

Noteworthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Catherine van Zanten

Currently serving as the Director of the Silver Strings

I grew up in Lafayette, LA, and my father was the band director at the college there. I remember hearing music in the home as Papa played the French horn and Mama the piano. We went to recitals and concerts at the college.

I started studying violin when I was 10. I remember liking the string classes at the school I went to because I was with my friends, and I also enjoyed the violin lessons as my teacher would accompany me on the piano. Our family also sang madrigals together on Sunday evenings after dinner.

When I was 12 our family moved to New York City so that Papa could pursue his Ph.D. at Columbia. Our mother, who had been a college librarian back in Louisiana, worked for the New York Public Library. My sister Margaret, a cellist, and I got to study at the Juilliard Preparatory School. We went to many concerts, recitals, and shows from the Metropolitan Opera to the Rockettes

at the Radio City Music Hall and Shakespeare in Central Park. We saw museums and many other wonderful sights those two years.

When we moved back to Lafayette I was high school age, but the school I went to didn't have an orchestra. Luckily the college orchestra needed string players and let me play with them. The college music department started putting on operas and musicals around that time and I got to play in the opera orchestra when they performed *Tosca* and other operas. We even went on the road with *The King And I* to North Louisiana!

In 1961 I went off to college at the University of Illinois, majoring in applied violin. My freshman year accompanist was named Jan Bach, and he was a descendent of J. S. Bach. Every string player had to be in a string quartet and in the orchestra, and my junior year that orchestra toured South America for the whole spring semester.

I transferred to LSU my senior year and after graduating, I taught strings in the public schools there in Baton Rouge. I married my husband Rene and our first child, Johan, was born in Baton Rouge in 1968. We moved to Lafayette where Rene practiced law, and I obtained my master's degree at the college where my parents were still teaching.

We moved to Denver for two years in the early 70s and then to Houston where we lived for more than 30 years. I taught private violin lessons and public school strings as well in Houston. Our daughter Jeanne was born in Houston in 1974 and both children played in their school orchestras growing up.

In 2005 we moved to Austin where I taught orchestra at Murchison M.S. I retired in 2008 and joined WMMC. I still teach violin lessons and play in chamber groups and orchestras as well. This December my husband and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary.



President's Message

Janie Keys

This time of year brings the big leap from one holiday to another. It is possible to spend time thinking back to Thanksgiving (and I hope your memories are fond ones) and then thinking ahead to the Christmas/winter holidays. A perfect way to be in the present moment is by listening to music (which is what we all love to do at our programs)!

Looking back: Our November 15th program was filled with wonderful performances despite missing two performances due to illness. Many thanks to Tim Woolsey for stepping in on short notice. Welcome back to our photographer, Kit Thompson. His photos of this meeting will be posted shortly on our website, www.musicclubaustin.org.

Looking ahead: As the Christmas season approaches, there will be many chances to attend the musical performances taking place in Austin. You can look at the events calendar (page 4) for a list of upcoming concerts. For our **December 6th program, "December Delights"** go to www.kmfa.org/events (choose classical live) to read Michelle d'Arcy's preview. Other Austin area concerts are listed on the KMFA website as well. **Please mark your calendars for December 20th, our Christmas Coffee.** If you would like to share some sweets or savories, please e-mail Elizabeth Lerner at earendlerner@yahoo.com or call at (512) 328-0545 to let her know what you'll be bringing.

Right now: I am grateful for the many members who willingly contribute their time and efforts to WMMC. It has been a rewarding experience getting to know all of you.

When the Year Grows Old

By Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892 – 1950)

I cannot but remember
When the year grows old----
October----November----
How she disliked the cold!
She used to watch the swallows
Go down across the sky,
And turn from the window
With a little sharp sigh.
And often when the brown leaves
Were brittle on the ground,
And the wind in the chimney
Made a melancholy sound,
She had a look about her
That I wish I could forget----
The look of a scared thing
Sitting in a net!
Oh, beautiful at nightfall
The soft spitting snow!
And beautiful the bare boughs
Rubbing to and fro!
But the roaring of the fire,
And the warmth of fur,
And the boiling of the kettle
Were beautiful to her!
I cannot but remember
When the year grows old----
October----November----
How she disliked the cold!



Sure Signs

By Ted Kooser
(Past Poet Laureate of the United States, b. 1939)

So many crickets tonight ----
Like strings of sleigh bells!
"A long hard winter ahead
for sure," my neighbor says,
reeling a cobweb onto
a broom in his garden.
"Crickets and cobwebs," he says,
"sure signs. In seventy years
(he looks out over his glasses
to see if I'm still there)
you get to know a thing or two."

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

Marianne Weiss Kim, soprano recorder

I learned the love of song in Germany, where I grew up. At the age of 16-20, I sang Madrigals and Bach Cantatas as well as Oratorios with a concert choir in Stuttgart. I took vocal instructions in Stuttgart and later in Houston, where I sang in an Episcopal choir. I still particularly love the German Lied and decided to take vocal lessons again. My primary instrument is the recorder, and I have accumulated a fair repertoire by attending workshops throughout the US.

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 eurhythm group. She has a piano studio in Round Rock.

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!

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.

Brian Grothues, piano

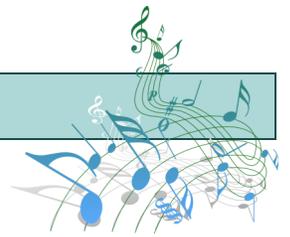
Brian is a pianist and teacher in Austin, Texas with over 35 students. He pursued music at the University of North Texas in Denton earning his Bachelor's degree Cum Laude. In 2008, Brian completed the Master's Degree in Piano Literature and Pedagogy from the University of Texas under the guidance of 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.

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 dabbled in piano, voice, and trumpet studies until he attended the University of Kentucky where he began studies on the instrument he always wanted to play, the bassoon. After four years of demanding yet supportive instruction from Professor Peter Simpson, Chrisman graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2003. He continued his studies at the University of Louisville for one year with Matthew Karr before relocating to Philadelphia to study with the principal bassoonist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Daniel Matsukawa. 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.

"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music." Sergei Rachmaninof

Events Calendar



Chorus Austin – chorusaustin.org

Dec. 2 @ 3:00 PM - St. Matthew's Episcopal church, 8134 Mesa Drive
On a Winter's Eve. The ensembles of Chorus Austin will be joined, for the first time, by their collaborative partner the Austin Children's Choir for their annual holiday concert. This family-friendly concert will feature Morten Lauridsen's sublime "Lux Aeterna" and an audience sing-along.

Austin Ballet - balletaustin.org

Dec. 8 – 23 – The Long Center – evening performances 7:30 PM; matinees 2:00 PM
The Nutcracker. Journey with young Clara Silberhaus from her family's holiday party to the confection-filled Court of the Sugar Plum Fairy, where sweets of all kinds come to life. Austin Symphony Orchestra plays Tchaikovsky's magical score.

Austin Chamber Music – austinchambermusic.org

Dec. 9 @ 3:30 & 7:30 PM – Stateside Theatre at the Paramount
A Charlie Brown Christmas. Featuring live performance of all the music from this beloved television classic with Michelle Schumann, Utah Hamrick and David Sierra.

Texas Early Music Project - early-music.org

Dec. 8 & 9 @ 7:00 PM – First English Lutheran Church

Dec. 10 @ 3:00 PM – First Presbyterian Church

An Early Christmas. Carols, motets, dances, and traditional songs from France, Germany, the British Isles, and more with innovative arrangements for solo voices, small chorus, harp, violin, flute, mandolin, viols and lutes. With harpist Therese Honey.

Metropolitan Opera in local Cinemas - <https://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/>

Dec. 9 @ 12:55 PM

Hansel and Gretel. Engelbert Humperdinck

Conspirare - conspirare.org

Dec. 9, 13, 14 @ 8:00 PM – Carillon on Exposition, 2630 Exposition Boulevard

Dec. 11 @ 7:30 PM – The Long Center

Conspirare Christmas. Savor, share and explore the meaning of the holidays with Conspirare Christmas! Austin singer songwriter Carrie Rodriguez, a passionate performer, effortlessly melds fiery fiddle playing, electrifying vocals and a fresh interpretation of new and classic songs with an "Ameri-Chicana" attitude.

Austin Civic Orchestra - austincivicorchestra.org

Dec. 10 @ 4:00 PM – Austin ISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.

Austin Homegrown. Choirs from St. Edward's University and Austin Community College perform Donald Grantham's "So long As Days Shall Be." Dan Welcher will conduct his own composition "Prairie Light," and the concert will also include works by Joan Tower and Leroy Anderson.

Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org

Dec. 12 @ 8:00 PM – Hyde Park Baptist Church, 3901 Speedway

Handel's Messiah. The Austin Symphony once again presents its Christmas tradition accompanied by Chorus Austin. This holiday classic and city favorite will comfort and fill you through its familiarity and with the joy of rediscovery.

Ensemble VIII – ensembleviii.org

Dec. 14 @ 7:30 PM – Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves Road

Dec. 15 @ 7:30 PM – St. Louis Catholic Church Chapel, 7601 Burnet Road

Vivaldi Gloria – Christmas with Ensemble VIII. Join Ensemble VIII in celebrating the joy of Christmastime with one of the most well-known and beloved Baroque works, Vivaldi's infectious "Gloria." With voices and chamber orchestra, this concert will include other sparkling works of the Baroque that will thrill and inspire.

Chorus Austin – chorusaustin.org

Dec. 16 @ 3:00 PM – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive

28th Sing-It-Yourself Messiah. This holiday tradition invites the audience to be a part of the chorus, joining in to sing Handel's monumental oratorio.

University of Texas Butler School of Music - <http://music.utexas.edu/>

Check the website, over 600 concerts this season.