

Noteworthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Nan Hampton

Currently serving as 1st VP and Co-Chair of the Program Committee

I, Emma Nan Jones Hampton, born in nearby Jacksonville in East Texas, grew up in Longview where I attended a small rural school, Judson Grove, from grade 1 through grade 12 and graduated in 1955 with 34 of my fellow seniors. I began taking piano lessons at age 6 and had several teachers before I found Miss Verta Eckman, a wonderful teacher. I continued piano with Miss Eckman until I was 15 when I decided I was much too busy with the rest of my life to continue studying piano. While in high school I also played flute and piccolo in the marching band. Until I was 18 years old I was called by both my given names “Emma Nan” (a very “Southern” tradition—I had many friends with double names, e.g., Mary Louise and Harvey Don); however, when I decided to go to the University of Texas at Austin I thought that I would probably have to spell the double name every time I introduced

myself so I decided to pick one of my given names, Nan, as my preferred name. I will answer to either “Nan” or “Emma” or even both together (my father never called me anything but “Emma Nan”). At the University of Texas I received a BA in Liberal Arts (Plan II) in 1958 and also met Loyd Hampton to whom I was married for almost 59 years before his death in May 2017. I have a daughter, Lisa (husband, Steve Schmidt) and two grandchildren, Eric (25) and Justine (22) who all live in California in or near Palo Alto and San Francisco. Eric works for Waymo (Google) on the self-driving car and Justine works at Environmental Traveling Companions, a non-profit that offers outdoor adventures to people with disabilities and under-resourced youth. I also have a son, Don (wife, Anne Ruggles) who is an Research Associate Professor in the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. His area of study is the aurora borealis.

When Lisa and Don were in middle and high school I went back to school to study zoology—ultimately attending the University of Texas with both children and receiving both a BS and PhD in zoology and, five years later, a Master’s in Library and Information Science. I worked as librarian at Texas Research Institute for a year before beginning to teach undergraduate genetics labs at the University of Texas for 11 years. Upon retirement in 2002 I began piano lessons again with Kathryn Mishell as my inspirational teacher. I have attended Sonata Piano Camp (www.sonatina.com) in Bennington, Vermont almost every year since 2002. In addition to taking piano lessons, I have served on the board of Salon Concerts, Inc. (www.salonconcerts.org) for more than 10 years. I volunteer at Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic) recording biology texts. I also volunteer at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center working on the Native Plant Information Network and answering questions on their website as one of their Mr. Smarty Plants. Besides music, my other great love is travel. I’ve visited Tanzania, Antarctica, the North Pole, Mongolia, the Galapagos Islands, Iceland, Greenland and many other exciting places.



President's Message

Janie Keys

Many thanks to all who arrived early for the October 18th program to help set up our room and the stage. Special recognition goes to Barbara Buttrey and the House Committee members who made the process of setting up and putting back look easy.

Thanks also to Pat Yingst who gamely stepped in as photographer in the absence of Kit Thompson.

Five of our members attended the 2017 TFMC District 6 Fall Conference held in New Braunfels on September 30: Virginia Kniesner, Sue Breuer, Phyllis Noonan, Carolyn McColloch, and your president. The news from this Conference is that the site of the 2018 District 6 Conference will be Austin and will be hosted by WMMC and the Bachus Conservatory. The District 6 area serves over 1200 students and their teachers through Junior and Senior Clubs. The District President, Mary Thomason, is passionate in her support of these clubs and the positive impact they have on the lives of the students. In Texas there are nine District organizations which serve more than 6000(!) students and their teachers. For more information, see p. 45 in the Yearbook.

Read all about it! Go to the KMFA website, <http://www.kmfa.org/events> (choose classical live), and read Michelle d'Arcy's entertaining, informative announcement and preview of the November 1st program dedicated to American Music. Michelle introduces all of the performers along with the selections being performed. The Parade of American Music program will be another really good one!

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

Elise Ragland, soprano

My greatgrandfather was an itinerant piano salesman who, upon marrying one of his customers, a piano teacher, established Beasley music company in Texarkana, Texas. I took the required piano lessons and helped out at the store, but my passion was singing. My mother sang with the Shreveport Opera and WMMC. Through adolescence I sang with the adult choir at church, chorus and leads in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and musicals. I started voice lessons in college and founded The Rice Madrigal Singers and two folk groups with regular coffee house gigs. Since 1977 I have been a mainstay of the choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin and finally my voice has grown up so I started voice lessons again in 2014.

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 as a member of the IES study abroad program. Brian has collaborated with a multitude of instrumentalists and vocalists in concert, and he plays in a Queen tribute band called Magnifico.

Billy Corsbie, violin

Born and raised in Waco, Texas, I studied piano with my mother very early and sang in the church choir. I moved to Austin for law school in 1969 and have been a faithful listener to KMFA ever since. I started fiddling with my paternal grandfather's violin about that same time and joined a local orchestra a few years later. I played guitar in a dance band in high school. Advice for young students: enjoy your music as the blessing it is.

Gay Bullard, piano

Gay Bullard got her BA in Music Education from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master's in Music Supervision from Corpus Christi University. She taught public school music for 18 years, mostly in the elementary grades in the Gregory-Portland ISD. After retiring from public school music, she opened a Suzuki Piano Studio in Dripping Springs. She learned to play the mountain dulcimer and worked in hospice, playing the dulcimer for people in their dying process. She is now retired and enjoying accompanying for soloists and small ensembles.

Continued on page 3

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.

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.

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 professional 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.

Angelica Lopez, piano

Angelica Lopez grew up in the Rio Grande Valley where she asked for and received the gift of piano lessons for her 8th birthday. Music-making permeated her life as she continued piano lessons, played French horn in high school band, served as an organist at her church, and accompanied fellow students for high school assemblies and UIL events. She moved to Austin to study in the Music Department at The University and fell in love with both the City of Austin and the concert-scene. Angelica and her husband, Chuck, were able to permanently relocate to Austin in 1983 and one of the first things she did was to join the Wednesday Morning Music Club. She has been a Suzuki piano teacher since 1985 when she enrolled in Suzuki teacher training.

Betty Mallard, piano

Dr. Betty Mallard is an Associate Professor Emeritus of the Butler School of Music Keyboard Division where she was a faculty member for 31 years and served as Chair of the Keyboard Division for 7 years. Betty holds degrees in piano performance, a BM and a DMA degree from The University of Texas and an MM from USC. She retired from UT in the fall of 2011. She soon found life without teaching quite pointless. Now she enjoys teaching children and adults of all ages at her home, and she performs whenever the opportunity presents itself. She most recently is enjoying performing four-hand piano music with Dr. Angelica Lopez, a member of WMMC.

Russell Gregory, baritone

Russell is a life-long Austinite, has performed throughout the region and is well known for his memorable characterizations of many leading Gilbert & Sullivan roles (The Mikado, Sergeant of Police, Sir Joseph Porter, etc.) He has sung extensively in all major Texas cities and has appeared in The Marriage of Figaro, Riders to the Sea, Gianni Schicchi, Der Rosenkavalier, The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance, H.M.S. Pinafore, and The Gondoliers, among others. Among his happiest memories on stage are his appearance in December 2002 and January 2006 singing with his son-in-law and grandsons – 3 generations on stage together – in Amahl and the Night Visitors.

Carolyn McColloch, piano

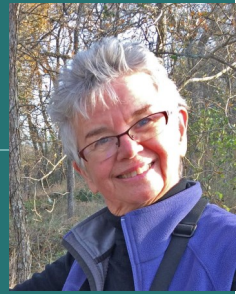
Carolyn graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from West Virginia University with prior study at Mason College of Music in Charleston, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, U. of Michigan Interlochen, and additional graduate study. She continued to study as she performed and taught in Oklahoma City,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



A Visit to the WMMC Website—musicclubaustin.org

Pat Yingst (patyingst@gmail.com)

With Kit Thompson and Beth Moreno



Our website, which has been "on the air" since 2016 has something for everybody. And now you may access and capture all those excellent photos that are taken by our club photographer, Kit Thompson, at each of our meetings, luncheons, and performances.

To get to the website **go to your favorite browser** (Safari, Internet Explorer, Chrome, etc.) and do a **search for "musicclubaustin.org."** If you have trouble remembering that, just ask for Wednesday Morning Music Club or maybe even WMMC.

The WMMC home page that comes up has a series of tabs across the page in white letters on a black background. **Choose the tab called "Meetings" and then select "Archived Meeting Pictures."** You will be presented with a list of meeting dates and meeting descriptions starting with the most recent meeting for which pictures are available.

Click on the meeting you would like to see and you will get a page with smallish pictures on it. You can **hover your cursor over any picture to see its caption.** Each caption has been lovingly prepared by Beth Moreno, our club historian. **Mouse click on any one of these pictures to enlarge that picture and start up a slide show.** You can move through the slide show by clicking on the arrows on the sides or by just clicking on the image.

You can also download any of these pictures to your computer. To download, do a "left click" on a picture and from the menu that comes up choose "save a copy." Then you can save the picture to whatever file you designate on your computer.

From the slideshow click the "X" in the top left corner to get back to the composite page for the meeting and from there back to the other tabs for the website.

While you are visiting the website, check out the other tabs and see what else the website offers. You can, for example, see the archived newsletters, calendars for meetings and special events, and a list of officers with their pictures. The composite picture across the top is called the "banner." The banners come up randomly with each page you go to, but you can click on a banner to see another one. Please enjoy the website and feel welcome to make suggestions by using the black menu on the left to send an email to the webmaster (currently me).

If you have trouble making any of this work, just email me and I will do my best to help. There are lots of different platforms out there, and things can work differently depending which browser you are using or which device.

Be aware that we are usually a month behind in posting pictures. So be patient with us.

One last thing: we are no longer asking for release forms for members. If you **do not want your picture to appear** anywhere on the website, or if you have a guest with you who does not want his/her picture to appear, tell me via email or in person, and we will be careful to not post pictures of you or your guest.

Theme in Yellow

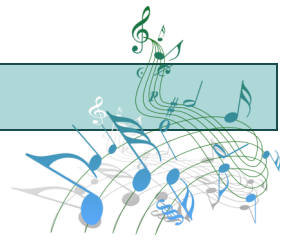
BY CARL SANDBURG (1878 - 1967)

I spot the hills
With yellow balls in autumn.
I light the prairie cornfields
Orange and tawny gold clusters
And I am called pumpkins.
On the last of October
When dusk is fallen
Children join hands
And circle round me
Singing ghost songs
And love to the harvest moon;

I am a jack-o'-lantern
With terrible teeth
And the children know
I am fooling.



Events Calendar



Chorus Austin – chorusaustin.org

Nov. 4 @ 7:30 PM – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive

Nov. 5 @ 3:00 PM – St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 606 W 15th St.

Chorus Austin's Chamber Ensemble presents works by Bach, Schütz, Brahms, and Mendelssohn to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Austin Civic Orchestra - austincivicorchestra.org

Nov. 5 @ 4:00 PM – Austin ISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.

America, the Beautiful. Guest soloist Jessica Mathaes will perform music by Samuel Barber in a concert that will also feature music from West Side Story, Porgy and Bess, and William Grant Still's Symphony No. 1, Afro-American. Program: Porgy and Bess, Selections for Orchestra by George Gershwin, arranged by Robert Russell Bennett; Variations on "America" by Charles Ives, arranged by William Schuman; West Side Story Overture by Leonard Bernstein; Violin Concerto, Op. 14, Movement 1 (Allegro) by Samuel Barber, featuring Jessica Mathaes on violin; Symphony No. 1, Afro-American, by William Grant Still.

Austin Opera - austinopera.org

Nov. 11 @ 7:30 PM - The Long Center, 701 W. Riverside Drive

Nov. 16 @ 7:30 PM & Nov. 19 @ 3:00 PM - The Long Center, 701 Riverside Drive

Carmen. Bizet's sizzling hot opera tells the tale of one of the most dynamic characters in the operatic canon, Carmen. It also contains some of its most beloved and well-known music, including the "Toreador Song" and the "Habanera." A new, gritty, and mesmerizing production places the classic story of love, betrayal, and ultimately death, in 1970. Mezzo-soprano Sandra Piques Eddy, praised for her "dark, sensuous mezzo and charming stage presence" (Opera Magazine), stars in the provocatively alluring title role alongside tenor Chad Shelton, the naïve soldier who succumbs to her advances to tragic end. Baritone Norman Garrett will storm the stage in his Austin Opera debut as the Toreador, Escamillo.

Austin Chamber Music – austinchambermusic.org

Nov. 17 @ 7:30 PM, private home

Nov. 18 @ 7:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church

Simmering Scorpio. Program: Fanny Mendelssohn, Niccolò Paganini, Alexander Borodin and Georges Bizet featuring Matt Trevino, bass; Charles Wetherbee, violin; Gregory Sauer, cello; and Michelle Schumann, piano.

The Metropolitan Orchestra - <https://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/>

Nov. 18 @ 12:55 PM

The Exterminating Angel. The Met presents the American premiere of Thomas Adès's *The Exterminating Angel*, inspired by the classic Luis Buñuel film of the same name. Hailed by the New York Times at its 2016 Salzburg Festival premiere as "inventive and audacious ... a major event," *The Exterminating Angel* is a surreal fantasy about a dinner party from which the guests can't escape. Tom Cairns, who wrote the libretto, directs the new production, and Adès conducts his own adventurous new opera.

Classic Chamber Concerts – gtownfest.org

Nov. 18 @ 7:00 PM – Round Rock Presbyterian Church, 4010 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock

Clarinet Celebration. Program includes Beethoven's Trio in Eb Major, Op. 38 and Brahms' Trio in A minor, Op. 114. Performers: Toby Blumenthal, piano; Stephen Girko, clarinet; Douglas Harvey, cello.

