



## Women's Symphony League of Austin

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Women's Symphony League of Austin Announces Royal Court

*Reveals Diamond Queen, Princesses, and Duchesses at Annual Jewel Tea*

**AUSTIN, Texas** – In celebration of the 68th Annual Jewel Ball, the Women's Symphony League of Austin (WSL) formally announced its Royal Court participants at the Jewel Tea on Friday, May 19th. The Court consists of the 2023 Diamond Queen and several Princesses from Austin, honoring the support of local families for the Austin Symphony Orchestra. The WSL also invites outstanding, college-aged young women from across the state to represent their communities as Duchesses of the Visiting Jewel Court.

Hosted by the Past Presidents Council of the WSL, the Jewel Tea is a time-honored, annual tradition. This year, guests arrived at the beautiful home of Stacy Toomey to a reveal of the exceptional Royal Court. Members enjoyed a variety of delicious wines, gourmet finger sandwiches, fruit and the traditional cake during the exciting announcement.

**The 2023-2024 Austin Royal Court includes  
the following outstanding young women and men:**

**Her Royal Majesty, the Diamond  
Queen Nicole Catherine of the house of Heyer**  
Daughter of Ms. Connie Niemann Heyer

Escorted by

**Mr. Maxwell Mitchell Corbett**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Brent Ashley Corbett

**Princess Rachael Grace of the house of Barkoff**  
Daughter of Ms. Kelly Lynne Reynolds

Escorted by

**Mr. Wyatt McCracken Gay**  
Son of Knight and Mrs. Christopher David Gay  
Grandson of the late Mrs. Joy Ross Gay

**Princess Madison Genevra of the house of Bisang**  
Daughter of Captain and Mrs. Todd Harold Bisang

Escorted by

**Mr. Matthew Davis Farmer**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Joseph Farmer

**Princess Sumner Holcomb of the house of Hill**  
Daughter of Knight and Mrs. Joseph Wolf Hill II  
Granddaughter of the late Mr. W.H. Tarbox and Mrs. Joan Tarbox

Escorted by

**Mr. Liam Scott Kornacki**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Patton Kelso  
and the late Mr. Brett Russell Kornacki

**Princess Caroline Anne of the house of Martineau**  
Daughter of Knight and Mrs. David Tucker Martineau

Escorted by

**Mr. Joseph Chaffin Benson IV**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chaffin Benson III

**Princess Ava Elizabeth of the house of Ward**  
Daughter of Ms. Molly Reese Ward and Mr. Wesley Ralph Ward  
Granddaughter of Knight and Mrs. Don Moore Ward

Escorted by

**Mr. Jory Dietz Richardson**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Dietz Richardson

**WSL is honored to have a wonderful group of Visiting Jewels:**

The Emerald of Lubbock  
**Duchess Claire Elizabeth Lansdell**  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Lansdell

Escorted by

**Mr. Kirk Amis von Kreisler**  
Son of Ms. Kelly Amis von Kreisler and Mr. Alexander Nicolai von Kreisler

The Garnet of Tyler  
**Duchess Annabelle Kelly Nowlin**  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Nowlin

Escorted by

**Mr. Peyton William Martinez**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Martinez

The Pink Diamond of Waco  
**Duchess Taylor Grace Felton**  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Wade Jr. and Mr. Mark Preston Felton II

Escorted by

**Mr. Daniel Wesley Swenke**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Daniel Swenke

In keeping with 68 years of tradition, the 2023 Jewel Committee, co-chaired by Elizabeth Rose and Lisa Tully, had the privilege of selecting this year's Royal Court.

Tully remarked, "The 2023 Austin Royal Court is composed of men and women whose families have dedicated themselves to supporting the Austin Symphony Orchestra through the Women's Symphony League of Austin or the Knights of the Symphony. We are overjoyed to have these wonderful families participate in the Jewel Ball in September!"

Jewel Ball festivities are held in September beginning with the annual Soirée Dansante, "Denim and Diamonds," a semi-formal dance for all Austin-area 9th and 10th grade high school students. This year's event will take place on Sunday, September 10th at the Bullock Texas State History Museum. This year's Soirée is co-chaired by Meredith Wood and Nicky Duewall.

WSL's Fashion Luncheon, "Lone Star-Studded Style," will take place on Friday, September 15th at the Hilton Austin featuring a famed panel of three Texas fashion experts: Loreal Sarkisian, Lela Rose, and Katie Kime. As a tribute to their longstanding commitment to the WSL, the mother-daughter duo of Carole Nalle and Karey Nalle Oddo have been named as the honorary chairs of the event. Sarah Covey and Allison Edwards are the Fashion Luncheon co-chairs.

The 68th Annual Jewel Ball, "Under the Texas Stars," will take place at the Hilton Austin on Saturday, September 16th, where WSL members and guests will gather to experience a walk among the vast and dazzling Texas starlit skies. During the course of the evening, the Royal Court will be presented, guests will dine, dance to the Spazmatics, and raise funds for our treasured Austin Symphony Orchestra. Melissa and Frank Jackson have been named as the honorary chairs of this year's Jewel Ball, recognizing their decades of support for the WSL and Knights of the Symphony organizations. The Jewel Ball events are co-chaired by Julia Null and Olivia Derr.

Tickets for the Jewel Ball, WSL Fashion Luncheon, and Soirée Dansante are available online at [WSLaustin.org/events](http://WSLaustin.org/events).

*Since 1953, the Women's Symphony League of Austin has provided service and financial support to the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its arts education programs. Now in its 70th year, the Women's Symphony League is the largest annual financial supporter of the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Over 50,000 children benefit from the innovative educational programs of the ASO each year.*

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