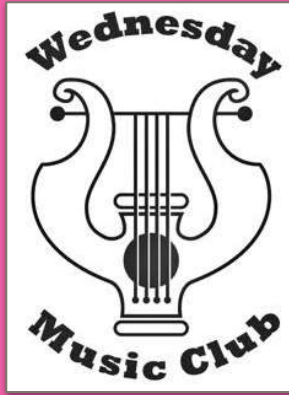


## Mission

**The Wednesday Music Club promotes and expands quality musical and educational opportunities for its members, for teachers, for music lovers, and for the youth of Central Virginia through regular performances, competitions, shared group experiences, and financial support.**



## Vision

**The Wednesday Music Club will foster and sustain a vibrant music climate through Central Virginia, especially among young people.**

# May 2019

Editor: Cecily Winchell

*From the President.....*

Dear friends,

It's hard for me to believe this is my final newsletter message as president of WMC!

These past several years have been a time of transition for our Club as we have defined our Mission and Vision and then measured our operations and outreach accordingly. A tall order was endeavoring to keep the charm and demonstrated success of WMC's history while forging a dynamic future. I believe we have achieved success towards that goal.

We have seen a lot of growth these past several years in membership, program outreach, and geographic sphere of influence. This has benefited scores of people, especially the young, in our community. If you didn't have a chance to attend our May Annual Meeting at which I provided a report outlining the highlights of our year, please contact me if you would like an electronic version.

Wednesday Music Club is indeed a bright constellation with member stars. Whether it's hands-on volunteering, behind the scenes support, enthusiastic attendance, and/or generous donating, each of you is vital to our mission.

Soon you will receive our Membership Renewal form. Please do complete and send it in immediately so we are sure to include your name in our new Yearbook.

It has been a privilege to enjoy your confidence in leadership during this time. Thank you from my heart! I am so pleased to see our new President, Rae Skinner and her fine Board excitedly step into a new season for WMC. I know you will give them your full support as they move our good story forward!

Have a great summer and see you in October for our kick-off luncheon!

*Joyce*

# From the Program Chair

## Laurie Shulman

Wednesday Music Club welcomed back pianist and former WMC member Seung-Hye Kim on May 1<sup>st</sup> for a fascinating program in the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian. She gave us an “informance” of two works by living composers: Finland’s Kaija Saariaho and America’s George Crumb, with spoken introduction to each piece and copious musical examples and explanation in her prepared handout.

Saariaho, who is based in Paris, has extensive experience with electro-acoustic music, which is also a special interest of Seung-Hye’s (she is herself a composer). Seung-Hye explained that Saariaho’s Prelude is adapted from the piano part of “Attente” [‘Longing’], the first song in the cycle, *Quatre Instants*.

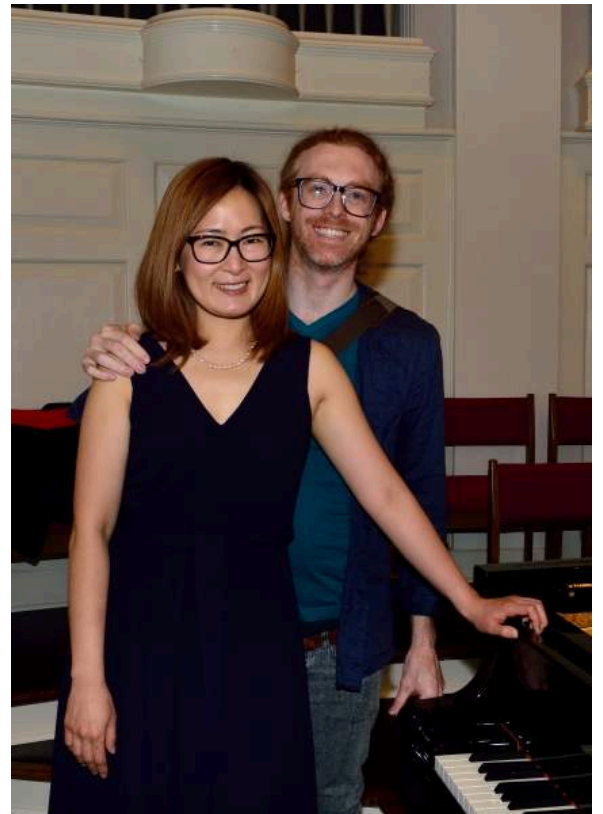
The Prelude is a study in textures, comprising half-step *ostinati*, a linear melody that wanders over virtually the entire span of the keyboard, and repeated patterns that propel the movement’s forward momentum. The *ostinati* represent longing and struggle, and the fluctuations in sonic range left one with the feeling of drifting. Debussyan swaths of color and nuanced pedaling took full advantage of the Fazioli piano’s color potential.

George Crumb’s nine-movement *Eine Kleine Mitternachtmusik* [A Little Midnight Music] takes an obvious bow to Mozart in its coy title, but the musical content is centered around another composer: the jazz pianist Thelonious Monk. Specifically, as Seung-Hye told us, Crumb’s piece is an extended rumination on Monk’s “Round Midnight,” a jazz classic quoted or paraphrased in several of the movements. Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* gets its own bow in the fourth movement, “Cobweb and Peaseblossom,” an allusion to two of the fairy characters in the play.

The sixth movement, “Golliwog Revisited,” is rich in allusions to Debussy’s celebrated “Golliwog’s Cakewalk” in the *Children’s Corner* suite, including Debussy’s famous quotation of Wagner’s Prelude to *Tristan und Isolde* and repeated snippets of the E-flat clarinet motive in Strauss’s *Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks*.

As in the Saariaho, pedaling played an important role in Crumb’s *Mitternachtmusik*, but he also calls for extended techniques to produce unusual sounds. These include percussive sounds from inside the piano, striking the instrument’s cast iron frame with a soft mallet, and strumming the strings. As Seung-Hye explains, the penultimate movement, “Cadenza with Tolling Bells,” is the climax of the piece, with the performer shouting the numbers 1 through 12 to signal the advent of midnight. As the numbers ascended, the volume decreased. This listener was struck by the harmonic connection to the rich, unorthodox harmonies of Olivier Messiaen.

The cycle concluded with “Midnight Transformation,” a reprise of Monk’s “Round Midnight” theme. Seung-Hye’s rendition, using finger-tip pizzicato, glissandi, and the string-covered mallet, was mesmerizing. Throughout both pieces, she demonstrated the thoughtful musicianship and superb technique that have characterized her previous performances for WMC in more conventional repertoire. She was greeted by a well-deserved standing ovation.





Photos by Mariam Carratt

## *Congratulations to...*

WMC's newly elected Directors for a three year term beginning July 1, 2019:

Anitra Archer  
Dana Patek  
Corky Sablinsky  
Mary Vee Connell  
Diane Kingsbury  
Barbara Moore

We gratefully acknowledge and thank all our Board of Directors members for their willingness to serve and lead Wednesday Music Club forward.

## *Musical Interlude 2019—Encore!*

Please enjoy the video recordings of our university scholarship recipients who performed at our January fundraiser. Our good friend, Stewart Searle, provides them for our archives and listening pleasure.

Thomas Hassett, piano, James Madison University  
<https://vimeo.com/311759287>

Aiman Khan, horn, University of Virginia  
<https://vimeo.com/311541124>

# WMC's **MUSIC HERE!** completes first official year at Boys & Girls Club and Walker!

***WMC Outreach in 2018-19: Growing the Wednesday Music Club community, making new friends, and extending our mission and vision to the wider Charlottesville community***

If it's Monday or Tuesday afternoon, it's time for **Music Learning Community** at the Boys and Girls Club on Cherry Avenue. Wednesday Music Club volunteers are greeted warmly by staff at the front desk, and soon we are surrounded by kids asking, "Is it time for Music Learning?" and "May we help you gather up the iPads and headphones and take them to the computer lab?"

Music Learning Community is a computer game which teaches music theory concepts through a series of entertaining games. Quick, can you identify what kind of note that oncoming meteor is (whole note, half note, quarter note) before it crashes into earth? Can you match the melody in the fruit basket to the piece of fruit which is playing the identical melody?

For 30 minutes, second, third and fourth graders are able to test their skills and learn new concepts as they work their way through a variety of games, earning a green check mark for each game they master at a given level. The Wednesday Music Club purchased the site license for Music Learning Community for use at the Boys and Girls Club, along with n (how many?) tablets, and Wednesday Music Club volunteers help the kids to sign on and explore the games. It is fun to see a face light up when a green check mark appears – and the kids love to look up the number of green check marks they have earned throughout the semester. Over the course of the 2018-19 school year, children at the Boys and Girls Club have explored the Music Learning Community games, with some children playing more than x games throughout the year.

Beyond the enjoyment of helping the students to learn music theory concepts, we are gratified by the opportunity to build relationships with our new friends at the Boys and Girls Club. It was both humbling and rewarding to hear the leadership of the Boys and Girls Club applaud the efforts of the WMC to provide regular, consistent, and intentionally-planned programming, which has an impact on the kids' lives outside of the BGC, in ways that are not always immediately obvious, but which, over the long term, can make a real difference in the lives of these students.

Wednesday afternoons are for coaching beginning band and orchestra students at **Walker Upper Elementary School**. With excellent support and coordination by the band and orchestra teachers at Walker, we have had the opportunity to work with fifth and sixth grade students who are still in the early stages of learning their instruments. Working one-on-one or sometimes in small groups, volunteer coaches help beginning students with note reading, counting out the beat, and instrument-specific skills such as bowing, fingering, slide position, and embouchure. Most importantly, we are there to encourage and help beginning students to recognize and take pride in the progress they are making. Over the year volunteers have worked with students playing violin, viola, flute, clarinet, trombone, trumpet, and . . .

It has been both a challenging and a rewarding first full year for both of these programs. We are meeting with the teachers and staff at both Walker and Boys and Girls Club to review successes and to chart a course for the coming year that will enable us to build on the wonderful journey that began with pilot programs in the fall of 2017. While continuing our current activities, we are also looking to expand the programming to include in-school coaching at Walker and episodic programming (such as instrument show-and-tell, small [10 minute] presentations on musical genres, famous musicians, interactive activities, and more) that will not require a weekly commitment of time but will bring fresh, new opportunities to explore music appreciation and music-making with the students at BGC. **We are excited about the possibilities and welcome anyone interested in volunteering to join us in the coming season.**

*Submitted by: Nancy Bertram, MUSIC HERE!*

## *Glimpses of* **MUSIC HERE!**

The computer lab at the Boys & Girls Club where 2 days a week WMC members help 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders use the Music Learning Community on-line program WMC provides at the Cherry Avenue Club.



Youth Orchestra Ensemble performing at  
Cherry Avenue Boys & Girls Club



In May, WMC members demonstrate various band and orchestra instruments for 4th graders at the Boys & Girls Club to give them an idea of what they might like to choose in late May as their instrument when they enter 5th grade at Walker UE School.

‘Coaching’ brass at MUSIC HERE!

WMC ‘coaches’ are at Walker UE School every Wednesday from 3—4:30 p.m. for our after-school program helping 5th and 6th grade band and orchestra beginning instrumentalists.

Photos by  
Ruth Dillon



Our final Young Musicians Recital for the season...





*FERMATA: April gathering enjoying making music together*



# EXCERPTS: ANNUAL REPORT ON WMC LESSONS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Wednesday Music Club generously provides four lessons scholarships to University of Virginia students who play in the Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra. Following are excerpts from the reports written by four principals in CSO (Pete Spaar, Kelly Peral, Daniel Sender and Adam Carter), who were the teachers this year of our four CSO Lessons Scholarship winners. Thank you to the WMC membership, who make this investment in the orchestra's student musicians!

## CONOR MORAN, BASS

Conor Moran is a rising Third Year Chemical Engineering major at the University of Virginia.

"Conor is far and away the strongest player in the orchestra's bass section. He performed some of the most difficult orchestral repertoire (notably Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony*) at a nearly professional level. He takes his orchestral commitment very seriously despite the time demands of his major (chemical engineering!) and consequently raises the level of the entire section by example. We have spent the last year working primarily on solo bass playing as well as some very challenging orchestral repertoire. Conor continues to excel at both, although his primary love is clearly orchestral playing. He is an invaluable asset to the bass section specifically and to the entire orchestra generally. I believe his lesson scholarship played an important role in keeping him connected to his love of orchestral bass playing, especially as he faces the growing demands of his major."

Pete Spaar, CSO Principal Bass and Conor's teacher

## ANNA LIANG, OBOE

Anna Liang is a rising Second Year Environmental Science major.

"A huge thank you to the Wednesday Music Club for Anna Liang's generous oboe lesson scholarship this year. Anna was a crucial member of the oboe section this entire season, and her lessons played a pivotal role in helping her rise to the heavy first-year load. As it turned out, Anna played on every concert this season including the Youth and Family Holiday Concerts. Additionally, she assisted with the Musical Instrument Petting Zoo last fall for the Virginia Film Festival Family Day. Anna's lessons focused a great deal on intonation work and reed-making this year. Although she has a natural sense of musicality, her expression is sometimes hindered by reed and embouchure struggles. This semester, Anna has brought newly made reeds to nearly every lesson, and it has been exciting to see her improved confidence as she develops her reed-making skills. Her work is becoming more consistent, symmetrical, and balanced, all key to making a workable reed. I am grateful for the chance to work with Anna, and I am looking forward to her next three years. It will be exciting to watch her continued progress."

Kelly Peral, CSO Principal Oboe

## ERIC SU, VIOLIN

Eric Su is a Rising Second Year at UVA, and still deciding on his major field of study.

"Eric has been an outstanding contributor to the Music Department since the time he arrived last August. Through the generosity of the WMC, Eric enrolled in lessons and proved himself a quick study with enormous potential. Though not a music major, Eric has thrown himself into music life at UVA. His preparation and progress in lessons has been exemplary – tackling repertoire such as the Bach g minor fugue, Bartok's daunting First Rhapsody, the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto and Ysaÿe's Second Sonata for Solo Violin. An area of particular focus has been in developing a more nuanced use of the bow, including re-forming the bow hold itself. This is a tedious process, but Eric has been diligent and the work has already born fruit. He appears more and more engaged in rehearsals and is currently sitting in a leadership position next to David Sariti. Eric is everything we look for in a student violinist – hardworking, talented and invested. He was a worthy choice for the WMC scholarship and has certainly put it to good use!"

Daniel Sender, CSO Concert Master

## **ADAM COOPER, CELLO**

Adam Cooper is a rising Third Year who has applied for admission to the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

“It has been a joy working with Adam Cooper this year thanks to the Wednesday Music Club scholarship. Adam has a deep and earnest passion for playing the music that is totally infectious and very inspiring to the other students in the cello section. He has an almost child-like wonder about him when he gets to be involved in the orchestral forces of Mendelssohn, or Bartok, or Respighi. When we stop in rehearsals, he usually turns to the other students with a look of amazement on his face. I've never had another student who enjoyed being a part of an orchestra as much as Adam. And as I mentioned, that sheer joy is totally infectious and boosts the morale and enjoyment of the people around him. In lessons, we've worked on the third Bach Suite, the Elgar Concerto and the Bloch Concerto, as well as scales and various other technical exercises. Adam's left-hand technique has really blossomed and he has improved his shifting and thumb position a lot with his work on the various concertos. We've also spent a good deal of time working on good practice techniques and strategies, and I feel that it has really paid dividends, especially this semester. Hopefully we can continue to work together next year on relaxation of his upper body and great posture to continue to help him play the cello with more ease. I'm so glad I got to work with Adam in both orchestra and lessons this year as he is a joy to teach and contributed so much energy, spirit, emotion, and talent to orchestra this year. Thank you so much for awarding Adam this scholarship and for everything the Club does for music in the Charlottesville community.”

Adam Carter, CSO Principal Cello

WMC's Alma Huesing Piano Camp deadline is coming up on June 1. Please go to the website at [www.WednesdayMusicClub.org](http://www.WednesdayMusicClub.org) for more information or email [pianocamp@wednesdaymusicclub.org](mailto:pianocamp@wednesdaymusicclub.org).

# WMC Boys and Girls Club Awards Assembly and Instrument Demonstration

