

Note Worthy

A publication of the Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin) Website: musicclubaustin.org December 16, 2015



President's Message

Marcia Edwards

Our membership drive is underway! Now is the perfect time to invite your musical friend or acquaintance to attend one of our programs. The new membership cards made their debut on Dec. 2. Please ask for one or more at the front desk when you sign in. Keep one in your wallet, and share some with friends who might be interested in becoming new members. WMMC is offering a \$50 prize for the current member who recruits the most new members. Deadline March 1, 2016. Special thanks to Membership Committee Chair Suzy Gallagher and members Greta Gutman, Michelle d'Arcy, Marianne Weiss Kim and Phyllis Noonan for their endorsement and help in moving this project forward!

Remember that the Holiday Coffee and music program begin early at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Please come, bring a friend, and bring a favorite treat to share. We will honor our Distinguished Service members. Pianist Carol Koock will delight with her lovely rendition of favorite holiday carols.

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WMMC Member Highlight

Kay Race Member since 1970

I was born and raised in Chicago in a family of musicians. My grandfather, who lived with us, was the first professional musician, then my mother and brother too.

My brother Paul and I were lucky to be scholarship piano students at the American Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Louise Robyn, and we had many places to perform.

I eventually went to music school at the University of Colorado where I quickly met a fellow student, pianist William Race, who became my husband right after I completed my Bachelor's Degree of Music. We spent our undergraduate years loving music and hiking in the beautiful Colorado mountains. I had my first son, Charlie, ten days after finishing my master's degree. Bill was already teaching piano at Colorado Woman's College in Denver. After Bill finished his doctor's degree in music at the University of Michigan, we went to various colleges until we wound up at the music school in Austin. Bill was chairman of the Piano Department until his death in 1999.

Our family consisted of three children: Charlie, Steve and Susan. Charlie studied violin until age fourteen. He is a psychiatric nurse practitioner professionally and has played classical violin music his whole life. Charlie is married and has a son William. Steve, our middle child, studied piano when he was young and went into nursing as a career. His interest in music has been recreational. He was married, but his wife died of ovarian cancer. Our daughter Susan studied piano from childhood to adulthood. She has a doctor's degree as a piano major from the University of Texas. She is still playing the piano and teaching a large class of piano students. She has a daughter Kathleen, my only granddaughter.

Bill and I spent our summer vacations with the children hiking in the mountains of Colorado, Washington, and Canada and camping out in tents. After the children left home, we continued traveling to many breathtaking places, from the Swiss Alps to the Himalayas. Bill loved photography and documented our travels with many striking photos. It was sure a lot of fun, and Bill was a wonderful prime organizer.

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About the Performers for December 2nd



Pat Yingst, flute

Pat grew up playing flute and piano. She wanted to be a pianist so she could play all the parts but suffered from performance anxiety so, after completing a degree in music theory at the University of Houston, she went back to her career as a software developer. When it came time to retire from her profession she decided to use this precious time as an opportunity to revisit the flute. For the past 5 years she has studied with Seetha Shivaswamy. She enjoys playing with several large ensembles including the Austin Flute Choir and the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra and is in several chamber groups.

Catherine van Zanten, violin

Catherine plays violin with the Balcones Community Orchestra, the Cat Mountain String Quartet, the Round Rock Symphony and is a past member of their Board of Directors. She has played with the New Orleans Summer Pops, the Lake Charles Symphony, the Acadiana Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, the Baton Rouge Symphony and Jackson Symphony as well as with the Austin Civic Orchestra and Austin Philharmonic. She is the director of the Silver Strings orchestra which plays weekly concerts in area retirement homes, hospitals, and churches. She studied at the Juilliard Preparatory School, at the University of Illinois and with Franco Gulli at the Academia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Catherine has a Bachelor and Masters of Music in violin performance. She has taken Suzuki teacher training and teaches Suzuki and traditional violin and viola in her home studio.

Susan Groves, piano

Susan Groves holds a doctorate in piano performance from UT and was a prizewinner in national competitions. She has appeared as soloist with the Austin and Amarillo Symphony as a child, the UT Symphony, and most recently with the Ft. Worth Symphony as a winner of the Piano Texas Concerto Competition. Susan and her father, the late William Race, performed as the Race-Groves Duo for many years. Susan has a large award-winning private studio and her students have gone on to study piano at Juilliard, UT and Baylor and have been featured on NPR's From the Top.

Charles Palmer, baritone

Charles is a native Austinite, former Peace Corps Volunteer and retired government employee. He holds a BA and MA degree from the University of Texas and a PhD in Latin American Geography from the University of Florida. He has lived for extended periods of time in Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Charles' musical experience includes singing in church choirs and in several civic choruses in Austin. He studies voice with Professor David Small of the University of Texas Butler school of Music and performs regularly with his pianist friend and colleague, Kathryn Govier, at retirement homes and similar venues in the Austin area.

Kathryn Govier, piano

I started music lessons at age 4 and "cut my eye-teeth on Bach." I was lucky to have a piano teacher who stressed the classics. I earned a Bachelor of Music, piano major (1971), and I've used my skills as accompanist and collaborator, as well as soloist. I work with Charles Palmer through the Butler School of Music Outreach program giving retirement home programs. My profession job was teacher of the handicapped. I spent 3 years in Marrakesh, Morocco, working with handicapped children as Peace Corps Volunteer (1987-1990). I love living in Austin with many wonderful cultural events to attend and participate in.

Peggy Brunner, mezzo soprano

My first visits to the WMMC were as a child with my mother, Margaret Gregory. I continued to visit over the years as I earned my Bachelor and Master's degrees in Vocal Music at the UT School of Music, then went on to teach voice, first at Huston-Tillotson College and then, for the next 45 years, at Texas State Univ. in San Marcos. I have one son, married, living in Houston with his wife and 4 beautiful daughters. I retired in 2013 and moved back to Austin, where my good brother Russell encouraged me to return to the WMMC, and it is my great pleasure to do so.

Russell Gregory, bass

Russell is a life-long Austinite, has performed throughout the region and is well known for his memorable characterizations of many leading Gilbert & Sullivan roles (The Mikado, Sergeant of Police, Sir Joseph Porter, etc.) He has sung extensively in all major Texas cities and has appeared in The Marriage of Figaro, Riders to the Sea, Gianni Schicchi, Der Rosenkavalier, The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance, H.M.S. Pinafore, and The Gondoliers, among others. Among his happiest memories on stage are his appearance in December 2002 and January 2006 singing with his son-in-law and grandsons – 3 generations on stage together – in Amahl and the Night Visitors.

Carolyn McColloch, piano

Carolyn graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from West Virginia University with prior study at Mason College of Music in Charleston, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, U. of Michigan Interlochen, and additional graduate study. She continued to study as she performed and taught in Oklahoma City, Denver, Midland, Kingwood, Houston, and Katy. She loved teaching. Now she is performing and sharing her love of music!

Carol Koock, piano

Carol studied at the Houston Conservatory of Music and at UT, where her principal instrument was oboe. She has enjoyed playing piano for fun with bands, melodrama, and parties and accompanying cabaret singers.

President's message

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Join us for a sampling of the tastes and sounds of the holiday season.

Thank you to Sarah Harriman and Carol Brannon for their warm welcome at our Dec. 2 meeting. More thanks to Sarah and to Stephen Falk for helping set up the recital hall. Stephen did a great job as stage manager for this meeting! Many thanks to Marie White and Carolyn McCulloch for their continuing work on this newsletter! A special thank you to Marie for her creative work designing our new membership card. Sincere thanks also to Secretary Virginia Kniesner who faithfully records all the business at our meetings and promptly produces accurate minutes. She is one of many at work behind the scenes to make the club successful.

Kay Race

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Today, I continue to practice the piano and to perform. I am currently teaching piano to six young Vietnamese students. All in all, our lives have been blessed with a love of music and a love of getting out in beautiful places to enjoy nature on foot.

Unfortunately Bill died at age 75, but we had almost fifty years of life with music and nature and family.



WMMC Member News

Marianne Weiss Kim is continuing to recuperate from shoulder surgery at the Mayo Clinic. After staying with their daughter for the immediate post-surgery period, she and her husband have returned to their own Austin home.

WMMC member authors Angela Smith (Women Drummers: A History from Rock and Jazz to Blues and Country) and Carlie Burdett (Music for Bird Lovers, including CD with original music by Carlie) will have copies of their books for sale at the Holiday Coffee, Dec. 16.

Nan Hampton is traveling with her daughter to Tanzania where her granddaughter is finishing a semester abroad.

If you have exciting travel plans or other news to share, please let me know: mjhedwards@hotmail.com.

Address correction: Brett Bachus classicalT@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

Texas Early Music Project, 13th to 17th century carols and lullabies from Italy, Spain, France, Germany, the British Isles with Houston harpist Therese Honey.

Dec. 11 & 12 8 PM First English Lutheran Church 3001 Whitis Ave.

Dec. 13 3 PM First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Dr. www.early-music.org

Austin Civic Orchestra, St. Andrew's Episcopal Upper School, 5901 Southwest Parkway, Dell Fine Arts Ctr., with vocalists Bruce Cain from Southwestern Univ. and Teri Johnson of Temple College. *Suite from the Nutcracker* by Tchaikovsky, *O Holy Night*, *Greensleeves*, *Sleigh Ride*.

Dec. 12 7:30 PM www.austincivicorchestra.org

Texas Choral Consort, Blanton Museum of Art, Rocking Holiday Extravaganza with the Invincible Czars.

Dec. 17 5:30 PM txconsort.org

Ensemble VIII, St. Louis Catholic Church Chap, 7601 Burnet Rd., An Angelic Christmas, *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Dec. 17 & Dec. 18 7:30 PM www.ensembleviii.org

Austin Symphony, Palmer Events Center, Pops program, "My Sinatra", starring Cary Hoffman.

Dec. 29 & 30 8 PM austinsymphony.org

La Follia Austin Baroque, First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive, Start the New Year with U. S. Bach. Selections from the Goldberg Variations and the Cello Suite No. 6, the B minor Flute Sonata, and the Chaconne for solo violin, the trio sonata in G Major and the Affetuoso from the Brandenburg Concerto, No. 5.

Jan. 2 8 PM

Jan. 3 4 PM lafollia.org

Austin Symphony, Long Center, A Night of Music of Prokofiev, Wieniawski and Tchaikovsky with violinist Jennifer Frautschi performing the Wieniawski composition.

Jan. 8 & 9 8 PM austinsymphony.org

Conspirare, University Presbyterian Church, "Anneslies: The Voice of Anne Frank," 75 minute choral work with soprano Stefanie and chamber ensemble: clarinet, violin, cello & piano.

Jan. 8 & 9 <http://conspirare.org>

Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin, Genesis Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1507 Wilshire Blvd. Revue and Sing-Along songs from the treasured classic "The Pirates of Penzance." FREE

Jan. 10 3 PM gilbertsullivan.org

Austin Chamber Music, Beethoven's Sonata for Piano in E Major, Op. 109, WORLD PREMIERE of Graham Reynolds' "In the Face of Trouble", Michelle Schumann, piano.

Jan. 15 – private home

Jan. 16 - First Unitarian Church, tickets \$40 & \$25 <http://austinchambermusic.org>

Austin Classical Guitar Society, AISD Performing Arts Center, Berta Rojas from Paraguay

Jan. 16 8 PM austinclassicalguitar.org

Balcones Orchestra, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Steck at Mesa Drive, Eric Bittner, trumpet and Cy Young, composer, "The Children's Crusade" for Soprano, Children's Choir and Orchestra WORLD PREMIERE --- free

Jan. 24 4 PM bcorchestra.net

Thought for the Day

God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December.

J. M. Barrie, author (from Dec. 2015 Reader's Digest)