

# Note Worthy

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## WMMC - Member Highlight – Janie Keys

I started taking piano lessons at the age of 6. My parents made it clear that upon starting first grade in San Angelo, Texas, that I would also start piano lessons. Many decades later, I am still taking lessons. There were times, though, in elementary school when my friends who took dance lessons got to dance in the talent show wearing pretty frilly tutus, and I had to sit still on a piano bench playing a sonatina, that I would gladly have given up piano lessons to be able to wear those tutus. I can say now that I am glad my parents persevered despite my fervent pleas.

After we moved to San Antonio and my father found a wonderful piano teacher, I began to value playing and practicing. After surprising my piano teacher by placing second in a piano concerto competition as a senior, I surprised her yet again by deciding not to major in music in college. After taking 3 years of French in High school, I was in love with the language and the idea of moving to France one day, and marrying a French prince.(!) My daydreams were definitely stuck in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Going to the University of Texas, I majored in French and took advantage of a new degree plan offered by UT of having a minor in Fine Arts. As a piano minor I started taking lessons with Nancy Garrett and enjoyed 4 wonderful years as an undergraduate under her guidance.

After graduating from UT and earning Phi Beta Kappa, reality loomed and so did my parents as they insisted that in graduate school I earn a practical degree so I could support myself. I entered graduate school at UT as a piano pedagogy major, and as a teaching assistant gained considerable experience in teaching class piano. After graduating, I was offered a job at Baylor University teaching class piano and piano pedagogy, and a year later, after marrying, I also taught class piano and freshman theory at the University of Houston.

I moved to Austin in 1976 and have been teaching privately here ever since. Over the years I have studied with David Renner, Tim Woolsey, Jane Abbott-Kirk and most recently, Sheila Paige. In 1991 and for some years after that, I received Suzuki teacher training from Doris Harrel, and am deeply grateful for her inspiration and insights.

Lastly, I would like to say that my childhood dream of dancing on stage, under the lights, in a beautiful costume has been satisfied. My husband and I are taking ballroom dance lessons. The headshot above was taken at a dance showcase as we danced waltz, tango, and foxtrot. Not exactly a real life picture, but one I enjoy looking at.



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## President's Message



Marcia Edwards

It is hard to believe that December is just around the corner! Be sure to mark your calendar for our holiday coffee and music program on Wednesday, December 21, beginning early at 9:30 AM. Please consider inviting a friend if you'd like. You may also wish to bring a favorite holiday treat to share. (A sign-up sheet for food donations will be available at the Dec. 7 meeting.)

The Fielder grant judges are hard at work listening to the tapes from 11 applicants. They will be ready to announce the finalists by the middle of January 2017. The live competition will take place on March 15, following our regular meeting.

Special thanks today go to all those who help make our meetings run smoothly. You may have noticed that we are currently featuring the bios of our elected officers in this newsletter. We appreciate Virginia Kniesner's diligence with the minutes from our regular and Board meetings. Sarah Harriman is doing a great job organizing the volunteers who greet you at our welcome desk. Many thanks to George Edwards and Charles Palmer, our new stage managers, and to photographer extraordinaire Kit Thompson. We are also grateful for the contributions to our newsletter from Marie White and Carolyn McColloch.

Finally, be sure to check out the new photos on our website [musicclubaustin.org](http://musicclubaustin.org). Thanks to Pat Yingst for keeping the site up to date.

## Member News

We offer our sincere thanks to Mary Lou Connelly for her generous gift of \$1,000 to establish a fund for WMMC fall luncheon guest artists. Each artist will receive an honorarium of \$100 to be presented by the President following the performance at the luncheon. The Mary Lou Connelly Fund for Fall Luncheon Artists provides the means to more fully support one of the primary purposes of our organization: promoting American artists. (Mary Lou's bio appeared in the Feb. 17, 2016 issue of our *NoteWorthy* newsletter. You may find it in the newsletter archives on our website [musicclubaustin.org](http://musicclubaustin.org))

## Thought for the Day

"The best thing for being sad," replied Merlin, . . . "is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn." T. H. White, The Once and Future King (Thanks to Beth Moreno for bringing this timely quote to my attention.)

## About the Performers

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### Beth Blackerby, violin

Born and raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Beth has been studying violin since the age of five. She got her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Louisville and her Master's from the University of Wisconsin in Madison where she studied with Vartan Manoogian. Beth came to Austin to study with Vincent Fritelli for her Doctorate, but her entrepreneurial ambitions lead to the creation of the violin shop in the mid-90s. In 2010, Beth started a companion business, an interactive website geared toward the adult beginner and intermediate violinist. With more than 500 instructional videos, violinlab.com has become a popular site for adults looking to learn the violin on their own, or to supplement their private lessons.



### Barbara George, cello

Barbara became a member of the San Antonio Symphony cello section in 2009. Before coming to Texas she was principal cello of the Orlando Philharmonic for six seasons. Barbara served as cello professor on the music faculties of The University of Florida at Gainesville and The University of Central Florida. She has performed at the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, the Spoleto Italy Festival, The Sarasota Music Festival and at the Victoria Bach Festival. She also toured the former Soviet Union, Europe and the United States as a member of the American Soviet Youth Orchestra. Since moving to Austin, Barbara has performed in the Austin Chamber Music Center festivals as well as the Austin Lyric Opera Orchestra. She currently resides in Westlake Hills with her husband and two children.

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## About the Performers continued

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### **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.

### **Pat Yingst, flute**

Pat grew up playing piano and flute. She received a (second) degree in music theory from the University of Houston in 1979. After graduation she taught piano part time while returning to her profession as a software developer. She loved playing but suffered from intense performance anxiety in her younger years. Upon retirement, she has revisited her music as an avocation. She studies flute with Seetha Shivaswamy, is very active in the ACMC adult academy, and plays in several large ensembles like the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Austin Flute Choir. She also serves as treasurer of the Austin Flute Society.

### **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!

### **Leah Nelson, viola**

Leah is both a performer and an educator. She plays with the Felix String Quartet and has toured with Andrea Bocelli and the Trans Siberian Orchestra, performed with Barry Manilow and Willie Nelson, and recorded with Grammy-nominated band Devotchka. She has a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from the University of Texas and a Master of music from the University of Southern California. A native Austinite and an alumna of the CHAMPS program (Chamber Music in Public Schools) at Austin High School, she is now Assistant Director for the CHAMPS program, is on the faculty of the Austin Chamber Music center, works as a guest clinician in schools around Austin, and maintains a private studio.

### **Toby Blumenthal-Phillips, 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.

### **Daniel Chrisman, bassoon**

Growing up in the hills of central Kentucky amidst a family of musicians, Daniel developed an appreciation for a variety of musical genres as well as for natural, cultural, and social phenomena which continue to inspire his playing. He attended the University of Kentucky where he began studies on the instrument he always wanted to play, the bassoon graduating in 2003. Mr. Chrisman received his Master's degree in music performance from Temple University in 2006. Daniel has soloed with the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, playing the Concerto in F Major by Carl Maria von Weber. He has also soloed with the Temple University Symphony Orchestra, performing von Weber's Andante and Hungarian Rondo. In September of 2005, Daniel attained the contrabassoon position in the Haddonfield Symphony (now Symphony in C) in New Jersey. In September of 2008, Daniel moved to Austin, Texas where he is the contrabassoonist/3rd bassoonist in the Austin Symphony Orchestra. He also has been a member of the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra in Houston, TX since October of 2008.

### **Brian Grothues, piano**

Brian is a pianist and teacher in Austin, Texas with over 35 students. He pursued music at the University of North Texas in Denton earning his Bachelor's degree Cum Laude. In 2008, Brian completed the Master's Degree in Piano literature and Pedagogy from the University of Texas under the guidance of celebrated pianists Gregory Allen and Sophia Gilmsen. He has studied piano and music history in Vienna, Austria a member of the IES study abroad program. Brian has collaborated with a multitude of instrumentalist and vocalists in concert, and plays in a Queen tribute band called Magnifico.

### **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**

Although teaching cello and playing as a freelance musician after completing her MM in Cello Performance at UT Austin in the early 1990's, Terri always had a real passion for chamber music and shortly after joined WMMC. She teamed up with Robert Centeno after playing at Burnet Presbyterian Church, where Robert is the keyboard/organist, and they have been a musical duo ever since. Soon after meeting Robert, Terri met Rachel May, violinist, and the three musicians founded the Zelo Trio in 2005 Together they have concertized and coached young chamber musicians here and abroad with Austin Chamber Music center and chamber Music for the World. Terri resides in Lakeway with her two children and her husband, Dr. Dan Freeland, owner of Bee Caves Family Practice.

### **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.



## Event Calendar

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### Chorus Austin – [chorusaustin.org](http://chorusaustin.org)

*Sing It Yourself Messiah.* Join the chorus and orchestra of Chorus Austin singing Handel's Messiah.

**Dec. 3 – 2:00 PM** – St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive.

### Central Texas Medical Orchestra – [ctmorchestra.org](http://ctmorchestra.org)

Fall Concert with soloist Eric Miller, featuring St. Edward's Choir.

**Dec. 3 – 7:30 PM** – St. Edwards University, Ragsdale Hall, 3001 S. Congress Avenue.

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

Songs of the Season with the Temple Symphony Orchestra conducted by Thomas Fairlie, featuring Grammy award winner tenor Dann Coakwell and soprano Teri Johnson.

**Dec. 4 – 4:00 PM** – Georgetown High School, Klett Center for the Performing Arts, 2211 N. Austin Ave.

### Conspirare – [conspirare.org](http://conspirare.org)

*Conspirare Christmas* with Matt Alber.

**Dec. 5 – 7:30 PM**, Dell Hall, The Long Center

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

The Austin Symphony Orchestra once again presents its Christmas tradition of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by Chorus Austin.

**Dec. 6 – 7:59 PM** – Hyde Park Baptist Church, 3901 Speedway.

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

*An Early Christmas* exploring the intangible essence of Christmas with beautiful and joyful carols, motets, dances, and traditional songs with innovative arrangements for solo voices, small chorus, harp, violin, flute, mandolin, viols, and lutes.

**Dec. 9 and Dec. 10 – 8:00 PM** – First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Ave.

**Dec. 11 – 3:00 PM** – First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

### SoCo Womens Chorus – [socowomenschorus.org](http://socowomenschorus.org)

*For the Children* featuring Austin Children's Choir under the direction of Sam Parrott.

**Dec. 10 and Dec. 11 – 3:00 PM** – Austin Venture Studio Theatre, Ballet Austin.

### Austin Chamber Music – [austinchambermusic.org](http://austinchambermusic.org)

*A Charlie Brown Christmas*, with the music of Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976), featuring Utah Hamrick, bass; Michelle Schumann, piano; David Sierra, drums.

**Dec. 10 – 3:30 and 7:30 PM** – Stateside at the Paramount Theatre.

### Austin Civic Orchestra – [austincivicorchestra.org](http://austincivicorchestra.org)

ACO will feature jazz vocalist Suzi Stern performing Mel Torme's The Christmas Song and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. Bizet: Farandole from L'Ariesienne Suite No. 2; Prokofiev: Lieutenant Kije Suite; A Charlie Brown Christmas, Fiddler on the Roof and Sleigh Ride. Concert ends with a carol sing-a-long followed by holiday cookies and cider.

**Dec. 10 – 7:00 PM** – St. Andrews Dell Fine Arts Center, St. Andrews Episcopal Upper School, 5901 Southwest Parkway.

### Opera at the Movies, The Met - [www.amctheatres.com/programs/the-met](http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/the-met)

*L'amour le Loin*

**Dec. 10 – 11:55 AM**

### Conspirare – [conspirare.org](http://conspirare.org)

*Holiday Big Sing!*

**Dec. 15 – 5:30 PM** – Blanton Museum of Art, 200 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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

*Repeat the Sounding Joy!* Vibrant medieval carols are juxtaposed with inspiring polyphonic settings of the greatest texts of the season.

**Dec. 15 – 7:30 PM** - Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Rd.

**Dec. 16 – 7:30 PM** - St. Louis King of France Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd.

### Conspirare – [conspirare.org](http://conspirare.org)

*Believe*, Conspirare Youth Choirs

**Dec. 16 and Dec. 17 - 7:30 PM** – University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St.

### Chorus Austin – [chorusaustin.org](http://chorusaustin.org)

*On a Winter's Eve* holiday concert featuring new songs of the season and a chance to sing along. All three Chorus Austin ensembles join to present this family friendly concert.

**Dec. 17 – 4:00 PM** – St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive.