

# Noteworthy

A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: [musicclubaustin.org](http://musicclubaustin.org)

May 2021

*Presenting the Finalists of the 2020/2021  
WMMC High School Competition  
Wednesday May 19, 10 AM on ZOOM*

Our Fourth and Last Virtual Performance Meeting will be held on Zoom at 10 AM on May 19, 2021. We will hear recorded performances of the winners of the 2020/2021 High School Competition. Remember that this year, due to COVID19, only high school seniors were invited to compete.

Club Members will receive a link to the performance via email.

## Program

First Place: **Elliot Kim, Violinist**

Elliot will perform the first movement of the *Violin Concerto in D major* by Amadeus Mozart accompanied by Dr. Park Bogum.

Second Place: **Laoise Matsumoto, Violinist**

Laoise will perform the first movement of the *Concerto No. 4, Op. 31* by Henri Vieuxtemps and *La Gitana* by Fritz Kreisler accompanied by Betty Lin.

Third Place: **Ella Jones, Flutist**

Ella will perform the "Sarabande" from the *Partita for Flute Solo in A minor* by J. S. Bach

Because of the pandemic, this year's High School Awards contest was limited to high school seniors. The Maurer and Putter Awards of \$1800.00 and \$1600.00 were given to the First and Second Place winners, who also shared the Rudd Supplemental Award of \$250.00. The Wilcox Award money, normally given to First and Second Place winners in 9th to 11th grades, was used to create a Third place senior award of \$1400.00. The remaining \$750.00 was distributed among the top three Honorable Mention winners.

The First Place winner was Elliot Kim, Violinist, who won First Place in the Wilcox Contest in 2018. He has studied violin for 12 years, the last 9 with William Dick of Austin. Among his many awards is acceptance to the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America in 2020 and 2021. He is first violinist and founding member of the OPUS String Quartet, sponsored by the Austin Symphony Orchestra. He is also an award-winning pianist. Elliot will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, where he plans to continue his music studies and ensemble participation while focusing on pre-medical course work.

Second Place went to Laoise Matsumoto, Violinist, and student of U.T. Professor Sandy Yamamoto. Laoise began her violin studies at the age of three, with Kristi Manno. She has participated in numerous festivals, music camps, and institutes over the years, and has won many awards, including two first place awards and a second place award in the 2020 Great Composers Competition, an international online competition. Laoise will enter the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in the fall, and will study with Professor Sibbi Bernhardsen. She plans to go on to Masters and Doctoral programs after her undergraduate studies.

Ella Jones, Flutist, won the Third Place Award. She is a student of Ann Kjerulf Knien, who has given us several winners in the past. Ella has won many honors, including first chair in All-State Band, First Place in the Junior Division of the Austin Flute Society's Young Artist Competition, and 3rd Place in its Senior Division. She will attend Trinity University in San Antonio in the fall, where she has been invited to play in their wind symphony and orchestra.

# HEAR YE!

## Hear Ye! Bonnie Cummins Fielder Vocal Career Advancement Grant Winners!

by Michelle d’Arcy

Many different African languages share a proverb which expresses tackling daunting challenges: “It takes a village to raise a child.” In light of the trials, tribulations, and social distancing considerations caused by pandemic concerns, no truer words can be echoed by the WMMC Fielder Committee to describe what ended up being an enjoyable and successful 2021 Bonnie Cummings Fielder Grant for Vocal Career Advancement competition. A year ago, the administrative arm of the Fielder Committee had serious doubts – “Would the WMMC be able to launch a successful campaign to honor Bonnie’s legacy?” We are pleased to reveal the answer . . . a resounding “YES!”

Aspiring and talented applicants, engaged judges, gifted accompanists, diligent selection committee members, and the gracious hosting by the Steinway Piano Gallery all made for a harmonious and engaging event this year.



The first-place vocalist for 2021 is Catherine Goode, who received \$5,000. Catherine studied at the University of Houston as well as Michigan State University, where she received her master’s degree in Performance. She is a participant in the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco, where she has been named as Young Artist for 2021. One of her career goals is to create roles and commission a song cycle for women composers.

Following close on Catherine’s heels were the two finalists, Krista Renée Pape and Brian Yeakley, who were each awarded \$3,500. Krista is a soprano with a master’s degree from the University of Houston. She is Resident Artist, Opera North, and in 2019, she was named Emerging Artist at Opera in the Ozarks. Brian also studied at University of Houston. Currently he is the director of the Houston opera company, *Operativo*, where this November Pietro Mascagni’s Zanetto will debut the season.



The WMMC congratulates all on their performances and accomplishments with sincere wishes for success at every stage of their careers. Additionally, on behalf of the Fielder Committee and the entire WMMC, we would like to thank all of those “in the village” who made this year’s competition such a resounding success. We are grateful to you and fervently hope the 2023 competition finds us all celebrating in person.



## President's Message

Sarah Harriman

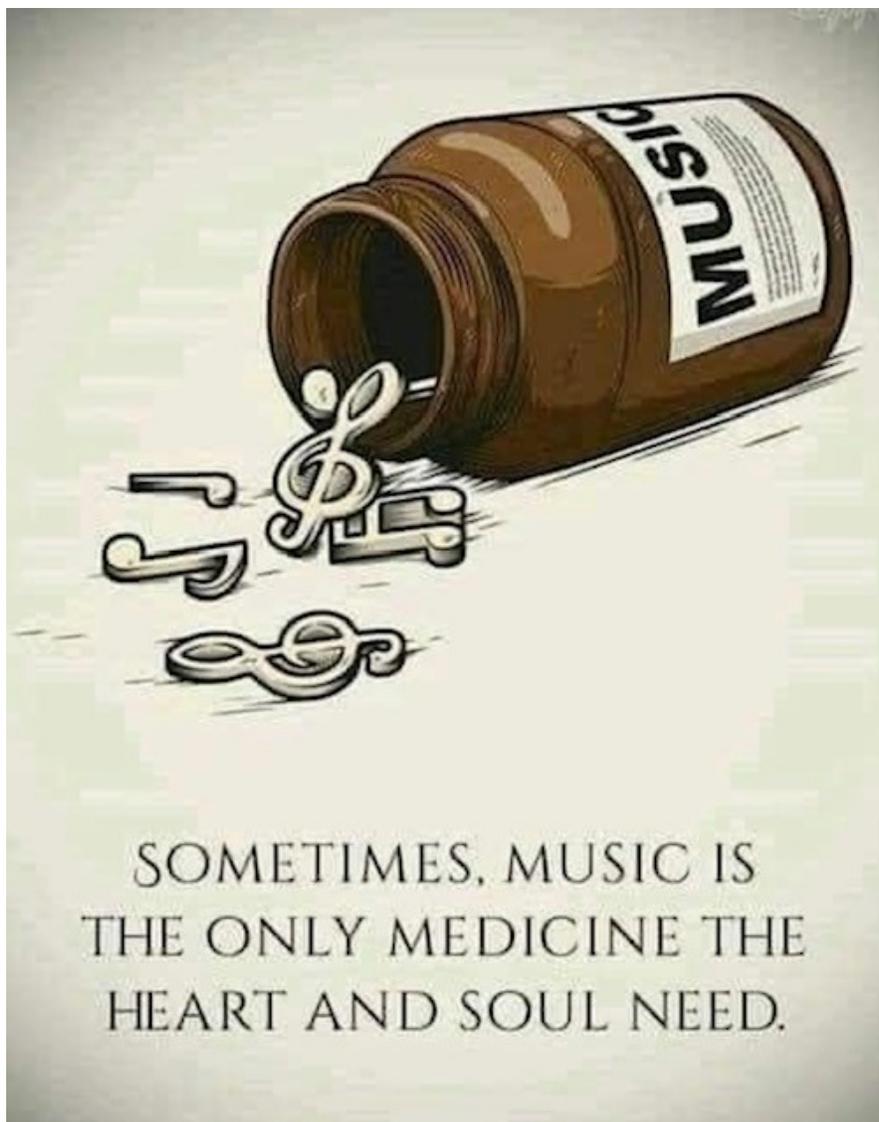
My most recent memorable experience, until this week, was sitting in the rain for three hours at COTA to see a production of *Tosca*. Had it not been so well done, we might have left...

This week's adventure eclipsed even that. I volunteered to help with the finals of the Bonnie Cummins Fielder Grant for Vocal Career Advancement. The three singers were all excellent so made for a very enjoyable afternoon—just glad I was not one of the judges.

The competition was held at Steinway Piano studios which has a very interesting poster close to their entrance. It's Ten Reasons to Study Piano. While all the reasons are excellent, the one that stuck out to me was "maintains an aging brain's health." I know this is something most of us think about and I would say that while playing piano is good for that, so are other activities which challenge us to think. Find one or more activity you enjoy, and go for it!

On the WMMC front—We're still working on what the fall will look like in terms of meetings, but we have decided to begin with a luncheon in October. Keep your fingers crossed that life continues toward a more normal trajectory.

Happy summer.



## Welcome to our newest members!

### Lois Armor



I was born in Alexandria, Virginia, the youngest of three children. My family moved to Arlington, Virginia when I was about two. I graduated from Washington Lee High School and went to work for the Army Ordinance Corps, officing in the Pentagon. The Army brought my first husband and me to Texas. I worked for the City of San Antonio in the Library System (where I met my husband of 40 years), the City Manager's Office, and the Public Works Department. Retiring from the City after 28 years, I partnered with a friend and in 1991 opened The Little Wedding Chapel which I operated for 15 years.

I have had many years of piano lessons, both as a child and as an adult. I continue to say that I play "at the piano" because, unfortunately, I am just not gifted to be a good pianist. But, I do enjoy playing the piano for myself and my three puppies—Dexter, Roxy, and Chewy.

I joined the Etude Music Club in 2002 where I served as Historian, Secretary, Treasurer and President. I served as TFMC District VI President, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer. I have served as State Chair for Arts Advocacy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and President; I am currently TFMC Parliamentarian. I have been the NFMC South Central Chair for Arts Advocacy and currently serve as Chair of Folk Music. I also am a member of the Board of Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony (Opera in the Ozarks).

### Karen Millican



What can I say? I flunked retirement 4 times before it finally took.

My working career included finance, marketing planning and project development. I spent a few years as the Director of Finance at a local nonprofit. After that, I tried making a career of art quilting, accounting education aimed at small business people, and helping people redefine themselves after a catastrophic life change.

Now I'm fully retired.

One of the first things I did was join The Wednesday Morning Music Club where I'm a dedicated and appreciative audience member. A couple years ago someone pointed me to "Beerthoven" where you learn to play piano in a bar (what's not to like?). I now have a couple years of piano lessons under my belt and really enjoy the challenge. I create paper sculptures and popup cards and keep finding projects to expand my skills and ideas. I'm learning watercolor painting. Book clubs and political discussion groups help keep my

brain active. And now that we're starting to get back to "normal," I'm actively working to expand my network of friends and cross things off my Bucket List.

## Poetry Corner

### Summer

By Amy Lowell (1874 – 1925) Born in Brookline Massachusetts and from the imagist school of poetry, Ms. Lowell was awarded a Pulitzer Prize posthumously in 1926.

Some men there are who find in nature all  
Their inspiration, hers the sympathy  
Which spurs them on to any great endeavor,  
To them the fields and woods are closest friends,  
And they hold dear communion with the hills;  
The voice of waters soothes them with its fall,  
And the great winds bring healing in their sound.  
To them a city is a prison house  
Where pent up human forces labour and strive,  
Where beauty dwells not, driven forth by man;  
But where in winter they must live until  
Summer gives back the spaces of the hills.  
To me it is not so. I love the earth  
And all the gifts of her so lavish hand:  
Sunshine and flowers, rivers and rushing winds,  
Thick branches swaying in a winter storm,  
And moonlight playing in a boat's wide wake;  
But more than these, and much, ah, how much more,  
I love the very human heart of man.  
Above me spreads the hot, blue mid-day sky,  
Far down the hillside lies the sleeping lake  
Lazily reflecting back the sun,  
And scarcely ruffled by the little breeze  
Which wanders idly through the nodding ferns.  
The blue crest of the distant mountain, tops  
The green crest of the hill on which I sit;  
And it is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer,  
The very crown of nature's changing year  
When all her surging life is at its full.  
To me alone it is a time of pause,  
A void and silent space between two worlds,  
When inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps,  
Gathering strength for efforts yet to come.  
For life alone is creator of life,  
And closest contact with the human world  
Is like a lantern shining in the night  
To light me to a knowledge of myself.  
I love the vivid life of winter months  
In constant intercourse with human minds,  
When every new experience is gain  
And on all sides we feel the great world's heart;  
The pulse and throb of life which makes us men!

### Good Night

By Carl Sandburg (1878 – 1967)

Many ways to say good night.

Fireworks at a pier on the Fourth of July  
spell it with red wheels and yellow spokes.  
They fizz in the air, touch the water and quit.  
Rockets make a trajectory of gold-and-blue  
and then go out.

Railroad trains at night spell with a smokestack mushroom-  
ing a white pillar.

Steamboats turn a curve in the Mississippi crying a bari-  
tone that crosses lowland  
cottonfields to razorback hill.

It is easy to spell good night.  
Many ways to spell good night.

\*These poems from *NFMC A Year in Verse* are both in the public domain.

Michelle d’Arcy came across a recent *New York Times* article she wanted to share with the WMMC members, especially our opera lovers.

The article, “Opera’s Biggest Fan Leaves Behind a Sprawling Time Capsule” details the story of what was discovered in the East Village apartment of Lois Kirschenbaum, a switchboard operator from Flatbush, Brooklyn, who became perhaps New York’s biggest and longest-standing opera buff — and an obsessive autograph and memorabilia collector.

Read her story here:  
<https://nyti.ms/3eGeMJN>.

# Online Free Concerts

**Austin Chamber Music Center** <https://austinchambermusic.org/> Events May 27th Schumann Chamber Players: <https://austinchambermusic.org/events-calendar/> Festival: <https://austinchambermusic.org/festival/>

**Austin Classical Guitar** <https://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/> Event May 13th Flowers of Life partnership with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center. And May 22nd, UpClose Online: 30th Season Finale <https://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/event/>

**Austin Jazz Society** <http://www.austinjazzsociety.org/> Silver Creek Jazz Band on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eb9rE56GWas>

**Austin Opera** <https://austinopera.org/> Special event honoring Sarah & Ernest Butler May 15th <https://austinopera.org/event/la-dolce-vita-serenata-2021-honoring-sarah-ernest-butler/> AND let's keep our eyes open for Austin Opera on PBS this Spring... <https://austinopera.org/opera/an-all-star-concert/>

**Austin Shakespeare** Online event: The Rivals, A Comedy of Manners <https://www.austinshakespeare.org/2021the-rivals>

**Austin Symphony** <https://austinsymphony.org/> Event, Moonlight Moods May 13th & 14th at Riverbend Centre: <https://my.austinsymphony.org/events>

**Austin Civic Orchestra** <http://austincivicorchestra.org/> Some nice video here where you can watch THE BEAT GOES ON on YouTube.

**Chorus Austin** <https://www.chorusaustin.org/events-calendar.html> Look for info on the coming Summer Pops Concert, The Great American Songbook

**Ensemble viii** <https://www.ensembleviii.org/tickets/> Sign up for e-mails to get information about upcoming concerts.

**KMFA** to LISTEN online: <https://www.kmfa.org/> Events: <https://www.kmfa.org/events>

**The Long Center** <https://thelongcenter.org/> The Heller Awards for Young Artists online May 23rd. Online performance Good Vibes Only: <https://luck.stream/channel/longcenter> DROP IN, every Thursday live on the HEB terrace [https://thelongcenter.org/events-and-tickets/the-drop-in/?utm\\_source=wordfly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ANNOUNCEMENT%3ATheDrop-In&utm\\_content=version\\_A&promo=414](https://thelongcenter.org/events-and-tickets/the-drop-in/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ANNOUNCEMENT%3ATheDrop-In&utm_content=version_A&promo=414)

**La Follia** Online concert release May 16th: Herd of Harpsichords <https://www.lafollia.org/upcoming-concerts>

**Salon Concerts** <https://www.salonconcerts.org/> YouTube MUSIC FROM THE TIME OF THE 1918 PANDEMIC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW5uDCbFWRY>

**Texas Early Music** <https://www.early-music.org> Event Sunday May 23rd: Night Music! An online Mini-Series <https://www.early-music.org/2020-2021-season>

**UT Austin Butler School of Music** <https://music.utexas.edu/> Online event: El Foro de la Cultura Huapanguera en Texas is a multi-format gathering of artists, etc from across the United States and Mexico: <https://music.utexas.edu/calendar>

**UT Performing Arts** <https://texasperformingarts.org/>