



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 2019

Celebrating "promotion of the arts" in the 86th Legislative Session

The 86th Texas Legislative Session ended on May 27th with a bang for the arts!

In the 86th, Texans for the Arts led the legislative strategy that led to the largest single increase and the largest annual budget for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) in the history of the agency. In partnership with our members – like TASO - and advocates across the state, Texans for the Arts:

- * Secured \$10 million for the TCA's "Cultural District" grant program;
- * Protected the Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax 15% arts provision;
- * Protected the base budget for the Texas Commission for the Arts (TCA);
- * Secured a new appropriation of \$250,000 for the TCA's new arts-and-military initiative as part of Arts Respond/Health & Human Services;
- * Secured a new \$5 million appropriation for an arts and cultural center in Flower Mound; and
- * Supported our growing list of partners across the disciplines on funding and policy issues that intersect with the arts in tourism, education, preservation, healthcare, film incentives, music therapy, and more.

In addition to our direct lobbying work, Texans for the Arts has been leading the way by partnering with Texans for the Arts Foundation to:



- * create a new online resource - the Hotel Occupancy Tax Tool Kit – to assist arts, municipal and hotel leadership in maximizing the investment in the arts while working hand in hand to grow the cultural tourism industry;
- * pilot "Arts Vote Dallas" as part of "Arts Vote Texas", a new initiative to have a direct impact on electing officials who believe in the value of the arts to lead our communities;
- * host the biennial Texas Arts Advocacy Day in Austin, TX (where many of you participated in February 2019);
- * serve as State Captain for Americans for the Arts Annual National Arts Action Summit and Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.; and more!

Texans for the Arts is solely funded by member organizations to ensure ongoing advocacy and lobbying efforts on behalf of the

arts across the state and we thank TASO for its membership support!

Next steps? Texans for the Arts, working with its lobbyist **Shannon Ghangurde**, is developing our "Interim Plan" to continue to strengthen our relations with legislators, research and articulate our legislative agenda for the 87th Session (2021), and strengthen our ties with our partner organizations – like TASO – to support grassroots advocacy and your power as TASO members in your community to impact the public investment in arts and culture.

Like us on
Facebook!

President's Letter



Dear TASO members,

Streamline! Streamline! Streamline! That is the focus for the 2019-2020 TASO board! As you know last year we began work on the Strategic Plan and have accomplished many of those goals, this year the Strategic Planning Committee will be working on Communication goals. These include implementing changes in our website, Facebook and adding Instagram to our social media platform. Our goal is for all our social media platforms to reflect one another and to better serve our membership. A big THANK YOU to **Janie Orr** and her committee!

This will be the first year that our Juanita Miller Concerto Competition participants can register, pay and upload their demo tapes on line- this is very exciting as it streamlines the process for the committee, the participants and the screening judges. **Anne Blomeyer, Ellen Jones,**

Terri McDowell and **Deborah Brown** have been working hard on providing this service to our kids and their private instructors.

Last August the member organizations were able to submit both their Awards of Excellence and Recognized Projects forms on line. At our June meeting, **Janie Orr, Marsha Green** and **Terry White** offered our members a step by step guide on how to make their submissions online as well as tips and tricks for making those submissions stand out and better reflect the people and projects they are submitting. This was very helpful, and we wish all the member leagues who turned in these forms the best of luck. One of the true benefits of being a member of TASO is the ability to learn from each other and what better way than to see the projects everyone provides for their communities!

Susan Douglas and **Beth Grimm** are planning a wonderful annual conference in Austin so mark your calendars for April 2nd through 4th 2020. Check the website for additional information on how to register and the exciting and informational speakers that will be there.

Don't miss our September board meeting when we will have a guest speaker on Membership Retention- this is a subject that all our groups face each year and we can't wait to learn how to address this issue. Our speakers name is **Kasey Long**, from Amarillo. Kasey is the President of the Junior League of Amarillo and has researched and given programs on this subject to a variety of non-profit groups.

Speaking of our September meeting, we hope that everyone plans to attend, our goal is to make every meeting fun and informational! We recognize that many of you must travel to Dallas and we promise not to waste your valuable time!

See you in September!

Kathy Sheldon
TASO President 2019-2020

*Newsletter Deadlines: December 1, 2019; March 1, 2020.
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The Amarillo Symphony Guild

One of **Jacomo Bairos's** strengths is his ability to develop a meaningful program, not just for the evening but for an entire season. Energy. Joy. And Contagious Enthusiasm! These all come to mind when you meet Jacomo Bairos! Jacomo has been described as “expressive and passionate” (Malaysian Times) and these traits were up front and center when he interviewed for the music director/conductor position with the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra over six years ago.

After an extensive two-year search involving more than 200 applicants from around the world, in 2013 Bairos became the 17th Music Director and Conductor for the Amarillo Symphony. He has earned quick praise for his inventive programming, community driven initiatives and commissioning of works by living composers. Jacomo was born in Portugal and raised in Florida where he currently resides. He is a graduate of the Julliard School and is an accomplished and award-winning tubist having performed, toured and recorded with the New York Philharmonic and the symphonies of Chicago, Cincinnati and Seattle. He has given master classes and concerts at major festivals and with orchestras around the world. Bairos was principal tubist for the Singapore Symphony Orchestra when he realized he wanted to study conducting:

“ There was something fascinating about watching that invisible connection between the orchestra and the conductor.



Top left: Amarillo Symphony. Right: **Jacomo Bairo.**

Then when I tried it myself, I learned that it was something I really loved.”

Jacomo was older than most conducting students, he made his decision to study when he was 30 years old but his experience on both sides of a concert has served him well. Bairos is in high demand as a guest conductor across the United States and with some of the world's finest orchestras. He was awarded the prestigious and highly selective Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholarship by the US Mendelssohn Foundation. After traveling to Germany to conduct concerts with the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra and assist at the Gewandhaus Orchestra, he furthered his studies with one of his mentors, Maestro Gustav Meier.

Jacomo's energy is very evident when you see his schedule! Along with his many guest

conducting performances, he is music director and conductor for the ASO and cofounder and artistic director for Miami's Nu Deco Ensemble.

“For me I look at a program holistically — what is the journey? Where are we going? Why are we going there? You want to go on a journey that takes you from different sounds to different worlds that leaves you in an incredible musical high.”

Bairos uses many different things to take the audience on this journey- he loves to bend genres, this can involve tools of the 21st century such as electronics, extra sounds and collaborations with other arts that don't normally participate with orchestras such as dance, acrobatics, etc.. He is passionate about the future of living composers. He has commissioned several works by living composers and established the first-ever Composer-in-

Residence and the WTAMU Young Composers Initiative, a program that encourages and builds young regional composing talent in the Texas Panhandle. A Committed educator, Bairos and the Amarillo Symphony have introduced “Class Act”, a program that presents music, lessons and lectures to schools across the Texas Panhandle. Along with regularly coaching and conducting the Amarillo Youth Orchestras, Bairos has shaped orchestral programs and concerts that have enriched the lives of thousands of children. “One of my all time joys in life is working with kids... the beauty of their young minds and hearts inspire me beyond anything else I can do.”

Bairos was the Music Director for the National Youth Orchestra Festival in his native Portugal in 2010 and previously worked with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra’s OrchKids program to create hands on educational workshops for children in underserved urban communities. Amarillo is very fortunate to have Maestro Jacomo Bairos as our Music Director and Conductor! His journey to the podium has been very impressive and his future looks even more so. This past June he realized a life long dream by conducting the Boston Pops and he continues his amazing programming for the ASO and his development of the genre bending Nu Deco Ensemble! If you are ever in Amarillo during one of the ASO’s performances don’t miss watching one of the countries most dynamic and energetic conductors- you will be truly entertained!

Women’s Symphony League of Austin

Women’s Symphony League of Austin’s Prepares for the 65th Annual Jewel Ball Events! 2019 marks the 65th Anniversary of The Women’s Symphony League of Austin’s Jewel Ball. With a history spanning over six decades, the Jewel Ball is truly the start of the giving season in Austin, with families celebrating several generations of participants.

Jewel Ball festivities consist of three events. Soirée, a semi-formal dance for 9th and 10th graders, will be held on Monday, September 2nd at the Brodie Homestead, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Fashion Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, September 20, 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Palmer Events Center, featuring actress, author, and model Brooke Shields as the keynote speaker. The culminating event is the 2019 Jewel Ball – The Sound of Music at Palmer Events Center on the evening of Saturday, September 21, 6:30 to 11:00 p.m.

This year, we are honored to recognize seven Visiting Jewels from around the State of Texas and one Visiting Jewel representing Nashville, Tennessee!

- The Sapphire of San Antonio, Duchess **Olivia Lohr Benson**;
- The Ruby of Houston, Duchess **Sarah Allen Blakemore**;



- The Amethyst of Amarillo, Duchess **Caroline Camille Bush**;
- The Citrine of Odessa, Duchess **Abbie Carrasco**;
- The Garnet of Lubbock, Duchess **Madeline Louise D’Alise**;
- The Aquamarine of Dallas, Duchess **Samantha Anne Sullivan**;
- The Emerald of Nashville, Duchess **Hollingsworth Hannah Tiblier**; and
- The Topaz of Abilene, Duchess **Hannah Theodora Vaughn**.

The Women’s Symphony League of Austin extends a personal invitation to our TASO members to join us at this year’s Festivities!

THE WOMEN'S SYMPHONY LEAGUE OF AUSTIN INVITES YOU TO

A Fall Fashion Luncheon



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019
PALMER EVENT CENTER, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS AT
WWW.WSLAUSTIN.ORG

A CONVERSATION WITH **BROOKE SHIELDS**

MODERATED BY **RANK & STYLE** CEO, JAMIE CHANDLEE
FALL FASHION PREVIEW BY JULIAN GOLD
HONORARY CHAIR SUZON SPILLER KEMP

10:30 AM VIP RECEPTION WITH BROOKE SHIELDS
11:00 AM DOORS OPEN, 11:30 AM PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY:



Women's Symphony League
of Austin

FASHIONS BY:

Julian Gold

The Women's Symphony League of Austin

The Big Spring Symphony Guild

The Big Spring Symphony Guild has been very busy preparing for the 2019/2020 Season! We are currently selling program ads, making reception plans for our upcoming concerts and we even helped work the Big Spring Symphony Booth at The July Cowboys and Heels Trade Show, which served to help announce the new season and sell season subscriptions.

Our music director and conductor, **Dr. Keith Graumann**, has outdone himself this year with a jam-packed season. The Big Spring Symphony recently announced its 38th Concert Season, entitled "*The Good, The Better, The Beethoven*". The first Concert, "*New World*", will be on September 14, 2019 and will feature Dvorak: Symphony No 9 and Beethoven: Symphony No 9 Mvt 1. The guest artist will be **Fei-Fei Dong**, who will help us break in our newly refurbished

1941 Baldwin Concert Grand Piano. The second Concert, "*The Nutcracker*", will be on December 14, 2019 and will feature The Midland Festival Ballet. The third Concert, "*Beethoven is 250*", will be on February 8th, 2020 and will feature Guest Conductor, **Maestro John Giordano** and soprano, **Nicole Keeling**. The season closer on April 20th, 2020 will be the annual POPS concert and will be entitled, "*Bohemian Rhapsody*", featuring guest performers, **Jeans N' Classics**, performing the music of Queen. The Big Spring Symphony Guild also recently named their 2019

Phyllis Graumann Memorial Scholarship recipients! This award helps outstanding Howard County Area Music Students further their music education. It was named after Phyllis Graumann who was a Charter Guild Member, longtime Big Spring Symphony supporter and the mother of the Big Spring Symphony's Maestro, **Dr. Keith Graumann**. Big Spring Symphony Guild raised the most money yet this year and thanks the generous folks at Big Spring Ford for becoming the first corporate sponsor by funding a High School Scholarship. They generously have funded 2020 as well.

The Memorial Scholarship recipients are **Richard Thurman** (Drums/Piano) from Coahoma High School, **David Summers** (French Horn/Piano) from Big Spring Junior High, **William Cole** (Piano) from Forsan High School, **Cristian Garrett** and **Raymond Smalling** (vocalists) from Big Spring High School. The second picture has **Zachary Conner** (Trombone) from Big Spring Junior High, **Evelyn Sanchez**, **Andy** and **Abraham Vazquez** (Vocalists) from Big Spring Junior High.



Bottom: **Richard Thurman, David Summers, William Cole, Cristian Garrett and Raymond Smalling.**

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Introduces Debutantes at 34th Annual Presentation Ball Announcement Weekend of Events

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra League introduced the 2019-2020 debutantes during Announcement Weekend festivities held June 6-8. The weekend marked the official start of a season of events culminating with the 34th Presentation Ball, which will be held February 8, 2020.

The weekend began with the announcement party at Stanley Korshak on Thursday evening, June 6. On Friday, June 7, Stanley Korshak hosted a couture gown show featuring the gowns of designer **Mackenzie Brittingham**. On Saturday the 8th, Neiman Marcus hosted a brunch and gown show.

The Honorary Chairs for the 2020 Presentation Ball were announced and recognized at the Announcement Party: **Dr. Linda Burk** and **Dr. John Gilmore**. They are longtime supporters of the DSO and the Dallas community. Their two daughters **Laura** and **Linda Gilmore** are former debutantes and their son **John Gilmore** served as an honor guard.

The Presentation Ball Chair is **Melissa Lewis** and DSOL President is **Kim Brannon**. Melissa knows well what to expect during the debutante season. Her daughter **Olivia** made her debut in 2015.

The formal announcement of the debutantes by **Roger Gault** went flawlessly with the help of the many committee members who worked behind the scenes. **Heather Moore** and **Kendra Averitt** coached the debutantes and the honor guard in the staging area.

The 2019-2020 debutantes are: **Emily Baschab, Audrey Berner, Isabella Cox, Grace Crenshaw, Gracie Davis, Maddy Duvall, Maddie Esping, Eleanor Gambrell, Georgia Hallam, Hunter Hart, Kate Jones, Izzy Keene, Ellie King, Katie Kottwitz, Mary Kumpf, Avery Levoyer, Catherine Magee, Audrey Magnuson, Allie McWhorter, Shelby Nelson, Grace Olson, Annalea Pedigo, Beth Ryan, Kendell Sigel, Margaret Smith, Campbell Swango, Sara Tacito, Julia Tribolet, Savannah Troutt, Brynn Weakley, Genny Wood, Natalie Ward.**

"I am so honored to be guiding these wonderful young women through the 2020 Debutante season," said Presentation Ball Chair Melissa Lewis. "Over the next 9 months, our debutantes and their families will enjoy many wonderful events and will make memories that will last a lifetime. They will make new friends and have one of a kind experiences all while supporting the outstanding education and outreach programs of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra."

In attendance was a second-generation debutante. **Susan Averitt Duvall** was a debutante at the inaugural ball held in 1987 and her daughter **Madelyn**

will be making her debut this season. The entire Averitt family was involved in the DSOL's first Presentation Ball when Susan made her debut. Brother **Mark Averitt** was a member of the Honor Guard, and brother **Don Averitt** worked behind the scenes and graciously greeted the guests. The Averitt family has continued their support of the Dallas Symphony for the past 30+ years.

Included in the attendees that evening were **Tincy Miller, Lisa** and **Kenny Troutt, Amanda** and **Brint Ryan, Sarah Jo** and **Mark Hardin, Kim Noltemy, James Leffler**, and **Lisa Loy Laughlin**.

The Presentation Ball, which was first held in 1987, is the largest fundraiser for the DSOL. Over \$11 million has been raised for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra through the annual event, which was created with the vision of long-time League member Tincy Miller, who chaired the first ball.

Founded in 1946, the DSOL's mission is to support the Dallas Symphony Orchestra through service, education and fundraising activities. Since 1998 the League has contributed over \$17 million in support of the Dallas Symphony Association's Community Outreach and Education programs, which help bring the wonder of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra to thousands of youths and adults in the Dallas Metroplex.

Croquet for Debutantes and Honor Guard

The Maridoe Golf Club hosted the Dallas Symphony Orchestra

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League Debutantes and Honor Guard on June 20 for an evening of croquet. On hand were members of the Dallas Croquet Association to provide lessons from the experts.

It was hosted by **Albert and Mary Huddelston**, owners of Maridoe, a sanctuary from urban life. It is a golf club in Carrollton on 212 acres of Blackland prairie, surrounding the most extensive private lake in Dallas County.

The evening is one of many season events leading up to the 34th Annual Presentation Ball which will be held on February 8, 2020 at the Meyerson Symphony Center.



Top: 2019-2020 **DSOL Debutantes** at the Presentation at Stanley Korshak and at the Polo Club Party. Left: DSOL President **Kim Brannon**, **Vance Miller III**, Honorary Chair **Linda Burk**.

<https://www.tasovolunteers.com>

Symphony League of Fort Worth

The Symphony League of Fort Worth had their closing meeting May 9th at an Italian Restaurant. Newly appointed board members for 2019-2020 were introduced the newly appointed board members for 2019-2020.

It was an honor to have **Dr. Keith Cerny, Ph.d.**, new President and CEO attend our business meeting in the spring. He gave us encouragement and recognized the value of our league supporting the musicians and the programs.

Many league members attended our Gala fund raiser in February. The event was a successful fund raiser and was very well attended. We had a wonderful dinner and great entertainment.

After 20 years, our Conductor/Music Director **Miguel Harth Bedoya** is leaving Fort Worth in May 2020. It is with saddened hearts we are planning a big send off. All league members will be participating.

The league is beginning coordination with the Youth Orchestra of Fort Worth in an attempt to search for any students that would be interested in the Juanita Miller Competition.

A Member Appreciation event is in the planning stages. We have also begun planning a new project that includes an outreach to two different schools that are not in our usual territory.

One of our league's main focus is music education

for children. Historically, the Education Development leader and the orchestra with our assistance have worked with the Fort Worth ISD. League members traveled to various schools and read to the students from Timeless Fables Collection.

In April, the League supported the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra performance of two free concerts for the students at Arbor Lawn Methodist Church. We look forward to this activity every year. We served a nice lunch for all the musicians on Thursday at their break. This is a very enjoyable time for all participants to mingle and get better acquainted with our musicians.

*Carol G. Naugles
TASO Rep*

Houston Symphony League

President's Luncheon May 2019
Music, bling, fashion, fun, community outreach, Symphony stars, beautiful weather and approximately 130 people came together to create a lively 2019 President's Luncheon May 15, at the Briar Club.

Our 2019 Ellen Kelley Volunteer of the Year, **Jennifer Gravenor**, was introduced by 2016 Volunteer of the Year, **Jo Dee Wright**. **John Mangum**, Houston Symphony Executive Director and CEO spoke briefly and thanked the League members for their continuing support by both volunteering and fundraising. He then introduced our Community Embedded Musicians, **Raniel Joubert** and **Patricia Quintero**, violinists, who serenaded the audience and told

of their work in local schools. They showed an excellent video prepared by the Symphony about the music education program at Lewis Elementary School where the League is providing instruments for the children. They told heartwarming stories of positive growth triggered in individual students by their introduction to musical instruments.

Vicki West, 2019 chair for Ima Hogg updated the audience on preparations for the Competition Among the three great jurors this year is our former HS Executive Director, **Matthew Van Beisen**.

Chairs **Chelsea Ingram** and **Fran Fawcett Peterson** then announced that their committee had secured table favors from Tenenbaum's Jewelers, Java Lava Coffee and Neiman Marcus. Not only did Tenenbaum owner **Tony Bradfield** provide individual jewelry cleaners as table favors but he also donated a pair of Buccellati earrings as a Door Prize. And also brought bling to the Briar Club so luncheon goers could try on some of the amazing gems - up close and personal.

Another wonderful addition to the luncheon was the informal fashion show that circulated among the tables during lunch showing the delightful and vogue designs from Alchemia Boutique. The models included Alchemia owner **Jennifer Grigsby** and League member, stylist **Marla Hurley**. Jen and Marla teamed up for a 2nd door prize, a \$100 Alchemia gift certificate and a 2 hour closet consult.

President **Maureen Higdon** was

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Houston Symphony League cont'd. presented with a gift of thanks for all her hard work and for signing on for a second year. Maureen thanked the entire league for their enthusiastic support of the Houston Symphony and encouraged all to visit the Volunteer Fair set up in the dining room and sign-up to attend or volunteer for all the amazing upcoming programs... including the May 23 student concert at Lewis Elementary.

Ann Cavanaugh



IMA HOGG 2019

Our Ima Hogg Competition this year was a big success with wonderful talented winners.

Rachel Lee Hall, harpist, received first prize which earned her a gold medal, a \$25,000 prize and a solo performance at Jones Hall with the Houston Symphony at the Donor and Subscriber Appreciation Concert on Wednesday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. She will also participate in a week-long Education and Community Engagement Residency which will provide her with essential training to help her succeed in their field. The Second Prize was awarded to cellist **Coleman Itzkoff**, who received a \$10,000 prize, a silver medal and a solo appearance with the Houston Symphony at Miller Outdoor Theatre. In addition, Coleman was awarded the **Nancy and Robert Peiser** Award for Artistic Encouragement. The third and fourth-place prizes were awarded to **Chloe Tula**, harpist, and **Katherine Audas**, cellist, who won \$5,000 and \$1,000 cash prizes. The Herman Shoss Audience Choice Award went to **Katherine Audas**.

Vicki West, Chair



*Ima Hogg competition: top left, Cellist **Coleman Itzkoff**. Right: **Rachel Lee Hall**, harpist. Bottom left: At the recent League of American Orchestras Conference, The Houston Symphony League received a Gold Book Award for our presentation of the 2018 Houston Symphony Ball Auction, "The Balinese Room", chaired by **Helen Shaffer** and **Ann Ayre. Darlene Clark** and **Helen Shaffer**. Bottom right: President's Luncheon Chairs, **Fran Fawcett Peterson** and **Chelsea Ingram**.*

2019 Ima Hogg Competition Lubbock Symphony Guild

The 2018-2019 year for the Lubbock Symphony Guild had an amazing start with a very successful Fall fundraiser. It was an afternoon English Tea and the guest speaker was well known British **Chef Darren McGrady**, who now lives in Dallas. He was the Chef to the British Royal Family and Princess Diana for

many years. We raised \$13,200 for our Chapter.

The Christmas Party was graciously hosted by **Amy** and **Brian Etchison**. Everyone enjoyed touring their beautiful new home. The food and beverages were delicious and helped everyone get in the holiday spirit.

Every winter the Lubbock

Symphony Guild holds there *Lubbock continued* largest fundraiser, the Winter Debutante Ball. It was held this year in February at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The beautiful and dedicated senior debutantes work and prepare for this honor and their presentation since the start of their sophomore year in high school. Each debutante volunteers at each of the symphony concerts for three years before she is eligible to be presented her senior year. 36 wonderful debutantes were presented this year.

The 2019 Winter Ball venue was transformed into a magical space, with shades of pink and white adorning the banquet hall. The band Live Eighty of Dallas provided the live music entertainment. They were a great hit! The debutants and their families had an unforgettable night. The Winter Ball and the silent auction were very successful. We raised \$86,700, which allowed us to donate \$70,000 to the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra.

We are looking forward to the upcoming 2019-2020 new year and season!
Melissa Pridmore

The Plano Symphony Orchestra

NEW & IMPROVED 2019 PLANO SYMPHONY GALA FUNDRAISER

Our "2019 Crescendo – Music In Motion" Gala event this year was held on Saturday, March 30, 2019. The gala is not only a fund-raising event for the PSO, it is an opportunity to engage



Honorary Chairs, **Dr. Betty** and Past Plano Mayor **James Muns**.

and involve many volunteers and patrons. It also raises awareness in the community of the PSO and its many services. The gala was held at a new location in Plano, the Hilton Dallas/Plano Granite Park Hotel. The hotel offered great accommodations. The silent auction, dinner, live auction, dessert and dancing were all held in one large room which was appreciated. For the silent auction, there was electronic bidding that allowed bidding even if you were not at the event. The price of the tickets this year included valet parking and open bar. There was also an opportunity to buy an additional ticket to attend the Bourbon and Bubble After Party, which included drinks and music in a separate venue in the hotel.

One of the goals this year was to highlight our very talented musicians and the broad spectrum of music they play. During the Cocktail Reception there were Strolling Musicians. During

dinner, the PSO Classic Swing Band performed. For those that attended the Bourbon and Bubbles After Party, they were treated to a jazz trio with Maestro **Hector Guzman** joining in on the piano for a couple of numbers. Chef **Richard Chamberlain**, owner of Chamberlain's Steak and Chop House and Chamberlain's Fish Market Grill, created a custom dinner menu that was executed by Chef **Jason Ferraz**, executive chef of the hotel. The food was outstanding and paired with red and white wines.

Honorary Chairs, **Dr. Betty** and Past Plano Mayor **James Muns** spoke a few words and were honored for their many years of service and support to the Symphony. A surprise was had by all the attendees when their whole family got up and serenaded us. Once dinner was over, scrumptious buffet dessert tables were put out for all to enjoy. Once the dessert was eaten, there was a choice to stay and dance in the ballroom or go to the Bourbon and Bubble After Party.

Needless to say, the differences were a breath of fresh air and were enjoyed by everyone who attended.
Ira & Elena (Ellie) Barash

Women's Symphony League of Tyler

The East Texas Symphony Orchestra of Tyler will be showcasing Texas artists in the 2019-2020 season. The symphony will kick off the season on September 14 with a !Celebracion! to honor Hispanic Heritage Month. Featured guests include guitarist Isaac Bustos who serves on the

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Texas A & M faculty as well as soprano Sooah Park (UT Tyler) and a 12 person guitar ensemble from Tyler Junior College led by Frank Kimlicko. Music from Mexico, Argentina, Brazil & Spain will make for a special evening. On November 9, the concert will be exploring space through music with a multimedia experience pairing hi-def imagery featuring celestial phenomena – from the Northern Lights to solar flares.



The 52 annual TASO Conference “Pearls of the Symphony” was held in Houston, TX April 4-6. WSL members **Joi Smith, Annette Findley, Laura Hyde, Leslie Roberts, Cindy Kidwell** and WSL President **Jill Campbell** attended. Cindy Kidwell participated in the Presidents and Leadership Panel with a discussion on membership and Joi Smith led the interactive session “You are a member of TASO...So What’s Next?”



June 3-5, The League of American Orchestras Conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee. **Cindy Kidwell, Jill Campbell, Laura Hyde,** and **Vanessa Gardner** attended from Tyler. **Jill Campbell**, president of the Women’s Symphony League, presented the award winning “Sustainers – Friendships and Fun” to the volunteers attending conference. **Cindy Kidwell** is on the Volunteer Council for LAO as President Elect. The Volunteer Council organizes the volunteer segment of the conference. **Laura Hyde**, past president of the Volunteer Council, was a speaker in a panel at the conference discussing the Evolving Role of the Volunteer. **Vanessa Gardner**, Executive Director of the ETSO, participated

Top photo: TASO Conference Happy Hour. Center: Concert announcement; Center: Isaac Bustos - guitar, guest artist for the first



ETSO Concert September 14, 2019. Bottom right: Houston Symphony Concert at the TASO Conference, Left to right, Joi Smith, Laura Hyde and Annette Findley.

in the Emerging Leaders Program. The Women’s Symphony League of Tyler is getting off to a fun start with the first fundraiser “Fall Fresh and Friends,” October 8. It will be a casual evening at Fresh - a gourmet grocery store in Tyler. We have a large patio there. The store

caters and there is live music. Many husbands come also. Lots of good camaraderie. February 29 will be the WSL Ball honoring our Junior Symphony League members and parents. The theme this year is Cirque Symphonique.

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Waco Symphony Council *Waco Symphony Council Recognized at League of American Orchestras Annual Conference*

On June 4th the Waco Symphony Council received a Gold Book Award from the League of American Orchestras at their annual conference in Nashville, TN. The Council was awarded one of six gold book awards for their fundraiser “Symphony of the City.” The project was selected for its unique approach to a fundraising and functionality for virtually any size group to implement and execute.

Symphony of the City is a progressive cocktail party held each year in several homes in the Waco area. Each house has a theme where the art, architecture, food, music, and wines are matched to give a distinct atmosphere and ambiance for their guests.

Representing the Waco Symphony Council at the conference were **Melissa Boss**, Chairman of the Fundraiser and **Paula Floeck**, Past President. Melissa made the presentation to a room of volunteer groups from across the United States. The feedback from the group was vigorous and a lot of groups brainstormed about how their league or guild could adapt this type of project. In addition, the Waco Symphony Council was recognized for the project back in April 2019 at the Texas Association of Orchestra’s annual conference in Houston.

Waco Symphony Council
On May 2, 2019 the Waco

Symphony Council held its May End of Year Luncheon at the home of **Gretchen** and **Sandy McCormick**. **Paula Floeck** passed the gavel to our new president, **Dianne Sawyer** and the other officers were installed. Dianne kicked off the new year with hopes of everything “Coming Up Roses” and presented her new Executive Board with roses.

The new officers are:
President: **Dianne Sawyer**

President Elect: **Fran Good**
1st Vice President: **Glenda Strum**
2nd Vice President: **Lisa Alcorn**
3rd Vice President: **Michelle Sanders**
4th Vice Presidents: **Leslie Rhea** and **Martha Kate Gunn**
5th Vice President: **Tanya Clark**
Recording Secretary: **Christi Young**
Corresponding Secretary: **Marsha K. Green**
Treasurer: **Suzanne Alexander**
Past President: **Paula Floeck**



Top left: **Jill Campbell**, President, WSL Tyler; **Mike Rutledge**, President, Symphony Guild of Charlotte; and **Linda Weisbruch**, Symphony Guild of Charlotte. ; Top right: **Melissa Boss** and **Paula Floeck**; Bottom: **Waco Symphony Officers**.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Greetings from your membership team! I am **Paula Floeck**, TASO Membership Chairman for 2019-2020. We are very excited about this year most notably the Juanita Miller Competition and our annual conference which will be held in Austin, Texas in April 2020.

Most of the guilds/leagues have paid their annual dues and for this we say thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU! Your membership in TASO allows us to continue to support our work on behalf on symphonic music statewide and with the individual guild and leagues. What benefits does your guild/league get with becoming a member of TASO? Inquiring minds want to know! League/Guild membership with TASO includes the following:

- Voting on matters that come before the TASO board. Having a voice is very important and can have a direct effect on your guild and orchestra;
- Allows TASO to have a presence in Austin to influence and participate in promoting legislation for the Arts;
- Sharing ideas with other guilds. This is probably the biggest perk of all and helps to keep your guild/league pipeline of ideas fresh and interesting;
- Opportunity to submit projects for selection and presentation at the TASO Annual Conference. When your league is recognized it is your time to shine on a state-wide level.
- Support from a TASO District Representative. TASO has four (4) district representatives that can be consulted for help with your guild/league.

These are but a few benefits accorded to the guilds/leagues that join TASO annually. If your league/guild has not paid their annual dues, fear not! We are still taking memberships for this fiscal year. If you need additional information, please contact me at stocksail@yahoo.com.

In the next newsletter, we will be focusing on the benefits of individual membership with TASO and will feature an interview with a first time Patron Member.

Thank you again for your membership with TASO and your contribution of time to our great organization!