

HELPFUL LINKS

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Newsletter



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April 3, 2026

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UPDATES

2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

This year's Nominating Committee (Tammy Belden, Chair; John Aldock; Barbara Beizer; Ed Feinberg; and Dave Hensler) developed a slate of four candidates to fill the four positions on the Board of Directors that will become vacant in June 2026. The committee believes these candidates have amply demonstrated the skills, experience, background, and energy needed for OLLI at AU leadership. The Board of Directors has reviewed and approved this slate of candidates,

which will appear on the ballot for the election scheduled for April 10, after the annual meeting.

On behalf of the OLLI Board of Directors and the membership, thank you to the Nominating Committee members for this critically important work. [Click here to view the 2026-27 nominees.](#)

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

CALLING ALL PROPOSALS

We welcome proposals from both new and previous study group leaders! For more information about being an SGL at OLLI, please visit the [Become an Instructor](#) page on the website. If you or someone you know is interested in leading a study group for the first time and would like to speak with someone, please email olli@american.edu with your contact information and we will get in touch with you. To propose a study group, click the applicable button below. You will need to log in with your OLLI username/password or create an account if it's your first time.

June Minis

June 1-26

(Once a week for four weeks)

JUNE PROPOSAL

July Shorts

July 6-10

(2-5 times during one week)

JULY PROPOSAL

Proposal deadline for summer sessions: Sunday, April 5

Fall Semester

September 28-December 4

(Once a week for 7-10 weeks)

FALL PROPOSAL

Proposal deadline for fall semester: Sunday, May 3

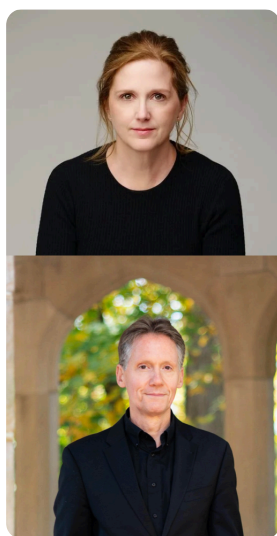
If you are a current or prospective Study Group Leader planning a course, you may want to consider some of the creative teaching formats used in OLLI classes to encourage discussion and participation. Some courses are team-taught by two instructors who bring different perspectives and expertise, while others invite guest presenters to join individual sessions and share their knowledge on specific topics. These approaches can enrich the class experience

and make teaching even more engaging and enjoyable. If you are an SGL—or are thinking about becoming one—feel free to contact a member of one of [OLLI's Curriculum Committees](#) to learn more about how instructors have structured their classes.

LECTURES

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Registration is required for in-person lectures. Registration will open at 10:00 AM on the Friday prior to the lecture. **Spring lectures will be held at OLLI:** 4801 Massachusetts Ave. NW, in Room A on the first floor. Visit the [Spring 2026 Lectures](#) page for a full list of this semester's lectures.



TODAY'S LECTURE -

REGISTRATION FULL

Erin Freeman and Dana Marsh, *Performance Practices of the Bach B Minor Mass*

April 3

1:30 PM

In-Person at OLLI

Erin Freeman is a conductor and artistic leader serving as Artistic Director of the City Choir of Washington and Wintergreen Music, Director of the Saint Louis Symphony Chorus, and Principal Conductor of the Richmond Ballet. She has appeared with major orchestras and ballet companies across the US and internationally at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Musikverein in Vienna, and has led GRAMMY-nominated recordings. A finalist for Performance Today's Classical Woman of the Year, Freeman holds degrees from Northwestern University, Boston University, and the Peabody Conservatory.

Dr. Dana T. Marsh has served as artistic director of the Washington Bach Consort since 2018 and is praised by *The Washington Post* as a “superb choral conductor.” Trained as a chorister at St. Thomas Choir School and Salisbury Cathedral, he holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Oxford. Marsh has collaborated with leading early-music ensembles in the US and UK, appeared as guest conductor at Washington National Cathedral, and has recorded for major international labels. He is a music professor and director of the Historical Performance Institute at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

[JOIN WAITLIST](#)

There is no lecture or happy hour next Friday due to the annual meeting. See details below in OLLI Events.

OLLI EVENTS

AMERICA 250 EVENT: PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

OLLI will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a special event on June 29 and 30. This two-day program will feature a series of short presentations on topics related to the “America 250” theme.

We invite members of the OLLI community to participate in this celebration by offering a brief presentation (approximately 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for Q&A). While America 250 commemorates a historic milestone, presentations may explore the influence of the Declaration of Independence across many aspects of American life. Topics are not limited to history and may include art, music, politics, culture, and more.

To propose a presentation for consideration, please email the following information to olli@american.edu

- Your name
- Title of presentation
- Brief description of the presentation
- Your bio
- Your availability on June 29 and 30

Submission deadline: Today, April 3



MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

Join us next week!

As a form of appreciation for our amazing members, each day, we will have refreshments (see times below) in the Social Space located on the 5th floor:

Monday, April 6–Thursday, April 9

9:00 AM–2:00 PM: Breakfast treats, desserts, and savory snacks

Friday, April 10

9:00–11:30 AM: Breakfast treats, desserts, and savory snacks


11:30 AM–1:00 PM: Sandwich wraps prior to the lecture



HAPPY HOURS

A happy hour will take place after today's lecture (about 2:30 PM) at Pizzeria Paradiso across the street from OLLI. There is space for up to 25 people. Each person pays their own way. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

[REGISTER](#)

OLLI
Lunch Club 

OLLI LUNCH CLUB

12:00 PM

Millie's Restaurant | Registration Required

[Wednesday, April 8](#)

[Thursday, April 23](#)

The OLLI Lunch Club will hold its next luncheon of the spring semester on Wednesday, April 8 at 12:00 PM at Millie's restaurant across the street from OLLI. There is space for up to 12 people. Each person pays their own way. **Please register using the links above.**



ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 10

1:30 PM

Hybrid

Join us for OLLI's Annual Meeting on Friday, April 10 at 1:30 PM. Board candidates will give brief remarks to introduce themselves. Online balloting will begin after the Annual Meeting.

The meeting format will be hybrid (members both in-person and online) and will take place both in Room A on the first floor and via Zoom. **No registration is required for either format.** The Zoom link will be included in the April 10 newsletter.

SERENDIPITY TALK

Dan Sherman, *Celebrating Rachmaninoff*

Monday, April 13 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Online via Zoom | No Registration Required

Born into the Russian aristocracy, Sergei Rachmaninoff quickly showed gifts as a composer and as a pianist. He went on to a spectacular international career, often performing his own works, including piano concertos that are very popular today. This talk will review Rachmaninoff's life and career, demonstrating the range and richness of his work through recordings (including some by Rachmaninoff) and his dazzling compositional style.

[View more info.](#)

Dan Sherman also recently gave a talk titled "How Richard Wagner Shaped Film Music: Korngold, Hollywood, and Star Wars." **[Click here](#)** to watch the full talk on YouTube.

No registration is required for Serendipities. The Zoom link will be emailed to all those subscribed to the OLLI newsletter the morning of each talk. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to attend, please join the email list at https://www.oli-dc.org/join_email_list.



ANDERSON HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, April 25

10:45 AM-12:00 PM

Registration Required

Join OLLI members for a private, docent-guided tour of [Anderson House](#), the magnificent Beaux-Arts mansion of diplomat Larz Anderson and his wife, Isabel. Built between 1902 and 1905 as their winter residence on Embassy Row, the home offers a rare and intimate glimpse into a world of elegance, global travel, and cultural refinement.

As headquarters of [The Society of the Cincinnati](#), Anderson House also preserves the legacy of the American Revolution through significant artifacts and narratives of the nation's founding generation.

Following the tour, members may explore exhibitions featuring Revolutionary War artifacts, rare books and manuscripts, and rotating displays drawn from the Society's collections. Weather permitting, you may also enjoy a brief visit to the intimate formal garden.

REGISTER

On Wednesday, members visited the Katzen Center for our first event in OLLI's new concert series, RITUALS. Soprano Laura Choi Stuart and pianist Tanya Blauch tied together contrasting experiences of community, family, and traditions. The recital hall was filled with OLLI members and guests who enjoyed the spectacular music, followed by a reception to mingle.

Congratulations to Bill Wilson for winning a free CD! Stay tuned for details about future concerts in this series. You don't want to miss it!



AU EVENTS



250+ AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

The 250+ at American initiative offers a year of multidisciplinary programs that invite AU's community to reflect on the nation's past, engage in the present, and imagine the future.

[MORE INFO/EVENTS](#)

OTHER EVENTS

FROM THE DARKNESS: A CONCERT OF A CAPPELLA MASTERWORKS

If you enjoyed the Rituals concerts this past Wednesday, join the District Chorale for an a cappella concert this Sunday, April 12 at 4:00 PM. Artistic Director, Geoffrey Silver works with the featured musicians from our Rituals concert. [Click here for more information or to purchase tickets.](#)

FROM THE DARKNESS

A Concert of A Cappella Masterworks

DISTRICT CHORALE

Geoffrey Silver, Artistic Director

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 4pm

St. Paul's, K Street, Washington, DC

Tickets: \$20 on Eventbrite, on our website, and at the door

Students: Free. Reserve early for priority seating

Benefiting the Music Program at St. Paul's K Street

Reception following



DISTRICTCHORALE.ORG

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at American University is an association of, by, and for the people in the Washington, DC area who wish to continue to study and learn. OLLI at AU is dedicated to the proposition that learning is a lifelong process and that *curiosity never retires*.

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Tony Long, *Executive Director*

Lesley Diaz, *Director of Academic Programming*

Lisa Olson, *Director of Operations and Projects*

Jesse Williams, *Operations Manager*

Annabel McClure, *Programs and Projects Coordinator*

Andrew Smith, *Operations Assistant*

Lauren Petrillo, *Administrative Coordinator*

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