

Spring Luncheon Performers

The Wilcox, Maurer, Putter, and Rudd Music Contest for high school students was held on March 18. The judges were Paula Bird, violinist and teacher, Dr. James Morrow, baritone and former head of Choral Activities at U.T., and James Maverick, the newest member of the Collaborative Piano faculty at U.T.

The Wilcox Award (for ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students), Second Place, was awarded to Peter Kim, violin. Peter Kim attends Westwood High School as a junior. He has been studying under Mr. William Dick for 10 years. Other than playing the violin, he enjoys car racing, martial arts, and producing music especially in hip hop and r&b styles. In last year's contest, he was the Second Place winner of the Wilcox Award.

The First Place winner of the Wilcox Award and the Sally Strawn Rudd Supplemental Award for outstanding performance was Jiatong Imy Gao, piano. She is 14 years old and a freshman attending Westwood High School. She has been playing piano since 2014 and currently studies with Dr. Tim Woolsey. In the past, she was awarded 1st place in the 2021 MTNA competition for NY State (junior division) and 2nd prize in the VI International Paderewski piano competition (piano talents division). In 2020, she won both the Nazareth College Piano Competition (junior division) and the CDCYM Chopin 19th Annual Piano Competition (apprentice level). Imy was also selected to perform in the highly selective 14th annual NYSSMA Piano Showcase in Rochester, NY. When she was six years old, she won 1st place in the 15th annual CDCYM Chopin Piano Competition (novice level), which remains a cherished memory. While Imy also enjoys science, playing volleyball, and creating visual art, music will always hold a special place in her heart.

The Putter and Maurer Award for high school seniors, Second Place, was awarded to Gabriel Paredes, baritone. He is a senior at Westwood High School and president of the Westwood Choir program. He studies voice with Stephen Macy. He is a 4-year All State Choir member and is a 3-year 1st Chair. He is the 1st Place winner of the 2023 Schmidt Vocal Arts Texas competition and is a 2-year winner of the Outstanding Performer award in Texas UIL, which is awarded to the top 3% of competitors. He has also been recognized as a 2-year finalist for Concordia Young Voices and as a Second Place winner in Classical Voice for Texoma NATS 2021. As for his future plans for music, he states: "My intention is to pursue a minor in music while furthering my music education through private lessons, auditioning for college ensembles, and participating in additional classes and workshops that align with my passion for music. Music is a personal treasure that I hold in high esteem and strive to refine continually. It has been the driving force behind my accomplishments in high school, and I am eager to explore new possibilities for growth and advancement in college and beyond."

The First Place winner of the Putter and Maurer Award was Mingyung Kim, piano. She is a senior at McNeil High School. Minkyung was born in Korea and began playing the piano at the age of 5. She participated in piano competitions during her middle school years in Korea. After moving to the US as a freshman, she began participating in UIL State Solo and Ensemble competitions, ADMTA contests, and TMTA and TMEA contests, gaining recognition in all of those areas not only as a soloist but also as pianist for band and orchestra contests and concerts. Notably, while studying with Shearon Horton, she was awarded first place in the ADMTA Solo Contest in 2022, second place in the Baylor/Waco Piano Competition in 2023, as well as first place in the ADMTA Scholarship Contest. As for next year, she has been accepted as a freshman by Anton Nel at UT. For her future beyond UT, she wants to teach piano and will go about fulfilling her desire to "perform and share the beauty of music with my community."

2023 High School Contest Winners

By Mary Parse

The Contest for High School Musicians was held on March 18, 2023, at Steinway Piano Gallery, which is a sponsor for this event and allows our use of their facility free of charge. There were 19 contestants—4 in the Maurer/Putter Contest for seniors and 15 in the Wilcox Contest for 9th through 11th grades. The first and second place winners from the two contests will perform at the Spring Luncheon on May 17.

The First Place winner in the Maurer Contest was Minkyung Kim, pianist. She will receive \$2450 from Music Club Austin. Her teacher is Shearon Horton. The Putter Award for Second Place, \$2250, went to Gabriel Parades, baritone singer. His teacher is Stephen Macy. There was one Honorable Mention winner, the flutist Koustubh Galagali, student of Ann Knien.

The First Place winner in the Wilcox Contest was 9th-grader Jiatong Gao, pianist, who also won the Rudd Supplemental Award. She will receive \$2050 for First Place and \$250 for the Rudd, making a total of \$2300. Her teacher is our club member, Dr. Timothy Woolsey.

Second Place went to Peter Kim, violinist, and student of William Dick. Peter, a junior, will receive \$1850. He also won second place last year.

There were 5 Honorable Mentions: 2 violinists, one cellist, one flutist and one pianist. In addition to his solo performance, the pianist also accompanied his older brother for his performance on the cello.

The judges were Paula Bird, violinist with Austin Symphony, teacher, and big supporter of this contest; James Maverick, the newest faculty member of the Collaborative Piano program at U.T.; and Dr. James Morrow, retired Head of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Conducting at U.T. All three wrote excellent comments. They were encouraging and supportive, and they wrote specific suggestions for improvement.

Hearty thanks to our club members who helped out at the contest: Virginia Kniesner, Martha Cook, Janie Keys, Suzy Gallagher, Linda Tietz, and Deborah Cavin. It's vital to have caring, attentive, diligent help to welcome the performers and their supporters, to show them the warmup room, to check the music to be sure it matches what they turned in, to get it into performance order for the judges, and to usher them into the Recital Hall. One of the most important jobs is timing the 10-minute performances.

Thanks to all who have made donations to fund these awards. Special thanks to Maria Putter, whose generous endowment has assured that these awards will continue for many years.

Fielder Finalist Advances to NFMC Young Artist Finals

By Beth Moreno

Krista Renee Pape, a 2021 finalist in the Fielder Vocal Career Grant competition, has advanced to the finals of the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition to be held this June in Norfolk, Virginia.

Originally from Rockport, Krista received a Master of Music degree from the University of Houston in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy in May 2020. She is currently a Soprano Resident Artist of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. In addition to her success here in Austin, she won the San Antonio Tuesday Morning Club Competition and in 2019 was named an Emerging Artist at Opera in the Ozarks. Krista also was awarded the top national prize in voice from the MTNA in 2021-22. Congratulations and best wishes to Krista as she competes in Norfolk and beyond. Kudos as well to the club's selection committee that year (Peggy Brunner, Mariam McFalls, Elise Ragland, Katharine Shields and Mollie Tower) who proved themselves top notch talent spotters when they identified Krista way back in 2020!

P.S. Two of the four finalists in this year's Fielder competition told us they learned about the grant and were encouraged to apply by Krista. Long live alumni networking!



President's Musings

Angela Smith

Call me weird, but I love the annual State of the Union speech. Of course, I prefer that the address be given by a President of my chosen party, but I'm open and willing to listen to what the other side has to say. The speech appeals to me because of its positive tone in recounting past accomplishments and optimistic and hopeful look at the future.

As I complete my first year as your president, perhaps the time is appropriate to give a State of the Club address. Over the past 12 months, we've worked together and accomplished much. And because of your committed and dedicated efforts to move this organization forward, we have more than one good reason to celebrate this milestone Centennial Year.

We now have a vision and mission statement, in essence, our North Star, setting direction for our purpose and future. I'm moved each time I hear those words that now open our monthly program meetings.

You also approved the recommendation to file papers with the Secretary of State for a DBA (doing business as) Music Club Austin. While we will always respect the 100-year legacy of the Wednesday Morning Music Club, we now have a name that rebrands us for future outreach and more flexible programming.

Our Centennial Committee, ably led by Carolyn McColloch, has provided us memorable events, such as the February 100th Birthday party, an outstanding slide presentation on our history, and planning for our upcoming Fall Luncheon Centennial Gala. Carolyn and the Orientation Committee also put together an outstanding orientation session for new members. Elizabeth Moreno added to our learning curve by her narration of the slide presentation and sharing her knowledge of club history during the Centennial Minute at our meetings.

And when it comes to those extra touches for special events, no one does it better than our Hospitality Committee, led by Suzie Gallagher. They hosted a great holiday tea and contributed much to the success of the Centennial birthday party in February.

Snapping photos at every meeting and event is Kit Thompson. Thanks to him, we have a wonderful photo record of club activities.

The talent among our members is extraordinary, and we are blessed that they are willing to share their gifts with us. Our program leaders have been particularly outstanding this year. We're all smarter, thanks to them. And special kudos to our program committee, especially Melanie Richards, who with the help of her co-chair Terri Freeland and other committee members had to do extra duty this year because of scheduling changes.

Thanks to Elise Ragland, our house manager extraordinaire, we come to programs, knowing our performers' needs will be met and all will run smoothly. And a special shout out to House co-chair Linda Tietz for always greeting us warmly and providing us with printed programs which include the most up-to-date program information. She also bakes one heck of a chocolate chip cookie!

Our 2023 award recipients were especially impressive, thanks to the outstanding leadership of committee chair Mary Parse who ably headed the Wilcox, Maurer, Rudd, and Putter High School Awards and Beth Moreno for her skill and grace in coordinating the Bonnie Cummins Fielder competition.

Continued on next page

President's Musings continued

I think we'd all agree our newsletter and website are first class. And that's also the opinion of professionals well known in the graphics and web design fields. Thanks to Noteworthy editors Marie White, Marcia Edwards and Joy Gooden and website master Pat Yingst for first class communications efforts. Thanks also to Marie White and those involved in streamlining our Yearbook. And a special thank you to Brian Grothues for starting work on a Music Club Austin YouTube channel.

Much gratitude goes to super woman and club treasurer Katharine Shields for all she does to keep us on the right track as well as making sure our finances are in good order with the help of our finance committee led by Gena Tabery. Thanks to their committed stewardship, we know our funds are in trusted, good hands.

I'd be remiss not to mention Virginia Kneiser, our recording secretary, who keeps impeccable minutes at our meetings, and Marianne Kim, our corresponding secretary, who connects with membership through her thoughtful notes and cards.

We also owe thanks to Marcia Edwards for her wise counsel, her service as our Texas Federation of Music Clubs District 6 president, and willingness to assist in carrying out club projects. She set a wonderful example of leadership at the District 6 conference, which our club hosted in Austin last October. And thanks to George Edwards whose technical savvy served us more than once this last year.

I know I've left out names of others who have made important contributions to our club this year, but the appreciation for your efforts and support is no less heartfelt. It truly takes a village.

It's been a good year. I have a feeling our founder Minnie Sneed Wilcox is smiling somewhere.

Onward!

The First Dandelion (by Walt Whitman)

Simple and fresh and fair from winter's close emerging,
As if no artifice of fashion, business, politics, had ever been,
Forth from its sunny nook of shelter'd grass—innocent, golden, calm
as the dawn,
The spring's first dandelion shows its trustful face.

Editors: Marie White, Marcia Edwards, Joy Gooden

Music Memory in Austin, 2023

Mollie Tower

Founder of Music Memory Program

Here is an update on what this wonderful program is looking like this year! We have 22 Austin schools involved in the Classical Music Listening Program this year. Students have studied 16 selections from the Baroque – Contemporary Periods over the entire school year. On April 29th, teams from the schools will gather at the Austin ISD PAC in Mueller to compete in the Austin ISD All-City Music Memory Contest, beginning at 10:15. This will be the 41st gathering for this event. The Austin Civic Orchestra will perform brief excerpts of the 16 pieces as test questions for the contest. Singers from LASA HS will also perform. The Music Club Austin yearly contribution to the program will help pay for the costs of providing the test question scores for the musicians. Hundreds of UIL Music Memory competitions are occurring across Texas with recorded versions of the test questions. Live orchestra Music Memory Contests are also being held in Dallas and NYC this spring!



A "listening room" was provided at the YWCA by the Club, including furniture, drapes, and phonograph, as well as painting of the room by members." (pg. 35 of Club History, during the presidency of Caroline Bock, 1950-52).

Also, the club also made a big deal every year out of National Music Week which is coming up this year **May 7 through 14th**. **"Music is . . . a Worldwide Adventure."** I don't know if something about that can be included in Noteworthy/

The NFMC has information about it : <https://www.nfmc-music.org/about-us/national-music-week/>

The Club even offered an evening program for National Music Week at Laguna Gloria Museum to accommodate a larger audience. (same time period as decorating the room in YWCA, 1950-52)



BENTONVILLE, Ark., May 4, 2023 – The Walton Family Foundation today announced support for a [new theater building](#) for Opera in the Ozarks. The \$34-million grant will fund the design and construction of a facility to attract the best of a new generation of aspiring singers and musicians.

“For seven decades, artists have traveled to Opera in the Ozarks on their music education journey,” said Jim and Lynne Walton. “A new theater continues this

legacy by offering generations of future musicians and singers a new stage to showcase their talents.”

Opera in the Ozarks is one of the nation’s foremost opera training programs. It is located near Route 62 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. 479-802-7317

The new theater will seat 300. It will preserve the intimate audience experience of the existing facility. It will also maintain a strong connection with the natural surroundings. The space will enhance both patron comfort and improve production capabilities for artists and designers.

“A new theater will be transformational for our artists and audiences,” said Nancy J. Preis, general director of Opera in the Ozarks. “It will offer artists a stage worthy of their talents. Our new home will also be a welcoming space for audiences to enjoy an intimate and high-quality performance.”

Opera in the Ozarks started as a summer camp in 1950. It provided students from a variety of backgrounds access to music education. The program evolved into a music mecca attracting students from across the globe. Alumni of Opera in the Ozarks include notable stars Latonia Moore, Leona Mitchell and Mark Delavan. All have performed at the prestigious Metropolitan Opera House. Distinguished alumni have also performed on international stages in Vienna, Paris and Rio de Janeiro.

“Opera in the Ozarks was the first place where I was able to sing leading roles. I learned what was needed as an opera singer in preparation, rehearsal and on stage,” said Justin Burgess, 2017-2018 Opera in the Ozarks alumnus and current student at Cafritz Young Artists at Washington National Opera. “A new theater will give students the opportunity to build roles and perform on a stage comparable to what the future holds for them.”

In addition to the new theater, the facility will feature a lobby for guests and an expanded costume shop. The project also includes new faculty housing with multi-unit cabins. Construction begins this month. It is scheduled to be completed in mid-2025.

About The Walton Family Foundation

The Walton Family Foundation is, at its core, a family-led foundation. Three generations of the descendants of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, and their spouses, work together to lead the foundation and create access to opportunity for people and communities. We work in three areas: improving education, protecting rivers and oceans and the communities they support, and investing in our home region of Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta. To learn more, visit waltonfamilyfoundation.org.

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National Music Week May 7-14

About National Music Week (with excerpts from the NFMC website)

A National Music Week observance gives us an opportunity to focus the attention of all Americans on music as a dynamic means of communication between people and a satisfying channel of personal expression. music, not more than ever a national need, can serve as a great force for maintaining peace and harmony among peoples.

Music is one of the most sublime of human pursuits, and is subscribed to by all races and creeds. Its use promotes understanding, friendliness and sympathy among all people. Through music, the composer expresses a variety of moods; the listener experiences a mystical awareness that transports him from the cares and troubles that beset humanity. Music is the language of all peoples. Whether used nationally or internationally, music is a great force in creating peace and harmony.

Music Club Austin joins the nation in observing NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK, May 7 - 14, 2023. The theme, "Music ... is a Worldwide Adventure"

encourages us to explore the far-reaching effects of music in our lives and to discover the added dimension it can bring to the world today. National Music Week is sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

Music is a natural part of the inner self - a natural means of communication. Early historical records prove there has always been some form of music. National Music Week was organized to help express the public's interest in music. Important throughout history, music exerts a strong influence on our everyday lives. It has become a powerful means to deepen our worship, express patriotic fervor, and add a joyous atmosphere to happy occasions.

Spring

By Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844 – 1889)

Many thanks to Michelle d'Arcy for sharing this springtime poem.

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;

Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush

Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring

The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;

The glassy pear tree leaves and blooms, they brush

The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush

With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning

In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,

Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,

Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

This poem is in the public domain.

Upcoming Events

Austin Chamber Music Center <https://austinchambermusic.org/concert-season/> Miro Quartet 8pm, Friday, May 12. LOTS of wonderful Chamber Music Festival programs May thru August 12.

Austin Civic Orchestra <https://austincivicorchestra.org/events/> Paint to Music: Shostakovich 5 Saturday, May 20. AND From Stage to Screen Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10.

Austin Jazz Society https://www.austinjazzsociety.org/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=215484 Several fun concerts for May and June.

Austin Opera <https://my.austinopera.org/events> Concerts at the Consulate Saturday, June 3.

Austin Symphony <https://my.austinsymphony.org/events?view=list> "Scheherazade" Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20. Also: Brahms X Radiohead Thursday, June 15 and "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" in Concert Saturday, June 17.

Austin Shakespeare <https://www.austinshakespeare.org/our-season> Short Shakespeare @ Zilker Hillside Theatre Thursday, May 18 - Sunday May 21. Also: Young Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" Friday, June 16 - Sunday, June 25.

Ballet Austin <https://balletaustin.org/performances/seasonontickets/> *The Sleeping Beauty* Wednesday, May 10; Thursday, May 11 and Friday, May 12.

Central Texas Philharmonic <https://www.centraltexasphilharmonic.org/> Cinematic Symphony Sunday, May 21.

Chorus Austin <https://www.chorusaustin.org/events-calendar.html> Pops: A Night At The Movies Saturday, June 10.

Conspirare <https://www.conspirare.org/tickets/> Between Friends: Hidden Music 2023 Thursday, May 11.

Gilbert & Sullivan <https://www.gilbertsullivan.org/> Gilbert & Sullivan will return with "The McAdo" in June.

KMFA 89.5 <https://www.kmfa.org/events> A great community event calendar for our area including The KMFA Midday Concert Series.

LOLA <https://www.lolaaustin.org/current-events> Outside Voices @ Waterloo Greenway Sunday, May 14. Also: The ERA Project Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20. Here Be Monsters Saturday, May 27.

La Follia <https://www.lafollia.org/upcoming-concerts> End of Summer concert: Herd of Harpsichords with Anton Nel Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16.

The Long Center <https://thelongcenter.org/upcoming-calendar/> Many fun events thru Spring and Summer.

The Metropolitan Opera On Demand: <https://www.metopera.org/season/on-demand/>

Tapestry Singers <https://www.tapestrysingers.org/upcoming/> "Connections" Saturday, May 13.

Texas Early Music <https://www.early-music.org/temp-2022-2023-season> Medieval Pilgrimage in Iberia Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14.

UT Butler School of Music <https://music.utexas.edu/events> Butler Opera International: Finale Concert with Central Texas Philharmonic Friday, May 26.

Wildflower Center https://www.wildflower.org/events?gclid=Cj0KCQjw2v-gBhC1ARIsAOQdKY1_r5Z130bt4oAu4-3wrOdFz_kVzCDFsMH11ltfVw6ECblcP3C4wkaAtleEALw_wcB T wilight Tuesdays (live music outdoors with local musicians) Tuesday, May 16.

Williamson County Symphony Orchestra <https://wilcosymphony.org/> "Orchestral Fireworks" Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20.

