

# Note Worthy

A publication of the Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

December 17th, 2014

## THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Dennis Byrne, writer for Chicago Tribune

Without music, tonight and tomorrow would be just another Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. More than most of the holiday trappings, music is Christmas Eve and Christmas dawning, whether for the Christian faithful or for the secular merry-makers. It describes and explains Christmas more than the wonder in your children's eyes, the piney fragrance of the Christmas tree freshly brought inside, the doorbell announcing the arrival of family and friends, the presents under the tree, the roasting and baking kitchen smells, the warmth of the fireplace.

Without music, Christmas is a silent movie.  
Without music, worshippers gather not in exultation but in muted isolation.  
Without music, presents are wrapped not in anticipation, but dutifully.  
Without music, the chores of Christmas are a drag.

Christmas, with music, is majestic. Music unites us in excitement, expectancy and, most of all, in hope. Everyone needs hope. For Christians, this holy day is the embodiment of hope that the promises God made to mankind are at hand. I have to believe that even for non-Christians and unbelievers, hope still is what brightens and energizes this holiday. It's a reason for taking a pass on cynicism, ridicule and skepticism. It is, after all, a nativity.

While so much divides us these days, the music of Christmas is shareable — we all know the words and can hum the melodies. Santa, Rudolph, the three kings of Orient. Music tells us stories, of grinches and dancing snowmen and a wildly imaginative beagle engaging the Red Baron. Christmas music calls the faithful to gather in exultation and triumph.

Christmas music is evocative. Who, upon hearing the season's melodies and lyrics, isn't transported to the past, as surely as a Jacob Marley rekindles in Ebenezer Scrooge memories of joyful Christmases, sadly no more?

Everyone has favorite Christmas music. For some, it is deeply nostalgic: "I'll Be Home for Christmas." For others, it is uplifting: "O Holy Night." Or Schubert's "Ave Maria," sung by Luciano Pavarotti. Or comforting: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht." Or joyous: "Adeste Fideles."

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**GREAT NEWS!**  
**PARKING AT WMMC**  
has been solved -  
we know the gate code.

## Special Event



**WMMC Holiday Coffee**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**early start of 9:30 AM**

**Hope to see you there.**

**Thank You.** Our sincere thanks go to all who participated in the Dec. 3rd program. We also wish to acknowledge the volunteers from the Courtesy Committee: Greta Gutman, Gloria Hooper and Suzie Gallagher. Thanks for all your work.

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My favorite isn't Christmas music in the strict sense. It is Ludwig van Beethoven's soaring "Missa Solemnis" in D Major. It so inspires and moves me that I want to share it with you.

In scope and magnificence, think of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah," the frequently performed and favorite choral music of so many at Christmas. Indeed, scholars say that parts of "Missa Solemnis" are suggestive of "Messiah."

The Beethoven work is music for the Catholic Mass, in five movements: The Kyrie (Lord have mercy on us), Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Glory be to God on high), Credo in Unum Deum (I believe in one God), Sanctus (Holy is the Lord), and, returning to the plaintiff, Agnus Dei, (Lamb of God ... have mercy upon us. Grant us peace).

My words can't do the music justice, so I turn to the liner notes of Charles Stanley for Otto Klemperer's Vienna Symphony Orchestra's 1959 (and my favorite) recording: "To the heart (the music) does go ... Its power, its great soaring architecture, its moving detail, its overpowering air of sincerity and dedication — all combine to make it, with the Ninth Symphony and the last five quartets, the crown of Beethoven's music."

Beethoven gave us "Missa Solemnis," and the Missa blessed us with inspiration so sweet that it can move me to tears. Through the soul-touching crescendos and diminutions, the subtle variations of tone and tempo and the perfect harmonies by the orchestra, soloists and chorus, we suddenly ascend to where, floating high above it all, a solo violin is heard, filled with longing, as if reaching for God.

You don't have to believe to be moved and wonder at the beauty of it all.

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## President's Message

**Carolyn McColloch**

In this lovely time of year, the Officers and House Committee will be honoring our Distinguished Service Members at our Christmas Holiday Coffee, Dec. 17, 2014.

We also celebrate all Associate and Honorary Members at this coffee.



The WMMC Distinguished Service award began in 1942 and is awarded when a member is singled out for "above and beyond" service to our club. The gifts of each are as unique as each individual who has won the award. The variety of gifts they have brought to our club contributes to our being one of the top music clubs in the nation. Our Distinguished Service Members were chosen for their exceptional talent and ability and all continue in their dedication to our club. At our program we will be honoring (in order to most recent) Lee Meyer, Natalie Morgan, Katharine Shields, Ashley Eledge, Carolyn Poe, Sue Breuer, Edith Knauer and Suzy Gallagher.

Our Associate Members are also a vital part of our club. Their participation in our many activities helps the club operate smoothly, and they especially add encouragement to our performers by being our audience.

Our Honorary Members - Peter Bay, Sarajane Dailey, Dr. Mary Ellen Poole, James Dick, Joseph Specter - are music leaders, who bring the joyful sound of music into our lives through their dedication to music of the highest quality.

ALL members are important and appreciated! MUSIC is the love that binds us together!

My wish for you is a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*The best way to share holiday cheer  
is to SING LOUD for all to hear.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **December 10 -22 1:00 PM Austin Symphony**

The Austin Symphony is excited to announce a brand new program this holiday season that will bring free music to all Austinites.

**Christmas in the Community** is a series of twelve concerts held throughout the city of Austin featuring different ensembles of the orchestra playing familiar holiday music.

**December 10, 7:00 PM** – Woodwind Quartet – Mexican American Cultural Center

**December 15, 1:00 PM** – String Quartet – Wilhelmina Delco Center

**December 17, 6:30 PM** – Brass Quintet – George Washington Carver Museum

**December 10 12:30 – 1:45 PM WMMC Chorus**  
rehearsal Armstong School.

**December 10 7 PM Austin Symphony Christmas**  
Concert. Location: Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. Address: 600 River Street, Austin, TX 78701. Admission: Free

**December 12 and 13th 7:30 PM CONSPIRARE YOUTH CHOIRS, THE HEAVENS UNFASTENED .** Conspirare Youth Choirs will perform audience-favorites from past winter concerts. They will also feature recently composed works, "Sir Christmas" by Derek Holman, and the CYC commissioned piece, "Velvet shoes" by Minnesota-based composer, Daniel Kallmann. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W 15th St. General Admission \$12 Adults; \$6 Youth (ages 6-17); FREE to ages 5/under (free child tickets by phone 512-474-5664)

**December 13 3 PM U.S. Air Force Band**  
Come enjoy a FREE matinee performance of Vocal and Instrumental selections from the U.S. Air Force Band of the West's active duty Concert Band! A wide variety of styles appropriate for all ages will be performed at the Lake Travis High School's Performing Arts Center- 322 Ranch Road 620 South, Austin, TX 78738.

**December 13 6:30 – 9 PM The Neill-Cochran House Museum** is excited to welcome the holiday season with their **Annual Champagne & Carols** event. **\$35** a person. Reserve a spot by calling 512.478.2335

**December 13 7 PM** Chorus Austin presents a special holiday season concert "On a Winter's Eve" with Ryan Heller conducting. St. Matthews Episcopal, 8134 Mesa Drive. \$20 General, \$15 student admission.

**December 13 7:30 PM and December 14 3 PM SoCo Women's Chorus** presents **Believe**. The SoCo Women's Chorus brings the magic of the season alive with music that will take your breath away. Prepare to laugh, cry and be uplifted; when you leave the theatre, you won't have experienced just ANY choral concert! Location: The Paramount & State Theatre 719 Congress Ave. Admission: \$20.

**December 13 and 14 2 & 6 PM TexARTS Broadway Company** present A Holiday Extravaganza with holiday favorites and Rockette-style numbers, and a Cool Yule on TexARTS - Kam and James Morris Theatre, 2300 Lohman's Spur, Austin, TX 78734. Tickets \$15.

**December 14 6:30 PM** Chancel Choir of St. Michael's Episcopal Church presents "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Come and experience the captivating story of Amahl, a mischievous boy who uses a crutch to walk; his loving, care-worn mother; and the regal visitors who arrive one night and change Amahl's life forever. Location: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 N Capital of Texas Hwy. Presented at no charge as a gift to the community.

**December 17 9:30 AM WMMC Holiday Coffee**  
2312 San Gabriel, TX Federation of Women's Club bldg.

**December 19 7:30 PM TexARTS Broadway Company** features swinging cabaret holiday classics made famous by Andy Williams, Nat King Cole & Peggy Lee. TexARTS - Kam and James Morris Theatre, 2300 Lohman's Spur, Austin, TX 78734. Tickets \$25 - \$35.

**December 22 12:00 PM Tuba Christmas**  
2014 is the 41st anniversary for TUBACHRISTMAS concerts/events which are presented throughout the world. Traditional Christmas music performed at the first TUBACHRISTMAS was arranged by American composer Alec Wilder who ironically died on Christmas Eve, 1980. Location, Texas State Capitol Building South Steps, Conductor, Geno Gottschall. Please park at meters around the State Capitol complex. Free. Bring your own chair.



## About the Performers for December 17th

### **Hector Moreno, cello**

**Hector Moreno** began his musical studies at the age of four in Austin, TX, starting with piano – his first teacher was Angelica Lopez. In 2004, he obtained his Bachelor's degree from Stanford University with concentrations in Cello Performance and Composition, and then in 2006 he completed his Master's degree in Cello at the University of Toronto. Since moving back to Austin, Mr. Moreno has been performing with a variety of orchestras and ensembles across Texas, and he also regularly collaborates with local Austin composers on new music premieres and recordings. An avid chamber music enthusiast, he is currently a coach for the Austin Chamber Music Center.

### **Angelica Lopez, piano**

**Angelica Lopez** grew up in the Rio Grande Valley where she asked for and received the gift of piano lessons for her 8th birthday. Music-making permeated her life as she continued piano lessons, played French horn in high school band, served as an organist at her church, and accompanied fellow students for high school assemblies and UIL events. She moved to Austin to study in the Music Department at The University and fell in love with both the City of Austin and the concert-scene. Angelica and her husband, Chuck, were able to permanently relocate to Austin in 1983, and one of the first things she did was to join the Wednesday Morning Music Club. She has been a Suzuki piano teacher since 1985 when she enrolled in Suzuki teacher training. It is a joy to be collaborating for the December 17th program with Hector Moreno, who was her first Suzuki piano student.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Russell Gregory, bass accompanied by Maxine Gomes, piano**

**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.



## About the Performers for December 17th (continued)

### **Rachel May, violin**

An unknown fact about California girl, **Rachel May**: when she was 15 she toured Europe with "America's Youth in Concert". Before leaving for Europe, the group performed in Carnegie Hall and at the White House for President Nixon where she was a witness to the signing of the 26th amendment allowing 18 year olds to vote.

### **Terri Freeland, cello**

**Terri** started playing cello at age 11. She originally wanted to play violin or drums, but chose cello because the school orchestra director had a free loaner cello she could use. She later studied clarinet and tenor saxophone, but cello remained her favorite instrument. Terri went on to attain a BM and MM in cello performance from Truman University and UT Austin.

### **Robert Centeno, piano**

**Robert Centeno** has taught piano privately in the Austin area for almost 20 years and is the organist for the Burnet Presbyterian Church. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance at Texas State University, San Marcos. Lately his energies have been devoted to developing a unique 12-volume music theory series which features interactive capability. By swiping QR codes found in the books with a smart phone or pad, students can access ear training web apps which drill them on intervals, scales, chords, and melodic and rhythmic dictation. Also included in this series are extensive and progressive solo drills designed to develop sight-singing and dictation skills. When he is not working Robert enjoys reading, biking and website development.

### **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**

**Kathryn Govier** – I started music lesson when I was 4 and "cut my eye-teeth on Bach." I was lucky to have had a piano teacher who stressed the classics. I got a Bachelor Of Music in 1971, Piano Major, and have used my music skills as accompanist, collaborator, as well as a pianist in solo and chamber music. I also work with Charles Palmer through the Butler School of Music Outreach Program giving programs at retirement homes. My professional job was teacher of the handicapped, and I spent 3 years in Marrakesh, Morocco working with handicapped children as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1987 to 1990. I love living in Austin with so many wonderful cultural events to attend and take part in.

### **Madeline McCauley, Director (WMMC Chorus)**

As church music was a part of Madeline Patrice McCauley's heritage, she performed her first voice recital at age six. In high school, Madeline received awards at district, regional and state levels. Her repertoire includes 25 original compositions and three sacred theatrical plays. In 1999 she launched private piano lessons to group settings. Her mission is "to prepare musicians for worship and to be ready to serve." Madeline continues studies at Texas State University and as a church musician. As the culmination of her career, she founded a music school and choral ensemble, The Madeline McCauley Heritage Chorale. This group performed spirituals during the stage play "Sisters Under the Skin," by author and playwright Paulette McDougal, who introduced her to the WMMC. Madeline was later invited to reorganize the WMMC Chorus as Director.