

May 2026

2026 Winners of Wilcox, Maurer, Rudd and Putter Awards Performing at the Spring Luncheon

Maurer First Place: Josephine Chow, Piano

Josephine began her piano study at the age of 5 with her piano teacher mother, Connie Lam, and is currently studying with Andrei Tcymbalistenko and Alexander Malikov. She has attended Texas music festivals, as well as international festivals, and has participated in master classes with many famous pianists and professors, including Yoheved Kaplinsky, Hung-Kuan Chen, Jean Efflam Bavouzet, and Boris Slutsky. Here are some of her many awards:

- 2026 Butler Texas Young Master,
- 2026 soloist with the Central Texas Philharmonic,
- 2025-2026 recipient of the Chopin Foundation Scholarship,
- Soloist with Las Colinas, Starlight, and Coeur d'Alene Symphonies,
- 2023-2024 Texas winner in Music Teachers National Association's Junior Piano Competition.

She also won multiple prizes in the Spotlight International Piano Competition, the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition, and the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition. Josephine plans to major in piano performance at a conservatory, and she has been awarded a full scholarship for 2025-2026 from the Chopin Foundation of the United States. Her major goal in the near future is to compete in prestigious competitions such as the Van Cliburn and Queen Elisabeth. In the long term she hopes to establish a music academy, giving more people a chance to experience music education.

Maurer Second Place: Jenny Thomas, Violin

Jenny has studied violin with Tim Washecka for the past 9 years and with William Fedkenheuer for 3 years. Her many awards include the following:

- Four years as a TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra Member,
- 2026 Starlight Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition Winner,
- 2025 Anthony Quinn Foundation Scholarship Recipient,
- 2025 Austin Soundwaves Draylen Mason Fellow Scholarship Recipient,
- 2024 Honorable Mention in MCA's High School Competition,
- 2023 Texas State UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition - Outstanding player award, Gold Medal Winner.

She has participated in numerous summer festivals, is a member of two chamber groups and the McNeil High School Symphony Orchestra, and performs regularly at nursing homes, medical centers, and at the New World Deli Cafe. Jenny plans to study violin performance in college, and she will apply to summer festivals such as Tanglewood, Madeline Island Chamber Music, and Youth Orchestra Los Angeles.

2026 Winners of Wilcox, Maurer, Rudd and Putter Awards Continued

Maurer Third Place: Jiatong Gao, Piano

In Jiatong's 12 years of piano study she has worked with distinguished teachers, including Dr. Timothy Woolsey (her current teacher), Dr. Young Kim, and Dr. Yu Zhang-Koslovsky. Her many honors and awards include the following:

- Pianist I for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State 6A Symphonic Band,
- Silver Medalist at the International Chopin Youth Competition,
- First Place in the Austin District Music Teachers Association Solo Contest,
- Second Place in the Texas Music Teachers Association Performance Contest,
- One of six musicians selected worldwide to perform at TonicCon Los Angeles,
- Outstanding Soloist for her 2026 performance of Petrushka at the National Orchestra Cup with Westwood High school's orchestra, which placed First Runner Up.

In college, Jiatong plans to double major in piano performance and bio-medical engineering or biophysics.

Wilcox First Place: Ellie Washecka, Viola

Ellie is a sophomore at McNeil High School. She began her musical studies at age 2 on the violin, studying with her parents and Dr. Laurie Scott. In middle school, she switched to viola, and she is currently studying with Nicolette Solomon. Here are some of her many accomplishments:

- 2026 Principal Violist of TMEA All-State Symphony orchestra,
- 2025 Principal Violist of TMEA Region 26 orchestra,
- 2025-26 Winner of the Austin Youth Orchestra concerto competition,
- 2025-26 Winner of the Starlight Symphony Concerto Competition,
- 2025 Winner of the Austin Music Club Rudd award,
- 2024 3rd place winner in the American Viola Society Junior Competition.

Ellie will be attending Encore Music Festival and Boston University Tanglewood Institute this summer.

Wilcox Second Place: Zhaoxi Chen, Violin

Zhaoxi is a junior at Westwood High School. He began his violin and piano study at age 5 with his mother, a violin teacher and orchestra conductor. He has studied with various other teachers such as Satoshi Nakayama, Sandy Yamamoto, and Zichuan Wang. He has participated in these youth orchestra programs and summer music programs:

- 2026 TMEA All-State Orchestra,
- First Place in North America Region Washington International Rachmaninoff Music Competition,
- Conducting Institute 2025 Summer Program,
- 2025 Starling-Delay Symposium on Violin Studies,
- 2023 Philadelphia International Music Festival.

Zhaoxi will continue to explore various musical fields. He plans to study conducting, musical education, and violin performance as preparation for a lifelong career in music.

Wilcox Third Place: Alana Malloy, Piano

Alana is a freshman at Westwood High School. She began piano lessons in first grade. She has studied with Connie Lam and Andrei Tcymbalistenko. She placed first at the 2025 Ella Louise Burba Competition, and she received a distinction grade on the ARSM. Her most recent awards are second place at the 2026 Debose National Piano Competition and Gold medal award at the 2026 AADGT "Passion of Music" festival. She also plays violin in ensembles and orchestras, and she enjoys having several different roles as a musician. She looks forward to many more years of study and challenge in her musical life.

President's Musings

Hail and Farewell!

by Elisabeth Moreno



Farewell columns in any organization traditionally look both forwards and backwards. So let's do the forwards part first . . . I am so grateful that Marcia Edwards and Janie Keys have agreed to a "co-presidency" (a first in the club's history) and that so many club officers have agreed to stay on. That includes Brian Grothues as first Vice President, braving the programming waters singlehandedly this time; Elise Ragland and Linda Tietz, the masters of house management who offer us flawlessly produced monthly meetings; Katharine Shields, keeper of the purse and watch-dog of our CD rates; Angela Smith, parliamentarian and the only person I know who actually ENJOYS reading Robert's Rules of Order and for the first time . . . welcome aboard . . . Susan Ashworth, our new Recording Secretary. May the gods of AI intercede for her and transcribe all our meeting notes in the ether! I realize our culture has a tendency to clamor for "new blood" in any organization and the infusion of new ideas and perspectives is of course important But I think sometimes we shortchange the value of institutional memory and that's what this coming Executive Board has to offer. There is nothing like working with people who credibly remember why or how something was done in the past and from THAT perspective can make informed suggestions for change. And changes we have instituted . . . here are just a few:

- Became a business level member at KMFA and developed a glossy publicity brochure
 - Phased out our physical yearbook, migrated relevant information to the website (including the bylaws) and developed a single page membership roster
 - Updated our bylaws and membership categories to reflect the club's desire that all members perceive themselves as active participants in the club's mission.
 - Streamlined the program proposal form and placed it on the website to encourage more non-traditional submissions
 - Placed our membership form on the website and simplified the process of applying for membership
 - Supported the NFMC convention held here last June which included not only logistical and financial support but 200 pralines from Lammes Candies, now alas, a former Austin landmark.
 - Expanded our programming format to include several highly entertaining speakers and increased outreach to the Butler School of Music, Austin Chamber Music Adult Academy and for the first time, the Balcones Community Orchestra.
 - Made friends with the Piano Puzzler who I hope will make regular appearances at future club meetings.
- (Many thanks to webmaster Pat Yingst and Noteworthy Co-editor Marie White for having actualized many of the technological changes.)

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Music Club Austin's president these past two years. As I said when the nominating committee originally approached me, I'm doing this just because of the wonderful fellowship among members and our commitment to the club's mission of promoting the transforming power of music and supporting aspiring young musicians.

My very best wishes to the incoming "administration." May their membership roster swell and their commitment to collaborative outreach carry the club to new heights.

As always, onward and upward!

May

by

Nathaniel Parker Willis

Oh, the merry May has pleasant hours,
And dreamily they glide,
As if they floated like the leaves
Upon a silver tide.

The trees are full of crimson buds,
And the woods are full of birds,
And the waters flow to music
Like a tune with pleasant words.

The verdure of the meadow-land
Is creeping to the hills,
The sweet, blue-bosom'd violets
Are blowing by the rills;
The lilac has a load of balm
For every wind that stirs,
And the larch stands green and beautiful
Amid the sombre firs.

There's perfume upon every wind —
Music in every tree —
Dews for the moisture-loving flowers —
Sweets for the sucking bee;
The sick come forth for the healing South,
The young are gathering flowers;
And life is a tale of poetry,
That is told by golden hours.

If 'tis not a true philosophy,
That the spirit when set free
Still lingers about its olden home,
In the flower and the tree,
It is very strange that our pulses thrill
At the tint of a voiceless thing,
And our hearts yearn so with tenderness
In the beautiful time of Spring.

This poem is in the public domain.

Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806 - 1867) was born in Maine to a family of writers and publishers. He began publishing his poetry while attending Yale and, soon after graduation, launched a magazine. Working as an editor and freelance writer, Nathaniel spent several years in Europe before returning to live in New York, writing and developing friendships with leading authors of the time, including Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. At one point, he was the highest paid magazine writer in America. Nathaniel married several times, endured the loss of two children, and suffered from epilepsy in his later years. A large man and dapper dresser, he was generally regarded as good-natured and well-respected.

EVENT CALENDAR

Armstrong Community Music School <https://www.acmsaustin.org/special-events> Providing lifelong access to the musical arts through instruction and performance for all. Their calendar is full of learning activities.

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Austin Chamber Music Center <https://austinchambermusic.org>

The 30th Anniversary Festival is here! It runs June 19th - July 26th. LOT'S OF WONDERFUL CONCERTS COMING! Here are just a few of them. *Miro Quartet & Shai Wosner: Saturday, June 20th. *Zlatomir Fung (one of the most exciting cellists in the world right now): Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, 28th. *Invoke Quartet - American Voices, mixing classical, folk and original music: Saturday, July 18th. *Carnival of the Animals - a family favorite: Sunday, July 19th. *Ariel Quartet - Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Berg: Sunday, July 26th.

Austin Civic Orchestra <https://austincivicorchestra.org/events> Zilker Park Concerts - It's About Time: Friday, June 5th

Austin Jazz Society <https://austinjazzsociety.org> AJS supports Wednesday Night Jazz with Rabbi Neil Blumoffe @ the Cactus Cafe: Wednesday, June 24th.

Austin Shakespeare <https://www.austinshakespeare.org/our-season> FREE Shakespeare in the park - Much Ado About Nothing: Thursday thru Sunday, May 21st - 24th.

Conspirare <https://www.conspirare.org/tickets> Timeless Comfort, Modern Witness: Friday, May 22nd.

Gilbert & Sullivan <https://www.gilbertsullivan.org> PATIENCE - 2026 Summer Grand Production: various dates June, 12th - 21st.

KMFA <https://www.kmfa.org/events> KMFA always has a great community events calendar.

The Metropolitan Opera Events: <https://www.metopera.org/calendar/#/on-stage?year=2025&month=4> On Demand: <https://ondemand.metopera.org/>

Zach Scott Theatre <https://zachtheatre.org/shows-events> ANNIE - The unshakeable little singing orphan! June 24th - August 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 Gooden joygooden@austin.rr.com



DON'T MEAN TO
BUG YOU BUT...
WE NEED YOUR TALENT
for the
next year

The program committee encourages out of the box suggestions
(book reviews, panels, etc.)
and even
REQUESTS for any kind of programming or topic
club members might be interested in hearing about.
No guarantees that it can be secured,
but the committee is anxious to know what people are thinking . . .
Submit your ideas or proposal at the link below.

<https://musicclubaustin.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Program-proposal-2024-2025-fillable.pdf>

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<p>musicclubaustin.org</p>	<p><i>Thanks for reading</i></p>