

November 5, 2008
10:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran
Church



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

November 5 marks
the birthdays of
legendary pianist
Walter Gieseking (1895)
and British composer
Nicholas Maw (1935).

Join us on
December 3
to hear
**The Bellingham
Chamber Chorale**
directed by
Tim Fitzpatrick
at 10:30 at Faith
Lutheran Church.

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



Today's Program Presented by John Reay

The Orca Wailers

**Ray Downey, Barry Ulman,
John Reay and Sue Blum**

Opening Notes

Long before Duke Ellington, composers like Mozart, Brahms and Tchaikovsky were addicted to the indigo moods of the clarinet family; only Beethoven seemed somewhat deaf to its orchestral charms. With an eclectic program designed to please all, **The Orca Wailers** demonstrate that serious musicians know how to have fun!

Is Ford Hill amazing or what? As the centerpiece of last month's superb all-Mendelssohn recital, "Ford Hill and Friends," Western's longtime keyboard wizard was at his zenith. His friends were not too shabby either: **Walter Schwede and Eric Kean** of WWU's music faculty, and cellist **Fred Thompson**, who made a special trip from Port Angeles for the occasion. We could never afford to pay a blue-ribbon ensemble like this what they're worth. Why do they do it? For one reason: **to help us help** young music students. If you missed the basket in the Concert hall lobby last month, here's your chance! Thanks to **Arthur Barnes** for presenting, and Professor **Edward Rutschman** for arranging our use of the hall. (By the way, Ed's daughter Kirsten, the organist at St. James, ran the supertitles at Seattle Opera for their recent *Elektra*, and will do the honors again for two of the *Ring* cycle operas this summer.)

Good news from the Bellingham Festival of Music! The 2009 summer program was unveiled with great fanfare at the annual membership meeting on Oct. 23. **Maestro Michael Palmer** will be back to conduct five orchestral concerts at WWU, and the popular chamber music concert will return at the Yacht Club. The Festival will run from July 3 to July 19 and will feature pianist **Stephen (Bishop) Kovacevich**, Northwest singers **Katie Van Kooten** and **Charles Stevens** in Brahms' *Requiem*, cellist **Joshua Roman**, and the **Romeros**, who will play Torroba's *Concerto for Four Guitars*.

From the Board

Thank you to Barbara DeFreytas and Kristin VanSchelt for coordinating today's Thanksgiving Tea. Of course, it wouldn't be much of a Tea without your contribution; thank you to all who brought goodies!

We are grateful to all 19 callers who offer their time and talent to insure the club's success. We are also happy to welcome **Chlois McCarter** on the Telephone Committee.

See Will Ellender at the membership table to join the BMC or renew your dues, and receive your annual handbook (you are paid up if your name is listed).

Welcome to new and returning members Bill Glass and Sandra Heinke.

We offer our sincere condolences to BMC member Betty Youngquist whose husband, Orwin, passed away two weeks ago.

We are also saddened by the loss of **Claire vg Thomas**, co-founder (with Ethel Crook) of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. She touched thousands of music lovers with her passion for life, only matched by her blithe spirit and contagious energy. **A celebration of her life** will take place on **Nov. 15 at 2 pm** at Judson Hall in Lynden.



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

Now playing at your house...

The Metropolitan Opera already presents "live" performances at a movie theatre near you. If that's not convenient, how about taped performances brought into your own home, via the Internet? The service is called "Met Player." It's available on the Met's website, metopera.org. For four or five dollars you get a viewing window of six hours for a single opera; for \$15, you can buy **unlimited streaming for a month**. And a \$150 subscription buys **unlimited viewing for a whole year**. The catalog currently offers 50 videos, plus 120 sound recordings, going back to 1937. The videos feature **Sutherland, Callas, Nilsson, Price, Voigt, Netrebko, Fleming, Georghiu, Corelli, Alagna, Horostovsky**, etc., in some of their greatest roles. More titles will be added as time goes on. Info: metoperafamily.org/met_player or nytimes.com/music (click on *metopera*).

... or just down the road!

Of course, nothing matches opera in the flesh. Just ask the contingent of BMC members who made the 30-minute trip down to McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon for **Skagit Opera's La traviata** last month. It was a thoroughly professional show, including orchestra, chorus and minor principals. The starring lovers seemed to get better and better with each act, and **Morgan Smith** (Germont père) caused quite a stir. (You may remember him from the Bellingham Festival, as a last-minute substitute in the title role of *Don Giovanni*.)

You can now own the inspiring movie **The Singing Revolution** on DVD! The film is offered first on the website, along with a collector's edition, educational versions, music CDs, and more. To order, please go to www.singingrevolution.com (check out the Special Offers list for some discount options).

Coming Events

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 pm
Benaroya Hall, Seattle
\$38/\$25 seniors and students

Thursday, Nov. 6, 8:00 pm
98.1 Classic KING FM
Online at www.syso.org

Saturdays, Nov. 8 & 22, 10 am
SilverCity in Richmond, B.C.
Alderwood Regal 7 in Lynnwood
\$18-22 (depending on currency)

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 8 pm
WWU PAC Concert Hall
Free

Saturday, Nov. 15, 7:30 pm and Sunday, Nov. 16, 3 pm
WWU PAC Concert Hall
\$24/20

Saturday, Nov. 22, 9:30 am
The Amadeus Project
1209 Cornwall Ave.
\$20 general/door, \$10 students

Sunday, Nov. 23, 3 pm
The Amadeus Project
\$15/\$12/\$10

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center is playing an all-Rachmaninoff concert **tonight** in a first appearance in Seattle. Unless you travel to New York often, this is a rare opportunity to hear them! For information, call 425-941-2297.

Tune to or stream in the **Seattle Youth Symphony** impressive concert broadcast of Wagner's Overture to *Rienzi*, Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A minor with soloist Benji Bae, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor "From the New World." **Free!**

On Nov. 8, **Baritone Gerald Finley** plays the role of Robert Oppenheimer in the **Met premiere** of John Adams' *Doctor Atomic* in **HD Live**. On Nov. 22, **Robert LePage** stages Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust* starring **Marcello Giordani, Susan Graham** and **John Relyea**. Speak to BMC addicts for details.

The WWU Concert Choir debut their season with works that they will perform on their South American tour this coming June, including sacred music from Spain and Mexico, works by American composers and folk tunes from around the world.

The Whatcom Symphony presents **Alexander Ardakov** in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor. Also on the program are Beethoven's *Fidelio* Overture, Op. 72, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Joseph Schwantner's *Chasing Light*. Order your tickets by calling 734-6080.

Flutist Bonnie Blanchard offers "Making Music and Enriching Lives," a day-long workshop for teachers, parents and students. Contact Gwynne Top at pgtop@juno.com for details and registration. WSMTA members get a special \$15 registration fee when mentioning the BMC newsletter by November 10.

Internationally acclaimed **Brazilian classical pianist Geisa Dutra** will interpret works by Latin composers at this Keyboard Friends Piano Concert. Call 671-6104 or e-mail bellinghamhouseconcerts@gmail.com for info and tickets.



Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!



The Bellingham Music Club Presents

The Orca Wailers

**Ray Downey, Barry Ulman
John Reay and Sue Blum**

Radetzky March Op. 228	Johann Strauss I
Quartet No.1 in F major, <i>Allegro</i>	Ludwig van Beethoven
Three Folk Dances	Béla Bartók
Pollywog's Lake Talk	Barry Ulman
Serenade No. 10 in B-flat major	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
<i>1. Andante 2. Minuet 3. Adagio 4. Minuet 5. Allegro</i>	
Clarion Quadrants	Ray Downey
<i>1. Andantino 2. Larghetto 3. Allegro Giocoso</i>	
Andante	Karl Stamitz
Caprice for Clarinets	Clare Grundman
Sicilienne	Barry Ulman
Early Hungarian Dances	Ferenc Farkas
<i>1. Intrada 2. Slow Dance 3. Shoulder-Blade Dance</i>	
It takes 4 to Tango	Daniel Dorff



November 5, 2008



Biographies

The Orca Wailers Clarinet Quartet was formed by local players who share a wide range of musical styles: classical, jazz, baroque, swing, modern, show tunes, and various dance styles. Although they are primarily a clarinet quartet, their arrangements sometimes include flute, saxophones or bassoon. They have played at a wide variety of gigs, including parties, Barkley Village, a WSO cruise, John Reay's retirement, and a WWU Retirement Assoc. dance. This is their second appearance with the BMC.

Ray Downey was born in 1953, grew up in Lake Tahoe, California, and came to the Northwest in 1972. He wrote arrangements and played clarinet and saxophone for the McChord Air Force Band. After the military he went on the road with The New Deal Rhythm Band for a few years before going back to school. He graduated from WWU in 1981 with a double major in Jazz Studies and Composition, and then played in Northwest bands such as: Eddie and the Atlantics, Dick Powell Blues Band, Jr. Cadillac, Seattle Concert Band, Seattle Composers & Improvisers Orchestra; he has also played in back-up orchestras for Ernestine Anderson, Natalie Cole, Johnny Mathis and Bernadette Peters. He has been teaching privately full time for about 20 years and received the Mayor's Arts Award as a "working artist" "for his commitment, dedication, and support of young musicians in Bellingham and Whatcom County" in 2000. He has been Principal Clarinet of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra since 1989; in 2008 the WSO commissioned "Concerto for Jazzers and Orchestra." Currently he plays with local groups Saltwater Octet, Clearbrook Connection, Saxquatch, Yambique, and the Ray Downey Trio (special occasions & private parties).

Barry Ulman was born in 1940, in Howell, Michigan. He took piano lessons from age 5, and his first clarinet lessons at age 10 but he didn't really get serious about music until he was about 17, when he fell in love with jazz and took up saxophone along with clarinet. Since his jazz studies at the Berklee School of Music in Boston, he has played many gigs of many different genres, including dance jobs, jazz, classical, shows, cruise ships, and a circus. Ulman received his Bachelor's Degree in Music in 1981 at WWU, and a Master's Degree in Composition in 1988. He has composed over a dozen works for different chamber ensembles, one piece for orchestra, and has written a number of jazz tunes.

John Reay sang for four years with PLU's Choir of the West, directed church choirs for many years, and even led the Mt. Baker Toppers barbershop chorus one year. He still sings with his church choir and the Whatcom Chorale. John plays clarinet in What The Chelm klezmer band and bassoon in both the Bayshore Chamber Orchestra and the Whatcom Chorale Sinfonia. He is a co-founder of the "3rd Sundays@Three" chamber music series and plays in various local chamber music groups.

Sue Blum is a Chicago native. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Pacific Lutheran University and studied clarinet with Bill McColl at the University of Washington where she was awarded a Master's Degree in Music. She has taught music in school districts around Seattle and Bellingham. Much of her performing focuses on playing music. "I have also dabbled in the Community Theatre, and have recently taken up the big baritone sax. You can catch my act with What The Chelm, Swing Connection Jazz Band, and The Saxophone Quartet."