

Note Worthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin) Website: musicclubaustin.org May 3, 2017



Member Highlight - Pat Yingst

Pat grew up in Bradford, PA, a smallish oil town in the Allegheny Mountains. Her parents both had beautiful voices and sang in the church choir and community chorus, sometimes as soloists. They were not trained and neither was the young Pat, though she loved playing the piano. Taught by her mother to read music as a preschooler, most every day when she came home from school she busied herself sight-reading from such piano collections as "Music for Millions." Her parents had a classical collection of LPs and she fell in love with those large works from the Romantic Era like Rachmaninoff's *Third Piano Concerto* and Dvorak's *New World Symphony*.

In junior high, when given the opportunity to learn a band instrument, she chose the flute because her favorite babysitter played one. Her teacher was the band director. She quickly became facile on the flute but eschewed tonal exercises as "too boring."

In 1961 the family moved to Texas with her father's oil well supply company. Throughout high school and college Pat continued playing the flute in band and orchestra – sometimes performing flute duets in church with friends. She followed in the footsteps of her math teacher/accountant parents and got a BS in Math in 1968 which led her into the newly-created field of computer programming – a career that lasted until her retirement in 2012 from a software company in Austin.

Her first job was in Newark, NJ where she was fortunate to befriend a young opera singer who invited her to rent rooms with her in her teacher's house. The teacher allowed Pat to play his Steinway when he wasn't using it and, upon hearing her play, offered to give her piano lessons for a modest fee. This was Pat's first experience with a professional musician/teacher and it was eye-opening and thrilling.

On returning to Houston, she continued piano training with a wonderful teacher named Esther Payne who helped her enroll at age 29 at music school at the University of Houston. At UH, she studied piano with Moreland Roller and then Betty Ruth Tomfohrde. But Pat was a little late to the table in the field of music. She did not have that important childhood training and no matter how much she practiced she always got a B- on her juries and she could not perform in front of anybody. But she completed an MM in Music Theory with a thesis on Bach's WTC. She used her music degree to develop a small piano teaching studio that thrived for several years in Houston.

Facing retirement, Pat surveyed her life to see what would bring her the most pleasure as an avocation. Of course! The obvious answer was MUSIC! She decided to explore the missing pieces in her flute education; found a good teacher in the person of Seetha Shivaswamy; and has been practicing ever since and performing at every opportunity – sometimes performing with great joy. Music has also facilitated the meeting of many wonderful people like the members of WMMC.



President's Message

Marcia Edwards

Celebrated annually and sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs, National Music Week will be May 7 – 14. This year's theme is "Music...An Adventure for Life."

Two reminders:

Our May 3 meeting "On the Lighter Side" is "Wear a Hat" Day. If you are in the mood, wear a hat to celebrate our predecessors.

The Spring Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 17. You should have received your invitation by mail. The deadline for making your reservation is Thursday, May 11.

Sincere thanks to our members who voted at the March 19 meeting to send a special contribution of \$100 to Opera in the Ozarks to support the building fund for the new Rehearsal Hall. In recognition of this contribution, a stone block inscribed with *Wednesday Morning Music Club, Austin, Texas* will be added to the new retaining wall at the Recital Hall.

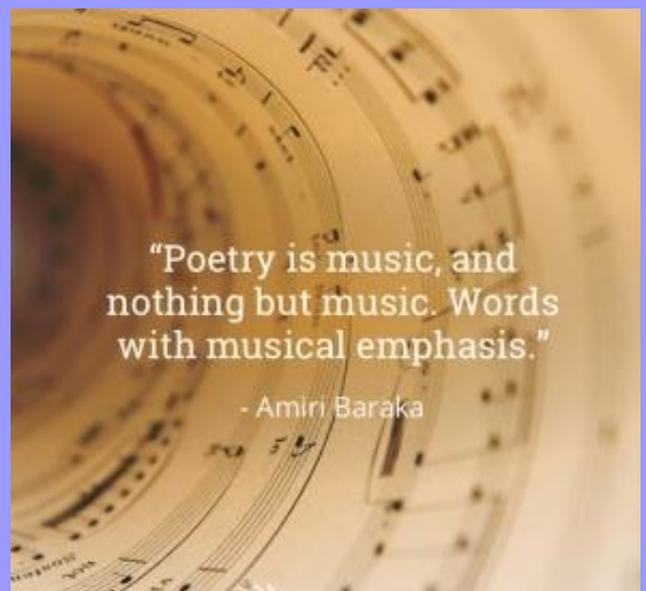
Member News

Deepest condolences to Sue Breuer, whose sister-in-law Libby McCurdy has died in Pensacola, Florida. Libby was a pianist and formerly a WMMC member. For more information [click on this link](#).

Thought for the Day:

"A faithful friend is a strong defense.

She who has found such a one has found a treasure." (Hospice newsletter)



Thanks to Michelle d'Arcy for submitting this beautiful quote and pictures.

About the Performers

Kokichi Akasaka, guitar

Classical guitarist Kokichi Akasaka was born in Japan in 1950. Mr. Akasaka also lived, studied and performed in Spain from 1976 to 1990. He is here in Austin visiting his long time friend, Asako Crystal, with whom he toured on many occasions. He has received numerous awards. He has toured in London, Paris, and many other major European cities; he was invited to perform at the Valencia Contemporary Guitar Festival and the Berlin International Music Festival. Upon his return from Spain in 1990, he performed at New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

Gregory Shields, violin

Greg Shields started violin at age eight and has played in a variety of school and community orchestras and musical productions. He currently plays in the Balcones Community Orchestra and studies fiddle with Ruby Jane Smith.

Ruby Jane Smith, violin and mandolin

Ruby Jane Smith is an Austin fiddle player, singer, song writer, band leader, and recording artist. She began violin at age two, appeared at the Grand Ole Opry at age 9, and won the Mississippi State Fiddle Championship at age 11. Her band Ruby and the Reckless performs frequently in Central Texas and tours nationally.

Suzy Gallagher, alto

I have a degree in Secondary Education with credentials in Math, English, and Speech from Loyola in New Orleans. Later I added Library Science certification and finally a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. I came to Austin in 1988 to teach Computer Science at the University of Texas. Twelve years later I left UT. In the meantime my husband, Kit Thompson, and I had opened our own business and worked together every day. We retired in 2007. Finally life began for us. We joined WMMC in 2008 and have been singing our way through life ever since.

Kit Thompson, tenor

Kit Thompson was born in Wink, Texas, grew up in Midland, and first came to Austin in 1959 to attend The University. He dropped out fairly quickly. After learning better, he returned to UT in 1964, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor's in Anthropology and minor in Geology. He has remained in Austin since, working in sales, photography, manufacturing and banking. A lifelong interest in music began to blossom in 2007 with retirement, when he joined the Dell Tones (JCC) and WMMC, and began learning to sing. He eagerly continues to progress, with much yet to learn. He thanks all of you for your support and encouragement.

Greta Gutman, piano

I was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, where I started piano lessons at age 5 and played throughout my childhood. I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois with a degree in Sociology, still studying piano each semester. I arrived in Austin in 1984 with a husband, three children, and not much time for music. Gradually however, that changed. I accompanied the Austin Lite Opera Ensemble, which performed opera, Broadway and popular standards. I continue to accompany soloists and ensembles, often performing for senior groups and nursing homes, and I play for services at Congregation Beth Israel. Several years ago I started an integrated chorus for folks with special needs and their singing "buddies." We Are the Chorus has been adopted by the Armstrong Music School and has grown to as many as seventy members. WMMC has added much to my life, both musically and socially.

Jerry Conn, tenor

Jerry Conn has been one of Austin's most popular song and dance performers for many years. Jerry has done numerous cabaret shows in live theater venues, and has also been in demand for years at LAMP, SAGE, and other adult learning classes for talks on the great musical performers of past decades.

Walter Tibbitts, piano

Walter has been a piano pro since high school, but had a career in state government. Jerry and Walter first met when both worked for Gov. Preston Smith in the early '70s.

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's 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!

Event Calendar

Central Texas Medical Orchestra - ctmorchestra.org

Spring Concert. Soloist Michael Domjan, violist, guest artists Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines. Concert benefits the Epilepsy Foundation Central and South Texas.

April 29 – 7:30 PM – Westover Hills Church of Christ, 8332 Mesa Drive

Georgetown Symphony Society - gsstx.org

Season Finale. Temple Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Thomas Fairlie, presents Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro Overture, K. 492, Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26, with violinist Yaegy Park, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67.

April 30 – 4:00 PM – Georgetown H. S., Klett Ctr. for the Performing Arts, 2211 N. Austin Ave.

Austin Girls' Choir – www.girlschoir.com

25th annual Spring Tea. Tickets \$26.00 at above website.

April 30 - Seatings at 3 and 4:30 PM - Weeks Campus Center, Seminary of the Southwest. 501 East 32nd St. Free parking at 32nd & Duval Streets.

Austin Opera - austinopera.org

Madame Butterfly by Puccini. One of the most beloved operas of all time is about an American naval officer recklessly taking Cio-Cio-San as his bride, knowing their time together is fleeting.

April 29 and May 4 – 7:30 PM – The Long Center

May 7 – 2:30 PM – The Long Center

Austin Baroque Orchestra - austinbaroqueorchestra.org

Forces of Nature. Our sixth season closes with 18th century orchestral music inspired by Mother Nature herself! From Haydn's depiction of Morning (Symphony No. 6, "le Matin") to Jean-Féry Rebel's musical retelling of the Ancient Greek creation myth (Les éléments), you'll see that many baroque and classical composers needed only look outside their door for compositional ideas. Also, there will be nature-inspired arias from Handel's Scipion and Rameau's Platée, sung by soprano Julianna Emanski, closing with J.S. Bach's virtuosic Brandenburg Concerto No. 1.

May 6 – 8:00 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Ave.

Benefit Concert

WMMC members Martha MacDonald, clarinet, Terri Freeland, cello, and Felicity Coltman, piano, will perform works by Beethoven, Brahms, Muczynski and G. Walker. All proceeds will benefit The Mtendere School in Lusaka, Zambia.

May 7 – 7:00 PM Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Rd.

Austin Civic Orchestra - austincivicorchestra.org

Guest artists, Texas Guitar Quartet, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Concierto Andaluz by Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo. The orchestra will play Rodrigo's Adagio for Wind Orchestra and Pyotr Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in honor of that work's 140th anniversary. Pre-concert, audience can view an art show in the lobby from 6-7:30 PM featuring works that Austin-area students created while listening to Concierto Andaluz.

May 13 – 7:30 PM – Bates Recital Hall, UT

Texas Early Music Project - early-music.org

Monteverdi 1610. The development from the early Baroque style of Schutz to the high-Baroque masterpieces of Bach was a century in the making. Likewise, Monteverdi (who, along with Giovanni Gabrieli, was highly influential on Schutz) was a major authority in the transition from the Renaissance to the Baroque. His *Vespers of 1610* includes elements of both musical eras; at this time, the changes of style and fancy were lightning-fast. Monteverdi lived in both worlds.

May 13 – 7:00 PM & May 14 - 3:00 PM – Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr.

