

# Note Worthy

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## WMMC - Member Highlight - Virginia Kneisner

My father and mother played violin. They bought me a concertina as my first musical instrument. It came with an instruction booklet. I learned to play it while I was in Our Lady of Angels Catholic elementary school in Cleveland, Ohio. At 9 years of age I started studying the piano on my next-door neighbor's piano. I was her only student. The trombone and string bass were two instruments I learned to play in high school. I played string bass in the St. Joseph's Academy orchestra, and trombone in the Cleveland Catholic Diocesan High School Orchestra. I also played piano in the diocesan high school piano trio. I took music theory and *solfege* lessons from Starling Cumberworth at the Cleveland Music School Settlement and music composition lessons from Rudolph Bubalo, President of the Cleveland Composers' Guild. I spent the

summer of my sophomore year studying piano and trombone at a high school music camp at Bowling Green State University. The summer of my junior year in high school was spent studying music theory at the Chautauqua Institution in New York.

I enjoyed playing the trombone, and played it in the Kent State University marching band. I entered the School of Music with a four-year music scholarship, and worked in the music library part-time. I did music outreach at a mental health and retardation facility. I joined the Delta Omicron music fraternity while at K.S.U. Four years later I received my B. M. in piano performance, and went on to earn my M.A. and Ph.D. in music theory at Ohio State University. Financial assistance came in the form of a doctoral fellowship while at O.S.U. and a part-time job at the University Music House. I also accompanied two doctoral cello recitals, and worked with psychology of music abstracts. My first teaching job was at Daemen College (formerly Rosary Hill College) near Buffalo, NY. I taught classroom courses including acoustics, and served as staff accompanist. I spent a summer studying with music theorist Allen Forte at Yale University in a National Endowment of Humanities seminar on atonal music theory for college teachers.

After receiving a college-wide teaching award from my students and tenure at Daemen College, I moved to Austin, Texas, and went back to school at the University of Texas in Library Science. Both of my brothers already were librarians – one was a university library cataloger, and the other a public library director. I worked 20 hrs. a week in music cataloging during my library science studies to qualify for in-state tuition. When I received my M.L.I.S. degree I taught a cataloging lab at the UT School of Library and Information Science, worked as a part-time reference librarian at St. Edward's University Library, and as a part-time cataloger for the Austin History Center of the Austin Public Library. When a full-time reference librarian job opened up at the Austin Central Public Library downtown I applied and was accepted. I loved public library work, and had the chance to work at City Hall as an Executive Assistant to one of the Assistant City Managers. I also worked as the Library Services Assistant Manager of the Central Library Services division and of the Austin History Center.

When I retired from the City's Library Department I volunteered on two music cataloging projects at the UT Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, on an architectural blueprints cataloging project at the Austin History Center, and volunteered at the Catholic Archives of Texas. The latter became a 20-hour job. Meanwhile I also volunteered at the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society office, did care giving for the elderly, and joined the Wednesday Morning Music Club.



## President's Message

*Marcia Edwards*

Welcome to the WMMC 2016-2017 season! You will find lots to enjoy this fall, including poetry and dance. Our first two meetings on October 19 and November 2 will be held at the Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover Avenue. Plenty of parking is available there. Many thanks to the Program Committee for their excellent work during the summer: Co-Chairs Janie Keys and Felicity Coltman, Nan Hampton, Angelica Lopez, Carolyn McColloch, and Judy Trejo. The Bylaws Committee plans to present the most recent amendments on Oct. 19, followed by a final vote on Nov. 2.

## Member News

The TFMC Community Service traveling trophy has been won for the year 2016 by TFMC District Six which has four clubs in District Six: Austin, Gonzales, New Braunfels and San Antonio. The Wednesday Morning Music Club contributed the most community service hours during the 2015-2016 club year and will hold the beautiful trophy for the next year. District Six has won the trophy several times in the past since the trophy was first presented in 1976. Many thanks to the WMMC members who volunteered their time to bring music into many Austin retirement health facilities: Kim Akenhead, Nancy Brady, Carol Brannon, Billy Corsbie, Michelle d'Arcy, Marcia Edwards, Stephen Falk, Marvin Frank, Suzy Gallagher, Kathryn Govier, Greta Gutman, Katie Kerwin, Carolyn McColloch, Jean McDermott, Charles Palmer, Virginia Raleigh, Melissa Ruof, Katharine Shields, Angela Smith, Kit Thompson, Catherine van Zanten, and Pat Yingst. Even though only nine of these members kept track and reported their hours, WMMC contributed the highest number of hours.

## About the Performers

### **Elizabeth Arend Lerner, reader**

Elizabeth was born in Austin in the mid-1950's, the third child and only daughter. Her paternal grandparents lived in Pflugerville and her maternal grandmother lived on Rio Grande a short distance from the Texas Federated Women's Club. She received her B.A. in Applied Art from Trinity University in San Antonio. A few months after graduating, she returned to Austin and has never left. She has worked in various administrative positions both paid and as a volunteer for the past 40 years. Currently, she is a docent at the Blanton Art Museum, a member of U.T. Forum and involved with several other groups. She is thankful to her dear friend, Sarah Harriman, for inviting her to join the WMMC.



### **Marianne Weiss Kim, soprano recorder**

I learned the love of song in Germany, where I grew up. At the age of 16-20, I sang Madrigals and Bach Cantatas as well as Oratorios with a concert choir in Stuttgart. I took vocal instructions in Stuttgart and later in Houston, where I sang in an Episcopal choir. I still particularly love the German Lied and decided to take vocal lessons again. My primary instrument is the recorder, having accumulated a fair repertoire by attending workshops throughout the US.

### **John Walters, cello**

John Walters is a cellist, well known in the Early Music Community in Austin. He plays regularly with the Texas Early Music Project, la Follia, and the Balcones Community Orchestra. He teaches cello privately and in high schools around Austin. He is a University of Texas graduate.

### **Gregory C. Eaton, harpsichord**

Gregory has been organist and Choir Master at All Saints Episcopal Church in Austin since 2014. His previous positions included Director of Music and Choir Master at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn Heights, NY (1993-2014), where he performed 600 recitals and served as guest conductor for various choral ensembles. Prior to St. Ann, he served as assistant organist at Trinity Wall Street and Music Director at the Church of the Epiphany, Manhattan. He was hired as lecturer for church music at General Theological Seminary, where he taught until 2008. Gregory graduated from the University of Redlands, California and is a member of the American Guild of Organists. He co-founded the Chelsea Winds, a recorder ensemble. He loves cooking, photography and hiking.

### **Kay Race, piano**

Katherine was born and raised in Chicago. While in Chicago she was a pianist at the American Conservatory of Music. She met her husband right after he finished serving his 4<sup>th</sup> year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. They met at the University of Colorado where Kay was a freshman. They both practiced the piano constantly and when not playing music enjoyed hiking in the mountains. After their marriage in 1949 they continued their musical lives together until Kay's husband died in 1999. Kay still practices and enjoys musical activities. She lives in Austin at a retirement home.

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**Marcia Edwards, piano**

A farm girl from central Illinois, I began piano lessons in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and have enjoyed music in my life ever since. My education includes a B.A. in French from the University of Illinois, an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second language from UCLA, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Texas, Austin. My husband (a retired pediatrician) and I have been Austin residents since 1983, and our 2 children were born and raised here. They both studied piano with Felicity Coltman. I'm grateful to Felicity for her music lessons and for introducing me to Kathryn Govier, who's now my regular duet partner.

**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 profession job was teacher of the handicapped. I spent 3 years in Marrakesh, Morocco, working with handicapped children as Peace Corps Volunteer (1087-1990). I love living in Austin with many wonderful cultural events to attend and participate in.

**Katharine Shields, soprano**

Katharine has performed in recitals, revues, opera, and Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in Boston and Austin. She has done Hit Parade Reviews with Carol Kooch and Jerry Conn, and programs with George Gershwin and Cole Porter. In addition to the Wednesday Morning Music Club, she enjoys singing in the University Methodist Church Choir and Chorus Austin. She volunteers for the Settlement Club and the Austin Opera Guild.

**Gregory Shields, violin**

Greg Shields was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Nebraska and Kansas. His professional career was in astronomy and he remains active in research. He started violin at age eight and has played in a variety of school and community orchestras and musical productions. He met his wife Katharine, also a member of WMMC, in a 1973 production of Gondoliers by the Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan players. He currently plays in the Balcones Community Orchestra and studies fiddle with Ruby Jane Smith at the Armstong Community Music School.

**Gena Caponi Tabery, piano**

Gena is a former Associate Professor and director of the American studies at The University of Texas at San Antonio. She has published in the fields of American Literature, American music and African American Culture. She has studied piano and organ at Texas Lutheran University and Trinity University, as well as privately with Dr. Frank Speller, Mary Parse, and Gregory Eaton. She is delighted to serve as interim organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. She also serves on the board of Ensemble VIII, an early music vocal ensemble directed by Dr. James Morrow. For more information, see: [genatabery.com](http://genatabery.com)

**Toby Blumenthal, piano**

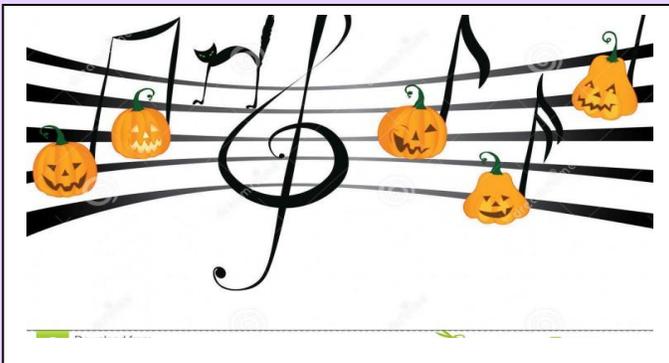
Toby began playing the piano at age 7, and by age 13 she performed at a concert as a piano soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra after winning an area-wide competition for the opportunity. She serves on the Round Rock Symphony Orchestra board, became the director of CHAMPS (Chamber Music in Public Schools) in April 2011 and cofounded Luzerne Chamber Music Festival in Lake Luzerne, New York, now in its 31st year. Toby credits music for giving her some of the best things in life: a shared passion with her late husband, Bert Phillips; an entire extended family of students; and lifetime bonds with fellow musicians.

**Carolyn McCulloch, piano**

Carolyn graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from West Virginia University with prior study at Mason College of Music in Charleston, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, U. of Michigan Interlochen, and additional graduate study. She continued to study as she performed and taught in Oklahoma City, Denver, Midland, Kingwood, Houston, and Katy. She loved teaching. Now she is performing and sharing her love of music!

**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.

**Thought for the Day**

"Some of life's greatest pleasures are the result of overcoming obstacles. Most worthwhile achievements seem to come to us wrapped in adversity." Lee Meyer

## Event Calendar

### Ensemble VIII – [ensembleviii.org](http://ensembleviii.org)

*Te Deum Landamus! Songs of Praise and Celebration.* The *Te Deum* text, written in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, has inspired composers to write some of the most brilliant works over the last 600 years, several of which will be performed.

Oct. 13 - 7:30 PM - Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Rd.

Oct. 14 - 7:30 PM - St. Louis Catholic Church Chapel, 7601 Burnet Rd.

### Artisan Quartet – [artisanquartet.com](http://artisanquartet.com)

WMMC member Richard Kilmer, 1st violin; Caden Polashek, 2<sup>nd</sup> violin; Bruce Williams, viola; Doug Harvey, cello, present Haydn's String Quartet, Op. 74, No. 3 and Dvorak's String Quartet, Op. 51.

Oct. 14 - 7:30 PM - Blackerby Violin Shop Recital Hall, 1111 W. Anderson Lane

Oct. 16 - 4:00 PM - Blackerby Violin Shop Recital Hall, 1111 W. Anderson Lane

### Austin Classical Guitar Society – [austinclassicalguitar.org](http://austinclassicalguitar.org)

Pepe Romero, classical guitar performer, also guitar builder and teacher.

Oct. 15 - 8:00 PM - AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.

### Gilbert and Sullivan Society - [gilbertsullivan.org](http://gilbertsullivan.org)

*An Evening of Musical Merriment.* All-star cast of G&S singers presents a program of music and brief scenes from some of the most beloved Savoy operas in an intimate, cabaret-like setting.

Oct. 20 - 7:00 PM - Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones Dr.

### A Celebration of Nancy Garrett, Professor of Piano

Seven of Nancy's students from around the world will return to celebrate her retirement after a lifetime of teaching piano.

Oct. 21 - 7:30 PM - Bates Recital Hall – Admission free

### Austin Symphony – [austinsymphony.org](http://austinsymphony.org)

*Rule of Three*, featuring John Adam's Two Fanfares for Orchestra: Tromba Lontana and Short Ride in a Fast Machine; Beethoven's Concerto Violin, Cello and Piano in C Major, Op. 56 performed by the Butler Trio; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74, Pathétique.

Oct. 21 & 22 - 8 PM - The Long Center

### Opera at the Movies - <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/Theater-Finder/>

*Don Giovanni* by Mozart.

Oct. 22 - 12:55 PM

Oct. 26 - 6:30 PM

### Soco Women's Chorus – [socowomenschorus.org](http://socowomenschorus.org)

*Mama Mia! Singalong* – dress up in costume and sing along with us!

Oct. 24 - 7:00 PM – Alamo Drafthouse, S. Lamar – tickets on sale at Eventbrite

### Georgetown Symphony Society – [gsstx.org](http://gsstx.org)

The Round Rock Symphony Orchestra, directed by Stephan Sanders, will perform Mozart's Symphony No. 39 in Eb Major, K. 543; Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op. 33 by Tchaikovsky; Symphony No. 9 in Eb Major by Shostakovich. Guest cellist Bion Tsang.

Oct. 25 - 4:00 PM - Georgetown High School, Klett Center for the Performing Arts, 2211 N. Austin Ave., Georgetown

### Ghoulfest, a benefit performance of "Twas All Hallows Eve" – [www.ghoulfest2016.com](http://www.ghoulfest2016.com)

A rollicking audience-participation musical production featuring a cast of over 150, with an Orghoulstra, a Ghoulchoir that includes the Conspirare Youth Choir, St. Martin's Symphonic Winds and Choir, Capital City Men's Chorus and more. Austin Dance Works and Third Coast Contemporary will lend their magic to the productions. Proceeds will go to fund the internationally acclaimed Music Together<sup>®</sup> program for under-served Austin Preschools.

Oct. 29 – 4 PM - AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd. Adult \$12, Child \$5

Oct. 29 – 6 PM - (Show & Gala, Silent Auction, Parade) – Adult \$25, Child \$10

### Texas Early Music Project – [early-music.org](http://early-music.org)

*Song of the Sephardim: Love, Lament, and Loss.* Expelled from Iberia in 1492, the Sephardim fled to many new lands including the Middle East and the Balkans. The haunting music of the Sepharim in the Diaspora reflects their longing for return to Iberia, while adapting their music and traditions to their new homelands.

Oct. 29 - 8:00 PM - Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd.

Oct. 30 - 3:00 PM - St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St.