



KEYNOTES

Spring 2009

COMPOSER—STUDENT—TEACHER FORUM

*Do you know DCFMC has published composers among its members?
Do you know they have written music your students can play?
Would you like your students to perform this music?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should have attended or participated in the Composer/Student/Teacher Forum on April 18, 2009.

This latest DCFMC innovation is the brain child of Vice President Hedy Bannon. The purpose of the event, held at the home of Karen Sandler in Bethesda, was to bring together members of the DCFMC who usually have no contact with each other.

Students of Federation teachers were assigned the task of learning music written by our own composers. Five composers were represented: Li-Ly Chang, Winifred Hyson, Lori Laitman, Wang An-Ming and the late Ruth Norman. Ms. Chang, Ms. Hyson and Ms. Wang attended.

The teachers included Hedy Bannon, who also moderated; Li-Ly Chang, Winifred Hyson, Cora Lee Khambatta and Lois Jones. Eighteen students participated. The composers spoke about the creative process of writing music, including their inspirations, experiences and backgrounds.



All dressed up for their Asian sounding piano solos and duets written by their teacher Li-ly Chang, are, front row left to right, Brian Le, Lihua Mo Hunter, Mrs. Chang. In the back row, Candace Lee, Cynthia Chow and Edwina Hunter.

The teachers asked questions about the works and offered some insight from their own experiences, and the students demonstrated with outstanding performances. Everyone was enthusiastic about this educational event, and plans are underway for a future music forum. Anyone who would like to participate may call Hedy Bannon.

SPRING MUSICALE PRESENTS VARIED PROGRAM



Performing at the Spring Musical, from far left, Hedy Bannon, page turner; Natassja Linzau, piano; Ashton Conklin, violin; Hedy Bannon, piano; Grace Boeringer, violin; Cara Alfano; cello, Lois Jones and Carolyn Deibel, piano.

The Second Annual Spring Musicale roared to another history-making success at the home of Hedy and Brian Bannon on April 26, 2009. With an audience of more than 50, performers played music by Beethoven, Chopin, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Gardel, Berto, Piazzolla, Bizet, J.S. Bach, Scriabin and Mozart. Performers were Barbara Kober, Natassja

Future Spring Musicales will be named in memory of Gretchen Anthony.

Linzau, Carolyn Deibel, Lois Jones and Lynn Rhi-nehart, piano; Ashton Conklin and Grace Boeringer, violin, and Cara Alfano, cello.

The consensus of praise was "how wonderfully varied the program was, and how well everyone played."

TIMBRELL ADVISES “TEAR INTO THE PIANO”

Advice from master teacher Charles Timbrell to performer at the Third Annual DCFMC Master Class included such gems as:

“Don’t take any note for granted.”

“Tear into the piano.”

“Liberate your arms.”

He told the performer of a Chopin Nocturne to “pretend the audience never heard the music before” and make it sound like “gentle breezes.” And to the performer of L’Orage,” he suggested making the piece sound “like a silent movie.”

At the master class on March 22 at the home of Barbara Kober, Dr. Timbrell, professor of music at Howard University, advised five young performers, Mary Wan, Blair Scott, Nicole Brimmer, Susannah Derr and Tiffany Kang on playing music by Debussy, Chopin, Burgmüller, Haydn and Beethoven. Performers are students of Hedy Bannon, Li-ly Chang and Barbara Kober.



Master Teacher Charles Timbrell make a point for Blair Scott in the Master Class.

EVENTS FOR SINGERS

Opera Vocal Gala

Presented by Opera International, the vocal gala will take place August 23 at 4 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore. The cast from the San Francisco Opera’s 2008 premier of Amy Tan’s “Bonesetter’s Daughter” with Hao-jiang Tian and Qian Yi will perform.

Gretchen Hood Competition

Soprano Aundi Marie Moore won the first prize of \$750 in the Gretchen Hood Competition and tenor Andrew Owens won the second prize of \$500. The biennial event which encourages young artists preparing for careers in music was held May 17, 2009, in the National Presbyterian Church.

THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This has been a year to remember for the D.C. Federation of Music Clubs. We’re really moving. My President’s Message used to be the lead story in Keynotes. Now I’m relegated to the inside pages to make room for all the spectacular events occurring throughout the entire spectrum of the organization. We have new ideas, new events, new members, new conversations. We’re moving. And we hope everyone has noticed and wants to move with us. I want to thank all my committee chairs and board members for working so hard this year to bring events like the Composers’ Forum, the Spring Musicale, the fourth annual Marriott competition, the master class with Charles Timbrell. And we will really hit the 21st century when we launch our new web site this summer. But we’re not through. We want new members, new pupils to play in our junior recitals and composers’ forum and new professionals to perform in our musicales and new volunteers to keep the spirit alive behind the scenes. Bring your friends to our events, to our membership, to our board, to whatever we do.



Muriel Horn

LI-LY CHANG PUPIL WINS MARRIOTT

The winner of the Fourth Annual Nancy Peery Marriott Competition on May 3, 2009, at the National Presbyterian Church, was Jackie Song, a pupil of Li-ly Chang who was awarded the \$300

"Thank you for the honor of hearing the students play such beautiful music yesterday. They were all musical and very well-prepared. It was not that simple to decide who was really the best."

Pamela Sverjensky, Marriott judge



The 2009 Nancy Peery Marriott Competition winner Jackie Song

Her winning piece from the Romantic Era was Chopin's Impromptu in F#, Op. 36. As the Marriott winner, she will perform in the Honors Recital on June 7, 2009.

Other Marriott competitors were Nikko Nolasco who played a Chopin Waltz, Lena Jia, who performed the Chopin Berceuse, and Ashley Seto who played a Chopin Nocturne. Nikko is a pupil of Cora Lee Khambatta and Lena and Ashley are Li-ly Chang's pupils.

prize for "expressive playing" and "good sense of drama." Jackie, 16, is in the 10 grade at Wakefield High School in Arlington and has been studying piano for nine years.

SEVEN PUPILS TO PLAY IN HONORS RECITAL

The DCFMC Honors Recital will be held at 2 p.m. on June 7, 2009, in the National Presbyterian Church. Two performers in the Marriott program, Lena Jia and Ashley Seto, both pupils of Li-ly Chang, will play, along with Nikko Nolasco, a pupil of Cora Lee Khambatta, who was chosen for his performance in the March 4 Junior Recital. Other performers will be Emily Gordon, a pupil of Hedy Bannon; Cory Rivera, pupil of Grace McFarlane, and Nikki Brimmer, pupil of Barbara Kober.

Four of the seven Honors Recital performer will be, left to right, Ashley Seto, Lena Jia, Jackie Song and Nikko Nolasco.



OTHER RECITALS OF THE SEASON

JAZZ AND BLUES

The Attrus C. Fleming Jazz, Rock and Blues Recital took place February 1, 2009, in the National Presbyterian Church. Performers were Kira Lee-Genzel, Jun Zhang Chen, Marian De Guzman, Alejandro Galdo, Joseph Shank, Anna Santiago, Elena Amparo, and Nikko Nolasco, pianists; and Cameron Dean, recorder. Their teachers are Mary Josie Blanchard, Li-ly Chang and Cora Lee Khambatta.



Anna Santiago, left, and Elena Amparo,

MARCH 1

In the March 1, 2009, Judged Recital, Anna Santiago and Elena Amparo, played a duet. Other performers were Solune Sadowsky and Nikko Nolasco, all students of Cora Lee Khambatta.

BAROQUE FESTIVAL

Always one of the Federations' most popular Junior Recitals, the March 29 Baroque Festival featured 10 performers and five teachers: Claretta Carroll, Ashton Conklin, Cora Lee Khambatta, Natassja Linzau and Mary Kathryn Traver. Nine of the 11 pieces performed were by Johann Sebastian Bach. Other composers were Scarlatti, Rameau and Telemann.



DCFMC Board

- Muriel Hom, president
- Barbara Kober, first vice president
- Hedy Bannon, second vice president
- Jeannie Carter, secretary
- Michelle Sheahan, treasurer
- Caroline Gibson, board member
- Kristin Halliday, board member
- Barbara Kober, Keynotes editor

Gretchen Anthony Dies

Life member and former president of DCFMC, Gretchen Lynch Anthony, died last September at her home in Bethesda. Mrs. Anthony, who also served as president of the Montgomery County Teachers Association, was president of DCFMC from 1985 to 1990.

During her administration the membership increased and the Junior Recitals, one of her special interests, grew from a trickle of performers to sometimes as many as 18 participants in judged recitals. The Helene Maginnis Competition, which became the Nancy Peery Marriott Competition four years ago, began during her administration. She also founded the Iva Laughlin Guy Concert series, the model for the Spring Musicales which began last year and was repeated this April.

Mrs. Anthony was a pianist and teacher who performed often in the metropolitan area and taught in her home studio in Chevy Chase.

The Web Is Coming

Our Web Site is coming. Soon. Our web master, Natassja Linzau, is putting the finishing touches on the site. We'll let you know when its grand premier will be.

NEW MEMBERS

- Jem Bahajjoub
- Maritza Sadowsky

ARIA CLUB MEMBER PORTRAYS OPERA STAR

Aria Club member, Malaika Sims Alvaro, stars in a portrayal of Ellabelle Davis, soprano, one of the few black singers to have a successful concert career in the 1940s.

Mrs. Alvaro is the daughter of DCFMC member Rose Marie Sims and her father is Attorney Nathaniel Sims.

The 45-minute opera production, "The Gentle Lark of New Rochelle: Celebrating the Life of Ellabelle Davis," was presented recently in a library New Rochelle, N.Y., Davis's hometown where she was considered a local treasure. The free show was produced by Tutti Bavi Productions.

The free performance takes a musical tour through Davis's life with a cast of professional singers, including soprano Alvaro as Davis; baritone Andrew Cum-

mings as city historian, Thomas Hctor, and mezzo-soprano Valeria Girardi of New Rochelle as Louise Crane, Davis'

patroness, who discovered the singer in a dressmaker's shop.

Alvaro, who is playing the lead for the first time, had never heard of Davis until she found out about the audition for "The Gentle Lark." Davis, who toured extensively in Europe and South America, also performed in the United States. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1948. She died in 1960 at the age of 53.

"I completely connected," says Alvaro, who made her own debut at Carnegie Hall in 1999. "It feels incredible. I try to walk in her shoes. It's just an honor to be able to portray her. She is one of the reasons I am able to sing."



Malaika Sims Alvaro stars in a production about Ellabelle Davis.