



Young People's Concert, February 28, 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the winter edition of the Women's Symphony League's Newsletter, **Take Note!** This time of year ushers in feelings of nostalgia and reflection for me. At the top of my mind is a feeling

of gratitude for all of our members who worked to create and support our two main fundraisers of the year: the **67th annual Jewel Ball events** and the **Red Haute Luncheon & Children's Style Show**.

While this year's Jewel Ball theme, "The Secret Garden" was clearly inspired by the book of the same name by author Frances Hodgson Burnett, we also thought it a timely theme that represented a fresh start, simple beauty, joy, and an appreciation for the resilience of our broader Women's Symphony League community over the past few challenging years.

**Soirée Dansante**, chaired by Paige Richards, and themed "An Evening in the Garden" invited all area 9th and 10th graders to participate in a semi-formal evening of dancing, desserts, and fun.

The always eagerly anticipated **Fashion Luncheon**, chaired by Melissa Billman and Ashley Nwonuma Olds, was themed "Florals and Fashion" and featured Lisa Rinna as the keynote speaker. Symphony League favorite,

Mr. Wroe Jackson, moderated the event, which also featured a fall fashion presentation by Austin boutique The Garden Room. The Fashion Luncheon also had the privilege to recognize our **Honorary Chair** and longtime Symphony supporter, Mary Ellen Borgelt, celebrating her dedication to the Women's Symphony League and the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

The **2022 Jewel Ball** gala fundraiser and debutante presentation, chaired by Leslie Pardue and Carrie Semple, was a gorgeous floral feast for the eyes. The twenty-six ladies and gentlemen of the Austin Royal Court including the Diamond Queen Ireland Rose, two Visiting Jewels, their escorts, and over ninety Junior Royalty were presented and celebrated during an evening of dancing, dining, and entertainment. We were so grateful for the opportunity to recognize our Jewel Ball Honorary Chairs for their many years of philanthropy on behalf of the Austin Symphony and the Women's Symphony League, Mary Lou and Bennie Downing.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the women who worked tirelessly to make these events possible: the Jewel Ball Committee, the Jewel Committee, the Fashion Luncheon Committee, the Soirée Dansante Committee, as well as all the members of the Women's Symphony League who gave so generously to this effort in innumerable ways. Each of you on the Committee and all of our members who supported the Jewel Ball events in so many ways made it possible for us

to donate over \$280,000 to the Austin Symphony Orchestra! I am so proud of this enormous accomplishment.

February's **Red Haute Luncheon & Children's Style Show** theme "Chapeaux & Chinoiserie" was a winning combination of beauty and avant garde fun. Chaired by Meredith Wood and Caron Hutchison, Red Haute guests understood the assignment and showed up in their millinery finest! Over forty models from toddler to teen showcased the latest fashions from Austin boutiques and stores. The runway was the star of this lovely event thanks to the dedicated work of members Sue Webber, Allison Edwards, and Courtney Edwards and outstanding emceeing from local CBS morning show host Trevor Scott. Finally, a huge thank you goes to the Red Haute Committee for making this event shine, especially to member Cat Mattingly for her stunning graphic design work that graced invitations, social media, and printed event materials.

Since our last Take Note in August, **Member Enrichment Chairs** Laura Lee Daigle and (continued page 2)

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# High Notes

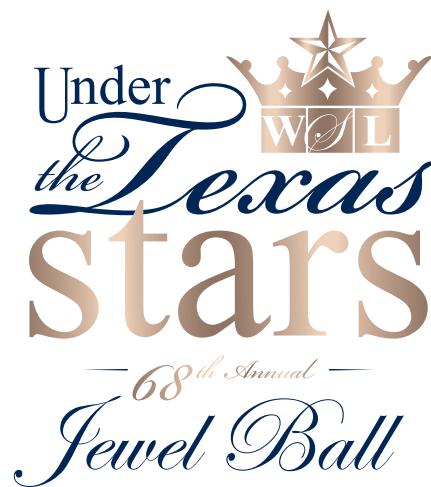
WSL HAPPENINGS

The 2023 Jewel Ball theme was revealed at Red Haute on February 26. Mark your calendars for

**The 68th Annual Jewel Ball**  
**Under the Texas Stars**  
September 16, 2023  
Hilton Austin

**Fashion Luncheon**  
**Lone Star-Studded Style**  
Friday, September 15, 2023  
Hilton Austin

**Soirée Dansante**  
**Denim and Diamonds**  
Sunday, September 10, 2023  
Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum



Sponsorships for all three events are now open! Visit [wslaustin.org/events/](https://wslaustin.org/events/) for more information. **Junior Royalty** nominations will be accepted through **Friday, March 10th** through [THIS LINK](#). For questions regarding Junior Royalty, please email Stacey Brewer at [juniorroyalty@wslaustin.org](mailto:juniorroyalty@wslaustin.org).

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued from page 1)

Sullie Stephens invited us to a fun evening of shopping and treats at local favorite, Hearth & Soul. **Yearbook Chair**, Carol Evanicky created and printed the WSL yearbook/directory, which members received in the mail in December. The **Meetings Committee and Chairs**, Yoli Arriaga and Celeste Hubert, along with our home hostesses Stephanie Cooley, Elizabeth Riley, and Shannon Owen graciously hosted our August, October, and January general meetings. Jannis Baldwin hosted a gorgeous **Holiday Party** in her home in December. The **Orchestra Relations Committee and Chairs**, Holli Hill and Lindsey Parham, have been providing dinners from local Austin restaurants to the Orchestra members at their dress rehearsal before each Masterworks concert, which they much appreciate! The **Symphony Welcome Committee** along with Chair Karen Blackburn have been greeting Symphony patrons before concerts. Elizabeth Rose and Lisa Tully, the **Jewel Committee Chairs**, held the traditional Jewel Committee meeting at Mary Ellen Borgelt's beautiful home. The **Membership and Technology** Teams have been working diligently on Membership renewals (don't forget to renew yours!) Last but not least, thank you for all of the behind the scenes work of the **Executive Committee** and **Board of Directors** for all you do for the WSL! I wish I could name you all here. It is my pleasure to work with such an amazing group of ladies.

Volunteer, connect, lead, and enjoy the music.

Yours sincerely,

**Katie Kaighin**  
President, 2022-2023

# Caron Camp Hutchison

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Camp LaJunta - Summer 2022

Jewel Ball - September 2022

by Suzanne Tetzlaff

WSL sisters, meet Caron Hutchison, our co-chair for Red Haute 2023! This Birmingham, Alabama transplant was recruited by Meredith Wood to join WSL when she moved here a few years ago. A mother of three kids, Caron has enjoyed her placements with the Jewel Ball and especially working with the trainbearers. Her daughter, Anne Carter, was a maiden in the 2021 Jewel Ball, and her son, Thomas, served as a trainbearer as well. Caron is looking forward to the youngest son's participation in a future ball: McCord is a kindergartner at Casis Elementary and plans to follow in his siblings' footsteps!

Caron and her family are sports enthusiasts. She and her husband met at an Alabama/OU game, and the rest is history. Both Caron and her husband are lawyers, but Caron retired from practicing full time to focus on the family. When they are not watching a college game, you can find this active family at WAYA or at MUNI hitting some golf balls.

Caron transferred her WSL membership from Birmingham, Alabama, and has already made an imprint on our organization. One of her favorite placements was corralling trainbearers during Jewel Ball rehearsals and at the Ball. Along with Meredith Wood, Caron recently co-chaired the Red Haute Luncheon and Children's Style Show, a major fundraiser for the WSL. Not content to rely on any "formula," these ladies lent their unique talent and creativity to ensure that the Red Haute Children's Fashion Show was a special, stand-out event for the children and families involved. When not working on WSL activities, Caron enjoys sports, spending time with her family, and when she can take a break, dining at one of her favorite restaurants, like Clarks or J. Carver.

Caron's advice for new members? "Jump right in with both feet! The WSL is a wonderful organization with fun and smart women who all work hard to support the outstanding Austin Symphony Orchestra!"



# Chapeaux & Chinoiserie

RED HAUTE RECAP!



*Chic* was the name of the game when hundreds of hat-wearing WSL supporters and their guests gathered at the Austin Marriott Downtown on February 26th for the 12th annual Red Haute Luncheon and Children's Style Show, *Chapeaux & Chinoiserie*. Presented by **Knight & Mrs. Claymon A. Cipione**, the festivities were marked by the striking blue and white decorative elements carried throughout the Waterloo Ballroom and the thoughtfully curated Ming Dynasty Marketplace.

The Ming Dynasty Marketplace dazzled shoppers with an exciting selection of carefully curated local and nationwide boutiques: **Bizzy Lizzy, Estilo Kids, Lily Pulitzer, LoveShackFancy, My Little Maria, Pajama Princess, Spice Paper Design, Tiffany Taylor & Co. Beauty & Brow Salon, and Vintage Allison.**

In addition to shopping, other fun diversions included entering to win one of two gorgeous bejeweled raffle items; three rounds of the perennially popular Hugs & Kisses game moderated by Queen of Hearts, **Celeste Hubert**; bespoke cotton candy selections from **Fancy Fluff**; a gorgeous chinoiserie photo backdrop; and a build-your-own fascinator bar for the younger guests.

The delightful runway show was emceed by beloved local television personality, **Trevor Scott**, co-host of *We Are Austin*, who charmed the crowd with his witty observations as viewers' hearts were utterly captured by the adorable models.

The event was "capped" off by the Inaugural Hat Contest, with **Mary Ellen Borgelt's** (Most Colorful) and **Natalie Hudson** (Most Avant Garde) as the big winners!

# Children's Concerts

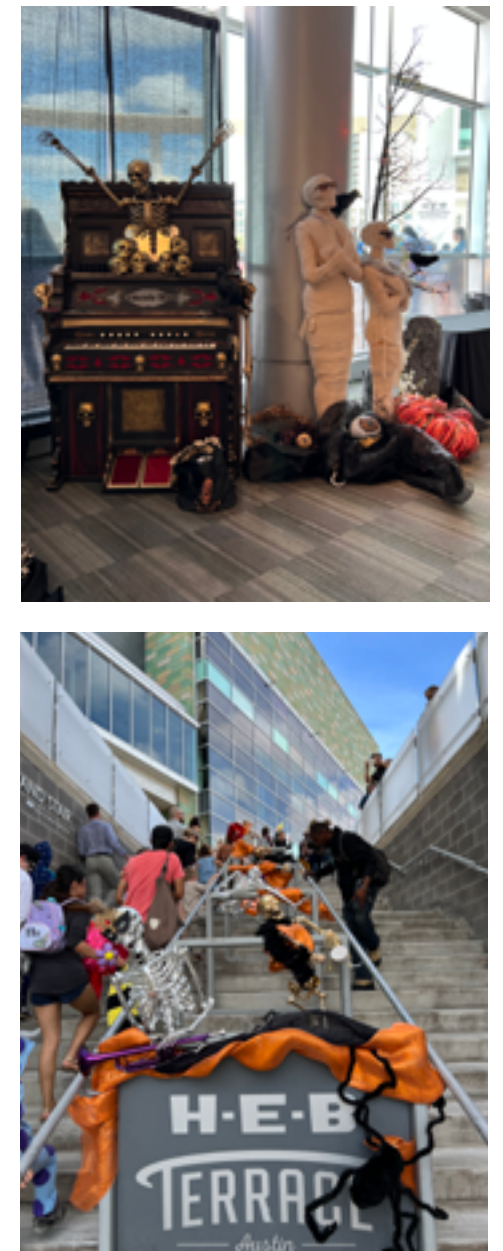
HALLOWEEN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS



Austin Symphony Orchestra's annual Halloween Children's Concert was pumpkin to talk about! On October 23, 2022, families from all over Central Texas dressed in costume to listen to the spooky and spook-tacular music. The Halloween Concert showcased favorites from Batman, Spiderman, Hook, and Harry Potter. One can only guess what guests were imagining during each of these scores. What would it feel like to see the batman logo flash in the sky when the superhero was needed and watch Spiderman cast webs and swing between buildings? And Neverland was never safe from the clutches of Hook and his pirates, while Harry Potter and his fellow Gryffindors would fly on broomsticks and cast spells with their wands. It was an boo-tiful event!

Each year the Women's Symphony League provides decorations for this extra ghostly show. This year, however, a full moon event brought a decorations sponsor trick or treating at the ASO's door and this allowed our League members to focus on creating a fa-boo-lous costume for themselves! Because #ghoulsjustwanttohavefun.

This spring, our WSL members provided three days of volunteer support for the ASO's Young People's Concerts (YPC). These concerts bring students in grades 4-6 from Austin ISD, Round Rock ISD, and other area schools to attend a 45-minute performance of the full Symphony orchestra at the Long Center. Watching an auditorium full of youth take in the splendor of classical music with rapt attention is a sight to behold! The program is interdisciplinary, and a study guide is created in collaboration with AISD teachers and distributed to each attending school. As part of this year's programming, each child arrived at the concert having learned the traditional Spanish language folk song, "De Colores" (translated "In Colors.") The conductor invited all in attendance to stand, and at the appropriate time in the music, conducted the orchestra while turning to direct the students as they sang a verse of the song in Spanish and another in English. This was a beautiful scene and direct outcome of the arts education programming that the Symphony provides, in part through WSL's financial contributions.





# Jewel Luncheon

THE RETURN OF AN ANNUAL EVENT



seated: Eva Gayle Gibbs, Jennifer Bell, Pamela Bell; standing: Lilliana Garcia, Margaret Danforth, Stacey Brewer, Beth Grimm, Katie Kaighin, Anna Maria Speir; back row: Karen Gernstein, Christian Wells, Jill Powell, Molly Benson, Meredith Wood, Susan Douglas, and Eledith Falk

On Friday, December 2nd, the WSL Past Presidents, and past Jewel Ball Chairs gathered to raise a congratulatory toast to the 2022 Jewel Ball Chairs, Leslie Pardue and Carrie Semple, and WSL President Katie Kaighin on the success of the 2022 Jewel Ball.

Immediate Past President, Jennifer Bell graciously hosted the event in her gorgeous home which was beautifully decorated for the holidays. 2021 Jewel Ball Chairs, Stacey Brewer and Meredith Wood, planned the gathering with guidance from 2016-2017 President Beth Grimm.

This year marks the first time that the Jewel Luncheon has been held in many years. Attendees were served a delicious lunch buffet and enjoyed each other's company while recalling Jewel Balls of the past. Stacey and Meredith were thrilled to be able to re-establish the gathering, and attendees look forward to it once again becoming an annual event on the WSL calendar.



Jennifer's beautiful tree shown with the 2019 Jewel Ball Christmas ornament.



Past Jewel Ball Chairs Leslie Pardue (2022) and Christian Wells (2018)

# New Member Spotlights

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



*Erin Andrus - Birthday: July 30*

**Who sponsored you for WSL?** Lisa Howard  
**Where did you grow up?** Lufkin, TX  
**Where did you go to school?** Texas Tech University  
**Do you have children?** Yes, 6. Abigail (24), married; John Mark (21), University of Arkansas; Anneliese (18), Baylor University; Luke (18), Texas A&M; Eva (16), Westlake HS; Molly (15), Westlake HS.  
**What do you do for fun?** I love cooking, baking, flower arranging, wreath making & crafting, listening to audio books, walking/running. I also enjoy searching for vintage dish sets and table linens.  
**Do you work outside the home?** I am the director at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Pre-school.  
**What is your favorite travel destination?** I really enjoy traveling. My favorite destination that my husband and I visited recently was Nevis, West Indies. The island and the people who live there are so wonderful, beautiful and kind. I will also always love summers in Colorado.  
**Favorite restaurant in the world?** The original Carrabba's in Houston, TX. I love the food, but also the memories of many, many milestones celebrated there with family and friends through the years.



*Tara Watford LeBlanc - Birthday: June 19*

**Who sponsored you for WSL?** Susan Douglas  
**Do you have children?** Yes. Lela (13) and John Henry (11) both at West Ridge Middle School.  
**Where did you grow up?** San Marino, California.  
**What are your hobbies?** Walking town lake; painting – I'm an amateur artist.  
**Do you work outside the home?** I substitute teach middle school PE and athletics; VP of Communications of National Charity League (Austin Chapter); help lead Fellowship of Christian Athletes at our middle school; long term member and previous Chair of the Dell Children's Trust.  
**Favorite Austin tradition?** I love town lake, I love Longhorn football and I love that so many people that live in Austin are not originally from here. It makes it more welcoming!  
**Favorite restaurant in the world?** Casual interior Mexican food is more my speed.  
**Fun fact about you?** I never knew how important the symphony was until I had a child who plays music and it lights up her life.  
**Anything else you'd like to tell us?** My mom has been a long-term member of WSL: Karen Watford. I am so grateful I get to spend time with her attending meetings and the Jewel Ball.

*Lauren Taylor - Birthday: June 28*



**Who sponsored you for WSL?** Mary-Ellen King  
**Do you have children?** Yes. Anders (6), Bridgepoint Elementary; Peter (4), UT Labs Pre-school; Helena (6 months).  
**Where did you go to school?** The University of Texas for both my undergrad degrees and the MBA program.  
**What are your hobbies?** Making art, bike riding, walking, flower arranging, interior decorating, Mahjong.  
**Do you work outside the home?** Yes. Corporate Strategy Director for a drone company.  
**What is your favorite travel destination?** South Africa, the animal watching is amazing. Other favorites are Egypt, Borneo, and Bhutan.  
**Favorite restaurant in the world?** Auberge du Soleil in NAPA. It was the first amazing meal I ever had and also where I decided to get married.  
**Fun fact about you?** I was an All-American and Olympic Trials competitor on the UT swim team.  
**Anything else you'd like to tell us?** I've really enjoyed meeting so many engaging women in WSL. Looking forward to meeting more of the members!



WOMEN'S SYMPHONY LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

P.O. Box 5998  
Austin, Texas 78763

## Final Notes

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### March

- 10 Jewel Ball Junior Royalty Applications Due
- 24-25 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Song of the Night*
- 28 Membership Enrichment - 7pm, Crave Wine

#### April

- 6 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Brahms X Radiohead*
- TBD New Member (2023) Orientation
- 14-16 TASO Conference, Austin
- 14-15 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Eroica*
- 18 General Membership Mtg. - 11:30am, Home of Sullie Stephens

#### May

- 9 General Membership Mtg. - 6pm, Home of Briana Shepard
- 19 Jewel Tea - 1-3pm, Home of Stacy Toomey
- 19-20 ASO's Masterworks Series: *Eastern Winds*

### Our Mission

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