

Noteworthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Carol Brannon

Chair of Nominating Committee
Committee Member - Finance, House

My parents were both from Wisconsin farm families, and ours was the only nuclear family to move away. While I was growing up, we lived in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, D.C., and Florida. The habit of wandering must've stuck, because after leaving home I went to New Orleans, New York City, and Colorado by the time I was 23. Colorado was so wonderful that I stopped for 17 years there, avidly enjoying skiing, biking and hiking in the stunning terrain. I probably would have stayed if not for meeting my husband, Kevin, who grew up in Northern California. After he finally persuaded me to move, we lived in 3 California cities over 18 years. I enjoyed the geographical wonders of California, but we are both glad to have come to Austin in 2004.

After college, I found myself doing various jobs once I had to support myself. I eventually became a legal secretary, and soon I realized I'd rather be on the other side of the attorney's desk. Ten years after undergrad I attended law school, and then I began practice in a large firm in Denver, doing civil litigation. When we moved to California, I hung out my own shingle for a while. Later I practiced law at small firms while Kevin attended Stanford. His career brought us to Austin because of the high tech concentration here. By then I'd stopped working due to health issues, which had a bright side: I could avoid taking a third bar exam and learning the law of a third state. And I could sing more.

Instead of children, my husband and I have adopted a long series of rescued German Shepherds and cats. We have two of each now. When they leave me time, I enjoy cooking, crochet in winter, good fiction, and any excuse to be outside.

Music's always been an informal part of my life, with singing and a great deal of listening. The gift comes from my mother's family. She sang at home, my grandfather played the fiddle, my sister played piano, and my brother was guitarist and vocalist in a successful band. I sang all the time as a child, including with popular songs on the radio and the phonograph. I remember being told, "Please don't sing at the dinner table!" I still know the words and harmonies of all those late 50s and 60s songs, and I still love a cappella doo-wop. In high school I sang in the chorus and the madrigal group. In Boulder, I took a few lessons and sang with little groups and garage bands, occasionally sitting in with a working band. Although I like many kinds of music, my big favorites (along with classical music) are blues and traditional American, English and Irish music, in their original forms as well as the pieces they've inspired.

I've sung in several community and college groups in the Bay Area and in Austin. But what I'd most like to do here is develop a way to sing regularly at nursing homes. (I need some company and perhaps some accompaniment.) I found out about WMMC when I met Judy Trejo doing just that. It is a real privilege to be able to enjoy the outstanding talents of the members of our club and to get to know so many friendly, lovely people.



President's Message

Janie Keys

Many thanks to Maxine Gomes for hosting the new member orientation. Assisting Maxine in welcoming new members were Carolyn McColloch, Carol Kooch, and your president. The new members attending were Linda Tietz, Gail Findlay, Estelle Singer, Don Singer, Sidney South, Elise Ragland, David Hammond, and Gregory Eaton. Welcome also to Gay Bullard who was unable to attend.

Roots. WMMC is a local club that is part of a national organization, NFMC, which had its beginnings in Chicago, Illinois in 1893. We are also part of a state organization, TFMC, which had its beginnings in Brownwood, Texas, in 1915. Our club's beginning occurred on Wednesday morning, January 24, 1923, in the home of Minnie Sneed Wilcox.

You can read more history of WMMC on page 5 of the yearbook. Midway down that page, it states that in 1935, our club backed the movement to establish a music department at the University of Texas. A personal account of that was related to me by Natalie Morgan: In 1935, Marian Taylor (a former president serving from 1948 - 1950) was part of a committee which planned on making an appearance before the Board of Regents at UT to lobby for establishing a department of music. Marian found out that the other committee members couldn't go. She had to face the daunting task of talking to the Board of Regents by herself. She was obviously successful!

Surprise! About that song at the end of the program last Wednesday: "Happy Birthday To You" is the most recognizable song in the English language according to Guinness World Records. The origins of the song date back to the late 19th century, when two sisters, Patty and Mildred J. Hill (a pianist and composer), introduced the song "Good Morning to All" to Patty's kindergarten class in Kentucky. They published the tune in their songbook, *Song Stories For The Kindergarten*. The American copyright status of the "Happy Birthday To You" began to draw attention in 1998 and was contested until 2016 when a federal court finally declared it to be in the public domain. Thank you all for the song.

At our next meeting we can look forward to the program dedicated to piano. For a preview, go to <http://www.kmfa.org/events> (choose classical live). For an updated program, check our website, www.musicclubaustin.org before the meeting.

Email from one of the winners of the March 15, 2017 Bonnie Cummins Fielder Grant contest, **Sydney Anderson to WMMC**

I wanted to, ..thank the Wednesday Morning Music Club for the award last year. I have been meaning to write to you to keep in touch regarding my successes since singing in Austin last year. With the award money, I bought a plane ticket to Germany and sang for a number of conductors in Berlin, Düsseldorf, and then Vienna. The feedback was very positive, and I plan to relocate to Germany next fall to do auditions there! None of this would have been possible without your organization's grant money.

If anyone from the group would like to keep up with what I'm doing professionally, my website is www.sydneyandersonsoprano.com

Thought of the Day

"He peopled it with human beings, and that was the Eternal Drama;

Then He breathed through every living thing something of God, inspiring us, and all who listened understood— That was Music."

Agnes Bishop Jardine, President NFMC, 1933-1937

HELP WANTED:

The Continental Retirement Community, 4604 South Lamar, is looking for a pianist Sunday afternoons at 4 PM to play mainly hymns for group singing. Please call Candy Ratcliffe (512) 367-8263 if you are interested.

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

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.

Yulia Klueva Hanna, piano

Classically trained since the age of 4 in Soviet Ukraine, Yulia went to the Music Academy in Donetsk, Ukraine and later to the Moscow Conservatory. She studied with Popova and decided to dedicate her career to teaching. Yulia is currently a piano teacher for college prep level students, a mom of her third daughter, a dedicated pianist/accompanist and a manager director at Russian Overtones, Academy of Music and Arts.

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.

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.

Timothy Woolsey, piano

Timothy Woolsey is Professor of Piano Emeritus at Texas State University where he taught from 1975-2010. He still teaches privately at home and taught adjunct at the University of Texas in 2015-2016. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from UT Austin where he studied with John Perry.



Events Calendar



St. Edwards Masterworks Singers - <https://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas>

Mar. 4 @ 7:30 p.m. Mabee Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Admissions \$10 General, \$5 students/seniors/ Staff

Mar. 8 @ 7:30 p.m. St. Theresa Church Free Will Offering

Join the St. Edward's Masterworks Singers, University Chorale, and Madrigal Chamber Singers, accompanied by the St. Edward's Orchestra as they present choral works by Johann Michael Haydn and American Master Mack Wilberg. The performance will feature the Texas Premiere of Wilberg's Requiem. Admissions \$10 General, \$5 students/seniors/ Staff

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

Mar. 10 @ 12:55 PM

Semiramide by Gioachino Rossini. This masterpiece of dazzling vocal fireworks makes a rare Met appearance – its first in nearly 25 years – with Maurizio Benini on the podium. The all-star el canto cast features Angela Meade in the title role of the murderous Queen of Babylon, who squares off in breathtaking duets with Arsace, a trouser role sung by Elizabeth DeShong. Javier Camarena, Ildar Abdrazakov, and Ryan Speedo Green complete the stellar cast.

Austin Chamber Ensemble – austinchamberensemble.com

Mar. 10 @ 7:30 PM – First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

Simple Gifts features Felicity Coltman, piano; Martha MacDonald, clarinet; Terri Freeland, cello; and James Anderson, violin. The ensemble will perform Bernstein's Clarinet Sonata, John Williams' Air and Simple Gifts, works by Milhaud, Schickele, and others for the combination of piano, clarinet, violin, and cello.

Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org

Mar. 23 & 24 @ 8:00 PM - Dell Hall, The Long Center

Ode to the Organ. Organist Cameron Carpenter has his debut with the ASO performing pieces by Joseph Jongen and Camille Saint-Saëns. The Jongen, *Symphonie Concertante*, Op. 81 for Organ and Orchestra, "is a tour de force, considered by many to be among the greatest works ever written for organ and orchestra." The evening concludes with Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3 in C Minor*. Saint-Saëns said this about the piece, "I gave everything to it I was able to give. What I have here accomplished, I will never achieve again." After the death of his friend Franz Liszt on July 31, 1886, Saint-Saëns dedicated the work to Liszt's memory.

Balcones Orchestra – bcorchestra.net

Mar. 25 @ 4:00 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Avenue
Martin McCain, trombone.

Georgetown Symphony Society - gsstx.org

Mar. 25 @ 4:00 PM – Georgetown H. S., Klett Ctr. for the Performing Arts, 2211 N. Austin

Opera's Great Hits. Round Rock Symphony, Stephan Sanders, conducting. Program: Overture from Nabucco; Donizetti: songs from Act 1 of Lucia di Lammermoor; Bizet's *Carmen Suite No. 1 Aragonaise, Habanera, and Suite No. 2 Danse Boheme*. Bizet's *Au fond du temple saint* from *les Pecheurs de perles*. Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra*, and *Dunque io son* from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Verdi's Act 1 from *La Traviata*, several songs; Bellini's *Norma*; Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Performers are Julia Taylor, soprano; Junsuk Park, tenor; Ellie Shattles, mezzo-soprano; Said Pressley, baritone. Email carolynhmcc@gmail.com for detailed program.

Austin Civic Orchestra - austincivicorchestra.org

Mar 25 @ 7:30 PM – Bates Recital Hall at UT – FREE

Texas Rising Stars. ACO celebrates this sixth annual concert, featuring the winners from the Butler School of Music String Concerto Competition as well as Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral* and the chamber version of Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. Pre-concert talk at 6:45 PM in room MRH 2.614 in the same building. Program: Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61, *Allegro ma non troppo*, by Ludwig van Beethoven, featuring Patrice Calixte on violin; *Concierto del sur* for Guitar and Orchestra, *Allegro moderato*, by Manuel Ponce, featuring Henry Johnston on guitar; *Concerto No. 2 in D Major* for cello and orchestra, Hob. VIIIb/2, Op. 101, *Allegro moderato*, by Joseph Haydn, featuring Seulki Lee on cello; Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 22, *Allegro moderato* by Henryk; *blue cathedral* by Jennifer Higdon and *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland.

Salon Concerts – salonconcerts.org

Mar. 25 @ 4:30 PM, Mar. 26 @ 7:30 PM – private homes

You won't want to miss this fantastic concert that includes some of Salon Concerts favorite artists: Annie Chalex Boyle, Doug Harvey and Rick Rowley. This diverse and exciting program also brings Professor of Flute at UT Marianne Gedigian along with Austin's own Line Upon Line Percussion. Artistic Director and composer Kathryn Mishell will premier her newest chamber work.