

Yvonne Herring, President

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HOUSTON SYMPHONY LEAGUE BAY AREA

Linda Coney, Editor

May 2010

Houston Symphony League Bay Area General Meeting

May 12, 2010

Bay Oaks Country Club

10 a.m.



Susan McDonald has maintained an unwavering passion for the guitar since she was six and began her studies at a local community center. By the age of eight she was hired to help teach the class. After being invited to study guitar performance at the University of St. Thomas under Wolfgang Justen when she was fourteen, she soon gained the recognition of Los Romeros. She was invited to become the student of Pepe, with whom she studied intensively in Del Mar and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

He once said of her: "She casts a spell over the audience." She learned much from her work in master classes and private classes with other notable guitarists as well, including Manuel Barrueco, Sharon Isbin, John Duarte, Adam Holzman, Celedonio Romero and Jorge Morel.

Concert appearances soon followed in South America, Europe, the United States and Canada, where in 1992 she was invited to be an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts. Her music has been featured in radio broadcasts worldwide.

Since then, Susan McDonald has delighted audiences the world over- from community concerts to Carnegie Hall. Her audiences have ranged from Holocaust survivors in Vienna to the President of the United States, and her music has been enthusiastically received in concert halls, universities, festivals and recently most intensively in schools and hospitals. At her Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall) debut, the *New York Concert Review* described her performance as "...one of the most satisfying recitals in recent memory...all the skill and insight that a Bel Canto master brings to a Bellini cadenza...masterful Bach playing..."

Becoming known as an exciting composer with recent features in *Soundboard* and on *Classical Guitar Alive* (her music has been described as "brilliant" by *New Classics*), Susan has created a series of programs through her work with Young Audiences which incorporate music, literature and science. After a recent CD (*Release*) which has been used extensively with hospice patients, and a DVD/CD (*THE AQUARIUM: a Marine Micro-Ballet for Guitar and Sea Creatures*) which she performs regularly in schools, Susan is currently preparing to record her 11th CD and is putting the finishing touches on her oratorio *Children of the Sun* (for guitar, choir and native instruments based on the narrative of Cabeza de Vaca). She lives in Austin with her husband Charles, dog Kizzie and pet peacocks Houdini and Wilhelmina.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



It is hard to believe that our May meeting will be the last of the 2009 -2010 season. I look back and reflect on what a wonderful year it has been for HSLBA and myself. I appreciate the dedication of so many members who gave their time and talent so willingly to ensure that we accomplished our mission to provide music education and enrichment programs for the 26 CCISD elementary schools. This was possible because of the many volunteers who supported the school programs and our very successful Home Tour fund raising project. The support you provided through singing with the Note-Ables, assisting with the music competitions and all of the administrative work and many other activities made it possible for us to have a very successful year. Thank you!

It is that time of the year to renew your membership. Please do so at our May meeting and bring along your friends so they can also join our organization and have the joy of great musical performances at our monthly meetings. I hope you will return in September to support our new President, Deanna Lamoreux, and enjoy the programs, fellowship and continue the great work that our League performs.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your President. Thank you for all of your support. I hope to see you at the luncheon meeting at Bay Oaks on May 12 as we finish our season with a wonderful guitar performance by Susan McDonald. If you are unable to attend the meeting, I will see you in September as we start the new season. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Yvonne Herring

LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Join us on Wednesday, May 12 at beautiful Bay Oaks Country Club for a delicious luncheon of:

Tomato Bisque
Chicken Picatta
Herbed Orzo
Julienned Vegetables
Key Lime Pie

There will be installation of officers and a wonderful program by classical guitarist, Susan McDonald.

Make your reservation by sending a check for \$27.00 to either Dana Puddy, 2422 Guilbeau Lane, Seabrook, TX 77586 or Alberta Rohlfling, 4519 Cypress Pond Ct., Houston, TX 77059 before Friday, May 7.

EDUCATION PROGRAM PICNIC

The HSLBA Education program has finished a successful year. We will celebrate at a picnic on May 13, again in Shirley Wettling's very pleasant back yard. Invitations have been sent to this season's puppeteers and the announcers for Brian Boy, Paragon Brass and Take Five. If you participated in these activities and have not received an invitation, please contact Isabel Konradi, 281-326-0578.

“A Day By The Bay” HOME TOUR

Our 10th Home Tour on March 26-28, 2010 was a success. The weather cooperated, the unique homes were all lovely, and the army of volunteers worked hard. It is estimated that it takes approximately 175 people to serve as docents, ticket takers, and parking helpers on the two tour days.

There were 105 tickets sold for the Pre-Tour Party and 396 tickets sold for the Tour. The Pre-Tour party, hosted by Dick and Lynette Gregg and chaired by Pat Biddle, was dedicated to our past-president, Emyre Barrios Robinson. It was a delightful evening with good food and music provided by student harpist, Lucy Calhoun.

The gross revenue was \$22,890, expenses were \$6594, with a net profit of \$16,296. This amount combined with generous donations from local communities and businesses will allow us to continue funding the “I Love Music” program in all elementary schools in CCISD.

A major source of revenue comes from the sale of ads in the Tour booklet. With Patience Myer’s enthusiastic leadership, ad sales exceeded expectations this year. Please use the services of businesses who advertised. Be sure to tell the business how you learned about them and thank them for their support.

Many thanks to all the members, family and friends who worked to make this event a success so that our elementary school children can continue to benefit from the enrichment of quality music.

JONES HALL BUS GROUP

2010/2011 SEASON

It’s that time of year again!! We are getting ready for the trips to Jones Hall we all enjoy so much. We have a great time and even if you decide to live on the wild side and come by yourself, there are 15/20 others to visit with, laugh with and enjoy great music with! The group has elected to subscribe again to the Shell Favorite Masters, Sunday afternoon series. There are six concerts. We leave the Bay Area Park & Ride at 801 Bay Area Boulevard at 1:00 pm Sunday afternoons and return 5:30/6:00 pm depending on the traffic and the length of the concert. We have a great time. The bus drops us off in front of Jones Hall and picks us up after the concert. The cost is \$75.00 a person.

You can sign up at the May meeting, and you are always welcome to call me at home to reserve a place on the bus: 281-554-7012. See you at the April meeting. Victoria

The dates are:

JOSHUA BELL’S MENDELSSOHN October 3, 2010

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION November 28, 2010

TCHAIKOVSKY’S WINTER DAYDREAMS January 16, 2011

RAVEL’S SPAIN WITH BOLERO February 13, 2011

SCHEHERAZADE April 10, 2011

EXPLORING MAHLER 10 May 15, 2011

IMA HOGG COMPETITION

The Ima Hogg Competition will be held in June. The semi-finals will be on June 3 and are open to the public. The semi-final performances will be accompanied by a pianist. The finals will be held on June 5 at 7:30 PM and the four finalist will be accompanied by the Houston Symphony Orchestra. There will be a champagne reception while the judges deliberate the performances of the four finalist. The competition will be held at the Alice Pratt Brown Hall on the Rice University campus. Tickets for the finals are \$25 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for children. You may order tickets through the Houston Symphony Box Office (713-224-7575). This is really a wonderful event and a real bargain.

IMA HOGG COMPETITION LUNCHEON

The HSLBA provides lunch for the Houston Symphony Orchestra during the rehearsal on June 4. If you signed up to provide food please deliver it on June 3 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM to either Cindy Kuenneke or Jean Raffetto. Thank you for your support.

<p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>Thank you for your help in providing articles this year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Linda Coney 2117 Victoria Ct. League City, TX 77573 281-332-2087 lbconey@comcast.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">General Meeting & Luncheon May 12, 2010 10 am Bay Oaks Country Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Board Meeting May 17 9:30 a.m. Home of Yvonne Herring</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">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:</p> <p>Roberta Liston, Education Treasurer 126 Bristol Bend Lane Dickinson, Texas 77536</p>