

Mid-Texas  *Symphony*

Mission Statement

The purposes of the Mid-Texas Symphony Society are to foster, promote and increase the musical knowledge and appreciation of the public, including students, through educational activities. These purposes will be addressed by organizing and presenting performances, classes, lectures, and music appreciation events. Music programs will be chosen primarily from the literature of symphonic music, and incidentally from chamber music, opera, vocal chorus, solo recital and the dance.

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Marianne Gould	President of Society
Ellen Salyers	VP of Society
Tammi Woodard	VP of Development
Jack Linden	VP of Education
Chris Bischoff	VP of Finance
Pat Grigg	VP of Guild
Cathy Talcott	VP of Marketing and PR
Jean Dorbandt	VP of Music
John Upper	VP of MTS Friends
Dana Scheel	VP of Ticket Sales
Martha Rinn	Recording Secretary
Debra Flournoy	Corresponding Secretary
Heidi Franzen	Treasurer

Karen Castillo	Kathy Nossaman
Betsy Clardy	Marj Peters
Evelyn Dittmar	Margaret Poling
Sam Ehrlich	Janie Sartain
Dr. Patt Linden	Caroline Weston
Dr. John Masterson	Cindy Williams
Marcia McGlothlin	

Lifetime Advisor Members
Dr. Charles Oestreich
Anita Windecker, founder

Musician's Committee
Ray Fisher
Rita Linard
Nina Mavirnac
Nancy Reyes
Mark Rogers

Director Expectations and Responsibilities

The MTS Board of Directors is a working board.

Directors shall:

- ❖ interpret the organization's work and values to the community, represent the organization and act as a spokesperson.
- ❖ attend the annual Orientation Workshop held in June and Board meetings held the second Monday of September, November, January, March and May.
- ❖ make a personally significant monetary contribution to the MTSS.
- ❖ utilize their individual, corporate and foundation contacts to assist the organization in the solicitation of funds for operating expenses and special projects.
- ❖ work to ensure the financial viability and health of the organization.
- ❖ discharge the director's duties, including the director's duties as a member of a committee, in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation.¹
- ❖ attend concerts and purchase a season subscription to the Symphony.
- ❖ be an active participant in Board committees.
- ❖ attend fund raising functions such as the Symphony Ball and Meet the Maestro.

¹ Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, Title 32, Chapter 9, Non-Profit, Cooperative, Religious and Charitable, Article 1396-2.28. General Standards for Directors

Mid-Texas Symphony Overview

The Mid-Texas Symphony Society is composed of all monetary contributors to the organization. From this membership, a 39-member Board of Directors is elected at the annual meeting in May. The MTSS Board of Directors is a working board, not advisory. Directors take an active part in much of the day-to-day operational activities described in more detail in under Committee Summary.

Employees of the MTSS are:

David Mairs – Artistic Director and Conductor
Cheryl Fisher – Executive Director, a three-quarters time position
Courtney Lyons-Garcia – Director of Development, a half-time position
Eithne Goetz – Librarian, part-time
Cindy Sanchez – Choral Director

Texas Lutheran University donates office space in Jackson Auditorium. The relationship with TLU has made the orchestra possible. Founder, Anita Windecker, is professor emeritus in music at TLU. In 1978, she and the university president worked to get TLU support and use of their band hall and percussion instruments since the inception of the orchestra. This relationship has remained strong since the founding of the orchestra 29 years ago.

Guild Chapters operate in the two geographic areas that support the orchestra financially, Seguin and New Braunfels. The guild chapters host several fundraisers such as the Symphony Balls and contribute those proceeds to the Society. The MTSS Board determines the level of fundraising expected from the two chapters each budget year. This amount is increased every three years or so as the Guild chapters improve the profits from their fundraisers. The Guild chapters also assist in educational programs and orchestra hospitality.

Besides fund drives and fundraisers, the orchestra applies for and receives 4-b1 sales tax from the Cities of Seguin and New Braunfels. This is also known as Hotel-Motel taxes, collected through the tax paid by hotel/motel guests and used to attract tourism. A portion of Hotel/Motel tax money can be used for the Arts and Historical Preservation. Seguin's portion is small compared to New Braunfels due to the influx of tourism to the New Braunfels areas during the summer. Applications are made each year to Texas Commission on the Arts for a grant and the Board is in the process of hiring a part-time Development Director who will lead the board in expanding its fundraising.

David Mairs, with assistance from the Artistic Committee, selects the music that is performed. Concerts are set and scheduled at least one year in advance to secure locations and guest artists. Musicians are hired on a contract (per service) basis and rehearse two times prior to the concert, one on the Saturday before and once on the early afternoon of the concert day, to total three services.

Committee Summary

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE

- ❖ Assist Music Director in planning concerts, including music selections for orchestra and chorus
- ❖ Secure guest artists

CHORAL COMMITTEE

- ❖ Assist Choral Director with rehearsal schedules

DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Locate new opportunities for earned income and new sources of contributions and grants
- ❖ Work with Development Director to establish Annual Fund, Concert Sponsors, Endowments and Grants, and Memorials

EDUCATION

Divided into 3 committees:

- ❖ Children's Concerts
Liaison between school district and board in coordinating number of students attending concert; Arrange with guild chapters for ushers and assistance needed for concerts
- ❖ Young Artist Competition
Conduct competition in rotating years between piano, violin, vocal and winds; Arrange for judges; Send entry forms to contestants and made follow up phone calls to recruit contestants; Arrange with Guild chapters for hospitality and reception
- ❖ Music Memory
Conduct competition for fourth and fifth graders; Contact area school music teachers; Provide tapes of music to be used; Arrange for location, awards, publicity and hospitality

BUDGET AND FINANCE

- ❖ prepare annual budget
- ❖ supervise investment account and insurance

MARKETING

- ❖ Program Advertising – Work with Guild chapters and Directors to sell Program Ads
- ❖ Concert Program – Responsible for production and art direction of annual concert program and each concert's program insert, working with concert day deadlines
- ❖ Season Brochure – Prepare pre-season publication announcing new season, ticket prices
- ❖ Publicize concerts and activities of MTSS through local media and other venues

TICKETS

- ❖ Arrange for local ticket outlets
- ❖ Handle all season subscriptions and individual ticket sales

MTS FRIENDS

- ❖ serve as host to guest artists, assist with Holiday dinner arrangements, special events such as tributes to special MTS supporters

Organizational History

June 10, 1978: Orchestra (personnel) of the Mid-Texas Symphony was organized at Wuppermann Little Theater, Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas.

July 13, 1978: Mid-Texas Symphony Society was organized. Officers and board member for the Society were elected at the Jones Complex on Texas Lutheran College campus.

August 1978: The Symphony was accepted to membership in the American Symphony Orchestra League.

- The Symphony is incorporated. A Charter was filed with the Secretary of State in Austin and an IRS number (IE#74-2003063) was received.
- It was announced by TLC President, Charles Oestreich that the Band Rehearsal Hall in the Seguin-based Texas Lutheran College's new Fine Arts Center was to be the permanent rehearsal hall for the Mid-Texas Symphony Orchestra.

September 18, 1978: *The Mid-Texas Symphony Guild consists of a New Braunfels Chapter and a Seguin Chapter.* Mid-Texas Symphony Guild Seguin Chapter was organized 7:30 P. M. in McKeon Hall of St. Andrews' Episcopal Church, 201 E. Nolte St., Seguin, Texas.

November 19, 1978: Premiere concert of the Mid-Texas Symphony Orchestra was presented in the Seguin Coliseum.

February 5, 1979: Mid-Texas Symphony Guild, New Braunfels Chapter, was organized 7:00 P. M., Gaz Green Office, 130 S. Seguin St., New Braunfels, Texas.

April 29, 1979: Premiere concert of the Mid-Texas Symphony Orchestra was presented in the New Braunfels' Civic Center.

October 7, 1979: The Mid-Texas Symphony Chorus was organized.

December 16, 1979: The Mid-Texas Symphony Chorus presented its first concert with the orchestra.

February 18-19, 1983: The Mid-Texas Symphony Society sponsored the first Young Artists' Competition at Texas Lutheran College, Ayers Recital Hall.

1988 - 1989 Concert Season: The first "free" children's concerts were presented in New Braunfels and Seguin by the Mid-Texas Symphony Orchestra.

1999 – 2000 Concert Season: The first outdoor concert in a number of years was presented and performed at a central location between the two communities. Over 400 people enjoyed the concert and dinner afterwards.

The Mid-Texas Symphony budget has grown from \$10,000 in 1978, \$36,000 in 1980, \$58,000 in 1985, \$114,000 in 1990, \$140,000 in 1996 to its current budget of approximately \$220,000.