



## What we've learned...

Don't take health and friendship for granted!

Music helps jazz it up or soothe.

Things can turn on a dime!

The show must go on!

What a difference a year makes!

**In 2020**, the world faced unparalleled uncertainty. The Guild's President, Michelle Rushing, handled every decision with poise and grace in this upended time. She was not able to finish as she anticipated and deserved. The scholarship winners were not able to perform as desired. Everything in our world changed and to some degree stopped. Our craving for normalcy began.

At the onset of this Guild year, the Board decided that as with many things, we would not halt progress. Instead, we chose to detour. Our sight was fixed on identifying, rewarding and celebrating aspiring, exceptional musical talent in Alabama's colleges and universities. The strategy looked different. But, with the perseverance, flexibility and creativity of our Guild's Board and Members, the show did go on!

**In 2021**, instead of the panic and turmoil we experienced in the beginning of a global pandemic, we experienced uncertainty but a desire and willingness to move ahead. And so, we celebrated beauty and togetherness at the annual Spring Scholarship Luncheon. The celebration was exceptional and refreshing! We got a glimpse of normal. A taste of a new start.

Thank you to Margery Whatley for working harder than ever before to identify our winners. The response to our competition from applicants was exceptional this year. Margery Whatley was beyond excited to report the number of musicians to audition. Judges were from all over the country. Adjustments were made to bring even greater success! Hearing the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners perform was inspiring and encouraging.

Also, our appreciation extends to Martha Mims, for meticulous attention to safety in planning the luncheon. And, to each of those attending, your enthusiasm and cooperation was greatly appreciated! Our winners prepared countless hours for this competition and performance. The hard work of Susanne Thomas and the generosity of our contributors enabled this all to happen. Instead of anxious minds, we focused with grateful hearts!



In May, we concluded our Guild year with a special in-person meeting featuring our very own, talented Steinway pianist, Margery Whatley. Alabama Piano Gallery generously hosted our event. Pat Grant prepared a special ceremony, installing our 2021-2022 Guild Officers.

The slate of officers approved for the Guild year 2021-2022 begins work in June. Roberta Atkinson will lead us as we “reopen” and strengthen our commitment and passion to talented music students.

**Many thanks to those that made this Guild year a success with your time, energy and generous contributions!** Sure, it wasn't ideal. But, TOGETHER, we accomplished the mission *with excellence* despite the unusual circumstances and unanticipated challenges.

*Linda Cooper*



## SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS 2021

The 2021 Birmingham Music Club Guild Scholarship Auditions were held virtually this year. Forty-eight students entered the competition from 9 of our Alabama Universities (Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Mobile, University of Montevallo, University of North Alabama, Samford University, and Troy University). Each student submitted video links of 3 contrasting works which were adjudicated by a panel of judges from colleges and universities from Georgia to Montana and in-between! Awards were given in three categories: Piano, Instrumental, and Voice. First Place winners will receive \$2,000, and Second Place winners, \$1,500. In addition, the Walter Sechriest Best Performance Award was given for \$1,000 for the overall winner. The scholarship awards will be used during the 2021-2022 academic year toward music studies at their respective Alabama Universities.



## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



### INSTRUMENTAL

**First Place:** Julian Fiaschetti, clarinet, student of David Odom, Auburn University

**Second Place:** Matthew Mansour, percussion, student of Tracy Wiggins, University of North Alabama

**Honorable Mention:** Ashton Jah, saxophone, student of Jonathan Noffsinger, University of Alabama

### PIANO

**First Place and Overall Winner:** Azalea Kelley, student of Hui-Ting Yang, Troy University

**Second Place:** Weixiang Peng, student of Yakov Kasman, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Honorable Mention:** Samuel Gaines, student of Kevin Chance, University of Alabama

### VOICE

**First Place:** Noah Graham, student of Alexis Davis-Hazell, University of Alabama

**Second Place:** Janie Clasgens, student of Tiffany Bostic-Brown, University of North Alabama

**Honorable Mention:** Joshua Giles, student of Charles Wood, University of Montevallo

## JUDGES

### INSTRUMENTAL

Margaret Baldrige, University of Montana  
Sonja Giles, Iowa State University

### PIANO

Caroline Oltmanns, Youngstown State University  
David Viscoli, Minnesota State University, Mankato

### VOICE

Anne Basinski, University of Montana  
Nadine Cheek, Wesleyan College





## WHAT A TREAT...

**Margery Whatley performs at the Alabama Piano Gallery...**



newsletters even though she has moved to Atlanta. She is rich in talent with a generous heart. We are so appreciative!

### **Membership and Placement Registration Cards have arrived!**

Please register and invite a friend to join us. You may use the response card provided or complete the membership process via <https://www.birminghammusicclubguild.org/membership-registration/>

**The transition meeting for the 2021-2022 officers** is June 15, 2021.

**VP of Projects is still needed.** Please be in touch with Roberta Atkinson if you are willing to serve in this very important capacity.

## A NEW YEAR BEGINS...

## NOTE...



### **CONGRATULATIONS to...**

**Ron Bourdages**, as he celebrates 10 years as Executive Director of The Birmingham Music Club! See the impressive list of Music Club concerts under Ron's leadership!

**A special thank you to Sherrie Futch** for sharing her talents with us this year. Sherrie created two beautiful, professional



The Guild of The Birmingham Music Club  
May 31, 2021

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



## Officers

President	Roberta Atkinson
Executive VP/President Elect	Cheree Carlton
1st Vice President Project	
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	Laura Bryan
Corresponding Secretary	Marsha Drennen
Treasurer	Susanne Thomas
Historian	Jeanne Bradford
Parliamentarian	Michelle Rushing
Investment Trustees	Margaret Hubbard (2019-2022)
	Barbara Klyce (2020-2023)
	Lesley DeRamus (2021-2024)

## Committees

Addressing/Mailing	Vicki Lukens
Audit	Linda Griggs, Elise Warren
By-Laws	Linda Griggs
Christmas Party	Cindy Bowron
Hospitality	Judy Anderson
Marketing/Communications	Sarah Rich - Social Media
	Linda Cooper - Website/emails
Membership Directory	Linda Cooper
Music Education Support and Benevolence	Pat Grant
Newsletter	Roberta Atkinson
Photography	Angie Holder
Publicity	Sarah Rich
Spring Luncheon	Lochrane Coleman Smith

2021-2022

**Ten Years of Birmingham Music Club Concerts**  
**April 1, 2011 – April 1, 2021**  
**Ron Bourdages, Executive Director**

*The Parlor Concert featuring Choko Aiken & her Jazz Combo*  
Live-Streamed from the Lyric Theatre  
July 26, 2020

*Love at the Lyric: Maestro Loves Mardi Gras*  
Lyric Theatre  
Feb 16, 2020

*Maestro Goes to Mardi Gras*  
Alabama Theatre (2 shows)  
Oct. 1, 2019

*H.M.S. Pinafore*  
Alys Stephens Center  
June 7-9, 2019

*The Parlor Concert: Featuring Rebecca Rafla*  
The Clubhouse on Highland  
April 28, 2019

*Love at the Lyric: Vaudeville Variété*  
Lyric Theatre  
Feb. 24, 2019

*Maestro Goes to Tuxedo Junction*  
Alabama Theatre (2 shows)  
Oct. 17, 2018

*Operetta Spectacular!*  
Alys Stephens Center Sirote Theatre  
June 8-10, 2018

*Parlor Concert: Daniel Szasz & Friends String Quartet*  
Clubhouse on Highland  
April 29, 2018

*Encore Performance: Drew Mays*  
Danberry at Inverness  
March 11, 2018

*Drew Mays: More Love at the Lyric*  
Lyric Theatre  
Feb. 11, 2018

City Lights at the Guild Gala  
Birmingham Country Club  
January 27, 2018

*Maestro Goes Around the World*  
Wright Center, 9:30 & 12:30  
Oct. 10, 2017

*Naughty Marietta*  
ASC's Sirote Theatre  
June 9 & 11, 2017

*Parlor Concert: Ron Shinn & Brian Viliunas*  
Clubhouse on Highland,  
April 23, 2017

*Love at the Lyric: The Warblers*  
Lyric Theatre  
Feb. 13, 2017

Thanks (for) Giving Donor Party  
Vestavia Hills Rec. Ctr. Lodge  
Nov. 13, 2016

*Maestro Goes to Broadway*  
Wright Center, 9:30 & 12:30  
October 11, 2016

*Die Fledermaus*  
Dorothy Jemison Day Theater  
June 10-12, 2016

Pop-up Concert: *Jazz for the Traveling Students*  
Clubhouse on Highland  
April 11, 2016

*Drew Mays: Love at the Lyric*  
Lyric Theatre  
Feb. 14, 2016

City Lights at the Guild Gala  
Vestavia Country Club  
January, 2016

*Maestro Goes to Muscle Shoals*  
Wright Center, 10:00 & 1:00  
Oct. 14, 2015

*Desert Song*  
Dorothy Jemison Day Theater  
May 22 & 24, 2015

*Musical Treasures from 17th Century Netherlands*  
Birmingham Museum of Art  
April 19, 2015

*Terrance & Tiffany Brown*  
Clubhouse on Highland  
Feb. 28, 2015

*Maestro Goes to Motown II*  
Wright Center, 10:00 & 1:00  
Oct. 15, 2014

*Maestro Goes to Motown II*  
Hoover Library Theatre 7:30 pm  
Oct. 14, 2014

*Parlor Concert: William Devan*  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Sept. 19, 2014

*Brad Simmons*  
VST' Martha Moore Sykes Cabaret Theatre (3 Shows)  
April 11-13, 2014

*Maestro Goes to Motown*  
Lawson State Community College  
Feb 27, 2014



*William and the Senator's Daughter*

Brock Hall

Jan. 25, 2014

*Malik Kofi*

with the Red Mountain Chamber Orchestra

Clubhouse on Highland

Nov 21, 2013

*Maestro Goes to Motown*

Wright Center, 10:00 & 1:00

Oct. 16, 2013

*Parlor Concert: Daniel Seigel & Lester Seigel*

Birmingham-Southern College

Sept. 19, 2013

*The Merry Widow*

Virginia Samford Theatre (2 shows)

May 3 & 5, 2013

*Natalie Bergeron*

Birmingham Museum of Art

Feb. 16, 2013

*Parlor Concert: Won & Kyoung Cho*

Westmoreland House

Nov. 9, 2012

*Maestro Goes to the Movies II*

Wright Center, 10:00 & 1:00

Oct, 16, 2012

*Best of Young Birmingham*

Brock Hall

Sept. 14, 2012

*Magico!*

Virginia Samford Theatre

Aug. 18, 2012

*Bravo! Birmingham II*  
Wright Center  
May 4, 2012

*Parlor Concert: Joe & Suzanne Hopkins*  
Westmoreland House  
Nov. 12, 2011

*Maestro Goes to the Movies*  
Wright Center, 10:00 & 1:00  
Oct. 26, 2011

*Best of Birmingham*  
Brock Hall  
Sept. 24, 2011

*Venice Baroque Orchestra*  
Performance for Students  
Alys Stephens Center  
April 4, 2011

*Venice Baroque Orchestra*  
Alys Stephens Center  
April 3, 2011