



THE GUILD

of The Birmingham Music Club

the official newsletter of the The Guild of the Birmingham Music Club
Editor: Linda Cooper Layout and Design: Sherrie Futch



Conductor's Podium: From Linda Cooper, President

Upcoming Events:

January 8

Virtual performance meeting. See details on Page 4.

March 6

Scholarship Auditions Birmingham Southern College or Virtual

April 9

Scholarship Luncheon, Country Club of Birmingham

May 7

Guild Coffee and Membership Meeting

May

GALA. To be determined, as you can imagine!

The hustle and bustle of the holidays is here. Maybe not exactly as in the past, but still here! I'm not in the stores frequently but monitoring my front porch daily for those precious but delayed packages. Giving is a way of recognizing and celebrating our blessings. The groups around our tables this holiday season have perhaps been smaller but still we are thankful to be with those we love...when we can. Our table might be missing a face or two but we have the memories of the past and the hope for next year's gathering. And, our table may even be empty but virtual technology as well as calls and cards brighten our day.

I hope that in this exceptional year that you are experiencing JOY. Keep reading. There's a special treat to put a smile on your face and entice you to put on sparkle!

The Guild year is also still hustling and bustling. Different

but still moving!

Where we've been...

In October, we enjoyed the 2020 Scholarship Winners' performance with social "chat" time at our Virtual Wine Tasting event. Hearing our scholarship winners reminds me that what we do is SO IMPORTANT! All three entertained us with exceptional performances and expressions of their appreciation to our organization.

Then, in November, Lucina Horner (violinist) and Tara Mueller (violinist) provided us a delightful performance at our membership meeting!

Directories were distributed allowing us to keep in touch. I encourage you to be in touch with the special friends that you've made in The Guild. Printed directories are still available or you may access the directory on The Guild website, Members' Only Portal, which can be found at

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Year-End Is A Great Time to Give To The Guild!

Please remember The Guild as you contemplate your end of year giving.

The CARES Act changed how taxpayers deduct charitable contributions made in 2020.

According to the IRS website, previously, charitable contributions could only be deducted if taxpayers itemized their deductions.

However, taxpayers who don't itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations. For the purposes of this deduction, qualifying organizations are those that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific or literary in purpose. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

The CARES Act also temporarily suspends limits on charitable contributions

More information about these changes is available at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/how-the-cares-act-changes-deducting-charitable-contributions>.

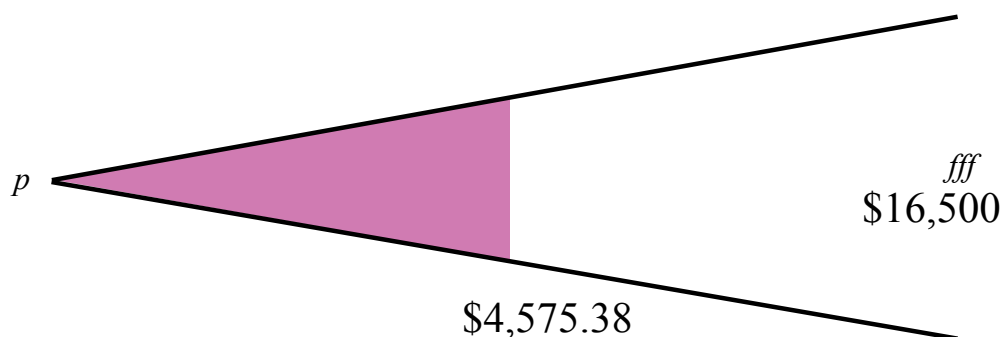
Finally, did you know that you can make charitable donations straight from your required minimum distribution if you are 70 1/2? This means you can donate dollars that are not taxed. It is reported as a Qualified Charitable Donation. Help our scholarships out by making a year-end donation from your IRA.

As always, check with your Financial Advisor!

Many musicians' lives have been changed by Scholarships awarded by The Guild throughout the years. Each year we donate

\$11,500 toward scholarships and \$5,000 to the Birmingham Music Club. Let us give generously to reach our goal of \$16,500.

Crescendo to Our Goal!



Musician up to \$200

Principal \$200+

Concert Master \$500+

Virtuoso \$1,000+

Maestro \$2,500+

Payment Link for Donation: <https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/donate/>

OR mail check to:

The Guild of The Birmingham Music Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 530323
Birmingham, AL 35253

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Susanne Thomas by email, text or phone: Sabtho@bellsouth.net or (205)529-3013

Conductor's Podium,

continued from Page 1

<https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/>

And, Chris Farley was our highlighted past scholarship recipient in "Where Are They Now?". Read it, you'll be impressed and inspired!

<https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/2020/11/where-are-they-now-chris-farley/>

Where we're heading...

And so, we continue on our detour! The road is good, not direct, but good.

Susanne Thomas is working hard to raise the funding for our annual Scholarships to be awarded in March. Kim Strickland has scheduled an amazing performer for January. Roberta Atkinson is working on the Board slate for the upcoming year. Margery Whatley is already communicating with applicants for our annual competition. Martha Mims is planning the celebration of our Scholarship winners.

If you have time on your hands, please be in touch with me. Volunteers are always needed. We can expend your pent-up energy!

Thank you to all that have supported The Guild this 2020-2021 year. Let's keep moving forward...TOGETHER!

-- Linda Cooper, President

We exist to award scholarships!

Awarding scholarships to exceptional, aspiring talent is why The Guild exists! These winners will impact the future of quality, beautiful music in Birmingham and throughout our state. Let's support music and education. Let's do more...TOGETHER. All Guild Members, please give to the scholarship fund. Your donation will make a difference. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org>

Or, mail your check to:

The Guild of The Birmingham Music Club, Inc. P.O. Box 530323,
Birmingham, AL 35253

All contributions are tax deductible.
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Where are they now? Spotlight on Chris Farley



To understand why we do what we do, read our latest "Where are they now" feature on our website, this time featuring Chris Farley, a former scholarship recipient.

<https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/2020/11/where-are-they-now-chris-farley/>

Please remember to "like" and "follow" us on Facebook (@birminghammusicguild) and Instagram (@bmc_guild), and invite your friends to do the same!

-- Sarah Rich, Social Media
sopranosong@gmail.com

 [birminghammusicguild](https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org)

 [@bmc_guild](https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org)

 <https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/>

In Sympathy

We extend condolences to Linda Pope in the passing of her father, and to Elaine Clark in the passing of her husband, Oliver. Both Linda and Elaine have been faithful members of our organization for many years and Elaine has faithfully served us as President.

Let's remember both families in our thoughts and prayers as they face the days ahead.

To share care and concern with The Guild, please contact Marsha Drennen at mwdrennen@aol.com.

Invite Fellow Music Supporters to Join The Guild!

Do you know any fellow Magic City residents who love music and are interested in supporting music education? We are always recruiting new members for The Guild! Send contact information for potential new members to theguildbmc@gmail.com, or individuals can join at anytime at <https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/membership-registration/>.

As a reminder, dues are \$50 per member. For a printed/mailed directory, add an additional \$5. Members always have the option of viewing/printing the directory from the website, free of charge.

Pay online at

<https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/membership-registration/>

or mail your check to:

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Birmingham, AL 35253

January Performance To Feature Demondrae Thurman, Euphonium

Known worldwide for his signature sound and overt musicality, Demondrae has brought his remarkable skills to light as a soloist, educator, chamber musician, and conductor. As a frequently invited guest at many of the world's most noted festivals and conferences for Low Brass, his voice-like timbre reaches everyone in his audience. In addition to performing with many of the finest orchestras in the United States, Chamber Music is an integral component of Demondrae's career. He has performed on euphonium and/or trombone with the Brass Band of Battle Creek, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Youngblood Brass Band but his most celebrated collaboration to date is as first euphonium with the Sotto Voce Quartet. Currently, Demondrae is Professor of Music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The position was created for him to utilize his specific skills and expertise in euphonium and brass chamber music. He is also serving on the faculty of Samford University. Demondrae Thurman is a Mira-

phone Performing Artist and plays exclusively the Miraphone 5050

Ambassador Edition euphonium which was designed specifically for him. He also plays the custom Demondrae model mouthpiece manufactured by Warburton Music Products and is a Shires Trombone Performing Artist.

Join via ZOOM:

Jan 8, 2021 10:15 a.m., Central.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943348062>

Meeting ID: 899 4334 8062



The Nominating Committee Needs Help in Preparing for 2021-2022

It is time to activate a Nominating Committee for next year, 2021-2022. Please let Roberta Atkinson know if you are interested in serving on this important committee. Also, if you are interested in being a member of the 2020-2021 Board of The Guild of the Birmingham Music Club please let her know where your interests are.

Roberta Atkinson, Executive VP, afwcrsa@gmail.com
(205)822-5622 or (205)902-5503

The Guild of the Birmingham Music Club 2020-2021

Officers and Committee Chairs



President:	Linda Cooper
Executive VP/President Elect:	Roberta Atkinson
1st Vice President Project:	Susanne Thomas
2nd Vice President Placement:	Powell Owens
3rd Vice President Programs:	Kim Strickland
4th Vice President Locations:	Kim Strickland
5th Vice President Membership:	Elise Warren
6th Vice President Scholarship:	Margery Whatley
Recording Secretary:	Lesley DeRamus
Corresponding Secretary:	Marsha Drennen
Treasurer:	Roberta Atkinson
Historian:	Jeanne Bradford
Parliamentarian:	Michelle Rushing
Investment Trustees:	Linda Griggs (2018-2021), Margaret Hubbard (2019-2022) Barbara Klyce (2020-2023)
Addressing/Mailing:	Linda Cooper
Audit committee:	Linda Griggs Elise Warren
By-Laws:	Linda Griggs
Christmas Party:	Cindy Bowron
Hospitality:	Cynthia Watts
Marketing/Communications:	Sarah Rich - Facebook Marsha Drennen Linda Cooper - Website
Membership Directory:	Linda Cooper
Music Education Support and Benevolence:	Pat Grant
Newsletter:	Linda Cooper and Sherrie Futch
Photography:	Angie Holder
Publicity:	Elizabeth Crommelin
Spring Luncheon:	Martha Mims

Wisdom and Wishes for you! From your 2020-2021 Board

Kim Scott Strickland

Shares her words through music! <https://youtu.be/oV38Q-NAxhPo>

Sarah Rich

"2020 has served to reiterate that which is most important in my life, namely my faith, my family, and music. My soul suffers when any one of those is lacking; conversely, when all else seems shaky, they are a fortifying balm to my heart. I thank God for these gifts, and for the "20/20" clarity to appreciate them."

Marsha Drennen

"In this season of gratitude for the blessings of Christ, family and friends, I am reminded of the faithful Guild members who have given so generously over the years of their time, talent and resources. Many are now restricted to home because of the pandemic and may be feeling isolated and alone. Let's all make a special effort to reach out with a call or a card, letting our members know that they are loved and missed. Soon, we will be gathering again together to enjoy each other's company and outstanding musical performances. I can't wait! Merry Christmas!"

Angie Holder

"For 2021, just three wishes: A successful vaccine for our world; America remains strong; Life as we know it is renewed & returned to its familiar joy! Merry Christmas & Blessings in the New Year."

Linda Cooper

"During this 2020 Christmas season, I wish for you and

your family special memories and precious moments whether in person, on the phone or even on ZOOM!!! Especially during this season, I long for the times that we, as The Guild, have spent together. Especially now, I long for normalcy. We are accustomed to celebrating together with sparkly clothes, bubbly chatter, delicious treats and festive surroundings at our annual Christmas party. This year, we celebrate the season with grateful hearts and fond memories with anticipation of the good things to come.

My hope for 2021 is that we can gather again, at some point, face to face. I want to hear your voices and see your faces in real time ... without streaming delays!!! Saying that also makes me realize that there is so much to be grateful for. The Guild has provided us opportunity to develop cherished friendships as we learn and grow in our understanding and appreciation of music and talented musicians.

My wishes for 2021:

To see your beautiful, smiling faces!

To hug those friends that I've missed throughout this time of precaution!

To engage in rich conversation and share laughter with my fellow members!

To personally and physically hear our 2021 scholarship recipients with you!

To see Margery and Terry light up the dance floor!

My hope for you all: health, love, joy and peace.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Jeanne Bradford

"My grandmother's sisters formed this club in the 1930s. It became federated. They met at the Women's Club House on Highland Avenue. I accompanied my grandmother, Jeannette Cowden Borland, to the meetings many times and enjoyed the ladies so very much. They continued to meet until the mid-1990s."

AD ASTRA LITERARY CLUB COLLECT

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense, and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are at one. And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all, and O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind! Mary Stewart

Roberta Atkinson

Today I choose Joy.

Today I choose Peace.

Today I will not worry about yesterday.

Today I will not worry about tomorrow.

Today is a gift -- that's why they call it the Present!

Uwrap the gift of Joy today!