

APRIL 2025



Noteworthy

Performance Meeting April 2nd

Program

Program Leader: **Pat Yingst**

Song Leader: **Susan Ashworth**

Accompanist: **Kathryn Govier**

Song: "The Spacious Firmament on High" (sheet music)

Solveig's Song from "Peer Gynt" by Edward Grieg (1843-1907)

La Pastorella (The Shepherd Maid), Lieder D 528

by Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

La Danza (Tarantella Napoletana) by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Performed by **Elise Ragland**, soprano,
and **Brian Grothues**, pianist

Allegro con brio from "Sonata in C Major, Op.53 (Waldstein)"

by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Performed by **Melanie Richards**, pianist

I Moderato and II Vivace from "Sonata for Piano"

by Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Performed by **Tim Woolsey**, pianist

IV Allegro mosso from "Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor, Op. 19"

by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1945)

Performed by **Terri Freeland**, cellist,
and **Brian Grothues**, pianist

In this newsletter
you can expect:

President's
Musings

Fielder Vocal
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Dog Poems

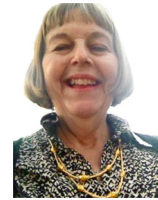
Event Calendar



THEODORE ROOSEVELT 1858-1919
THE PORTRAIT BY
JOHN SINGER SARGENT.

President's Musings

Live the Strenuous Life...



by Elisabeth Moreno

Let's face it . . . material life in the United States these days is pretty comfortable. We've automated and digitized everything from bill paying to medical records. We summon up self-driving vehicles, order seamlessly from Jeff Bezos' never-ending empire and rely on Chat GPT to write that pesky cover letter or admissions essay. What's worse, the algorithms of streaming services and influencers tell us what we should view, what we should listen to, or whom we should date. Technology has opened up more free time for us than ever in human history, and yet we are not conspicuously happier. In fact, as social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has observed in his latest book ***The Anxious Generation***, levels of neuroticism and alienation, especially among young people, are at an all-time high.

Now the sense of community which music offers may counteract some of that isolation, but a larger part of the problem may be having lost our cultural appetite to do something HARD, out of our comfort zone and perhaps requiring the 10,000 hours of practice which psychologists tell us are necessary to achieve expertise. Many of us will remember President John F. Kennedy's speech at Rice University in 1962 in which he challenged the United States to go to the moon, not because it was easy, but because it was HARD. We haven't heard language like that on the national level in a long time.

In the past two weeks, that appetite . . . for the HARD stuff . . . was on display at both the biennial Fielder Vocal Grant Competition and the annual Wilcox-Maurer-Putter High School Contests sponsored by MCA. For those of us involved in the preliminary screenings, sitting in the audience, or just eavesdropping through the door like a hall monitor, it was a thrilling display of musical potential. The dedication and self-discipline on offer (to say nothing of the raw talent) should remind us of how good it feels to achieve mastery. That's what brought Theodore Roosevelt's maxim to mind: **Live the strenuous life**. Now Roosevelt, a life-long asthmatic, wasn't talking about just big game hunting or boxing . He meant a morally strenuous and demanding life which embraced challenge and responsibility. Choosing the HARD things, in other words, not the "phone-based life." Offloading, if the concept had existed in Roosevelt's day, would NOT have been his default setting. (In fact, he continued his challenging habit of skinny-dipping in the Potomac River during the winter all the way up to the end of his life.)

So as we celebrate the accomplishments of the young artists who recently performed for us, let's not forget the value of living the strenuous life, even in the face of all the cultural propaganda which glamorizes easy short cuts. Our idea of strenuous might not include skinny-dipping, but let's challenge ourselves to choose something HARD, whether it's that Chopin-Godowsky etude, singing "Queen of the Night," or just doing our income taxes without help. When it's all over, it's going to feel so GOOD!

RESULTS OF FIELDER VOCAL CAREER COMPETITION



JUDGES AND WINNERS, LEFT TO RIGHT:
JOHN PROFT, JULIA TAYLOR, KASWANNA, MADELEINE,
ANNA, JOVEIAN AND CLAUDIA CHAPA.



THE WINNERS, LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: KASWANNA KANYINDA,
MADELEINE LYON, ANNA THOMPSON AND JOVEAVIAN RIVERA

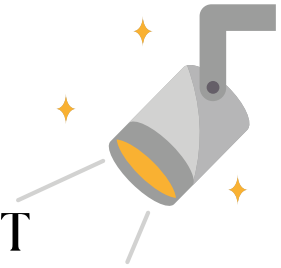


JUDGES LEFT TO RIGHT:
JOHN PROFT, JULIA TAYLOR AND CLAUDIA CHAPA.

The finals of the Fielder Vocal Career Advancement Competition were held Wednesday, March 19, at the First Unitarian Church. Four young artists competed for the \$13,000 in award money made possible by a bequest from former club president, Bonnie Cummins Fielder. First place winner Anna Thompson, a soprano and graduate of Eastman School of Music, performed selections from *Massenet's Thaïs* and Eric Wolfgang Korngold's *Die tote Stadt*. There was a three-way tie for second place among the remaining finalists: Kaswanna Kanyinda, Madeleine Lyon and Joeavian Rivera. They treated the audience to selections from the *Cavallèrie Rusticana*, *Faust* and the *Marriage of Figaro* along with several dramatic art songs.

Judges for the competition included Claudia Chapa (Austin Opera), John Proft (Conspirare) and Julia Taylor (Southwestern University). The three-way tie for second place . . . a first in the history of the competition . . . gives you an idea of how accomplished and well-prepared the entire field of singers was. Our thanks to everyone associated with the finals including the judges, our own in-house listening committee (Heather Arnos, Deborah Scott Hammons, Fran Rush, Katharine Shields and Mollie Tower); administrative support from Christine Hallock and Susan Ashworth and accompaniment by Maimy Fong.

The Fielder Competition operates on a two-year cycle which means the next iteration will be in Spring 2027. Meanwhile, we are sure somewhere Bonnie is taking pleasure not only in the amazing singing we heard at the finals, but in the knowledge that the potential of these talented young people is being recognized.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AUDREY HIME

I recently became a member of Music Club Austin, but I have been attending music club luncheons for over 25 years with my dear friend Katharine Shields. Linda Tietz, another dear friend, introduced me to Katharine in 1997 when Linda and I were middle school band reps. The three of us were active in Westlake Band Parents for several years together and got to know each other through trips, fund raising, and weekly get togethers. We each had a couple of kids in band who played all through high school, and they were friends as well. (Linda recently pointed out to me that our kids are about the same age as when we met!)

I moved to Austin in 1992 with my husband and two daughters. My husband, who is from Dickinson, graduated from the University of Texas in the early 70s and had made it a priority to get back to Austin after taking high tech jobs in Houston, Germany, Southern California, Boston and the Bay Area. After following him from place to place and attending college in three different states, I finally graduated from California State University in Fullerton just before my 30th birthday with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics.

Once my two daughters graduated from high school and left for college, I decided I needed a new focus, so I went back to school and received a Master's degree in education and a secondary teaching certification in math. I taught math for 15 years and retired from Austin Community College in 2021. Since then, I joined Assistance League of Austin. I volunteer as one of their assistant treasurers as well as work in the Thrift House every month.

My musical experience is limited to playing the violin through high school and playing handbells at my church. However, I learned quite a bit about music as a Suzuki parent. One of my daughters took Suzuki harp lessons for almost 9 years, and my other daughter began her study of the flute with a Suzuki teacher. I have always enjoyed attending live musical performances, so when Katharine suggested that I join the music club, I had no hesitation. Not only do I enjoy music of all kinds, I very much believe in the club's mission statement. Music is a universal language that brings people together, and music education is so much more than learning to read notes and play an instrument. I'm happy to be part of such a meaningful and interesting group.

THIS IS THE WORLD
I WANT TO LIVE IN.
The Shared World.



National Poetry Month April 2025

Artwork by Christy Maslin. Lines excerpted from the poem "Gate A, G" by Naomi Shihab Nye, from Honeybee (Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2008). For more free poetry resources, visit: Poets.org/npm.



APRIL RAIN SONG

LET THE RAIN KISS YOU
LET THE RAIN BEAT UPON YOUR HEAD WITH SILVER LIQUID DROPS
LET THE RAIN SING YOU A LULLABY
THE RAIN MAKES STILL POOLS ON THE SIDEWALK
THE RAIN MAKES RUNNING POOLS IN THE GUTTER
THE RAIN PLAYS A LITTLE SLEEP SONG ON OUR ROOF AT NIGHT
AND I LOVE THE RAIN.

LANGSTON HUGHES

Lola's Lament
Arther Miller 1915-2005

I worry.
I have to because nobody else does.
Some strange car comes up the driveway —
They go right on talking. They trust,
I don't. Threat crosses my nose
Twenty times a day.
No wonder I bark and menace,
Who knows who it could be at the door
'Specially in these times.

Walk in the woods with them
You'd never know they're passing
Under two tremendous owls perched way up,
Or stepping on fresh coyote piss
Or a hair of an elderly rat on a blade of grass
Or the spunk of a rutting deer last night,
Or the rubbing of a bear, God forbid,
On a bent birch beside the path.

So I worry.
Sleep with my ears up, not soundly.
When I'm not watching I'm greeting.
People are not grateful enough
For visitors. I am. I worry
About them not being grateful enough.
So I make up for it by howling
Till they get up off the couch
To shake hands. Between the dangers
And the greetings I am simply exhausted.

-From *Unleashed: Poems by Writers' Dogs*,
Ed. Amy Hempel, Jim Shepherd (1995).

Verse for a Certain Dog
Dorothy Parker 1893-1967

Such glorious faith as fills your limpid eyes,
Dear little friend of mine, I never knew.
All-innocent are you, and yet all-wise.
(For heaven's sake, stop worrying that shoe!)
You look about, and all you see is fair;
This mighty globe was made for you alone.
Of all the thunderous ages, you're the heir.
(Get off the pillow with that dirty bone!)
A skeptic world you face with steady gaze;
High in young pride you hold your noble head;
Gayly you meet the rush of roaring days.
(Must you eat puppy biscuit on the bed?)
Lancelike your courage, gleaming swift and strong,
Yours the white rapture of a wingèd soul,
Yours is a spirit like a May-day song.
(God help you, if you break the goldfish bowl!)
"Whatever is, is good," your gracious creed.
You wear your joy of living like a crown.
Love lights your simplest act, your every deed.
(Drop it, I tell you—put that kitten down!)
You are God's kindest gift of all,—a friend.
Your shining loyalty unflecked by doubt,
You ask but leave to follow to the end.
(Couldn't you wait until I took you out?)

From *Enough Rope* (Boni & Liveright, 1926) by
Dorothy Parker.

This poem is in the public domain.

Thanks to Beth Moreno for the poems and photo
of her dog Elsa.

A PUBLICATION OF MUSIC CLUB AUSTIN	EDITORS: MARCIA EDWARDS JOY GOODEN MARIE WHITE
musicclubaustin.org	<i>Thanks for reading</i>



Event Calendar

ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL [HTTPS://WWW.ACMSAUSTIN.ORG/SPECIAL-EVENTS](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](https://www.artsonalexander.org/events) THE CHOIR OF ST. JOHN'S CAMBRIDGE (USA TOUR): FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH.

AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER [HTTPS://AUSTINCHAMBERMUSIC.ORG/CONCERT-SEASON/](https://austinchambermusic.org/concert-season/) GOTHIC BALLAD - AN EVENING OF HAUNTING NOSTALGIA AND EVOCATIVE SENTIMENTALITY: FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH AND SATURDAY, 5TH.

AUSTIN CIVIC ORCHESTRA [HTTPS://AUSTINCIVICORCHESTRA.ORG/EVENTS/](https://austincivicorchestra.org/events/) PARTS OF THE WHOLE - A CONCERT OF CHAMBER MUSIC BY SMALL ENSEMBLES: SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH.

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR [HTTPS://AUSTINCLASSICALGUITAR.ORG/EVENTS/](https://austinclassicalguitar.org/events/) LIVE AT THE ROSETTE: GUITARISTS DAVID MANZANARES-SALGUERO & AYTahn BENAVIDES: THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH.

AUSTIN OPERA [HTTPS://MY.AUSTINOPERA.ORG/](https://my.austinopera.org/) MADAME BUTTERFLY: FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH, SATURDAY, 26TH AND SUNDAY, 27TH.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY [HTTPS://MY.AUSTINSYMPHONY.ORG/EVENTS?VIEW=LIST](https://my.austinsymphony.org/events?view=list) GERMANIC GEMS - STRAUSS, MOZART, AND BRAHMS: FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH AND SATURDAY, 12TH.

BALCONES COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA [HTTPS://WWW.BCORCHESTRA.ORG/](https://www.bcorchestra.org/) CHLOE YOFAN, VIOLIN: SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH.

BEERTHOVEN [HTTPS://WWW.BEERTHOVEN.COM/UPCOMINGSHOWS](https://www.beethoven.com/upcomingshows) RAGS TO RICHES AT SAENGERRUNDE HALL: FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH AND SATURDAY, 26TH. RAGS TO RICHES AT KMFA: SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH.

CHORUS AUSTIN [HTTPS://WWW.CHORUSAUSTIN.ORG/](https://www.chorusaustin.org/) SOUTHWEST VOICES - MODERN MASTERPIECES (WITH INVOKE QUARTET): SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH AND SUNDAY, 13TH.

CONSPIRARE [HTTPS://WWW.CONSPIRARE.ORG/TICKETS/](https://www.conspirare.org/tickets/) SOUL RADIANCE - A CELEBRATION WITH CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON: SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

GILBERT & SULLIVAN [HTTPS://WWW.GILBERTSULLIVAN.ORG/](https://www.gilbertsullivan.org/) PICNIC WITH PINAFORE PLAYERS AN AFTERNOON CELEBRATION WITH THE CAST AND CREW OF THE SUMMER PRODUCTION OF H.M.S. PINAFORE: SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH.



Event Calendar

INVOKE QUARTET [HTTPS://WWW.INVOKESOUND.COM/](https://www.invoke-sound.com/) KMFA OFFBEAT SERIES W/ BRANDON RIDENHOUR: SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH.

KMFA [HTTPS://WWW.KMFA.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.kmfa.org/events) KMFA MIDDAY CONCERT SERIES - BUTLER OPERA CENTER: TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST. LANDMARKS UT - SONGS IN THE SKYSPACE WITH CONSPIRARE: SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH. AND MANY MORE EVENT LISTINGS.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER [HTTPS://WWW.WILDFLOWER.ORG/](https://www.wildflower.org/) TUESDAY TWILIGHTS - EVERY TUESDAY IN APRIL: OPEN LATE WITH LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS AND MORE.

LA FOLLIA [HTTPS://WWW.LAFOLLIA.ORG/UPCOMING-CONCERTS](https://www.lafollia.org/upcoming-concerts) BACH IN ENGLISH: FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH AND SUNDAY, 27TH.

THE LONG CENTER [HTTPS://THELONGCENTER.ORG/UPCOMING-CALENDAR/](https://thelongcenter.org/upcoming-calendar/) INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH. AND MANY EVENTS ON THEIR CALENDAR.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ON STAGE: [HTTPS://WWW.METOPERA.ORG/SEASON/2023-24-SEASON/](https://www.metopera.org/season/2023-24-season/) ON DEMAND: [HTTPS://WWW.METOPERA.ORG/SEASON/ON-DEMAND/](https://www.metopera.org/season/on-demand/)

ONE OUNCE OPERA [HTTPS://ONEOUNCEOPERA.COM/](https://oneounceopera.com/) SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME - MOZART EDITION: SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH.

ROUND ROCK COMMUNITY CHOIR [HTTPS://ROUNDROCKCOMMUNITYCHOIR.ORG/](https://roundrockcommunitychoir.org/) BETTER IS PEACE: SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH.

TAPESTRY [HTTPS://WWW.TAPESTRYSINGERS.ORG/UPCOMING/](https://www.tapestry-singers.org/upcoming/) SING, BE, LIVE, SEE - SONGS THAT ENCOURAGE US TO BE WHO WE ARE: SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH.

UT BUTLER SCHOOL OF MUSIC [HTTPS://MUSIC.UTEXAS.EDU/EVENTS](https://music.utexas.edu/events) [HTTPS://MUSIC.UTEXAS.EDU/EVENTS](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](https://texasperformingarts.org/events) SWAN LAKE - THE STATE BALLET THEATRE OF UKRAINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH. AND A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

THE MET'S 2024–25 SEASON OF LIVE MOVIE THEATER TRANSMISSIONS FEATURES FOUR EXTRAORDINARY OPERAS THIS SPRING. CHECK YOUR LOCAL CINEMA FOR TIMES.

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)