

Noteworthy



A publication of The Wednesday Morning Music Club (Austin)

Website: musicclubaustin.org

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What was it like to be living in 1923? By Michelle d'Arcy

Let me set the scene: A little more than four years after WWI, it is the "Roaring Twenties" . . . bobbed-hair flappers are dancing the Charleston, the Fox Trot, and the Shimmy. Bootleggers and prohibition give rise to the gangsterism of Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly.

It's a time characterized by economic prosperity and dramatic social, economic, and political change. For the first time, more Americans live in cities than on farms. Modernism is rapidly replacing realism in the arts.

The world's population reaches over 2 billion. Popular baby names are John and Mary.

After 32 years of hot pursuit, English archaeologist Howard Carter unseals the chamber of ancient Egyptian ruler King Tutankhamen.

Mount Etna, after more than a decade of inactivity, erupts – spewing an avalanche of molten lava destroying everything in its path, rendering 100,000 people from hamlets and towns around Castiglione homeless.

Notable gains are made in medicine, contraception, computers, and astronomy. Insulin is first used for the treatment of diabetes mellitus and rapidly becomes available worldwide. Neurosurgeons perform the first successful brain tumor operation.

\$1 in 1923 is equivalent in today's purchasing power of about \$17.36

The man who never intended to be king, George VI, weds Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon at Westminster Abbey. The chimes of Big Ben are broadcast over radio – the 'wireless' – for the first time by the BBC.

The Disney Company is founded by Walt and his brother, Roy.

A stadium in the Bronx becomes the home ballpark of the New York Yankees, one of the city's first Major League Baseball franchises and soon popularized by the moniker "The House That Ruth Built."

Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino and Tallulah Bankhead became household names; popular culture movies include *The Ten Commandments*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *The Mummy*.

Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Links* is published in the U.S. It's the second novel featuring my second favorite little Belgian, Hercule Poirot, and his affable sidekick, Captain Hastings. *Time* magazine publishes its first issue.

And in November, a little-known, failed artist and disgruntled school dropout tries to overthrow the Weimar Republic through an attempted *coup d'état* which came to be known as the Beer Hall Putsch. His name? Adolf Hitler.

Ah, but let's get back to the music . . .

Yes, 1923 brought us the birth of our beloved music club but what else was happening in the world of music? To what composers/musicians/performers/conductors – did that dawn of the Jazz Era give birth?

Flavio Testi, Italian composer and musicologist.

George Lascelles, the renowned Director of the Royal Opera House.

Dexter Gordon, American jazz tenor saxophonist.

Tito Puente, American mambo and Latin jazz bandleader ("Oye Como Va").

Alicia de Larrocha, the superb Spanish pianist born in Barcelona of that year.

And on December 2nd, the magnificent, utterly singular Maria Callas sings her first aria by crying out in her bassinet-to-be-world stage.

These are but a few of the many things the world of 1923 observed. Consider what the members of our fledgling music club must have witnessed and what they would experience over the often-turbulent years to follow. We find ourselves, as we celebrate our 100-year anniversary, reflecting on a world greatly changed by ever-evolving world events. In silent reverie, many of us must be contemplating what the years to follow will bring, not only to our club, but to the world as well.

Once thing does stand the test of time: no matter what triumphs and victories, what defeats and hardships, what laughters and sorrows, the true and abiding nature of the magnificent beauty of music, with its ethereal ability to lift our spirits and ease the sharing of both our burdens and our joys, will remain a significant gift to the "Family of Man." And that gift, that is what we celebrate.

Happy 100, Music Club Austin!



President's Musings

Angela Smith

I'm writing this on the 12th day of Christmas, and it will still be a few days before the trappings of the season come down at my house. I'm all for the sensory indulgences associated with this time of year – both sacred and secular. And I feel a tinge of sadness when the decorations are put away until the next December.

My love for the season and its sundry delights goes back to childhood. In a Christmas pageant of my early years, I was given the role of an angel – probably because of my name. But I wasn't content to just stand there and shout out my one line, "Peace on earth. Good will to men!" Instead, I danced around the stage, wildly flapping my wings and throwing kisses to the shepherds and wise men. I couldn't help myself; I was simply acting out the giddy exuberance I felt for this magical season.

Like many of you, I come from a traditional Christian background, and being married to a former long-time church organist, am familiar with the liturgical seasons. Of all those seasons, Advent for me was always the most appealing. Even though that season of hope and promise was confined to the four Sundays and weekdays leading to Christmas, this was actually a season I could live with all year.

For Music Club Austin, with its rich history and tradition as Wednesday Morning Music Club, I believe we've come into in an extended season of Advent. Certainly, with so much to look forward to in our 100th anniversary year, we're in a time of expectation, hope, and promise – an Advent that will last the year long. Our Advent will start this month when we commemorate the founding of our club on January 24, 1923. We'll have an official "birthday party" to celebrate that occasion following our February 1 meeting. Thanks to Carolyn McColloch, the head of our Centennial Committee, for initiating and leading this effort. We'll learn more about our history, and with pride look forward to the great adventure that lies ahead.

The German Jesuit Alfred Delp said, "Advent is the time of promise; it is not yet the time of fulfillment...Space is still filled with the noise of destruction and annihilation, the shouts of self-assurance and arrogance, the weeping of despair and helplessness. But round about the horizon the eternal realities stand

silent in their age-old longing. There shines on them already the first mild light of the radiant fulfillment to come. From afar sound the first notes as of pipes and voices, not yet discernable as a song or melody. It is all far off still, and only just announced and foretold. But it is happening, today."

Yes, it is happening today. Listen, and you'll hear those first sounds, the first notes of song and melody. You'll hear the music – the music that brought us together in the first place as the Wednesday Morning Music Club – the music that will help us fulfill our future purpose and destiny as Music Club Austin.

May this coming year be filled with hope and promise as we embark on new adventures together. In the words of the poet Rainer Maria Rilke: "And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that have never been."

Centennial Celebration February 1st, 2023

The Wednesday Morning Music Club will celebrate its official Centennial following our regular scheduled program on February 1st. We will enjoy cake and drink while we watch a slide presentation covering the first fifty years (1923-1973), prepared by Kit Thompson and narrated by Beth Moreno.

It was exactly 100 years ago on January 24th, 1923, that Minnie Wilcox gathered several music friends at her home in Hyde Park and The Wednesday Morning Music Club was formed. Part of the national federation right from the beginning, it had a waiting list for active membership within ten years and was a prominent presence in the arts community of early twentieth century Austin.

Come learn about the amazing things our "founding mothers" achieved and join in a chorus of Happy Birthday!

Wednesday Morning Music Club
Strings and Piano
January 18, 2023

Program

Program Leader: **George Edwards**
Song Leader: **Suzy Gallagher**
Accompanist: **Brian Grothues**
Together We Sing: Shenandoah, p. 14

♥ *Winter: II. Largo, III. Allegro* from Concerto in F minor, RV 297
by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
Performed by **Ruby Smith**, violinist, and **Gregory Shields**, pianist

♥ *Allegro molto and Rondo* from Sonata in D major, Op.6 for one piano, four hands
by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Performed by **Kathryn Govier** and **Marcia Edwards**, pianists

♥ *Vivace ma non troppo* from Sonata in G major for violin and piano, Op.78
by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Performed by **Kay Mueller**, violinist, and **Angelica Lopez**, pianist

♥ Scherzo No.2, op.31 by Frédéric
Chopin (1810-1849)
Performed by **Grace Huang**, pianist

♥ *I. Allegro agitato* from Sonata in A minor, Op.36 for cello and piano
by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
Performed by **Terri Freeland**, cellist, and **Brian Grothues**, pianist

Wednesday Morning Music Club Strings and Piano

February 1, 2023

Program

Program Leader: **Pat Yingst**

Song Leader: **Elise Ragland**

Accompanist: **Melanie Richards**

Together We Sing: I'm Always Chasing Rainbows, p. 58

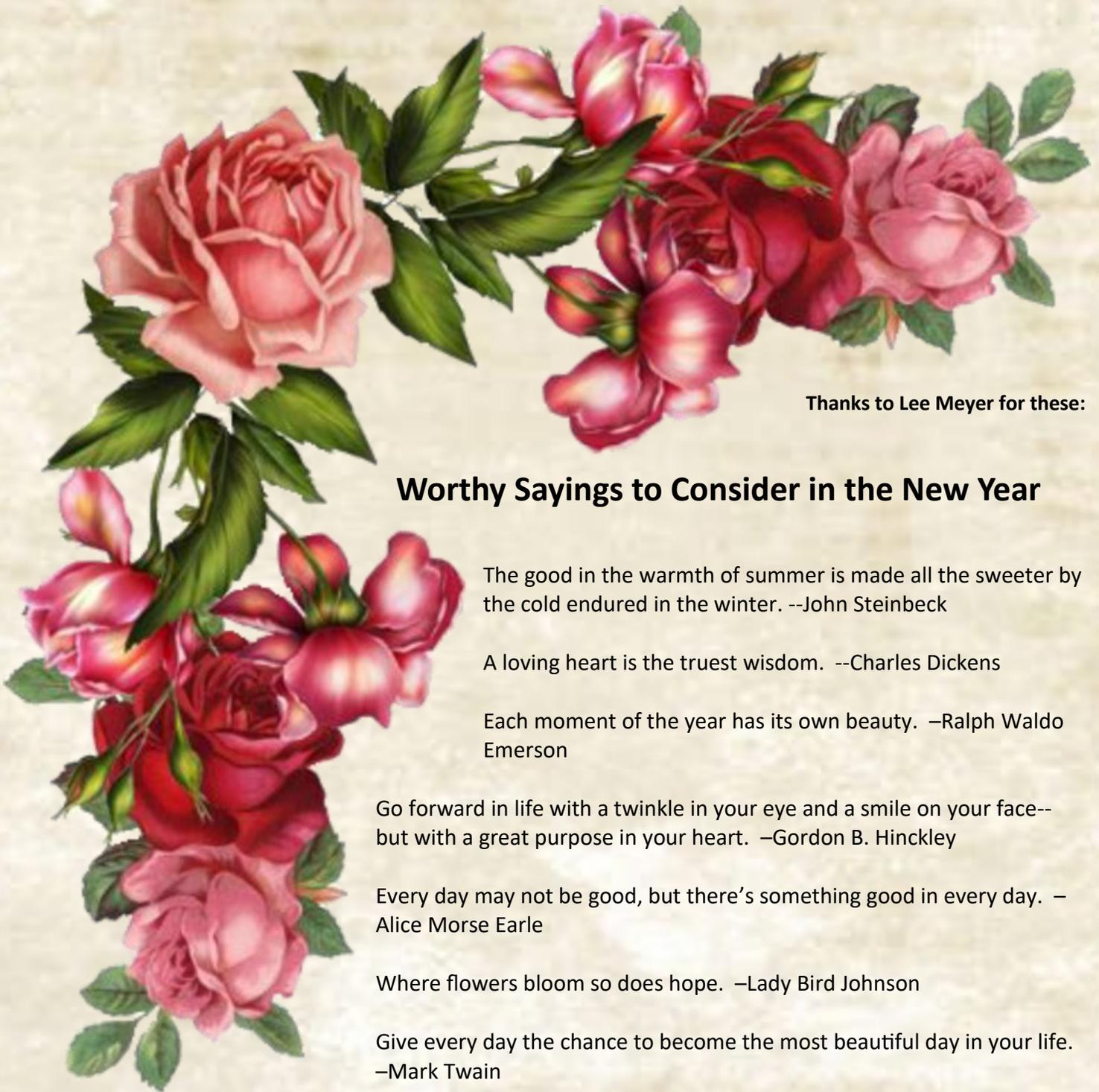
♥ Impromptu in B-flat major, op.142, no.3
by Franz Schubert ((1797-1828)
Novelette no.3 in E minor
by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Performed by **Felicity Coltman**, pianist

♥ *Waltz, Pas de deux, and Galop* from Souvenirs;
Ballet Suite
by Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
Performed by **Angelica Lopez** and **Betty Mallard**, pianists

♥ Italien
by Fannie Mendelssohn (1805-1847)
Cool and Silent is the Lake
by Gladys Davenport (1895-1961)
La Danza Tarantella
by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
Performed by **Elise Ragland**, soprano, and **Brian Grothues**, pianist

♥ *General Lavine – Eccentric* and *Les Fees Sont d'Exquises Danseuses* from Preludes, Book 2
by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Cloches à travers les feuilles and *Poissons d'or* from Images, Book 2
by Claude Debussy
Performed by **Tim Woolsey**, pianist

♥ Elegie, op.3, No.1 and Prelude in G minor, op.23, No.5
by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Performed by **Brian Grothues**, pianist



Thanks to Lee Meyer for these:

Worthy Sayings to Consider in the New Year

The good in the warmth of summer is made all the sweeter by the cold endured in the winter. --John Steinbeck

A loving heart is the truest wisdom. --Charles Dickens

Each moment of the year has its own beauty. --Ralph Waldo Emerson

Go forward in life with a twinkle in your eye and a smile on your face-- but with a great purpose in your heart. --Gordon B. Hinckley

Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day. -- Alice Morse Earle

Where flowers bloom so does hope. --Lady Bird Johnson

Give every day the chance to become the most beautiful day in your life. --Mark Twain

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more. --Irish Blessing

Make the best use of what is in your power and take the rest as it happens. -- Epictetus

Peace is always beautiful. --Walt Whitman

Poems for the New Year

(Selected by Michelle d'Arcy)

The New Year by Carrie Williams Clifford (1862 – 1934)

The New Year comes—fling wide, fling wide the door
Of Opportunity! the spirit free
To scale the utmost heights of hopes to be,
To rest on peaks ne'er reached by man before!
The boundless infinite let us explore,
To search out undiscovered mystery,
Undreamed of in our poor philosophy!
The bounty of the gods upon us pour!
Nay, in the New Year we shall be as gods:
No longer apish puppets or dull clods
Of clay; but poised, empowered to command,
Upon the Etna of New Worlds we'll stand—
This scant earth-raiment to the winds will cast—
Full richly robed as supermen at last!

The Passing of the Year by Robert W. Service (1874 – 1958)

My glass is filled, my pipe is lit,
My den is all a cosy glow;
And snug before the fire I sit,
And wait to feel the old year go.
I dedicate to solemn thought
Amid my too-unthinking days,
This sober moment, sadly fraught
With much of blame, with little praise.

Old Year! upon the Stage of Time
You stand to bow your last adieu;
A moment, and the prompter's chime
Will ring the curtain down on you.
Your mien is sad, your step is slow;
You falter as a Sage in pain;
Yet turn, Old Year, before you go,
And face your audience again.

That sphinx-like face, remote, austere,
Let us all read, whate'er the cost:
O Maiden! why that bitter tear?
Is it for dear one you have lost?
Is it for fond illusion gone?
For trusted lover proved untrue?
O sweet girl-face, so sad, so wan
What hath the Old Year meant to you?

And you, O neighbour on my right
So sleek, so prosperously clad!
What see you in that aged wight
That makes your smile so gay and glad?

What opportunity unmissed?
What golden gain, what pride of place?
What splendid hope? O Optimist!
What read you in that withered face?

And You, deep shrinking in the gloom,
What find you in that filmy gaze?
What menace of a tragic doom?
What dark, condemning yesterdays?
What urge to crime, what evil done?
What cold, confronting shape of fear?
O haggard, haunted, hidden One
What see you in the dying year?

And so from face to face I flit,
The countless eyes that stare and stare;
Some are with approbation lit,
And some are shadowed with despair.
Some show a smile and some a frown;
Some joy and hope, some pain and woe:
Enough! Oh, ring the curtain down!
Old weary year! it's time to go.

My pipe is out, my glass is dry;
My fire is almost ashes too;
But once again, before you go,
And I prepare to meet the New:
Old Year! a parting word that's true,
For we've been comrades, you and I --
I thank God for each day of you;
There! Bless you now! Old Year, good-bye!

January by William Carlos Williams (1883 – 1963)

Again I reply to the triple winds
running chromatic fifths of derision
outside my window:

Play louder.
You will not succeed. I am
bound more to my sentences
the more you batter at me
to follow you.

And the wind,
as before, fingers perfectly
its derisive music

More Poems Inspired by Music

(Many thanks to Michelle d'Arcy for this list of suggestions resulting from the research for her District VI 2022 Fall Conference poetry presentation.)

"Guitarrero!" by Cyrus Cassells

(<https://poets.org/poem/guitarrero>)

"Rain Music" by Joseph Seamon Cotter Jr.

(<https://poets.org/poem/rain-music>)

"A Distant Song" by John Gould Fletcher

(<https://poets.org/poem/distant-song>)

"Weaving the Round" by Gabriela Mistral, translated by Ursula K. Le Guin

(<https://poets.org/poem/weaving-round>)

"June Sunset" by Sarojini Naidu

(<https://poets.org/poem/june-sunset>)

"Bird Saver" by Alexandria Peary

(<https://poets.org/poem/bird-saver>)

"Sonic Fireflies" by Quincy Troupe

(<https://poets.org/poem/sonic-fireflies>)

"Sonnet #8" by William Shakespeare

(<https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/shakespeares-sonnets/sonnet-8/>)

"I Hear America Singing" **by Walt Whitman**

(<https://poets.org/poem/i-hear-america-singing>)

"A Musical Instrument" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

(<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43729/a-musical-instrument>)

"Music" **by Walter de la Mare**

(<https://allpoetry.com/poem/8494523-Music-by-Walter-de-la-Mare>)

"I Am In Need Of Music" by Elizabeth Bishop
(<https://dailypoetry.me/elizabeth-bishop/music/>)

"The Strange Music" by G. K. Chesterton
(<http://www.potw.org/archive/potw276.html>)

"Music when Soft Voices Die (To --)" by Percy Bysshe Shelley (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45132/music-when-soft-voices-die-to->)

"Song for a Banjo Dance" by Langston Hughes (<https://poets.org/poem/song-banjo-dance>)

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Wednesday Morning

Music Clubs

DBA

(Doing Business As)

name

Music Club Austin

has been officially

approved by the

Texas Secretary of

State!

Upcoming Events

Austin Chamber Music Center <https://austinchambermusic.org/concert-season/> Mentor Adventure - Music by Beethoven, Copland, Golijov, and Piazzolla, Fri. February 24th & Sat. 25th. Virtual Fri. February 24th.

Austin Opera <https://my.austinopera.org/events> Sweeney Todd, February 2nd & 5th.

Austin Civic Orchestra <http://austincivicorchestra.org/> Black Voices Concert, Sat. February 25th.

Austin Shakespeare <https://www.austinshakespeare.org/our-season> The Real Thing by Thomas Stoppard, February 17th - March 5th.

Austin Symphony <https://my.austinsymphony.org/events?view=list> Rach Star II, Fri. February 17th & Sat. 18th ALSO, The Music of John Williams, Sat. February 25th.

Balcones Community Orchestra <https://bcorchestra.net/> (new website) various concerts.

Ballet Austin <https://balletaustin.org/performances/seasontickets/> (with the Austin Symphony Orchestra) Sarah's Songs - A World premiere by Stephen Mills dedicated to Sarah and Dr. Ernest Butler in celebration of their love for the arts. Fri. February 10th, Sat. 11th & Sun. 12th.

Beethoven Concert Series <https://www.beethoven.com/upcomingshows> String Fling - with the wonderful quartet IN-VOKE, Fri. February 10th & Sun. 12th.

Candlelight Concerts in Austin <https://feverup.com/austin> Valentine's Day Concert "Romeo and Juliet" and more, Fri. February 10th and Sat. 11th.

Central Texas Philharmonic <https://www.centraltexasphilharmonic.org/> Music of the Knights - A celebration of Andrew Lloyd Weber (and more) with some of Broadway's greatest vocal talents, Sun. February 19th.

Inversion Ensemble <https://www.inversionatx.org/upcoming-events> Planet Home - a concert to honor the earth and examine our place in its threatened ecosystem., Sat. February 25th & Sun. 26th.

Metropolitan Opera <https://www.metopera.org/season/in-cinemas/> Season schedule of The Met - Live in Cinema.

Texas Early Music Project <https://www.early-music.org/temp-2022-2023-season> Orlando! Music by di Lasso for Voices & Vols, Sat. February 11th & Sun. 12th.

UT Butler School of Music <https://music.utexas.edu/concerts> Lots of recitals, opera, jazz, etc! And Anton Nel, Fri. February 24th.

Happy 2023

Upcoming Events



TRIPLE TAKE

With guest violist, Bruce Williams

THREE BY FOUR

Fauré Heritte-Viardot Mozart



4 p.m., Sunday, February 19, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
8001 Mesa Drive
Austin, TX



Donations accepted at the door, \$10-40

Guest Artist Bruce Williams, viola

Javier Chaparro, violin

Liz Lee, violoncello

Maimy Fong, piano