

Music Club Austin
Minutes January 21, 2026
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Austin, Texas

President Elisabeth Moreno called the meeting to order at 10 am and welcomed members and their guests. Twenty-five people were in attendance. Following the invocation, Beth turned the program over to Susan Ashworth, the program leader. Katharine Shields, accompanied by Cynthia Mills, led members in singing *Down by the Riverside*.

There were no changes in the program (see attached) which culminated in Helen Young recapping her fascinating career as a music therapist, jazz aficionado, composer, arranger and producer. Brian Grothues assumed the role of “puzzle master” and challenged members to identify both the tune and the composer whose style he was imitating in a brief musical selection. Winners were Janie Keys, Mary Parse and Pam Mayes, all of whom correctly identified *The Star Spangled Banner* in the style of Prokofiev.

In the **business portion** of the meeting, Beth reminded members that discussions were underway with **KMFA** to arrange a tour of their new facility. In the interim, the date HAS been settled on: **Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 11 am.**

A revised **Membership Form** will soon be available on the club’s website. The Executive Board decided to eliminate the need for a sponsor in applying for membership and replace that portion of the form with a question about how applicants had learned about the club. They’ll be asked to print out the form, complete it and return it along with \$50 dues to Katharine Shields, Membership Chair and Treasurer.

Linda Tietz updated members on the work of the **Nominating Committee**. The position which is proving most difficult to fill is that of President so Linda was suggesting the idea of a co-presidency (or president-elect position) which is indeed the structure many other organizations follow as a way of sharing responsibility and creating an internal learning curve. She encouraged anyone interested in taking on leadership roles within the club to contact her. The by-laws require that she present the slate of new officers at the February meeting, with a vote coming in March.

After the recognition of guests, a few announcements followed. Kathryn Govier alerted members, especially those who live in House District 49 (which is the district the Unitarian Church itself is in) to the March 3rd primary in which Gigs Hodges, is running. She is a Democratic Socialist running on a platform of hope and integrity for working Texans.

Elise Ragland updated members on a future performance of Austin Girls' Choir, **March 7th**, which will be a **Madrigal Dinner Theater Performance**, 6-8:15 pm. St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 1420 Palm Valley Drive, Round Rock. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Program

Program Leader: **Susan Ashworth** Song Leader: **Katharine Shields** Accompanist: **Cynthia Mills** Song: *Down by the Riverside*

"Sonata No 1 in F Major" by Georg Phillip Telemann (1681-1767)

Performed by **Marianne Kim**, recorder, **Angela Smith**, cellist, and **Mary Parse**, pianist

Two Songs by Amy Beach (1867-1944)

Take, O Take Those Lips Away, Op. 37, No. 2

When Soul is Joined to Soul, Op. 62

Performed by **Katharine Shields**, soprano, and **Andrei Zimbalist**, guest pianist

Three Songs by Irving Berlin (1888-1989):

The Girl That I Marry

, *They Say It's Wonderful*

My Defenses are Down from "Annie Get Your Gun"

Performed by **Charles Palmer** and **Elise Ragland**, vocalists, and **Kathryn Govier**, pianist

"The Beat Goes On: My Musical Learning Journey Continues"

Helen Young, speaker

Piano Puzzler

Brian Grothues, pianist and puzzle master