

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: SHIRLEY & BILL MCINTYRE

Even before the public announcement that the 2019 Junior Competition would be held in Dallas, Shirley and Bill McIntyre were strong advocates and ambassadors for the idea. That enthusiasm led them to host the very first Dallas home event to introduce the Cliburn to friends and thought leaders; and to give a generous donation to the Cliburn Endowment, naming the second prize of the Junior in perpetuity. Here's why that support is important to each of them:

CLIBURN: What is your connection to classical music?

SHIRLEY: I started taking piano lessons when I was 6 years old and studied piano for 11 years. For our recitals I would choose Chopin, Mozart, or Beethoven. Our music teacher would take us to classical concerts, and I was mesmerized by how beautiful the orchestra would sound playing these pieces.

BILL: I played the baritone in my high school band. Years ago, we became involved with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO), and we began co-chairing the Friends of DSO to support the summer residency of the DSO at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. In 2011, I was asked to join the DSO Executive Board, and I continue to serve. "All this activity exposed me to great classical music and the fantastic musicians who play it, which only increased my appreciation of great music.

CLIBURN: What is it you enjoy most about classical music performances?

SHIRLEY: I discover more each time I listen to classical music. The orchestra is filled with layers of instruments, all playing at the same time but slightly different, which makes it sound so huge and grand. Then it can transcend to a very light sound, very dramatic. Most of all it makes me happy. I serve on the boards of the DSO and Bravo! Vail Music Festival. It gives me such pleasure to be a part of music and sharing with others.

BILL: What can be better than enjoying great music with friends? When classical music came of age, performances were major and special social events. Often, as I listen to the music, I marvel at the experience of listening to music as it was played as far back as 250 years, often on some of the same instruments. It is fascinating that such complexity can spring from a human brain. Of course, the

music is beautiful and inspiring. I also enjoy the formality of the orchestra. Getting to know many of the musicians at the DSO has made the musical experience that much more special.

CLIBURN: Do you have a favorite memory of Van Cliburn?

SHIRLEY: When I was at Steinway Hall purchasing our first Steinway, I played several pianos and narrowed it down to three but couldn't make a decision. The gentleman helping me said that Van Cliburn would be in the store later and would I like for him to play each and select one. Well, I couldn't refuse that offer, so Van Cliburn selected my piano, signed it, and I have a picture of him playing my piano. So, of course, this piano is very special.

CLIBURN: Why did you decide to contribute to the Cliburn Endowment for the Junior Competition?

SHIRLEY: With the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition being performed by adults, the idea of having these very young artists performing and giving them the opportunity to showcase their talents is exciting. We are thrilled that Fort Worth chose to collaborate with Dallas by having the Junior Cliburn in Dallas. This allows for more people in our large community, Fort Worth and Dallas, to support this amazing Competition. We wanted to help spread the word and be a part of such a great organization.

BILL: When Jacques mentioned that the Junior Cliburn would be in Dallas, I was all in. I asked if the naming of the second prize was available. When he said it was, I committed to name it after my sweet wife, Shirley.



CLIBURN: Why do you feel endowments are important?

BILL: Economic cycles substantially impact the level of donations to operating expenses. The stable source of funds from the endowment can help bridge the swing in donations that naturally occur. In addition, the endowment can serve as a temporary source of funds for the organization to take advantage of certain opportunities as they arise.

CLIBURN: Why do you give your resources and your time to the Cliburn and why should others?

SHIRLEY: The Cliburn enriches the participants' lives with their talent, experience, confidence, the feeling of being a part of a large community, and being connected with people and other artists. We want to live in a city that is proud to have the best that they can have, whether it is museums, orchestras, and other performing arts. Bill and I are honored and excited to be a part of the Cliburn competitions, and we want everyone else to be too.

BILL: I know that the Cliburn event is very special to the folks in Fort Worth, and I am very thankful that they are sharing the Junior Cliburn with Dallas. Supporting the Junior Cliburn is another opportunity for the citizens of two great cities to pool their resources and share a beautiful and meaningful result. I had never attended a Cliburn event in Fort Worth until two years ago and I am surprised, after asking many of my music loving friends, how many people from Dallas have not attended. I think this partnership on the Cliburn Junior will change that. I can say that the DSO is very excited about being involved along with SMU.

