



# TASO NEWS

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

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

*Celebrating 51 Years Winter 2019-2020*

## TASO Conference April 2-4 in Austin

### 2020 Vision TASO Austin

TASO 20/20 Co-Chairs **Susan Douglas** and **Beth Grimm**

have been busy planning the upcoming TASO Conference. The conference is scheduled for April 2 – 4, 2020 and will be held at the lovely Renaissance Hotel in Austin's Arboretum area. We have engaged nationally-recognized as well as Texas-based speakers to help us strengthen our organizations with topics on fundraising, getting the most from our boards, and a panel discussion on reasons to give to an arts organization in today's competitive philanthropic community!

We are working on delectable Dine-A-Round restaurant choices for Thursday evening. The venue for lunch on Saturday will have fantastic views of Ladybird Lake while dinner Saturday evening will provide us with lovely views of the Austin skyline!

You won't want to miss Saturday's Symphony Concert. We will be entertained with Copland's The Heiress Suite, Gould's Interplay, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, finishing with Grofé's Grand Canyon Suite.

Final details are being added to the Registration Form and we hope to have the forms ready in the next couple of weeks.



### Dallas Symphony Orchestra leads six Dallas ISD summer programs

Representatives from Dallas Symphony Orchestra taught music lessons at several Dallas ISD elementary schools during the summer. They have begun a program to put instruments in the hands of children who have had no previous access to instruments.

Students learned the basics about reading a music sheet and interacted with many different instruments, most of them for the very first time. DSO organized the first Youth Concert for Dallas ISD students almost 100 years ago, said **Jamie Allen**, DSO Director of Education. Since then, both entities have collaborated to supplement the district's music curriculum with high level concert training and experiences that are not otherwise available.

"For young musicians, the overall goal is to provide those students who want to play an instrument with lessons and an instrument free of charge," Allen said. "We want to remove all barriers to making music as it provides so many opportunities artistically and beyond."

**Marcela Ingram** teaches math at Kahn Elementary School and is the summer site supervisor at the campus. She saw the students were noticeably excited to partake in music lessons and try out different instruments. "Every week they have to pass a test in order to take their instrument home," Ingram said. "They have to learn responsibility and discipline because they have to keep up with a notebook, bring their instrument every day."

The Young Musicians Program is a collaboration between DSO and Dallas ISD's Extended Learning Opportunities. However, DSO will continue providing music lessons to Dallas youth for free! All Dallas ISD students, grades 2nd through 5th, can participate in free Young Musicians programs throughout the school year.

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# President's Letter



Dear TASO members,

You don't want to miss the January TASO Board meeting! There are so many great things happening right now for your TASO group. **Juanita Miller** Concerto Competition, a wonderful speaker for our meeting and updates on the 53rd annual TASO Conference.

The JMCC has received 71 applications for the competition-this number is up in every category. There are 19 piano applicants, up by 9, 36 string applicants, up by 20 and 16 winds/brass applicants, up by 6! The screening judges will certainly have their work cut out for them. The quality of the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition applicants continues to improve every year and you don't want to miss out on experiencing these amazing students!

The JMCC will be held on Sunday, January 12th in the Owens Art Center on the SMU campus at 6101 Bishop in Dallas. The competition runs throughout the day ending with a performance by the winners in each category and the naming of the Grand Prize winner.

We welcome all TASO members to volunteer for this worthy event. To help with this year's event, please contact **Anne Blomeyer** ([anniessong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anniessong@sbcglobal.net)) or **Terri McDowell** ([terrimcdow@aol.com](mailto:terrimcdow@aol.com)). A BIG thank you to Anne and Terri for doing such an amazing job and to **Deborah Brown** for helping us with placing the application and pay process for this event on line- it is a life saver for us and the students!

Our speaker for the January board meeting will be **Vanessa Gardner**. Vanessa is the Executive Director of the East Texas Symphony in Tyler. She is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory and has years of experience in marketing the arts as well as professional and paraprofessional staff. Vanessa will be speaking to the board about a social media project that she developed with the League of American Orchestras last year. We can all use additional insight into updating our social media platforms and this subject matter dovetails excellently with the Strategic Planning Committees emphasis on communications this year. Thank you to Joi Smith for her help in having Vanessa come speak to our group.

Also, in January we will be getting updates on our 53rd Annual TASO Conference to be held in Austin on April 2nd-4th 2020. **Susan Douglas** and **Beth Grimm** having been working non stop to bring our membership a wonderful, fun and informative conference. There is no better place to network and learn about our membership's great projects and best practices than at conference! So, set aside those dates in April on your calendars and join us in Austin!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our January board meeting in Dallas!

*Kathy*

Kathy Sheldon  
TASO President 2019-2020

*Newsletter Deadlines; March 1, 2020, August 1, 2020  
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# TASO News

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Q&A with Patron Member Darlene Clark

As part of our ongoing series “Membership Matters,” we thought it would be interesting to find out why individual membership in TASO matters. **Darlene Clark (Darlene)**, who is not new to TASO but joined this year as a first time Patron Member, agreed to be interviewed and talk about the benefits of individual membership with TASO. She also reveals some things about herself we think you will find fascinating!

**Membership:** Are you new to the TASO board? Which guild are you affiliated with and how long have you been involved with your guild?

**Darlene:** No, I have been a member of the TASO Board on and off (mostly on) for around 4 years. I am affiliated with the Houston Symphony League and have been a member since 2006.

**Membership:** You joined TASO at the Patron level. What inspired you to join as an individual?

**Darlene:** The opportunity to share Symphony volunteer experiences statewide and learn from the other organizations.

**Membership:** What are some of the benefits you’ve received being a TASO board member?

**Darlene:** Sharing information and processes statewide, learning more about advocacy, and meeting fun and like-minded individuals from all over Texas.

**Membership:** Do you play an instrument (or have played an instrument)? If so, name the instrument and why.

**Darlene:** Flute, piccolo and piano. I was always drawn to the piano. I would sit at my grandmother’s piano at 4 years old and create chords and play arpeggios, not knowing what they were. I begged my mom for a piano, but since she was forced to take lessons and hated it, she figured I would feel the same way. When it was time to choose a band or orchestra instrument, I chose the flute (blame “Color My World” and anything from Jethro Tull) and still play in the Gulf Coast Concert Band, which is basically a high school band for “seasoned musicians.” I’ve probably performed the piccolo solo on “Stars and Stripes” more than anyone not in an official military band. One of the more unusual pieces we have performed is a piccolo/tuba duet in front of a concert band called “The Elephant and the Fly”. A year before I retired from AT&T, I bought a Boston baby grand piano and started taking lessons. I am now taking piano lessons from the pianist in the Houston Symphony and flute/piccolo lessons from the piccoloist in the Symphony. Lucky me!

**Membership:** Bass Clef or Treble Clef? (a little Symphony humor)

**Darlene:** As a flutist and piccoloist, definitely Treble. However, with my piano lessons, Bass clef has a foothold. I do not even want to think about Viola clef. That’s just wrong!

**Membership:** What do you hope to contribute to TASO as a Patron member and Board member?

**Darlene:** I hope to bring my experience with the Houston Symphony League to the table and share all the wonderful activities with the rest of the state.

**Membership:** Tell us something about yourself that others may not know about you.

**Darlene:** I have performed with the Houston Symphony twice in a fundraiser called “Share the Stage with the Houston Symphony”. I taught yoga for ten years and do a handstand almost every day. I’m a bit of a wine snob.

*As you can see, Darlene is but one example of the depth and richness that makes our TASO Board so wonderful. Our membership drive for 2020 will begin shortly after the new year. I encourage each of you to consider joining TASO as an individual member.*



## The Women's Symphony League of Austin Jewel Ball – The Sound of Music!

The Women's Symphony League of Austin's Jewel Ball festivities was a weekend for the books. On Friday, September 20, over six-hundred guests attended a sold-out Fashion Luncheon where they were treated with a fashion show and learned about the latest fashion trends from **Julian Gold**. Then, **Jamie Chandlee**, CEO of Rank & Style Co. did a wonderful job visiting with **Brooke Shields**, who answered questions about her life as a child star, model, screen and TV star, mother, and wife! Attendees left the luncheon thinking that Brooke Shields was their new BFF!

On Saturday evening, over one-thousand guests attended the 65th Annual Jewel Ball. Guests, adorned in their formal wear, met at Austin's Palmer Events Center. The evening began with a cocktail hour where old friends reunited and guests mingled around the wonderful silent auction tables. As guests took their seats, the Austin Junior Orchestra entertained with songs from *The Sound of Music*. The formal presentation included seven Austin debutants as well as eight Visiting Jewels from Texas and afar.

*The Women's Symphony of Austin Volunteers Helped make the Austin Symphony Orchestra's Halloween Concerts a Spooktacular Event!* The Women's Symphony League



Top: The 65th Annual Jewel Ball Royal Court; Center: , **Jamie Chandlee**, CEO of Rank & Style Co. and **Brooke Shields**. Bottom center: Vice-President Education **Jennifer Bell** helping unload the Halloween decorations. Right: Women's Symphony League of Austin President, **Karey Oddo** putting on the finishing touches.

of Austin volunteers were at the Long Center bright and early on Sunday, October 27 to ensure all the spooky Halloween decorations were out. Volunteers stayed late after the Halloween Concerts to make sure everything

was stowed away for next year. Jennifer Bell was there as VP of Education to make sure it all went off without a hitch. Thanks to the dozens of volunteers who lent a hand and made this a really fun day to volunteer for WSL!

## Abilene Philharmonic Guild

The Abilene Philharmonic Guild has announced **Dana Endsley** as the Grande Dame, and her husband, **Ferral**, as the Noble Gold for the upcoming Gold Medallion Ball. Dana has been an avid and enthusiastic supporter of the Guild since moving to Abilene over 20 years ago. She has had the honor of serving our guild as a past-president and past-ball chair. The Guild has been planning its annual Gold Medallion Ball which will take place on February 29, 2020. The theme this year will be Alice Through the Looking Glass. In addition to honoring the Grande Dame, the annual event will showcase our seven senior belles and thank them for their volunteer service. The guests will also enjoy dinner, dancing and a silent auction.

The Discover Music concerts for the area students in grade 3-5 were sold out! This year's theme, "Texas Cowboys at the Philharmonic" focused on melodies that shaped the Wild West. Guild members assisted the Abilene Philharmonic Association in coordinating this endeavor with the outlying schools. The Guild will also help decorate the stage for the Christmas concerts with poinsettias which we then sell to members and concert goers. Abilene has been treated to two outstanding performances by the orchestra. In September, world renowned cellist, **Amit Peled**, wowed the audience,

and in October, we experienced symphonic photochoreography for the first time. Photos of rodeo scenes were choreographed to the music of Aaron Copeland's Lincoln Portrait and Rodeo Suite. Our December Pops concert will play to a sold out audience and bring everyone into the holiday spirit!

## Brazos Valley

Four young College Station students competed in the finals of the 22nd annual Brazos Valley Youth Concerto Competition at 3 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in College Station. The competition is sponsored by our Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra and its support guild, the Friends Association of the Symphony Orchestra.

The four finalists were: **Enrique "Ricky" Arellano**, 18, the son of **Jessica Delgado** and **Paul Arellano**. He is a senior at College Station High School and is a member of the band as well as principal oboe with Brazos Civic Orchestra. He performed the first movement from "Oboe Concerto in C" by Frank Joseph Haydn. **Hannah Jeong**, 13, is the daughter of **Sewon Han** and **David Hyungseok Jeong**. She is in the eighth grade at Wellborn Middle School. Hannah has been a member of the Houston Youth Symphony since 2018 and currently serves as assistant principal cello. She also was principal cello of the Region 8 orchestra last year. She performed the fourth movement from "Cello Concerto in E Minor" by Edward Elgar. **Jeremy No**, 15,

is the son of **Eun Sug Park** and **Eun Gyu No** and is a sophomore at A&M Consolidated High School. He is a member of the Consolidated orchestra and the Korean Christian Youth Chamber Orchestra. He performed the first movement from "Cello Concerto in C" by Frank Joseph Haydn.

**Noah Taylor**, 17, is the son of **Kim Taylor** and **Zane Taylor** and is a junior at College Station High School where he participated in UIL Science and VEX Robotics. He is a member of the school's marching and concert bands. He scored Division 1 ratings in both state solo and ensemble competitions and placed fifth in the area concert band. He played the third movement from "Concerto No. 1 for Marimba and Strings" by Emmanuel Sejourne.

**Chris Hoffman** of College Station accompanied all four finalists on the piano. The finalists were judged by **Bradley Calame**, **Adam Mikeal** and **Penny Zent**. The Symphony Belles provided a reception for guests while the judges made their decisions and assisted with competition logistics.

Last Spring, students in any area public or private school or home schooled were invited to submit their performance of any movement from any concerto for any instrument. **Dr. Marcelo Bussiki**, music director/conductor of the Brazos Valley Symphony, judged the entries blindly and chose the finalists, who were invited to perform their entry from memory at the finals.



**Hannah Jeong** captured the first place with her performance of the fourth movement from “Cello Concerto on E Minor” by Edward Elgar. The three professional judges were wowed by her performance.

She will have the opportunity to play with the Brazos Valley Symphony at a future date.

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

*Patti Flowers Receives 2nd Annual Fashion Notes Designer Award at DSOL Fashion Presentation and Luncheon*

Local Dallas fashion designer **Patti Flowers** received the 2nd Annual Fashion Notes Designer Award at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League’s 6th Annual Fashion Notes Designer Award Luncheon, Auctions and Style Show on November 4th at The Ritz-Carlton. She worked with her longtime friend and collaborator **Venise Stuart** who served as the Honorary Chair. The duo are paired for another major event in the coming months. Venise is the President of the Women’s Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and Patti will chair the Mad Hatter’s Tea next April for the organization.

The event was chaired by **Kristin Cordiak** and **Kim Brannon** is the DSOL President. Fashion Notes kicked off holiday celebrations with the luncheon and style show highlighting fashion design and the Dallas Symphony community. The morning began



*Top left: **Joe Brannon**, DSOL President **Kim Brannon**, hosts **Angela Fontana** and **Andy Szuwalski**. Top right: **Venise Stuart** and **Patti Flowers**; Bottom left: DSO Musicians **Lydia Umlauf** and **Mariana Cottier-Buc**; Right: The **Sullivan family** at the Jewel Ball in Austin.*

with a Mystery Notes Reception, a reimagined silent auction, Designer Award presentation, fashion show and luncheon and closed with a live auction.

Patti is a native Texan who spent her career in the luxury fashion industry. She began designing over 35 years ago. When the exclusive Dallas retailer Stanley Korshak opened its first bridal salon, Flowers was the in-house designer specializing in bridal, evening, and debutante gowns. Today, Flowers is recognized as one of the premier bridal and fine apparel designers in Texas. In 2006, Flowers launched the Patti Flowers Design Studio. Since that time, she has dressed many of the most fashionable women

in Texas. Flowers’ designs are featured in numerous publications including: Women’s Wear Daily, People Magazine, D Magazine, Modern Luxury and the coffee table book Outdoor Weddings by Mallory Samson.

Venise Stuart is a long-time Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO) supporter and Dallas Symphony Orchestra League (DSOL) volunteer. She is a prominent civic leader in the Dallas area, and her long history with the DSO began when she joined the Junior Group of the DSOL in 1986. Since that time, she has been honored to serve as a member of the DSO Board of Governors, DSOL Presentation Ball Chair, DSOL Junior Group President, and as a

multi-year DSOL Board member. She has volunteered continuously during these many years.

**Dallas Symphony League Represented at Jewel Ball in Austin**  
**Samantha Anne Sullivan** will represent the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League in the 65th Annual Jewel Ball in Austin on September 21, 2019 at the Palmer Events Center. The Jewel Ball honors families throughout the state who have contributed significantly to their respective Symphony Orchestras. Sponsored by the Women's Symphony League of Austin, proceeds from the event benefit educational and music appreciation programs. Samantha is the daughter of **Mr. Travis Daniel Sullivan Jr.** and **Mrs. Eve Norton Sullivan.** She is a Junior at Southern Methodist University, where she is pursuing a degree in Corporate Communications and Public Relations.

**"A Major" Chat**  
Dallas Symphony Orchestra League hosted "A Major" Chat, an intimate evening in a private home with a brief program by two DSO musicians. Wine, heavy hors d'oeuvres and music were the evening's focus. Violinists **Lydia Umlauf** and **Mariana Cottier-Bucco** provided background and stories of their experiences. Hosts were **Angela Fontana** and **Andy Szuwalski.**

**Brazos Valley**  
The Friends Association of the Symphony Orchestra (FASO) began the 2019-2020 year with



Left: **Dr. Mary Koeninger** and **Dr. Marcelo Bussiki**; Right: **Beth Pennebaker**, President of FASO.

a Fall Reception at the SEAD Gallery in historic Bryan, Texas. The reception welcomed new members and guests to this historic Federal Building built in 1915. This building is home to Innovative Underground and SEAD Gallery- a community and economic development project by AdventGX. An ornithology collection was featured at the Gallery.

The Reception was catered by Jezebell's, a local business and featured various hors d'oeuvres and wines from local vineyards. Fifteen Symphony Belles greeted the guests and assisted in serving the guests. The **Scott Kunkle** Trio and vocalist entertained with jazz music during the evening. **Beth Pennebaker**, FASO President, introduced special guests and the 2019-2010 FASO Board. **Maestro Marcelo Bussiki** and **Dr. Mary Koeninger** previewed the new concert season- A Kaleidoscope of Classics. A special presentation of the Star Wars saga- Star Wars: A New Hope was announced. The entire film will be shown on a 50 foot screen with the Brazos Valley Symphony playing the



John Williams soundtrack. The classical package features guest arts such as the Cliburn Silver medalist and opera star, **Emily Pulley**, a College Station native. In addition, the American country music classic, Asleep at the Wheel, will perform. The membership of TASO enjoyed an evening of music and visiting with friends who support the continuing performances of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra.

## Symphony League of Fort Worth

The Symphony League of Ft. Worth had their first Board meeting at the end of August, held in the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Executive Board Room. FWSO Liaison, **Katelyn O'Donel** reported on plans for Opening Night, the first concert.

The departure of the long time and beloved **Miguel Harth Bedoya**, Conductor, was discussed. They are sponsoring "Moments with Miguel", a specially prepared book for league members to express their thanks and farewell wishes. At every concert Miguel is



conducting, the League is hosting a table in the lobby with a red leather book in which patrons can write their favorite moment, concert or wish him well. Guest artists and musicians will also be invited to sign the book. The book will be presented to him at the final League event. 63 members and guests attended the first meeting in September, where an Italian Buffet was served at Trinity Terrace. Entertainment was provided by **Eugene Cherkasov**, assistant Concert master.

Several members from The Symphony League of Ft. Worth attended the luncheon sponsored by the "Heart of Gold Foundation of Fort Worth. This honored **Roz Rosenthal**, a league member and great supporter to many of the arts organizations in Fort Worth.

Recruitment officer, **Carol Naugles**, and Vice President-Education, **Willa Dunlevy** sponsored a welcome event for prospective members. **Dotty Hall**, President, gave an introduction to volunteering with the league. Willa Dunlevy gave information explaining all about our volunteer activities with the Children's Music Education Program. The Symphony League of Fort Worth is sponsoring our Holiday party December 5th, at the Woman's Club of Fort Worth. This will be the closing event for 2019.

## Get Your State of the Arts License Plate

Have you ever wondered what one of the easiest ways is to support the arts in Texas? Look no further! Get a State of the Arts license plate for your vehicle today! A State of the Arts license plate costs \$30 in addition to your regular registration fee. The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) receives \$22 DIRECTLY for each State of the Arts license plate sold OR renewed.

Revenue generated from the sale of State of the Arts license plates is used to fund TCA's arts programs all across Texas! In addition to getting YOUR State of the Arts plate, do your part to help us promote this important program! All the information you need to get your plate and to help promote this vital program can be found [https:// tinyurl.com/TXartsLP](https://tinyurl.com/TXartsLP).

There are all sorts of ads, banners and materials you can help circulate in your community to help this program thrive!

## Arts Vote Texas

Elevating Arts, Culture, & Creativity in Elections in Texas. We see a direct correlation between educating candidates for elected office, activating citizens to be engaged and committed arts voters, and positive electoral outcomes in support of arts and culture!

Seeing the need and opportunity

to make arts and culture a critical part of a candidate's platform, Texans for the Arts Foundation launched Arts Vote Texas in January of this year, a nonpartisan public education campaign to raise awareness and support for arts, culture, and creative expression. Working together with artists, arts leaders, residents and educators, our goal is to strategically organize, advocate and elevate the arts and culture as a platform issue with elected officials and community leaders. We piloted this initiative as Arts Vote Dallas in partnership with the Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition (DACAC) and MASSCreative in Boston, with generous support from the Embrey Family Foundation and the Hersh Foundation.

## Texas Arts Advocacy Day 2019!

On February 5th, over 180 arts leaders and advocates spoke up at Texans for the Arts' 2019 Texas Arts Advocacy Day. Traveling from across the state, participants spent the morning learning about the issues, at lunch enjoying music in the Rotunda, and then an afternoon making over 80 visits with their Texas legislators and their staff. They shared important data and their stories about how the arts make a difference in their communities and in their legislators' districts and sharing Texans for the Arts' 86th Session Legislative Agenda.



## Plano Symphony Orchestra

The mission of the Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is to inspire, educate, entertain and involve the children, youth and adults of our community in the enjoyment of great music. PSO organizes many events outside of the subscription concerts in order to be part of the fabric of the community, support our local businesses and cultural events. PSO reaches out to 190,000 North Texans and approximately 40,000 children through various education programs. PSO conducts 250 events a year which include only eight formal concerts. Because the PSO reaches so many businesses, schools and individuals, the city governments and companies provide generous grants to the PSO.

PSO symphony holds 16 School concerts for approximately 40,000 fourth and fifth graders over a two-week period. Public, private and home school students are invited from Collin county and surrounding communities.

PSO Petting Zoo brings working musical instruments to more than 30 events held at festivals and in schools. The idea is to let children touch musical instruments. The Petting Zoo goes to numerous community events each year as well as the Family Symphony series that is held in several communities for kids

There are multiple Christmas concerts in 2 different communities. The concerts

feature guest artists and local choirs as the Symphony plays. At two of the concerts, food is collected before the concert and donated to the Seven Loaves Food Pantry located at St. Andrews Methodist Church in Plano.

PSO orchestra musicians play at schools, jails and old age homes as part of Healing Notes – Interactive Music Therapy Program. On March 24, 2019, residents and staff from eight Community Homes for Adults, Inc. (CHAI) had an indoor picnic sponsored by the Congregation Anshai Torah in Plano. A PSO ensemble played Broadway and Disney movie melodies and asked the audience to “name that tune.” A second example is the Salvation Army After School Program partnered with the Boys & Girls Club provide music lessons during the PISD school year in East Plano.

Fundraising Committee activities include restaurants, sporting events and wine tastings introducing PSO patrons to businesses. In 2019, seventy people attended to the Frisco Rough Riders baseball game. Scholarship Program for 6th and 7th grade students provides free music lessons for an instrument of their choice for the entire school year. In 2019, the PSO performed with dancers from the Ballet Ensemble of Texas, Mexico 2000, and Strutilaya School of Classical Indian Dance in a performance as part of the Plano International Festival where

the proceeds benefitted the scholarship program. There were 12 scholarships in 2018 and 18 scholarships in 2019 that were awarded.

The Debutante Program that starts in the junior year of senior high school is a two-year program for young women and men (Honor Guard) to prepare for college and beyond. It focuses on life skill education with one of the most popular classes being a car clinic.

Collin County Young Artist Competition is a one-day event where children in Grades 1 through 12 compete in for a grand prize. The best three performers play with the PSO in a subscription concert. There were 125 competitors in 2019 with three overall winners.

## The Big Spring Symphony Guild

The Big Spring Symphony Guild is happy to report a hugely successful and well attended kickoff for The Big Spring Symphony's 38th Season - "The Good, The Better and The Beethoven"! The first concert, "The New World", was held on September 14th and Guest Artist, **Fei-Fei Dong**, delivered a breath-taking performance of Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor" as she broke in the Symphony's newly refurbished 1941 Baldwin Concert Grand. She is pictured with Maestro Keith Graumann in the first picture. The audience was also treated to Beethoven's

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“Overture to Egmont” and Dvorak’s “Symphony No. 9”. The Guild hosted a reception sponsored by Southern Belle Treats and Eats immediately following the performance.

The Big Spring Symphony Guild presented a \$10,000 check from last season’s fundraising efforts to the BSSO Board of Directors at the Symphony’s annual kickoff gala that was held two days prior to the concert.

The Guild has been very busy planning for upcoming events. Next on the calendar is “The Nutcracker Ballet” on December 14th, featuring The Midland Festival Ballet. The Guild will be selling Nutcracker Ornaments and handing out candy canes to concert attendees. They will also be feeding the children dancers prior to the performance. H-E-B Tournament of Champions recently awarded the Big Spring Symphony a \$10,000 grant to offset the costs of this production. The Guild’s annual fundraiser and fashion show has been set for March 21, 2020 at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring and the theme will be “Beethoven’s 250 Birthday Party”.

## Waco Symphony Council

Waco Symphony Council is off to a great start for 2019-2020 year. The past few months were getting the Belle and Brass program off to a wonderful start with the Orientation, Music Appreciation Seminar and Ropes Course. These are all opportunities for Juniors and Sophomores to meet peers from high schools



Left: **Fei-Fei Dong**, with **Maestro Keith Graumann**; Right: **Maestro Keith Graumann**, **Jobeth Corwin**, **Earl Permenter**, **Natalie Permenter**, **Pauline Nelson**, Guild President **Suzanne Markwell** and BSSO Board President **Mark Watt**.

throughout Waco. They have enjoyed the activities, especially the trust portion of the Ropes Course at Baylor.

Two Preview Parties have hosted in private homes. During these parties, members of the Council mingle with new and old friends while munching on tasty treats provided by our volunteers. **Maestro Stephen**



Middle Right: **Dr. Scott Livesay**, **Debbie Thornton**, **Tanya Clark** and **Dr. Karina Loya** at Preview Party; Bottom left: **The Belle and Brass** ropes course. Bottom right: **Maestro Stephen Heyde** presented a preview of the upcoming concert.



**Heyde** presented a preview of the upcoming concert. He is able to give us insight about the music, as well as, an inside story about the various pieces. We were treated to a special surprise at the first Preview Party when **Drew Petersen** played a piece.

## The San Angelo Symphony Guild

The San Angelo Symphony Guild is enjoying a wonderful time celebrating the year of the Orient express. In September we traveled to Chinatown with the board dressed in kimonos. In November we went to Bangkok complete with a luncheon in the San Angelo railway museum. Both meetings have featured wonderful Asian food and gift certificates to Asian restaurants.

San Angelo Symphony Guild ambassadors have partnered with the Symphony board in a Drive for Warmth. Coats are being collected for local children. There will be a chance for people to bring coats to the symphony.

In the TASO Inspired strategic plan San Angelo Symphony Guild has awarded the symphony money and are in closer contact local student orchestras who have also been awarded money. They will perform at various guild meetings and functions. Another way that the Guild has broadened their scope this year is by bringing in speakers to meetings with topics relative to our Asian theme. In September, **Kim Rike** spoke about an adoption and foster program available for Chinese children that



will be in the San Angelo area in December. In November a survivor of communism as a child spoke to us about the healing power of music. January's meeting will be a Chinese new year celebration. In February we will honor the San Angelo Asian American Women's Association. In March, a local retired teacher teaching Chinese children online daily will speak and also include a demonstration of Mah jongg.

The guild has also started a new program called **Women of Note**. Prominent San Angelo woman who are not a guild members have been honored during the last two meetings. This women have made significant contributions in San Angelo in the arts. Women will be recognized at the upcoming

meetings throughout this year also. They are an honorary guild member for a year upon receiving this award.

Monthly guild member spotlights are still being sent out to the membership. This includes 4 to 5 different members honored a month with their biographical information provided. It is our hope that we will get to know each other better through this process. Composer of the month and concert highlights are also sent out prior to concerts.

Our wonderful 9th grade Senior Beaux and Belles were presented at the November concert and continue to work in various areas for service hours and always grace our concerts with their beauty.



## Houston Symphony League

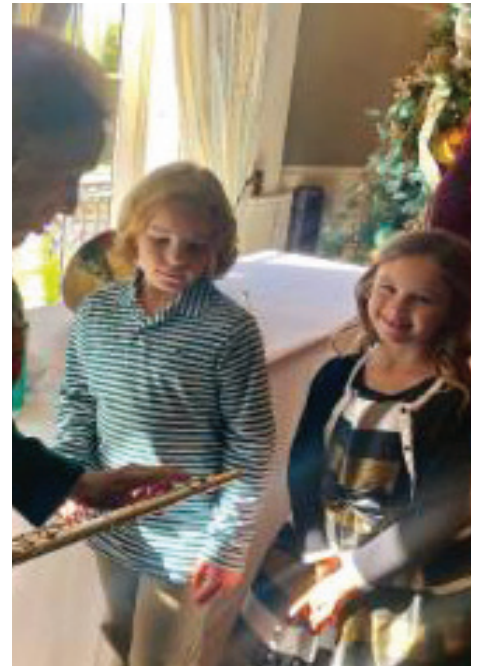
Our exciting new website is up and active – [www.houstonsymphonyleague.com](http://www.houstonsymphonyleague.com). There you will find information on membership, board members, chairs of events, a calendar of events with the type of event, location and map and a link to purchase Symphony concert tickets.

### Orchestra/Staff Luncheons

Our 2019-2020 Orchestra & Staff Luncheons are held twice a year in the Rehearsal Room at Jones Hall. This is a wonderful event that enables our League members to show their support for the Houston Symphony musicians and staff. It's fun, informal and a unique opportunity for volunteers to visit and mingle with the talented musicians, we see on stage and the staff who support the organization. Approximately 60-70 orchestra members are served at each event.

This season marks our 40th year of serving food to the musicians and staff. To celebrate this momentous occasion our theme will be “ruby”, the traditional 40th-anniversary gift. All of our decorations will be red and our 10-15 volunteers will also wear red to the luncheon.

The success of this event is predicated on League members bringing food, making monetary donations and/or volunteering to help with food prep and serving the day of the event.



*Top left: Darlene Clark Right top: Jeanne Cox, league volunteer demonstrating an instrument. Bottom left: Darlene Clark and Helen Shaffer receiving the award. Bottom right: Michelle Matzer, Co-Chair signing up volunteers at membership luncheon.*

[www.tasovolunteers.com](http://www.tasovolunteers.com)

## **Gold Book Award**

At the last League of American Orchestras Conference, our League received a Gold Book Award for our presentation of the 2018 Houston Symphony Ball Auction, "The Balinese Room", chaired by Helen Shaffer and Ann Ayre.

## **Magical Musical Morning December 8, 2019**

Finding the spark that ignites a child's imagination is a quest of every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult. That glorious moment when the youngster first puts his/her hands on a musical instrument - is pure magic. The magic awaits you and your beloved child at Magical Musical Morning on December 8, 2019 at the River Oaks Country Club.

**Joan Duff**, our 2019 MMM Chair, in 2018, experienced the magic of Magical Musical Morning - a magic whose comet trails continue to sparkle and light her life. As a new member of the Houston Symphony League and grandmother to eight youngsters Joan zeroed in on the December event and immediately bought a table for her Houston area grandchildren.

A standard activity for children at Houston Symphony League events is the Instrument Petting Zoo. Volunteers help children have their first experience of holding and playing a real musical instrument. The Houston Symphony League's Magical Musical Morning raises funds for The Houston Symphony's Education and

Community Outreach Programs. In any given week throughout the year, musicians may be found throughout the Houston metropolitan area presenting formal recital programs for seniors, demonstrating their instruments to young students in schools, holding master classes at area high schools, or inspiring patients and their families at Texas Children's Hospital. This is just part of what will be funded through Magical Musical Morning.

## **Family Concert**

Saturday, December 14, 2019  
'Twas the Night Before Christmas and all through Jones Hall, the Symphony will play to delight one and all. Envision sugar plums, flying reindeer and a sleigh filled

with toys as the classic holiday story 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" comes to life with live music and narration, plus sing along to festive favorites like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." If you sing loudly enough, you might even receive a visit from a very special man in a red suit... Children of all ages, including infants, are welcome at Family Series performances. Families can enjoy a craft station and other musical activities, like our Instrument Petting Zoo, in the Jones Hall lobby! Activities take place before the 10 a.m. concert and from 12:30-1 p.m. after the 11:30 a.m. concert. Our League provides the volunteers to help with all the activities and crafts.

## **TASO Conference**

**April 2 – 4, 2020**

**Renaissance Hotel**  
in Austin's Arboretum area.

# Texans for the Arts

## Interim Legislative Roadmap

Texans for the Arts' "Interim" agenda between the 86th and 87th Texas Legislative Sessions continues to reinforce the importance of ensuring that you and your organizations initiate and grow a positive working relationship with your state legislators (House and Senate) and Congressional leaders, too.

There is a good chance you already know your legislators, but if not, look them up at <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>. Then double check that they are on your mailing list and make sure you are following them on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Members are very appreciative of positive social media posts, so this should help create additional goodwill. In addition, sign up for their mailing list so that you can learn more about them and their interests and be certain to invite them to your concerts and events. Include legislative staff in these invitations as their role can be key especially when your legislators are in Austin during the Session.

Find or create opportunities to thank your Texas legislators and acknowledge their support of the arts and for approving the 86th Session Budget that provided the largest appropriation increase to the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) in the history of the agency. Texans for the Arts led the legislative strategy that secured these funds including \$10 million for TCA Cultural Districts. (Congratulations to the Dallas Symphony, the Houston Symphony and the Lubbock

Symphony for receiving funding from this appropriation in September 2019.)

Always acknowledge when a legislator is present at an event. Find or create opportunities to give awards (TASO is already doing that at the statewide level, but consider local awards). Use Social Media to promote your events and "tag" legislators in whose districts those events are happening. Consider opportunities to invite legislators to participate on panels, give keynotes, or speak at public events.

Encourage your symphony members to register to vote and to be prepared to vote in all upcoming elections including May 2020 primaries and the November 2020 general election, voting to support arts-friendly candidates. All Texas House members and several Senate members are up for re-election in 2020. Send photos to Texans for the Arts of you with your legislators for us to post on our social media!

THANK YOU! Do not underestimate how important it is to build relationships with your legislators. We frequently need these connections during the legislative session and it's great to be able to call you up - our grassroots advocates - and ask for your support in reaching out to your legislators! They take pride in the communities they represent and they have great reason to be proud of their TASO members across Texas! Questions? Contact **Ann S. Graham**, Executive Director, Texans for the Arts, [info@texansforthearts.com](mailto:info@texansforthearts.com)

## Strategic Planning Committee Advocacy Report -

*November 19, 2019*

Texans for the Arts led the legislative strategy in the 86th Texas Legislative Session that led to the largest single increase and the largest total budget for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) in the state agency's history.

The final budget approved in the 86th for the Texas Commission on the Arts is \$16,443,083 for 2019-2020 and \$11,493,038 for 2020-2021. These funds include a restoration of \$5 million initially appropriated in the 84th Session and cut in the 85th Session, and an additional increase of \$5 million for a total of \$10 million for the TCA's Cultural District grant program, and a new \$250,000 for the TCA's Arts Respond grants that expressly fund programs that use the arts as a means for healing in working with veterans and active duty service men and women and their families. Since the ending of the Session, the Texas Commission on the Arts has approved funding of 868 grants in its first funding round for fiscal year 2020. The grants total over \$8.9 million and will go to nonprofits and units of government in 111 Texas cities. The Texas Commission on the Arts has approved funding of 43 Arts Respond Cultural District Project grants for fiscal year 2020. The grants total over \$4.6 million and will go to arts nonprofits and local government agencies in 20 cultural districts. The grants ranged from \$5,500 to \$250,000.