

# TAKE NOTE

Summer 2019



## *A message from Molly Benson...*

As we transition from one leadership year to the next, take a minute to reflect with me on the richness and diversity of the 2018-2019 calendar. I think we can all agree that we had great fun while supporting a fantastic cause, **The Austin Symphony Orchestra!**

Our fall began with over 60 new members, **YLC** recruitment, and the **Jewel Ball** team off and running. **Soirée** kicked off the month of September, and the **Fall Fashion Luncheon** with **Tim Gunn** was a sold-out success! Fall fundraising culminated in the spectacular **64<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewel Ball, "An Austin Tradition."**

October and November saw both **Halloween Concerts** and **Young People's Concerts** at The **AISD Performing Arts Center**. Dozens of members decorated the venue and shuttled students from buses to their seats. Then in December, we celebrated with a lovely holiday party at **Mary Ellen** and **Roger Borgelt's** historic Tarrytown Home, which also served as the gracious setting for the

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Women's Symphony  
League  
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### MISSION

The mission of the Women's Symphony League of Austin is to provide service and financial support for the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its programs, and offer educational opportunities for the children and the community to further develop appreciation of music.



**The WSL of Austin** was well represented at the **52nd Annual Texas Assn. for Symphony Orchestras (TASO) Conference** in Houston. Pictured L-R are TASO President **Ann Spier**; TASO Secretary **Susan Douglas**; Texas from the Arts Executive Director, Ann Graham; WSL TASO Representative **Beth Grimm**; WSL VP of Community Affairs, **Carrie Conner**; WSL President, **Molly Benson**; WSL President-Elect, **Karey Oddo**.

(Molly Benson Continued...)

## **Jewel Committee's** selection of the **2019 Royal Court**.

2019 saw the WSL celebrating Valentine's Day in style as the **Red Haute** team produced "**Hats off to Love**" at the JW Marriott. Then it was time to look ahead as the Nominating Team met to slate the **2019-2020 Board of Directors**, and **New Member Recruitment** presented a historic incoming class - **70 women** strong! Finally, in the spring, the **Past Presidents Council** hosted an elegant **Jewel Tea** at **Stacy** and **Mike Toomey's** beautiful home where the **2019 Royal Court** was announced, and WSL members had the pleasure of honoring some truly remarkable young women and their families.

Even as we transition from one **WSL** year to the next, our year is not officially over until the end of June. We stay busy during the summer, however, with **Children's Day Art Park**, socials, and free **ASO** concerts, including the spectacular **4<sup>th</sup> of July** performance.

Throughout this past year, we also enjoyed informative meetings, **YLC** speaker events, and inspiring **ASO** performances. Each one of you, as a member of WSL, played an important role in the success of our year. The next time you hear our **Symphony** mentioned, smile and take pride in the knowledge that you are an integral part of its success. Remember: the more you engage, the more you will enjoy your time with the **WSL**. So show up, say hello to the women you meet, and let the music begin!

2019

## *Jewel Ball Committee*

### **2019 Jewel Ball Chairpersons**

*Christy Allen Merritt & Christy Werner*

### **Fashion Luncheon Chairpersons**

*Lisa Barton & Kerri Ann Chambless*

### **Soirée Chairpersons**

*Yoli Arraiga, Cate Daboub, Marilyn Willson*

Lisa Alverson	Sara Atkins	Donna Baldwin	Jennifer Bell
Melissa Billman	Jennifer Bisang	Julie Briggs	Amy Corbett
Jordin Cronin	Pam Curry	Kacy Dolce	Erin Donoghue
Nicole Dunaway	Betsy Farmer	Tiffany Galligan	Aimee Gordon
Niffer Greenberg	Missy Harris	Megan Helmbrecht	Rhonda Hissey
Kaye Hotz	Liz Howard	Ashley Hyten	Laura Ihrig
Melissa Jackson	Jennifer Johnson	Katie Khaigin	Wendy Lary
Shannon Meroney	Marion More	Regina Munson	Claire Myers
Jennifer Owens	Lesley Pardue	Amanda Pettitt	Amy Reinartz
Claire Ryan	Jane Stein	Sinem Szygenda	Valerie Tyler
Sue Webber	Meredith Wood	Christine Yonge	

## Q & A WITH OUR JEWEL BALL CHAIRS...

Our **2019 Jewel Ball Committee** has been hard at work since the beginning of 2019 planning the fall fundraising activities we cherish. We asked Chairpersons, **Christy Allen Merritt** and **Christy Werner** a few questions to find out about this year's ball theme, planning, and committee member recognition.



Christy Werner &  
Christy Allen Merritt

**This year's theme is "The Sound of Music". How did you select our theme?** For our ball theme, we wanted something very musical because after all, WSL's mission is to support the Symphony and its musicians. We floated a few ideas around, but once "The Sound of Music" came up, we both instantly knew it was perfect! Everyone knows and loves all of the songs, and we couldn't believe our luck that this theme hadn't been used before!

**What has been your favorite aspect of ball planning thus far?** The best aspects of chairing the ball are getting to work with so many wonderful members of WSL we didn't know before. And we really enjoy working together, so that has been fun too!

**We recognize and appreciate all of efforts of the Committee toward organizing the ball. Are there any members that you'd like to specifically recognize at this time?** We love our hand selected committee! All are rockstars, but some standouts include: **Wendy Lary**, who is the most amazing and creative decorations chair ever; PR chairs, **Tiffany Galligan** and **Jennifer Owens** who have been busy at work coming up with ways to promote the Jewel Ball, Fashion Luncheon, and Soirée, as well as **Laura Ihrig** and **Betsy Farmer** who seamlessly executed the sponsorship solicitation mail out. And, we can't forget to thank **WSL President-elect, Karey Oddo** for her endless support.

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](http://WWW.WSLAUSTIN.ORG)

A CONVERSATION WITH **BROOKE SHIELDS**

MODERATED BY RANK & STYLE CEO, JAMIE CHANDLEE

HONORARY CHAIR SUZON SPILLER KEMP

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

PRESENTED BY:



# *Knights of the Symphony Lord Chancellor's Party 2019*



## *Upcoming WSL Events*

**Wednesday July 10, 17 & 24th:** ASO Children's Day Art Park

**Friday, July 26th,** Sarah & Ernest Butler Texas Young Composers Concert

**Sunday, August 18th,** YLC Summer Social

**Monday, September 2nd,** WSL Soirée 2019

**Friday, September 20th** WSL Fashion Show & Luncheon

**Saturday, September 21st,** The 65th Annual WSL Jewel Ball



# Jewel Tea

The **Past President's Council** hosted the **2019 Jewel Tea** on May 17th at the home of **Stacy and Mike Toomey** where the **Royal Court** was announced. Attendees enjoyed a lovely lunch and the presentation of the Royal Court including the reveal of the **2019 Diamond Princess, Lina Tiblier**.



Photographed from Left to Right: **Josie Turlington, Jill McCann-Pewitt, Diamond Princess, Lina Tiblier, Suzanne Huff, Abigail Downing, Abbie Carrasco** (Odessa) and **Sarah Blakemore** (Houston).

Not pictured: **Anastasia Bauereis, Tucker Garrison, Hannah Vaughan** (Abilene), **Caroline Bush** (Amarillo), **Samantha Sullivan** (Dallas), **Madeline D'Alise** (Lubbock), **Olivia Benson** (San Antonio), and **Hollin Tiblier** (Tennessee).



## Texas Governor's Mansion Punch Recipe

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 3 Family Sized Tea Bags          | 1 12 oz can lemonade concentrate       |
| 4 Cups packed fresh mint leaves  | 2 (1 liter bottles ginger ale chilled) |
| 4 Cups water                     | 2 (1 liter bottles club soda chilled)  |
| 2 Bottles Knudsen's Peach Nectar | 1/2 - 1 cup simple syrup               |

Boil water to steep tea & mint about 15 minutes. Remove tea. Leave mint until cool. Strain into 2 gallon container. Combine lemonade, nectar, and syrup (taste before adding syrup). To finish add 2 bottles ginger ale and 2 bottles club soda.

Notes: Purchase Knudsen's Nectar at Whole Foods Market or other health food store. Do not substitute Knudsen's Nectar. Simple syrup is 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. Bring to a slow boil until clear - about 4 minutes. Cool before use. Refrigerate the nectar, ginger ale, and club soda. Put lemonade concentrate in the refrigerator overnight before use.

Recipe: Courtesy of Martha Coons

The Women's Symphony League of Austin  
presents



# The Sound of Soirée

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019, 6:00-8:30 PM  
BRODIE HOMESTEAD

Tickets available at [www.WSLAustin.org](http://www.WSLAustin.org)



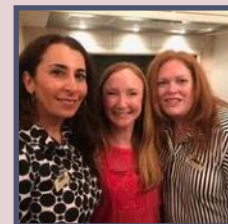
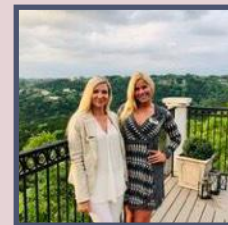
YLC welcomes  
**EVAN SMITH**  
CEO and Founder  
Texas Tribune

August 18th  
Location TBD  
6:00-7:00PM

## *A record number of incoming members....*

The **WSL** welcomed more than **70 new members** at orientation on **April 23rd** at the beautiful **Northwest Hills** home of **Valerie Tyler**. The evening began with new members receiving their WSL name tags, and getting to know each other against the backdrop of West Austin's picturesque hills. New connections were made and the seeds of friendship planted, all thanks to a mutual interest in supporting the **ASO**.

A special thanks to our New Member Coordinators, **Celeste Hubert, Erin Geisler, and Kerry Ugarte** for organizing the evening and a huge thank you to **Valerie Tyler** for providing the



## Get to Know Our Members...



### **Pamela Benson Owens**

*Birthday - Oct 24th*

*Sponsor: **Megan Helmbrecht***

*Where did you grow up? **Milwaukee, WI; Bryan, TX; Round Rock, TX***

*Favorite travel destination? **Australia***

*Do you work outside the home? **My ultimate role is Mom; I'm also VP of Business Development for Fayruz Benyousef Consulting.***

*Anything else you'd like to tell us? **My favorite WSL activity so far has been the Fashion Luncheon with Tim Gunn. Why? For a moment of time, several were gathered from all backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, etc., and the art of fashion transcended all differences. It made me proud to be a member of WSL.***



### **Heather Nichols**

*Birthday - Sep. 3rd*

*Sponsors: **Jodi Holland & Shannon Owen***

*Where did you grow up? **San Antonio, TX***

*Do you have children? **One daughter, Whitney, age 8***

*What do you love about Austin? **The Trail of Lights, Austin's diversity.***

*Favorite Restaurant? **Casa Tua in Aspen***

*Fun fact? **I played the trombone in my high school marching band!***

*Favorite Travel Destination? **A tie between Aspen and Tokyo, Japan***

*What are your hobbies? **I love to read, watch documentaries, travel with my family, and volunteer in the community.***



### **Olivia Derr**

*Birthday - July 21st*

*Sponsors: **Michelle Zurovec***

*Where did you grow up? **Round Rock, TX***

*What are your hobbies? **I love to run (pretty slowly these days) and am participating in the Austin Distance Challenge this year.***

*Do work outside of the home? **I do. I'm VP of US Client Operations for ZeroCater. We're a subscription service that matches companies with local restaurants to provide great meals to employees.***

*Fun Fact? **I'm a pretty open book! I was a dancer growing up and loved ballet & pointe the most.***



### **Tiffany Galligan**

*Birthday - May 23rd*

*Sponsors: **Sara Atkins & Tracy Sheridan***

*Where did you grow up? **Houston, TX***

*Where did you go to school? **UT Austin, Hook 'Em!***

*Do you have children? **Yes. A daughter, Mason, (almost 13) & a son, Blake (11)***

*Do you work outside the home? **Yes. I own my own business called Too Good Strategy. I consult nonprofits and socially conscience businesses on their digital and marketing strategies.***

*Favorite WSL activity or event: **Jewel Ball***



**Women's Symphony League**

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