

Note Worthy

A publication of the Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

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WMMC Member Highlight

Natalie Morgan

Piano lessons began for me at age five and violin lessons at age eight. My next foray into music was tap dancing. Shirley Temple and I were the same age, and she made tap dancing very popular in the 1930s. I appeared on the stage as a canary, a butterfly, and a mouse.

I played violin in the high school orchestra and in a Presbyterian Church orchestra. This wouldn't be all that important except that a certain extremely handsome young man was the song leader at the Sunday school closing exercises. He loved the violin and wanted to play it himself, but did not have the dexterity. He spotted me in the orchestra and asked if he could see my violin, and he was extremely nice. You can guess the rest of the story.

My insufficient alto voice served in seven different choirs over 50 years, and my husband's beautiful bass voice was with me in three of them. I served as substitute organist at one of the churches.

Upon entering college, I decided to reserve my musical interests as my hobby. My University of Texas degree is in journalism, but I found a way to combine the two interests, as you'll see.

Very early in my marriage, my husband decided to learn to read music by playing the recorder, which was barely heard of in 1954. I joined in immediately, and this was the beginning of our love affair with early music on early instruments. Together we founded the Austin Chapter, American Recorder Society, in 1959, and a long "career" began. We played recorder trios and quartets, performing all over Central Texas, in almost every Austin school, for weddings, funerals, churches, art exhibit openings, retirement homes, Christmas bazaars, conventions, club programs, and especially for the Wednesday Morning Music Club.

Our interest expanded to the viola da gamba, which my husband discovered in the various catalogs we were receiving, and one by one, he provided me with my three viols. I had taught myself to play the recorder, and now I did the same with the viols. However, there were early music workshops to attend and traveling professional teachers often came to Austin, both of which helped me a great deal. I played with the Waterloo

President's Message

Carolyn McColloch

The beautiful centennial pin that WMMC is selling was developed for District 6 (which includes four music clubs between San Antonio and Austin) to help cover expenses for several events. The first is the upcoming TFMC State Convention March 19-21 in Brownwood, Texas, followed by Federation Days at Opera in the Ozarks in July 2015. Next will be the TFMC Convention hosted by District 6 in Austin in March 2016, and finally the National Federation of Music Club Conference to be held June 2016 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Texas is a member of the South Central District (including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri) hosting the NFMC Conference. Your purchase of a centennial pin will contribute to the success of these events. We will gladly accept donations also.



Texas Federated Music Clubs Centennial Celebration will be held at the March Convention in Brownwood!

To honor this centennial, WMMC will be selling beautiful commemoration pins at the next several meetings for \$10.

"TFMC 100 YEARS 1915-2015 BROWNWOOD"

Consort, Collegium Minimum, and the Viols of Austin.

When my four daughters became violinists or cellists, a viola for me joined our collection and our family quartet was complete. The two cellists took turns. It was my viola that I played for several years in the early years of the Austin Civic Orchestra and Silver Strings.

As mentioned earlier, my journalism training and my interest in music were combined in a series of articles published in *House Beautiful* about four early instruments – the virginal, the lute, the clavichord, and the viola da gamba. (They had already published an article on the recorder.) The journalism training also came in handy when I served on an ad hoc history committee to write the history of Wednesday Morning Music Club, published in 1993.

My husband, along with his good friend, Blake Alexander, built a beautiful little harpsichord which we used many times in our performances. Linnea Smith was our harpsichordist.

After 21 years of teaching piano, it was time to retire, but then came ten years of employment at the University of Texas Learning Skills Center, using my journalism graphic arts training. There was still a fairly busy performing schedule, playing with my good friend, Aline Speer, whom many of you will remember.

My membership in WMMC has enriched my life tremendously. I joined in 1956 when there were three toddlers in my care, ages 4, 2, and 1. The music club had a benefactor, Miss Alma Thomas, who paid for child care. The music club kept my music going, I've made wonderful friends, and I've enjoyed our programs. I've served on many committees, as President, and as Ninth District President. At the state level, I chaired Crusade for Strings and Chamber Music and became a Life Member of NFMC about 1993. It was an honor to be chosen as a Distinguished Service member by WMMC in 1997 and also an honor to be a Patroness of Sigma Alpha Iota, national music fraternity for women.

Announcements

It is with sadness we have learned that Linnea Smith passed away January 12, 2015 in Eugene, Oregon. Linnea was a former WMMC member and District President.

Calendar of Events

February 11 12:30 – 1:45 PM WMMC Chorus Practice at the Armstrong School.

February 15 2:30 & 4 PM The Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents *The Zoo*, a fully-staged chamber production of the entire opera, with costumes, props, and the suggestion of a set, a reduced chorus and grand piano (and oboe!) accompaniment. **Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School, 11908 N. Lamar.** Suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

February 15 7:30 PM UT Butler School of Music, Lauren Peacock, Master's cello recital, Jessen Auditorium. Free Admission.

February 16 7:30 PM Butler School of Music, Symphony Orchestra, Program Sitar Concerto no. 1 (Ravi Shankar), Prelude & Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde (Richard Wagner), Bates Recital Hall. Admission General Public \$10; Seniors, Non-UT students, and Non-BSOM Faculty & Staff \$5; Children under 12 Free.

February 18 10 AM WMMC 2312 San Gabriel, TX Federation of Women's Club bldg.

February 19 8 PM Artisan String Quartet, Guest Artist: Sara Nelson – cello, Riverbend Smith Family Chapel, 4214 N Capital of Texas Hwy.

February 21 8 PM Artisan String Quartet, Blackerby Violin Shop, 1111 W. Anderson Lane.



About the Performers for February 18th

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.

Sarah Lepp, piano

Sarah Lepp holds both a Master of Music and Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of Texas at Austin. Currently she is a faculty-in-training for the Keyboard Wellness Seminar under the direction of Sheila Paige. Outside of music, Sarah is passionate about helping those in crisis situations. She has been an active volunteer for the Texas Runaway Hotline and Austin Police Department's Victim Services. In addition to her volunteer work, Sarah served as an enlisted soldier in the Army National Guard. Sarah maintains a private piano studio in Austin, Texas where she resides.

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 her cello remained her favorite instrument. Terri went on to attain a BM and MM in cello performance from Truman University and UT Austin.

Felicity Coltman, piano

Felicity Coltman is Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of the Austin Chamber Music Center. Born in South Africa, she holds diplomas from the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College of Music in London, the University of South Africa, and a degree from the University of Kansas. Felicity received the Gruber Award for Excellence in Chamber Music Teaching from Chamber Music America and the B. Iden Payne Performing Arts Award. In 2004 she was inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. For many years, Felicity has taught piano, theory and chamber music to students of all ages. Today she remains active as teacher, performer, judge, and consultant. She is also a certified yoga teacher.

Betty Mallard, piano

Dr. Betty Mallard is an Associate Professor Emeritus of the Butler School of Music Keyboard Division where she was a faculty member for 31 years and served as Chair of the Keyboard Division for 7 years. Betty holds degrees in piano performance, a BM and a DMA degree from The University of Texas and an MM from USC. She retired from UT in the fall of 2011. She soon found life without teaching quite pointless. Now she enjoys teaching children and adults of all ages at her home, and she performs whenever the opportunity presents itself. She most recently is enjoying performing four-hand piano music with Dr. Angelica Lopez, a member of WMMC.

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.

Thank You. Our sincere thanks go to all who participated in the February 4th program. We also wish to acknowledge the volunteers from the Courtesy Committee: Carol Brannon, Stephen Falk, Sarah Harriman. Thanks for all your work.