

Note Worthy

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President's Message

Marcia Edwards

In March the wind Blowing once
Blows down the door Blowing twice
And spills my soup Blowing chicken soup
Upon the floor. With rice.
It laps it up and roars for more.
From Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months by Maurice Sendak

Welcome to March! I hope that you enjoy our feature article this week with recollections from several past presidents about the history of WMMC.

Katharine Shields is organizing fundraising efforts for a new piano at the Austin Woman's Club, the location for our spring and fall luncheons. The WMMC Board has approved asking our club members who are interested to donate to a fund that will be presented as a gift from WMMC. Katharine will be accepting pledges until March 19. When she is certain that the pledges will cover the approximately \$15,000 purchase price, she will request payment of pledges. Individual contributions are also welcome. Please contact Katharine 512-327-2488 with questions or for further information.

What's in it for you? A big thank you to Lee Meyer for sharing her thoughts about the value of our music club: "Many people move

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Left to right: Lee Meyer, Carolyn Poe, Natalie Morgan, Barbara (Bee) Polome, Winnie Barry, Edith Knauer, Marie Scheel, _____, Margaret Daniels, _____, Sue Breuer, Martha McCurdy

Honoring the Past

by Marcia Edwards

Several of our WMMC members have fond recollections of the past history of the club. Here are some of the memories from Sue Breuer, Edith Knauer, Lee Meyer, Natalie Morgan and Doris Jean Tyler.

Lee Meyer's husband Frank was Project Manager for UT, and when Bass Performing Arts Center was nearing completion, he led the club members on a tour, everyone in the group wearing hard hats.

Sue Breuer remembers a spring luncheon held at Green Pastures when the room was very crowded, so the luncheons were moved after that to the Austin Woman's Club.

Natalie Morgan recalls that 25 cents was charged for an unexcused absence. A 10-cent fine was charged for tardiness in arriving at meetings. A roll call of the members began each meeting. The roll call was discontinued in 1974 when the Parliamentarian checked Robert's Rules and found it to be unnecessary. (A History of the Wednesday Morning Music Club, p. 62)

In the past, the minutes included descriptions of the lovely hats and dresses that were worn to meetings.

At one time, children of the younger members were provided with daycare while their mothers attended WMMC meetings. A generous donor from the club paid for their caregiver.

Edith Knauer is very proud of the fact that WMMC won a \$500 award from the National Federation of Music Clubs for the Best American Music Program in the U.S. in 1992—a significant accomplishment for the club. The program featured women composers, three of whom were WMMC members—Natalia Parris, Kay Powers, and Alma Jeane Ward.

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Bella Corda Guitar Ensemble

Bella Corda is the premier performing group of the Childbloom Guitar Program. This award winning group performs regularly under the direction of Kevin Taylor.

Ruby Jane Smith, violin

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. The Ruby Jane band performs frequently in Central Texas and tours nationally.

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.

Betty Mallard, piano

Betty Mallard holds BM and DMA degrees in Piano Performance from UT, where she was on the piano faculty for 31 years, including 7 as Division Head of Keyboard. She performed piano four-hand repertoire with David Renner for many years, including performances throughout the U.S. and in Hong Kong and Cyprus. She holds many teaching awards and now has a private piano studio in Austin.

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.

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.

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.

About the Performers (continued from page 2)

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 ACMC 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.

Richard Kilmer, violin

Richard began violin lessons with his mother at age four, in Tulsa, OK. After achieving the Artist Diploma at the Eastman School of Music, he moved to Brussels to study with Authur Grumiaux at the Royal Conservatory, and with Szymon Goldberg in Amsterdam where he performed in the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra. Richard lived in Amsterdam for fifteen years and performed worldwide with the famed Amati Quartet and the Mendelssohn Trio. Also he appeared as soloist with Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Michoacan (Mexico) and Sinfonica Nacional de El Salvador. He is currently Principal Second Violin with the Austin Symphony and maintains a busy teaching schedule of private students and chamber music ensembles.

Jeanne Sasaki, piano

Jeanne is a collaborative pianist and vocal coach, maintains a private studio in Austin, performing, coaching and teaching solo singers and instrumentalists. She served as Music Lecturer and Staff Accompanist at UT 2006-2014. Other professional engagements include performing/coaching/collaborative piano instruction at Taos Opera Institute, One Ounce Opera (Austin), Butler Opera Center (Austin), and Four Corners Opera (Durango, CO). She has recorded with her husband Ray Sasaki, trumpet, and performed at the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the National Trumpet Competition, and Music Teachers National Association Competition. Ms. Sasaki earned music degrees from Eastman School of Music and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

often in our society where they do not know anyone. In seeking new friends who share common interests a friendly Federated Music club truly fills a need. These new friends share a passion for excellence in music, performing musicians and good music education. In our club it is not unusual for members to say the club is like their family. Opportunities for involvement and leadership experience are also meaningful.”

Reminder: The TFMC Annual Convention will be held Thursday March 31 – Saturday April 2 at the Holiday Inn Town Lake. Registration materials will be available soon.

Honoring the Past (continued from page 1)

Doris Jean Tyler (1964-66) and her mother Marian Taylor (1948-50) each served as club president for WMMC. Doris remembers a WMMC luncheon at Green Pastures when she hitched a ride with her dad in his big ugly truck. She felt that riding in the truck was unladylike. She got kidded about being a “truck-driving fiddler.” When they arrived at Green Pastures, Doris recalls, “Dad carried my violin in its case to the door. ‘What’s in your case?’ asked the porter at the entry. Dad looked at him quizzically and said, ‘Yeah, it will blow us all up. Watch out!’ At that point the porter asked my dad for his driver’s license. ‘Scuse me, ma’am, I’d better check with my boss.’” But he couldn’t find the boss, and the wait was agonizing for Doris.

When Lee Meyer was president, in an unusual move for the time, the club voted to accept two men as Active members. One was voice professor and operatic singer Jess Walters, bass-baritone. The other was Dr. Bert Meisenbach, who entered one of the NFMC vocal competitions. Their wives were also club members.

Sue Breuer remembers some of WMMC’s past publicity triumphs. Our club had good relations with KMFA. We helped answer the telephone for pledge drives. A recording of club members in performance was presented during a 2-hour broadcast on KMFA in 1998 to celebrate the club’s 75th anniversary. Sue remembers an article in the [Austin American-Statesman](#) that described The Wednesday Morning Music Club as an “oasis of culture” in Austin.

During Lee Meyer’s 6 years as president, club members attended a variety of events as a group. These group outings were frequently to events in which club members performed—the opera, Zachary Scott Theatre productions, and Capitol City Playhouse performances. A group from WMMC attended the opera *Macbeth*, which officially opened the brand new UT Bass Performing Arts Center. Five members sang in this opera.

Natalie Morgan: “I also remember the champagne I enjoyed when I completed two years of the most varied and demanding administrative position I have ever held, before or since!” ([A History of the Wednesday Morning Music Club](#), p. 61)

Thought for the Day:

Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things. Antonio Smith

WMMC Member News

From Asako Crystal: This year I have 42 students who are entered in 120 festival events. They will be performing in piano solo, piano accompaniment, piano duet, piano concerto, piano trio and theory test events. All of them are well prepared, and they are looking forward to doing their very best! I’ll let you know their results.

The Regional Junior Festival will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Chair Mary Parse is pleased with the number of applications she has received for the Wilcox/Maurer/Putter/Rudd High School Competition coming up on March 19 at the Steinway Gallery.

Angela Smith reports that work is continuing on the documentary based on her book [Women Drummers: A History from Rock and Jazz to Blues and Country](#). The production team is headed back to Los Angeles from Nashville to film more women drummers.

Michelle d’Arcy has discovered a group in Austin called Hilde Girls with Susan Lincoln—“song circles for women that use the wisdom and music of 12th century abbess and mystic Hildegard of Bingen to strengthen and enrich women’s lives.” For more information, http://hildegirls.com/HG_Wordpress/index.php/who-we-are/.

The memorial service for former member Russell Prickett will be held at University United Methodist Church in Austin on Sunday, March 6, at 2:00 PM. For details, e-mail CelebrateRuss@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events

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>

Austin Chamber Music, Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina St., *Black Composers Concert*,

William Grant Still: **Suite for Violin and Piano**; George Walker: **Sonata for Cello and Piano**; Valerie Capers: **Song of the Seasons**; Thelonius Monk: **I mean you**; Marcus Wilcher: **Forecast**; Dizzy Gillespie: **Night in Tunisia**. Johnathan Tsay, piano; Liz Lee, cello; Icy Monroe, soprano; Artina McCain, piano; JazzBonz Combo.

Feb. 28 4 PM <http://austinchambermusic.org>

Austin Philharmonic Orchestra, Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. 8th. Beethoven: **Minuet from String Quartet No. 5, Op. 18**; Dvorak: **Symphony No. 6 in D Major, Op. 60, Movements 1 & 2**; Mozart: **Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K 488** featuring Felicity Coltman.

Mar. 2 7:30 PM www.austinphilharmonic.org

St. Edward's Masterworks Singers,

Johannes Brahms: **Schicksalslied, Song of Destiny**; John Rutter: **Wells Jubilate**; Michael Janis: **Omnia Sol** and the Texas premiere of **Psalm of Ascension** by Dan Forrest. There will also be several works performed by the St. Edward's Community Orchestra.

Mar. 6 7:30 PM Mabee Ballrooms of St. Edward's University

Mar. 10 7:30 PM St. Theresa Catholic Church, 4311 Small Drive

La Follia Austin Baroque, First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive. Haydn: **Trumpet Concerto**; Mozart: **Jupiter Symphony**; Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges: **Violin Concerto**. Brian Shaw, keyed trumpet and Go Yamamoto, violin.

Mar. 5 8 PM

Mar. 6 4 PM <http://lafollia.org>

The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD, in select local theaters. *Manon Lescaut* by Puccini.

Mar. 5 11:55 AM <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/Theater-Finder>

Georgetown Symphony Society, Georgetown High School, Klett Center for Performing Arts,

2211 N. Austin Ave. *Favorites from Film and Stage*, with the Temple Symphony Orchestra. A Tribute to Irving Berlin; Symphonic Dances from *Fiddler on the Roof*; selections from *The Sound of Music*; Music from *Frozen, Spiderman* and *E.T.*

Mar. 6 4 PM <http://gsstx.org>

Ensemble VIII, St. Louis Catholic Church Chapel, 7601 Burnet Rd. *Both Human and Divine: Songs of Fathers and Children*, Jacob Handl: **Lord's Prayer**; Heinrich Schültz: **John 3:16**; Thomas Tomkin: **When David Heard**; Josquin: **Absalom, fili mi**; Giacomo Carissimi: **Jephte**.

Mar. 11 7:30 www.ensembleviii.org