

Yvonne Herring, President

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Linda Coney, Editor

February 2010

Houston Symphony League Bay Area General Meeting
February 10, 2010 7 p.m.
Bay Oaks Country Club

Fidelis String Quartet

The Fidelis String Quartet is made up of Houston Symphony Orchestra members. First violinist Rodica Oancea-Gonzalez is from Bucharest, Romania, where she studied at the Ciprian Porumbescu Conservatory. She received her Master's degree from Rice University Shepherd School of Music. In addition to playing with the Houston Symphony, she is an affiliate artist at Houston Baptist University, where she is a founding member of its resident piano trio, Tres Voci.

Rodica's sister, Milhaela Oancea-Frusina, is second violinist of Fidelis String Quartet. She was trained in Bucharest at the George Enescu Music School, and came to Rice University Shepherd School, where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in violin performance. She has been teaching privately for the past 14 years and has conducted master classes in the Klein and Conroe districts, at the middle school and high school levels. She is an experienced teacher in orchestra repertoire and chamber music.

The violist of Fidelis Quartet is Wei Jang, born in China. He began to study violin with his father, and then studied viola at the Central Conservatory in Beijing, where he graduated with highest honors. He then taught for five years at the Central Conservatory and performed as a soloist and in chamber music. He was a founding member of Eclipse Ensemble, which performed throughout China, showcasing music of contemporary Chinese composers. He came to America in 1996, studied at Oberlin University and University of Maryland, and in 1999 joined the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

Cellist Jeffrey Butler has been with the Houston Symphony since 1986. He has degrees in music performance from Boston University and the University of Michigan, where he received the school's highest award, the Stanley Medal. His early training was with his parents, both professional cellists. He continued studies with Jerome Jelinek, George Neikrug and Claus Adams. Jeffrey Butler served on the faculty of the Stetson University School of Music, where he was a founding member of the Stetson Trio. Before coming to the Houston Symphony, he was a member of the Detroit Symphony.

All of the Fidelis musicians have performed in ensembles or as soloists in Houston, Galveston, New York, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Europe and China. We look forward to a wonderful program for our evening meeting in February.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



On Wednesday, February 10, we will hold our annual evening meeting at Bay Oaks Country Club. A social period begins at 7:00 pm and it will be followed by a short business meeting at 7:30 pm. Then we will have a performance by Fidelis String Quartet of the Houston Symphony. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be a cash wine bar. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and spouses who are unable to attend during the day.

The Concerto Competition was held on January 9 at the University of Houston Moore Opera House. It was my honor to present the \$1000 first place prize to Adam Wu who played the violin. He has been invited to play at the March HSLBA meeting and you will have the opportunity to see this talented young man. The first place prize was funded by our Bay Area Symphony League. Congratulations to Polly Hanley and Doris Humbach who organized the volunteers and provided a wonderful hospitality luncheon.

Save the date of March 26 for our 10th annual "Day by the Bay" home tour preview party and March 27 and 28 for the waterfront home tours. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a day seeing the beautiful homes on the water. Your financial support is needed to make our fund raiser a success. The proceeds are used to underwrite the musical enrichment programs we provide for 26 CCISD elementary schools.

I look forward to seeing you at our February 10th meeting.

Yvonne Herring

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011

HSLBA members are invited to nominate two people for election to the 2010 -2011 Nominating Committee. Please obtain the persons permission before submitting their name as a nominee. Nominations should be given to Diane McLaughlin, phone number 281-474-4932. This is a very important committee as they will select 2011 -2012 Board candidates for our approval. Thanks for helping.

Diane McLaughlin

THE NOTABLES

The Notables have had a busy start this year, as we had nine performances in the Fall, including 5 in December. In addition, we also sang at three funerals. On April 11, at 3 pm we will be presenting our "SPRING FLING" show at Taylor Lake Village Christian Church on Old Kirby Road in the Friendship Center. Last year was our first "SPRING FLING" open to the public, and it was very successful. We had standing room only. It was held at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, but this year we will move to TLCC. The Clear Lake Youth Choir performed at last year's event and will perform with us again this year.

WE INVITE ALL OF YOU TO COME AND HEAR THE GROUP THAT IS A PROJECT OF OUR LEAGUE. We can promise you a good time!! So please put this on your April calendar. We will have a fairly busy Spring with performances every month. We sang at the Rotary International House at M.D. Anderson in the Fall and will sing there again in February. Remember, if any of you like to sing, you are welcome to come and join the group. We now have 30 singers, but can always use more, particularly men.

JoAnn Mills

HOME TOUR

League members are encouraged to arrive early for the special February 10 evening meeting in order to purchase tickets for the 'A Day by the Bay' Home Tour weekend. A Pre-Tour Party will be held on the evening of Friday, March 26 and four homes will be open for tours on Saturday and Sunday

March 27 and 28.

Our beloved former President Emyre Barrios Robinson will be honored at the Pre-Tour party and many will wish to participate in that tribute. Party chair Pat Biddle has a festive affair planned with music, wine and food catered by Robinette & Co., at an estate on Todville Road, Seabrook. Guests are limited to 150 and it's anticipated to be sold out. Tickets are only \$75 for a lovely evening plus tours of the four interesting homes.

Past President Joan Wade and past Home Tour chair Natalie Ong are responsible for selection of this year's homes which are located south of Clear Lake in the Kemah-Bacliff area. Natalie says, "This area was specifically chosen to show how well it recovered from the devastation caused by Ike." All four homes command spectacular views of Galveston Bay. Three homes are spacious and luxurious and the fourth home is a 1960's historic home built by noted River Oaks architect, John Staub.

Patience Myers is responsible for advertising. Members can help by selling ads and/or distributing flyers. Contact Patience at patiencem@earthlink.net or 281-474-7274.

Support this important fund-raiser! HSLBA needs to continue our mission of providing music enrichment events for Clear Creek elementary school children. If you have not signed up to help docent for the tour, Diana McLaughlin will be sending a signup sheet around at the meeting. Please let her know if you have friends or family who would be willing to help.

Members of the Home Tour Steering Committee are:

Home Tour Co-Chairman - Natalie Ong

Assistant Co-Chairman - Elaine Stoermer

House Search Chairman - Joan Wade

House Chairman Coordinator - Diane McLaughlin

PreTour Party Chairman - Pat Biddle

Home Tour Publicity Chairman - Pat Brackett

Ad Book Chairman - Patience Myers

Ticket Sales - Jean Raffetto

Please join me in thanking them for their leadership.

Dana Puddy, General Chairman

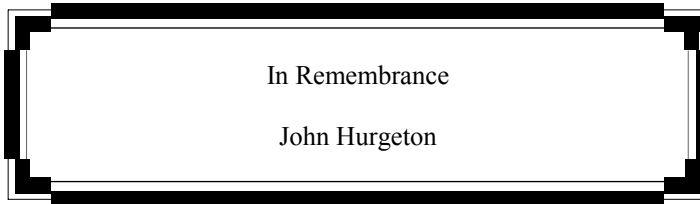
MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

The 2000-2010 "I Love Music" program in the twenty-six CCISD elementary schools is progressing nicely. Puppet shows about the parts of the symphony orchestra are presented to first graders by HSLBA members. Professional musicians are hired and scheduled to continue their musical education. A one-man show about the elements of music, rhythm, melody and harmony, is presented to second graders. In alternate years, third and fourth grades combined hear performances by a brass quintet and a wind quintet.

The puppet shows require HSLBA volunteer puppeteers, announcers and demonstrators. The professional musicians need HSLBA volunteers to announce them when they perform in the schools. Members have enjoyed participating in these activities. In the spring, CCISD fifth graders will go to Jones Hall in Houston to hear the Houston Symphony Orchestra perform. This event is organized by Houston Symphony staff. HSLBA contributes dollars and escort help.

When you are called by someone asking your assistance, please agree to help.

Isabel Konradi, HSLBA Education VP



<p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>Articles for the March newsletter are due on February 25.</p> <p>Linda Coney 2117 Victoria Ct. League City, TX 77573 281-332-2087 lbconey@comcast.net</p>	<p>General Meeting February 10, 2010 7 PM Bay Oaks Country Club</p> <p>Board Meeting</p> <p>February 15 Home of Dana Puddy</p>
<p>Memorial Music Education Fund</p> <p>Houston Symphony League Bay Area has established the Memorial Music Education 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.</p> <p>If you know of an HSLBA member who has had a serious illness, or death of a spouse or child, please notify Suzanne Jaax.</p> <p>Make checks payable to HSLBA and send to: Roberta Liston, Education Treasurer 126 Bristol Bend Lane Dickinson, Texas 77536</p>	