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Women's Symphony League of Austin Unveils 2026 Royal Court in Celebratory Jewel Tea Reveal

Diamond Queen, Princesses, and Distinguished Court Announced Ahead of the 71st Annual Jewel Ball

Fashion Luncheon Honorary Chairs Corinne and Lauree Moffett and Jewel Ball Honorary Chairs Missy Harris, Marion More, Anna Marie Speir, and Sue Webber Named at Tea

AUSTIN, Texas—May 26, 2026—[The Women's Symphony League of Austin \(WSL\)](#) unveiled its highly anticipated **2026 Royal Court** in a celebratory, elegant reveal at the Annual Jewel Tea on Friday, May 15, marking the official kickoff of the **71st Annual Jewel Ball season**.

Set against the historic backdrop of Chateau Bellevue, the afternoon brought together members, past presidents, and distinguished guests for one of WSL's most treasured traditions, an event that blends legacy, philanthropy, and the next generation of Austin leadership. Also celebrated at the Tea were the **2026 Fashion Luncheon Honorary Chairs Corinne and Lauree Moffett**, in addition to **Jewel Ball Honorary Chairs: Missy Harris, Marion More, Anna Marie Speir, and Sue Webber** for their combined 180+ years of membership, service and leadership for the WSL.

The Royal Court honors families whose longstanding support has strengthened the **Austin Symphony Orchestra (ASO)** and its far-reaching impact across Central Texas. This year's Court includes the **2026 Diamond Queen and Princesses**, accompanied by their Escorts, as well as an exceptional group of **Visiting Duchesses and Escorts** representing symphony organizations across the state.

The 2026-2027 Royal Court includes the following young women and men:

Diamond Queen Katherine Alyssa Oddo, daughter of Chancellor and Mrs. Christopher J. Oddo, granddaughter of the late Knight and Mrs. George S. Nalle III and great-granddaughter of the late Knight and Mrs. George Nalle Jr.

Princess CeCelia Elizabeth Gay, daughter of Knight and Mrs. Christopher David Gay, granddaughter of the late Mrs. Joy Ross Gay

Princess Ainsley Blair Green, daughter of Ms. Shannon Blair Green

Princess Carrie Elizabeth Hempfling, daughter of Vice Chancellor and Mrs. Robert John Hempfling Jr.

Princess Clara May Holmes, daughter of Ms. Amanda Smith Holmes and Mr. Christopher Paul Holmes, granddaughter of Mrs. Jare Horne Smith and the late Knight Jim A. Smith

Princess Kennedy Joy Matthys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter John Matthys, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Denman Vodrie Smith

Princess Kathryn Tennie McFarland, daughter of Dr. Regina McFarland and Mr. John Samuel McFarland Jr., granddaughter of Pamela R. Bell and the late Lord Chancellor LIII Henry Newton Bell III

Princess Ellison Kate Reinarz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Allen Dean Reinarz

Princess Morgan Maddison Rigas, daughter of Ms. Kelly Coffield Perkins and Mr. Anastasios Dionysios Rigas II, granddaughter of Knight John Duncan Perkins and the late Mrs. Sandra Price Perkins

Princess Margot Ann Tully, daughter of Knight and Mrs. John David Tully

Princess Ann Louise Woodman, daughter of Mrs. Teresa “Dede” Stevens Woodman and Mr. Patrick McClure Woodman

Princess Abigail Alling Woodruff, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joshua Morgan Woodruff

Princess Emma Morgan Woodruff, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joshua Morgan Woodruff

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

Duchess Livia Grace Lange, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lange, representing the **Dallas Symphony League**

Duchess Adison Christine Mathes, daughter of Mr. Alan Luedemann and Mrs. Cara Mathes, representing **Houston**

Duchess Bonnie Leigh Meredith, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Bill Meredith Jr., granddaughter of Deputy Lord of the Privy Seal and Mrs. Douglas Mueller Danforth, Representing **Washington-on-the-Brazos**

Duchess Reagan Elizabeth Meredith, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Bill Meredith Jr., granddaughter of Deputy Lord of the Privy Seal and Mrs. Douglas Mueller Danforth, representing **Washington-on-the-Brazos**,

Duchess Fiona Gwynne Nield, daughter of Ms. Jennifer Nield and Mr. Richard Nield, representing **Boulder, Colorado**

Duchess Abigail Grace St. Clair, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James Thomas St. Clair IV, representing the **Lubbock Symphony Guild**

Duchess Caroline Louise Valdes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Todd Alexander Valdes, representing the **Victoria Symphony Society**

Duchess Charlotte Kathleen Vargo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Vargo, representing **Memorial**

WSL is honored to have the following young men escorting this year's ladies:

Escort Emmett James Brewer, son of Chancellor and Mrs. Joel S. Brewer

Escort Fox Andrew Brewer, son of Chancellor and Mrs. Joel S. Brewer

Escort Benjamin Douglas Castillo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Luis Castillo, grandson of Deputy Lord of the Privy Seal and Mrs. Douglas Mueller Danforth

Escort James Alan Hempfling, son of Vice Chancellor and Mrs. Robert John Hempfling Jr.

Escort Robert John “Jack” Hempfling III, son of Vice Chancellor and Mrs. Robert John Hempfling Jr.

Escort Patrick L. Hubert II, son of Vice Chancellor and Mrs. Martin August Hubert

Escort Camm Carrington Lary IV, son of Knight and Mrs. Camm Carrington Lary III

Escort Julian Wells Luce, son of Ms. Lara Wells Luce and Mr. Jason Paul Luce

Escort Callum Matthew Meroney, son of Ms. Shannon Phillips Meroney and Mr. Michael Thomas Meroney

Escort Harrison Mitchell Oddo, son of Chancellor and Mrs. Christopher J. Oddo, grandson of the late Knight and Mrs. George S. Nalle III and great-grandson of the late Knight and Mrs. George Nalle Jr.

Escort Chancellor Wilson Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Durham, and the late Christopher Burton Price, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Steven W. Harris

Escort Walter Helm Rorschach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Helm Rorschach

Escort Bennett Kittrell Wood, son of Knight and Mrs. Ethan Anton Wood

Hosted by the WSL Past Presidents' Council and chaired by Immediate Past President **Stacey McLeod Brewer**, the Jewel Tea is a hallmark moment in the WSL calendar. Guests enjoyed curated wines, elegant tea service, and a celebratory atmosphere culminating in the highly anticipated court presentation.

In keeping with more than seven decades of tradition, the 2026 Jewel Committee, chaired by **Christy Allen Merritt**, had the honor of selecting this year's distinguished Royal Court.

Merritt remarked, "The 2026 Austin Royal Court is composed of women and men 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 families represented for the 71st Annual Jewel Ball. We are especially grateful this year to have participants who represent multi-generational support of music education in Austin and Central Texas. WSL is thrilled to present this impressive group of participants, one of the largest courts we have ever had!"

Jewel Ball festivities are held in September, beginning with the Soirée - "The Jewel Heist," a party attended by area 9th and 10th-grade students on Sunday, September 13th. This year's Soirée will include a mystery game experience and is chaired by **Jeanette Bledsoe** and **Anne Marie Cancienne**.

WSL's Fashion Luncheon, "Une Invitation à l'Élégance," will take place on Friday, September 18th at the Palmer Events Center and will feature a fashion show from signature Austin retailers. **Melissa Billman** and **Amanda Pettitt** are the Fashion Luncheon Chairs.

The 71st Annual Jewel Ball, "La Belle Époque" - The Beautiful Age, will take place at Palmer Events Center on Saturday, September 19th, where members and supporters will gather for a historic evening in celebration of WSL and its seven decades of support of the ASO. This milestone fête will include a presentation of Royal Court, a gourmet seated meal followed by a live auction, dancing, and several special surprises to salute the long history of the WSL's impact on Austin and surrounding Central Texas communities through its storied support of ASO's music education programming. This year's Jewel Ball events are chaired by **Megan Haywood** and **Lawanna Turner**.

Tickets, sponsorships, and advertising opportunities for the Jewel Ball, WSL Fashion Luncheon, and Soirée events are available online at wslaustin.org.

Since 1953, the Women's Symphony League of Austin has dedicated its energy, talents, and volunteerism by providing service and financial support to the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its education programs. The Women's Symphony League is the largest annual financial supporter of the Austin Symphony Orchestra's educational programs for children. Over 50,000 children benefit from the innovative educational programs of the ASO every year.

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