



T A S O N e w s

Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras

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

For the Love of Music

TASO 2009 Abilene, Texas ~ April 16-19, 2009

The Abilene Philharmonic Guild invites you and your organization to come to the 2009 TASO Conference. It will be held April 16th – 19th with plenty to offer each of you to come and experience a little piece of West Texas hospitality. Please come in early to join the group on a tour of Abilene's newest treasure 'Frontier Texas', a museum with hologram spirit guides depicting 100 years of history from 1780 – 1880 in this country. Go to www.frontiertexas.com for more info.

The Abilene Country Club's elegant ballroom will be where this annual event officially begins with a fabulously planned delectable menu, lovely music, and witness the traditional presentation of the 'Award of Excellence' of well deserved honorees.

Then, early Friday morning the fun is in full swing with the Hardin Simmons University Cowboy Band presenting you a warm 'West Texas Welcome.' At lunch you'll meet our maestro conductor director who will be speaking to you about the Saturday evenings Symphony performance and TCA's executive director will update you on the Texas arts. We will have the presentation of recognized projects and four wonderful speakers presenting workshops in Leadership, Fundraising, Web Sites/Technology, and Marketing and Promotion. The traditional dinners in the homes of our symphony supporters will cap off the evening.

Cont'd on page 3

Early Registration for TASO 2009 Conference Ends March 15

Symphony supports, friends, and all interested in fundraising, networking ideas for their local symphony groups are gathering in Abilene, Texas, April 16-19. Join in the fun, fellowship, and sharing as you meet new friends and visit with wonderful friends you've met through TASO.

Packets have been mailed. All forms and important information can be found on our website, www.tasovolunteers.com. If you haven't visited the website lately, we've made changes for easy navigation. You'll also find valuable links to events and happenings around the Abilene area.

We hope all of the TASO delegates will come early and visit Frontier Texas. The exterior of Frontier Texas echoes the remains of an old fort, but inside offers an amazing history of the old West. For an online look at Frontier Texas, please go to www.frontiertexas.com.

See you in Abilene!

Key Conference Dates to Remember

March 15

- **Statistical Reports Due**
- **Project and Year End Reports Due**
- **Last day for early registration fee of \$300**

March 25

- **Reservation deadline for guaranteed room rate of \$110/night, single or double**
- **Toll Free # 1-888-897-9644**
- **www.mcmelegantesuites.com**

President's Letter



Marsha Green

As President of TASO this year, I was fortunate to have an exceptional slate of officers who were complemented by outstanding chairpersons who in turn were supported by excellent committee members. As a result, the TASO board functioned well as a team at each board meeting as we dealt with the business at hand efficiently. My sincere thanks go to the board for taking the time to not only attend the meetings, but also for coming prepared to work. The strategic planning committee and the executive committee both deserve special thanks for their willingness to meet on the day prior to each board meeting.

At conference last May I challenged the member organizations to focus on *leadership* this year. Strong leadership puts the needs of the organization first and contributes to the achievement of purpose. As we each leave our specific leadership role, we remind ourselves that one of the traits of a good leader is the ability to transfer responsibilities to a successor effectively. Ideally, our successors are already in the process of beginning their tasks even as we complete our final duties for the year. That kind of successful transfer of leadership from year to year is vital to the continued smooth operation of the organization and the achievement of its purposes.

Our annual conference sets the stage for a smooth transfer of leadership within TASO. It is then that the board passes their responsibilities to the incoming board, ensuring continuity in the pursuit of our purpose. It is a time for reporting accomplishments from the past year and for looking toward the future. Member organizations have the opportunity to celebrate and share the successes of the past when the Projects are presented. Training opportunities help prepare the membership for success in the future. Networking among delegates builds enthusiasm for the possibilities the next year may hold. Hearing the winners of the JMCC perform reminds us that music is why we do what we do. The TASO annual conference is the highlight of every year.

I hope to see a good representation of our member organizations in Abilene. Under the leadership of Nelda Hodges and Judy Miller, the Abilene Philharmonic Guild has prepared an excellent conference that should prove to be both educational and exciting. Its theme, *For the Love of Music*, reminds us why we work so hard to support symphonies!

Marsha K. Green
TASO President 2008-09
mkgmusik@aol.com

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. Bernard Auerbach

Continued from page 1—TASO 2009 Conference

Saturday, we'll head over to Abilene Christian University where we will have the Round Tables of Recognized and Commended Projects. After lunch we will listen to the Juanita Concerto Competition winners. The beautiful, historic Paramount Theatre, Abilene's 'pride and glory' will be the location of dinner on stage with more music entertainment, then on to the symphony.

Registration packets have been mailed. Please fill out the information ASAP. The week-end will be full of wonderful music - fun door prizes - great speakers - and above all - meeting new friends, visiting with old friends, and networking for new ideas to take back to your organization. Please come and experience the warm, friendly Abilene hospitality!

Featured Speakers

Lane Bond—minister by profession, now retired, his love for music led him to serve on the board of the Big Spring Symphony Association where he developed a very successful website for the Symphony and Build. Learning a lot along the way, he will share his knowledge and skill with others who want to invent or reinvent a Symphony/Guild website.

Gary Gibbs—after an extended and successful career as the director of education and outreach for the Houston Grand Opera, he is now the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on the Arts. Dr. Gibbs has served on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Houston Arts Alliance and TCA. He has earned a Bachelor of Music Education in voice from Baylor University in Waco, a Master of Music in voice from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, and a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Bonnie Gittinger—President and owner of StreetFund, a company focusing on fundraising and strategic counsel. Bonnie has extensive experience in campaign strategy, donor management and stewardship, development operations and grant writing.

Mary Frances Malone—As an accomplished harpist and an astute business woman, she has combined both worlds to develop techniques for successful marketing

and promotion of her business, sharing her talents during her tenure on the Abilene Symphony Board. She has a deep understanding of how it is to "make or break" for the arts. It's more than publicity—it is quality presentation!

Dr. Gary D. McCaleb—Vice President of Abilene Christian University, professor management, and organizational behavior, and Executive Director of the Center for Building community, Dr. McCaleb teaches courses in leadership in the College of Business at ACU. He has written two books: *Community: The Other Side of Self* and *The Gift of Community*.

George Nichols—He has over thirty-five years of experience in strategic planning, budgeting, marketing, sales, product development, and general management of consumer products companies. He has applied this knowledge in volunteer service in the not-for-profit sector serving as board member in business groups, foundations, the arts, and medical agencies.

Friday, April 17, 2009, Workshops

Websites and Technology - Presenter: Lane Bond. A fast-paced discovery session focusing on designing, building and maintaining a spectacular website that does many things—from spotlighting guest artists, on-line ticket sales, applications for membership and much more. Explore developing graphics, discussion obstacles and dealing with the time and talent required to have a website.

Leadership and Strategic Planning—Presenter: George Nichols. This workshop deals with leadership skills, developing future leaders, strategic planning, visioning, and problem solving.

Marketing and Promotion—Presenter: Mary Frances Malone. Focusing on ways to market and promote through the media, technology, advertising, speakers bureau, and events, you'll learn about developing program advertising, underwriting and sponsor base. It's about widening geographic sales area and creating excitement and interest with the timing and presentation of information.

Fundraising—Presenter: Bonnie Gittinger. This workshop focuses on all types of fundraising from small special events to large events, grants, sponsorships and program ads.

Juanita Miller Concerto Competition 2009

The thirteenth annual Juanita Miller Concerto Competition was held on January 17, 2009, at the SMU Meadows School of the Arts. Once again, it was a successful competition with outstanding performances provided by the thirty-one contestants. There were 13 in the piano division, 7 in the strings division, and 11 in the winds division.

Judging the piano division was **Dr. Robert Weirich** from University of Missouri, Kansas City. Our strings judge was **Dr. Gregory Lee**, a violinist on faculty at Oklahoma University. Judging the winds division was **Dr. Theresa Delaplain**, an oboist from the University of Arkansas. All of these judges were personable and encouraging, offering excellent critiques to the students for their further musical growth.

The contest ran extremely smoothly, thanks to the excellent coordination of volunteers by **Deborah Brown**, chair elect. Many thanks to everyone who monitored a room, chauffeured a judge, brought food, organized students, escorted contestants, took photos – the list goes on because it takes many volunteers to make an event like this happen. Thank you, thank you!



JMCC Vice-Chair, Deborah Brown, and JMCC Chair, Lydia Bratcher



JMCC judges (left to right): Dr. Robert Weirich, Dr. Gregory Lee, and Dr. Theresa Delaplain

We had the financial support of many individuals and member organizations in TASO. **Tiffany Ammerman** did a splendid job of obtaining underwriters and sponsors for the contest. Thanks to Tiffany and everyone who contributed to fund the awards to the winners. You have again ensured the success of this TASO-sponsored project.

A Brief Summary of JMCC's history:

In 1997, Juanita and Henry S. Miller provided the seed money for the establishment of a statewide youth competition for outstanding high school musicians. TASO honored Mrs. Miller by naming the competition after her. Employing the most professional approach to music competition, outstanding judges from across the country are chosen to select the winners.

Juanita Miller is also a founding member of TASO and she served as its first President in 1966. It is composed of 32 orchestra volunteer groups in Texas and New Mexico. Each year close to 150 delegates attend an annual conference to gather information and network with their colleagues.

For further information, visit www.tasovolunteers.com

***Congratulations to the Winners of the
Thirteenth Annual Juanita Miller Concerto Competition!***

The 13th Annual Juanita Miller Concerto Competition was held in Dallas on January 17 at SMU's Caruth Auditorium. The Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras (TASO) hosted the competition in which 33 contestants throughout the state of Texas competed. The three first place winners competed for the Grand Prize.

And the winners are.....

First Place and Grand Prize—Sahun (Sam) Hong

Sahun (Sam) Hong, piano, was awarded First Place in the Piano Division and also the Grand Prize for his performance of Beethoven's 3rd Concerto in G Minor. Although Sam is only 14 years old, he is enrolled as a student at Texas Christian University. He is a student of John Owings of TCU.

First Place in Strings Division—Laura Liu

Laura Liu, violin, received First Place in the Strings Division. She is an 11th Grader at Spring Creek Academy in Plano and a student of Emanuel Borok. She performed Tchaikovsky's Concerto in D, Op. 35.

First Place in Winds Division—Eric Choi

Eric Choi was awarded First Place in Winds Division on his alto saxophone performing "Concertino da Camera" by Jacques Ibert. He is in 11th Grade at Plano West Senior High in Plano. He is a student of Mark Alewine.



Patsy Donosky, daughter of the late Juanita Miller, presented the award to the Grand Prize winner, Sam Hong



Left to right: Lydia Bratcher (JMCC Chair), Sam Hong, and Marsha Green (TASO President)



Left to right: Sam Hong, Laura Liu, and Eric Choi

These three first place winners will perform at the 2009 TASO Conference in Abilene.

The Second Prize Awards went to these students:

Stephen Du, piano, 9th grade, Marcus High School, Flower Mound

Alexandra Switala, violin, 9th grade home-schooled, Grapevine

Ashley Wang, 11th grade, Carroll Senior High, Southlake

Receiving Third Place Awards were these students:

Karen Lee, piano, 9th grader from McKinney, student at Hockaday

Wyndam Tsai, cello, 10th grader at the Oakridge School, Ft. Worth

Eden Choe, flute, grade 12, Plano West Senior High, Plano

Three students received Honorable Mentions. They were **Jonathan Chang**, an 11th grade violinist from Austin, **Caroline Young**, a 12th grade violinist from Plano, and **Jay Cho**, a 10th grade flautist from Dallas.



Winds - 1st Place Eric Choi, 2nd Place Ashley Wang, 3rd Place Eden Choe.



Strings - 1st Place Laura Liu, 2nd Place Alexandra Switala, 3rd Place Wyndham Tsai



Piano - 1st Place Sahun Hong, 2nd Place Stephen Du, 3rd Place Karen Lee



Honorable Mention Winners - Jay Cho, Jonathan Chang, Caroline Young

All members of TASO are to be congratulated for sponsoring and hosting this very prestigious event. This opportunity for students to receive encouragement, performing experience, and monetary assistance helps to ensure the future of these young musicians and their place in the world of classical music. It has been my very great honor to be a part of the 2009 Juanita Miller Concerto Competition.

~Lydia Bratcher, 2009 JMCC Chair

SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE PRESENTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The TASO nominating committee under the leadership of past president Helen Shaffer met in June and proposed an outstanding slate of officers to the current board. They will be introduced at the Annual Meeting held at the Conference in Abilene April 16 –April 19, 2009.

Following is a sketch of the past leadership roles held by these talented women.

President Elect -Jan Bradley Lubbock

Jan is currently the VP Communications. In addition to serving as a Board Representative and active member of many committees, she has served TASO as VP Projects, Secretary, Newsletter Chair and Membership Chair. Jan is a Past President of the Lubbock Symphony Guild and has also served as VP Fundraising, VP Membership and Treasurer.

VP Finance- Susan Brown, Irving

Susan is currently serving her second term as Treasurer. In addition to serving as a Board Representative, she has also Co-chaired the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. She is a Past President of the Irving Symphony League and has been Secretary and Ball Co-Chair for the league.

VP Administration-Betty Wall, Lubbock

Betty has been the Lubbock Representative and active on many TASO Committees for the past 3 years. She currently chairs the Advocacy Committee. Betty is a Past President of the Lubbock Symphony and has also served as VP Ways and Means, VP Debutants, Treasurer and Symphony Ball Chairman.

VP Communications-Lucy Lewis, Houston

Lucy served for the past two years as PR/Marketing. She has written articles for the TASO Newsletter and has provided member leagues with photographs and news articles for their publications. Lucy is a Past President of the Houston Symphony League. She has served that league in many capacities.

VP Conference-Lydia Bratcher, Waco

Lydia is currently the Chair of the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. She has also served as Board Representative and as Co-chair of TASO 2005 Conference. She is a Past President of the Waco Symphony Council and has also served as the 1st VP Youth and 2nd VP Fundraising.

VP Projects-Jan St.Hilaire, Midland

Jan is the current Chair of the Awards and Recognized Projects Committee. She was the TASO 2006 Conference Chair and has also served as a Board Representative. She is currently President of the Midland Symphony Guild and also serves as a board member of the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorals

Secretary-Helen Burwell, the Woodlands

Helen is currently the VP Administration and the Board Representative for the Woodlands Symphony Orchestra Keynote Society. She has served as the Newsletter Editor and has also been an active member of the Advocacy, Membership and Conference Committee. Helen is a Past President of the Conroe Symphony League and built the databases for the Conroe Symphony Orchestra and their League.

Treasurer-Terry White, Amarillo

Terry White is currently the Board Representative. She is a Past President of the Amarillo Symphony Guild. She has also served as Recording Secretary, Vintage Amarillo Chair, Belle and Beaus Chair, and Yearbook Chair.

We look forward to presenting these outstanding candidates in April.

~Helen Shaffer, Nominating Chairman

Important 2008-2009 TASO Dates

**April 16, TASO Board Meeting, 11:30,
Abilene**
**April 16-19, 2009, TASO Conference,
Abilene**

TASO & TWASO ARCHIVES Special Exhibit in Abilene

By Grace Boner, TASO Archivist

ABILENE was a **founding member** organization in TASO, and Abilene is the **hosting conference for the fourth time** this April. Abilene has **always maintained a strong presence in TASO**. To commemorate such outstanding service and dedication in support of the purpose of TASO, **special exhibits** will be displayed at conference this year from the TASO archives to recognize and celebrate such a distinguished history with this organization. Not only will the TASO past presidents and the past conference chairs from Abilene be featured, but also many other ladies from Abilene whose service and leadership on TASO boards over the decades have helped to make TASO the successful organization it is today will also be featured.



Grace Boner

Please take some time during conference to enjoy the presentation of those being honored.

How very fortunate we are that so many of you have contributed so many items to the archives. You are to be thanked over and over again! I continue to welcome any materials you may find when cleaning out your personal files. Please do not throw anything away without checking with me to see if what you have could be a valuable addition to the collection. Progress continues toward the completion of focus areas for our collection, those being past conference notebooks and past TWASO or TASO newsletters. During conference I will distribute a listing of items still being sought. Hopefully delegates will return to their respective cities filled not only with all the new ideas revealed at conference, but also with a determined attitude to search their league/guild/association records for donations to our archives.

Serving as your archivist is my continued pleasure and privilege.

Advocacy — Now is the Time!

Betty Wall, Advocacy Chairman

The 81st Texas Legislature is now in session with lots of ideas to be presented. During a legislative session, members may introduce new legislation until filing deadlines. When the legislature is in session, the Texas Legislature Online homepage will include the time that the house and senate are scheduled to convene each day. Methods to view introduced legislation include:



Betty Wall

- Legislative Reports
- Bill Status
- Text Search
- Subject Search

You can create a personal bill list and receive e-mail notification as the status of a bill changes.

There are two statewide public policies that support a strong and vibrant arts and cultural industry that should be presented during the 81st legislative session.

- Promote the passage of increased appropriations for arts funding with a minimum of \$1.00 state support per capita, to be distributed on an equitable basis across the state.
- Protect existing authorized funding level and uses of municipal hotel occupancy tax for the development, support and promotion of the arts.

Texans for the Arts will support other legislative actions that have a direct impact on the state's arts industry. The organization has identified the following secondary priorities for advocacy efforts:

- Support the Texas Commission on the Arts' efforts to increase General Fund appropriations to invest in the arts and cultural industries in Texas
- Monitor legislative action that impacts the nonprofit sector, such as tax exemptions and regulatory efforts.

When any of these issues are filed and assigned a bill number, we will let you know so that you can write in support of these bills.

Cont'd on page 9

To Promote, Develop and Serve Symphony Orchestras....

Symphony Volunteers At Work

March 2009

Now until August 9th

The Amarillo Symphony Guild and the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum will collaborate on an exhibit showcasing gowns worn by Amarillo Symphony Belles through the decades. The exhibit will run from February 14, 2009 to August 9, 2009. It is entitled "Belles of the Ball".

March 5

The Amarillo Symphony Guild has collected 22 vintage gowns. Both the

Museum and the Guild will sponsor an opening gala preview.

March 6

Women's Symphony League of Tyler will be presenting 59 Junior Symphony League members at the 54th annual Ball benefitting the East Texas Symphony Orchestra. The Theme for this year's Ball is "Carnival of Venice." Venetian treasure boxes, silent auction, casino and dancing will round out the evening festivities.

March 21

The Waco Symphony Council will present the 2009 Belles and Brass during the Waco Symphony Concert.

March 27-29

The Houston Symphony League Bay Area is busy planning the annual "A Day by the Bay" home tour which is our fundraiser for education programs in 24 elementary schools. The Pre-Tour party will be in a lovely waterfront

home on March 27 with the tour of four other waterfront homes on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, March 28 and 29, 2009. The Search Committee had to scramble to enlist other homes to replace three homes that were severely damaged in Hurricane Ike.

Cont'd from Advocacy

HOW TO FOLLOW A BILL USING TEXAS LEGISLATURE ONLINE

- Introducing a bill
- Referral to a House/Senate committee
- Committee Reports
- Considered in House/Senate Committee
- Placed on House/Senate Calendar
- Considered on House/Senate Floor
- Floor action
- Governor's action - Signed or Vetoed
- Effective date
- Filing and publication of laws

This is a very important year to monitor and follow these very important issues. This information can be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us Be a part of their passage. We will all benefit from their success.

~ Betty Wall

Update—Arts Advocacy Day

Texans for the Arts Liaison—Mary Padgett

Our last newsletter announced the February 10th Arts Advocacy Day held in Austin, Texas. The following is an update from the event:

"The event was a wonderful success!" said **Judy Pollock**, Dallas Cultural Affairs Commission Chair and event coordinator and Art Advocacy Day co-chair. "The presentations were outstanding and keynote speaker, Bill Lively, was superb. We were able to visit dozens of legislators in the afternoon and many of them attended the evening reception hosted by Richard Huff, Irving Arts Center. The response from the legislators was positive and everyone is very enthusiastic about maintaining communication with their representatives. The attendees definitely want Arts Advocacy Day to become a regular statewide event."

If you have not joined Texans for the Arts, do so now. **TEXANS FOR THE ARTS needs your help now more than ever. Texans for the Arts - www.TexansfortheArts.com**

TASO 2008-2009 Board of Directors

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Hot Spots On The World Wide Web

Here are the Web locations for useful information.

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS www.symphony.org (formerly American Symphony Orchestra League)
NATIONAL ASSN OF STATE AGENCIES www.nasaa-arts.org/

TASO MEMBER ORGANIZATION WEBSITES As of 9/8/08

Note that some member organizations can be reached via links on the relevant orchestra's Web site, while other groups maintain their own sites.

ABILENE	abilenephilharmonic.org	Abilene Philharmonic. Guild info can be included here.
AMARILLO	amarillosymphony.org	Amarillo Symphony. Click on SUPPORT.
AUSTIN	wlsaustin.org	Women's Symphony League of Austin
BEAUMONT	slbmt.com	Symphony League of Beaumont
BRAZOS VALLEY	www.BVSO.org	Brazos Valley Symphony
BIG SPRING	www.bigspringsymphony.com	Big Spring Symphony Association
CLEAR LAKE	clearlakesymphony.org	Clear Lake Symphony. Click on SYMPHONY SOCIETY.
CONROE	www.conroesymphony.org	Conroe Symphony. Click on SYMPHONY LEAGUE.
CORPUS CHRISTI	www.ccsymphony.org/	Corpus Christi Symphony . Click on SUPPORT THE CCSO, then SYMPHONY GUILD.
DALLAS	www.dallassymphonyleague.com	Dallas Symphony Orchestra League
FORT WORTH	www.fwsymphonyleague.com	Symphony League of Fort Worth
HOUSTON	www.houstonsymphony.org	Houston Symphony . Click on SUPPORT YOUR SYMPHONY, then VOLUNTEERS.
HOUSTON BAY AREA	www.houstonsymphony.org	Houston Symphony. Click on SUPPORT YOUR SYMPHONY, then VOLUNTEERS.
LUBBOCK	www.lubbocksymphony.org	Lubbock Symphony. Click LSG icon.
MIDLAND	www.midlandsg.com	Midland Symphony Guild
MID TEXAS	www.mtsymphony.org	Mid Texas Symphony. Click on ORGANIZATION.
NEW MEXICO	www.nmso.org	New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Click on "About Us" and choose GUILD
ODESSA	http://www.odessasg.org/	Odessa Symphony Guild
SAN ANGELO	www.SanAngeloSymphony.org	San Angelo Symphony. Guild shares site with orchestra.
TEMPLE	www.templeymphony.org	Temple Symphony
TYLER	http://www.wsltyler.org	Women's Symphony League of Tyler
WACO	www.wacosymphonycouncil.com	Waco Symphony Council
WICHITA FALLS	http://wfsymphonyleague.tripod.com	Wichita Falls Symphony League
WOODLANDS	http://www.woodlandssymphony.com/keynote-society.html	The Woodlands Symphony Orchestra Keynote Society