

# Note Worthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin) Website: [musicclubaustin.org](http://musicclubaustin.org) February 3, 2016



## President's Message

Marcia Edwards

We are looking forward to a program of music in a romantic mood on Wednesday, February 3. The music program and business meeting will be followed by New Member Orientation at 11:30 AM.

During our new member drive through the month of February, please consider sharing your thoughts about the value and benefits of our music club. You may send your comments to Newsletter Editor Marie White [mariewhite@austin.rr.com](mailto:mariewhite@austin.rr.com) and we will publish them in a future newsletter.

Don't forget to check out our club website at [www.austinmusicclub.org](http://www.austinmusicclub.org). Webmaster Pat Yingst will soon be posting some older photos of club members. These photos were donated by the estate of Past President Marie Scheel (1958 – 1960), who passed away last year. We greatly appreciate the time and effort of both Lee Meyer and Natalie Morgan in identifying many of the people in these photos.

Many thanks to Carla Johnson for the information at our last meeting about the TFMC Facebook page. You may view the page and "like" it by going to [www.facebook.com/Texas-Federation-of-Music-Clubs](https://www.facebook.com/Texas-Federation-of-Music-Clubs).

## WMMC Member Highlight Phyllis Noonan

I come from a very small town--Port Arthur, Texas--where oil refineries are the main industry. We were a middle class family of 8 children. When I was 9 years old, my mother enrolled me in piano lessons at the parochial school, so my first teacher was an elderly nun. That lasted a few months and then my mother arranged for me to take lessons from Alberta Conway. She was very talented and could write special arrangements of popular piano music very quickly.

In the seventh grade I switched over to Mrs. Johnson in Port Arthur. She was a good teacher and very sweet. In the eighth grade I took lessons from Mrs. Hebert in Beaumont, Texas.

At the beginning of 9<sup>th</sup> grade I started lessons from Dr. Meteyarde, a former college professor at Lamar University. He was originally from England, a very prominent teacher, and he liked to play 2-piano pieces, which I enjoyed very much. He was a good teacher so I stayed with him until high school graduation. He convinced me to go the University of Texas at Austin because they had a very good piano department.

I arrived at U.T. in the fall of 1956. The total number of students then was 15,000. The music department had just been established about 15 years before I arrived. It wasn't that big a school but it felt like it to me coming from a small town. I studied with Mr. Fernando Laires from Portugal. It was his first year at the university too.

I met my future husband Al about 2 weeks after I arrived in Austin. We met at the Catholic Student Center, so we had our faith in common. He had spent the summer in a Mexico City school the summer before we met. The Catholic Student Center was a good place to be with so many friendly students. My cousin Frances introduced us.

While I was a student at U.T., I worked in the Opera Workshop Department as an accompanist. This was the beginning of opera at the university. Al and I were married at the beginning of my sophomore year. I dropped out of school when I started having children, 5 in all. The first to arrive were identical twins Anne Marie and Susan Marie in 1959. In 1963 we had another daughter, Marian. Allan Jr. was born in 1965, and Tommy in 1970.

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## About the Performers

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### **Katharine Shields, soprano**

Katharine Shields has performed in recitals, revues, opera, and Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in Boston and Austin. She has done Hit Parade Reviews with Carol Koock and Jerry Conn, and programs with the music of George Gershwin and Cole Porter. In addition to the Wednesday Morning Music Club, she enjoys singing in the University Methodist Church Choir and Chorus Austin. She volunteers for the Settlement Club and the Austin Opera Guild.

### **Mary Parse, piano**

Mary began playing hymns for Sunday school in the fourth grade, and she was full-time organist at her church from eighth grade through high school. During undergraduate school at Austin College, she was the pianist for the vocal studio and the college choir. She has continued to play for churches, singers and instrumentalists ever since, and she loves collaborative music-making.

### **Valerie Fischer, cello**

Valerie is a native Texan and long-time Austin resident who has performed on most of the stages in town. She received a degree in cello performance from UT Austin, studying with Paul Olefsky, and is a member of the Round Rock and Temple Symphony Orchestras. Valerie also has a successful teaching studio and counts that as her true passion.

### **Melanie Richards, piano**

Melanie was born into a musical family and started piano early with her mother and later violin and viola with her father. The family ensemble (sister on cello) traveled around Texas to promote their music camp in the Hill country. Later she received music degrees from Barnard College and North Texas State. Working out of the NY State area, Melanie toured internationally as pianist with a performing eurythmy group. She has a piano studio in Round Rock.

### **Brian Grothues, piano**

Brian Grothues is a pianist and teacher in Austin TX with over 35 students. He pursued music at The University of North Texas in Denton, earning his Bachelor's Degree Cum Laude. In 2008, Brian completed the Master's Degree in Piano Literature and Pedagogy from the University of Texas under the guidance of celebrated pianists Gregory Allen and Sophia Gilmsen. He has studied piano and music history in Vienna, Austria as a member of the IES study abroad program. Brian has collaborated with a multitude of instrumentalists and vocalists in concert, and plays in a Queen tribute band called Magnifico!

### **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.

### **Kay Race, piano**

Katherine was born and raised in Chicago. While in Chicago she was a pianist at the American Conservatory of Music. She met her husband right after he finished serving his 4<sup>th</sup> year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. They met at the University of Colorado where Kay was a freshman. They both practiced the piano constantly and when not playing music enjoyed hiking in the mountains. After their marriage in 1949 they continued their musical lives together until Kay's husband died in 1999. Kay still practices and enjoys musical activities. She lives in Austin at a retirement home.

### **Maxine Gomes, piano**

Maxine Gomes earned piano performance degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and New York University where she received her Ph.D. She pursued a dual career in New York for many years as a music teacher and solo pianist giving numerous recitals and FM radio broadcasts on Long Island and New York City. After earning a Professional Diploma in Administration, Maxine took a hiatus from music and had a career in school administration on Long Island, New York. Maxine, again, is enjoying performing in the metropolitan Austin area.

### **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.

### **Dana Prater, flute**

Dana was born into a musical family in Northern California. Both her mother and father were professional musicians. Dana began playing the piano at age 5, violin at age 9 and flute at age 12. She received the Yuba Sutter choir memorial scholarship and the Gern scholarship. She was both the Pietro Menci young artist winner and Yuba Sutter young artist winner. She has studied with Edna Comencero, Dr. Jeanne West, and Dr. Dan Heistand as a child and with Jesmine Bartz and Francois Minnaux when she returned to playing the flute 6 years ago.

### **Anne Marie Palmer, piano**

Anna Marie began playing piano at 7 years old. She started playing organ in a church at 12 under the supervision of her piano teacher. In college she decided to major in professional accountancy, but has continued to be a church accompanist her whole life. Currently she is on the music staff at St. Theresa Catholic Church. She is also a licensed Massage Therapist and Massage Therapy Instructor. She has had the opportunity to play in various ensembles and finds playing chamber music most rewarding and enjoyable.

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Phyllis Noonan (continued from page 1)

In the late sixties and seventies while my children were growing up, I taught piano lessons. I also belonged to the Wednesday Morning Music Club, started performing, and also belonged to the Music Teachers Association. In 1980 I returned to school to finish my degree in Piano Pedagogy in 1981.

In 1985 I interrupted my music career to work at St. Michael's Academy, where my younger son Tommy graduated from high school. Then I worked in the office and played the piano for all the liturgies and for the music productions until 2004. During the years I worked and taught piano lessons, I also traveled all over the world with my husband Al.

After almost 20 years at St. Michael's, I returned to the music club and started performing again. I was District 6 President of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs from 2013 – 2015. In the summer time, I enjoy attending the Opera in the Ozarks in Arkansas. I have joined the Austin Woman's Club and have been helping them with music programs too.



### *WMMC Member News*

Carla Johnson was thrilled to attend the Richard Tucker Gala at Lincoln Center on Nov. 1, 2015 with her husband and daughter. The performance will be televised Friday, Feb. 5, 2016 on PBS at 8:00 PM Central time. Included in the performance were the following: Piotr Beczala, Andrea Bocelli, Lawrence Brownlee, Stephen Costello, Renee Fleming, George Gagnidze, Angela Gheorghiu, Christine Goerke, Isabel Leonard, Nadine Sierra, and Jamie Barton the 2015 Richard Tucker Award winner. Maestro Eugene Kohn conducted members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York Choral Society. Carla says, "This was one of the greatest concerts that I have ever heard. Please do not miss it."

Auditions for the 2016 Opera in the Ozarks summer program were held in Austin on Saturday afternoon, January 23, with OIO Artistic Director Tom Cockrell from the University of Arizona School of Music in Tucson. Club members Lee Meyer, Sue Breuer, and Marcia Edwards were present to help make the afternoon auditions go smoothly.

Thanks very much to club members who have solicited and donated items for the silent auction at the 101<sup>st</sup> State Convention, March 31 – April 2, here in Austin. Contributors include Carol Brannon, Marcia Edwards, Kathryn Govier, Virginia Kniesner, Beth Moreno, Katharine Shields, Marie White, and Bill Yick. Local businesses that have generously donated items include Tarrytown Pharmacy, Sue Patrick, Kavel Shoes, and Breed Hardware. It is not too late if you have a giftable item that you would like to contribute for this fundraiser.

## Calendar of Events

**Rick Rowley, piano**, UT Butler School of Music, Bates Recital Hall, Bach's **French Suite No. 5 in G Major**, Schumann's **Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13**, Schubert's **Fantasy in F minor, D. 940** for Piano Four-hands with Tamara Sanikidze and Lyapunov's "**Lesghinka**" **Op. 11, No. 10**.

Jan. 29 7:30 PM <http://music.utexas.edu>

**The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD**, in select local theaters. **Turandot** by Puccini.

Jan. 30 12:55 PM <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/Theater-Finder/>

**Classic Chamber Concerts**, Round Rock Presbyterian Church, 4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock. Mozart's **Piano Quartet in E flat Major, K. 452**, Turina's **Piano Quartet**, Schumann's **Piano Quartet in E flat Major, Op. 47**. Ashley Cooper, violin, Bruce Williams, viola, Douglas Harvey, cello, Toby Blumenthal, piano.

Jan. 30 7:30 PM <http://gtownfestival.org>

**Austin Opera**, the Long Center, Floyd's "**Of Mice and Men**," a city-wide project done in partnership with local cultural organizations, with each partner event providing a different perspective on Steinbeck's classic work, exploring its relevance today, culminating with the scheduled performance.

Jan. 31 3 PM <http://austinopera.org>

**Richard Tucker's Opera Gala**, Lincoln Center Nov. 1 Concert, Maestro Eugene Kohn, members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New York Choral Society. Including Piotr Beczala, Andrea Bocelli, Lawrence Brownlee, Stephen Costello, Renée Fleming, George Gagnidze, Angela Gheorghiu, Christine Gorke, Isabel Leonard, Nadine Sierra and Jamie Barton, 2015 Richard Tucker Award winner.

Feb. 5 8 PM on PBS channels

**Artisan Quartet Series**, Blackerby's Violins, 111 W. Anderson Lane

**Haydn quartet, Opus 74, No. 2** and **Dvorak quartet, Opus. 51**.

Feb. 5 7:30 PM

Feb. 7 4:30 PM <http://artisanquartet.com>

**Austin Civic Orchestra**, Alma Thomas Theater, Southwestern University, Georgetown

Stravinsky's **Firebird Suite**, Iannaccone's **From Time to Time** and **Fantasias on Two Appalachian Folk Tunes** and David Whitsell's **Symphony of Songs**.

Feb. 6 7:30 PM <http://austincivicorchestra.org>

**Central Texas Medical Orchestra**, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 North Capital of Texas Hwy. benefitting "Wonders and Worries," violin soloist Jessica Mathaes.

Feb. 6 7:30 PM <http://ctorchestra.org>

**Thought for the Day:** "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." — Plato