

Bellingham Music Club
February 4 and 5, 2025
First Congregational Church



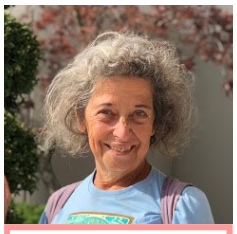
The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

Happy 110th birthday to us!

This month marks a major milestone for our esteemed organization! Started on February 22, 1916, when co-founders Mrs. Frances Payne Larrabee and Mme. Mary Davenport-Engberg called the meeting to order at Lairmont Manor, the then “Bellingham Women’s Music Club” soon became the heart of Bellingham’s musical life. Our story is one of leadership, generosity, friendship, and support of young musicians as well as professional artists. Frankly, it’s too rich



The “Princess Sophia” at Citizens Dock in 1916



Host Margaret Bikman

and impressive for the space we have here, so here are a few options. A page on our website paints our history with broad brushstrokes. That is good place to start. Want to learn more? You could visit our archives at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies on WWU campus. Wouldn’t it be fun to get a group together? Still, nothing compares to hearing our beloved arts and culture reporter, **Margaret Bikman**, talk with BMC President **Rollanda O’Connor** and H.S. Voice Awards coordinator **Jami Templeton** about BMC endeavors! Head to our website, look for the link to KMRE and enjoy their cheerful and informative conversation!!!

Board Notes

BMC welcomes its newest supporters, Marie & Duane B., and Susan R., and thanks many of you for your additional gifts toward the end of 2025. But then, why wait to give to BMC? We are a (501)(c)(3) non-profit. Make a donation now and take care of your tax deductions for 2026!

New to BMC? Sign up to receive announcements for upcoming programs via email! We have a clipboard in the lobby for your convenience, or you can visit our website and sign up there too!

We have an updated season panel with the dates for all adjudications, student award showcases, and more concerts with professional musicians. Pick one up in the lobby!

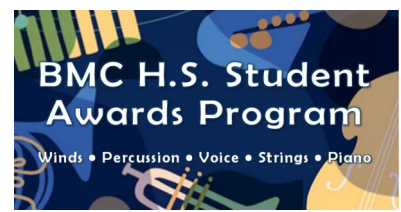
In December, cellist **Samantha Sinai** and pianist **Michelle Huang** made their BMC debut and performed for an enthusiastic audience of more than 190 attendees. Their program paired Clara Schumann’s graceful *Three Romances, Op. 22*, with the emotional breadth of Sergei Rachmaninoff’s *Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 19*. This was a musical matinee that felt both intimate and deeply uplifting.



Photo credit: Rollanda O’Connor

We would love to see many of you at our next event! Come and hear the best young pianists of Whatcom County, as they receive constructive comments from a professional adjudicator. We will be at Trinity Lutheran Church on **Friday, February 13 starting at 4pm** for the **H.S. Piano Awards in honor of Nancy Bussard**.

Join us in March for the first of three student showcases. This one will feature winners of our **H.S. String** and **H.S. Winds & Percussion Awards**. Expect an exceptional program on **Wednesday, March 4, 10:30am** at Trinity Lutheran Church.



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

Events in the Community

Let's head to campus for an uplifting evening of music representing over 200 years of artistic and political history with the **Western Symphony Orchestra** on **Friday, February 6, at 7:30pm**. The program opens with the world premiere of the dream-like *Sea Under Stars* by **Amara Farah** (BMus, 2025), winner of Western's annual Composition Commission Competition. Next is the final work of the American legend **Duke Ellington: *Three Black Kings***, an evocative triptych of the Magi Balthazar, King Solomon, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The evening closes with the iconic "*Eroica*" *Symphony* of **Beethoven** - an extraordinarily powerful, vibrant work that has lost none of its impact since Beethoven first set ink to paper more than two centuries ago. Free for WWU students and youth under 18. Tickets are available at WWU Box Office; please go online or call 360-650-6146.

Mark your calendar for **Salish Sea Early Music Festival** two outstanding concerts! On **Friday, February, 13 at 7pm**, *The Italian and French Perspective* brings together Jeffrey Cohan, baroque flute, Olena Zhukova, harpsichord, and Susan Naper and Mélisande Corriveau, the widely celebrated prize-winning duo of viols "Les Voix Humaines" from Montreal, for a program illuminating a radically evolving musical perspective through the 17th century. Then on **Friday, February 20 at 7pm**, Olena Zhukova, harpsichordist from Kyiv, and Jeffrey Cohan, lead **European Tour 1690-1790**, offering an excursion through a century of transformation and diversity with music by Berezofzkyj, Boismortier, Corelli, Oswald, Mozart and Bach. **First Presbyterian Church**, 1031 N. Garden Street in Bellingham. Free will donation (\$20-30 suggested). More on salishseafestival.org.



There's still time to buy your tickets to hear **The Junction Trio**, featuring musicians familiar to **Bellingham Festival of Music** audiences: **violinist Stefan Jackiw, pianist Conrad Tao, and cellist Jay Campbell**. Their program presents fascinating contrasts between classic masterworks and 20th Century pieces by Beethoven, Schubert and John Cage. **Saturday, February 21 at 7:30pm** in the WWU PAC Concert Hall. Visit bellingshamfestival.org for details and tickets – and while you're at it, save the date for the annual dinner and auction on March 21!!!

The **Bellingham Chamber Music Society** "*Dreams*" program presents a world premiere commission by Bellingham native and BMC award winner, Adam Billings, and works by Jenni Brandon (another world premiere), Srul Irving Glick, and Antonin Dvořák. **Sunday, February 22, 3pm** in the **Hotel Leo Crystal Ballroom**. For a list of performers, program notes, and tickets, please visit musicinbellingham.com.



Adam Billings

ABOUT BMC: 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.

**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!**



BellinghamMusicClub.org

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



***A Tradition of Diversity:
American music – past and present***

**Grant Donnellan, violin
Judith Widrig, piano**

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Fantasy no 1 in G minor for Violin and Piano (1933) | Florence Price
(1887-1953) |
| * Here's One (1941) | William Grant Still
arr. Louis Kaufman |
| * Summerland (1935) | William Grant Still
(1895-1978) |
| O Magnum Mysterium for Violin and Piano (1994) | Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943) |
| Lullaby for Natalie (2011) | John Corigliano
(b. 1938) |
| * Romance for Violin and Piano, Op.23 (1893) | Amy Beach
(1867-1944) |

Intermission (for Night Beat only)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Heartbreaker for Piano (2013) | Missy Mazzoli
(b. 1980) |
| Nocturne for Violin and Piano (1947) | John Cage
(1912-1992) |
| * Nocturne for Violin and Piano (1926) | Aaron Copland
(1900-1990) |
| * Sonata for violin and piano (1943)
I. Andante semplice
II. Lento
III. Allegretto giusto | Aaron Copland |

* **Matinee Preview**
Wednesday, February 4, 10:30am

Bellingham Music Club

Night Beat
Thursday, February 5, 7:30pm

Biographies



Violinist Grant Donnellan holds a Master of Music degree and Performance Certificate from Yale School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Oberlin Conservatory. His principal teachers include Sydney Harth, Eric Friedmann, Roland and Almita Vamos, and the Tokyo String Quartet.

While at Yale he received the Ellen Battell-Stoeckel Chamber Music Excellence Award and was a member of the Irving S. Gillmore Scholarship Piano Trio. He has performed with many symphony orchestras, including the American Sinfonietta.

Grant has been a guest artist at the Olympic Music Festival, the Governor's Recital Series, Bellingham Festival of Music, Wintergreen Music Festival, Cascadia Spring Music Festival, the Boulder Bach Society and the Holzhausen Music Festival in Germany. He has performed concertos with the Whatcom Symphony, Northwest Sinfonietta and the Western Washington University Symphony Orchestra.

Grant teaches violin and coaches chamber music at WWU and co-directs the summer Chamber Music Festival.

Pianist Judith Widrig is a native of Syracuse, NY, and teaches in the piano department at Western Washington University. She received a DMA in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado and performance degrees from the Hartt School of Music and the University of Minnesota. Prior to commencement of her doctoral work, she was collaborative pianist at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Judith has also studied at the Banff Centre, Schweitzer Institute, and Holzhausen Music Festival in Germany.

Judith is active in the Pacific Northwest as a solo and chamber musician and has performed with orchestras on both coasts, including a recent performance of *The Age of Anxiety* with the WWU Symphony. She is a passionate teacher and her students have received top prizes in many state and international piano competitions as well as gone on to study piano performance at leading music schools including New England Conservatory, Oberlin Conservatory, and Stanford University. Judith currently directs the Bellingham Youth Chamber Players and co-directs WWU's Chamber Days.

Judith credits her many wonderful teachers over the years, including college teachers Luiz de Moura Castro, Lydia Artymiw, Larry Graham, and Robert Spillman. She has also worked with Anton Kuerti at The Banff Centre, The Emerson String Quartet, and was fortunate to both study under and collaborate with Hungarian violinist Denes Zsigmondy on several tours of Canada and Alaska.

When not engaged in music activities, Judith loves to be outside, either on a hiking or backpacking trip or working in her garden.

BMC thanks member of the Program Committee, Mary Passmore, for introducing our guest artists, and FCCB hosts: Darlene Mathias, Julia Couchman, and Leslee Probasco.



Elevate Your Spirit!
Free Matinees • **Night Beat** • Student Awards
