

WEDNESDAY MUSIC CLUB

Celebrating 100 Years!

Who We Are

Supporting Young Musicians

Bringing Music to the Community

1923

Irene Valentine and 7 friends form the WMC to provide themselves with an opportunity to perform for others

1923

1926

Membership increases to 51; dues are \$1.25

1932

Membership extends to music lovers who do not sing or play an instrument and grows to 68

1933

Meetings are initially held in members' homes then moved for a while to the Monticello Hotel

Study club forms to learn about composers and periods of music

1943

Membership increases to 129

1943

Members perform weekly in local hospitals and hold group sing-alongs on school playgrounds

1931

WMC creates a loan fund to support student musicians

WMC sponsors recitals and concerts to raise funds for local hospitals and the Home for the Aged

WMC raises funds to help purchase a piano for Charlottesville's new Lane High School

WMC establishes a Scholarship fund for university level music students

WMC raises funds to support the United Service Organizations (USO) during WWII

WMC Members participate in the World Premiere of *Chamber Blue*, a choral work of poetry with orchestral accompaniment composed by Arthur Fickenscher, first chair of the UVA Department of Music

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1949

Based on the Club's appeal to the Charlottesville School Board, the teaching of stringed instruments (at no cost to the student) begins at Venable, Clark and McGuffey Elementary schools. WMC funds the teachers and starts a fund to provide stringed instruments to the children

By the early 50's, 38 students sign up and WMC gives or lends 20 instruments

1953

1955

Strings program concludes successfully when the City and County budget funds for an orchestra program

1958

First luncheon to welcome new members

First yearbook produced in the 50's

1959

First scholarship awarded to Thomas Warburton

1963

A small close-knit group of member pianists forms Piano Group. For over 20 years they perform for one another, hold recitals, and play at Club meetings

During the 60's regular weekly music performances continue at the University Hospital

WMC sponsors and directs children's concerts and assists with Tuesday Evening Concerts

1973

WMC celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Mid-70's Membership grows to 151

Special interest club activities include Madrigal Singers, string and woodwind groups, piano workshops and a music appreciation study group

The Concerts in the Schools project provides an opportunity for students to hear free concerts by outstanding local musicians

1973

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1976

Piano Group II forms. Still active, they have performed periodically on WMC monthly programs and for residents of Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge

1978

Dues are \$7

1981

Members meet in private homes, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and the Kappa Sigma Auditorium

1983

1986

WMC purchases a Schimmel 6'4" grand piano, housed on the stage of the Kappa Sigma Auditorium

1991

Continued fundraising enables WMC to replace the Schimmel with a Baldwin grand piano

1993

1998

75th Anniversary celebration includes a dinner at the Omni in October 1998 featuring Keith Stevens, classical guitarist, and a Mother's Day Benefit Concert in May 1999, featuring Thomas Warburton, WMC's first scholarship winner (1959)

2003

2000

WMC begins to hold intimate fundraising Soirees in members' homes featuring a musical performance along with a dinner/buffet/reception

1977

20 Concerts are held in 7 Albemarle County and 5 Charlottesville City Schools

1982

WMC begins fundraising to buy a piano

Young Musicians Recitals, open to the public and to all music students, provide an opportunity to gain experience performing for an audience. These are initially held in Old Cabell Hall

Through the 1990's Fall fundraising events continue with Showcase Benefit and Thanksgiving Concerts

1995

Fall Benefit Concert, held in celebration of the club's 71st year, raises funds for scholarships, and features former competition winners Hyun-Sook Park, Sarah Balian, Eva B. Burmeister, and Hyunah Yu

1978

WMC establishes a Central Virginia Music Tuition Award to provide need-based tuition assistance for private music lessons

WMC oversees annual auditions and competitions for high school and college-aged students which determine the Club's support for private lessons, monetary awards, and summer camp scholarships

By the mid-1990's a number of funds have been created in memory of Club members, to provide ongoing support for tuition assistance and for student scholarships awarded through the annual competition

1999

WMC is honored at the 20th Anniversary Celebration awards banquet of the Piedmont Council for the Arts

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2004

Monthly meetings move from the Kappa Sigma Auditorium to First Presbyterian Church on Park Street

WMC receives generous support from the Bama Works Fund, The Maurice Amado Foundation, and the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

Supporting Young Musicians

2013

2016

A group of members form *Fermata*, a monthly gathering open to members looking for the opportunity to play music with and for one another. The initial group of 13 members includes pianists and strings, wind, and brass musicians, sharing solo and ensemble works

2015

A generous transformational gift from the estate of long-time member Robert W. Smith allows the club to start new initiatives including University Music Major Scholarships, Student Symphony Players Lesson Scholarships, and financial support for public school music programs in Charlottesville, Albemarle and surrounding counties

2019

WMC raises funds for a 7.5' Yamaha grand piano, housed in the auditorium at The Center at Belvedere, and dedicated to long-time WMC member, pianist and teacher, Content Sablinsky

2017

WMC initiates an after-school music program at the Boys and Girls Club and a program providing one-on-one coaching for beginning band and orchestra students at Walker Upper Elementary School

Bringing Music to the Community

2018

WMC celebrates its 95th Anniversary at the Fralin Museum, featuring classical guitarist Rafael Scarfullery

2020

In response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, WMC begins recording monthly programs, sharing them with members via the internet, and holding virtual meetings

2020

The Center at Belvedere becomes WMC's new home; membership surpasses 180

2023

2022

Postponed by the pandemic, the club celebrates the acquisition of the new piano with a Gala recital featuring pianist Jeremy Thompson

2022

Fermata members perform for the WMC December 2022 monthly program