



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club

Ending our *Elevate Your Spirit* season on a high note!

A huge thank you to all our donors and supporters for making the 2025-26 season such a success! You might be interested to know how we spend those donations. This season BMC operational costs will exceed \$25,000. A little over \$8,000 supports our Student Award Program providing monetary awards to winning high school and college students as well as stipends to the adjudicators who judge and give meaningful feedback to all student participants. Around \$10,000 pays honorariums to the amazing musicians who spend hours preparing and then performing the Wednesday morning and Night Beat concerts. Additional funds – around \$5000 – further support these events covering things like rental costs, piano tuning, printing and advertising. And finally, we do have some administrative costs such as insurance, website maintenance, and P.O. Box rental. We are able to meet these expenses only because of your generosity. And yes, your donations will be enough to cover our expenses. So again, thank you for making 2025-26 another successful year!

Joan Youngquist, BMC Treasurer

We invite you!!!

We already have memberships coming in for our 2026-27 season (Thank you!).

Joining the BMC with your membership supports us financially, but we also need hands-on participation. Are you interested in doing more to ensure a successful season and student support? Please consider joining the Bellingham Music Club Board! We have just one meeting per month, and I am amazed how much we accomplish through a congenial group endeavor to ensure the ongoing twin missions of exhilarating concerts and encouragement of young talent in our community.



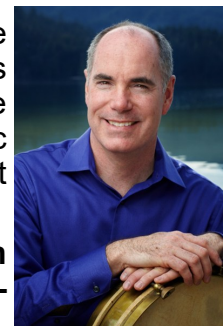
In addition to Board officers, we need several “members at large.” These members provide fresh perspectives and feedback on our efforts, and make critical decisions on how to spend our substantial budget. We are also seeking a coordinator for next year’s Voice Awards, someone to help advertise our work and help with essential ongoing tasks that support music in Bellingham.

You will recognize current Board members today by their BMC nametags. Please feel free to talk to any of us with your questions or interest in being on the BMC Board.

Rollanda O'Connor, BMC President

BMC Upcoming Events

THE WOOD THAT SINGS: WWU percussion professor, **Dr. Patrick Roulet**, leads the **Global Dimension Ensemble** and the **WWU Percussion Ensemble** in concerts featuring marimba and xylophone traditions of Uganda, Ghana, Mexico, and the United States. The programs will include traditional music performed on authentic instruments as well as arrangements and adaptations performed on Western concert marimba, xylophone and vibraphone.



Our daytime program is on **Wednesday, June 3, 10:30am, at Trinity Lutheran Church** followed by Night Beat on **Thursday, June 4, 7:30pm at First Congregational Church**. BMC concerts are free and family friendly. All are welcome!

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

On the calendar

Bellingham Community Chamber Orchestra: BCCO's Spring 2026 Concert explores beautiful music through all of the moods of Spring - from dark and stormy to soft and sweet. The concert features Edvard Grieg's Holberg Suite, as well as works by Joseph Suk, Felix Mendelssohn, George Gershwin - and more! **Friday, May 8 at 7:30pm** at the Firehouse Event Center, 1314 Harris Ave, Bellingham, and **Saturday, May 9 at 3:00pm** at the Jan- sen Art Center, 321 Front St, Lynden. \$20 sugg. donation. More on bellinghamchamberorchestra.org



Plan to join **Whatcom Chorale** to hear **Songs of Solace** as Deborah Brown leads singers and a stirring ensemble of woodwinds, brass, harp and timpani in music that comforts, delights, and inspires. The concert centerpiece, **Bruckner's Mass in E minor**, features rich, lush harmonies, with many five-part and eight-part choral passages, powerful contrasts, and singular combinations, making this a glorious piece to perform and experience. Shorter works by Vivaldi, Bach, Brahms and Nadia Boulanger round out the program. **Saturday, May 16 at 3pm** at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Dr. in Bellingham. Details and tickets on whatcomchorale.org

Bellingham Chamber Music Society "Reflection" features works by Rebecca Clarke and Johannes Brahms as well as a quartet of Tangos. Performing will be: Erin Furbee, Jeffrey Gilliam, Lisa Humphrey, Leann Osterkamp, Eric Kean, Christine Lee, Lenelle Morse. What's not to like? **Sunday, May 17, 3pm** in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hotel Leo, downtown on Cornwall Ave. Find details and purchase tickets on musicinbellingham.com



Join the **Bellingham Symphony Orchestra** for a truly **American Celebration!** Jessie Montgomery's *Hymn for Everyone* sets the tone for the Sharks and the Jets to dance it out with Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*. And then, crowd favorites, **violinist Simone Porter and cellist Joshua Roman**, perform Brahms' Double Concerto. **Sunday, May 31, 3pm** at Mount Baker Theatre. Dr. McKenna Milici gives a pre-concert lecture at 2pm in the Main Theatre. Find more details on bellinghamsymphony.org or call MBT box office at 360-734-6080.



Mark your calendar for a special event that BMC is sponsoring! Celebrated jazz musicians **saxophonist Jeff Crompton and cellist Benjamin Shirley** perform for the first time on the West Coast after using Atlanta as their home base for many years, and releasing an album, *Eastern Continental*, in 2023. Crompton and Shirley combine composition and improvisation to create richly-textured music poised between contemporary chamber music and jazz. Hear them on **Thursday, June 25, 7:30pm in the Museum Rotunda.**

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.



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?
See us in the lobby; we have pre-addressed envelopes
to make it easy to put a check in the mail — or go online!**

WWU Department of Music and Bellingham Music Club present

WWU Music Awards

in honor of Virginia Glover and Randy Sasnett

Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20

Pablo de Sarasate
(1844-1908)

Joshua Tom, violin
Rebecca Mañalac, piano

Toothbrush Time (Cabaret Songs, Volume 2, No. 2)

William Bolcom
b. 1938

"Einst träumte meiner sel'gen Base" from *Der Freischütz*

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

Laya Hall, mezz-soprano
Rachel Roulet, piano

Lute Suite No. 1 in E minor, BWV 996

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Jacob Anderson, marimba

"Lonely House" from *Street Scene*

Kurt Weill
(1900-1950)

"Corner of the Sky" from *Pippin*

Stephen Schwartz
b. 1948

The Gift

Lucas Richman
b. 1964

Keith Bateman, tenor
Rachel Roulet, piano

Aufschwung, Op. 12, No. 2

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Nocturne, Op. 33

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Piano Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 14, No. 2
III. Scherzo: Allegro assai

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Emilie Buhl, piano

Western Washington University Music Awards

First Place (\$500): Emilie Buhl is a third year piano performance major who is a passionate collaborative artist and educator. At WWU, they have worked with the Wind Symphony as an organist, have been involved in numerous chamber works with the New Music Ensemble, and most recently, was selected as a winner of the 2025-2026 Concerto Competition. Off campus, Emily has appeared alongside the Bayshore Symphony as a pianist, Vox Pacifica as an organist, and currently serves as the Bellingham Community Chorus accompanist.

Second Place (\$350): Keith Bateman is a sophomore pursuing a degree in vocal performance. He has been singing his entire life and from a young age, was completely enamored with music and the art of performance. His passion has shaped who he is as a person and a performer, and has helped him accomplish so much in his young career. Keith has won multiple competitions in high school and most recently made the National Semi Finals in the Schmidt Undergraduate Competition. He will be Cinderella's Prince in the WWU upcoming production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

Third Place (\$250): Jacob Anderson's musical journey began with a drum set at the age of seven; he continued playing the drums until he graduated from high school. Upon arriving at WWU, his focuses shifted to classical, keyboard, and world percussion under the guidance of Dr. Patrick Roulet. Jacob's honors include winning the WWU Concerto Competition in 2026, the BMC Randy Sasnett Prize in 2025, and playing with in the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra percussion section. He will graduate with a dual-degree in Percussion Performance and Music Education in Fall 2026.

Randy Sasnett Prize (\$200): Laya Hall is from Anacortes, WA, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at WWU. She has sung with the Advanced Treble Choir, the Concert Choir, and Western Voices. Recent operatic roles include Isa in *Die Fledermaus*, Mrs. Gobineau in *The Medium*, and Helen in *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*. She will perform as Rapunzel this spring production of *Into the Woods*.

Randy Sasnett Prize (\$200): Joshua Tom's musical journey began when he was four years old, while studying with Leanne Wendt at the Langley Community Music School in British Columbia. In 2019, under the guidance of Peter Ing, he won first place at the B.C. Provincial Competition. He has also played with the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver School of Music Sinfonietta, and the North Sound Youth Symphony. His commitment to excellence has been fostered by Nicholas Wright, concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and WWU professor Grant Donnellan.



BMC is grateful to WWU Coordinator Dr. Richard Hodges, Adjudicators Joyce Perry Moore and Gail Ridenour, BMC Board Member Celie Thomas, and BMC friends Chris and Emily Sasnett, for their remarkable work and generosity in support of young musicians.
