
Noteworthy



March 2025



PERFORMANCE MEETING, MARCH 5, 2025

Program

Program Leader: Melanie Richards
Song Leader: TBA Accompanist: TBA
Song: "O Life that Maketh All Things New" UUA 12

Spanish Dance No.1 and Spanish Dance No. 2
by Moritz Moszkowski (1854-1925)

Performed by Kathryn Govier and Marcia Edwards, pianists

Concerto in C major for Four Violins by Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)
I Grave, II Allegro, III Largo e staccato, IV Allegro

Performed by Dixie Addington, Catherine Van Zanten,
Kay Mueller, Gregory Shields, violinists

Andante from "La Ci Darem La Mano" by W. .A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Lullaby (German: Wiegenlied) *Op.49, No. 4*
by Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

(Originally written for Soprano, Baritone, Piano,
transcribed for violin and piano by Fabrizio Ferrari)
Performed by Gregory Shields, violinist, Katharine Shields, soprano,
and
Andrei Zimbalist, guest pianist

II Allegro from "Sonata in A-Major for Flute (Violin) and Piano"
by Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

Performed by Sheryl Goodnight, flutist, and
Dr. Leon W. Couch III, guest pianist

Three Songs by Gabriel Faure (1845-1924):
Les Berceaux, Clair de Lune, and Notre amour
Performed by Katharine Shields, soprano, and
Andrei Zimbalist, guest pianist

In this newsletter
you can expect:

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President's Musings

Advocating for the Arts

In an article in the February issue of *Texas Monthly* entitled “What Our Schools Actually Need,” Representative James Talarico (who represents North Austin and Pflugerville) argues convincingly for the importance of fine arts curriculum to the social and emotional well-being of Texas students. “There is a lot of talk about the mental health crisis in our schools, which is an enormous problem.” But something we may have lost sight of is the ability of the arts to counteract that trend. “The opposite of depression is not joy, it’s expression. I think we’ve forgotten how much the arts can help.” As a matter of fact, it may be that the arts were mankind’s original mental health therapy.

Any of us who participated in the fine arts during our own schooling can remember the sense of solidarity and purpose which an upcoming orchestra, choir, or theater performance could provide. We all “showed up for one another” and the reputation of our school in a gesture of selflessness which wasn’t typically characteristic of the adolescent psyche. Though you don’t often see the parallel drawn, the effects on a young person’s character which come from the arts are directly analogous to the benefits usually associated with playing sports: teamwork, confidence, leadership, skills development, risk-taking. Supporters of organized sports in public schools have argued for their curriculum very successfully for decades, thereby elevating athletics to the level of indispensable while the fine arts frequently languish in the “first to go” category when budget cuts come along. Now this is not a zero sum game. I am not suggesting fine arts should be underwritten at the expense of athletics . . . just that they both are deserving of robust funding from the state.

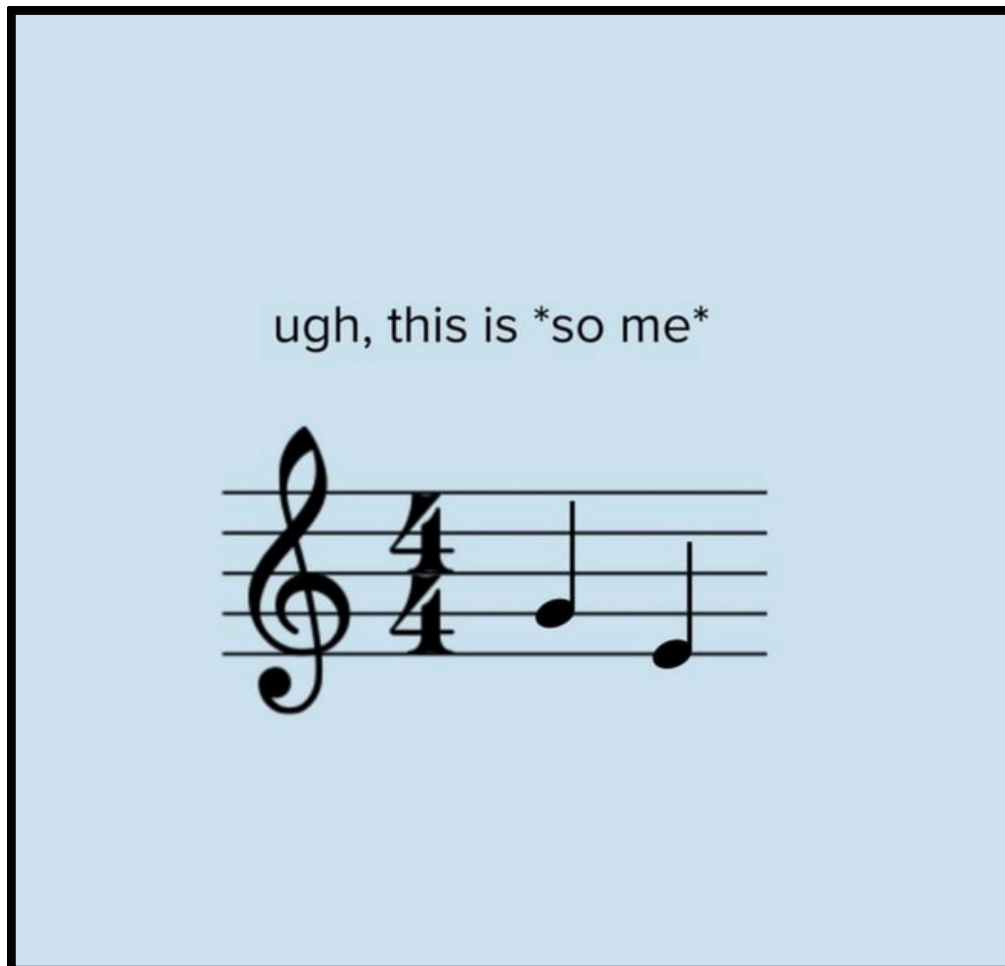
Rep. Talarico is moving exactly in that direction by introducing HB172 during the 2025 legislative session which proposes adding a modest funding allotment for students enrolled in fine arts courses. Other learning programs, such as those for dyslexic students or those emphasizing career and technical education already, benefit from this kind of funding “bump.” What’s historic about this initiative is that, if passed, it would be the first time Texas dedicates funding specifically to the arts.

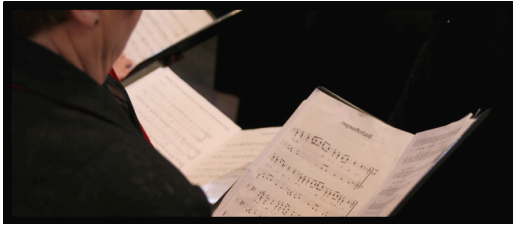
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Advocating for the Arts (continued)

Towards the end of the *Texas Monthly* article, I was gratified to see mention of the Texas Arts Education Campaign (TAEC), whose mission is to inform Texas voters and state lawmakers about the vital importance of protecting and promoting fine arts curriculum. It is worth a visit to their website, just to see the crawler at the bottom of the page which features quotations from the likes of Steve Jobs and Albert Einstein about the importance of marrying the arts to science and technology if we are ever to foster the creative communities needed for global problem solving. I would encourage you, then, to visit and sign up for the latest updates on how state legislation affecting the arts is winding its way through the system: <https://www.txartsed.org>. After all, there is not much we can do personally about tariffs on steel or wildfires in Los Angeles, but we CAN contact our state legislators and remind them that 1.9 million Texas students signed up last year to “express themselves” in fine arts curriculum . . . and they are watching!

Balli et al (2025, February). What Our Schools Actually Need. *Texas Monthly*, 74-95.





Community News

Calling all Music Club singers!

A plot is a foot to reestablish an internal music club chorus. Our raison d'être would be to entertain the rest of the club, as well as ourselves of course. No professional singing experience is required. Please contact Carol Brannon at email catbrann@yandex.com ASAP to put your name on the list of those interested, and we will add a star and a free lunch if you would be willing to direct the effort.



For those of you who are involved in Music Outreach, please be aware that the forms need to be sent in by April 1st to be included in the April Conference tabulation.

Getting them to me at the March meeting would be ideal!

Thanks, Kathryn Govier



WISHING YOU A
HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY



Why the new look for Noteworthy?

Noteworthy is taking on a new look due to the need to switch software.

It seems that even software becomes obsolete so we are making sure the newsletter doesn't suffer the same fate.

DISTRICT VI NEWS

INFORMATION ABOUT ALL STATE FESTIVAL CANCELLATION AND NEW DISTRICT VI COMPETITION

(FROM SUE BACHUS, TFMC DISTRICT 6-4 FESTIVAL CHAIR)

Why was the All-State Festival cancelled?

- It takes a team of key people to make the All-State Festival happen each year. Much of the previous Bulletin-related computer work for the All-State Festival was done by Mary Thomason, who passed away almost 2 years ago. Last year's State Festival was still utilizing the previous Bulletin. The software programming for this year's State Festival is connected to the new Bulletin... which is still a mess with significant errors and multiple updates. Festival cannot function without updated software and Bulletin updates are continually coming in.
- All of the changes with each new update must be converted and then re-coded, along with lots of other information, into the software. This is one example of the kind of work Mary did. Mary's contribution to helping make the All-State Festival function smoothly cannot be overemphasized.
- Mary was a great resource and her loss is still being felt. NFMC Theory Coordinator Heather Rathnau, who created the Theory Time workbooks and the State and District theory exams, also passed away. Additionally, there were other experienced people, who were directly involved in making the All-State Festival happen, who have since either passed away or are unable to help due to various reasons and issues.

District VI Competition

- We plan to review the TFMC District VI Competition that was created about 3 years ago. It was approved by TFMC and NFMC leadership. We have spoken to a few of our teachers and they are relieved and excited about having a District VI Competition. We believe it will energize the teachers and students. It's unfortunate that we can't have a state level competition, but there's nothing we can do about that. We CAN have a district level competition, which includes 90-100 teachers in the Austin area, San Antonio area, and surrounding towns. It should be a nicely sized competition that we can promote as being a positive alternative to an unfortunate situation.

Registrations and Information

- The new Competition will be ready to accept registrations very soon. The Competition shares elements with both the District Festival and the All-State Festival, but state and national leadership said the Competition must be different. Example: Participants can choose 2 solo pieces, a concerto movement, duo, or duet, etc. The selection of all pieces performed are at the discretion of the participant. The composers of all pieces performed may be from any nationality.
- The competition will accept unedited video submissions and may offer a limited number of in-person performances. All participants will receive a rating sheet and competition certificate (and maybe a new District VI Competition ribbon). Monetary awards will be available for the highest scores at the upper levels. More info soon.

Timing

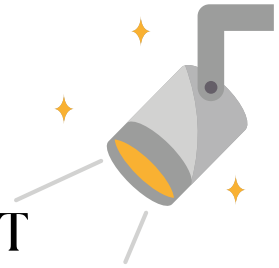
- Registrations and payment will be online and due by April 15. Video submissions will be due by May 1. Late submissions will not be accepted. Judging will take place in May/June and results will be announced in June.

Fees

- Fees have not been finalized. Teachers will collect fees from their students and use the online form to submit payment. Payment will be due by April 15.

Please let us know ASAP if you and your students are interested in participating in the TFMC District VI Competition. We will be happy to provide competition and registration information as soon as it is available. We can make this competition work for all our District VI teachers and students. We welcome your input. We welcome your help! We want to hear from you!

Competition email: d6competition@gmail.com



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT HELEN SLATOR YOUNG

Helen Slator Young has been performing and writing songs and instrumental music for most of her life. She grew up in Houston where her musical training was in classical piano and choral music. She graduated cum laude from the University of North Texas (UNT) with a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies piano and voice performance. She also received the first jazz arranging emphasis awarded by the University. While at UNT, Helen wrote and played in jazz big bands and sang in a 20-voice jazz vocal ensemble.

Helen played in bands and performed solo piano gigs for many years in Dallas, Houston, and Austin, including playing nightly at the Driskill Hotel until she had children and pursued a professional career with the State of Texas. She performed solo piano music for nearly a decade for her father's retirement community.

Later in her music career, Helen studied orchestration and film scoring at UT Austin. She currently writes music for film, TV, and commercials. Her musical styles vary from solo piano, instrumental ensembles, and orchestral pieces to adult contemporary, jazz, rock, and pop songs. She has many pieces under contract and also composes instrumental music and writes songs upon request.

Triple Take
Life to Everything

**Mozart Handel-Halvorsen
Tchaikovsky Piazzolla**

4 p.m., Sunday, March 16, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
8001 Mesa Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

Suggested donation at the door: \$10-30

A Cappella Unlimited
Invites you to our
FREE Competition Send-Off Performance
Saturday, March 1, 4 pm

Texas State University Music Building, Room 222
101 Pleasant Street, San Marcos, TX
(FREE parking in Pleasant Street Garage)

featuring
A Cappella Unlimited Chorus
Better Than BeFour Quartet
All In Quartet
(among others invited to perform)

*It's a
Wonderful Day
to be my
Sunshine*



“THE CAT”
BY CHARLES BAUDELAIRE

I. A CAT IS STROLLING THROUGH MY MIND
ACTING AS THOUGH HE OWNED THE PLACE,
A LOVELY CAT—STRONG, CHARMING, SWEET.
WHEN HE MEOWS, ONE SCARCELY HEARS,

SO TENDER AND DISCREET HIS TONE;
BUT WHETHER HE SHOULD GROWL OR PURR
HIS VOICE IS ALWAYS RICH AND DEEP.
THAT IS THE SECRET OF HIS CHARM.

THIS PURLING VOICE THAT FILTERS DOWN
INTO MY DARKEST DEPTHS OF SOUL
FULFILLS ME LIKE A BALANCED VERSE,
DELIGHTS ME AS A POTION WOULD.

IT PUTS TO SLEEP THE CRUELLEST ILLS
AND KEEPS A REIN ON ECSTASIES
WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ANY WORDS
IT CAN PRONOUNCE THE LONGEST PHRASE.

OH NO, THERE IS NO BOW THAT DRAWS
ACROSS MY HEART, FINE INSTRUMENT,
AND MAKES TO SING SO ROYALLY
THE STRONGEST AND THE PUREST CHORD,

MORE THAN YOUR VOICE, MYSTERIOUS CAT,
EXOTIC CAT, SERAPHIC CAT,
IN WHOM ALL IS, ANGELICALLY,
AS SUBTLE AS HARMONIOUS.

II. FROM HIS SOFT FUR, GOLDEN AND BROWN,
GOES OUT SO SWEET A SCENT, ONE NIGHT
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN EMBALMED IN IT
BY GIVING HIM ONE LITTLE PET.

HE IS MY HOUSEHOLD'S GUARDIAN SOUL;
HE JUDGES, HE PRESIDES, INSPIRES
ALL MATTERS IN HIS ROYAL REALM;
MIGHT HE BE FAIRY? OR A GOD?

WHEN MY EYES, TO THIS CAT I LOVE
DRAWN AS BY A MAGNET'S FORCE,
TURN TAMELY BACK FROM THAT APPEAL,
AND WHEN I LOOK WITHIN MYSELF,

I NOTICE WITH ASTONISHMENT
THE FIRE OF HIS OPAL EYES,
CLEAR BEACONS GLOWING, LIVING JEWELS,
TAKING MY MEASURE, STEADILY.

(IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN)

Secrets in Plain Sight: A New Way to Hear and Perform Mozart's Music

Sunday, April 6, 3:00 p.m.

University of Texas Butler School of Music, Dedman Drive, Austin

Room 2.614 (next to the Recital Studio)

Open to the public. Admission is free

Mozart scholar and pianist Dr. Mary Robbins introduces an important aspect of Mozart's music that we haven't been taught today but that he said was crucial to its force and meaning. Kristin Wolfe Jensen, bassoon, Åshild Henriksen, horn, Dr. Martha MacDonald, clarinet, and Mary Robbins demonstrate Mozart's approach in selected movements of his concertos.

More Detail

As principal pianist of the A. Mozart Fest concerts from 1991 through 2008, Robbins carefully studied Mozart's existing cadenzas in order to compose new ones for concertos where his were missing. To her surprise, her studies opened up a new world of Mozart's musical meaning that has not been recognized or written about for centuries. Robbins says, "His clues were always there, on every page. We simply had misunderstood them." She realized that to perform Mozart's music as he intended, she had to learn a new way to play it on today's piano. She emphasizes that listeners also must learn to hear it the way he composed and wrote about it. Robbins is currently working on three books – for listeners, all performers, and pianists on the modern piano – to explain her findings. This is her first public presentation in Austin on the subject. The presentation is sponsored by the Austin Alumni chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, an international, coeducational professional music fraternity, to support revitalization of the student chapter at the University of Texas Butler School of Music.

About the Artists

Distinguished international musicians will demonstrate Mozart's newly recognized approach by performing selected slow movements of his concertos for their instruments. Åshild [AUS-hild] Henriksen, principal horn for the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra for her entire professional career, is an active recitalist and chamber musician in Sweden. Kristin Wolfe Jensen is Professor of Bassoon at the UT Butler School of Music and an active soloist and recitalist. Martha MacDonald, clarinet, founded and performed with Austin Chamber Ensemble and is an active chamber musician and teacher. Presenter and pianist Mary Robbins is an internationally recognized Mozart performer, scholar, and teacher. All but Henriksen are based in Austin.



Fielder Vocal Competition Set for March 19

The biennial Fielder Vocal Grant Competition will take place Wednesday, March 19 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church. Doors open at 1 pm; the contest begins at 1:30. Four finalists will compete for \$13,000 in award money, made possible through a grant from Bonnie Cummins Fielder, a former Music Club Austin president, who was passionate about not only opera but the advancement of young people's vocal careers. Since the grant's inception in 2005, more than 30 young artists have benefited from Bonnie's generosity.

To participate in the Fielder, an applicant must have some connection to the state of Texas, either through birth, education or residency and be between the ages of 22 and 32. This year the field hales from Houston, Arlington and San Marcos and includes two mezzos, a soprano and a baritone. Educated at Eastman, Rice, Moore School (U of H), and the University of Michigan, they have already delighted audiences in Los Angeles, Aspen, St. Louis, and Chautauqua. And the roles under their collective belts range from Verdi, to Stravinsky, to Scott Joplin and

John Adams. One of them has even sung the national anthem for President Barack Obama! We are not exaggerating when we say, prepare yourselves for a real treat. This is high level performance which highlights one of the club's primary missions, the support and advancement of young talent. The competition is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served while we wait for the judges' decisions. Invite your friends and have your faith in the future of music affirmed!

Hope to see you soon!

The Fielder Committee:

Evaluators:

Heather Arnos, Deborah Scott Hammons, Fran Rush, Katharine Shields and Mollie Tower

Administrators:

Christine Hallock and Susan Ashworth

A PUBLICATION OF
MUSIC CLUB AUSTIN

EDITORS:
MARCIA EDWARDS
JOY GOODEN
MARIE WHITE

musicclubaustin.org

Thanks for reading

Event Calendar

Armstrong Community Music School <https://www.acmsaustin.org/special-events> Music and singing classes...plus events like Ukulele Family Jams and Ukulele Happy Hour (for ages 21+)

Arts On Alexander <https://www.artsonalexander.org/events> Holbrook Organ Series - Carson Cooman: Friday, March 7th.

ATX Chamber Music and Jazz <https://atxmusic.com/> Stephen Hough - A Solo Piano Recital / works by Chaminade, List, and Chopin: Friday, March 28th. Musical Mixology with Stephen Hough and Ensemble ATX: Saturday, March 29th.

Austin Civic Orchestra <https://austincivicorchestra.org/events/> Harmony for All - A Community Celebration of Music: Saturday, March 29th.

Austin Classical Guitar <https://austinclassicalguitar.org/events/> Canadian duo Steve Cowan and Adam Cicchillitti - A gorgeous blend of two guitars in a performance devoted to exquisite melodies: Saturday, March 8th and Sunday 9th. LIVE at The Rosette - Chinese guitarist, TY Zang: Saturday, March 29th and Sunday 30th.

Austin Jazz Society <https://austinjazzsociety.org> Andre Hayward Quinte - Sunday Afternoon Jazz @ Chez Zee: Sunday, March 2nd. Midweek @ Monks presents The Beat Divas (including Diane Donovan from KMFA): Wednesday, March 5th.

Austin Symphony <https://my.austinsymphony.org/events?view=list> Beethoven X Coldplay - Blending Beethoven's Eroica Symphony with Coldplay's melodies and lyrics: Saturday, March 1st. Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" performed with Chorus Austin: Friday, March 21st and Saturday, 22nd.

Ballet Austin <https://balletaustin.org/performances/seasontickets/> Love's Gentle Spring - Two new dances by Stephen Mills: Friday, March 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th.

Central Texas Philharmonic <https://www.centraltexasphilharmonic.org/> Out of This World - Holst's The Planets: Sunday, March 9th.

Inversion Ensemble <https://www.inversionatx.org/upcoming-events> Inversion Da Capo - Hear Me Roar! New music for treble voices: Saturday, March 1st and Sunday 2nd.

KMFA <https://www.kmfa.org/events> A full calendar of community events.

The Metropolitan Opera On stage: <https://www.metopera.org/season/2023-24-season/> On Demand: <https://www.metopera.org/season/on-demand/>

Salon Concerts <https://www.salonconcerts.org/> March concert with piano, violin, cello and trumpet: Sunday, March 9th and Monday 10th.

UT Butler School of Music <https://music.utexas.edu/events> Secrets in Plain Sight - A new way to hear and perform Mozart's Music. Our own Martha McDonald will be a performer! Sunday, April 6th at 3pm. UT Butler School of Music, Dedman Drive, Room 2.614 (next to the Recital Studio) Free and open to the public. They always have a full calendar of wonderful music and most of it is free.

UT-Texas Performing Arts <https://texasperformingarts.org/events> Les Arts Florissants & Theotime Langlois - Vivaldi's Four Seasons at 300: Thursday, March 27th. And more fun events on their calendar.

Williamson County Symphony Orchestra <https://wilcosymphony.org/> March concert: Saturday, March 15th.

Women In Jazz <https://womeninjazz.org/events/> Celebrating Austin Women in Jazz 2025: Sunday, March 2nd.

Sometimes events are left out because they are not posted on their websites in time to make our calendar. PLEASE let me know of any arts listings that you think should be included in our monthly calendar. Joy joygooden@austin.rr.com

The Met's 2024-25 season of live movie theater transmissions features four extraordinary operas this spring. Check your local cinema for times.

Fidelio Sat, March 15
(LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN)

Le Nozze di Figaro Sat, April 26
(WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART)

Salome Sat, May 17
(RICHARD STRAUSS)

Il Barbiere di Siviglia Sat, May 31
(GIOACHINO ROSSINI)