



Table of Contents: In this Issue you will find:

President's letter from Dan Mihaescu page 1
A review of our April 21 Student League Concert pages 2-4
A review of our April 25 Evening at the Opera Concertpages 5-6
An invite to our Young Artist of the Year May 28 page 7
Please renew your membership.....page 8

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit,

We've had a busy spring season. Hopefully, you were able to attend one of our recent concerts.

We started April with our Student League members showcasing their incredible talents. This concert always fills me with hope, as each student's talent and progress is inspiring. Coinciding with spring and the blossoming of flowers makes it the perfect start to the warmer weather. If you've never been to this concert, I encourage you to make the effort next year.

This was followed by our annual opera concert. The St. Clare of Montefalco church is such a wonderful partner, and they were most gracious to host us once again. If you attended this concert, my bio would have asked the question of whether I've completed my vocal training. The answer is - not, yet. I'll continue vocalizing every day until I'm done, and you will be the first to know.

In the month of May, we have our final two concerts of the 2025-2026 season. On Tuesday, May 12th at 10:30am, we meet at the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. There will be some cello, violin, and piano. We will also hear from our Doreen Wessel Taylor Piano Award winner, Ye-Eun Hyun. The concert is followed by our Annual Meeting and luncheon.

Our final concert of the year will be the exhilarating Young Artist of the Year, Luke Pisani, on the violin. This will be held at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. He will perform the Dvořák *Concerto* and Carmen *Fantasia Brillante*, arranged by Hubay. I've seen Luke before, and you won't want to miss this concert.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me and the rest of the Tuesday Musicale team if you ever need anything.

Happy Spring! Cheers,

Dan Mihaescu

Dan Mihaescu, President
Tuesday Musicale of Detroit

Concert Report – Student League Prize Winners

April 21, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. • Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
17150 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230

“The Student League Prizewinner’s Concert is my favorite concert of the Tuesday Musicale season. Witnessing the progress of our students along with their love of music always fills me with hope. Combine that with the start of spring and blooming flowers, and it is a delightful event. I especially enjoyed seeing Claire Kim play the cello with her mother at the piano. When music brings family together, it is particularly meaningful. Kevin Li and Alexander Burrow also surprised the audience with more esoteric pieces by Scriabin, which was a pleasure. These pieces were new to me, and I enjoyed both. Hearing that Ethan Mihaescu’s performance brought tears to the eyes of some in the audience reminded me of what music is meant to do - evoke an emotional response that distracts us from the stresses of daily life.” – Dan Mihaescu, TMD President

TMD awarded about \$5,000 to the Student League Prizewinners who performed in Piano, Strings, Winds, Brass and Voice competitions at this concert. First prize winners were **Ethan Mihaescu**, piano, and **Isabell Johnson**, violin. Honorable Mention Piano winners were **Kevin Li**, **Jolie Zhen**, and **Alexander Burrow**. **Anthony Gennaro III**, baritone, was an Honorable Mention Voice winner. **Victor Zhong**, clarinet, was an Honorable Mention Winds & Brass winner. **Claire Kim**, cello, was an Honorable Mention Strings winner. In addition two students received the Caleb Lei Memorial Award For Expressive Playing – **Isabell Johnson**, violin; and **Bryna Sullivan**, piano.

Many thanks to Velda Kelly, Chairperson for the Evening and to Kyle Peterson, Concert Coordinator. Please enjoy viewing the variety of classical masterpieces performed by our multi-talented TMD Student Leaguers on the program printed below.

Eighth Concert - Student League Prize Winners - Program

Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K. 622, III Rondo: Allegro Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)
Victor Zhong, clarinet; Soonghee Ha, piano ~ *Honorable Mention, Winds and Brass*

La Serenata Francesco Paolo Tosti (1846 – 1916)

Après un Rêv Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)

Se Vuol Ballare (from *Le Nozze di Figaro*) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)
Anthony Gennaro III, baritone; Erika Tazawa, piano ~ *Honorable Mention, Voice*

Impromptu Op. 28, No. 3 in C # minor Hugo Rheinhold (1854 – 1935)
Jolie Zhen, piano ~ *Honorable Mention, Piano*

Cello Concerto in A minor, op. 129, I Nicht zu schnell Robert Schumann (1810 – 1856)

Cello Suite No. 2, I. Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
Claire Kim, cello; Soonghee Ha, piano ~ *Honorable Mention, Strings*

Sonata No. 2 in G # minor, Op. 19, I. Andante II. Presto Alexander Scriabin (1872 -1915)
Kevin Li, piano ~ *Honorable Mention, Piano*

Prelude Op. 11 No. 11 Alexander Scriabin (1872 – 1915)

Prelude Op. 33 No. 6 Sergei Bortkiewicz (1877 – 1952)

Etude Op. 2 No. 1 Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)
Alexander Burrow, piano ~ *Honorable Mention, Piano*

Ballade No. 4 in F minor Frédéric Chopin (1810 –1849)
Bryna Sullivan, piano ~ *Caleb Lei Memorial Award*

Etudes-Tableaux Op. 39: No. 5 in E flat minor Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)

L’isle joyeuse, L. 106 Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)
Ethan Mihaescu, piano ~ *1st prize, Piano*

Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, I Allegro moderato Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)
Isabell Johnson, violin; Masami Hida, piano ~ *1st prize, Strings; Caleb Lei Memorial Award*



Victor Zhong, Clarinet
Honorable Mention in Winds and Brass



Anthony Gennaro III, Baritone
Honorable Mention in Voice



Above: Jolie Zhen, Honorable
Mention in Piano



Claire Kim, Cello; Honorable Mention
in Strings; Soonghe Ha, Piano



Right: Kevin Li, Piano
Honorable Mention in Piano

Alexander Burrow, Piano
Honorable Mention in Piano



Byrna Sullivan, Piano
Caleb Lei Memorial Recipient

Isabell Johnson, 1st Place in Violin,
Caleb Lei Memorial Recipient;
Masami Hida, Piano Collaborator



Ethan Mihaescu Piano
1st Place in Piano



Lef-Right: Alexander Burrow, Kevin Li, Victor Zhong, Claire Kim, Isabell Johnson,
Ethan Mihaescu, Anthony Gennaro III, Byrna Sullivan, Jolie Zhen

Concert Review – “Opera in the Evening”

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. • St. Clare of Montefalco Church
1401 Whittier Rd. Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Tuesday Musicale’s Opera in the Evening, was hosted by St. Clare of Montefalco Church in Grosse Pointe Park which is celebrating its centennial this year. TMD President **Dan Mihaescu** welcomed the 100-plus audience. Chairperson of the Day, **Claudia Fontana** introduced the artists, three sopranos, a tenor, and a baritone, with insightful commentary recounting the story of each operatic aria.

The concert began with **Jinsheng Zhang**, a lyric tenor, and an internationally recognized scientist in tinnitus research at Wayne State University. He sang “*Salut, demeure chaste et pure*” (“Hail, dwelling place chaste and pure”) from Charles Gounod’s 1859 opera *Faust*, based on the Goethe’s epic poem and delivered a well-executed high C at the culmination of the aria. His guest collaborative pianist **Erik Lieftrinck**, a former vocal coach for the National Opera Center in Amsterdam, supported the tenor beautifully. Zhang also performed an arrangement of **Frédéric Chopin’s Etude in E major**, Op. 10, No.3, sometimes referred to as “*Tristesse*.” Chopin’s gorgeous melody was adapted into a song for the 1945 movie *A Song to Remember*.

Soprano **Olivia Donnel** and collaborative pianist **Susan Wheatley** presented “*Tacea la notte placida*” (“The night was silent and calm”) from **Giuseppe Verdi’s Il Trovatore**, famous for the “*Anvil Chorus*” among other classic arias. Sung by the heroine Leonora, the aria tells of her encounter with a mysterious troubadour who sings below her window at night. Ms. Donnel delivered both the melancholy lyricism of the slow first part (cavatina) and the rapid-fired coloratura of the fast conclusion (cabaletta) with the finesse of an accomplished diva.

Guest Soprano Christina Parson, the 2026 recipient of the Dina Soresi Winter Voice Award, offered the dramatic aria “*Senza mamma*” from **Puccini’s Suor Angelica**, strongly supported by guest pianist **Viktoria Sarkadi**. Ms. Parson, a German-American dramatic soprano, is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at University of Michigan, and was chosen as a Fellow of the Atlantic Music Festival and Young Artist at the Lotte Lehmann Akademie. Ms. Parson’s strong voice conveyed the passion and desperation of the unwed mother tragically separated from her infant son – “*senza mamma*,” without a mother. Christina Parson’s second selection was “*Il est doux, il est bon*” from **Jules Massenet’s 1881 Hérodiade**. In the aria, Salomé expresses her admiration for John the Baptist, whose gaze caused her to love him. Ms. Parson’s final selections, further demonstrated her vocal prowess by presenting “*Das war sehr gut, Mandryka*” (“That was very good, Mandryka”), from the **Richard Strauss’ Arabella**, along with **Puccini’s “Ch’il bel sogno di Doretta”** (the beautiful dream of Doretta”) from *La Rondine*. Following the enthusiastic applause from the audience, President Mihaescu presented Ms. Parson with the Dina Soresi Winter Voice Award.

TMD guest artist and Detroit-based **Spinto Soprano Leslie Mason** took the stage to offer two impressive and contrasting Italian arias. “*Ebben? Ne andrò lontano*” is from the 1892 *La Wally* by **Alfredo Catalani**. Our Chair of the Day Ms. Fontana commented that directors find it difficult to stage the opera because it ends with a tragic avalanche killing the diva! In this beautifully lyric aria, Ms. Mason captured the nostalgic mood, ending with Wally’s despairing cry, “*Forse a te non tornerò mai più, mai più!*” (“Perhaps I will never more return!”). Ms. Mason contrasted this aria with **Giuseppe Verdi’s “Ernani, involami”**, from the opera *Ernani*, in which Elvira prays for the bandit-hero Ernani to carry her away from a forced marriage. She affirms her love for him in a coloratura cadenza superbly performed by Ms. Mason.

TMD president and **Baritone Dan Mihaescu** sang the wistful “*When the air sings of summer*” from the **Gian Carlo Menotti’s 1939 opera The Old Maid and the Thief**, and was accompanied by his talented son, TMD Student Leaguer Ethan Mihaescu. Dan captured the wanderlust of Bob, a wanderer who had attracted the attention the “Old Maid - Miss Todd” and was given shelter in her house where he dreams of wandering again in the open air, the sun, and the rain.

The concert concluded with two entertaining, comic and romantic duets sung by **Olivia Donnel** and **Leslie Mason**, accompanied by **Susan Wheatley**. All three in cat ears presented Rossini’s famous “*Cat duet*” demonstrating their fluency in feline language (“*Miau!*”). The program then ended harmoniously with the well-known “*Barcarolle*” from **Jacques Offenbach’s Tales of Hoffman**.

For the audience, 2026’s Opera in the Evening was a chance for opera and voice aficionados to hear a variety of opera offerings presented by a talented group of musicians. Many thanks to the performers, St. Clare of Montefalco, and the Committee for a fine operatic evening!



Guest Artists: Viktoria Sarkadi, Piano Collaborator;
Christina Parson, Soprano –
The Dina Soresi Winter Voice Award Recipient



Olivia Donnel, Soprano;
Guest Artist Leslie Mason, Soprano;
Susan Wheatley, Piano Collaborator



Jinsheng Zhang, Tenor



Dan Mihaescu, Baritone (right)
Ethan Mihaescu, Piano Collaborator (left)



Left-Right Jinsheng Zhang, Erik Lieftrinck (Guest Artist, Piano), Susan Wheatley, Ethan Mihaescu,
Dan Mihaescu, Viktoria Sarkadi, Claudia Fontana, Christina Parson, Leslie Mason, Olivia Donnel



YOUNG ARTIST OF THE YEAR CONCERT

With the Tuesday Musicales of Detroit Orchestra
Scott Hanoian, Conductor

LUKE PISANI

**Thursday,
May 28, 2026
7:30 PM**

**Featuring Dvořák
Violin Concerto in
A Minor, Op. 53**



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