

# Note Worthy

A publication of the Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

April 1, 2015

## Katherine Shields

We all know the saying “behind every good man is a good woman.” In Katherine Shield’s case, for *man* you could substitute the word *club, board, guild, foundation, or booster club* and be equally correct. Katherine’s extensive personal and volunteer service history shows that she has performed this role. Katherine has held positions with the Austin Lyric Opera, Eanes Foundation and Booster Clubs, Settlement Club, and WMMC.

Katherine was introduced to WMMC by Enid Hallock whom she met while singing in a Gilbert and Sullivan show in 1978. During her child rearing years the club provided an opportunity for her to sing and enjoy music with friends – and it continues to be very important to her. She has held the position of Treasurer for multiple terms as well as the office of President for 2 years.

Katherine was born in Los Angeles; she went to elementary and high school in New Jersey. Her love of music started in middle school in dance (ballet and modern), but she also enjoyed singing around the house to Broadway show records. In high school she worked hard to increase her range so she could sing the required scales to win a place in the All-State chorus, 1<sup>st</sup> soprano in her junior year. The All-State chorus’ performance of Bach’s *Komm susser Tod* was especially memorable because it occurred just after President Kennedy was assassinated.

Katherine majored in voice with a minor in dance at the former Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (now Randolph College) in Virginia. She also did graduate work in voice at Boston University. She met Gregory, now her husband, in a Harvard Gilbert and Sullivan Society production of *The Gondoliers*; he was concertmaster of the orchestra and she sang in the production. They moved to Austin for Greg’s professorship at UT in Astronomy (1974) and settled down. She sang major roles with Austin Gilbert and Sullivan, Boston Summer Opera Theater, and the Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. She also sang smaller roles with Capitol City Playhouse, Gilbert and Sullivan, Harvard G&S, and Boston University Savoyards. She was a member of Austin Lyric Opera Chorus and Opera Company of Boston.

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## President’s Message

Carolyn McColloch

Texas’ native trees flowering, along with bluebonnets blooming, tell us Spring has finally arrived! Our club is very active at the moment with two committees having presented competitions (March 18 and 21<sup>st</sup>) and several members attending the state TFMC conference in Brownwood (March 19-21).

The Bonnie Cummins Fielder Career Advancement Grant and the Wilcox, Maurer, Putter, Rudd High School Awards committees held competitions since our last meeting. Five highly talented young vocalists won awards March 18<sup>th</sup>. First place was awarded to mezzo-soprano Sarah Mesko, with second place going to Rebekeh Howell and honorariums to Galeano Salas, Julia Taylor and Chelsi Clark. What a special opportunity it was to hear their voices and help them along their career path!

The results of the March 21<sup>st</sup> high school competition will be heard at the Spring Luncheon on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Austin Woman’s Club. We can look forward to fine performances!

Check out new parking information pg 3.

## Thank You

Our sincere thanks go to all who participated in the March 18th program. We also wish to acknowledge the volunteers from the Courtesy Committee: Marvin Frank, Lee Frank, Greta Gutmam and Sarah Harriman. Thanks for all your work.



Music is part of the family life. Greg plays violin and is currently enjoying taking fiddle lessons. Son Michael plays jazz trumpet and is working on his own recording label and is composing. Son James is the principal clarinetist in the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra (Toronto, Canada) and the New Mexico Philharmonic. He is also Associate Artistic Director of Chatter in Albuquerque.

Katherine's goals for the future include further developing the correct vocal technique so that she can fully express the music she feels. She hopes to continue learning, performing, and sharing her love of music with friends and audiences.

## About the Performers for April 1, 2015



### **Silver Strings Orchestra**

Silver Strings Orchestra has been performing since 1980 in Austin, with one original member remaining. The orchestra presents Fall and Spring programs in Austin area nursing homes each week. There are 9 WMMC members performing with the group. Performers: Concertmaster Catherine van Zanten, Evan Nave, Jean McDermott, first violin. Katie Kerwin, Billy Corsbie, Jean Dominowski, second violin. Melissa Ruof, Sara Ross, Cathy Trauntner, viola. Virginia Raleigh, Angela Smith, Jennifer Hong, cello. Kim Akenhead, bass. Pat Yingst, flute. Carolyn McColloch, piano.

### **Billy Corsbie, tenor and violin**

Born and raised in Waco, Texas, I studied piano with my mother very early and sang in the church choir. I moved to Austin for law school in 1969 and have been a faithful listener to KMFA ever since. I started fiddling with my paternal grandfather's violin about that same time and joined a local orchestra a few years later. I played guitar in a dance band in high school. Advice for young students: enjoy your music as the blessing it is.

### **Katie Kerwin, guitar**

I have a Bachelor's of Music Performance degree on guitar from the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music. For 25 years to the present, I have taught in my private studio on guitar, violin, and piano and at the central studio of the Childbloom Guitar Program. The blessing of working in performances on solo works, chamber music, and orchestra gives me great joy. I especially like to promote the use of classical guitar in chamber music.

### **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.

### **Carol Koock, piano**

Carol Koock 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.

## About the Performers for April 1, 2015

### **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. Thank you!

### **Charles Palmer, baritone**

Charles Palmer 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 professional 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.

### **Russell Gregory, bass**

Russell Gregory, 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*.

# Important Parking Information

WMMC members have received a request to use ONLY the 3 parking spaces against the TFWC building in the back marked "Handicapped, President's and Loading Zone" AND the circular drive in front of the building.

Those members with mobility problems should use these parking spaces. The parking spaces in the back of the TFWC building have been leased to residents and the Longhorn Network and are not to be used (even if vacant). All other members can park in the lower lot (away from the house) of the Neill-Cochran House Museum or in the Quarters Parking Garage.

Carpooling is encouraged when attending meetings.

## Calendar of Events

### Butler School of Music Events – all at Bates Recital Hall unless otherwise indicated.

- March 25      7:30 PM   Faculty Wind Quintet.   General Admission \$20, Seniors \$15.
- March 26      7:30 PM   Great Organ Series – Arvid Gast.   General Admission \$10, Seniors \$5.
- March 27      7:30 PM   The Cordova Quartet.   Free Admission .
- March 28      4 PM   Starling Distinguished Violinist Series: Katie Lansdale.   Free - Jessen Auditorium.
- March 28      6 PM   Excessive Noise Concert Series: Orient-Occident.   Free – Fine Arts Library.
- March 29      12 PM   Sid Wright Competition.   Free – Recital Studio.
- March 29      4 PM   Starling Distinguished Violinist Series: Katie Lansdale.   Free - Jessen Auditorium.
- March 29      6:30 PM   Guest Artist Recital: Jay Evans, trombone.   Free – Recital Studio.
- March 29      7:30 PM   Symphony Band .   Free.

### Benefit Concert: The Lighter Side of the Twentieth Century: Songs and Dances

March 29      3 PM      University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe St.

The concert will feature the Stardust Four, an ensemble performing the songs of the 1920s, 30s, and 40s. Judy Ratliff, Catherine Bartoli, and Ann Moeller, accompanied by Vernon Moeller, will feature favorites of the Andrews Sisters. Songs from the golden age of Broadway will be performed by Megan Sherrod, mezzo soprano and Max Randa, piano. Former UT piano professor Betty Mallard and Angelica Lopez, Ph.D., will perform Dances from Samuel Barber's *Souvenirs*, for four hand piano. Angelica is a past winner of the Carol Boyer Moody Scholarship. Admission: Free. Donations accepted to benefit the Carol Boyer Moody Scholarship Fund of the Austin Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota

### Salon Concerts, Inc.

Ticket sales at <http://salonconcerts.org/> .

Elisabeth Kufferath, violin; Stephen Perry, piano; and Douglas Harvey, cello, - Mozart Grieg and Schumann  
Nan Hampton, [enhampton@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:enhampton@mail.utexas.edu) for more information.

March 29      4 PM   private residence.

March 30      7 PM

### WMMC

April 15      10 AM      TX Federation of Women's Club bldg. 2312 San Gabriel

### Austin Bella Corda Guitar Ensemble

April 19      4-5 PM      Lakeway Activity Center. Kevin Taylor Conductor.

"Arkansas Gives" fundraiser    8 am - 8 pm    Thursday, April 2

Log on to [www.ArkansasGives.org](http://www.ArkansasGives.org) to pledge support for Opera in the Ozarks.

You may pledge any amount you choose, but giving at least \$25 qualifies your donation to be doubled.