

Noteworthy



A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

SEPT 2022



WMMC FALL LUNCHEON

October 5, 11 AM

Austin Woman's Club

708 San Antonio at Eight

Enter from parking lot off of Nueces

Reservation deadline Sept. 27th

Featuring Steinway artist Dr. Anthony Tobin

[Steinway Artist](#) Anthony Tobin (Tony) is a classical pianist with an emerging presence in The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, and France. Tobin's Debussy CD [Journeys](#) has been well-received.

Pianist Malcolm Bilson observed "I was delighted to hear not only such interesting playing, but with such a fine command of technical matters, beautiful sounds, etc. And what you have to say about each piece comes through with absolute clarity!"

Tobin made a 50 minute film about Claude Debussy and recently completed a documentary about the only piano he ever purchased, a Bluethner in Brive-la-Gaillarde France which influenced his later compositions.

One highlight, which led to the completion of Tobin's film about Debussy's piano and piano music, was a June 11th concert on Debussy's piano in [Brive-la-Gaillarde](#) France.

Anthony Tobin is Artistic Director of [Adams Music House](#) where he performs, organizes master classes and performances, and teaches private students.

Biography: Steinway Artist Anthony Tobin, born in Salt Lake City, grew up in Ithaca, New York where he studied with Malcolm Bilson. He received degrees in piano performance from the Eastman School with Anton Nel, a MM from the University of Southern California with Daniel Pollack, and a DMA from UT Austin. In addition to teaching students of all levels and abilities, he has performed as a touring collaborative and solo pianist for the past 20 years. After annual tours of the US and later Europe as pianist and music director with a dance company, he was able to transform those connections and has a few solo tours a year in Europe.

Dr. Tobin, a Debussy specialist, has completed two films. The most recent, *Le piano du Reve*, includes footage from the only piano Debussy purchased and on which presumably composed his piano works.

During the 2018 Debussy Centennial Tobin performed numerous programs in Switzerland and the US of the Preludes Book I and II. Tobin performs, teaches and oversees a series of master classes and performances at Adam's Music House, a new venue dedicated to spreading the love and study of the piano. Though Covid-19 has forced the cancellation of many performances, Tobin is hosting a weekly Zoom concert series through Adam's Music House.

Dr. Tobin is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and received Steinway's Top Teacher award in 2016 and 2018.



President's Musings

Angela Smith

Note: In response to a request from several members, this is the text of the remarks I gave at our spring luncheon.

When Janie Keys from the Nominating Committee asked me if I would be president for the next two years, and I answered, "yes," the first thing that popped in my head was P.T. Barnum's saying, "There's a sucker born every minute."

Sucker or not, I'm ready to take on the special and somewhat scary challenge of leading this organization during this biennium and the coming Centennial year. I'm also keenly aware that our organization is not the same as it was in 1923, and that maybe it's time to take on a new mindset, rebrand ourselves, and bring some much needed visibility to the numerous contributions we've made to the Austin and Central Texas music scene over the past 100 years.

For example, did you know that we played a significant role in supporting the formation of the School of Music at the University of Texas and the Austin Symphony? Did you know that until KMFA came along in 1967, this club was the major source of classical music programming being broadcast in Central Texas? We may not have started South by Southwest or Austin City Limits, but those are not the only musical things happening in Austin.

No, we're definitely not the Wednesday Morning Music Club of 100 years ago. We're not a group of genteel ladies, wearing hats and gloves, who went by our husbands' names, and gathered on a Wednesday morning for tea to be entertained and socialize.. Today, we're men and women who don't relegate our musical interests to one day or morning a week. Music is important to our lives and not just on a Wednesday morning but AM and PM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Our treasurer Katharine Shields reminded me that our registered domain name is Music Club Austin.org. Perhaps looking at our name might be a first step in our rebranding or taking on a new mindset.

I'm not afraid of change. The words "But we've always done it that way" don't compute in the teeny tiny working part of my brain. We can do so much more to expand our visibility, to reach out to the community, and to attract new members, while respectfully honoring and celebrating the legacy left by those leaders who ably guided us in the past. And we can do it in ways that are visionary, collaborative, creative, and responsible. I'm ready to take on the next 100 years, and with all my heart, I hope you'll join me in this grand adventure.

Angela

"The only truth is music." Jack Kerouac

Poetry Corner

The Gift to Sing

By James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—
I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
And sing, and sing.

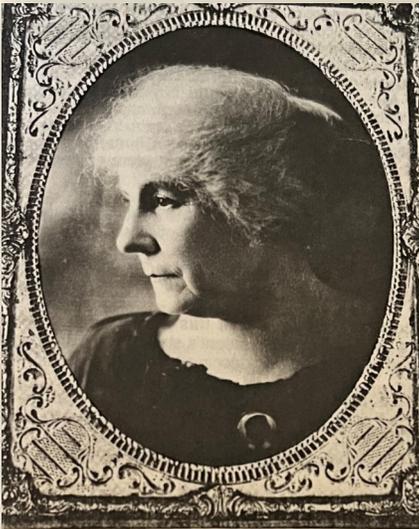
I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
And I can sing.

James Weldon Johnson was a a novelist, poet, and lawyer who played an instrumental role in the civil rights movement in America. (From *NFMC A Year in Verse, 2021-2023*)

From the Archives

By Elisabeth Moreno

This past July, Marcia Edwards, Virginia Kniesner and I were commissioned to do some reconnaissance work at the Austin History Center in preparation for our club's centennial celebration beginning this coming January. The assignment was hardly "Mission Impossible." The Center is such a reliable, well-organized depository that we knew retrieving club archives would not be problematic. Besides, we had arrived in the company of Virginia, who used to work at the Center, still knew staff there and introduced us to Nancy Toombs, Head of Public Services. In short, the staff could not have been more gracious and accommodating.



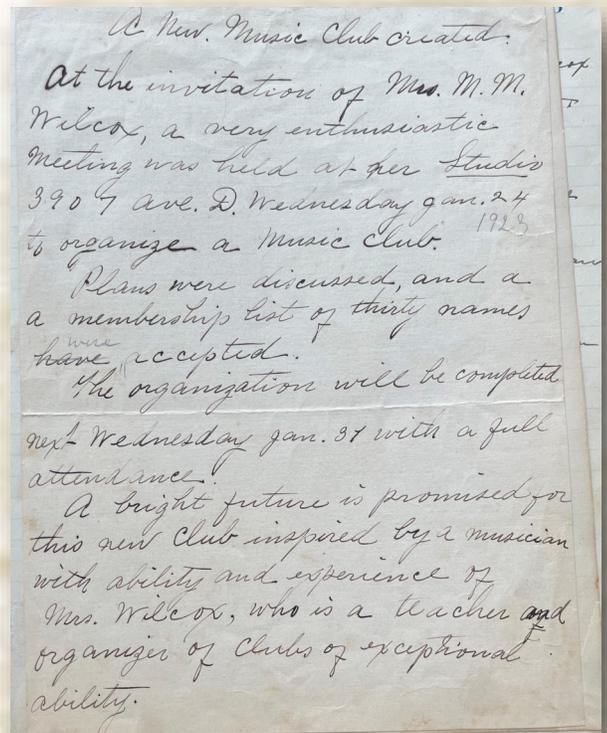
Mrs. N. M. (Minnie Sneed) Wilcox
(1865-1941)
Founder and Life President
Wednesday Morning Music Club

For this first visit, we focused on the earliest records which describe the club's founding January 24, 1923. Many of us are familiar with the outlines of the "origin story" which played out in Minnie Sneed Wilcox's home on Avenue D (now unfortunately buried under the asphalt of a parking lot across the street from the Hyde Park Baptist Church). But there is nothing quite like reading the feathery script of the club's original secretary, Mrs. Adolph Koch, to be transported back a century in time: "A bright future is promised for this new Club inspired by a musician with the ability and experience of Mrs. Wilcox, who is a teacher and organizer of clubs of exceptional ability."

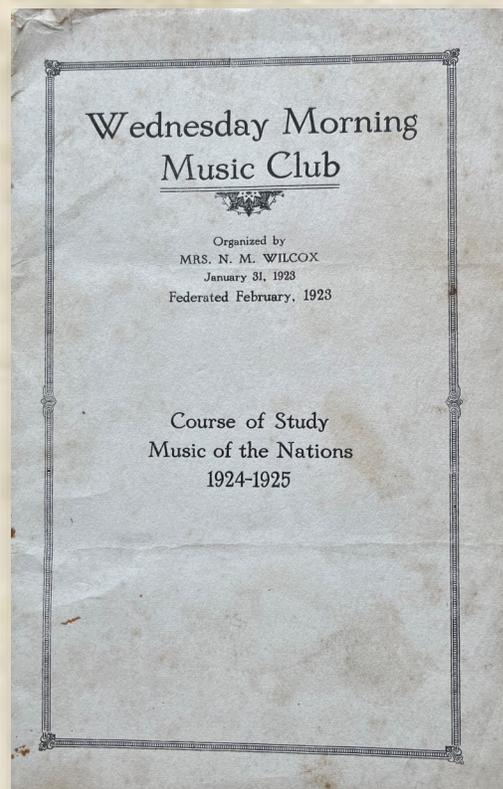
The basic organization of the club hasn't changed much: the same number of officers with the addition of a "critic" and a "reporter," probably what we would now describe as a communications role. The job of critic seems to have initially been left unfilled. It is described as "giving information on pronunciation and on all points of subjects discussed." The original format of club meetings allowed for many historical reports on com-

posers, national musical traditions and institutions which probably gave rise to this idea of a "fact-checker."

Our current membership committee would smile at some of the original stipulations regarding attendance at meetings. Active members were limited in number to 50 and assessed dues of \$1 per year. (By 1933 the club already had a waiting list for active membership.) Associate members were unlimited in number but paid \$2 annual dues. (And incidentally, all members were identified only by their husbands' names along with their four-digit phone numbers.) Absence from a meeting without a sufficient excuse resulted in a fine of 25 cents and tardiness cost ten cents. Members who "do not bring up their part of the program or provide a substitute shall be fined one dollar." And finally, with two unexcused absences, membership was forfeited.



It is probably difficult for us to imagine what influence Minnie Sneed Wilcox exercised over the club initially. She was “President for Life” and that extended almost twenty years until her death in 1943. Born at the end of the Civil War, she had moved to Austin from Georgetown where she had been a music teacher in public schools, member of the Georgetown school board and organizer of a similar “Music Study Club” there. It is a little surprising to read the early programs and see that the educational component (in the form of reports) almost overshadowed music performance itself. Individual musical selections were not identified except by generic titles like “piano,” “voice,” or “song.” As might be expected, international programming (reflected in the theme “Music of the Nations”) encompassed only European countries with four programs alone dedicated to the Schumanns in the year 1936-37. Some of our current members can remember the days when we attended wearing hats, but I don’t think many of them could have envisaged the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the US Constitution (1787-1937) when members were encouraged to “dress in costume from the time of George Washington.”



Clearly, much still remains to be explored in the club’s century worth of year-books, programs and minutes. A few immediate challenges might include locating Minnie Wilcox Sneed’s grave in Oakwood cemetery and tracing down some of her ancestors. (She had four children, all of whom are named in her obituary.) But for the time being, there’s one HUGE challenge for the programming committee. At some point early in the club’s history six members actually performed live the famous sextet from *Lucia de Lammermoor* . . .any volunteers for our centennial gala??



TFMC District VI Fall Conference
Host Club – Wednesday Morning Music Club

Saturday, October 8 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd – Parish/Allen Hall
3201 Windsor Road at Exposition

Join your WMMC friends as well as other TFMC members from District VI at the annual fall conference here in Austin. Guests are also welcome with registration and payment of fees. Preregistration fee is \$15, which includes a light breakfast. Registration at the door is \$20.

There will be opportunities to

- ⇒ greet old friends in person and make new acquaintances
- ⇒ share information about clubs and activities in District VI
- ⇒ learn from our distinguished guest speaker Dr. Bob Duke
- ⇒ enjoy a poetry presentation by Michelle d’Arcy and an unforgettable performance by the Inside Out Steelband (with Angela Smith)
- ⇒ win a raffle prize.

There will also be a business meeting and a short memorial service.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Bob Duke, is the Marlene and Morton Meyerson Centennial Professor and Head of Music and Human Learning at UT. A former studio musician and public school teacher, he has worked with at-risk children in both public schools and the juvenile justice system. Dr. Duke also heads the Center for Music Learning, which investigates human skill development across multiple disciplines to encourage the most effective practices in music performance and pedagogy.

Dr. Duke is probably most familiar to Central Texas residents as the co-host with Art Markman of the public radio program and podcast *Two Guys on Your Head*, produced by KUT Radio in Austin.

Please plan to come on Saturday, October 8, and to bring a friend! The more the merrier!

Musician Problem

Trying to guess the BPM of the turning signal while driving.



TFMC District VI President's Report for Board of Directors Meeting Sept. 2, 2022

(by District VI President Marcia Edwards)

Here is a summary of some of the activities that I have been involved with during the summer.

- Visited the Briscoe Center for American History at UT (where TFMC records are archived) with Lois Armor in early July
- Helped Bylaws Committee Chair Lora Lynn Christensen with TFMC Bylaws/Standing Rules final edits
- Served on TFMC Nominating Committee, also chaired by Lora Lynn Christensen
- Worked on plans for the District VI annual fall conference, Oct. 8, in Austin, at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
- Attended TFMC 107th annual convention in Dallas, Aug. 10 – 12

TFMC Bylaws/Standing Rules revisions approved

Election and installation of TFMC officers (begin responsibilities on July 1, 2023). Two members of District VI are among the incoming officers: Lois Armor is Recording Secretary and Marcia Edwards is Historian.

Lots of discussion about future state conventions—both where and when they will be held. We are at the end of a 3-year trial with one convention per year—in Dallas—hosted by different groups of districts each year. No decision was reached about what we will do going forward.

Numerous virtual performances by Junior Division All State Monetary Award recipients, All State winners, and TFMC Junior Composers Contest winners

Live performances Thursday evening, we heard a young vocalist who will be a freshman at the U of Michigan this fall. She won NFMC's Stillman Kelley award for the 2nd consecutive year. We also heard performances by a soprano attending Texas Tech—and a tenor from Plano, TX—who both sang at Opera in the Ozarks this past July.

Friday afternoon, the Abilene Harmony Club sang a delightful program in person—including a medley of songs about Texas cities. Friday evening, we heard Shaina Martinez, NFMC 2021 Young Artist Women's Voice winner. Lora Lynn Christensen was the piano collaborator for all of these live performances!

The new NFMC President Deborah Freeman from South Carolina was present for the entire convention. She was very friendly and approachable. Predict that she will be a success in this important national role.

I enjoyed attending the convention and would encourage other WMMC members to consider going in the future!

Upcoming Events

Austin Chamber Music Center <https://austinchambermusic.org/concert-season/> Big Fish, Bigger Pond 2022-2023 Season

Austin Classical Guitar <https://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/events/> A big season of events in their new home at The Rosette and other venues around Austin

Austin Jazz Society https://www.austinjazzsociety.org/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=215484 Jazz at St. James (St. James Episcopal Church) Nov. 11, Fri & 12, Sat and more events

Austin Opera <https://my.austinopera.org/events> The Barber of Seville in November and more operas and events

Austin Symphony <https://my.austinsymphony.org/events> Sept. 19, 2022-March 19, 2024 "Virtuosity"

Austin Civic Orchestra <http://austincivicorchestra.org/> Sat. Oct. 1 Concert - and their "What's coming"

Candlelight Concerts in Austin https://feverup.com/austin/candlelight?utm_source=google&utm_medium=pfm&utm_campaign=candlelight_aus&gclid=CjwKCAjwpqCZBhAbEiwAa7pXeSuOXO9_fUIQPCUnFkOFVt-5sNeFJK8egq9E03ImBZRcxAKHqAYX0RoChagQAvD_BwE

Chorus Austin <https://www.chorusaustin.org/events-calendar.html> Possibilities of Peace, Sat Oct. 15 and more events

Conspirare <https://www.conspirare.org/tickets/> Hear Me Out, Conspirare & Miro Quartet Fri, Oct. 7 & Sat, 8 and more events

ensemble viii <https://ensembleviii.org/tickets/> Lux Aeterna - May perpetual light shine Fri, Oct 14 and more events

KMFA 89.5 <https://www.kmfa.org/events> A great event calendar for our area

LOLA Austin <https://www.lolaaustin.org/current-events> Outside Voices at Waterloo Park, Sunday, Oct. 2

INVOKE <https://www.invokesound.com/tour-dates> Look for Austin area events for this wonderful string quartet

Salon Concerts <https://www.salonconcerts.org/> The Miro Quartet Sunday, Oct. 30 and more concerts for 2023

Texas Early Music Project <https://www.early-music.org/temp-2022-2023-season> When Max was Emperor, Sat, Oct. 8 and more concerts

UT Butler School of Music <https://music.utexas.edu/events> Anton Nel Sunday Oct. 2, Rick Rowley Monday Oct. 3 and many more events

UT Performing Arts <https://texasperformingarts.org/events> Many coming events

Williamson County Symphony Orchestra <https://wilcosymphony.org/> upcoming concerts

Fall 2022 Metropolitan Opera
Live in HD performances at local cinemas
Check your local cinema for performance times.

Medea by Luigi Cherubini
Saturday, Oct. 22

La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi
Saturday, Nov. 5