ben Buchanan for additional scripting

Genny Cohn for costuming

Christopher Key for photography

The Bellingham Theatre Guild, Alona and Matt Christman at The Firehouse, Ken Harrison and Debbie Reece.

A Swell Party with Cole Porter

A New Musical with the Music and Lyrics of Cole Porter

Book by Scott Henderson, Martin Bray and Larry Rosen

Musical Direction by Scott Henderson

Presented by Isabelle Cormier, Gail Haines and Mary Passmore

1. Prologue: Ridin' High	Red Hot and Blue (1936)	Scott
2. I'm Throwing a Ball Tonight	Panama Hattie (1940)	Martha
3. Well, Did You Evah?	DuBarry Was a Lady (1939)	Ben, Megann, Martin, Sherrie and Martha
4. Where Oh Where	Out of This World (1950)	Megann
5. You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To	Something to Shout About (1943)	Ben
6. Let's Do It	Paris (1928)	Martin & Sherrie
7. Let's Misbehave	Paris (1928)	Martin & Sherrie
8. You've Got That Thing	Fifty Million Frenchmen (1929)	Martin & Sherrie
9. You're the Top	Anything Goes (1934)	Ben & Megann
10. You Never Know	You Never Know (1938)	Martha
11. Friendship	DuBarry Was a Lady (1939)	All
12. Farming	Let's Face It (1941)	Martin, Sherrie & Ben
13. Stereophonic Sound	Silk Stockings (1958)	Martin, Sherrie, Ben & Megann
14. Be a Clown	The Pirate (1946)	Martin, Sherrie, Ben & Megann
15. My Heart Belongs to Daddy	Leave it to Me (1938)	Megann
16. Just One of Those Things	Jubilee (1935)	Ben
17. Who Wants to be a Millionaire	High Society (1956)	Ben & Megann
18. You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To (Reprise)	Something to Shout About (1943)	Ben & Megann
19. Anything Goes	Anything Goes (1934)	Sherrie, Martin, Ben, Megann and Martha