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

## ***LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Greetings Tuesday Musicale Members,

Thank you to those of you who attended our Artist of the Year Concert. It was a great success, and we appreciate your support. I found the concert both musically enjoyable and intellectually enlightening. Professor Harding intertwined a substantial amount of history while performing the music of Robert Schumann. In addition to enjoying the music, I was able to imagine the world in which the composer lived, wholly unlike our own, where communication and travel almost exclusively relied on horse-drawn carriages.

With the advent of spring only a few weeks away, days will continue to lengthen. This should facilitate your attendance at upcoming concerts. The music making does not stop – there are a busy two months ahead!

On March 10th at 10:30 a.m. at the Steinway Gallery in Commerce, befitting the venue, there will be several piano performers. This will include The Mack Sisters and the Amoroso Piano Quartet. If you enjoy piano music, you won't want to miss it!

For those of you who enjoy hearing the exceptional talent of our next generation of musicians, the Student League Prizewinners Concert will be held on Tuesday April 21st at 7:00 p.m. This will be held at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. Following this concert, you will have a chance to interact with the performers during an afterglow. The talent of the young students in our Student League, guided by Velda Kelly, is truly exceptional.

A few days later, on Saturday, April 25th at 7:30 p.m., our annual Opera Concert will be held at the St. Clare of Montefalco Church in Grosse Pointe Park. Among other vocalists, soprano Christina Parson, recipient of the Dina Soresi Winter Vocal Award, will be performing.

Be sure to share details of these concerts with friends and family. I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Best regards,

*Dan Mihaescu*

Dan Mihaescu, President  
Tuesday Musicale of Detroit

## *Concert Review – January 13, 2026 – 10:30 a.m. “Seasonal Cheer”*

**The Nardin Park United Methodist Church** on 29887 West Eleven Mile, in Farmington Hills, hosted our January Tuesday Musicals’s new year concert. President Dan Mihaescu greeted the audience and served as our chairperson of the day.

The program began this wonderful concert with amazing talent, beginning with one of my favorite pieces, *Air on the G String* by J.S. Bach (1685-1750). **Claudia Fontana**, with beautiful flowing angelic clothing, performed Eurythmy; the expressive movement art originated by Rudolf Steiner in the early 20<sup>th</sup> C, where music or speech becomes visible through gestures and movements. Violinist **Velda Kelly** performed the gorgeous melody accompanied by **Susan Wheatley** on piano.

Next up was a performance by high school senior and student leaguer – the talented **John Chisholm** – on solo piano. John began his training at age 3 with the Suzuki Method, working through all 7 volumes. He began with Joseph Haydn’s (1732–1809) *Allegro* from *Sonata in C major*. This flawless performance included an engaging start, exciting dynamics, and nice flowing runs. The next piece Claude Debussy’s (1862-1918) *Prelude No 6, Book II, Cakewalk style*, was a fun, joke-telling piece with many interesting cluster chords and a surprise ending. John’s final piece was Frederic Chopin’s (1810-1949) *Ballad No. 1 in G minor*. This beautiful flowing piece was played nicely with John expressing the pretty and colorful melodies, fast runs and dramatic emotions with flawless technique.

Organist **Jack Chefan** was the next artist who performed two brilliant celebratory pieces by Theodore Dubois (1837-1924). The *Toccata* reminded me of Bach’s music. The next piece *Fiat Lux*, Latin for “Let there be light” showed many different sounds of the pipe organ and I ‘heard’ the rays of sunlight. It was an excellent performance with very inspiring music

What a treat to hear a piece by Darius Milhaud (1892-1974), of the group of six Paris French composers with Francis Poulenc, Germaine Tailleferre and others. *The Suite for Violin*, **Kypros Markou**, violin, **Norma Keil Shaw**, clarinet, and **Susan Wheatley**, piano, was quite beautifully performed and interesting to hear. The suite had four movements: *I. Overture* – showed a picture of happy city sounds of traffic, people, shops; *II. Divertissement* – had sweet bird-like duets with violin and clarinet, followed by a solo melody on violin with clarinet that sounded like a calm walk in the park among beautiful trees with the sun out; *III. Jeu – Joy* – a playful piece, jumpy and active – is a duo with violin and clarinet replete with a running clarinet solo and pizzicato violin chords; and *IV. Intro and Finale* – began with impressionistic piano chords and a whole-tone melody on clarinet and violin, mysterious yet beautiful. This movement had an “all is well” feeling; light, rhythmic, jazzy and even had a tango section. A very enjoyable suite!

The last performer was the amazing South Korean pianist, **Jiwon Chun** who is pursuing her DMA at the University of Michigan. She played Sergei Rachmaninoff’s (1873–1943) *Prelude in G# Opus 32, No.12* – with a gorgeous, tender start and fast arpeggios in the right hand and pretty melodies in the left. She took excellent care of every single note, flowing and expressive. Next was Frederic Chopin’s (1810-1849) *Etude in Ab minor*, and again Jiwon performed this beautiful piece to perfection. The last piece was the demanding *Fantasy in F# minor* by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). No matter what was the flowing tempo of the piece, every note was again perfect, with a delicate touch, plus lots of dynamics and excitement. She kept the audience spellbound and totally in the present moment. What a pleasure to hear such an amazing and talented pianist!



Kypros Markou, Violin; Susan Wheatley, Piano; Norma Keil Shaw, Clarinet



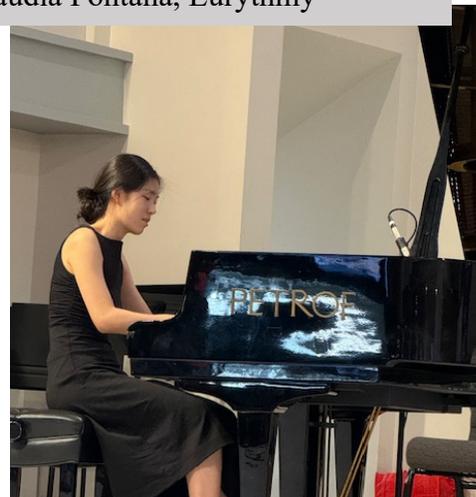
Susan Wheatley, Piano; Velda Kelly, Violin; Claudia Fontana, Eurythmy



Student Leaguer, John Chisholm, Piano



Jack Chefan, Organ



Bernice Van Husen Award Winner 2026 – Jiwon Chun, Piano  
Below: President Dan Mihaescu presenting the award



Left-Right; Norma Keil Shaw, Kypros Markou, Jack Chefan, John Chisholm, Velda Kelly, Susan Wheatley, Claudia Fontana, and Jiwon Chun



***Concert Review – February 10, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.***

***– ARTIST OF THE YEAR –***

***Featuring Christopher Harding, Solo Piano***

***“You and the Thought of You” Robert and Clara Schumann, A Love Story***

Tuesday Musicals of Detroit featured their **Artist-of-the-Year Concert** on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Birmingham Unitarian Church at 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. This is the highlight of all the yearly performances. Featured was **Solo Pianist Christopher Harding**. Professor Harding is the Chair of Piano and teaches piano performance and chamber music at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. He has performed all over the world and has received 25 first prizes in national and international competitions. A full resume was inserted as part of the program.

Harding’s solo piano program featured works of Robert Schumann, in particular, his work *Kreisleriana*, **Op. 16**, which he composed in 1838 and dedicated to Chopin. The eight movements of Schumann's work were inspired by the character of Johannes Kreisler a moody composer who appears in several of E.T.A. Hoffmann's novels, hence the name *Kreisleriana*. Pianist Helene Grimaud, has described this opus as a true exemplar of musical Romanticism, encapsulating the fervent expression of inner turmoil, love, and ardor.

The title of Professor Harding’s lecture and performance **“You and the Thought of You” Robert and Clara Schumann, A Love Story**, was a bit misleading to audience members who may have anticipated attending a concert of the music of both husband, **Robert Schumann (1810-1856)** and wife, **Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896)**, since they often shared their compositions with each other. But Harding’s program concentrated on the music of Robert. In his lecture and performance, he provided his unique observations of Robert’s Opus 16, shedding new light on this familiar music. Harding maintains that the love story of Robert and Clara, replete with romanticism, love, and ardor is what Schumann is portraying within the eight parts of *Kreisleriana* and he feels that it describes their life together even before their marriage. His lecture gave examples of specific motifs that he imagines are meant to portray Clara within this music. Perhaps a more accurate title might have been “How Robert Schumann’s music portrayed his love for Clara.”

Professor Harding concluded his performance with Schumann’s *The Arabesque Op. 18* (1839, a delicate, flowing composition in rondo form that is characterized by a lyric theme, intense episodes, and a poignant postlude. This work reflects his emotional, "Florestan and Eusebius" style prevalent during his courtship with Clara. It was dedicated to Frau Majorin Friederike Serre auf Maxen who was a supporter of his relationship with Clara Wieck. The piece is in rondo form with alternating gentle and more intense sections featuring wistful, tender passages often associated with themes of longing.

The pianistic style brought out by Harding’s superb performance of both *Kreisleriana Op. 16*, and *The Arabesque Op. 18* was very technical as well as dynamically rich, leading the audience through movements of agitation and expression, as well as great emotionality in the slower movements. Christopher Harding showcased the music of Robert Schumann in a manner that elevated the spirit within the hall. An afterglow featuring good food and fellowship followed the performance.



Professor Harding speaking to TMD's Audience



Christopher Harding, Chair of Piano Performance, The University of Michigan



Professor Harding performs Schumann's *Arabesque*



Christopher Harding speaks of Robert Schumann's *Kreisleriana*



# Musical Blessings

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 10:30 a.m.

## Performers

**Amoroso Quartet**..... **Beethoven and Debussy**  
Piano – 8 hands on 2 pianos  
Franziska I. Schoenfeld, Lauren Smith,  
Jill Stone, Ruth Weingarten

**Christopher DeLouis, Alto Saxophone** ..... **Henri Tomasi**  
Joshua Marzan .....Collaborative Pianist

**Mack Sisters Piano Duo**..... **Paderewski and Liszt**  
Tomoko Mack and Yuki Mack

**Mozart**  
Student Leaguer  
Lydia Thomason-Redus..... **French Horn**  
Erika Tazawa .....Collaborative Pianist

A Business Meeting will follow the Concert

**Steinway Piano Gallery**  
2700 E. West Maple Rd.  
Commerce Township, MI 48390

No Admission Charge





*JOIN US IN APRIL*



**Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Student League Prize Winners**  
**Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church • Grosse Pointe, MI 48230**



*Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.*  
*OPERA In The EVENING*  
**St. Clare of Montefalco Church • Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230**



**THE TUESDAY MUSICALE OF DETROIT**  
***May 12 Concert and Luncheon***

**at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church**  
211 Moross Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
Concert at 10:30 am – Luncheon 12:15 pm

M E N U

- Chicken Marsala – Chicken breast in a mushroom and marsala wine sauce
- Italian Meatballs – Served with a rich brown demi-glacé sauce
- Yukon Gold – Lyonnaise Potatoes
- California Vegetable Blend – a spring assortment with butter sauce
- Garden Salad – tender greens with Italian house dressing
- Italian Rolls & Butter • Beverages - Coffee, Tea, Water • Dessert

**\$30.00.....RSVP by May 1**

Make Check payable to *The Tuesday Musicale of Detroit*  
Mail to Bonnie L. Brooks, 1884 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills, 48302  
For Payment by Credit Card call Kyle Peterson 313-520-8663



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