



TASO NEWS

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

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

Celebrating 51 Years Spring - 2023



2023 Annual TASO 56th Conference to be in Austin!

Awards of Excellence 2022-2023

Greetings from Austin!

On April 14 and 15th, supporters of symphonies from around the State of Texas will gather in Austin to attend the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras' 56th Annual Conference. This 2-day event will include national, state, and local speakers, an Awards Dinner honoring Business, Patron and Volunteer leaders across the State of Texas, and numerous networking events! Saturday evening there will be the option to attend a dinner and Austin Symphony Orchestra Concert and after-Party!

The Awards of Excellence will be given to:

Jill Powell-Volunteer

Awards of Excellence winner

Jill has been an outstanding volunteer for the Women's Symphony League of Austin and the Austin Symphony Orchestra for over three decades. Jill joined the Women's Symphony League of Austin in 1985; for 37 years, Jill has taken on nearly every placement, project and leadership position within the Women's Symphony League! During her tenure as President, Jill netted the largest monetary gift ever given to the Austin Symphony Orchestra by the Women's Symphony League. Jill is an extremely active and committed volunteer for both of these organizations.

Tammy & Charles Miller-Patron Awards of Excellence winners:

Tammy and Charles Miller are model volunteer leaders. They have given of their time, talent and resources to the growth and development of the Plano Symphony Orchestra as board members, Gala and Guild Chairs, and transformative gifts. Most recently, the Millers made a major restricted gift to the PSO designed to secure and transform its future. This gift will enhance the sound of the Plano Symphony Orchestra, support two new positions and fund an entire information technology overhaul so the PSO is more competitive in both fundraising and marketing.



Street Toyota-Business Awards of Excellence winner:

Street Toyota has been a great supporter of the Amarillo Symphony for decades. In recent years, this business has made general contributions ranging from \$10,000-\$15,000. Since the Amarillo Symphony added the Greater Southwest Music Festival to its educational program, Street Toyota has made annual gifts of \$5,000 for that specific purpose. Additionally, generous in-kind donations have been made allowing guest musicians and our conductor the use of vehicles during their stay. The Amarillo Symphony is pleased to call Street Toyota one of its oldest partnerships.



Top: **Jill Powell**; Middle: **Tammy & Charles Miller**. Bottom: **Street Toyota**

President's Letter



Greetings all,

It seems like only a few minutes ago that I was working to pen my first letter to you as your president. What an honor it has been to hold this position. As I have traveled the state and heard your fabulous orchestras, seen your great fundraising work and felt your warm welcoming meeting atmospheres it has been reaffirmed in me a fact that I already knew all too well- THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS OF TEXAS AND THEIR LEAGUES ARE ALIVE AND WELL AND DOING GREAT THINGS!!!

I look so forward to being with you in Austin! The Women's Symphony League of Austin has worked diligently and has a fun, fabulous and informative time planned for us. Don't miss this opportunity to network with others, honor achievements and to receive valuable information from the best.

As Spring is on the horizon and Easter very near, may this time of rebirth in the earth rekindle in you a renewed drive and refreshed initiative to bring your very best to the table to support your symphony. In a day where marginal effort seems to be the norm, I am so proud to be a part of a group such as TASO where that is not the case and where all are dedicated to being the very best for their state and local organizations as they rise to meet new challenges and needs.

Again it has been an honor to serve with you,

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

Candis Rodgers Hicks
TASO President

Newsletter Deadlines; August 1, 2023

TASO Newsletter Editor, Sandy Secor, [sandrasecor@icloud.com](mailto:sandrasedor@icloud.com)

Abilene Philharmonic Guild

The Abilene Philharmonic Guild's annual Heritage Gala, held on February 25, 2023, was a fabulous success! The day started with a Brunch at Tiffany's and concluded with a Moonlit Evening of dinner and dancing at the Abilene Country Club. After a scrumptious dinner of bacon wrapped scallops, coconut shrimp, and filet mignon, guests were invited to participate in a live auction. The party then got started with the Oh So Good Band and party goers danced the night away to their musical sounds.

During the Brunch and Gala, we honored **Jim and Mary Pizzorno**, who are longtime supporters of the Abilene Philharmonic. **First Financial Bank** along with **First Financial Trust** were also honored. They have been long term business supporters of the organization and are previous recipients of TASO's Awards of Excellence. First Financial Bank was represented by **Marelyn Shedd** and **Scott Dueser**. First Financial Trust was represented by **Kirk Thaxton** and **Ron Butler**.

Twelve senior Belles and Beaus were presented with their mothers during the brunch. During the evening gala, they danced a first dance with their fathers or mothers. Our senior Belles and Beaus are **Calli Andrews, Faith Cary, Sydney Katona, Savanna Melnyk, Mallory Perkins, Joslin Power, Jack Proctor, Noah Proctor, Zechariah Rambo, Sara Jane Shanks, Ella Snead,** and



Senior Belles and Beaus. Middle: Gala Chair **Kim Melnyk**. Bottom: Honorees **Jim and Mary Pizzorno**.

Kenzie Wilson. A huge thank you goes to Gala Chair, **Kim Melnyk**, for organizing this wonderful event!

Once again, our concert season has been a huge success with **Maestro Itkin** as conductor. We have seen a change in personnel this year with our new Executive Director, **Gerald Gibbs**. Our last concert for the season will be a celebration of Broadway musicals.

Amarillo Symphony Guild

This was the 68th year for the Amarillo Symphony Guild to hold the oldest fundraiser in our history. It is also the major fundraiser for our group. The monies earned from this event aid in the funding of the Guild's educational projects that reach all ages in our community: Lunch & Listening, Symphony Kids, Kinderkonzerts and the Young Artist Project. These educational events reach over 6,000 children and adults in our area! Each year our goal is to create



a memorable experience for the presentation of our Belles and Beaux participants, their parents and the remainder of our guests.

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For many Belle and Beau parents the ball is the first fundraising event they have attended for the Guild and it is very important to put our best foot forward to encourage their continued support even after their child graduates.

Our theme this year was Kyoto in Bloom and it was an amazing evening filled with Cherry Blossoms, an amazing meal, live music, dancing and an auction. This is an annual black tie event in our community and one that everyone looks forward to attending. Next year is our Symphony's 100th anniversary and plans are already in the works for the 69th Ball.

The Big Spring Symphony Guild

The Big Spring Symphony Guild wishes to thank everyone who attended and/or donated their time or resources to "The Symphony Bowl" Fundraiser Luncheon held on February 11, 2023! This was the Guild's first in-person fundraiser event since 2019. It was so much fun and funds were raised for multiple music student scholarships. The attendees gave extra cash to the scholarship fund, while predicting the Super Bowl Winner - "Go Chiefs"! Door prize recipients said "Touch Down!" when getting a prize.

There was fabulous entertainment! The event started with an incredible and much appreciated "Welcome Show" from **Adrian Calvio**. The Guild



Top: **Suzanne Markwell** (Guild President), **Candis Hicks** (TASO President), **Jobeth Corwin** (Guild Vice-President) Top right: **Adrian Calvio**. Middle: **Suzanne Markwell**, **Ellen Austin** (Event Coordinator), **Pauline Nelson** (Guild Treasurer), **Raymond and Candice Smalling** (Guild Members). Bottom right: **Chris Crawford**.

thanks **Adrienne Green** and **Chris Crawford** for a magical comedy performance and Adrienne also did wonderful as the EMCEE. Chris is appreciated for being a good sport and announcing the names of the winners of the prizes. The Guild is grateful to these AMAZING entertainers for donating their precious time for a good cause.

Suzanne Markwell, Guild President, welcomed the attendees and gave a report on the Guild's activities. **Candis Hicks**, President of Texas Association for Symphony

Orchestras(TASO) took time out of her busy schedule and spoke at this event as well. She has been traveling all over Texas visiting the different symphony guilds to share and observe new ideas to better support our state's symphony programs.

Ellen Austin did a fantastic job as the Event coordinator and headed up the menu, prep and service for the wonderful food. She was assisted by multiple hardworking Guild members. **Jobeth Corwin**, Guild Vice President, was the Silent Auction Door Prize

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Coordinator. Thanks to the OVERWHELMING generosity of our community, EVERYONE in attendance got a door prize. The Guild appreciates Trinity Baptist Church for providing the venue and our Guild members that handled decor. **Candice Smalling** with the assistance of **Angelica Phillips** did a fantastic job setting the mood with the event decorations.

The Guild is currently conducting auditions for the 2023 “**Phyllis Graumann Memorial**” **Scholarships** through April 10th as they plan for the final concert of the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra’s 41st Season, entitled “AS TIME GOES BY”. The Spring Pops concert will be on April 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at the Big Spring High School Auditorium and will feature the **Dave Alexander Band**. Dave Alexander is a celebrated Western Swing Artist and former Entertainer of the Year. He is a member of the Halls of Fame in literally all of the Western States. Dave appears with his Western Swing Band playing Swing, Tango and Boogie and will bring some all new arrangements for his band and full orchestra. This concert is funded in its entirety due to the incredible generosity of the FMH Foundation.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Debutantes Introduced during 37th Annual Presentation Ball

Gowns and curtseys were all the

rage as 26 Symphony Debutantes took their bows at the 37th Annual Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Presentation Ball on Saturday, February 11 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The spotlight was on the debts, their families, and dapper members of the Honor Guard. The Honorary Chairs for the Ball were **Lisa and Clay Cooley**, longtime supporters of the DSO and the Dallas community. The Presentation Ball Chair was **Karen Cox** and DSOL President is **Cynthia Beard**. All knew well what to expect during the debutante season. The Cooley’s daughter **Ciara** made her debut in 2016 and Karen’s daughter **Isabella** was presented in 2020. Cynthia was the Presentation Ball Chair in 2011 and her daughter **Jane** made her debut in 2008.

Jan Strimple was given recognition on the stage as this was her final year as Choreographer of the ball. She is turning the reins over to **Densil Adams** who cofounded Preston Center Dance in 1990. Assisting Densil will be **Mia Davis**, who has had two Debutante daughters. Jan brought grace and sophistication to each of the presentations for the past 24 years and has taught close to a thousand girls how to do the Texas Dip with poise and confidence.

There were several legacy families who have been involved with the Presentation Ball since its founding. **Vaughn Miller’s** mother **Tincy Miller** founded the event in 1987 and he was among the



The Duvall Family

first Honor Guard group in the inaugural year. This year, daughter **Gigi** made her debut and brothers served as Honor Guards. Members of the **Averitt/Duvall** families were present for the debut of **Natalie Duvall**. Her mom **Susan Averitt Duvall** made her debut in the inaugural presentation ball and sister **Madelyn Duvall** was presented in 2020. Susan’s brother **Mark Averitt** was a member of the first group of Honor Guards, and brother **Don Averitt** worked behind the scenes and graciously greeted the guests. Susan’s sister-in-law **Barbara Averitt** has assisted the debutantes since the first ball and sister-in-law **Kendra Averitt** has worked with the honor guard for many years. There were numerous parents who have had debutante daughters in prior years.

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Houston Symphony League

A sold out B# Brunch series was excited to present **Todd Frazier** as our guest speaker on Thursday, February 9th. Todd Frazier is Director of Houston Methodist Hospital's Center for Performing Arts Medicine, and a composer of music that explores the collaboration of arts and medicine to holistic healing. Todd spoke and dined with us at Ousie's Table at 3939 San Felipe from 11:30 am - 1:30 p.m. Todd explained the impact of music on healing. Tickets were \$55 each (unless you have purchased the 3 part series which is \$150) and includes your meal. This was a fascinating discussion from one who is at the forefront of this unique approach to medicine.

Musician & Staff Appreciation Lunch

Every year the League members host a casual pot-luck luncheon twice in the rehearsal studio of Jones Hall to honor our fabulous musicians and the hard-working Houston Symphony staff members. Our league has the opportunity to host a lunch for our favorite musicians and staff during a back-to-back rehearsal at Jones Hall. Be a part of the fun! We have the opportunity to bring food and act as a hostesses, donate money to make this a splashing good time, or simply drop off your food donations that morning.

Houston Symphony League's CHAMPAGNE CAMPAIGN Bubbles & Boas!

The Houston Symphony League will once again be represented at the Wine Dinner & Collector's

Auction to be held April 21, 2023 at Jones Hall! The League is donating bottles and accessories of Veuve Clicquot auction lots that its members have generously contributed! All proceeds will benefit the Houston Symphony's educational and community outreach programs.

Last year, we raised \$2,500 from our members with two separate auction lots; our goal this year is \$3,000! Please consider donating a bottle, magnum or Veuve Clicquot accessory to support our beloved Symphony – and get your “Bubbles & Boa” glamour shot in the League's social media!

A heartfelt thanks to all our members who have donated, thus far. The members have three ways to donate. They can bring a bottle of Veuve Clicquot or a monetary donation to a board meeting or any League event or the Spring Membership Tea to be held March 29, 2023.

A CONVERSATION WITH HOUSTON ICONS

Chairs, **Elizabeth Stein** and **Patti Murphy** have arranged a fabulous event with two of Houston's favorites for our third annual Conversation with a Houston Icon !! This year's popular event will be held at the Ballroom at Tanglewood. **Shelby Hodge** and **Donna Vallone** will be center stage having a conversation over lunch about the good old days in Houston! We get to listen in on all the fun stories they'll tell! Who knows what we will hear, but it is sure to be interesting and hilarious! There will be complimentary champagne for all



Houston Symphony League Breakfast volunteers.

guests and a fabulous raffle. Last year's event was a sellout raising over \$33,000 and this year's event is sure to be one also.

Plano Symphony Orchestra

The Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO) Guild has conducted the Collin County Young Artist Competition (CCYAC) since 1985 and has seen many talented young musicians throughout the years. One former winner approached PSO **Maestro Hector Guzman** at a concert and said that the opportunity to play with the PSO changed his life for the better even after years have passed since the experience.

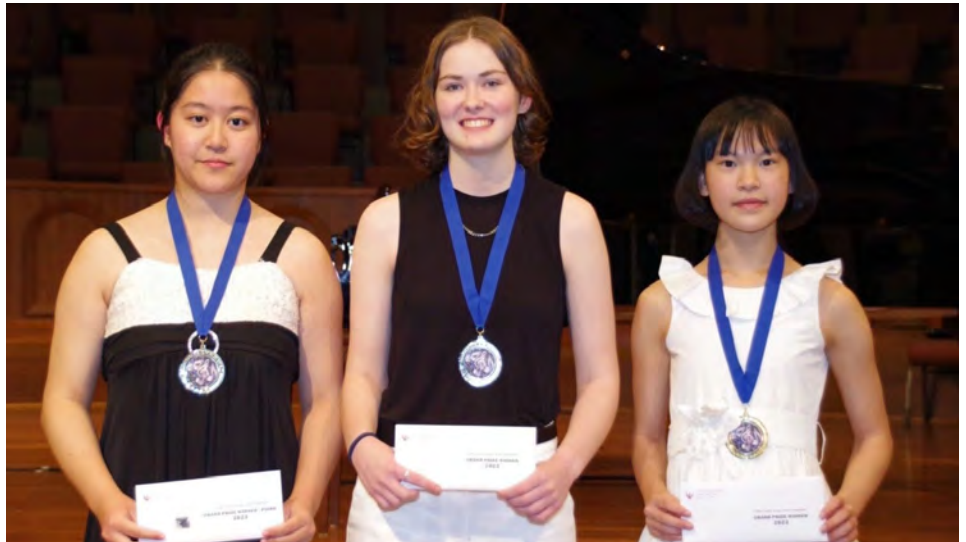
The PSO Guild chairman for the event is **Gladys Chan** who has done a fabulous job with the event for over twenty years. The event takes many months of preparation. It is labor intensive and it takes a village to make it happen. Over 40 volunteers are needed on competition day.

The competition is divided into three categories: piano, strings, and winds/percussion. There are two divisions: Junior-grades

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1-8 and Senior-grades 9-12. Participants must either live in Plano, Frisco, or Collin County; attend a Collin County, Plano ISD or Frisco ISD school, study with a teacher who resides in Plano, Collin County or is a PSO core musician, or be a child of a PSO core musician. Each participant must memorize and perform one or more movements of a concert from the approved repertoire list. Up to twelve Finalists are chosen who then compete for the three Grand Prize positions. The three Grand Prize Winners may come from any category and division and perform their concertos with the PSO orchestra at the March concert.

For the 2023 competition held on January 14, 2023, the application was posted on Friday, October 14, 2022 with a deadline for submittal on Thursday, November 17, 2022. Ninety-six applications were submitted. Each category, piano, winds and strings, is limited to approximately twenty-five contestants per category for the live preliminary round auditions. Twenty-six applications were for piano and twelve were for winds. A whopping fifty-eight were strings. PSO's new assistant conductor, **Shira Samuels-Shragg** screened the string contestants and selected 15 Juniors and 12 Seniors to compete. Six expert judges, one male and one female, in each category were secured for the preliminary round auditions. The judges were from universities all around the state of Texas. This year's competition was sponsored by First United Bank, Steinway Piano Gallery, and the Plano Symphony Guild.



Grand Prize Winners, Melody Guo, Nicole Johnson, and Elim Wong

The competition was held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at Christ United Methodist Church. Everything went smoothly except that surprisingly two pencils had to be removed from the main audition piano by the piano tuner. But one pencil was still stuck deep inside the piano. An accompanist was finally able to remove that pencil by taking apart the bottom keyboard panel with a screwdriver. Always expect the unexpected!

The Grand Prize Winners were **Melody Guo** (piano, age 15, 10th grade at Townview TAG School in Dallas), **Nicole Johnson** (clarinet, age 17, 11th grade at Liberty HS in Frisco) and **Elim Wong** (violinist, age 12, 6th grade at Schimelphenig Middle School in Plano).

The Grand Prize Winners will perform at the March 18, 2023 concert with the PSO at Christ United Methodist Church. As an introduction to each performer, a short 21/2 minute slideshow

is shown with personal photos and background music provided by the student. It is always an amazing concert with these young talented musicians. The PSO will also be performing the *Symphonie Fantastique*. A cookie and punch reception sponsored by the PSO Guild will be held following the concert. As their schedule allows, the young artists will have additional opportunities to play for smaller audiences and special events.

Women's Symphony League of Tyler

It has been wonderful for the Women's Symphony League of Tyler to be experiencing events that have been in the planning stages since June.

The East Texas Symphony Orchestra held its first performance in November and received rave reviews. The next concert in January will feature Buster Keaton' movie, *The General*, with the symphony playing the background music. The

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American Film Institute ranks this as the 18th best American film of all time. There is great anticipation of viewing the movie as our orchestra plays!

The WSL Sustainers held their first gathering in November at **Ramsey Fritz Jewelers**. **Maestro Richard Lee** was welcomed and spoke of the ETSO's 2022-2023 season.

WSL celebrated the Christmas season with a general meeting/holiday gathering at the historical Azalea District home of one of our members. We all love a party! The Junior Symphony League held its annual Monster Bowl in October with bowling, costumes and lots of pizza and candy. As a result of their efforts, over \$8,000 will be donated to the East Texas Youth Orchestra and to the WSL music education program.

One of the most important parts of the WSL music education program is the awarding of scholarships for the continuing music instruction of our young artists in the Tyler area. There are three levels of scholarships: elementary/beginners, secondary, and college level. This program has benefitted dozens of young musicians in the past years. To further the funding

of this program, a very large, decorated coffee cup is passed at all WSL meetings for members to donate "loose change" to Sips for Scholarships. It is amazing how it adds up to benefit this most worthy cause.

The Symphony League Ball will be held in April, highlighted by the presentation of 78 JSL members. These young ladies and gentlemen have given hours of volunteering by ushering at all concerts and by helping with WSL projects. The Ball will be the first large event to be held in the new Brookshire Convention Hall. In February, ETSO and WSL collaborated to present the annual School Concerts Link Up, program. This production was attended by elementary schools in Tyler and is part of an ongoing commitment by the WSL to bring music education to our community.

Lubbock Symphony Guild

The Lubbock Symphony Guild Debutantes started the 2023 year with volunteering at the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra's concert "A Dance in Vienna" in January. The Annual Symphony Guild Debutante Tea was presented

at the Lubbock Country Club on Sunday, January 28th with the Mistress of Ceremonies **Brenda Becknall** presenting. Families enjoyed a preview of our beautiful debutantes and their families. The Lubbock Symphony Guild Annual Winter Ball was held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theater and Ballroom. The Master of Ceremony was **Mayor Tray Payne** where he presented 29 Senior Debutantes and introduced 38 Junior Debutantes accompanied by a talented four string quartet from the LSO. Our Winter Debutante Ball celebrated the cheerful colors of red, purple and yellow which highlighted our beautiful Sapphire Duchess **Grace Ann Shoop**, daughter of **Justice Larry Doss** and **Julie Doss**. Financial reports are still being finalized, but we expect to make a sizable gift to our Symphony's programs soon!

The Guild will hold a membership drive in May. We aim to recruit new members, facilitate membership renewals, and reconnect with our members. Guild representatives will be present at the rest of the LSO concerts and end the season with the music of Queen.



The Lubbock Symphony Guild Debutantes

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Waco Symphony Council

The Waco Symphony Council has been busy this year! We continued "The Magic of Music" at the January 19th featuring the first finalist for the WSO Conductor.

Pablo Urbina spent a week in Waco being interviewed and interacting with search committee, board members, donors and other community leaders. The week started with a Sunday Brunch Preview Party where members of the Council had the opportunity to meet him and hear him talk about the upcoming concert. It was well-attended and he was well-received.

On February 16th, the WSC hosted the Waco Symphony Patron Dinner at Ridgewood Country Club. It was chaired by **Glenda Strum**. The event was well-attended and was a delightful evening for symphony donors to relax, enjoy a delicious dinner and visit.

The Belle and Brass program had their Etiquette Course dinner in January. The WSC is preparing for the formal presentation of the Belle and Brass on March 25. The presentation will be followed by a black-tie gala. This is the first Belle and Brass Gala so there is a lot of excitement in the air.

The upcoming March Concert will feature our second finalist for the WSO Conductor position.

Wesley Schulz (Music Director/Conductor Auburn Symphony Orchestra in Washington) will be conducting "Orchestral Magic." He will be joined by actor **John Coons** who will narrate the Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.



Preview Party: Top left: Ann Harder, WSA President with Lydia Bratcher and Marsha Green. Top right: Debbie Luce and Trish Mertz at Patron Party. Middle Left: Liz Arrend and Carol Melis at Patron Party. Middle right: Paula and Lewis McReynolds Bottom: Symphony Belle Ushers at the January Concert.

The WSC is excited to once again present Symphony in the City, our major fundraiser, on April 1st. The event is being co-chaired by **Dianne Sawyer** and **Betsy Reeder**. It will be an awesome

evening! Musicians from the WSO will be playing in each house during the evening. The Waco Symphony Council is excited to be back at work supporting our orchestra!

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Top left: **Suzanne Alexander**, WSC President with **Glenda Strum**, Patron Party Chair and **Ann Harder**, WSA President. Right: **Edith and Mike Reitmeier** with **Donna and Justice Rex Davis**, WSA Board Members. Middle left: Baylor School of Music Dean **Gary Mortenson** and **Sue Blacker Jacobson**, WSO Concert Master. Bottom left: **Stephanie Cooney** and **Dianne Sawyer** at Patron Party check-in.



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

Lubbock Symphony League - Symphony Guild Calendar

San Angelo Symphony Guild

In early January, the San Angelo Symphony Guild participated in an annual fundraiser held by the San Angelo Symphony – “A Tour of Tables”. Their theme “Welcome Home”, and the room our Guild selected was the laundry room. We thought that would be an easy room to decorate a table for since we all spend so much time there!

In February our 39th annual Gala, “An Evening in Austria” was held at the historical Cactus Hotel. Eight **Senior Symphony Beaux/Belles** were presented; a successful live auction was conducted; guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal of Bavarian food, and the evening ended with dancing to the music of the **West Texas Jazz Orchestra**. Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase musical instruments for two local elementary schools and help fund the San Angelo Symphony.

Membership renewals and recruitment for our next Symphony Beaux/Belles class are the next items on the Guild’s agenda.



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TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

88th Texas Legislative Session Priorities (2023)

(Updated February 1, 2023)

Our primary commitment during the 88th Texas Legislative Session will be threefold: to protect and grow the appropriations to the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA), the state arts agency, including the TCA's Cultural District grant program; to protect the statutory protections for the arts of the Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax; and to respond to additional legislative opportunities that advance and strengthen the arts, culture and creative industry across the state.

PROTECT: Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax

* Protect use of Municipal and County Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to fund the arts

* Support legislation in the 88th that will clarify often confusing HOT Tax Code provisions and will create greater transparency in reporting comprehensive municipal and county HOT collections and provisions.

The Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) was enacted in 1965 and is levied on the state and, optionally, on the municipal and county levels, to guests renting a hotel or guest room. This tax was created to promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry. In 1977, the Legislature added that "up to 15%" of municipal HOT funds may be dedicated to "the encouragement, promotion, improvement, and application of the arts". This was in acknowledgement that there is a direct correlation between a vibrant and dynamic arts, culture and creative community and a successful tourism and hotel industry.

PROTECT AND INCREASE: Texas Commission on the Arts Funding

* Protect the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) base funding and support Exceptional Item #1 - \$3M for "organization" grants with an additional \$5M to meet significant unmet need, and Exceptional Item #2 - \$5M for Cultural Districts

* Promote the important role the legislature's investment of public resources in the arts plays in the vitality, economic health, and civic pride of communities all across Texas.

* Support and promote the Texas Commission on the Art's Cultural & Fine Arts District Program for the strong role it plays in harnessing the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization.

WORKING WITH OUR MEMBERS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

**Support HB323 "Changes the curriculum standards for public schools, buy re-designating "fine arts" as part of the foundation curriculum; it was previously considered part of the "enrichment curriculum"*

**Support HB667 "Requires the Texas Dept of Licensing & Regulation to regulate the profession of music therapy and create a Music Therapist Advisory Board. Outlines the regulatory process for this occupation.*

**Monitor HB1497 "Requires the disclosure of taxes and fees charged for the sale of concerts and other event tickets.*

**Invest in arts education through policy decisions and appropriations. Our goal is to ensure that every student has equal access and opportunity to an art's rich education, which helps prepare our children to succeed in school and life*

**Maintain or increase funding for the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (film, television, commercial, and digital interactive media incentives). The Moving Image Industry Incentive is vital for keeping the creative industries thriving in Texas. The Texas legislature should increase funding to support economic development initiatives and help prevent Texas communities from losing business to more competitive states.*

We will keep you apprised! If you have any questions about this agenda, please contact info@texansforthearts.com