



TASO NEWS

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

The purpose of this organization shall be, "To promote, develop and support symphony orchestras"

Celebrating 51 Years Spring 2019

The Strategic Plan - New and Inventive Ideas

There are many new and exciting things coming from the Strategic Planning Committee. First, the changes in the bylaws were approved at the January board meeting in Dallas and will come up for a vote by membership at the annual conference in Houston. The majority of the changes were implemented to have the bylaws and the standing rules balance. There were also changes to the bylaws and standing rules to better describe how we are actually functioning as an organization.

Next, we will be having a new and revamped program for incoming presidents and TASO representatives at the conference.

It will be held on Friday morning from 8:00 to 8:30 am before the general session begins. This program will help members who are new to TASO better understand its structure, purpose and programs. Please encourage all of your new reps to attend, we will make it fun and light hearted! Also, for those of you who attended the January board meeting we surveyed all of you to see how your league chose its TASO representatives. The survey revealed that many of your groups utilize the experience of past presidents, some of these were appointed by the current presidents and other reps were those who expressed and interest

in TASO. TASO loves to see new faces and hear new ideas and perspectives. I can't wait to meet all of these new faces in Houston! The Strategic Planning Committee has almost completed the Goals and Objectives under the Governance & Administration section of the plan and we look forward to tackling the Communications section next! If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions on how TASO can utilize our communications (i.e. Website, Facebook, Twitter, etc) please let us know by contacting me at kathysheldon2@gmail.com
See you in Houston!

Kathy Sheldon
Strategic Planning Committee Chairman

The Annual TASO Conference

pearls of the symphony

will be held in Houston at the Hilton Post Oak-April 4, 5, 6, 2019

2018 Winners

Education

Plano Symphony Orchestra Guild - Instrument Petting Zoo
Amarillo Symphony Guild - Instrument Express

Leadership

Amarillo Symphony Guild - Orchestra Courtesy
Women's Symphony League of Tyler - Friendship & Fellowship
Houston Symphony League - President's Luncheon

Fundraising

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League - A Noteworthy Night
Waco Symphony Council - Symphony in the City
Houston Symphony League - Houston Symphony Balinese Auction

Plan to attend today!

President's Letter



Dear TASO Members,

Thank you for a wonderful year! It has been a pleasure working with the very talented members on this TASO Board. Our board members brought new perspectives and innovative ideas which we have used to energize TASO. My goal for TASO this year was to establish a firm foundation upon which new ideas will be able to flourish. Thank you to the TASO Board for working so very hard to accomplish this goal.

Helen Shaffer, Betty Tutor and the Houston Symphony League have spent uncountable hours planning an incredible experience for us at the 52nd Annual TASO Conference in Houston, April 4-6, 2019. "Pearls of the Symphony" promises to give us innovative and proven ideas to share with our leagues and guilds while allowing time for networking, friendship and fun! As you prepare for Conference, come ready to learn new concepts while presenting your best ideas.

Conference also provides us with an opportunity to honor four Texans who have provided exceptional support for the arts by presenting them with the Awards of Excellence. In addition, we will be entertained by our three Juanita Miller Concerto Competition first place winners. These high school students are truly amazing musicians. We also have an exceptional opportunity to hear the Houston Symphony Orchestra in concert. This Conference has something for everyone - opportunities to learn new ideas, share ideas, renew and make new friendships, and be royally entertained!

I look forward to seeing each of you in Houston!

Anna Marie Speir

Anna Marie Speir, TASO President 2018-2019

Newsletter Deadlines:

*August 1, 2019
December 1, 2019*

*TASO Newsletter Co-Editor, Sandy Secor, jwsecor@sbcglobal.net
TASO Newsletter Co-Editor, Sharon Knowles, sharonknowles@tx.rr.com*

Abilene Philharmonic Guild

Members of the Abilene Philharmonic Guild hosted the annual fundraiser, the Gold Medallion Ball, held on March 2, 2019. Guild volunteers under the direction of Ball Chair, **Sheila Warren** contributed to the success. The day started with the 2019 Golden Charm Coffee in honor of this year's Golden Charm, **Mary Pritchett**. Mary, an avid patron of the Abilene Philharmonic and exemplary supporter of the Guild since joining in 1953 as one of its first members, was surrounded by family and friends during this special day.

The tablescapes were truly unique and added a personal dimension, as Guild and community members decorated the tables using their own china. The result was an array of beautiful tables displaying heirloom china, photos, a childhood violin, and other treasures that told of the table host's own story.

During the Coffee, guests were treated to a wonderful performance by ballet dancers from Abilene's **Patty Harper Dance Studio** and a vocal performance by Abilene Idol 2015 winner, **Isaac Donaldson**, who serenaded Mary with a piece dedicated to her. What a beautiful way to say, "Thank You" to the Guild's 'charm'.

The Guild's eight senior Belles and Beaus were presented, and all looked very elegant in their ball gowns and tuxedos. They earned

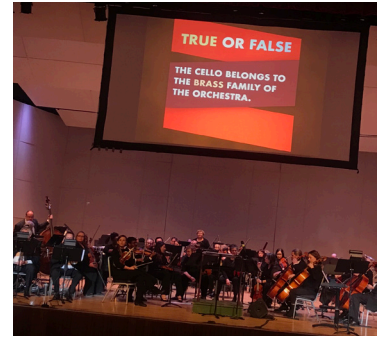


Top left: *Belles*.
Bottom left: **Grande Dame, Molly Cline and Noble Gold, Lee Caldwell**. Bottom right: **Ball Chair Sheila Warren and right, Guild volunteer and Belle mom, Lesli Andrews**.

a Governor's Certificate for Volunteer Service in recognition of the many hours they dedicated to the Philharmonic. The Guild uses a point system for volunteer hours and duties and recognizes the top three by awarding gold, silver and bronze medals with scholarship to the university of their choice. This year awarded four Belles with medals and scholarships. **Caroline Statler** won Gold, and **Kiezley Fraser, Kathlyn Messer and Melia Sutton** were each awarded bronze. The grand finale, was the celebration in honor of our Grande Dame, **Molly Cline**,

and her brother, **Lee Caldwell**, the 2019 Noble Gold. Both Molly and Lee share a lifelong appreciation of music and have been leaders in the community ensuring live symphonic music continues to be present and accessible. Guild and community members celebrated with them and thanked them for their unwavering support of the orchestra. **Perini Ranch Steakhouse** offered their world-renowned tenderloin and **Trey and the Tritones** kept everyone on the dance floor. The evening was a wonderful success.

Joanne Vaughan



Left: Amarillo **Belles & Beaux**. Top Right:
Bottom right: **Symphony Ball: A Southern Affair**

The Amarillo Symphony Guild

The Amarillo Symphony Guild just wrapped up the Symphony Ball: A Southern Affair. It was a wonderful evening filled with great food, friends and the presentation of the 2019 Symphony Belles & Beaux. The beautiful Downtown Embassy Suites hosted this fundraising event for the second year and they did not disappoint. Over 500 guests enjoyed this spectacular evening celebrating the young men and women selected to represent the Amarillo Symphony, Symphony Guild and our community. The Ball Committee did an amazing job and we could not be more pleased!

In January, one of our educational programs entitled Symphony Kids was attended by over 4,000 area 5th graders. This 2 day

program was held at the Amarillo Civic Center with the assistance of Guild volunteers, high school volunteers and of course, the talented Amarillo Symphony. Children were delighted to experience this program with the introduction of orchestral music and how it plays an important part in our everyday lives.

This April, the Amarillo Symphony Guild will be presenting the TASO Award of Excellence in Business to Amarillo natives, **Tonya** and **Wilson Freeman** of Freeman's Flowers. Tonya and Wilson and their team of experts have helped transform empty ballrooms into visions of beauty while working side by side with past Symphony Ball Chairs. Tonya and Wilson Freeman have been supporters of the Amarillo Symphony and Symphony Guild and have also

had children in the Belle & Beau program. We are lucky to have them in Amarillo and especially pleased they were chosen for this award. Our CONGRATULATIONS to them both!

Margaret Brown
TASO Rep

Like us on
Facebook!

The Women's Symphony League of Austin

Red Haute Project Runway "Hats Off to Love" Style Show Sizzles with the Latest in Kid's Wear

Austin's premier children's fashion show, the annual Red Haute Valentine Party & Children's Style Show, took place on Sunday, February 3rd at the JW Marriott in downtown Austin. Chaired this year by WSL members **Kelly Reynolds** and **Valerie Caldwell**, guests enjoyed shopping, delicious desserts, and an adorable runway show. Forty models, aged 2 to 12, showcased the latest fashions from some of the finest boutiques in the city.

"Hats Off to Love" featured participants Lilly Pulitzer, Pajama Princess, Olivia Shoppe, and Dragonsnaps. An added bonus to the lineup was a capsule collection for children by beloved Austinite and Project Runway alum, **Daniel Esquivel**. Said event co-chair Valerie Caldwell of this year's party, "It really was a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's season, raise money to help support the Austin Symphony Orchestra, and provide children with what we hope will be the beginning of a lifelong love affair with music. Our community has always been great supporters of music, and this occasion was no different. We are appreciative of all the volunteers and supporters, including the Cipione Family Foundation. We welcome the public to participate in this event each year, to not only support a good cause, but to learn more about the Women's Symphony League and the programs we support in the community."



Left: **Kelly Reynolds** and **Valerie Caldwell**, Co-Chairs of the Red Haute Project Runway. Right: **Sawyer Molex** models a dress from Austin fashion label **Ruby Pearl**. Middle left: Local Celebrity and Former Project Runway **Daniel Esquivel** with a model. Middle right: WSL President **Molly Bensen** and Red Haute Emcee. Bottom left: **Debbie Esterak**, **Shannon Meroney**, **Stacey Brewer**, **Claire Ryan**, **Megan Helmbrecht** and **Meredith Wood**. Bottom right: **Jacqueline Caldwell** poses on the runway in a **Lilly Pulitzer** dress.

The Big Spring Symphony Guild

The Big Spring Symphony Guild is excited as we enter our busiest time of the year! We are preparing for our annual Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon and Fashion Show! It will be held at Trinity Baptist Church on March 23rd at 11:30 AM. Our theme this year is "BIG HEART BIG SKY BIG SPRING", which is in keeping with the Big Spring Symphony's 2018/2019 Season theme of "The Big Spring Connection". The tickets are \$20.

Several local businesses have donated silent auction items and door prizes and our entertainment will feature the 2019 scholarship recipients and a special appearance from local comedian, Adrienne Green as "The Green Bean Comic". Our fashion show will feature selections from Blissful Boutique, The Wardrobe and Maurices. Proceeds from this event are used for our Phyllis Graumann Memorial Scholarship fund, which benefits exceptional music students (Grades 7-11) from our area with their expenses related to furthering their music education, like private lessons or camps. The Scholarship is in memory of **Phyllis Graumann** was a long time Symphony supporter, Charter member of the Guild and mother of our current music director and conductor, Maestro **Keith Graumann**. We are looking forward to hearing from this year's applicants, who have till April 15th to send us their audition video and forms.

In concert news, there was a great turn out for the winter concert on February 9th, which



Top left: **Justice Stephen Hughes, Linda Lindell (BSSO President), and Maestro John Giordano.** Top right: Guild members, **Natalie and Earl Permenter.** Bottom: left to right: Guild member, **Nadine Reyes,** Guild President, **Suzanne Markwell** and Guild member, **Ellen Austin.**

was entitled "Side by Side". The Big Spring Symphony was proud to welcome back Maestro **John Giordano** as the guest conductor. Fifteen area students from Big Spring, Colorado City, and Howard College performed next to the professional musicians. The students performed very well and got some great experience mentored by the professionals. The concert also featured Big

Spring native and clarinet soloist, **Justice Stephen Hughes**, who has played with the Symphony for over a decade. The festivities were closed out by a reception hosted by the Big Spring Symphony Guild and sponsored by Prosperity Bank. The last concert will be on April 27th and is our annual pops concert, entitled, "Spring is for Big Spring".

<https://www.tasovolunteers.com>

Conroe Symphony League (Friends of the Symphony)

Our first of the 2019 season opener for our Valentine concert on Feb 9th was titled “From Gospel to Gershwin”. We began with Gershwin followed by an African-American Spiritual Medley by **Don Goeller**. In memory of **Lisa Jane Moore**, daughter of **Lida Jane Gillespie**, we honored her strength of spirit with “The Prince of Egypt” by **Stephen Schwartz**. Appropriately, the orchestra then played “Amazing Grace” by **William Ryden** in memory of our recently departed **Dr. Aline Arnold**. It was a very emotional first half.

After intermission, **Dr. Timothy Jones**, guest soloist, entertained us with fantastic excerpts from Porgy and Bess. Dr. Jones is acclaimed throughout the United States, Canada, South America and Europe as a rapidly emerging lead bass-baritone of his generation. His eagerly anticipated performance combines intelligent musicianship, commanding vocal technique and a unique ability to connect with the audience. He is a champion of opera, the concert stage, chamber music, solo recitals and the premiers of contemporary works. Dr. Jones is a native of Shreveport Louisiana and an alumnus of Centenary College and the University of Michigan. Currently, he is a professor of voice at the University of Houston Moore’s School of Music. Dr. Jones ended his captivating performance with a stirring rendition of “Old Man River”!



Dr. Timothy Jones performing Gospel to Gershwin in Conroe.

Our next concert on April 13th will honor **Dr. Don Hutson** as he retires from CSO leadership and hands the baton over to **Dr. Jacob Sustaita**.

We are looking forward to our TASO state convention in Houston, “Pearls of the Symphony” and hope to see you there!

The Friends of the Symphony President **Lyn Howard** and the Conroe Symphony Orchestra give condolences to the family of **Dr. Aline Arnold** on her passing. As Dr. Arnold was Executive Director of the Conroe Symphony Orchestra for many years and a proud supporter of the Arts of Conroe Texas along with the Friends of the Symphony (formerly Conroe Symphony League) and TASO. She so enjoyed attending TASO along with her husband, **Gene Arnold**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know who won the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition? Which TASO Convention Speaker

were you most excited to hear after reading their bios? Which TASO member organization had a successful “Winter, Wine & Whirl” in January?

The answers to these and many more questions can be found on our TASO Facebook page. Why not “friend” our page now if you haven’t already to stay in the know. Publicize your next Fundraiser by posting on the page.

You never know which other members across the state would love to visit your city and support your Symphony efforts! Just go to Facebook, search for “Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras” and click on “Friend” to start enjoying our page.

Our TASO Facebook page will also be a great place to see Convention Highlights. If you have any questions, contact **Leslie Roberts** at houseofroberts@suddenlink.net.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Introduces Debutantes at 33rd Annual Presentation Ball

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra League introduced the 2019 debutantes at the 33rd Presentation Ball on February 9, 2019 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

The Honorary Chairs for the 2019 Presentation Ball were **Ann** and **Gabriel Barbier-Mueller**, longtime supporters of the DSO and the Dallas community. Their daughter **Niña** was a debutante and their sons **Alexis** and **Oliver** have served as Honor Guards.

The Presentation Ball Chair was **Carla Leffert** and DSOL President is **Lisa Loy Laughlin**. Carla has had two daughters make their debut and Lisa is a past Presentation Ball Chair.

There were several second-generation debutantes making their debut. **Hattie Newton's** mother **Mary Casey** and aunt **Donna Casey** were debutantes for the inaugural ball held in 1987 and her aunt **Lisa Casey** was presented a few years later. **Megan Molthan's** mother **Heather** and her aunt **Wendy** are both former debutantes.

Three generations of the **McCullough** family have participated with the Honor Guard. **Michael McCullough, Sr.** was the founder of the Honor Guard in 1987. His son **Michael Jr.** is a past Honor Guard and this year, his grandson **Mac McCullough** served as an Honor Guard. Houston native **Elizabeth Moore**

made her debut at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League's Presentation Ball. Her parents, **Mr.** and **Mrs. Harvin Cooper Moore IV** of Houston, were in Dallas for the debut, but the family's ties to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra date back to 1974. Elizabeth's grandfather **Lloyd Haldeman** was hired as the DSO manager when the Dallas Symphony Orchestra was rebuilding itself. He launched massive fund drives, persuaded civic leadership to take more active involvement in the orchestra's future introduced new concert series including summer pops, won a 52-week contract for the musicians, hired new players, lengthened the subscription series, and engaged **Eduardo Mata** as principal conductor and **Kurt Masur** as principal guest conductor. With that foundation laid, Haldeman left a lasting legacy. The Dallas Symphony Orchestra has since become one of the top orchestras in the nation. "The Dallas Symphony brought

my family to Texas, and played a pivotal role in our lives," said Janet Haldeman Moore. "Elizabeth's presentation honors her grandfather's legacy and continues our family's meaningful connection to this stellar symphony." Janet serves as a Trustee of the Houston Symphony and was one of the founding board members of Houston's River Oaks Chamber Orchestra.

The 2019 debutantes are:

Maddie Basso, Katy Callewart, Carly Cooper, Savannah Crow, Avery Davis, Katherine Fraser, Kathleen Gamso, Kate Gioldasis, Natalie Groves, Gracie Hunt, Mary Margaret Jaynes, Alix Lippincott, Georgia McGill, Elizabeth McIlyar, Megan Molthan, Elizabeth Moore, Caroline Mulligan, Coco Murchison, Hattie Newton, Mindy Osler, Cassandra Polley, Elizabeth Reid, Anna Robertson, Lily Schiff, Lauren Schnitzer, Livy Scott, Nicole Smith, Emily Stone, Samantha Sullivan, Sally Wade, Ava Wall, and Whitney Wheeler.



Symphony League of Fort Worth

The Symphony League of Fort Worth had a fund raiser in September. Invitations to all members and guests inviting everyone to the Kendra Scott jewelry store in a new area of Fort Worth called Clear Fork. During the hours designated 5:00 to 7:00 all purchases would benefit the Symphony League 20 percent of all sales. Hors d'oeuvres and wine were served. The League received \$1,000 check from the sales.

Symphony League of Fort Worth provided hospitality to musicians that auditioned for Flute and the Trombone positions in the orchestra. These individuals were from out of town. There were sandwiches, dips, desserts, fruits plus coffee and other drinks. They expressed their appreciation. We received many notes of thank you for the hospitality.

On Oct. 22, 2018 there were 50 candidates for oboe; On Oct. 29, 2018 there were 42 for flute; On Jan 28, 2019 there were 40 for trombone; In all there were 132 participants.

On October 31st - The Symphony League treated the musicians of the orchestra and staff to Halloween treat bags. The musicians were delighted when they came to their places for rehearsal. Our League has a close relationship with the musicians. We enjoy their friendship and supporting them as well as hearing them perform.

In November the League had an event called Rose' to Roses. It was a wine tasting at Total Wines

store. We received a wonderful presentation about all different wines from different countries. We had a delightful array of hors d'oeuvres. Our wine connoisseur was an excellent speaker giving background information about the different wines and the different countries. Our table decorations were lovely creations of roses prepared by one of our members.

On December 6, The Symphony League planned and enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner at Ridglea Country Club. We had entertainment from 2 of our musicians. A Silent Auction table offering different items such as concert tickets paired with dinner gift certificates. The table decorations were prepared by **Davie Jones** using musical instruments with Christmas décor.

On February 9 there was a major fund raiser by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Executive Board held at the Omni Hotel. The League bought a table and each member attending supported it with a donation. It was a Gala Rock Concert with **Robert McDuffie** and R.E.M's **Mike Mills**. The concert was a complete sell out. After the concert it was a great event and well attended. Dinner and dancing made for a lovely evening.

On Feb 4-8 we focused on Children's Music Education every year. Aesop's Fables books were donated by the Red Oak Foundation for distribution to the schools. League members traveled to the designated schools and read the books to the Kindergarten classes preparing them for attending the concert. The books were given to the

children to keep.

SYMPHONY LEAGUERS WALK THE WALK AND TALK THE TALK ABOUT THE FORT WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 2019

On Feb 14-15 - Symphony League hosted and ushered 2 concerts per day. On the 14th, the league members provided a great lunch for all the musicians, ushers, teachers and the bus drivers.

Students were brought by bus to the Doxology Bible Church for the performances. We had 800 Kindergarten students attending. Additionally, **Dr. Meyn** from TCU greeted the students; told them about his being interested in musical instruments at an early age. He introduced each section of the orchestra and students could be heard saying which instruments they like best. A wonderful first concert experience for young Kindergarten students

Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute – The Link Up Program utilizing materials provided by the institute. Music teachers from the FW ISD guided their 4th graders in exploring symphonic music. Nearly 7000 4th graders participated in active music making in the classroom and performed with the Fort Worth Symphony in concert on recorders or by singing.

On March 28 - The Symphony League of Fort Worth has planned a Pot Luck Dinner for all members and invited guests. The League will recognize and honor members who were active in the handling of our Education Program.

*Carol G. Naugles
TASO Representative
Symphony League of Fort Worth*

Midland Symphony Guild Gala Weekend

The Midland Guild held its 56th Annual Gala Weekend February 8-9, 2019. Each year, MSG hosts a gala event to honor the Senior Belles and concludes with Belle Ball. The now two-hundred strong Belles of MSG volunteer at local events and for area nonprofits throughout the year looking forward to Gala Weekend.

In 2018-19, our Belles will contribute more than one-thousand volunteer hours to our Midland community. Friday evening is for our senior Belles. These young ladies have completed four years of service and were honored before family and friends. The biographies of each Belle were read as she was presented during a runway walk, escorted by proud fathers. This year, forty-two senior ladies finished guild service with a spotlight "Presentation". Following a lavish dinner, a father-daughter dance to the sounds of a jazz quartet concluded the night.

Our host location was Midland Country Club. The Gala Committee took on a huge task. Put on a dinner / dance for two-hundred on Friday evening, then convert the ballroom for a dance the following evening. Belle Ball is big news on Saturday. Belles invite a date or guest for an evening to remember. No small event, the final total placed over four-hundred youth counting Belles and guests. Midland Symphony Guild is proud to donate the proceeds of Gala Weekend to Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale.



The Plano Symphony Orchestra

The Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO) has always officed in donated or leased space. Most recently, the office has been located on the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Plano, Texas campus. SMU provided this high-quality space to the PSO at a very favorable rent for over a decade. However, in February 2018, SMU notified the PSO that they were selling the property and the PSO would need to relocate.

The PSO soon identified a new place for the administrative offices. The rental price per month was reasonable, and the location was perfect. Everything seemed to be going well. Unfortunately, the space and the deal fell through.

The PSO was left in a challenging position. It had a deadline to depart from SMU. The search was on again. PSO staff and Board members looked at over 30 places to lease and several buildings to purchase. All were prohibitively expensive in comparison to the monthly payment and quality of space at SMU. During this search, PSO Board member **Mary Jo Cater** led the PSO subcommittee to identify potential office spaces. She also developed a methodology to review decisions based on short/long term lease versus purchase options.

This purchase options that turned out to be somewhat of a miracle. Longtime PSO patrons **Linda** and **Guy Vestal** offered the PSO a special deal on a property that they owned in West Plano. The cost of this property was

considerably less expensive than the next lowest cost property that the PSO had reviewed.

The property was acquired on September 14, 2018. Since the property had a different use in its previous life, it needed to be remodeled to accommodate the PSO's needs.

Extraordinary assistance came after the acquisition of the building because PSO volunteers stepped to the forefront. PSO Board member **Dr. Christine Hopkins** helped arrange the loan for the renovations. **Craig Barber**, the incoming Board President, assisted in every step of the renovations and move. PSO Guild member **Art Stone** completed the architectural design documents to remodel the new location. Former PSO Board member **Christina Ryan** offered to be the general contractor. Her company, Ryan Design International, managed the work. PSO Board member **Ed Coyle** served as project manager, overseeing the budget and monitoring actual costs. He was also the primary PSO Board liaison. **Kaitlin Einkauf**, the Symphony's Finance Director, managed the move to the new building, including approving change orders for construction. Without the help of this group, the PSO would not have been able to afford the renovations to make the building into their lasting home.

Once the construction was completed, the PSO staff, Guild members, and other volunteers helped with the packing. **Ellie Barash, Craig Barber, Irma Landis, Tammy Miller, Darlene Morford, Denise Pollis, Gabriel**



Rusthoven, Lillian Stankunas, Sherry Stone, and Beverly Wester were some of these volunteers.

Moving day was January 23, 2019. Over the course of 10 hours, North Texas Relogistics moved the PSO into its new home. The movers did a fantastic job.

With the move completed, it took two days for the PSO staff to get up-and-running. Even the computer servers, office computers, and PSO website were all online. It took about two weeks to unpack and make the place the new home of the Plano Symphony Orchestra.

An Open House at the new location is scheduled for March 7, 2019 from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. The dedication and ribbon cutting with the Plano Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for 4:30 PM. The address is: 1635 Dorchester Drive, Plano TX 75075.

The PSO has found a new home that it can be in for many years to come.

San Angelo Symphony Guild

We have had a fabulous year in San Angelo as we Fox Trot towards our May Gatsby Gala! The meetings of this past year have been custom made to accentuate and advertise this upcoming event. From pink roses on Sterling Tea services to a beautifully decorated 1920's style luncheon to a jazzy meeting night in a speakeasy replica only to find in February a beautiful mid morning "Breakfast at the Buchanans." We've done it all and we still have two fabulous meetings to go.

January unfolded with Winter, Wine and Whirl, a spectacular evening which even included a ballroom dancing demonstration and lessons to ensure beautiful dancing at our upcoming May festivity. Pops tables were auctioned off for the April Pops Concert

Our stunning Belles, Beaux and ambassadors have beautifully adorned our concerts and dinner series parties as they help at each event. They have enjoyed a monster bowl Halloween party, Christmas hayride and have been featured on two floats in area parades to promote and recruit for their program. They also recently helped at the San Angelo cultural arts Council dinner. These events as well as their normal etiquette classes have made for a full and exciting year.

On the Symphony side we have been enchanted by the Sounds of Spain and many other memorable concerts. Pink Martini will close our season out in April

We are beginning our recruitment and spring membership drive and look forward to seeing all of you in Houston in April.

Candis Hicks





Texans for the Arts - Advocacy Update for TASO!

Texans for the Arts looks forward to participating in the annual TASO Conference “Pearls of Symphony” on April 4-6th in Houston. This will be the sixth year in a row we have participated in the Conference and are honored to be a part of the program, including providing advocacy updates and presenting the “Award of Excellence” for Texas State Legislator of the Year.

Our mission to protect and increase the public investment in the arts is alive and well and as we work through the 86th Texas Legislative Session we have much to share. At the advocacy update, Texans for the Arts will give a report about the current state of affairs with local, state and national public funding - the Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the National Endowment



San Angelo's Year in Review

for the Arts, respectively. We will reiterate the important opportunity that each of you has to play as prominent arts leaders in your own communities. Do not underestimate the power of your voice - and especially the collective impact of TASO as such a recognized statewide leader!

Texans for the Arts looks forward to seeing all of you in Houston

and we appreciate your warm welcome! Thank you!

*Ann S. Graham, Executive Director,
Texans for the Arts*



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

The Official Arts Advocacy Organization for Texas

Women's Symphony League of Tyler WSL BALL

WSL BALL

Vivaldi's "Four Seasons"—one of music's best known Baroque works—inspired the theme for the annual WSL Ball held Saturday, March 2, at Tyler's Harvey Convention Center. A near record number of guests, 690, filled the beautifully decorated venue where 90 members of the Junior Symphony League were recognized.

Junior Symphony League high school seniors were presented in formal white ball gowns and tuxes, and for the first time Junior Symphony League high school juniors were introduced in jewel-tone ball gowns and tuxes and enjoyed the entire evening of dinner and dancing with their parents and a guest. Willow Brook Country Club catered the seated dinner, and guests danced throughout the evening to music provided by The Pictures Band and Live 5 from Austin.

SUSTAINER GAMES DAY

Games Day was reinstated in January to provide a social opportunity for Sustainers and Actives alike. Chaired by Laura Hyde, the day of Mahjonn and Bridge was held at Willow Brook Country Club. Seventy guests enjoyed lunch and helped raise funds to support WSL projects.

FALL WRAP-UP

According to President Shannon Glenney, the Women's Symphony League fall season fulfilled its promise to be one of community, connections, and camaraderie! This past fall, WSL volunteers



provided food for and opened their homes to musicians before symphony concerts. Hundreds of docents were provided for symphony and the Nutcracker concerts. WSL provided scholarship monies to music students and financially supported the East Texas Symphony Orchestra Jazz Spectacular and the East Texas Youth Orchestra. Additionally, the 253 Actives and 200 Sustainers were all invited to Christmas and Valentine celebrations held in member homes.

CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

WSL will play a major role in staffing the annual Children's concerts with ETSO on February 6 and 7. The event has been expanded from one to two days to accommodate more students than ever before. Public, private and home schooled children in fourth and fifth grades will be treated to an uplifting concert by the East Texas Symphony Orchestra in Caldwell Auditorium. Jennifer Rippey, VP of Education, and Elizabeth Sharkey, Children's



Top: Behind the scenes at the WSL Ball, volunteers prepare for the wine pull. (Left to right are **Christi Khalaf, Sharon Romano, and Kim Asad.**)

Concert Chairman, note that WSL volunteers provide assistance with unloading school buses and helping students to their seats.

WSL RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Women's Symphony League of Tyler will receive the

distinguished “Gold Book Award” from the League of American Orchestras’ Volunteer Council in June. This recognition will come during the national meeting of the League in Nashville June 2-6.

All Leagues and Guilds from around the country have an opportunity each summer to submit their projects from the previous year in the categories of Leadership and Membership, Fundraising, Education and Community Engagement. Six Leagues / Guilds will be recognized this year. WSL of Tyler, submitted a leadership and members project, “Friendship and Fellowship—Finding Our Sustainers”. Sustainer Chairman **Laura Hyde** commented, “Our Sustaining membership had begun to decline, so we began to look at ways we could focus on increasing our numbers. We recognized that there were individuals who wanted to continue to support the organization and its efforts on behalf of the symphony and music education; however, we also recognized that it is not always possible for volunteers to meet the Active membership requirements.”

Jill Campbell, WSL President-Elect, will represent Tyler at the League of American Orchestra’s conference in Nashville and deliver a presentation on the Sustainer project. The League of American Orchestra’s Volunteer Council exists to bring volunteer organizations together who support symphony organizations across the United States and Canada and to allow a forum for sharing ideas and information.



Left: **Maureen Higdon** and Right: **Vicki West**

Houston Symphony League

Message from the Houston Symphony League President: Maureen Higdon

Welcome to 2019! We and the Symphony have an incredibly busy and fun season to enjoy. Before looking forward though, it is important to be thankful for our wonderful city, our amazing Symphony and Symphony staff. Beaucoup thank yous to our dedicated Board, Chairs and members who always rise to the challenge and make things happen!

We are working our way through a “transitional” year with graciousness and dedication.

We should take pride in many new things we have tried with success such as: Giving Tree at Holiday Lunch raised \$3845!!!! Lewis Elementary Violin Fundraising goal of \$12,060 achieved! Actual (\$12,555)!!! Instrument Petting Zoo Fundraising Goal of \$11,344 - 40% achieved \$4520!!! Filling new roles for Student and Family Concerts!!! Reporting Volunteer hours to demonstrate our further

contribution to our Symphony!! New collaboration with City Art Works for Magical Musical Morning!!!

We have many wonderful Symphony performances to look forward to, the Wine Dinner and Auction, hosting the TASO conference, gearing up for IMA HOGG competition and all of our “usual” enjoyable events and volunteer opportunities highlighted in this newsletter.

Please remember that we always want to invite friends and colleagues to join us and encourage them to join our Houston Symphony League. The more the merrier!

Orchestra/Staff Luncheon - February 27, 2019

The second Orchestra & Staff Luncheon of the 2018-2019 season was held on Wednesday, 02/27/19 in the Rehearsal Room at Jones Hall. Because this event coincided with Houston’s rodeo season the Houston Symphony League used a “western” luncheon theme. The success of this event is predicated on League members bringing food, making

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Houston continued from page 13 monetary donations and/or volunteering to help with food prep and serving the day of the event. Approximately 20 volunteers prepared and served a delicious lunch while enjoying visiting with the Symphony musicians. **Michelle Matzer** and **Julie Fischer**, were the Co-Chairs.

2019 IMA HOGG COMPETITION

The Ima Hogg Competition is scheduled for May 30-June 1 at Rice University. The committees are working and held the reception for the 2018 winner **Ji Su Jung** on the stage at Jones Hall. Ji Su and her Marimba were a big hit with the Ima 105 (\$1000 and up donors) group. Everyone enjoyed the special evening.

\$170,000 has been raised of the \$400,000 goal. More commitments are coming in the mail. This year the reception will be held for \$2500 donors and up and up.

Each League member is invited to play a part in supporting this international event. League members are being asked to please consider making a monetary donation towards the luncheon during the semi-finals - any amount is greatly appreciated! Please make checks payable to Houston Symphony and make a note in the memo "IHC Hospitality Luncheon." In addition, we will shortly begin circulating the Sign-up Genius in March for our various menu options and hope you are able to provide a tasty

food item for our musicians, guests and judges.

There is an excellent group of competitors this year from all the top universities including 12 pianists, 18 violins, 14 cellos, and 8

clarinets and a number of other instruments with a few entrants each. It promises to be another exciting year for the Ima Hogg Competition! **Vicki West** is the Chair.



pearls of the symphony

TASO SPONSORS: Make a Difference at the 2019 Conference!

Outstanding opportunities attract Outstanding Supporters, which is why the TASO Committee is asking YOU to be one of our Select Sponsors for the 2019 Conference.

Your TASO Conference committee has been working diligently to make this year's TASO Conference impacting and entertaining. We will provide exceptional speakers, excellent entertainment and elegant meals. From Friday's "Awards of Excellence," to Saturday's Juanita Miller Competition Performance at the Houston Country Club, this Conference is destined to be one of TASO's best ever because it will offer meaningful events for everyone. Your leadership in sponsoring one or more of the following events will assure the success of this and future TASO Conferences to come.

- * Presidents and Leadership Panel
- * Networking Breakfast
- * Networking Lunch and Speaker
- * Dinner Entertainment
- * Awards of Excellent Dinner (*our very own, Heather Moore, will be one of the honorees*)

- * State of the Arts Panel
- * Luncheon Honoring Past Presidents, Past Conference Chairs
- * Juanita Miller Competition, Winners' Performance
- * Additional speakers

As you can see, attendees at this year's conference will walk away amazed by their experience. They will also note the Sponsors who made it possible, as we will acknowledge your gift on the agenda and in the dinner program. We thank you for considering a Sponsorship contribution and making a difference for Symphonic Music in Texas. Please respond as soon as possible to insure your first choice of Sponsorship(s). Checks may be made payable to the Houston Symphony League/TASO and mailed to:

TASO 2019 - C/O - **Ann Cavanaugh**
4714 Ashley Hope Drive, Katy, TX 77494 In Appreciation,
Helen Shaffer and **Betty Tutor**, Co-Chairs 2019 TASO Conference