

Note Worthy

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Members Highlight – Kit Thompson and Suzy Galagher

Kit came to Austin to attend the University of Texas after graduating from high school in Midland. Coincidentally, he was a student at Midland High while Bonnie Cummins was teaching French at the same school. He has been a Marine, an anthropologist, a banker, a realtor, and a photographer.

Suzy came to Texas in 1988 as a teacher and administrator in the UT Department of Computer Sciences. She and Kit met in 1991 and discovered some interesting parallels in their lives.

Both are the eldest of six children and, in an even stranger coincidence, have children from previous marriages who were born on the same day in 1979.

Both were heavily involved in community theatre in the early 60s, sometimes working on the same show, but in different cities; Suzy in New Orleans, Kit in Midland. Suzy still does costume work for Paradox Players, here in Austin, and occasionally they even appear on stage.

They married in 1997 and started a successful small business together. “We still occasionally meet customers who were young children when we ran our Snowball Stand, now adults they remember us and the happy times they enjoyed eating our sweet treats.”

They retired in 2007 to enjoy their hobbies: music, photography, and travel. Not to mention reading which is more a necessity, like breathing, than another hobby. Another regular activity is their daily three-mile walk, good for heart, lungs, legs, and conversations.

They were introduced to WMMC in 2007 by Anna Derdeyn, Gus and Greta Gutman, and Marvin and Lee Frank. They joined the club in 2008 and shortly afterward the late Mary Guemple recruited Suzy to replace the Second Vice-President who was having health problems. She held that position until 2015 and still helps set up for our meetings. Suzy is currently Membership Chairman. In 2009 Kit was recruited as stage manager by the president, the late Carol Granger, and served in that role until 2016. He now is photographer for the group. They have both also been members of several committees, just cannot stand still.

In the last year the couple has traveled to New York, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, and China. When they recently visited Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Suzy completed visits to all 50 states. In December they plan to travel to Hawaii which will finish Kit’s 50 states.

Plans for this year include a river cruise on the Rhine and the Mosul in Europe, a repositioning cruise from Barcelona to Fort Lauderdale, a trip to Utah to visit the National Parks and Monuments in that state, and an excursion to photograph a solar eclipse in August. They are currently conducting research to see if it is possible to go bankrupt just traveling economy class.



President's Message

Marcia Edwards

It has been a privilege and a great pleasure to serve as your president for the past two years. Thank you to all who have offered words of support, encouragement, and thanks during this time. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated.

A special message of thanks to my family—my husband George, who has cheerfully served as WMMC stage manager (with Charles Palmer) and as a loyal sounding board; and our children Emily and Mark, who have both listened sympathetically and provided loving support.

I have been lucky to serve with a wonderful group of officers: Janie, Felicity, Sarah, Katharine, Virginia, Melissa, Beth and Angela. I am grateful for all their help managing club affairs.

We've been blessed with competent and enthusiastic committee chairs: Pat, Kathryn and Charles, Gena, Suzy, Angelica, Martha, Janie and Felicity, Beth, Marie, Carolyn, Mary, Maxine, and Carol. We have also been very fortunate to have the talented Kit as our club photographer, Marie and Carolyn as newsletter editors, and Pat as website guru. Thank you all for your dedication and service.

Finally, a word of thanks to members who served on committees, who performed brilliantly, and/or who regularly sat in the audience. Thanks also to those members who served in positions with TFMC, NFMC, and Opera in the Ozarks. I appreciate all your contributions. I encourage everyone to remain involved, volunteering in new ways. Your involvement will make the WMMC experience even more rewarding.

This is the final issue of *NoteWorthy* for Spring 2017. The newsletter will return in the fall. Warmest wishes for a wonderful summer full of music!

Member News

We remember fondly devoted WMMC member Vergie Scott, who died in November 2016. Vergie joined our club in 1992 and enjoyed attending programs and supporting our mission and activities. More than \$1500 was given in her memory to the Wilcox, Maurer and Putter Awards fund for high school musicians.

Thought for the Day



About the Performers

Corbin King, Tenor

Corbin King is a junior at Vandegrift High School and has been performing with their choirs under the direction of Michael Feris since his freshman year. Corbin is the Tenor section leader and develops his craft outside of school by singing with the Amphion Youth Choir and performing at church. Corbin is a member of the TMEA All State Choir - and was ranked First Chair Tenor in 2016 and 2017. Corbin studies with Austin Bradley at Bradley Music Studio and is thankful to him and Natalie Cummings for their support and instruction.

Margaret Seo, Violin

Starting at the age of 5, Margaret Seo studied violin. She is now 16 years old and a 10th grader at Westwood High School. She studies with Professor Brian Lewis. Margaret's achievements include winning the 2013 Pearl Amster Competition, giving her the opportunity to perform with the Austin Civic Orchestra. In 2016, Margaret won the Austin Symphony Youth Award and toured around with the Austin Symphony Orchestra to local high schools in Austin. In May 2012, Margaret won The 7th Asian American Community Partnership Competition Junior Division, so she performed her solo at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, Austin, Texas. Margaret participated in the Texas All State Orchestra 2016, placing fifth in the state. Since 2014, Margaret has been the Region 26 concertmistress continually. In 2013, Margaret placed second in the Music Teachers National Association State Competition. Margaret is currently a member of the Chamber Music in Public Schools (CHAMPS), and she placed first in the Chamber division of the Asian American Competition with her Grieg Quartet in 2016. Margaret was the concert mistress of the Austin Chamber Orchestra in 2010, and she also played a solo with the orchestra. Margaret is also the concert mistress of the Westwood High School Orchestra.

Emma Bushong, Soprano

Emma studied voice under Josh Wechsler, Paul D'Arcy, and Ed Snouffer. She has performed in theatre, choirs and dance with the Westlake Performing Arts Center, Westminster Choir College, TMEA Area Choir, and the TMEA All-State women's choir. She is a member of the Zach Scott Pre-Professional Company. She won the Texas UIL Outstanding Soloist Award in 2016. Emma plans to attend either Oklahoma City University or Belmont University to earn a degree in vocal performance and hopes to earn a master's degree from Westminster Choir College or the Manhattan Conservatory to start a career as a singer/performer in both opera and musicals.

Eunice Lee, Piano

A senior at Cedar Park High School, Eunice Lee will be a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Chicago this fall. Lee began piano at age seven and is studying with Shearon Horton. She has won numerous competitions and festivals, including Baylor Piano Competition, New Orleans Piano Institute, Texas State International Piano Festival, Minnie Snead Wilcox Scholarship, Pearl Amster Concerto, MTNA State, and many others. In 2013, Eunice appeared on 'From the Top' on NPR, was featured on KMFA, and was interviewed by the Austin American Statesman. Eunice has had master classes from Julliard and Eastman. She has also studied under Julian Martin, Boris Slutsky, and many more. Eunice has been an active member of the Austin Chamber Music Center for many years where she is the pianist for the Merit Scholarship Ensemble.



Event Calendar

Austin Civic Orchestra - austincivicorchestra.org

Guest artists, Texas Guitar Quartet, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Concierto Andaluz* by Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo. The orchestra will play Rodrigo's *Adagio for Wind Orchestra* and Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* in honor of that work's 140th anniversary. Pre-concert, audience can view an art show in the lobby from 6-7:30 PM featuring works that Austin-area students created while listening to *Concierto Andaluz*.

May 13 – 7:30 PM – Bates Recital Hall, UT

Texas Early Music Project - early-music.org

Monteverdi 1610. The development from the early Baroque style of Schütz to the high-Baroque masterpieces of Bach was a century in the making. Likewise, Monteverdi (who, along with Giovanni Gabrieli, was highly influential on Schütz) was a major authority in the transition from the Renaissance to the Baroque. His *Vespers of 1610* includes elements of both musical eras; at this time, the changes of style and fancy were lightning-fast. Monteverdi lived in both worlds.

May 13 – 7:00 PM & May 14 - 3:00 PM – Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr.

Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org

Rachmaninoff-Respighi: *Cinq Etudes-tableaux*; Sergei Rachmaninoff: *Piano Concerto No. 2* in C minor, Op. 18 with pianist Gabriela Montero; Ottorino Respighi, *Fest Romane*.

May 19 & May 20 – 8:00 PM – The Long Center

Chorus Austin – chorusaustin.org

Southwest Voices. Chorus Austin Chamber Ensemble's fourth annual crowd pleasing concert features music of contemporary composers from Austin and neighboring areas. Come hear the winning work from the 4th annual Young Composers Competition.

May 20 – 7:30 PM – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive

May 21 – 4:00 PM – St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River Street

We Are The Chorus – wearethechorus.org

Cinderella by Rogers and Hammerstein. We Are The Chorus was started by WMMC member Greta Gutman in 1999 sponsoring fellowship and socialization for adults with developmental disabilities and their buddies through experiences of practicing, performing and sharing music in an environment which encourages sound musical skills and teaches knowledge of well-known songs. The chorus is a community outreach program of the Armstrong Community Music School.

May 21 – 2:30 PM – Congregation Beth Israel, Smith Auditorium, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd.

Gilbert and Sullivan Society - gilbertsullivan.org

Grand Production Preview of The Pirates of Penzance with a topsy-turvy twist that places the action not on the coast of Cornwall but instead in "the Caribbean." This performance is free.

May 21 – 3:00 PM – Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson Lane

The Grand Production of *The Pirates of Penzance* will be held

June 15- 25 at Worley Barton Theater at Brentwood Christian School, 11908 N. Lamar.

