

Note Worthy

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President's Message

Marcia Edwards

Our club membership drive will end on February 29. (Leap Year affords one extra day before March 1!) If you have friends or acquaintances who are considering becoming new members, please encourage them to submit their membership applications and dues by Feb. 29. We look forward to welcoming more new faces and talent to our club!

Thank you to Orientation Committee Chair Maxine Gomes and committee members Carol Kooch and Carolyn McColloch for organizing and conducting our New Member Orientation on February 3, following the regular meeting. Suzy Gallagher and Sue Breuer also presented information about the club. New members who attended include Nancy Brady, Brian Grothues, Mariam McFalls, Bill Yick, and Laresa Yick.

Many thanks also to Webmaster Pat Yingst, who has posted a memorial tribute to Ashley Eledge with photos on the WMMC website for the month of February. Go to musicclubaustin.org.

Registration materials for the TFMC Annual Convention, March 31 – April 2 at the Holiday Inn Town Lake here in Austin, will be forwarded to all club members as soon as they are available. WMMC is the host for the dinner Friday evening, April 1. I hope that many of you will plan to attend. The NFMC President, Michael Edwards, will be speaker. Also one of the talented 2015 NFMC Young Artists, Christie Conover, soprano, will perform. If you are interested, you may volunteer to serve as hostess/host at one of the dinner tables that evening.

Wishing you lots of love in your life, and a Happy Valentine's Day!

WMMC Member Highlight Mary Lou Connelly

Being born in Walters and raised in Temple, Oklahoma provided the setting for my abiding love of music--especially ballroom dancing. I grew up in Temple (population 1300) with my parents and older brother. My great-grandfather had come to the States with his six grown children to Tennessee, then to Temple, and he bought a farm, which is still in the family. When the workday was over, I'd take every opportunity to get home and dance, thanks to my aunt's tutelage. Our large house had hardwood floors where I'd spin round and round through the open doors.

In high school, I sang in the Girls Glee Club (which included one boy--my brother) and the Senior Quartet. I was also a cheerleader. After graduating, I moved with my parents to Wichita Falls, Texas, where I attended Midwestern University majoring in Psychology. There I met my husband who was in the Air Force, and we moved to England for two years where my son, Mark, was born. Back in the States, I moved with Mark to Austin in 1963 and later married Webb Connelly. Austin has been my home since then with many visits to Wichita Falls, Temple and Walters, where I still keep a residence. Travel has been one of my greatest interests for many years; some of the places I've visited include Iran, Sri Lanka, Panama Canal, Colombia, Newfoundland and Sicily. My only grandchild, Katherine, was born in 1996, and she's currently a student at Oklahoma State University. I took her to London and Paris two years ago to see where her father was born.

Many musicians have come from Oklahoma--Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, Carrie Underwood, Vince Gill--famous country musicians all. And of course Maria Tallchief, ballet. Because I loved dancing, I began taking ballroom lessons at the Fred Astaire Studio in 1979 and continued for twenty years. During that time, I entered many competitions. Love those dresses! In my first competition in Miami, I had to do two dances--fox trot and samba. I had never learned the samba, so I practiced with my professional teacher for two hours and ended up with first place out of 17 couples. Encouraged, I continued competing in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin, where I won many trophies. I performed several times at WMMC. To this day, I am still asked, "When are you going to dance for us again?" Frequently asked why I didn't teach, my reply was "it's much more fun being a student."

My membership in WMMC has certainly helped me maintain my love for music and the arts. Serving on committees and holding offices in the club have been



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About the Performers



Melissa Ruof, violin

Melissa Ruof was born and raised in Austin, Minnesota where she learned to play the violin in its fine public school music program. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and worked as a free-lance musician and violin/viola teacher in the Washington DC/Baltimore area until 2010 when she moved to Austin, Texas. She was drawn to Austin, Texas by her daughter and her two adorable granddaughters and the adventure of living in a new place. Before moving here she started a community art center, Jubilee Arts, in a poor Baltimore neighborhood, which continues to thrive. Here in Austin she plays in the Balcones Community Orchestra, is concertmaster of the Central Texas Medical Orchestra and plays in several chamber groups, including the Cat Mountain String Quartet with fellow WMMCers, Catherine van Zanten, Judy Trejo and Craig Casper.

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.

Judy Trejo, viola

I learned violin in 4th grade through California school instrumental music classes and played through high school and college. After a family break, in 2000 I joined California Peninsula Pops Orchestra. In 2003 I decided to learn viola. New to Austin in 2005, I participated in various community groups until deciding on the Balcones Community Orchestra. I also play in St. Edwards and APMC Summer Orchestras. In 2010 I joined Tapestry Singers and in 2011 the Cat Mountain string Quartet on viola.

Craig Casper, cello

Craig Casper studied with Robert Sylvester while attending the University of Texas and the Philadelphia Music Academy. He continued studies with Lev Aronson in Dallas, TX. He has performed as a member of the Austin Symphony, Dallas Chamber Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, and Texas Chamber Orchestra. He currently enjoys performing chamber music and solos. He also does a variety of free-lance playing in the Austin area.

Felicity Coltman, piano

Felicity 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.

Billy Corsbie, 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, violin

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.

About the Performers (continued from page 2)

Rachel May, viola

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.

Angela Smith, cello

Angela Smith is a native Texan and award-winning writer and working musician. She is a graduate of the University of North Texas and a former reporter for the Associated Press. Executive Director Emeritus of the Writers' League of Texas, Smith is now a full-time freelancer. When she's not writing, editing or gigging as a pan player, cellist or pianist, you can find her gazing through a telescope at star clusters, galaxies and nebulae; talking politics; or promoting her most recent books *Women Drummers: A History From Rock and Jazz to Blues and Country* and *Steel Drums and Steelbands: A History* (Rowman & Littlefield).

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.

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.

Madeline McCauley, soprano

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.

Isabelle Lipovski, piano

I received a Bachelor of Music Education from Viterbo University and a Masters in Piano Performance at University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. I have taught private piano lessons for many years and have done extensive piano collaboration with many vocalists and chamber music groups.

Mary Lou Connelly (continued from page 1)

especially rewarding. I have been Chairman of Dance for NFMC and chaired and held positions on Hospitality and other committees. Currently, I am TFMC's Insignia Chairman and Silent Auction Chair. Attending conferences at the district, state and national levels as well as Opera in the Ozarks has also enhanced my appreciation for our club and its support of scholarships for aspiring young musicians. How music has enriched my life!



Thought for the Day: Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy. Guillaume Apollinaire

Calendar of Events

Austin Chamber Ensemble, Westlake United Methodist Church, 1460 Redbud Trail.

In Real Life will feature WMMC Honorary Member Mela Sarajane Dailey, soprano and WMMC Member Martha Mortensen Ahern, piano, presenting a world premiere of a commissioned song cycle for soprano and piano by Grammy-ballot composer Robert Paterson and lyricist David Cote.

Feb. 12 & 13 8 PM austinchamberensemble.com

LOLA (Local Opera Local Artists), North Door, 502 Brushy St. LOLA, organized by Liz Cass, WMMC First Place 2007 Fielder Grant winner, presents *La Femme Bohème*, an all-female cast, with a chamber orchestra anchoring this award winning production of Puccini's magnificent romantic opera.

Feb. 12 & 13 7 PM

Feb. 14 2 PM lolaaustin.org

Texas Early Music Project, First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive.

London City Limits: Opera on the Thames. Paying homage to Henry Purcell, one of the most important composers in the history of music, with a comedic yet tragic, dramatic yet hilarious, pastiche of beautiful Puccellian opera works and works from English masques performed by a small orchestra and TEMP's acclaimed soloists. Meredith Ruduski, Peter Walker, Jenifer Thyssen, Ryland Angel, Jeffrey Jones-Ragona and Brett Barnes.

Feb. 13 8 PM

Feb. 14 3 PM www.early-music.org

Round Rock Symphony, Georgetown High School Klett Center for the Performing Arts, 2211 N. Austin Ave.

Be My Valentine, Johann Strauss, Jr.: **Overture to Die Fledermaus**; Richard Strauss: **Four Last Songs**; Gustav Mahler: **Adagietto from Symphony No. 5**; Richard Strauss: **Suite from Rosenkavalier**.

Feb. 14 4 PM <http://gsstx.org>

Conspirare, AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.

World premiere of a passion, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, by Craig Hella Johnson, a musical response to the tragic death of young man Matthew Shepard.

Feb. 20 8 PM

Feb. 21 4 PM conspirare.org

The Austin Chamber Music Center, First Unitarian Church, 4100 Grover Ave., *Ghosts of Shakespeare*, Scenes of Shakespeare set to Beethoven, Prokofiev, and Mendelssohn. Sandy Yamamoto, violin; Amy Levine-Tsang, cello; Michelle Schumann, piano.

Feb. 20 7:30 PM <http://austinchambermusic.org>

Balcones Community Orchestra, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Mesa Dr. At Steck.

Marcello: **Oboe Concerto in D Minor**, Ian Davidson, oboe; Mozart: **Symphony No. 15 in G Major**; Beethoven: **Symphony No. 1 in C Major**.

Feb. 21 4 PM <http://bcorchestra.net>

Gilbert and Sullivan Society, First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive.

Very Truly Yours, Gilbert & Sullivan, a 2-act play featuring dramatic and comic readings from the correspondence of Gilbert and Sullivan interspersed with songs from all 14 operas on which they collaborated.

Feb. 21 3 PM <http://gilbertsullivan.org>

Austin Symphony Orchestra, The Long Center, WMMC Honorary Member Anton Nel performs Saint-Saens.

Music by Grantham; Saint-Saens: **Piano Concerto No. 5**; Serpa: **An Invocation** and Copeland: **Rodeo**.

Feb. 26 & 27 7:59 PM <http://austinsymphony.org>

Austin Classical Guitar, AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.

David Russell

Feb. 27 8 PM <http://austinclassicalguitar.org>

Chorus Austin, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8134 Mesa Drive.

Northern Lights. Music from Sweden, Finland, Estonia & Latvia from composers Tormis, Rautavaara, Esenvalds and more.

Feb. 27 8 PM <http://chorusaustin.org>

WMMC Member News

Former member Russell Prickett died at age 83 in Ashburn, VA on January 18, 2016. Russell had a distinguished career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. According to the [Austin American-Statesman](#) obituary (1/27/16), "A love of music dominated his life." After retirement, he was a member of the Austin Lyric Opera and the University United Methodist Church choir. He joined WMMC in 1991 and enjoyed directing WMMC vocal ensembles from time to time. Russell had returned to northern Virginia this past summer to be near his four daughters and their families. A memorial service is scheduled at University United Methodist Church in Austin on Sunday, March 6, at 2:00 PM. For details, e-mail CelebrateRuss@gmail.com.

Sue Breuer provided the following information regarding renovation of the Briscoe Center for American History, which holds our collection of Texas Federation of Music Club's 100 years. The work now underway is an extensive renovation of the facility on the UT campus. Researchers may continue to use the digitized general index and files at the Benson Latin American Center, located next door to the Briscoe at 2300 Red River. Permits for free parking may be obtained at the main desk in the Benson Center. For further information, such as for making appointments, please phone Margaret Schlankey, Head of Reference Services, at 512-495-4537. In case you're are interested, complete files of WMMC, including minutes and yearly scrapbooks, are in the Austin History Center downtown.

From Melissa Ruof: In January I attended a week-long string quartet workshop in Hamburg, Germany, given by the Manhattan String Quartet. The MSQ gives these workshops yearly in a city where the chosen composer (in this case, Brahms) was born or worked. The focus of the week was Brahms' third and last quartet, Opus 67 in Bb Major. Each day our group (me and three of my friends in Washington DC) were coached by faculty members consisting of the members of the MSQ, David Clampitt, a musicologist on the faculty of Yale University and Jitka Vlasankova, cellist of the Martinu Quartet from the Czech Republic. The coaching was the highlight of the trip, insightful, helpful, inspiring, fun. Other highlights were: standing in the spot where the house stood in which Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn were born while looking across the street to St. Michael's Church where Brahms was christened; hearing the organ in that church which was played by CPE Bach while he was employed there, later visiting his grave in the crypt; hearing a concert on the Stellwagen organ dating from the 1600s in St. Jakobi Church in Lubeck, played by Arvid Gast. This organ is sister to the organ that JS Bach walked 400 kilometers to hear the great Buxtehude play. Stunning! We heard a fascinating lecture by two of the editors of the Johannes Brahms Complete Edition, Dr. Michael Struck and Dr. Jakob Hauschildt, on how they make their editorial decisions, followed by a performance of "our" Brahms quartet in the piano four hand version by Brahms. We also heard a marvelous jazz concert at Laeiszhalle given by the great jazz trumpeters, Till Bronner and Serfei Nakariakov. I will never forget their rendition of Air on a G String. Bach's improvisational heart would have been thrilled.

