



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

Warm wishes!

What a season we've had so far! And we have more to come! As we take a break for the holidays, please know how grateful we are for your support of the Bellingham Music Club through your membership, your donations and gifts, and for your presence here today and throughout the year. We wish you joy and many opportunities to **Elevate Your Spirit** throughout this holiday season!

Just after the excitement of the holidays dies down, we will begin my favorite Music Club time of year in January, with the start of the **High School Student Awards** adjudications. Did you know that all four adjudicated events are open for you to enjoy? Moreover, students appreciate your support and applause!



The **Strings** Adjudication is often our largest event and will be held here at Trinity Lutheran Church on **Friday, January 30th at 4pm. Winds/Percussion** adjudications follow on **Monday, February 2nd, Piano on February 13th, and Voice on March 13th**, all at Trinity Lutheran at 4pm.

Several of our members who attended these events last year thrilled to the high level of musicianship among these gifted students, and were amazed at how students gained insight into their music with the guidance of the adjudicator. You often tell me that the student concerts are among your favorite events of the season, and by attending the Awards proceedings, you gain understanding of the process of selection for these concerts and the opportunity to hear many more young musicians who aspire to music careers.

We invite you to drop in for a part or all of these occasions to *Elevate Your Spirit!*

BMC President
Rollanda O'Connor



Last month

Soprano Heather Dudenbostel lead an all-star cast in a Vocal Extravaganza that brought over 200 attendees to their feet – a fitting tribute to BMC Past President, Dr. Clyde Hiss!



Patricia Hiss thanks Emily Gantt, Heather Dudenbostel, Erika Block, Celeste Fraser, Ibidunni Ojikutu, Mark Davies, and Elizabeth Feeney.

Board Notes

BMC welcomes Donna H.M. among its patrons. This year, we have 41 new members, adding up to 250 supporters who believe in BMC endeavors!

The month of December reminds some of us to think about the tax season ahead and make a required minimum distribution. If you reached 73 in 2025, please consider gifting to BMC from your retirement account before the end of the year. Giving to non-profits offers many perks. And you will know that your generosity helps BMC thrive and plan for the long haul.

Pick up our **updated season panel**. It lists all the dates for concerts series, student adjudications and winners showcases!



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

In February

Violinist Grant Donnellan and pianist Judy Widrig take us on another highly anticipated musical travelogue! Over the years, Grant's narrative has delighted audiences with tidbits about history, society, literature, art, folklore and more. But it's the playing that captures our imagination and transports us to magical places! Join us and find out about our next destination on **Wednesday, Feb. 4, 10:30am, and Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7:30pm** (yes, *Night Beat* on a Thursday!!!). Both programs will take place at First Congregational Church. Our matinee is free and open to all. No ticket purchase required for *Night Beat*; instead, we suggest a \$20 donation. Students are always free. All are welcome!



Things To Do



Be sure to stop by the Rotunda Room of the **Old City Hall Museum** at 121 Prospect Street to check out photos of orchestras and musical groups in Bellingham between 1902 and 1991. You can see the Bellingham High School Orchestra in 1958, the Normal School's Little Symphony from 1932, the Whatcom High School Orchestra in 1902 and 1930, as well as several photos of members of the Whatcom Community Orchestra between 1985 and 1992.

The exhibit was installed to honor **Bellingham Symphony Orchestra's 50th anniversary** year, and will be up for a "good long time," according to Jeff Jewell, Research Technician in the Photo Archives of the Museum. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 pm, and is free on First Fridays of each month, noon to 9 pm.

— *Celie Thomas*

Talking about orchestras...

The **Bayshore Symphony** presents its Holiday concert featuring soloists, orchestral favorites, small ensembles, a sing-along and raffle prizes! **Thursday, December 18, 7:30pm**, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1720 Harris Ave. in Bellingham. Details on bayshoremusicproject.com.

Nick Strobel leads works by Rossini, Saint-Saëns, Leroy Anderson, Berlioz and Tchaikovsky in the **North Cascades Community Orchestra** "Winter Daydreams" concert, also on **Thursday, Dec. 18, 7:30pm** at Bellingham High School Performance Center, 2020 Cornall Avenue. This concert is free and open to all. Come and applaud your friends!



Our 2025-2026 Season will

Elevate Your Spirit!

Free Matinees • **Night Beat** • Student Awards
BellinghamMusicClub.org

Follow us on social media!
We're on Facebook and Instagram.

BMC thanks member of the Program Committee Joan Youngquist for introducing the performers, and Trinity Lutheran Church for hosting our program.



Samantha Sinai cello *Michelle Huang piano*

Three Romances, Op. 22

1. Andante molto
2. Allegretto, mit zartem Vortrage
3. Leidenschaftlich schnell

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

Sonata in G minor for cello and piano, Op. 19

1. Lento. Allegro moderato
2. Allegro scherzando
3. Andante
4. Allegro mosso

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Biographies

Samantha Sinai, cellist, music therapist, and cello teacher, is passionate about bringing music to people in accessible, meaningful ways. Samantha currently lives in Bellingham, Washington where she holds a private cello studio, is Principal Cellist of the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra, and is an Artistic Partner for Bellingham House Concerts. Before her time in Bellingham, Samantha contracted with University of Wisconsin Health, where she developed and implemented a music therapy program for the American Family Children's Hospital. Through her music therapy work, she has also brought music to patients in a hospital setting, kids with special needs, veterans who were previously homeless, and women who have experienced trauma. Samantha completed her Master's degree in Cello Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under Uri Vardi. Samantha continues to work towards cultivating her musicianship to create experiences that touch the hearts of her listeners.



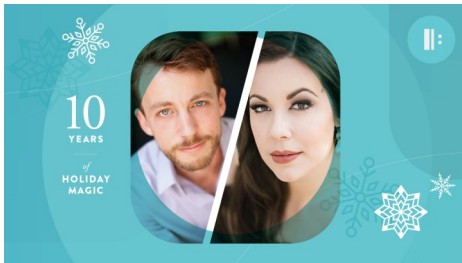
A native of Taiwan, pianist **Michelle Huang** enjoys a rewarding career as a dynamic soloist and chamber musician. She is equally at home performing music ranging from the esteemed masters to the novel voices. Since moving to Seattle in 2021, she has collaborated with musicians from the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Philharmonic, and Seattle Pro Musica to curate and present innovative programs. She is happiest when playing concerts that allow her to storytell, to make connections, and to create an expansive and imaginative listening experience for the audience. She has appeared as a guest artist across the continents, giving concerts, lectures, workshops, and master classes. As a devoted educator, she held teaching positions at Lincoln Memorial University, Edward Waters College, and Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition to collegiate teaching, she maintains a vibrant private teaching studio in Seattle, where she works with a group of piano students with immense talent. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Master of Music from the University of Tennessee, and Doctor of Music from Florida State University. Her mentors include Barbara Rowan, David Northington, and Read Gainsford.



Bellingham Music Club, Wednesday, December 3, 10:30am

Not To Miss!

Let **Jami Templeton**'s warm and sultry vocals open your heart to the magic of the winter season. Masterful jazz musicians Cat Toren, piano, Steve Treseler, saxophone, Roger Yamashita, bass, and Christian Cassolary, drums, join her The FireHouse Arts and Events Center, on **Friday, December 5, 7pm**. Tickets are available on eventbrite.com (enter Jami Templeton in search box).



Holiday Magic! This year, the Bellingham Symphony celebrates 10 years of Holiday Magic with **Ryan Dudenbostel** returning to conduct! This is a milestone performance that honors a decade of festive harmony and unforgettable music, featuring John Williams' *Home Alone*, soprano Celeste Fraser, children's choirs, and holiday favorites. While the **Sunday, Dec. 7, 3pm** is sold out, the dress rehearsal on **Saturday, Dec. 6, 11:30am** is a fun and affordable way to take the whole family to Mount Baker Theatre!

"Smitten" is next. This BSO concert highlights composers, authors, and women of the romantic era. From the iconic themes of *Pride & Prejudice* to Louise Farrenc's gossamer textures of Symphony No. 3, with sizzling scales and romantic masculine pomp – "Smitten" is sure to excite anyone's musical passions. **Dawn Posey** is the soloist in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. **Sunday, Feb. 1, 3pm** at Mount Baker Theatre. Pre-concert lecture by Dr. McKenna Milici at 2pm in the Main Theatre. More information on bellingshamsymphony.org or call MBT box office at 360-734-6080.



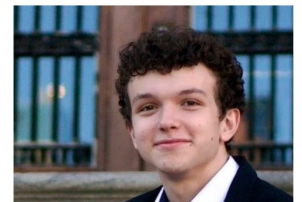
BMC Award Winners in Concert

Violinist Val Róisín Connor and **violinist Liam Connor** will perform at the Festival of Music "Welcome Home" concert on **Saturday, January 3, 7:00pm** at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham. Val now studies at Ithaca College in New York State, and Liam at McGill in Montreal. Free and open to all.

Valerian Róisín Connor, *Violin*



Liam Connor, *Viola*



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.

m bc Free Concerts
Night Beat
Student Awards

BellinghamMusicClub.org

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



You like what BMC does and want to support its endeavors? Pick up a pre-addressed envelope and put a check in the mail — or go online!

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.