Message from the President

NFMC PRESIDENT
Frances Nelson, NFMC’s 34th President

I hope everyone is staying well, healthy and safe during this unbelievable situation happening right now!

Who would have guessed that we would experience this scary and serious Covid-19 pandemic across our entire globe!

Along with the pandemic, many changes had to take place. One of those changes was the postponing or canceling of many of your State Conventions in the Spring. As President of the National Federation of Music Clubs, many invitations come in for speaking engagements at various meetings. ALL meetings were canceled for Spring, so it was not a busy and hectic time this year!

Worst of all was the cancellation of the 2020 NFMC Conference in Indianapolis! That was such a disappointment, even though it was definitely the right decision! Co-chairs Lisa Cremer and David Mannell are to be congratulated on the wonderful plans and events they had scheduled for that special week. It was so heartbreaking to miss, but there was just no way around it!

Even though we did not get to have our Conference, there was still business to handle. Through the wonders of technology, several virtual meetings took place and we were able to discuss/vote on issues that needed attention. It is not the ideal way to meet, but certainly a workable option when you really need to communicate. Jennifer should be commended for her knowledge and expertise in getting us set up and together!

Annual Reports were still collected by the various Divisions, and you can read those reports online at our website. You will enjoy seeing the good things that our Federation has accomplished during this shortened year.

Since questions are still unanswered about when to visit, when to be close to someone, when to take off a mask, etc, we have extra time on our hands to look over Federation materials! Please familiarize yourself with our NFMC website! Now is also a good time to get your state websites in order! Many of our state websites are out of date or non-existent. Let’s look at those and see if we can get them in top shape! Maybe you can use this time to look at meeting ideas and plans for the upcoming club year. (Of course, many do not know when they might get to meet again, but we need to be ready!!) Look at our Facebook page and see the announcements and photos that are posted there! Also, we are now on Instagram! We are so pleased to be participating in many areas of technology!

Another big cancellation is our trip to Poland, Walking in Chopin’s Footsteps, which was scheduled for October 2020. However, we are going to try it again, next October 2021! Let’s hope that the situation will be better and we can take this marvelous trip!

We will hope to see everyone in Norfolk, Virginia, June 15-19, 2021 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel! The hotel is lovely and located in a beautiful area, so this promises to be a memorable Biennial Convention! Convention Chair Dr. Liana Valente is working hard, so stay tuned for details about Music… Songs of the Sea!

Create Harmony through Music

Frances J Nelson

FEDERATION NOTES:
The President’s Theme: Create Harmony through Music
The President’s Song: “Come to Us, Creative Spirit”
Text: David Mowbray
Music: Richard Proulx

2021 National Music Week
Theme: Music... is a Storyteller

DATES TO REMEMBER:

2021 NFMC BIENNIAL CONVENTION
June 15-19, 2021
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, VA
Theme: Music… Songs of the Sea

Create Harmony through Music

Frances J Nelson
Message from the First Vice President

This has been quite a year for us all, but we won’t only bounce back, we will leap forward!

My first official visit in 2019 was with the North Central Region, July 18-19. The meeting concluded with a concert at the Junior Composers Camp, and I was both surprised and impressed with the musicianship of these young composers! Our North Central Region must be commended for their involvement with this camp.

The NFMC First Vice President serves on the budget, finance, office, and policy resolutions committees.

Allocations and vouchers are now being prepared for all elected officers, division chairs, committee chairs, and summer center representatives. Please respond when you receive this information and save it to a designated file. Keep all expense receipts and adhere to the deadlines, as they will be strictly enforced this coming year!

Our NFMC 2020-2021 budget has been presented and accepted by the NFMC Executive Committee, and members of the Policy Resolutions Committee have shared ideas via email.

My plans to attend the Arkansas 2020 Convention and SCR Federation Days were cancelled due to the pandemic, however I think we’re on for 2021!

I am honored to serve as your First Vice President, and I look forward to being with all of you again soon!

We were all saddened to learn that the Indianapolis Conference had to be cancelled, preventing us from gathering together to celebrate the work of the Federation, make new friends, and renew as an organization. We extend our thanks to the 2020 Conference Chairpersons, Lisa P. Cremer and David B. Mannell for their work planning and preparing for June 2020.

As the 2021 National Biennial Convention Chair, it is my honor to invite you to join us in Norfolk, VA, Mermaid City, USA, from June 15 to 19. Plans are underway for an exciting celebration of our Federation and the outstanding musicians who enrich our lives. Committees will begin meeting on Tuesday, June 15 and all members, spouses, companions and members of the community will be invited to attend an thrilling performance that evening by international Jazz Pianist Cyrus Chestnut. This is just the start of what will be a joyous and fulfilling convention that will include an extensive tour of the city, presentations by outstanding historians, a concert by our Festival Chorus, and of course performances by current and previous award winners.

Join us in Norfolk next June, where we will live by the city motto, Life. Celebrated Daily.
The Administrative Division, chaired by the National President, ensures that the National Federation of Music Clubs functions efficiently by overseeing the policies and regulations governing NFMC and the management of the NFMC headquarters building. The Division consists of Bylaws and Standing Rules, Arts Advocacy, Policy Resolutions, Protocol, Sergeants-at-Arms, Chaplain, Office Committee, Archives Project, Historian, Parliamentarian, and Representative to the United Nations (NGO).

Because of the canceled Conference, many of these chairs did not get to make the presentations they had planned to share with us. However, Annual Reports have been collected and those can be read online at the NFMC website.

Frances Nelson,
Division Chair

Public Relations Chair

During these uncertain times, we need to think creatively in order to meet our goals and to plan ahead for the upcoming season. While it may seem easier to throw in the towel, because things can't be the way they used to be – don't! There are many tools to make this season the best yet! Let technology be your friend and salvation! As we embrace technology, you remove many obstacles – distance, travel expenses, event space and more. Plan to host Virtual events – such as board meetings, conferences, workshops, competitions, concerts and even fundraising! I'm thrilled to announce that our Media Chair, Valerie Harris will be putting together Tech Tips each month to show you how! Look for them on the nfmc-music.org website!

Once you've got your season figured out, your next step is to let people know! Again, technology is there to help! Websites are great! Social Media is the latest and greatest place to find new audiences and members. Does your club have a Facebook page or Instagram? NFMC has always been on Facebook, but now we're on Instagram too! Facebook has more than 2.3 billion active users and Instagram has around 1 billion. Instagram is a much more visual medium than Facebook, which honors its origins as a photo-sharing app. Instagram is currently the perfect platform for reaching a younger audience. Since they are now sister companies, you can easily hook your accounts together and share content on both at the same time.

Be sure to check out our Technology Tips on the national website each month! We welcome requests.

Jennifer Griffin,
NFMC Executive Director

I believe it’s fair to say that none of us have experienced anything like 2020. Maintaining a safe working environment, cancelling our annual conference and navigating general day-to-day operations has certainly been a challenge.

Just like many organizations and nearly every business in the country, NFMC had to adapt in order to continue to serve our members. Even with our small staff we’ve been following national and local mandates/protocols and implementing safety measures at HQ and will continue to do so. Fulfilling orders has been quite different and we appreciate your patience if it’s taking a little longer than usual. We have a special area set-up for pick-pack and ship and all contents enclosed are as sterile as possible. I’ve never seen trash cans with so many pairs of rubber gloves and disinfecting wipes.

We always look forward to seeing everyone at our annual June conference; it’s my favorite time of the year. We at HQ were certainly looking forward to hosting everyone in our home town. However, for the safety of everyone, the most prudent action for 2020 was to cancel the conference and begin to plan and look forward to Norfolk, VA in 2021.

We know that many regional and club meetings have also been cancelled. Fortunately, with today’s technology HQ has been able to improvise and continue to participate in committee meetings via Zoom and other online meeting applications. The number of conference calls and video meetings since April has been unprecedented. We aren’t certain when we can return to larger, in-person events but we look forward to when we all can be together again.

We miss seeing our members. We know our members miss seeing each other.

www.nfmc-music.org
I missed seeing you in Indianapolis this summer but look forward to seeing you in Norfolk in June 2021. I’m getting more comfortable with virtual meetings; it is a more efficient use of our time and money.

The financial books for the 2019-2020 budget year closed on June 30 with the last day for filing for any expenses being July 5. I’m hoping to have the year-end report in the fall issue of *Music Clubs Magazine* (and on the website). The festival income will be incomplete due to postponements of some local festivals. August 31 is their deadline.

NFMC’s granting committee is FAMA, Fund for the Advancement of Musical Arts. This year there were only 2 applicants and one was for a summer camp that was closed by COVID 19 concerns this summer and the other application was incomplete. Therefore no grants were given. Both will be held over to next year. You are encouraged to look at the FAMA grant form that is available on our website and recommend application to musical organizations that may qualify.

Keep in mind that Rose Fay Thomas fellow monies go to the NFMC endowment; Founders Day pennies and Past President Assembly contributions go to Young Artists fund and Memorials and Recognition contributions go to FAMA.

This is a reminder that ALL competition applications are to be submitted online. You can also pay your dues, memorials and recognitions contributions, buy publications, almost everything online. It’s easy and secure. You will get an immediate receipt. This saves office staff a lot of clerking time. Please help them. Be sure to also use current forms.

Today’s generation needs the support of our mission – to support American music and musicians.
Promoting Your Local Club in 2020

This information is coming to you from the Membership and Education Division of NFMC. Some of this will sound familiar to the Council of State Presidents because I shared a lot of this information in their June 16 online meeting. It was great to put names and faces together even though we couldn’t meet in person for our conference this year. I just want to pass on a few things that might be helpful as you start to think about what to do in your local clubs.

As we begin to move into our new musical year, the first thing that senior clubs need is a plan. That plan is their yearbook. Some of you know about yearbooks, because Patsy Whitaker received yearbooks from 7 states for this years reporting. I know that we all like to know that NFMC received our reports, so those 7 were: Arkansas, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Texas. Now, if you don’t see your state, you can change that for next year by making your local clubs aware of the need of sending in their yearbooks to Patsy. Heidi Hong has a new course of study ready for the website, of material that can be used for each month in the club yearbook. Poems, books, and stories; such as The Story of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” or George M. Cohan: boy theatre genius. The complete list will be on the website under Membership publications. Check it out. It’s an interesting list.

Something that is good for clubs to checkout is the Club Presidents Handbook. It’s a small book but well worth the two dollars in the information it provides a new president. Order several to keep on hand.

Another area to check out is the Competitions and Awards Chart under NFMC Annual Club and Institution Awards. You will find the forms to apply for some money awards but you can’t wait until the end of the year. You will need to plan to include certain programs in your musical year, such as, a program in November for the Parade of American Music. There is a first place award of $300, second place of $175 and third place of $75. There are 10 awards of $100.00 given each year for celebrating Jazz, 10 awards of $100 for Folk Music Programs and 10 awards of $100 for programs featuring American Women Composers. Another biggy is for a yearlong celebration of American Music; the award is $300.00 for 1st place, $175 for second place and $75 for third place. These awards are not to be a secret. Check out the nfmc-music.org website about these opportunities for your yearbooks. The awards might provide some funds to give back to your local musical community. It’s really easy to find through the Competition and Awards Chart because the application form number, the deadline and the chair of that award are right next to the award information.

Now, after your state clubs have gone through their musical year, it’s time to follow up with a report to Linda Flick, the Senior Club Reporting and Evaluation Chair. The reporting forms are in publications under Membership Division. Here is the results of the reporting for this year (because I know you want to see your state named): The states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, New Hampshire/Vermont had 100% reporting. Reports were also received from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia with varying percentages from each state.

If there are areas in your state that don’t have Senior Clubs, Student Clubs or Junior Clubs, there are Individual memberships available. Jimmie Sinquefield is the Individual Membership Chair. Also, you can choose life membership to NFMC for $200. $75 of that amount comes back to your state. Life members still pay local club and state dues. If you have questions about national dues, there is a dues chart in membership publications.

The other chairs in the Membership Division are made up of the Student/ Collegiate Division Chair, Lucinda Lear and the Junior Chair, Past President Michael Edwards. They are “overseers” of membership in their areas, as well as, all the other needs of their Division.

I’m sure that Ann Guest, the Senior Orientation and Leadership Training Chair, would be happy to assist with questions on organizing Senior Clubs in your communities. Ann’s contact information is on the NFMC website in the Membership & Education Division.

This has been a hard year to encourage membership due to COVID-19 and the quarantine. It will probably continue to be a hurdle that we have to go over in the coming years. I hope that we can bring new ways of reaching people via the Membership & Education Division to let them know the opportunities that await them with membership in NFMC. Another tool to bring attention to our organization is a nametag to wear to events, be they in person or online. The NFMC nametag is beautiful, magnetic, and easy to wear. People and their names are important. When you wear your NFMC nametag, it gives you an opportunity to talk to people about our music organization and how they can become a part of NFMC too. The nametags also make nice gifts for your state or local officers.

The key to keeping our senior clubs alive is YOU, even if we have to use online meetings to get it done. Please let me know if this division can be of service to you.

Thank you and stay safe.

Visit www.nmfc-music.org Your source for all the latest NFMC News!
IT’S NOMINATION TIME!

Here’s hoping everyone is staying safe as we deal with these challenging times. We were all disappointed to miss our conference in Indianapolis, but it was the only option. We shall surely look forward to being together in Virginia in 2021! The work of the Federation, however, continues! During a virtual meeting of the NFMC Executive Committee on June 23, 2020, I was elected chair of the nominating committee for members-at-large. Debbie Padula was elected to serve as secretary.

It is time for states to elect a state representative and to nominate members-at-large for the NFMC Board of Directors. To be eligible to submit nominations, a state federation must have at least three active senior clubs in good standing as of November, 2020. This will be verified by the NFMC treasurer.

The process for the election of state representatives is found in Article VIII, Section 3C, 1-3 in the NFMC by-laws. The name of the elected representative, their qualifications and willingness to serve must be sent to the chair of the nominating committee for members-at-large on or before October 1, 2020.

The information for nominations for members-at-large is found in Article VIII, Section 3D, 1-2 in the NFMC by-laws. Their qualifications should be listed clearly and concisely (limit of 120 words) and should include only Federation activities on the national, regional, state and local club levels. The resume and Form AD 1-2a (Guideline for Submitting Nominations for NFMC Board Members-at-Large) must be sent to the chair of the nominating committee for members-at-large on or before October 1, 2020.

States that do not comply with the deadline could lose their NFMC Board representation. This is important because the committee must have its report ready by November 1, 2020, to meet the Music Club Magazine deadline for the winter edition.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do for the Federation!

AMERICAN MUSIC DIVISION

This is the time of the year for family and friends to gather around a campfire. I thought it would be fun to list some of the old standards that are primarily geared towards children, but aren’t we all kids at heart? Get the marshmallows and a roasting stick!

A simple melody with repetition constitutes a hit around the campfire. That is how our musical heritage developed over the years to be handed down from generation to generation.

Here are a few to get you going. Feel free to email me your ideas for a future article!

Yankee Doodle
Kumbaya
Johnny Appleseed
Swing Low Sweet Chariot
Land of the Silver Birch
Edelweiss
Kookaburra
The Meatball Song (on top of spaghetti)

Oh When the Saints Come Marching In
She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain
My Grandfather’s Clock
I know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
The Wheels on the Bus
You are My Sunshine
Competitions & Awards News

It is always an exciting time as NFMC begins a new year of awarding over 750 thousand dollars in scholarships and awards at the club, state, regional, and national levels. The Competition and Awards Board oversees the awards of NFMC, establishing policies and procedures for all awards. While there are few changes in award procedures for 2020-2021 the NFMC Executive Committee approved the following changes:

- State auditions are eliminated for Student Auditions, Stillman Kelley and Wendell Irish Viola awards. States may choose to continue to hold a state audition but will not be able to use the NFMC website for applications.
- Requirements for the Student/Collegiate Composition Competitions were changed from the restriction that applicants must be music composition majors to accepting applicants majoring in any field of music.
- Current Young Artists and Ellis Duo teams may continue to fulfill contracts for two months after the selection of new Young Artists and Ellis Duos so long as the contracts are signed before the Auditions.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR COMPETITION CHAIRS:

This year sometime around August 1 chairs will receive from the chair of the Competitions & Awards Board Directives for Competition and Awards Chairs along with the three forms chairs will need to request payments for awards and judges. Please note this is a change from the past when chairs received the Directives and forms from the First Vice President. All those who administer an award will receive from the VP a statement of the amount available for judges. It is very important to abide by that amount. Remember that NFMC wishes to acquire the most professional judges for every event, but we offer an honorarium rather than trying to PAY the judge for time spent. Professionals are often required to present Community Service as part of their annual evaluation and are eager to include judging as part of that service. Also keep in mind all of our accomplished NFMC members, many of whom are outstanding judges.

DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE C&A CHART which will be available with all updates on the NFMC website by September 1. NFMC exists to promote music education and performing arts in America. One of the most significant ways in which we accomplish those goals is giving away a very generous amount of money each year. Yet some of our awards are not given because there are no applicants. Please help to recruit applicants for all awards.

What does one do during a pandemic after all cabinets, closets and drawers are cleaned and organized, yard work is done, all of the good movies have been watched and good books read, spices are organized and alphabetized, and your increased repertoire of recipes has resulted in weight gain even after exercising more than in the past? Why not turn your thinking and constructive work toward planning programs for your local music club for next year while thinking of innovative ways in which NFMC programs can continue even if being quarantined continues to be necessary.

The Arts Division of NFMC encourages inclusion of programs in the areas of chamber music, strings, international music, music in poetry, choral and sacred music and opera. Clubs are also asked to develop relationships which promote music in schools and colleges and to promote music service through outreach programs in the community. In May we will stress the observance of our 98th observance of National Music Week using the theme: “Music…is a Storyteller.” Two publications offered in this division, “A Year in Verse” and “Together We Sing” are now available from headquarters to assist in club meeting activities.

While the Membership Division includes ideas for club planning, yearbook ideas and study book suggestions, the Arts Division provides inspiration for specific projects on which to focus at club meetings. Reporting to national on these activities can result in merit certificates being presented to your clubs and also possible monetary awards (listed on the Competitions and Awards Chart) – 35 awards totaling $2700 may be awarded to deserving clubs and individuals participating in Arts Division projects. On the NFMC website check out pages 39-55 in the NFMC Manual (found in the Administrative Division section of Publications) for more information about these projects.

Many of these programs can be held virtually as well as in person. Chairs of these programs are open to accepting unique and creative ways of observing this work. When in person meetings are not possible, try YouTube recordings, Zoom or other online meeting formats for sharing music with others.

In order to get recognition or monetary awards from NFMC, completing reporting forms is an essential step. In the past we have required the submission of supporting materials such as newspaper clippings, copies of programs, photos, recordings or performances, etc. Since this has become rather cumbersome and costly, we are now offering the option of scanning or photographing these items and sending them via email with the reporting forms. See the forms, many of which have been revised or are in the process of being revised, for additional information. Our Chairs are anxious to share your creative ideas and to learn of your outstanding work and promotion, so we hope you will use this time of quarantine to research and incorporate ideas from the Arts Division into your 2020-21 club planning as you share the healing effects of music with others.
This year has been an interesting one and a challenge for everyone. In lieu of gathering for President’s Day in Indianapolis, the President’s Council met virtually on June 16, 2020. In addition to the State Presidents, we had the good fortune of having presentations from Frances Nelson, NFMC President, Natlynn Hayes, Membership and Education Chair, Julie Watson, Public Relations Chair, Dr. George Keck, Competition and Awards Chair, and Dr. Ouida Keck, Arts Division Chair.

In addition, this chair has been in contact with the State Presidents via email with updates from National.

Once again, it is important to be reminded of the three important statements relating to every State President.

VISION STATEMENT: The vision for our states’ Federation of Music Clubs is revitalization, collaboration and music appreciation, through music clubs in every community.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the State Presidents in the National Federation of Music Clubs is to serve as the liaison between national and state members, in order to communicate and educate our members about the purpose, mission and goals of the NFMC and our own state.

ACTION STATEMENT: The action of the State Presidents is to promote what the NFMC has to offer and to encourage membership growth through music opportunities.

There are plans in place for the Council to meet virtually again after the first of the year, where we hope to have additional guest presenters.

### JUNIOR DIVISION UPDATES

Coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic, social distancing. A few short months ago, we were unaware that these terms would have monumental impact on our lives as well as our organization.

It became apparent that NFMC needed to address the coronavirus that was having a major impact on area festival auditions nationwide.

The following guidelines were approved by the NFMC Executive Committee on March 21, 2020:

- All festival centers will comply with all CDC guidelines due to coronavirus.
- All festival centers are given until August 31 to conduct festival auditions.
- Festival auditions can be conducted in the traditional manner if allowed by the CDC or conducted electronically.
- All states are to determine the manner by which festival auditions will be conducted.
- The COVID-19 guidelines have been extended through December 1, 2020, for our Fall Festivals.

We will not be able to report on participation in festival auditions until October 1, 2020 due to the extended deadline of August 31.

This was the second year that our Junior Division competitions were conducted online. As a result, our competitions did not face the monumental challenges of our festivals program.

Listed below are competitions that had more than ten entrants:

- Angie Greer Junior Music in Poetry  41 Entrants
- Stillman Kelley and Thelma Byrum Award  16 Entrants
- Marilyn Caldwell Piano Award  17 Entrants
- Claire Ulrich-Whitehurst Piano Award 13 Entrants

Due to the number of entrants this year, the judge’s compensation was increased to reflect the increased participation.

Other highlights in the Junior Division this year:

- The NFMC Festivals Online Management System (Vivace) continues registering new festival centers.
- The NFMC Festivals Bulletin is introducing a new theory program developed by Heather Rathnau.
- Junior Composers continue to thrive under the guidance of Pat Steege.

Finally, a big “Thank You” to all Junior Division chairs who guided our Junior programs during this difficult time.
This has certainly been a most unusual year and one specifically for colleges and universities as face-to-face classes were discontinued and some are permanently transitioning to an online presence. Fortunately, NFMC was forward-thinking in the decision at the 2019 Jacksonville convention to make all competition performances submitted online in a digital video format. This made it possible for all the Student/Collegiate awards to be submitted, distributed and awarded. Our chairs have been working within the NFMC website and have suggestions for improvements to forms and access as we continue our forward-looking reality.

Dr. Liana Valente has been working on updating the S/C Auditions forms. We are excited to say that the 2021 Student/Collegiate Auditions submissions will be made directly through the NFMC website and all will be judged nationally. Entrants will no longer need to be a state winner to proceed to the national competition.

Jim McCutcheon, our Student/Collegiate Composition chair reports successfully promoting and awarding 3 of the 4 composition awards. NFMC Young Composers first place $1,500 winner was Adam Harzvi, Bowling Green State University. His composition, Meshugas was a chamber work for flute, clarinet, cello, and double bass. NFMC Young Composers second place $1,000 winner was Nathaniel Trost, University of Alabama, for Red, Blue Gray for flutes (Alto and C), clarinets (Bass and E flat), violin, cello, piano, (percussion, optional). Marion Richter Award $1,250 winner was Isaac R. Smith, University of Northern Iowa, for Three Etudes for Piano. Hatz Special Recognition $275 award winner was Nate Krebs, Ohio University, for The Daughter: A setting of text by Carmen Giménez Smith for SATB Choir and piano.

Music Education awards are provided for college sophomores and juniors. The solitary $800 award winner for the Mehan/Morgan Scholarship went to Sarah Hepfl, a sophomore at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. The 2020 first place winner of the Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education scholarship is Grant Goulson, who is a student at the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He is grateful for the scholarship, and says it will allow him to “spend less time trying to make money to pay for school, and more time in the practice room…” The second place winner is Asyjah Dudley, from Howard University, in Washington, D. C. She expressed her joy and gratitude at receiving the award.

The Ruth B. Robertson Music Therapy Scholarship of $650 was awarded to Hailey Jenison who attends Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. The Irma Carey Wilson Music Therapy Scholarship of $750 was awarded to Maggie Shorter who attends the University of Alabama.

The Dorothy Dann Bullock Scholarship of $1500 was awarded to Mary Pratt who attends Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Student/Collegiate performance awards all had entrants. This was the first year to offer the NFMC Guitar Award for $2,000. Out of several contestants, Carlos Bedoya, of Columbus, GA and student at Columbus State has been selected as the winner for the 2020 National Federation of Music Clubs Classical Guitar Award. This award was previously included in the Student Auditions categories, but was separated out at the 2019 Jacksonville convention. We are thrilled to be able to present this award in its inaugural year. A special thanks to Evan Fiehler, chair, for all his work in reviewing and building the promotion of this award.

The 2020 Carolyn Nelson Double Reed Award received 4 applicants from the states of Kansas, Massachusetts, North Dakota, and Texas. The first place winner was Leonardo De La Cruz, oboe from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He received the top prize of $1,250. The second place winner was Gwendolyn Healy, oboe of Lesley University. She received the second-place prize of $750.

The Oscar Valentin Violin Award for 2020, is Joshua Brown, age 19. Joshua currently is studying under Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory and has since 2018. Along with violin studies, he is also concentrating in Chamber studies. As a Stradivari Society recipient, Joshua is grateful to play on a 1679 Pietro Guarini Violin.

We had three contestants all from the University of Alabama for the Bluhm Flute award. Two judges from the Indianapolis area were hired. These judges listened to the recordings of each performer, wrote comments on a judge’s sheet and rated the contestants. Lauren Jett was unanimously selected as the winner of this award.

We had quite a few new chairs for the Student/Collegiate Division as well as this newbie Division chair, and I am so pleased with the communication and collaboration of all involved. Everyone worked together and with the help from headquarters a ‘git ‘er done’ attitude was adopted and these award chairs were successful.

We continue to look for best ways to promote these awards. As Cecil Fox, Jr., Paris French horn award chair so aptly stated, “the internet is obviously the best way to reach students.” We will continue to double up on our efforts to promote these awards and recruit entries through emails, social media and online publications as well as personal contact. All of the Student/Collegiate Division awards will be available for 2021 so we hope the success of recruiting efforts will produce good results.