

BMC PRESENTS **Night Beat**



Benjamin Shirley, cello
Jeff Crompton, saxophone

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 7:30 PM
Old City Hall Museum, Bellingham

bellinghammusicclub.org

Program

Jeff Crompton, saxophone
Benjamin Shirley, cello

Peace Canon (Crompton)

The Blue Guitar (Shirley)

Whistling Past the Graveyard (Crompton)

My Whistle (Shirley)

Sweet Earth Flying (Marion Brown)

Sentimental Concept (Shirley)

Sarcasm and Urban Sprawl (Crompton)

Peace (Ornette Coleman)

Lummi Island (Crompton)

And Now the Queen / Ida Lupino (Carla Bley)

Free Concerts
Night Beat
Student Awards

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

June 25, 2026, 7:30 pm — Old City Hall Museum, Bellingham, WA

Biographies

Jeff Crompton is a saxophonist, composer and retired educator. Before moving to Bellingham in late 2025, he was a prominent member of the Atlanta creative music community, playing with his own groups and with avant-garde luminaries like Michael J. Smith, Eugene Chadbourne and Davey Williams. He made a guest appearance with the art rock band Godspeed You! Black Emperor in 2019. Jeff has toured the United States and Europe, playing at such venues as The Bitter End in New York and Alexanderplatz in Rome. In 2024, his chamber opera *Buddy Bolden* was presented in Atlanta. Jeff is looking forward to continuing his musical endeavors in the Pacific Northwest.

<http://www.jeffcrompton.com>

Benjamin Shirley is a musician, composer, educator, and organizer based in Atlanta, GA. Primarily a cellist, Benjamin has sought to incorporate his love of avant-garde jazz, old-time fiddle, and experimental music into a dynamic, creative, and personal vernacular, and has played with several Atlanta-based groups in addition to his duo with saxophonist Jeff Crompton. Ben co-leads the Atlanta Improvisers Orchestra and has performed with ensembles such as Bent Frequency, Atlanta Contemporary Ensemble, and the Albany, GA, Symphony Orchestra, and at festivals such as Atlanta's SoundNOW, Big Ears in Knoxville, TN, and Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center's {Re]Happening. A devoted student and teacher of music, Benjamin continues to garner inspiration from the music traditions of the past while pursuing a musical life aimed at the future horizons of creativity.

<https://www.pastnowtomorrow.com/benjaminshirley>

The Crompton/Shirley Duo, formed in 2019, combines composition and improvisation to create richly-textured music poised between contemporary chamber music and jazz. The Duo has played to appreciative audiences in Atlanta and the Southeast, and in 2023 released an album, *Eastern Continental*. The album celebrates the fact that for many years Jeff and Ben lived near each other, but on opposite sides of the Eastern Continental Divide, in Atlanta. The Duo is grateful to the Bellingham Music Club for sponsoring our first performance on the west coast.



We launch our **111th season** after Labor Day with **Shu-Hsin Ko**, violin, **Yuko Watanabe**, viola, and **Coral Marchant**, cello, all celebrated musicians from the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra!

Join us for Welcome Coffee Hour at 9:30am on **Wednesday, September 9**, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 119 Texas St., Bellingham, followed by daytime program at 10:30am. Full-length Night Beat is on **Friday, September 11, 7:30pm** at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham.

BMC programs are free and open to all. Visit our website to learn more about the upcoming season, and sign up to receive email announcements.

The Bellingham Music Club thanks:

*Joan Youngquist, members of the board
and volunteers, for their help and inspiration, and the
260+ patrons who generously support BMC endeavors.*

ABOUT BMC: Non-profit volunteer-led Bellingham Music Club supports music in the community with live performances, and encourages young 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 programs and student awards? See us after the concert; we have pre-addressed envelopes to make it easy to put a check in the mail — or go online!