

Deanna Lamoreux, President

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Linda Coney, Editor

January, 2011

The purpose of this organization, operating under the auspices of the Houston Symphony society, is to promote quality music education and enrichment programs for area students and to promote music appreciation in the Bay Area through an affiliation with the Houston Symphony and other resources.

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

7:00 P.M

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

RICHARD DOWLING, PIANIST

And

MADGE WATERSTON HUNT, PIANIST

Heralded by *The New York Times* as “an especially impressive fine pianist”, Richard Dowling appears regularly across the United States in solo recitals, at chamber music and jazz/ragtime festivals, and as a guest soloist in concerto performances with orchestras. He has been acclaimed by audiences for his elegant and exciting style of playing which earns him frequent *return engagements*. Mr. Dowling has presented solo recitals in the Far East, Australia, Africa, and Europe. Works of Chopin, Ravel, Gershwin, and American ragtime figure prominently in his repertoire. He has received glowing reviews that praise him as “a master of creating beautiful sounds with impeccable control of colors and textures,” and as “a musician with something to say, the skill to say it and the magnetic power to make you want to listen” and for giving “a superb recital that left the audience craving for more at the end.”

A native Houstonian, Richard Dowling began his piano studies at age five, and his extraordinary musical talent quickly became evident. He gave his first recital at age six and won prizes in many piano competitions throughout childhood. He studied privately in high school with pianist Madge Waterston Hunt and made his orchestra debut in a Beethoven concerto performance with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra at age eighteen. He received his bachelor’s degree *summa cum laude* from the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston as a student of Ruth Tomfohrde and Abbey Simon.

As a freshman he won first prize in the annual UH Concerto Competition, and as a senior was declared National Winner of the prestigious MTNA Collegiate Artist competition at its national convention. While studying for a master’s degree at Yale University, Dowling was honored with the Lockwood Award for performing the best recital and the Simonds Award for outstanding solo and ensemble playing.. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the University of Texas and has held positions as Artist-in-Residence at Lamar University in Texas and at the Harid Conservatory of Music in Florida. He enjoys performing as a member of the artist roster of The Piatigorsky Foundation. Over the past 16 years, he has performed over 800 recitals under its auspices. He is also owner of Dowling Music, Houston’s 67-year-old comprehensive sheet music, CD and musical gift store. He resides in New York City and Houston, and is a Steinway Artist.

He will be accompanied by his former teacher, Madge Waterston Hunt, in a piano duet which will be performed especially for our group. Madge has been teaching piano in her private studio in the Clear Lake area for many years. She received her Bachelor of Music, Piano Performance from The University of North Texas and her Master of Music Performance from Southern Methodist University. She has received many awards and achievements, including the National Guild of Piano Teachers Hall of Fame and pre-College Teacher of the Year from TMTA in 1987. Her students have won many awards, earned music degrees and performed throughout the world, and she continues to perform in recitals, conduct, and accompany for the University Interscholastic League.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Deanna Lamoreux

Get Ready for the New Year!

On January 8 the Concerto Competition will be at University of Houston Moores School of Music. Plan to come and enjoy all the young musicians (up to age 18) playing for the first-place prize which is given by HSLBA. Please call Doris Humbach, 281-996-0671 or Polly Hanley, 713-946-8511 for more information.

Our very own member, Madge Hunt will play piano duets with her former student, Richard Dowling, internationally-known pianist. Richard was also a student of Ruth Tomforhde, Cindy Kuenneke's aunt, when he studied piano performance at Moores School of Music. **Remember this is an evening meeting on January 19, the third Wednesday at 7 PM at Gloria Dei.** We will be honoring music teachers on this evening. You are welcome to Invite yours!

Two new evening programs are in the planning stages. *Music By the Bay: Reminiscing with the Romantics* will be on Friday evening, February 25 at one of the 2010 *Homes by the Bay*. Moores School of Music professor Timothy Hester will be playing a Concert Beckstein piano that was built in 1891. Detailed information about both programs will be available soon.

Programs, events, and people are listed in our 2010-11 HSLBA Membership Directory. If you did not receive your directory, please call Pat Biddle, 281-488-2346. Directories also will be available at the membership table in January.

I enjoy leading HSLBA and especially enjoy getting to know all of you, my friends. Everyone is willing to help in keeping HSLBA a successful organization. Some of our membership of nearly 200 people are not always available to help with the activities, or even to attend the meetings. At the suggestion of a member, we will be considering how to stay-in-touch with one another. Doris Humbach, our corresponding secretary, sends out cards to members who are sick or convalescing. If you know of someone who would appreciate a card, a phone call or a visit, please call Doris.

Please share your ideas that will keep our membership caring and strong. Do not forget, too, our monthly lunches at local restaurants after the Wednesday morning meetings are a great way to make new friends. At a Fall luncheon, Roger Daily, Director of *Sounds Like Fun*, played a little accordion music and spoke about the importance of music education for young children. Watch for a Spring luncheon with a guest speaker from the Houston Symphony.

Thanks to Victoria Wendling for her support and organization of the Jones Hall bus trips for the Shell Series Concerts on Sunday afternoons. Victoria resigned her positions for the presidency and as bus coordinator because she is moving to Austin to be near her family. She is a great encourager, reminding us to attend the wonderful Houston Symphony concerts. We will miss her insight, knowledge, and enthusiasm on the board.

This new year is the beginning of preparations for Glenda Toole's presidency in 2011-12. Please consider giving your name to Sherry Straight, Nominations Chair, to serve in one of the board positions, or if you admire a member's talents and work, please ask if they will consider serving in a leadership or supportive position. The strength and longevity of HSLBA, one of our community's finest organizations serving both children and adults, is because of the great variety of gifts from all members.

Fran Strong was HSLBA's founder and first president. Fran died this past November, leaving a wonderful legacy, the organization of the Houston Symphony League Bay Area. Our mission is to support developing and ongoing programs of the Houston Symphony as well as our local school and community programs. Please consider and share ideas to honor our Fran. HSLBA presidents will be honored at the February meeting.

Many know that Mary Voigt, music director of Gloria Dei retires this month. An organ concert will be played in her honor this Friday, January 7 at 7 :30 PM. Please call Gloria Dei, 281-333-0935, or go to their web site to purchase tickets at \$15. HSLBA honors Mary too for her years of support and for keeping us in the chapel for our monthly programs. Thank you, Mary!

Happy New Year! Deanna Lamoreux, HSLBA 2010-11 President

Parties, Presentations, Programs

These are a few of my favorite things from HSLBA's 2010 fall season.

Parties Thanks to our members who generously opened their doors and invited us to celebrate in their homes. Maurita and Bob Gallagher hosted the annual Wine 'n Cheese Party, inviting guests to become members of HSLBA. Shepherd School of Music graduate student, Dawson White, played violin music throughout the evening. In November the newly formed Past Presidents started the holiday season with a cookie party at the home of Diane McLaughlin, who is famous for her dessert brownies. The cookies and Houston Symphony brochures were delivered to CCISD elementary music teachers. Carole and Tom Murphy's festive open house was the grand finale of our season. HSLBA members Cindy Kuenneke, Jerene Murray, and Sue Smith played joyous piano music while members of the Note-Ables and others were singing along -- oh, what fun the Murphy party was!

Presentations Marjorie Therrell recently accepted the coordinator position for community presentations. Right away, she organized the puppeteers in their new show for JSC Federal Credit Union Horizon Club luncheon at The Arts Alliance Center. Isabel Konradi and others passed out information about the Houston Symphony *Sounds Like Fun* at CCISD's Imagination Celebration. The Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce highlighted HSLBA at their annual holiday luncheon at Lakewood Yacht Club. The Houston Symphony Bass Quartet, "*Bass Center Houston*", played classical, jazz, and contemporary music for 150 members. Patience Myers, Natalie Ong, and I passed out brochures and visited with attendees. If you know of a group who would like to know more about HSLBA and the Houston Symphony, please call Marjorie, 281-474-3389.

Programs Monthly meetings and programs are an outstanding feature of HSLBA. This year we listened to beautiful music from a River Oaks Symphony trio, familiar songs and a little music theory by local favorite trumpeter, Sparky Koerner from College of the Mainland's music department, and finally, *The Houston Branch* at The Arts Alliance Center which drew a crowd of Bob Dorough's *School House Rock* fans of all ages.

School Programs I attended a first grade puppet show in December and was captivated by the performance of the puppeteers. I was a first grader again as I sat on a little chair for an hour learning about the instruments and the symphony. The puppets receive much applause and bring laughter to everyone. Our puppeteers are a committed group, and do a wonderful job in helping to prepare future musicians.

If you are not a puppeteer and would like to see a performance, call Graciela Kavulla, 281-480-4715 or Pam Smithgall, 281-538-1855. Also, check out the second grade program *What Makes Music* with Brian del Signore by calling Deborah Kidwell, 281-474-4375; and the third and fourth grade programs *Paragon Brass* and *Take Five* headed up by Nina Spencer, 281-332-8955. You too can watch the show with the other kids. To date, there have been 26 school programs and the annual CCISD fifth grade bus trip to Jones Hall for a Houston Symphony concert.

Note-Ables The Note-Ables sang a record number of concerts in December. Please call JoAnn Mills, 281-286-3171, for your organization's Note-Ables program this coming year. You are welcome to attend their concerts listed in the membership directory, and assist them by distributing our HSLBA brochure and Houston Symphony brochures.

All these events and programs require great planning and preparation. HSLBA members give many hours of their time to make HSLBA known in the community and in making music programs and events special for our members and guests. As you spend time serving, please remember to post your hours with Vickie Hamley, Director of Volunteer Services: vickie.hamley@houstonsymphony.org

STORAGE UNIT PROJECT

A group of past HSLBA Presidents took on the task of cleaning out our storage unit. Six boxes of scrapbooks, minutes and financial reports from Board meetings, ten years of program books from "Pops by the Bay" concerts, and ten years of ad books from "A Day by the Bay" Home Tour were delivered to the Houston Symphony Archives. You may not be aware that two dedicated Houston Symphony League volunteers, Ginny Garrett and Terry Brown, have made it their mission to professionally archive the history of the Houston Symphony. Due to their commitment, our records will now be catalogued and enjoy a safe acid-free storage environment.

There is now room for storage of our new "petting zoo" instruments, new puppets, stage, and sound equipment. Pam Smithgall and her puppeteers have added shelving to store the new instruments safely.

Members helping in this project were Pat Brackett, Pat Bertelli, Diane McLaughlin, and Dana Puddy, Chairman

New Year's Resolution: Volunteer to work in the Houston Symphony store

Are you interested in volunteering in the Houston Symphony store at Jones Hall? The Symphony Store is always looking for more volunteers. Volunteers arrive 90 minutes before performances. They help sell merchandise before the show, at intermission, and after the show for a few minutes. Volunteers receive a free ticket to that performance. If anyone would like to volunteer for the Spring season, 2011, please contact Betty Stacy at gstacy@flash.net. She will send you the concert schedule, and you can choose which performances you want to support. Since there are many volunteers, you might not get all your choices, but you will get some. Volunteers support both the Classical & Pops concerts. If you have any questions, please contact Betty by email or phone: 281-482-0475.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ginny Jones

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

January 27, 2011

Linda Coney
2117 Victoria Ct.
League City, TX 77573
281-332-2087
lbconey@comcast.net

January Meeting

January 19 (3rd Wednesday)
7:00 pm
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Board Meeting

Monday, January 24
9:30 Social 10:00 Meeting
Stewart Title Company
2625 Bay Area Blvd, Houston

Memorial Music Education Fund

Houston Symphony League Bay Area has established the Memorial Music Fund to accept donations in memory of friends and family members. HSLBA will gratefully accept and acknowledge any contributions. State the name of the person you wish to remember and provide the name and address of the person to receive notification of the contribution.

If you know of an HSLBA member who has had a serious illness, or death of a spouse or child, please notify Doris Macek-Humbach at 281-996-0671 or dmacek@flash.net.

Make checks payable to HSLBA and send to:

Roberta Liston, Education Treasurer
126 Bristol Bend Lane
Dickinson, Texas 77536