



Cello/Piano Recital

November 23, 3PM

From Meditation to Sonata: An Afternoon of Musical Passion

The White Lake Chamber Music Society is excited to announce a special recital event on **Sunday, November 23, 2025** at Lebanon Lutheran, 1101 S. Mears Ave. in Whitehall. This 3PM Cello/Piano Recital with **Kuang-Hao Huang and Marina Hoover**, will feature Chopin’s Piano and Cello Sonata in G Minor, Massenet’s Meditation, Shostakovich’s Piano and Cello Sonata, and more. Tickets are \$25 at the door or on Eventbrite.

The 2025-2026 Winter White Lake Music Series continues to run December 2025 through March 2026, featuring a variety of events that include live classical music performances plus lectures by Bob Swan, Dr. Thomas Carson, Foley Schuler, and Lazaro Vega. These great events will help to turn the drudgery of cold, winter months into a reason to come together, strengthening community ties and bringing greater vibrancy to the White Lake area.

On **December 12, 2025** Bob Swan will present a lecture entitled “The World’s Greatest Christmas Music Through the Ages” as part of the White Lake Methodist’s Festival of the Trees celebration. It takes place at 7PM at White Lake Methodist Church, 8555 Cook St. Montague. Donations will be received and shared between White Lake Methodist and the Music Society.

Also on the schedule is a fascinating lecture on **January 27, 2026** at 7PM at The Book Nook and Java Shop, 8744 Ferry St. in Montague. **Dr. Thomas Carson** will speak about “The Lessons of Apollo”. Dr. Carson has a PhD from

the Purdue University Department of Civil Engineering where he specialized in imagery and mapping science. He spent his career working on problems related to determining the precise positioning and orientation of satellite imaging systems, as well as imagery and geospatial analysis. He grew up fascinated with the manned space program, one of his earliest memories being sitting on his mother’s lap watching the launch of John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth. Tom has used his knowledge of engineering and space science together with his fascination with Project Apollo to put together a presentation that looks at how critical decisions were made during our initial quest to go to the moon, how some of the lessons learned can be applied to our own decision making in life, as well as some things that he just thinks are too cool not to mention.

On **February 24, 2026** at 7PM at The Book Nook and Java Shop, 8744 Ferry St. in Montague, **Lazaro Vega**, Jazz Director at Blue Lake Public Radio and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, will present “Great Jazz Solos”. This will be a ‘down through the years’ retrospective, with an emphasis on music of the 1940’s and 1950’s.

The Society’s mission of producing world-class chamber music concerts, promoting and supporting classical music learning opportunities for all ages, and creating awareness of the value and significance of fine music will be strengthened by the addition of these exciting events!

For a schedule of this year’s events, please visit [www.whitelakemusic.org](http://www.whitelakemusic.org).

Fruitport Community Schools Maintains Strong Financial Position

by Jason J. Kennedy, FCS Superintendent

Fruitport Community Schools is proud to share that the District continues to be in a strong, healthy financial position. Although the District,Âs annual audit is still in progress and technically not completed yet, the General Fund fund balance is projected to be approximately \$8,634,705. This represents 20.5% of the District,Âs total expenditures (\$42,073,479). Financial auditors generally recommend that school districts maintain a fund balance in the range of 15,Ä20% of annual expenditures to be considered fiscally healthy. This allows districts to manage unexpected costs, shifts in state funding, or unforeseen emergencies without immediate disruption to student programs. With a projected fund balance of just over 20%, Fruitport is positioned at the high end of that range, giving us both stability and flexibility moving forward.

Again, while the following numbers are not fully audited and finalized yet, it is still important to understand the projections of how our resources are invested. In the 2025 fiscal year, approximately 80.1% of the district,Âs budget supported our employees through salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits. Our staff provides daily education and support to over 2,600 students across the district. Additionally, approximately 6.58% (about \$2.76 million) was directed toward essential operational expenses, including contract cleaning services, utilities, and facility repairs.

While the Board of Education ultimately determines how the fund balance is allocated, these numbers reflect a district that is not only

financially stable, but also deeply committed to investing in the people and resources that directly benefit students. Looking ahead, this strong financial position provides Fruitport Community Schools with the capacity to sustain high-quality educational programs, and address facility and operational needs.

As many districts across the State consider, and ultimately borrow millions of dollars annually for cash flow purposes costing them tens of thousands of dollars in interest costs, Fruitport Community Schools has not had the need to incur large interest costs associated with borrowing money to meet cashflow needs and payroll due to its strong financial position. In addition to the strong financial planning and management of the District, the District benefits from the collection of summer taxes, which benefits cash flow within the District.

It is important to recognize that while these results demonstrate the strong financial position of our general fund, which is utilized for educational programming and operations, these revenues are capped each year by the state established foundation allowance. As a result, the District still depends on other funding sources, primarily voter approved bonds, to address long-term capital needs.

The District remains committed to a healthy balance of supporting its employees through fair and competitive compensation, while also ensuring that it remains in a strong, healthy financial position. Be proud of the work that we are doing, know that we are committed to being great stewards of taxpayer dollars, and know that I am appreciative of the work that our staff does each and every day as we approach our budget from a fiscally conservative perspective.



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