

Noteworthy

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THE STEELBAND MOVEMENT IN AUSTIN

By Angela Smith

When steel pan artist CJ Menge moved to Austin in 1993, he says he never dreamed he would be building a career around that instrument. In fact, he not only built a career, he also started a movement -- a movement to bring steelband education and advocacy to Central Texas. Because of the Inside Out Steelband organization he founded, Austin has gained a reputation as a center of contemporary steelband activity.

Since 1996 Inside Out has been presenting school concerts, workshops, and public performances in addition to steel pan instruction and classes. There are at least 12 curricular steel bands in Austin area schools and two community bands that rehearse weekly and an annual summer camp that draws students aged 12-18. With over 30 performances annually, Inside Out reaches an audience of over 15,000 people. From City Hall to roller derbies, Inside Out or one of its affiliated groups performs regularly, spreading steel band culture and appreciation for this unique musical form. Members of Inside Out have also performed for Wednesday Morning Music Club and for the state convention of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs.



Inside Out Steelband Director
CJ Menge

Menge started Inside Out as an Arts-in-Education program to expose Austin and Central Texas to the rich tradition of Trinidadian steel pan culture and music. He has helped to develop year-round steelband programs at James Bowie High School, McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy, and Covington Middle School. He has served as Artist-in-Residence with many other programs, including Bedichek Middle School, Round Rock High School, KIPP Austin College Prep, Sam Houston High School in San Antonio, and the University of Texas at Austin.

Inside Out is also in its fifth year of residency at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. An organizational goal is that this program will evolve into a year-round presence. Other goals are to strengthen the summer camp and to develop new programs in schools.

Menge has been surprised how much he enjoys teaching. His original ambition was to be a classical percussionist. He started playing piano at age 5 and drums at age 7, and he says as a kid music and sports were all important. A pivotal turning point came when he attended Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts for his junior and senior years. At that point he quit competitive soccer and decided to focus on music. His parents were supportive of his decision, and his exposure to the city's cultural scene got him excited about classical music.

After graduating from high school, Menge went to the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He started playing pan in 1990 because being in the steelband was a required part of the curriculum.



Inside Out Steelband Camp at McCallum High School

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He moved to Austin with two other friends from the Conservatory, and they formed a percussion trio that did chamber music performance and private gigs. He began helping Hartt Stearns, founder of One World Theatre, with after school programs and saw the possibility of starting a steelband program in schools. When he learned that the city provided cultural arts funding for such projects, the possibility suddenly became an opportunity.

He applied for city funding to begin a program in 1996-97. Being a first-time applicant, he was pleasantly surprised at the positive response he received.

That initial funding enabled him to begin a program at Bowie High School in 1997. The McCallum High School program started a year later, while Covington Middle School launched their program in 2000. The Armstrong Community Music School and its founding director, the late Margaret Perry, were instrumental in helping him start the community steelband program, also in 2000.

From that beginning grew 12 curricular bands in Austin involving about 250 students annually. The Community Band was started in 2000 to provide for adults and youth who didn't have an outlet in schools. Some 200 persons, aged from 10 to the 70s, have gone through that program over the last 20 years. In 2007, Inside Out hosted its first steelband camps. Through the years more than 500 students have participated and performed original works by the faculty, which includes Menge, Emily Lemmerman, Matt Ehlers, and Louis Raymond Kolker.

The Inside Out Steelband Festival is now in its 22nd year. This year's concert, April 23 at One World Theatre, features world class artist Liam Teague. On May 16, the Inside Out Community Steelband and the KIPP Austin Collegiate Steelband will perform with another outstanding pan artist, Josanne Francis.

Other public performances include a March 28 concert featuring the community steelband and students from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and a May 17 concert of New Music for Steel Pan at Armstrong School.

Information about all upcoming activities, classes, and the summer camp can be found on the Inside Out Steelband website <https://insideoutsteelband.org>. Inside Out also has a dedicated YouTube channel, as well as presence on social media such as Facebook and Instagram.

The outreach of Menge's work in Austin has expanded nationally and internationally. As a clinician he has worked with school programs throughout Texas. He has been a guest artist with several college and university programs, including the University of Florida and University of Oklahoma. He has been an adjudicator for the Virginia International PAN Fest and the Florida Steel Band Festival. He's also performed in the Trinidad and Tobago National Panorama competition.

More than 200 original works and arrangements for steelband by Menge have been performed throughout the United States and featured at national and international festivals, including recently at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in November 2018.

The active steelband scene in Austin has brought not only world class artists but also renowned tuners and creators of the instrument to Austin and has inspired the rise of other steelband programs in area schools.

Inside Out Steelband lives daily its mission of bringing people together from diverse backgrounds to experience the unifying power of music. Austin's music culture is richer for its existence.



Inside Out Steelband and KIPP Collegiate Steelband performing with world class pan artist Liam Teague at One World Theatre.



President's Message

Janie Keys

First impressions. Driving up to the First Unitarian Universalist Church early on the morning of March 6th, all was quiet and peaceful (no construction equipment, no workman guiding drivers around the big hole in the parking lot where other workmen were knee-deep!) There was a look of freshness to the grounds and the building. The disabled parking was clearly marked. Walking into the familiar entrance, everything looked the same as before construction, until I stepped into the new Sanctuary, and thought, "Ohhh!" It's a big, spacious room, with high ceilings and added seating. The piano, centered on the stage, and the microphone were ready and waiting for us.

The Sanctuary is not quite finished but didn't require a lot of imagination to picture it that way. In her words of welcome, church administrator Shannon Posern, displaying her positive outlook and seemingly endless patience with the construction process, advised members that the wiring for the new audio system was taking place, and the only entrance for the workmen to that area was through the women's restroom! (Solution: the family restroom located nearby). The kitchen, the restrooms, and a beautiful, big reception area (I'm sure there is a more formal name for this space) are newly renovated. A member of the House Committee commented that the reception room would be a great place for the Holiday Coffee. Looking at this room, I remember thinking that all was quiet and peaceful there.

The program. The piano and acoustics at First Unitarian Church were front and center as pianists played works from the Romantic era and the 20th century. It was great fun sitting in the audience hearing these pieces performed. Many thanks to Tim Woolsey for bringing to our attention the moving first movement of Prokofiev's Sonata No. 8 in B-Flat Major, op. 84. This three movement sonata, composed at the end of World War II, was hailed after its premiere by Russian pianist Emil Gilels as a masterwork of the 20th century and the equivalent of a large scale symphony for piano. It is known as the last of the "War Sonatas" (Nos. 6, 7, 8) composed between 1939 and 1944.

Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953), Russian Soviet composer, pianist and conductor, is regarded as one of the major composers of the 20th century, having created acknowledged masterpieces across numerous musical genres. His works include such well known and diverse works as the satirical opera *The Love for Three Oranges*, the ballet *Romeo and Juliet* (Prokofiev reused this music to compose 3 orchestra suites and a piano suite), and the symphonic fairy tale *Peter and the Wolf*. He composed (this list is incomplete) seven completed operas, seven symphonies, eight ballets, five piano concertos, two violin concertos, a cello concerto, a symphony-concerto for cello and orchestra, and nine completed piano sonatas. In an [article written for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#), Yefim Bronfman, Uzbekistan-born American pianist, makes a case that Prokofiev is the most important composer of piano sonatas since Beethoven and Schubert. Bronfman states: "The sonata form was explored to the fullest between Beethoven and Schubert. They went so far that no composer wanted to touch it, and I think Prokofiev was the only one who was able, and very successfully so, to continue that form and create something of his own. I think some of the sonatas are really just as beautiful, if I may be so courageous as to say so, as the ones of Schubert. I would say especially the last four sonatas, which are remarkable in expression, color and imagination." You can read more about the Sonatas Nos. 6, 7, and 8, and Bronfman's performances of them in the above link.

Next up. In a succession of great programs, Musical Mélange will take place at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church on March 20th. If you come back to the church at 1:00, you can hear the Bonnie Cummins Fielder Grant Contest. What a treat that will be!

Thought for the Day

"It's so easy to be negative in this world and to say no. Yes is so much better. You say yes when you have your first kiss, when you want to make someone feel good, when you open yourself to new experiences. I always say yes-- sí, sí, sí!--and it makes every day better."

Andrea Bocelli, from *Reader's Digest*, March 2019

Ella Fitzgerald once quipped:

“The only thing better than singing is more singing.”

Now is the time to indulge your inner Ella !

The Fielder Competition will take place

After our next WMMC meeting

On Wednesday, March 20th at 1pm, Triumphant Love Church.

We have reserved a seat for you.



(Thanks to Michelle D'Arcy for this clever reminder!)

Poetry Corner

Two Poems (#1755 and #1137)

By Emily Dickinson (American, 1830-1886)

To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,
One clover, and a bee,
And revery.
The revery alone will do,
If bees are few.

The Duties of the Wind are few--
To cast the Ships at sea,
Establish March,
The Floods escort,
And usher Liberty.

ABOUT OUR PERFORMERS

Sheryl Goodnight, flute

Sheryl has been a musician since childhood. At Temple High School she played with the All State Orchestra, and All Region and Area Bands and Orchestra. She received Outstanding Performer Awards at solo and ensemble contests. Sheryl holds a degree in Piano Performance from UT and a Performance Certificate in Flute. She is the Principal Flutist with the Temple Symphony Orchestra, and she teaches flute for Temple College and Mary Hardin Baylor. She also has a private studio in her home. She has presented recitals and clinics throughout Texas and often appears as soloist. Sheryl enjoys spending time with her dachshund Sassi, visiting with family and friends, doing aerobics, and working on her talking computer.

Elizabeth Arend Lerner, speaker

Elizabeth was born in Austin in the mid-1950s, the third child and only daughter. Her paternal grandparents lived in Pflugerville and her maternal grandmother lived on Rio Grande, a short distance from the Texas Federated Women's Club. She received her B.A. in Applied Art from Trinity University in San Antonio. A few months after graduating, she returned to Austin and has never left. She has worked in various administrative positions both paid and as a volunteer for the past 40 years. Currently, she is a docent at the Blanton Art Museum, a member of U.T. Forum and involved with several other groups. She is thankful to her dear friend, Sarah Harriman, for inviting her to join the WMMC.

Isabelle Lipovski, piano

Isabelle received a Bachelor of Music education from Viterbo University and a Masters in Piano Performance at University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. She has taught private piano lessons for many years and has done extensive piano collaboration with many vocalists and chamber music groups.

Pat Yingst, flute

Pat grew up playing piano and flute. She received a (second) degree in music theory from the University of Houston in 1979. After graduation she taught piano part time while returning to her profession as a software developer. She loved playing but suffered from intense performance anxiety in her younger years. Upon retirement, she has revisited her music as an avocation. She studies flute with Seetha Shivaswamy, is very active in the ACMC adult academy, and plays in several large ensembles like the Austin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Austin Flute Choir. She also serves as treasurer of the Austin Flute Society.

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!

Felicity Coltman, piano

Felicity Coltman is Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of the Austin Chamber Music Center. Born in South Africa, she was educated at the University of South Africa, the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College of Music in London, and the University of Kansas. Felicity has received a number of teaching and performing awards. In 2004 she was inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. For many years, Felicity has taught piano, theory and chamber music to students of all ages. She has enjoyed traveling with ACMC students to Europe and collaborating with students there to play chamber music. Today she remains active as teacher, performer, judge, and consultant. She is also a certified yoga teacher.

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.

Elise Ragland, voice

What a delight it has been to share the songs I have been studying during my recent years of voice lessons. In January, 2019, I did my first-ever voice recital thanks, in part, to the enthusiastic response by WMMC members to my offerings at meetings during my first year as a member.

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.

HELP NEEDED! TFMC President Lois Armor has requested help filling monitor positions for the TFMC District 6/4 (Austin) Music Festival on Saturday, March 16, at Texas State University in San Marcos. Volunteers should arrive by 8:00 am. If you cannot work the whole day, you may request a morning or afternoon shift. Please contact Virginia Kniesner (512) 343-6535 or vkniesner@msn.com if you can help.

Events Calendar



Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org
Mar. 22 and Mar. 23, 8:00 PM – Dell Hall,
 The Long Center, 701 W. Riverside Drive
 Creative Expressions.

A musical treat served up by your Austin Symphony Orchestra, celebrating the treasures composed by women through the ages. The evening's banquet begins with *Overture in C Major* by Fanny Mendelssohn and continues with expressive works by "Lili" Boulanger, Clara Schumann, Vitezslava Kapralova and award-winning American composer Jennifer Higdon. Joined by the famed group Time for Three and prominent pianist Michelle Schumann, ready your taste buds for a palette of artistic decadence!

Austin Civic Orchestra - austincivicorchestra.org
Mar. 26, 7:30 PM – Bates Recital Hall,
 2406 Robert Dedman Drive
 Texas Rising Stars.

Come hear the winners of the Butler School of Music's String Concerto Competition perform concerti accompanied by the orchestra. Camille Saint-Saëns's "Bacchanale" from *Samson et Dalila*, Samuel Barber's *First Essay for Orchestra*, and the U.S. premiere of Roydon Tse's *Sinfonia Concertante* are also on the program.

Conspirare – conspirare.org
Mar. 26, 7:30 PM – St. Martin's Lutheran Church,
 606 W. 15th Street
 March Moderns.

These three concerts will take listeners on a week-long musical journey with music by national and global voices from the United States to Iceland to Afghanistan. Selections explore relevant topics of freedom, equality, love and the human condition.

Mar. 29, 8:00 PM – Bates Recital Hall,
 2406 Robert Dedman Drive
Songs for Muska.

This is the world premiere of *Songs for Muska* composed by 2017-2018 American Prize winner Jocelyn Hagen. Hagen's musical textures and colors sing in these settings of landays (2-line Pashto folk poems) translated by Eliza Griswold and Farzana Marie's translations of poems by young Afghan women.

Mar. 31, 4:00 PM - St. Martin's Lutheran Church,
 606 W. 15th Street
 Canticle.

Kyle Smith's ethereal new work, a setting of St. John of the Cross' *Spiritual Canticle* for voices, three cellos, and vibraphone, will surround listeners in a sensual sound bath to conclude the festival.

Texas Early Music Project - early-music.org
Mar. 30, 7:30 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church,
 2111 Alexander Avenue
Mar. 31, 3:00 PM – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,
 8134 Mesa Drive

A Symphony of Voices: Choral Masterworks of Tudor England. Many voices, both solo and choral, performing some of the most sublime, moving, and exhilarating music imaginable. This is the world of early Tudor England, with music compiled between c.1490 and c.1520, featuring guests Ryland Angel, countertenor, and Mary Springfels, viola da gamba.

Austin Opera - austinopera.org
Apr. 5 & 6, 8:00 PM - The Paramount Theater,
 713 Congress Avenue
 Opera ATX – Soldier Songs.

In celebration of its bold new artistic initiative, Opera ATX, Austin Opera is proud to present the Central Texas premiere of an innovative new multimedia work, *Soldier Songs*, by acclaimed composer David T. Little. *Soldier Songs* combines elements of theater, opera, rock-infused concert music, and video by filmmaker Bill Morrison to explore themes of loss, the exploitation of innocence, and the difficulty of expressing the truth of war. The libretto, created by the composer, was adapted from recorded interviews with veterans of five wars. *Soldier Songs* traces changing perceptions of war in our society and by those who experience it. It is a chilling and realistic view of our media-crazed, war-machine culture, and of the nature of power in war.

Austin Baroque Orchestra - austinbaroqueorchestra.org
Apr. 6, 7:30 PM – Redeemer Presbyterian Church,
 2111 Alexander Avenue
 Viva Vivaldi!

Electrifying, passionate, sensual – these are but a few words that can describe the genius that was the music of Antonio Vivaldi. Known to his contemporaries as il prete rosso (The Red Priest) on account of his red hair, his music has enchanted millions since it found widespread popularity nearly a century ago. Our first all-Vivaldi program will consist of a diverse assortment of his instrumental and vocal output, with concerti featuring talented ABO soloists, overtures from operas, chamber works, and arias from his sacred and operatic oeuvre.

Austin Symphony – austinsymphony.org
Apr. 12 & 13, 8:00 PM - The Long Center, 701 W. Riverside Drive
 Worlds Apart.

Worlds collide as Mozart from Austria and Dvořák from the Czech Republic complement each other on this exciting program! The Austin Symphony will perform Dvořák's popular *New World Symphony* and Mozart's spirited *Violin Concerto No. 4* performed by William Hagen on his 1732 "Arkwright Lady Rebecca Sylvan" Antonio Stradivari! Hailed as a brilliant virtuoso, Hagen is sure to make his Austin Symphony debut one you won't forget! The evening will open with Gioachino Rossini's fan favorite, the *William Tell Overture*.

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



Factoid

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin sang a Shostakovich song, "My Homeland Hears," over the radio on his first space mission.

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

DATE - SAT	COMPOSER	Opera
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>