

TAKE NOTE

May 2017



Women's Symphony League
of Austin
The Doyle House
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MISSION

The mission of the Women's Symphony League of Austin is to provide service and financial support for the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its programs, and offer educational opportunities for the children and the community to further develop appreciation of music.

A Year in Review from Our President

As the school year comes to a close, so does my tenure as your President. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Women's Symphony League, and I thank you for what has truly been an unforgettable, beautiful year.



When I began this journey, I shared my hope that this could be a year in which we *connected* with each other, learned new things about the Symphony and our League, and had fun - all while fulfilling our mission to provide financial/volunteer support to the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Through the many opportunities for service and camaraderie offered by the Women's Symphony League, I sincerely hope that you found your personal connection this year, and that your life has been enriched by it.

Thank you to all of the dedicated, passionate women who served on the Executive Committee and Board this year. I am forever in your debt. Working alongside these fantastic ladies who chaired our programs, projects, and events, my job was made so much easier and more joyful. To all of those Board members who devoted countless hours each month to our League - thank you!

A special thank you to our Jewel Ball chairs, **Barbara Crockett** and **Martha Liner**; Soirée chairs, **Stacey Brewer** and **Karen Temborius**; and our Fashion Show chairs, **Tina Kemmerer** and **Sharon Wilson**. Because of their vision and tireless efforts, all of the Jewel Ball events were outstanding!!

Thank you as well to our fabulous Red Haute Valentine Party and Children's Style Show chairs, **Becky King** and **Ray Eve Michel**. Our new venue at Omni Barton Creek allowed us to double our vendor size. What a glorious February afternoon!

In addition, the ASO Youth Leadership Council continued to break records this year! Under the leadership of **Kimberly Bove** and **Laurée Moffett**, YLC had 128 student members for 2016-2017! Kimberly and Laurée's dedicated stewardship resulted in a brilliant slate of guest speakers, as well as the development of an online system for volunteering and reporting community service hours.

But the heart and soul of the Women's Symphony League is YOU! Our members, who give their time and talents, are what make the League the vital and vibrant organization that it is. We had so much fun this year! During our meetings, we *connected* with the ASO Building Blocks program, ASO musicians, Anderson High School Madrigals, James Rodman (pianist), and the ASO High School Concerts - featuring a mini-lecture from Maestro Peter Bay! We enjoyed a field trip to the Texas Hill Country, and WSL members were invited to a private reception at the Governor's Mansion!

We honored Austin-area music teachers with a lovely reception, transformed the Long Center into a Spooktacular haunted mansion, entertained young and old at Symphony Square, fed the Orchestra at their Thursday night "Dress Rehearsals," provided decorations galore at the Palmer Center for the Pops Concerts, and taught pre-K and elementary-age children about the instruments of the orchestra, all while raising over **\$300,000** (net)!

Every member of the WSL should be proud of what we accomplished this year! My thanks go out to you!

Welcome New Members!

WSL New Member Orientation was recently held on April 25th at Abel's on the Lake.

New members enjoyed a fabulous and fun scavenger hunt game which was prepared by Celeste Hubert. This game provided an exciting format for meeting and mingling!

New Members also received their notebooks with information about WSL, the ASO and their New Member year expectations.

More social events are planned in the future, so keep your eyes and calendar open for socials in June, September, November and January.

Please welcome these new members to WSL!

Tara Akins	Grace Foster	Linda McCaul	Carrie Semple
Martha Blomquist	Joi Gamble	Tina McCutchin	Merrell Anne Shearer
Courtney Boswell	Becky Garcia	Michelle McDonald	Madeleine Stallworth
Stephanie Brackhahn	Emma Garrett	Terry Modoff	Kristin Stovall
Alexandra Bradshaw	Erin Geisler	Acia Moody	Melissa Takamatsu
April Braun	Wendy George	Jennifer Morey	Wendy Thomson
Tiffany Britton	Rachel Goggan	Lesli Mosser	Kerry Ugarte
Kristen Brown	Annette Graves	Beth Newton	Natasa Valocchi
Eldarose Cardenas	Lisa Howard	Briana Novian	Linda van Bavel
Ginny Graham Carroll	Sara Hyten	Leslie Perkins	Cody Washburn
Laura Lee Daigle	Ashley Hyten	Amy Reinartz	Surangi Widyaratne
Kimberly Day	Lesley Lorenz	Susan Roth	Anna Belle Williams
Dusty Dorsett	Jennalie Lyons	Sarah Sarahan	Holly Wukasch
Kelly Eglit	Lindsay Mabry	Hope Scallan	Julie Young
Chiquita Eugene	Jennifer Marsh		

WSL New Members Orientation at Abel's on the Lake



Red Haute on the Runway

Every attendee had a big *Heart of Gold* on February 12th for the 6th Annual Red Haute Valentine Party and Children's Style Show. Because of the spectacular success of the event in previous years, the Women's Symphony League of Austin changed venues to the OMNI Barton Creek Resort to accommodate more generous sponsors, stylish models, enthusiastic attendees and local vendors. The event had over three hundred people in attendance, fourteen fabulous vendors at the marketplace with sixty-five models ranging in age from four to fourteen participating in the Fashion Show. Overall, the event raised \$36,000 for the Austin Symphony Orchestra and their children's programs.



Thank you to our generous sponsors - Silver Sweetheart Sponsor- Ellie Fitzgerald, Lovely Bronze Sponsors - Atria at the Arboretum, Sherie Artaza, Kara Belew & Michou Shell, Beth & David Grimm, Becky & Rusty King, Ashley Ohls, Shannon Owen, Sandra Pace and Charlotte Pounds. Please thank them when you see them for their bursting Hearts of Gold!

VIP guests enjoyed shopping at some of Austin finest retailers at the *Marketplace sponsored by The Cipione Family* including Adelante, Celebrate Your Brain, Citizen Smalls, Dragonsnaps & KidOShoe, Foodie Kids, India Hicks, Monogram Lady, The Pajama Princess, Rebecca Bourke Designs, Rosse and James, Ruby Pearl, Sikara & Co, Sweetwater Designs and Yes, Please Gourmet Treats, while sipping bubbles at the private reception in the open, airy atrium before the show. In addition to shopping, all guests enjoyed the *Cupcake Decorating Station sponsored by Karey & Chris Oddo* and generously donated by Foodie Austin, the famous *Chocolate Fountain sponsored by Sonia & Sharon Wilson*, the playful photo booth, the *Valentine Creation Station sponsored by the Darrell & Michele Zurovec Family* and the beloved Instrument Petting Zoo. Attendees also took a chance by playing Pick-a-Prize and Hugs & Kisses. It would not be a Valentine Party without music so musicians from St. Andrew's dazzled attendees with heavenly piano music heard throughout the atrium. The musicians were *sponsored by Sandra Pace*.

The ballroom doors opened at noon to a high energy filled space with a professional runway with red candy jars and gold candy hearts upon the tables. Adult attendees enjoyed a delicious trio of salads with a chocolate mousse cake for dessert and children enjoyed a selection of tea sandwiches with fresh seasonal fruit and ice cream with sprinkles while watching their sisters, friends, daughters and granddaughters strut the runway in fashions from presenting runway boutiques including Citizen Smalls, Dragonsnaps & KidOshoe, Mongram Lady, The Pajama Princess and Ruby Pearl. The model's hair and makeup generously donated and styled by up and coming stylists from Baldwin Beauty School. The models were all ON FLEEK with confidence beaming from ear to ear as they took to the runway!

The beautiful invitation, program and graphics were donated by The GKW Co. and Cheryl Bemis with *Fashionably Austin* photographed all the gorgeous models and attendees. Thanks also to **Sue Webber** of *Webber Productions* for producing such a fun but incredibly stylish children's fashion show and Olga Campos Benz for emceeing.

This party has become a premier event for the Women's Symphony League of Austin and also serves as a great recruiting tool for new members and their daughters.

Next year's date is already set for **Sunday, February 11th** with the theme - *From Paris with Love!* And love the theme we do - *Amour!* Mark your calendar now and be on the lookout in the fall for communication on sponsoring and modeling in 2018.





Young Leadership Committee

The 2016-2017 Youth Leadership Council (YLC) had an exciting year! We had 128 members from grades 9 through 12 and raised \$41,000.00 in revenues! YLC had a summer social kick off along with 4 leadership presentations from a variety of backgrounds. Our summer social speakers included Amy Simmons owner and founder of Amy's Ice Cream and Ricky Williams, 1998 Heisman Trophy Winner, 2015 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee and retired running back with the NFL.

Our monthly speaker series included:

Will Bridges - Musician and Co-Owner of Lambert's BBQ, Antones-Austin's House of Blues, Arlyn Studios and Deep Eddy

Leslie Varghese - Attorney and Chief of Staff for Austin Mayor, Steve Adler

Sara Hickman - Singer/Songwriter, Vocalist and Musician

Mitch Morse - A graduate of St. Michael's Catholic Academy and now an NFL offensive lineman for the Kansas City Chiefs

Our new YLC computerized sign-in system allowed the students easy access to community service opportunities within the WSL and YLC programs. This helped the committee increase YLC student volunteer participation and have added permanent online documentation.

We also gave the students the opportunity to donate their gently used instruments to the ASO for use at the Children's Day Art Park, and gently used coats and new socks to Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

An awards reception took place at the Long Center on April 7, 2017 to recognize all YLC members. Refreshments were served and Maestro Peter Bay welcomed the students and encouraged them to seek out music beyond their boundaries. Community service awards were handed out to the students who had the most volunteered hours, along with this year's first recipient of the \$500 Book Scholarship.

The YLC committee is preparing for the 2017-2018 calendar year. **If you are interested in joining a committee that supports YLC, we would love to have you!** The Youth Leadership Council was created to expose our youth to the world of the Austin Symphony League; to build leadership skills and to inspire them to achieve great things!

Our first meeting will be on June 11th, from 4:30-5:30 PM, hosted by Laurée Moffett at her home at 7849 Escala Drive (Barton Creek Subdivision). Please refer to the YLC webpage for more information and dates for the coming year.

Eva Gayle Gibbs, Recipient of 2017 First Chair Award

The First Chair Award honors one person for her long-term dedication, leadership, and commitment to the success of the Women's Symphony League of Austin. This year's recipient is Eva Gayle Gibbs.



Eva, why did you decide to get involved with the Women's Symphony League?

Shortly after we married in 1965, George and I started attending Austin Symphony Concerts. Growing up in Austin, I attended concerts as a child and had participated in music programs in the Austin Independent School District orchestras, as well. Soon, we met Nancy and Joe Young and Helen and Tom Nourse. These ladies were members of the WSL and suggested I join. It was a wonderful invitation.

The leadership of the WSL had a very clear vision of its purpose and the importance of the Austin Symphony, as the premier cultural arts organization of Austin.

What was your favorite placement? Why?

When I first joined, I participated in children's programs, such as Backstage with the Arts and Simple Simon. As the years went by, activities such as the Showhouse Tea Room were enjoyable. That was a way to get to know other WSL members and to meet with the people who attended our Showhouses.

As you can imagine, I've had many placements over the years, and all of them have been meaningful because they promote music in that Austin area, and all of them involve working with many interesting women who are members of the WSL. Lately, I've really enjoyed working with the Youth Leadership Council Committee.

With so many volunteer opportunities in Austin, why have you continued your membership with the Women's Symphony League for 30 years?

The Women's Symphony League of Austin continues to be the right fit for me. Whatever placement I've had, the leaders are inspirational and the end results have seemed worthwhile. Our members possess so many talents and use them to benefit the Austin Symphony Orchestra and to promote symphonic music in the Austin area. Quite an amazing group!!!

In the early years of membership, I served on many committees to learn the ropes. Then, in time, I was asked to assume leadership of various areas. Now, I am an associate, happy to work on the projects that I find interesting - and there are more and more each year. Our current leaders are terrific!

Can you share a funny memory with us?

Yes. One year, while we were decorating for the Jewel Ball, the table decorations included many kinds of fresh fruit-apples, oranges, watermelon, etc. And that was fine, until we were told we had to use gold spray paint on all the fruit. We (the worker bees) sent a message that we didn't think that was a good idea, because the fresh fruit could have been given to a food bank after the Ball, unless we ruined it with paint. When the answer came back that we MUST paint it, all of us went home. In the long run, the fruit was not painted, and we felt our civil disobedience was effective. Those of us who were there still chuckle about it from time to time.

Where would you like to see WSL 30+ years from now?

We'll change as our membership evolves. I think we'll still be raising money for the Austin Symphony and promoting appreciation of music for the citizens of the Austin area, young and old alike.

I expect that the WSL will have many strong leaders, as usual. In addition, I visualize a large group of new members with fresh ideas, many active members chairing various committees and dedicated and loyal associates serving on these the new, exciting programs.

Who can guess what exciting new projects will be on our plate. With the expanding digital era, we're already reaching new plateaus.

If you could relive one WSL event, which one would it be and why?

It's difficult to pick just one. The WSL has a long history with state and national organizations. Serving as Chairman of the TASO (Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras) Conference in Austin was one event I recall fondly. I served on the Volunteer Council of the American Symphony Orchestra League for 12 years, during which time I worked with volunteers from countless symphony orchestras. Seeing how we "stack up" with other orchestras around the United States and Canada is most enlightening. We do quite well, thanks to our innovative leaders. That's what keeps us at the top.

When the Austin Symphony Orchestra celebrated its' 100th year anniversary, all of us learned how deep and long our history reaches. That was eye opening!

What advice would you give to today's WSL member?

I would encourage our members to remember our mission: *We have "dedicated our energy, talents, and volunteerism to keep the music playing for the children of Austin and the Central Texas community by providing service and financial support to the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its programs." We are the biggest fundraising organization for the Austin Symphony Orchestra, and our future should show continued growth in that area. (FYI: If anyone who has been in the WSL for many years sees something I've remembered incorrectly, please forgive me. It's been fun to reminisce.)*

Simon Simón

The Simonitas performed the English version of *Simon Simón* in April at Casey Elementary to a large crowd of children, teachers and administrators. It was a delight to the WSL members to see the enthusiastic K-5 group participate in the many aspects of the program.

Also in April, the troupe performed a short bilingual skit for the incoming New Members during a meeting at Abel's on the Lake. An invitation to become a member of the singing group was extended to all.

WSL member Alegria Arce Hibbetts serves as the pianist and executive director of the Simonitas.

In 1999, Alegria transposed the music and translated several of the songs, from *Symphony for Simple Simón*, into Spanish to create the bilingual program *La Sinfónica de Simón*. Recently, the two performing groups joined forces to make a stronger team and have wowed both English and bilingual audiences across the city.

Simon Simón will use the fall 2017 semester for rehearsals and the spring 2018 semester for performances in area schools. Those who are interested in participating are provided with a training packet and lots of support! Contact Hollis Matheney at hollism@austin.rr.com for more information. You'll love it!

WSL Member News, May 2017

We ask you to please think of Dianne Falkenberg, as her precious mother passed away in January. Please send her a kind word and your wonderful thoughts of comfort, and although our notice was delayed in coming, she is so dear to us. We wanted to let her know we have been thinking of her.

Please continue to keep Cheryl Covelli's mother, in Pennsylvania, in your thoughts for continued strength and full recovery from heart troubles. Also, send well-wishes to Kimberly Bove's mother, who was also in the hospital in March. We hope for great news and full recoveries for all of these ladies.

With a heavy heart, we extend our deepest sympathies to member Kathryn Ross, whose exceptional husband, "Beau" Ross, passed away on March 10th. What a wonderful husband, father, & businessman he was. According to his obituary, he was an adventurer, world traveler, commercial jet pilot, President of the Eanes ISD School Board, just to touch on his many interests. We ask you to give well wishes of comfort to Kathryn and their family.

This month, member Lisa Love Gilbert lost her grandfather, Pastor Ralph M. Smith, on March 11th. What an extraordinary preacher and friend Dr. Smith was. He was truly a man of God, who led so many people over the lifetime of his ministry. Ralph Smith was the pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church for decades, was the former Chaplain of the Texas House of Representatives, authored 4 books, delivered over 5000 sermons, and helped establish 16 churches, including Austin Baptist Church, just to name a few of his many roles in the service of the Lord. Lisa, who has always been an incredible vocalist, sang a most beautiful & heartfelt song at his service. We ask you to send your love to their family.

For some more exciting news! On April 1st, Member Bethany Weigl and Chris Padgett became engaged to be married. Chris Padgett is the son of WSL Member Mary & Mr. Ed Padgett, who have been outstanding volunteers & contributors to the WSL since 1972.

Will you please send comforting thoughts & prayers for our sweet friend & Member, Jeanne Parker, along with her daughters, Linda & Stacey, & their families? Jeanne's wonderful husband, Russell "Rusty" Parker, passed away this week on May 8th. Rusty worked to brighten our city, and was a generous charitable support to our community. Linda Traylor & Stacey Lowenfield were both formerly presented in the WSL Royal Court, as Diamond & Princess, respectively.

We are thinking of & praying for our fellow member & dear friend Kay Bonner, and her family, as her precious mother, Mary Kepler, passed away on May 7th. Her mother was such a light of love & joy to their family, & we know you will be sending comforting thoughts to them in the upcoming days.

We would love for you to continue to send Member News to our WSL Communications Chair, Bethany Weigl, at bethanyweigl@hotmail.com. Thank you for allowing your WSL friends to rejoice with good news & support each other during hard times. Have a wonderful month, Ladies!

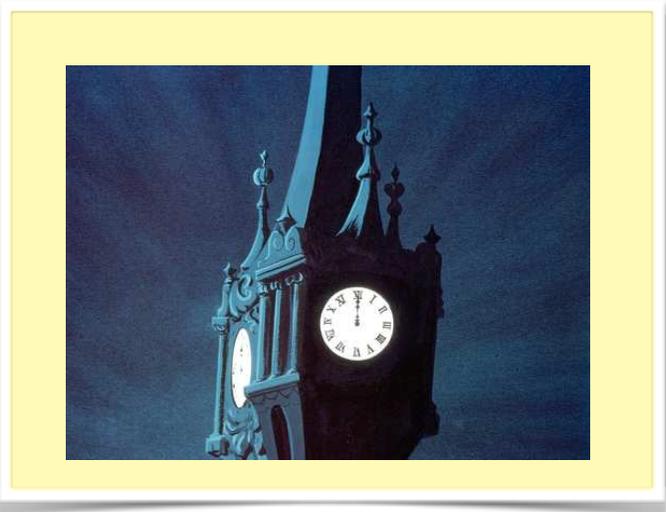
Young People's Concerts

The theme of the 2017 Young People's Concerts was *Story Variations: Fairy Tales, Folktales, Myths and Legends in Music*. Nearly 20,000 students from over 100 schools came to the Long Center to experience and perform with the Austin Symphony! According to several students, one of the best parts of the program was the *Cinderella Suite No. 1* by Russian Composer Sergei Prokofiev. The children loved how the percussion section evoked the sounds of a grandfather clock, striking midnight!

Cinderella is a
FAIRY TALE.



A FAIRY TALE is a
story with **fantastic**
characters,
enchantment and
magic.



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