



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

Orphalee Smith, Featured Volunteer for 2023-2024!

This month we recognize **Orphalee Smith** for her contributions to Bellingham Music Club. Orphalee has been a member of Bellingham Music Club for many years, and our treasurer for the past four years, lending her accounting expertise to BMC.

Orphalee was born and raised in Tacoma, graduating from Lincoln High School before enrolling in College of Puget Sound (which became University of Puget Sound by the time she graduated with a degree in Business Administration). She and her husband Richard met in an accounting firm and lived in Tacoma, Anchorage (where they survived the 1964 earthquake), Seattle, and finally Bellingham. Orphalee had her own accounting firm in Bellingham and is most proud of being a good mother to their two children, and being a Certified Public Accountant when very few women were CPAs.



She and her family have hosted many foreign exchange students in their home. She enjoys walking, gardening and playing piano everyday. We are grateful to Orphalee for her many years of service to BMC and are delighted to present her with a Lifetime Membership as a token of our appreciation!

Carol Reppun
BMC Membership Chair

Last Month

Our April program featured six winners of BMC high school awards in another amazing showcase! From Bach to Shchedrin by way of Mozart and Chopin, a vast selection of demanding works that highlighted the musical maturity of these exceptionally gifted students.



Board Notes

BMC welcomes Larry and Avalea Watts among its supporters, and thanks them for their generous gift in memory of John Stephens. Among the friends who left us in the past year is Susan Jay. Her son Michael will be at our June programs to share CDs from her collection, as a gift to you. A touching way to remember Susan's passion for music in general, and opera in particular.

We are looking for one person or two, who are not Board members, to help with clerical tasks at Wednesday concerts and Night Beat. This would include sitting at the welcome table, collecting membership dues, and inviting interested folks to sign up for our emails. There's a pearl out there!

Our Sounds Sublime season concludes next month with an ensemble led by **Lisa McCarthy**.



Recently retired from teaching flute at WWU, Lisa surrounds herself with close friends **Jennifer Weeks**, oboe, **Gustavo Camacho**, horn, **Pat Nelson**, bassoon, and **Kay Zavislak**, piano, for two concerts!

We will be back at **Trinity Lutheran** for our daytime program preview on **Wednesday June 5, 10:30am**. Our last Night Beat is on **Friday, June 7, 7:30pm at First Congregational Church**. No ticket purchase is required for Night Beat (\$20 donation suggested). All are welcome and students are always free!

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

Upcoming Events

Vox Pacifica presents **From our Hands, Hearts, and Voices**, a highly entertaining program for women voices. Directed by Wendy Bloom, with Eva Sauvé, piano, Stephanie Straight, percussion, Jane Aspnes, horn, Happy Valley Elementary Choir, and special guest, Senator Sharon Shewmake, repertoire includes *Kaleidoscope Heart* by Sara Bareilles, *Sing!* by Pentatonix, and James Mulholland's luscious *Heart, We Will Forget Him*. **Friday, May 3, 7pm** and **Saturday, May 4, 3pm** at First Congregational. Details and tickets on voxpacifica.org



Bellingham Symphony Orchestra celebrates Cinco de Mayo with Arturo Márquez's **Conga del Fuego**, a quick joyous dance! Cellist **Meeka Quan DiLorenzo** (pictured) joins the orchestra for Chinese American composer Tan Dun's **Crouching Tiger Concerto** from the iconic Ang Lee film, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Program concludes with contemporary composer Peter Boyer's **Ellis Island: The Dream of America**, evoking the experience of so many immigrants. **Sunday, May 5, 3pm** at Mt. Baker Theatre. More on bellinghamsymphony.org.

America Sings! – Whatcom Chorale's final concert this year – features beloved songs and spirituals from America's rich musical history. Selections include Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*; diaspora-themed Irish folk tunes arranged by Alice Parker; homegrown American folk songs; and rousing African-American spirituals as well as a never-before-performed piece by our own local composer (and singer) Scott Henderson. **Saturday, May 18, 3:00pm** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Details on whatcomchorale.org; tickets on sale online and at Village Books.



Bellingham Chamber Music Society will sweep you away onto an unexpected journey with **Soundscapes**, featuring unusual but glorious instrument combinations: Debussy's *Sonata for flute, viola and harp*, Elizabeth Raum's *Searching for Sophia* for oboe and strings, and Mendelssohn's iconic *Octet in E-flat*. **Sunday, May 19, 3:00pm** at Hotel Leo. More on musicinbellingham.com



Not to be outdone, **Kulshan Chorus** presents **The Drop that Contained the Sea**. In this beautiful contemporary work, Christopher Tin brings to life the realization of a Sufi concept: just as a single drop of water contains the essence of the entire ocean, inside every human being is the essence of all humanity. The Kulshan Chorus will be joined by Cantabile Chamber Choir and Sno-King Community Chorale, as well as a 50-piece orchestra. **Saturday, June 1, 7:00pm** at **Mount Baker Theatre**. Visit kulshanchorus.org.

BMC Program Committee members, Dr. Carla Rutschman, Dr. Ed Rutschman, Mary Passmore, Joan Yougquist, Janey Bennett and Isabelle Cormier, are busy preparing the **2024-2025 season**. They will unveil details in June – a full line-up of exceptional programs and some surprises too!

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.

**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!**

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
WWU Awards in honor of Virginia Glover

Trumpet Concerto in A-flat major

Alexander Arutiunian
(1920-2012)

Christopher Carthum, trumpet
Rebecca Mañalac, piano

“Ecco il mondo” from *Mefistofele*

Arrigo Boito
(1842-1918)

Death of an Old Seaman

Cecil Cohen
(1894-1967)

“Se vuol ballare” from *Le nozze di Figaro*

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756-1792)

Bek Gruber, bass-baritone
Rachel Roulet, piano

Marimba Concerto No. 1
II “One Dream”
III “One Love”

Chin Cheng Lin
(b. 1984)

Lucas Webster, marimba
Rebecca Mañalac, piano

Il Bacio

Luigi Aditi
(1822-1903)

Autumn Leaves (Les Feuilles Mortes)

Joseph Kosma
(1905-1969)

“Glitter And Be Gay” from *Candide*

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

Mia Lapingcao, soprano
Rachel Roulet, piano

BMC is grateful to Dr. Richard Hodges, WWU Awards Coordinator; Dr. Tim Fitzpatrick, Chair of WWU Department of Music; Dr. Tigran Arakelyan, adjudicator; Charli Daniels, liaison between BMC and WWU, as well as BMC friends, Chris and Emily Sasnett, for their help, inspiration and remarkable work in support of young musicians.

Western Washington University Awards in honor of Virginia Glover

First Place (\$500): Mia Lapingcao is in her fourth year at Western Washington University (WWU). She is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance, with a minor in Sociology. Growing up in a Filipino household, Mia began her music journey memorizing ABBA's *Dancing Queen* at the age of three. Since then, Mia has been an active performer over the years. During her time at WWU, she has sung with the Advanced Treble Chorale and Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Angela Kasper and Timothy Fitzpatrick, performed as an ensemble member in the chamber opera *Suor Angelica* under the direction of Heather Dudenbostel, and won second place in the 2023 BMC Virginia Glover Awards. She has also performed as a soloist with the University Choir, understudied for the chamber opera *Slow Dusk*, and placed as a finalist in both the 2023 and 2024 WWU Concerto Competitions. Mia is immensely grateful for all that she has learned under the tutelage of Dr. Richard Hodges, who inspired her to pursue Vocal Performance in the first place. Mia is looking forward to pursuing her Master's degree and beginning her professional career as a performer.

Second Place (\$350): Korean-American Lucas Webster is a senior at WWU, pursuing Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Percussion Performance. Originally a tubist and trombonist, Lucas began playing percussion at the request of his music directors in high school, and began studying percussion formally in his first year at WWU. Lucas had the privilege of performing with numerous WWU ensembles, including the Symphony Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, New Music Ensemble, and WWU Choirs, and serving as Principal Percussionist in the WWU Wind Symphony. He has also been an active performer in the community, performing with local ensembles such as the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra and the Skagit Symphony. Lucas was named winner of the 2024 WWU Concerto Competition for the second time, having won in 2022. He received the BMC Randy Sasnett Prize in 2023.

Third Place (\$250): Bek Gruber is a second-year student at WWU, hailing from Mt Vernon. He started his musical journey by playing trumpet in 7th grade and continued through his high school years. He fell in love with singing in 12th grade and decided to pursue it in college through a Vocal Performance degree. Besides voice studies, he's also studying Computer Science. He can also often be found playing Minecraft with his 7-year-old brother or re-enacting *Frozen* with his 3-year-old sister. He is a student of Dr Richard Hodges.

Randy Sasnett Prize (\$100): Chris Carthum has played trumpet since the age of ten. A student of Vince Green, he specializes in both classical and jazz trumpet playing. He performs with various Bellingham-based groups such as The Other Thing, Bloph, and Analog Brass.

A Worthy Cause: Every month, you see our basket in the lobby, patiently awaiting for your kindness! The monies we collect go a long way in supporting our student awards! This month, we will use your contributions to help musicians close to our heart. In early June, **BMC award winner Liam Connor** will perform Walton's *Viola Concerto* with the **North Sound Youth Symphony** conducted by **Grant Donnellan**. As you know, Grant was a BMC award winner while in high school, and continues to give generously to BMC with his recitals. We think we can help him in return, and make this concert a success! We will match your gifts up to \$300, and all proceeds will go toward the purchase of a full orchestra score set, which costs in excess of \$700. Let's open our wallets, and plan on hearing Liam in concert on **Monday, June 10, 7:30pm at WWU!**

