



# 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 2022 - 2023

## 26th Juanita Miller Concerto Competition Held January 8

A panel of three judges selected violinist **Steve Lu**, an 11th grader from Plano, as grand-prize winner for the 2023 Juanita Miller Concerto Competition on January 8 at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Earlier in the daylong competition, Lu won first place in the strings division. **Ella Tran**, a 12th grader from Arlington, took first place in the piano division. **Helen Lan**, a 10th grader from San Antonio, won the first place in the winds division with her flute.

The judges for the competition are musicians and educators. This year, the judge in the strings division was **Joan Kwuon** from the Coburn School of Music Academy; the judge for the winds/brass division was **Gabriel Beavers** from the Frost School of Music in Miami; and the piano judge was **Kathryn Brown** from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Student musicians in grades 9 through 12 from throughout the state of Texas are prescreened before they can compete. The first-, second-, and third-place winners in all three divisions are awarded cash prizes. The grand prize winner is awarded the opportunity to perform with the Marshall Symphony Orchestra.

The late **Juanita Miller** of Dallas was the founding president of the Texas Association for Symphony



Winners of the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition: Winds/Brass: 1st place Helen Lan (flute); 3rd place Alejandro Martinez. Strings: Grand Prize and 1st place Steven Lu; 2nd place Asish Samson; 3rd place Hannah Jeong. Piano: 1st place Ella Tran; 2nd place Melody Guo; 3rd place Matthew Scott. Not pictured: Stephanie Kim, 2nd place Winds/Brass. Congratulations to all!!

Orchestras (TASO) and also began the first concerto competition in 1997. She and her husband, the late **Henry S. Miller**, provided the initial underwriting and subsequent gifts to fund the youth

competitions which now bears her name. **Patsy Donosky**, daughter of Juanita and Henry Miller represented her late mother at this year's competition.

### Awards of Excellence 2022-2023

#### Business

Street Toyota of Amarillo, Amarillo Symphony League

#### Patron

Tammy and Charlie Miller, Plano Symphony League

#### Volunteer

Jill Powell, Women's Symphony League of Austin

# President's Letter



At this writing, you like me, are in the middle of what is probably our very busiest time of year. You have attended your Christmas symphony concert, or are looking forward to it. You are attending church, community and family activities amidst a sea of cooking , shopping and gift wrapping.

During this time of year when we reflect, I hope you look back on your organizational year as a successful one. We all are proud of certain efforts and wish others could've gone better. I hope that you will choose to face 2023, with a new resolve, both personally, and as a volunteer and choose to believe in and look for the very best in others and in your league. Our attitude, whether good or bad, affects our department and ultimately the vision and attitude of others . We will make a difference in our home organizations and in TASO. What

type of difference will you make? A slogan I heard many years ago that I've always liked says " Attitudes are contagious. Is yours worth catching? "

What a tremendous gift we have been blessed with in this wonderful element called Music. May we truly recognize this gift that has brought us together and given us not only our wonderful. TASO organization and friendships but a avenue for expression and enjoyment .

I have been blessed to visit since October, Amarillo, College Station, Plano, and Abilene. I look forward to visiting Austin and Waco in January and Tyler, Conroe and Houston I'm February. Hoping for Big Spring and Lubbock in March. I have been so impressed with all that I have seen and experienced. The work that you are all doing is inspiring and I wish you and yours the very best in this new year. Looking forward to seeing you in Dallas in 2023!.

Merry Christmas !!! and Happy New Year!  
Honored to serve the symphonies of Texas with you,  
Candis Hicks

Candis Rodgers Hicks  
TASO President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candis Rodgers Hicks". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

*Newsletter Deadlines; March 1, 2023, August 1, 2023*

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

## Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

### *DSOL Debutantes Honored at Holiday Reception and Seated Dinner*

The 2023 Dallas Symphony Orchestra League debutantes were honored at a holiday reception and seated dinner on November 23, 2022 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The evening 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. The debutantes, honor guards and their families were welcomed by Presentation Ball Chair **Karen Cox**. “Thank you for spending your holiday evening with us,” said Karen. “This year, as we look forward to the brighter days ahead in Dallas after the pandemic, we are ever so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate and honor the inspiring and resilient young women and men who comprise our 2022 Debutantes and Honor Guard, as well as their families.”

The evening was chaired by **Janice Walsh**. Each of the 26 debutantes was formally introduced by emcee **Stan Gardner** and joined by an honor guard escort for the presentation. A debutante presentation gift of pearl earrings was provided by **Eiseman NorthPark Center**. In attendance were proud parents including **Harlan and Kathy Crow, Vaughn and Dena Miller, Heather and Bill Esping, Patrick and Dawne Tribolet, and Yvete Ostolaza and Peter B. Dewar.**

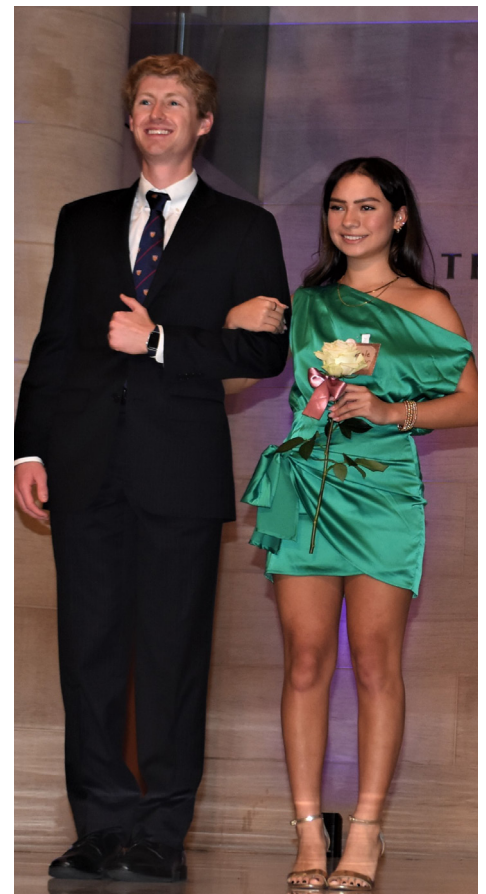


*2023 DSOL Debutantes at the Meyerson Symphony Center.*

During the Christmas Holidays, the debs returned for another busy schedule of parties and bow practice. All the many events will culminate with the 37th Presentation Ball which will be held on February 11, 2023.

The 2023 Debutantes are: **Britton Barcus, Margaret Bracken, Stephanie Ciarochi, Kate Clark, Sarah Crow, Elena Dewar, Gracie Dix, Natalie Duvall, Arden Eiland, Charlotte Esping, Kaitlin Ann Kelly, Celeste Lay, Ella Marks, Ellie Michaelson, Gigi Miller, Lydia Pigott, Morgan Potter, Sasha Schwimmer, Ellie Steindorf, Catherine Stiles, Elizabeth Thompson, Lucy Tilden, CeCe Tribolet, Danielle Ward, Paige Williams, and Nicole Zimmer.**

The Presentation Ball, which was first held in 1987, is the largest fundraiser for the DSOL. Over \$13 million has been raised for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra



*Travis Roberts and Nicole Zimmer*

through the annual event, which was created with the vision of long-time League member **Tincy Miller**, who chaired the first ball.

# FASO News

## FASO/ Brazos Valley

One of the most anticipated social/cultural occasions in the Brazos Valley this autumn was the recent Luncheon and Vintage Fashion Show, "Puttin' on the Ritz," presented by Friends Association of the Symphony Orchestra (FASO) to benefit the local symphony. About 200 people attended the festive event, held Oct. 20 in the ballroom of Miramont Country Club in Bryan. About \$36,000 was raised for the local symphony.

Flashy flappers, bell-bottomed flower children and bobby soxers in poodle skirts strutted down the runway to up-tempo music and an entertaining narrative of fashion trends from the 1920's to the present, delivered by local symphony volunteer **Jean McDermott**. A total of twenty-two models, including some area high school students who are members of Symphony Belles, wore vintage fashions on loan from an area community theater group and various individuals in the community. Indeed, some of the adult models wore their own classic ensembles from earlier times, including a couple of exquisite bridal gowns.

Not to be outdone by the models, many attendees dressed in vintage clothing themselves, and prizes were given for the Most Glamorous and Most Authentic costumes. The fashion show featured 66 vintage outfits. Party goers lunched on a grilled bavette steak salad and assorted cookies. The program was emceed by local radio



Top: **Candilyn McLean**. Top right: **Susan Lucas**. Middle right: **Sinead Dunne**. Bottom left: One of the 21 innovative centerpieces.

personality, **Mary Mike Hatcher**, and featured remarks by FASO President **Sue Lee**, Brazos Valley Symphony Conductor **Marcello Bussiki**, and BVSO President, **John Bohnsack**. An invocation was offered by **Lindsey Runyan**. A number of symphony

supporters facilitated the event by sponsoring tables, especially the Flapper Sponsor, **Becky and B. Don Russell**. A group called the Sophisticates loaned clothing and accessories.

Noteworthy were the inventive centerpieces for the twenty - one tables in the ballroom, each a unique tablescape composed of women's shoes, handbags, silk flowers and even cosmetics. These were designed by FASO Third Vice-President, **Karen Melvin**.

# WASO News

## Waco Symphony Guild

The Waco Symphony Council had a busy fall. The Waco Symphony opened their 60th Season with **Gil Shaham**, violinist, as the featured artist. Before each concert, the WSC hosted a preview party. On November 10th, the season continued with **Jeremy Denk**, pianist, as soloist. This concert was also a celebration of the service of our treasured conductor, Maestro **Stephen Heyde**, who took his final bow as the conductor of the WSO. He was presented with the Golden Baton Award at this concert. Maestro Heyde, retired at the end of November after 35 years and was only the second conductor in the association's 60-year history.

The Belle and Brass program is well underway. Fulfilling some of their volunteer duties, they ushered at both concerts. They also participated in a "ropes course" to build leadership skills and learning to work together as a successful team. Their next events include a Music Appreciation and an Etiquette Course.

On November 15th the WSC hosted the 76th annual Children's Concert "live" after two years of video performances. Three concerts hosted over 4000 fourth and fifth grade students from more than 35 schools. This is always one of the volunteers favorite events!

In preparation for the sold out performance of the Nutcracker with the WSO and Frontier Ballet, WSC volunteers assisted with pricing and selling the Nutcrackers.

On December 1st the finalists for



Top left: After Party- **Marsha Green** and **Maestro Heyde**. Top right: Children's Concert-**Ann Harder, Narrator; Suzanne Alexander, President WSC** and **Edith Reitmeier, volunteer**. Middle right: **Stephen Heyde** Receiving Golden Baton Award. Bottom left: Preview Party- **Ann Harder, Tonya Clark** and **Fran Good**. Bottom: **Belle and Brass Ushers**.



the job of the WSO conductor was released to the press. The finalists are: **David Itkin**, Music Director/Conductor Abilene Philharmonic (Texas) **Lawrence Loh**, Music Director Symphoria (Syracuse, New York), **Wesley Schulz**, Music Director/Conductor Auburn Symphony Orchestra (Washington), **Pablo Urbina**, Principal Conductor Orchestra

Vitae (London). Announcing the final four, WSA Executive Director **Carolyn Bess** said, "The search committee received more than 100 applications from across the country and around the world. We are tremendously excited about the leadership and artistic qualities among these four finalists as we plan the future direction of the symphony."

## HOUSTON SYMPHONY LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS FOR STUDENT CONCERTS

The Houston Symphony just completed its first full season of Student Concerts in Jones Hall since the 2019-2020 season. Student Concerts were cancelled during the 2020-2021 season and we had an abbreviated schedule during the 2021-2022 season. It was exciting to welcome almost 30,000 upper elementary and middle school children to Jones Hall this year during the 14 concerts in seven days between November 1 and December 1. Assisting with Student Concerts is one of the earliest activities of the Houston Symphony League and League members played a huge role in welcoming the students back with approximately 20 volunteers each day.

### FALL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

The Houston Symphony League kicked off their first luncheon of the season with a special guest speaker—the patriotic heroine of Charlie Wilson’s War, **Joanne King Herring**. A sold-out record breaking crowd of over 200 new and seasoned League members packed the Junior League of Houston to hear Joanne speak about Volunteerism: Creating Change and Establishing Relationships!

**Tammie Johnson** and **Heidi Rockecharlie** chaired the event and **Lilac Guzman** had an intimate conversation with Joanne highlighting her invaluable experience in fundraising and the art of creating opportunities.



Top: Fall Membership Luncheon: Chair **Heidi Rockecharlie**, **Joanne King Herring**, Chair **Tammie Johnson** and **Lilac Guzman**. Bottom: Magical Musical Morning Salvation Army Residence children.

Joanne’s first involvement in volunteer work was personally requested by Texas’ first lady and Houston Symphony founder, **Ima Hogg** in 1946, which made Joanne the perfect choice to guest speak at this season’s fall Luncheon.

### MAGICAL MUSICAL MORNING

The 25th year for Magical Musical Morning “WINTER WONDERLAND” was held at the River Oaks Country Club, Sunday, December 4, 2022. Our

chairs **Valerie** and **Tracy Dieterich** created a fun-filled morning, which included a delightful brunch, holiday crafts for the little ones, face painting, an airbrush artist, and the return of the very popular Instrument Petting Zoo, where a child’s desire to become a musician was sparked. Special guest **Saint Nick** dropped by for photos with Santa.

League members volunteered to help with decorations, set up, face painting and the instrument

# 7ASO News

petting zoo. All proceeds from Magical Musical Morning support Education and Community Engagement initiatives that help the Symphony serve more people than ever before. In addition to regular table sales, children from the Salvation Army Family Residence were also sponsored so they were able to attend this fun event allowing those children to see the world through a different lens, and hopefully they were able to see a future of opportunities beyond their current situation.

## NEIMAN MARCUS FASHION PRESENTATION AND LUNCHEON

Thanks to a sold-out crowd of 80 Symphony loving fashionista's, the annual Neiman-Marcus Fashion show benefitting the Houston Symphony was a rousing success. From the delightful charcuterie nibbles gracing the tables to the haute couture evening gowns from designer **The Danes, New York**, that grew delighted gasps from the crowd to the lovely baubles from inspired New York jewelry designer, **Steven Dweck**, the impressive lunch event raised \$12,000 for the

Houston Symphony. Generously underwritten by Neiman-Marcus, the event chaired by League members, **Clare Fontenot-Gray**

and **Mary M. Fusillo**, was a crowd pleaser and a wonderful show of support from Neiman's.

*Top: Valerie and Tracy Dietrich and family with Santa. Bottom left: League members in Neiman's Snow Globe. Bottom right: Instrument Petting Zoo.*



## The San Angelo Symphony Guild

The San Angelo Symphony Guild started our “Sound of Music” themed year by introducing all Symphony Ambassadors, all Symphony Beaux and Belles and their sponsors at our first general membership meeting. An overview of the year was presented, Guild yearbooks were distributed, and members enjoyed refreshments. In September, we held a combination Etiquette & Technology Class, “I Have

Confidence.” Board member **Dr. Crystal Kreitler** instructed our Symphony Beaux and Belles on etiquette. Following that presentation, the Symphony Beaux and Belles paired up with Lifetime members present to answer questions and give demonstrations about Facebook, Instagram, and Signup Genius. We now have **Allison Culwell**, a percussionist in the Angelo State University orchestra and band, as our social media intern. She is doing a fabulous job for us!

Symphony Beaux and Belles attended Know the Score prior to the November 5 concert. This event is the final rehearsal at the Murphey Performance Hall and is open to middle school, high school, and college students. During Know the Score, students are given a unique opportunity to not only observe a professional ensemble rehearse, but also interact with both the Music Director and select musicians from the orchestra. Guild members also provided a light lunch for the orchestra musicians following their final rehearsal.



Senior Symphony Beaux and Belles were introduced at the concert that evening, and Symphony Ambassadors volunteered at the concert. At our November 6 general membership meeting, the Guild presented \$2,000 in scholarships to four very talented middle/high school orchestra students: violinist **Arabella Dunlap**, cellist **Tristen Gue**; violinist **Jersey Wyatt**; and Heidi Bundick, who plays in the orchestra and band. Each of these students has great musical aspirations, and Heidi hopes to be the first student from her high school to achieve membership in the All State Orchestra. **Stephanie Infante**, orchestra teacher at our local Lake View High School, was awarded a \$2,000 grant. She plans to use the funds to create the opportunity for the Lake View orchestra to present their concerts in a performance hall rather than at their school. We are so pleased to be able to present these scholarships and grant as part of our mission to support symphonic music in the





# TASO News

Concho Valley.

Preparations are under way for our 39th Annual Gala “An Evening in Austria” on February 11, 2023. This black tie event will include both a silent auction and a live auction, as well as an elegant plated dinner and dancing to the music of John Irish and his Jazz Band. This multi-generational event will primarily benefit the San Angelo Symphony, but a percentage of the proceeds will be used by the Symphony Beaux and Belles to purchase musical instruments for two local elementary schools.



*San Angelo Tech class.*

## Recognized Projects 2022-2023

**Women’s Symphony League of Austin**, Google Workspace-The New Workbook; **Houston Symphony League**, President’s Luncheon/Style Show; **Dallas Symphony Orchestra League**, Orchestra Appreciation Luncheon; **San Angelo Symphony Guild**, Beaux and Belles Music Project; **Women’s Symphony League of Tyler**, Membership Recruitment; **Dallas Symphony Orchestra League**, DSOL Presentation Ball; **Amarillo Symphony Guild**, Vintage Amarillo; **Houston Symphony League**, Can’t Say No to Clicquot.

A decorative graphic with a purple border and a floral wreath of green leaves and blue flowers. The text inside the graphic reads:

*Save the date*  
**TASO**  
April 14 & 15  
2023  
*Austin, TX*  
Renaissance Austin Hotel

## Plano Symphony Orchestra

### HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY PLANO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MAESTRO HECTOR GUZMAN

In 1983, a group of musicians came together to form a new professional orchestra that was given the name The Plano Chamber Orchestra. They searched for a conductor and selected a very young dynamic **Hector Guzman** as the maestro. Maestro Guzman grew the orchestra and in 1998 the name was changed to Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO). Maestro Guzman is still the conductor and continues to grow the orchestra in both size and talent. It is so unusual to have a conductor from inception through 40 years and he's not going anywhere! And, many of the current musicians have played in the orchestra for many years, including a few from the founding group.

Visiting artists welcome the opportunity to return to play with Hector and the symphony. Throughout the years the symphony and Maestro Guzman have accomplished great rapport with the concert goers and the community young and old. 158 persons were in attendance at the first concert and now the PSO performs for over 150,000 people each year and our music is embraced by people young and old and from all walks of life at regions of the North Texas community. That is why the symphony and Hector have received special acknowledgments and awards this season. Hector Guzman received the North Texas Performing Arts

2022 Stardust Distinguished Performing Artist Award. The Symphony was honored with the For the Love of Arts Legacy Award by the ArtCentre of Plano and the 2022 Obelisk Award as the Distinguished Cultural Organization (Nonprofit) by the North Texas Business Council for the Arts.

The title for our 40th anniversary year is "Celebrating Connections" because connecting the community to music is the heart of the PSO. Maestro Guzman put together a very special 40th anniversary season of connections. The PSO season opened with the world premiere of a violin concerto written by Hector Guzman's dear friend and local composer **Jack Waldenmaier**. Unfortunately, Waldenmaier passed away prior to the performance. Hector decided to honor him by performing it with his longtime friend, Guest Artist **David Kim**, the Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. That night the composer's wife was present to hear the world premiere of her husband's concerto.

The following week, the PSO was honored to kick off the 41st Plano Balloon Festival, "Things Are Really Looking Up". This was the first year the PSO has played at the Balloon Festival although our instrument petting zoo is always in attendance. Approximately 14,000 people were introduced to the PSO through this concert. And, in honor of the 40th Anniversary, The City of Plano proclaimed September 22, 2022, as "Plano Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Hector Guzman Day".

The PSO is also connecting with family and friends. Our Holiday season concert features Hector's niece, **Fela Dominguez**, well known Mexican singer and actress, as one of the Guest Artists. Another concert celebrating the 40th year is called "Hector and Friends". It will feature **Christopher Adkins** on Cello and **Jorge Federico Osorio** on Piano. Adkins was Hector's college roommate at UNT. Guzman briefly studied piano with Osorio's mother at the Conservatory of Music in Mexico City.

A great tribute to Hector for his 40th year anniversary needed to be celebrated with a Fiesta with a Mariachi Band. The **Mariachi Vargas** will be featured with the Plano Symphony Orchestra at one of the concerts. The Mariachi Vargas have thrived for five generations. They are considered as the gold standard in mariachi music. Hector has worked with them since 2004. This year, the symphony has received the Arts in American Communities Award from the National Endowment for the Arts due to the appearance of the Mariachi Vargas Band.

Our final concert for the season will be Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection" performed with our symphony by guest artists **Angela Wilson**, Mezzo Soprano and **Erin Roth Thomas**, Soprano. The Plano Civic Chorus and the Irving Chorale will be part of the very best symphonies of all time. This monumental collaboration fulfills a long-standing dream for Maestro Guzman to conduct a performance of this piece – an opportunity he considers once in a lifetime. Of course, the PSO could not

# TASO News

have achieved all of the success over the last 40 years without the support and hard work of the PSO Guild which was formed a few years after the PSO. The Guild is the heart of the PSO. The Guild was the presenting sponsor of the November concert and honored with a reception afterward. During this 40th Anniversary Season, in addition to the normal Guild activities of supporting the **Anna Hale** Instrument Petting Zoo, Children concerts, School concerts, receptions, small FUNd raising events, Festive Eve, etc, two special events will be held. One is the annual Gala, “A Ruby Affair Celebrating Connections” which is the PSO largest fundraiser. A second event to be held in the fall is titled “Tune N Fork” and is intended to bring community and local restaurants together. The PSO Guild is the glue that brings the PSO orchestra, patrons and community together for the enjoyment of great music of all kinds.

*Top right: Maestro **Hector Guzman** leads the Plano Symphony Orchestra at the 2022 Plano Balloon Festival. Right: PSO Executive Director **Gregory Patterson**, Maestro **Hector Guzman**, and award sponsor **Burke Asher**.*



## New TASO LOGO

TASO has a new logo! **Joi Smith**, Commuincations Committee, headed up the design and presented it at the last TASO meeting. The old logo will still be used, but look for this design on social media.

Like us on  
FACEBOOK

