

# Noteworthy

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## THE DAFFODIL PRINCIPLE

By Jaroldeen Asplund Edwards

Several times my daughter had telephoned to say, "Mother, you must come to see the daffodils before they are over." I wanted to go, but it was a two-hour drive from Laguna to Lake Arrowhead.

"I will come next Tuesday," I promised a little reluctantly on her third call.

Next Tuesday dawned cold and rainy. Still, I had promised, and reluctantly I drove there. When I finally walked into Carolyn's house, I was welcomed by the joyful sounds of happy children. I delightedly hugged and greeted my grandchildren.

"Forget the daffodils, Carolyn! The road is invisible in these clouds and fog, and there is nothing in the world except you and these children that I want to see badly enough to drive another inch!" My daughter smiled calmly and said, "We drive in this all the time, Mother."

"Well, you won't get me back on the road until it clears, and then I'm heading for home!" I assured her.

"But first we're going to see the daffodils. It's just a few blocks," Carolyn said. "I'll drive. I'm used to this."

"Carolyn," I said sternly, "please turn around."

"It's all right, Mother. I promise. You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience." After about twenty minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the church, I saw a hand-lettered sign with an arrow that read, "Daffodil Garden." We got out of the car, each took a child's hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then, as we turned a corner, I looked up and gasped. Before me lay the most glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it over the mountain peak and surrounding slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns, great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, creamy white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, and saffron and butter yellow. Each different-colored variety was planted as a large group so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. There were five acres of the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen.

"Who did this?" I asked Carolyn.

"Just one woman," Carolyn answered. "She lives on the property. That's her home." Carolyn pointed to a well-kept A-frame house, small and modestly sitting in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house.

On the patio, we saw a poster. "Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking" was the headline. The first answer was a simple one. "50,000 bulbs," it read. The second answer was, "One at a time, one woman. Two hands, two feet, and one brain." The third answer was, "Began in 1958."

For me, that moment was a life-changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than forty years before, had begun, one bulb at a time, to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountaintop. Planting one bulb at a time, year after year, this unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. One day at a time, she had created something of extraordinary magnificence, beauty, and inspiration. The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration. That is, learning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time—often just one baby-step at a time—and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world.

"It makes me sad in a way," I admitted to Carolyn. "What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal thirty-five or forty years ago and had worked away at it "one bulb at a time" through all those years? Just think what I might have been able to achieve!"

My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. "Start tomorrow," she said.



# President's Message

**Janie Keys**

An ancient Greek philosopher once expressed the thought that change is the only constant in life. Change is stimulating and keeps us moving forward. We also feel the familiarity and value of a place where our history and tradition reside. Those two opposing forces have met, and one of them has emerged more compelling. Change is in the air.

There are many benefits in moving to First Unitarian Universalist Church (First UU). We will be given the use of much that has become valuable: easy parking, easy access, handicapped access, a lectern and microphone in place, a well-maintained piano, an organ, a second piano, a kitchen, and ease of setting up. It's a long list. That last item will be applauded by our House Committee. During setup, they have many times been faced with the question of "where is the lectern?" The piano at First UU also gets a standing ovation from all who have played it. Meetings at the church will offer ease and comfort - no more folding chairs! Many of you have already experienced First UU as a site for our meetings. We had two meetings there two years ago, and the reviews were positive.

Before the conclusion of the meeting on May 2nd, we will set aside some time to honor and pay tribute to our past at TFWC. After the meeting our Hospitality Co-chairs Elizabeth Lerner and Sarah Harriman are planning a social time with refreshments for those of you who would like to stay awhile to visit or maybe take a stroll through the beautiful rooms on our floor.

Wherever WMMC meets, wherever we go, music will go with us. To reword that ancient bit of wisdom: music is our constant.

### *Our Programs:*

The Opera Program on April 18th was very engaging as singers set the stage with their dramatic presence and expressive voices. Featured on this program were guests Kyle Lopez, baritone, singing Brahms, Schubert, and Mozart and Martha Hayes, soprano, singing Handel, Schumann, and Cole Porter. Both have been accepted to attend Opera in the Ozarks to be in the touring opera "Cinderella" as members of the Studio Artists Program for undergraduates. Many thanks to pianist Brian Grothues who provided the lovely collaboration for all of the singers. Program leader Lee Meyer dedicated the Opera program to Enid Hallock, soprano and long-time member who passed away on April 14th.

The upcoming program on May 2nd is dedicated to "Music...the Universal Language", a very fitting end to a year of wonderful programs at TFWC.

## MUSIC POEMS FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### HERE COMES THE BAND

The band comes booming down the street,  
The tuba oomphs, the flutes tweet tweet;  
The trombones slide, the trumpets blare,  
The baton twirls up in the air.  
There's "ooh's!" and "ahs!" and cheers and clapping –  
And I can't stop my feet from tapping.  
---William Cole

### OURCHESTRA

So you haven't got a drum, just beat your belly.  
So I haven't got a horn—I'll play my nose.  
So we haven't any cymbals—  
We'll just slap our hands together,  
And though there may be orchestras  
That sound a little better  
With their fancy shiny instruments  
That cost an awful lot—  
Hey, we're making music twice as good  
By playing what we've got!  
---Shel Silverstein (From *Where the Sidewalk Ends*)

### SINGING

Little birds sing with their beaks  
In the apple trees;  
But little crickets in the grass  
Are singing with their knees.  
---Dorothy Aldis



### MUSICAL CAREER

She wanted to play the piano,  
But her hands couldn't reach the keys.  
When her hands could finally reach the keys,  
Her feet couldn't reach the floor.  
When her hands could finally reach the keys,  
And her feet could reach the floor,  
She didn't want to play that ol' piano anymore.  
---Shel Silverstein (From *A Light in the Attic*)

# ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

## Rachel May, violin

An unknown fact about California girl, Rachel May: when she was 15 she toured Europe with "America's Youth in Concert." Before leaving for Europe, the group performed in Carnegie Hall and at the White House for President Nixon where she was a witness to the signing of the 26th amendment allowing 18 year olds to vote.

## Terri Freeland, cello

From a young age, Terri has been passionate about performing chamber music with fellow musicians. After completing her MM in Cello Performance at UT Austin, Terri maintained a private cello studio and performed as a freelance musician with various groups, including The Austin Symphony. In 2005, she, along with Rachel May (violin) and Robert Centeno (piano), founded the Zelos Trio. Together they have concertized and coached young chamber musicians here and abroad with the Austin Chamber Music Center and Chamber Music for the World. Terri resides in Lakeway with her two children and her husband Dr. Dan Freeland, owner of Bee Caves Family Practice.

## Robert Centeno, piano

Robert Centeno has taught piano privately in the Austin area for almost 20 years and is the organist for the Burnet Presbyterian Church. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance at Texas State University, San Marcos. Lately his energies have been devoted to developing a unique 12-volume music theory series which features interactive capability. By swiping QR codes found in the books with a smart phone or pad, students can access ear training web apps which drill them on intervals, scales, chords, and melodic and rhythmic dictation. Also included in this series are extensive and progressive solo drills designed to develop sight-singing and dictation skills. When he is not working, Robert enjoys reading, biking and website development.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Lisa Shirah-Hiers, piano

Lisa Shirah-Hiers holds a Master's Degree in Music Composition from the UT at Austin (1992) and a Bachelor's of Theory/Composition from Lawrence University, Appleton, WI (*summa cum laude* 1988). She teaches piano, theory and composition privately and publishes two blogs: *My Restless Muse* (<http://myrestlessmuse.blogspot.com/>) focusing on the creative life, and *Worthy of Note* (<http://shirahpianostudio.com/worthy-of-note.html>) with pieces particular to teaching and music. Her students consistently receive high scores and prizes in piano, composition and theory on various exams and competitions through ADMTA, TMTA, MTNA, TFMC and Austin Symphony Orchestra. She was nominated ADMTA Teacher of the Year in 2014-15.

## Jerry Conn, tenor

Jerry Conn has been one of Austin's most popular song and dance performers for many years. Jerry has done numerous cabaret shows in live theater venues, and he's also been in demand for years at LAMP, SAGE, and other adult learning classes for talks on the great musical performers of past decades.

## Walter Tibbitts, piano

Walter has been a piano pro since high school, but had a career in state government. Jerry and Walter first met when both worked for Gov. Preston Smith in the early '70s.

## MUSIC CLUB PINS AVAILABLE

As Insignia Chair for TFMC, I have 3 different pins for sale if you are interested. They are pictured (L – R): TFMC 100 year commemorative pin, Texas Federation of Music Clubs pin, and National Federation of Music Clubs pin. Cost is \$3 per pin. Please let me know if you would like one or more. Marcia Edwards



## Events Calendar



**Ensemble VIII** – [ensembleviii.org](http://ensembleviii.org)

**Apr. 26 @ 7:30 PM** – Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Road

**Apr. 27 @ 7:30 PM** – St. Louis Catholic Church Chapel, 7601 Burnet Road

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 composed in Mexico by composers including Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla, Gaspar Fernández, and Hernando Franco.

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

**Apr. 28 @ 11:55 AM**

*Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet. Joyce DiDonata is paired with mezzo-soprano Alice Coote in the trouser role of Prince Charming. Kathleen Kim portrays the Fairy Godmother, and Stephanie Blythe is the imperious Madame de la Haltière. Bertrand de Billy conducts Laurent Pelly's imaginative storybook production.

**Central Texas Medical Orchestra** - [ctmorchestra.org](http://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](http://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.

**Conspirare** – [conspirare.org](http://conspirare.org)

**May 3 @ 6:00 PM** - Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Avenue

Big Sing! Hymns and Gospel Songs. The audience is the choir! Song sheets are provided to all. Everyone is welcome, regardless of musical training and experience. Through a fun, no-pressure group singing experience, audience members learn basic vocal technique and sing as one with hundreds of others. Big Sing runs 60-75 minutes and is free.

**Georgetown Symphony Society** - [gsstx.org](http://gsstx.org)

**May 6 @ 4 PM** – Klett Center for the Performing Arts, 2211 N. Austin Avenue

Round Rock Symphony, conducted by Stefan Sanders, presents the Season Finale Program with guest artist Anton Nel performing Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*. Tickets available at the door.

**Conspirare** – [conspirare.org](http://conspirare.org)

**May 12 @ 7:30 PM** – University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street

Conspirare Youth Choirs: Dreamcatcher. This popular spring concert will feature music from films: the stunning score from the film *Les Choristes* by Coulais, as well as other lush and brilliant works of Frode Fjelheim, John Corigliano, Astor Piazzolla and Eric Whitacre.

**Texas Early Music Project** - [early-music.org](http://early-music.org)

**May 12 @ 7:00 PM** – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive

**May 13 @ 3:00 PM** – First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

The Original *Carmina Burana*. Back by popular demand, we again present unabashedly joyful and passionate songs about love, spring, dancing, philosophy, and mythology from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. *Carmina Burana* manuscript. Rated PG-13. With guests Mary Springfels, viola da gamba; Peter Maund, percussion; and Ryland Angel, countertenor.

**We Are The Chorus** – [wearethechorus.org](http://wearethechorus.org)

**May 13 @ 3:00 PM** – Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd.

Oklahoma. "We Are The Chorus" includes folks with developmental and physical disabilities and their "buddies." The Armstrong Music School sponsors the group. Performance will be approximately one hour with refreshments following. Admission is free. WMMC member Greta Gutman is founder of "We Are The Chorus" and serves as accompanist.

**Austin Civic Orchestra** - [austincivicorchestra.org](http://austincivicorchestra.org)

**May 13 @ 4:00 PM** - AISD Performing Arts Center, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd.

*1712 Overture*. A fun audience-participation concert will include *Divertimento for Orchestra* by Anthony Iannaconne; *4'33"* by John Cage; *Dance Rhapsody* by Lee Actor; *Concerto for Bass Trombone* by Thom Ritter George, featuring Martin McCain on bass trombone; *1712 Overture for rather large orchestra* by P.D.Q. Bach and festively edited by Peter Schickele; and *Symphony No. 4 "Heroes" – V. Neuköln* by Philip Glass. Free art show prior to the concert of works that Austin-area students created while listening to the *1712 Overture*.