



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

December 2, 2009
10:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran
Church

NO MEETING
IN JANUARY

Join us on
February 3
at 10:30 at
Faith Lutheran
Church to hear
Chamber Music
by Marrowstone.



Today's Program Presented by H el ene Minari

Winter Delights

featuring
Harpist Jill Whitman
And Friends

Opening Notes

Today's program kicks off the fullest season of holiday music in recent years (six events on Dec. 5 and 6 alone!). One of the busiest organizations is **NOEL**, spearheaded by harpist **Jill Whitman**. Today we'll be treated to a sampler of their

offerings drawn from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, songs from the British Isles, an Italian lullaby, and music for harp virtuoso. Check "Coming Events" for performances by the entire group; they'll fill your Christmas stocking with joy!

What a remarkable tenor voice **Ross Hauck** displayed last month! Perfectly even top to bottom, loud to soft; free and easy high notes; no cracks, no sweat. And perfect intonation too. He was willing to shave his fee in order to promote a new album of Irish songs (arranged by

his accompanist, Alice A. Lewis). Much impressed by the Club, Mr. Hauck promised to come back another day with a classical program; meanwhile, we can look forward to his return on April 30 for Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Bellingham Chamber Chorale.

On November 15, six of us from the Music Club made the trip to Seattle to attend the **Seattle Youth Symphony** concert at Benaroya. How amazing, once again, to see their talented young people play such a challenging program and play it so well. The opening selection, Glazunov's *Carnival Overture*, brilliant but rather shallow, preceded an astounding performance of Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto with fifteen-year-old Lennart Jansson as soloist. With dexterity, facility

and, for his age, unbelievably accomplished virtuosity, we in the audience remained "with jaws on the floor." The Tchaikovsky Fourth Symphony closed the program, the last movement of which, an altogether rousing finale, brought us all to our feet. You all have the privilege and opportunity to hear some of these fine musicians when Marrowstone, the SYSO's summer institution, sends us a group for our upcoming February program.

President Clyde Hiss

From the Board

Welcome to new members Marie Hitchman and Heidi Krieg; **please stop by the membership table** to join the BMC and receive your handbook.

We are immensely grateful to all BMC members and friends who made over \$1000 in donations to honor Robert Millard's memory; the sadness that we share with Colette is only matched by our conviction that the world is a better place because of Bob.

We would love to see you at Board meetings (or maybe you can work behind the scene!). Currently, we could use help with Publicity, Awards, Lena Montgomery Award, Programs and Biographies, Newsletter (researching, writing or typing) and maintaining the membership database. Please let any of us know of your interest.

The **Program Committee** will meet on February 10 (second Wednesday).

Coming Events

Saturday mornings, 10 am

SilverCity in Richmond, B.C.
Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon
Visit www.metoperafamily.org and click "Watch and Listen" and "HD Live" for details and tickets.

Saturday, December 5, 3 & 7 pm

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2600 Lakeway Drive
\$15, \$10 for 18 and under

Sunday mornings, 11 am

Tuesday nights, 7 pm

Pickford Cinema
\$21/\$18 members

Sunday, December 6, 2 pm

Rotunda Room, Whatcom Museum
\$3, Free for museum members

Sunday, December 6, 3 pm

Mount Baker Theatre
\$10 to \$42

Sunday, December 13, 3pm

First Congregational Church
2401 Cornwall Avenue
Adults \$15, \$12 seniors and students, \$5 age 18 and under

Sunday, December 13, 3 pm

The Amadeus Project,
1209 Cornwall Avenue
\$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students

Thursday, December 17, 7 pm

WWU PAC Concert Hall
Patrons \$75, adults \$25, \$35
\$10 children & students under 18

Friday, December 18, 7:30 pm

Performing Arts Center, Blaine

Sunday, December 20, 3 pm

Bellingham High School

Sunday, January 10, 2 pm

Mount Baker Theatre
Suggested donation \$10
18 & under free

The Metropolitan Opera HD Broadcast season is in full swing, with a sizeable delegation from Bellingham crossing the border regularly to catch the action "live from New York!" A short drive through the Chuckanuts may have some appeal too. Upcoming events include an encore presentation of **Turandot** (Dec. 5), **Les Contes d'Hoffman** (live Dec. 19, encore Jan. 23), **Der Rosenkavalier** (Jan. 9, March 6) and **Carmen** (Jan 16, March 13).

Join Tim Fitzpatrick and the Bellingham Chamber Chorale for a BACH CHRISTMAS, including excerpts from *Magnificat*, *B-minor Mass*, *Lobet den Herrn* and works by Rachmaninoff, Hassler, Eric Whittaker and others. Tickets on sale at Community Coop, Piper Music, Village Books and brownpapertickets.com.

This month, the **Pickford Cinema** presents Monteverdi's **Orfeo** (Dec. 6, 8) and the famous Kirov productions of **Swan Lake** (Dec. 13, 15) and **The Nutcracker** (Dec. 20, 23). Time to take the kids out and count the fouettés! Opera resumes on January 24 and 26 with Verdi's **Don Carlo** from La Scala.

Celebrate Chanukah with What the Chelm! The Bellingham-based band presents joyful, high energy, Hebrew, Ladino, Yiddish and Klezmer songs. For information, call 671-1621 or visit www.whatthechelm.com.

The WWU Concert Choir joins the WSO for the always popular "Holiday Treasures" concert; Roger Briggs has assembled a program of beloved holiday melodies and traditional carols. For tickets, call 734-6080 very soon!

Jill Whitman (harp), David Feingold (guitar) and Kay Reilly (marimba) accompany the **Whatcom Chorale** in Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and Conrad Susa's *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*. Tickets on sale at Piper Music, Village Books, Greenhouse, Downtown Partnership Office, Everybody's Store and at the door. Information: 738-7166 or www.whatcomchorale.com.

Keyboard Friends present "Insects, Elephants, and Fred." **Pianists Cassandra Carr, Dan Sabo and Victoria Ebel-Sabo** perform *A Bug Ballet*, *The Story of Babar*, *the Little Elephant*, and *Fred The Cat*; also on the program are dramatic storytelling and poetry readings. Info and tickets: 671-6104.

Soprano Katie Van Kooten headlines a Christmas concert benefiting the **Bellingham Festival of Music**. The **Bellingham Children's Choir**, led by David Post, and pianist, composer and arranger **Brett Strader**, along with his wife, harpist **Krista Strader**, will join her. Call 650-6146 for tickets.

A real Holiday treat for the whole family: Jill Whitman leads the stellar **NOEL** ensemble, dressed in richly colored medieval costumes, in a memorable experience featuring harps, strings, flute, percussion and poetry. For tickets and information, visit www.noelharp.com or call 305-7136 (\$10 to \$35).

The **Mount Baker Theatre Organ Society** is off in December. Coming January 10th, MBTOS is pleased to present "A Winter Holiday with Mark and Friends," with **Mark Andersen**, organist, **Lynn Andersen**, hand bells and vocals, and **Emily Rostykus**, harp and vocals. Be sure to reserve the date and spend a fun-filled afternoon with us!

Happy Holidays And Best Wishes for the New Year!

The Bellingham Music Club Presents

Winter Delights

with

Jill Whitman, harp

Kimberley Breilein, flute

Gaye Davis, violin

Elizabeth Stuen-Walker, viola

and Chip Bergeron, cello



Our guests will announce the program from the stage.

December 2, 2009





Harpist Jill Whitman

Founder of the NOEL ensemble, **Jill Whitman** has traveled extensively, bringing the enjoyment of the harp to many countries. She has toured for the Community Concerts division of Columbia Artists throughout Canada, concertized in Europe with the American Sinfonietta, and performed in Japan, Germany, Canada and New Zealand. She currently serves as principal harp with the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra, Yakima Symphony, and Washington-Idaho Symphony, and has taught harp for many years at WWU. She serves on the national Suzuki harp repertoire development committee and loves to teach children how to play this unique instrument. In addition, she is an avid arranger of folk songs and carols for small ensembles. NOEL has been honored by an invitation to perform this coming year for the National Harp Society conference.