



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

Young musicians vie for title at statewide Juanita Miller Concerto Competition

A panel of three judges selected alto saxophone player **Austin Shilling**, an 11th grader from Fort Worth, as grand prize winner for the 2020 Juanita Miller Concerto Competition held January 12 at the Owen Arts Center at Southern Methodist University. The competition is hosted annually by the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras (TASO). Earlier in the daylong competition, Shilling won first place in the winds/brass division. **Perren-Luc Thiessen**, a 10th grader from Lucas, won first place in the piano division. **Lauren Mathews**, an 11th grader from Katy, Texas took first place in the strings division.

The late **Juanita Miller**, founding president of TASO, began the concerto competition in 1997. She and her husband, the late **Henry S. Miller**, both of Dallas, provided the initial underwriting and subsequent gifts to fund these youth competitions which now bear her name. **Patsy Donosky**, daughter of Juanita and Henry S. Miller represented her late mother at this year's competition.

Grand Prize

Austin Shilling (Fort Worth, 11th)

First Place Winners

1st Place Alto Sax Austin Shilling (Fort Worth, 11th)

1st Place Cello Lauren Mathews (Katy, 11th)

1st Place Piano Perren-Luc Thiessen (Lucas, 10th)



TASO Members – Front row: **Kathy Sheldon, Anne Blomeyer, Nancie Rissing, Joi Smith**. Back row: **Janie Orr, Candis Hicks, Annette Findley, Deborah Brown**.

All Winners 2020

Winds/Brass

Grand Prize Alto Sax

Austin Shilling (Fort Worth, 11th)

2nd Place Flute Lorien Britt (Fate, 10th)

3rd Place Clarinet James Li (Plano, 11th)

Hon Mention Oboe Michelle Zhu (Plano, 11th)

Strings

1st Place Cello Lauren Mathews (Katy, 11th)

2nd Place Viola Jacob Choi (McKinney, 10th)

3rd Place Violin Gabriel Fedak (Irving, 11th)

Hon Mention Violin Matthew Ho (Plano, 11th)

Hon Mention Viola Jackie Liu (Plano, 11th)

Piano

1st Place Piano Perren-Luc Thiessen (Lucas, 10th)

2nd Place Piano Claire Chiang (Plano, 11th)

3rd Place Piano Nachuan Tao (Fort Worth, 9th)

Hon Mention Piano Ella Tran (Arlington, 9th)

Hon Mention Piano Shiv Yajnik (Dallas, 11th)



Cancelled April 2-4

President's Letter



Happy Spring Everyone!

Susan Douglas, Beth Grimm and their committee have worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure that everyone gains a better vision for the future of their league by attending the 2020 Vision Conference in Austin April 2nd-4th! If you haven't already, please fill out the forms on our website and send them in. First Lady **Cecilia Abbott** will be welcoming everyone to Austin and to the conference at our Opening Session on Friday morning. After a short business meeting the conference will then focus on best practices for your league. **Karin Cox**, a renowned expert and author on fundraising techniques will be the featured speaker at our opening session. The featured speaker for Saturday is **Ben Bentzin**, Ben is a Lecturer in Marketing at the University of Texas and his topic for the session is "Marketing your Organization". Our second speaker for Saturday will be **Beth Mueller**, she will be helping us discover our personality types- this should be not only fun but enlightening!

TASO's main purpose is to support and inform our member leagues on topics of interest to our symphonic goals. Along with the speakers listed above, there will be informative panel discussions and of course, lots of fun networking experiences. As you can see the 2020 Vision Conference is one not to be missed!

TASO hosted the **Juanita Miller** Concerto Competition on Sunday, January 12th, 2020. As always, the level of talent these students display is amazing! We were able to give the students the ability to register, send their demos and pay online this year. This change led to an incredible 71 registrants. A huge thank you to **Anne Blomeyer, Terri McDowell, Ellen Jones, Alice Hoeschler** and **Heather Moore** for their hard work. The winners of our three categories will be performing at conference in Austin, just another reason to come play with us!

This year we wanted to focus on creating a more user-friendly website for our members. As a member you can look up useful information about TASO and our members in our annual handbook under the members only page. You can now fill in and pay for your group or individual memberships online, as well as fill in the Statistical Report form- these forms are located under the Membership tab, then click on "Join". We are able to offer these conveniences due to the wizardry and expertise of our Technology Manager **Deborah Brown** and the hard work of our Membership Chairman **Paula Floeck**.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter this year online, but if you attend conference (I am a shameless fan of attending conference) we will have a beautifully produced printed version. Our Newsletter chairmen **Sandy Secor** and **Sharon Knowles** have done an incredible job putting the newsletter together- it is akin to herding cats to get articles and photos in time for production, but they have done it with style and grace!

One last thing, but certainly not the least important thing- it has been an honor serving as President of TASO this year and there is not enough space to thank everyone who has advised me or helped me. Just know as a member of TASO there are so many talented ladies whose focus is on improving all our leagues and in supporting orchestral music in our communities, our state and our nation! I am proud and humble in being a member of the leadership of such an outstanding group!

Kathy

Sincerely, Kathy Sheldon, TASO President 2019-2020

Newsletter Deadline; August 1, 2020
TASO Newsletter Co-Editor, Sandy Secor, jwsecor@sbcglobal.net
TASO Newsletter Co-Editor, Sharon Knowles, sharonknowles@tx.rr.com

Membership

MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP!

I'll bet you can't guess what this article is about! Yes, it's that time of year where we need to renew our membership with TASO. We have streamlined the process to make it easier than ever to get those membership dues in for the upcoming year.

You have several options to complete the requisite forms and remit your payment. Those options include:

- To complete your paperwork and pay online, click on the link (or paste into your browser search engine) <https://www.tasovolunteers.com/join> and go to the links under the header, "To Pay Online." You will be guided step by step to completing the forms and remitting payment electronically. It's simple and convenient!
- If you want to print the forms and mail in with your payment you can download the forms from the website from the same link noted in the previous bullet and go to the header "To Download and Mail." Print those forms, put them in the mail with a check and you're done!
- If you would like the forms emailed to you to download and print you can send an email to Paula Floeck at stocksail@yahoo.com. I sent an email to all current guild members, Patron Members and Affiliate Members with the forms on February 23, 2020, but if you did not receive it or need me to resend, just ask!
- I can send the forms regular mail if that is your preference. Please email me at the address noted in the previous bullet point or call me at 254-717-6234 and I will be happy to mail the forms to you.
- If you are coming to the TASO conference in Austin April 2-4th, we will be happy to help you get your forms completed and you can pay your dues during that time.

Renewing guild dues is a must but joining as an individual member of TASO furthers our cause. We enjoyed membership at the individual level this year with 25 Patron Members and 4 Affiliate Members. The Membership team is setting a goal for this year to attain 30 Patron Members and 10 Affiliate Members. Patron members will be receiving recognition at this year's TASO conference which is a new perk to this level of membership. Stay tuned!

Whether you join as a voting member or individual remember that without membership, TASO would not exist. TASO brings Texas Guilds/Leagues together to work throughout the state to promote and support symphonic music. Individual membership gives TASO the ability to further support meaningful work in the areas of advocacy, musical performance and competition, and education.

Whatever method you choose to renew your Membership remember the bottom line:

J U S T J O I N !

M E M B E R S H I P M A T T E R S !

Abilene Philharmonic Guild

The Abilene Philharmonic Guild held their annual Gold Medallion Ball on February 29, 2020 to the theme of Alice through the Looking Glass. The event celebrated the city's orchestra and thanked the seven seniors who have committed their time and talent for the last five years to serving in the Belles and Beaus Program.

This year's Grande Dame and Noble Gold were longtime, dedicated supporters of the Abilene Philharmonic, **Dana** and **Ferral Endsley**. **Joni** and **Bill Wood** were Honorary Ball Chairs and **Donna Thorne** was the recipient of the Golden Charm Award for all the years of volunteer service.

The Mad Hatter Tea started off the celebrations with the presentation of the seniors, escorted by their mothers. Three Belles, **Laurel Sanders**, **Mary Ellis Ferguson** and **Jessica Touchstone**, were awarded awards and scholarships for their volunteer service to the Guild. Violinist, **William Hagen**, serenaded guests at the Tea and the Gala. Guests dined on the outstanding Texas cuisine from Perini Ranch Steakhouse and then danced to the music of Trey and the Tritones. Overall, the Gala was a wonderful success and even the Queen of Hearts would have been enthralled!

Abilene's Philharmonic season has been outstanding thanks to the work and vision of our Music Director and Conductor, **Maestro David Itkin**. Earlier

this year, we were treated to the piano playing of Abilene's very own Halle Puckett, now a senior at TCU. Broadway legendary composer and lyricist, **Jerry Herman**, was celebrated at the latest concert. Many will know his music from "Hello, Dolly" and "Mame." In April, the Abilene Philharmonic will be featuring the world-renowned Canadian Brass. That will be a concert not to be missed!



Top: **Dana Endsley** and **Joni Wood**.
Bottom: Belles, **Laurel Sanders**,
Mary Ellis Ferguson and **Jessica Touchstone**.

Amarillo Symphony

The 5th annual Music is Monumental luncheon was held Friday, November 15th at the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts in the Gilliland Education Room. The event was a spectacular celebration of the individual talents of our Young Artist Project Recipients, with all six recipients recognized during the program.

Amarillo Symphony Music Director, **Jacomo Bairos**, led the program while guest speaker, **Dr. Kimberly Hieb** spoke about the symphony's evening program and artistic influences in the 17th and 18th centuries. We were delighted to also have guest artist **Brook Speltz** and composer **Chris Rogerson** on hand to discuss how vital music education is in our community and our world. The program ended with a fabulous cello performance by **Speltz** and invitation by Bairos to enjoy the Symphony's weekend performances!

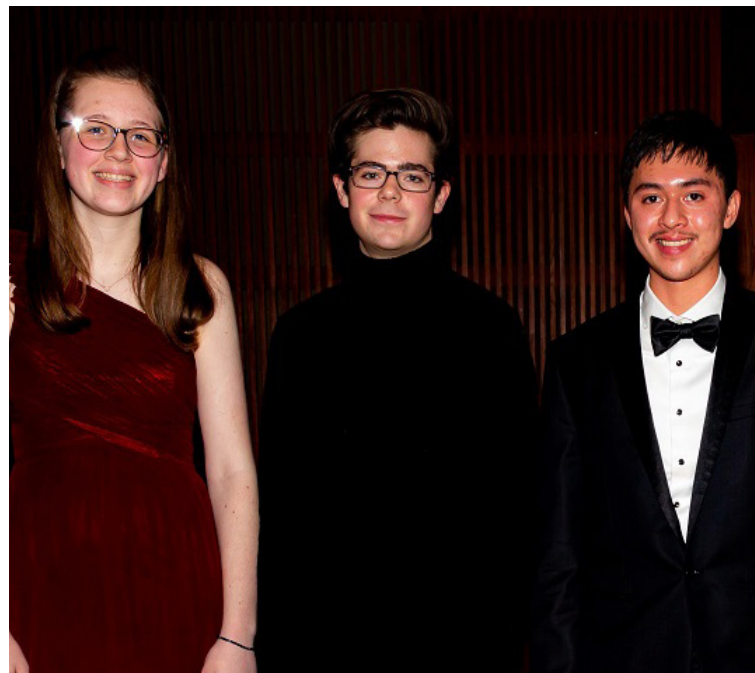
This year's Belles and Beaux were presented before the Saturday night concert, the following night. This is a long enriched program and we appreciate everyone that came and supported these ladies and gentlemen. They have already completed many service projects and can't wait to be celebrated at the Symphony Ball in February.

Like us on
Facebook!

7ASO News



Top and Bottom left: Amarillo Symphony **Belles and Beaux**. The 2019-20 Symphony Guild **Belles and Beaux** were presented November 16, 2019 at the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts. Right: Guest Artist **Brook Speltz**.



Juanita Miller Competition 2020 Judges: Left: String Division - **Dmitri Berlinsky**, Michigan State University College of Music; **Patsy Donosky**; Piano Division - **Mia Chung-Yee**, Curtis Institute of Music; Winds & Brass Division - **Mark Ostoich**, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Right: **Juanita Miller Competition 2020 Winners:** **Lauren Mathews**, **Perren-Luc Thiessen**, **Austin Shilling**

Beaumont Symphony League

What an amazing year the Beaumont Symphony League has shared with their members! **Hillary Shanningam** has served the League and SOST with much success and accomplishment.

Nineteen beautiful young women gracefully move through their Debutante season. We were had 48 Symphony Belles and 32 Beau's. The addition of the Beau program was a wonderful success. Another new addition to the League, was the adorable Flower Belles. These little girls participated in a sweet princess tea and they helped to present our Belles at the Symphony Ball. The League also recently welcomed 15 new Debutantes and are looking forward to getting to know each of these young ladies.

Ayna Parsons and her team planned and executed a stunningly beautiful and Symphony Ball. The Civic Center was filled with sparkle as we celebrated *"Belles and Beau's Beneath a Crystal Cloud"*. Thank you to Ayna and everyone that helped to make this ball a success.

We are thrilled with all the children that are participating in our String After School Program. We are in our third year of being able to offer string lessons for free to the youth of community. The program has grown every year and we are excited to see the progress these students

have made. Vice-President of Education, **Mandy Oliverio**, and **Martha Giaritano** deserve lots of thanks for all their hard work with the string programs. The League once again hosted the String Competition and we heard 41 talented young people make music on February 22 at Lamar University.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 at the home of **Mrs. Johnnie Broussard**, 300 East Circuit. Join your League friends at our amazing year with a beautiful luncheon.

Plano Symphony Orchestra

Interaction with Children and Youth

The Plano Symphony Orchestra provides programming to reach children and youth with multiple age appropriate programs and activities. There is also a dedicated website *"EncoreYouth"* that details the programming in addition to music, games, educational material, etc all targeted to young people, parents and teachers. These activities include the Family Symphony Sunday Series including the Spooky Symphony and Scout Program, School Concert Education Program, Young Artist Competition, the Instrument Petting Zoo, Salvation Army / Boys and Girls club music lessons, PSO Board Scholarship Program and Debutante Program. A quote from **Erin Stewart**, past Board President, summarizes the reason the PSO performs the above activities.

"We are reaching more and more individuals of all ages from children in the early years through family concert series. We're reaching elementary age students... We're providing scholarships for middle school PISD2 students who cannot afford private lessons on their own. We're really looking for ways to interact with the community..."

The Family Concerts are scheduled for 45 minutes and are held at different locations in Frisco, McKinney and Plano. These performances are tailored to families with children aged 3-12. In the latest concert, everyone enjoyed music from family films such as *Coco*, *Moana*, *Frozen*, *Star Wars* and more. Dancers and narrators bring the music to life and teach kids about instruments of the orchestra and the regions depicted in the music, both real and imagined! All arrive at 2:15 to enjoy the instrument petting zoo, scout program and craft station in the lobby prior to the concert.

The Scout Program earns a Fun Patch for Scouts at the PSO family series contest. For an additional \$2, scouts may earn a STEM fun patch by completing activities in the lobby prior to the concert.

A Spooky Symphony at the Movies that is held in October of each year is a family concert for Halloween. This concert is held at the Eisemann Center in Richardson, Texas. Kids and "adult kids" dress up in costumes

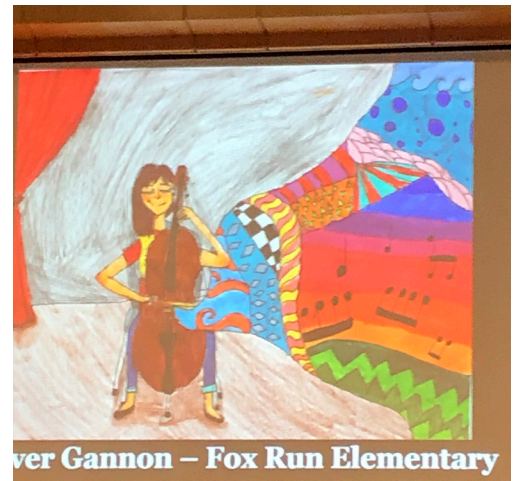
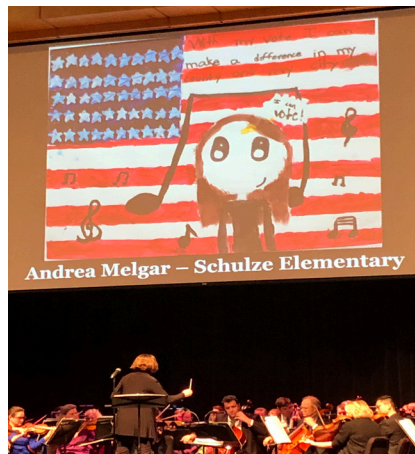
TASO News

and parade through the lobby. The 2019 concert featured familiar movie themes from Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Addams Family, Jurassic Park and more! Kids were encouraged to enter the Halloween art contest for a chance to see their artwork on the screen at the concert! The Instrument Petting Zoo is a collection of instruments for kids to feel, see, hear and play. The instruments appear at more than 30 locations per year. The venues are schools, family concerts, festivals & other North Texas events.

The Collin County Young Artists Competition that is held in January of each year feature approximately 100 phenomenally talented young artists. A visiting group of distinguished judges choose three finalists. These artists perform with Hector Guzman and the Plano Symphony Orchestra at the March concert. The School Concert Education Program is an award-winning music education program for 4th & 5th grade students in North Texas. Over 11,500 students from 125 public and private schools attend multiple concerts over a two-week period.

Salvation Army After School Program joins with Boys and Girls Club to provide music lessons and activities for PSID students in east Plano. At the end of each semester, the students perform for their parents.

Youth Scholarship Program awards funds to provide weekly



Top: *Belles* presented at the San Antonio Symphony. Bottom: *Paint to Music* Contest.

private instruction for both fall and spring semesters to deserving students in 6th and 7th grades. Approved PISD private instructors are assigned to recipients by school music directors. Seventeen scholarships have been awarded for 2019-20! Debutante Program is a two year program for sophomore-junior or junior-senior young women as debutantes and young men as honor guards. The goal of this program is to encourage volunteerism and expand the cultural and social horizons of young women and to prepare them for college and beyond. The culmination of the program is a black-tie presentation ball.

SAN ANTONIO SYMPHONY LEAGUE EVENTS *PAINT TO MUSIC*

This February the San Antonio Symphony League held it's 46th Annual Paint to Music Contest. The TASO award winning project received over 2,600 pieces of art from school children in San Antonio and the surrounding areas including Del Rio. The children attend Young People's Concerts and creatively "paint" their impressions to three of the music selections performed. The winning art is displayed overhead during concerts and the winners are invited to an artist Meet and Greet in the lobby of the Tobin Performing Arts Center

during select concerts in March and April. The top winners' art is professionally framed and presented on stage. Other contestants' art is made into note cards and annual Fiesta medals which are sold by the SASL for the benefit of education projects. CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MUSIC To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage, the theme of the Paint to Music concerts was Celebrating Women in Music. To help the symphony with the added cost for the rights to use music presented, the SASL launched Give \$100 each to Celebrate 100 Years Campaign. One hundred and forty women donated and we were able to give our symphony an extra \$14,000 to support these concerts!

MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM

In April, Music at the Museum will take place at the fabulous San Antonio Museum of Art. This is a fundraiser of music and merriment. It is a wonderful community collaboration benefiting both the Museum and the Symphony. There will be a silent auction, a wine pull, delicious food and wine, and a performance by members of the San Antonio Symphony. Always a well attended and fun event!

BELLE PROGRAM

The month of May brings us to the annual Symphony Ball now in it's 50th year. This year's name and theme is Arabian Nights. The Belle committee has been busy all year with many activities and preparation for the beautiful event. Twenty eight belles will be presented at the Ball.

Houston Symphony 2020 Houston Symphony Wine Dinner and Collector's Auction



The 2020 Houston Symphony's Wine Dinner and Collector's Auction, held on January 31, was a huge success, bringing in \$573,000! The Collector's Auction raised over \$153,000. Thanks to all who attended the Dinner and donated towards the Auction! See y'all next year at the Wine Dinner!



2020 Ima Hogg Competition

This year's Ima Hogg Competition is special for several reasons.

1. This is the 45th Anniversary of the Competition!
2. It will be held in Jones Hall for the very first time!
3. **John Neighbors** has agreed to be the Honorary Chair!

The Semifinals will be held on Thursday, May 28 (location yet to be confirmed). The Finals Concert will be held in Jones Hall on Saturday, May 30. There will be some volunteer opportunities at the semifinals, but we are still unsure as to quantity and type until the decision is made as to the venue. Everything is different this year and that's a good thing!

The contestant prelims are going well. There are 66 applicants, representing violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet,

marimba and piano.

The Ima Hogg Competition and the Bayou Bend Collections and Gardens have formed a new partnership which will help solidify the link between **Miss Ima Hogg**, a co-founder of the Houston Symphony, and Bayou Bend, her home which she donated to the Museum of Fine Arts.

Since its inception, this competition has become one of the world's most celebrated multi-instrumental competitions thanks to donors like you. Our goal this year is 100% participation (at any level) from our League members towards the competition.

Please contact **Darlene Clark**, Chair-2020 Ima Hogg Competition, at edwincf@swbell.net or 713-854-7341 if you have any questions or wish to volunteer.

Orchestra & Staff Luncheon Thursday, April 16th at 12:30 Rehearsal Room at Jones Hall

This is a wonderful event that enables 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. The theme for this luncheon is "Superheroes" because the musicians and staff are superheroes at what they do.

ROCO

From a song cycle giving voice to historically invisible women, to a concerto for Chinese erhu celebrating

TASO News



Top left: Amy Gibbs, Libbie Masterson, Alecia Lawyer. Middle top: John and Nanci Cain, Kathy and Ed Segner. Bottom: ROCO with Mei-Ann Chen, Laurie Rubin.

of works honoring women musicians who survived the Holocaust – ROCO’s milestone 15th season, titled “Coming of Age”, has been marked by the world-class commissions, unique collaborations, and groundbreaking performances which have defined the ensemble’s journey since 2005.

With a record 21 world premiere commissions, by the end of this season, ROCO will reach an incredible 100 new works commissioned and premiered over its history – the 3rd most by any orchestra in the United States over this period. A vibrant subset of this season’s commissions, 15 of these new works comprise the Fifteen Project (Fanfares, Interludes and Finales), organized by **Mark Buller** - serving as a “tasting menu” of the music of a wide array of diverse composers.

This season also highlights two meaningful artistic partnerships – the naming of conductor and frequent collaborator **Mei-Ann Chen** as ROCO’s first Artistic Partner, and **Bruce Adolphe**

<https://www.tasovolunteers.com>

ROCO Cont'd. as Season 15 Composer-In-Residence “ROCO-style”, with new works for full chamber orchestra, chamber ensemble, and solo instrument – showcasing the breadth and depth of ROCO’s capabilities. Further exploring the season’s theme, the Unchambered series is again redefining the role of musicians in an orchestra, inviting players to tell their own coming of age stories through self-curated programs, including commissioning new repertoire for their instruments.

Six of the orchestra’s favorite commissions over its lifetime, chosen by the musicians, were featured on ROCO’s first commercial album *Visions Take Flight*, released on the Innova Recordings label in November 2018 – and just recognized with a GRAMMY® Award for Classical Producer of the Year, honoring the work of **Blanton Alspaugh**. Founded on the core value of access, ROCO’s Access Initiative has also been a significant focus, with partnerships that allow for individuals of all abilities to build relationships with ROCO musicians in innovative ways. Bringing music into new spaces, ROCO presented a twist on *Peter and the Wolf* at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, as *Peter and the Raptor* to highlight the Museum’s paleontology collection, also performed at Texas Children’s Hospital and The Rise School. The Connections series continues to take audiences into unique venues city-wide, with Yuletide Brunch & Brass at Czech Center

Museum Houston, Beer & Brass at Saint Arnold Brewing Company, a reimagining of the Age of Aquarius at Rienzi featuring **Dr. Robert Greenberg** of The Great Courses, and a special collaboration with Holocaust Museum Houston in honor of their newly expanded campus.

ROCO is also grateful for the support of our Board and community, as the 15th season kicked off with a wildly successful ROCO ROCCs held at the River Oaks Country Club, chaired by **Nanci Cain**, honoring longtime ROCO supporters **Kathy** and **Ed Segner**, and celebrating artist **Libbie Masterson** as the inaugural recipient of the ROCO Wildcatting in the Arts Award, embodying the trailblazing spirit of ROCO. The annual gala smashed records in the amount raised in support of ROCO’s mission: to shape the future of classical music by energizing, modernizing and personalizing the concert experience.

San Angelo Symphony Guild

The San Angelo Symphony Guild via the Orient Express continues our “Journey to the East” as we head toward our fabulous Gala of the same name March 21st.

A wonderful time was had at our well attended January and February meetings. Of special note was the entertainment at the February meeting, which was held at the Asian American Women’s Association building, in keeping with our Asian theme. Featured

musicians at that meeting were violin students who have been recent recipients of guild scholarship money. They told the meeting attendees how much they appreciated the funding and how they had used it to enhance their musicianship.

Continuing our new Woman of Note award, a local long time studio piano teacher was recognized in January. It was most meaningful that the award was presented by guild member **Carmen Dusek** who studied with **Mrs. Schlaudt** in her youth and her daughter also a student of **Mrs. Schlaudt**, assisted her in the presentation. February saw the San Angelo Asian American Women’s Association honored as women of note honorees for that month.

Our finest hour was the launch of a definite new twist to an old activity. Art to Music was transformed into two new presentations. The first project, ARM (ART-RECOVERY-MUSIC) included our members and high school ambassadors going and painting on canvas at San Angelo’s new detox center. This outreach event was well received and brought much visibility to our guild. A local String quartet provided the music to create by and the artwork was donated to provide decor for the walls of the new center.

The second Art to Music project this year included local high school students playing live music at an event where students were invited to come and imprint on their canvas what the music evoked in them. We had never had live music
San Angelo Symphony

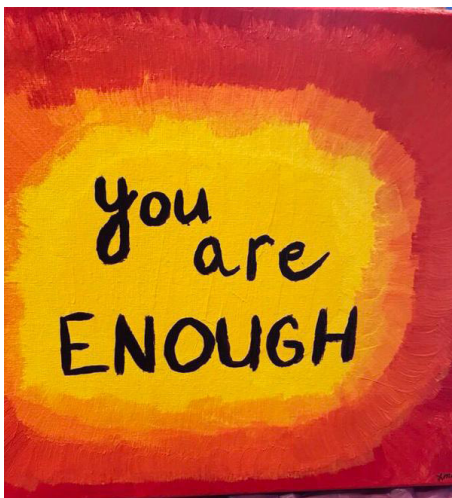
7ASO News

previously at an art event.

Another great outreach in February was the presence of the guild at the San Angelo rodeo exhibit building. A beautiful ninth grade Belle in her white presentation ball gown certainly drew attention there and we were able to distribute literature through our Rodeo's association rodeo booth.

The March 3rd meeting will include again scholarship recipient performers, a Mah jongg demonstration and a retired teacher speaking on her experience as she teaches Chinese students daily in an online live format. Vocalist **Patti Wetzel**, who you may remember from our San Angelo 2018 conference awards of excellence banquet, will highlight the night with pieces from Madam Butterfly and Miss Saigon. Another Woman of Note will also be announced and presented.

The dining etiquette class has been held to prepare our Senior Belles and Beaux for the Gala as well as many practices for the Daddy-Daughter and Mother-Son special dance at the Gala.



THE ORIENT EXPRESS

"GET ON BOARD WITH THE GUILD!"

San Angelo Symphony Guild General Membership Meetings 2019 -2020

Disembark at Chinatown
Our **Flower Drum Song**
Sunday, September 15, 2019, 3 PM
First United Methodist Church Hall, 37 E. Beauregard
Confucius say "I think I'm going to like it here."

Disembark at Bangkok
still ..."Getting to Know You" **The King and I** await you.
Friday, November 8, 2019 12 noon
Railway Museum of San Angelo, 703 S. Chadbourne
Confucius say "Bangkok looks strangely like the historic San Angelo depot"

Disembark in Beijing
"Suite sweet time" **Mulan**
Monday, January 6, 2020, 7 PM
Home of Brandy Dunham, 1424 Preston Trail
Confucius say "It is almost Chinese New Year."

Disembark at Tokyo
"We are Stronger than Before" **Allegiance**
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7 PM, Location TBA
Honoring the Association of Asian American Women
Confucius say "A Woman is as strong as a lion's roar."

Disembark at Singapore
Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 Hotel Cactus Mezzanine 7 PM
*Confucius say "You are as beautiful as a spirit flying,
May I call you Madam Butterfly?"*

Disembark at Shanghai
从旅途中回来的她和离开的人不一样。
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7 PM
Visitor's Center, River Room
*Confucius say "It has been a wonderful year
and we say goobye on the beautiful river."*



Top left: Invitation from Orient Express, Journey to the East. Top right: right: Art to Music participants at the new Detox Center in San Angelo. Bottom right: Art to Music project with a high school students playing live music at an event where students were invited to come and imprint on their canvas what the music evoked in them.

Recipients of Awards of Excellence 2019-2020 Winners

Business

Happy State Bank
Nominated by The Amarillo Symphony Guild

Legislature

Representative Oscar Longoria
35th District, Mission, Texas

Patron

Mary Ann and Andrew Heller
Nominated by The Women's Symphony League of Austin

Volunteer

Laura Hyde
Nominated by The Women's Symphony League of Tyler

Women's Symphony League of Tyler

WSL Membership Update

2020 is off to a great start with around 570 total members and 262 active members! Committees have already housed ETSO musicians, provided food for the East Texas Symphony Orchestra musicians' rehearsals, hosted an amazing Fall, Fresh, and Friends event and are now busy prepping for the School Concerts, more ETSO concerts, the new "Symphonies and Sombreros" Spring event and the Women's Symphony League Ball "Cirque Symphonique".

Junior Symphony League

The Junior Symphony League of Tyler was founded as a service organization under the Women's Symphony League of Tyler to support the East Texas Symphony Orchestra and East Texas Youth Orchestra. The purposes of the JSL are to enrich each member's knowledge and appreciation of music, to promote volunteerism, and to support and promote the growth of ETSO. Throughout the year, these 99 high school juniors and seniors each fulfill a two-year commitment of service to the organization. Combined they volunteer more than 4,500 hours of time serving as ushers, fundraisers and more. The annual Monster Bowl is a favorite fundraiser that raised \$12,650. Members obtain sponsorships, invite guests, dress in costumes, bowl, and have a costume contest. All of these events and services are honored each year at the WSL Ball where JSL members are presented.

Fall, Fresh, and Friends



The patio of FRESH by Brookshire's Grocery Store was the place to be! About 175 WSL members and guests attended the event. With wonderful weather, those attending enjoyed food, friendships, and great music. Money raised will help the WSL continue its' mission of supporting the ETSO and bringing music education opportunities to our community.

Music Education

We are helping to staff the Children's concerts with the East Texas Symphony Orchestra March 3rd and 4th as part of the Link Up Program facilitated through Carnegie Hall. We are able to reach

over 3,000 local students from Tyler ISD and beyond. The event has become so popular that it has become a 2 day event. We provide money to sponsor the event and the volunteers needed to get the kids off the buses and escorted to their seats in the auditorium.

Awards

WSL to receive LAO Gold Award of Excellence and TASO Recognized Project in 2020 A Change of Seasons for "The Four Seasons" at the Women's Symphony League of Tyler 2019 Ball. "To everything there is a season and a time to every

Women's Symphony League of Tyler, cont'd. page 9

purpose under the heaven - a time to break down and a time to build up." The 2019 presentation of the Junior Symphony League at the Women's Symphony League Ball was full of change. The entire event was moved to Saturday; JLS seniors and juniors enjoyed a fun-filled evening of presentation/introduction with family and friends from near and far. Through the theme choice of "The Four Seasons", letting go and growing forward was conveyed to our membership. By combining the best of the former project (presentation on Friday/dance on Saturday) into an event that brought new life and change (junior presentation in formal attire and staying for the evening) into one signature event. With four musical groups - ETYO, ETSO, plus two bands - no one ever said let's go back to the way it was before! Attendance and community buzz said it all. The attendance jumped from under 500 to nearly 700. Inquiries regarding membership in JSL were noted. The change became a bylaw and has been accepted with wide acclaim by WSL and JSL membership alike. The event net proceeds were just under \$100,000.

Fund Development

The annual WSL Ball is was a complete success! The Ball this year is themed "Cirque Symphonique" and was held on February 29th, 2020. We presented our 99 Junior Symphony League Juniors and Seniors and danced the night away to two different bands. (logo in email)



Introducing a new Spring Fundraiser! Monday, May 4th at a new local upscale Mexican Restaurant. The WSL will have music, food, drinks, and fellowship with other members and their spouses. Tickets will be \$50 per person or \$90 per couple.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Award of Excellence

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra League is one of six volunteer organizations chosen by The Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras to receive the coveted Gold Award of Excellence for its Southern Saviour Supper Club held at the magnificent estate home of **Amanda and Brint Ryan**. The Dallas Symphony Orchestra League's project was a garden party fundraiser bringing together friends and business leaders for an evening with a supper club style gracious and beautiful dinner served family style. Chef **Dean Fearing** was there to oversee the superb southern classic menu provided by his namesake Fearing's. **Sherwood Wagner** served as the Honorary Chair. The event was chaired by **Bettina Hennessy** co-chaired by **Renee' Querbes Farren**.



Top: Women's Symphony League of Tyler Ball Committee.

The evening included both a live and silent auction, a wine pull and private musical performances by Suzuki Strings of Dallas and the One O'Clock Lab Band from University of North Texas. The dress was garden party chic, with white and seersucker suits, hats and canes. A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Award – Best Dressed Big Daddy was awarded.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Introduced Debutantes at 34th Annual Presentation Ball
The Dallas Symphony Orchestra League introduced the 2020 debutantes at the 34th Presentation Ball on February 8, 2020 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. **Melissa Lewis** was the Presentation Ball

TASO News

Chair and **Kim Brannon** is the DSOL President.

The presentation ball has established traditions for many DSO families in the past 34 years with several second and third generation families attending. **Susan Averitt Duvall** was a debutante at the inaugural ball in 1987 and daughter **Madelyn** made her debut this year. The entire Averitt family was involved in the DSOL's first Presentation Ball when Susan made her debut. Brother **Mark Averitt** was a member of the honor guard, and brother **Don Averitt** worked behind the scenes and graciously greeted the guests. The Averitt family has continued their support of the Dallas Symphony for over 30 years.

The 2020 debutantes are:

Emily Baschab, Audrey Berner, Isabella Cox, Grace Crenshaw, Gracie Davis, Maddy Duvall, Maddie Esping, Eleanor Gambrell, Georgia Hallam, Hunter Hart, Kate Jones, Izzy Keene, Ellie King, Katie Kottwitz, Mary Kumpf, Avery Levoyer, Catherine Magee, Audrey Magnuson, Allie McWhorter, Shelby Nelson, Grace Olson, Annalea Pedigo, Beth Ryan, Kendell Sigel, Margaret Smith, Campbell Swango, Sara TaCito, Julia Tribolet, Savannah Troutt, Natalie Ward, Brynn Weakley, Genny Wood.



www.tasovolunteers.com

Top: Presentation Ball Committee: **Mari Epperson, Rene Edwards, Kim Brannon, Melissa Lewis, Claire Catrino, Sarah Frazee, Laurie Lippincott.** Left: **Lisa Loy Laughlin** with Suzuki Strings. Middle right: **Bettina Hennessy, Bill and Minnie Caruth, Renee' Farren** Bottom: **2020 DSOL Debutantes.**

Texans for the Arts



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

The Official Arts Advocacy Organization for Texas

Roadmap for the “Interim” Texas legislative calendar! The timing is now!

Are you getting ready for a spring concert series? Planning for a summer season of Pops concerts? Have a special gala on your calendar or some chamber music performances in the future? Don’t miss any of these opportunities to reach out to your elected officials and invite them to your events!

There is no better time than during the “Interim” - between the Texas Legislative sessions - and no better time than during election season - to make sure that your elected officials AND the candidates running for office, know about the great work you are doing in each and every one of your communities.

Your elected officials are “home” now until the beginning of the 87th Texas Legislative Session (mark your calendars for January 12, 2021) and this is the very best time to reach them.

Getting to know them should include:

- * inviting them to performances and programs
- * following them on social media to learn what is important to them
- * sharing your news releases and publicity/promotion with them so they see and hear about the good work you are doing
- * giving a well deserved award (like the TASO “Award of Excellence for Legislator of the Year” award) at a local level to give a shout out to an elected official who has supported the creative culture of your community
- * signing up for their newsletters to keep your finger on the pulse of their work in their district.

As for getting involved in the election cycle, after Super Tuesday’s election on March 3, 2020, there will be many runoff elections. Use this time to share information about your work with candidates running for office and making sure they hear how important the arts are to your communities. Consider hosting a candidate forum to give them a positive way to shine about what their vision for the arts is!

Texans for the Arts already has its finger on the pulse of the beginning of the budget-planning for the 87th Texas Legislative session and we’ll be working to keep the appropriation successes we helped secure in the 86th including the 200% increase in funding for the Texas Commission on the Arts, and protecting the municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax – both sources of public funding for the arts that many TASO members directly benefit from! We’ll also be advocating in Washington, D. C. March 30-31 to support and increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and other cultural funding entities.

Your engagement locally will help us tremendously! We need you and your relationships with your elected officials to build trust, elicit support for public funding for the arts, and raise awareness of the power of the arts to transform your communities across Texas.

Help us help you! *Ann S. Graham, Executive Director, info@texansforthearts.com*

TASO Calendar

TASO DATES

June 28-29, 2020

Hyatt House, 8221 N. Central Expressway, Dallas

Sept 27-28, 2020

Hyatt House, 8221 N. Central Expressway, Dallas

Jan 8,9,10,2021

Hyatt House, 8221 N. Central Expressway, Dallas

January 10, 2021

Juanita Miller Concerto Competition, Southern Methodist University

April 15-17, 2021

TASO Waco Conference