

On a Musical Note

July 2016

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Isabella Laude

A big “thank you” to everyone who helped make the 2016 NFMF Conference a tremendous success! Co-chairmen Lavonna Whitesell and Natlynn Hayes and the five host states in the South Central Region deserve our gratitude for a job well done. There were 243 attendees who enjoyed the musical performances, workshops and State President’s Day. There has been a great deal of positive feedback from those who attended.

There were many highlights in Tulsa, but two of them especially stand out. A NFMF Presidential Citation was awarded to Jim Swiggart for his twenty-five years as general director of Opera in the Ozarks. Under Jim’s leadership, there were major improvements to the theater and facilities. The quality of young artists, faculty and staff grew tremendously under his direction. Jim is recognized for his significant impact on opera and music education in the United States.

Francis Christmann (Texas) was the recipient of the first annual NFMF Lifetime Achievement Award. Francis joined in 1954, the 56th year of the NFMF, and has been a member for 62 years. Her complete list of accomplishments will be published in the *MCM* fall issue. Congratulations, Francis!!!

A big “thank you” to Sandra Preysz, editor of the 2017-2020 *Federation Festivals Bulletin*, and her advisors for their dedicated service in producing the *Bulletin*. This is always a huge undertaking. I know festival teachers eagerly await the new *Festivals Bulletin* and will spend the summer studying the new repertoire. Corrections to the 2017-2020 *Federation Festivals Bulletin* may be found on our website. <http://www.nfmf-music.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=2016+--+2020+Festivals+Bulletin+Adjustments>

I will be visiting Dayton, Ohio, in August to continue planning for the NFMF 59th Biennial Convention which will be held June 20-24, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. We will continue to feature NFMF scholarship winners and present innovative workshops.

Finally, Carolyn Nelson was recently elected to the joint board of directors of the International Music Camp. Congratulations Carolyn!

Keeping the Music Alive for the Future!

Michael