Greetings from our President, Alison Baldwin

“Ah music”, he said, wiping his eyes, “a magic beyond all we do here”. (J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone.) Such is the magic of music, and in a pandemic world, whatever your musical choices, this has been very evident.

WMC has strived to present music to our community for more than a hundred years, and to enrich our community by nurturing and supporting our young aspiring musicians.

Pandemics require that activities and connectivity change according to the tools and opportunities available, and WMC has seized these opportunities and tools to maintain and expand our community musical connections. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a time for reflection and some fine tuning of our operation, as well as a giant leap into the world of technology, especially digital. Conducting the Zoom screen of more than 20 board member faces was a new skill, and required remarkable verbal discipline by all.

All scheduled live concerts, scholarship competitions and fundraisers have been cancelled since April 2020, but with the leadership of determined and brave board members, and the talents of our local audiographers and videographers, WMC presented its first free virtual concert, featuring local Manitoban pianist, Madeline Hildebrand, on March 30 - a great success, and still available on YouTube.

The Zyra Trio has already recorded the upcoming concert. This second free virtual concert will be presented on April 26. It is a wonderful program, beautifully performed, and will be available on our website...
www.wmcwpg.ca

From April 26, and ultimately long term, via YouTube. Through a WMC Board member, and much serendipity, Zyra participated in a Zoom conversation with Joan Tower, the composer of Big Sky, one of the pieces that they perform. It was a spontaneous and very upbeat conversation with this 82 year old composer who lives in New York. She reportedly enthusiastically complimented them on their performance. Joan Tower participated in the 2016 New Music Festival in Winnipeg.

For the moment, WMC has moved to Fundraising via virtual means. This too, is new territory. We have organized a first ‘Fundraising Dinner with the Winners’, via Zoom. The three winners of the 2020 WMC McLellan Competition were presented with equal prize money in 2020, but the concert in which they were to perform with the WSO, and that is such an important part of their prize, had to be cancelled. For this dinner, they are each providing a short program of their music, and some insight into what their pandemic year has been like. Dinner is catered by Bergman’s and will require minimal effort to warm and will be delivered by a willing group of ‘WMC Door Dashers’. Groups can be in Chat Rooms, but come together for announcements and the musical program. Check the website, as there are still some dinner places left. It will be fun, and WMC would love to be your host.

Covid-19 has provided a time for us to appreciate the past, our WMC history, the 3 dimensional perspective of human interaction, the love of family and friends, even if distanced, and to think about ways of doing better.

History is also a responsibility, and the WMC Board has worked as a team to make sure that WMC emerges as a stronger, relevant part of our musical community for all ages and groups. We so hope that you will participate in that community.

Alison Baldwin
Success!
Our first virtual concert was a wonderful success, and we are still counting the number of views collected by Madeline Hildebrand’s solo piano performance. Those who missed it can still enjoy it on our YouTube channel at
www.youtube.com/channel/UCx1vTXGMpj30Co4vWVh2VOg. While you’re there, subscribe to our channel where you will also see our second presentation as described below.

Monday, April 26, 2021
The Women’s Musical Club of Winnipeg is proud to present the Zyra Trio: violinist Gregory Lewis, cellist David Liam Roberts, and pianist Paul Williamson. All three performers are past WMC Scholarship winners and share the distinction of being listed among CBC’s “30 Hot Classical Musicians Under 30”. They first met in 2014 in Winnipeg, and performed together in various capacities for five years before officially establishing themselves as a chamber ensemble. Zyra has performed in Manitoba and Ontario, and recently appeared in Wpg’s Virtuosi Concert Series. In this concert, you will hear exciting selections by Beethoven, Shostakovich, Ravel and Joan Tower, filmed and recorded in the beautiful setting of St. Andrew’s River Heights United Church, Winnipeg.
Thanks to support from our generous sponsors and individual donors, this concert is free of charge, but donations are welcome! Please visit our web site www.wmcwpg.ca for full information and a link to the premiere broadcast.
Our WMC Scholarships

WMC received 28 applications to its annual scholarship competition. Results will be posted on May 10 at https://wmcwpg.ca/scholarships/, and we look forward to presenting our winners in December.

Dinner with the Winners
There is still time to order your dinner(s) for our unique and exciting WMC McLellan Fundraiser. In this event, you can enjoy a delectable meal in your home while hearing our 2020 McLellan winners, soprano Sydney Clarke, cellist Juliana Moroz, and pianist Paul Williamson. All information is found on our website, including the menu, delivery details, payment options, and bios of our superb performers.

Fundraising Dinner with the Winners
Thursday, May 6, 2021
Zoom & dine in style at home

- **Listen** to our 2020 WMC McLellan Winners’ semi-final performances.
- **Enjoy a 3-course gourmet dinner** from Bergmann’s on Lombard – delivered to your home.
- **Gather with friends** old and new in virtual chat rooms.

$100 per person ($50 tax receipt)
Limited tickets. Join us!
WMC has an active group constantly compiling and archiving our fascinating history. Here is Mary Lynn Duckworth from our archives department, with a timely article for today’s readers.

Covid-19 is not the first pandemic that the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg has had to face in its 126-year history. The influenza pandemic of 1918 brought challenges for the WMC as it continued its efforts to bring music to a city that had already endured four years of war. Influenza cases reached a peak in Winnipeg in the early weeks of October 1918, with thousands falling ill in Manitoba, including hundreds in Winnipeg. Quarantines were imposed to try to bring an end to the epidemic and unlike our current situation, health authorities were “exceedingly surprised” at the rapid decline in cases. The WMC’s fall season of 1918 had to undergo many changes, necessitated by the long weeks of quarantine, but by December 16 the WMC was able to sponsor a “Victory” concert at St. Stephen’s church to celebrate the end of World War I. Such a grand occasion was held “under the distinguished patronage of his Honour Lieut.-Governor and Lady Atkins, Brig-General and Mrs. H.B. Ketchen, and Mayor Elect and Mrs. Charles Gray.” The review in the Winnipeg Free Press the following day called the concert “smart and interesting and reflected great credit on the Women's Musical Club under whose auspices it was prepared.” The postponed 1918/19 recital season was finally “very auspiciously” opened on January 6, 1919, filling the Fort Garry Hotel concert room with an “intelligent and sympathetic audience” to greet Richard Czerwonky, violinist.

At the 20th Annual General Meeting of the WMC, held on April 7, 1919, President Mrs. Robert Fletcher, said in her address to members: “The success of the Women’s Musical Club is based on three things. The
standard of programmes, the quality of the work of the active members, and the attitude of the listeners or associate members”. We can certainly say that these three things still hold true today. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the WMC has once again been seriously challenged to keep the music playing, but being now a 21st Century Club, we have found 21st Century ways of making it happen.

Thanks to our Sponsors

WMC is grateful for the financial gifts from our supporters. Your contribution ensures that we can exist well into the future and continue to offer wonderful concerts and programs, as well as opportunities for emerging artists through our scholarships and the WMC McLellan Competition. All donors will be recognized in our programs at WMC events. If you wish, your gift can remain anonymous.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be made as follows:
* On our website by clicking on the donate button and choosing your method of payment
* By e-transfer to wmcwinnipeg@outlook.com
* By cheque made payable to Women's Musical Club of Wpg and mailed to 46 Ashford Drive, Winnipeg, MB R2N 1K8.

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