



YOUNG TEXAS ARTISTS MUSIC COMPETITION | 1608 Pine Oak Drive | Conroe, Texas 77304 | youngtexasartists.org

YTA Circle Welcomes Sarah Baxter as New Chairman *Group kicks off 2019 with panel discussion featuring area performing arts leaders*

CONROE, Texas – Jan. 28, 2019 – YTA Circle, a Young Texas Artists Music Competition (YTA) program for classical music enthusiasts, is starting 2019 with a new chairman, Sarah Baxter.

“YTA is a very worthy effort: It does positive things for musicians and also for our community,” said Baxter, a broker associate for Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene in The Woodlands and former president of the Montgomery County Performing Arts Society (MCPAS).

“I’m a big supporter of the arts, so when I was invited to serve as the president of YTA Circle, it seemed like the right thing to do,” she said.



Sarah Baxter is now serving as chairman of YTA Circle, which serves as a classical music connection for Montgomery County residents.

Susie Pokorski, YTA’s president and CEO, worked closely with Baxter when they volunteered for MCPAS together. “Not only is Sarah passionate about classical music, she also brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to every project she takes on,” Pokorski said. “I know YTA Circle will benefit enormously from her leadership.”

Circle members had an opportunity to meet Baxter Jan. 24, when the group presented its first event of the new year: a panel discussion featuring leaders from three area performing arts organizations. Two of the speakers are new to their positions.

“Any time we have new leadership in the various arts organizations, that’s exciting because we all bring different things with us; different interests, different gifts and different talents,” Baxter said.

The panel discussion featured Heather Orr, the new artistic director of Montgomery County Choral Society and head director of choral activities at Montgomery High School; Jacob Sustaita, the new associate director of Conroe Symphony Orchestra; and Darryl Bayer, artistic director of The Woodlands Symphony Orchestra.

Each speaker shared information about their organization along with their individual philosophies, their goals and what they hope to contribute to Montgomery County this year in terms of classical music.

The evening also featured a crowd-pleasing performance by the Montgomery High School Madrigals, led by Orr.

YTA established YTA Circle in 2014 to provide the music competition's many supporters with events they can enjoy throughout the year and to serve as a classical music connection for Montgomery County residents.

For an annual membership fee of \$55 per couple (singles are encouraged to bring a guest), circle members gain access to four programs a year, along with discounts for YTA's annual Bach, Beethoven & Barbecue Gala.

Circle events feature a wide range of speakers, artists, and unique opportunities. Most programs are held early in the evening and also include wine, cheese and conversation.

For information about joining YTA Circle, visit ytamc.com/yta-circle.

YTA Circle membership fees support YTA's annual competition, which will be held March 7-9 this year. Young Texas Artists' sponsors and supporters include Dr. Douglas Aycock and Carol Aycock, Planet Lincoln (planetlincolnspring.com) and the Conroe Convention & Visitors Bureau (visitconroe.com).

About the Young Texas Artists Music Competition

An official music competition of the State of Texas, Young Texas Artists, Inc. has, since its founding in 1983, encouraged excellence in young musicians, inspired their audiences and helped further the careers of thousands of young classical musicians. It is one of the few competitions in the country that features four divisions: Voice; Piano; Strings; and Orchestral Instruments. This Texas competition for Texas artists has helped produce many distinguished professionals who have gone on to join orchestras, opera companies, universities and music schools around the world. The Young Texas Artists Music Competition is a member of the Greater Conroe Arts Alliance. ytamc.com.

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