

Music Club Austin

Minutes January 15, 2025

First Unitarian Universalist Church

Austin, Texas

President Elisabeth Moreno called the meeting to order at 10 am and welcomed members and their guests. Thirty four people were in attendance . . .29 members and four guests: Judith Skaggs, David Ragland, Susan Abbot, Lorraine Maslin.

Following the invocation, she turned the meeting over to the program leader, Katharine Shields. Liz Cass led the audience, accompanied by Cynthia Mills, in singing "Seek Not Beauty from Afar" a selection from the Unitarian hymnal which was new to most members.

The flute trio originally scheduled with Pat Yingst and guests had to be postponed until February because of an injury to the pianist, but otherwise the performances proceeded according to the program attached below.

Although MCA is no longer officially following the National Federation's recommendations on monthly themes, this January's program serendipitously featured predominantly women composers, just as we have traditionally done at the beginning of the year. The club was happy to welcome Judy Skaggs as guest pianist for Elise Ragland's performance of selections by Margaret Bonds and Gwyneth Walker. And even more pertinent to the theme of women composers, Melanie Richards' own *Soul Journey* and Ruby Jane Smith's *Desert Song*.

After a final round of applause for the performers, the business meeting was called to order on a motion by Katharine Shields, seconded by Angela Smith. Members were updated on the conclusion of the **Fielder Vocal Grant selection process** and reminded of the final auditions on **March 19th**.

Members were encouraged to connect with Carol Brannon if they are interested in the **vocal ensemble** she is beginning to organize. In addition, **service hours** are due in to the Community Service Committee by March 1st. Kathryn Govier, the chairperson, promised to bring forms to the next meeting. Susan Ashworth generously made available some interesting sheet music to be picked up in the foyer which may be the start of a new tradition, namely an **annual music exchange**. Elise announced that she and Judy Skaggs would be performing on a "**Judy and Friends**" program at **Westminster Senior Residence**, at **7:15 pm on Monday, February 3**. Club members are invited to attend and simply sign in as guest of Judy and Elise. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Program

Program Leader: **Katharine Shields**
Song Leader: **Liz Cass** Accompanist: **Cynthia Mills**
Song: "Seek Not Afar for Beauty" UUA 77

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Hold On by Margaret Bonds (1913 -1972)

Standing' in the Need of Prayer and *Sit Down Sister* from "Songs of the Spirit"
by Gwyneth Walker (1947-)

Performed by **Elise Ragland**, soprano, and **Judy Skaggs**, guest pianist

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Soul Journey by Melanie Richards (1946 –)

Performed by **Melanie Richards**, pianist

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The Irish Washerwoman Traditional

Swallowtail Jig Traditional

Moderato from "Duet No. 4 for Two Violins in B-flat Major" by Johann Christian Bach
(1735-1782)

Performed by **Ruby Jane Smith**, violinist and fiddle 1, and **Gregory Shields**, violist and
fiddle 2

Desert Song, composed and performed by Ruby Jane Smith

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