

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
Chris Bischoff	Treasurer & VP of Finance
Karen Castillo	Recording Secretary
Dr. Jon Moline	VP of Development
Jack Linden	VP of Education
Susan Foster	VP of Guild
Cathy Talcott	VP of Marketing
Open	VP of Ticket Operations
Jean Dorbandt	VP of Music
John Upper	VP of MTS Friends
Dr. John Masterson	President Elect



Sally Carroll-Ricks	Marcia McGlothlin
Evelyn Dittmar	Kathy Nossaman
Sam Ehrlich	Marj Peters
Cheryl Fisher	Margaret Poling
Sara Hartin	Ken Ratcliff
Dr. Patt Linden	Janie Sartain
Marty Lindley	Caroline Weston

Cindy Williams

Lifetime Advisory Members

Dr. Charles Oestreich
Anita Windecker, founder

Director Expectations and Responsibilities

The MTS Board of Directors is a working board. As a working board, members take an active part in the planning and implementation of MTS activities.

Each Board Member is expected to:

- ❖ attend concerts and purchase two season subscriptions to the Symphony
- ❖ interpret the organization's work and values to the community; represent the organization and act as a spokesperson
- ❖ make a personally significant monetary contribution to the MTSS. Total Board contributions should be at least 5% of the overall budget of the MTSS.
- ❖ work to ensure the financial viability and health of the organization
- ❖ utilize their individual, corporate and foundation contacts to assist the organization in the solicitation of funds for operating expenses and special projects
- ❖ attend the annual Orientation Workshop held in June and Board meetings held the second Monday of September, November, January, March and May
- ❖ actively participant in Board committees and the Mid-Texas Symphony Guild
- ❖ attend fund raising functions such as the Symphony Ball
- ❖ 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

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 (MTSS) is composed of all monetary contributors to the organization. From this membership, a Board of Directors of up to 39 members 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](#).

Staff Members of the MTS are:

David Mairs – Music Director
Pat Schofield – Executive Director (full time position)
Jennifer Reininger- Bookkeeper (part time contract position)
Eithne Goetz – Librarian (part time contract position)
Nina Mavrinac – Orchestra Personnel Manager (part time contract position)
David Warner – Operations Manager (part time contract position)
Cindy Sanchez – Choral Director (part time contract position)

Texas Lutheran University donates space for the MTS office in Jackson Auditorium. In 1978, MTS Founder Anita Windecker worked with the university president to forge a relationship between the two organizations, which has remained strong since the founding of the orchestra. The relationship with TLU has made the orchestra possible.

Financially, the MTS relies on support from a variety of sources. Since the MTS realizes less than 20% its budget from ticket sales, the organization must rely on contributions, grants, fund drives and fundraisers to continue. 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. Board members are called upon to use their skills, knowledge and contacts to help financially the support of the organization.

The MTS enjoys a relationship with symphony supporters through the MTS Guild. Guild chapters operate in the two primary areas served by the orchestra, Seguin and New Braunfels. The two guild chapters support the MTS financially through a variety of fund-raisers including the symphony balls and holiday poinsettia sales. In addition, Guild chapters conduct educational and outreach activities like the Debutante, Color of Music and Cotillion programs for young people. The Guild chapters also assist in orchestra hospitality.

David Mairs, with assistance from the Music Committee and approval of the Board, 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 and paid on a contract (per service) basis and rehearse on the Saturday before and in the early afternoon of the concert day. MTS musicians are professionals who also perform and teach with other organizations; through our "locals" program, community members and students *who can perform at a professional level* may be invited to perform with the orchestra.

Committee Summary

MUSIC COMMITTEE

- ❖ Assists Music Director in planning concerts and special performances, including music selections for orchestra and chorus
- ❖ Works with Music Director and Executive Director to secure guest artists
- ❖ Develops budget for concerts and special performances

DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Locates and pursues continuing opportunities for unearned income, and new sources of contributions and grants
- ❖ Works with Executive Director to establish Annual Fund, Concert Sponsors, Endowments and Grants, and Memorials

EDUCATION

Three major projects:

- ❖ Children's Concerts are held every October on the Monday and Tuesday following the October concert – serve as a liaison between school district and board in coordinating and scheduling students attending concert; arrange with guild chapters for ushers and assistance needed for concerts
- ❖ Young Artist Competition is a competition for advanced young musicians who win a monetary prize and the opportunity to perform with the symphony – plan and schedule competition in rotating years between piano, violin, winds and vocal; arrange for judges; recruit and coordinate contestants; arrange with Guild chapters for hospitality and reception
- ❖ Music Memory is a competition for fifth and sixth graders – contact area school music teachers; provide tapes of music to be used; arrange for location, awards, publicity and hospitality

BUDGET AND FINANCE

- ❖ Prepares annual budget
- ❖ Supervises investment account and insurance

MARKETING

- ❖ Program Advertising – Works 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, accommodating concert deadlines
- ❖ Season Brochure – Prepares pre-season publication announcing new season, ticket prices
- ❖ Publicizes concerts and activities of MTS through local media and other venues
- ❖ Creates and implements effective strategies to increase ticket sales, including group sales

TICKETS

- ❖ Handles all season subscriptions and individual ticket sales
- ❖ Arranges for ticket sales through local ticket outlets

MTS FRIENDS

- ❖ Serves as host to guest artists,
- ❖ Plans and implements special social events such as the Holiday dinner and special events including events to honor special MTS supporters

Organizational History

The Mid-Texas Symphony (MTS) was founded in 1978 by a visionary professor at Texas Lutheran University who engineered what many said was impossible. Professor Anita Windecker believed that with creativity, energy, careful planning, and organization, two small communities with the help of a small university could bring high-quality classical music and associated educational programming to an area with a small population that was not rich in cultural opportunities.

The MTS generally presents three regular concerts per year in Seguin (September, December, and March) and three in New Braunfels (October, February, and May). The May concert is traditionally a pops format; October shares programming and guest artists with our children's concerts, and in December we perform with both the MTS Chorus and with a chorus comprised of students from one of the local school districts. In September, we often feature a guest artist from the Van Cliburn Foundation roster of finalists, made possible as a result of a long and close working relationship with the Foundation. Ticket prices are intentionally set at levels that make MTS performances affordable for the entire community. The budget is a very modest \$252,600 (2008-09) thanks to a great deal of volunteer help and rigorous cost-control.

The MTS has had a series of very strong Music Directors, most notably Akira Endo and David Mairs, who is now in his thirteenth season with the MTS. David Mairs has a knack for giving short, clear, witty explanations of each piece to audience, making the music more meaningful and accessible.

Beginning in its tenth year and each year thereafter, the MTS has offered free children's concerts in New Braunfels and Seguin – two in each city, accompanied by curriculum materials for the schools to help prepare the students for the concerts. These well-attended concerts offer perhaps the only opportunity for many of these children – 1/3 of them economically disadvantaged – to hear classical music. The MTS also holds an annual Young Artist Competition (rotating among voice, strings, piano, winds); the competition winner is invited to perform with the MTS. Other educational programs include providing a performance opportunity each season for young strings players, jointly sponsoring the Community Music Academy with Texas Lutheran University (offering Suzuki and other musical lesson opportunities for children), and a Music Memory competition for elementary students.

Seguin and New Braunfels are the smallest communities in the U.S. that sponsor a professional symphony orchestra. This is possible due to a strong volunteer organization and Board, a close relationship with Texas Lutheran University, and the communities' proximity to San Antonio and Austin, both of which have professional orchestras.

The results have been amazing. The MTS has succeeded because it met and continues to meet a pressing cultural need for the inspiration and the wide emotional range that classical music offers and because the MTS is so closely woven into the communities it serves.

Historical Timeline

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

2006 – 2007 Concert Season: The Mid-Texas Symphony performed to a sold-out house in the Brauntex Theatre in New Braunfels with classical guitarist Pepe Romero on April 14, 2007.