

The Bellingham Music Club
February 1, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
Trinity Lutheran, 119 Texas St.

Jan Fare

The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club



Today, we mark BMC's 101st birthday and gather for a tradition close to our hearts: hearing competition winners, and encouraging talented youth. Parents and teachers are most deserving of our appreciation for fostering this next generation of stars! But to make it all happen, our thanks go to competition coordinators, **Joan Rae, Evelyn Ames and Evelyn Wright**, and awards chair, **Charli Daniels**. Kudos as well to adjudicators extraordinaire: **Julie Ives**, a piano teacher and performer living in Seattle, graduate of Cornish College of the Arts (where she studied with Dr. Peter Mack), and 1992 BMC Award Winner, soprano **Tracy Satterfield**, who graced our stage a few times in recent years.

We are also inspired by **Nancy Bussard**, beloved local music teacher, associated with the BMC since 1951, and **Jack and Ginny Frymire**, opera and musical theater singers and directors, who toured the U.S. and Europe before relocating to the Northwest. We remember past BMC secretary, **Robert Millard**, with a special prize, and sincerely thank **Bob and Wilma Bryant**, for their ongoing and generous support.

Now, a few words about the Russian composers presented in the piano portion of today's program, courtesy of BMC member, **Dr. Robert Palmieri**, editor of *The Piano: An Encyclopedia* (with wife **Margaret**), and Professor Emeritus of Kent State University.

Program Notes

Scriabin (1872-1915) and **Rachmaninoff** (1873-1943) were good friends. They both studied with the same piano teacher and both graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in 1892, with high honors. There remains today, in the Great Salle of the Conservatory, a marble "Tablet of Honor" listing the names of the honorees of that graduating class, including those of both Scriabin and Rachmaninoff.

In my research of material on Rachmaninoff for a book on the composer, I visited the Conservatory in 1989 and saw the "Tablet of Honor." I also gave a lecture to the musicology students there on his work in the USA. By the way, the class was directed by Aleksei Kandinsky (a relative of the great painter of the same name).

After Scriabin died in 1915, Rachmaninoff performed in concert many of Scriabin's piano works and donated the proceeds to his widow and family. His early years exhibited influence of Chopin's works, as in the two Scriabin pieces heard today - *12 Etudes Op. 8*. In later years he developed a unique style and harmony that looked forward to music of the future.

Today we will hear Rachmaninoff's *Prelude in C-sharp minor*. This most famous work was written when Rachmaninoff was 19 years old. An interesting quote from the composer: "One day the *Prelude* simply came and I put it down. It came with such force that I could not shake it off even though I tried to do so. It had to be – so there it was."

Rachmaninoff was expected to perform this *Prelude* at each of his recitals because it was so popular. He was not always pleased to comply with this demand and became tired of performing it. One time in performing the *Prelude*, he altered the work a bit just to try out a new approach to this work. The press reacted, "Last night Rachmaninoff had trouble performing his *Prelude in C-sharp minor*." After that experience he never changed a note.

The *Moment Musical* No.4 performed today illustrates Rachmaninoff's expertise in left-hand technique. The work is a bit similar to Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude" (Op.10, No.12), in which the left-hand passage work has a major role. Many of Rachmaninoff's piano works have difficult left-hand work. One must remember that he had large hands – which covered a hand-span of a 12th (i.e., octave and a half). So it was easier for him to navigate these expanded passages than for the usual performer.

It is gratifying that these young people are performing such important works. By selecting this literature they are keeping alive the legacy of these two remarkable composers.

– **Bob Palmieri**



Rachmaninoff
in his late twenties

Biographies

High School Piano Competition in honor of Nancy Bussard



First Place (\$400): Trevor Elliott Johnson hails from the Poulsbo-Bainbridge Island area, and came to Bellingham after spending a few years in Bellevue. He credits studying under Suzuki, Russian and American approaches for his two time first place wins in Seattle Bach Festival competitions and a recent first place win at the Seattle Russian Festival. Trevor is grateful to current teacher Andrea Rackl for guiding him on his way to a career in music; he plans to attend WWU this coming fall to continue his studies in piano performance.



Second Place (\$300): William Zhang, a junior at Sehome High School, began piano lessons at age four and is currently studying with Dr. Judith Widrig. He won first place in 2015 and 2016 in the BMC H. S. Piano Competition. He performed as a representative for the Bellingham Music Teachers Chapter last June in the Washington State Music Teacher Conference. Besides music, William participates in school math team and varsity tennis team.



Third Place (\$200): Olanna Skrinnik is a junior enrolled in Zacchaeus Learning Opportunities, a private high school. She is an award winner in the BMC H. S. Piano Competition (2015, 2016) as well as at the Sonata-Sonatina Festival at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA. Olanna started her musical studies at the age of four; she now studies piano under Dr. Kay Zavislak. Olanna also receives occasional coaching from Mr. Don Ernest. For the past three years, Olanna has been teaching piano students from her home studio. She is also an accomplished violinist. Besides music, Olanna enjoys studying psychology and communication.



Robert Millard Prize (\$100): Ry Dozier-Lerum, is a junior at Sehome High School, and enrolled in Running Start at Whatcom Community College. This is her ninth year playing piano and her second year participating in the BMC H. S. Piano Competition. She studies with Dr. Judith Widrig. Ry enjoys playing music as well as composing, and puts her talents to use in musicals, film soundtracks, and singing. Ry is also an actor and a writer, finding delight in exploring her creativity.

High School Vocal Competition in honor of Jack and Ginny Frymire



First Place (\$400): Aaron McInnis, a junior at Bellingham High School, started singing three years ago in the school choir and was soon recruited for the annual musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. A friend encouraged him to seek voice teacher Edward Cook. Thanks to Professor Cook, Aaron has grown as a singer and a person, and realized dreams he never could have imagined, such as winning the tenor category at State Solo/Ensemble, and participating in a vocal program with the Washington National Opera in D.C.



Second Place (\$300): Tristan Wine, who studies voice with Rob Viens, is active in Squalicum High School concert orchestra, concert choir and Storm Singers. Last year he won first place in the State WMEA solo and ensemble competition in the Vocal Bass Soloist category. This fall, he was in Opera Popolare's production of Bach's *Coffeehouse Cantata*, and sang the role of the Beast in his school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Outside of music he enjoys the sciences, reading, and tennis. Next year he plans to go to college, hoping to eventually become an anesthesiologist.



Third Place (\$200): Anya Grimm studies with Holly Alcorn. She grew up in a musical environment that included singing and playing the glockenspiel in Kindermusik; singing in choir, performing in her school's theater, and playing the violin during elementary and middle school years. Now a high school junior at Sehome High School, she is choir president and plans to pursue music in college. Anya enjoys 50s/early 60s and classic country music. Appreciation of music runs deep in her family — her great-grandparents performed nightly dinner music on the radio for seventeen years, including on their wedding day!



Bob and Wilma Bryant Prize (\$100): Amelia Lustick, a freshman at Sehome High School, studies voice with Rob Viens. She feels music has always been a huge part of her life. Her musical journey started in third grade at Happy Valley Elementary School, and took her from participating in choir to performing solos and landing roles in a school play. She credits private lessons and performance experience for her expanding love of music. She sings with two school choirs, including the Sehome Chamber Choir.



Joan Rae presents the winners of the
BMC High School Piano Competition in honor of Nancy Bussard



Evelyn Ames and Evelyn Wright present the winners of the
BMC High School Vocal Competition in honor of Jack & Ginny Frymire

<i>Se tu m'ami</i>	Alessandro Parisotti (1853-1913)
Amelia Lustick Rob Viens, piano	
Masques	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Ry Dozier-Lerum	
La Serenata	Francesco Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)
Sprig of Thyme	Percy Grainger (1882-1961)
Anya Grimm Rachel Roulet, piano	
Scherzo No. 1 Op. 20 B minor (<i>with cut</i>)	Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)
Olanna Skrinnik	
"Crucifixus" (<i>Messa di Gloria</i>)	Giocomo Puccini (1858-1924)
<i>L'esperto nocchiere</i> (Realization by John Glen Paton)	Giovanni Bononcini (1670-1747)
Tristan Wine Jason Parker, piano	
Piano Sonata No.26 in E-flat, Op.81a ('Les Adieux') 1. Das Lebwohl: Adagio. Allegro	Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Etudes Op. 8 Nos. 2 in F# minor & 12 in D# minor	Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)
William Zhang	
<i>Im wunderschönen Monat Mai</i> (from Dichterliebe, Op. 48)	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Lenski's Aria (from Eugene Onegin)	Piotr Illitch Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Aaron McInnis Rachel Roulet, piano	
Morceaux de fantaisie, Op.3 2. Prelude in C# minor ('The Bells of Moscow')	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
6 Moments Musicaux, Op. 16 4. Presto in E minor	Sergei Rachmaninoff
Trevor Elliott Johnson	

February 1, 2017

Bellingham Music Club

Free Concerts
Night Beat
Student Competitions

Board Notes

Bring your ideas to the **Program Committee** and help plan next season at a meeting on February 22 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity. Let Program Chair Isabelle Cormier know of your interest (360-752-1845).

Thank you to Charli Daniels for her generous year-end donation. Student awards are entirely supported by your gifts. Both donations and dues go a long way in supporting music in the community!

Current members, see Will Ellender for a membership update - and your handbook, if you don't have one already!



Upcoming events

Next BMC program: High school winners of string and instrumental competitions will perform for the Bellingham Music Club at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 119 Texas St.

We also invite you to attend the following BMC auditions:

High School String Competition in honor of Ethel Crook, Friday, February 3, 5-8 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran;

High School Instrumental Competition in honor of Nicholas Bussard, Friday, February 10, 5-8 p.m. also at Trinity.

The Sanford-Hill Piano Series presents Spencer Meyer at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Performing Arts Center at WWU. Tickets range from \$17 to \$42, available at the PAC box office: 360-650-6146.

Mount Baker Theatre will host an International Guitar Night at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, featuring solos, duets and quartets. Tickets range from \$20.50 to \$39.50. Call 360-734-6080.

The New York Metropolitan Opera will present Dvorak's fairy-tale opera *Rusalka* via a live telecast starting at 9:55 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at Barkley Regal Cinemas. Tickets are \$23.10 for seniors. In Slavic mythology, a rusalka is a water sprite living in a lake or river. Sounds familiar? It's also the "Little Mermaid" story!

Tracking our BMC Award Winners

Students in this winter's English 402 course at Western Washington University could have chosen to create tutorials on how to use Google apps and YouTube for the Student Technology Center on campus, as their class project. But three young women thought the Bellingham Music Club offered a more appealing project.

So now **Emily Erickson, Emma Hovley and Ayelet Goldschmidt** (pictured left to right) are tracking and interviewing former high school and college students who won awards from the BMC as far back as the 1980s. Every year BMC presents monetary awards to outstanding student musicians in the categories of piano, voice, strings and other instruments. The club is looking for updates that demonstrate *how music enriches the lives of the winners now, and how the encouragement the BMC offered might have helped them to achieve their goals.*



BMC board members Susan Callahan and Richard Howland made the club's pitch before Margaret Fox's class on Jan. 10 in Room 104 of the Humanities Building. They asked the students to find and contact past award winners from a list we supplied. Emily, of Seattle; Ayelet, from Bellevue, and Emma, of Vancouver, Wash., will present their findings on March 9, at the end of the winter quarter. **Excerpts from their research will appear in the newsletter from time to time**, and will be stored in the BMC archives at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.

BMC competed with other nonprofit community groups to recruit students in English 402, a technical writing course that gives students an opportunity to gain work experience outside of the classroom.

Michael Wilder, assistant director of academic technology and user services at WWU, was one of the other recruiters on Jan. 10. He asked English 402 students to create professional development and training materials on how to use Google apps and YouTube for educational purposes.

John Purdy, an English professor at WWU and the founder of Write Place, also spoke. Write Place, based in Deming, supports and promotes writers. The organization is developing a promotional film to enhance the organization's public profile. Purdy asked English 402 students to devise a promotional strategy for this film.

The last speaker was Haley Halverson, a program specialist for WWU's Small Business Development Center, funded partly by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The center provides tools, training and resources to help small businesses grow and succeed. Halverson said professors and students often approach SBDC in pursuit of applied learning opportunities. She asked students in English 402 to come up with a way for WWU students and small businesses to interact.

Last year, other students taking English 402 produced a **hardbound book about the 100-year history of the Bellingham Music Club**. We have an ongoing collaboration with the WWU English Department since 2014.

Contributions or corrections? Contact the Newsletter Editor: Richard Howland at yksun@aol.com

bellinghammusicclub.org

