

One incredible composer for the viola was Ernest Bloch. You can hear Moonlit In The Sun perform a piece written by Bloch for viola and piano at First Friday on October 3.

Reader's Corner

This section is dedicated to answer questions of our readers. If you have a question, email us at newsletter@moonlitinthesun.com!

Why do violists read a different clef from everyone else? ~M. Lane, Leesburg, VA

An excellent question – and very appropriate for our viola-dedicated issue. In the past issues of Music Notes, we explained how to read the Treble-Clef (also known as the G-Clef) and the Bass-Clef (F-Clef). The viola uses yet another clef: the Alto-Clef (C-Clef). For more on how to read this clef, see “Learning Music.”

So, why do violists use this funky clef that looks like a 13? It's because the viola is a middle-voiced instrument and therefore requires a clef that includes notes that straddle the lower register of the treble-clef and the higher register of the bass-clef. If violists used only the treble clef, they would have to read notes with many many ledger lines below the staff. And if violists used only the bass clef, they would have to read notes with many many ledger lines above the staff.



Learning music

How to read the C-clef. A note on a staff can be on a line or space, and that tells you the pitch of the note. To make it easier, musicians decided that notes lower on the staff have a lower pitch than notes higher on the staff. So (reading from left to right), the following tells the musician to play a series of notes with higher and higher pitch:



So, now we need to know the actual pitch to play. For that, you need a clef.

Let's say you have a C-clef (also known as an alto clef). This means that notes on the middle line of the staff have a pitch of middle C. You'll note (a pun!) that the middle line goes through the middle of the C-clef. So, all you need to do is to see which line goes through the middle of the C-clef, and right away you know what pitch the middle line represents. That was easy!

What about the other notes? That's almost as easy. Going up from the middle line to the space (so you're between the second and third lines from the top of the staff) means the note is one step higher than middle C. This is known as D.

How fast should the notes be played, and how long should each note be? You guessed it, look for that in the next issue of *Music Notes*!

Looking for a viola, violin, cello, or piano teacher? Contact us at 571.223.5321.

Make your own

The next time you come to one of Moonlit In The Sun's concerts, tap your fingers to the music with castanets. Fold a 5 inch x 1 inch firm piece of cardboard in half. Glue two large buttons on inside ends of the cardboard, so that they are exactly opposite of each other. Let the music begin by clicking buttons together with your fingers and thumb!

Upcoming **Moonlit In The Sun** Performances

- **September 27 Fall Into The Arts** ~ Leesburg's Sixth Annual Fine Arts Festival. MITS will be performing from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Royal Green on the corner of King and Royal Streets behind the Pink Shop! Visit the Fall Into The Arts website for more information: www.fallintothearts.com
- **October 3 from 2:30-5:00pm Waterford Fair** at the Barn at 16409 Hamilton Station Road
- **October 3 from 6:30-8:30pm Leesburg's First Friday.** Bring the whole family and join us for a fun evening of music! We will be performing classical favorites, ragtime, Cole Porter and COLD PLAY!!! Kids will have the opportunity to see the instruments up close and ask questions of the musicians. Location: The Town Green next to the Tally Ho Theater in Old Town Leesburg.
- **October 16 from 6:30-9:00pm – Join **Moonlit In The Sun** at The Restaurant at Patowmack Farm** in Lovettsville, VA. It's the week of the full moon! Enjoy the moonlit sky and tranquil setting while relaxing to the music of Moonlit in the Sun and dining on local, organic cuisine that is reflective of the seasons. Reservations are required. Call 540.822.9017 to make reservations and tell them **Moonlit In The Sun** sent you.
- **October 19 from 1-3pm Celebrate Carlos Salon and Day Spa** grand opening with music and three free makeovers located at 212 South King Street
- Visit our website for updates to our schedule!



Moonlit in the Sun is available for receptions, weddings, private parties, and corporate events! Give us a call to arrange for us to play at your next event! Call us at 571.223.5321 or email us at info@moonlitinthesun.com Visit our website at: www.moonlitinthesun.com

Upcoming concerts of interest:

Concerts at Shenandoah Conservatory

- [Friday, September 26 at 7 pm](#) Shenandoah Conservatory Wind Ensemble at Armstrong Concert Hall. Free.
- [Monday, September 29 at 7 pm](#) Van Buren Woodwind Quintet at Armstrong Concert Hall. Free.
- [Monday, October 6 at 8 pm](#) Chanticleer with a blend of 12 male voices will perform at Handley High School. Tickets are \$25
- [Sunday, October 19 at 3 pm](#) Irish Pianist John O'Connor at Armstrong Concert Hall. Tickets are \$18.
- [Bach-Handel Festival](#) includes concerts Friday(10/24) and Saturday(10/25) at 8 pm at Goodson Recital Hall; Sunday(10/26) at 3:30 pm at First Baptist Church in Winchester; Sunday(10/26) at 7:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church in Winchester.

Waterford Concert Series at the Lucketts Community Center

- [Sunday, October 19 at 4 pm](#) The chamber chorus Voices XXI – an a cappella ensemble will be performing little known masterpieces. Tickets are \$25.

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra

- [Saturday, October 25 at 8 pm and Sunday October 26 at 3 pm](#) Dvorak's Cello Concerto with soloist Stephen Framil and Brahms' Symphony No.4 at Stone Bridge HS, Ashburn

Folk Festival: Emma's revolution – award winning activists folk musicians bring their message of truth, hope and a dash of healthy irreverence to Loudoun. Grand prize winners of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, these powerful, passionate artists will make you think, make you dance, and make you believe a better world is possible. [Friday, October 3, 8pm](#), Franklin Park Visual and Performing Arts Center, 1501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville \$15 Adults, \$8 Students. Bookings 540.338.7973

Moonlit In The Sun performances

- [October 3](#) Waterford Fair. 2:30-5:00pm. Location: the Barn at 16409 Hamilton Station Road
- [October 3](#) Leesburg's First Friday. 6:30-8:30pm in the Town Green next to Tally Ho
- [October 16](#) The Restaurant at Patowmack Farm, Lovettsville, VA from 6:30-9pm
- [October 19](#) Carlos Salon and Day Spa, 212 South King Street from 1-3 pm

Questions? Send us your questions about music or ideas for articles! Also, send us any articles you've written that you think we might be interested in using in our next newsletter. Email us at newsletter@moonlitinthesun.com

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