

Deanna Lamoreux, President

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HOUSTON SYMPHONY LEAGUE BAY AREA

Linda Coney, Editor

February, 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, February 9, 2011
10 a.m.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Gustavo Bianchi

Pianist, Teacher, Collaborative Artist

Italian pianist Gustavo Bianchi has enjoyed a distinguished international career, having performed in halls across the U.S., South America, and Asia. His long list of honors and awards includes prizes at the Sidney Wright Piano Accompanying Competition (first prize, 2003), the prestigious Bartok and Kabalevsky International Piano Competition (first prize, 1998), the Byrd Piano Ensemble Competition (first prize, 1998), and the Florida Young Chang Artist Competition (first prize, 1998). He also won the Pre-emptive Fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has studied with and been coached by renowned artists and pedagogues such as Anton Nel, Menahm Pressler, Jose' Feghali, Randall Hogkinson, Leonard Mastrogiacommo, Sergei Schepkin, Barry Snyder, Yara Bernette, Antonio Barbosa, Linda Bustani, Margo Garrett, and Clifford Benson.

Dr. Bianchi is versatile in many genres, including Contemporary music, Baroque performance practice (harpsichord), and Chamber music. He has collaborated with artists of such distinction as the legendary double bass virtuoso Francois Rabbath, saxophonist Harvey Pittel, flutist Christina Guenther, baritone Jerrold Pope, soprano Rebekkah Hilgraves, and conductors Matthias Barnet, Alexander Jimenez and Andrea Thomas. He has also worked as the collaborative artist for the University of Texas at Austin School of Music, the Austin Lyric Opera, the opera workshop at St. Edwards University, Bass Odyssey, the Tenth Biennial Festival of New Music at Florida State University, the International Ernst von Dohnanyi Festival, and a number of summer music programs.

This season Dr. Bianchi is performing and giving masterclasses in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington DC, and Florida. In addition, Dr. Bianchi is currently working on a recording project, performing selected works of Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, which will be released in 2010. Teaching has been an essential part of Dr. Bianchi's life. He has studied piano pedagogy with Sophia Gilmon, Martha Hilley, Victoria McArthur, and Faina Bryanskaya. From 2003-2005, Dr. Bianchi was a teaching assistant at the University of Texas at Austin where he gained valuable experience teaching at the college level. In 2007, he founded and directed the Northwest Hills Chamber Musical Festival, a summer program for young musicians drawing guest artists and clinicians on a variety of topics, including Chamber Music, Alexander Technique, World Music, European Folk Dance, as well as numerous masterclasses.

Dr. Bianchi earned his doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and his master's and bachelor's degrees from Florida State University. He also attended the pre-college music program at the new England Conservatory, as well as the Longy School of Music in Boston. He currently resides in Austin where is a highly sought-out pianist, collaborative artist, and teacher. He is also starting to develop a new teaching studio in Houston, his future residence.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Welcome to the beginning of our 35th year! On February 8, 1976 the Houston Symphony League Bay Area was invited to Jones Hall to celebrate their newly chartered organization of 150 new members. In honor of our first president, Fran Strong, we will pay tribute to her at the May luncheon; and at the 2011-12 Homes-by-the-Bay Preview Party and in the home tour book.

During this month of celebrating American presidents, we also will celebrate the HSLBA presidents. Our 22nd President, Pat Bertelli started this tradition during her term in 2003-04. Many of our presidents are still very active, continuing to support and mentor other presidents from their own presidential experiences, and participating in their favorite activities. In order to utilize their combined years of experience, a Presidents' Club was formed this year for the purpose of furthering HSLBA's traditions and assisting with new ways to promote our mission. As I enter the last months of my term as 29th president of HSLBA, I continue to look forward to new and exciting events.

Program VP, Nina McGlashan enthusiastically planned two extra programs this year. *Music-by-the-Bay: Reminiscing with the Romantics* is a sell-out event on Friday, February 25. Moores School of Music professor, Timothy Hester will play a 1890 Beckstein piano at one of the 2010 Homes-by-the-Bay. The April event will be just as exciting. An announcement of the program artist, the date and the place is forthcoming.

At the January 19 meeting, music educators in our community were honored. Accepting the honors were Dean Muths - CCISD Director of Fine Arts, Matthew Tavilson - Director/Conductor Bay Area Youth Symphony, Carol Barwick - Director of The Note-Ables and Bay Area Youth Singers, and Norene Emerson - Acting President of The Gulf Coast Teachers Association and President of The Bay Area Music Teachers Association. Each received a Houston Symphony DVD of *The Planets*. Thank you, Dick Brackett, aka Maestro, for the evening introductions.

Education VP, Isabel Konradi and her team of elementary school coordinators will meet to discuss a request set forth at the January board meeting by CCISD music teachers, Lisa Black and Bryan Buffalo. They would like string instruments to be included in our third and fourth grade programs of brass and woodwinds.

Membership VP, Pat Biddle manages our membership throughout the year, and encourages every guest to join. Those who join HSLBA this spring will be members for the following year too. Another exciting party is in the works -- *Tea for Two* which will be hosted by Pat Bertelli this spring. Members are invited to bring a guest. A date will be announced soon.

Membership VP, Patience Myers is hard-at-work in the community to make the Houston Symphony League Bay Area name known to everyone. As our Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce representative, Patience put HSLBA in the spotlight at their annual Lakewood Xmas luncheon. The Houston Symphony's *Bass Center Houston* played an amazing non-traditional holiday program that mesmerized the audience of 150 Clear Lake business owners.

Carole Murphy, CPA and Finance VP is doing an A+ job organizing and managing the organization's accounts. She is happy to report "WE ARE IN THE BLACK!" Thank you very much! We all appreciate Carole's detailed accounting.

Another year of our participation in the Concerto Competition is over, but not forgotten. Especially memorable is the work of two dedicated, long-standing volunteers, Polly Hanley and Doris Humbach who coordinate a lunch for the Concerto volunteers. They make their work look like dessert -- a piece of cake. Thank You! Thank You! And, Thank You, Tom Hanley for transporting coolers and serving pieces, and to all the volunteers who prepared the food. This year's first-place winner of the Concerto Competition is Reshina Liao who received the \$1000 award from HSLBA. She will be playing her violin at the March 9 meeting.

The Jones Hall bus to the Sunday afternoon concerts will keep on rolling next year. The HSLBA mission is to support the Houston Symphony and this opportunity is perfect. The ongoing group will be selecting their concert series soon, and you will not want to miss the bus or voting your selection for the concert subscription series. Please call Glenda Toole, 281-488-1785 to say, "Yes, I will be riding the bus on Sunday afternoons," and also to volunteer to be the "Leader of the Bus." Victoria Wendling coordinated the bus rides this past year, and is moving to Austin, so a new leader is needed.

A Spring Lunch is being planned - March 14 following the board meeting. Again, we will have a catered \$10/pp lunch and a fine presentation from a Houston Symphony member.

See you soon! *Deanna Lamoreux*

Tim Hester, Pianist

Music by the Bay: Reminiscing with the Romantics

Friday, February 25

A native Houstonian, Timothy Hester is Associate Professor of Piano at the Moores School of Music. He enjoys instructing students in the skills of sight reading, collaborative techniques, and serving as Director of Keyboard Collaborative Arts. He was named Outstanding Faculty Member of the year in 2003 by the Moores Society. Mr. Hester has worked with internationally known vocalists and instrumentalists, and has taught Opera Studies at Rice University Shepherd School of Music. He is currently on the faculty of the Houston Grand Opera Studio.

Mr. Hester has appeared worldwide in venues in Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan. He has been a regular performing faculty member of the Schlern International Music Festival in Northern Italy. In the United States, he has performed on the NYC Bargemusic Series, the Ojai Festival in California, the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, the Park City International Chamber Music Festival in Utah, the Texas Music Festival, the OK Mozart Festival in Oklahoma, the KUHF Chamber Players, and with Da Camera, a Houston-based chamber music ensemble. Mr. Hester graduated from the Juilliard School of Music as a student of the renowned pedagogue, Adele Marcus. Previously, he was a pupil of the late Professor Emeritus, Albert Hirsch at the University of Houston

TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS HISTORY and 2012 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE NOMINEES

TASO was conceived in 1965 by the Women's Association for Symphony Orchestras (WASO) meeting in New Orleans. It was determined by the Texas delegations from Dallas, Houston and San Antonio that it would be beneficial to have a state level organization. In 1966 11 member organizations were invited to attend a planning meeting in Dallas; they were: Abilene, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, San Antonio, Tyler and Waco. The Conference of the Women's Committees of Texas Symphony Orchestras was held in Houston in March, 1967. Amarillo and Beaumont were added to the list, and the first annual conference of TWASO was held in El Paso in 1968.

In May 1984, the name of the organization was changed to the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras (TASO) and had 23 member organizations. Since 2008 there are 31 member organizations, including New Mexico and 20 Affiliate/Patron members.

The purpose of TASO is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas to develop, support and promote the interest and growth of symphony orchestras. Meetings are held quarterly and the spring meeting is held in conjunction with the annual conference.

Member organizations, of which HSLBA is one, are required to send a representative to serve on the Board of Directors and participate on two or more committees. In 1997, TASO initiated a statewide youth competition to select an outstanding high school musician, and the competition was named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Miller, Jr. who created a fund for it. The competition was named in honor of Mrs. Miller and became the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. The grand prize winner performs his/her winning concerto at the TASO Annual Conference.

The Annual Conferences are hosted by TASO member organizations each spring. Conferences offer the opportunity for members to hear nationally recognized speakers on topics valuable to their organization, share ideas and participate in informative workshops. Education, Service, and Fundraising projects and Awards of Excellence are submitted by member organizations for judging. An Award of Excellence is awarded to a volunteer, business, legislator or patron in recognition for outstanding service, support and promotion of the interests and growth of symphony orchestras. HSLBA has received awards for our Home Tour and for the Note-Ables.

HSLBA is nominating Stephen and Mariglyn Glenn for an Award of Excellence in 2012. The Awards will be announced at the 2012 Annual Conference in Lubbock, Texas. They are most worthy of this recognition.

Stephen and Mariglyn Glenn have been members of HSLBA since 2002 and some of their many contributions to HSLBA include: Stephen created, funded and manages our website since 2007. He worked with HSLBA to get major sponsorship from Boeing of \$50,000 for local concert sponsorship of Pops by the Bay; created and managed web site for first Planets concert bus trip in May, 2006. Mariglynn serves as chairman of Symphony Orchestra/Staff luncheons, volunteer 2001 through 2010 for Concerto Competition and Ima Hogg Competition.

Stephen and Mariglyn's involvement and contributions to the Houston Symphony are too many to mention, but a few major ones are: they have been long-time Houston Symphony season ticket holders, Symphony patrons, Musician sponsors, Primary Musician sponsors, and concert sponsors. Stephen was elected more than five years ago to the Houston Symphony Board of Trustees, Governing Trustee, and service as a Marketing Committee Member and Music Matters Committee Member.

Joan G. Wade, HSLBA TASO Delegate and TASO Vice Chair of Projects

CONCERTO COMPETITION

The annual Concerto Competition was held Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the Moores School of Music on the University of Houston campus. The event presented the opportunity for young musicians to perform before a panel of music professionals who judge them on their musical proficiency. The entrants present a 20 minute memorized piece before the judges and an audience. This year's event showcased 15 contestants. Reshena Liao won first place. Deanna Lamoreux, president of HSLBA, presented Reshena with a \$1,000. check. Reshena will perform at the March meeting for the HSLBA membership and guests.

Hospitality for the event was hosted by Central and Bay Area Symphony Leagues. The Central League provided breakfast items. The Bay Area League served a sandwich and salad luncheon to judges and volunteers. Doris Macek-Humbach and Polly Hanley coordinated the meal. They express sincere appreciation to members who prepared food and helped in set-up, serving and clean up.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February 28, 2011

Linda Coney
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281-332-2087
lbconey@comcast.net

February Meeting

February 9 (2nd Wednesday)
10:00 a.m.
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Board Meeting

February 14
9:30 a.m.
Lakeside Lutheran Church
1101 S FM 270

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