



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

Celebrating young talent!

This is one of my favorite times of year: winter is receding, the days are getting longer and our Student Awards Program is once again highlighting the talent of young musicians in our community. It is so inspiring to see and hear these high school and college performers who have put so much effort into mastering their instrument and learning their music.

A huge thank-you to all our BMC supporters for making our Student Awards Program possible! Half the money we raise through membership and your generous donations support this program. We could not support and recognize our young musicians without you!

Joan Youngquist
BMC President



Board Notes



BMC welcomes **new board member Liz Hjelmseth**. We had the chance to know Liz better when she volunteered for the student awards, welcoming young musicians and helping with logistics at First Congregational Church. Liz was already familiar with BMC awards; her daughter Leigh, an accomplished flutist, won the Nicholas Bussard three years in a row! *Thank you, Liz, for joining our ranks!* Anyone else out there? We are a dynamic and fun bunch! Come, lend a hand and help BMC grow and thrive!

Last Month

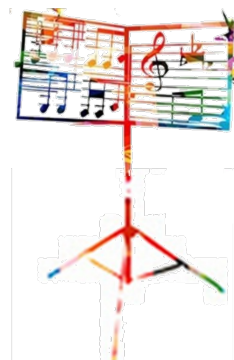
Violinist Carolyn Canfield and pianist Judith Widrig brought us "Musical Stories" high in virtuosity and emotion. While joyful works highlighted the matinee program, additional selections by contemporary women composers profoundly moved the Night Beat audience. One attendee wrote, "Their exquisite interpretation and mastery were simply fabulous!"



BMC Upcoming Events

We invite you to hear young musicians perform for a professional adjudicator as BMC continues its Awards Program. The voice category is on Tuesday, March 12, starting at 4pm, and the piano category is on Friday, March 15, also at 4pm, both at First Congregational Church. Drop in to hear a few or all of them! It's always an amazing experience to watch talented youth strive for excellence!

Our next daytime program is on **Wednesday, April 3, 10:30am**, when the winners for the **H.S. Piano Awards in honor of Nancy Bussard** and the **H.S. Voice Awards in honor of Jack and Ginny Frymire** perform in an outstanding showcase! We are looking forward to being back at **Trinity Lutheran Church** after a major remodel. Stay tuned for updates!



"To foster and encourage the development of music appreciation and performance in the community"

Community Events

The Bellingham Festival of Music and the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra host the **Odyssey String Quartet** from the prestigious Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, for the *10th Annual Play It Forward Chamber Residency*. The ensemble spends this week visiting our county schools, performing, teaching and inspiring our local music students. Hear these award-winning musicians in a public performance on **Friday, March 8, 7pm** at Sehome High School, 2700 Bill McDonald Pkwy, Bellingham. \$15 suggested donation; students free.



10TH ANNUAL
"PLAY IT FORWARD CHAMBER RESIDENCY"
FEATURING
THE ODYSSEY STRING QUARTET



Bellingham Chamber Chorale presents *Deep River* - a concert of Spirituals featuring guest collaborative soloist Ms. Shelia Tate (pictured at left). Dr. Frederick Mabalot leads two performances on **Saturday, March 16 at 12noon**, and **Sunday, March 17, 5pm**, both at the Church of the Assumption, 2116 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham. Tickets and more information on bellinghamchamberchorale.org

Whatcom Chorale invites you to share an afternoon of shimmering harmonies and inspiring melody. Elaine Hagenberg's stirring *Illuminare* (Washington premiere) anchors a concert that explores compelling themes of resilience, perseverance, freedom, and fulfillment. Poetry by Stuart Kestenbaum; Sara Teasdale; Alfred, Lord Tennyson; and David Rosenthal are set to the insightful voices of contemporary women composers. **Saturday, March 16, 3pm** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2117 Walnut Street in Bellingham. Tickets are available at Village Books and online on whatcomchorale.org.



S. Bennerstrom, *Night Light*

Mark the Dates!

Introducing **The Early Birds**, a newly formed group dedicated to showcasing the beauty of the Baroque era. This ensemble features Matthew Hudgens, oboe and recorder, Sydney ZumMallen, viola da gamba, and Jacob Dassa, harpsichord. These musicians, having previously collaborated in various ensembles at the prestigious Juilliard School, have forged a deep personal and musical connection that has lasted through the years. *Eclipse of the Heart* will transport you to the realms of France and Germany with cherished compositions by Purcell, Bach, and Marais, among others. **April 5, 7pm, at the Firehouse Arts and Event Center**. Donations gratefully accepted.

The Bellingham Festival of Music is eagerly preparing for its annual Dinner & Live Auction, *Festa de Musica*, on **Saturday, April 6** starting with cocktails and silent auction at 6:00pm. This major fundraiser supports the Festival's world class orchestral summer concerts and education programs for youth in our community. This special evening at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club will also welcome the Festival's new Artistic Director, Marcelo Lehninger. Registrations are open now on bellinghamfestival.org.



**You like what BMC does and want to support its endeavors?
See us in the lobby; we have pre-addressed envelopes
to make it easy to put a check in the mail — or go online!**

ABOUT BMC: Non-profit volunteer-led Bellingham Music Club supports music in the community with live performances, and encourages the next generation of musicians with its philanthropy. BMC sets the highest musical standards in all its endeavors: daytime and evening concerts, and award program.

2023-2024 season
Sounds Sublime



BellinghamMusicClub.org

Contributions and comments? Write to us at bellinghammusicclub@gmail.com or BMC, P.O. Box 193, Bellingham, WA 98227

Winners of Bellingham Music Club High School
String Awards in honor of Ethel Crook

Winners of Bellingham Music Club High School
Winds and Percussion Awards in honor of Nicholas Bussard

Violin Sonata in G minor, L. 140
1. Allegro vivo

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Elsa Jonson, violin
Judith Widrig, piano

Andante and Hungarian Rondo. Op. 35

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

Keagan Robinson, bassoon
Tehri Miikki-Broersma, piano

Viola Concerto
1. Andante comodo

William Walton
1902-1983)

Liam Connor, viola
Judith Widrig, piano

Oboe Concerto in D Minor
1. Andante e spiccato
2. Adagio

Alessandro Marcello
(1684-1750)

Pax Markworth, oboe
Judith Widrig, piano

Violin Concerto, Op. 14
1. Allegro

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Eligh Nichols, violin
Judith Widrig, piano

Tempest

Todd Ukena
(b. 1956)

Matthew MacGregor, marimba

Cello Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 49
1. Allegro

Dmitri Kabalevsky
(1904-1987)

Jae-Yoon Lee, cello
Alex Amick, piano

BMC High School String Awards in honor of Ethel Crook

First Place (\$450): Jae-Yoon Lee is a junior at Sehome High School; he began learning the cello at nine years old, being attracted to the wide range of sounds the instrument. While studying with Coral Marchant, Jae Yoon has played in the North Sound Youth Symphony, Chamber Days, Bellingham Youth Chamber Players, WMEA All-State Orchestra and the Sehome High School Orchestras. He hopes his musical journey continues to thrive throughout high school and beyond.

Second Place (\$350): Eligh Nichols, a senior at Meridian High School, has been playing violin and piano for 14 years. He takes violin lessons with Lisa Humphrey, and piano lessons with Kim Bowman. Eligh has been a part of North Sound Youth Symphony for seven years, and has played with many other local ensembles. He was the state representative for the Solo and Ensemble competition as a violinist in 2023. Eligh is a multiple time BMC award winner, both in the violin and piano categories, and hopes to continue his musical studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, in the fall.

Third Place (\$250): Liam Connor, a senior at Sehome High School, is a lifelong musician, starting viola lessons with Betsy Stuen-Walker when he was two years old. Through the years he has played with local groups such as the North Sound Youth Symphony and Bellingham Youth Chamber Players, as well as earned seats in ensembles at the state, national, and international levels. He is also a multiple time winner of the regional Solo & Ensemble contest, as well as last year's winner of the BMC String Awards. In addition to the viola, Liam plays the piano and guitar, and is an experienced composer.

Joanne Donnellan Prize (\$100): Elsa Jonson is a homeschooled sophomore from Bellingham. Her love of music started at a very young age when attending the many lessons of older siblings. She credits her music teachers Lisa Humphrey (violin), as well as Dr. Kay Zavislak and Kagari Tanabe (piano) for helping her bring the classical music she hears from her mind to her fingers. In 2023, Elsa was a second place BMC Piano award winner, and won second place also in the Outstanding Artist Piano Competition held by WSMTA. She enjoys all things music, from attending concerts, camps, teaching, and playing for church and special events.

BMC High School Winds and Percussion Awards in honor of Nichols Bussard

First Place (\$450): Matthew MacGregor is a senior at Sehome High School. He has played percussion for nine years, and currently studies jazz drumming under the instruction of Jud Sherwood. Matthew plays with the Sehome Jazz Band and is drum captain of the Sehome Marching/Concert Band, where he plays tenor drums and orchestral percussion. Outside of school, Matthew has performed with various ensembles at the State Solo and Ensemble Competition, the Bellingham Youth Jazz Band, and several jazz combos. Matthew's other interests include refereeing soccer, building robots, skiing, and engaging with STEM in multiple ways.

Second Place (\$350): Erin Lin is a 12th grader at Sehome High School. She has played the oboe for eight years under the instruction of Jennifer Weeks. Erin grew up in a musical family started and started playing the piano when she was five. Erin currently plays in the Seattle Youth Symphony Youth Orchestra and likes to share her passion for music with the community. Last year, she served as the Principal Oboist in the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra's International Youth Orchestra and All-Northwest Orchestra. This year, Erin was accepted to play with the All-State Chamber Orchestra. Besides playing the oboe, Erin is an active tennis player and a rock climber.

Third Place (\$250): Pax Markworth has studied oboe since 4th grade under Jennifer Weeks and loves playing in the pep and concert bands as a sophomore at Sehome High School. They participated in Chamber Days in 2023 and have been a member of the North Sound Youth Symphony since 2022. This year, Pax was selected to play in the SJMEA Honor Band and the WMEA All-State Concert Band. Pax is excited to continue playing oboe in Germany during a study abroad program for their junior year.

Martin Kuuskmann Prize (\$100): Keagan Robinson is a senior at Bellingham High School. He started playing bassoon in 7th grade and studies with Pat Nelson. In the fall of 2024, Keagan will attend Tufts University where he will major in engineering, join the crew team, and participate in the symphony.

BMC thanks Mark Schlichting, Joanne Donnellan, Charli Daniels, Anneliese Lust, Rollanda O'Connor, Darlene Mathias, and Liz Hjelmseth, as well as adjudicators Grant Sears and Erika Block, for their help, inspiration and remarkable work in support of young musicians.
