

Note Worthy

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Member(s) Highlight – Bill and Laresa Yick

Bill and Laresa Yick have been married only since September 5, 2015. They were both widowed, and they found each other in 2013. Bill grew up in the Philadelphia area. He joined the US Navy and attended the Naval School of Music in Washington, DC. He spent the rest of his Navy hitch in the NY Naval Band, playing bassoon, flute and piccolo. He attended college at Harding University and graduated with a BA degree in music education. Then he taught public school music for 6 years at several different schools. He went into private piano and guitar teaching and later into piano tuning and repair. He became a Registered Piano Technician with the PTG (Piano Technicians Guild) in 1977. Bill serves on the Board of Opera in the Ozarks. He is past president of the Fort Smith Musical Coterie in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He is also a past state president of the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs. In 2014, Bill established the AFMC William Yick Collegiate Award.

Laresa grew up in Lampasas, TX. Her mother played mandolin, her father played guitar, and her grandfather played fiddle. Laresa and her two sisters sang for family reunions and one time on a local radio station. Her husband Harlon Fowler was an industrial construction project manager with Brown and Root, serving stateside and also abroad. They lived in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Macedonia, Korea, Oklahoma, Georgia, Nevada, and Texas. While in Georgia, Laresa obtained a license to sell real estate. Laresa has two daughters and six grandchildren. She met Bill when he came to tune her piano in Lampasas, while he was in Texas tuning for some friends.

Bill and Laresa joined The Wednesday Morning Music Club in 2015.





President's Message

Marcia Edwards

George and I are joining a Rice University Alumni Association group for a trip to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands at the end of this month. We will not be present for the Feb. 1 meeting. First VP Janie Keys has graciously agreed to serve as chair in our absence.

A big thank you to the Nominating Committee (Chair Martha Cook, Kathryn Govier, Marianne Kim, Joy Gooden and Carolyn McColloch) for their work on recruiting a slate of new officers for 2017-2019. This slate will be presented at the Feb. 1 meeting. Nominations from the floor followed by election of new officers will take place at the Feb. 15 meeting. On January 18, the Nominating Committee has also nominated Angela Smith to fill the vacancy at Parliamentarian. The election for this office will take on Feb. 1.

Orientation for new members will occur on Feb. 15, immediately following the regular meeting. Orientation Chair Maxine Gomes is in charge of organizing this activity.

Membership, Membership, Membership

Katharine Shields

The Wednesday Morning Music Club is the best-kept secret in town for both men and women musicians, music lovers, and believers in the importance of music education. What does membership in our unique and enduring club mean? It means having opportunities to perform for a supportive audience of friends, enjoying and learning about music as an audience member, volunteering your skills to keep the club and its projects going, supporting the club's scholarship and grant programs, and making new friends who share your interests. It means one, some, or all of the above!

So if you have friends who are interested in any of these opportunities, reach out and encourage them to join us. Be sure to let them know that attendance is not required and that they can be members to support our scholarships—even if they work and cannot attend meetings. \$50 dues is quite a good deal! Help us increase our membership numbers and broaden our profile of what it means to be a member.

An easy way to help spread the message is to take home some of the membership cards. They fit neatly in your wallet and can be pulled out and given to anyone you meet who shows interest in the club.

Member News

Carla Johnson is scheduled to have back fusion surgery on Jan. 25 at Baylor Scott and White at Lakeway. She says that she has put the surgery off for many years due to the long recovery. She will be in the hospital for several days, and then she expects to be at home in Austin for the foreseeable future. Undoubtedly she would enjoy cards and phone calls once she has been released from the hospital. We send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery!

Carol Koock and her husband Ken are still awaiting a 3-room apartment at Westminster, although they have one room there that they use when visiting Austin. Carol wrote recently from their home in Colorado, "We have loved having so much time up here but a real blast of winter in the last week or so has made us consider coming on back to our one-room in Austin for the duration of the cold weather. We built a snowman a few days ago but now we've 'been there, done that', so we can leave. What I miss when we are not here are the really incredible sunrises and sunsets. This morning the sky was just totally streaked with red, pink, and gold, and that's pretty much every day unless there is snow in the air. We are surrounded by mountains, snow-capped now, and the views are humbling and inspiring. I love to just sit on the sofa by the fire early in the mornings and look out our picture windows with my coffee in one hand and the dog in the other and gaze at this fabulous display of nature. It fills me with a calmness that lasts throughout the day—or not. But most mornings, yes. We feel so grateful to have this place. It will be our refuge from Westminster when we get tired of looking out at MoPac."

Thought for the day "All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."

James Russell Lowell, 1819-1891, American Poet.

About the Performers



Gena Tabery, author

Gena Caponi Tabery attended Trinity University in San Antonio, where she studied piano and organ and received a B.A., with a double major in music and psychology. At The University of Texas at Austin, she received her Ph.D. in American Civilization specializing in the history of American music, American literature, and expressive culture. She is a former Associate Professor and Director of American Studies at UTSA and has written three books on the music and writing of American author and composer Paul Bowles. She has also published two books in the area of African American expressive culture (visit her author's page on Amazon.com). If you haven't already guessed--she loves American music.

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 (1987-1990). I love living in Austin with many wonderful cultural events to attend and participate in.

Charles Palmer, baritone

Charles Palmer is a native Austinite, former Peace Corps volunteer, and retired government employee. He holds BA and MA degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in Latin American geography from The University of Florida. He has lived in Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Charles' musical experience includes singing in church choirs and in several of Austin's civic choruses. He studies voice with Professor David Small of the University of Texas Butler School of Music and performs regularly with his pianist friend and colleague Kathryn Govier at retirement homes and similar venues in the Austin area.

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 Koock and Jerry Conn, and programs featuring George Gershwin and Cole Porter. In addition to performing for 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.

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.

Phyllis Noonan, piano

Phyllis received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas. Phyllis has been performing here in Austin for almost 30 years. She has accompanied singers and instrumentalists in secular and religious programs and weddings for many years. Organ is the second instrument she has experience in, having played at 5 different churches over the years. She also taught private piano lessons for 30 years.

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.

Andrew Ross, oboe

Andrew is an ophthalmologist who has been practicing in Austin, TX since 2004. He grew up in Austin and has played the oboe since the 6th grade, having studied formally at the University of Michigan with Harry Sargous, and at the University of Texas with Richard Blair. He has played with local community groups in Austin since the late 1970s, including the Austin Civic Ensemble, the Austin Symphonic Band, the Community Symphony, the Austin Civic Orchestra, and the Central Texas Medical Orchestra. He is a founding member of the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra.

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.

Event Calendar

Austin Opera – austinopera.org

Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment*. Love and whimsy triumph over barriers of rank and class in this romantic comedy. Be dazzled by the vocal fireworks in Donizetti's charming masterpiece about tomboyish, love-stricken Marie – the adoptive daughter of 1,500 French soldiers.

Jan. 28 and Feb 2 - 7:30 PM – The Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 West Riverside Drive

Feb. 5 – 3:00 PM – The Long Center

Austin Baroque Orchestra - austinbaroqueorchestra.org

Friends and Family. Composers in the past didn't live in a bubble! With so many musicians working in Europe in the late 18th century, it's no surprise that so many of them were friends, or even related to one another. Three of the composers on this program were even known to have played in a string quartet together for a time.

Works by Mozart père and fils, Salieri, J. C. Bach and Michael Haydn.

Jan. 28 – 8:00 PM - First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Avenue

Austin Civic Orchestra – austincivicorchestra.org

Spotlight on Southwestern. Kenny Sheppard will lead the Southwestern University Chorale and alumni guests in music from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*, Michael Cooper's edition of Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony*; Jason Hoogerhyde's contemplative *Lament* for string orchestra.

Feb. 4 – 7:30 PM – Alma Thomas Theater, Southwestern University, Georgetown

Chorus Austin – chorusaustin.org

Voices of Mercy. Immerse yourself in two masterpieces composed after the First World War – Poulenc's *Mass in G* and Vaughan Williams' *Mass in G minor* with Chorus Austin Chamber Ensemble.

Feb. 4 – 7:30 PM – St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive

Feb. 5 – 4:00 PM - St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River Street

Romance, Revenge and Fools in Love: A Valentine Cabaret - Jerry Conn and Walter Tibbitts

Song and dance man, Jerry Conn, and jazz pianist Walter Tibbitts present *My Foolish Heart*, *Fools Rush In* (Sinatra hit), *I Wanna Be Around* and *Stranger in Paradise* (Tony Bennett hits), *A Blossom Fell* (Nat King Cole hit), *Let It Be Me*, *Chances Are*, *My Funny Valentine*, *As Time Goes By*.... Cole Porter songs of passion, romance, wit and charm.

Feb. 11 - 4 PM – Zach's Intimate Whisenhunt Stage, 1500 Toomey Rd., Phone 512-476-0541, ext. 1; single tickets, \$33; groups of 8, \$28;. \$2 facility fee. Park free on street beyond Zach lot or \$7 in Zach lot.

Central Texas Medical Orchestra - ctmorchestra.org

Music for the Heart. Soloist Claire Wells, guest artist Oliver Rajamani. Benefit People's Community Clinic.

Feb. 11 - 7:30 PM – Jones Hall, St. Edward's University, 3001 South Congress