

Note Worthy

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Member Highlight – Angela Smith

Angela Smith says her first life defining experience came when she flunked jello making in 7th grade home ec. The teacher, seeing her talents were not in that area, took her aside and said, “Honey, I think you’d be happier doing something else.” The next day she signed up for orchestra and started playing cello. The piano lessons that didn’t take when her father tried to teach her at age six resumed with a “real” teacher. Music became her passion, and to this day her culinary expertise is limited to opening a bag of Cheetos.

She inherited her love of music from her father. In his high school yearbook, it was predicted he would one day lead the Goose Creek Symphony. Instead he became an accountant, but his appreciation of good music never wavered. He gave Angela her first recording -- Dvorak’s New World Symphony --- on her first birthday. Her mother’s musical tastes went in other directions, so when the symphony played, Angela accompanied her father to the concerts.

Angela’s parents were Italian, and so was her first language. She grew up in Beaumont in Southeast Texas, and after graduation from high school went to the University of North Texas on a music scholarship. She also wanted to pursue her interest in journalism, so she did a double major and became the first female editor-in-chief of the university’s daily newspaper.

The day after she got her degree, she went to work for the Associated Press and was assigned to the Capital Press Corps to cover LBJ. Since then she’s served as PR director for St. Edward’s University, Director of Communications for the Texas Association of School Boards and Educational Leadership Program at the University of Texas, and executive director of four nonprofits, including the Writer’s League of Texas. She’s now Executive Director Emeritus of that organization, a position she highly recommends since it requires no work, just basking in the glory of past success.

Angela is active in numerous organizations and serves on the boards of several. She is president-elect of West Austin Rotary and past president of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. She also is active in Zonta International and National Federation of Press Women and serves as national co-chair of the First Amendment Network. She’s also the newly elected parliamentarian for Wednesday Morning Music Club.

In her spare time you can find her playing cello, piano, or the steel drum, or working as a freelance writer/editor and nonprofit management consultant. She’s also an avid amateur astronomer and has a 22-inch telescope she keeps in New Mexico.

A few years ago she found a way to combine her interests in music and journalism by authoring two books on music history. Her first book STEEL DRUMS AND STEELBANDS: A HISTORY is used as a text in steelband courses. Her book WOMEN DRUMMERS is the basis for a documentary to be released this year. Angela is technical consultant for the film and gets to travel around with the crew, wearing sunglasses and acting Hollywood.



President's Message

Marcia Edwards

Doris Jean Tyler, who served as WMMC President from 1964 to 1966, is celebrating her 94th birthday on March 13. Congratulations and best wishes for a very Happy Birthday!

Members and guests are welcome to join us for the Bonnie Cummins Fielder Grant contest, which will be held on Wednesday, March 15, at 1 PM in our regular performance space at the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Building. Five vocalists between the ages of 22 to 32 have been invited to sing for this competition; our judges and selection committee members will award as much as \$12,000.

The Wilcox/Maurer/Putter/Rudd Contest will be held on Saturday, March 18, at the Steinway Piano Gallery. There are 12 entrants in the contest this year: 5 pianists, 3 violinists, 1 classical guitarist, and 3 singers (2 sopranos and a tenor). The judges will be Eric Daub, professor of piano at Texas Lutheran College; Laurie Scott, head of the U.T. String Project; and Darlene Cluff, the singer and high school chorus director who has judged for us the past two years. Hats off to the committee, chaired by Mary Parse. Committee members include Barbara Buttery, Martha Cook, Janie Keys Virginia Kniesner, Angelica Lopez, and Phyllis Noonan.

Several WMMC members plan to attend the 102nd TFMC Convention, March 16 – 18, at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport Marriott South. The convention theme is "Music—Cowboys—Culture." Lee Meyer is the WMMC delegate to the convention, and she will report back to us at our April 5 meeting. Carlie Burdett, TFMC Chaplain, will lead a memorial service for deceased members on Friday afternoon. Sue Breuer, TFMC Historian, has been asked to serve as escort for the convention's official guest, Starla Blair. The 2015 NFMC Young Artist, Matthew Lipman, violist, of New York will perform in the featured concert following the Friday night banquet. Mr. Lipman is the first violist to win the NFMC Young Artist prize.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Member News (by Sue Breuer)

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 6! As supporters of Opera in the Ozarks, we're participating in ArkansasGives.org, a one-day, one-easy- way giving event hosted by the Arkansas Community Foundation. (You don't have to live in Arkansas to participate!) When you make a donation of at least \$25 to Opera in the Ozarks, a regional summer music center in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, you help OIO qualify for bonus dollars and cash prizes that will stretch your donation. Last year, Opera in the Ozarks raised over \$34,000 between 8 AM and 8 PM on giving day!

Will you help? Your gift of \$25, \$100, or more will help Opera in the Ozarks to continue its role as a career preparation center; provide an excellent faculty; present outstanding performances on campus and throughout the area; and give scholarship assistance for the many highly-talented voice students who may be in graduate school or repaying student loans.

How To Donate: Put "giving" on your calendar for THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017. On that day, visit ArkansasGives.org to make a donation to Opera in the Ozarks at IPFAC between the hours of 8 AM and 8 PM. Gifts are to be made via credit card (American Express, Visa, Discover, and MasterCard and debit cards that bear the Visa or MasterCard symbol). The minimum gift is \$25. After your transaction, you will automatically receive an email confirming your donation.

Thank you for your support! Each contribution makes a huge difference!

WMMC ByLaws Changes (by Carol Brannon, Bylaws Committee Chair)

At the club meeting on March 15 there will be a brief presentation and distribution of written copies of minor bylaws changes, to be voted upon at the following meeting, April 5. The changes seek to clarify and make consistent references in the bylaws to indicate that the Nominating Committee is elected, not appointed by the President, and that it nominates its own successors.



About the Performers

Melanie Richards, piano

Melanie was born into a musical family and started piano early with her mother and later violin and viola with her father. The family ensemble (sister on cello) traveled around Texas to promote their music camp in the Hill country. Later she received music degrees from Barnard College and North Texas State. Working out of the NY State area, Melanie toured internationally as pianist with a performing eurythmy group. She has a piano studio in Round Rock.

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.

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.

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 4th year in the 2nd 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.

Catherine van Zanten, violin

Catherine plays violin with the Balcones Community Orchestra, the Cat Mountain String Quartet, and Round Rock Symphony (she 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's and Master's of Music in violin performance. She has taken Suzuki teacher training and teaches Suzuki and traditional violin and viola in her home studio.

Brian Green, bass trombone

Brian was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He has resided, worked and performed in Austin for over twenty years. He works as an engineer in Austin's high tech industry. Brian is the bass trombonist with the Central Texas Medical Orchestra and a member of the New Horizons Concert Band. For many years he was bass trombonist with an Austin-based jazz band, and he continues to keep up his Polka "chops" with the Fun Bunch Polka Band.

Carter Cook, trombone

Carter Cook is a retired business owner, and he has been a resident of Austin for 30 years. Carter taught band in Texas public schools for 13 years and followed teaching by becoming a campus principal. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Education at Stephen F. Austin State University and a school administrations degree from U.T. Austin. Like his friend Brian, Carter plays with the Central Texas Medical Orchestra and the New Horizons Concert Band. He is a member of the Symphonic Winds, who perform at St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Austin.

Marcia Edwards, piano

A farm girl from central Illinois, I began piano lessons in 2nd 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 (1987-1990). I love living in Austin with many wonderful cultural events to attend and participate in.

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 1990s, 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 Zelos 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.

Martha MacDonald, clarinet

My first exposure to music was from my mother who played piano and my dad who played trumpet, and both sang in the church choir. Our family holidays included singing around the piano with any added instruments that were handy. Chamber music has always been my first love, and I've followed it through my Bachelor of Music Ed from Baylor, MM from the University of Michigan, and DMA from The University of Texas. I've enjoyed performing chamber music on a professional basis with the Austin Chamber Ensemble, Cantilena Chamber Soloists, Chante Duo, and Trio Contraste. I've also enjoyed teaching piano and flute in addition to clarinet and working with students in chamber music groups.

Event Calendar

ECR Concert Series - <http://ecraustin.org/music/concerts/ecr-concert-series/>

Poor Man's Fortune. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection presents a gem of a new group, presenting fabulous folk music of Irish, Breton, Scottish, French, Cajun and more. They bring terrific energy and creativity. Kick off your shoes and enjoy this sample: http://poormansfortune.com/master/05_The_Brewery_Tap.mp3 Yes that is a gentle bagpipe you hear! Free parking, Irish reception afterward. Donation at the door, \$10 suggested.

Mar. 12 – 5:00 PM – Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin Lane

Austin Baroque Orchestra – austinbaroqueorchestra.org

Passion According to St. John by J. S. Bach. Bach composed the St. John Passion for Good Friday services in Leipzig in 1724, and it remains a testament to his brilliant genius and emotional depth. Though more intimate than the St. Matthew Passion, this setting of the story of Christ's death is no less moving. Austin's first period-instrument performance of the Passion in a number of years will feature several of ABO's talented vocal and instrumental soloists in a Lenten concert, the ensemble's first presentation of this monumental work

Mar. 18 – 7:30 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Ave.

Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org

Mahler: Symphony No. 6 in A minor

Mar. 24 & Mar. 25 - 8:00 PM – The Long Center

Austin Civic Orchestra – austincivicorchestra.org

Texas Rising Stars featuring the winners of the Butler School of Music String Concerto Competition and guest pianist Artina McCain. Koussevitzky: Double Bass Concerto, Op. 3, Allegro, Doo Woong Chung, double bass; Paganini: Violin Concerto No. 1 in D major, Op. 6, Allegro maestoso, Haeni Lee, violin; Schumann: Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129, Nicht zu schnell, Eunhie Lim, violoncello; Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64, Allegretto non troppo – Allegro molto vivace, Camille Schiess, violin; Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466, Allegro assai, Artina McCain, piano; Still: Symphony No. 1 in Ab, Afro-American.

Mar. 25 – 7:30 PM – Bates Recital Hall, University of Texas, 2406 Robert Dedman Drive

Texas Early Music Project – early-music.org

Notre Dame Cathedral, c. 1200. Stepping back 400 years to around 1200, the Notre Dame school of polyphony was prominent in mastering the change from single-voice chant to three- and four-part polyphony with the composer Pérotin being the impetus of this new style. Even though single-voice chant continued to thrive and grow, the excitement generated by the new multi-voice texture dominated European sacred music for centuries.

Mar. 25 - 8:00 PM – St. Mary Cathedral, 203 East 10th Street

Mar. 26 - 3:00 PM – First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

Balcones Orchestra – bcorchestra.org

Claire Wells, violin.

Mar. 26 – 4:00 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Ave.

Austin Chamber Music – austinchambermusic.org

Red Snapper. The concert combines poetry and music, song and images; with a playful and brilliant nod to one of the greatest-ever pieces of chamber music. Kevin Puts: Quintet for Piano and Strings; Franz Schubert: Piano Quintet in A Major, D 667, "The Trout," Allegro vivace, Andante, Scherzo: Presto, Andantino-Allegro, Allegro giusto.

April 1 – 7:30 PM – First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover Ave.

Thought for the day

The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hand of man.

– Author unknown

