

Noteworthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

Feb 20, 2019

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Gregory Eaton

Gregory Eaton is a conductor, organist, harpsichordist, and recorderist active in both sacred and secular music. After initial keyboard training from his mother, his musical studies were at the University of Redlands and Manhattan School of Music. He considers his most formative teachers to have been Jeffrey Rickard in church music and conducting, and Dr. Leslie Spelman in organ. Dr. Spelman was himself a pupil of Joseph Bonnet and Charles-Marie Widor in Paris, and one of the great organ pedagogues of the 20th century.

At his last organ lesson with Spelman, his teacher said, “My boy, French organists play French music, German organists play German music, and British organists play English music. It is only Americans who seem to be allergic to their own music. Always remember that you are an American organist of the 20th century, and *that* is your primary music.” Taking that to heart, Gregory has always played and promoted music by American composers of all periods, while also having a great deal of both “standard” and less-famous European organ music in his large repertoire.

Gregory Eaton 2017, Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. During a concert he performed there.

Gregory is currently the Organist/Choirmaster at All Saints’ Episcopal Church, in Austin, TX, where he has been since November of 2014. He conducts the parish’s two vocal choirs and handbell choir, and he provides music for Sunday services, monthly Evensong, and other special events. He is also the director of School Liturgical Music for St. Theresa’s Catholic School, and director of the Damenchor (women’s choir) of the Austin Saengerrunde (German singing society). He is a member of the Austin Recorder Quartet, which plays instruments ranging from the 7” sopranino to 6’ contrabass recorder. Gregory is on the Board of La Follia Austin Baroque Orchestra and President of the Board of Ensemble VIII. Mr. Eaton is a member of the American Guild of Organists, and he currently serves as Dean of the Austin Chapter. In the Brooklyn Chapter of the AGO, he served as a member of the Executive Board, three terms as Sub-Dean, and three terms as Dean.

From 1984 to 2014 Gregory was in New York, where he moved upon being invited to be a part of the music staff at Trinity Church, Wall Street. In addition, he served as lecturer in Church Music at the General Theological Seminary for 24 years, concurrent with his position as director of music at St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church for 21 years. At St. Ann’s, he founded a weekly organ concert series on the church’s historic E.M. Skinner organ. He played more than 600 concerts on this organ in a 15-year span, utilizing a repertoire of more than 650 works, from short chorales to full-scale organ symphonies. His partner, David Hurd, is one of the country’s leading organists and composers of church music. Dr. Hurd still resides in NYC, where he is the music director at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Gregory was also co-founder, with David Hurd, of Chelsea Winds recorder ensemble.



President's Message

Janie Keys

The program

As audience members we have become accustomed to seeing performers in the act of creating music. The Sacred Music program featuring performances on the pipe organ at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church offered us a different listening experience. Sitting in the pews facing the pipes (and not the console where the organist plays), we were immersed in an all-enveloping sound that asked us to look up at the pipes in the great room of the Sanctuary to see where the sound was coming from. It was an experience many of us will remember and savor. Watching the organists actually produce that sound could sidetrack listeners into amazement at the amount of physical effort and coordination required to play the organ.

This wonderful instrument was built by Casavant Freres of Quebec, Canada, one of the best known and most respected pipe organ builders today. The Casavant brothers established their factory in 1879. Throughout its history the sound and style of Casavant organs have varied, but they are still rooted in French organ building traditions. It was installed at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in 2001 after significant modifications to the Sanctuary. It has three manuals and 61 ranks of pipes. It was described by resident organist Paul Keith as having a "French accent" (!), meaning it has the tonal qualities or "sonorities resulting from a particular mix of stops, some of which are from the late 1800's."

The program was met with great appreciation and enthusiasm from the audience. The organ selections ranged from J.S. Bach to contemporary American composer David Hurd. Between those selections, a lovely interlude of spirituals and the very moving "A Simple Song" from Bernstein's *Mass* sung by Elise Ragland provided a contrast in sound.

The meeting

The dedicated work of the committees that keeps our club up and running is invisible: all we see are the results. The Nominating Committee is active every two years and puts in a substantial amount of time in finding a new slate of officers. Our club is the beneficiary of their work. The new slate is listed in the attached minutes, and at the next meeting on February 20th we will affirm the new slate by voting.

For our next meeting with a program dedicated to Crusade for Strings, we will be back at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church. I hope to see you there.

About the poet in "Poetry Corner": Robert Burns (1759 - 1796) was a Scottish poet and lyricist who is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. He is also regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic movement. As you read the poem, you can hum along with the alternate melody of "Away In A Manger," which by the way, was written by Jonathan Edwards Spillman (1812 - 1896) a Kentucky lawyer, minister, and composer. Thanks to Sarah Harriman, our Scottish enthusiast, who suggested this poem. In keeping with the spirit of Valentine's Day, which is just around the corner, you can go to <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/red-red-rose> to read another of Burns' well loved poems, "A Red, Red Rose."

2019 TFMC Convention in Lubbock

The 104th convention of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs will be held March 28 – 30 at the MCM Elegante Hotel and Suites in Lubbock, Texas. Members of WMMC are welcome and encouraged to attend. The convention theme is "Melodic Breezes Flow Through the Cotton Fields." District 1 with the Lubbock and Allegro Music Clubs is responsible for the arrangements.

Lavonna Whitesell, VP of the South Central Region, will give the banquet speech Friday night. The banquet will be followed by a concert with the Happy Dog Duo--NFMC Young Artists Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung. These two pianists are the 2017 Ellis Duo-Piano winners.

If you are interested in attending, please call the hotel at 806-763-1200 to reserve a room. Ask for the TFMC rate of \$95 per night. (Deadline March 13.)

March 13 is also the deadline to get your registration and meal reservations to TFMC Treasurer Dorene Allen (10605 Richmond Ave., Lubbock, TX 79424).

Come enjoy the fellowship, music, and information sharing in West Texas!

Thought for the Day

“Love is friendship set to music.” — Jackson Pollock

Afton Water

by Robert Burns

National Poet of Scotland (1759 –1796)

This poem is usually sung to the melody “Away In a Manger”

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise;
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Thou stock-dove, whose echo resounds thro' the glen,
Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny den,
Thou green-crested lapwing, thy screaming forbear,
I charge you disturb not my slumbering fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbouring hills,
Far mark'd with the courses of clear winding rills;
There daily I wander as noon rises high,
My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green valleys below,
Where wild in the woodlands the primroses blow;
There oft, as mild Ev'ning sweeps over the lea,
The sweet-scented birk shades my Mary and me.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides,
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides,
How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave,
As gathering sweet flowrets she stems thy clear wave.

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,
Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of my lays;
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Suggested by Sarah Harriman



Factoids

1. A single violin is made from over 70 individual pieces of wood.
2. Dogfish skin was often used in the 18th century to sand violins.
3. During the performance of Boris Godunov at Sydney opera house, a chicken fell of the stage and onto a cellist.

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

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.

Evan Nave, violin

Evan Nave is a graduate of the UT-Austin Plan II Honors Program and UT Law School. His first instrument was clarinet but he did not continue to play it after high school. Dissatisfied with being only a spectator at musical events, after law school, at age 29 he took up violin and studied with Robert Brockett. Evan has played with the Austin Civic Orchestra for over 25 years and, now retired from the law, he also plays violin with the St. Edward's University Orchestra and with the Silver Strings Orchestra. He also plays a little saxophone and takes piano lessons. Evan believes that music is about the best thing there is and a wonderful activity at any age.

Katie Kerwin, guitar

I have a Bachelor's of Music Performance degree on guitar from the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music. For 25 years to the present, I have taught in my private studio on guitar, violin, and piano and at the central studio of the Childbloom Guitar Program. The blessing of working in performances on solo works, chamber music, and orchestra gives me great joy. I especially like to promote the use of classical guitar in chamber music.

Mary Parse, piano

Mary began playing hymns for Sunday school in the fourth grade, and she was full-time organist at her church from eighth grade through high school. During undergraduate school at Austin College, she was the pianist for the vocal studio and the college choir. She has continued to play for churches, singers and instrumentalists ever since, and she loves collaborative music-making.

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.

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.

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, and U. of Michigan Interlochen. 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!

Maxine Gomes, piano

Maxine Gomes earned piano performance degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and New York University where she received her Ph.D. She pursued a dual career in New York for many years as a music teacher and solo pianist giving numerous recitals and FM radio broadcasts on Long Island and New York City. After earning a Professional Diploma in Administration, Maxine took a hiatus from music and had a career in school administration on Long Island, New York. Maxine, again, is enjoying performing in the metropolitan Austin area.

Martha MacDonald, clarinet

My first exposure to music was from my mother who played piano and my dad who played trumpet, and both sang in the church choir. Our family holidays included singing around the piano with any added instruments that were handy. Chamber music has always been my first love, and I've followed it through my Bachelor of Music Ed from Baylor, MM from the University of Michigan, and DMA from The University of Texas. I've enjoyed performing chamber music on a professional basis with the Austin Chamber Ensemble, Cantilena Chamber Soloists, Chante Duo, and Trio Contraste. I've also enjoyed teaching piano and flute in addition to clarinet and working with students in chamber music groups.

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.

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.

Richard Kilmer, violin

Richard began violin lessons with his mother at age four, in Tulsa, OK. After achieving the Artist Diploma at the Eastman School of Music, he moved to Brussels to study with Authur Grumiaux at the Royal Conservatory, and with Szymon Goldberg in Amsterdam where he performed in the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra. Richard lived in Amsterdam for fifteen years and performed worldwide with the famed Amati Quartet and the Mendelssohn Trio. Also he appeared as soloist with Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Michoacan (Mexico) and Sinfonica Nacional de El Salvador. He is currently Principal Second Violin with the Austin Symphony and maintains a busy teaching schedule of private students and chamber music ensembles.

Toby Blumenthal-Phillips, piano

Toby began playing the piano at age 7, and at age 13 she performed as a piano soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra after winning an area-wide competition for the opportunity. She serves on the Round Rock Symphony Orchestra board. She became the director of CHAMPS (Chamber Music in Public Schools) in April 2011 and cofounded Luzerne Chamber Music Festival in Lake Luzerne, New York, now in its 31st year. Toby credits music for giving her some of the best things in life: a shared passion with her late husband, Bert Phillips; an entire extended family of students; and lifetime bonds with fellow musicians.

Events Calendar



Texas Early Music Project - early-music.org

Feb. 16, 7:30 PM - St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive

Feb. 17, 3:00 PM - First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

Celtic Fancies: Music from Ireland and Scotland c. 1500-1800.

Scottish and Irish ballads are evocative, heartfelt, and often humorous! Even the English held these works in high esteem, and our own Ben Franklin adored these songs and considered them the height of great art. With New York based guests Peter Walker (singer and a variety of small pipes) and Ryland Angel (singer).

Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org

Feb. 22, 8:00 PM and Feb. 23, 8:00 PM - The Long Center, 701 W. Riverside Drive

Brahms' Requiem with Conspirare Symphonic Choir.

In admiration of Haydn, Brahms wrote *Variations on the St. Antoni Chorale*, to be performed during the first half before the Conspirare Symphonic Choir joins the Symphony for the *Requiem*. Guest vocalists are Heather Phillips, soprano, and Paul Max Tipton, baritone.

Chorus Austin – chorusaustin.org

Feb. 23, 8:00 PM – St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th Street

Feb. 24, 4:00 PM – Austin Scottish Rite Theater, 207 W. 18th Street

The Chamber Ensemble joins forces with chamber music group Revel to present works with piano and saxophone, featuring Morten Lauridsen's *Mid-Winter Songs* and Anders Paulsson's stunning arrangement of *Deep River* for chorus and saxophone.

Austin Chamber Ensemble – austinchamberensemble.org

Mar. 1 and Mar. 2, 7:30 PM - First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Drive

Appalachia Waltz, Bolling and more.

The Austin Chamber Ensemble welcomes the return of James Anderson, violin/fiddle, to perform selections from Claude Bolling's *Suite for Violin and Jazz Piano*, along with a jazz trio (Martha Mortensen Ahern, piano; Phil Spencer, bass; and Brennan Howell, drums). Karla Hamelin, cellist, will also join the ensemble performing works by Mark O'Connor, Paul Schoenfeld and others.

Austin Chamber Music – austinchambermusic.org

Mar. 2, 7:30 PM - First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover Avenue

East Meets West - Synchronism.

Program includes *Piano Trio in G Major* by Claude Debussy; *Distance de fee* by Tōru Takemitsu; *Piano Trio* by Maurice Ravel. Featuring Sandy Yamamoto, violin; Amy Levine-Tsang, cello; and Michelle Schumann, piano.

Georgetown Symphony Society - gsstx.org

Mar. 3, 3:00 PM – Georgetown H. S. Klett Center for the Performing Arts, 211 N. Austin Avenue

The Round Rock Symphony, Stefan Sanders, conducting.

The Vivace Youth Orchestra will perform Carl Nielsen's *Alladin Suite* and Nino Rota's *Suite from The Godfather*. Guest artist Joseph Alessi, trombone, will perform Launy Grandahl's *Trombone Concerto* and Nino Rota's *Trombone Concerto*.

Panoramic Voices - Panoramicvoices.org

Mar. 3, 4:00 – 6:00 PM – 1156 Hargrave Street

The fourth collaboration between Panoramic Voices' singers and orchestra in which rock, pop, country, rap, and other musicians from the community and beyond are showcased. Concert will benefit the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians. Guest artists TBA

Salon Concerts – salonconcerts.org

Mar. 10, 4:30 PM – private home

The Miro Quartet will perform *Lyric Suite* by Alban Berg and *String Quartet in G Major* by Franz Schubert.

<http://music.utexas.edu/> - check all events online

2018–19 Met Live in HD Season
(movie theatre transmissions)
LIVE PERFORMANCES

DATE - SAT	COMPOSER	Opera
MAR 02—11:55 AM CENTRAL TIME	GAETANO DONIZETTI	<i>La Fille du Régiment</i>
MAR 30—11:00 AM CENTRAL TIME	RICHARD WAGNER	<i>Die Walküre</i>
MAY 11—11:00 AM CENTRAL TIME	FRANCIS POULENC	<i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i>