



*The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club*

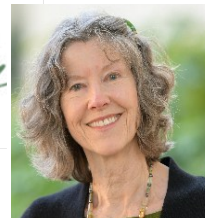
## **BMC Board members moving to new opportunities means opportunities for new Board members!**

We are grateful to **Darlene Mathias** for her many years of service on the Board — all with good humor and wisdom. We are also grateful to **Jami Templeton** for coordinating the H.S. Student Voice Awards these past three years, while also serving on the Board. Their leaving the Board opens two (or more!) “at large” positions.

You may wonder what it means to be on the Board? We meet monthly about nine times per year and each meeting lasts one to two hours. It’s okay to skip a meeting occasionally when things come up. We attend the concerts when we can. The Board makes decisions to keep the Club in motion and running happily, and members help with tasks as they arise and suit their interests and skills. I joined the Board in an “at large” position three years ago, wondering whether I could be of any use. Guess what!!! I saw how fun being part of this team is and decided I couldn’t miss out!

We are a congenial group who shares one very important thing in common: We care about the future of music performance in Bellingham! Please speak to any of us (we wear nametags) or send a note to [BellinghamMusicClub@gmail.com](mailto:BellinghamMusicClub@gmail.com).

Rollanda O'Connor  
BMC President



## **Last month**

**Violinist Grant Donnellan and pianist Judith Widrig** capped their multi-year musical travelogue with a rich and diverse collection of American composers in honor of the 250th birthday of the United States. Wednesday’s matinee, which included works by Florence Price, William Grant Still, and Aaron Copland, was so warmly received that many audience members returned for Thursday’s expanded program on Night Beat. Grant and Judith’s thoughtful, engaging introductions added depth and descriptive nuance to the music, making the experience especially memorable.



*Text and photo credit: Rollanda O'Connor*

## **In April,**

we are bringing you our second showcase featuring young music students. On **Wednesday, April 1, 10:30am** at Trinity Lutheran Church, we will 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 13, 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 **Saturday, April 4 starting around 10am**. We invite you to hear those exceptional students who have chosen music as a career. Drop in to hear a few or all!

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

## Board Notes

The **Program Committee** meets next week to plan the 2026-2027 season. Share your ideas and wishes. There are so many talented musicians out there!!!

**In memoriam:** BMC offers its sincere condolences to the families of Bob Burr, Patricia Clarke, and Bob Plumb. We are deeply saddened by their recent passing.



## Upcoming Events

The *Bellingham Festival of Music* and the *Bellingham Symphony Orchestra* will host a "Meet and Greet" for the *Play It Forward Chamber Residency* at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church on **Sunday, March 8 at 3pm**. This is our opportunity to let you experience what the award-winning **Trio Azura** from the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles will do in our schools in the upcoming week. After a short performance and question and answer period, they will teach a masterclass or two, which you are welcome to watch. This is a free event and all are welcome! **Trio Azura** will also offer a public concert **Friday March 13, 7pm** at Sehome High School concert hall. Donations welcome.



Not to miss: the **Bellingham Festival of Music** annual **Dinner and Auction** takes place on **Saturday, March 21 starting at 5:30pm** at Hotel Bellwether. Register before March 8th for the early bird discount on [bellinghamfestival.org](http://bellinghamfestival.org)



Just the night before, the **Salish Sea Early Music Festival** brings **Oleg Timofeyev**, renaissance lute, English guitar & 7-string guitar, and **Jeffrey Cohan**, renaissance, baroque & 8-keyed flutes, together for **Folk Song from Three Centuries**. Innovative renditions of renaissance Psalms (~1620), Irish and Scottish baroque (~1720) and folk music as interpreted during Beethoven's lifetime (~1820) outlines this 100% new program continuing Oleg and Jeffrey's exploration of settings from three centuries of popular and folk music, **Friday, March 20, 7pm** at **First Presbyterian Church**, 1031 North Garden Street. More on [salishseafestival.org](http://salishseafestival.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!

Our 2025-2026 season will

*Elevate Your Spirit!*

Free Matinees • **Night Beat** • Student Awards

[bellinghammusicclub.org](http://bellinghammusicclub.org)

Contributions and comments? Write to us at  
[bellinghammusicclub@gmail.com](mailto: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!*



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.*

Winners of BMC High School  
String Awards in honor of Ethel Crook

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

Concerto in D Minor, Op. 20  
1. Allegro Vivace

Pax Markworth, oboe  
Eva Sauve, piano

Ruth Gipps  
(1921-1999)

Concerto No. 2  
1. Molto sostenuto – Allegro molto e energico

Uli Spoerl, cello  
Leah Bruno, piano

Dmitry Kabalevsky  
(1904-1987)

Variations on Japanese Children's Songs

Isaac Clement, marimba

Keiko Abe  
(b. 1937)

Cello Concerto in D minor  
1. Prelude, lento – Allegro maestoso

Zander Tran, cello  
Eva Sauve, piano

Édouard Lalo  
(1823-1892)

Fantaisie

Aubrielle Blum, flute  
Ruth Skelton, piano

Georges Hüe  
(1858-1948)

Partita No.3 for Solo Violin in E, BWV1006  
1. Prelude  
4. Menuets 1 and 2

Elsa Jonson, violin

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

### BMC High School String Awards in honor of Ethel Crook

**First Place (\$450): Elsa Jonson** is a senior WCC Running Start student from Bellingham studying violin under the guidance of Lisa Humphrey and Dawn Posey. Elsa is involved in a variety of local music groups including the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra and Bellingham Youth Chamber Players. Recent awards were received for the WSMTA Outstanding Artist Piano Competition, BMC Strings and Piano Competitions, BSO Young Artist, and the Harmony Chamber Music Festival. Elsa plans to study violin performance in college starting in the fall. In addition to music, she enjoys distance running and reading a good book.

**Second Place (\$350): Zander Tran** has played cello since he was eight years old. With his teacher Coral Marchant, he was able to experience playing with other students, and definitely appreciates how chamber music has enriched his. Since then, he has joined Sehome's chamber orchestra, participated in community orchestras, and started competing in various state and regional level competitions including BMC.

**Third Place (\$250): Declan Hong** is a sophomore year at Anacortes High School and has been playing music for over nine years. He studies piano with Dr. Judith Widrig, viola with Lisa Humphrey, and oboe with Jennifer Weeks. Declan has won several prizes, including 1st place in the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. He especially loves playing chamber music, having won the 2025 Harmony Chamber Music Festival Competition with his fellow quintet members. He is also an avid composer and arranger. In 2021, Declan's Symphony No. 1 was performed by the Fidalgo Youth Symphony. In his free time, Declan can be found playing golf and besting his brother on NBA knowledge.

**Joanne Donnellan Prize (\$100): Uli Forster Spoerl** has studied cello with Evan Kahn, Samantha Sinai and Coral Marchant, as well as working with Nick Strobel, his orchestra conductor and teacher at Bellingham High School. Although he has only been playing for five years, Uli has participated in Solo and Ensemble contests since he was in seventh grade. He has been playing with the Bellingham High School Chamber Orchestra since his freshman year of high school. He has also played with the North Sound Youth Symphony and the Bellingham Youth Chamber Players for four years.

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

**First Place (\$450): Aubrielle Blum** is a junior at BHS. She has taken flute lessons with Dr. Mehrdad Gholami for two years, and for six years before that with other teachers. She plays flute in North Sound Youth Symphony and Seattle Junior Symphony Orchestra, and also sings with the Seattle Children's Chorus. She studies voice with Jami Templeton and piano with Dr. Kay Zavislak. In her free time, she enjoys reading and napping with her cat.

**Second Place (\$350): Isaac Clement** is a senior at Mount Vernon High School and has been playing percussion for seven years. He has performed in multiple orchestras and school bands and takes part in competitions, including the 2025 Bellingham Music Club Student Awards, where he placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. He takes percussion lessons from Dr. Patrick Roulet.

**Third Place (\$250): Nicole Wazny** is a freshman at Lynden High School and has been studying the saxophone since fifth grade, and the piano since the age of 4. She studies with Fred Winkler and is actively involved in the Lynden High School music program. Nicole performs with the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Pep Band at LHS. She has consistently demonstrated musical excellence, earning Superior ratings at Solo and Ensemble for the past three consecutive years. In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer and skiing.

**Martin Kuuskmann Prize (\$100): Pax Markworth** is a senior at Sehome High School where she enjoys playing with the pep and concert bands. She began her oboe journey in fourth grade on her mother's old oboe and has been studying with Jennifer Weeks ever since. During her study abroad in Germany last year, Pax performed with a community ensemble of all ages, and the Gymnasium Lindlar school orchestra. She joined the Seattle Junior Symphony Orchestra this year. Pax is currently in her third season playing with North Sound Youth Symphony and will perform this movement with the ensemble at their March 16th concert. Pax plans to continue playing oboe at a university where she will engage in a pre-med program of study.

*BMC thanks Mark Schlichting, Lisa McCarthy, and Celie Thomas, as well as adjudicators Bruce Walker and Paul Bain, for their inspiration and remarkable work in support of young musicians.*