



Welcome in our midst!

The Bellingham Music Club thrives because dedicated music lovers like you also offer their time and talent! We are so delighted when you come to us! This fall, we welcome **Georgianna Huddle** on the BMC Board. Georgianna brings a can-do attitude and wealth of experience volunteering with a variety of community groups. Also in the news: BMC former award winner, **Rosamund Dyer**, will coordinate our high school voice awards this year. Isn't it wonderful to see her giving back to BMC, just as Jami Templeton did before her?

We have a variety of other volunteer opportunities available, whether you prefer helping in person at concerts, working behind the scenes (with online calendars, graphic design, or newsletter editing), or getting hands-on with our student awards program (one of the most rewarding activities!). Or like Georgianna, you can join the board as a member-at-large and see what comes of it!

Right now, we are specifically looking for a **concert photographer** to capture live performances as well as a **marketing enthusiast** to help expand our reach. Tell us where your interests lie and join the dynamic team making it all happen!



Rollanda O'Connor
BMC President

Board Notes

Concerts like ours are supported by your generosity. We are grateful for your participation in our annual fund-raising campaign over the past three months. We just topped 200 new and returning patrons, with a goal of 250 this year. If you have been waiting to join in or to renew your membership, now is the time to help sustain our concert season, support local musicians, and bolster our ever-popular student awards. Join or renew your membership today, in person in the lobby, by mail or online on bellinghammusicclub.org.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest supporters: Alice B., Herbert D.S., Hui-Ying L., and Becky P., and look forward to meeting them!

In memoriam: We were saddened to learn of Judy Orvik's passing last spring. Judy was an accomplished award-winning poet and artist. Also, Sarah McKechnie passed away over the summer. She and her husband joined BMC after they retired from careers at a major foundation in New York City. Both ladies made our world a better place. We offer our sincere condolences to our friends Jim Orvik and Dale McKechnie and their families.



Next month, energy-filled Klezmer group, **Millie and the Mentschn**, brings stories, songs and memories to our stage! **Wednesday, November 4, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church**, and **Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:30pm at First Congregational**, for an expanded program and slide show.

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

Upcoming events

Pacific Northwest Opera opens its 23rd season of great performances with Donizetti's sparkling and spicy **Don Pasquale**. A delightful comedy about a rich and pompous old curmudgeon who decides to marry a young woman to punish his nephew and heir, Ernesto, by cutting him out of his inheritance because Ernesto is determined to marry Norina, a woman of whom his uncle does not approve. **Don Pasquale** gets more than he bargained for as things don't quite turn out as he expects. Four performances will take place at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon: **Fridays, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 at 7:30pm, and Sundays Nov. 1 and 8 at 2:00 pm** with a lecture 45 minutes prior to each performance. For more information and tickets, please visit pnopera.org or call McIntyre Hall box office at 360.416.7727. Additionally, on **Monday, October 12 at 7:00 pm** at Lairmont Manor, **Music Director, Jonathan Khuner, and Stage Director, Mitchell Kahn**, will offer insights into the music of Don Pasquale and its unique origins. This is a great opportunity to meet the soloists including fan favorites **Andy Papas** and **Mark Davies**, as well as soprano **Ethel Trujillo** and tenor **Ganson Salmon** who will make their PNOpera debut. Refreshments will be served. Free event; donations gratefully accepted.



Did you know? The **Lynden Music Festival** is now in its 16th year of celebrating music, culture and community in Whatcom County! Between **October 7 and 11**, **Claire de Lune** offers music for everyone: Classical, Jazz, Piano, Bluegrass, Country, Gospel, Pop, Rock, R&B – and an ABBA tribute concert! Find out more on lyndenmusicfestival.com. Some events are free; others are ticketed.

The **Bellingham Festival of Music** holds its Annual General Meeting on **Thursday, October 22, 6-8 pm at Lairmont Manor**. Greet **Artistic Director Marcelo Lehninger** and enjoy refreshments and music performed by some of Whatcom's gifted young musicians. Most importantly, get an update on the just completed season and be first to learn full details about the 2027 program!



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.



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?
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.

- ☐ \$25, Individual Annual Membership
- ☐ \$45, Family Membership
- ☐ \$50, Sustaining Annual Membership *
- ☐ \$100, Silver Annual Membership *
- ☐ \$250, Gold Annual Membership *
- ☐ \$500, Platinum Annual Membership *
- ☐ \$_____ (other amount) *

* You can designate donations of \$50 and more for:

- ☐ Free Concerts & Night Beat
- ☐ Student Awards
- ☐ General Fund
- ☐ Special Programs

Our Tax ID number is 91-0984401.

Bellingham Music Club
PO Box 193
Bellingham, WA 98227

Romantic masterpieces and contemporary works for the piano

Milica Jovanović

- Soirées musicales Op. 6 (1836) Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896) ♥
 V. Mazurka in G major
 II. Notturmo in F major
- Scherzo in D minor Op. 10 No. 1 (1838)
 Con passione. Presto

- Five Miniatures (1998) *World Premiere* Valentina Velkovska-Trajanovska (b. 1976) ♥
- Sonata in C minor K. 457 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) ♥
 1. Molto allegro

- Ana Horja
- From Anansi's Songs and Dances (2014) Dragana Jovanović (b. 1963) ♥
 Meditative Thursday

- Ana and Ema Horja
- Deux Poèmes Op. 32 (1903) Alexander Scriabin (1871-1915) ♥
 Andante cantabile
 Allegro. Con eleganza. Con fiducia

- Ema Horja
- From Anansi's Songs and Dances Dragana Jovanović ♥
 Tuesday Waltz

- Ema and Milica
- Prelude in G-sharp minor Op. 32 No. 12 (1910) Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) ♥
Etude-tableau Op. 39 No. 9 in D major (1916-17)

- Intermission (for Night Beat only)*
- Light behind the cloud (2022) Svetlana Maksimović (b. 1948) ♥
 Il circo (1993) Isidora Žebeljan (1967-2020) ♥
- Danube Etude (for lightly prepared piano) (2022) Aleksandra Vrebalov (b. 1970) ♥
 Sleep dance (2011, rev. 2022) Natasha Bogojevich (b. 1966) ♥
- Deux Poèmes Op. 32 (1903) Alexander Scriabin
 Andante cantabile
 Allegro. Con eleganza. Con fiducia

- Ema Horja
- Prelude in G-sharp minor Op. 32 No. 12 (1910) Sergei Rachmaninoff
- Concert Etude no. 2 in F minor ('La leggerezza') (1845-49) Franz Liszt (1811-1886) ♥
- Fantasia nègre No. 1 in E minor (1929) Florence Price (1887-1953) ♥

Bellingham Music Club

- **Matinee Preview**
Wednesday, October 7, 10:30am

- Night Beat Program ♥**
Friday, October 9, 7:30pm
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Biography



A “superb pianist with tremendous character... a supremely responsive musician.” Praised for interpreting “the best Schumann in the world,” **Milica Jelača Jovanović** enjoys a multifaceted international career as a concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and educator. Born in Belgrade, Serbia, into a family of professional musicians, she gave her first recital at age eight.

As an orchestral soloist, Jelača Jovanović has performed an expansive concerto repertoire ranging from Bach, Mozart, Schumann, and Chopin to Prokofiev and Shostakovich. She has collaborated with numerous prominent ensembles, including the Seattle Philharmonic at Benaroya Hall, the Bellingham Symphony, the Sioux City Symphony, and the Radio TV Belgrade Symphonic Orchestra. Recent highlights include opening the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra’s season with Florence Price’s Piano Concerto and headlining the Lake Union Civic Orchestra’s 2025 tribute concert for Shostakovich in his First Concerto.

A dynamic recitalist and chamber musician, her performances have captivated audiences across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Russia. She has been featured worldwide at Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert series, Toronto’s Les AMIS series, the Belgrade Centar za Muziku, and the Mokranjčevi Dani, BEMUS, and International Contemporary Music Festivals, among others. In 2006 she organized the Schumann Madness Festival in Bellingham to mark the 150th anniversary of Robert Schumann’s passing, and in 2012 the MSR Classic label released her CD recording *Bright Moods*, which was commended for the “beauty,” “expressiveness” and “refinement” of her interpretation.

Her current projects include bringing to life lesser-known, outstanding works, with a special emphasis on composers from the Balkans and America; most recently, she received a prestigious SOKOJ grant to present a specialized program highlighting the music of Serbian women composers. Beyond her vibrant performing career, Dr. Jelača Jovanović is a deeply committed educator who is passionate about shaping the next generation of artists, currently serving as Professor of Piano and Coordinator of the Keyboard Area at Western Washington University.



BMC thanks Drs. Ed and Carla Rutschmann for sponsoring our October programs.

SIX CONTEMPORARY WOMEN COMPOSERS

Svetlana Maksimović (b. 1948) is an internationally performed composer, lecturer, and musicologist who graduated in composition in Belgrade in the 1970s before earning her doctorate at the University of Toronto in 2006. Alongside teaching harmony and counterpoint and writing about musical developments spanning from medieval church melodies to contemporary works, she has been commissioned in Canada and Serbia, and her works performed at venues and international festivals across Canada, Italy, France, the USA, and Serbia. Her extensive catalog includes prominent orchestral and chamber pieces such as *Four Museum Rooms*, *Reflections*, *White Angel*, *Light Approaching*, *At St. Nicholas*, *On Mystical Love-Rumi*, and *Magnum Mysterium*, as well as piano compositions such as *Three Choreographic Etudes*, *Fragments of the Prayer for Peace-after C. Monet*, and ***Light behind the Cloud***. This highly expressive work beautifully captures her distinct voice, mapping a fluid flow of thought that depicts the shifting alternation of light and shadow between the real and the metaphysical realms.

Aleksandra Vrebalov (b.1970), recipient of the 2024 Grawemeyer Music Award and member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, is a highly prolific composer whose catalog of over one hundred works includes concert music, opera, dance, film, and twenty collaborations with the Kronos Quartet. Vrebalov received commissions from institutions like Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the English National Ballet. Her meditative work ***Danube Etude*** for piano solo —celebrates the Danube River. By introducing ping-pong balls and metal jewelry to prepare the piano strings, the work pairs a repetitive five-note minimalist pattern in the left hand with unpredictable textures driven by bouncing ping-pong balls. The resulting performance inspires a shift in perception from rigid structure to *chance*, mirroring the coexistence of constancy and randomness found in the flow of a river and life itself.

Isidora Žebeljan (1967–2020) was the most prominent and internationally acclaimed Serbian composer of her generation, celebrated for an imaginative style that seamlessly merged disparate, evocative musical elements. A composition professor at the Belgrade Music Academy and a member of prestigious global academies, she achieved widespread recognition for large-scale commissions like her breakthrough opera *Zora D.* alongside her intimate, descriptive instrumental works. Her 1993 piano sketch ***Il Circo***, later published by Universal-Casa Ricordi, brilliantly encapsulates this artistic voice by capturing the vivid, passionate, yet mechanical experience of a circus pianola. Infused with cinematic nostalgia, the piece explicitly quotes Nino Rota's iconic circus music from Federico Fellini's film *8½* during its *Più mosso* section, mapping out a profound philosophical journey for an imaginary wandering knight. By framing the circus ring as a symbolic, self-contained circle, Žebeljan traps the infinite possibilities of the imagination within a beautiful, nostalgic mechanical loop, transforming a brief musical parade into a timeless and exciting artistic statement.

Dragana Jovanović (b. 1963), DMA, is an eminent Serbian composer and full professor at the University of Arts in Belgrade whose highly versatile catalog spans classical contemporary, applied, and popular music, often uniquely integrating orchestration with electronic media. Her works, including prominent recent scores like *Bailadeira*, *Zeniteum*, and *Arpa concerto*, have been performed across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, earning her numerous national and international accolades. In her composition ***Anansi's Songs and Dances***, Jovanović departs from formal pretense to deliver an unpretentious, engaging, and lighthearted experience for both the performer and the audience. Grounded in a modern, neo-Romantic idiom, the suite draws its title and whimsical spirit from the folkloric and story-filled character of a novel she was reading during its creation, transforming fairy-tale-inspired imagination into a vividly entertaining musical reality.

Valentina Velkovska Trajanovska (b. 1976) is an award-winning composer from North Macedonia and the country's first and only doctoral graduate in composition, earning her DMA from the University of Skopje under Tome Mančev. A prominent leader in her field, she made history in 2021 as the first woman elected President of the Composers' Association of Macedonia and serves as the Artistic Director of the "Days of Macedonian Music Festival." Her extensive catalog of solo, choral, chamber, and orchestral works has been performed globally by renowned ensembles like the Mivos and Diotima string quartets, and her music is published by Naxos Deutschland. Currently, she is a professor, Vice Dean at the Music Academy at University "Goce Delchev" in Shtip, and an active international lecturer who has published multiple works on musicology and orchestration. Her early suite, *Five Miniatures*, which she crafted for her university composition entrance exam, is rooted in traditional tonal structures and classical two- or three-part forms. Each standalone piece is shaped by its own singular musical figure to form this color-rich, highly contrastive, expressive collection. By leaving the score sparse of heavy dynamic markings or strict agogic nuances, Velkovska-Trajanovska deliberately leaves room for the interpreter, inviting performers to intuitively shape the expressive contours of the music exactly as they feel them in the moment.

Natasha Bogojević (b. 1966) is an award-winning composer, pianist, and DePaul University faculty member since 2003 who was named a prestigious Fulbright Scholar for the 2024–25 academic year, returning to teach and research at the University of Arts in Serbia where her career began. Her early global recognition was launched after she received significant awards at UNESCO's International Rostrum of Composers (IRC) in Paris for her acclaimed chamber composition *Formes différentes de Sonneries de la Rose+Croix*. Following this international breakthrough, she immigrated to the U.S. in 1995 during the breakup of Yugoslavia, continuing to write highly original, passionate, and imaginative symphonic, chamber, and theatrical works commissioned across four continents and featured at major festivals like the ISCM World New Music Days 2024. Her versatile career spans honors from the ASCAP Plus Award, New Music Chicago Award, Joseph Jefferson Award, and recognition from the American Prize, National Public Radio, as well as on-screen film appearances. Her biography is featured in notable publications like *Parallel Histories* and *The World of Women in Classical Music*. A compelling example of her atmospheric harmonic world is her piece *Sleep Dance*, which is built on fourth and fifth chord structures and framed by three simple pitches (A-B-C) that form a recurring high-register chord appearing "unexpectedly" 12 times in the prelude before fading out with 12 repetitions at the end. Frequently performed and revised over the years, the definitive version of this evocative piano work was finalized in 2022.

Program notes by Dr. Milica Jelača Jovanović