

The Bellingham Music Club
March 5, 2008
10:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran Church



The Newsletter of the Bellingham Music Club
Dorothy Wachter, Editor Emerita

Today's Program
Presented by Pat Hite

**Viola and Friends
featuring**

**Betsy Stuen-Walker, viola,
with Kimberly Breilein, David Feingold,
Nancy Heyer, Betsy Senff
Rosemary Vohs and Jennifer Weeks**

Opening Notes

It has been three years almost to the day since Betsy Stuen-Walker brought viola and violin students from her thriving string studio to play for us, and they were dazzling. Today, we will hear why their teacher is in such demand as a performer. Ms. Stuen-Walker's artfully constructed program showcases the viola in a variety of contexts, some of them unusual. For that reason, these pieces are not heard as often as they should

be, although the *Geistliches Wiegenlied* turns out to be surprisingly familiar, and surprisingly lovely when sung by a mezzo of Ms. Senff's calibre. Also familiar is that lady at the keyboard, Nancy Heyer, Bellingham's indispensable collaborator. Of course, no introduction is needed for Dr. Feingold; it is a pleasure to hear him again, and to welcome Kimberly Breilein and Jennifer Weeks!

Last month's

... blockbuster recital by the Enid Carrick Piano Award recipients included Chopin études evoking winter winds and stormy seas, as well as challenging pieces by Musorgsky and Rachmaninoff. But all three young artists began with a Beethoven sonata movement: the chortling finale of Op. 2, No. 3; the pounding opening of the

"Waldstein," and the first movement of "Les Adieux." All three honorees—Nigel Packer, Jody Sharninghausen and Kevin DallaSanta—played impressively, their inborn talent backed up by countless hours of practice and the guidance of their teachers, Dr. Judy Widrig and Dan Sabo. Congratulations to all of you!

From the Board

2008 IS AN ELECTION YEAR! President Colette Millard thanks **Kristin Van Schelt** who chaired the Nominating Committee and recommended the following slate of officers for the April 2 vote:

Clyde Hiss, President
Isabelle Cormier, Vice-President
Robert Millard, Secretary
Sarah Jacobson, Treasurer
Will Ellender, Membership Chair

Welcome to new members Ruth Grainger, Melany Armstrong and Barbara Turner.

BMC Member Ralph Bomstein passed away on February 5. We are in thoughts and prayers with Nie and their family.

The Program Committee, led by Jack Frymire, has all but finalized next year's program season. Opera, piano and strings, choral works, woodwinds, brass... it's all here! Why not invite a friend to join?

Please see Membership Chair Will Ellender if you did not receive your membership update in February.

Join us on April 2
for our Concert
and Spring Tea
featuring composer,
pianist and vocalist
Ginny Snowe
and guitarist
John Miller

Can you bring
baked goods, nuts,
sweets or fruits?
Please, sign up
in the lobby!

The Bellingham Music Club
P.O. Box 193
Bellingham, WA 98227



*Our mission is
"to foster and encourage the
growth and development of
musical appreciation and per-
formance in the community."
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization and your dona-
tions are tax deductible. See
any Board member for details.*

We're on the Web!
bellinghammusicclub.org

**March 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 7:30 pm
and March 9 at 2 pm (DST)**
WWU Performing Arts Center
WWU Box Office: 650-6146
\$15/\$12/\$10

Saturday, March 8, at 8 pm
Fairhaven College Auditorium
Suggested donation: \$12

Sunday, March 9, at 2 pm
Museum Rotunda Room. Free

Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 pm
First Congregational Church
\$15/\$12/\$5

Saturday, March 22 at 4 pm
WWU Performing Arts Center
\$15/\$12/free under 18
Free parking

Sunday, March 30 at 5 pm
at The Menninga Residence,
which overlooks Bellingham Bay.

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 am
Northwood Hall (by donation)

Friday, April 25
Bellingham Golf and Country Club

Tuesday, May 6
WWU Performing Arts Center

Sound Bites

The Bellingham Festival of Music is calling for Chorus members to sing **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony**. Michael Palmer will conduct the performance on Sunday, July 20. **Auditions will be held on March 28th and 29th.** To arrange for your audition date and time, please contact Susan Johnson at susank_johnson@hotmail.com.

Also in Bellingham this summer, the **Marrowstone Music Festival** will run between July 31 and August 10.

The Friends of the Music Library have a waiting list for the Seattle Symphony concert matinees of March 21 and June 20. Please contact Addis Chapman at chapman321@comcast.net if you are interested.

One of the last season's most popular and memorable programs featured **Millie and the Mentshn** in a rousing, haunting program of klezmer music from Eastern Europe. The good news is that the group has cut a really wonderful new CD, entitled **Mentshn It!** Believe us, in the privacy of your living room, you will get up and dance to this music. Here's the better news: Millie Johnson will be at our April meeting and the Spring Tea afterwards, and she's bringing copies of this CD for sale (\$16, checks to Millie Johnson). Proceeds will enable the group to perform in the Inaugural International KlezFiesta in Buenos Aires. See March 6 issue of the [Whatcom Independent](#) for Jack Frymire's review of the CD.

Coming Events

WWU Departments of Music and Theatre Arts present **The Ballad of Baby Doe** by Douglas Moore, "one of the most beautiful and accessible of all American operas," in a full stage production. You can find a touching video of Beverly Sills singing her signature aria, the Willow Song, on YouTube.com by typing "Beverly Sills as Baby Doe" in the search box.

Millie and the Mentshn share the stage with **What the Chelm** in an evening of exciting Klezmer, Yiddish, Israeli, Sephardic, Swing, and Jazz! Tickets at Village Books or at the door. For details, e-mail info@millieandthementshn.com.

Violist Eric Kean, accompanied by pianist Ford Hill, presents Mendelssohn's Viola Sonata and several short works. For more information, call 778-8930.

The Whatcom Chorale presents an evening of "Great Opera Choruses." Charles Peterson conducts work by Handel, Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, Bizet and others. Tickets available at the Village Books, Piper Music, Greenhouse, Everybody's Store and at the door. Info: 738-7166 or visit www.whatcomchorale.org.

The Bellingham Chamber Chorale presents Rachmaninoff's **All Night Vigil, Op. 37**. A monumental piece written for unaccompanied choir, it is one of the most important works in all of Russian sacred music. Tickets available at Village Books, Piper Music, Community Food Co-op and WWU Box Office (650-6146).

A Musical Feast for Chorale Lovers, an intimate evening of gourmet dining and entertainment is a must! The \$125 ticket includes a \$100 tax-deductible donation to the Whatcom Chorale. For information and reservations, contact Mary Jo Menninga at mjmenninga@comcast.net.

The Whatcom Symphony Orchestra hosts a benefit breakfast. See or call Hélène Minari if you are interested.

Save the date for the **Bellingham Festival of Music Dinner and Auction** called "Celebrate the Night." All proceeds benefit the Festival. For information, please write to Diane Norman at dianorm@comcast.net.

Mark your calendars for the **Seattle Youth Symphony** concert. More details in our April newsletter.

Bellingham Music Club

Viola and Friends

Trio for Flute, Viola and Guitar

Allegro

Francesco Molino
(1775-1847)

Kimberly Breilein, flute
Betsy Stuen-Walker, viola
David Feingold, guitar

Two Rhapsodies for Viola, Oboe and Piano

L'Étang

La Cornemuse

Charles Loeffler
(1861-1935)

Betsy Stuen-Walker, viola
Jennifer Weeks, oboe
Nancy Heyer, piano
Rosemary Vohs, narrator

Two Songs for Voice, Viola and Piano

Gestillte Sehnsucht

Geistliches Wiegenlied

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Betsy Senff, mezzo
Betsy Stuen-Walker, viola
Nancy Heyer, piano

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Meet the artists

Kimberly Breilein is a graduate in flute performance from Boston University, and has studied with the renowned artists Louis Moyse, Doriot Anthony Dwyer and Leone Buyse. She is a three-time winner of the Washington State Solo Contest, and has performed as principal flute with the Tanglewood Symphony, Rome Festival Orchestra and Skagit Symphony, as well as in several chamber groups throughout the Northwest. Kimberly currently teaches flute in Oak Harbor, Mt. Vernon and Burlington.

David Feingold, guitar, is the chairman of the music department at Western Washington University. Professor Feingold began musical studies in New York on French horn and piano when he was nine. His orchestral experience extended into college and work with community orchestras as he began to seriously pursue the classical guitar. His teachers in studio and master-class include Ralph Towner, Michael Lorimer, Christopher Parkening and Jose Thomas. Feingold's own compositions for the guitar have aired internationally and his CD, *The Boardwalk*, has received critical acclaim. Guitarists Rachel Gaulk, Marc Teicholz and James Reid have performed his music. Feingold has developed and directs the most comprehensive classical Guitar Studies Program in Washington State at Western Washington University.

Nancy Heyer, pianist, has been an active soloist, chamber music participant, accompanist and teacher for many years. She recently was the featured soloist with the Whatcom Chorale Sinfonia and has performed with the Cascade Ensemble and other chamber groups as soloist and chamber music collaborator. She maintains a busy teaching studio in Bellingham and is in demand as an accompanist for both vocal and instrumental musicians. In addition to being the pianist for the Whatcom Chorale and Sinfonia, she has collaborated with a variety of professional musicians throughout the Pacific Northwest. Each summer for many years she was involved with the annual Puget Sound Chamber Music Workshop under the auspices of the Music Center of the Northwest. Nancy is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Music and was a student of Betty Ruth Tomfohrde and Randolph Hokanson.

Mezzo-soprano, **Betsy Senff**, is active as a soloist in the Pacific Northwest. Her repertoire in classical choral music is extensive, including works by many composers ranging from Bach and Handel to Stravinsky and Bernstein. She has sung as a chorister and soloist with the Whatcom Chorale and the Portland Chorale, and has soloed with the Skagit Chorale and Skagit Symphony as well as several groups in the Seattle area. She was the alto soloist in the West Coast premiere of a work by Russian composer Sergei Taneyev, *Upon Reading of a Psalm*, with the Portland Chorale. She has traveled in performance with choirs to New York, Germany, Czech Republic, and Austria. In addition to oratorio, Ms. Senff has been heard in solo recital and duet performances and has sung with the Skagit Opera Chorus in performances of *Pirates of Penzance*, *Carmen*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *La Bohème*. Betsy sings currently with the Bellingham Chamber Chorale and the Bellingham Festival of Music chorus. She began studying voice with Richard Asher of Seattle and now studies with Erich Parce of Bellevue. She and her husband have three children and make their home in Mount Vernon.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Stuen-Walker, violist, grew up in Seattle where she studied strings with Norma Durst, William F. Anderson and Donald McInnes, and piano with Ruth Reeves and Corry Celli. She also participated in the Seattle Youth Symphony. She attended the UW her freshman year and then went on to receive a BM degree from the Eastman School of Music where she studied with Francis Tursi, and a MM degree from Yale University School of Music where she studied with Harold Coletta and Rafael Hillyer. After her graduate studies, she taught at the Preucil School of Music and Cornell College in Iowa. She played in the Tri-Cities and Cedar Rapids Symphonies before returning to the Northwest in 1984. Betsy is a Suzuki Viola Teacher Trainer, and an active viola and violin clinician throughout the world. She has taken her Premier Viola Ensemble to Ireland, Australia, Canada, Japan, Scandinavia and Germany, and most recently taught in Turin, Italy. She taught strings at the Whatcom Hills Waldorf School for 15 years and currently maintains a studio where she teaches viola and violin. She is a member of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra, the Harberton String Quartet and Noël, and directs the adult choir at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church. She has published several volumes of viola ensembles including "Violas in Concert, Volumes 1 and 2" and "Treble Clef for Violists" with Alfred Publishing.

Rosemary Vohs was classically trained in performance arts in her native England where she began presenting literature at the age of six with the London Academy for Music and Dramatic Art. Rosemary received her BA from Northwest College, and a MA in Speech and Communication from WUU where she currently teaches a variety of courses in storytelling, children's literature, and readers' theatre. An award winning performer, she has told tales in England, Australia, Southeast Asia and Canada as well as the Pacific Northwest where she is also a popular and entertaining speaker. In 2004 she was honored as one of Western's "Favorite Professors".

Jennifer Weeks received a Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University in Montreal where she studied with Theodore Baskin of the Montreal Symphony. Two Canada Arts Council grants allowed her to complete a graduate Performance Diploma at the Cleveland Institute of Music under John Mack of the Cleveland Orchestra. Jennifer worked for many years as a professional oboist freelancing with numerous groups throughout Canada. She held the principal oboe position in the Kingston (Ont.) Symphony and was oboe instructor at Queen's University in that city for five years before moving to Bellingham in 2000. After a year of freelancing on the West Coast and working with groups such as Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Vancouver Island Symphony, she decided it was time to try life outside the music business. When weighing making oboe reeds... *for ever...* or backpacking, biking and kayaking, into the closet went the oboe. She returned to school and received her Associates Degree in Environmental Conservation from Skagit Valley College in 2005. She is currently employed in the Natural Resource Department at the Samish Indian Nation in Anacortes. Jennifer eventually dusted off the oboe, realized she absolutely loves playing it, and is enjoying making music with an amazing group of Bellingham musicians. Jennifer also plays with the Whatcom Symphony.