



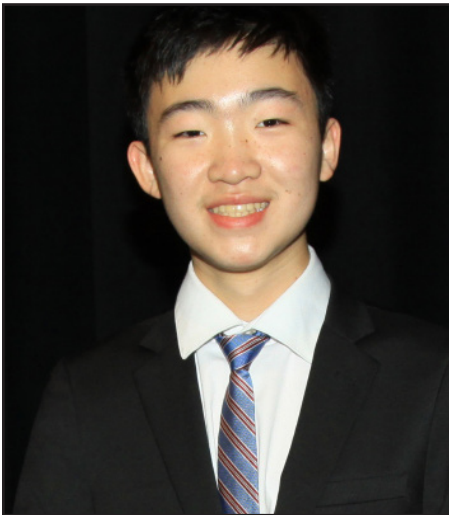
# TASO NEWS

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

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

*Celebrating 51 Years Fall-2021*

## Juanita Miller Concerto Competition on Sunday, January 9, 2022



*(L-r): Bryant Li, Grand Prize Winner; Lorien Britt and Danielle Yoon.*

After a year of absence, due to the pandemic, all of us at TASO were thrilled to have the 25th anniversary of the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at the University of Texas at Dallas.

There were 55 applicants for the competition and 36 finalists: 13 piano, 15 strings and 8 woodwinds & Brass. Just being selected as a finalist was quite an achievement for these young musicians. Our judges were: Piano - **Amy Dorfman**, Vanderbilt University; Strings - **Laura Hamilton**, New York University; and **Rick Giangliulo** - Director of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra.

The three first place winners in each division were: Piano, **Bryant Li** from Katy, Texas, 11th grade Strings; **Danielle Yoon**, Frisco, Texas, 10th grade Woodwinds / Brass; **Lorien Britt** from Fate, Texas, 12th grade.

From the first place winners, a

Grand Prize winner was selected. Congratulations goes to piano student **Bryant Li**. Bryant exquisitely played Rachmaninoff Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

The first place winners will have the opportunity to perform their concerto at the TASO Conference luncheon in Lubbock, Texas on April 30th. The Grand Prize winner will perform that evening on stage, with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra.

Planning an event like this would not be possible without the help of so many people. We thank each and every volunteer for their time, support and dedication to the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. Very special thanks to **Heather Moore** who kept us on track and helped things run smoothly behind the scenes. Thank you to **Heather Moore**, **Deborah Brown** and **Venise**

**Stuart** for finding our new venue this year; to **Darlene Clark** and **Helen Shafer** for the beautiful program booklet; **Paula Floeck McReynolds** for her help securing ads and for being our treasurer; our advisors, **Marsha Green** and **Anne Blomeyer** for always being available to answer questions and give great advice. Thank you also to **Joanne Vaughan** for implementing our new on-line Sign-up Genius and organizing the to and fro of the volunteers and students all day. Thanks to **Jan Woodward** for preparing the beautiful certificates for each participating student; **Janie Orr** for providing wonderful treats; **Deborah Brown** for securing a new photographer as well as taking photos herself and then making sure everything was put on the website and facebook. We also thank **Grace Boner** for the wonderful photos and articles from the JMCC archives and *continued on page 11*

# President's Letter



Dear TASO Members,

After two years of Zoom meetings, we will meet in person at our January Board meeting!

Due to delayed construction at SMU, we are holding the 25th Anniversary Juanita Miller Concerto Competition at the University of Texas at Dallas' School of Arts and Humanities. Our January Board meeting will be at the Renaissance Richardson Hotel which is very close to the UT Dallas campus. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

A "Very Special Thank You" to JMCC Co-Chairs **Beth Grimm** and **Terri**

**McDowell!** Their countless hours of volunteer work and attention to detail ensure this will be a most successful high school competition. Thank you also to the entire JMCC Committee whose efforts help make this event run smoothly.

We hope you can volunteer at JMCC on Sunday, January 9th. It is very rewarding to help TASO with one of our most important events and also listen to outstanding high school musicians from throughout the state.

Please plan to attend our 55th Annual TASO Conference in Lubbock on April 28 – May 1, 2022. Conference Co-Chairs **Terri Byrne**, **Heather Hocker**, and **Wendy Needham** have planned an outstanding Conference. The Co-Chairs will update us on conference details at the January meeting.

Thank you to President-Elect and Strategic Planning Committee Chair **Candis Hicks** and her committee as they help TASO prepare for the future. They are working with Laura Street, past TASO President and President of **Laura Street** Consulting, LLC, to evaluate and update our strategic plan.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful Holiday Season!

*Susan Douglas*

Susan Douglas, TASO President 2021 - 2022

*Newsletter Deadlines; March 1, 2022, August 1, 2022*

*TASO Newsletter Co-Editor, Sandy Secor, sandrasecor@icloud.com*

## Amarillo Symphony Guild

The Amarillo Symphony Guild has had a busy start for the 2021-2022 year! The fall concert series began in September, which cued the return of our Orchestra Courtesy and Lunch and Listening programs during concert week. Before the performance on October 16, our Symphony Belles and Beaux were presented to that evening's audience. Our Belles and Beaux will be serving as ushers this year on concert nights.

On October 23, the Guild held its 13th biennial "Vintage Amarillo" wine auction fundraiser at the Amarillo Club. Co-Chairs **Michele Agostini** and **Lorraine Wilhelm** planned a beautiful and delicious evening, which included a four-course meal complete with wine pairings. The tables and auction displays were appropriately decorated in rich fall hues in celebration of the harvest season. This successful event raised over \$40,000 for our Symphony's education programs!

The Amarillo Symphony will begin a new "audition" season in January, which will culminate in the summer with the selection of the 18th conductor of the Amarillo Symphony. The 67th annual Symphony Ball will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the Amarillo Club. Plans are well underway for this highly anticipated event. Stay tuned for more updates through the year!

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will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the Amarillo Club. Plans are well underway for this highly anticipated event. Stay tuned for more updates through the year!

*Top: Belles and Beaux. Middle: 2021 Symphony Ball Committee. Bottom: **Kathy Sheldon** and **Terry White** at Vintage Amarillo. Bottom right: Vintage Amarillo.*

## Women's Symphony League of Austin

Women's Symphony League of Austin's 66th Annual Jewel Ball "Crescent City Celebration"

The Jewel Ball took center stage on Saturday, September 18th at the Fairmont Austin, with over 1,000 guests present to kick off Austin's social season. Generations of supporters enjoyed the opportunity to support the Women's Symphony League with a sit-down dinner, live auction, and dancing to the extraordinary party band, Stratosphere.

This year's theme, Crescent City Celebration, paid homage to the beautiful and resilient city of New Orleans. Guests were treated to the flavors, sights, and sounds of this iconic American city, complete with Second Line Band, recognizing the rich musical history of New Orleans.

This year's King Brio LV, **David Warren Douglas**, received this year's Diamond Queens, **Ms. Mary Catherine Dickerson** and **Ms. Annabelle Grier Hubert**. The Royal Court procession followed, including this year's Princesses from Austin and Duchesses of the Visiting Jewel Court.

Said WSL President **Jennifer Bell**, "We are delighted to salute the exceptional ladies and gentlemen of the Austin Royal Court, the Visiting Jewels and their escorts, and Junior Royalty, each of whom are members of families who proudly assist the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its programs in important and enduring ways. We thank each of



Photo by Jetter Photo



Photo by Cat Mattingly



Photo by Cat Mattingly

Top: King Brio LV, **David Warren Douglas**, with this year's Diamond Queens and their escorts at the Women's Symphony League of Austin's 66th Annual Jewel Ball. Middle left: Diamond Queen **Annabelle Grier Hubert**. Middle right: Diamond Queen **Mary Catherine Dick**.

them for their generous support of and vital participation in our Ball."

Visiting Jewels in this year's Jewel Ball included **Brianna Rachelle Beasley** representing the Abilene Philharmonic; **Lella Sue McClane Brown** representing the Waco Symphony Council, **Claudia Elizabeth Bush**, representing the Amarillo

Symphony Guild, **Claire Michelle Clifton**, from Midland; **Isabella Sonnet Littlejohn**, from Houston; **Alice Caroline McWhorter**, representing the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; **Alexandra Noel Shropshire**, representing the Lubbock Symphony Guild; and Chandler Frances Wallace, representing the Lubbock Symphony Guild.

# TASO News



Photo by Jetter Photo



Top: Visiting Jewels and Escorts. Below: The Lubbock Symphony Guild TASO Conference committee.

Events this year were chaired by WSL members **Stacey McLeod Brewer** and **Meredith Presley Wood**. All proceeds from Jewel Ball events are donated to support the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

## The Lubbock Symphony Guild

The Lubbock Symphony Guild is looking forward to a fun filled conference on April 28 - May 1st. The TASO conference will be hosted at the Overton Hotel. Thursday night dinners will be

hosted at some of the finest homes in Lubbock. The Juanita Miller contest winners will be playing at the Lubbock Country Club after our Past Presidents Luncheon on Saturday.

We are delighted to show off the Buddy Holly Hall of Arts and Sciences for the Friday Awards Banquet and the Saturday evening dinner and concert. So far, we have secured the following speakers: **Dr. Tyrha M. Lindsey-Warren** (Baylor University),

**Penny McBride** (Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce), and **S. David Ramirez** (TINT, San Antonio).

Like us on  
**Facebook!**

## Waco Symphony Council

Change offers new opportunities. This has truly been a time of change for the Waco Symphony Council. We are back to meeting in person and the Waco Symphony opened its season with a live concert. In addition to regrouping after the "Covid Challenge," the Waco Symphony Council has been met with several other changes which have required us to make some new adjustments. Because of an unforeseen situation, our dear President **Fran Good** had to resign her office in August. Fortunately, the PE was able to step into the position with a smile and a lot of energy! **Stephanie Cooney** is now leading the Waco Symphony Council as President. On August 31, we said goodbye to retiring Executive Director **Susan Taylor**. Susan leaves the Waco Symphony Association after 45 years of service. She has been a great support to the WSC. We are happy to welcome the new Executive Director **Carolyn Kannwischer Bess**. She joins us from the Dallas Museum of Art, where she served as Director of Arts & Letters Live for the last 18 of her 25 years with the DMA. Carolyn is no stranger to the Waco Symphony as she grew up in Waco attending WSO concerts as a child and was also a Symphony Belle. She holds a BA from The University of the South and an MA from Williams College.

The WSC hosted the first Preview party a week before the first concert. Maestro **Stephen Heyde** and Executive Director **Carolyn Bess** both spoke at the Preview Party (WSC general meeting) to preview the



Top left: **Ann Harder**, chair of children's concert. Middle: **Maestro Heyde** speaking at preview. Right: Executive Director, **Carolyn Bess**. Bottom: **The Naughton Sisters** with **Scott Drew** and his daughter.

concert. The concert featured the **Naughton Sisters** (twins) playing Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos in D Minor. **Scott Drew** (coach of the Baylor Basketball National Champions) and his daughter joined them on stage to narrate *Carnival of Animals* by Saint-Saëns. The evening performance was a great success.

Like everything else, the Belle and Brass program started later than usual, but is off to a good start. The Junior Belles and Brass ushered at the first concert. In early November, the 75th Children's Concert "The Thrill of the Orchestra" by Russell Peck was recorded. The concert will once again be available

online to the schools in our area and will be available on YouTube for anyone to enjoy. This educational project is sponsored by the Waco Symphony Council and performed by the Baylor Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Stephen Heyde. Hopefully we will all be together in person in Waco Hall next year! The WSC will host a Holiday Wine and Cheese Party on December 2, 2021. This will be a social event designed to help members reconnect with the Council. Members will bring a donation of a bottle of wine for Symphony in the City in February.

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

*DSOL Debutantes Honored at  
Holiday Reception and Seated  
Dinner*

The 2022 Dallas Symphony debutantes were honored at a holiday reception and seated dinner on November 24, 2021 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The debutantes, honor guards and their families were welcomed by DSOL President **Venise Stuart** and Presentation Ball Chair **Elizabeth Gambrell**. The event chair was **Susan Averitt Duvall**.

Each of the 48 debutantes was formally introduced by emcee **Stan Gardner** and joined by an honor guard escort for the presentation. A debutante presentation gift was presented by Eiseman NorthPark Center. Park Place was a special contributor for the evening.

The event was the start of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend which included a mixer for the debs and honor guard, as well as a Bow Boot Camp for the debs. During the Christmas Holidays, the debs will return for another busy schedule of parties and bow practice. All the many events will culminate with the 36th Presentation Ball which will be held on February 12, 2022.

The 2022 Debutantes are:  
**Nora Arnold, Virginia Baker, Bailey Beard, Cambridge Bender, London Boscamp, Abigail Brannon, Riley Cheek, Grace Condon, Amelia Cox, Erin Daugherty, Eliza**



*Top: 2022 DSOL Debutantes. Bottom left: **Elizabeth** Debutante Presentation Ball Chairman and **Eric Gambrell**. Right: Event chair **Susan Duvall** and **Caroline Downing**.*

**Davis, Katherine Downing, Katherine Edwards, Katie Elliott, Virginia Fielder, Sydney Goodiel, Katherine Hancock, Emily Hea, Reva Henderson, Ava Heppner, Julia Hicks, Stephanie Hirschbrich, Sophie Hung, Madigan Jacoby, Grace Judin, Claire Koonsman, Story Langston, Ashley Laughlin, McKinley Lawson, Brooke**

**Marvel, Ashlyn Meuse, Anna Mikeska, Kate Murray, Ashlee Newton, Abbey Perry, Mary Tarver Reid, Anna Robinowitz, Annie Sawers, Bella Scott, Sarah Smith, Lydia Szuwalski, Margaret Thompson, Samantha Ungerman, Ella Varel, Annie Walker, Elizabeth Walsh, Tory Wicklund, Kelsey Wittmann.**

## The Plano Symphony Orchestra

**Anna Hale** was an avid volunteer for the Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO). She passed away on June 24, 2021 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Anna's contributions were extraordinary because of the success of her efforts and the time commitment to the PSO. Anna served on both the Guild Board and on the PSO Board Education Committee, as well as being available to help at other events like the annual Gala and the Debutante Ball.

Her true love was the PSO Instrument Petting Zoo which is a collection of instruments that are taken to various events in the community that children can see, hear, handle and play. The PSO is dedicating the PSO Instrument Petting Zoo in the memory of Anna Hale for the next two years (PSO 39th and 40th seasons). She managed the Petting Zoo for many years. She arranged the Petting Zoo to be at different venues throughout the year. She made sure that the instruments, tables, PSO pamphlets and the tents for outside events were all available, transported, set up and taken down for each event. She also coordinated volunteer workers, both adults and teenagers, to work the events. The petting zoo participates at approximately 30 events each year including the Plano Balloon Festival, Family Symphony Sundays, Arts Festivals, Plano International Festival, Christmas Tree lighting and other events, some of which span for several days. There was a need for many hours of coverage. This was a huge task

and Anna was always there. Her efforts were herculean and well-done in managing any changes that needed to be handled at the last minute.

Organizers of festivals and other events requested every year that the Petting Zoo return to their venue because of the number of past participants who mentioned that they look forward to the zoo, especially for their children.

The Petting Zoo was known for bringing real musical instruments to these events. This was not only a fun activity, but also educational giving an opportunity for children (and adults) to see, touch, feel and play different musical instruments. Anna had a way to make the Petting Zoo come alive and interesting. In some cases, the parents had to drag their kids away from the table. Children returned to these events to tell Anna that because of the petting zoo they now play an instrument.

Unfortunately, a couple of years ago there was an unexpected flood at the site of the Plano Balloon Festival. The instruments been left overnight under a tent for the next day and were destroyed. Anna arranged a committee to find new instruments and salvage any that could be restored. She also coordinated a social media campaign that was conducted on Facebook and a radio station. Within a few days, the Instrument Petting Zoo was restocked with instruments, and money was collected to perform the restorations. The PSO Petting Zoo was up and running in a very short time. The last part of restoring the zoo was the



*Anna Hale was an avid volunteer for the Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO).*

repainting of the instrument cases into the fun zoo theme. **Tammy Miller**, who worked with Anna on the petting zoo, arranged for the Plano Senior Art Honor Society and the Shepton High School Art Club to paint the cases.

The Plano Symphony Guild wanted to acknowledge all that Anna has done for the Plano Symphony. The PSO Guild had a fundraising breakfast in October, in which Anna was recognized by the Executive Director of the Plano Symphony who announced that the petting zoo will be named for the next two years "The Anna Hale Petting Zoo".

A number of donations to honor Anna were received prior to the breakfast. The breakfast was an intimate affair aimed at those who knew and loved Anna.

People at the Plano Symphony loved Anna. She knew so many people personally. She listened to people. Her work with the petting zoo made a difference in children's lives. Anna is a role model to all of us who knew her and will be missed!

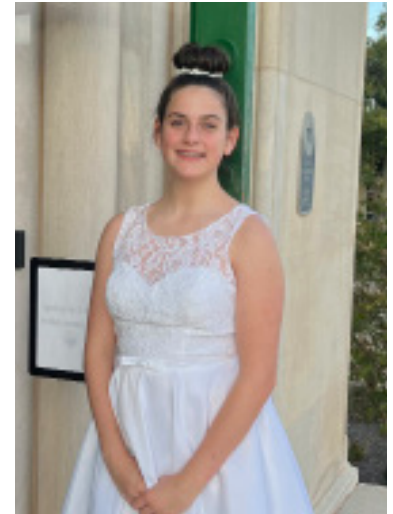


## San Angelo Symphony Guild

The San Angelo Symphony Guild continues along on a star studded path as we continue to follow our theme for the year, "Reach for the Stars!" "Wish upon a star that will take us far" was the theme of the Sunday, September 19th opening meeting followed by "Choose something like a Star." on October 26 and most recently "Lunch like a Rockstar" on November 30th. Each meeting has featured live musicians and has been very well attended. The November 30th meeting included a mariachi band live from Lake View high school of San Angelo

We are very proud of our Beaux, Belles and Ambassadors as they have been a part of not only Symphony events but community events also. They have been attending education classes including phone etiquette, dining etiquette and how to write a proper résumé and thank you notes. Department and phone etiquette are also taught.

We have stars in our eyes for sure as we prepare for our yearly gala entitled "Starry, Starry Starry Night." The celestial night will take place on January 22nd at our beautiful historic Cactus Hotel .



Top left: San Angelo Belles; Top right: San Angelo Belles; Middle left San Angelo Belles; Middle right: **Donna Shen, Leslie Siller and Mary Fusillo** of Houston Symphony. Bottom: mariachi band live from Lake View High School of San Angelo. This column:

## Women's Symphony League of Tyler

The Women's Symphony League of Tyler began the new year with more than 470 active and sustaining members. A reception for new members was held in late August to meet and share information about our organization. The traditional first year placement for new members is serving our musicians meals and snacks prior to each rehearsal and concert. This has proven to be a perfect introduction to the "backstage preparations" for a concert

For several years, the Women's Symphony League has sponsored "Fall, Fresh and Friends", a gathering of members, spouses, and friends. It is held on the large patio of an upscale, popular grocery market and features great food, spirits and fellowship. This year was also used to recruit more new members, and spouses & partners are welcome.

The East Texas Symphony Orchestra began its 85th year and celebrated Maestro Richard Lee's 10th year conducting the orchestra with a concert featuring soprano Sylvia D'Eramo. The Women's Symphony League hosted a reception for 925 attendees in the lobby of the Cowan Center during intermission in recognition of these milestones.

The Junior Symphony League is made up of 98 young ladies and gentlemen. The annual Monster Bowl, complete with costumes, bowling, pizza and lots of candy was held in October. All proceeds are contributed to the East Texas Youth Orchestra and to music

education. This year more than \$13,000 was raised. We are proud of these young people for their service and commitment. They are the ushers and guides for all ETSO concerts.

## Houston Symphony League

### *Social Connections Groups*

This year the Houston Symphony League began a new project called Social Connections Groups which helps League members develop close friendships with each other and the Houston Symphony while also volunteering to help with the Student Concerts in Jones Hall in January and February 2022. The following are the current Social Connections groups and their activities this past fall.

Symphony Soles -A walking group that meets twice a week in Memorial Park and the third Thursday at the Houstonian.

Mah Jongg Mavens who meet on a Thursday once a month at Lakeside Country Club to play Mah Jongg and enjoy lunch. Gourmet Group prepares food for the Christmas and March Membership events. Sometimes the group experiences cooking demonstrations. The last event was held at the Culinary Institute, LeNotre - Culinary Arts & Baking School. Wine Society meets twice in the Fall and twice in the Spring to discuss and enjoy a variety of wines.

Exploring Houston's Arts and Culture meets once in the Fall and Spring for Houston Culture and Art experiences. The last meeting was a trip to The Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern, a former drinking

underground water reservoir. The amazing temporary art exhibit now on view is "Time No Longer". This immersive, other-worldly experience of film and sound was followed by an afternoon with a dutch treat glass of wine at Trez Art and Wine Bar, just voted the best wine bar in Houston!

League Adventures meets twice in the Fall and Spring to experience different Houston locations for cocktails, light bites, dinner together, Symphony performances, or other Houston adventures.

Their last event was An Evening Art Class at Pinot's Palette where members created their own replicas of a Monet painting while enjoying classical music, lite bites, wine and friendships.

Destination Getaway is a group trip for a two-night stay with tours, lunch and dining experiences. The first Getaway will be held in Galveston in May.

### *Thankful for our Symphony Musicians*

After a hiatus of over 20 months since the Houston Symphony League had been able to fete the musicians of the Symphony with our signature "Orchestrated Lunches", we were finally able to return to Jones Hall and surprise the orchestra members with a sweet treat and a personal note and gift card. Headed by Symphony League President, **Leslie Siller** and members, **Mary Fusillo** and **Donna Shen**, they were assisted by a group of fellow volunteers in hand-writing heart felt thank you notes to each of the 81 Symphony musicians. Helping with the penmanship tasks were **Betty Tutor**, **Rita Aron**, **Lidiya Gold**, **Katherine Yzaguirre** and **Julie Fischer**.



(left to right): **David Pratt**, CEO and Executive Director, Austin Symphony, **Ann S. Graham**, Executive Director, Texans for the Arts; **Susan Douglas**, President, TASO, Member Austin Symphony Women's Guild and Board of Directors, Representative **Giovanni Capriglione** (R-98), **Marilyn Wilson**, Director of Development, Austin Symphony, **Ben Bentzin**, President, Austin Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors.

## The Legislator Award

The Legislator Award is given at the TASO Annual Conference to a person who has shown support for the arts as a legislator. This is determined by their voting record in support of the arts/symphony during the most recent legislative session. Their history of supporting the arts and the value they place on the arts is also considered. The 2021 Legislator Winner – Carroll, Texas, is **The Honorable Giovanni Capriglione**, House District 98.

Giovanni was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2012 and is serving his fifth term

representing District 98. Giovanni is now the owner and president of his own small business, Texas Adventure Capital LLC, which provides business services to various investment fund managers and business owners. He is a member of several committees including the Fine Arts Education Caucus.

Giovanni has been married to his wife Elisa for 20 years, and has three children attending Carroll ISD schools. After receiving his BS in Physics, he pursued his MBA in Finance from Santa Clara University. After school, Giovanni went on to work for a DFW based

venture capital/private equity firm.

## Juanita Miller Concerto Competition

*continued from page 1*

**Candis Hicks** for providing the 2020 Grand Prize winner to entertain the audience during the judges deliberations and for helping anywhere that was needed, thanks to the registration ladies, **Anna Marie Spiers** and **Susan Bracken** who spent all day greeting students. Of course a huge debt of gratitude to our President, **Susan Douglas** who was always optimistic that this event would take place this time and was with us every step of the way.

There are countless more people to thank including every volunteer, the University of Texas at Dallas, and all the students, teachers, accompanists, and parents.

Last but not least, our unwavering gratitude to the **Juanita Miller family** for their generosity throughout the years. We were absolutely delighted to have **Patsy Donosky**, Juanita Miller's daughter, with us on Sunday.

The students were all extremely talented, focused and dedicated young musicians. The future of music is certainly in good hands. Everyone was a winner!

**Terri McDowell** and **Beth Grimm** were the Co-chairs Juanita Miller Concerto Competition 2022.

## Texans for the Arts

### ***Making Music Together Again – Texas Legislative Updates through COVID and Advocacy Next Steps***

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

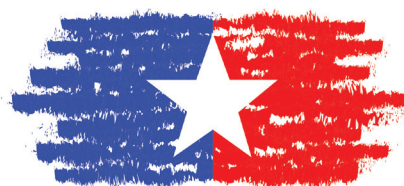
The very best news is that we are performing live music together again! We are still facing serious challenges caused by the pandemic, and we are adapting by learning to live with COVID-19. Many of us are presenting both live and virtual concerts, but we are finding ways to be together again in person and we are being reminded of how very precious this opportunity is. I say the proverbial “we” as the partnership between Texans for the Arts (TFA) and TASO is strong and I feel TFA is definitely part of the family! Thank you for your support of our work. We appreciate your investment in advocacy and together we work hard to make Texas a better place – with all of our members - through our advocacy work across the arts, culture and creativity industry.

Speaking of advocacy, as of TASO’s Fall newsletter, the Texas Legislature had just finished the first one of three Special Sessions that were called by Governor Greg Abbott in the summer of 2021. While the first two Sessions did not directly address arts funding issues, Special Session #3 was pivotal to our work. On the agenda of Special #3 was the appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds – over \$16 billion to the State of Texas. (Note, this does not include the municipal and county ARPA funds, nor other federal investments in state allocations.)

The outcome of Special Session #3, relevant to our work in the arts, was a dedicated \$180 million for “Tourism, Travel, Hospitality, and Business Aid. The final Bill – SB8 - provides \$180.0 million to the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor to implement a new tourism, travel and hospitality recovery grant program.” These grants would be capped at \$20,000. (If every grant awarded was \$20,000 that would equal 9,000 funded proposals.) It is our understanding that there is “legislative intent” language that would enable “the arts” to be eligible to apply for funds through these tourism grants.

The coalition of tourism industry leaders representing hotels, restaurants, convention centers, campgrounds, and other tourism related entities made an initial request for \$800 million - an amount more reflective of the real need due to the devastating impact of the pandemic on tourism. According to the Texas Comptroller, “No part of the state economy was injured more deeply by the pandemic than these [tourism, travel and hospitality] industries” which includes the arts and performing arts.

Now that the ARPA funding bill has been passed, the Governor’s Office of Tourism will begin to develop a grant program by which to distribute these funds across the sector. We will keep you all updated and work to ensure the arts community is fully apprised of all opportunities in relationship to these grants.



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS