



TEMPO

Newsletter of the San Antonio Symphony League

April
2013

President's Message

It's only been two months since the last Tempo issue and only two months remain before the end of the League season—but a whirlwind of League activities has taken place and more being planned.

In February, the Spring Belle Style Show at Julian Gold introduced the Class of 2016 freshman belles to the League; what a fun, fast-paced and frolicking time it was! March Madness (League style) revealed the lavish, luxurious, luscious Symphony Ball in the J.W. Marriott where 40 senior belles graciously glided down the runway on their father's arm before a record attendance of 726! Also in March, our Future Stars Competition Grand Prize Winner was selected from 20 contestants and made her performing debut at our Spring Evening Out event at Steinway Piano Gallery.

Paint to Music (PTM) judging was completed in early April at St. Mary's Hall where thousands of music-inspired drawings and paintings were submitted by elementary school children. In May, the hundreds of winning PTM renderings can be viewed by the public on a large overhead screen during the Symphony's Family Concert on Sunday, May 19. Seeing the creativity and imagination of young minds on screen is something you will want to experience!

And as the season comes to a close, on May 16 at our Season Closer celebration, I pass the League gavel to David Kinder, who has expertly held the critical position of League Ways and Means VP for the past three years. It has been my honor and pleasure to work with the League, Symphony and Symphony Board staffs and be surrounded by so many members who share the same vision and passion. I am so thankful to all of you who have joined me to Make A Difference. The friendships and relationships I have made these past two years are precious and heartfelt. Thank you.



Martin Kushner, Editor

Upcoming Events

May 7, 8, 9 - 9am to Noon
Young People's Concert #4
"Viva Espana"
Trinity University
Laurie Auditorium

May 16 - 11:30 am
Orchestra Hospitality Luncheon
Majestic Theatre

May 16 - 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Season Closer/Officer Installation
Home of Dr. Elizabeth Gillespie

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www.sasleague.org

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San Antonio Symphony League

End of Season Closer/Officer Installation Coming

Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) Farrimond Gillespie is graciously opening her Olmos Park home for the Symphony League Season Closer and Installation of Officers Reception and is free to all Symphony League members. During the event, Kathy Rafferty will review the highlights of this past year as we get ready for yet another fun year of supporting our San Antonio Symphony. We will all enjoy this lovely reception with dear friends, good food and wine as we toast a very successful League season on Thursday, May 16, from 5:30pm until 7:30pm at 404 Park Drive. Next year's officers (see page three) will be elected and installed during this occasion.

Libby has just completed a gorgeous remodel of her classic Thorman home, which was purchased from her parents, former League President Maxine Farrimond and her husband, Dr. Don Farrimond, nearly five years ago.

Libby and her family have been active supporters of the Symphony League for decades. Her mother brought the idea of the Symphony Showcase Home to San Antonio in the 1980s and included her young family in much of the day-to-day volunteering endeavors that made this possible for many years. Libby and her young daughters, Lauren and Emma, will participate in the Symphony Belle program in the coming years and are delighted to support the League's endeavors on behalf of music, culture and art in San Antonio.

43rd Annual Symphony Ball "An Evening In Imperial Saint Petersburg"

The San Antonio Symphony League presented 40 Symphony Belles at the 43rd Annual Symphony Ball on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the J.W. Marroitt Hill Country Resort. With over 720 friends and family in attendance, it was the largest and most financially successful Ball to date.

Danny Cuellar, of Trinity Flowers, set the tone to *An Evening in Imperial Saint Petersburg* with globes of cascading flowers and replicas of Fabergé eggs set on top of golden linens and surrounded by a sea of black draped chairs. Monica Taylor and Ted Garcia of KABB – FOX Channel 29 emceed the evening using a script that described the glories of bygone era that disappeared into the mists of time. The meal was flawlessly executed by an expert hotel staff, and everyone danced late into the night with music by Maxx Class and the Class Act.

This memorable event was made possible by the support of the Belle Families and the hard work of the 2013 Ball Committee: Kelly Strange, Patti Anderson, Jimmie Balling, Maureen Hillman, Cathy Siegel, Melissa McGuire, Kimberly Casillas, Lulu Zertucke, and David Kinder and, of course, Ball Chair Vickie Kinder.

Kelly Strange, next year's Ball Chair, is already making plans for next year's Ball, *An Evening in Monet's Garden*, which will be held on March 1, 2013, at the J.W. Marroitt Hill Country Resort.



Photo credit top two rows:
Paul Overstreet, Photography



SASL 2013/14 Nominated Slate of Officers

David Kinder: President

Kathy Rafferty: Immediate Past President

Treasurer: Martin Kushner

VP Administration: Lynn Amos

VP Education: Christine Frank Green

VP Membership: Kathleen Meriwether

VP Service: Agnes Lowe

VP Ways and Means (Fundraising): Terri McDowell

VP Ways and Means (Belle): Lisa Caldwell

Belle Style Show Sets Record!

On Sunday, February 24, 2013, the freshman Belle Class of 2016 modeled the latest fashions at the Symphony Belle Style Show! **162** guests, a new record for this event, were treated to wine, cheese and desserts and a spectacular style show of the latest Spring trends - courtesy of Julian Gold.

Upon arrival, guests were surprised by how Julian Gold had been transformed into a New York fashion showplace, with a runway platform 20 feet long and rows of chairs. The Style Show was a terrific event attended by league members as well as new prospective members. Several families had three generations in attendance as young girls, mothers, and grandmothers came together to enjoy this event. All were entertained by the stunning 2016 Belles modeling the beautiful clothing to the sound of upbeat music on the runway. It was an afternoon to remember, both for our Belles and the guests.

A special thank you to Melinda Young, SASL Member, Belle Mom and associate at Julian Gold, who graciously agreed to fashion our models. Next time you are in the store, please be sure to say a special "thank you" to our Julian Gold friends, Bobby Gurwitz and James Glover, for making this event possible.



Christine Young



Jenna Belle Fuhrmann,
Julia Collins, Sophie Aliece Hollis



McKenzie Shultz



THE FINALE!



Event Committee (L to R) Joy Fuhrmann, Lynette Nelson,
Lecie Hollis, Andrea Olson and Rebecca Long
(not pictured) Melinda Young

Membership Renewal is NOW!!!

The SASL Membership drive for 2013-14 (July to June) is on and continues through April 30th. We thank all of you for your past and renewing memberships and look forward to seeing your desired volunteer interests circled on the renewal form. This past year, our membership grew by 100 to a total of 458 members. Help make a difference in our community by continuing to support live symphonic music through your League membership. And don't forget that one of the benefits of League membership is a 20% discount on season subscriptions and individual tickets.

To all our Belle families: this is your call for League membership renewal, as well. If you did not receive your renewal letter or if you'd like additional information, contact Agnes Lowe (210) 216 0729, ajlowe12@mac.com.

Spring Evening Out

A different membership experience in a most unique setting centered around musical talent that you support. Were you there? Those who attended enjoyed wines from Becker Vineyards, courtesy of Dr. Richard & Bunny Becker, food prepared by Page Barteau catering, our own Elizabeth Diggs creating the tasty and visual feast and luscious desserts from Joan Whiteley.

The evening conversations and networking was set among candlelit tables and flowers with a backdrop of stunning pianos. The centerpiece of the evening was the musical presentation by Katarina Chavez, oboe accompanied by Dr. Mark Alexander, piano. Those present were also treated to interesting insight during a post concert chat and interview with Katarina conducted by President Kathy Rafferty.

Ms. Chavez was named the Grand Prize Winner of the Symphony's "2013 Future Stars Competition" after having won the Brass & Woodwind Division. The League provides both volunteers and funding for all expenses, including the cash prize awards to the winners. These funds are achieved through the success of our annual Music at the Museum events at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Thanks go to those members who were the gracious hosts and facilitators: Arrival desk- Ricki Kushner, liaison with Becker Vineyards - Sheila Swartzman, Wine server- Marty Kushner, RSVP & Steinway Host - Deborah Moore.



Accompanist Mark Alexander
with Katarina Chavez



Katarina Chavez



The proud Chavez family

Paint to Music Submissions Overflowing!

Amazing Art! Over 1,300 pieces of art from 44 schools were submitted for the San Antonio Symphony League's 39th Paint to Music Contest! Art came from all over the area....from public schools, private schools, and home schools. (Nearly 4,000 students actually participated as some teachers preselect for their entries.) The students "painted" to either "Habanera" from *Carmen Suite #2* by Bizet, "Malaguena" from *Andalucia* by Lecuona, or "Fandango asturiano" from *Capriccio espagnol* by Rimsky-Korsakov. All three compositions will be performed at the final Young Peoples' Concert on May 7, 8, and 9th, and the Family Concert on May 19th, all at Trinity University's Laurie Auditorium. The winning art will be displayed overhead at these concerts while our wonderful San Antonio Symphony performs.

Each school with over 25 entries claimed a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner. Schools with fewer entries had, at least, one winner. Honorable Mentions were also given at the discretion of the judges. All winners received a voucher for the May 19th concert so they could attend with family members and "show off" their winning art. Each 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner received a medal, a certificate, and art supplies from the League and a season pass for next year's Family Concerts from the Symphony. The "Best of Show" winner was selected from all First Place entries. This year's Best of Show winner is Ella Santana, a 4th grader from Elrod Elementary who painted to "Habanera". Her work of art will be framed and displayed at the May 19th Family Concert, and then presented to the student. The "Best of each Music Selection" was also chosen after the Best in Show was chosen. Best for "Habanera" was Breann Tovar (4th grade, James Carson Elementary); Best for "Malaguena" was Oscar Vasquez (5th grade, Crockett Elementary); Best for "Fandango asturiana" was Daniela Munoz (5th grade, Forester Elementary).

Thanks to the following Symphony belles for their assistance: Paige Cheatham, Olivia Viroslav, Jaelyn Vance, Lillian Goebel and Belle mom Susan Oelson. Bryan Tobias was our photographer, and Sue Telle and Carrie Howell were the contest judges. Thank you to Symphony League members Terri Ross, Marty Kushner, and Lisa Caldwell. Thanks also to Belles Haley Colvard (and mom Patti), Isabella Hancock, and Isabel Hutt who assisted with the many duties to make this year's contest a big success!

[See PAGE SEVEN for picture of Best of Show winner]



Belles receive training from Joan Whiteley



Judges at work



Terri Ross and Photographer Bryan Tobias

Final Report on Music at the Museum - 2013

Music at the Museum XIII was held on January 28, 2013 to a sell-out crowd. Our final tally reveals net proceeds to the SASL of **\$7,412.14**. These education funds help fund our Paint to Music contest and Future Stars Competition. A special thanks to Rosario Laird, who worked her usual "magic" with our Symphony musicians and staff that allowed us to be a part of the Brahms Festival this year.

Music at Home Flourishes

San Antonio neighborhoods continue to engage in the sound of symphonic music during recent Music at Home events. On Feb 12, Martha Long (principal flute) introduced her instrument and her music to 22 Newcomers of San Antonio at the home of Mary Jane Chisholm in Castle Hills. The party had a "Fat Tuesday" festive Mardi Gras theme. On Apr 9, David Mollenauer (assistant principal cello) captured the attention of 25 guests at the home of Wade and Lisa Caldwell in Monte Vista. At both events, guests asked engaging questions to the musicians, so much so, it was difficult for them to break away! Contact Terri McDowell at terrimcdow@aol.com to learn how to plan your own Music at Home event.

New Member Orientation Fun and Informative

A New Members Orientation was held at the home of Renee Bailey on April 3. Seventeen new members attended and, best of all, three brought friends who decided to join the League that day! President Kathy Rafferty gave us an overview of League volunteer opportunities, and Christine Frank Green, Joan Whiteley, Terri McDowell, Maureen Hillman, Toni Murgo and Kathleen Meriwether thoroughly answered questions about various service areas. We welcome our newest members and are pleased to see so many 'newbies' signed up at the meeting to help in their area of interest.

Our newest SASL Members

Sharon Adelman

Aliza Cantu

Peggy Cervera

Steve Golson & Sara Woolford

Doreen Magoon

Greg & Julia Mann

Nicole McNeel

Michael & Janet Molak

Dr. Joe & Toni Murgo

Laura Soules

From David Filner, San Antonio Symphony Interim President/CEO



As we get closer to the end of our 2012-2013 season, I find myself both reflecting on the amazing accomplishments of Sebastian and the Symphony this year and thinking about what an exciting future we have. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of getting a guided tour of the Tobin Center construction site and saw up close what a grand and wonderful place it will be. Although they were just beginning to put the roof and sides of the building in, I was able to take stairs to the box tier level and look down at where, in less than two years, the San Antonio Symphony will experience somewhat of a rebirth.

I can't help but be amazed by the serendipity of the timing of the Tobin. If all goes according to plan, the major construction on the Tobin will be completed - almost exactly 75 years to the day after the first Symphony performance in June, 1939. I am constantly taken back by the number of people who I meet, both young and old, whose lives have been changed by the Symphony at some point in the last 75 years. People like Jim Calvert, who told me a story about coming to that very first Symphony concert when he was a boy. He is still a supporter and concertgoer today, which I think is incredible. I must say, it also speaks to the power of music that after presenting an outdoor concert in June at the Sunken Gardens theatre, people wanted more and that the Symphony has lasted for all these years!

Not only does our audience thrill me, but our musicians do as well. Although the orchestra has never sounded better, I think we all understand that the San Antonio Symphony is about more than great music. As important as they are to San Antonio onstage, I think they are even more important offstage. Steve Zeserman, a bass player in the orchestra, is a wonderful example of how our musicians are impacting our community. Steve has taught and tutored hundreds of bass players during his time with the Symphony; and each year his students are some of the top ranked musicians at the annual All-State Orchestra. Perhaps more importantly, he helps students obtain scholarships to great music schools and colleges all over the country. As one of his students, Tyler Valdez, said, "Taking lessons with Mr. Zeserman was one of the best things that has ever happened to me. Not only would I not be half the bass player that I am today, but I would also be a very different person.... I auditioned to enter as a music education major at the University of Texas at San Antonio and earned a full scholarship."

I am so proud to be working with these great musicians and for such an appreciative audience. We are extraordinarily thrilled about all the great things happening with the Symphony and we look forward to creating another 75 years of great memories, both onstage and off. Each day I am reminded that **music really does make a difference.**

Future Stars Concerto Competition

The San Antonio Symphony's Future Stars Concerto Competition, sponsored by the Symphony League, took place over two Saturdays in March. The competition is open to any Central Texas student who lives within 100 miles of San Antonio and would not graduate from high school before April. Twenty candidates, between the ages of eleven and eighteen, (one from Brackettville) competed in one of three divisions (Strings, woodwind/brass, and piano) before three judges.

Two Symphony League docents checked in the candidates and helped them navigate their way to their respective practice rooms, then to the "on-deck" room. Finally, they were escorted to the stage by Jeremy Brimhall, the Symphony's Director of Education and Community Engagement. By early afternoon the preliminary competition was over and everyone eagerly awaited the results at home. There were nine finalists: four string players, three pianist and two oboists.

On March 9, the finalists performed before a new set of judges at the Majestic Theatre. Within three hours the competition was over and the judges began their deliberation. During this time, there was a chance to speak with some of the young people and their families. Supporting an aspiring musician is not an easy task and it was clear that both generations work hard with dedication and sacrifice for the students to reach this level of proficiency. Finally, the judges' decisions were announced: Miss Katarina Chavez from Johnson High School in San Antonio won the woodwind division with her oboe performance. Cellist Gyultee Min, from San Antonio, won the strings division, and Helen Nebeker of Austin won the piano division. The Symphony League awarded each of them \$250. The grand prize winner, Katarina Chavez, received an additional prize of \$750 as well as the honor of performing with the Symphony later this season.

The Future Stars Competition is a very worthwhile project that the Symphony League supports both financially and with its volunteers. At a time when school support for aspiring artists is waning, it is satisfying to know that the League is helping the young musicians of the next generation reach for their lofty goals.

Paint to Music's Best in Show by Elrod Elementary's Ella Santana



Photography by
Bryan Tobias



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Another Contribution to SAS



On April 11, the League proudly presented its second donation this year of \$50,000 to Interim SAS CEO/President David Filner. David acknowledged the never-ending support the League provides the Symphony and looks forward to significant events together in the future.



****TOGETHER, WE MAKE IT HAPPEN****