Centennial Gala Concert Vignette

Our Centennial Gala concert on June 21st will open with an array of nine string players, drawn from elite BMC award winners over the years. Most are mid-career artists, who have flown in from around the country and beyond to honor the BMC and salute Joanne Donnellan, award winner in 1961 and still going strong. Their choice for an opener? The lush Prelude to Grieg's "Holberg" Suite, which all but one of them learned at her knee.

We call them the Centennial Strings, and they are the backbone of our concert, morphing into quartets and quintets to partner pianists and singers in a kaleidoscope of favorites and novelties. But they will reunite at the opening of the second half, for the "Battle of the Bands." One quintet will challenge with the Tango from the movie "Scent of a Woman." Then a "rival" quintet (including guitarist Albert Diaz) will reply with the famed Boccherini Fandango. After which both groups will join in for that catchy theme played in the captain's cabin in "Master and Commander." As an 18th-century wit remarked, "God would write Haydn—but He'd listen to Boccherini for pleasure!"

Next month we'll zoom in on two buddies from Ferndale, whose storied careers as viola virtuosos led them to Spain, and all over the world: David Quiggle and Jeffrey Carl Johnson.

In addition to Joanne, the Centennial Strings include violinists Grant Donnellan, Lisa Toner, Roman Yearian; violists Jeffrey Carl Johnson, David Quiggle; cellists Nick Strobel, Jonathan Thomson, and bassist Douglas Johnson.

BMC Centennial Gala Concert
Sunday, June 21, 3 pm
Bellingham High School
$25 tickets on sale now
Biographies

Third place ($200) - Baritone Nathaniel Voth studies vocal performance at Western Washington University in the studio of Jay Rozenaal. He recently carried the role of Nick Bottom in WWU's 2014 production of Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, and will sing the title role of WWU's upcoming 2015 production of Puccini's Gianni Schicchi. He sings in the Skagit Opera chorus, and covered Marulo in their 2013 production of Verdi's Rigoletto. In 2014, Voth was the featured soloist for Vaughn Williams' Five Mystical Songs with the WWU Concert Choir (Leslie Guelker-Cone, conductor), and won the WWU Concerto Competition with his interpretation of Ravel's Don Quichotte à Dulcinée. Outside of opera, Voth's major roles include Harold Hill in The Music Man and Charlie Brown in You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown.

Second place ($300) - Hannah LaGassey grew up in Puyallup and began to play the violin when she was nine. She joined the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association at age thirteen. While trying the viola for fun during a summer camp, she enjoyed its richer sound so much she took up the instrument full time during her senior year in high school. A member of the Huxley College of the Environment at WWU, Hannah is majoring in Geography with a minor in music. She won the WWU Concerto competition and performed the Bartok Viola Concerto with the Western Washington Symphony Orchestra conducted by Roger Briggs in 2014. Later that year, she became a member of the WWU Scholarship Quartet. She is currently seeking admittance to the Aspen Music Festival, the Roundtop Music Festival and the Eastern Music Festival. Hannah enjoys hiking, skiing and mountaineering in her spare time.

First place ($500) - David Hoogkamer is a senior pursuing a double major in music performance and music education at Western Washington University and has studied saxophone for three years with Fred Winkler, a saxophonist who often appears with the Seattle Symphony. David has performed with the award-winning Equus Saxophone Quartet, WWU Wind Symphony, and the Western Jazz Ensembles. David has played in master classes with Jonathan Helton, Julia Nolan, and saxophonists in the Prism Saxophone Quartet. In addition to classical saxophone music, David has studied jazz saxophone with Mike Allen. Some of his other former teachers include Julian MacDonough (jazz drum set), Kathryn Weld (voice), Eugene Zoro (clarinet), and Rob Tucker (classical percussion). Next fall, David will be student teaching and auditioning for graduate studies in saxophone performance.

Western Treasures

WWU Award Winners and Friends
David Hoogkamer, alto saxophone
Hannah LaGass, viola
Nathaniel Voth, baritone
Yuliya Varavina, soprano
Jeanette Ojala, piano

Join us for Night Beat on Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue. The expanded program will present today's three winners plus Yuliya Varavina, soprano, and Jeannette Ojala, piano. Tickets for $10 are on sale today in the lobby, at Village Books, Piper Music, and on our website bellinghammusicclub.org. Tickets will also be available at the door. For more information, please call 676-4118 or visit our website.
Kristin Van Schelt presents the Winners of the Virginia Glover WWU Awards

Program

Ah! che zucconi! (from Gianni Schicchi) Giacomo Puccini
Mein Sehnen, mein Wahnen (Pierrot’s Tanzlied) (from Die Tote Stadt) Erich Korngold
El Hombre (Tamayo) (from A Question of Light) Jake Heggie
Tom Sails Away Charles Ives

Nathaniel Voth, baritone
Rachel Roulet, piano

Violin Sonata No. 1, Adagio J.S. Bach
Concerto for Viola and Orchestra Béla Bartók
Hannah LaGassey, viola
Michael Refvem, piano

Fuzzy Bird Sonata, Movement 1 Takashi Yoshimatsu
Fantasie Brillante sur des thèmes de Carmen François Bourne
David Hoogkamer, alto saxophone
Asta Vaicekonis, piano

April 1, 2015

Find out everything about the BMC on our website www.bellinghammusicclub.org
Contributions or corrections? Contact the Newsletter Editor: Barbara Hudson at barbi0101@yahoo.com
Our mailing address is: BMC, P.O. Box 197, Bellingham, WA 98227-1093
BMC Events
Our May 6 free Wednesday morning concert features pianist Jensina Oliver. 10:30, Trinity Lutheran Church. Ms. Oliver will play a full-length program on Night Beat, on Thursday, May 7, 7:30pm, at First Congregational Church. On Thursday, May 21, also at First Congregational Church, Night Beat presents soprano Amber Sudduh-Bone and pianist Jay Rozendaal. Surprise guests are on the program! Tickets for Night Beat are $10; they will be available one month before the concert at the usual outlets.

Board Notes
The BMC Board is immensely grateful to Gail Haines and all of you who came to our Young Musicians of Whatcom County benefit concert organized by Sherrie Kahn. Special thanks to Pamela Hopper for her generous donation in support of our Student Awards.

In memoriam: We offer our condolences to the family of Louise Andrews, an accomplished pianist and strong advocate for music education. Louise supported and chaired the Musical Club of Westfield (NJ) before moving to Bellingham and joining the BMC in 2002. Her daughter Carolyn has asked that donations be made to the BMC Award Fund (in lieu of flowers). We thank Judy Frost, Mary Vennos, Raymond Nelson & Loraine Boland, and Steven & Diane Staves who have honored Louise’s legacy with a gift to the BMC.

The Award Committee meets on Tuesday, April 7, to review a most successful year fostering young musicians. Please see Gail Haines for details.

Spring Sale! See Membership Chair Will Ellender in the lobby and join the BMC for the remainder of the season for $15! Where else can you get so much for your money, support music in the community and know you are benefitting our talented youth? Pick up your membership update too.

Want to encourage young musicians with more than applause? Squalicum H. S. band director, Kay Reilly, is taking her students to a festival in Boston. Every penny counts! Please pick up a copy of Kay’s letter in the lobby to learn how you can help. To show their gratitude, they will even play for you in a private concert!!!

Upcoming Events
A Night at the Oscars! The Bellingham Festival of Music annual dinner and auction is on Saturday, April 18, at 5:30pm, Settlemyer Family Hall, at Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Ave. in Bellingham. Show-stopping auction items, elegant sit-down dinner, music and entertainment promise to make of this evening a memorable event. Red carpet attire encouraged! Tickets are $100. Email sallychapman@comcast.net or call 360.201.6621 for more information or to make a reservation.

Praised for his rich, gorgeous tone and playing that can range from lovely and elegant, to vigorous rock star energy, German-Canadian cellist Johannes Moser has been hailed by Gramophone Magazine as “one of the finest among the astonishing gallery of young virtuoso cellists.” The Whatcom Symphony is thrilled to welcome Mr. Moser for a performance of Antonin Dvořák’s Cello Concerto in B minor. Also on the program: Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition (arr. Ravel). Sunday, May 3, 3:00pm, Mount Baker Theatre.

Complimentary Tickets
The Met in HD Live last broadcast this season is on Saturday, April 25, 9:30 am; encore on Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 pm at Regal Barkley Cinemas. Opera’s most enduring tragic double bill returns in an evocative new production from Sir David McVicar, who sets the action across two time periods but in the same Sicilian village. Marcelo Álvarez rises to the challenge of playing the dual tenor roles of Turiddu in Cavalleria Rusticana and Canio in Pagliacci.

The Bellingham Chamber Music Society features flutist Lisa McCarthy, oboist Jennifer Weeks, bassoonist Pat Nelson and pianist Judith Widrig on Saturday, May 2, 7:30 pm at First Congregational Church. On the program are Dan Welcher's Moeræa, a programmatic work that tells the story of the Muses, and a lovely work by William Matthias, Welsh composer who became famous for writing the music for the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Tickets at the door: $5 Students, $15 Adults. More information on bellinghamchambermusic.org.