



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

# Junior Keynotes

Autumn/Winter 2021 • Vol. 95, No. 4



Artwork by Abigail Michell



# NFMC Junior Keynotes Directory

National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. • Chartered by the Congress of the United States (ISSN 0022-6629)

## HEADQUARTERS

**National Federation of Music Clubs**  
1646 W. Smith Valley Road  
Greenwood, IN 46142  
317-882-4003  
Fax 317-882-4019  
info@nfmc-music.org

## President

**Deborah Freeman**  
7 Coachman Drive  
Taylors, SC 29687  
864-630-0163  
debotfree@gmail.com

## Advertising

**Jennifer Griffin**  
1646 W. Smith Valley Road  
Greenwood, IN 46142  
317-882-4003  
Jenniferk@nfmc-music.org

## Junior Division

**Laurie M. Marshall**  
4021 Ravina Ter  
Saint Joseph, MI 49085  
269-277-9091  
tca.laurie@gmail.com

## Federation Festivals Bulletin

**Janice Flinte, Editor/Chair**  
600 Butler Springs Rd  
Greenville, SC 29615  
864-244-2535  
janice@flinte.com

## Federation Festivals

**Lori Jessen, Chair**  
1912 Locust St  
PO Box 851  
Dakota City, NE 68731  
712-253-0718  
lorijessen@gmail.com

## NC Region: Mary Wescott, Chair

17842 179th Trail W  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
952-892-6750  
thewescott@aol.com

## NE Region: Barbara Murray, Chair

12911 Rt. 87, PO Box 84  
Dushore, PA 18614  
570-928-8968  
bemurray84@yahoo.com

## SC Region: Bonita Blackburn, Chair

1927 E. 15th St.  
Ada, OK 74820  
580-310-2327  
nitamarieok@gmail.com

## SE Region: Bethany Watt, Chair

768 Vermillion Peak Pass  
Lexington, KY 40515  
859-272-8437  
bethany@wattviolin.com

## W Region: Hallee Viniotis, Chair

2692 168th Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
425-643-9674  
viniotis@msn.com

## Federation Cups

**Mary Jane Timmer, Chair**  
3635 Leonard St.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534  
616-453-7026  
k.timmer@sbcglobal.net

## Festivals Management System

**Sandra Preysz, Chair**  
2174 E. Lonsdale Drive  
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121  
801-944-1808  
sandrareysz@msn.com

## Junior Club Achievement

**Sally Palmer**  
2732 127th Place SE  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
425-644-9581  
spalmer19@hotmail.com

## Junior Composers

**Joanie Pegram, Chair**  
101 Thompson Road  
Taylors, SC 29687  
864-363-8276  
jpegram@bobjonesacademy.net

## NE Region: Nanette Meyette, Chair

69435 Brookhill Dr.  
Romeo, MI 48065  
prettylady11\_11@yahoo.com

## SE Region: Cheryl Poe, Chair

4016 NW 23rd Cir  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
352-316-0886  
cheryltonipoe@gmail.com

## NC Region: Shirley Erickson, Chair

4863 Safari Pass  
Eagan, MN 55122  
651-343-4327  
shirleyerickson@aol.com

## SC Region: W.T. Skye Garcia, Chair

1824 E 17th  
Ada, OK 74820  
580-436-5329  
wtskyegarcia@gmail.com

## W Region: Patty Hadley, Chair

824 Northview  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
208-513-8333  
hadlepatty@outlook.com

## Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award James Schnars and Lisa Smith, Co-chairs

**James Schnars**  
331 Cleveland St, Apt 804  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
727-400-4305

**Lisa Smith**  
3774 Barbizon Cir S  
Jacksonville, FL 32257  
904-886-4188  
lcspliano@hotmail.com

## Mary Alice Cox Award

**Matt Miller, Chair**  
13819 W. National Avenue  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
262-786-0487, Ext. 743  
mattmillerbass@aol.com

## Dance

**Nicholas Gray, Chair**  
1904 Eastern Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
414-491-0181  
Nicholas.bradley.gray@gmail.com

## Thelma A. Robinson Ballet Award

**Justin Gray, Chair**  
1904 Eastern Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
260-579-1492  
pianistprogress@gmail.com

## Wendell Irish Viola Award

**Dr. George R. Keck, Chair**  
2112 Hinson Rd. #23  
Little Rock, AR 72212  
870-403-2951  
keckg@att.net

## PNP Michael R. Edwards Graduating Sr. Performance Award

**Michael R. Edwards, Chair**  
3900 Galt Ocean Dr., #317  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  
954-325-0064  
micedwards@aol.com

## Angie Greer Music in Poetry Contest

**Jordon Young**  
1208 Pioneer Ave.  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
Jordon.young@outlook.com

## Stillman Kelley/Thelma Byrum

**Linda Maurhoff, Chair**  
203 Downville Road  
Valencia, PA 16059  
724-625-1761  
lindamaurhoff@consolidated.net

## Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Solo Award

**Marcia Chaplin, Chair**  
1807 Batten Hollow Rd  
Vienna, VA 22182  
703-298-0748  
marciachaplin2@gmail.com

## Music for the Blind Awards

**Lee Ann Cummings, Chair**  
146 W. Pinebrook Drive  
Brandon, MS 39047  
601-992-9330  
cummings-lee28@att.net

## Marilyn Caldwell Piano Solo Award

**Linda D. Lind, Chair**  
4420 Miller Parkway  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
703-403-3493  
lindalindva@gmail.com

## Joyce Walsh Award

**Alisha Snyder, Chair**  
2061 Jefferson Dr SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
616-485-3935  
alisha.snyder@gmail.com

## Martha Marcks Mack Junior Vocal Award

**Kristin Ivers, Chair**  
1419 Keller Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-360-3217  
Kivers210@gmail.com

## Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award

**Dee Blaser, Chair**  
4404 Heritage Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66047  
785-843-8776  
dblaser@sunflower.com

## National Music Week

**Ellen Leapaldt**  
10612 24th St E  
Edgewood, WA 98372  
206-841-5430  
museiff@msn.com

## NMW Essay: NE Region

**Mary Ellen Ulmer, Chair**  
168 East Branch Road  
Mercer, PA 16137  
724-946-2877  
ulmerme@hotmail.com

## NMW: SE Region

**Debbie Barnes, Chair**  
3007 Tidewater Cr.  
Madison, MS 39110  
601-856-3697  
Debbie.barnes@earthlink.net

## NMW Essay: NC/SC/W Regions

**Jan Hansen, Chair**  
101 Rio Mesa Drive  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
541-956-1659  
jhansen@gmail.com

## Summer Music Centers

**Mary Ellen Nolletti, Chair**  
104 County Road 537  
Etowah, TN 37331  
423-263-5889  
snuppy36@msn.com

## State News

**Tiffany Johnson**  
PO Box 5972  
Pearl, MS 39288  
editorialchair@nfmc-music.org

## Junior Keynotes

**Editor, Jeanne Hryniewicki**  
7084 W Greyhawk Lane  
Franklin, WI 53132  
414-235-9680  
jrk@nfmc-music.org

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## Message from the President

by Deborah T. Freeman

Greetings to all Juniors,

Although this issue is a combination of Autumn and Winter, we eagerly ushered in spring on March 20! It feels as if winter is finally loosening its grip and giving way to warmer days.

Achievements and accomplishments of young musicians are highlighted throughout this issue, and I hope you take time to read each inspiring article. Share your Junior Keynotes with someone who doesn't know about NFMC award opportunities and scholarships – you could change a life!

April is JAM, and I've enjoyed hearing about exciting programs and celebrations. What is JAM? It's Jazz Appreciation Month and celebrated annually throughout our Nation. Your club can also win a monetary award, so start planning for next year!

Do you have questions about NFMC, Festivals, or Junior Awards? I would enjoy hearing from you with questions or to see your performance videos, drawings, and photos! My contact information is available on page 2, so please reach out to me.

I look forward to hearing from you!

*Deborah T. Freeman*



### President's Theme:

*"Celebrating our Musical Heritage"*

### President's Song:

*"God Bless America"*

Irving Berlin



## Juniors: The LIGHT of NFMC!

By Laurie M Marshall, Junior Division Chair

Our Federated Juniors are strong! We have worked through two, highly complicated years as we continued to navigate through the COVID challenges, yet our Junior Division teachers are second to none with Festival and Award participation. Through both critical and creative thinking, we continue to find innovative ways to problem solve and achieve continued success. BRAVA to you!

Among our greatest gifts to our Juniors are the dozens of gifted Federated members who dedicate their time and talent to assisting our Federated teachers and Juniors. See their many contributions here in **Junior Keynotes**.

### Welcome New Chairs:

Junior Composers, Joanie Pegram  
MFMC Dance Award, Nicholas Bradley Gray  
Stillman Kelley /Thelma Byrum Award, Linda Maurhoff  
Thelma A. Robinson Ballet Award, Justin Gray  
Joyce Walsh Award, Alisha Snyder, M.M., MT-BC  
Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Award, Marcia Chaplin

Additionally, the **Vivace** Committee continues to provide you with ongoing support throughout Festival season and beyond. For technical assistance, please reach out to Sandra Preysz and Grace Kopitske. For Festival Areas new to Vivace, contact Sadie Cole for onboarding. For suggestions to the Support Center, contact Janice Flinte. For all other items related to Festival, please contact NFMC Festival Chair Lori Jessen.

Please remember to forward your Festival reports to your state Festival chairs, complete the Festival Cup form, and send to NFMC Festival Cup Chair Mary Jane Timmer.

Finally, thank you to NFMC Immediate Past President and former Junior Division Chair Michael R. Edwards for his career-long support of all things Juniors! *"Keeping the Music Alive for the Future Through Our Juniors"* IS the key to NFMC's success!

As always, please feel free to reach out to us at any time. Thank you for all you do! JK



Visit [nfmcmusic.org](https://nfmcmusic.org)  
for all the latest NFMC news,  
events and awards.



# Vivace is ready for everyone!

By Sandra Preysz, sandrapreysz@msn.com, NFMCC **Vivace** Chair

We are nearing the home stretch! This project was started at our NFMCC Conference in 2008 with the proposal to build an online Festival Management System. Many many hours of volunteer service have gone into this project with testing and implementation. Our goal is to have the transition complete with all Festival Areas using **Vivace** for the 2022-2023 Festival year.

If you have not yet seen what **Vivace** can do, we recommend the overview video. It will take about 10 minute of your time and is a great introduction. Here is the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXAeX9eyvNA&feature=youtu.be>

Anyone is also welcome to visit the Support Center. <https://help.nfmc-music.org>

## What if our Area has not started using Vivace?

All Festival areas will be required to use **Vivace** for Federation Festivals beginning in the fall of 2022.

We have many people training and willing to help those areas who have not yet started, and we are all committed to help the remaining areas prepare to use **Vivace**. The initial effort is definitely worth it because of the time and effort saved by using **Vivace**. The registration process catches any teacher errors. Reports are accurate and completed with the click of

a button. After Festival reporting is quick and easy once the ratings have been entered. Students transferring to a different teacher have the Festival history transferred with ease so that the new teacher knows exactly what the student has done with Festivals in previous years. These are just a few of the benefits!

In order to start the process, an application needs to be submitted by either the State or the Area. We know there will be a big push during the summer with the areas still needing to be onboarded, so we recommend that you submit your application as soon as possible. For everyone's benefit, we will manage the number of new areas who are admitted at any given time so that the support team will be able to provide help in a timely manner.

## What is the process for onboarding into Vivace?

The process includes:

1. Requesting a project application by emailing: [festivals@nfmc-music.org](mailto:festivals@nfmc-music.org)
2. Submitting the completed application.
3. Receiving the Project Education Guide and carefully studying the process outlined.
4. Viewing the orientation webinar. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEWuOYErI2I>

5. Selecting the method of entering the historical data: manual entry or import.
6. Having a National Administrator set an appointment with your two Festival Area Admins to grant them access so they can begin the manual entry process OR begin the process of preparing data for import.

## Process to prepare data for Vivace

Since we have a variety of "starting points" for various Festival Areas, we created the **Vivace** Project Education Guide for Areas that want to start using the system. Basically, there will be two approaches:

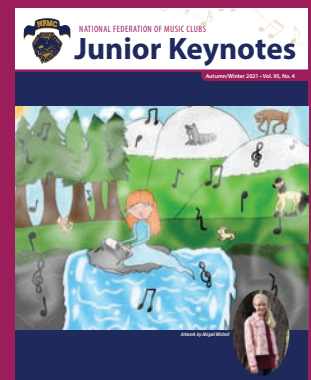
1. Manual Entry of history: This will take lots of volunteer hours but will involve very little cost. There will be help materials as well as Regional and National project coaches available to help you through the process.
2. One Time Import of history: This will take time to prepare and will involve some cost to the local area to prepare and import their history. Those areas choosing this process will be more limited in number, as we must rely on the developer's time to review and approve each import file. **JK**

## Meet the Cover Artist



### Abigail Mitchell

is 12 years old. She plays piano and is studying under the studio of Lee Lanier in Charlotte, NC. Drawing is a favorite hobby and she has recently developed an interest in digital artwork. In addition to art, she enjoys using her imagination for some of her hobbies. They include writing short stories, creating videos for her YouTube channel, and playing tennis.





# 2021 Wendell Irish Viola Award Winners

By Dr. George R. Keck, *Chair*

Loxea Hipsky of Guilford, Indiana, was selected as the winner of the \$1,750 first prize by the judges in the NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Competition. Hannah Lam of San Ramon, California, was awarded the \$1,000 second prize. The prizes are provided by the endowment in memory of Wendell Irish, son of Past National President Dr. Barbara and Mr. Wilmot Irish of Ithaca, New York.



Loxea Hipsky

## 1st Place: Loxea Hipsky

**Loxea Hipsky** is a 17-year-old honors student from Guilford, Indiana. She began her violin studies in a suburb of Chicago at age four and began playing viola 3 years ago. She currently studies with Marion Peraza, and performs with the award-winning ensemble The Peraza Music Workshop Chamber Orchestra. With this group she has performed in many prestigious concert halls, including Strathmore Hall in Washington DC, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. She currently sits assistant principal violist of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth

Orchestra and in 2020 was awarded 1st prize in the Julia Bartels Concerto Competition. Loxea was awarded second prize in the 2020 NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Competition. She loves playing chamber music with her quartet, reading, cooking, and spending time on her family farm.



Hannah Lam

## 2nd Place: Hannah Lam

**Hannah Lam**, 16, is a sophomore at San Ramon Valley High School. Hannah started her musical journey on a 1/16 violin in a Suzuki beginner's class at the age of four and picked up the viola in the sixth grade. She was with Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra for two years and has been with San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2019. She has also received chamber training from the Crowden School of Music, as well as Idyllwild Arts. Hannah studies with Ms. Pei Ling Lin of the Telegraph Quartet. She was awarded second place at

the United States International Music Competition (USIMC) in 2020 and took third place at the Northern California Viola Society's Young Violists Competition in 2021. Along with viola, Hannah has been playing the harp for the past seven years. She hopes to entertain, inspire and heal with her music. Hannah also enjoys traveling, baking and interior decorating.

## Regional Awards

Winners of Regional Awards of \$300 each were **Suzanna Bobbs** of Washington, New Jersey; **Emily Singleton** of Gainesville, Florida; and **Hannah Lam** of San Ramon, California. **JK**

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# Federation Cup Winners

By Mary Jane Timmer, *Federation Cup Chair*

## PRESIDENTS CUP WINNERS

### FLORIDA



Allison Chang

**Allison Chang**, a graduate from Archimedean Upper Conservatory, Miami, FL. has been playing piano for 13 years under the instruction of Mrs. Ariel Liu. She received the 90-point President Cup from National

Federation of Music Clubs and has also earned piano and cello awards at Florida State Competitions, and at the Miami-Dade youth music competitions. In addition to piano, Allison also plays cello and was part of the Florida All-State Orchestra and Honors Orchestra. She also composed some original music for her high school theater class and enjoys playing guitar and ukulele in her free time. Outside of music, Allison plays volleyball and was the captain of her high school volleyball team for two years. This fall, Allison is a freshman and 4-year full ride scholarship recipient at the University of Florida pursuing a degree in Business Administration.

### GEORGIA

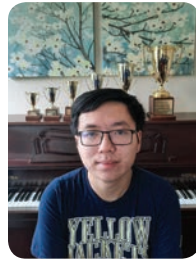


Erin Hardy

**Erin Hardy**, 18, a graduate of Hebron Christian Academy in Dacula, is the student of Cathy Thacker, NCTM, in Snellville, GA. Erin has played piano since she was three years old; her mother, Natalie Hardy, is a piano teacher, and gave

Erin her musical foundation. Pam Asberry was her subsequent teacher for eight years. Erin sang second soprano in Gwinnett Young Singers, made GMEA All-State Chorus in 2020, and was nominated for Governor's Honors in music. She also ran track for her high school. Erin will attend the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall, where she will major in Accounting and minor in Music and Spanish. Erin has participated in NFMC Festivals since 2009; this year she earned her 13th

consecutive Superior rating for Piano Solo. In 2012 she entered Piano Concerto, and she has earned 10 consecutive Superior ratings in that event. In 2020 she earned the Grand Cup (75 points) from NFMC; in 2021 she earned the President's Cup (90 points)!



Lawrence Zhou

**Lawrence Zhou**, a recent senior at Parkview High School in Georgia has been playing piano since 2009 and has entered NFMC's Solo Piano event every year since first grade as a student of Debra Hughes, NCTM. He also performed Senior Concerto with

superior ratings every year of high school and is honored to receive the 90-point trophy. Lawrence graduated as the 2021 valedictorian of his high school where he was involved in extracurricular activities including DECA, of which he was the vice president, and Mu Alpha Theta, of which he was president. Outside of school, he enjoys playing chess, doing competitive math, listening to music, and playing mobile games. He has won many top prizes and scored high in national high-level math competitions since middle school. He has qualified for invitational competitions such as the United States Junior Math Olympiad (USAJMO) for 3 years in a row. In the fall of 2021, Lawrence is to attend Georgia Tech and major in Industrial Engineering.

### IDAHO



Mia Rauer

**Mia Rauer** is a recent graduate of Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, Idaho. She has been a student of Cynthia Waldon for 12 years. During that time, she earned 12 Consecutive Superiors in the Piano Solo Event & earned

the President's Cup in NFMC festivals.

She also received 8 Superiors in Piano Concerto, 6 Superiors in Music Theory, 9 Superiors in Piano Patriotic & Folk, 6

Superiors in Piano Hymn, and 3 Superiors in Piano Duet for a total of 15 cups earned.

Mia will attend the University of California, Berkeley, in the Fall and plans to major in Environmental Design. In high school she was the President of the Drama Club and the Environmental Club. She was also very involved with the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights as the founding President of Students in Action Group.

Mia is a National Merit Scholar, Rotary Scholar, AP Scholar, NHS member, and recipient of the 2021 Upstander Care Award.

### KENTUCKY



Sitara True

**Sitara True** has studied piano and music theory with Mrs. May Man since she was 6 years old. As a pianist, she attended the Stephen Collins Foster Music Camp and the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts. She has also participated in

the ABRSM graded piano examinations and received superior ratings for 12 consecutive years in piano solo and for 8 consecutive years in piano concerto through participation in the NFMC Festivals. Sitara particularly enjoys the works of Debussy and Chopin; her strong sense of rhythm and aptitude for sight-reading have allowed her to play keyboard with a school jazz band and in the pit for a community theatre production.

Her early love of music led her to study voice and guitar with Mrs. Vanessa Davis. Sitara received four gold medals in vocal examinations with the Royal Conservatory of Music and participated in annual Student Songwriter Showcases, performing her original compositions. She has also appeared in numerous theatre productions with the Tates Creek Drama Club, InnOvation Arts Academy, the Academy for Creative Excellence, and the Lexington Children's Theatre, as well as performing with the youth ensemble in the Univ. of Kentucky Opera Theatre's *It's a Grand Night for Singing*.

*continued on page 8*

**PRESIDENTS CUP WINNERS** *continued*

Sitara graduated from the International Baccalaureate Programme at Tates Creek High School in Lexington, Kentucky and will attend the College of Wooster in the fall, where she plans to major in music composition. She received both a Dean's Scholarship and Music Scholarship from the College of Wooster. She is incredibly grateful to Mrs. Man and Mrs. Davis for inspiring, encouraging, and nurturing her passion for music.

**MARYLAND**

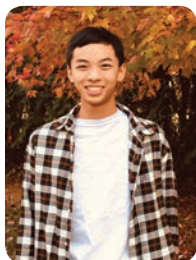


Abigail Coates

**Abigail Coates** began taking piano lessons at age three, studying for 12 years with Cindy Dittrich at Suzuki Piano Academy in Springfield, MO. Abigail has earned Festival trophies in Piano Solo, Piano Concerto, Music Theory, and Jr. Composer

Contest. She is currently studying piano with Irina Kaplan Lande at Peabody Preparatory and organ with Dr. Lynn Trapp, both in Baltimore, MD. She plays piano and organ at her church and plans to study Sacred Music in college.

**MINNESOTA**



Stephen Ma, piano

**Stephen Ma** is a senior at Woodbury High School, and he has studied with Jackie Lo for 13 years. He has participated in the NFMF festivals for 13 years and earned 9 consecutive piano solo Superior ratings along with 3 consecutive piano concerto Superior

ratings. Additionally, Stephen has qualified as a finalist in the MMTA state piano contest for 8 years while completing all 8 levels of the MMTA Music theory exam and 10 levels of the MMTA Piano Comprehensive Examination. He has also helped accompany many students as a pianist for their MMTA string exams.

Stephen has participated in many clubs at school such as National Honors Society, Red Cross Club, Cross Country, and more. He is the Secretary of Red Cross Club and NHS, and has volunteered 200 hours in various areas. Besides these, he enjoys drawing in his free time, playing chess, and hanging out with his younger sister. He plans to major in Computer Science and Music at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



Stephen Ma, violin

**Stephen Ma** is a senior at Woodbury High School and has participated in the National Federation of Music festivals for twelve years. He has earned 13 consecutive violin solo Superior ratings and 4 consecutive violin concerto Superior

ratings with his teacher, Jackie Lo. Stephen has participated in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies for 6 years and is currently 1st violin in the highest orchestra. He has auditioned for the All-State Orchestra and has played first violin for 2 years. Stephen has also competed in various competitions under the Minnesota Music Teachers' Association and won 1st place three times. He has been a finalist in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies Solo Competition three times.

Stephen has participated in many clubs at school such as National Honor Society, Red Cross Club, Cross Country, and more. He is the Secretary of Red Cross Club and NHS. Stephen has volunteered over 200 hours in various areas. In his free time, he enjoys drawing, playing chess and hanging out with his younger sister. He plans to major in Computer Science and Music at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

**NORTH DAKOTA**



Aleasha Marcotte

**Aleasha Marcotte**, Bismarck ND, earned the National Federation of Music Festival's 90-point President's cup through participating in Piano Solo as well as Piano Concerto events with her teacher David Poffenberger. Aleasha has been playing piano

since kindergarten, and has also studied under Julie Hathaway, and Dr. Tyler Wottrich. She has earned consecutive Superior ratings in numerous events including 12 piano solos, five concerti, four sight playing and three duets.

Aleasha graduated from Saint Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, ND in 2020. Throughout high school, she participated in Choir and the Wind Orchestra playing flute and piccolo. During high school, Aleasha auditioned and won the Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club's Belle Mehus

Piano Scholarship Award. Aleasha began teaching private piano lessons under the mentorship of Mr. Poffenberger her junior year of high school, and most recently has been a piano instructor for the North Dakota State University Music Academy. Aleasha will be entering her second year of college at University of North Dakota pursuing a double major in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Music in the fall of 2021.

**OHIO**



Emily Qian

**Emily Qian**, Hathaway Brown Class of 2021, is a piano student of Ella Karasik and an active member of The Junior Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland. She has participated in Federation Festivals since first grade. Throughout high

school, Emily performed piano solos and senior level piano concertos and earned 12 consecutive superiors. This spring, she also earned the coveted 90-point President's Cup, the only one in Ohio District I-A this year.

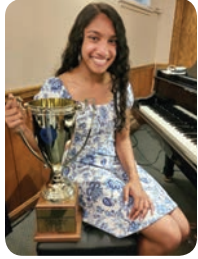
Ella Karasik fondly remembers one of Emily's first competitions, the Cincinnati World Piano Competition. Her teacher advised her to "run" up to the piano quickly to show the people how eager she was to play. She didn't really mean "run", but six-year-old Emily didn't know that. To the delight of the audience, she ran from backstage to the piano and won the competition. It was the first of many competitions Emily would win. Others include the Junior Fortnightly Awards Auditions, the Venetia Hall Piano Competition, Graves Piano Competition and American Protégé Competition. The latter qualified her to perform at Carnegie Hall.

During high school, Emily was an immunology researcher at Case Western Reserve University, president of her school environmental club, and a bass clarinetist in her school orchestra. Academically she is a National Merit Scholarship winner and a Coolidge scholarship finalist. After graduation, Emily plans to study biology on a pre-med track at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Words of wisdom: "Practice hard, but not too much that you don't have fun!"





**PENNSYLVANIA**



Simren Jayaraman

**Simren Jayaraman** began playing piano at the age of 5 and participated in PFMC Festivals for 12 years. After suddenly losing her Federation teacher, she finished earning her Presidential Cup this year as an Individual Member. She

has enjoyed a passion of music her whole life through piano, violin, chorus, and Indian classical dance. She loves performing for friends and family as well as at a local community event, Cranfest, a celebration of diversity and inclusion. She also volunteer-taught piano to elementary students over the past three years.

Along with music, Simren enjoys Taekwondo, in which she is a fourth-degree black belt, sewing, and creating art in her free time. In school she enjoys science and math and aspires to pursue medicine. After graduating high school this year, she will attend a 6-year BA/MD program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Simren also participated in several clubs, one being Academic Games in which her team placed 1st nationally in the 2019 Theme game. When Simren is not practicing music or making art, she enjoys volunteering at children's summer camps and hospitals and spending time with her younger brother, parents, and friends.



Anoop Savio

**Anoop Savio** graduated from Seneca Valley Senior High School and has been playing the piano for twelve years. He has been a student of Mrs. Linda Maurhoff since the age of 5 and has participated in Festivals for the past 12 years,

earning consecutive superiors in Piano Solo, Piano Concerto, American Patriotic and Folk, and Piano Hymn Playing. This year Anoop received the President's Cup. At school, Anoop plays piano for jazz band. He is also involved in his school's academic games club, chess club Model United Nations club and Global Leadership club. He is an avid sports fan who plays

both soccer and tennis. Outside of school, he participates in youth and government as the Legislative President and volunteers at the local Miracle League Southwest PA division. In the fall, Anoop will be attending the University of Florida for Finance.

**UTAH**



Fiona Tsang

**Fiona** started her piano journey at the age of 6 and has been playing for the last 12 years. This year, she graduated with the class of 2021 from West High School in Salt Lake City. Even though she won't be playing for Federation festivals anymore, she will

continue playing piano in her own time. Her favorite memory of piano is playing at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah for the first time at 11 years old. At that point in her life, playing in Temple Square was a dream come true.

Of course, this all came with the help of her teachers and family. Fiona studied under Janisse Foresti for the first few years and Karlyen Tan, NCTM for the remaining ten years of her piano career. Both teachers influenced her greatly and supported her through her piano studies. Fiona has completed all ten levels of the AIM program with Utah Music Teachers Association and earned her 90-point President's cup with twelve consecutive years of superiors for solo festival with Federation, but not without challenges. It was difficult for her to balance her school academics, sports, music, and mental health. The most important skill that piano has taught her is balance and patience. The time and effort put into music will pay off. It may not seem like it in the moment during the long hours of practices but the small victories in the process of perfecting a piece make it very rewarding.

Fiona is very grateful for the opportunity to learn such a beautiful and sophisticated instrument. It has taught her discipline and patience. She is glad she can bring happiness to others in the form of music at any given time.

**GRAND CUP WINNERS**

**FLORIDA**



Elizabeth Kelly

**Elizabeth Kelly**, 18, of Niceville, FL has earned the NFMG Grand Cup in Piano Solo and Piano Concerto this year. At Festival she has received 10 Superiors in Piano Solo and 7 in Piano Concerto. She also received her 3rd level Gold Cup for Theory this year. She has studied piano for ten years with Loretta Hake.

She has participated in the National Guild of Piano Teachers Playing Auditions for 10 years and this year was awarded the Paderewski Gold Medal for performing 10 years of National programs of at least 10 pieces. She also has performed in the Choctaw Bay Music Club Sonata/Sonatina Spectacular for 7 years. In May the club honored her with a Senior Award.

Ballet has also been one of Elizabeth's great passions. She started dancing at Northwest Florida Ballet when she was in 6th grade and every year has performed in the yearly student concert. She has participated in many of the summer programs and has performed in shows at the end of those. She has had various roles in "The Nutcracker" over the course of 4 years and has also had roles in "Cinderella." Elizabeth is taking courses at Northwest Florida State College this year and will continue on at the University of West Florida the following year. Her interests are many and she has not yet decided on a major, though her interest in piano continues.

*continued on page 10*

GRAND CUP WINNERS *continued*

**GEORGIA**



Aryan Bhatia

**Aryan Bhatia** is a rising senior at South Forsyth High School in Cumming, GA. Aryan began piano lessons in 2010, and has participated in the GA Federation of Music Club Festivals each year, and earned Superior ratings

in all performances. He has earned the 75-point Grand Cup from the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Outside of piano, Aryan is a member of the FIRST and BEST robotics team at his school and participates in the National Honor Society, DECA, and FBLA. After graduation, Aryan plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology and major in STEM related subjects.



Kyle Palsson

**Kyle Palsson**, 17, is a senior at Atlanta International School. He began his musical training at the age of six under the instruction of Shirley Irek. Since 2009 he has participated in the National Federation of Music Clubs piano Festival

Competitions and has accumulated a total of 78 points; competing in both the solo and concerto competitions. Kyle now has the longest streak of consecutive "superior" marks of any participant in the state of Georgia.

In addition to playing the piano, Kyle enjoys playing sports. He is a member of both the basketball and soccer varsity teams at Atlanta International School.

This season, the soccer team made it all the way to the state championship final game.

Kyle would like to express his gratitude towards his family and friends for all their continued support throughout his journey so far. And a very special thanks to the teachers who this past year, showed up to school every day, jeopardizing their own health and well-being, so that he could have a wonderful junior year experience.



Neil Romesh

**Neil Romesh**, a rising senior at Alliance Academy for Innovation in Cumming, Georgia has learned piano from Joan Nickell for around 10 years. Neil began taking lessons since the first grade and since then

has earned superiors in the Solo and Concerto categories at the Georgia Federation of Music Club's festival.

Neil takes part in several activities outside of piano as he is also the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Region officer. He is also a member of HOSA and plays recreational basketball. Neil also volunteered at an organization called Sewa, where he organized a 5k run to raise money for sexually abused kids. After graduating high school, Neil plans to pursue the pre-med pathway.



Clayton Schmidt

**Clayton Schmidt**, a senior at River Ridge High School in Woodstock, GA has earned the 75-point Grand Cup from NFMFC. Clay began piano lessons in the third grade and has been the student of Julie Harbin for 10

years. He has participated in the Georgia Federation of Music Clubs Festivals each year, having earned Superior ratings in both the Solo and Concerto categories.

In addition to playing piano, Clay is a member of the Cross-Country team at his school and is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Rho Kappa. Clay also participates in Sprouting Stems where he leads elementary students in STEM specific lessons.

After graduation, Clay plans to attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in Mechanical Engineering.



Khushi Sharma

**Khushi Sharma**, a senior at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, GA has earned the 75-point Grand Cup from NFMFC. Khushi began her piano journey at the age of 5 under Ms. Joan Nickell's tutelage and has been playing the instrument

for the past 11 years. She has participated in the Georgia Federation of Music Clubs Festivals throughout her musical career and has earned multiple Superior ratings in both the Solo and Concerto categories.

In addition to playing piano, Khushi is a long-time flute player and an avid STEM enthusiast who co-heads her school's STEAM magazine and participates in a range of scientific clubs such as the Math Team and in Science Bowl. Aside from her in-school activities, she also is a Chapter Lead within the AI4ALL organization and a Kathak dancer who studies the art at the NNKB Institute.

**KENTUCKY**

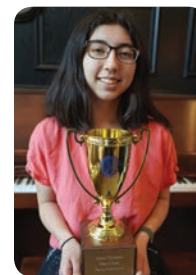


Irene Kim

My name is **Irene Kim**, and I am from Lexington, KY. I just graduated Henry Clay High School and will attend the University of California, Los Angeles this fall. I have been a student of Mrs. Maria LeRose since 2013

and have partaken in National Federation of Music Clubs festivals since 2013. Honors: National Merit Finalist, Kentucky Governor's Scholar, National Honor Society. Earning the NFMFC Grand cup is a testament to my teacher's and parents' incredible support all these years!

**MICHIGAN**



Hana Chrenka

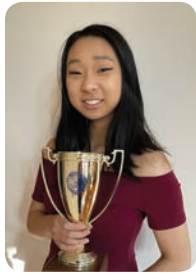
**Hana Chrenka** is a junior at Clarkston High School in Clarkston, MI. She has been studying piano with Mrs. Ayako Young since she was four years old.

Over her past 13 years of participation in the NFMFC Junior Festival,



Hana has consistently achieved superiors in the piano solo category, as well as 8 superiors for piano concertos. In school, she plays violin in the Chamber Orchestra, and participates in various other school activities, such as Mindfulness Club, Stock Market Club, and her school's National Honor Society, where she holds a position on the Executive Board. Her interest in the performing arts extends beyond classical music, and she is an active member in her school drama club as a set builder, a set mover, and as a sound technician.

Hana is deeply grateful to her piano teacher, Ayako Young, not only for constantly supporting her and challenging her to improve her playing, but inspiring her to work hard in both piano and in her personal life.



Sarah Xu

**Sarah Xu**, a current senior at Troy High School in Michigan, has studied with teacher Mrs. Sarah DePalma for 11 years. Along with consistently receiving superior ratings in Piano Solo and Piano Concerto events, Sarah has won many other piano awards at the state level such as through the MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival, the American Guild of Music, and many more.

Sarah also joined the Robotics Club at her high school and is a vocalist in her church's worship team. She loves to read books, spend time with family, and volunteer in her free time. She hopes to major in computer science at her future college.

**MINNESOTA**



Malvika Gupta

**Malvika Gupta** has always enjoyed music. She began her piano study at the age of four with her first teacher Ann Horgan. In the third grade she continued her formal study with Grace Kopitske and participated in her first solo Federation Festival with the East Suburban Federation Music Club. In sixth grade, she also began to perform concertos. With her performance in the virtual 2021 Festival, she has earned her Grand Cup. Malvika has also participated in numerous Minnesota

Music Teachers Association programs. She has competed in the MMTA State Contest finals seven years and participated in the MMTA Honors Concert three years. Over the years she has prepared for six levels of the MMTA Comprehensive Piano Examinations, passing each time with High Distinction or Distinction. As part of the Piano Exams requirements, Malvika has also passed all the required MMTA Theory Exams.

As a senior at East Ridge High School, she enjoys math and chemistry as well as the PSEO classes she has been taking at the University of Minnesota. Outside of school, Malvika enjoys knitting and baking. Next year, she plans to go to the University of Minnesota, pursuing a chemical engineering major with a Spanish minor. Although not continuing formal study after high school, Malvika does plan to enjoy playing piano for the rest of her life.



Zoe Johnson

**Zoe Johnson** has been playing piano for thirteen years. For the past ten years she has studied with Grace Kopitske, NCTM, and has participated yearly in the East Suburban Junior Festivals held in Woodbury, Minnesota. Zoe has also participated in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association's theory and comprehensive piano examinations, passing with high marks.

At East Ridge High School, Zoe has participated in various science and math clubs. The active Science Olympiad team has placed in the state competitions. Zoe also enjoys competing on the school's track team. With her elementary education at the Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy, she is also fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

As a graduating senior, Zoe is looking forward to studying civil engineering at Purdue University.

**NEW JERSEY**



Olivia Data

**Samantha Howden**, student of NJFMC President Barbara Landi Hause, was presented with her Grand Cup at a special outdoors awards party. Samantha has studied piano with Ms. Hause in Florham Park, NJ, since 2011,

and has participated in the Junior Festivals in Solo, Duet, and Concerto events. In addition to her NJFMC activities, Samantha has also performed for the Music Educators Association of NJ Auditions, earning medals and other awards. She has performed five times in Carnegie Hall, NYC, as a winner in the Golden Key Festival. Samantha is also an accomplished ballet dancer and an honors student at her high school. Her dedication to the piano remains passionate, even with all the demands that senior year presents, and she hopes to achieve the Presidents Cup in 2022.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

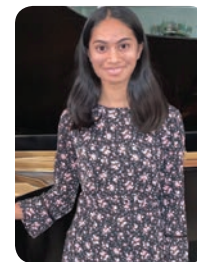


Samantha Howden

**Olivia Data** is a senior in Bismarck, North Dakota, and she has been playing piano since first grade. She started lessons with Diane Eichhorst and transferred to Dave Poffenberger's studio three years ago. Olivia has played solos,

concertos, and even a few duets in Piano Festival. She has also played keyboard for the pit orchestra in various local productions, the cello in her school orchestra, and the accordion in one rather unfortunate talent show. Outside of music, Olivia is in ballet, speech, art, and ski patrol, and she is a member of the Student Advocates of North Dakota. After this next year of high school, Olivia plans to pursue an education in art and politics, though music will always be an important part of her life!

**OHIO**



Meghna Bettaiah

**Meghna Bettaiah's** piano adventure began in first grade when she started piano lessons with Cynthia Crotty and entered her first NFMC Festival. Motivated by the annual event, Meghna went on to earn 11 consecutive superiors and then, in spring of 2021, was awarded her 75-point Grand Cup. (Ohio District I-A.) Her achievement was expediated by combining senior concerto and piano solo points when she entered ninth grade.

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**GRAND CUP WINNERS** continued

Now a junior at Solon High School, Meghna works her piano practice around a plethora of time-consuming high school activities like cross country and speech and debate. She is also a new-student mentor, a middle school speech coach, and participates in the Solon Red Cross Club, a club she co-founded.

Over her 11 years of playing piano, Meghna has performed at many different venues, which has contributed to her love of the piano. An active member of Piano by the Falls and The Junior Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, Meghna placed in the American Protégé Competition and will be performing at a Winners Recital at Carnegie Hall in New York City in November. Meghna would like to thank Ms. Crotty for her continuous support.



Meghan Bhanoo

**Meghan Bhanoo** has studied piano with Karen Spisak since she was four years old. Now a junior at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio, Meghan has achieved 12 years of consecutive superior ratings at the National Federation

of Music Clubs Festival (Ohio District I-A). She earned her 75-point Grand Cup too. “It’s sooooo BIG,” she says!”

Meghan is passionate about the arts. In addition to her piano study, she has been dancing at Fairmount Center for the Arts for 13 years enjoying ballet, pointe, contemporary, jazz, and tap. At Gilmour, Meghan is a varsity member of the lacrosse, soccer, and cheerleading teams and is involved in the Green Leadership Council, Student Council, and Reach Out Club. She has achieved high academic honors and won numerous awards and scholarships. Meghan also volunteers at the Cleveland Food Bank and Fairmount Center for the Arts. She hopes to pursue a career in the STEM fields.



Kathleen Guo

**Kathleen Guo** began playing piano at the age of five with Cynthia Crotty and participated in her first Federation Festival that same year. She has been working towards the goal of earning the 90-point President’s Cup ever

since then! She’s getting close: In 2021, after earning her twelfth consecutive superior, she was awarded the 75-point Grand Cup and is on track to fulfill her dream in 2022.

Kathleen, a member of Piano by the Falls and The Junior Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, has participated in the Cincinnati World Piano Competition, the CCCCA Piano Competition, Piano Guild Auditions and NE-OMTA Young Artist recitals. She is currently a junior at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Kathleen works as a lab volunteer and intern at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center as a part of her school’s Science Research and Engineering Program and has had her abstract published in the Ohio Journal of Science. She is also a research intern at a local marketing firm as a part of her capstone project for her business and finance class. Kathleen is involved in a student sustainability group: Shaker Youth LEEDs where she and other students work to create a larger sustainability movement in the Shaker Heights community. Additionally, she further pursues her passion for the arts by working on a two-year independent project of choreographing a dance, creating stage lighting, costume, and dabbling in dance videography. Kathleen hopes to continue feeding her passion for playing piano for many years to come!



Ethan Jiang

**Ethan Jiang**, University School Class of 2021, is a piano student of Ella Karasik and has participated in the Ohio District I-A Federation Festival since fourth grade. In his words, the festival experience has been enjoyable, and he likes

getting feedback on his performances without the pressure of competition. And Ethan *understands* competitions: An active member of The Junior Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, twice Ethan placed second in the American Protégé Competition, and he had the privilege of performing at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall in New York City. By playing senior level piano concertos and piano solos in the Federation Festival all through high school, Ethan wrapped up his senior year with nine consecutive superiors and was awarded the 75-point Grand Cup.

During his high school years at University School, Ethan’s major activities were piano, playing in the orchestra, volunteering at University Hospital (Cleveland, OH) and swimming with the varsity swim team all four years. How did he do it all? “It’s a balancing act,” he said. He learned to plan and prioritize during different seasons, balancing swimming and piano. He would usually learn the festival pieces before swim season so he would be prepared in time.

Ethan will be attending the University of Chicago and is considering studying economics, biology, or both. He will definitely continue playing music in college for fun. He encourages students to stick with music, to take the time to enjoy it, and use it to decompress.



Kristina Martinez

**Kristina Martinez**, a junior at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights Ohio, has been awarded the 75-point Grand Cup at the 2021 District I-A OFMC Federation Festival. A 12-year consecutive superior winner, she has been a

piano student of Feroza La Bonne for ten years, and, before that, for two years with Cindy McAdams. Judges have commended Kristina for her “expressive, commanding, mature and engaging performances.” Her hobbies include voice, violin, drawing and painting. Kristina has performed musical theater at her school and participated in both art song and musical theater at the Festival and OMEA, always with the highest ratings. She has also been first violinist with the Hathaway Brown Orchestra. During the summers she interns with the NASA Glenn Research Center. Kristina feels the structure and discipline she has gained through music will serve her well when she pursues a degree in engineering.

**PENNSYLVANIA**



Mia Doyle

Despite the obstacle of a pandemic raging throughout the world, destroying people’s social lives, and limiting the availability of toilet paper, I successfully graduated from Queen of Heaven Academy in May 2020.

When I was five, my



parents made a dreadful decision. They put me in piano lessons. After the first few years of hating piano, refusing to practice, and eagerly awaiting any opportunity to quit, I warmed up to the gift my parents had forced upon me. Now, I have been playing piano for over 13 years and it has become one of my favorite activities.

An important milestone in my piano journey was our move to Pennsylvania from Texas. The move was a dream come true. Aside from always wanting to live in Pennsylvania because of reading *The Magic Treehouse* series, I was given an opportunity to grow as a pianist in ways I never dreamed when, in the fall of 2012, I started lessons with Mrs. Maurhoff. Despite the hours of last-minute practicing and playing the same music for 9 months, (not to mention those pesky concertos), I enjoyed the Festivals program, achieving the grand cup for piano solos with consecutive superiors throughout. My toughest, yet my favorite Festival accomplishment was completing all three movements (over 60 pages!) of Mozart's Concerto in D Minor.

When I'm not playing piano, I enjoy reading uplifting books, hanging out with my family and friends, running, playing guitar, participating in choirs and music camps, writing, doing random acts of kindness for others, and acting. I have been in five locally written and produced shows, performing as a lead in three of them. My favorite role was portraying Mary the Mother of God in *The Promise*, a Nativity play.

I am pursuing a liberal arts degree at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. As I continue in this new chapter of my life, I've thought a lot about my favorite bible verse: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you, not to harm you, so as to give you a future of hope." ~ Jeremiah 29:11. I know that wherever I go, the Lord has a special plan for my life.

I would like to thank Mrs. Maurhoff for her continued patience and support over the last 8 years. I would also like to thank my parents for paying for and forcing me to take piano lessons, because the ability to make music remains one of my most precious gifts.



Timothy Jayamohan

**Timothy Jayamohan** will be a senior at Mars Area High School this fall. He has been a student of Mrs. Linda Maurhoff since the age of 5 and has participated in Festivals each of those 12 years entering Piano Solo, Piano Hymns and Piano Concerto.

This year, Timothy earned the Grand Cup in Piano Solo. At school, Timothy excels academically earning high honors throughout high school. He is part of the Science Bowl Team as well as National Honors Society. He also participates in a math competition called CalcuSolve. Timothy is a member of the varsity tennis team. Outside of school, Timothy enjoys volunteering for his church and hanging out with friends. He also participated in a robotics competition called the FIRST Tech Challenge and placed 4th at state.



Miriam Layne

**Miriam Layne** is an 11-year student of Joyce Turner-Gindlesperger and earned her Grand Cup in Piano Solo. A 2021 Pine Richland graduate, she is a member of the National Honor Society and has been active in dance and music as well as

achieving high academic standings throughout her secondary school career. As a student at the Fairgrieve School of Dance, Miriam attended classes for over 12 years and had the honor of participating in a dance intensive at Point Park University. Musically, in addition to studying piano for 11 years, she has mastered the violin and flute. She has been a violinist in her school since the fourth grade and is also a member of the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra (PYCO) where she has enhanced her playing skills over the years. In the 9th grade, she pursued learning to play the flute and became an active participant in the marching and concert bands. She was selected to play violin in the High School pit for musical in the 9th and 10th grades and piano in 11th grade. Because of the pandemic, there was no opportunity to participate in the musical her last year of school which was a disappointment, but she was grateful for the time it gave her to prepare for her final piano solos and concerto.

Since the sixth grade, Miriam has been a leader at Allison Park Church working in the children's ministry. The church also offers a Fine Arts program which Miriam participated in the Piano Solo, Worship Dance and Photography categories. Throughout her time in this program, she had progressed to the National Level in the Photography and Piano categories and State level in dance.

Lastly, Miriam has maintained academic excellence by achieving the high honor roll each year in high school and middle school. A mixture of Advanced Placement and Honor courses demanded focus and perseverance as well as keeping up her musical skills both inside and outside of the classroom. Miriam's future plans are to major in Biology or Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh with a minor in Music Performance. Her primary goal is to be a veterinarian. She will be researching using music therapy in addition to traditional methods to treat pets that experience stress and trauma.



Seth Alexander Owen

**Seth Alexander (Alex) Owen** recently graduated from Seneca Valley High School. He has played piano since 3rd grade with the Linda Maurhoff studio. Alex has participated in NFMC Festivals each year in Piano Solo, Hymn Playing and Concerto

receiving consecutive superiors every year. He especially loves playing the concerto, his favorite being Mozart's #27 in Bb Major. Alex has also played the saxophone for the past 9 years in his school's concert band and in Seneca Valley's marching band. For the past 3 years Alex played the bass clarinet in Seneca Valley's wind ensemble, the highest-level audition group in the school. Alex is also involved in his church youth group and has been part of the Boy Scouts of America since the age of 8. Alex does well academically at Seneca Valley and greatly enjoys learning, with a particular interest in math. For the past three years he has received either High or Highest honors awards from the school district. Alex will be attending Slippery Rock University in the fall, where he will major in Computer Science. Alex plans to continue his musical interests and hopes to audition for a music minor, piano concentration, his sophomore year as well as continue playing the bass clarinet in one of the wind concert groups."

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## GRAND CUP WINNERS *continued*

### UTAH



Auden Bown

**Auden Bown** is graduating from Rowland Hall-St. Marks after 12 years at the school, and will be attending Dartmouth College this fall. He has loved being involved in music, playing viola in his school Chamber Ensemble

in addition to piano. He was selected to participate in the Utah All-State Orchestra this year virtually for the viola.

Auden won his elementary division of the Summer Arts Concerto Competition at age 9 and has been selected to play in the state UMTA Honors Recitals. In addition, this month he earned a superior in both the regional and state UHSAA State Solo and Ensemble Competition. He began his piano studies with Tatyana Ekschtein, and has studied with Rosemary for the past four years and hopes to continue with piano through college.

Outside of music, Auden also has enjoyed four years on the tennis team playing doubles, where he received an Academic All-State award and won State in doubles. He was also on the debate team for four years and won State three of those years. Some of his other hobbies include skiing, hiking, and eating all different kinds of food.



Isabel Emery

**Isabel Emery** started taking piano lessons in 2010 when she was seven years old with her aunt Valerie Peterson. She had been asking to take lessons since she was 4! She even made herself a cardboard piano so she could attempt to teach herself

how to play the piano. After taking from her aunt for a couple years, she transferred to her current teacher, Jennifer O'Very. Isabel has a deep love and appreciation of music and playing the piano. She has competed in Utah Federation of Music Clubs Piano Festival since 2011. She has received eleven consecutive Superior ratings in the Piano Solo event, one Excellent and four Superior ratings in the Piano Concerto event, a Superior rating for Senior Concerto, and three consecutive Superior

ratings in the Piano Duet event. Isabel also has received a Superior rating at the 2019 Regional and State Piano Solo Festival hosted by the Utah High School Activities Association. Isabel loves sharing her musical talent with others. She has shared special musical numbers during church worship services, and accompanied individual, group, and instrumental musical numbers for church and school events. Isabel has also taught piano lessons to three beginner students since August 2019. In addition to playing the piano, Isabel enjoys photography. She has been a member of the Riverton High School Cross Country and Track Teams for three years. Isabel has been a peer tutor this past year at school and has loved helping students with special needs. Isabel is headed to Brigham Young University in the fall.



Emily Portlock

**Emily Portlock** has just recently graduated from Riverton High School. She started taking piano lessons at age 7 from Jennifer O'Very and has studied with her for 11 years. She was a quick learner from the very start and showed great promise as

she had fabulous technique at the beginning. Emily is very capable and is always a favorite to watch at recitals! Emily has received superior ratings for 11 consecutive years in Solo and Concerto. She has been diligent at practicing over the years and knows the effort required to perfect difficult pieces.

Some other hobbies include caring for reptiles and animals. She currently has 12 reptiles she takes care of and enjoys working at a local Pet Store. She plans to attend Salt Lake Community College in the fall and take music classes. With the help of her piano teacher, she has started her own piano studio and looks forward to growing her studio in the future.



Abigail Sorensen

**Abby Sorensen**, a senior at Bingham High School, has studied piano for over eleven years and recently received her 75-point Federation cup for piano solo and concerto. She has benefited from two wonderful instructors,

Zhenya DeVol and Sandra Peterson, who taught her both discipline and style in her performance. Abby was selected to perform with the Bingham High Symphony for Concerto Night in both 2020 and 2021 and was a finalist for Sterling Scholar in Music. She has participated in the Sandy MTNA competition, 8 piano monster concert for 5 years and provided service through her performances in the Festival of Trees benefitting Primary Children's Hospital. She has often accompanied high school choirs, church choirs and numerous duets and individual performances.

Beyond piano, Abby has performed choral singing in Bingham's Cantatrice women's choir, combined A'Cappella choir and elite Madrigals choir. She participated for three years in a community show choir called Counterpoint and along the way has become proficient playing the guitar and ukulele.

Outside of music, Abby is a 4.0 student athlete, competing for three years on Bingham's varsity Cross Country and Track teams and serving as co-captain for her junior and senior seasons. She has trained to be an Emergency Medical Technician through concurrent enrollment at a technical college. After high school graduation, she plans to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, UT aiming to pursue a career in the field of healthcare.

### WYOMING



Sahana Datar

**Sahana Datar** is a Senior at Rampart High School. She has been taking piano for the past thirteen years. The many musical accomplishments in piano include both solo and ensemble events in Federated Festival. Taking part

in the CSU-Pueblo summer music program and the Pueblo Keyboard Arts Festival have added to Sahana's list of accomplishments. Preparing for and passing with a Distinction mark in a Piano Performance Grade 7 Exam plus earning her 75-point Festival Cup in spite of Covid gave this year meaning and purpose. Sahana's hard work has paid off in all her many accomplishments.

Her teacher, Jodie Jensen has been thrilled with Sahana's ability in both piano solo, piano ensembles and concerto work.



Sahana is also a classical Indian singer and tries to combine both singing and piano to make herself an all-round musician.

Sahana is in the honors program at school and is ranked number one at her high school and is planning to attend university as a pre-medical student. Sahana is a kind and delightful person who helps others without recognition or fanfare.



Elia Muncey

“Congratulations **Elia Muncey!** We are so proud of you. I remember so well 4-year-old Elia: you were quite certain about your desire to study piano. From day one you took it seriously, worked hard, appreciated the special gift God has given you, and you cultivated that

gift diligently. We have had the joy of listening to you play your beautiful music year after year. You have shared this blessing with countless other people who have listened to you: at church, during your performances, or simply playing for people at home.” (Tanya Muncey, Elia’s mother.)

Elia started her piano and Festival’s journey in Los Angeles. She then moved to Colorado Springs where she has studied with Jodie Jensen for the past six years. She has participated in the Festival for Creative Pianists, won competitions from local MTNA events, CSU-Pueblo Keyboard Arts Festivals and participated in summer camps. She has been an active part of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Exam system and received a Distinction mark for her Grade 8 Piano Performance Exam this past Spring.

Receiving her 75-point cup was the crowning glory to a very difficult Covid year. Elia will be studying engineering at CU-Boulder in the fall.



Sarabeth Schuck

**Sarabeth Schuck** has played piano for eleven years and loves composing and sharing her music with others. As the oldest of five siblings, she lives on a small farm and raises dairy goats, making soap from their milk.

Outside of piano, she enjoys quilting, reading, Irish dancing, studying great literature, and last year, she wrote her first historical fiction novel set in twelfth century Ireland. Above all, she loves worshipping the Lord, and she seeks to glorify Him in all that she does.

Sarabeth will be attending Geneva College this fall. She plans to major in English Literature while also taking prerequisites for physician assistant school. She ultimately hopes to use her career as a physician assistant to serve women and children internationally through medical missions.

Sarabeth has studied with Jodie Jensen and been a huge part of the Mile High Music Makers Junior Club. Earning her 75-point cup has been a huge accomplishment and is the crown on a very busy musical year. In addition to Federation events, Sarabeth has taken the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams biennially. She received top honor of a Distinction mark for Grade 8 Performance Grade Piano. With the Covid-19 pandemic, all exams were done virtually this year. **JK**

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## NFMF FESTIVALS CHAIR

# A Vision into the Future

By Lori Jessen, NFMF Festivals Chair

Hello to all! I'm very honored to be the new National Festivals Chair. I'm looking forward to working with all the Festival Chairs in moving the Festivals program forward into the future. What does that vision look like? What could we accomplish if resources, personnel, or time were no object? Please spend some time thinking about this for your studio, your area, your state (whatever level of involvement you have). Then grab a piece of paper (or use a digital tool) and write it down. Writing down your goals greatly improves the chances of success, and it's an easy thing to do. As I tell my students, "Always do the easy things!" 😊

Here are some questions you might want to ponder:

- **How can we get more members?** Every Festival area is unique, but one thing that we can all do is to invite a friend to a meeting so they can get to know the wonderful people in our clubs. Building relationships and a sense of community will go far in helping everything else run smoothly. Reach out to everyone who is a musician, music teacher, or music lover. The more the merrier! Federation is unique in that we have a place for *everyone* who loves music. Get people involved so that they have ownership in the organization and then watch the wonderful things that will happen.
- **How can we get more Festival entries?** One basic way is to encourage students to do more than one event. There's more to Festival than just the solo events. 😊 Now, I know what you're thinking... "It's all I can do to get their solos ready. The kids are so busy, they don't have time for yet one more thing." Believe me, I understand. But it's possible to incorporate the pieces they are *already practicing* for their lessons to be used for Festival. What am

I talking about? Well, for example, many lesson and performance/repertoire books utilize American folk or patriotic songs. If a student learns a folk song as part of their lesson, they just need to learn one more from the required list and then—boom! —they have their pieces ready for the American Patriotic and Folk Song Event. (Plus, APFS pieces do not need to be memorized, so that can shorten the preparation time.) Or, do your students learn Christmas carols/holiday music? If so, there's a piece that can potentially be used for the Hymn Playing or Sacred Music Piano Solo event. Or how about scales, arpeggios, and chords? Are your students learning them? Those can be performed in the Improvisation event. Would you consider helping your students get a trophy in one of these events? Think about those big smiles when they have realized their accomplishments.

- Now it's not all about getting, it's also about giving, so... **How can we give back to our community?** We always need to be thinking about giving out the blessings that we have received so that we don't grow stagnant. Think about water...flowing, running water remains fresh. Water that just stands around gets scummy and gross. Keep your music flowing into your community to bring that life-giving force spreading. What corner of your world might be blessed by a program from your club or your students?

I want to encourage all of you to be bold and daring in your vision. Share your vision with others. Work towards its completion. If we all do a little bit, that will add up to an amazing difference. Do all that you can to fulfill the Federation Collect's words:...to bring the spiritualizing force of music to the inner life of our nation. We desperately need it. **JK**



## NFMF NEW THEORY CURRICULUM TRANSITION

Heather Rathnau, NFMF – Theory Time

I hope spring theory testing went well for everyone. To help make the transition to the new curriculum as easy as possible, here are a few suggestions:

Sample tests for each level are online at [www.nfmf-music.org/festival](http://www.nfmf-music.org/festival). Scroll down to JR 6-1. A link to this site is pinned at the top of the Theory Time Facebook page. The actual tests are in the same format as the sample tests. Look at the sample Answer Keys to see how each question is graded. Start now to prepare your students for the spring 2022 theory test. If you have already started, all the better!

If working through a Theory Time workbook, a student may skip the reviews to accelerate progress. Reviews can be done before the spring test. The Theory Time Online Academy (TTOA) is up and running

with video courses starting with the C level (Primer) through Level 12. Access the TTOA at [www.theorytime.com](http://www.theorytime.com). Theory Time will give you a one-time promotional offer of three free video courses. Please email Heather at [info@theorytime.com](mailto:info@theorytime.com) to request these and mention reading this article in your email. Use the coupon code 20421 by Dec 31, 2021 to receive 20% off all Theory Time workbooks purchased at [theorytime.com](http://theorytime.com). Workbooks for the A and B levels are in production. Watch the Theory Time website for an announcement regarding any new releases.

If you need any clarity or encouragement about the new curriculum, I am happy to talk with you personally. Please feel free to call me at (281) 208-3803, ext. 2. My goal is for each student to be confident and successful! Together, let's make that happen!



# 2021 Festival Year Facts & Figures

The data from the 2021 Festival year has been compiled. While numbers can be impersonal, each figure represents an entrant who has taken another step on their musical journey. This year there were **70,532** Festival participants (Junior & Adult). Even in trying times, students are making music and growing their skills!

Listed below are the facts and figures. When looking at them, be sure to notice that there are quite a few events that had no entrants or less than 10 entrants. Let's change that for next year! Take special note of those events and think about a student that you have that can benefit from preparing music for that event. Together, we can rise to the challenge to increase Festival participation and widen our student's musical experiences. It's a win-win!

## Regional Totals

1 South East	22,197
2 Western	17,284
3 North East	10,712
4 North Central	10,272
5 South Central	10,077

## States with 1,500 or more entries

1 Utah	6,776
2 Florida	5,858
3 Texas	4,719
4 Georgia	4,682
5 Missouri	4,038
6 Virginia	3,918
7 Ohio	3,452
8 Minnesota	2,915
9 Idaho	2,853
10 Michigan	2,698
11 Indiana	2,691
12 Wisconsin	2,602
13 North Carolin	2,400
14 Oregon	2,159
15 Louisiana	1,856
16 Iowa	1,602

## Events with 500 or more entrants

1 Piano Solo	44,170
2 Theory	6,981
3 Violin Solo	3,153
4 Piano Concert	2,681
5 Piano Hymn	2,359
6 Piano Duet	2,049
7 Vocal Solo - IV	1,484
8 APFS	1,299
9 Violin Concert	873
10 Vocal Solo - A	853
11 Sight Playing/	791
12 Cello Solo	680

**Total Jr. Clubs**  
**4,574**

**Total Superiors**  
**36,010**

## Events with no participants

1 Accordion Duet
2 Accordion Orchestra
3 Four Violins
4 Viola Quartet
5 String Trio
6 Piano Trio II
7 Piano Trio III
8 Piccolo Concerto
9 Clarinet Duet
10 Clarinet Trio
11 Bari Sax Solo
12 Saxophone Quartet
13 Recorder Duet
14 Recorder Trio
15 Recorder Quartet
16 Trumpet Concerto
17 Trumpet Duet
18 Tuba Solo
19 Timpani Solo
20 Theater Dance
21 Acrobatic
22 Modern Dance
23 School Orchestra
24 Flute Choir

## Events with 10 or fewer participants

1 One Hand Piano	3
2 Sacred Organ	5
3 Accordion Solo	3
4 Viola Trio	6
5 String Bass Solo	7
6 Harp Concerto	5
7 Harp Hymns	2
8 Fiddling Duet	2
9 Viola-Cello Duet	4
10 Piano/String Quartet	4
11 Piano Trio I	6
12 Classical Guitar Concerto	4
13 Classical Guitar Duet	4
14 Classical Guitar Ensemble	4
15 Pick Style Guitar Duet	2
16 Electric Bass Guitar Solo	2
17 Flute Trio	3
18 Flute Quartet	8
19 Oboe Concerto	3
20 Clarinet Concerto	2
21 Bassoon Solo	1
22 Alto Sax Duet	1
23 Tenor Sax Solo	4
24 Soprano Recorder Solo	4
25 Trombone/Euphonium Solo	1
26 French Horn Solo	9
27 French Horn Concerto	1
28 Kybd Percussion Solo	10
29 Drum Set Solo	9
30 Ballet	1
31 Jazz Dance	1
32 Tap	1
33 Vocal Ensemble	7
34 String Orchestra	2

Piano Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Piano Solo	43,955	215	44,170
LFO	581	2	583
Piano Concerto	2,683	17	2,700
One Hand	3	0	3
Piano Accompaniment	18	0	18
SMPS	195	4	199
Piano Hymn	2,346	13	2,359
Piano Duet	2,042	7	2,049
Piano Trio	154	0	154
Piano Duo	53	0	53
Piano Quartet	117	0	117
<b>Total Piano Events</b>	<b>52,147</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>52,405</b>

Organ Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Organ Repertoire	31	1	32
Sacred Organ	5	0	5
Organ Hymn	35	1	36
<b>Total Organ Events</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>73</b>

Accordion Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Accordion Solo	3	0	3
Accordion Duet	0	0	0
Accordion Orchestra	0	0	0
<b>Total Accordion Events</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

APFS Section	Junior	Adult	Total
All instruments	1,297	2	1,299
<b>Total APFS Events</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,299</b>

Sight Playing/Singing Section	Junior	Adult	Total
All media	787	4	791
<b>Total Sight Playing/Singing Events</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>791</b>

Voice Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Art Song Solo	843	10	853
Musical Theater Solo	1,466	18	1,484
Art Song Duet	28	2	30

Musical Theater Duet	75	2	77
<b>Total Voice Events</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2,444</b>

Strings Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Violin Solo	3,134	19	3,153
Violin Concerto	870	3	873
Violinn Duet	118	2	120
Three Violins	27	6	33
Four Violins	0	0	0
Viola Solo	278	0	278
Viola Concerto	65	1	66
Viola Duet	12	0	12
Viola Trio	3	0	3
Viola Quartet	0	0	0
Cello Solo	677	3	680
Cello Concerto	83	2	85
Two Celli	21	0	21
String Bass Solo	7	0	7
Harp Solo	56	3	59
Harp Concerto	4	1	5
Harp Hymn Playing	2	0	2
Fiddling Solo	67	2	69
Fiddling Duet	2	0	2
<b>Total Strings Events</b>	<b>5,426</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5,468</b>

Chamber Music Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Violin-Viola Duet	26	0	26
Violin-Cello Duet	24	0	24
Viola-Cello Duet	4	0	4
String Trio	0	0	0
String Quartet	60	0	60
Piano/String Quartet	4	0	4
Piano Trio I (piano-violin-cello)	6	0	6
Piano Trio II (piano-flute-cello)	0	0	0
Piano Trio III (piano-clarinet-violin)	0	0	0
<b>Total Chamber Music Events</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>124</b>

Guitar Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Classical Guitar Solo	167	5	172
Classical Guitar Concerto	4	0	4

Classical Guitar Duet	4	0	4
Classical Guitar Ensemble	4	0	4
Pick Style Guitar Solo	95	0	95
Pick Style Guitar Duet	2	0	2
Electric Bass Guitar Solo	2	0	2
Ukulele Solo	12	0	12
<b>Total Guitar Events</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>295</b>

<b>Woodwinds Section</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Piccolo Solo	11	0	11
Piccolo Concerto	0	0	0
Flute Solo	258	8	266
Flute Concerto	27	4	31
Flute Duet	23	4	27
Flute Trio	0	3	3
Flute Quartet	4	4	8
Oboe Solo	36	0	36
Oboe Concerto	3	0	3
Clarinet Solo	40	2	42
Clarinet Concerto	2	0	2
Clarinet Duet	0	0	0
Clarinet Trio	0	0	0
Bassoon Solo	1	0	1
Alto Sax Solo	23	0	23
Alto Sax Duet	1	0	1
Tenor Sax Solo	4	0	4
Bari Sac Solo	0	0	0
Sax Quartet (2a-t-b)	0	0	0
Sop Recorder Solo	4	0	4
Recorder Duet	0	0	0
Recorder Trio	0	0	0
Recorder Quartet	0	0	0
<b>Total Woodwinds Events</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>462</b>

<b>Brass Section</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Trumpet Solo	17	0	17
Trumpet Concerto	0	0	0
Trumpet Duet	0	0	0
French Horn Solo	9	0	9
French Horn Concerto	1	0	1
Trombone/Euphonium Solo	1	0	1

Tuba Solo	0	0	0
<b>Total Brass Events</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

Percussion Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Timpani Solo	0	0	0
Snare Drum Solo	20	0	20
Keyboard Percussion Solo	10	0	10
Drum Set Solo	9	0	9
<b>Total Percussion Events</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>

Dance Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Ballet	1	0	1
Theater Dance	68	0	68
Acrobatic	0	0	0
Jazz Dance	1	0	1
Modern Dance	0	0	0
Tap	1	0	1
<b>Total Dance Events</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71</b>

Musicianship Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Improvisation	40	0	40
Theory	6,953	28	6,981
<b>Total Musicianship Events</b>	<b>6,993</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7,021</b>

Ensembles	Junior	Adult	Total
Vocal Ensemble	7	0	7
School Orchestra	0	0	0
String Orchestra	2	0	2
Flute Choir	0	0	0
<b>Total Ensembles</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

<b>Total Events</b>	<b>70,134</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>70,532</b>
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# NFMC MARILYN CALDWELL *Piano Solo Award*

By Linda Lind, *Chair*

This award was first given in 2011 and was established to honor Marilyn Caldwell for her dedication to NFMC Juniors. The goal is to provide financial assistance and encouragement to talented piano students. It is open to junior members in grades 10, 11, or 12 and who have not reached the 19th birthday by March 1 of the competition year.

Awarded annually, first place award is \$1000 and second place is \$500. Plan now to take advantage of this opportunity.

The next deadline for entering will be March 1, 2023.

Membership in the NFMC is a requirement either through a Junior Club or Junior Associate affiliation or as an Individual Junior Member and entrants must be American citizens.

Complete Rules and Requirements, as well as suggested repertoire, can be found on the NFMC website. Look for JR 19-1 and JR 19-2.

In the ten years of this event the entries have been outstanding. Best of luck to all who enter and we look forward to hearing from many of you in 2023.



## 1ST PLACE: **Natalie Chow**

*New Jersey*

**Natalie Chow** is a 16-year-old pianist from Livingston, New Jersey, who has been under the tutelage of concert pianist Beatrice Long for the past four years. Natalie established herself early as a young artist through a myriad of performances and competitions. At the age of six, she was selected by audition to perform in

the JCC Sylvia and Jacob Handler Master Class with Jonathan Feldman and made her Carnegie Hall debut at age seven. Hailed by judges in the Marilyn Caldwell Piano Solo Award for her “solid techniques, stylistic interpretations, mature musicianship and talent well above her age,” Natalie is the second prize winner of the American Prize Piano Solo. Her other honors in the year 2021 include National YoungArts Winner in Classical Music, top prize winners in the Dubois Piano Competition, the Chopin International Piano Competition Hartford CT, and the Canadian International Music Competition. Natalie has actively participated in NFMC activities: she was the winner of the 2020 Thelma Byrum Award and the First Prize winner of the 2020 Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Solo Award. She was also the First Prize winner of the NJFMC piano competition in the year 2018, 2019, and 2020. Natalie has performed as a soloist at numerous recital halls such as Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, New York Merkin Hall, and Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Additionally, she was selected to perform in masterclasses given by Victor Rosenbaum, Melvin Chen, Enrique Graf, and Jeffrey Biegel. As a complement to her musical ventures, Natalie enjoys being an active volunteer in the local community and has performed in several senior homes. During the pandemic, she participated in an online fundraising concert in support of Key2Success - a non-profit organization that provides music lessons and instruments to inner-city students in Newark. Furthermore, Natalie is the founder of Harmony of Music, an organization that provides virtual music concerts to senior residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities to spread love and joy, promote health and emotional support and reduce isolation. Outside of music, she enjoys drawing, spending time with her family and walking her dog.




## 2ND PLACE: **Cory Wu**

*Ohio*

**Cory Wu** is a 16 year old pianist and a junior at Columbus Academy. He has studied piano with Kathleen Sadoff since 2012 and also with Nina Polonsky since 2020. He has won 1st place at numerous piano competitions and festivals, including the 2020 Piano League PianoStar International Piano Competition,

2019 Ohio State MTNA, 2019 Carmel Klavier Concerto Competition, 2020 MTNA Eastern Central Division Duet, Steinway competition, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra’s Young Music Concerto Competition and many state competitions. In 2019, Cory made his debut with the New Albany Symphony Orchestra performing Saint-Saëns’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor after winning the NASO Student Concerto Competition. In addition, Cory has participated in other various national and international music events such as the David D. Dubois International Piano Competition Finals, the StayHome International Piano Competition, the NOMEA International Piano Competition, the 2021 MTNA National Duet Finals, the International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition of the Chamber Music Foundation of New England, and the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition. Cory also attended Indiana University’s Piano Academy, Bowling Green’s SMI Piano Camp, and CIM’s Summer Sonata and Piano Audition Intensive. He’s also taken lessons with Drs. Ran Dank, Andrew Le, and Sean Schulze. In addition, he has participated in masterclasses with many prestigious pianists such as Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Caroline Hong, Alessio Bax, Daniel Shapiro, and Logan Skelton et al. In 2021, he received the NFMC’s Stillman Kelley third place and Thelma Byrum National Awards.

Outside of piano, Cory enjoys getting involved within his community. Recently, he led a team that raised over \$18,000 for cancer research with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He also regularly performs at nursing homes and hospitals around his community. Cory plays soccer and tennis and likes to cook. 



# Lana M. Bailey

## PIANO CONCERTO AWARD

By Dee Blaser, *Chair*

The 2021 Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Competition for graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue further musical study at a Conservatory or University is thrilled to present two outstanding winners. Chosen to win first place of \$1000 is Marco Jimenez of St. Petersburg, FL. Marco has been a student of Mona MacPhail and played Beethoven's 4th Concerto. He has been accepted as a student at Columbia-Juilliard and will study with Paul Jacobs and John Corigliano.

Madison Yan of Palm Beach Gardens, FL received second place of \$500. She entered the 1st movement of Rachmaninoff's 3rd Concerto. She has been a student of Dr. Irene Kofman. Madison plans to attend the University of Miami Frost School of Music and study with Professor Kevin Kenner.

Both Marco and Madison are extremely talented and we look forward to following their future musical endeavors.



Marco Jimenez

### 1ST PLACE: Marco Jimenez

**Marco A. Jimenez** will be a freshman this fall at Columbia and Juilliard. He plays the piano, violin, and organ, and also composes classical music. He is a 2021 winner of the National YoungArts for classical music in piano and organ. He was also a 2020 winner of the National YoungArts Competition for piano, composition, and organ. Marco was the winner of the National Federation of Music Clubs Stillman Kelley Award for Piano in 2019. As a two-time winner of the Wilkof Young Artists Concerto Competition and as the winner of the Justine LeBaron Young Artists Competition, Marco played with the Sarasota Orchestra and The Florida Orchestra, respectively. Marco was invited to perform in the Lang Lang

International Music Foundation Play It Forward® Virtual Concert Series in 2020. He was a member of the Sarasota Youth Philharmonic for the last five years as well as its concertmaster. Marco is a commissioned composer, and his compositions have also won numerous awards including a two-time Honorable Mention for the ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Award. Three of his compositions have been published by TrevCo Music Publishing.

### 2ND PLACE: Madison Yan

**Madison Yan** of Palm Beach Gardens, FL received second place of \$500. She entered the 1st movement of Rachmaninoff's 3rd Concerto. She has been a student of Dr. Irene Kofman. Madison plans to attend the University of Miami Frost School of Music and study with Professor Kevin Kenner. **JK**



Madison Yan

## 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

# JOYCE WALSH DISABILITY AWARD

By Alisha Snyder, *Chair*

I am honored to be chairing the *NFMC Joyce Walsh Disability Award*. This award is available to student musicians ages 12-18 who have a diagnosed disability. Students will submit a recording of up to 10 minutes that contains 2 pieces in contrasting styles (if possible). The national winner receives \$2000, 2nd place receives \$1500, and an award of \$1000 goes to the winner in each of the five NFMC Regions. For full rules and requirements, please go to the NFMC website. I am passionate about music and those who are differently-abled, and excited about how this award can benefit these students! Please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions.

he continues to refine his young musical gift. He started learning in the conservatory in 2014.

Dmitrii later began playing music with a popular Omaha Blues organization titled Blues Ed. He joined a group which he played in for a year. Dmitrii also composes his own pieces. He has made both classical and dance music.

Currently, Dmitrii attends 9th grade in the Millard West High School. He plays in band and attends choir there. Dmitrii is passionate in music and plays for hours every single day.



**1ST PLACE:**  
**Dmitrii Shaposhnikov**  
*Nebraska*

**Dmitrii Shaposhnikov** is a 16-year-old pianist born in Moscow, Russia. He moved to Omaha, NE with his mother, father, and younger sister Arina in November 2013. In Moscow, Dmitrii was on the swim team where he participated on the Olympic Reserve Team for Paralympic swimmers.

Dmitrii has shown a high aptitude for music since he was small child. He first demonstrated his musical gift as toddler when he began to play piano to children's songs by ear. He received his first piano on his 4th birthday and has excelled by leaps and bounds ever since.

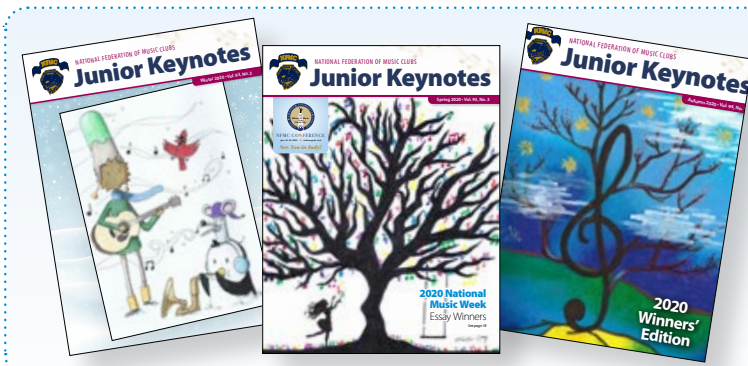
Beginning at age 7, Dmitrii studied music and played piano at the Kalinnikov's Music School in Moscow where he provided his rare talents to school concerts. Shortly thereafter, Dmitrii was playing with the World Children's Choir of UNESCO for children with disabilities. Dmitrii's musical interests expanded to include singing at the Academy of Choral Art in Moscow. Dmitrii's extraordinary skills culminated in Russia when, together with the Children's Choir, he participated in concerts performed at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

After moving to Omaha, Nebraska, Dmitrii began attending piano lessons at the Omaha Conservatory of Music in Dr. Stacey Barelos's Class where



**2ND PLACE**  
**Hailey Richardson**  
*Idaho*

Hi! My name is **Hailey Richardson** and I live in Meridian, Idaho. I am 16 years old, and I love singing, clogging, playing the piano. I'm in the middle of 5 kids with 2 older brothers and 2 younger sisters. When I was born, my parents were surprised to find out that I did not come with a left hand. While in the hospital, my mom got a call from a dear friend. In an effort to say something of comfort, he told my mom that I would be able to do everything all the other children did, "just maybe not play the piano," but I learned anyways. My parents tell me that I have always been full of determination, perseverance, and a "need" to keep up with my older brothers. So, when they started learning to play the piano, so did I. I am still learning and growing, and I love it. I have been taking piano lessons since I was 5 years old, and music has become an integral part of my life. In addition to playing the piano, I developed a love for singing while participating in school and church choirs. My current project is arranging my own music for a YouTube channel to share my abilities at the piano, and hopefully inspire others. I recently started speaking to various church groups about my journey, and I've loved the experience. I also accompany for several of my school choirs on the piano. I plan to continue with my musical study vocally and as a pianist. I'm so grateful to all those who have helped me get where I am today, especially my parents and family, past music teachers, and my current piano teacher, Jill Call. **JRK**



## Cover me, please!

Submit your original artwork for *Junior Keynotes* front covers!

Juniors only, 8.5 x 11, pen and ink w/color drawings, collages and photography will be considered. Please email high resolution jpg, eps or pdf files of your work.

Email [JRK@nfm-music.org](mailto:JRK@nfm-music.org) for more information.



# Music in Poetry

By Jordon Young, *Music in Poetry Chair*

## NORTHEASTERN REGION



### **Music To Me**

*By Kaavya Patel*

What is music, where is music?  
Music is everywhere, It can be up high or down low  
It can be in the ground or in the air,

Music can be the bells ringing,  
On top of a tall tower  
Or the birds chirping,  
A beautiful song around a meadow of flowers,

Music can be the trumpets sounding,  
At the beginning of a parade,  
Or it can be the clock chiming,  
When it's time to go home and end the day,

Music can be the sound of water flowing,  
In a River with life thriving,  
Or it can be the sound of rain splashing,  
Against the hard cement on a rainy evening,

Music can make you cry sad tears,  
Or it can encourage you to face your fears,  
Music can make you feel warm inside,  
Or it can fill you up with pride,

That's what music is,  
Music is here,  
Music is there,  
Music is everywhere.

## SOUTHEASTERN REGION



### **The Steps of Music**

*By Arabella Yaroszewski*

Through the trees is ripples,  
Through the grass it blows,  
Coming down in golden sunshine,  
Across the pond it flows.

Press the flat, oh wait! It's a sharp,  
Remember to warm up your fingers.  
Make sure you book stands upright,  
Don't forget your pedal.

There's a fermata at the end,  
A crescendo in the middle.  
Play forte at the beginning,  
Get softer little by little.

Hear the deep rich sound it makes,  
Pull out the piano seat.  
Lay your fingers on the keys,  
Play some favorite melodies.

The warbling of a bird,  
The rustling of the leaves,  
Nature's music was the first,  
Thank God for their harmonies!

## WESTERN REGION



### **The Nature of Music**

*By Nancy M. Johnson*

I sit down to play, my sweet song filling the air,  
keys of the piano cascading out the most beautiful melody.  
I close my eyes and the notes float around me  
and create a magical carpet that lifts me into the air  
and carries me off into the sky.

I feel the cool wind tugging at my hair  
and hear the birds as they whistle to my melody.  
I fly through a land of song,  
A waterfall of notes gushes and splashes to my song  
while the brook it feeds babbles sweet harmony.

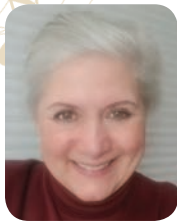
The dancing wind encourages the shy cattails  
which plink out a playful rhythm.  
Swishing grass and leaning trees sway to the melody  
as leaves quake and shake like a tambourine.

The flower petals twirl to the music  
and all is fueled by my song.  
I make my carpet reach out with its threads  
like a spider building its web  
and touch everything in sight, sending a rainbow pulse of energy  
with every note that I play.

I send a thread into the clouds and play with extra feeling  
as rain patters down into the land,  
but it is not a rain that soaks everything it touches,  
leaving it cold and soaked to the bone.

This is the rain that gently pitters the ground,  
leaving me pleasantly wet  
and sending a shower that gives life to all it touches.

My song ends and I am pulled back  
into the real world. I open my eyes  
then close them, and start the song again, waiting for the notes to form  
the magic carpet.



# STILLMAN KELLEY AND THELMA BYRUM AWARDS

By Laurie M Marshall, *Chair*

The NFMCA Stillman Kelley Annual Award, established in 1938, is a national award open to eligible NFMCA Junior members. Solo performances on all instruments are welcome!

The Thelma Byrum Piano Award, added in 1980, is awarded to the top national scorer in piano unless that is the Stillman Kelly winner. In that case, the Byrum award goes to the next highest scorer in piano.

## 2021 AWARDS

### National Awards:

Stillman Kelley Award First Place

**Jonathan Okseniuk**, Violin, Arizona \$1500

Stillman Kelley Award Second Place

**Nicholas Boettcher**,  
Double Bass, Illinois \$750

Stillman Kelley Award Third Place  
and Thelma Byrum Award

**Cory Wu**, Piano, Ohio \$500

### Stillman Kelley Regional Awards:

*North Central:*

**Isabella Brown**, Violin, Illinois \$250

*Northeastern:*

**Bethany Bobbs**, Cello, New Jersey \$250

*South Central:*

**Niharika Kishan**, Voice, Texas \$250

*Southeastern:*

**Luke Caleb Henderson**, Violin,  
North Carolina \$250

*Western:*

**Sunny Wang**, Piano, Washington \$250



### 1ST PLACE

**Jonathan Okseniuk**

*Arizona*

**Jonathan Okseniuk**, 14, studies violin with Jing Zeng. Since the age of four, Jonathan has had opportunities

to perform solos with various orchestras. At the age of 10 he had the privilege of making his solo debut with the West Valley Symphony, and two years later, returned with them to perform a major violin concerto.

Earlier this year, Jonathan was named second place laureate in the Junior Division of the 2021 Sphinx Competition. Last year, he was named the national winner of the 2020 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Junior Performance Strings Competition and took first place in the 2020 Phoenix Youth Symphony's Young Musicians Competition in the Upper String Category Junior Division. He has also placed first in the 2019 Arizona Musicfest Young Musicians Competition Division I, the Junior Category of the 2018 Arizona American String Teachers Association State Solo Competition, and the 2018 Arizona MTNA Junior Strings Competition. He was also the recipient of the 2019 NFMCA Gladys Comstock Award.

Over the past five years, Jonathan has played as both concertmaster and principal second violinist of local youth orchestras, and currently is the assistant concertmaster of the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra.

To share his gift of music, Jonathan donates his talent to the community by playing the violin and piano at nursing homes, and by participating in the worship band at his church. Although he aspires to become a professional violinist, Jonathan enjoys mountain biking and playing sports with friends.



### 2ND PLACE

**Nicholas Boettcher**

*Illinois*

**Nicholas Boettcher**, 16, studies double bass with Andy Anderson. He studies music with

Sooka Wang. Previously, he studied cello with Sally Gross. Nicholas was named a National YoungArts Foundation Winner for 2020. He was a finalist in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition, and soloed with the Chicago Civic Orchestra in March, 2020. He is to solo with Chicago's Grant Park Orchestra for their July 4th concert. Later in 2020, Nicholas will solo with DuPage Symphony Orchestra and Northern Illinois University's Sinfonia Orchestra. Last fall, Nicholas soloed at Chicago Symphony's Orchestra Hall with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra. Last summer he was a semifinalist at the International Society of Bassists Performance Competition. Nicholas also performed with the Chicago Philharmonic as the youngest musician to have ever been selected for its Spotlight program. He has played with the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra and was selected to play in the Chicago Youth in Music program, directed by Riccardo Muti.

Nicholas won first place at the DuPage Symphony Orchestra's Young Artists Auditions, the Illinois American String Teachers Association Competition, NIU's Sinfonia Orchestra's Concerto Competition, and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition. He also won the Naperville North High School Concerto Competition and soloed with their orchestra. Nicholas is a three-time first place winner of the CYSO's Orchestral Excerpt Competition, and he also won first place in the Elsie Sterrenberg String Scholarship Competition, the Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Music Club Scholarship Competition, and the American Fine Arts Festival International Concerto Competition, performing at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall.

Nicholas has performed in masterclasses for Joel Braun, Jeff Bradetich, Kristen Bruya, Rachel Calin, Michael Cameron, Ian Hallas, Alexander Hanna, Michael Hovnanian, Robert Kassinger, Jon McCullough-Benner, Kurt Muroki, Kate Nettleman, Don Palma, Andrew Raciti, Hal Robinson, and James VanDemark.

In 8th grade, Nicholas created *The No Repeats Project*, a 501(c)(3) organization, in which young musicians work with teens who are incarcerated. In 2019, he received a School District 203 Mission Makers award for his program, and this year, Nicholas received the 2020 President's Volunteer Service Award. *No Repeats* provides an opportunity for young musicians to expand the impact of their music beyond performance. The program introduces different musical genres to the teens at the youth centers and provides opportunities to learn how to play instruments and to see music performances in and out of the centers. *The No Repeats Project* uses the transformative power of music to try to reduce the risk of re-entry into the criminal justice system - No Repeats!

Nicholas serves as a principal bassist of the CYSO, its Classical Orchestra Repertory Ensemble, and the Naperville North High School Orchestra and plays with its Jazz Ensemble. He has toured central Europe, Scandinavia, and Russia with the CYSO. These past summers Nicholas attended the International Bassist Society's Convention, Curtis Summerfest, Orford Musique Academie, and Bowdoin International Music Festival studying with Hal Robinson, Don Palma, and Kurt Muroki, respectively. This summer he is to attend the Double Bass Workshop at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, the Atlantic Music Festival, and Domaine Forget. In addition to music, Nicholas also enjoys a good steak!



**3RD PLACE/  
THELMA  
BYRUM  
AWARD**  
**Cory Wu**  
*Ohio*

**Cory Wu** is a 10th grader attending Columbus

Academy. He started piano at 5 and is currently studying with Mrs. Kathleen Sadoff and Nina Polonsky.

He participates in various music activities and competitions and has received multiple awards, such as first places in MTNA

(Eastern Central Division) Competition (Duet, 2021); PianoStar International Piano Competition (2020); MTNA (Ohio) Competition (Solo, 2019); Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition (Concerto, 2019); Columbus Symphony Young Artist Concerto Competition (2019), New Albany Symphony Concerto Competition (2019); OMTA Graves Competition (Duet 2020, Solo 2019) et. al.

In 2019, Cory made his debut playing with the New Albany Symphony Orchestra. He often performs in senior homes and hospitals in his community. In his spare time, he plays soccer and tennis.



**NORTH  
CENTRAL  
REGION**  
**Isabella Brown**  
*Illinois*

Violinist **Isabella Brown** has recently been making a name for herself

on the classical music scene. Isabella was awarded a top prize in the 2019 Cooper International Violin Competition and consequently had the privilege of debuting with the Cleveland Orchestra at the age of sixteen. Her performance was praised by critics who wrote that Isabella exhibited "complete control," "soared out nicely over the big orchestra," and "delivered an intensely lyrical and scintillating performance of the Dvořák Violin Concerto."

More recently, Isabella made her Chicago Symphony Center Debut with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and was very happy to be named the Winner of the 2020 Crain-Mailing CSO Young Artist Competition. As such, she will be debuting with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra during the upcoming season.

Prior to this, Isabella has received First Place in numerous competitions, was named a 2019 National YoungArts Foundation Winner, and has been featured on both television and radio. Isabella made her solo debut with orchestra at the age of ten, performing at the Kennedy Center, and has gone on to play with numerous orchestras, performing in venues including Carnegie Hall, the Chicago Cultural Center, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Chicago's Harris Theater, Ravinia's Bennett Gordon Hall, and Chicago's Symphony Center.

*continued on page 28*

**Adjudicators:**  
**MINGHUAN XU AND  
WINSTON CHOI**

A multi-faceted performer with unique communicative abilities, **MingHuan Xu** has delighted audiences with her passion, effortless technique, sensitivity and charisma. Her versatility allows her to perform an eclectic mix of musical styles ranging from the standard works to avant-garde contemporary repertoire. She has performed extensively as a concerto soloist, duo-recitalist and chamber musician throughout five continents.

Ms. Xu's latest recital and chamber music performances have brought her to prominent American venues including Carnegie-Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Her Carnegie Hall debut was featured on Voice of America, a weekly television show viewed by millions of people in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. In 2010 she performed recitals and taught master classes in China: at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music, the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, and the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Her South American debut in 2006 brought her to the Festival Musica Nova in Brazil and the Festival Encuentros in Argentina. Her numerous performances have included live radio broadcasts on National Public Radio (NPR), WFMT (Chicago) and CBC (Canada) Radio.

Pianist **Winston Choi** is the Head of the Piano Program at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. His professional career was launched when he was named Laureate of the 2003 Honens Piano Competition and winner of France's Concours International de Piano 20e siècle d'Orléans in 2002. An inquisitive performer, his fresh approach to standard repertory, and masterful understanding, performance and commitment to works by living composers, make him one of today's most dynamic young concert artists.

Choi maintains an active international performing schedule. In demand as a concerto soloist, orchestras he has appeared with include the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the CBC Radio Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the East Texas Symphony Orchestra, the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Iowa, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, the Kamloops Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Iowa, the New Philharmonic, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, the Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra, La Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia, the Symphony Orchestra of Oak Park and River Forest, l'Orchestre Symphony d'Orléans, l'Orchestre National de Lille, the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, the Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra, the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and the Victoria Symphony Orchestra.

## STILLMAN KELLEY AND THELMA BYRUM AWARDS *continued*

Isabella studies violin with Almita Vamos as a Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago Academy. She is very thankful to be playing on a Dom Nicolo Marchioni detto 'Amati' of Bologna circa 1740, generously on loan to her from Kenneth Warren and Son, Ltd.



### NORTHEASTERN REGION

#### Bethany Bobbs

*New Jersey*

**Bethany Bobbs** is a scholarship student in the Juilliard School Pre-College and the Perlman

Music Program where she studies cello with Astrid Schween.

Making her cello solo orchestra debut at the age of 9, Bethany has soloed with the Ocala, Ambler, Yonkers, Delaware, New Jersey Intergenerational, Old York Road, Nova Sinfonietta, Summit, Georgia Philharmonic, The Fort Bend, Brazosport, The Houston of the North, and Houston Youth Symphonies, as well as The Sewanee Music Festival Orchestra twice as their concerto winner two years in a row.

Recently Bethany won the Menges and Charminade Scholarships for upcoming young artists, as well as the prestigious YoungArts merit award. Other remarkable achievements include 3rd place in the prestigious Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition as their youngest competitor (2014), and 1st place in the NFMCA Mary Alice Cox Cello Award (2015), 1st place in the Vernell Gregg National Senior Young Artist competition, and 2nd place in the Lynn Harrell DSO competition.

Besides performing, Bethany enjoys helping others winning the Houston Doing Good Music Scholarship for her charitable concerts for cancer clinics and retirement homes. In the midst of the Covid pandemic, Bethany and her twin sister, Susanna, put together a virtual concert, "Harmony for Healing", and raised \$3000 for the Artist Relief Fund.

Bethany has enjoyed summer music festivals including Aspen Music Festival, Sewanee Music Festival, Conservatory Music in the Mountains, and the Perlman Music Program (PMP) where she studied with Astrid Schween, Clara Kim, Paul Katz, and Ronald Leonard and traveled to Israel.



### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

#### Niharika Kishan

*Texas*

**Niharika Kishan**, soprano, is currently a junior in high school in Plano, Texas. She started

vocal lessons with Unkyoung Kim in 2017 at the Edelweiss Music School, and has competed at the state level, winning the TFMCA state award for Art Song every year since 2017, as well as the district award for Musical Theater since 2019. She has also won 4th in the 2020-21 virtual Dallas Symphonic Festival. She enjoys singing operatic pieces as well as modern musical theater pieces. Niharika also plays the flute and made it into the TMEA All-Region Concert band for her region, and is active in her school's marching band and color guard.

Niharika plans to continue singing and participating in color guard at the college level. In her free time, she likes to paint and write short stories, as well as spend time with her cats.



### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

#### Luke Henderson

*North Carolina*

**Luke Henderson**, 17, from Raleigh, North Carolina, began playing violin at the age of three.

He currently studies with Paul Biss at the New England Conservatory and Dovid Friedlander, Associate Concertmaster of the North Carolina Symphony. Luke made his solo debut as Laurette of the Samuel Fordis Young Artist Competition with the Georgia Philharmonic at age twelve, performing Mozart's 4th violin concerto.

Luke attends school at Phillips Academy in Andover and plays first violin in the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra conducted by Maestro Benjamin Zander. Luke is a member of the Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar at the NEC Preparatory School led by Ms. Merry Peckham. Luke is featured on National Public Radio's *From The Top* (Show 392).

In 2020, Luke was the Gold Medal Winner in the National Fischhoff Chamber Music

Competition and the Coltman National Chamber Music Competition. Luke was the North Carolina State Winner in the 2020 Music Teachers National Senior Performance Competition, first place winner in the VIVO International Music Competition, and the first-place winner in the Great Composers International Competition Series, The Art of Strings Performance. In previous years, Luke has won numerous local, national, and international violin competitions, has soloed with several professional orchestras and performed in many masterclasses with renowned musicians.



### WESTERN REGION

#### Sunny Wang

*Washington state*

**Sunny Wang**, 17, has been playing the piano for twelve years. He is currently a junior at Camas

High School. As a student of Dr. Renato Fabbro, Sunny has participated in many OMTA programs from a young age and received first prizes in the Tom O'Brien Scholarship Competition, East and Michaels Scholarship Competition, Suzanne Raines Scholarship Competition, and Marjorie Trotter Scholarship Competition. He has also received second prize at the state MTNA competition, second prize at the Washington Outstanding Artist Competition, third prize at the Steinway & Sons Piano Competition, and first prize at the Spokane Piano Competition.

Last year, he received first prize at the Jewish Community Orchestra Young Artist Competition, second prize in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition and was a finalist in the Coeur d'Alene Symphony National Young Artist Competition. He was also the winner of the Central Oregon Symphony Young Artist Competition and performed Rachmaninoff's fourth concerto with the COS orchestra in a series of concerts.

Sunny is passionate about piano and enjoys learning new pieces and finding ways to improve his technique and musicality. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, competing in math competitions, and working on machine learning projects. **JK**

# Michael R Edwards

## NFMC Graduating Senior Performance Award

Bethany is a scholarship student in the Juilliard School and the Perlman Music Program. Bethany studies cello with Joel Krosnick and Astrid Schween.

**Bethany Grace Bobbs** made her piano solo orchestral debut at the age of 8 and her cello solo orchestral debut at the age of 9, performing with the Cleveland Institute of Music Chamber Orchestra. Bethany has won the opportunity to solo with the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, Ocala Symphony, Ambler Symphony, Yonkers Symphony, Delaware Symphony, New Jersey Intergenerational Symphony, Old York Road Symphony, Nova Sinfonietta, Summit Symphony, Georgia Philharmonic Symphony, The Fort Bend Symphony, Brazosport Symphony, The Houston Symphony of the North, The Houston Youth Symphony, and The Sewanee Music Festival Orchestra. In 2014, Bethany won 3rd place in the prestigious Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition as the youngest competitor. In 2016, Bethany won 1st place in the National Federation of Music Clubs Stillman Kelly Award as well as the Mary Alice Cox Cello Award. As a winner in the prestigious YoungArts program, Bethany had the honor to attend their New York regional program in 2019. In 2020, Bethany won 1st place in the Vernell Gregg National Young Artist competition and the Ocala National Young Artist competition, as well as placed in the New York Chamber Symphony, Riverside Symphony Caprio, and the Lynn Harrel competitions. Recently, Bethany was awarded the Arkady Fomin Scholarship Fund, Friday Morning Scholarship Award, Menges Scholarship of the Arts Award, Michael R Edwards NFMC Graduating Senior Award, Suburban Music Study Scholarship, and won first place in LISMA International Senior String Competition, Adelphi Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and Arts in the Vineyard Competition.

Besides performing, Bethany enjoys helping others. Last year, Bethany and her twin sister, Susanna, put on a *Harmony for Healing* virtual fundraising concert to provide funds for the Artist Relief project that financially aids unemployed artists during the Covid epidemic. In 2015-2017, Bethany was awarded the Doing Good Music Scholarship for her charitable concerts performing for cancer clinics, preschools, and retirement homes. Bethany



Bethany Bobbs

teaches young pianists and cellists, tutors young orchestral players and performs for the Christian Care Center, a senior citizen residency.

Bethany has attended prestigious summer music festivals including Aspen Music Festival, Sewanee Music Festival, Conservatory Music in the Mountains, Indiana String Academy, Cleveland Institute of Music Summer Sonata Festival, and the Interlochen Arts Academy, Advanced Junior String Program. Since 2017 Bethany has attended the Perlman Music Program (PMP) where she studied with Astrid Schween, Clara Kim, Paul Katz, Ronald Leonard and Zvi Plesser, traveling to Sarasota, Florida and Israel.

An avid chamber performer, Bethany's Houston chamber group won the elite Houston Young Artist Award. Her chamber group at the Aspen Music Festival, through audition, was chosen to perform in their Spotlight Recital. Bethany has performed in masterclasses with Joshua Roman, Steve Doane, Clive Greemsmith, Natasha Brofsky, Yeesun Kim, Richard Aaron, Richard Weiss, Desmond Hoebig, Stephen Balderson, and Brinton Smith. Bethany has a twin sister, is the 7th of 8 children, and was home schooled. JK

# 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 [nfmc-music.org](http://nfmc-music.org).



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

# Lynn Freeman Olson COMPOSITION AWARD



## Amber Liu

*Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award  
Intermediate Category*

**Amber Liu** has been studying piano, composition, and theory with Mrs. Gayle Vann for 7 years. She loves listening, writing and playing music. Her piece “Lavender Memories” is a simple yet beautiful waltz. It describes a peaceful picture with lavender color and fresh smell. This composition, along with many others of hers, have received numerous

awards in National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) Junior Composers Competitions and National PTA Reflections Competitions. She appreciates Mrs. Vann’s consistent support and NFMC for providing these opportunities.

In addition to music, Amber also excels in table tennis, and is currently on the US National U15 Team. She hopes to pursue both composition and table tennis in the future.



## Jackson Naglick

*Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award  
High School Category*

**Jackson Naglick** is honored to have been selected as the winner of the Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award in the High School Category, with his composition “Sparkling Sky Lullaby.” Jackson is 17 years old and studies composition with Catherine Rollin of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and Israeli jazz pianist and

composer, Guy Mintus. Jackson also studies oboe with Ann Lemke of Troy, Michigan and piano with Ms. Rollin and Aviram Reichert of Seoul National University.

Jackson is proud to have been chosen as a YoungArts Award Winner by the National YoungArts Foundation in the classical Piano Category in both 2020 and 2021. Looking to connect with others and spread hope during the pandemic, Jackson started a virtual lecture series, *The Meetup w/Jack Naglick*. Jackson interviews musicians and explores musical topics, much to the delight of enthusiastic, international audiences. He was inspired to start his series after enriching virtual experiences at the Philadelphia International Music Festival and the Tel-Hai Master Piano Webinars in the summer of 2020.

An avid baseball fan, Jackson admires the mechanics needed to throw a good curveball in much the same way that he admires the harmonies in a Rachmaninoff piano concerto. His physical conditioning pursuits include Peloton Power Zone cycling and table tennis. He also loves to escape into nature by foot or bicycle to experience the tranquility and joy of birdwatching. Jackson aspires to have a career in music and is hoping to attend music school beginning in the fall of 2022. **JK**



Ellen Leapaltdt, *chair*

I hope all Junior Clubs know that May 1-8, 2022 is the 99th annual celebration of National Music Week! The theme this year is: **“Music is...Inspiration”**. Students that wrote essays for the Essay Contests have already thought and written about this theme. If you wrote an essay; you don’t need to be declared the state winner to share your essay with an audience; please plan to read it aloud somewhere. Younger students may have seen the coloring page that is available for all to download from the NFMC website (AR 12-8). Use these colored pages in displays in your community. There is a poster available also, or students could make their own posters to celebrate the theme!

This is a week to celebrate music, art, dance, and poetry in visual, recorded or live performance. I hope that opportunities will be found for public performance from many of our Junior Clubs. Studio recitals could be planned with the theme in mind. Students’ active school or church organizations are invited to participate in the celebration too.

**Show your community what  
Music inspires you to do!**

**MAY 1-8, 2022**



# NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK ESSAY WINNERS

By Ellen Leapoldt, *Chair*

As we begin again with our Junior Club members and students, I hope everyone is feeling inspired to find joy in music! Our National Music Week theme for this academic year (which is what most of our Juniors follow) is: **Music...is Inspiration.**

Do you use music to inspire you to dance, to exercise, to do the dishes, or to help you sleep peacefully? I could answer yes to all of those activities. I also get inspired to learn new music by hearing or playing the beginning and finding the desire to learn the piece. I have been inspired to write music by a poem I've discovered or a sound I heard. How does music inspire you? The Essay Contest is for all 7th-12th graders, open to members and non-members. Each state is eligible for a winner of a \$75 award. State winners from 2020 are not eligible to win again in 2021. The rules and entry instructions are on the NFMC-music.org website. The entry form is AR13-1. The website and the entry forms were updated late this summer and hopefully it will be easier to find the entry form, upload the 3 pieces required (entry form, essay, and photo of student) before the January 10, 2022.

The essays by our Juniors are always fun to read by our regional chairmen and me. We are excited to share winning essays in this magazine and hope that they are used (winners or other entries) in the celebration of National Music Week, which will be May 1-8, 2022. There will also be a coloring page for younger students available on the website. Teachers should look for the National Music Week brochure to arrive in your mailboxes before Christmas, with information about the celebration, forms for reporting and ideas for celebrating. **JK**



## ARKANSAS

**Julianne Klein**

*Teacher: Mary Moon*

### *Music is...Inspiration*

I am sitting at the piano. My fingers perched atop the keys, ready to play anything that comes to mind. I relax my shoulders, straighten my back, and try to think of something to play. My fingers start to play, but hit a wrong note. It sounds weird.

I try again. "Play, oh a beautiful song for me!" I encourage. That sounded right. Keep going fingers! Don't stop, your doing wonderful! But, my index finger had a mind of it's own and.... plunk!....hit a sour note.

My fingers draw back sharply, like scared cats and fall limply to my lap. Frustration was right around the corner and crept into my mind. Then came depression right after. I sigh, feeling tired and overwhelmed with this whole thing. Why can't I just play elegantly with grace?

All I need is.....inspiration....I can't just play, I need inspiration. Oh, the melancholy that had settled in, is now replaced with hope! I can do this! I just needed confidence.

I walk over to the big window at the left of the room. All of the brightness and light from heaven peer in and hit its rays on my face.

I feel warmth. I feel peace in mind, and content. I go over to the dining table and pick up a fragrant candle. I place my nose close to it, and inhale through my nose. I smell sweet mangos and crisp coconut.

I think back at some mistakes I made in the past. Words that should not have been said. Actions that have consequences. I feel regret, and sorrow. I return to the piano and play all the emotions I felt.

Everything I've been through day in, day out. I feel the happiness, the pain, the anger, the melancholy. The tune runs like a river through crescendos and decrescendos. Without my

permission, a tear escapes my eye and runs down my cheek. I've done it!

I've made a benevolently beautiful masterpiece, painted with piano notes. It's mine! I have captured a song that I can call of my own. But I don't have to keep it to myself. I can share it with the ones that have given up hope. I can keep it in my heart and give it to the hearts of others. Mistakes help us learn and grow. We can remember them, to tell others. I have a name for my masterpiece; Music is Inspiration.



## FLORIDA

**Rachel Nicholson**

*Teacher: Suzanne Herman*

### *Music is...Inspiration*

Music is a gateway to change. The way you interpret it, how you feel when you're listening to it, can all change its meaning entirely. Music has changed the course of history time and time again with its unexplainable influence and inspiration. It guides you into your own world of ideas and new beginnings on changing the world. Throughout time it has inspired incredible discoveries that may have never occurred without it. Music has inspired change with a world of things, including its influence in religion, therapy, and protest.

Music connects us with the world. Whether we are aware of it or not, it changes the way we think in our daily lives. A major form of music is religious music. Something about music unites us with our deepest thoughts and emotions, as a result, singing in church can truly inspire you to connect with God. One of the first men that walked the earth, Jubal, knew how important music was to connect with God and is known as the inventor of music. Not only does music change your emotional world but it can change the real world too.

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In 1789, the first known reference to music therapy was written in an article called “Music Physically Considered”. For years after that, music therapy was scarcely written about until the early nineteen-hundreds when it began to gain popularity. Research began to develop, and more and more people began to be interested in music therapy. Today it is widely known as an evidence-based practice for health benefits. Music is used to heal broken minds, reduce stress and anxiety, and help relieve symptoms of various other disorders including schizophrenia. This shows how powerful music can be. It can distract the mind, slow down the rhythms of your body, and influence your mood in turn changing behavior.

When you think of music, you might not think of protests, but music protests have inspired many generations for change. No matter what is being protested, there is a song to represent it. It brings people together in a peaceful way. Toward the end of 1980, Estonia was still under control of the Soviet Union, songs and hymns were forbidden. Over 300,000 people - a quarter of Estonia’s population - gathered to sing national songs and hear independence leaders speak at the “Song of Estonia” festival in 1988. In 1991 Estonia gained its freedom with no military action, partly thanks to the singing protests. These music protests inspired thousands of people to fight for their country’s freedom.

With these vastly different examples, it shows how wide and far music truly changes and inspires peoples’ lives. There is still so much potential for what music can do for the world. Nothing can truly replicate the power of music.



**GEORGIA**  
**Anneliese**  
**Jamison**

**Teacher: Jeanette Feltman**

*Music is... Inspiration*

Have you ever had a hard time trying to find that missing piece that makes your life feel complete? It took me a while to find something I love doing and am really good at. I am not really an athletic kind of person. But I have always loved singing and listening to music. So after I had my first piano

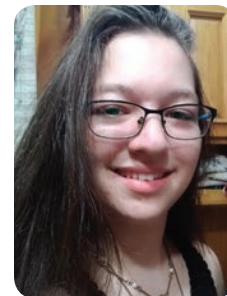
lesson I was so excited because I had found my passion. It just seemed to come really naturally to me and it almost seemed as if God made me to play piano.

I love playing the piano because no matter what your emotions are it will come out through the notes being played. Music inspires me to challenge myself and try to reach other people through the pieces that I play. I don’t really like being the center of attention but I enjoy playing the piano while my sister and my mom sing along and my dad and grandparents listen. I have been playing the piano for almost three years now and if I could go back I would’ve chosen the piano even sooner.

My teacher inspires me at every lesson I take. She always pushes me to try my hardest and shows me what can be accomplished with lots of practice. She inspires me to believe in myself and my talent. Our love for music is something that we both share. Her encouragement inspires me to take my natural talent and share it with other people. I don’t know what I would do without her and music in my life. I hope the music I play inspires other people to love the piano and music as much as I do.

Music inspires me every day of my life. If you are feeling overwhelmed, happy or even sad you can express it through music. It is one of the few things that lets your emotions flow from your soul and can inspire other people’s emotions. Certain songs can make the audience feel every note and emotion that you play. It can lead them on a roller coaster of emotion and experience a journey that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Other songs can just inspire you to get up and dance and have a good time.

You can be inspired by music or music can be inspired by you. Composers are inspired by events in their lives to write certain compositions. Sometimes we feel compelled to play certain pieces because of what we are feeling. Inspiration and music go hand in hand. You can’t really have one without the other. Sometimes our lives hit the high notes and sometimes they hit the low notes. During the course of our whole life we would have covered the entire length of the piano and all the notes many times over. Without music to inspire us our lives would really “B flat.”



**INDIANA**  
**Taylor Mermoud**

**Teacher: Dr. Erzsébet Gaal Rinne**

*Music is... Inspiration*

Music is one of the many things that can be an inspiration. It inspires you to push yourself and your skills farther than you think you can go. It inspires you to connect with other people who have the same ambitions and goals as you. These are some of the ways that music has been an inspiration in my life, and I would like to share how I was introduced to music.

Growing up, my family always had a piano in the house, which is what inspired my older sister to start learning music. She started taking piano lessons at six years old. I was intrigued by her learning an instrument and I also wanted to learn music. Then, I saw a program that was put on by several young women, who were showcasing their instruments. This is when I fell in love with the harp, it was so beautiful and effortless sounding. I started begging my mother to find me a harp teacher. I began taking lessons also at six years old and I have continued to take lessons with the same teacher for the past eleven years.

Over the years, music has taught and inspired me to do a lot with my music. I think the best example of the musical inspiration is shown in how long I have played music; and after all this time, I still get excited to play the harp. My music has inspired me to make several goals, follow through with, and complete them. Being involved with a local youth orchestra is one of the goals that I have been able to reach through my music. I have also been able to bring joy to people by playing my harp at nursing homes and at my church.

Music has shown me how important it is for everyone to learn an instrument; it is never too late to learn! It is magical when you can gather together with a group of musicians and create a beautiful piece of music. This would not be possible if the musicians did not have the inspiration to create music. This is one of the many benefits of learning music. I hope to carry my inspiration with me and be able to pass that on to others, so they can enjoy music as much as I do. I have had the amazing blessing of having encouraging parents and music teachers, who have also been an inspiration in my music journey. Now, it is my turn to do the same for the next generation of musicians.





**IOWA**  
**Daisy Otundo**

*Teacher: Bonnie Corron*

*Music is... Inspiration*

*“Music is a means of giving form to our inner feelings without attaching them to events or objects in the world”*  
- George Santayana

Canon in D. I was 5 years old when I heard the song for the first time as a flower girl during my relative’s wedding. I remember sitting and listening to each melodic line painting the beautiful scenery created on that day. Canon in D was the first song I wanted to learn how to play on the piano hoping that one day it could be me sitting on the chair painting the scene for everyone and showing the world how much the song meant to me. This was the start of my inspiration for music, (in particular piano). I remember begging my parents for a keyboard for my birthday (sacrificing my dream gift of another set of dolls). Opening the gift the emotion renders on my face (tears of joy is what I like to call them). I remember not knowing how to read music or even being able to identify a single note on the piano but instead relying on how it made me feel every single second I heard the song and mainly guess on the piano. I can’t stress enough how just a classic music song made me change the way I interpret and feel the music. It’s not about the notes on the page but the story is told.

The music in Cannon in D inspired me never to give up when life brings you down and adventure out by trying new things. An event in my life (maybe some can relate to) that I felt at that time took away a lot of opportunities and possibilities was during the spike of the pandemic in 2020. Going to my favorite extracurricular activities to even spending time seeing my friends and close relatives was put to a halt. I literally had a negative connotation that life will never be enjoyable ever again. That moment in my life challenged me to write about how I felt through creating my first ever composition piece. The pandemic taught me that there is way more to life than complaining but finding opportunities to rise.

Last but not least, Canon in D inspired me to spread my music knowledge by sharing it with the community. Learning piano back

then, there was a sense of hope that one day I would play piano at my local church, play it for the community, create composition music that would unite people to come together even through the dark and gloomy times, and even give out my love and passion in music to the community by becoming a piano teacher. Throughout those experiences, I learned that whatever you set your mind to you can achieve anything. That’s to me what made music an inspiration in my life!



**LOUISIANA**  
**Christine Tseng**

*Teacher: Dr. Chia-Hsing Lin*

*Music is... Inspiration*

Music is Inspiration. There is so much truth in those three simple words. Music helps define who we were, who we are, and who we will be. It also helps us discover ourselves, so to speak, through our choices in music, through the feelings that we get when certain music is played. It can motivate and inspire us to be our best selves, whatever that may mean. In music, there are many genres to the point where it can be confidently said that there is music for everyone, for every emotion. Music can change moods and mindsets, and even just listening to your favorite song or tune can cause much inspiration. It can put someone in a better perspective or inspire and motivate them to do better. However, that is not just the limit. The people behind the music, the composers or artists, can inspire us to new levels as well. For example, Beethoven was deaf, yet he used his talent for music as his inspiration and is now one of the most well-known composers of all time. He never gave up on his talent and persevered, showing how inspiring music is.

It can also help others express themselves safely without words, as so many things in life, especially the difficult things, cannot be put in terms. It can be a great way to cope with challenging events. I know many times I have not been in the greatest of moods, to put it lightly, and it was hard to say what I felt and thus hard to get support from others. At that time, I felt more alone than ever. However, through the inspiration of music, I realized

that I was not alone in feeling what I felt. Music could help me.

On top of that, music captures daily life, emotions, and the human spirit into a language everyone can understand. And that, that right there is the true inspiration of music- to convey understanding and connection, which is extremely valuable. For example, music can also provide a feeling of togetherness, a role that you are part of something larger. Every instrument or voice has a different function, melody, and pitch in an orchestra or band. Yet when it all comes together, it creates a beautiful harmony that is both powerful and awe-inspiring. For instance, if a tuba played a flute part in a band piece and a flute played a tuba part, the chances are that the music will not sound the way the composer intended. It shows that everyone has an important role to play, everyone matters in their way. Therefore, music is not just inspirational; it is Inspiration. It is a breath of fresh air, mental stimulation, and one of the most creative and timely ideas created.



**MARYLAND**  
**Yunah Kwon**

*Teacher: Katherine Needleman*

*Music is... Inspiration*

Have you heard the striking last notes of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony? The soulful outcry of the Sibelius Violin Concerto? The alluring tango of “Danzon No. 2?” Have you felt sounds vibrate in your heart, through your head, and out again in projection of a million vibrant ideas, seen only by yourself? Have you been lost in a sea of tonalities and textures and found yourself wanting to stay there?

On the other hand: have you heard the unbound verses of freedom ringing in a black church? The thousand shrieking strings in “Threnody to Victims of Hiroshima?” The asymmetrical peasant folk tunes in works of Bela Bartok? Have you considered the significance of music beyond the resplendent displays of harmony? Who the music inspired?

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Music... is inspiration. It makes me twirl like a child until I run out of breath. It blankets me in warmth and reaches me with compassion. It makes me feel... alive! When I hear music, the human seed inside me gnaws forward, aching for more of the self-preserving elixir. However, music isn't mine to keep. Music is inspiration to everyone. Its inherent universality empowers it to be a powerful tool of communication, primitive to any language. Music exists to be shared, bringing impact wherever it flows. It may make me dance and sing, but it shakes the world and molds humanity. It is only justified, then, that we take full advantage of music to inspire... social change. To bring peace, freedom, passion, and other core values shared by everyone across the globe.

Now, tell me, if music is to progress universal values, why are musicians themselves often void of following these courtesies? Why are top symphony orchestras constituted of white men and leave musicians of color to be marginalized? Why are women in the music industry, equipped with the same skill set and education, paid a fraction of their male counterparts' salaries? Why do we let society prefer Mozart again and again over the living, breathing, alive composers who are creating culture and redefining the world in the present moment? How is music going to inspire us when the core universal values were already demolished... by us?

Why are we used to this sight, and don't see the urgency to fix it?

It is at this time that we decide what the meaning of music is. What kind of inspiration are we seeking to achieve with music? I believe that music is inherently and essentially universal; therefore, it should be used to inspire universal principles and virtues. When music isn't being sung or played by all kinds of people, when certain people are rewarded less for their universal contributions, when we catch ourselves lingering in the old relics of musical glory and straying away from progression - what music is meant to be - then, I see a problem with it. Music is inspiration... only if we allow it to be.



## NEW JERSEY

**Luke Farrell**

*Teacher:*  
**Larren Alspach**

### *Music is... Inspiration*

Music is inspiration. It can make you clap your hands, tap your feet, sing along, dance, jump, play some air guitar, or even pretend you are a conductor of an orchestra. It can also motivate you to do more than you think you can do.

Music can encourage you and cheer you on like a coach, a teacher, a friend or a relative. Music inspires people to run faster and longer, lift heavier weights at the gym, work harder, try again or study more. People like to work out to their favorite songs to keep them going. During sporting events like baseball, the players have songs they play when they are up at bat and about to hit the ball. The little bit of music inspires them to hit a homer or run hard. Doctors may play music during operations to inspire them and to help them concentrate. For me, music inspires me to create and be dedicated to my instrument, which is the drums. As a drummer, I help keep the time and rhythm for a piece of music. Music inspires me to practice often, not only for my instructor or for the band I play in, but for me, because I want to become a professional musician and by practicing hard and often, I can achieve that one day.

Music can encourage and inspire you and make you feel better like a best friend or a family member. Music for many people is therapeutic or a channel for their emotions. It can comfort you or boost your mood when you're sorrowful, angry, or sad and make you feel better. For me, it's a portal away from our crazy world and into my own little world filled with sound. Music can also celebrate with you, like at a party, and make you feel excited and happy.

When I listen to certain songs, sometimes it inspires me to jump up and down or play the air guitar and shred those notes! Music can also inspire me to think about my own life as I try to relate to what the lyrics are saying. Sometimes the music inspires me as I listen closely to the rhythm and pulse, trying to tune into the individual instruments playing the song.

Music can inspire anyone, whether you're an athlete coming out onto the diamond, a student studying for an exam, or a musician playing on

stage. Music can motivate you to do anything, you just have to put your mind to it and crank up the volume and listen.



## NORTH CAROLINA

**Arjun Anilkumar**

*Teacher:* **Diane Higgins**

### *Music is... Inspiration*

Everywhere we go, music fills our ears. Whether it be the musical melody that wakes us up each morning or the calming sounds of pattering rain on our window, music has the power to shift emotions; motivating and inspiring us to better ourselves. Even to create music requires inspiration, an inspiration that is most likely found through the listening of music.

To me, the sense of sound is the most important human function. We use hearing to communicate with people, sharing and spreading ideas amongst others to better everybody. However, the sound of music, something that seems to be undervalued by many people, is arguably the most important sound for humans. While communication of speech may help convey ideas, the sound of music can help convey emotion. Changes in emotions can lead to a multitude of things, most importantly, the clearing of one's mind and the production of creative thought.

Sometimes, after long days, my mind can feel tired and lacking creativity. Sometimes I take a nap to clear my head but wake up even more drowsy. Other times, I try meditation, only to find out that I had just been worrying myself into a deeper hole for twenty minutes. Finally, I get frustrated and decide to start playing the piano, in an attempt to progress myself further in my piano career. While playing, I will watch my fingers spell out a wonderful melody created by some extraordinary classical mind. After completing the piece, I stare at my hands. These ten little sticks had just been used to create some of the most beautiful sounds I had ever heard, and they were my ten little sticks. Suddenly, I am aware of the capabilities humans have. Not only did I play the piece, but there was another human before me who was inspired enough to give me the beautiful piece to make my own.



Then I ask myself, “if practice allowed me to play the piano, what’s stopping me from doing anything else?” My urge to succeed is greater and I suddenly am inspired to better myself: starting with my homework, of course.

As we continue to take in the wonder that is music, we should maintain the thought that music is not just a source of happiness or emotions, but also a key to unlocking what we as humans are capable of. Music inspires us to connect with ourselves, to learn new things and, most importantly, to better ourselves everyday in our individual quests for fulfillment.



**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Brant Leslie Miller**

*Teacher: Martha Gerschefski*

I feel like I want to express and develop my own artistry, and I feel like I have the drive necessary to continue pursuing my dreams. Even when I’m not actively listening to music, my experience of having heard and recognized this universal resolve shapes the way I process and understand life.

More than giving me a hobby or a pastime, music has given me a desire to strive for what I believe in, and it has given me the passion necessary to turn that desire into a reality.



**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Pat Phisitkul**

*Teacher: Daryl Jessen*

*Music is... Inspiration*

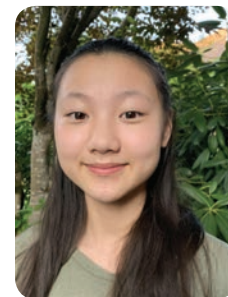
At some point in our lives, we’ve all had the same experience as Archimedes once did in his bathtub thousands of years ago: the “Eureka!” moment, the clarity and enlightenment felt as a hard-won realization arrives out of the blue. That feeling is inspiration, a feeling as abstract as love and fear. Its formlessness begets its worth; how valuable is something that exists one moment but not the next, yet has the power to change the way a person lives their life? If inspiration could be packaged, it would be priceless. Such is the power of music. Via its temporal nature, self-replicating property, and role in society, music is the world’s best embodiment of inspiration.

A hallmark of inspiration is its spontaneity. Inspiration exists in the moment, and nothing more; it cannot be hung up on the wall, to view as one pleases. In this way, music bears a striking resemblance to inspiration. Music is but the product of hundreds upon thousands of singular moments, stitched together in a logical progression by the passage of time. Every beat, every note, every rest- every sound or the absence of is born through inspired moments. A breakup inspires a melancholy verse, while a triumph inspires one of jubilee. From this, it follows that inspiration is the fundamental element of music; the magic that turns sounds into something more.

Just as inspiration gives rise to music, music conversely gives rise to inspiration. A glance into any study room evinces this: how many people are wearing headphones? Music boosts

the mind; it provides the focus and mental energy needed to maximize one’s creativity. When the creativity is applied musically, though, the process feeds back into itself: music inspires music. This is not just a truth, but the basis by which music has evolved for thousands of years. If music didn’t inspire itself, it wouldn’t exist as it does today; such is the interconnectedness between music and inspiration.

In our everyday lives, however, we do not view music in these ways. Rather than treating it as the worldly construct of some abstract philosophical idea, we incorporate music into their daily lives in many ways: a form of entertainment to enjoy with friends, a way of making a living, a tool to promote focusing on an otherwise unenjoyable task. In doing so, we unknowingly embrace music’s connection with inspiration. To actively search for inspiration is to stifle it; it comes as it pleases, often when we least expect it. By embracing the role of music in our lives, by letting it naturally take root in our being, we allow it to bestow the gift of inspiration upon us.



**WASHINGTON**

**Jeanne Park**

*Teacher: Sharon VanValin*

*Music is... Inspiration*

Music is inspirational. All genres of music have inspired people all over the world to become musicians themselves and inspire other people. Music has the power to bring back memories and enhance emotions. Music is a way to express our feelings, and for creativity in young and old minds to develop and evolve. For me, music was always in my life.

Since I was four years old, I remember my mom taking me to watch violinists, orchestras, and pianists at their concerts since forever. My mom would urge me to go forward in the music industry, by buying violins and enrolling me into piano and violin lessons. I was so excited to use my first violin and go to my first lesson. Watching other people in my studio or at concerts inspired and motivated me to push myself to become better. I believe that music can be inspirational in many ways.

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Music can inspire artists to draw or paint a picture i.e., Monet's Dawn, Midday, and Sunset pictures were conceived from the music of Debussy's "Sunken Cathedral". Music can inspire and motivate people to study or to become better academically. It inspires people to create poetry and songs that are classic, folk based, and personal. I believe that music is so inspiring because not only is it heard everywhere, but also that in any form of arts, you can almost find music anywhere. For example, in dance you are almost always accompanied by music to help convey the message and mood of the dance. In art such as painting and drawing, some people listen to music that may be the mood of what they want to draw or paint. It helps them paint the message onto their canvas and help other people know what it could be. Music can bring people together, but also it helps people convey their emotions without them physically speaking. Since there are so many different languages and cultures of music that play and compose music differently; it inspires people to expand their knowledge and understanding of each other and the music they create.

I love to paint pictures with the music I compose such as "Wonders of the World in Twos". This suite depicts two violinists vying as they play a "Fantasia for Two"; "Two Vervet Monkeys" scampering among the trees of the jungle joyfully, avoiding danger as necessary; "Two Animated Toys Under the Christmas Tree" who play all night long, but must go quiet before the children wake up. The poem "Twas the Night.. ...." inspired my third song. The .. monkeys" inspired me to do a painting. The "Fantasia" inspired me to work hard and play a difficult piece with a friend that listeners will find FANTASTIC!



**WISCONSIN**  
**Whitney Woolf**

*Teacher: Sam Ecoff*

*Music is... Inspiration*

Music is very inspiring and has touched my life in many ways. It inspires movement, learning, spirituality, and connections to other people. I can see it lifting others and making the world a better place.

Music inspires movement. I have been dancing since I was two years old. I would not be able to move as beautifully if music were not involved. As I feel the rhythm, I am inspired to express myself through movement. We dance to music at parties, we jump at the scary parts in a movie, and we even have prelude music at church to help us become more reverent. Music is such a powerful thing in our lives; it's everywhere, and we barely even notice it.

Music inspires learning. I have learned many important life lessons as I have learned to play the piano, french horn, and percussion. It has helped me to become more confident in myself. As I have tackled hard pieces, I have become more aware of the challenges in my own daily life and have had the courage to face them. Music has taught me how to practice, how to overcome hard challenges, how to not give up when things are difficult, how to grow my talents, how to serve, and to overall be a better person. "It can really help to inspire you to want to change the way you are living and move forward in a better way." (Janessa from Thrifty Nifty Mommy)

Music inspires spirituality. Uplifting and positive music has brought to my mind and spirit happiness and peace. I often feel nearer to God when I listen to hymns. "We get nearer to the Lord through music than perhaps through any other thing except prayer." (J. Reuben Clark Jr., in Conference Report, Oct. 1936, 111) I have felt music touch my soul and listen to it when I am seeking inspiration. In my own playing, I have also had others comment that they were touched and inspired. I have felt the Holy Spirit more closely in my life when I am listening to good music.

Music brings us closer to others and strengthens relationships. I have felt more connected to others as we have gathered to listen to or sing songs at concerts, Girl Scout camp, church, school, youth groups and even simply driving in the car with my family. Music inspires people to come together.

Music is an important part of all our lives. I love what I have learned so far on my musical journey. With the help of music I plan to continue to dance and move, I look forward to those things I have yet to learn, I desire to increase my spirituality, and I hope to make new connections with others. I am excited to discover all the ways music will inspire me in my life. Music really is inspiration. **JK**

# THE *Magic of JCI*

By Sharon Kaplan



Imagine – nineteen students, ages fourteen through eighteen (and one aged twenty-one) at a camp in Wisconsin. Fifteen are meeting in person, four are virtual. Young musicians who have been isolated for a year and a half from the only peers who understand them and their passion. Young musicians who would learn together, create together, perform together, play together and within one week, become a family. Joy!

This all happened at the Junior Composers Institute / Composers On-line Institute (JCI/COI), sponsored by the North Central region of NFMCA held at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls in July. In its twenty-first year and at a new location, JCI was brilliantly re-visioned and re-formatted with spectacular results.

**The goal of the institute was to focus attention in a short, intensive span of time to**

- > **Generate** rich and exciting musical ideas
- > **Capture** those ideas in notation or a recording
- > **Enhance** & improve on those ideas
- > **Share** the music with an audience
- > **Discover** new skills and musical literacies

**Here were some of the exciting innovations to accomplish these goals:**

1. This was a hybrid experience. While most students were on campus, students brought their computers to the classroom and all sessions were on zoom so that off-campus students could feel as if they were also a part of the camp.
2. Rather than the traditional assigned theory classes going on simultaneously, students chose from a “menu” of classes arranged around the theme WWXD (What Would X Do?). For example, Sarah Miller followed a theme of counterpoint – what would Bach do (Goldberg Variations)?; what would Pérotin do (Viderunt)?; what would de Vitry do (Roman de Fauvel)? What would Purcell do (Dido and Aeneas); canons and the writing of the annual camp canon; theory, history, musicology – everything wrapped into one package. Randall Davidson, Jordyn Davis and Eric Radloff had similar integrated curricula that were focused on their areas of interest and expertise. The students had to pick a minimum of three classes a day from this delicious menu but were allowed to gorge on more if they chose, and many students did. And pulling everything together was Mary Kate Hines.
3. There was an expanded use of DAWs (digital audio workstation) to create musical outcomes. The final program included compositions played live by students and staff, DAW presentations, and hybrids.
4. There were daily salons presented on zoom by composers of different genres from coast to coast who spoke about their personal creative processes.
5. To encourage the bonding of the young composers, there was time for special activities – off campus trips to escape campus food, ping pong and its derivative made up by the students – ring rone (musical chairs ping pong), etc.



The experience of the students before the camp ranged from nothing formal ever written to having composed twelve symphonies and working on an opera, yet the kids said that no one ever felt excluded or inferior.

The totality of the experience had the entire staff in tears. Sarah summed up the feelings of the staff when she said, “You are the most amazing group. You have such a beautiful dynamic between you. I have never witnessed this before and it makes me hopeful for the future.”

Take the time to listen to the endgame on YouTube. It is long, so take it in bites, but hear it all. I dare you to recognize that these wonderful pieces were produced by teenagers, conception to performance in less than a week! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHuDbCQUaMQ&t=3630s> JK



# JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST 2021

By Pat Steege, *Chair*

“The music world is in good hands.” As I end my four-year commitment as National Chair for the Junior Composer Contest, I reflect on how amazing our young composers are and how many unique and fresh compositions I savored during my tenure. Although our entry numbers continued in a downward trend with 22% fewer entries than 2020, the quality of the creative work never diminished. Georgia and Virginia had the most entries at 56 each, followed by Pennsylvania at 50. 383 national entries were culled down through three levels in three months to recognize and reward the national finalists featured in this edition. Enjoy their personally written stories! I extend my sincere thanks to the many state and regional chairs who provided a strong volunteer spirit while the pandemic still affected their lives. They muscled on to support this fantastic opportunity. You are greatly appreciated by the participating teachers and grateful students who benefit year after year. I wish I could send you all a dozen roses. Here is a beautifully written quote from one of the parents: *In this very bleak year of the global pandemic, the bright spot for J has been being blessed to have the time and ability to focus on his musical compositions. This award is the icing on the cake that brings him joy, encouragement and validation. It means so much to him, and we are so very grateful.*

I give my final salute using the words of our national judge Dr. Ed Knight, “*the students demonstrated a remarkable talent and potential in their submitted pieces. The music world is in good hands with these exceptional, young composers.*”

Please join me in welcoming your new National Chair for 2022, Joanie Pegram from South Carolina. [JK](#)

Junior Composers Institute 2021 Students, faculty and recording artists participating in the camp



Having fun in the cafeteria

Performing a student's piece with a student conductor



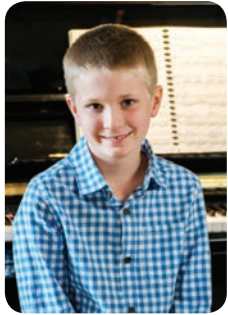
## Junior Composers Contest 2022

By Joanie Pegram, *Junior Composers chair*

The 2022 Junior Composers Contest is off to a great start with our state judges offering helpful feedback to all contestants and selecting which entries will advance to the regional contests. While composition is not my natural gift, I have enjoyed serving as a state chair and then a regional chair and observing the many talented juniors who enter the Junior Composers Contest. As the new national chair, I am indebted to immediate past national chair Pat Steege who continues to graciously help me as I learn the ropes. I am also thankful for our great regional and state chairs who are investing in the next generation of American composers. I am excited to watch the contest unfold and hear the amazing entries from this year's contestants.

# JUNIOR COMPOSERS ANNOUNCED

## CLASS I: (ages 9 and under)



### 1ST PLACE Henry Dekker Kentucky

Henry Dekker (9 years old) lives in Lexington, Kentucky, and has studied piano with Maria LeRose for 4 years. He has participated

in Festival multiple times and hopes to earn the tallest trophy possible by the time he gets to 12th grade. During the pandemic, Henry attended homeschool with his sisters, which gave him extra time to work on his composition, "Morning Birds." In addition to piano, Henry plays Little League baseball and enjoys reading Harry Potter, Foxtrot, and Calvin & Hobbes. But Henry's favorite hobby is probably playing Minecraft, Battlefield, and Fortnite. He would like to be a video game maker when he grows up. In 2021 Henry will enter the fourth grade at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

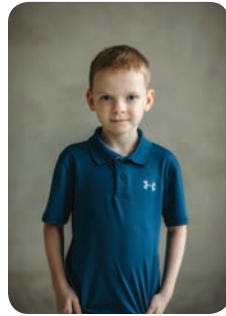


### 2ND PLACE Ethan Vann Georgia

Ethan began studying piano with his grandmother, Gayle Vann, when he was four years old. His father, Derek Vann, also a pianist and teacher, helped him practice and encouraged him to compose. Ethan has participated for four years in the Jr. Composers Contest. His compositions have placed either First or Second Place in the State of Georgia, and this year he was very excited that his composition was named a Regional Winner. Finally, his composition, *Midnight Mystery*, was awarded Second Place at the National level! This honor, as well as earning his 30-point Gold Cup for Composition, has been very encouraging.

Ethan has also participated in the Federation Festivals in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, in both solo and duet events. In 2019 he received three 15-point Gold Cups for Solo, Duet and Composition events.

Ethan also enjoys reading, swimming, and hiking with his family. He is the oldest of three children. Because of the Covid lock-down in 2020, he was able to spend a lot of time with his little sisters. He is looking forward to writing a new composition this fall.



### INCENTIVE AWARD Henry Morgan Iowa

Henry Morgan, 9, lives in Iowa City, IA with his parents, Jim and Teresa Morgan, and his three siblings. Henry

began changing the notes of songs in his lesson books to suit his ear at an early age. He has been composing for about 2 years. He works with his piano teacher, Joseph Page, in Iowa City on his compositions. Henry participates in the National Federation of Music Clubs piano festival annually, earning four superiors in piano solo, and two superiors in music composition. He enjoys swimming, video games, and playing soccer.



### INCENTIVE AWARD Elizabeth Younan Michigan

This year of 2021 was Elizabeth's 4th year of submitting a composition to

Jr. Composers. Elizabeth earned her 30-point Gold cup in composition this year. Her composition for 2021 MFMC Jr. Composers is called *THE COVID PLOT*. The composition is written for piano and guitar. She resides in Romeo, Michigan.

**Elizabeth Younan** is the daughter of Nannette Meyette and Kamil Younan. She will be a 5th grader in September 2021, at St. Thecla Catholic School in Clinton Township. She loves music. She sings in the Youth Choir at her school. This youth choir also travels to perform for other occasions. Besides composing, Elizabeth plays piano solos, concerto's, theory and sings in Federation

Festivals. Elizabeth also participates in the National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions. For 5 consecutive years, Elizabeth performed 10-piece Guild auditions and has received ratings of Superior Plus. Elizabeth also did a Guild Ensemble in voice while her mother accompanied her on the piano!



### HONORABLE MENTION Claire Hughes Oregon

Claire Hughes is an 8-year-old from Portland, Oregon, and she will be entering 3rd grade in the fall. She has

studied piano from Jan Mittelstaedt for two years, and this was her first time entering a composition contest! This year, Claire also completed OMTA Level 2 Syllabus and participated in Junior Festival Solo, Concerto, and Theory events. Besides playing the piano, she enjoys reading, skiing, and playing with her little brother. Claire is looking forward to regular school and live recitals returning next year!

## CLASS II: (ages 10-12)



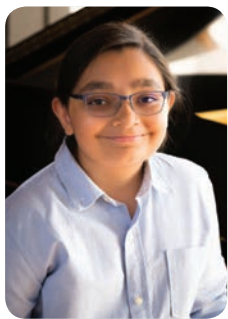
### 1ST PLACE Alejandro Belgique Oregon

**Alejandro Belgique** is a 5th grader at Markham Elementary School, in Portland, Oregon. He likes to read, play Minecraft

and Mario Kart, and build stuff with LEGO and K'nex. He won 1st place in the 2020 OM/NI competition for a piece called *Squirrel Behavior* for flute and piano. He has participated in the Young Composers Project through Fear No Music for 2 years. His composition teacher is Michael Johanson. He also plays oboe and piano. His piano teacher is Monica Ohuchi, and his oboe teacher is Karen Wagner.

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JUNIOR COMPOSERS ANNOUNCED *continued*



**2ND PLACE**  
**Eli Antony**  
*Washington state*

Eli began composing in 2019 under the guidance of Mrs. Sharon Van Valin. In just a short time since then, Eli's compositions have

gone on to win National competitions. His accomplishments include 1st place in the 2020 Piano Guild Composition Competition, 2nd place in the 2020 Music Teachers National Association Composition Competition, 2nd place in the 2020 National Federation Music Clubs Junior Composition Competition. He has also won several local and state competitions.

Eli regularly participates in piano performance competitions and has won 1st place in several of them including in the 2021 Chopin Foundation NW Competition, the 2020 PNW Piano Competition, and the 2020 Seattle Bach Festival. Eli is also a cellist and has been assistant principal cellist of the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Eli's favorite hobby is solving the Rubik's cube. He learns new ways in which he can get faster at it and his average time is currently under 15 seconds. His other hobbies are learning how to play a recorder and Sport Stacking. His favorite sport is swimming.



**2ND PLACE**  
**Grant Qu**  
*Texas*

**Grant Qu** is a 5th grade student living in Austin, Texas. Born with perfect pitch, he started piano lessons with Dr. Liang Liang at

age 5, and has developed a strong interest in music ever since. In 2019, he began to learn composition with Dr. Liang. He has won several composition competition awards during the past 2 years, like Texas State and South Central Division Winner in 2019-2020 Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) Elementary group, First Place in 2020-2021 Texas Music Teacher Association (TMTA)

Ensemble 5th - 8th Grade group, Third Place in 2021 Golden Key Music Festival Junior International group. In addition to composition and playing piano, he also likes singing and playing clarinet.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**  
**Vivian Ngo**  
*Virginia*

**Vivian** is a rising seventh grader in Fairfax County, VA. In addition to music, she is very passionate about

art. She started piano lessons around the age of seven. However, it was only when she studied under Karin Staudenmayer about two years ago that her interest in piano soared. She also discovered a surprising interest in music composition. Her first attempt earned her an honorable mention at the state level. Having a taste of recognition only increased her determination to do better the next year, which she did with her "Secret Shadows" composition. Vivian feels that playing the piano is both "fun and challenging at the same time." To Vivian, composing is expressing her art through music.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**  
**Charlie Plante**  
*Wisconsin*

**Charlie Plante** is a 13-year-old composer from Cedarburg, WI. Since starting composing lessons in January 2021,

he got third place at nationals in the WFMC Junior Composers Contest (Junior Class 2) and first place in the WMTA Young Composers Competition. He is also a very accomplished pianist, playing since age 3, having consistently achieved Superior ratings at Federation Festivals along with multiple golds at Solo and Ensemble, and accomplishments at the state level. He enjoys classical music, especially Rachmaninov.

Charlie also plays the marimba at the high school level, and enjoys playing with the marching band. He loves playing tennis, hanging out at the lake, drawing, architecture (especially Frank Lloyd Wright), and exploring national parks.



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Elias Fernainy**  
*Florida*

**Elias Fernainy** is 12 years old and lives in Orlando, Florida, with his parents and younger sister. This is his second year

participating in the composition contest. He is very honored that his piece, Chasing Dreams, won first prize in the Southeast Regional Division and Honorable Mention at the National level. He credits his success to his very talented and patient teacher Mrs. Lucy Warren. He enjoys all genres of music and he has started learning the flute this year. Other favorite pastimes include reading, programming, shelling, math, science, and martial arts.



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Robert Majchrzak**  
*Iowa*

Hi, I am **Robert Majchrzak**, a 13-year-old 8th-grade student at

Pleasant Valley Junior High in Le Claire, Iowa. The instruments I play include violin, piano, French horn, and voice. Playing tennis, table tennis, and Kung-Fu help keep me active. I like to play with LEGOs in my free time, and my favorite subject in school is math. I love composing because being creative makes things in life more fun & interesting for me, and composing sparked my interest!



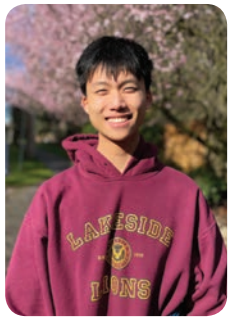
**CLASS III:** (ages 13-15)



**1ST PLACE**  
**Timothy Guillaume**  
*Minnesota*

**Tim Guillaume** is a pianist and composer from Minneapolis, MN. He has studied music from a young age, starting with

piano in first grade, which he continues today, saxophone in 5th and 6th grade, percussion in 7th, and is currently learning the clarinet. He studies composition under Randall Davidson at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis. He has won the MMTA piano contest 5 times. He writes for orchestra, piano, choir, and other combinations of instruments. Tim's other hobbies include reading poetry and backyard astronomy.



**2ND PLACE**  
**Aaron Zhang**  
*Washington state*

**Aaron Zhang** is a sophomore at Lakeside School in Seattle, Washington. He studies piano and composition with Sharon Van Valin

and recently received an honorable mention in the National Guild of Piano Teachers Composition Contest and an honorable mention for Washington state in the Music Teachers National Association Composition Competition. In his free time, he enjoys travel and movies.



**PIERSON AWARD (3RD PLACE)**  
**Richard Francis Martin**  
*Pennsylvania*

**Richard "Francis" Martin** was born in San Francisco

in 2007. At the age of six, he moved to

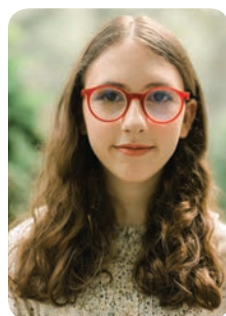
Philadelphia and began to study piano. He soon became fascinated with classical music and composers, like Chopin, Prokofiev, Beethoven, Bach and Schubert. In 2019, he started composition classes with his former choir director Erik Meyer. He loves composition because it is a way to "exhale" musical thoughts, and because it is a truly enjoyable process. "Landscapes" was a 6-month long project made with a combination of creative bursts and writer's block, and the influence of French composers such as Debussy. Two of Francis' most recent projects include a Stravinsky-inspired composition and an invention in the style of J.S. Bach.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**  
**John Simcoe**  
*Arizona*

Hello, my name is **John Simcoe** and I am currently 14 years old and live in Phoenix, Arizona. I

specialize in solo piano performance and have been composing for roughly two years along with music lessons for three years. Some of my teachers that have helped me along the way are Mrs. Woodward, Miss Blank, Mr. Kievert, and Mrs. O'Toole. I am mainly a self taught composer, and use things such as magazines, official music scores, and other theory books to help build my craft. As a young composer, I look up to classical music icons for inspiration; names such as Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn are a few. Some other accomplishments in my young piano career contain two Superior ratings from the NFMF music festival and a regional award from this composition contest in 2019. When not involved in music, I play basketball and swim. Also, I am a huge NASCAR fan and enjoy watching all sports. I am looking forward to where my music takes me.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**  
**Abby Harris**  
*New York*

**Abby Harris** is sixteen and lives in New York City. She studies composition with Ricardo

Zohn-Muldoon and has taken American Composers Orchestra coursework with Kevin James. Abby has been named a national finalist at NFMF for the past three years. This is her second year as the Northeast Regional winner in her division. This year, Abby was also awarded first prize in her division in the Youth Music Composition Competition. Abby was a 2018 Music at the Anthology Junior composer, a 2019 Luna Composition Lab composer, a 2020 Robert Avalon awardee, and a NextNotes and ASCAP finalist.

Abby studies piano with Yu-Pin Hsu and Karine Koroukian and jazz piano with John Orenstein. As a pianist, she has been recognized in competition, and she has played at Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall, and other venues. Abby is an accomplished illustrator and painter, and she has recently begun to explore needle felting, electric guitar, and electronic composition as well.



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
**Jeanne Park**  
*Washington state*

**Jeanne Park**, 13, is a 7th grader from Pine Lake Middle School in Sammamish, Washington. She

studies music composition with Sharon Van Valin and has been a Washington State winner, Western Region winner, and a National Merit Incentive Award recipient from the NFMF Junior Composers Contest Class II, 2020.

She has studied violin since the age of four and has been a winner many times in the Simon-Fiset String Competition and has received the Jean Kantner Memorial Trophy. She has been chosen as a performer in the Japan Suzuki International Institute's honors recital. Currently she studies with Simon James, also enjoys collaborating with Nozomi Khudiyev.

Besides music, Jeanne enjoys reading a book, walking around a lake and playing the game Minecraft.

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**JUNIOR COMPOSERS ANNOUNCED** *continued*

**CLASS IV:** (ages 16-18)



**1ST PLACE**  
**Brandon Kim**  
*Missouri*

**Brandon Kim** is a senior at Rock Bridge High School in Columbia, Missouri. He started composing music when he was 10, and his first

composition was “*Knights of the Round Table*” for piano, violin, and trumpet. Brandon was the 1st and 2nd place winner in 2019 and 2020 of the National Federation Junior Composers Contest respectively. His composition mentor was Niko Schroeder.

Brandon not only composes but is also an avid instrument player. He plays piano and violin. Brandon was the winner in the State Competition at the Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA) in Junior String Division in 2018 and Runner Up for Senior String Division in 2019 and 2021. He also was selected for the Missouri All-State Orchestra in 2019, 2020 and 2021.



**2ND PLACE**  
**Albert Wang**  
*Florida*

**Albert Wang** is a junior at Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Florida. At the age of 9, Albert showed great passion in music composition

with his first piece “Morning in the Forest” for a school project dedicated to music and nature. Shortly after, he began his formal composition and music theory studies. His composition

teachers include Donald Waxman and Thomas McKinley.

Albert’s music composition awards include winning the FFMC Junior Composers Contest multiple times, multiple awards at NFMC regional and national levels from elementary to high school, and awards in MTNA state, regional and national levels. He won the Outstanding Interpretation Award and PTA Young Artist Scholarship in the 2017 National PTA Reflections Music Composition Competition. He was a guest composer at the 2019 and 2020 New Music Festivals at Lynn University. As an accomplished piano student of Maria Gomez, Albert also won many awards in FFMC and FSMTA piano solo, duet, duo and concerto competitions.

Besides music, Albert loves math, coding and science. He also enjoys playing board games, social deduction games, and swimming.



**OLGA KLEIN NELSON AWARD (3RD PLACE)**  
**Somesh Yatham**  
*Texas*

**Somesh Yatham** is an All-State percussionist and composer based

near Austin, Texas. He has received awards from the Frost School of Music Ibis Ensemble Competition, the Pure Vienna Classical Composition Aspiring Young Composers Competition, The Hypotenuse Trio, The Austin Symphony Young Composers Contest, and the PTA Reflections Competition among others. He has also been selected for many different composition/commissioning groups including the Golden Hornet, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and Fear No Music young composer programs as well as being accepted into Boston Conservatory’s High School

Composition Intensive, NYU’s Screen Scoring Workshop, the Draylen Mason Fellowship, and the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles Institute. He is planning to pursue scoring for media. Mentors include Keith Allegretti, Sean Harvey, and Brian Satterwhite.



**WILSON PIANO COMPOSITION AWARD**  
**Anika Fuloria**  
*California*

**Anika Fuloria** is an active composer, instrumentalist, and singer-songwriter.

She will be attending Stanford University as part of the class of 2025.

Anika’s compositions have been awarded by the National Association for Music Education, the Music Teachers National Association, the Music Teachers Association of California, and Tribeca New Music.

Anika was principal double bassist for the Harker Upper School Orchestra, the California All-State Honors String Orchestra, and the California Youth Symphony Associate Orchestra.

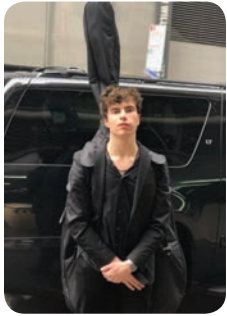
Anika is founder and bassist for the jazz quartet, Anthem, and played bass for the Stanford Jazz Workshop Giant Steps Big Band. Anika also plays piano and guitar, and writes and sings her own songs, which can be found on SoundCloud and Spotify.

In my free time, I like to read books and listen to music. My teacher for this entry was Prof. Ian Krouse from UCLA. I also workshopped this piece as part of the Curtis Young Artist Summer Program (YASP).



*Dr. Edward Knight*

Dr. Ed Knight is Composer-in-Residence and Director of Music Composition at Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK. His music has been performed on five continents and in six commercial recordings.



**OUTSTANDING STRING COMPOSITION**

**Jacob Shaw**  
*New York*

Jacob Shaw is an award-winning composer, conductor, musician, and high

school student in NYC. Largely self-taught, Jacob is a multi-instrumentalist whose repertoire extends from the traditional (piano, vocals, drum set and percussion, guitar, bass—upright and electric) to the unusual (accordion, hurdy-gurdy, and didgeridoo). He’s performed at notable venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center (as a vocalist), as well as Feinstein’s/54 Below and The Cutting Room (as part of various ensembles). Jacob writes and composes for a variety of media. Recent compositions include a body of work as composer-in-residence for his high school’s theater company, a classical piece for string quintet, and two tracks for *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**

**Madeline Clara Cheng**  
*California*

Madeline Clara Cheng (b. 2004) is a composer, saxophonist, and

pianist from Los Altos, California. She was a 2019-2020 Luna Composition Lab Fellow, the two-time winner of the Illinois Young Composer Contest, and a 2021 ICEBERG New Music Young Composer Scholarship recipient. Her works have received top awards and honors from the Golden Key Music Festival, Robert Avalon International Composition, Webster University, and the Frost School of Music.

Madeline’s compositions have also been performed by Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Bergen International Festival, the International Contemporary Ensemble, Chamber Project St. Louis, and the Boston New Music Initiative.

This summer, Madeline attended the Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Composition Program on full scholarship. She also enjoys sushi, bubble wrap, and guinea pigs.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**

**Noah Durlam**  
*Wisconsin*

Noah Durlam is a recent graduate of Germantown High School in Wisconsin, where

he was involved in concert band, pep band, pit orchestra, and was a drum major and section leader in marching band. He participated in the 2020 Wisconsin State Honors Band and played in the UW-Milwaukee Youth Wind Ensemble from 2019 to 2021. Noah received superior ratings at Wisconsin FMC and Wisconsin State Solo & Ensemble festivals. He began composing only a few years ago, but has since written works for piano, choir, brass quintet, and concert band. Noah will attend Valparaiso University, where he will major in chemistry, play in the band, and receive a scholarship to study piano with a music minor.



**INCENTIVE AWARD**

**Emily Singleton**  
*Florida*

Emily Singleton is a violist, composer, and writer whose recent work explores intersections in

poetry, linguistics, and music. Emily’s work has been presented at ShapeShifter Lab, University of Florida, Interlochen Center for the Arts, University of Georgia, Historic Thomas Center, St. Augustine Music Festival, and Petaluma Center for the Arts. Her music has been performed by Mimi Stillman, Face the Music, Elisa Sutherland, Gainesville Civic Chorus, Alachua County Youth Orchestra, NYO-USA, and New York Youth Symphony. Her work has been recognized by MTNA, MATA, FPEA, ASCAP, Luna Lab, and NextNotes. Emily studies with Paul Richards, Daniel Felsenfeld, Jorge Peña, and Stephen Fine. In Fall 2021 she will begin studies at Indiana University as a Jacobs Scholar.



**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Kevin Nam**  
*Washington state*

Kevin Nam is a rising senior at Newport High School in Bellevue Washington and

has been studying composition with Sharon Van Valin for 4 years. He has achieved many things in composition including being a 2020 MTNA finalist, 2021 Simon Fiset Class IV 1st place, and 2021 National Guild of Piano Teachers 1st place. In his free time, Kevin also enjoys playing tennis, talking with friends, and playing violin. **JK**

*Not pictured:*  
**Yunxi He, Texas,**  
**Class 3, Incentive Award**

**Aayush Raheja, Minnesota,**  
**Class 4, Incentive Award**



# GROWING UP “FLATAU”

## Memories from Carole Flatau’s children

By Christine Meyers, Neil Flatau, Carrie Kraft, Alan Flatau



Carole Flatau

This is about Carole. This is about what being in a musical family with Carole as our mother was like. Looking back is eye-opening and makes us all appreciate her life and legacy.

She didn’t grow up in a musical family. Her father had played the harmonica, but he died when she was in grade school. Grandma refused to pay for piano lessons when she asked. Grandma told her that she’d already wasted money paying for lessons for her older sisters and they hadn’t practiced, so she wasn’t going to pay for Mom. Carole wasn’t deterred; she saved her money by pulling weeds, babysitting, and working in a grocery store and paid for them herself. Perseverance was an enduring character trait throughout her life.

As a young mother in the 1950’s, Carole was the typical “Leave it to Beaver” Mom. At least it was until Mom started going to Fargo for piano workshops. A few piano students in a little house grew to a larger class in the house on 3rd Ave. where the sign on the side door said “THIS ONE”. A few music store-sponsored workshops she attended became net-working before the term was ever used.

At workshops, she met other piano teachers with similar goals and she saw a need to educate the importance of music for everyone, especially young children. She was a charter member of the FMMTNA and got involved at the state level. She helped form the Valley City MTNA chapter.

Her life was changed forever when she attended her first National Music Convention. She got a fire of enthusiasm that erupted and never went out. Sometimes it dimmed, but only until she could recharge at another convention.

As her family, we knew she was involved with projects that took her more places, added more piles of lists and papers on the dining room table, but we only knew her as our mother; a piano teacher, church musician and town pianist for various functions, everything from beauty pageants to horse shows.

We never saw her as a national powerhouse of music...a promoter of music education with an emphasis on folk music the last big chapter in her life. We didn’t realize the scope of her national accomplishments for a long time. We WERE aware of her impact in our town and state. She was just “Mom”.

That’s not to say we were blind to her enthusiasm. We were immersed in music at an early age with her strong encouragement. One of my earliest memories was when brother Neil and I sang “Let’s Get Together” for a Rotary dinner. We had matching outfits: mine was a plaid dress and Neil had a plaid vest and red bow tie. The four of us kids all grew up playing in band, singing in choirs and played piano.

Christmas Parties were a major part of our childhoods. Piano recitals were held in the living room with family sitting in rows in the living and dining room while students sat in the fireplace room and on the stairs to the 2nd floor. All students would play a piece and when all had played, we would gather around the piano and each student, from beginner to advanced, would play a Christmas Carol for everyone to sing along. (This was brother Alan’s favorite memory.) While the sing-along was happening, the refreshments were brought out. Mom made the best divinity and fudge! Grandma made her egg coffee.

The parties are still remembered fondly, as were the biannual ensemble recitals held in the college music auditorium. We’d have rehearsals at the college the day before and it was a BIG DEAL.





With our mother as our piano teacher, our lessons were often switched for make-up lessons for her students. My brothers didn't mind. Sister Carrie, on the other hand, treasured her one-on-one time with her piano instructor. Carrie was precocious and one time she put on Mom's Easter hat and shoes, rang the front door bell. When Mom answered it, Carrie announced, "Good day, Mrs. Flatau, I'm Mrs. Flower and I'm here for my piano lesson." From that day on, Carrie's time was hers only.

Music was always in our house. If it wasn't coming from the piano in the living room or studio, it was coming from the radio in the dining room where most of us could hear it. MPR (Minnesota Public Radio classics) was on whenever there was a lull. Mom would often call out to the household, "What period (of music) is this piece?" We all learned the periods of music and would shout our answer down the stairs or from another room.

We lived one block away from the Jr. Sr. High School and often came home for lunch. One day, Carrie had an appointment and needed Mom to write an excuse to get out of school. Carrie was in another room and didn't see Mom writing. Mom wanted to know which class Carrie was going to miss and called out, "Which period?" To which Carrie answered, "Baroque!" Musical family indeed.

One big advantage we Flatau kids had was when Mom and Dad were part of the promotion of the Community Concert Association series. The perk was having the artists come to our house for a reception after the concerts. Mom kept a guest book for years and it is exciting to see the names who came to our Valley City, North Dakota house. Some artists became life-long friends. The duo pianists, Stecher and Horowitz came and we saw them in other cities through the country.

One of my favorite stories is when the classic guitarist, Christopher Parkening, came to town. He was just beginning his career (he had studied under Andre Segovia.) He got to town and came to dinner. We had pork chops and he asked if he could eat with his

hands. Of course he could! Pork chops and drumsticks are meant to be eaten that way. There were a lot of good memories attached to Community Concerts.

As I said before, we saw Carole as 'Mom'. She really compartmentalized her family life with her career. She didn't brag or put on airs. We often didn't hear of where she had been or what part she had in the conventions or meetings. Through the years, Carrie and I went with her once in a while and we were both proud of how she was received

and amazed at the people she knew and corresponded with, but, we were not privy to many of her business dealings. We know that she was always humbled by the fact that she was a small town piano teacher and was blessed by the opportunities she received.

I only got a glimpse of her professional life when I started cleaning out her files after she fell and broke her hip. The more I cleared out, the more I realized how much she had accomplished. She was truly a national treasure and we were lucky to have her as our Mom. JK

# State Buzz

## KENTUCKY

### Lexington Federated Music Club



After canceling the traditional Fall and Spring Student Recitals in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic, junior students of the Lexington Federated Music Club were pleased to present a Fall Recital in November, 2021. Four pianists, five violists and twelve violinists ranged in age from six to seventeen. Their repertoire varied from elementary piano pieces by Paganini and Wieniawski with many lovely selections in between! As the accompanying photo shows, all performers, as well as persons

in the audience, wore masks. Senior club member, Ruth Lundborg, coordinated the recital which was held at Faith Lutheran Church in Lexington.



### Madison Music Makers Junior Music Club in Richmond Kentucky

*Submitted by Carla Smith  
Madison Music Makers counselor  
Richmond, Kentucky*

The highlight of 2020-2021, for the Madison Music Makers, Junior Music Club, was successfully continuing with lessons and musical goals via Zoom, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic!

Members of the junior club performed for the senior club, The Cecilian Club, meetings in November, performing American music or Christmas selections and again in February, performing American spirituals.

The Madison Music Makers continued with their Community Outreach by sending personalized Christmas cards to every resident of the Kenwood Health and Rehabilitation Center, since COVID restrictions cancelled the annual piano Holiday performance.

All the club members participated in the KFMC Richmond Junior Music Festival hosted by the Cecilian Club. Students performed via Zoom in piano solo and theory events. Fifteen gold cups were earned.

Six of the high school members of the Madison Music Makers, were performers in the Cecilian Club Youth Musicales in April which

featured video performances of outstanding high school musicians of Madison County.

COVID vaccinations and the easing of Kentucky COVID restrictions allowed the Madison Music Makers to resume in-person lessons for the last weeks of the school year and are hopeful for the fall and the 2021-2022 year!

## MINNESOTA



James Cook

**James Cook** has had a love of singing since he was a small child. At the age of 4 he became the vocalist in the bluegrass band in which his family played. James was home educated through grade 6, but began attending Central Minnesota School as a 7th grader. He started his involvement in musical theater as the butler in the CMCS production of "Annie" as an 8th grader. He enjoys drama, soccer, and singing. He plans to go to college in the fall and major in political science. He has a goal of becoming an attorney and someday, perhaps, a judge. James appreciates the encouragement he has received from his voice teacher, Cheryl Schmidt, over the years.



Rachel Lanning

**Rachel** is a senior at Willmar Senior High School. Her parents' names are David and Margaret Lanning. She studies vocal music under Cheryl Schmidt and loves every second of it! Rachel is involved in many fine arts activities, such as theatre, choir, and violin/voice lessons. She also enjoys being a captain of her speech team at WHS and teaching private violin lessons through Whitney Music in Willmar. She will continue her study of the arts in college as a choral music education major and a theatre minor.



Lydia Rahn

My name is **Lydia Rahn**, and I am a junior at Lakeville South High School. I have been playing piano since early elementary school. My piano teachers have been Mary Aalgaard, Nancy Lephart and currently I am studying with Mary Wescott. In the past year, I was encouraged to play in AVMTA Festival and the Upper Midwest Festival. This year I have been challenged to learn some new music on the piano.

I also have been playing the clarinet since 6th grade. I enjoy playing in the band, solo & ensemble and Wisconsin's middle level all-state. This past year I wanted to play in the jazz band and so I started learning to play the trumpet. I am very grateful for all the support I have received for my music and the opportunities that have come out of it.

Outside of music, I am part of the tennis team and the National Honor Society. Music has always been my passion and I hope to continue playing clarinet and piano throughout college and beyond.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club,

Submitted by Members of the Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club with Joanie Pegram, NFMC Junior Composers Contest Chair



Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club, Easley, South Carolina

Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club, Easley, South Carolina, enjoyed an overview of musical periods complete with dates, composers, and characteristics of the music for each time period at their October meeting. Club president Jayden Chambers performed musical examples to go with the discussion. In addition, NFMC Junior Composers Contest Chair and SCFMC Junior Counselor Joanie Pegram visited and led club members in composing a piece for body percussion. All club members were involved as we selected our form, "instruments" (clap, snap, stomp, etc.), and dynamics. The students' creativity was outstanding, and it was fun!



Kay Mason, CHJMC Co-Counselor & SCFMC Treasurer; Gilda Hendricks, SCFMC; President; Griffin Mason, CHJMC President

Congratulations to Kay Mason, co-counselor of the Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club, Easley, SC. The Junior Music Club awarded Mrs. Mason a NFMC Life Membership for her many years of service as co-counselor to the Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club. The NFMC membership was awarded to Mrs. Mason in March 2021 by the Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club President, her son, Griffin Mason. Mrs. Mason also serves as Scholarship Treasurer for Crescent Music Club, Greenville, (mother club for the Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club) and SCFMC State Treasurer.

### GWMC Junior Clubs Greenville, South Carolina



Greenville Harmony, Melody, and Tempo Music Clubs

Greenville Harmony, Melody, and Tempo Music Clubs are happy to be meeting in person again! The 2021-22 theme is Tuning in to Music with exciting monthly programs. In November, all clubs will honor our country in celebration of NFMC Parade of American Music - dressing in red, white, and blue gets all members into the spirit! We

have secured proclamations from our Governor and Mayor in celebration of American Music. Our December meetings will be Christmas Sharing with local Nursing Homes.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### SDFMC Scholarship Awards

The South Dakota Federation of Music Clubs (SDFMC) recently awarded \$1000 scholarships to two university students for the 2021-2022 school year. Recipients include Jaime O'Neill from Huron and Ashley Fink from Marion.



Jaime O'Neill

Jaime O'Neill is a sophomore at South Dakota State University (SDSU) majoring in music education with an emphasis on choral conducting and piano. On campus he is active vocally in Concert Choir, serves as the accompanist for a 50-voice men's choir, the Statesmen, and is a member of the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center Events Crew, who produce professional recitals and concerts. O'Neill is also the co-founder, piano accompanist and a vocalist for the Christian Contemporary Band, Trinity Hill. He served as Music Director for Brookings United Church of Christ this past

year and is the Church Musician for Brookings St. Thomas More Catholic Parish providing bi-weekly music for the Spanish Mass.



Ashley Fink

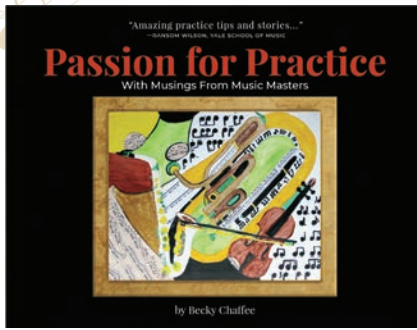
Ashley Fink is a senior at University of Sioux Falls majoring in Music Education and Communication Studies & Theater. She is a member of the Concert Chorale, is a theatrical performer in plays and musicals at USF, and is a member of the USF Honors Program. Fink, also, is the playwright of Butterfly Wings that debuted in January of 2021 at Sioux Falls Christian High School. Additionally, she serves as a volunteer vocalist and drummer in two church praise bands.

A panel of three judges selected the recipients based upon a 10-15 minute audition video, school and community involvement, GPA, an essay on why he/she deserves and wants the scholarship plus his/her music goals, and teacher recommendation letters. For more information, contact Barb Valer at [jbvaler@hur.midco.net](mailto:jbvaler@hur.midco.net).

## TENNESSEE

### Encouraging Students to Practice Music Lessons

By now we all know that playing an instrument is not only fun and an emotional outlet, but for young people it helps with language, reading, math and motor skills. And with Suzuki training, memory skills. As adults, practicing will keep your brain active and help stave off Alzheimer's Disease. In Dr. Anita Collins' 5 minute Ted Talk video, "How Playing a Musical Instrument Benefits Your Brain", she states that playing an instrument uses more of your brain than any other art or than any sport. So, practicing an instrument is also HEALTHY!



How will we get more people practicing? Author of 2 books to encourage practicing, Becky Chaffee, says “A local music teacher called me after reading *Passion For Practice With Musings From Music Masters* to say ‘I sat down with a bowl of soup and your book. I couldn’t get up until I finished the

book because I loved it so much. I can’t imagine that anyone could read this book and not want to practice!’ That is the ultimate compliment.” If empowering students with the skill to make practicing their own, encouraging a new attitude towards practicing, people will want to do it as a fun challenge. The better one gets at playing an instrument, the more fun it is. Likewise, the better one gets at practicing, understanding how to solve challenges on their own, the more fun they will have. Maybe we should think of another name for practicing.

Likewise again, the better at music one gets, the better you want to get. As you improve, you are more likely to hire a private teacher to venture into more difficult music challenges. So, Ms. Chaffee’s recent book, *Passion For Practice...*, tries to get people out of the “have to practice” mindset, where it’s easy to think you need to put in your practice hours (whether for yourself or whether your mother is making you), and waste your own

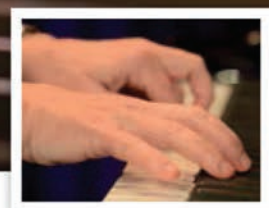
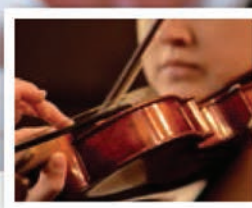
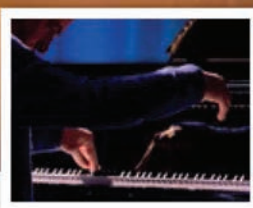
time with uninspired, unproductive practice. Ms. Chaffee is trying to light up our desire to want to solve playing challenges in the practice room on our own with tools that many people take a lifetime to acquire.

Ms. Chaffee had the idea of expressing practice tips visually in her paintings with bright colors and humor. The whimsical paintings in her books are her unique contribution to music education. You can purchase her books on her website with other music gifts created by Ms. Chaffee or on Amazon. Her website is [www.MusicTeacherGifts.com](http://www.MusicTeacherGifts.com). She initially put her paintings on note cards with the practice tips on the back, also selling her work as prints and originals. Her work is for sale in symphony gift shops across the country from San Francisco to Nashville and the Brevard Music Center.

To inspire and empower music students to practice, Ms. Chaffee explains the reasons why we practice various ways. For example, instead of having a student roll their eyes while practicing, they know why they might repeat a section over and over before moving on after a mistake. Ms. Chaffee says Practicing music well is like an approach to life. How you think about doing something is just as important as doing the think itself. When you practice, what are you doing? You are teaching your brain. For example, if you are playing, and make a mistake, you need to stop playing immediately and play the correct notes repeatedly. Your brain is a creature of habit. When you learn something, neural connections are made in the brain, and you want the connections to be made for the right notes! In this way, she explains why you take a certain practice approach, which is enabling to the practicing student. **JK**

# MTNA

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National Association



Whether you are a seasoned professional or new teacher, membership in Music Teachers National Association is an essential part of your professional life. Since 1876, MTNA has been the foremost leader in empowering the music-teaching professional by providing valuable resources and networking opportunities for its members.

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# 2021-22 NFMC Awards-at-a-Glance



## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

President: Deborah Freeman

## 2020-2021 COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS CHART

Chair: Competitions and Awards Board & Division

Dr. George Keck, 2112 Hinson Rd #23, Little Rock, AR 72212, keckg@att.net

Application form numbers listed can be found on the NFMC website: [www.nfmc-music.org](http://www.nfmc-music.org)

### BIENNIAL JUNIOR AWARDS

Junior age: Must not have reached the 19th birthday by March 1.

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	Application Form #	NFMC Chair
NFMC Claire Ulrich Whitehurst (Flanagan) Piano Awards	PIANO SOLO	High School: Grades 10-11-12 Must not have reached 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$500 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (for further study) \$250 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	March 1, even numbered years	JR 14-2	Marcia Chaplin 1807 Batten Hollow Rd Vienna, VA 22182 703-298-0748 marciachaplin2@gmail.com
NFMC Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards	COMPOSITION	Intermediate: Grades 7-8-9 High School: Grades 10-11-12	Paid by private donor	\$500 (Intermediate) \$1,000 (High School)	March 1, odd numbered years	JR 8-2	James Schnars 331 Cleveland St. #804 Clearwater, FL 33755 727-400-4305
NFMC Thelma A. Robinson Award in Ballet honoring a Past National President	BALLET	Must have reached the 13 <sup>th</sup> but not the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1, odd-numbered years)	\$20	\$2,500	February 1, even numbered years	JR 10-2	Justin Gray 1904 Eastern Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 260-579-1492 pianistprogress@gmail.com

### ANNUAL JUNIOR AWARDS

Members of the Junior Division should also check NFMC Summer Scholarships, as various age levels are included in Summer Music Center opportunities.

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	Application Form #	NFMC Chair
NFMC Martha Marcks Mack Junior Vocal Award	VOCAL	High School Grades: 10 – 11 – 12 Must not have reached the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,500 - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$1,000 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$500 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	March 1	JR 21-2	Kristin Ivers 1419 Keller Ave Williamsport, PA 17701 Kivers210@gmail.com
NFMC Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Awards Honoring a Past National President	PIANO CONCERTO	High School Senior who has not reached the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by May 1	\$10	\$1,000 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$500 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	May 1	JR 20-2	Delores Blaser 4404 Heritage drive, Lawrence, KS 66047 dblaser@sunflower.com
NFMC Joyce Walsh Junior Disability Awards	INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL	Must have reached the 12 <sup>th</sup> but not the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$2,000—1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$1,500—2 <sup>nd</sup> Place 1 award of \$1,000 in each of the five regions.	March 1	JR 16-2	Alisha Snyder 2061 Jefferson Dr SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-485-3935 alisha.snyder@gmail.com
NFMC Herman and Mary Neumann Award to Interlochen Arts Academy	PIANO, VOICE, ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS	Must be in High School	NONE	\$1,000	February 1		Interlochen Arts Academy Interlochen MI 49643
NFMC Stillman Kelley National Instrumental Awards	INSTRUMENTAL	Must not have reached the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by March 1	\$10	\$1,500 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place (for further study) \$750 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$500 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place 5 regional awards @ \$250 each	March 1	JR 13-2	Linda Maurhoff 204 Downville Rd Valencia, PA 16059 724-625-1761 lindamaurhoff@consolidated.net
NFMC Thelma Byrum Piano Award in Stillman Kelley Auditions. (Kelley & Byrum awards cannot be applied for separately)	PIANO			\$500 for further study			
NFMC Benzinger/Valentin Junior Music for the Blind Performance Awards	INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL	Must have reached the 10 <sup>th</sup> birthday but not the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,000 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$500 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place 1 - \$250 award in each of the five NFMC Regions	March 1	JR 18-2	Lee Ann Cummings 146 W Pinebrook Dr Brandon, MS 39047 cummings-lee28@att.net

NFMC Dance Awards (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap)	BALLET and THEATER DANCE	Must have reached the 11 <sup>th</sup> but not the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10	Age 11-14: Ballet and/or Theater Dance (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap) \$200 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$100 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Age 15-18: Ballet and/or Theater Dance (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap) \$400 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$200 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	May 1	JR 17-2	Nicholas Gray 1904 Eastern Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 414-491-0181 nicholas.bradley.gray@gmail.com
NFMC Mary Alice Cox Awards	CELLO OR DOUBLE BASS	Must not have reached the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday as of application deadline	\$20	\$2,000 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$1,500 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$1,000 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	March 1	JR 9-2	Matt Miller 13819 W. National Ave New Berlin, WI 53151 mattmillerbass@aol.com
NFMC Agnes Fowler Junior Blind Composition Award	COMPOSITION	Must have reached the 10 <sup>th</sup> but not the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10 per manuscript	\$1,000	March 1	JR 15-2	Lee Ann Cummings 146 W Pinebrook Dr Brandon, MS 39047 cummings-lee28@att.net
NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Awards	POETRY	Must not have reached the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by February 1	\$5	Five \$100 awards	February 1	JR 12-1	Jordon Young 1208 Pioneer Ave. St. Joseph MI 49085 Jordon.young@outlook.com
NFMC National Music Week Essay Contest	ESSAY	Must be in grades 7 through 12	NONE	\$75 in each of the 50 states	January 10	AR 13-1	Ellen Leapaldt 10612 24 <sup>th</sup> St E Edgewood, WA 98372 museiff@msn.com
NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Awards	VIOLA	Must have reached the 12 <sup>th</sup> but not the 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,750 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$1,000 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place One \$300 Award in each of the 5 NFMC Regions	March 1	JR 11-2	Dr. George Keck 2112 Hinson Rd. #23 Little Rock, AR 72212 keckg@att.net
Marilyn Caldwell Piano Awards	PIANO SOLO	High School Grades 10-11-12	\$10	\$1,000 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$500 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	March 1	JR 19-2	Linda Lind 8905 Longmead Court Burke VA 22015 lindalindva@gmail.com
NFMC Michael R. Edwards Graduating Senior Performance Award honoring a Past National President	SCHOLARSHIP FOR MUSIC MAJOR	Graduating HS Senior year of the award	\$20	\$4,000	May 1	JR 22-1	Michael R. Edwards 3900 Galt Ocean Dr #317 Fort Lauderdale FL 33308 micedwards@aol.com

**JUNIOR COMPOSERS**

Chair: Joanie Pegram, 101 Thompson Road, Taylors, SC 29687; [jpegram@bobjonesacademy.net](mailto:jpegram@bobjonesacademy.net)

Name	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Application Form #	Deadline for Application
Class I	9 and under	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$150-1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$125-2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, and 2 incentive awards of \$100 each	JR 7-2	February 1 to State Chair
Class II	10-12	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$175-1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$125-2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, and 2 incentive awards of \$100 each	JR 7-2	February 1 to State Chair
Class III	13-15	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$225-1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$175-2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, and \$150-3 <sup>rd</sup> -Place John and Margaret Pierson award; 3 incentive awards of \$125 each	JR 7-2	February 1 to State Chair
Class IV	16-18	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$300-1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$200-2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, \$150-3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Olga Klein Nelson Award, and 4 incentive awards of \$150 each \$250—Outstanding string composition \$150—Outstanding piano composition, Laura K. Wilson Memorial Award honoring Dorothy Dann Bullock	JR 7-2	February 1 to State Chair
NFMC Oscar Valentin Regional Awards		Included in fee above; Not to be applied for separately	Class I: 2 at \$100 in the five Regions Class II: 2 at \$100 in the five Regions Class III: 3 awards at \$100 in the five Regions Class IV: 3 awards at \$100 in the five Regions		

See Instructions for Award Applicants on the following page ➡



# Instructions for Award Applicants

## COMPETITION AND AWARDS (C&A) CHART

The C&A Chart may be downloaded from [nfmcf-music.org](http://nfmcf-music.org) or ordered from NFMCF Headquarters, 1646 Smith Valley Rd. Greenwood IN 46142. The Chart includes only endowed NFMCF Awards. Check Individual State Federation websites for possible additional awards.

## APPLICATION FORMS, INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Award requirements and application forms are available on the NFMCF website, [nfmcf-music.org](http://nfmcf-music.org), or contact the Chair of the specific award.

All NFMCF award applications must be submitted online by uploading them to the NFMCF website.

## U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

Applicants for individual awards must be native-born/naturalized U.S. citizens. (Exceptions: Lynn Freeman Olson Composition, Lynn Freeman Olson Piano Pedagogy Award, Ruth Morse Wilson Handbell Award and International Music Camp – at least 50% of IMC award recipients must be U.S. citizens.)

## NFMCF MEMBERSHIP

Applicants must be NFMCF members either by individual, organizational or associate group affiliation before applications are accepted. (Exceptions: Young Artist Awards, Ellis Piano Duo Awards, National Music Week Essay, Ruth Morse Wilson Handbell Award, Centennial Chamber Music Commendation, Summer Music Center Awards, and the three Armed Forces Awards.) Application forms include specific membership information.

*Note: In competitions requiring NFMCF membership, applicants must hold membership in the division in which the competition is listed (e.g. Junior entrants must be members of the Junior Division; Student entrants of the Student/Collegiate Division, etc.)*

## FIRST PLACE WINNER LIMITATIONS

- No individual may enter, in the same year, competitions in multiple divisions even if they hold membership in more than one division.
- No first place winner of an individual NFMCF award listed in the C&A Chart is eligible to compete again for the same award. (Exceptions: NFMCF Veterans Awards where entrants may win first place awards multiple times but not consecutively, and the Jr. Composers competition in which first place winners may compete in a different category but not the same category.)
- First place winners of Arts and American Music Division monetary awards may win first place multiple times, but not consecutively. (Exception: National Music Week Essay Contest)

## THE NFMCF

The NFMCF, a not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to MUSIC EDUCATION and promotion of CREATIVE and PERFORMING ARTS in AMERICA.

Since its founding in 1898, the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS has grown into one of the world's largest music organizations with Junior, Student and Adult clubs and individual members. The NFMCF is chartered by the Congress of the United States and is a member of the United Nations. Dedicated to finding and fostering young musical talent, the NFMCF offers more than three quarters of a million dollars annually in state and national competitions.

Anyone wishing to become a NFMCF member, subscribe to magazines, receive literature or make a tax-exempt contribution may contact the National Headquarters. For more information about the Federation, visit the website listed below. [nfmcf-music.org](http://nfmcf-music.org)

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- **Front Cover Artwork:** Juniors, 8.5 x 11, Pen and ink w/color drawings, collages and photography will be considered. Please email high resolution JPG or PDF files.
- **Photos:** Please email good-quality, high resolution digital images accompanied by a news article in Word format.

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- August 1 – Autumn Issue
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- February 1 – Spring/Summer Issue

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