



# Music Clubs

M A G A Z I N E

AUTUMN 2020 Vol. 100, No. 1

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# Music Clubs MAGAZINE

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# Message from the President

by Frances Nelson

These are such challenging times! No one could ever imagine the events we have endured recently!

It was a sad day when the NFMC Conference in Indianapolis had to be canceled! We all missed out on a fabulous time and a wonderful experience. Most states also canceled their Spring Conventions, and everyone has just stayed at home! Many of you have been able to participate in virtual meetings – something we knew nothing about just a short time ago.

Most clubs will not be meeting for the next few months, or maybe even longer. Creativity can help keep members communicating. We are lucky to have technology to bring us together in very unconventional ways! Virtual meetings, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram are just a few ways that we can try to maintain interaction until things get better and COVID-19 is brought under control.

Please remember to stay in touch with your Federation friends. Check on those who are older or alone. Try to have virtual interaction and remember that this will be over one day, and we will, hopefully, get back to normal!

Thank you for staying active, being creative, and always supporting your Federation. 🎵

*Create Harmony through Music*

### PRESIDENT'S THEME:

*'Create Harmony through Music'*

### PRESIDENT'S SONG:

*"Come to Us, Creative Spirit"*

Text, David Mowbray  
Music, Richard Proulx

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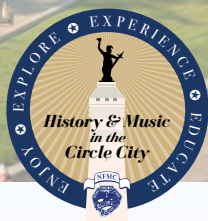
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# PANDEMIC DOES NOT STOP US



## NFMC CONFERENCE

June 16-20, 2020 ★ Indianapolis, Ind.

As always, everyone was full of excitement and anticipation to meet in Indianapolis June, 16-20. We were all looking forward to hearing inspiring music, seeing the terrific sights, conducting important business and then going home rejuvenated and eager to do even greater things in the future.

Many of us made our travel plans as soon as the spring issue of MCM came out. We reserved our plane tickets and hotel rooms, decided what meetings and meals we would enjoy, and began thinking of what new outfits we would pack. Members in and around Indianapolis, led by co-chairs Lisa Cremer and David Mannell, were scheduling local talent to showcase the finest music available. Tenor Paul Wolf, 2019 Young Artist in Man's Voice, was selecting and rehearsing songs for the final gala concert.

Then rumblings began to be heard about a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, which was sweeping Asia and Europe and was threatening to invade America. As days went by, it got progressively more serious, until finally it became a global pandemic. In mid-March, the country virtually shut down.

As spring turned to summer the ramifications of the pandemic continued. Teachers were

guiding students virtually; cancellations abounded with summer music centers, club meetings and various performances. Ultimately, and after careful consideration, Frances Nelson, along with our Federation leaders, realized we would not be able to have our national convention.

We are however; a truly resilient and resourceful group. The pandemic did not slow down our Federation members. Teachers continue to work electronically with their students. Clubs, boards and regions are meeting over the internet via Zoom. In many cases, and while socially distancing, clubs are meeting and performing in backyards and parks. Resilient indeed, for example, the 45th Texas Festival took place virtually with over 100 teachers and more than 1100 students performing their songs and receiving certificates, ribbons and cups. The winner's checks were sent via the mail.

Yes, Federation activities continued to take place throughout the entire summer. In July, Opera in the Ozarks' Dr. John Schmidt facilitated a great Zoom meeting. South Central Region members attended from their homes, or from anywhere in the world. Everyone involved heard reports, took important votes, and made vital plans for the future.

Many state Federations have had virtual meetings. On August 21st The Kansas Federation of Music Clubs (KFMC) held their 100th Annual Convention where Lavonna Whitesell, South-Central District VP was an honored guest. On September 16th The Virginia Federation of Music Clubs (VFMC) held their finance and executive meetings, which were wonderfully engaging. On September 18th The Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs (PFMC) held their state convention as well.

In the pages of this issue you will find numerous ingenious and innovative examples of how our membership continues to share our music. Musical groups are practicing and performing, Federation contests are taking place and awards and prize money are being given out all the time. The work of the Federation and the joy of making and promoting music continue. We have learned that we can still function, still make and enjoy music, and it is as precious and as sustaining as ever.

COVID-19 may have slowed us down a bit this year but our spirit continues to soar with the music that endures. Whatever life throws in our path we always overcome. In the prayer of our president's song, "Come to Us, Creative Spirit" and help us continue to "Create Harmony through Music." 🎵

# Navigating Difficult Times

by Karen Herndon, NFMC Chaplain

I hope this message finds you well and safely navigating these challenging times, even as we move into our seventh month of learning how to cope with COVID-19. Fear, stress and loneliness have become familiar emotions for many. Our social and even spiritual interactions have come to a grinding halt.

We have had no choice but to adjust to it all. It has affected some more than others: at home, school, church, in the workplace, in government and beyond. It has forced cancelations of special events, graduations, weddings, promotions, our beloved meetings, conferences and conventions; namely our June conference in Indianapolis. So much hard work; so many plans; so much excitement; all now put away until "next year." As disappointing and difficult as missing our annual meeting is, just imagine what our President and her team will have in store for us next year!

You all have been in my thoughts during this time of undeniable uncertainty and apprehension, and I have sincerely prayed that none of you have been affected directly by this virus. Recently, I ran across an uplifting article about a 102-year-old lady, and I thought I would share the gist of it with you. Lucille Ellson survived, as an infant, the flu epidemic of 1918; was a teenager during the Great Depression; was a schoolteacher and young wife during World War II; and now, at 102, she faces this pandemic, this novel coronavirus.

"Being brought up in a faith family, it was part of me, and it built something into me so that I knew during all of these difficult times that I would be protected." Lucille said. "There is no sense in worrying because God gives you the strength you need to get through those tough times."

Now I am not suggesting that it is easy to "not worry." That would be nonsense. We are human. We worry; especially under such stressful circumstances. But scripture addresses the subject of worry throughout the Old and New Testaments. We can take great

comfort in knowing that God has repeatedly assured us that He is with us and that He is in control. There are many, many verses, too many to list. But to name a few:

At the top of the list:

**The 23rd Psalm** (You probably know it by heart.) It begins, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

**Isaiah 41:13** "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

And my personal favorite (because it is often hard for me to be patient):

**Psalm 46:10** "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!"

And for some additional wisdom from Lucille, she advises, "Do what you can in your own little spot that you're in. Telephone people, send them cards, let them know you're thinking of them. I think a lot of people need that." (I would add pray – often and earnestly.) She continues, "I'm not in control of this virus, but God is going to see us through. It's all going to straighten out and life will go on. Thinking God is there with me helps me get

through each day." How simply magnificent!

I don't know about this coronavirus. Perhaps God wanted us to slow down; to take more time to notice and appreciate all the common things we may take for granted. Perhaps He intended to give us more time to count and be thankful for our blessings. You may have your own ideas. What I DO know is this ... It is the Lord who goes before us, and He will be with us; He will never leave us or forsake us. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be joyful always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances.

Take care, my friends. Stay safe, and may God bless each of you. 🎵



## Prayer for Peace and Patience

*God, teach me to be patient, teach me to go slow.  
Teach me how to wait on You  
When my way I do not know.  
Teach me sweet forbearance,  
When things do not go right,  
So I remain unruffled when others grow uptight.  
Teach me how to quiet my racing, rising heart,  
So I might hear the answer You are trying to impart.  
Teach me to let go, dear God,  
And pray undisturbed until  
My heart is filled with inner peace  
And I learn to know Your will.*

## The Positive Fruit of Tension

by James Hewett

*Theodore E. Steinway, president of Steinway and Sons, once noted, "In one of our concert grand pianos, 243 taut strings exert a pull of 40,000 pounds on an iron frame. It is proof that out of great tension may come great harmony."*





# Members-At-Large Nominations

Submitted by Harriet H. Coker, NFMN Nominating Committee for Members-at-Large Chair

As we continue to cope with these challenging times, the work of the Federation continues! During a virtual meeting of the NFMN 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 NFMN 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 NFMN treasurer.

The process for the election of state representatives is found in Article VIII, Section 3C, 1-3 in the NFMN by-laws.

## Article VIII, Section 3C, 1-3

1. Each Qualified State Federation shall elect one person to serve as a Director from that State for a two-year term. Provisions shall be made in the Bylaws of the State Federation for the method of election of this Representative. No person shall serve as the President of a State Federation and as the State Representative on the National Board of Directors at one and the same time.
2. Each State shall send the name of its elected Representative, together with qualifications and assurance of willingness to serve, to the Chair of the Nominating Committee for Members-at-Large. Such names and qualifications shall be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline of October 1 in the even-numbered year.
3. Failure of any Qualified State Federation to send this information on or before the deadline of October 1 shall be deemed a waiver of right to elect, and the power of election of such state shall be transferred to the Nominating Committee for Members-at-Large, who shall fill such vacancy with nomination for an at-Large member, to be selected from such state when feasible.

The information for nominations for members-at-large is found in Article VIII, Section 3D, 1-2 in the NFMN by-laws.

## Article VIII, Section 3D, 1-2

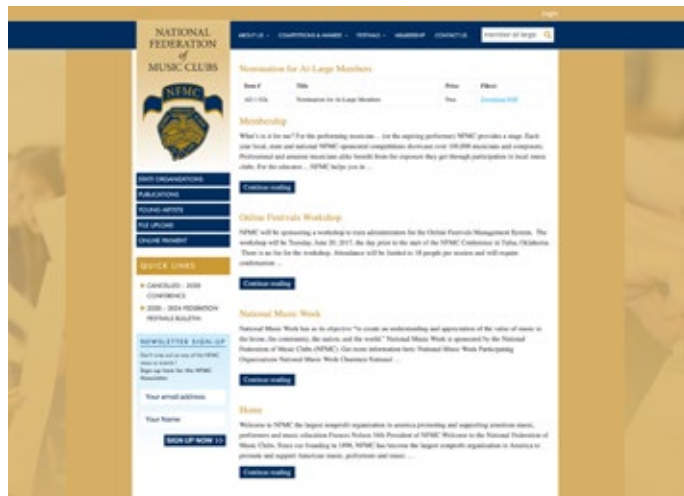
### D. NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE.

1. Completed Member-at-Large Eligibility forms for Member-at-Large nominees may be submitted to said Member-at-Large Chair by any member or organization. Completed Eligibility forms must reach the Member-at-Large Chair before October 1 in the even-numbered year. To validate Member-at-Large nominations made from the convention floor, completed Member-at-Large Eligibility forms must have been received by the Member-at-Large Chair via email

transmission one week prior to the opening day of the Biennial Convention.

2. The Nominating Committee for Members-at-Large shall give careful consideration to all suggestions but the final power of nomination for all Members-at-Large and Directors for any State which failed to elect a representative shall be vested in this Committee.

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 NFMN Board Members-at-Large) must be sent to the chair of the nominating committee for members-at-large on or before October 1, 2020. Each state president has received copies of the necessary forms.



States that do not comply with the deadline could lose their NFMN Board representation. This is important because the committee must have its report ready by November 1, 2020, to meet the *Music Clubs 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! 🎵

**Harriet H. Coker, Chair**

*NFMN Nominating Committee for Members-at-Large*

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## In Loving Memory



### Leon Fleisher

by Lana Bailey, 31st  
President, NFMC

**Leon Fleisher**, pianist (1928-2020), died Aug. 2, 2020. Fleisher was the recipient of an

NFMC Presidential Citation in the Opening Ceremony of the August 2003 NFMC Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Ouida Keck, NFMC president, and Laurel Ince, chair of Citations, presented the NFMC Presidential Citation to Mr. Fleisher after which he performed “Sheep May Safely Graze” by J.S. Bach/Egon/Petri. Federation members were spellbound by the beauty of his performance.

Leon Fleisher was a brilliant American pianist who studied with Artur Schnabel, won the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium piano competition at age 24, performed in leading concert halls around the world, and made recordings with major orchestras, of which his recordings with George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra remain benchmarks. In his mid-30s, he experienced physical limitations with his right hand that curtailed his extraordinary performing career. Throughout the following 30 years, he developed repertoire for the left hand, merged into the conducting realm, and was a premier teacher at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and Curtis Institute in Philadelphia as he sought medical answers. In the early '90s, Mr. Fleisher experienced improvement with Botox injections and began to revive his work with two hands.

His teaching and master classes around the world have influenced a generation of musicians who will continue his legacy of creating beautiful sounds, thoughtful analysis, and sensitivity. During his multi-faceted career, Leon Fleisher was the subject of an Oscar-nominated 2006 documentary, “Two Hands,” recipient of 2007 Kennedy Center Honors, and co-writer of 2010 memoir “My Nine Lives” with former *Washington Post* classical music critic Ann Midgette.

Although the world of music has lost one of its giants, his influence continues to thrive through his lifetime of sharing the gift of music. I am fortunate to have been one of those student recipients.



### Elizabeth Wiegand

**Elizabeth Grieger Wiegand**, 87, of Michigan City, IN, died Aug. 23, 2019. She was a Rose Fay Thomas

Fellow (161) and has an award named for her in Sacred Music of the Faiths. Mrs. Wiegand's work with the Federation began when her teaching class of 60, known as the Melodic Music Club, joined as a junior club. A hymn she composed, “The Answer is in Jesus,” was included in the Hymn of the Month book for February, 1986.

An interfaith choir which she organized performed for the NFMC convention in Grand Rapids, MI. She also composed a “Crusade for Strings Minuet” for the NFMC Crusade for Strings. Her interfaith choir established the biennial award in her name during the administration of Mrs. Dwight Robinson (1983-1987). Open to choral conducting, piano, organ or voice for students majoring in church music, it offers \$600 biennially to a student age 19 through 25. Dr. Paula Savaglio is chair of the award.



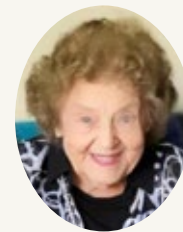
### Nannette Hanslowe

**Nannette R. Hanslowe** (nee Reese) died Saturday August 22, 2020 at Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly, NJ. She was 94.

Nan was born in Dallas, TX on August 7, 1926 to Talmadge and Mauva Reese. Nan spent her childhood with a large extended family. Very early, she realized a passion for piano and singing.

As Nan grew, her passion for music grew as well. She completed her undergraduate degree at University of Texas in Music and Romance Languages, and then went on to achieve a Masters Degree in Music Theory at the University of North Texas. Nan was very active in the Dallas Unitarian Church, where she met and fell in love with a young law student named Kurt Hanslowe.

It was in Ithaca where Nan's positive impact on the community was fully able to blossom. Nan taught hundreds of Ithaca children piano and singing in her home studio, as well as teaching music at Dewitt Jr High and Newfield Public Schools. Always positive, always supportive, children and adults alike loved making music with her. Nan was very active in the Ithaca Opera Association performing in many productions. She served in leadership roles supporting the Young Artists Program of the National Federation of Music Clubs, and was a fierce advocate of music opportunities for all children.



### Sara Moore

It took her almost 98 years, but **Sara Helen Copley Moore** – who was always fascinated by aviation – finally got her wings. Sara Helen Moore passed away

on September 3rd, 2020. She met the love of her life, the late Rev. Kenneth Robbins Moore, previous NFMC Chaplain, at Dilworth United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC.

Sara Helen attended High Point University, majoring in Music and Religion. Her lifelong passion was music – and she was teaching and learning well into her 80's. She even boldly took on learning to play the flute at the ripe age of 84.

She taught music at St. Mark's Kindergarten in Charlotte, St. Eugene's School in Asheville, and the YWCA in Greensboro. It was also in Greensboro where she maintained a private piano studio for years. She was a board



member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and also served as the president of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs from 1984-86. She was a life member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and a Rose Fay Thomas Fellow.

During her many years with the music clubs, she served in many different positions including chairman of American Music, Corresponding Secretary and Vice President in charge of the Southeastern region. Sara Helen was also a member and past president of the Euterpe Club of Greensboro. Sara Helen and Ken also traveled the US with the National Federation of Music Clubs.



## Vivian Acuff

**Vivian Acuff** was born on April 26, 1935 in Sarles, ND. She moved

to Bisbee, ND at the age of 5 and attended school there, graduating in 1953. Vivian then moved to Fargo. She married Lester Engelke December 12th and together they raised 6 children near Kragnes, MN.

She worked at NDSU in the Plant Pathology Dept from 1968-1972. She then began a rewarding career with IBM in Fargo. She married Jesse Acuff in 1974. In 1980 she transferred to Denver retiring in 1992, returning to Fargo in 1994.

She was an active member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and held many positions in the Fargo-Moorhead area Music Club and the ND Federation of Music Clubs. She was a member of First Lutheran Church in Fargo where she sang in the Cathedral Choir. She was a member of the Silver Follies while living in Fargo. Vivian also loved to attend the symphony and opera. She worked for Hallmark Corp from 1999-2015, at which time she moved to Mesa. 🎵



## CORONAVIRUS AFFECTS COMPETITIONS, AWARDS

by Dr. George Keck, Competitions and Awards Chair

The Competitions and Awards Chart was revised following Biennial in June 2019. Applicants for performance competitions this year were required to submit all materials online, including application fees and membership fees. This requirement streamlined the competition process, resulting in less paperwork for chairs. Most chairs found that judging fees allotted were not sufficient and many have requested additional money to hire judges.

The Competitions and Awards Board consists of all NFMCA Award chairmen. The Competitions and Awards Division consists of all award chairmen not included in other divisions. These are primarily Sr. level competition chairmen. The reports of the Division chairs follow.

Veterans Awards chair Paul Brady reports winners of the American Music in the Armed Forces Awards, Christopher LaRosa's "Falcon 9" for organ 1st place and Bradley Kerr Green's "First Flight - December 1903" for band 2nd place; Jean Lee, flute, won 1st place in the Lucille Parish Ward competition. There were seven applications for the Armed Forces Composition Competition and two applications for the Lucille Parrish Ward competition.

Beyer Composition Awards chair Dr. Donald Hassler reports winners Eric Mobley in Piano Solo for his *Sonata in F# Minor*; Jacob Beranek won in the Voice category for his choral piece *Abendgebet (Evening Prayer)*; Zach Gulaboff Davis won first place in the Chamber Music category for his piece *On the Trajectory of Light*; Steven Franklin won the second-place award in Chamber Music for his *Brass Quintet*. See separate article in this issue.

Youse Adult Composition Award chair Marschnee Strong received no applications.

Mayfield Award in Opera chair Margaret Ulmer reports this biennial competition will be held in 2021.

Ellis Competition for Duo Piano chair Debbie Padula reports first place winners of the 2019 competition were Portland, Oregon based Carney-Terrall Duo, Colleen Carney and Melissa Terrall. This biennial competition will be held April 9-11, 2021, in Jackson MS.

Martha Marcks Mack Senior Vocal Award chair Sara Kellar reports receiving three applications.

Gillian Riesen, winner of the award, is pursuing a doctoral degree in vocal performance at Michigan State University and has signed with professional management ADA Artist Management.

Ruth Morse Wilson Handbell Award chair Carole Langley received no applications because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vivian Menees Nelson Award chair Ann Stockton received no applications for this award.

PNP Virginia Allison Collaborative Award chair Kay Hawthorne reports the winner is Deborah Roberts who will perform this summer at the Aspen Music Festival. She is currently pursuing a masters degree at LSU.

PNP Dr. Ouida Keck Award chair Laurel Ince announced a winner of the award. It is included in a separate article in this issue.

Elaine Knight, chair of the PNP Hinda Honigman Award received no applicants for this award.

Young Artist Presentation chair Starla Blair reports that the current Young Artists have been contracted for a total 36 concerts and 5 workshops through July of 2021. Unfortunately, a total of 6 concerts so far have had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak happening this Spring across our country.

Young Artist chair Melanie Perez reports Auditions Semi-Finals and Finals will be held June 16-17, 2021 at the NFMCA Convention in Norfolk, Virginia. There will be a concert featuring the winners on the evening of June 17. The 2019 Young Artists Auditions were successfully held at the Convention hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. Compared to the 2017 Auditions which were held offsite with no members attending, many members were thrilled to be able to watch the semifinals and finals between meetings.

Summer Music Centers chair Mary Ellen Nolletti reports NFMCA's SMC Endowed Scholarship Program awarded more than \$34,500 to 33 young musicians attending 19 SMC. A detailed report was published in *Music Clubs Magazine* Winter 2020 Edition. In 2019, Curtis Institute of Music - Summerfest Harp Colony joined the SMC family. SMC Admission Contacts and NFMCA Representatives are listed in the NFMCA Competitions and Awards Chart. 🎵

# FFMC Celebrates Our Past and Present Leaders

Submitted by Cheryl Poe, President FFMC



Dorothy Reaves

### THE LEGACY OF DOROTHY DAVIS REAVES CONTINUES!

Fifty years ago Dorothy Davis Reaves, a retired music teacher and founder of the String and Orchestra Program in the Alachua County school system, was honored by her colleagues, students and neighbors. At her retirement in 1970, a grassroots campaign to recognize Dorothy's many contributions resulted in the establishment of the Dorothy Reaves String Scholarship Award. The Foundation for the Promotion of Music manages the Dorothy Reaves String Scholarship Award.

From 1948-1971, Dorothy served as violinist in the University of Florida Community Orchestra. She established the String and Orchestra Program in 1955, and later founded the citywide Gainesville Youth Orchestra and the countywide annual "String Roundup." Dorothy's tireless commitment to her teaching profession took her to all the elementary and secondary public schools in Alachua County.

She was active in many professional associations, including Florida Federation of Music Clubs and Florida Federation of Music Clubs. Dorothy received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Federation of Music Clubs and was named Musician of the Year in 1982 by the Foundation for the Promotion of Music.

Dorothy's three daughters, Carolyn Reaves, Martha Reaves-Head and Florence Reaves, along with many generous donors, have made it possible to provide more than 50 talented young string players scholarship funds enabling them to continue their studies in college. We hope that Dorothy Reaves' legacy will continue in perpetuity!



Linda Blessing

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FFMC 2020 MEMBER OF THE YEAR – LINDA BLESSING!

Linda Blessing has been and continues to be a valuable member of the FFMC Suwannee District. She currently serves as president of the Senior Club: Foundation for the Promotion of Music (FPM). Linda works tirelessly behind the scenes to insure that all recitals, auditions and festivals are well-planned and successful. Even throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, Linda has maintained positive communications with all FPM members and the general public. She has been instrumental in developing the new website for FPM.

Linda is responsible for coordinating liability applications for FFMC, and is on the planning team for the FFMC sponsored Jeanie/Stephen Vocal Auditions. She also served on the (boots on the ground) planning team for the 2019 NFMC Convention that was held in Jacksonville, Florida.

Linda recently retired from Oak Hall Lower School where she began the early childhood program and later taught elementary music. She served as church pianist in the town of Alachua for many years and continues to assist whenever needed. Linda also serves as recording secretary on the University of Florida Friends of Music Board and the UF Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae Board.

Because our FFMC 2020 Spring Convention had to be postponed, Linda has not yet received the recognition she so richly deserves. 🎵

## South Carolina Federation of Music Clubs Celebrates 100 Years

By Marcia Chaplin, Southeastern Region Vice President

Contributing writers: Beverly Henderson, Cheryl Poe, Donna Mitchell



In 1919, two women from South Carolina were contacted by the NFMC to consider establishing an organization of the music clubs in the state. Later, in 1920, a meeting was

called in Columbia and the South Carolina Federation of Music Club was born!

Through the years, the SCFMC has grown to include 20 senior clubs and 44 junior clubs.

SCFMC has produced 3 NFMC Young Artist Winners along with Past NFMC President Lucille Ward, and Deborah Freeman, currently the NFMC Vice president. South Carolina can boast of five clubs surpassing the 100-year milestone:

- The Music Club of Spartanburg (1904)
- Afternoon Music Club, Columbia (1905)
- The Music Club of Greenville (1906)
- Apollo Music Club, Bamberg (1913)
- The Rock Hill Music Club (1914)

Congratulations to South Carolina Federation of Music Clubs for reaching the 100-year milestone and to all clubs in the Southeastern Region. They have all earned special congratulations for sustaining our music education through all types of crises! 🎵





# Pandemic Shortens Club Year

By Dr. Ouida Keck, Arts Division Chair

This year has been an unusual in the life of our country and our organization. Unfortunately, club meetings were cut short approximately three months due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Even though clubs had planned and had featured outstanding programs related to NFMC promotion, the confinement resulted in a decreased number of reports received by all chairs in the Arts Division this year. Gatherings and service to the community were curtailed, but not forgotten. Our division chairs are working and dedicated to their areas and, with their encouragement, these programs will come back and thrive even more after being postponed and missed for such a long period of time. In the interim, it is my goal to work with chairs on more publicity, giving clubs ideas for future programming (much like the ideas mentioned in my "Interlude" article) and revising some of the website information and forms. I value each one, appreciate their work and prompt responses and look forward to a more healthy and productive year in the life of our country and NFMC.

**CHAMBER MUSIC** – Lorraine Long, Chair-A total of seven states submitted reports, and from these states 13 Sr. Clubs sent reports. Special recognition goes to Pennsylvania for clubs which supported a music camp and provided multiple chamber music programs. Many clubs are now incorporating chamber music into NFMC programs such as Parade of American Music, Crusade for Strings and National Music Week.

**CRUSADE FOR STRINGS** – Helena Meetze, Chair-A total of 10 states, 26 Sr. Clubs and 2 Jr. Clubs participated in sponsoring and supporting string performances and work this year. Five Sr. Clubs were recipients of NFMC \$100 awards and 1 Jr. Club was the recipient of a \$25 award.

**INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RELATIONS** – Sandra Anderson, Chair-Only one program was submitted this year and no monetary awards were given.

**MUSIC IN POETRY** – Margarita Harvey, Chair-Reports were received from all five NFMC Regions. A total of 13 states and 32 clubs reported work in the area of Music in Poetry.

**MUSIC IN SCHOOLS & COLLEGES** – Joel Adams, Chair-Out of the five NFMC Regions, reports were received from three. Seventy clubs completed reports indicating club and individual members' activities. Due to the closing of schools, many activities were not held or reported.

**CHORAL MUSIC** – Dr. Penny Draper, Chair-38 clubs in nine states submitted reports on choral activities ranging from sponsoring club and state choruses to presenting choral scholarships. Ten NFMC awards in the amount of \$100 were given for the most outstanding participation in choral music.

**TOGETHER WE SING** – Barbara Murray, Chair-Reports were received from 9 states on the use of TWS books, and inclusion of the Federation Hymn and The Star Spangled Banner regularly. These were basically the same states who reported last year.

**MUSIC OUTREACH** – Arlene Lewis, Chair-23 reports from individuals were received, and out of those, 14 deserved recognition for contributing 100 or more hours. One NFMC \$150 individual

award was given to Lenore Berg from WI. 32 clubs sent club reports and 12 states sent reports. Out of those 4 reached the goal of 1000 hours of service. The winner of the NFMC \$150 Club award is the Morning Club of St. Louis, MO.

**SACRED MUSIC** – Karen Herndon, Chair-Reports were received from 4 states representing 29 clubs. Out of those clubs 15 were recognized for outstanding programs featuring Sacred Music and 44 NFMC members have served as church musicians for more than 50 years.

**NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK** – Ellen Leapaldt, Chair-This year's theme for NMW is "Music...a magic carpet." This was the first year for online submissions for the Essay Contest which resulted in challenges which will hopefully be resolved by the 2021 deadline. Due to the pandemic occurring during NMW, creative ideas for celebrating safely were sent out in monthly newsletters.

**OPERA** – Margaret Ulmer, Chair-Reports were received from 4 of the 5 NFMC Regions representing 25 clubs from 6 states. 🎵

## Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award

Are you a high school senior who will be majoring in music next year at a college, university or conservatory? Check out the Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award forms JR 20-1 and JR 20-2 to find the rules and application for this \$1,000 annual award (\$500 2nd Place). The competition has a postmark deadline date of **May 1** so polish your performance and upload your video recording!

First or last movement from one of the Senior Class Piano Concertos in the 2020-24 Federation Festivals Bulletin.



Lana Bailey  
NFMC President: 2007-2011



## Public Relations Tells the Federation Story

by Julie Watson, Public Relations Chair

Public relations is a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their publics. It was exciting to see NFMC made an article in College Magazine June 2019 about Music Scholarships. Opera in the Ozarks, our SCR summer music center, was featured in the summer 2019 issue of Sigma Alpha Iota's Pan Pipes. Articles like these are a step in the right direction of moving beyond a "best kept secret."

Another great step is the work of Dr. Liana Valente with the United Nations. She gave a musical offering for a May 21 event in honor of International Day of Conscience, sponsored by Federation of World Peace and Love. You can check out her performance on our new YouTube channel. We are working to add more content, such as award promotions and winner performances. Please consider subscribing to our channel.

Speaking of social media and online presence, I'm excited to report that our Facebook Page has almost 1800 followers and over 1600 likes. Our Facebook group, NFMC, has 667 members. We are missing many of you! This

private group is for Federation business. You'll find reminders for awards and reports, winner information and event info. Unlike following a page, the page posts are more likely to hit your newsfeed.

NFMC has now come to Instagram (nfmcmusic). We encourage more interaction with social media to spread the word about NFMC activities, awards and events.

Media Chair, Valerie Harris only received a few reports. She plans to make more contacts with state and local clubs, including sharing info on how to more effectively advertise your events and promote art in your communities.

I'm proud to recognize our magazine editors, Jeanne Hryniewicki for Junior Keynotes and Jean Moffatt for Music Clubs Magazine. They have done a superior job of getting the NFMC news and information to the membership. Their job is made easier by our Editorial Board, which gathers news from regions, state and local clubs. We would still enjoy more local news! Editorial Board reporting: Susan McDonald, chair; SE-Janie Gilliam; NE-Mary Ellen Ulmer; NC-Mary Wescott; SC-Vicki

Carr; and W-Wilma Hawkins; send them your news to pass on to the editors!

I have enjoyed working with my PR Committee as we look at state websites and evaluate their online presence. We will be reaching out to webmasters with helpful ideas, including adding links for local club contacts. States without their own website have had a page added to the NFMC site with some info. Thanks to my PR Committee: Marschnee Strong, Karen Greenhalgh and Angela Teasley. We continue to explore ways to increase the name and visibility of the Federation.

With the Conference canceled, A/V Equipment chair, Zuill Bailey missed showing his expertise. The Chamber Music Award (Zuill Bailey) and NFMC Citations (Beth Harrison) are biennial awards to be offered this coming year.

As my first year in this position, I'm grateful for what we've accomplished and excited for the ideas we are still working to do. A big thank you to all members of the PR Division and the other divisions as we look to make NFMC more visible. I look forward to working with you in the coming year. 🎵

## THE CAROLYN C. NELSON AWARD IN DOUBLE REEDS



Carolyn C. Nelson  
NFMC President 2011-2015

**FIRST PLACE: \$1,250 | SECOND PLACE: \$750**

Applicants must be a double reed player between the age of 19 and 26 (at the time of application). Applicants must also be a Student/Collegiate member of the NFMC. Audio recordings must be submitted before **APRIL 1**. Submissions should be 15-20 minutes in length and must include a movement from a major concerto for that instrument. Additional selections should be of contrasting styles.

Auditions now being accepted. Further details can be found at [nfmcmusic.org](http://nfmcmusic.org)

WE WON! YOU CAN, TOO!



2020 1st PLACE:  
Leonardo  
De La Cruz



2020 2nd PLACE:  
Gwendolyn  
Healy





## SENIOR CLUB REPORTING: Summary by State

by Linda Flick, NFM Senior Club Reporting Chair

The purpose of the Senior Club Report is three-fold:

- ▶ For the state clubs and National Division Chairs to have a record of the events and activities in which each state's Senior Clubs have been involved.
- ▶ State clubs can use their report as a club record from year to year as to the accomplishments they have achieved.
- ▶ To be used as a reminder of all the many opportunities a Senior Club has in which to participate.

Every club should be congratulated for all their efforts and all their contributions. Certificates of participation and appreciation are given to every state who submits the ME 7-2, the State Senior Club Annual Summary Form.

I want to thank all the Senior Clubs who participated and sent in their reports. You help the NFM become a more informed organization through your participation in this reporting. Senior Clubs and more states should submit their reports so we can continue to make wise decisions on the events and activities of the NFM.

States reporting by region and percentage of Senior Clubs submitting reports:

| Region               | State / Senior Clubs reporting %  |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>North Central</b> | Minnesota (64%), North Dakota (100%), South Dakota (100%), Wisconsin (1%)             |
| <b>South Central</b> | Missouri (30%), Texas (11%)   |
| <b>North East</b>    | Michigan (100%), Ohio (92%), Pennsylvania (62%)                                       |
| <b>South East</b>    | Florida (39%), Kentucky (1%), Mississippi (50%), South Carolina (55%), Virginia (58%) |
| <b>Western</b>       | Arizona (1%), Washington (1%)   |

Several states had Senior Clubs that sent in the ME 7-1 report form, which I took and transferred the totals onto the ME 7-2 report form, which is compiled in the percentages above.

Each of the above listed states will receive an Award of Merit for their participation. Congratulations to North Dakota, South Dakota, and Michigan for achieving 100%! Let us make it a goal to have all states achieve 100% of their Senior Clubs' reports next year. We can try to achieve that goal by having each state president or state chair sending letters or emails out to each club in their state throughout the year encouraging them to send in their reports.

The number we should all be paying attention to is that we had 16 states out of the 43 states listed in the most current NFM Directory that reported, which is only 37%. Next year, let's try to make that 43 states out of 43 states reporting so that we can report 100% next year.

In order to give NFM a completely clear understanding of what the states do and do not participate in, requires more states to report which is very important for NFM to know what all the clubs are doing in each state. Let's set a goal for a higher number of states reporting! 🎵

## Where Are They Now?

**RAYANNE GONZALES**  
2007 Young Artist Winner in Voice

Following Convention in Salt Lake City, I embarked on a five-city recital tour in September 2007, with pianist Ann Rye at the invitation of the Arkansas Music Federation. Future recital dates were postponed with the approaching birth of my daughter in November 2007. Thankfully, Dayton Music Club and Virginia Federation of Music Clubs welcomed me back in 2008.



Rayanne Gonzales

On little more than a whim, I auditioned for *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and got the job! I debuted in Summer 2008 and baby Paloma Virginia, her grandmother and I became New Yorkers. Next, we set out on the National Tour of the musical *In the Heights* (by Hamilton composer Lin-Manuel Miranda) and saw this great country from nearly every corner.

Returning to Virginia in 2011, I began appearing in musicals and plays in the Washington, D.C. area. Some credits include the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, and Shakespeare Theatre in *Oliver!*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Carousel*, *Into the Woods* and *A Christmas Carol*. My TV debut came in 2013 in NBC's *Sound of Music Live!*

*In the Heights* has taken me to regional theatres across the U.S., including Philadelphia, Sacramento and Houston. I was honored to receive a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Performance in a Musical as Abuela Claudia in the 2017 Olney Theatre Center production. Please look for Paloma (now teenager!) and I in *In the Heights, the movie*, premiering Summer 2021!

I am grateful to Woodbridge Music Club; Zuill and Lana Bailey, June Schuffett, Debora Madsen, Paul and Elaine Brady. WMC still invites me to perform, a rare treat that keeps my chops up as I balance career and motherhood. The pandemic has canceled all of my work for the foreseeable future, but I eagerly look forward to being on stage again. 🎵

## Founders Day Honor Roll 2020

Submitted by Cynthia Elmore, NFMC Founders Day Chairman

Appreciation is extended to all the NFMC clubs that have contributed to the Founders Day Fund. These funds support the workings of the Young Artist Competitions. You will find clubs listed below that have made contributions. Please contact me at welmore664@yahoo.com if you do not find your club listed and those club names will be included in the next report.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>ARKANSAS:</b>     | Arkadelphia Philharmonic Club<br>Ar-Tx Music Connection – aka Wednesday Music Club<br>Bella Vista Adante Music Club<br>Carroll County Music Group<br>Foreman Thursday Music Club<br>Fort Smith Musical Coterie<br>Hot Springs Music Club<br>Jonesboro Treble Clef<br>Little Rock Musical Coterie<br>Mena Mountain Musical<br>Monticello Music Club<br>NWA Music Poetry Students<br>Pine Bluff Music Club<br>Walnut Ridge Shubert Music Club   |
| <b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b> | Devils Lake Music Club<br>Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Morning Music Club<br>Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club<br>Schumann Music Guild<br>Southeast Central Music Club<br>St. Cecelia Music Club<br>Thursday Musical (Williston)<br>Thursday Music Club (Grand Forks)<br>Valley Music Makers   |
| <b>MISSOURI:</b>     | Carthage Musical Devotees<br>Evening Etude<br>Kansas City Musical Club<br>Melody Makers<br>Morning Etude<br>Rubinstein Music Club<br>Springfield Music Club<br>St. Louis Music & Performing Arts Club<br>St. Louis Suzuki Piano Teachers<br>The Chopin Club<br>Wednesday Music Club   |
| <b>TEXAS:</b>        | Carthage Music Club<br>Damrasch Music Club of Brady<br>Etude Music Club of San Antonio<br>Fort Worth Euterpean Club<br>Fort Worth Harmony Club<br>Gulf Coast Music Club<br>Harmony Club of Abilene<br>Lubbock Music Club<br>Marshall Music Club<br>Music Study Club of Navasota<br>New Braunfels Music Study Club<br>Rockdale Matinee Music Club<br>Waco Euterpean Club   |
| <b>VIRGINIA:</b>     | Cadenza Music Club<br><b>Lynchburg Music Teachers Association</b><br>MacDowell Music Club<br>Music Study Club of Chesapeake<br>Piedmont Music Club<br>Rappahannock Music Society<br>Rappahannock Music Study Club<br>Portsmouth Music Club<br>Richmond Music Study Club<br>Scherzo Music Club<br><b>South Hill Music Club</b><br>Tazewell Music Club<br>Thoroughgood Music Study Club<br>Thursday Morning Music Club<br>Woodbridge Music Club |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>    | Balzoni Music Lovers Club<br>Canton Music Study Club<br>Corinth Music Club<br>Fortnightly Musicale<br>MacDowell Music Club of Jackson<br>MacDowell Music Club (Crystal Springs).   |
| <b>PENNSYLVANIA:</b>   | <b>Dushore Music Club</b><br>Harmonia Music Club<br>Johnstown Music League<br>McKeesport Music Club<br>Mercer Music Club<br>Mozart Club of Wilkes-Barre<br>Musical Art Society<br>Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs<br>North Hill Music Club<br>Opus 1 Music Club<br>Towanda Music Society<br>Williamsport Music Club<br>Wyalusing Musical Society. |
| <b>TENNESSEE:</b>      | Thursday Music Study Club of Etowah  |
| <b>LOUISIANA:</b>      | The Music Club of Baton Rouge<br>Music Teachers of Greater Baton Rouge<br>Metairie Music Club<br>The Music Guild of Monroe<br>North Shore Music Club<br>Bossier-Shreveport Jr. Counselors<br>Thibodaux Music Club  |
| <b>WISCONSIN:</b>      | Barron Federated Music Club<br>MacDowell Music Club  |
| <b>KANSAS:</b>         | Treble Clef Club (Pittsburg) and Music<br>Dramatics Club (Arkansas City)   |
| <b>SOUTH CAROLINA:</b> | Apollo Music Club<br>Bishopville Music Club<br>Crescent Music Club<br>Eau Claire Music Club<br>Fountain Inn Music Club<br>Holly Hill Music Club. Greenville Woman's Music Club<br>The Music Club of Greenville<br>The Music Club of Spartanburg<br>Orangeburg Music Club<br>Rock Hill Music Club<br>Union Music Club (2018-19 & 2019-2020)             |

We are also recognizing the following states that made contributions to Founder's Day but did not send individual club info to this chairman: **Georgia, Illinois, Alabama, Washington, Indiana, Minnesota, and Ohio.**

Clubs that included programs, pictures, newspaper clippings about their Founders Day programs will be sent certificates of merit to recognize their hard work in support of this project. Their club names are highlighted in **bold** under their state listing. 🎵



# NATIONAL Music Week

## ESSAY CONTEST

MAY 2-9, 2020

### *Music... is a Storyteller*



National Music Week 2021 is set for May 2-9. The theme is: Music . . . is a Storyteller. All of us have played or heard music that tells us a story; some of us that are composers might have the story first and the music comes from the telling!

As Senior members, we are the leaders in getting National Music Week celebrated throughout the country.

Although the celebration is many months away it is time to get the pieces ready for the celebration. We appreciate the essays our 7th-12th graders write each year for the Essay Contest. Encourage the youth you know to write that essay. The entry form is on the website AR 13-1. The monetary prize in each state is \$75. The three parts of the entry must be uploaded to the nfm-music.org website by Jan. 10, 2021.

I hope you all still have the National Music Week Brochure that was mailed to you last winter. The information for forms to use, chairman to contact, and ideas for celebrating are all in the brochure! If you don't have the brochure, you can order one from NFM; it's publication AR 12-4 and costs 50 cents. You may want to check with club members and order multiples and pay postage once!

In spite of the pandemic some states did a great job of celebrating National Music Week in 2020.

I pray May 2021 is more conducive to celebration! We've shown we can celebrate in many ways, and quality music, music performance, and music education are always worth celebrating. 🎵

**Ellen Leapaldt**  
NFM National Music Week  
Chair



## MUSIC OUTREACH REPORT

by Arlene Lewis, Music Outreach Chair

I was so pleased to have so many clubs and individuals participate and report even though their points did not meet the award level. It showed that there is an interest in this program.

**There were 23 individuals that prepared reports. The following 14 deserve to be recognized for reaching 100 or more hours:**

Lenore Berg, 352 hours, WI  
Cheryl Knutson, 270 hours, ND  
Arlene Campbell, 200 hours, ND  
Linda Royals, 200 hours, TX  
Mary Ann Whiten, 180 hours, SC  
Hank Roesing, 170 hours, TX  
Hiram Solis, 164 hours, TX  
Arlene Lewis, 144 hours, SD  
Melinda Boyd, 143 hours, TX  
John Robertson, 132 hours, KS  
Pat Shuford, 120 hours, SC  
Dorothy Trachte, 110 hours, MI  
Paul Jordon, 104 hours, KS  
Albert Brune, 101 hours, KS

*The winner of the \$150 individual award is Lenore Berg from WI.*

**There were 32 clubs that reported to their states. Of those, four clubs were able to reach the goal of 1000 points of service to their communities:**

The Morning Etude, 10,128 hours, MO  
Warren County Music Club, 6,810 hours, OH  
The Birmingham Musicale, 1,521 hours, MI  
The Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac, 1,162 hours, MI

*The Winner of the \$150 Club Award goes to The Morning Club of St. Louis, MO.*

There were 12 states that sent me their hours and I felt this was a great group. I am hoping this pandemic will not continue long so that we can be of help and encourage those who are confined. 🎵



## American Music Month – November

by Karen Bourne, American Music Chair

Have you ever wondered why November has been declared American Music Month by the NFMC? You would have to go back to 1987 to discover this. The National Federation of Music Clubs has declared the month of November as American Music Month. The Professor Rudolf R. A. Schramm was inspirational to the creation of the Parade of Music Award which encompasses all aspects of music. It was established in 1987 by the widow of Professor Rudolf R. A. Schramm.

According to the NY Times, in an article written April 11, 1981, we learn that Rudolf Schramm was a composer, conductor and arranger. He died in Westwood, NJ, at the age of 78 after a long illness. He was a former music director of the United States Office of Education and a cofounder of the National Symphony in Washington. Professor Schramm also

taught rhythm training and songwriting for many years at the New York University.

During the 1930s and '40s Rudolf was the music director of more than 15,000 radio programs on the ABC, CBS and NBC networks. He also composed 86 film scores, including the documentary, "Nanook of the North." Professor Schramm was born in Griessenberg, Silesia, educated at the Universities of Leipzig and Breslau. He came to the United States in the 1920s. His widow, Martha, wished to encourage NFMC clubs to increase programming and performance of American music, to bring more recognition to American composers, to stimulate public appreciation and awareness of American music, and to broaden the knowledge of American music.

If this intrigues you, take a look at the PROFESSOR RUDOLF R.A. SCHRAMM PARADE OF AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB AWARD on form AM 1-1. The reporting period covers the entire month of November and should be submitted to your regional chairman. Their contact information is on the AM 1-1 form. There are awards ranging from \$75 to \$300 for the winners. However, you may not wish to enter the competition. Instead, you may submit your program to receive a certificate of participation.

If your club wishes to participate, send reports to regional chairs postmarked by March 1.

### ★ REGIONAL CHAIRS ★

**Northeastern:** Karl Morris

200 Country Club Dr SE, Warren OH 44484, (330) 392-5690

**Southeastern:** Dr. Mira Kruja

PO Box 4743, Huntsville, AL 35815, (256) 372-4093

**Western:** Ruth Fleming

2411 Coventry Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526, (970) 222-3323

**North Central:** Jane Allard

PO Box 86, Jefferson, SD 57037, (217) 414-2150

**South Central:** Carla Johnson

2301 60th Street, Lubbock, TX 79412, (806) 535-5480

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Will this be the year that your Federation Club honors American Music in November? 🎵



# Financial Update

by Carolyn Nelson, Finance Division Chair



I'm guessing this is going to be a "different" year for most of our senior clubs. My club has short meetings on Zoom. The NFMC Executive Committee has been meeting on Go to Meeting. Some teachers are using Skype. It will be a while before things get back to anything like the way it was.

One thing does stay normal: NFMC is still operating and we have operated throughout the pandemic. We have been very careful with social distancing. Our hours are still the same although at least one of our staff has been operating from home. All orders for the new festival bulletin have been mailed out. Much of the income from sale of bulletins came in July (this current fiscal year). Expenses were down due to travel restrictions and no conference.

Remember that your club dues deadline is soon. All the 2019-2020 festival fees should already be paid. The following is the end of the year general fund report with comparison to the 2019-2020 budget. The 2020-2021 budget was posted in the summer online *Interlude*. 🎵

| GENERAL FUND ONLY, FOURTH QUARTER ACTUAL TO BUDGET (7/1/2019-6/30/2020) |                     |                  |               |
|---|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| CATEGORY  | ACTUAL              | BUDGET           | PERCENT       |
| <b>REVENUES</b>   |                     |                  |               |
| Dues  | \$201,244.25        | \$211,750        | 95.04%        |
| Activities (includes festivals)   | \$21,814.10         | \$56,500         | 38.61%        |
| Merchandise   | \$1,564.35          | \$1,300          | 120.33%       |
| Operations  | \$21,372.00         | \$23,000         | 93.36%        |
| Publications (includes bulletin)  | \$87,621.47         | \$142,300        | 61.58%        |
| Headquarters  | \$9,709.10          | \$15,500         | 62.64%        |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>   | <b>\$343,425.27</b> | <b>\$450,350</b> | <b>76.26%</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>   |                     |                  |               |
| Board of Directors  | \$20,816.52         | \$51,875         | 40.13%        |
| Annual meetings   | \$820.00            | \$9,600          | 8.54%         |
| Activities  | \$42,435.22         | \$31,500         | 134.71%       |
| Operations  | \$49,195.15         | \$56,450         | 87.15%        |
| Merchandise   | \$1,743.60          | \$1,400          | 124.54%       |
| Publications/Outreach   | \$107,523.78        | \$131,200        | 91.95%        |
| Headquarters  | \$129,837.70        | \$133,233        | 97.45%        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>\$352,371.97</b> | <b>\$415,258</b> | <b>84.86%</b> |

## COVID-19 Devastates Arts Sector



by Lee Ann Cummings, Arts Advocacy Chair

The National Federation of Music Clubs served as a National Partner for the Americans for the Arts 2020 Arts Action Summit. Originally scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. at the end of March, due to COVID-19 restrictions the Summit was held digitally at the end of April.

Three sessions per day were held online for five consecutive days. I listened in to several of the sessions, including COVID-19 Relief. The coronavirus has had a devastating impact on America's arts sector. Since the first U.S. case was reported on Jan. 20, 2020, cancellations and closings are taking place at thousands of arts organizations across the country, and two-thirds of the nation's artists are now unemployed. Americans for the Arts leads the three premier national studies tracking the human and financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the arts.

Nationally, financial losses to nonprofit arts organizations are estimated to be \$4.98 billion, to date. They have also lost 208 million admissions due to canceled events, resulting in a \$6.6 billion loss in event-related spending by audiences (restaurants, lodging, retail). The economic impact of these losses is \$1.9 billion in lost government revenue and 328,000 jobs no longer being supported.

Artists/creatives are among the most severely affected workers by the COVID-19 crisis: 62% have become fully unemployed and the average financial loss per artist/creative worker is \$21,000, to date. Nationally, they expect to lose \$50.6 billion in income in 2020.

Due to COVID-19, millions of Americans are isolated in their homes, and will remain so for a significant period. A new study is designed to strengthen our understanding of the mental health impacts of sheltering in place, social distancing, and isolation – and to determine if certain activities buffer against those ill effects (such as the arts). The study is a partnership between University College London, University of Florida, and Americans for the Arts.

Specifically, the bill includes the following arts-related items to address the continuing damage caused by the COVID-19 virus: \$75 million for the National Endowment for the Arts; \$75 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities; \$75 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; \$50 million for the Institute of Library and Museum Sciences; \$25 million for the Kennedy Center; \$7.5 million for the Smithsonian, Community Development Block Grants, Small Business Administration, and Unemployment Insurance.

In addition, an "above-the-line" or universal charitable giving incentive for contributions made in 2020 of up to \$300 is included. This provision will now allow all non-itemizer taxpayers (close to 90% of all taxpayers) to deduct charitable contributions from their tax return, an incentive previously unavailable to them. Additionally, the stimulus legislation lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for itemizers from 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) to 100 percent of AGI for contributions made in 2020.

The inclusion of these provisions to help nonprofits, the arts sector, and the creative workforce can be attributed, in part, to the incredible grassroots outreach by arts advocates across the country, coordination with national nonprofit coalitions, and Americans for the Arts and Arts Action Fund outreach to Congress and the Trump Administration.

Your NFMC Arts Advocacy Committee is Lee Ann Cummings, Chair; Ruth Fleming, Karen Herndon, Jeannine Morris, Dawn Steggerda, and Lisa Whitesell. 🎵



## NFMC CHORAL MUSIC REPORT

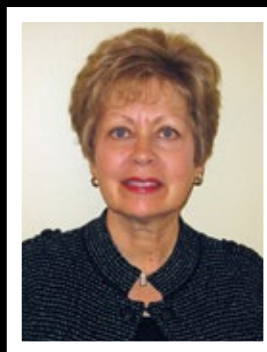
by Dr. Penny Draper, Choral Chair

1. NFMC Choral music reports were submitted by nine states: Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.
  2. 38 clubs submitted reports to the state chairs out of 127 potential submissions.
  3. Clubs having members in the NFMC American Festival Chorus: 13
  4. Number of states having a Festival Chorus: two (MI – 4 clubs participating; PA – 2 clubs participating).
  5. None of the states have a State Vocal Ensemble.
  6. Number of local club choruses: 26, with 8 of those in MI, and 7 in TX.
  7. Local club choruses performing outside of the club: 21
  8. Clubs having members participate in trios and duets: 25
  9. Clubs presenting a full choral music program by club members: 18. By guests: 7 (4 from TX).
  10. Number of clubs sponsoring a choral festival/concert: 11
  11. Number of clubs with members in community choruses: 24 Operettas: 17
  12. Choral scholarship awards given by the state or a local club:
    - A. TX: New Braunfels Music Study Club: 2 collegiate scholarships of \$1,200 each Johnny Samaniego-Lozano (TX Lutheran University) and Michelle Sanchez (TX State University).
    - B. WI: Barron Federated Music Club: Support for William Wiese to participate in the WI Ambassadors of Music Chorus as a member of the European concert tour.
  - C. SC: Greenville Women's Club sponsors scholarships Grades 1-12.
    - i. Afternoon Music Club awards \$400 and \$299 to audition winners at SC Choral auditions. Anna Klausli, James Thomas, recipients.
    - ii. Crescent Music Club: Greenville, SC Senior Grade 12 Vocal Scholarship; High School Vocal Scholarship, Grades 9-11; Scholarships for Musical Theater.
  - D. MS: Crystal Springs MacDowell Music Club: vocal music camp scholarship
  - E. ND: Williston Thursday Music – Choral Music & Music Theater @ IMC
  - F. PA: Dushore Music Club – award scholarships, but no further info.
    - i. Tuesday Musical Club of Pittsburgh: 4 vocal scholarships totaling \$14,400; 3 collegiate (Carnegie Mellon Univ., Longy School of Music; Duquesne University) and 1 to the Aspen Music Festival.
  13. No Choral works commissioned: (MI: Lansing Matinee Musicale did last year).
  14. Club composers of choral music: 31 (10 from PA). Teachers of Choral music: 53 (16 from MI).
  15. Collegiate level teachers of choral music: seven (four from TX). Choral Music Directors: 73 (VA 15, MS 14).
  16. Collegiate Choral Music Directors: 7.
  17. Most Outstanding Participation in Choral Music Awards: Waco Euterpean Music Club, TX; Harmony Club, Abilene TX; Lansing Matinee Musicale, MI; Monday Musical Club, St. Joseph, MI; Eau Claire Music Club, SC; Musical Art Society, Lancaster, PA; Tuesday Musicale Club, Pittsburgh, PA; Owosso Musicale, MI; Dushore Music Club, PA; and Barron Federated Music Club, WI.
- It has been a pleasure to serve as NFMC Choral Chair this year, and I look forward to working with Dr. Ouida Keck to update the AR 8-1 and AR 8-2 forms. 🎵

## The Ouida Keck \$1750 ANNUAL AWARD for the Independent Piano Teacher



to be used for  
Professional Development



Dr. Ouida Keck NFMC President, 1999-2003

This award provides financial assistance to an independent piano teacher who demonstrates superior teaching in the private studio and wishes to further enhance teaching skills. This award is endowed by funds given to honor Past National Federation of Music Clubs President, Dr. Ouida Keck.

For information see the NFMC website at [nfmc-music.org](http://nfmc-music.org). Click on Competitions and Award Division/Sr. Annual Awards. The application form is CA13-1 and deadline for entry is **MAY 1**.

For additional information contact Laurel Ince at [ljinced@gvtc.com](mailto:ljinced@gvtc.com).



## News from the Opera Chair



by Margaret Ulmer, Opera Chair

There are five regional opera chairs who work with me, and they are as follows: Southeastern Region, Carol Larkins, South Central Region, Connie Craig, Northeastern Region, Donna Gerber, North

Central Region, Heidi Hong and Western Region, Judy Prescott. This chair would like to offer gratitude to each of these people for their interest in and assistance with assimilating the opera reports. The reporting is as follows:

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Carolyn Copeland Reporting

**Texas** – Carthage, Waco Euterpean, Harmony, Music Club of Abilene, Marshall, Matinee of Rockdale, Music Study Club of Navasota

### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Carol Larkins Reporting

**Florida** – Choctaw Bay Music Club, Music Club of Coral Gables, Music Club of Hollywood, North Broward Preparatory School, Tuesday Morning Musicale

**South Carolina** – Apollo Music Club, Crescent Music Club of Greenville, Eau Claire Music Club, Greenville Woman’s Music Club, Music Club of Greenville, Spartanburg Philharmonic, Afternoon Music Club

### NORTHEASTERN REGION

Donna Gerber Reporting

**Ohio** – Dayton Music Club, Ashland Music Club, Marion Music Club

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Heidi Hong Reporting

**North Dakota** – Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club

**Wisconsin** – Barron Federated Music Club

### WESTERN REGION

NO REPORT

I would like to give special thanks to Heidi Hong, Jan Stoffel, Cheryl Poe, Chai L. Chen, Carolyn Copeland and Janet Nelson for splendid help to us. Also, many thanks to club presidents. We have all faced challenging times. This represents twenty-five clubs reporting from six states. Everybody else please come and join us. Opera is alive and great! 🎵



## A Note from your United Nations Representative: Liana Valente



by Dr. Liana Valente

There is no denying that we are living in challenging times. The world-wide pandemic is having a dramatic effect on all aspects of life. Each day shines a light on the harsh realities of our planet. However, the work being done by the United Nations and the Department of Global Communications continues. This work is

focused on Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and has never been more important than now. And while we are currently forced to physically isolate from others, we are also finding new ways of communicating and helping others through emerging and old technologies.

All members of civil society can access live-streaming and recorded United Nations briefings and meetings from the UN website. I encourage all of you to stay engaged with the important work of the UN and find ways to become even more involved. Visit: <https://www.un.org/en/civilsociety/>

We members of the National Federation of Music Clubs are resilient and innovative. Many of us have continued to teach, work, and share our passions while ensuring our safety and the safety of others. During this time, as a tribute to our members and our colleagues throughout the world, I accepted an invitation to take part in a virtual event celebrating United Nations Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development organized by the Federation of World Peace and Love (FOWPAL). With the consent of President Frances Nelson, I created a musical gift from NFMC to the world. This gift was a short video that combined my performance of an American Art Song by Dr. Sharon Shafer entitled Crossing with a slide show of nature photographs from the eastern US. It was part of the event that was live-streamed on May 21. All members and friends of NFMC can view this video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIL26gOcfSE>

I was saddened to learn that our Indianapolis conference was canceled due to the dangers of this virus. But I encourage you to stay engaged, share your talents with others, and keep us informed of your work. Together we can overcome any challenges.

Take care, my dear Federation friends. 🎵



# NFMC Young Artists Update

by Starla Blair Young Artists Presentations Chair

The National Federation of Music Clubs selected four outstanding Young Artists in 2019 to represent our organization for two years of concerts across the U.S. They are Alex Hersh, strings (cello); Paul Wolf, men's voice; Lily Arbisser Shorr, women's voice; and Susan Yang, piano. In Spring 2019 new Ellis Duo winners Colleen Carney and Melissa Terrall were also selected by NFMC. Immediately, state music club federations and clubs began securing live performances of these artists in order to grant much needed live performance opportunities to the artists.

However, since the COVID-19 pandemic erupted in March of 2020, a total of 16 performances have been canceled. It has been a devastating time for musicians across our country affecting not only our own Young Artist program, but countless symphonies, orchestras and music programs everywhere.

As a result, some Federated members have been "thinking outside the box" to find creative ways to utilize NFMC's Young Artists. One state,

Michigan, had Susan Yang and Lily Arbisser Shorr present virtual seminars to their junior and student membership. Texas is trying a virtual state convention and will have Paul Wolf perform online for registered members. Kentucky will also be trying an online state convention in November and will have Alex Hersh perform by Zoom.

So remember, where there is a will, there is a way! While the greatest value of the Young Artist program is live performances, we are currently in a very unique and unusual situation as a nation. Please don't forget about these talented Young Artists. Let's finish the two year term on a high note. Begin working now to schedule these artists to come to your state or club event in Spring of 2021!

To inquire about a Young Artist performance, complete an inquiry form from the NFMC website, or contact the Presentations Chairman Starla Blair directly at [blair.starla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blair.starla@sbcglobal.net). **Please do NOT contact artists directly.** 🎵

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## NFMC Music in Poetry (MIP) is Growing and Thriving

*Submitted by Margarita Harvey, NFMC Music in Poetry Chair*

Throughout centuries, poets have written of the power of music. Music comforts, inspires, and evokes passion. The words of poetry are powerful. When poetry and music are joined in tandem, the powers of emotion reach even greater heights.

Music in Poetry is one of the areas that our Federation emphasizes and promotes. The Angie Greer Music in Poetry Contest for our Juniors is one example. Our current NFMC President, Frances Nelson, has developed a book, "A Year in Verse," which contains monthly poems for two years so that clubs may easily enjoy the reading of poetry in their meetings. In the book's Forward, Frances tells of her mother's strong love for poetry and how she would quote many beautiful verses and phrases to her which led to her own love of poetry.

This year, 34 Clubs within our five regions have reported MIP activities. Music in Poetry in our clubs is thriving and growing. Over the past couple of years that I have been National Chair, I have learned there are many ways to appreciate poetry. Most clubs read one or more poems at each monthly meeting or seasonally. Some have poets within their club while others invite a guest poet/speaker. Some focus on poetry at one meeting, others study it throughout the year. Social activities and outreach are created by attending Operas, Choral concerts, Shakespeare plays, as well as other events. Clubs have sponsored poetry contests and raised money for various events that promote poetry

Our NFMC members are so creative and have found endless ways to read, explore and appreciate poetry and its music. These fun activities increase interest in, and the education of this wonderful written art form. For example, Idaho's President, Robyn McDonnell writes a poem to open every meeting. Jeri Landry Poetry Chair of the Metairie Music Club in Louisiana chooses poems in a theme for meetings, and has written new lyrics to the club's "Melodears" song. Marque McKay, Poetry Chair of the Etude Music Club in San Antonio, Texas, created choral readings from poems for the club to perform.

Kathy Folks of the Eau Claire Music Club in South Carolina chooses a yearly theme that coincides with either a national theme, or Music Week theme.

This year she also added "The NFMC Collect" as part of her theme. She writes a poem which is read at the beginning of the year. It is then studied and explored in parts throughout the year. At the end of the year, it is read in full again followed by a discussion. Minnesota Club member Bonnie Nelson is a poet whose poetry is commissioned for various events, one of which was the Minnesota Centennial Music and Crafts Fair.

Whatever your club and its members are able to do, I encourage all of you to explore the beauty of words set to poetry. There is Music in Poetry. ENJOY! 🎵



## SACRED MUSIC POPULAR IN PANDEMIC

*by Karen Herndon, Chair*

As Sacred Music can display joy and celebration, it also has a unique ability to bring healing and comfort in times of difficulty. As the entire world grapples with this coronavirus pandemic, we truly find ourselves in uncharted territory. As many are looking for hope, spiritual support and healing, what better time than this to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of NFMC clubs and members across the country?

This chair received Sacred Music reports from four states, representing the reporting of 29 clubs. The efforts of these clubs shall be recognized and commended for preserving and promoting the performance of Sacred Music in our country. Many clubs presented entire programs of Sacred Music, and some included it within other programs.

Sacred Music was performed in nursing homes, hospitals, and at interfaith programs. There were several Choir Festivals and reports of four Federated Choirs among us. Clubs in South Carolina and Virginia awarded scholarships for someone pursuing Sacred Music as a career.

### Fifteen clubs are presented this day, for special recognition for outstanding programs featuring Sacred Music:

- **From Ohio:** Dayton Music Club
- **From Pennsylvania:** North Hills Music Club and Schubert Musical and Literary Club
- **From South Carolina:** Afternoon Music Club, Crescent Music Club, Eau Claire Music Club, Orangeburg Music Club, The Music Club of Greenville and Union Music Club
- **From Virginia:** Scherzo Music Club, South Hill Music Club, Tazewell Music Club and Thursday Morning Music Club

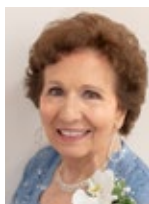
Also, recognized today are NFMC members who have served as church musicians for more than 50 years. We have 44 from states reporting. Congratulations and THANK YOU to the following:

**Ohio (8) South Carolina (25) Virginia (10) and Pennsylvania (1).** 🎵



## CRUSADE for STRINGS NATIONAL REPORT

by Helena Meetze, Chair



**Participating states: 10**

**Senior clubs: 26**

**Junior clubs: 2**

Alabama – 3

Arizona – 1

Kentucky – 2

Mississippi – 3

Missouri – 2

North Dakota – 2

Ohio – 1

Pennsylvania – 9 1 Junior

South Carolina – 2 1 Junior

Texas – 1

Total clubs with guest string performer(s): 16

One other scheduled, but canceled due to coronavirus

Total string scholarships: \$20,500 6 clubs

An additional \$2,600 was allocated by one club, but due to the coronavirus, the auditions were canceled

Total clubs supporting string festival and camps: 5

Total clubs sponsoring or supporting a string ensemble or orchestra: 10

Total clubs supporting local school string programs: 5

Total clubs with additional activities involving strings: 6

### SENIOR CLUB WINNERS:

1 - Outstanding Club: Tuesday Musical Club – Pittsburgh, PA  
\$14,950 in string scholarship

1,194 outreach hours by string ensemble (nursing home, assisted living, retirement and independent senior living)

Supported 3 string ensembles/orchestras

Supported 1 string camp

2 – Musical Art Society – Lancaster, PA

3 – Williamsport Music Club – Williamsport, PA

4 – The Morning Etude – St Louis, MO

5 – Eau Claire Music Club – Columbia, SC

### JUNIOR CLUB WINNER:

Workshop for Young Performing Artists – Lancaster PA  
Sponsored by Musical Art Society 🎵

## Martha Marcks Mack Senior Award Winner

by Sara Kellar, Chair

The NFMC 2020 winner of the Martha Marcks Mack Senior Award is **Gillian Cotter Riesen!** The \$5,000 award is offered annually to a graduate student pursuing a doctoral degree in vocal performance.



Gillian Riesen

Gillian is currently a DMA student in vocal performance at Michigan State University. She is endowed with a beautiful mezzo-soprano voice and very committed as a performer. Gillian has achieved many accomplishments performing two seasons as an apprentice with the Santa Fe Opera in 2018 and 2019 and securing leading roles with Opera Louisiane, Pensacola Opera, Opera Ithaca, and Shreveport Opera. She was a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (2018) and winner of the Mary Jacobs Smith Singer of the Year, Shreveport Opera (2018).

Academically, Gillian retains a 4.0 GPA. Upon completion of her doctorate this fall, she aspires, “to bring resources to singers who wish to perform/learn Polish Art Song – a genre long neglected.”

Gillian has recently signed with a major international agency (ADA Artist Management) to make operatic and concert debuts with Michigan Opera Theatre, Colby Symphony, Intermountain Opera Bozeman, Middlebury Opera and more this coming season.

Congratulations, Gillian Riesen. We look forward to hearing from you in the future! 🎵

## MUSIC THERAPY AWARDS

by Melba Maechtlen, Music Therapy Chair

The Dorothy Dann Bullock Scholarship of \$1500 was awarded to **Mary Pratt** who attends Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. The Irma Carey Wilson Music Therapy Scholarship of \$750 was awarded to **Maggie Shorter**, who attends the University of Alabama. The Ruth B. Robertson Music Therapy Scholarship of \$650 was awarded to **Hailey Jemison**, who attends Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

Bill Matney, assistant professor of the Division of Music Education and Music Therapy, and Cynthia Colwell, director of Music Therapy from the University of Kansas were judges. All of the students had excellent resumes and have much potential to succeed in the field of music therapy.

Two of the applicants received the information about the award from their teachers and one received the award information from the NFMC website. 🎵

# Many Clubs Use 'Together We Sing' Songbook

by Barbara Murray, Together We Sing Chair

## REPORTS RECEIVED: TOTAL OF 9 STATES

**MISSISSIPPI:** Bettye Sledge reported that 6/12 clubs reported; 5/12 sang TWS song each meeting; 1/12 included summer songs; 2/6 sang the Federation Hymn regularly; 2/6 sang The Star-Spangled Banner; 1/6 sang at Board Meeting.

**WISCONSIN:** One club reported – Barron Federated Music Club, Heidi O Hong, President. Heidi reports that the club sang at 7/7 meetings; information was read; used the summer songs; read the NFMC Collect; she reported the Goals and Methods were not helpful. She ended her report by saying her club looks forward to the songbook and liked the comments.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Rosemary Cureton reported that 7/17 clubs sent reports; 7/17 sang the song at each meeting; 2/17 included summer songs; 5/17 regularly sang Federation Hymn and The Star-Spangled Banner; 1/17 sang at board meeting.

**VIRGINIA:** Dr. Cheryl Brown Davis stated 6/19 clubs sent reports: 3/6 clubs used the

TWS songs; 2/6 used the summer songs; 4/6 regularly sang the Federation Hymn and The Star-Spangled Banner; 2/6 sang at board meetings.

**KENTUCKY:** Barbara Herbener stated that 3/6 clubs reported. State report showed 3/6 clubs sang TWS songs; 2 clubs used the summer songs; 4/6 clubs sang the Federation Hymn and the Star-Spangled Banner; 2/6 sang at their board meeting.

**MISSOURI:** Patti Grimmatt stated that 2/22 clubs reported. Patti reported that 2/2 clubs sang a TWS song at each meeting; 1/2 sang the Federation Hymn and The Star-Spangled Banner; 1/2 sang at their board meeting.

**OHIO:** Patricia Brooks from the Dayton Music Club stated that her club held five meetings but did not use TWS.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Alpha Roeszler stated that 2/9 clubs sent reports. Alpha reported that 2/2 clubs sang at each meeting; 2/2 used summer songs; 2/2 occasionally sang the Federation Hymn and The Star-Spangled Banner; 1/2 sang at a board meeting.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Santa Peters stated that 7/22 clubs reported. Santa reported that 6/7 sang the TWS songs at their meetings; sang the Federation Hymn and The Star-Spangled Banner at a couple of their meetings; 5/7 sang the summer songs; 3/7 sang at their board meeting.

Basically, the same states from last year reported this year. There were a few comments made that will guide me in the next issue of TWS. Overall the reporters were satisfied with the spiral bound songbooks and enjoy reading (and adding to) the Musical Notes. It was good to see that the Federation Hymn and The Star-Spangled Banner were included in the meetings. When selecting songs for the songbook, the public domain has much to offer. I hope to find another place that would offer more recent songs for little or no payment. One thought has occurred to me: Maybe there are composers of songs within our federation who would allow their compositions to be published in the NFMC songbook. I will investigate that. Here, in my territory, music has been given to us by a club member, and some of her compositions would be very appropriate. 🎵

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# Think Virtually!

by Valerie Harris, NFMC Media Chair

What an exciting time to think creatively about how we, the members of the National Federation of Music Clubs, can continue to reach our goals of supporting musicians in our communities and

provide an atmosphere of growth and creativity, even amidst the worldwide pandemic. Even though we might have a hard time meeting in person for the foreseeable future, we can develop new ways to adapt and continue to operate. This article seeks to stimulate your thinking about ways you can use technology to help your club have a wonderful season, despite the current challenges. Although it is helpful to have someone tech savvy (even today's youth are tech savvy enough to assist with most platforms), there are many very easy-to-use tools that many people comfortable with smartphones, tablets and computers will find accessible.

## MEETINGS

There are a number of virtual platforms you can easily use to meet together as a board and as a club. Zoom and GotoMeeting are meeting platforms that are accessible for free through the internet. Simply set up a meeting, share the link to invite attendees, and hold a meeting! Members can listen to the host, talk together, or even break out into discussion groups. It is possible to also use a free and easily accessible communication platform such as Google Hangouts or Skype as well. All are accessible via a smartphone, tablet or a computer. All accept traditional (even landline) phone dial-ins as well, if a microphone and camera are not available on the attendee's device of choice.

## WORKSHOPS

Workshops can be set up and run either as a pre-recorded format or as a livestream session through such platforms as Zoom, GotoMeeting, or BigMarker. The presenter can simply record the presentation on a smartphone, computer camera or regular camera and then broadcast through one of the tools just mentioned. This is even an opportunity to invite an expert who might live outside your area to present a workshop remotely. You can reach a wider audience through the virtual platform – it can be an advantage!

## RECITALS

Even though social distancing is required these days and audiences, if allowed, are limited in size, virtual recitals can be a very interesting option. This would work great for student, member, or professional recitals. Distance is not a problem ... you can also invite a performer (or performers) from a distance to record and send you their recital pieces. I recently participated in such a recital and found it very successful to have a variety of performers from across the country performing on a variety of instruments from various venues! It can be really fun! For instance, if you wanted to host a student recital, you could invite the students to record their recital pieces with their smartphones (or other cameras), send them to you in mp4 format, then you could compile them using a video editor, then broadcast them out on any of the previously mentioned platforms. This could be a great time to invite the NFMC Young Artists to perform for your club virtually!

## FUNDRAISING

You can organize a fundraising campaign through your club website or Facebook page through a fundraising internet service such as GoFundMe or DonorsChoose.

Think “outside the box” during this unusual time period. It's a great opportunity to think differently about how your club can achieve its goals in supporting and encouraging music and musicians in your community! Make it a great season! 🎵

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# Junior Division Report

by Michael R. Edwards, Chair

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 coronavirus as it was having a major impact on area festival auditions nationwide. The following was 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 tradition manner if allowed by the CDC or conducted electronically.
- All states are to determine the manner by which festival auditions will be conducted.

We will not be able to report on participation in festival auditions until October 1 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 10 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:

- Headquarters shipped 4,000 copies of the 2021-2024 Federation Festivals Bulletins by May 31, 2020.
- 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 Composer continues 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. 🎵

“Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without  
the words  
And never stops at all.”

– Emily Dickinson

It is with a hopeful heart that I write this article for *Junior* Keynotes. As I am

sure most of our membership would agree, we are living through what seems more like an alternate universe akin to a “Twilight Zone” episode than what we were accustomed to as the old norm nearly a year ago. However, just like music is the eternal language of the soul, hope is the lifeblood of the human spirit. The unique human capability to persevere through dismal times can be attributed to the everlasting hope we all embrace in our souls.

Be patient, gracious, and flexible during this tough moment in global and NFMC history. We really are all in this together and the NFMC family will successfully triumph with our collective souls singing hymns of joy and hope along the way.

– Excerpts from NFMC Festivals Chair Lisa Smith Report for the Autumn 2020 Junior Keynotes



## Michael R. Edwards

NFMC President 2015 - 2019

### Graduating Senior Performance Award

This award will be given to a graduating high school senior pursuing a music performance degree on any instrument or voice who will be attending an accredited music school. Graduating seniors must have earned at least one NFMC Federation cup. For rules (JR 22-1) and application (JR 22-2) and more information please visit [nfm-music.org](http://nfm-music.org).



Deadline: **MAY 1**  
Award Amount: \$4,000  
Chair: Michael R. Edwards  
Email: [micedwards@aol.com](mailto:micedwards@aol.com)



## PANDEMIC AFFECTS COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES

by Lucinda M. Lear, Student/Collegiate Division Chair

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 to our forward-looking reality.

Although our Student Auditions were not held in this even year, Dr. Liana Valente has worked to update the myriad of forms associated with S-C Auditions and provide ideas to consider and propose for the 2021 event.

Jim McCutcheon reports successfully promoting and awarding 3 of the 4 composition awards with the state of Iowa having its first S-C entry in years! There were no vocal composition entries so the Nadworney Vocal award was not given. The L.F. Olson composition and piano pedagogy awards are biennial and will be included in the 2021 report.

Music Ed 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. The two Van Roy Music Education awards went to deserving entrants in Minnesota and the District of Columbia through the efforts of chair, Linda Vollen.

Although this was not the year to award the Sacred Music of Faiths award, chair Dr. Paula Savaglio has included a nice tribute to the namesake, Elizabeth Grieger Wiegand, on her passing in 2019. The award recipients for Music Therapy went to two Pennsylvania college students [Temple University and Duquesne] and one from University of Alabama, reports chair Melba Maechtlen. The performance awards all had entrants and award recipients including the new NFMC Guitar award that was chaired by Evan Fieher. Nelson Double Reed award had two oboe entrants so perhaps it would be fun to include a 'big brother bassoon' in the applicants next year. The only entrant to the Paris French horn award was last year's winner and since no first-place award winner can win twice, this award was not claimed this year.

Both the NFMC Guitar award and Valentin Violin award chairs will be working on revising the required repertoire for the 2021 awards.

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 to "git'er done," these award chairs were successful. 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. 🎵

## DUQUESNE STUDENT WINS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

by Karl Morris, Chair



This year's recipient of the Mehan/Morgan Music Education Award is a student at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. **Sarah Hepfl** is from Butler, PA, and plays the piano and violin. She has studied both

instruments for 10 years. She has also taken voice lessons for two years.

Sarah plays in the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra and has been invited to play in the Duquesne Chamber Orchestra. She has also been in a Chamber Music Class where she played in a chamber group. Another performance opportunity was given to her by the associate dean of the Mary Pappert School of Music, Dr. Rachel Whitcomb. She asked Sarah to play fiddle in her faculty concert, which was out of her comfort zone as a classically trained violinist. This pushed her to learn to improvise and she felt that her musicianship grew through the preparation and performance in Dr. Whitcomb's concert.

Sarah's professional career includes being secretary and president of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) chapter at Duquesne. She says that this position has taught her how to lead and work with others, as well as to manage money and plan events. Under her leadership, the chapter has raised enough money to almost completely cover students' cost for attending the ASTA National Conference.



Sarah Hepfl

The biggest opportunity that she has had in her freshmen year is working with the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra, a youth orchestra program of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In this position, she has set up and torn down rehearsal spaces, logged music for each ensemble, and worked with both students and parents. The communication with the students is her favorite part of the job and she feels it has helped her grow as a teacher. Sarah tends to be a quiet person and this position has pushed her out of her comfort zone through making announcements, giving directions and problem-solving in real time. 🎵

# Exceptional Young Composers Seed Us in a Grievous Dry Moment



## EMIL AND RUTH BEYER COMPOSITION AWARDS

by Dr. Donald M. Hassler, Chair, Emil and Ruth Beyer Composition Awards

In the spring of 2020, four outstanding musicians in their 20s have been chosen as a full contingent in the Beyer competition. Both their locations now across the country as well as their performance skills and composing insights seem to me particularly appropriate, and almost uncanny, to help us reset in this terrible year of pandemic.

It just happens that each builds their compositions on excellent performance skills and each, though only in their 20s as specified in the Beyer requirements, has been wonderfully active in civic positions where they can present their work to congregated audiences – though much of it is also available electronically. We have been sent especially good talent this year so that we should feel fortunate in an unlucky time. Also, there seems to be an interesting dynamic in each of their works between the virtuosity of performance and the spark of composition. My judges and I worked hard in making the choices below. The chosen now have, we think, great promise for the future of our country. At a time when so much is closing down, NFMCA should feel good about its stewardship established in these awards. Surely, these four young men can help in the opening up of the country as, just by lucky chance, their work reaches from Birmingham in the southeast to Salem, Oregon in the northwest as well as from solo work to choral to ensemble. Each bio is, also, huge for individuals in their 20s. I summarize them below in the order in which the awards are listed in the descriptions of the Beyer and name their winning compositions.



Eric Mobley

**Eric Mobley** won in Piano Solo for his *Sonata in F# Minor*. He was a 2017 graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham in mechanical engineering and in music technology. He also concentrated in piano performance in college, and the judges found his work to lean heavily on performance skills with enough compositional intensity and interest to spark the piece for the first-place award. The judges and I had fine discussions about the link of performance skills to composing. Mobley has performed

with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He began his piano work with an interest in jazz but is now firmly committed, also, to classical repertoire.

**Jacob Beranek** won in the Voice category for his choral piece *Abendgebet (Evening Prayer)* a tribute to Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He is composer-in-residence at the Summer Music Festival in Door County, WI, and is just completing his senior year at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music in Nashville. His work has been performed by the Grammy-nominated ALIAS Chamber ensemble in Nashville, and he has work scheduled to be performed by the Berlin Philharmonic this summer if Germany is enough free of the pandemic by then. A chamber music piece of his won first place in the Beyer last year.



Jacob Beranek



Steven Franklin

**Steven Franklin** won the second-place award in Chamber Music for his *Brass Quintet*. He currently holds the chair as Associate Principal Trumpet with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared as guest principal trumpet with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has performed as soloist with the New World Symphony, the Ocean City Pops, the Masterworks Festival Orchestra, and the Lynn Philharmonica. He lives in Missouri, with his wife, flutist Naomi Franklin.

**Zach Gulaboff Davis** won first place in the Chamber Music category for his piece *On the Trajectory of Light*. He is the oldest of the winners, a little over a year from his 30th birthday; and a year ago when he was studying in New York City he took second place in this category of the Beyer. He holds degrees in composition from Mannes College of Music and the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Back on the West Coast now, his works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania as well as in Europe.



Zach Gulaboff Davis

This is truly an outstanding set of young men. 🎵





## EXCITING CHANGES OCCUR TO THE BIENNIAL STUDENT/COLLEGIATE COMPETITION

by Dr. Liana Valente, Competition Chairperson

Every two years NFMC conducts the Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition for collegiate musicians age 19 through 25. Divided into distinct vocal and instrumental categories, students in the past have attended live auditions in their states with state winners invited to compete at the national level. During the 2019 National Convention, NFMC approved the change from live auditions to virtual video auditions, allowing students to upload audition materials directly to the Federation website.

In the first few months of 2020 we all began to be affected by the global pandemic and by March our lives had started to radically change. Our members understand the challenges and realities of COVID-19 all too well but we are a resilient group of dedicated musicians; during this time, teachers and students alike have found ways to shift from in-person lessons, rehearsals and performances to virtual events using a number of different technologies. We applaud all of our teachers and students for their ability to quickly adjust to the changing situation. With the 2019 shift to video submissions, NFMC was ready and able to successfully

hold 2020 national auditions and competitions remotely with great success.

We are excited to share with you changes for the 2021 Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition. It is our hope that now even more musicians will be able to participate. Please encourage all eligible students you know to take advantage of the opportunities offered by NFMC. We look forward to viewing outstanding auditions this coming academic year!

An Explanation of the New Rules and Procedures for the Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition in effect as of the 2020 – 2021 school year:

- 1. Students will compete directly at the National Level.** The requirement that students must first win at the state level has been removed. In the past, many students were unable to participate in a state competition due to the expense of travel or the fact that their state did not hold a competition; these circumstances prevented them from participating in our National auditions. Allowing all students to compete at the National level will ensure that all qualified musicians will be able to participate.
- 2. The deadline to submit all materials is February 15, 2021.** All forms associated with the Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition will be available for download from the NFMC website starting in September (<https://www.nfmc-music.org/>). When students are ready to submit, they are encouraged to gather all required materials and upload to the NFMC website in one session.
- 3. All auditions will be submitted as video recordings directly to the NFMC website.** To ensure the safety of all involved, and to allow more students to participate regardless of geographical location, no live, in-person auditions will be held.
- 4. FOR 2021 – Students may submit performances using pre-recorded accompaniments.** Due to the dangers of COVID-19, it is imperative that we are all able to safely participate in music-making. Therefore, all competitors may, at their discretion, use any pre-recorded accompaniment tracks for their performances they choose. These may be tracks recorded by their collaborative pianists, available on app websites, accessed from publisher websites, located on published CDs, etc.
- 5. All audition materials will be uploaded directly to the NFMC website (<https://upload.nfmc-music.org/>).** This includes all required forms and documents, application fee, and membership fee (if required).
- 6. Students will compete in one of eighteen categories.** Please note that the categories for Harp and Guitar have been removed from the Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition since there are already sizable awards available through other NFMC competitions.

### 2020 Student/Collegiate Composition Award



by Jim McCutcheon, Student/Collegiate Composition Division Chair

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.

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, for Three Etu-des 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.

The NFMC Devora Nadworney Award is specified for a vocal solo composition and since there were no compositions submitted for that genre this year, this \$1,000 award was not made. A total of 4 submissions were received and of those there was one for SATB choir and piano, one for solo piano, and two for chamber groups. 🎵

7. **Qualified musicians from across the country will judge the auditions.** With the elimination of in-person auditions, we will engage outstanding judges from across the country (and potentially across the globe) to adjudicate the auditions. The decisions of the judges will be final.
8. **Winners may be invited to perform at the 2021 NFMC Biennial Convention in Norfolk, VA.** Winners may also be invited to perform at future national or regional conferences and conventions, or regional/state/local meetings.
9. **The application fee will remain \$30.**
10. **Competitors must use only current forms downloadable from the NFMC website.** Updated forms will be available online by September.
11. **Previous First Place National Winners are not eligible to participate again in the same category.** Any student who was a first-place national winner in a previous Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition may not compete again in that same category. However, a previous national winner may compete in a different category. For example, a student who previously won the organ category may compete in the piano category. Similarly, a student who previously won the viola category may compete in the violin category.

Please contact the chairperson of the Student/Collegiate Biennial Competition with any questions or concerns: Dr. Liana Valente  
Liana@omegatawer.com 🎵

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- 10.16: Warsaw
- 10.17: Warsaw
- 10.18: Warsaw > Wrocław
- 10.19: Wrocław
- 10.20: Wrocław > Duszniki-Zdrój
- 10.21: Duszniki-Zdrój > Kraków
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## The NFMC Elizabeth Paris French Horn Award

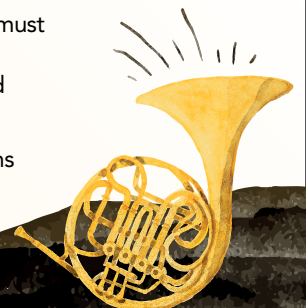


**Elizabeth Paris**  
NFMC President  
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This \$2000 annual award is for those students studying french horn. Applicants must have reached their 19th but not their 26th birthday by application deadline. Applicants must also be a Student/Collegiate member of the NFMC and upload their competition recording to the NFMC website.

For information see the NFMC website at [nfm-music.org](http://nfm-music.org). Click on Competitions and Award Division/Student/Collegiate Awards. The application form is ST 15-1 and the deadline for entry is **APRIL 1**.

For additional information contact Chairman Cecil Fox [ccolefox@aol.com](mailto:ccolefox@aol.com)





# 2020 Carolyn Nelson Award in Double Reeds Winners

Submitted by *Tim Baumann, Carolyn Nelson Award in Double Reeds Chair*

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



### FIRST PLACE

*Leonardo De La Cruz*

Hailing from Spring, Texas, Leo De La Cruz is an active and dedicated musician-scholar. He is currently pursuing master's degrees in Oboe Performance and Music Theory at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, where he studies oboe with Dr. Mark Ostoich, Dwight Parry and Christopher Philpotts. His success in competitions has earned him solo concerto appearances with the CCM Chamber Winds (Cincinnati, OH) and the Furman Symphony Orchestra (Greenville, SC). He was also awarded honorable mentions in the 2020 Yamaha Young

Performing Artists Competition and the 2018 South Carolina MTNA Solo Young Artist Competition. He previously studied with Petrea Warneck at Furman University, where he was named the school's 2018-2019 Presser Scholar and graduated with degrees in Oboe Performance and Music Theory.

Leo has a strong passion for collaboration and chamber music and performs regularly in a wide variety of ensembles. He also regularly

supports the proliferation of new music, having commissioned and premiered works with the Mezcla Reeds (reed quintet) and the Anemology Trio (oboe, horn and saxophone). When not making reeds or reading music theory articles, he enjoys dabbling in arranging music for various (and sometimes unusual!) ensembles.



### SECOND PLACE

*Gwendolyn Healy*

Gwen Healy is a first-year graduate student at Lesley University in Boston, MA. She is originally from a small town in Western New York, but moved to Boston last year to pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling and music therapy. While she primarily plays guitar and piano in her clinical internship with elementary school students, she still finds time for her first love in music, the oboe. She plans to work with children or adolescents as a music therapist after board certification in 2021. Gwen would like to thank her family and past and present music educators for their continued support and encouragement in her career development. 🎵



Visit [nfmc-music.org](https://www.nfmc-music.org)

for all the latest NFMC news, events and awards.

## Elizabeth Paris French Horn Award Update

Submitted by *Cecil Fox, Elizabeth Paris French Horn Award Chair*

In the 2018-2019 report for the Elizabeth Paris French Horn award, an entrant was announced. Since that time a winner has been declared. **Mallory Bowman**, student at Depauw University, was awarded \$1,750 in June, 2019.

During this year, your chairman has been in contact with two students who expressed interest in entering the 2020 competition. Unfortunately, the coronavirus intervened and entries were not received. Hopefully these students will work toward application next year.

The only entry received this year was last year's winner. The NFMC rules and regulations prohibit a student winning the award twice so that entry was disqualified.

Many thanks to those who promoted this award through the Music Clubs Magazine and the NFMC Facebook page. The internet is obviously the best way to reach students. This chairman will continue to promote the award and hope for a winner next year. 🎵



## Ernest Bluhm Flute Award Winner

by Lisa Cremer, Chair



I had the pleasure of chairing the Ernest A. Bluhm Flute Competition for the first time this year.

We had three contestants all from the University of Alabama. 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.

Since this was my first year with this competition, I did not change anything from prior years. Now that I have had a chance to go through the competition, I have some ideas on how to make things easier for next year. I noticed that all the judges need is a score sheet for each contestant, one document with rules and procedures and then I sent them the form that had the requirements for applicants. Basically, I combined three forms into two for the judges.

In a time where electronics are moving very quickly, I feel that we need to meet our contestants in the world in which they live. The application forms that are either to be filled out online, printed, signed, scanned and reuploaded are very much not in their world. Next year I believe we will utilize a writable PDF form for applicants along with standardizing the file naming conventions for both the applications and video submissions.

One last item I would like to clarify is in regards to scores. For the flute competition, there was standard repertoire but also some obscure things that the judges did not have in their library. One student uploaded a pdf file with her music. The other two did not. I asked them to send me their scores via email in a pdf file so my judges had everything.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I hope some of my ideas will be considered for next year to make things easier for everyone. 🎵

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Dr. Christie Sowby

## OUIDA KECK AWARD WINNER

by Laurel Ince, Chair

**Dr. Christie Sowby** from Utah is the recipient of the \$1,750 Dr. Ouida Keck Award for the Professional Development for the Independent Piano Teacher. Christi will use the funding from the award to go toward the Peery Certification program for piano teachers via weekly video conferencing.

The Peery program focuses on correct piano technique, pedagogy topics, repertoire selection, practice

techniques and more. The weekly master classes will be based on recordings of her students for evaluation from piano pedagogues and concert pianists Irene Peery Fox and Christi Peery Skousen. They will instruct her about how to improve the students.

Teachers may apply by May 1, 2020 for the annual Keck Award through the National Federation of Music Clubs Adult Pedagogy section. 🎵

## 2020 Oscar Valentin Violin Award

Submitted by *Bobbie Satterwhite, Oscar Valentin Wilkins Violin Award Chair*

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of 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 Peitro Guarani Violin.

The list of competitions and awards for this young man are too long for this report, but I would like state a few of the more recent awards he has received. As follows: 2019 International Violin Competition of Leopold Mozart: First Prize, "Mozart" Prize, Audience Award, Chairman of the Jury Special Prize, Kronberg Academy Special Prize, and Cd Production Special Prize 2019 National Federation of Music Clubs National Collegiate Auditions: String winner 2018 Yamaha Young Performing Artist Auditions: Winner 2018 National Federation of Music Clubs Stallman Kelley Competition: State and National Winner.

The NFMCC Student Collegiate division is not as strong as the Junior Division, and we as chairmen have the opportunity to help promote this division and the wonderful scholarships and awards that have been established. When we draw attention with a wider audience, opportunities open up to bringing in additional awards from individuals and organizations looking for ways to financially promote music. This award is not well known nor had been advertised well in the past, and as chairman, I will be working hard to promote this award and bring in more applicants. As this violin award is promoted, it brings attention to the other string events.

I have enjoyed my first year handling this award and look forward to many more years! My goal is to bring attention to this award and other collegiate events. As I have contacted several people, they have indicated no knowledge of scholarship opportunities in the collegiate division. We have a lot of work to do and as we work together, we can help promote these events and bring attention to excellence as our work broadens the spectrum with more and more applicants who apply.

There was only one applicant for 2020. I am open to any suggestions and great ideas anyone may have as to the best approach and most effective way to bring attention to these events/awards to help bring in more applicants. As we bring in more applicants, it opens the door for more financial funding. 🎵

## 2020 GRETCHEN E. VAN ROY MUSIC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by *Linda Vollen, Chair*

We had a number of entrants apply by the April 1st deadline for the Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education Scholarship. Three others expressed interest, or sent some of the required documents. The 2020 first-place winner is **Grant Goulson**, 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.

All of the submissions and payments were online. The winner found out about the scholarship from the NFMCC website, and the second-place winner, from the teacher. The applications of all the students were forwarded via e-mail to the judges, who then replied via e-mail. That was very convenient for all involved. The scholarship is much appreciated by those who applied. 🎵

## NFMCC GUITAR AWARD

Submitted by *Lucinda Lear, Division Chair*

This was the first year to offer the NFMCC Guitar Award for \$2,000. Out of several contestants, **Carlos Bedoya**, of Columbus, GA, a student at Columbus State, has been selected as the winner for the 2020 National Federation of Music Clubs Classical Guitar Award. This award was 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 Fiehrer, chair, for all his work in building and promoting this event. 🎵

## VIRGINIA ALLISON AWARD IN COLLABORATIVE PIANO

Submitted by *Kay Hawthorne, Chair*

I am pleased to report that the winner of this award is **Deborah Robertson**. Deborah is currently in the master's degree program at Louisiana State University, studying with Ana Marie Otamandi. If conditions permit, Deborah will be performing at Aspen during the summer. 🎵

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# Regional and State News

by Susan McDonald, State News Chair

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Submitted by Sarah Twedt, NCR Regional Vice President

Greetings from the North Central Region!

Our world has changed! And quickly in the past four months. Not just the pandemic, but the worldwide unrest due to the George Floyd death in my beloved Twin Cities. It takes a lot of optimism to believe that we will one day be in a better place but we've all endured tragedy in our lives and the one belief that has kept me going during very dark periods in my life, is the belief that beauty and goodness can blossom out of the despair – if you look for it and see it.

Everyone remembers the week of March 9 in Minnesota. The intensity of the news cycle around COVID-19 was ticking upwards and by the end of the week, during lessons, the phones of the students were lighting up. “Miss Sarah – every after-school activity is canceled until the end of the school year.” That was the last week of in-home music lessons for most in Minnesota.

That Friday, via e-mail, our community of teachers everywhere were asking one another – What do we do now? How are you going to continue teaching? What is Zoom? (can you even imagine that we didn't know what Zoom was in March?) How does this work? Here is a tutorial. Check it out. Will the students want to do this and will the parents support this? Little did we know how quickly we were pivoting to a new reality in teaching music.

I had two weeks to ponder this new reality due to vacation getting canceled. I wanted to retire. My husband, Mark, convinced me that this was not the time to abandon your students and gently reminded me that “they needed me.” OK, OK, I will learn this new technology, I will practice it and haven't looked back.

Teaching via Facetime and Zoom is not ideal but the continued connection with the students was invaluable for both parties. My nervousness subsided with the gratitude being shown by the students and parents. Stories were repeatedly shared that music helped students deal with the sadness and isolation. Our weekly meetings meant that students had a “one on one” with another adult who cared for them. Many of the athletes I teach learned more music during this time than they had all year! And, the reason? “I have nothing else to do, Miss Sarah!”

The community of teachers, parents and students came together during the beginning of this crisis to find a solution and made it work. That is what we do as musicians – we think on our feet and find solutions. My year-end Zoom recitals included family members from distant places. Seeing very proud grandparents on these Zoom recitals was rewarding.

Another pivot was with the North Central Region Junior Composers Summer Program. Our dedicated board of directors came together, via

Zoom, sharing their ideas of continuing the summer program online. Thus, Composers Online Institute (COI) was created. The goal was to not go a year without our program and with much brainstorming and sharing of ideas (and some very smart people who are good with technology!) the details of the new program emerged. I want to thank Seth Custer, Randall Davidson and the entire board for the energy they put into this. Our fingers are crossed that we have supported students who are pursuing composition.

Music and the arts bring people together and music and arts education greatly benefits all students. It is now more important than ever, to continue to build relationships with people of all colors, race, religions. It is my goal as the NCR VP to continue to find ways to use music and the arts to strengthen our communities. There is beauty in the sadness – let us nurture this into something even more beautiful. Will you join me?

## NORTHEASTERN REGION

Submitted by Ruth Ann McChesney, VP Northeastern Region

What would have been the 76th Annual Federation Days for Northeastern Region on July 11-12th turned out to be a Zoom meeting at the very hour when members were to meet at Chautauqua Suites in NY on Saturday at 10 a.m.!

Due to the pandemic the Chautauqua Institution is not having programs on the grounds and their music school is being held online. Instead of canceling the event, VP Ruth Ann McChesney, with the help of Indiana's Lisa Cremer, held the meeting virtually via Zoom. Twenty-four Federation members from five states, plus Mary Ellen Nolletti, NFMCC chair of Summer Music Centers, were all happy to be together virtually and handle our business meeting and memorial service.

We look forward to the 77th Annual Federation Days at Chautauqua next July 10-11, 2021 when we can gather together and safely give each other the hugs we missed this year!





## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

*Submitted by Lavonna Whitesell, Vice President*

With the cancellation of the spring and summer OIO board meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Federation Days at Opera in the Ozarks was also canceled along with the opera season. However, several items of business needed to be transacted, so the board met July 17 via Zoom. Dr. John Schmidt, board member who used Zoom for his spring music classes at Texas State University, coordinated the meeting, with most board members participating.

Board president Carole Langley conducted the meeting. Reports were given by Duane Langley, treasurer; Nancy Preis, general director; Thomas Cockrell, artistic director; and Chris Cathcart, the newest OIO staff member.

Probably the most exciting development of the meeting was a report from Wesley Walls, architect with Polk, Stanley, Wilcox Architectural Firm, who is working on plans to improve OIO's physical plant. He showed the board renderings of two different plans from which more detailed drawings will be created. It is all preliminary now, but the dream has begun.

All officers and board members were re-elected to their posts, and plans were discussed for the Annual Fund later in the fall. The board will next meet Nov. 20 at Eureka Springs, pending the status of the virus.

## SOUTHEASTERN REGION

*Submitted by Marcia Chaplin, Southeastern Region Vice President*  
*Contributing writers – Beverly Henderson, Cheryl Poe, Donna Mitchell*

### THIS IS HOW WE DO IT ... in the Southeastern Region!

"We are all in this together!" We have certainly heard that enough times. However, it doesn't really feel like we are together. It is a strange and new way to teach lessons, hold meetings, conduct business; but somehow we are all learning, changing and adjusting (and adjusting again!) The Southeastern Region is coping in many ways. Florida Federation of Music Clubs have become very comfortable with the terms, "Zoom", "Skype", "FaceTime", "virtual recitals," and "distance learning." Beginning in March an entire new way to make music and listen to music became the norm. FPMC President, Cheryl Poe and friends regularly gathered under the Magnolia tree in her back yard to make music together – joyously accompanied by the singing of birds in the treetops.

Just before everyone went virtual, the Cecilian Club of Richmond, KY, brought back "The Mod Squad." Carla and Gil Smith presented a program of Rachmaninoff, Bartok, Charles Ives and John Cage to represent works of the Modern Era of music. Gil gave a slideshow presentation depicting works of art from the Modern Art age and talked about its influence.

Congratulations to South Carolina Federation of Music Clubs for reaching the 100-year milestone and to all clubs in the Southeastern Region. We have all earned a special congratulations for sustaining our music education through all types of crises!

## WESTERN REGION

*Submitted by Judy Prescott, Western Region Vice-President*

The Western Region had one project this past year. It was to send a memorial scholarship of \$500 to Naomi Sanchez Varney in the name of Steven Varney who had passed away in January 2019. Naomi and Stephen were the winners of the National Federation of Music Clubs 2005 Ellis Duo Piano award.

The scholarship will help the Berkeley Academy of Music Piano Team, which is the name of the group of students Naomi prepares for duo piano competitions. The team competed in the U.S. International Duo Piano Competition in Colorado Springs in January 2020. Naomi makes her home in San Francisco. 🎵

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## ALABAMA

*Submitted by Mary Margaret Yeilding,  
President, Alabama Federation of Music Clubs*

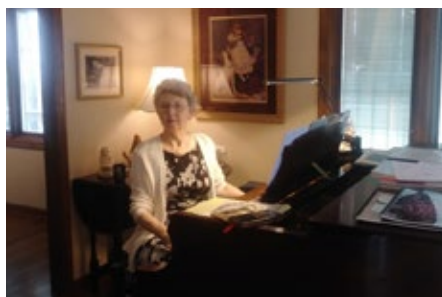
It is nice to have the opportunity to share some thoughts with you today. Without restating the obvious hard truths that we are collectively facing it is my sincere prayer and hope that you, your loved ones and club members are remaining safe and healthy. Each day seems to bring a lot of distressing news along with perhaps a glimmer of hopeful news. We're all looking for that glimmer.

Like every other state, many of our end-of-the-program-year events, our state convention, some festivals, recitals, competitions and local club meetings, had to be canceled, reformatted into a virtual happening or altered in some way. Nothing at all was "the way it had been."

Our annual spring meeting/convention was converted to a Zoom meeting which was held on May 2 with a respectable turnout from officers, state chairs, club presidents and former state presidents. We had advertised it on our state website as well as on mass emails. We plan to hold our Fall Board meeting on Zoom, October 2, as well as several committee meetings before and after that. Beyond that we have dates selected for Winter Board meeting and Spring convention and will await further directions otherwise.

Turning to our local clubs, I'd like to pass along how two of them are looking at the fall. Decatur Music Club's President Sherri Rahm has conducted their Executive Board meetings via Zoom this summer and plans to hold their monthly fall meetings in the same manner. They are publishing a step-by-step user manual to assist their membership, as well as contacting them by phone to check on needs.

Birmingham's Bush Hills Music Club's Executive Board voted not to hold meetings



*Susie Dempsey, Jacksonville State University Professor Emeritus*



*New Alabama club hosts piano pedagogy workshop.*

this fall via Zoom or otherwise, but is working on an outdoor event in October. This event could include a performance on guitar or violin, appropriate seating, prepackaged refreshments and time for members to share.

The club president, Mary Ann Hollingshead, has been in touch with the membership expressing her desire to stay connected with one another and maintain the momentum of the club. The yearbooks produced by our local clubs year after year contain a wealth of information and history that is invaluable for posterity. However, with the reduction of activity and the inability to gather safely even in small groups, I am learning that many clubs do not plan to create one this year.

In lieu of the yearbook, I have recommended that they do what Tuscaloosa Music Club does. Prepare a one page, front and back, document printed on colored cardstock. On it they have a welcoming statement, their goals and objectives, membership info, the president's contact info, and a list of programs for the year. Space permitting, dates of state meetings and events, a list of state and national officers and other pertinent info can be added. My goal over the next few weeks is to encourage and assist each club in creating such a document if they don't plan on publishing a yearbook. This will ensure we have written record for 2020-2021. Along with our club presidents, I greatly appreciate the Technology Tips provided by Valerie Harris and Julie Watson. How timely and how helpful!

A new senior club has been formed in Alabama named the Calhoun County Music Club. The objective of the CCMC is to support and promote music education in the area. The club currently sponsors four junior clubs and the junior festival held in Anniston. Charter

members include Patsy Bateman, Donna Dickinson, Donna May and Robin Thompson.

Our club also hosted a piano pedagogy workshop presented by Susie Dempsey, Jacksonville State University Professor Emeritus. Topics covered included exploring literature, festival/audition preparation and feeling the meter in a musical performance.

## ARKANSAS

*Submitted by, Vicki Carr*

Arkansas Federation planned to have a state conference on September 19 using Zoom. We were to vote on a motion to change our annual State Convention to Bi-Annual. We have moved our annual Young Artist tour to second semester, hoping colleges who usually host the performances will be open.

"Musicians Never Give Up," and that was graphically demonstrated last spring by an Illinois musician and teacher with Arkansas ties. Karen Grilk Noorani is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Music and Poetry Students (MAPS) in Arkansas and is also Lead Instructor of Music For Youth in Arlington Heights, Illinois. In addition, she is the daughter of Ernest and Gloria Grilk of Bella Vista, AR.



One of the faculty members of Music for Youth was leaving the team due to moving from the community. They had not had a chance to have a reception for her with parents and the 300 students in the program of Music For Youth.

Karen urged their getting together and playing chamber music "just for themselves" as a celebration of her service to the program. Keeping Social Distancing in mind – after refreshments, they all went to Karen's back yard and played. The neighborhood heard the music, came out of their homes, and listened and applauded the "concert" when they had finished.

"I loved the concept, and thought that it might be shared," said her mother, Gloria Grilk. "Musicians Never Give Up. One of the things that develops in the brain for a music student, of any age, is the following: When there is not a first solution, detour and find a second solution."

Karen grew up playing piano in the Iowa Junior Festival in Iowa. Iowa's public schools had a wonderful string program starting in the summer after fourth grade and all the Grilk children benefitted from that.

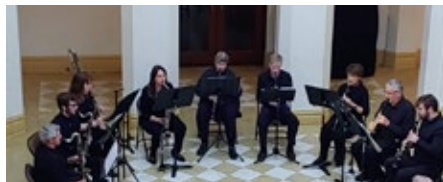
Gloria, past president of the Iowa and Arkansas federations, is a past Vice President in Charge of the South Central Region, and a past member of the NFMC Board of Directors.

## FLORIDA

*Submitted by Cheryl Poe, President FFMC*

As all of us worldwide have been doing our best to cope with the tragic effects of COVID-19, members of Florida Federation of Music Clubs (FFMC) have demonstrated extraordinary courage and creativity during the past several months. Senior Clubs and Junior Clubs became very comfortable with the terms "Zoom," "Skype," "FaceTime," "virtual recitals," "YouTube," and "distance learning."

Prior to March 2020, FFMC members and respective communities were able to enjoy live recitals, and festivals. Beginning in March an entire new way to making music and listening to music became the norm. In addition to utilizing technology to keep music in our lives, many are finding ways to play music in small groups and at a social distance.



*Gainesville Clarinet Ensemble – Cheryl Poe, our FFMC President is playing the Bb Clarinet.*



*Florida Flute Choir – Claudia Brill, our Suwannee District President is playing the bass flute.*

As our state plans for 2020-2021, all our members are exploring ways of achieving our goals of supporting music education, fostering musical environment in our communities, and sponsoring musical events and competitions – whether that be live/in-person or virtually! With gratitude and pride our FFMC members are up to the challenge and look forward to expanding opportunities to learn and create music in new ways.

The Foundation for the Promotion of Music, which is the Senior Club of the Suwannee District of Florida Federation of Music Clubs, sponsored two local multi-generational ensembles at its Guest Artist Recital held at the Historic Thomas Center, in Gainesville Florida, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020. This was the last live performance in our community before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived.

## KENTUCKY

*Submitted by Barbara Herbener*

### Teaching During the Pandemic

Teachers are working diligently to adapt to non-hands-on instruction. Methods used varied from the very simple, such as the landline telephone, to both the teacher and the student using two devices! A number of teachers have needed to invest in more advanced internet services and also have needed to purchase additional music scores. FaceTime and Zoom are both used, and one teacher keeps students' texted theory assignments in a Google photo file. When recitals are not feasible students send videos to teachers which can be posted on Facebook or a Google file.

"I have never spent this much time and effort" is a common teacher's response to the question about teaching virtually! However, they have learned more about themselves as teachers and have seen their students in their home environments. In some cases, the pianos are of questionable quality and household distractions are inevitable. On the other hand, almost all of the students have thrived, finding more time to practice because of fewer other activities, and have learned to be more independent in writing their own assignments and listening to themselves. But, some students do not have adequate band width for Zoom instruction, and miss the in-person connections too much to continue lessons.

A summary quotation from a teacher is, "It has not been nearly as bad as I thought it might be overall."

## MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Federation of Music Clubs was disappointed to cancel its State Convention in May, but the Corona Virus made it impossible to meet. Instead, a brief session was conducted by Zoom in August, so that business could be handled and information could be given out to the various clubs represented. Most Mississippi clubs will be meeting virtually at least until the end of 2020. President Lee Ann Cummings is working on the latest edition of the MFMC Newsletter, Magnolia Bulletin, and planning for a return to an in-person Convention in the Spring of 2021.

## PENNSYLVANIA

*Submitted by Ruth Ann McChesney*

### Tuesday Musical Club awards \$51,000 in scholarships

The Tuesday Musical Club, located in Pittsburgh and a member of the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs, established its Scholarship Program in 1919, and since then talented young Pittsburgh artists have received financial aid, making a significant difference in the quality of their musical education.

Terri Denmon-Agin, chair, announced the 2020 scholarship winners after auditions were held (via Zoom) on Friday, May 22. She states: "The level of talent was extremely high, and we are pleased to announce the competition winners as well as those scholars who are returning for their second 2-year terms as TMC Scholars."

Eleven new scholars received a total of \$29,500 and seven returning scholars were awarded \$21,500 for a total of \$51,000! This outstanding program is made possible by an initial grant and through continuing gifts, legacies, bequests and memorials from club members and friends. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to this generous club!

*Submitted by Linda Flick*

### MUSICAL ART SOCIETY

Musical Art Society held Festivals virtually on Saturday, March 28, 2020, in Lancaster,



PA. There were 44 participants, five events, 34 Superior ratings. Two Junior clubs participated.

Musical Art Society gave four Memorial Awards to four students this year. The Schock Memorial Award in the amount of \$500 was divided into two awards of \$250 each which was awarded to **Janae Gaddy**, string bass, and **Jamie Chon**, violin. The Sauer Memorial Award in the amount of \$300 was awarded to **Andrew Rajaratnam**, piano; and the Hillegass Memorial Award in the amount of \$500 was awarded to **Christian Wienckoski**, piano.

Our May Banquet, the Youth Ensembles spring concerts, and our "Music For A Summer Night" concert series were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

*Submitted by Brenda Dean, SCFMC Cornelia G. Walker Music Scholarship Chair*

### SCFMC Cornelia G. Walker Music Scholarship Recipient

On March 7, 2020, four talented high school seniors auditioned for the \$4,000 Cornelia G. Walker Music Scholarship. This scholarship has been a project of the South Carolina Federation of Music Clubs since 1946. The award was renamed in 1968 for its founder, past SC state president, Mrs. J. Frost Walker of Union, SC. This award is open to SC high school seniors who plan to major in music at recognized schools of music in SC.

Should the first-place winner not complete the 4-year scholarship, the remaining scholarship will transfer to the second-place winner, and so forth.

1st Place: **Madeline Grace Owens**, Vocal Performance

2nd Place: **Ryan Greene**, Organ Performance

3rd Place: **Katherine (Kate) Falvey**, Music Ed/ Vocalist

4th Place: **James Thomas**, Vocal Performance/ Composition



*Madeline Owens*

## SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Federation of Music Clubs recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two university students for the 2020-2021 school year. Recipients are **Sylvia Kattner** of Huron and **William Reynolds** of Brookings.

Sylvia Kattner is a sophomore at South Dakota State University, majoring in music education with emphasis on voice. On campus she is active in Concert Choir, Choralia, and Pride of the Dakotas Marching Band. Kattner is also the co-founder of and lead vocalist for the Christian Contemporary Band, Trinity Hill.



*Sylvia Kattner*



*William Reynolds*

William Reynolds is a third-year student at SDSU, majoring in music education with an emphasis on trumpet. He participates in Jazz Ensemble One, Wind Symphony, Pride of the Dakotas Marching Band, the SDSU-Civic

Symphony and Singing Statesman during the school year. For the past three years, Reynolds has been one of only 18 world-wide winners of the International Trumpet Guild Conference Scholarship Competition.

A panel of four judges selected the recipients based upon a 10-15 minute audition video, school and community involvement, GPA, an essay on why s/he deserves and wants the scholarship, plus his/her music goals, and teacher recommendation letters.

## TENNESSEE

*Submitted by Bobette Spear*

A new year of great anticipation began with the TFMC officers meeting at the home of Barbara Hildebrand in Franklin. We updated our bylaws and worked to fill various state chairman vacancies. Tennessee has a total of 15 Senior Clubs with 290 members. We have one Senior Individual member also. There are 84 Junior Clubs totaling 1,681 members. As our lives and daily activities were changed by COVID 19, our Festival plans had to be altered. Statewide, we had 944 students

participating in our Festival.

Mary Ellen Nolleti, chairman for National Music Week, did an outstanding job promoting this event. The Thursday Music Club had public service announcements made on WCPH radio. President Judy Luck was interviewed by the WYXI radio station. This station also featured a picture and description of the celebration in their Morning Fax. Proclamations were signed by two city mayors, and a book presentation was made to the Etowah Carnegie Library. The Daily Post Athenian newspaper in Athens featured an article on National Music Week.

The Bristol Music Club Executive Board has scheduled a meeting to plan the 2020-2021 year. They are looking forward to the NFMC Biennial Convention next June in Norfolk, VA.

The Obligato Club in Nashville was excited to add two new members to the roster. This club is making plans to host a Tennessee Convention in the fall. Online became the way to participate in the Nashville Festival. Videos of student performances were uploaded and judges evaluated piano, violin, vocal, and theory entries.

The Beethoven Club was proud to announce that their member, **Campbell Rutherford** of Dandridge, TN, is the recipient of the first place \$1,000 for Junior Music for the Blind Performance Award. Congratulations, Campbell!

The Harmony of the Arts Club, Knoxville, is proud to announce the release of Tom Boduch's album of original music, *The Open Road*. Tom based his music on the poetry of Walt Whitman. The album cover art was done by Alex Conner, former President of TFMC.

## TEXAS

*Submitted by Brenda Ford*

There is nothing like a pandemic to test the agility and character of Senior Clubs. Texas FMC had moved to one Annual meeting last year. Although we were disappointed that our national convention was canceled, at least we had our state meeting this year.

In Texas, we did not sit back and read and talk on the phone trading recipes. Well, we did that too! As clubs had to stop meeting in the regular way, innovation and creativity pushed through.

First, over the past year as a part of the change in Texas, an ongoing Living Directory was developed to be accessible to “members only” on the [texasfederation.org](http://texasfederation.org) site. Linda Royals stepped up and made that project a reality.

Second, Texas is moving forward in communication through social media. Individual clubs were progressing in making themselves known in their communities and TFMC needed to be a leader to encourage groups to take that step. We are rallying around the NFMC goal to be known and heard.

Third, this president began plans for the Annual meeting and midstream had to change direction. The Convention/Board meeting titled “2020 Vision” in Big D (Dallas) kept the course with a twist. The UnConVentional ConVention 2020 Vision took on a life that will test our courage to move with the New Generation. It has yet to be launched through Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

In the meantime, clubs faced decisions about trying something new. National Music Week needed attention and reportedly Senior clubs met the challenge head on. Student and adult programs were recorded and placed online to celebrate the week and displays were set up for the community to enjoy.

All State Festival was a major overhaul challenge for this unprecedented time. It was important we did not let our young musicians down. In record time, our Texas All State Festival team pulled off an event Xtrordinaire via Acceptd.com. In record time, a group of dedicated leaders, super thinkers, planners, adjudicators, detail divas, young tech talent, behind the scene helpers and support folks put together a fabulous first time in history of Texas, virtual State Festival event.

Our 45th All State Festival is for the record books. A total of 143 teachers and 1,167 students participated. Now imagine, the Big Top Virtual Tent of music performances with no stumbles, stops or wipeouts! The silence: no applause, no hoots or “way to go” heard. No people to hug or congratulate. That was the way of 2020. The winners were declared and the plaques and certificates, congratulatory letters and monetary awards were mailed.

Texas has a Vision and is meeting the future with confidence.

## WISCONSIN

In the grip of a global pandemic what is a musician supposed to do? For those of us in music professions we are asking this question. It is frustrating and often frightening to consider what our future may, or may not, hold. How do we find creative ways to share our talents and remain viable members of a music community? Many of us have reached out to the internet in order to share what we can, when we can. And so, the Barron Federated Music Club joined “Make Music Day” 2020 with hopes of involvement far beyond our club membership and introducing our community to new music activities. The Make Music Day celebration went live via the internet, or virtual, all around the world and we did indeed find ways to connect with our community.

Have you participated in Make Music Day yet? The day is a worldwide celebration of making music held each year on June 21. The event began in France in 1982 and was called Fete de la Musique! This coming together of making music is now celebrated in over 1,000 cities in over 120 countries. The event is open to anyone, of any age, with any musical ability (or none). It is a time to get out in the streets, plazas, retirement homes, porches, front yards, and city parks to be with friends, neighbors, or complete strangers – all with a worldwide goal for one day – to make music. Check out [www.makemusicday.org](http://www.makemusicday.org) site to see everything from kazoo bands, bucket drum challenges, recycled homemade instruments, flowerpot music, professional musicians live streaming, music lessons, choirs, bands, porch swinging, guitar blues, and everything in between that makes a good sound.

The BFMC had plans for 2020 – then a pandemic came along and plans changed. As in all gatherings this summer, our scaled down version still challenged us in sharing

music without face to face contact. Several members, family members, and supporters of our club shared online from home, voice and piano solos, cello solo, children singing around the family piano, and organ music at a local church. Outreach to a care facility, (music from the parking lot) and a retirement complex, (music from a gazebo) were given as outdoor concerts for the residents. Kids of all ages gathered at the Skate Park to celebrate with a bucket drum band. Music club members did window serenading at a retirement apartment complex by walking and stopping along the sidewalks to sing. I believe we did a good thing in our community, even with our scaled back version of Make Music Day. We were told while doing our window serenading that our music touched the life of an older fellow who had lost his wife six months to the day that we sang. He was so grateful to have the healing power of music “make his day,” especially after the lonely isolation of the pandemic restrictions.

Our Make Music Day event became a reality because Mo Tollman, an enthusiastic Barron council member organized the day. It is a pleasure for the BFMC to join with other organizations, non-profits, churches, schools, and professional groups, in promoting music throughout our city. We are not experiencing this pandemic alone, as we know, and our future as musicians depends on everyone supporting music.

Next year, on to a bigger and better Make Music Day (and National Music Week) as we find new, creative, and realistic ways of connecting to our community through music. I hope that you are finding ways to connect, or reconnect, due to ongoing isolation, with your community. As Music Clubs members we will try our best to keep music in our hearts as we survive, thrive, and grow in a “new normal” of being a force of music in our nation. 🎵





# Music: The Master Teacher

by Janis Saket, Kansas Federation of Music Clubs President

When I wrote the attached poem last fall, I had no idea what a twisted precarious path we were about to begin. I didn't know that my life could be put in peril simply by congregating with my friends to sing or play the music that had been a constant companion all my life and had inspired the poem I began this opus with. I knew that music had always been a master teacher in every aspect of my life. Its passion and its beauty had always been a conduit to impart knowledge about so many things.

I convey to my education students that music is an imperative tool in every curriculum area. It is capable of enhancing disciplines like no other medium can. Literature? History? Math? Science? Foreign Language? Physical Training? Geography? Dance? Religion? There is music which can accompany and enhance every one of those areas. Specialized compositions for every educational endeavor are easy to find and they come in every musical genre!

All socio-economic and ability levels of learners will relate to some sort of music. These musical enhancers are low-hanging fruit to a master teacher. The importance of including music as a valuable teaching tool seems so obvious that some of us take it for granted. However, the resulting learning at every student level creates an undeniable testament to its value in the learning experience.

Then came the great life-changing event that none of us could have foreseen. Learning and life was turned upside down. We had to become familiar with a whole new set of rules which saw our classrooms, our meetings, our churches, and even our family get-togethers depend on less-than-expert computer skills. What was even worse was that our grandkids were not allowed to come show us how to Zoom. But necessity became the mother of invention and we all figured out which buttons to push to allow our kitchen and bedrooms to become the "board room." Most of us even reminded our husbands not to wander in camera view wearing just their underwear.

We all know the saying that "if God closes a door, he opens a window." We've seen that window and it prompts me to believe the silver lining to this predicament comes through three musical lessons we may not always have emphasized. They are (1) creating a new way to convey our art; (2) finding an avenue to create togetherness in performance while still being apart; (3) and most importantly, to listen in depth to those around us.

It was once said that if all music were to disappear from the face of the earth, within three days it would begin to re-appear in some form. That proved to be true when shortly after we were all locked down, mini-concerts began to appear on social media. We began to see artists, both universally known and local performers, provide small concerts meant to keep our spirits high.

Any musician I know will tell you that performing solo is great, but ensemble work is a pleasure for all when it works. And our creative musicians DID make it work by fashioning choirs, orchestras, ensembles, etc., on the internet while joining like-minded musicians from anywhere and everywhere around the world playing and/or singing in the safe bubble of one's home. The resulting music was often

mind boggling. Even ensembles that were performing in a finite space learned to social distance. Our bell choir is a good example. Performers are armed with masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and an eight-foot table for each two players. This is such a testament to the saying, "Where there is a will there is a way!"

But I think one of the greatest lessons that music has given us in these troubled times of political, racial, and health disagreements is how to be a good listener.

All the greatest musicians that I know can deeply LISTEN to what they are hearing. They can ferret out the flaws before these detractors can become ruinous to an otherwise exquisite performance. They can also realize and appreciate the beauty and worth inherent in each different musical style. Our experts know that a well-rounded musician can appreciate all forms of their art. Listening gives them the ability to enhance and recognize quality in whatever situation they may find themselves. 🎵

## Music: The Master Teacher

by Janis Saket

We've had them if we're lucky. Their gifts remain today.  
That teacher we remember, who changed our life some way.  
What recipe was present to create that special one?  
What qualities possessed him when all was said and done?

Well, first, of course, was knowledge. She surely knew it all!  
But shared it with a passion she believed with all her soul.  
This Guru knew that knowledge would never be enough.  
For each of us was different. It made learning pretty tough.

The maestro then proceeded with assorted learning modes,  
To fill each charge with knowledge from great diverging roads.  
But, oh, those paths did take us on a journey of delight,  
And whole new worlds awaited. They were well within our sight.

And 'tho these persons were unique and often rather rare,  
There's one great teacher for us all. It's MUSIC that we share.  
You ask me, "How can music be a tutor of repute?"  
You say, "I'll learn great lessons from piano, drum, and flute?"

Oh, yes, my dear and more, there's so much just lies ahead.  
There's patience, passion, beauty, and history far from dead.  
There's courting, crying, laughing, and worlds not yet at hand.  
And moving every muscle that rhythm does command.

And all this is delivered in sounds so sweet and clear.  
Just pick your favorite genre. That song is what you'll hear.  
There's jazz and country music, rock, opera, Bach and Bono  
The Classics are a given, and Metal's not a no-no!

It'll dry your tears, inflame your heart, plus fill your soul with passion.  
Your toes will tap, your lips will rap, and all in flaming fashion.  
And like all master teachers, you will not think it odd.  
She pens a super lesson plan, straight from the lips of God.



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**Parade of American Music**

**APRIL 9-10, 2021**

**Ellis Duo-Piano Competition**

*Jackson, Mississippi*

**MAY 2-9, 2021**

**National Music Week**

*Theme: "Music... is a Storyteller"*

**JUNE 15-19, 2021**

**NFMC Biennial Convention and Young  
Artist Competition**

*Sheraton Norfolk Waterfront Hotel  
Norfolk, Virginia*

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