

Noteworthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

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MEMBERS HIGHLIGHT



Mary and Kenneth Takvam

Ken and Mary met at the wedding of a mutual friend where Mary was the soloist. A church is the perfect setting for a preacher's kid (Mary) and a church elder to meet – don't you think? Their first musical date was at the Metropolitan Opera House to see the *Tales of Hoffman* starring Placido Domingo.

Mary received her education (B.M. and M.S.E.D.) in violin and voice from the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam. She taught and performed in the Mid-Hudson Valley for several years until Ken, who worked for IBM, was transferred to Austin in 1986. She has performed in various operas, oratorios, recitals, string quartets, chamber orchestras and solo vocal quartets. She has also taught various types and levels of music in schools and been a church choir director for several years.

Ken has a B.S. from The City University of New York at Staten Island and an M.S. from the State University of New York at New Paltz in bio-chemistry. Ken's father was from Norway, so at a young age he was exposed to the works of Edvard Grieg. In fact, his father had recordings of *all* his works.

Both are now retired--Mary from public school teaching and Ken from IBM-Austin.

Mary has had some interesting musical experiences:

- she was hired to perform on a boat sailing the Hudson River for a 1st anniversary party;
- she performed several times at the Cadet Chapel at West Point, New York;
- she was selected to sing at an OPUS event (a fund raising group associated with Texas A&M); and
- she was invited to sing at the historical Mountain House at New Paltz, NY for evening prayers.

Mary is currently the soprano section leader for Chorus Austin and keeps busy making jewelry for her own company she started a few years ago.

Ken was ordained an elder in the Reformed Church in America in 1979 (the Presbyterian Church as understood by the Dutch). The ordination took place in Brick Reformed Church, Montgomery, N.Y. During the ordination service, twenty-two ordained people "laid hands" on him (quite a circle), making the event very memorable, even to this day. This year, that church will be celebrating its 287th Anniversary. It's a Registered Landmark with a rich history.

Ken and Mary's two married children are Katrina and Kristian.

Mary's father officiated at Katrina's wedding and Ken officiated at Kristian's.



President's Message

Janie Keys

Let us entertain you. The Silver Strings Orchestra, led by Catherine Van Zanten, set the tone for the Pops Program with a selection of well-loved melodies. The enjoyment continued with performances by singers Suzy Gallagher, Kit Thompson, and Charles Palmer. The poetry reading from the Newberry Medal award winning book *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman was a delightful surprise. The poems, full of wit and charm, were a duet of words brought to life by Marcia Edwards and Sarah Harriman. The titles of the poems were curious, but evocative: "Water Striders," "Honeybees," "Book Lice," "Chrysalis Diary" and "House Crickets." (Who wouldn't want to read a poem called "Book Lice"?) The fun continued after the program with refreshments organized by Hospitality Co-chair Elizabeth Lerner.

About the orchestra: The Silver Strings orchestra (including pianist Carolyn McColloch and flutist Pat Yingst) has 21 members, 9 of whom belong to WMMC. Their repertoire consists of a large library of old Broadway and movie hits that have been collected and formatted into 4 different programs of about 17 pieces each which are rotated from one season to the next. Practices are every Monday in August for the fall concert season and again in January for the spring season. They welcome new players of any level of skill, and there is no audition. Rehearsals take place in the chapel of the Austin State Hospital where the orchestra also performs in selected wards. They also play at nursing homes and retirement centers.

Many thanks to Carolyn McColloch for her report on the TFMC convention held in Midland on March 22 - 24. Please read about the convention in the article below.

There is good news from Opera in the Ozarks regarding the NWA Gives Day held on April 5th. Not only was the goal of raising \$7000 met, but donations went flying past it to reach \$10,000! Thanks to all WMMC members who contributed.

Don't miss this one: The program Dedicated to Opera is on April 18 with guest performances by Kyle Lopez, baritone, and Martha Hayes, soprano. They are both in their junior year at Texas State University. You can go to <http://www.kmfa.org/events> for a preview of the program.

Poetry

Art Thou Troubled?

From the opera *Rodelinda* by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Sung by Carla Johnson and accompanied by Katie Kerwin on guitar at our March 21, 2018 meeting

Art thou troubled?
Music will calm thee,
Art thou weary?
Rest shall be thine.

Art thou troubled?
Music will calm thee,
Art thou weary?
Rest shall be thine.

Music, source of all gladness,
Heals thy sadness at her shrine,
Music ever divine,
Music calleth with voice divine.

Music, source of all gladness,
Heals thy sadness at her shrine,
Music ever divine,
Music calleth with voice divine.

When the welcome spring is smiling,
All the earth with flowers beguiling,
After winter's dreary rain,
Sweetest music doth attend her,
Heavenly harmonies doth lend her,
Chanting praises in her train.



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.

Katharine Shields, soprano

Katharine has performed in recitals, revues, opera, and Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in Boston and Austin. She has done Hit Parade Reviews with Carol Kooock and Jerry Conn, and programs with songs by George Gershwin and Cole Porter. In addition to the Wednesday Morning Music Club, she enjoys singing in the University Methodist Church Choir and Chorus Austin. She volunteers for the Settlement Club and the Austin Opera Guild.

Margarito Morales, piano

Margarito plays multiple instruments, but his passion is piano. He had his musical debut at age five playing violin and singing in a mariachi group. Margarito excelled in playing alto saxophone by winning state music competitions and was Drum Major at Navarro High School in Geronimo, Tx. His piano studies started in Seguin, but he has studied in New York with the Dorothy Taubman seminar and in Germany for Interharmony International Music Festival. Margarito was accepted into the piano program at the University of Texas-Austin, but currently pursues a successful career at Apple.

Member News

WMMC was well represented at the TFMC state convention in Midland, Texas, Thursday, March 22 – Saturday, March 24. These members attended: Lee Meyer, Phyllis Noonan, Sue Breuer and her daughter Paula, Carlie and Tom Burdett, Carla and Phil Johnson, Bill and Laresa Yick, Marcia Edwards, and Carolyn McColloch. Meetings were held at the Double Tree Hotel and at the nearby First United Methodist Church. The convention theme was “Black Gold and Golden Sounds.” We received a perfect score on our 2017-2018 yearbook evaluation. We also received a certificate for Outstanding Participation in Crusade For Strings.

A work entitled “Musings: A Suite for Piano,” by Odessa composer Ronald Bennett was the featured entertainment Thursday evening. The suite was performed in very dramatic fashion by students of Gayle Bissell, Director of Keyboard Studies at Odessa College.

During the Friday morning Memorial Service, candles were lit in memory of members who have passed away during the past year. WMMC members Doris Jean Tyler, Dr. Josie

Champion, and Mary Lou Connelly were recognized. Friday afternoon, Carlie Burdett played several of her compositions with Connie Randall reading the lyrics. Original plans had been for Carla Johnson to sing, but her laryngitis forced a change.

The convention banquet Friday evening featured Frances Nelson, NFMC First V-P, as guest speaker. Friday evening concluded with a concert by the NFMC Young Artist André Chiang, baritone. He sang selections from Rossini, Brahms, and Bizet in the first half of the concert. The second half included several show tunes, closing with a moving rendition of “If ever I would leave you” from *Camelot*. Lee Meyer was responsible for making the arrangements for Mr. Chiang's convention performance.

Saturday morning, Carla Johnson invited everyone to next year's convention, which will be held in Lubbock, March 28 – 30, 2019. The convention ended with music from the TFMC Chorus, with Lynn McNew directing and Carolyn McColloch at the piano.

Events Calendar



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

Apr. 14 @ 11:30 AM

Luisa Miller by Giuseppe Verdi. Plácido Domingo adds yet another role to his legendary Met career in this rarely performed Verdi gem, a heart-wrenching tragedy of fatherly love. Sonya Yoncheva sings the title role opposite Piotr Bazala in the first Met performance of the opera in more than ten years. Bertrand de Billy conducts.

Classic Chamber Concerts - gsstx.org

Apr. 15 @ 4:00 PM—Hewlett Room, Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. 8th Street

Invoke Inspiration. *The Creation of the World for Piano Quintet, Op. 81b* by Darius Milhaud; *String Quartet No. 2, Bluegrass* by Mark O'Connor; and Invoke compositions by members, Nick Montopoli, violin/banjo; Zachariah Matteson, violin; Karl Mitze, viola/mandolin; Geoff Manyin, cello, and Toby Blumenthal, piano.

Texas Early Music Project - early-music.org

Apr. 21 @ 7:00 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Avenue

Apr. 22 @ 3:00 PM – First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

Complaints Through the Ages. “I am, therefore I complain.” Humans have always had things to complain about, ranging from life-threatening, quality-of-life issues to conjured or superficial annoyances that simply don’t fit into the notion of what a good day should hold. Our musical exploration will portray the timelessness of humanity’s grumping from medieval times to the present day. With guest Ryland Angel, countertenor, and more.

Balcones Orchestra – bcorchestra.net

Apr. 22 @ 4:00 PM – St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th Street

Dr. Robert Radmer, Music Director. Program includes Cimarosa: *Il Matrimonio per Raggiro* Overture; Haydn: *Symphony No. 82 in C Major (L’Ours)*; Brahms: *Violin Concerto in D Major* (Movements II and III) with soloist Jessica Mathaes, violin.

Ensemble VIII – ensembeviii.org

Apr. 26 @ 7:30 PM – Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church,

Apr. 27 @ 7:30 PM – St. Louis Catholic Church Chapel,

Cathedrals of Mexico – Grand Polyphony of Puebla and Mexico City. The exquisite Cathedrals of Puebla and of Mexico City boasted sacred music that rivaled that of Europe. Some of the earliest composers were of Spanish or Portuguese birth, but flourished in Mexico. Native composers took up the mantle and wrote works of the highest craft and inspiration. Featured in this concert are some of the finest sacred works from Mexican composers including Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla, Gaspar Fernández, and Hernando Franco.

Central Texas Medical Orchestra - ctmorchestra.org.

Apr. 28 @ 7:30 PM – Westover Hills Church of Christ, 8332 Mesa Drive

Early Mother’s Day. Guest virtuoso Huaen Moon, violin, and special guest Erin Ivey, soprano, will perform benefitting the Breast Cancer Resource Center.

Austin Opera - austinopera.org

Apr. 28 & May 3 @ 7:30 PM – The Long Center

May 6 @ 2:30 PM – The Long Center

La Traviata. Verdi’s tragic heroine takes center stage in one of the most frequently performed operas of all time – *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi. Violetta Valery, a courtesan who knows she will soon die, falls in love with the handsome Alfredo, but – as often happens in opera - their happiness cannot last. Soprano Marina Costa-Jackson, who took first place in 2015 in the Metropolitan Opera’s National Council Auditions, takes the stage as Violetta. American tenor Scott Quinn will make his Austin Opera debut as Alfredo. Michael Chioldi performs the pivotal role of Alfredo’s father, Giorgio.

Poetry Challenge

2017-2019 MUSIC IN POETRY CHALLENGE from Marque McKay, TFMC Music in Poetry Chair

For all you accomplished and aspiring composers out there in **TFMC-Land**, here is a poem by Fenton Johnson. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1888 and died in 1958. He was a forerunner of the **Harlem Renaissance** writers.

Let's see what you can do with it!

Deadline for Entries: January 15, 2019. No CD's.
Send to Lois Armor

11003 Whisper Valley
San Antonio, TX 78230
loisarmor@sbcglobal.net

Winners will be announced at the 2019 TFMC convention.



In the Evening

by Fenton Johnson, 1888 - 1958

I

In the evening, love returns,
Like a wand'rer 'cross the sea;
In the evening, love returns
With a violet for me;
In the evening, life's a song,
And the fields are full of green;
All the stars are golden crowns,
And the eye of God is keen.

II

In the evening, sorrow dies
With the setting of the sun;
In the evening, joy begins,
When the course of mirth is done;
In the evening, kisses sweet
Droop upon the passion vine;
In the evening comes your voice:
"I am yours, and you are mine."

This poem is in the public domain.

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