



Bellingham Music Club
March 5, 2025, 10:30am
Trinity Lutheran Church



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

Behind the scene



Lisa McCarthy is a new volunteer for the Bellingham Music Club, but is well known in the Bellingham community.

Lisa loves teaching. She began teaching flute at 13 years old and has been teaching students who ranged from preschool into their 90s ever since. In addition to many years as Professor and Senior Instructor of Flute at Western Washington University, she has performed solos with the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra (now Bellingham Symphony), taken first place in the National Flute Association Chamber Music Competition, and had a piece commissioned for her to play — the most difficult piece she has performed!

Helping students to find their way in the world of music has been a life-long inspiration and Lisa's experience has been invaluable as Coordinator for the Winds and Percussion Awards, which are featured today!

We thank you for joining our team, Lisa!

Rollanda O'Connor
 BMC President

Last month

Those who braved the icy roads were rewarded with a magical musical tour by **violinist Grant Donnellan** and **pianist Judith Widrig** (pictured at right). Their *Northern Lights – the Shimmering Sounds of Scandinavia* captivated us all with works of great passion and virtuosity. As a complete and delightful surprise, BMC emeritus member **Joanne Donnellan** brought her Hardinger fiddle, recounted family stories, and played a folk tune to set the scene for works by Grieg. And on Night Beat, she treated attendees to freshly home-baked elegant *Krumkake* cones!



In April,

we are bringing you our second showcase featuring young music students. On **Wednesday, April 2, 10:30am** at Trinity Lutheran Church, we hear the winners of **BMC High School Piano Awards** in honor of Nancy Bussard, and **BMC High School Voice Awards** in honor of Jack and Ginny Frymire. Again, a high caliber program by extraordinary talented youth!

Can you fit another musical event in your schedule? You can hear all the singers vie for awards and prizes as they work with a professional adjudicator in a master class format, **Friday afternoon March 14, starting at 4pm**, here at Trinity Lutheran. Come and applaud the stars of tomorrow!

And one more thing: we will be in the PAC Concert Hall for the adjudication of the **WWU Music Awards** in honor of Virginia Glover on **Sunday, April 13 starting at 10am**. We invite you to hear those exceptional students who have chosen music as a career. Drop in for a few or all of them!

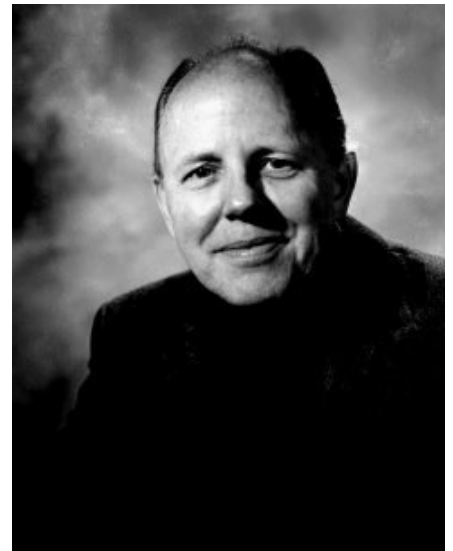
"To foster and encourage the development of music appreciation and performance in the community"

In Memoriam

Dr. Clyde Simons Hiss passed away January 28th after 13 months of homecare provided by his loving wife Patricia Hawkins Hiss and the extraordinary staff of Hospice. He was 91 years of age.

Clyde was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 27, 1933 to Dorothy Simons Hiss and Edward A. Hiss. His brother was Edward "Ted" A. Hiss whose children, Michael and Cynthia live near Austin, TX.

His love of music began in childhood but flourished when he was invited to participate in the young artist division at Tanglewood. He received his BM degree from Baldwin Wallace College (now BWU) and was inspired by a suggestion that he could develop a University Opera Theater. Fully motivated, he earned his MM degree at the University of Illinois where he was mentored by Ludwig Zirner.



A first teaching position was for two years at Mercer College (now MU) in Macon, Georgia, where he directed his first two operas. Then he went back to the U of Illinois to begin his teaching fellowship and acquire his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Fate intervened when he met new graduate student Patricia Hawkins...they sang together and then "she chased him until he caught her." They married in 1966 – yes 58 years ago.

Greenville, North Carolina, became their new home. In his 32-year tenure at East Carolina University, he produced over 35 full length operas, and sang 35 full length recitals in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Czech, and Hebrew. His students learned discipline and joy in their endeavors and went on to sing, compose, and direct opera all over the world. Patricia became his wife partner as costumer for the opera productions, rehearsal accompanist, duet partner and hostess for many post-concert gatherings.

During his NC tenure, he was a District Director for the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, a guest Director for several productions at the National Opera Company, in Raleigh, NC, a guest conductor for the Greenville Choral Society and a frequent soloist in oratorio performances.

When vacations rolled around, Clyde and Patricia traveled in the USA and much of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Russia. Concerts, operas, and birthplaces of composers were highlights of every trip. Food, new friends and an occasional beer added to the adventures.

When retirement arrived, they chose Bellingham, WA where Patricia's family, including his gracious and loving mother-in-law, Shirley Patterson Hawkins, welcomed them. It was a great move. Family gatherings were warm and welcoming. Clyde became Program Chair for the Bellingham Music Club and served as President between 2008 and 2010. He gave several lectures for the Western Washington University Academy of Lifelong Learning program. For 11 years, he and Patricia sang with the Bellingham Festival of Music Chorus and the Vancouver Bach Choir (chorus for the Vancouver, BC, Symphony). What a thrill. They also served on the Advisory Board for the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra summer festival held in Bellingham.

His Sudden Valley "Tall Trees" home became a peaceful haven and a place of many gatherings with friends and family enjoying food, drink, laughter and warmth. All treasured commodities. Special family members included Judy and Bruce Johnson, Pamela and Frank Procella, and nieces Zoe and Wynne and their families.

A concert celebrating Clyde's life will be featured in next year's program of the Bellingham Music Club. You will be a welcome guest. Gifts to honor Clyde may be made on bellinghammusicclub.org/ or mailed to BMC, PO Box 193, Bellingham, WA 98227.



Students impress!

Mark Schlichting and Lisa McCarthy masterfully coordinated this year's awards for high school students in two categories, strings and winds/percussion. In all, we heard a dozen talented young musicians receive constructive comments from adjudicators. Kudos to all the participants, teachers, accompanists and parents!

Photo credits: Celie Thomas and Isabelle Cormier



BMC H.S. String Awards

Adjudicator Austin Schlichting with winners Elsa Jonson, Declan Hong, Zander Tran, and Gus Magee-Kenney.



BMC H.S. Winds and Percussion Awards

Winners EJ Lin, Isaac Clement, Alex Wazny, and Aubrielle Blum, with adjudicator, Dr. Gustavo Camacho.

“The Best of...” The Rastrelli Cello Quartet

BMC is thrilled to present the world-famous **Rastrelli Cello Quartet** in their exclusive West Coast appearance, **Sunday, April 6, 3pm at the Heiner Center** on the beautiful, lush, flat WCC campus!

“**The Best of ...**” celebrates 25 years of touring Europe and North America! The program covers a wide and exciting repertoire, from works by Gluck and Tchaikovsky, to excerpts from *Peer Gynt* and Piazzolla’s tangos, by way of beloved movie scores such as *The Mission (Gabriel’s Oboe)*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Pink Panther*. The Rastrelli also covers hits by Duke Ellington, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and The Rolling Stones! A show for the whole family!!!

Thanks to a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission, we are able to keep our ticket prices low, and let *students in for free!* Tickets are on sale \$30 today in the lobby (cash, check, credit card), at Village Books in Fairhaven, online on bellinghammusicclub.org, and at the door before the concert if available. From your phone too with the QR code below.



Upcoming Events

The Bellingham Festival of Music **Play It Forward Chamber Residency** brings us *Quartet Integra*, an award-winning, graduate student string ensemble from the prestigious Colburn School in Los Angeles. The public will have an opportunity to hear them in concert on **Friday, March 14, at 7pm** at Sehome High School. Free for students of all ages; \$15 suggested donation for others.

Revel in the energetic cadences and emotive melodies of life and love as the **Whatcom Chorale** presents rousing song cycles rooted in Roma folk music. "Come Away" brings works by Brahms, Schubert, and Schumann that expand on and immortalize the playful and heartfelt traditions of the European countryside. **Saturday, March 15, 3pm** at St. Paul's. For information and tickets, visit whatcomchorale.org.



S. Bennerstrom, *The View*

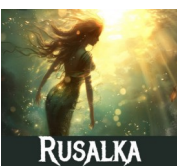


The **Bellingham Chamber Chorale** presents **LUX: The Music of Morten Lauridsen** on **Saturday March 15 at 12noon, and Sunday, March 16 at 5pm** in the Church of the Assumption, 2116 Cornwall Ave. Lauridsen's music is renowned for its luminous harmonies, deep emotional resonance, and transcendent beauty, blending rich choral textures with a profound sense of peace and spiritual depth. bellinghamchamberchorale.org.

Acclaimed recitalist, soprano Sherrie Kahn, will be joined by renowned pianist and vocal coach, Jay Rozendaal, for **Songs for the Soul** in support of music at St. Paul's. The program will include works of Barber, Brahms, Mozart and *We Sing*, a special world premiere by Scott Henderson. **Saturday, March 22, 5pm** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2117 Walnut St., in Bellingham. Tickets are \$25 on music-stpauls.org or at the door.



The **Bellingham Chamber Music Society** program, *Between 2 Worlds*, explores the space between classical and jazz music. **Saturday, March 22, 5 and 7:30pm** in The Blue Room, 202 E. Holly Street. More on musicinbellingham.com.



Pacific Northwest Opera is back with another winner! **Antonin Dvořák's Rusalka**, based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid", is among the most frequently performed operas around the world. Four performances at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon will take place on Fridays, **March 28 and April 4 at 7:30pm** and Sundays, **March 30 and April 6 at 1:30pm**. Sung in Czech with English subtitles. Details and tickets on nopera.org.

ABOUT BMC: Since 1916, the 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: free matinees, evening concerts, and student awards. Visit our website and sign up to receive our email announcements and FanFare!

m bc *Free Concerts*
Night Beat
Student Awards

bellinghammusicclub.org

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



*You like what BMC does and want to support its endeavors?
Use the slip below and put a check in the mail — or go online!*

Scissors icon
Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Ph.: _____

Email Address: _____

BMC is an all volunteer, non-profit organization approved by the IRS under section 501(c)(3); any donation will be deeply appreciated. Please enquire if your employer has a gift-matching program.

Mark Schlichting presents the winners of the BMC High School
String Awards in honor of Ethel Crook

Lisa McCarthy presents the winners of the BMC High School
Winds and Percussion Awards in honor of Nicholas Bussard

Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 107	Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)
Zander Tran, cello Emily Gantt, piano	
Concert Study in G minor for trumpet and piano, Op. 49	Alexander F. Goedicke (1877-1957)
EJ Lin, trumpet Shu-Hsin Ko, piano	
Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85 1. Adagio – Moderato	Edward Elgar (1889-1920)
Gus Magee-Kenney, cello Chelsea Fortna, piano	
The Snake's Dream	Eric Sammut b. 1968
Isaac Clement, marimba	
Sonate en ut# 1. Modéré et très expressif	Fernande Decruck (1896-1954)
Alex Wazny, alto saxophone Katarzyna Wazny, piano	
Violin Sonata No. 22 in A major, K. 305 1. Allegro di molto	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Violin Sonata No. 2, Op. 27, No. 2 "Jacques Thibaud" 1. Obsession; Prelude	Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931)
Elsa Jonson, violin Sara Negichi, piano	
Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy, Op. 26	Franz Doppler (1821-1883)
Aubrielle Blum, flute Emily Perry, piano	

Biographies

BMC High School String Awards in honor of Ethel Crook

First Place (\$450): Elsa Jonson is a junior enrolled in WCC Running Start. She studies violin and piano under the guidance of Lisa Humphrey, Dawn Posey, and Dr. Kay Zavislak. Elsa plays in a variety of local music groups including Bellingham Symphony Orchestra, WWU Chamber Days, Marrowstone Music Festival, and Bellingham Youth Chamber Players. Recent honors include WSMTA Outstanding Artist Piano Competition, BMC Strings and Piano Awards, and the Bellingham Symphony Young Artists Competition. Music is woven throughout her life from attending concerts, camps, teaching, and playing for church and special events.

Second Place (\$350): Declan Hong, a 9th grader from Anacortes, has been playing music for over eight years. He studies viola with Lisa Humphrey, and also plays piano and oboe. He is also an avid composer and arranger. In 2021, Declan's Symphony No. 1 was performed by the Fidalgo Youth Symphony, composed when he was 10 years old. He has also written several arrangements for the Anacortes school bands and chamber ensembles, including a movement of the All-Night Vigil by Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien. In his free time, Declan can be found playing golf and besting his brother on NBA knowledge.

Third Place (\$250): Zander Tran is in 11th grade at Sehome High School. He has played cello since he was 8 years old and has studied with Coral Marchant for five years. Thanks to her, he has discovered chamber music, an experience that has enhanced his love of music. He plays in his school chamber orchestra and other community-based orchestras.

Joanne Donnellan Prize (\$100): Gus Magee-Kenney, a senior at Sehome High School, began his cello journey when he was 11 years old, taking lessons from Coral Marchant. Gus has been a member of NSYS for the past 5 years, and has also participated in Bellingham Youth Chamber Players, WWU's Chamber Days, and the Washington Music Educators Association Honors Orchestra Festival. When not practicing, Gus enjoys hiking, teaching students, traveling, and applying to colleges. Gus hopes to study physics in college while continuing to play in orchestras.

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

First Place (\$450): Aubrielle Blum started her musical journey at the age of three when she began taking violin lessons, which she then continued for ten years. She has also taken piano lessons for ten years and flute for seven. She currently studies piano with Dr. Kay Zavislak, and flute with Dr. Mehrdad Gholami. She is principal flute in the North Sound Youth Symphony and plays with the Bellingham High School band. When she is not making music, she can be found anywhere with books.

Second Place (\$350): Alex Wazny will graduate from Lynden High School (LHS) this spring. He is the Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest winner (2024, 2025), 3-time SJMEA Honor Band Nominee, and was recognized as Soprano-Alto Saxophone soloist in the 2024 State Solo and Ensemble Contest. He studies with Fred Winkler and enjoys skiing, mountain biking, soccer, composing and writing band arrangements for the LHS Pep Band and Jazz Band.

Third Place (\$250): Isaac Clement is a junior at Mount Vernon High School and plays in both the school's percussion ensemble and wind ensemble. He is also a member of the Seattle Collaborative Orchestra. He has been taking percussion lessons from Dr. Patrick Roulet for one year. He plans on majoring in music in college.

Martin Kuuskmann Prize (\$100): EJ Lin, a junior at Sehome High School, has been playing the trumpet for 8 years under the instruction of Dr. Kevin Woods. EJ plays in the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra and his school's jazz band. EJ was also accepted into the All-Northwest Wind Ensemble and plans to go on tour this summer with the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra. Aside from his passion for trumpet, EJ enjoys rock climbing, skiing, and tennis.

BMC thanks Mark Schlichting, Lisa McCarthy, and Celie Thomas, as well as adjudicators, Austin Schlichting and Gustavo Camacho, for their inspiration and remarkable work in support of young musicians.

 **Free Concerts
Night Beat
Student Awards**