

Dallas Symphony Orchestra League raises over \$1,650,000!



Top: Kim Noltemy CEO of the DSA and Maestro Fabio Luisi with Kim Brannon. **Upper right:** Carole Ann Brown, Kim Noltemy CEO of the DSA, Venise Stuart, DSOL President and Allison Brodnax, Director of Volunteers receiving the check from the DSOL. JSB Presenting a check to the DSO. **Bottom left:** Nancy Labadie, President-Elect for 2023-24, Venise Stuart, President, and Cynthia Beard, In-coming DSOL President. **Bottom right:** Savor the Symphony, Donor Kelly Dybala, Angela Fontana and Penny Reid.

The President's Message



The 2021-22 year has been a huge success because of our DSOL members.

As we began the year, we were faced with several obstacles – we were still having COVID protocols, supply demands were happening, delays of all sorts – just getting stamps and paper – the little things we don't think about were occurring in the fall. We were faced with the DSO having a smaller audiences – our fundraisers were questioned, our volunteers were wondering how we were going to handle the year – are we doing this? Are we going to meet in person? How do we go forward?

How to plan? Covid testing? Masks or no masks? What is this all going to look like? Then things began.

First the Board Meetings – **Lucinda Buford** and **Kathy Cothrum** made our board meetings fun and beautiful. The homeowners willingly opened up their houses to us – the Day Chairs and their committees made everything so lovely. We even managed to do several hybrid which worked when we needed to do so. Treasurer – **Rene' Edwards** kept our books in order. **Janet Keckeisen** set the annual budget and **Laurie Lippincott** was always in the wings waiting to help in any way she could. It's been a financially successful year. The General Meetings were well attended. **Dyann Skelton** chaired the fall meeting at The Mansion. DSO Musicians **Sasha** and **Chris Adkins** held a captive audience with their music, and the stories they shared with us. **Shelby Fuqua** and **Marcy Jones** chaired the Winter Tea in February. **Carole Ann Brown** was the presenting sponsor. Lay Family Chair, **Bradley Hunter Welch**, was the guest musician. He shared his many stories of becoming an organist. Our last general meeting, the Encore Luncheon, was held this past May and chaired by **Karen Cox**. What a beautiful way to wrap up the year. It's always a great luncheon where we honor the outgoing board and welcome in the new board.

Our fundraisers began with Fashion Notes in October 2021. **Kameron Wescott** and **Samantha Wortley** chaired a sell-out luncheon at Fairmont Dallas. **Jimmy Westcott** served as the Honorary Chairman. With the help of everyone, from the committee to the models, Fashion Notes, raised over \$125,000. **Nardos** received the DSOL Fashion Notes Designer Award. The little ones modeled JoJo Mommy chic, and the mature ladies and Moms modeled the fall **TOOTSIES** fashions. The store was going through massive repairs due to flooding after the big freeze of 2021, but that didn't stop them!

Junior Symphony Ball was held on January 29. Chairman **Mandy Click** and her committee – wow, what can one say! With a sell-out of over 2,800 Dallas metroplex high school kids who couldn't wait to be back to normal – the State of the Arts was able to net \$446,000 to the DSOL – a record! In both attendance and dollars raised. I know they can do it again!

2022 DSOL Presentation Ball. Due to COVID mandates, the 2021 Presentation Ball was cancelled. The 2022 Presentation Ball had 48 lovely debs (a combination of 2021 and 2022 debutantes). With **Elizabeth Gambrell** chairing the event, things were a huge success on February 12. When the Announcement Party was held in May 2021, the ball events were planned according to COVID regulations – luckily, we were able to work with many COVID protocols and be safe throughout the year.

DSOL Newsletter

The DSOL newsletter is printed 3 times per year by the DSOL.

The deadlines are: September 1, 2022; December 1, 2022; March 1, 2023. Please send articles and photographs to **Sandy Secor, Editor**; sandrasecor@icloud.com

Summer

The committee came together and made everything work! With all the ups and downs for the year, the net profits ended being over \$600,000. Honorary Chairman, **Sherwood Wagner**, was gracious and as beautiful as the debs being presented that night. The Meyerson was popping out of the seams with all the families and friends in attendance. Such great times, tradition and history.

Chairmen **Angela Fontana** and **Penny Reid**, put together a hugely successful Savor the Symphony Wine and Auction Dinner. With their efforts, from the committee to those that donated wines and auction items, the Savor was able to return \$130,000 to the DSOL. The wines paired with the three-course dinner from Domaine Verdant Oregon were delicious, and it was nice to have the winemaker and owner come to Dallas for the event. We are thankful for the donors and the sponsors who were so gracious in their donations and support. No wines were left behind! Both the auction wines and the wine pull wines were a sell out! Thanks to **SIDLEY** for being the presenting sponsor.

Therese Rourk, Chairman, for Noteworthy Nights put together three educational evenings. The last one being held at the end of May at the home of **Donna** and **Herb Weitzman** with **Gemma New**, DSO Principal Guest Conductor. We have been fortunate to have had Donna and Herb Weitzman as the Noteworthy Nights Honorary Chairman. The other two Noteworthy Nights have been special this year. The October event, held at the home of **Kathy** and **Harlan Crow**, with guest artist **Garrick Olson**. Garrick requested to play the piano for us – how could we deny him? It was a great evening. The February evening, with Maestro **Andrew Litton**, at the home of **Wendy** and **Phil Hansen**, a seated dinner was prepared by the 'older and mature' Fireside Chat Committee.

Along with the above fundraisers for our volunteers to be involved in, there are opportunities listed below where volunteers can participate to help as well.

The three competitions where volunteers are needed are: **Lynn Harrell** Concerto Competition, **Becky Vanyo**, organized this event for these young talented musicians held the day before Easter. Thanks to **Lori Routh** who stepped in at the last second to make things perfect for the young musicians. Friedlander Competition for Young Strings, **Becky Todd**, organized and handled the Friedlander competition with great ease. These competitions are attended by many young musicians competing with one another for top spots! The **Juanita Miller** Concerto Competition, spearheaded by Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras, **Heather Moore**, and several DSOL volunteers, at a new location (due to last hour cancellation of original venue) was a musical success! Luckily, the University of Texas at Dallas was able to make things work, and because of UTD's last minute understanding and cooperation, this competition will be at UTD 2023.

Cecil & Ida Green Youth Concerts, **Carrie Denson** – oh my – what an exciting year – masks, no masks, COVID testing required for volunteers – but 3 different dates were given and several DSOL volunteers were there – even some volunteers represented by the Baylor Nursing department came to help. Finally, after a year, the elementary children could come into the Hall to see and hear the DSO musicians. These were special days.

Orchestra Appreciation Luncheon, Chairman **Susan Fisk**. With Mesero and the Orchestra Appreciation Luncheon committee, the musicians had a very enjoyable Tex Mex lunch and a nice time to socialize with some of the DSOL members who were able to attend. The door prizes!!!

Finally, a big thanks to **Kim Brannon** for hosting and preparing all the food for the Past Presidents and Ball Chairman Brunch. It was a big success, and so nice to see faces we haven't seen a quite some time. We got to meet, up-close and personal, with Maestro **Fabio Luisi**, and learned more about our amazing conductor (who started during the pandemic). It was nice to finally get to meet him.

Spring

Newsletters and Communications, **Justine Sweeney** (VP PR), along with **Sandy Secor** and **Deborah Brown** kept us up-to-date with all news – Facebook, Instagram, and the DSOL newsletters! **Deborah Brown** sent us news thru constant contact, taking pictures, kept the membership database and prepared the directory. A huge thanks to these ladies for keeping us informed.

We do a lot, and because we do so much, TASO recently honored the DSOL two Awards of Excellence -- one for the 2020 Fashion Notes and the other 2021 A Major Chat. At the national conference for AMSOV in June, the DSOL will receive an award for recognizing the Junior Symphony Ball for it's history and success.

I want to thank all the other board members – **Carole Anne Brown, Carla Leffert, Christine Drossos, Claire Catrino, Ginger Sager, Margaret Wilonsky, Sharon Walker, Dorothea Meltzer, Roberta Corbett**, and the DSOL Advisory Board – who have done so much to help this year to keep us informed, and supported me as well.

Again, I want to thank you as members of the DSOL. You make everything possible and hopefully will continue to do so. With a membership of over 1,100, this is how it happens. Coming together and working to keep our mission and purpose forefront. I thank you for your time, your talents, and your support.

The 2021-22 DSOL will be able to contribute well over \$1.5 million to the education and community outreach programs of the Dallas Symphony.

Thank you for allowing me to be your President. I have been blessed and honored to have served.

Always,

Venise

Venise Stuart
Dallas Symphony League President



Left: Rose Gault, Venise Stuart, DSOL President 2021 - 2022; Marena Gault, AMSOV President; Deborah Brown at the AMSOV Conference in Washington DC.

Spring PEOPLE TO SEE



Top: Past DSOL President's, Past Ball Chairs and JuniorGroup/Elon Circle, Innovators presidents at **Kim Brannon's** home.

Middle left: Susan Fisk and her committee for the Musician's Luncheon. **Joanie Stephens, Nancy Labadie, Susan Fisk, Roberta Corbett, Margaret Wilonsky** and **Venise Stuart**.

Middle right: TASO Convention attendees, Venise Stuart, Nancy Labadie, Melissa Lewis, Mari Epperson and **Deborah Brown**.

Bottom right: Encore Luncheon, DSOL officers: President **Cynthia Beaird**, President Elect **Nancy Labadie**, First Vice President Fundraising - **Claire Catrino**, Second Vice President Service - **Carrie Dennison**, Third Vice President Arrangements - **Christine Drossos**, Fourth Vice President Public Relations - **Justine Sweeney**, Fifth Vice Presidents Membership - **Lucinda Buford** and **Julie Jodie**, Sixth Vice President Education and Outreach - **Kathrine Voreis**, Recording Secretary - **Kate McCoy**, Corresponding Secretary - **Jennifer Olson**, Treasurer - **Laurie Lippincott**, Treasurer-Elect - None, Finance Chair - **René Edwards**, Historian - **Lizzie Weeks Bumpass**, Parliamentarian - **Venise Stuart**.

