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Susan Wheatley, Newsletter Editor; Kyle Peterson, Photographer; Eric Winter, Reviews Editor

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Tuesday Musicale Members,

If you are like me, it might be unsettling how quickly the year 2025 passed, and how rapidly 2026 is now upon us. Fortunately, I have found our concerts provide moments when I can slow down and stretch time. I can immerse myself in the music, enjoy the moment, and find a respite from our modern age's ever-present bombardment of electronic stimulation.

Our first concert of the year will be on January 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Among others, the Bernice Van Husen Piano Award Winner, Jiwon Chun, will be performing works by Rachmaninoff, Chopin, and Mendelssohn. This concert will also feature a pianist from our Student League, a clarinet/violin/piano trio, an organist, and eurythmy.

Following our January concert will be our annual Artist-of-the-Year Concert on February 10, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. The theme will be "*You and the Thought of You*" focusing on the music of, and love between, Robert and Clara Schumann. I encourage each of you to spread the word about this event and invite as many friends as possible to this concert. Falling a few days before Valentine's Day, this would be a lovely "date night." Christopher Harding, Chair of the piano department at The University of Michigan, will be our star performer. This concert will be followed by a casual afterglow where we can mingle and socialize. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. You can purchase them at www.tuesdaysmusicaleofdetroit.org.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out with thoughts or ideas. One member contacted me with a wonderful suggestion to make luncheon payments payable in advance, combined with membership dues, to minimize technological hassle. This will be implemented for our 2026-2027 concert year.

I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026! May you be more in the moment, with less doom scrolling and distraction, facilitated by the making of, and listening to, beautiful music.

Best regards,

Dan Mihaescu

Dan Mihaescu, President of the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit

Concert Review – November 11, 2025 – 10:30 a.m. “Terrific Talent”

Grant Wolach, store manager of **The Piano Place** at 1307 E. Maple Road in Troy, hosted our November Tuesday Musicales’s concert. President Dan Mihaescu announced we are entering our 141st year for local musicians and student leaguers, and our chairperson of the day was **Claudia Fontana**.

The program began with student leaguer **Cole Davis**, a confident, intense and talented cellist. He performed two movements of the ***Cello Concerto #2 in E-Minor*** by **Victor Herbert** (1859-1924) with the excellent pianist **Dr. Takeshi Nagayasu** (U. of MI. and also studied at Julliard and Yale). How interesting that Dvorak was in the audience at the 1894 premier of the piece and was then inspired to write his famous B-Minor Cello Concerto. The performance was like a pleasant duet between the cello and piano, with a large range of peaceful and rigorous melodies that at times reminded me of Prokofiev’s music. Cole’s next piece, ***Distance Over Speed*** written in 2016 by **Anthony Cheung** (b. 1987) was a sound-story of the famous tortoise-hare fable. It was an unaccompanied cello study beginning in long slow tones and ending with mixed harmonics, quick spurts, and sliding pizzicato. Finally, ***Dance of the Elves*** by **David Popper** (1843-1913) was a virtuoso piece with fast-paced 16th notes, again with Takeshi Nagayasu’s exceptional piano accompaniment. The dance was a very happy piece with race car and horseracing sounds, and Cole “wowed” us with his outstanding cello performance.

Next, we were treated to the fantastic pianist **Maria Meirelles**. (If Maria had a fan club, I would surely join!) She performed flawlessly the gorgeous 3-part suite, ***Gaspard de la Nuit*** by **Maurice Ravel** (1875-1937): (1) ***Ondine***, water spirits with beautiful arpeggios where you could “hear” the starlight twinkling with whole-tone chords like large circling planets; (2) ***Le Gibet*** – Gallows – with distant ominous church bells ringing with overpowering chords; and (3) ***Scarbo*** – Goblin – with mysterious melodies, mixed with macabre chords and a ground bass. Maria evocatively expressed the foreshadowing of the fall season with a perfect virtuoso performance!

The third section of the program featured soprano **Olga Yalovenko** from Ukraine with piano accompaniment by **Elaine Vermiglio**. Olga dedicated her performance to her relatives in Ukraine. She sang Gian Carlo Menotti’s (1911-2007) ***To This We’ve Come***, a piece from the ***Consul*** expressing freedom and dignity. Olga’s beautiful soprano voice was very dramatic, expressing a whole range of grief emotions - horror, repression, war - and then reminding the listeners of the beauty of life. Next, it was so nice to hear the familiar ***Summertime*** by **George Gershwin** (1898-1937), while we watched snow falling on the ground outside. With closed eyes one could picture the distant summer. This was followed by two traditional Ukrainian folk songs: ***The Hazel Tree Rustled***, about a wedding day’s concerns of a new life and the loss of freedom and innocence; and ***The Stork***, in which a girl compares herself to a crane, lamenting her unfulfilled life, with a pretty melody and beautiful piano arpeggios. Olga had excellent projection singing beautifully in Ukrainian with her gorgeous evocative voice.

The final selections on the program were piano duets performed by two sisters, **Marina and Natasha Stojanovska**. They played a lively rendition of dancing ghosts in ***Danse Macabre*** by **Camille Saint-Saens** (1836-1921). Next was ***Grooving Home*** written by TMD’s composer **Colin Payne** who was in the audience. It was an enjoyable travel piece with lots of train sounds, gentle chords, and perpetual motion. ***Stars and Stripes*** by the great **John Philip Sousa** (1854-1932) arranged for 4-hand piano, was a tribute to Veterans Day in honor of all who served and was certainly a very spirited rendition of this famous patriotic piece. To end the program, Marina and Natasha played **Antonin Dvorak’s** (1841-1904) ***Slavonic Dance, #8*** - a familiar piece with a rhapsodic start followed by folk dance melodies. What a very dynamic, enthusiastic and talented duo! It is evident that these sisters have played together since quite young. Their ensemble was so proficient that it really sounded like one person was performing!



Student Leaguer Cole Davis, Cello;
Takeshi Nagayasu, Piano



Maria Meirelles, Piano



Olga Yalovenko, Soprano; Elaine Vermiglio, Piano



Left- Marina Stojanovska, Piano; Right- Natasha Stojanovska,



Left-Right; Maria Meirelles, Takeshi Nagayasu, Cole Davis, Elaine Vermiglio, Olga Yalovenko,
Marina Stojanovska, Natasha Stojanovska, Claudia Fontana.

Concert Review – December 9, 2025 – 10:30 a.m. “Holiday Concert”

December’s concert at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple Road in Birmingham, started with Bonnie L. Brooks welcoming us to her church, and it ended with the traditional Christmas Carol singalong led and accompanied by Eric Winter at the piano and followed by a sumptuous holiday luncheon. Another quintessential feature was our December invited guest **Matthew Ball** (a.k.a. “The Boogie Woogie Kid”) treating us to his boogie and blues versions of Christmas classics which had us smiling and tapping our toes. His extraordinary jazz improvisations included *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (John Hopkins, 1820-1891), *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (traditional gospel), *Farther Along* (Jesse Randall Baxter, 1887-1960), *Jingle Bell Rock* (Joseph Beal, 1900-67; and James Boothe, 1917-76); *Please Come Home for Christmas* (Charles Brown, 1922-99), and the legendary *Jingle Bells* (James Pierpont, 1822-1893).

Most interesting and engaging on the program was the music performed by our Mary Levack Quick Wind/Brass Award winner, **Laura Ramsay**, alto sax. The award was presented to her at this concert by Chairperson **Eric Winter**. She and her pianist **Liz Ames** played *Sonata in C#* by a very fine but little-known French composer, **Fernande Decruck** (1896-1954). As I researched, I discovered that she was born in France (née Fernande Breilh) and was a brilliant improviser on piano as well as organ. She was a precocious child, entering the Toulouse Conservatory at age 8, winning all kinds of prizes, was admitted to the Conservatoire de Paris and was the toast of the faculty there. She married a bass-playing reed musician Maurice Decruck and after a very successful organ concert tour of the US, moved there with her family in 1928. Maurice entered the NY Philharmonic playing both bass and saxophone under Toscanini, and Fernande also composed much saxophone music that he performed. Fernande’s *Sonata in C#* is a staple in the alto sax repertoire, beautifully written with many harmonic twists and turns, almost sounding like Ravel.

Equally impressive was Laura’s own arrangement for alto sax and piano of *Cortege* (Procession) from *Petite Suite* by **Debussy** (1862-1918) originally composed for 4-hand piano. Ramsay’s arrangement was stunning, soothing, and sublime - and it seemed so perfect for the timbre of the alto saxophone.

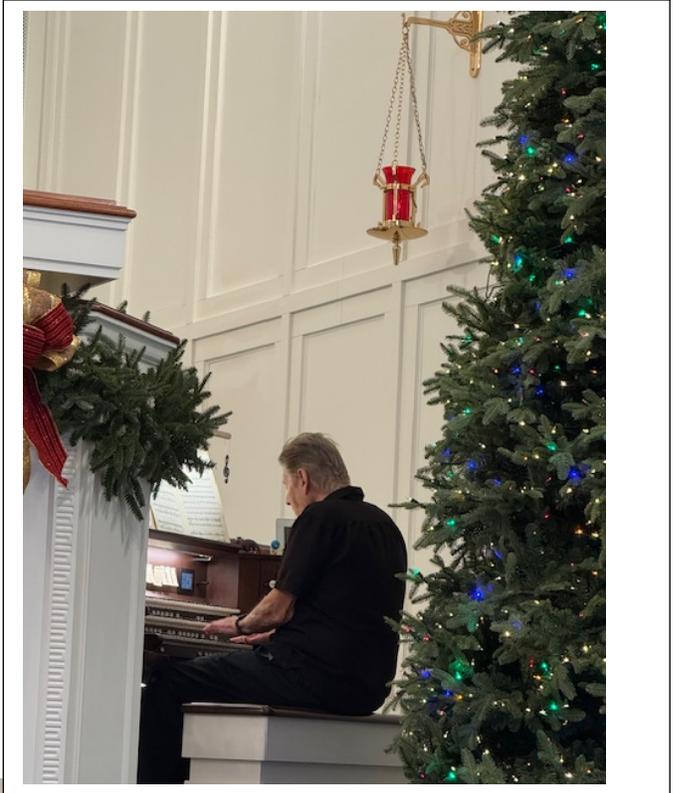
Dalos Grobe and Susan Wheatley featured duets for organ and piano, an interesting combination that is not often heard. **Susan Wheatley**, pianist (Ph.D. from the University of Michigan), has been invited as concert pianist worldwide and served as Professor of Music at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Oakland University, and is currently collaborative pianist at Schoolcraft college. **Dalos Grobe** (Master's Degree in Organ from University of Michigan) is a well-known figure in choral and church music in the Detroit area and since 1962, has served as organist and Director of Music for Westminster Church.

Their duets began with *Lake Breeze* by Michigan composer Daniel Perlongo (1942-2023) who also studied at The University of Michigan and taught composition at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He composed this piece while on a vacation to the turbulent Georgian Bay on Lake Michigan with Susan, his wife and pianist. Lake Breeze, originally written for the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, is a soundscape depicting a gentle wind developing into a sudden windy tempest, and then ending as it began with a gentle whispering breeze. The music paints a very descriptive narrative, and it was performed with much elan. The pianist who lost her husband in 2023 was pleased to be able to present this piece to a Michigan audience which is the home state of both Perlongo and Wheatley.

Next, they performed *Dialogue*, (from *Symphonic Piece*) composed by another Midwest composer and organist, **Joseph Clokey** (1890-1960), who taught at Miami University in Ohio. As its name suggests, this piece, originally composed for the organ/piano combination, depicts a friendly conversation between both instruments. The final organ and piano selections included the famous *Andante* from *Concerto for Two Keyboards* (BWV 1062), by **J.S. Bach** (1685-1750), and an arrangement of *What Child is This (Greensleeves)* by **Lani Smith** (1934-2015) – both of which expressed well the peace and serenity of the holiday season.



Susan Wheatley, Piano



Dalos Grobe, Organ



Laura Ramsay, Alto Saxophone, Susan Wheatley, Piano;
Dalos Grobe, Organ



Matthew Ball, Piano

Laura Ramsay, 2025-2026 Recipient of the
Mary Lavack Quick Wind/Brass Award





DETROIT
Founded in 1885

Seasonal Cheer

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Performers

Johann Sebastian Bach
Air on the G-String

Claudia Fontana Eurythmy
Velda Kelly Violin
Susan Wheatley Piano

Darius Milhaud

Suite op. 157b for Violin, Clarinet & Piano

Kypros Markou Violin
Norma Keil Shaw Clarinet
Susan Wheatley Piano

Bernice Van Husen Piano Award Winner

Jiwon Chun Solo Piano

Jack Chefan Nardin Park United
Methodist Church Organist

Student Leaguer

John Chisholm Piano Solo

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

No Admission Charge





Artist of the Year Concert

featuring pianist **Christopher Harding**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Birmingham Unitarian Church
38651 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304



"You and the Thought of You"
Robert and Clara Schumann, a Love Story

Tickets: \$25 per person
\$15 Student | Children under 12 free
Join us for a post-concert afterglow

For ticket information, call **(313) 520-8663**
or visit **www.TuesdayMusicaleOfDetroit.org**



THE TUESDAY MUSICALE OF DETROIT

Membership Renewal Form

Name _____

Date _____

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Check One</u>	<u>Financial Category***</u>	<u>Enter Amount</u>
Student League	_____	Student \$35.00	_____
Associate	_____	Regular \$50.00	_____
Composer	_____	Friend \$75.00 - \$99.00	_____
Conductor	_____	Patron \$100.00 - \$199.00	_____
Performer (audition normally required)	_____	Sponsor \$200.00 - \$499.00	_____
		Benefactor \$500.00 - and over	_____
		Retaining \$30.00 (if unable to attend concerts)	_____

Please indicate performance medium: _____ (e.g. voice part, solo piano, piano, string, wind/ brass instrument)
 Interested in "OPERA"? Yes _____ Willing to receive *Keynotes* by email? Yes _____ No _____

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 **Any amount in excess of \$50.00 is tax-deductible as permitted by law.

Mail Payment (covering membership through June 30, 2026)

Mail your Check payable to *The Tuesday Musicale of Detroit*, Membership, PO Box 36535, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
 OR – For Payment by Credit Card call 313-520-8663. For Payment by PayPal – go to the website TuesdayMusicaleOfDetroit.org

Please update your information only if NOT correctly shown in the TMD Yearbook:

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