

Yvonne Herring, President

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Linda Coney, Editor

October 2009

**Houston Symphony League Bay Area General Meeting**

**October 14, 2009 10:00 AM**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
18220 Upper Bay Road  
Nassau Bay, Texas

**Amy Chung and James Johnson, Clarinetists**

We look forward to hearing a wonderful clarinet concert at our October 14 meeting.

As a graduate of The Eastman School of Music and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, clarinetist Amy Chung has cultivated her emerging musical career through orchestral playing, teaching and chamber music performance. Always an avid chamber musician, Amy was a silver medalist at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition with her ensemble Trio Destino. Since completing her Master of Music degree at The Shepherd School of Music, Amy has been maintaining a private teaching studio as well as freelancing in the Houston area. She is also the Operations Manager for the Houston Youth Symphony. In her free time, she enjoys cooking at home, dining in Houston's many restaurants, and watching her Chicago Cubs.

Clarinetist James Johnson recently completed his Master of Music degree from The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University studying under Michael Webster and Thomas LeGrand. During his time in Houston he shared performances both with the Shepherd School Orchestras and with the Houston Symphony. Before moving to Houston, he completed his Bachelor of Music degree studying with Julie Vaverka at The Boston Conservatory. He was principal clarinetist of the Civic Symphony Orchestra of Boston, where he was a frequent soloist and was also the Assistant Conductor to Max Hobart. James grew up in San Jose, California, and still performs as clarinetist with the San Francisco Academy Orchestra, an ensemble compiled of members of the San Francisco Symphony and Opera Orchestras.

**>MEMBERSHIP**

Directories for 2009-2010 will be available at the October 14th meeting for those who have renewed their membership. Anyone wishing to renew at the meeting may bring their check and their names will appear in the addendum.

Glenda Toole



## ***PRESIDENT'S NOTES***

What a difference a year makes. A year ago we had to cancel the October meeting because many of us were trying to get back into our homes and cleaning up all of the debris from Hurricane Ike. I am sorry to say that we have some members who are still working to get their homes back to normal. Hopefully everyone is well on the road to recovery. Fortunately this has been a much calmer Fall.

Puppeteer training was held on September 17. It was very successful. We learned about our wonderful new sound system, trained new puppeteers and enlisted drivers to transport the equipment. It is not too late to join "Maestro the Magnificent". So contact Pat Biddle or Pam Smithgall and join us in a fun activity.

Please come to our next General Meeting on Wednesday, October 14 (10:00 AM) at Gloria Dei Lutheran church. We will have a wonderful program by clarinetists Amy Chung and James Johnson, who are graduates of Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Our program by the Rob Landes Trio last month brought back a lot of happy memories for all of us. It was a fun program and we have more great programs planned for the future. I know we all have friends who enjoy the kind of music we provide, so bring them to our monthly meeting and introduce them to HSLBA.

*Yvonne Herring, President*

P.S. After the rainy September meeting, Bill Straight's umbrella was not in the pile of umbrellas left to dry by the coffee service area. It is a special Houston Symphony umbrella with the black and white music score design. Bill and Sherry would be so grateful to get it back.

## **HOME TOUR**

Believe it or not, we are working on volunteers for the Home Tour on March 27 and 28. I will be passing a sign up sheet at the October and November meetings. I hope you will sign up to be a docent for this (our only) fundraiser. We will need approximately 120+ docents to cover the four homes that will be on the tour. If you would like to work with someone or have a friend that is not a member, you can request that they work the same house that you are assigned. If you have done this previously, I think you know what a fun thing this is to do and it only takes a small part of the day you work. Thank you in advance for your willingness to be a part of this event.

Diane McLaughlin

## **GRANT FROM TARGET**

Continuing their generous support for our in-schools music programs, Target has presented us with a check for \$3000. Target emphasizes education and the arts and has been supportive of our work for many years.

Pam Smithgall and Deborah Kidwell researched and purchased upgraded sound equipment for our puppet shows.

They also found wonderful replacements for our aging musical instruments used to demonstrate the orchestra for the students. We also applaud Dick Brackett and all our docents who are so important to the success of this program.

It is HSLBA's goal to keep high educational standards and first-class presentations in the Clear Creek Independent School District. Through these programs, many students have gained a heightened interest in music, as performers and audiences of the future.

Our motto is "a lifetime of beautiful music for every child."

Sue Smith

## PUPPET NEWS

Our puppets have been refurbished and are ready to perform! They are excited to show off their neat new instruments to those cute first graders! Having our own sound system will make our show much more professional, so we are excited about the impact of this year's shows. We are scheduling several shows for October, November & possibly some in early December. The schedule is also starting to be created for early 2010, so please get in touch if you'd like to "try your hand" at being one of our puppets! Contact either Pam Smithgall at (281) 217 - 5522 or Pat Biddle at (281) 488 - 2346 to get involved. We also need some helpers with transporting our puppets if you have an SUV type vehicle. Don't miss out on the fun!

## USHERS NEEDED FOR STUDENT CONCERTS

Calling all school concert ushers!! The Detective and Explorer Concerts for the 2009-2010 season will be held in October, January, February, and March at Jones Hall.

Symphony Detectives are fun and educational concerts for Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Our young patrons act as super sleuths as they help the orchestra find answers while learning about instruments, music, and music makers. This year we will examine *Orchestra Opposites*, with music by Elgar, Mendelssohn, Debussy, Verdi, Bernstein, and Beethoven. Associate Conductor Robert Franz will conduct the fun.

The Explorer series is for upper elementary - middle school grades. Explorer concerts reinforce the social studies curriculum while showcasing the wonders of classical music. *Six Flags Over Texas* will explore music from the countries of which our state has been a part. Featured composers are Bizet, Turina, Moncayo, and Copland. Brett Mitchell, the Symphony's Assistant Conductor/American Conducting Fellow, will lead the Explorer concerts.

The schedule for the 2009-2010 concerts is:

October 7	9:30 and 11:15
October 8	9:30 and 11:15
October 9	9:30 and 11:15
January 8	9:30 and 11:15
February 4	9:30 and 11:15
March 9	9:30 and 11:15
March 10	9:30 and 11:15

Ushers should arrive 1 hour before the concerts to receive their day's assignments.

Fifteen ushers are preferred for each day, so many volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping out with this fun, worthwhile education activity, call Usher Chairman Beth Wray at 713-622-0389. Training is provided on-the-spot for newcomers one hour before the performance, and ushers are invited to attend the concert once the schools are seated.

For more information, call the Symphony Education office at 713-238-1447 or 238-1449.

### **We are scheduled to usher for the Detective concerts on Tuesday, October 7, Wednesday, October 8 and**

**Thursday, October 9.** All days will have back to back concerts the first beginning at 9:30 and the second at 11:15. We meet in the green room around 8:30 for refreshments and a refresher course on Jones Hall. We anticipate being finished around 12:45, but if you can only stay part of the time, we really need all hands on deck for the exiting of the first concert and the seating of the second. As you might guess, this is controlled madness. This year we will have cheat sheets for you to carry with you to know where the bathrooms are and other tips for fielding questions.

For those of you new to this program, I want to emphasize what fun it is to see the wonder of these young students when they come downtown and into Jones Hall for the first time. Their sense of awe is marvelous and their enthusiasm is amazing. Please consider joining us for one or all of the concerts. Just call or email Beth or Marsha to let them know you will be there.

Thank you for ushering,

Beth Wray [bethwray@swbell.net](mailto:bethwray@swbell.net) 713-622-0389

Marsha Langlois [gypsygold@aol.com](mailto:gypsygold@aol.com) 281-531-8296

# HOUSTON SYMPHONY LEAGUE BAY AREA

P.O. Box 57425  
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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the October newsletter are due on October 25 or at the Board meeting prior to the November meeting.

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

**General Meeting**  
October 14, 2009  
10 am  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

**Board Meeting**  
October 22, 2009  
9:30 am  
Home of Isabel Konradi

## Memorial Music Education Fund

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.

Make checks payable to HSLBA and send to:

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

If you know of an HSLBA member who has had a serious illness, or death of a spouse or child, please notify Suzanne Jaax.