

On a Musical Note

April 2017

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Queen

Countdown to Dayton

The countdown begins to the 59th NFMC Biennial Convention to be held in Dayton, Ohio, June 20-24, 2017. Christy Smith and the committee are hard at work preparing for a memorable convention. There are several “firsts” that are in the works. Please make your hotel reservation early as the room block is filling up quickly. The deadline for the Crowne Plaza is May 26 or whenever the hotel is completely booked. The official call has been published in the *MCM* and *JRK* as well as online at nfmc-music.org. The deadline for registration, meals, voting credentials and memorial contributions is June 1. Let’s get our registrations and transportation booked now so there is no PANIC on June 1!

The NFMC Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists took place April 1 in Jackson, Mississippi. I am pleased to announce that we have a winning team. Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung were awarded the first place prize of \$20,000. This duo also received the \$1,000 prize for best performance of a work by an American composer. Eric and Nathan grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and began performing piano duo literature at age eleven. They have chosen *The Happy Dog* as their duo name, and Eric will explain this interesting choice when they perform in Dayton. This is the “first” male team to win the Ellis Duo Award. You are going to be amazed when you hear these talented young men in concert at the convention! They are phenomenal!!

A big “thank you” to George Keck, chairman of the Ellis Duo Competition, and his committee for preparing a well-organized event. The auditions ran very smoothly and without a hitch. Also, a big “thank you” to Frances Nelson for hosting a buffet supper for Federation attendees on Friday evening.

Our website has been completely redesigned and will go live in a few of weeks. The webmaster is currently loading data. We have listened to the many suggestions of our members. A new search engine will be used to make our website more user-friendly and easier to navigate. **Pix of Eric and Nathan**

Keeping the Music Alive for the Future!

Michael