

Noteworthy

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Website: musicclubaustin.org

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Adriatic Sea's Natural Rhythm Makes Music Through 230-Ft Organ



Croatian architect Nikola Baic is collaborating with the Adriatic sea to make mellifluous music. In 2005, he designed a 230-foot *morse orgulje* (or *sea organ*) that uses the rhythm of the waves to play a melody. On the surface, this creation may look like an ordinary set of white stone steps, but it's actually covered in various holes. These openings lead to chambers within the instrument that connect to 35 organ pipes. As the waves ebb and flow, air is pushed through the inner channels at the bottom of the stairs and out the upper whistle-holes that play sweet-sounding tunes. This makes for a harmonious alliance between man and nature.

The sea organ is located in [Zadar](#), Croatia, which was devastatingly destroyed during World War II. During reconstruction, the city was filled with plain, concrete structures that did little to enhance the area's beauty. Thanks to Baic's musical construction, [artistic joy](#) is being brought back to the 3,000-year-old city.

Above photo credit: [linssimato](#)



President's Message

Sarah Harriman

I never dreamed we'd be dealing with a pandemic of massive proportions and that half of our spring season would have to be canceled. So far this year we've had delightful programs, and I was really looking forward to the upcoming ones. I am hopeful that some/most/all of the performers will be available to present their programs next year.

I hate that we will have such a long break with no live music, but there are many good websites that you might visit for a morale boost. One very humorous site I found is the Coronavirus Etude for Piano and Disinfecting Wipe (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whNICyl_et0). I know that many of you listen to KMFA and enjoy Sunday Baroque with Suzanne Bona. I discovered she has a blog she calls "Beautiful Music in Difficult Times." Her blog can be found at sundaybaroque.org.

These are only a couple of sites I have found, but I hope you will find solace in music that you play yourself or listen to as we all pray for the health and safety of people everywhere. I ask you to support your favorite musician/musical group. It may be by signing a petition, making a donation or watching a short informal performance on Youtube, Facebook or a website. These folks are out of work and need our support. Do what you can to support them—they need us and we need them.

In the mean time, continue to social distance responsibly, wash your hands often and stay safe until we can gather together again to enjoy a live performance.

A Few Ideas About Composing

Melanie Richards

I was asked to write a few ideas about being a composer; and to understand how I call myself that, you have to know that it is not a path of easy work, even if you acknowledge that you have musical talent and background! I grew up in a musical family, playing keyboard and stringed instruments; later I chose to take a path which included liberal arts (music major), musicology/theory, and positions which developed in me a more expansive or holistic view of the music world, instead of centering only on performing. I composed lightly throughout my life but not as a "composer." In this later part of my life, I have been working to earn that status.

I don't want to "turn out" a lot of pieces but do admire people who can do that; mine are fewer, more intense, and involve experimenting with tonality and other fundamentals, because I admire the great inspired composers so much that I feel they reached the peak of that system, and today we need music and art not just to comfort or please the world but to awaken it into imagining where we are in the present and in the future. Music should allow us to experience something within ourselves, to prove to us that there is another reality beyond the senses. That drives my work – however effective it can be, I must try.

So far, the bigger works which have emerged include setting 3 poems by Anne Lindbergh for soprano and piano (performed at the club); a larger work on an Emerson poem set for soprano, string quartet and eurythmy (movement) or narration, performed in upstate New York last spring; an experimental string trio piece which will be performed soon in Switzerland; and a self-published set of small piano pieces on the intervals, using each interval to create its own piece (glad to share a copy!) At the club this past January, a cello piece and violin/viola duet were also offered. So hopefully I will have new work to present next January on Women Composers day, and your attendance and interest are certainly appreciated!

Poetry Corner

*I am MUSIC, most ancient of the arts.
I am more than ancient, I am eternal.
Even before life commenced upon this earth, I was here--in the winds and the waves.
When the first trees and flowers and grasses appeared, I was among them.
And when Man came, I at once became the most delicate, most subtle, and most powerful medium for the expression of Man's emotions. When men were little better than beasts, I influenced them for their good.
In all ages I have inspired men with hope, kindled their love, given a voice to their joys, cheered them on to valorous deeds, and soothed them in times of despair.*

Taken from Allan C. Inman's *I AM MUSIC*.

7th Annual Coltman Chamber Music Competition

The 7th annual Coltman Chamber Music Competition was held March 7 and 8 at the University of Texas Butler School of Music. Named after Austin Chamber Music Center founder and long-time WMMC member Felicity Coltman, the Coltman Chamber Music Competition provides performance experience and expert commentary to advanced chamber ensembles along with cash prizes, scholarships, and performance opportunities. The Coltman Competition began as a municipal chamber music competition in 2010. The first annual state-wide competition began in 2014 reaching talented musicians from around Texas. The second annual competition, now nationwide, included even more outstanding musicians from across the country. In 2019 the competition expanded into multiple categories; 70 ensembles from 17 different states applied to compete.

The judges for the 2020 competition included the following: Faith DeBow, Collaborative Piano Faculty, Texas State University; Jack Delaney, Director of Bands, Southern Methodist University; Robert Freeman, Professor Emeritus, Former Dean at Eastman School of Music; Misha Galaganov, Professor of Viola, Texas Christian University; Steve Girko, Principal Clarinetist, Austin Symphony Orchestra; Jacob Harrison, Director of Orchestral Activities, Texas State University; Michael Jacobson, Professor of Saxophone, Baylor University; and Prudence McDaniel, Cellist, Marian Anderson String Quartet.

Senior Division String & Piano Category



1st Place and Grand Prize TIE: Elless Quartet
Cleveland, OH

Repertoire:

Maurice Ravel: String Quartet in F Major; I. Allegro moderato–très doux

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet No. 31 in B Minor, Op. 33, No. 1; IV. Finale: Presto

The Elless Quartet was formed in 2019 at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Comprised of members Ju-Eun Lee (violin), Megan Lin (violin), Marcus Stevenson (viola) and Cecelia Swanson (cello), the ensemble works with Si-Yan Li, Todd Phillips and Philip Setzer, and have also performed in masterclasses for the Emerson, Orion, Dover and Miami Quartets. The members have also participated in various music festivals, including the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Heifetz International Music Institute, Sarasota Music Festival, and Saint Paul Chamber Music Institute.

Hailing from different parts of the world, the quartet strives to bring diversity into the classical music world.



1st Place and Grand Prize TIE: Favola Quartet
Austin, TX

Repertoire:

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet No. 63 in B flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4; I. Allegro con spirito

Felix Mendelssohn: String Quartet No. 6 in F Minor, Op. 80; I. Allegro vivace assai

The Favola Quartet is an emerging string quartet comprised of violinists Haeni Lee and Nick Hammel, violist Ruben Balboa, and cellist Chan Song An. They all met at the University of Texas while studying with Sandy Yamamoto, Roger Myers, and Bion Tsang. They are currently being coached by Sandy Yamamoto and John Largess.

Senior Division Mixed Instrumental Category



1st Place: Inan Quartet
Austin, TX

Repertoire:

Guillermo Lago: Cuidades; Córdoba (España)

John Anthony Lennon: Elysian Bridges

Comprised of members of the University of Texas at Austin saxophone studio, the Inan Quartet strives to create and share meaningful musical experiences with audiences from all walks of life. Its members have competed and performed across the country, doing so as early as high school. Under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen Page, the quartet seeks to push the boundaries of chamber and saxophone music alike.



2nd Place: Plaza Winds
Kansas City, MO

Repertoire:

Endre Szervánszky: Quintet for Winds; I. Adagio–Allegro moderato

Astor Piazzolla: Libertango

Plaza Winds is the fellowship woodwind quintet at the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). This fellowship ensemble changes personnel yearly, as each member is on a scholarship until their degree is received. The name “Plaza Winds” comes from the Country Club Plaza area of Kansas City, located directly adjacent to UMKC’s campus. This ensemble gives back to the greater Kansas City area with several

dozen performances a year, at local schools, libraries, and retirement communities. Members of the ensemble hold positions with regional symphonies such as Topeka, Kansas and St. Joseph, Missouri.

Junior Division Mixed Instrumental Category



1st Place and Junior Division Grand Prize: Quid Nunc
Saxophone Quartet
San Antonio, TX

Repertoire:

William Albright: Fantasy Etudes; II. Pypes

David Maslanka: Recitation Book; V. Fanfare/Variations on “Durch Adams Fall”

Quid Nunc Saxophone Quartet formed in the winter of 2013 and has been a leading advocate and competitor in the chamber music community ever since. QNSQ has won the top prize at the Coltman Chamber Music Competition (2017 & 2018), the Houston Underground

Saxophone Quartet Competition (2016, 2017, 2018), Texas Public Radio’s “Sounds Like KPAC” Competition (2015, 2016, 2018), and was named a quarterfinalist in the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competitions. In 2015 QNSQ performed as a feature group at the 69th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, premiering two new works for saxophone quartet. Members of Quid Nunc attend Ronald Reagan High School.



2nd Place: Quantum Sextet
Carrollton, TX

Repertoire:

Pyotr Tchaikovsky: Souvenir de Florence, Op. 70; IV. Allegro vivace

Chris Evan Hass: Volcanic Ash

Formed in the summer of 2019 in Carrollton, Texas, the Quantum Sextet consists of Ekdev Rajkitkul, GianCarlo Lay, Brandon Sanchez, Austin Dreyer, Jason Hamdan, and Peyton Joffre. Members of the group have received many honors, including first prizes in the 4th Edition of the ENKOR International

Music Chamber Music Competition, 1st place at 6th Annual Coltman Chamber Music Competition, 2nd place in the 46th Annual Fischhoff Competition, various top finishes in the Houston Underground Saxophone Competition (Junior Division and High School Division), Texas All-State Band placement, and more. Quantum Sextet attends Hebron High School.

Junior Division String & Piano Category



1st Place: Kaza String Quartet
Boston, MA

Repertoire:

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet No. 67 in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2; I. Allegro moderato

Sergei Prokofiev: String Quartet No. 2 in F Major, Op. 92; I. Allegro sostenuto

The Kaza Quartet was formed in September of 2019 as part of the Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar (CHIPS) at New England Conservatory Prep. Individually, each study with

chamber musicians, namely Mai Motobuchi (Borromeo Quartet), Jonathan Ong (Verona Quartet), Mickey Katz, and Paul Biss. Having studied with and performed in masterclasses with experienced chamber musicians, Kaza strives to play at a professional level. Though the ensemble has only been together for a short while, sharing musical experiences comes naturally, making the CHIPS program one of our most memorable, and fulfilling, artistic experiences to date.



2nd Place: Dajj String Quartet
Worthington, OH

Repertoire

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet No. 31 in B Minor, Op. 33, No. 1; IV. Finale: Presto

Dmitri Shostakovich: String Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73; III. Allegro non troppo

The Dajj Quartet formed in 2015 at the Chamber Music Connection by Artistic Director Deborah Price. Dajj consists of Anna Linder and Mathais Koo, violins, Kate Fornshell, cello, and Julian Tugaoen, viola. Prizes include 2019 WDAV YCMC 1st Place & Audience Prize, 2019 OSTA First Prize, 2018 Saint Paul Gold Medal and Haydn Prize, 2018 Coltman Bronze Medal, 2018 M-Prize and

2018/2019 Fischhoff Semi-finalists, 2017 Discover Grand Prize, 2017 Saint Paul Bronze Medal. Dajj has worked with Jinjoo Cho, Dmitry Kouzov, Peter Salaff, Erika Eckert, Hayley Wolfe, Dover, Calidore, KASA, Hausmann, Doric, St. Lawrence, and Harlem Quartets.

Online Free Concerts

- The Metropolitan Opera – ‘Nightly Met Opera Streams’
Visit: metopera.org
 - Berlin Philharmonic – ‘Digital Concert Hall’
Visit: digitalconcerthall.com
 - London Symphony Orchestra – ‘Always Playing’
Visit: lso.co.uk
 - Royal Opera House – ‘Curated online broadcasts’
Visit: youtube.com or facebook.com
 - Bavarian State Opera – ‘Staatsopera TV’
Visit: staatsoper.de/en/tv
 - Seattle Symphony – ‘Live Broadcasts’ every Thursday and Saturday
Visit: youtube.com or facebook.com
 - Vienna State Opera – ‘Continues Daily Online’
Visit: wiener-staatsoper.at
 - Detroit Symphony Orchestra – ‘DSO Replay’
Visit: livefromorchestrahall.vhx.tv
 - Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra – ‘GSO Play’
Visit: www.gso.se/en/gsoplay/
 - Budapest Festival Orchestra – ‘Quarantine Soirées’
Visit: bfz.hu
 - Bergen Philharmonic – ‘Bergen Phil Live’
Visit: bergenphillive.no
 - Pianist Boris Giltburg – ‘Lunchtime Concerts’
Visit: facebook.com or twitter.com
 - Wigmore Hall – ‘Live Stream’
Visit: wigmore-hall.org.uk
 - London Mozart Players – ‘At Home with LMP’ featuring Mozart Mondays, Chamber Tuesdays, Thursday Thoughts, Family Fridays and Saturday Sessions
Visit: londonmozartplayers.com
 - Opera North – ‘Watch The Ring Cycle in full online’
Visit: operanorth.co.uk
 - Paris Opera – ‘Free online operas’
Visit: www.operadeparis.fr
- 1 April, 13:05 GMT: Pianist Howard Shelley unpacks Franz Xaver Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 2 – from his own home.
Visit: facebook.com
- 2 April, 19:30 GMT: London Symphony Orchestra performs Brahms’ Symphony No.5.
Visit: lso.co.uk
- 4 April, 14:00 GMT: Barbara Hannigan and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra perform Alban Berg’s Violin Concerto with violinist Veronika Eberle.
Visit: gso.se
- 5 April, 19:00 GMT: London Symphony Orchestra performs Verdi’s Requiem.
Visit: lso.co.uk
- 6 April, 19:30 GMT: Leon McCawley (piano) performs Schubert, Schumann, Grieg and Janáček at the Wigmore Hall in London.
Visit: wigmore-hall.org.uk
- 9 April, 19:30 GMT: London Symphony Orchestra performs ballet music by Stravinsky, including from The Firebird and The Rite of Spring.
Visit: lso.co.uk
- 12 April, 19:00 GMT: London Symphony Orchestra performs Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No.2 with soloist Seong-Jin Cho.
Visit: lso.co.uk
- 20 April, 19:00 GMT: National Youth Orchestra of Germany & Christoph Altstaedt perform music by Beethoven and Brett Dean.
Visit: www.digitalconcerthall.com

Lockdown

(Richard Hendrick, Irish priest)

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and re-
flecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors
in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be a disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.



WMMC 2020-2021 PROGRAM NOTICE

- ⇒ The 2020-2021 program proposal form will be available soon on the WMMC website.
- ⇒ The submission deadline has been pushed back to JUNE 15th.
- ⇒ Members will be receiving more specifics through MailChimp.

