



ASO Concert for TASO attendees, April 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the spring edition of the Women's Symphony League's Newsletter, **Take Note**, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year! We have had a full year of activities in WSL, and I hope that you have been able to connect

with other members and enjoy the camaraderie offered by the service and social opportunities within the WSL. I would like to express my gratitude to each and every one of you who have contributed to the WSL in various ways throughout the year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside you in our mission to provide service and support to the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its educational programs. Your time, your talents, and your spirit for this organization are a gift.

Since our most recent newsletter, the WSL has been busy. February brought us our 12th Annual **Red Haute Luncheon & Children's Style Show** themed "Chapeaux & Chinoiserie." It was a winning combination of beauty and avant-garde fun. Through the fundraising efforts of this event, we were able to present a donation check in May to the ASO for over \$35,000. A very special thank you to our **Red Haute Committee and Co-Chairs**, Caron Hutchison and Meredith Wood, for their vision and teamwork, and to Sue Webber for her priceless fashion show production expertise.

We had a fantastic weekend connecting and learning at the **2023 Texas Association of Symphony Orchestras (TASO)**

conference held right here in our beautiful city of Austin in April. The speakers were outstanding, the logistics and details of the weekend executed perfectly, and all attendees raved about what fun they had. None of it would have been possible without the leadership of our **2023 TASO Conference Chairs**, all of whom are Women's Symphony League of Austin Past Presidents. I hope you will join me in thanking our TASO Conference Chairs: Jennifer Bell, Molly Benson, Beth Grimm, and Susan Douglas. I have not so jokingly referred to these ladies as The A Team. I can't imagine a more qualified group of leaders. Jenn, Molly, Beth and Susan, we are so grateful for your work and the work of your wonderful conference committee!

Our Service and Education Committees have been hard at work as well. Gratitude goes out to our **Membership and Technology Committees and VPs**, especially Regina Munson and Belen Benavides, for sending and tracking nearly 600 member renewals, reinstatements, and new memberships. Our **Recruitment Committee and Chair**, Ilissa Nolan, brought us a 2023 new member class of 50 ladies! The **2023 New Member Committee and Coordinators**, Mary-Elle King and Lauren Taylor, planned a warm welcome and Orientation for them at the home of 2023 New Member Jessica Starley. Our 2022 New Member Class has graduated to active membership, and thanks goes out to the **2022 Coordinators**, Mary-Elle King and Kam McCoy. Our **Young People's Concert Committee and Co-Chairs**, Tillery Castillo and Leslie Perkins, supported the ASO with volunteers for the ASO's Spring Concerts. Our **Orchestra Relations Committee and Chairs**, Holli Hill and Lindsey Parham, have provided

much-appreciated, local themed dinners for the Orchestra's rehearsals. Our April and May **General Membership Meetings** were at the lovely homes of Sullie Stephens and Briana Shepard. Thank you to our hostesses and the **Meetings Committee and Chairs**, Yoli Arriaga and Celeste Hubert, for organizing this opportunity to create and strengthen friendships.

The **Jewel Tea**, hosted by our **Past Presidents' Council**, was held mid-May at the home of Stacy Toomey and our **2023 Jewel Ball Royal Court** was announced to much fanfare. In early June, we will assist ASO with supporting the **Tuneful Tales** education program at the Central Library.

I wish I could thank all of our hard working board members by name. This year was a success because of your work and efforts. 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

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The Past Presidents' Council hosted the Jewel Tea on May 19 at the home of Stacy Toomey to toast the 68th Annual Jewel Ball Royal Court.



Duchess Annabelle Nowlin of Tyler, Princess Rachael Barkoff, Princess Sumner Hill, Princess Madison Bisang, Diamond Queen Nicole Heyer, Duchess Claire Lansdell of Lubbock, Princess Ava Ward; (not pictured: Princess Caroline Martineau and Duchess Taylor Felton of Waco)



Jewel Committee Co-Chairs Lisa Tully and Elizabeth Rose with Jewel Ball Co-Chairs Julia Null and Olivia Derr

RED HAUTE 2023 *{by the numbers}*
45 models | 253 guests
6 runway boutiques | 10 marketplace vendors
\$35,000+ raised for the Austin Symphony Orchestra!



Allison Edwards
BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Amy Broline Sims

WSL is so excited to highlight Allison Edwards, a woman of many talents and interests! A pediatric speech pathologist by day, and fashion blogger by night, Allison has already contributed to WSL in many ways despite only recently joining in 2021. An Odessa native, Allison Edwards joined WSL two years ago at the invitation of Regina Munson. They had met years before in Dallas, so when Allison had moved to Austin in 2018, Regina encouraged her to get involved. Joining WSL was a great way for Allison to meet so many wonderful women, while also contributing her talents and skills in service to others, something that has always been important to Allison. Allison returned to Texas after living in several places around the country to be closer to her twin sister and fellow WSL member, Courtney Edwards, the new WSL VP of Marketing and the Auction Co-Chair for Jewel Ball. With a background in fashion blogging (she even attended fashion week in New York City at one point!) and devotion to serving charities of all kinds, Allison took her experience in fashion and served as the model coordinator for Red Haute. That role brought great joy, especially working with the families and children that were modeling in the fashion show. When she was approached to serve as the co-chair for this year's Jewel Ball Fashion Luncheon in September, Allison eagerly agreed given her love of fashion, a passion handed down by her grandmother, who was a fashion influencer. Allison's favorite memory so far in WSL has been watching all the young children backstage and on the runway at Red Haute. Their smiles and joy were evident to all!

During the day, Allison works full time as a Pediatric Speech Pathologist, and as a clinical educator for University of Saint Augustine. She focuses primarily on helping children with feeding and swallowing. Additionally, Allison is an enthusiastic dog advocate, and volunteers with Austin Pets Alive, and even loves babysitting people's dogs! She lives with her sister Courtney, enjoys working out, playing tennis, cooking, and loves anything related to art, live music, or fashion. She is a woman of many talents and interests, and WSL is fortunate to have her as one of our members.



Allison loves fashion, spending time at her ranch, and her pup, Gidget

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

56TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN



Jill Powell received the award for TASO Volunteer of the Year

by Laura Robinson

The Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras (TASO) held its 56th annual conference in Austin, Texas on April 14-15, 2023. This year, our own WSL TASO Conference Committee spearheaded by Susan Douglas, Beth Grimm, Jenn Bell and Molly Benson organized the 2-day conference with the help of numerous WSL volunteers.

The TASO conference brings together Texas organizations that support symphony orchestras, like WSL, to share ideas and network with colleagues. Attendees heard topics ranging from:

- Why we should give to the arts provided in a moderated panel including Austin Symphony Orchestra Executive Director, David Pratt, and Ballet Austin Executive Director, Cookie Ruiz;
- Market trends in the cultural arts provided by Ann Wolford from the Wolford Group and the relation of these market trends to brand awareness and cultivation of donors;
- Event planning with Karin Cox focused on the often-forgotten critical actions that need to occur after your event is over;
- Enneagram expert Beth Mueller introduced the TASO attendees to their enneagram number and how using your number can make you a better leader and communicator; and,
- This year, an inspired talk by Matthew Hinsley on how music can help do good in the world.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award to Jill Powell, a longtime member of the Women's Symphony League. Powell has been volunteering with the Austin Symphony for over 30 years. The TASO Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually to a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to a symphony orchestra in Texas. Jill is the epitome of the award as a volunteer who demonstrates outstanding commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm for the symphony.

WSL was also a winner of this year's Recognized Projects during the TASO conference. Our own Past President, Jenn Bell, presented the WSL winning project on Google Workspace – *The New Notebook*.

Next year, the Women's Symphony League of Tyler will host the 57th annual TASO conference on April 5-6, 2024. Any WSL member is welcome to attend the conference, and it may be worth a road trip to see one of the experts in fundraising and music slated to speak.

The TASO Conference Co-Chairs want to thank the TASO Conference Committee and each and every WSL volunteer that helped out this year. You made things easy, smooth and fun!



The TASO Board 2023-2024



Thank you to the WSL TASO Conference Co-Chairs: Susan Douglas, Molly Benson, Beth Grimm and Jenn Bell.



What is TASO?

The **Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras** is a non-profit organization providing support and resources to symphony orchestras in Texas. The organization's mission is to "foster the growth and development of symphony orchestras in Texas through leadership, education, advocacy, and networking."

WSL has a TASO Representative

Each year, a TASO representative is appointed by WSL to represent our organization at four TASO events. Next year, Molly Benson is the TASO representative.

The TASO Board

The current 2022-2023 TASO Board includes several WSL past presidents: Susan Douglas, Anna Marie Speir and Beth Grimm. Beth Grimm will serve as the President-Elect on the TASO Board for 2023-2024.

Can't make it to the conference?

Be on the lookout during the year for lunch and learn events provided by TASO over Zoom on topics related to leadership and fundraising.



New Member Spotlights

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Adriana Bowen - Birthday: June 6

Who sponsored you for WSL? Tara Akins
Where did you grow up? Bogota, Columbia
Where did you go to school? JD from Universidad Externado de Columbia
Do you have children? Yes. One daughter (12 years old). She attends Saint Gabriel's.
Do you work outside the home? I work as a real estate agent at Linda Welsh Realty and as a substitute teacher at Saint Gabriel's.
What are your hobbies? I love to travel and go to the movies.
What is your favorite travel destination? I love any place with a beach or with history. I love the ocean. If it's not an ocean destination, I love to learn from the place. Barcelona is amazing!
What do you love about Austin? ACL
Favorite restaurant in the world? L'Espandon at the Ritz in Paris is very special to me because my husband proposed there.
What is your favorite WSL activity/event so far? Jewel Ball.
Fun fact about you? When I was 18 years old, my dad took my sister and me to the Amazon for the new year. While we were there, I participated in an informal Lambada dance contest . . . and I won! It turned out that the grand prize was a live chicken! I guess chickens are valuable in the town where we were staying. It was an amazing adventure.



Dorothy Butler Lawrence - Birthday: October 17

Who sponsored you for WSL? Mela Dailey
Where did you grow up? Baton Rouge, LA
Where did you go to school? LSU
Do you work outside the home? Yes. I own and manage Dorothy Butler Law Firm, a small firm (eleven employees) handling most areas of law including bankruptcy, tax work, family law, estate planning, probate, criminal defense, real estate, and business formation.
Do you have children? Yes. My 4-year-old attends Primrose of Dripping Springs; my 12-year-old attends Sycamore Springs Middle School.
What are your hobbies? I am a professional musician – woodwind specialist. I have performed with The Who, with Andrea Bocelli, and I regularly appear in the orchestra for Broadway Across America productions at Bass Concert Hall.
What is your favorite travel destination? Disneyworld. I love being a child again and seeing it through the eyes of my children!
What do you love about Austin? I love that Austin feels like home (Baton Rouge) to me – so many restaurants, concerts, and always something going on.
Fun fact about you? One time I kissed Steven Tyler before a concert. I was backstage meeting him and about to take my photo and walk away... but I said "Can I ask you a favor? I've wanted to ask you this since I first started listening to Aerosmith. Can I kiss you?" Before I could finish the question, he pulled me in and I was kissing Steven Tyler!

New Member Spotlights

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Sonja Cortez Dieterichs, MD - Birthday: November 6

Who sponsored you for WSL? Carrie Semple
Where did you grow up? Born in Houston, TX; Grew up in Pasadena, TX
Where did you go to school? The University of Texas at Austin
Do you have children? Yes. Nico (18), Westlake HS senior, headed to UT; Jacob (15), freshman at Westlake HS; Max (13), 7th Grade at West Ridge MS
Do you work outside the home? Yes. I'm an ophthalmic (eye) surgeon.
What are your hobbies? Wakesurfing; home remodeling; weightlifting; dancing
What is your favorite travel destination? Amalfi Coast, Italy
What do you love about Austin? I love the Cap 10K and all the fitness opportunities here.
What is your favorite WSL activity/event so far? The garden luncheon.
Fun fact about you? I was a Texas Pom girl and I taught college and NFL cheerleaders tryouts and routines.
Anything else you'd like to tell us? My husband and I run a non-profit called "Eels on Wheels" to help disabled persons learn to scuba dive and regain independence away from their wheelchair.



Courtney Edwards - Birthday: October 7

Who sponsored you for WSL? Allison Edwards; Regina Munson
Where did you grow up? Odessa, TX
Where did you go to school? MBA, University of Dallas; Undergraduate, Stephen F. Austin State University; Permian High School
Do you have children? No . . . my "child" is a rescue chi terrier mix named Gidget and hopefully another female rescue in the works!
Do you work outside the home? Yes. I work for Washington Prime Group as Marketing Director for the Arboretum, Gateway Centers and The Shops at Arbor Walk.
What do you do for fun? Work out, play tennis, try new restaurants, shop, attend concerts, cultural activities, travel, spend time with family, friends and dogs at our ranch in West Texas.
What is your favorite travel destination? Some favorites are Charleston, St. Simon's, Cabo and New York City!
What do you love about Austin? I have only lived in Austin a little over a year (I moved from Dallas); but I love that there is always something to do. The people, events, restaurants, live music, hiking trails, and lakes make Austin unique!
What is your favorite WSL activity/event so far? Red Haute. I helped coordinate the runway show with my sister Allison Edwards who is also a WSL member. I'm excited to serve on the Jewel Ball Committee this year!
Fun fact about you? I'm a twin, I played tennis in college, I ran the NYC marathon twice and I've appeared on the Today Show with my jewelry line, Skyline Jewelry!



WOMEN'S SYMPHONY LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

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Final Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

- 7 Tuneful Tales: *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach**
- 14 Tuneful Tales: *Ada's Violin**
- 17 Butler Pops Series: *E.T.* in concert (film)
- 24 Lily Pulitzer Give-Back Shopping Event, noon to 6pm
- 28 Tuneful Tales: *Coyote and the Laughing Butterflies**
- 30 Last Day of Fiscal Year

July

- 1 Start of Fiscal Year
- 4 ASO Outdoor Concert and Fireworks, 8p
- 12 Tuneful Tales: *Peter and the Wolf**
- 19 Tuneful Tales: *Where the Wild Things Are**

August

- 28 General Membership Mtg. - 6pm, Location TBD

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*Tuneful Tales - Wednesdays
Central Library, Austin Public Library
10:00am to noon - *ensemble performance* at 10:30am

Hartman Foundation Concerts in the Park

Free ensemble concerts at the Hartman Concert Park in front of the Long Center City Terrace. All ages and pets welcome. my.austinsymphony.org/hartmanconcerts

Sundays at 7:30pm

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June 4, 11, 18 & 25
July 9, 16, 23 & 30
August 6, 13 & 20

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.