



TASO NEWS

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

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

Celebrating 55 Years Spring - 2024



TASO Conference - Tyler, April 5th and 6th

The TASO Conference will be held in Tyler, Texas on April 5 - 6 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center. The event will open with a presentation by League of American Orchestras Panel Discussion.

A panel discussion with President and CEO **Simon Woods** of the League of American Orchestras, Director of Learning and Leadership, **David Styers**, and Liaison to the Volunteer Council, **Melanie Hausmann**. The opening session will provide an overview of some of the biggest challenges and opportunities facing orchestras and the resources the League has to help you address them. We will also look at types of strategic planning processes and how you can best think strategically to advance your mission statement. Be sure to bring your mission statement with You!

On Friday evening the Awards of Excellence will be given to Business Recipients **Fashion Glass and Mirror**, **Lisa and Larry Jaynes**; Patron recipients **Margaret and Jim Perkins**; Volunteer recipient **Annette Marie Findley**; Legislator recipient **The Honorable Brian Birdwell** and the Advocacy recipient **Anne S. Graham**.

The Jaynes have supported the Waco Symphony Orchestra for over 30 years with financial gifts and gifts of their time.

since 2004 Mr. Jaynes has been a concert sponsor through his company Fashion Glass and Mirror. This has resulted in over \$100,000 in sponsorships alone. He has served as President of the Waco Symphony Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, James and Margaret, have been long time advocates and supporters of the Women's Symphony League of Tyler and the East Texas Symphony Orchestra whose commitment has grown exponentially over the years.

Margaret is a Women's Symphony League Keynote Member; members having accomplished twenty-five years of active membership. Margaret joined in 1994 and will celebrate her 30th year of membership status in 2024. A faithful committee member when called upon, she has delighted in hosting meetings in her home repeatedly and loyally supporting the annual Benefit Ball. Not needing to be in the spotlight she is routinely acknowledged as the most loyal of mission advocates, encouraging both WSL Leadership and ETSO Administrative staff from "the wings"! She sees that participation in mission directed initiatives through the simplest contribution of time and energy, can be invaluable.

Margaret Perkins reflects on her long commitment to WSL as stemming from her



Lisa and Larry Jaynes



James and Margaret Perkins



Anne S. Graham

President's Letter



Dear TASO Members:

Doesn't seem possible that it has been a year since I was handed the gavel as President of TASO. Thank you to the TASO board for your leadership and support throughout the year. You are an awesome group of ladies and I have enjoyed working with you,

The Women's Symphony League of Tyler have worked tirelessly to plan a fun and engaging conference. I am looking forward to meeting and hearing our keynote speaker, **Susan Howlett**. Susan has been helping organizations since 1975 by providing practical, low cost solutions that are easy to implement. Attendees feedback has been "now that makes sense. We can do that!".

Opening our conference will be a interesting panel discussion on "The Importance of Volunteer Leadership facilitated by **Simon Woods**, Director of Learning and Leadership, President and CEO of the League of American Orchestras. Volunteers is a topic that all of us struggle with by not only engaging volunteers but also keeping volunteers,

I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference and catching up on what is happening in your guild/league that perhaps we can replicate for the betterment of our organizations.

Darlene Morford
President TASO

firm belief that within ones' busy scheduled life, a focus on the arts by the individual and through collective effort, creates an essential reservoir of support. She articulates that non-profit advocacy is crucial to maintaining the health of the arts, that assisting on any level is appreciated and necessary.

The Perkins collectively realize the value of the Arts in life-long learning, underwriting performances, affirming that promoting and experiencing live performance, sends persistent messages, stimulating community awareness. They

continue to commit appreciable funding knowing that the impact of the arts can be life changing for children and families, enriching beyond measure. Affording the East Texas community opportunity for audience immersion, Jim and Margaret personify the epitome of devoted patrons, patrons who consistently understand funding being crucial to maintaining the health of orchestras and collaborative arts.

Ann S. Graham, Former Executive Director, Texans for the Arts/Texans for the Arts Foundation

Ann S. Graham brings a strong set of leadership skills to her work and has demonstrated a deep passion for the arts and the role they play in building and strengthening our communities. She is keenly interested in the intersection of the arts and other aspects of civic life, including education, public health, military service, social justice, civic engagement, and more. She holds a Master's in Arts Administration and has an extensive career in arts management, arts festival and event production, public art administration, and arts advocacy.

Newsletter Deadline; March 1, 2024
TASO Newsletter Editor, Sandy Secor, sandrasecor@icloud.com



Annette Findley – Volunteer Award - TASO

Annette Findley is an energetic visionary for progress and success in the entire Tyler and East Texas community. The East Texas Symphony Orchestra has benefited from her love for music and community volunteerism. She motivates other volunteers to join her in reaching ambitious financial and cultural goals, which enhances our entire community.

Some of the successful projects Annette has led for the Women's Symphony League and the ESTO include:

- Tri-Chair of the Women's Symphony League Ball in 2009-2010. **Laura Hyde** and **LaVerne Gollob** shared BALL leadership with Annette and raised an unbroken record of \$195,000 to support the ESTO.
- As a master at creating new ideas for fundraising, Annette planned a campaign called STARS IN THE PARK for a brick walkway at the local Bergfeld Park. ESTO profits from this event were \$35,000.
- Annette has planned twenty-five receptions and parties for ESTO concert patrons over

the last five years. To fully cover expenses she collected over \$100,00 in donations.

In the Tyler Community-at-Large, Annette has been a member of the Texas Rose Festival Luncheon since 1986. Currently, she is in the twelfth year of serving as co-chair of that event and brings excitement and enthusiasm every year. Tyler Junior College is another of Annette's areas of service. She serves on the Foundation Board there and recently was part of the committee to build the just-completed TJC Performing Arts Center.

Currently, and most importantly, Annette is seeing her legacy of generational leadership realized. As a High Schooler, Anne Pilgrim Martinez was in Annette's Symphonette group many years ago, and is now the current President of the Women's Symphony League of Tyler. They are delighted to be serving WSL together.

Annette's dearest contribution in building for the future is Annette's establishment of a WSL Music Scholarship to memorialize her deceased son, **Jerome Kenneth Findley**. Thus far, \$8,000 has been awarded to music students for private lesson from that fund with many more years to come. Annette truly is a treasure in our community.

Award of Excellence, Legislator of the Year *The Honorable Brian Birdwell* **Texas Senate**

The Honorable **Brian Birdwell** has

been recognized with the Award of Excellence/Legislator of the Year for 2022-2024. The Austin Symphony and Texans for the Arts nominated him for this richly deserved honor because he has shown outstanding support for the arts across Texas.

His leadership in the 88th Session as Chair of the Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee and lead sponsor of SB 1420 – the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Reporting and Transparency Bill – has been pivotal in ensuring that the arts are supported through the Hotel Occupancy Tax. Working on this important bill language, have assured transparency and clarity around understanding and implementing HOT for the arts is paramount.

The resources generated through the collection and investment of HOT for the arts contributes to the positive economic impact that the arts have across our state. According to the Texas Cultural Trusts' State of the Arts Report for 2023, the arts and culture sector generated \$6 billion for the Texas Economy and nearly \$380 in sales tax revenue. And nearly 845,000 people were employed in creative careers, which represents 1 in 15 jobs.

Not only did he, as Chair, sponsor SB 1420 in the 88th, but you worked in partnership with **Senator Kirk Watson** in the 85th in 2017 co-sponsoring SB1221 – the first HOT Reporting and Transparency legislation which laid the groundwork for the very positive place we stand today.

The Women's Symphony League of Austin

The Women's Symphony League Hosts 13th Annual Red Haute Luncheon and Children's Style Show

The Women's Symphony League of Austin welcomed guests to the elegant setting of the Four Seasons in downtown Austin for the 13th Annual Red Haute Luncheon and Children's Style Show on Sunday, February 11, 2024. This cherished event not only showcased the latest trends in children's fashion but also raised vital funds for the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its music education programs throughout the community. Attendees were treated to a delightful array of activities and entertainment:

- A musical performance of "Moon River" by WSL members **Susan Roth** and Austin Symphony Orchestra violinist **Robin Burwell**.
- A curated marketplace offering fashionable finds from various vendors.
- A raffle featuring luxurious prizes generously donated by local businesses.
- The popular Hugs and Kisses game with prizes provided by esteemed sponsors.
- A captivating children's fashion show featuring designs from renowned brands.
- A live auction boasting exclusive experiences and valuable items.
- An Audrey Hepburn look-alike contest paying homage to the timeless icon.
- Indulgence at the Fancy Fluff



Cotton Candy Bar and spirit tastings by **Desert Door & Still Austin Whiskey**.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the WSL's 2024 Jewel Ball themes, promising enchanting evenings ahead. Reflecting on the inspiration behind this year's festivities, co-chairs **Alexis Simon Moore** and **Natalie Hudson** expressed admiration for Audrey Hepburn's enduring charm and grace. The event captured Hepburn's essence, combining fashion, elegance, and a touch of romance, symbolized by the iconic Tiffany & Co. blue boxes. All proceeds raised from the Red Haute Luncheon and Children's Style Show will support the Austin Symphony Orchestra's Children's Programs, ensuring that the magic of music reaches young

hearts and minds throughout the community.

The success of the Red Haute Luncheon and Children's Style Show would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors and attendees, all united in their commitment to music education and community enrichment. As the curtains closed on another memorable event, the Women's Symphony League of Austin expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to its success, ensuring that the harmonious melodies of music continue to resonate throughout the city. For more information about upcoming events and how to support the Austin Symphony Orchestra through the Women's Symphony League of Austin, visit <https://wslaustin.org/>.

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Page 4: Top left: **Susan Roth** and Austin Symphony Violinist **Robin Burwell** play *Moon River*. Top right: WSL President **Araminta Sellers**, **Ellen Williams**, **Celeste Hubert** and **Julia Null**. Left: **Isla Collins** and **Apple Hamond** on the runway. Right: Kids prep backstage.

Page 5: Top left: Past WSL Presidents **Pam Bell** and **Anna Marie Speir**. Top right: Red Haute Co-Chairs **Natalie Hudson** and **Alexis Simon Moore**. Bottom left: **Jill Powell**, **Amanda Powell**, **Sue Ann Roberson**, **Crystal Dutton**. Right bottom: **Lovely Tablescapes**. Bottom left: **Meredith Wood**, **Stacey Brewer**, **Kristen Maloney**.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

Debutantes

Introduced at 38th Annual Presentation Ball

Gowns and curtseys were all the rage as 44 Symphony Debutantes took their bows at the 38th Annual Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Presentation Ball on Saturday, February 10 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. In a symphony of elegance and festive jubilation, the 2024 Debutantes took center stage and the spotlight was on the debs, their families, and dapper members of the Honor Guard.

Presentation Ball Chairman **Kristin Cordiak** welcomed the Debutantes, the Honor Guards, and families. In welcoming those attending to the Meyerson, DSOL President **Nancy Labadie** reminded all of their shared mission, "I am tremendously proud to support the greatest symphony orchestra in the country." The DSOL has been integral to Honorary Chairs **Margaret** and **Barry Hancock**, who met when Margaret made her debut in 1992 and Barry was her Honor Guard escort. All of their children have participated in the Presentation Ball. Daughter Mary Margaret was presented in 2016, son James was an Honor Guard escort in 2020 and daughter Katherine was presented in 2022.

Tradition runs deep and there were many families returning with a second debutante including the **Clay Smiths**, the **Scott**



Top left: **Sarah Rose** and **Eric Gambrell**. Top right: Debutante Ball Chairman, **Kristin Cordiak** and **Newt Cordiak**. Bottom: 2024 Debutantes with Debutante Ball Chairman, **Kristin Cordiak** and **Nancy Labadie**, DSOL President.

Wheeler, the **Adam Stiles**, the **Eric Gambrells**, the **Thomas LeVoyers**, the **Max Swangos**, the **David Harts**, and the **Glenn Thurmans**. **Laura** and **Jason Downing** witnessed their third daughter's debut, exemplifying the enduring allure of the Ball.

For the Honor Guard, tradition also runs deep with **Vance Miller** and **Robert Peacock** representing a third generation of dedication. There were many brother escorts for the

debutantes, truly making it a family affair: **Carson Hart**, **Bennett Handler**, **Mujin Kwun**, **Luke Gambrell**, **William Greening** and **Max Swango**.

Celebrating their debutante **Electra Wallace Ford** were **Kelli** and **Gerald J. Ford**. **Daffan** and **Doug Nettle** along with **Gayle Sands** were parents of twin daughters presented. Other proud parents were **Kristina** and **John Hallam**, and **Dena** and **Vaughn Miller**.

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Houston Symphony League

B# Brunch Series

This popular program of three events hosts musicians, guest artists, composers, Symphony staff, experts in medical/music research and other community arts organizations in a luncheon/lecture setting. Our B# Brunch group kicked off this season by welcoming our own League member, **Tianna Hall**, a five time Grammy and recognized vocalist and bandleader of the Houston Jazz Band. This special B# Brunch was Tuesday, October 3rd at Backstreet Cafe. Our second B# Brunch featured our very own **Brian Del Signore**, Principal Percussionist with the HSL. This B# Brunch was Friday, February 9th at Jones Hall and our final event for the year will take place on April 9th at Mia Bella Trattoria, 3773 Richmond Avenue. Featured will be the Artistic Director of **Dacamara** who will talk about how Dacamara inspires and enrich communities through diverse and inventive musical experiences.



Student and Family Concert Volunteers.

CONVERSATION WITH A HOUSTON ICON-

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Junior League of Houston

“Conversation with a Houston Icon”, a luncheon with speaker at the Junior League is one of our main fundraising events every year. Our Houston Icon for this year is **Janet Gurwitch**, a highly successful American businesswoman and investor with over 25 years experience in the beauty industry and founder of Gurwitch Products, the manufacturer of Laura Mercier Cosmetics. She graduated from the University of Alabama and began her career at Foley’s where she became senior Vice President of merchandising. Her next move was to Neiman Marcus as executive Vice President responsible for merchandising strategy in all 35 stores. In 1996 she founded Gurwitch products in order to market a boutique line of cosmetics carrying the name of **Laura Mercier**. She is currently an operating partner with Advent International, a Boston-based private equity firm, where she focuses on the beauty and wellness consumer sector and is also a board member of the

Houston Astros.

Gurwitch’s personal community involvement includes the President’s Leadership Council for Houston Methodist Hospital and a trustee for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She has also served as Underwriter for the Drawing Institute for the Menil Collection and she’s an avid supporter of the Houston Symphony and Houston Grand Opera. This year’s Icon Conversation is Wednesday, March 20th at The Junior League of Houston. Tickets are available to the public on our website, houstonsymphonyleague.com.

The kickoff party “Shop, Sip, Stroll and Dine” for this fundraising event was held on February 21 from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm in the River Oaks Shopping District. Several merchants agreed to donate 15% of their sales that day to the Houston Symphony and shopping was followed by dinner at Toulouse, a local restaurant in the district.

Student and Family Concerts

Two of our most popular volunteer activities for League members are

the Student Concerts at Jones Hall during the week for Houston school students and the four Family Concerts throughout the year on Saturday mornings.

The first Student Concerts of the season were held on October 24, October 25, and October 26. Thirty-five League members volunteered, including members from our Social Connections Groups. A special shout-out to **Darlene Clark, Gayle Eury, Leslie Nossaman, and Betty and Gerry Stacy** for ably serving as leads for the various areas of Jones Hall and directing their teams of volunteers to guide over 12,000 students efficiently and effectively into and out of their assigned seats. There were three more days of Student Concerts in the fall season – October 31, November 1, and November 2 followed by 6 more - January 25, January 26, January 30, January 31, February 26, and February 27.

Our fabulous family concerts are held on four Saturdays throughout the season. The first Family Concert this year was Halloween Spooktacular for Kids on October 28, followed by Holly Jolly Holiday in December, Get Up and Dance in February and the final concert will be I'm a Superhero on April 6. Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite superhero and channel their inner superpower.

Over twenty volunteers at each concert greet families as they enter Jones Hall, assist children in making crafts related to the theme of the concert,



Left to right: **Reno Ruiz, Jordan Parks, Maria Vallejo, Plano Symphony Orchestra.**

and staff the ever-popular Instrument Petting Zoo. As a bonus, volunteers can sit in on the concerts which are always amazing.

Plano Symphony Orchestra

The PSO is Growing Younger!

The Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO) celebrated its 40th Anniversary Season in 2022-2023. Since that time, the PSO has added additional staff members to the organization and they are amazing individuals bringing a youthful excitement and energy to the organization. Let's meet them!

Maria Vallejo is serving as the Education and Administration Associate with the PSO. In her role, she focuses on developing and expanding the education programs including the Young Artist Concerto Competition, Summer Music Camp, School Concerts, Healing Notes, Family

Series and much more. She has modernized volunteer signups through the use of Google Sheets and keeps everyone on track and informed. Maria was the Academic Coordinator of Sinfonica Azteca, a leading and innovative platform in music education in Mexico developed to promote a new generation of artists with powerful musical and leadership skills and connect them with global networks.

Maria is an Ecuadorian flutist who has participated in renowned festivals such as the Round Top Music Festival (USA) and The Orchestra of the Americas (Mexico Crescendo Tour). She has performed with a number of symphony orchestras including the Richardson Symphony Orchestra and Amarillo Symphony Orchestra, plus a host of other orchestras. Maria is also a dedicated music educator and was the Flute and Chamber Music Teaching Fellow at the University of North Texas where

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she is a Doctor of Musical Arts Candidate. In June, 2024 she will be managing the Academy Residence at the University of Michigan with guest artists **Yo-Yo Ma**, **Kayhan Kalhol** and **Carlos Miguel Prieto**.

Reno Ruiz is serving as the PSO Major Gifts Officer. In his role, he focuses on individual gifts at or above \$1000 and works with **Greg Patterson**, PSO Executive Director, in develops fundraising campaigns. He is the liaison for the PSO's Virtuoso Society for donors that make a commitment for 3 years. He has recently launched a planned giving campaign to help secure the future of the PSO. Reno is a Texas native from College Station, Texas and is a graduate from Texas Tech University with a degree in music and minor in arts entrepreneurship.

Reno served in many leadership roles while at Texas Tech. He currently sits on the board of directors as the National Collegiate Representative for his fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He is also an appointed trustee for their foundation. In these roles, he has been instrumental in national communication, fundraising and strategic plans. He is currently working towards his certification in charitable gift planning and hopes to pursue a master's degree in the future.

Jordan Parks is specializing in marketing and development with the PSO, but he wears many hats including event planning (who doesn't like a party!?!). Like Reno, he is also a graduate of Texas Tech University



Top left: **Lawrence Loh**, New Conductor, for the Waco Symphony Orchestra.

with a Bachelor of Music in Performance. He honed his musical skills at the Rocky Ridge Music Festival and performed with the Tumble Winds woodwind quintet. Jordan gained insight into arts administration through an internship at the Lubbock Symphony and through a fellowship at the National Repertory Orchestra as the CEO Administrative Assistant. Jordan also spent four summers at the Interlochen Center for the Arts before embarking on his professional music career. Jordan's well rounded background makes him a valuable asset to the PSO capable of serving in a variety of capacities.

Waco Symphony Orchestra

Waco Symphony Orchestra

The Waco Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors is pleased to announce **Lawrence Loh** as the new Music Director and Conductor. Mr. Loh was selected from four finalists following a long Music Director search.

"I am very pleased with the

announcement of Maestro Lawrence Loh as the new Music Director and Conductor of the Waco Symphony Orchestra. I have known Larry for a number of years, from his studies at Yale, through his leadership of The Syracuse Orchestra, his work as Resident Conductor with the Pittsburgh Symphony and as Associate Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Certainly, Larry is a highly gifted conductor and a talented builder of orchestras. But he also has the rare ability to construct a deep bond between the music and the audience and a genuine sense of community. These gifts promise exciting new vistas for the Waco Symphony in the years ahead and soul nourishing performances of the cherished historical repertoire and deserving new works of our time. Hearty congratulations and welcome to Maestro Loh and deepest thanks to the dedicated Committee of board members, musicians, and volunteers who made such an impressive and auspicious decision," **Stephen Heyde**, Music Director Emeritus, Waco Symphony Orchestra, said.

Women's Symphony League of Tyler

The Women's Symphony League of Tyler is ready to welcome attendees to the 2024 TASO Conference April 5 and 6. **Joan LeSavage, Annette Findley** and **Joi Smith** are planning a great event. We look forward to seeing many of you. Joi's "TASO Tuesday" emails have been a big hit.



The Symphony Ball will be held on April 20 and will honor 35 seniors and 45 juniors and their families. "Sounds of Enchantment – A Magical Fantasy" will offer not only a memorable night of dining and dancing, but also a chance to win a trip to Hawaii by participating in a new opportunity this year: The Ring Toss!

In October, the Junior Symphony League sponsored the annual Monster Bowl. The result of their fundraising efforts was a donation of \$4,115.17 to the East Texas Youth Orchestra.

The East Texas Symphony Orchestra continues its season with a concert in February featuring the **Tyler Junior College Academy of Dance** performing to **Igor Stravinsky's** "Rite of Spring" and **Aaron Copland's** "Rodeo". The concert in March is centered around a football theme. Annette Findley is planning the after-concert reception complete with a high school drum line and cheerleaders greeting the guests. It will be both memorable and lively with Annette in charge! ETSO will wrap up the season



WSL Valentines

with a special bonus concert celebrating the solar eclipse. TASO conferees will enjoy this event at the new TJC Rogers Palmer Performance Hall. The evening will conclude with a reception at the home of former WSL president **Treacey Smith**.

Lastly, WSL has, for years, offered an opportunity called Harmony Inns. Volunteer hosts provide a room on concert weekends for a musician to stay Friday night after rehearsal, often providing a snack on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. Our ETSO musicians are most appreciative of this provision.



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WSL Valentines



Waco Symphony Council

The 2023-2024 season of the Waco Symphony Orchestra continues to be Out of This World! We are thrilled to announce that **Maestro Lawrence Loh** has accepted the invitation to be the second conductor of the Waco Symphony! We are over the moon and look forward to working together for years to come. The Waco Symphony Association Board of Directors bestowed former **Music Director Stephen Heyde** with the title of Music Director Emeritus. Maestro Heyde, who retired in November 2022, was the second conductor of the Waco Symphony and served in that capacity for 35 years.

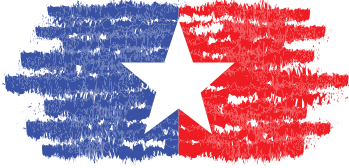
On Sunday, January 14th, we started 2024 with brunch at the home of **Sarah and Bryan Aynesworth**. **Maestro Miguel Harth-Bedoya**, the conductor of

the Baylor Symphony, shared his passion for the music members were going to hear at the concert on January 18th. The theme of the concert, Extraordinary Feats, was perfect! **Anna Geniushene**, the second-place winner of the Van Cliburn Competition, brought concert goers to their feet with her playing of *Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3*. The orchestra debuted **Ben Johansen's "Still"** and finished with Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*.

The Waco Symphony Orchestra manned a booth for the H.E.B. Celebrity Cookoff which raised money for WISD scholarships. Our Crawfish Pasta won the People's Choice Award and our Key Lime Shooters won first place. Those of us participating had a great time!

On Saturday, March 16th, the Waco Symphony Belles and Brass will be presented at Waco Hall. A fantastic Waco Symphony Gala will follow a at the **Earl-Harrison House and Pape Gardens**.

We look forward to the next concert Exploring the Great Unknown on March 21st which will be the perfect kick-off for the Solar Eclipse on April 8th. The concert season will end on April 7th with our Pop's Concert Sci-Fi Spectacular: *Sun, Moon, & Superstars* conducted by our new conductor, **Maestro Lawrence Loh!**



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

Texans for the Arts (TFA) is a highly effective, non-partisan statewide arts advocacy organization that organizes advocacy efforts in order to protect and increase public and private funding for the arts at the state, national and local levels and provides coordinated information about legislative activity related to arts issues and promote policies that support the arts.

Texans For The Arts Foundation (TFAF) is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides professional development and advocacy education for both arts administrators and committed arts' supporters to build a broad constituency of citizen advocates. It also organizes efforts through data analysis, education, outreach, and community engagement to protect and increase public funding for the arts at the state, national, and local levels.

Texans for the Arts Foundation's vision is for Texas to lead the nation in investing in the arts and to ensure that the arts are an ongoing part of the public dialogue.

We believe the arts inspire community change that fosters economic development, creates a true sense of place, builds bridges and connects diverse cultures, and brings meaning and value to our lives both as individuals and as members of our larger society.

Support the work of Texans for the Arts Foundation.

Texans for the Arts selects local advocates from each of their Texas legislative districts (both the TX House and the Senate) who serve as liaisons between Texans for the Arts, elected officials and the communities they represent. We will provide all of the support, resources and training you need to be successful along the way!

Members of this coalition help to arrange and host legislative visits, build a community of local advocates, disseminate important information, and represent arts partners and their needs at the local level to those who represent them. These advocates also ensure that their elected officials have their finger on the pulse of the arts community they represent by inviting them to local arts events, and keeping them apprised of the arts, culture and creative industries in their communities

There is no better way to make the case for the arts than to have decision-makers experience the arts being offered in their communities by their constituents and neighbors. Engaged local arts advocates are the foundation to building statewide support, and we need you!

Our goal is to have a District Leader in each an every one of our 150 State Representative Districts and 31 Texas Senate Districts, ensuring that the value of the arts is championed in every corner of the State.

Members of the ALC are vital to TFA's legislative success. Don't

miss this important opportunity to have tangible and lasting impact on the future of public funding for the arts here in Texas!

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