



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Junior Keynotes

Spring 2023 • Vol. 96, No. 3



Artwork by Luke Xie
Portland, Oregon



NFMC Junior Keynotes Directory

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

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REPRINTING:

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

A subscription is included in each Junior Counselor's membership dues. Additional subscriptions are available for \$6. See PR 12-1 for bulk pricing.

SINGLE ISSUE:

Purchase extra single issues for \$3 each. Use PR 12-1 Magazine Order Form.

The National Federation of Music Clubs is a tax-exempt, non-profit philanthropic and educational organization dedicated to music education and promotion of the creative and performing arts in America since 1898. The Federation became officially chartered by the U.S. Congress on August 9, 1982. The mission of the Federation is to support and develop American music and musicians.



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Message from the President

by Deborah T. Freeman

Greetings to our NFMC Juniors and friends,

2023 NFMC Festivals are in the books! Wasn't that fun and worth your hard work? How exciting to get those glowing remarks and encouraging comments from your judges while accumulating points for the next Federation cup! Reflect on these recent accomplishments and share your enthusiasm with friends and family – we are all proud of you.

Take time to read the winning NMW essays and Angie Greer poems. If you didn't enter, get started for next year. My goal was to have entries from every state, but the ones we received were wonderful.

NFMC is celebrating our 125th anniversary and one junior club has already sent their contribution of \$1.25 per member – way to go Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club!

Special thanks to Luke Xie for his cover design. How many of you enjoy drawing? Send in your artwork to be considered for the next Junior Keynotes Magazine cover.

I enjoy hearing from all of you, so keep the photos and letters coming! My contact information is on page 2 of this magazine.

Deborah T. Freeman

Deborah T. Freeman

NFMC President



President's Theme:
"Celebrating our Musical Heritage"

President's Song:
"God Bless America"
Irving Berlin



From the Editor

by Jeanne Hryniewicki, Editor

Greetings NFMC teachers, students and friends!

We are delighted that we have survived the challenges of the last three years, and are able to move forward with Junior Keynotes magazine in a timely manner.

We appreciate the efforts of Elite Printing as they took over at the last minute to help keep our magazines on track. Their continued communication and support have been invaluable.

Keep the articles, pictures and artwork coming. We love to showcase the accomplishments of our Juniors!

Jeanne Hryniewicki, Editor
Junior Keynotes Magazine



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Junior Divison Updates

by Laurie M Marshall, *Junior Division Chair*

Dear Federation Friends, Colleagues, AND JUNIORS!

First, thank you for your continued support of the Junior Division, the NFMF Festival program, Junior Awards, and your membership. We hear from you often including your innovative Junior Club activities empowering our Juniors to promote musicianship and leadership. GREAT WORK!

As I sit here at my desk, I am staring at thousands of piano, concerto, chamber, and voice compositions from several hundred composers. Hosting several weekends of NFMF Festival leadership, university pedagogues and performance faculty, and independent studio teachers, we are reviewing, performing, and categorizing each composer and sequencing their compositions accordingly.

Festival is a noncompetitive event. Advisors are selecting a range of compositions sequenced for our recreational and most competitive students. This is why the Federation Festival remains the most popular event in our organization and beyond.

The Piano Solo Plan:

Each selected composition must be:

- Original by native or naturalized American composers.
- Written by America's most distinguished composers from the past and beloved present-day composers who also represent cultural diversity.
- Pedagogically significant.
- Culturally diverse in style.
- Musical!

We are listening! The next NFMF Federation Bulletin will include your most loved, most selected, and most recommended composers and compositions. Thank you, teachers, juniors, and parents for providing us with your very favorite composers and compositions.

Next, we also want to share additional ongoing Junior Division projects, which will be highlighted at this year's NFMF Biennial Convention in Norfolk, Virginia in June:

- The Festival, *Vivace*, and Bulletin Committees, with representation from every Region, will present a collaborative report updating you on each project. Yes, there will be time for your questions.
- *Vivace* Festival Management Committee – Ongoing Festival Admin support, improving software function and reports, and continuing to onboard all Festival Areas. We continue our goal to have everyone onboarded!
- Junior Award Chairs continue work to promote each award and implement easier methods to submit recordings.
- Review of all Junior Division Publications including updated materials on Junior Club leadership and activities.
- Update Junior Club NEWS by actively seeking and publishing Junior Club articles BY Juniors!

It is an exciting time in the Junior Division! YOUR INPUT IS ALWAYS WELCOME! However, as importantly, we want you to join our team of volunteers to serve in leadership positions in Festival, Awards, and all Junior activities. Please feel free to contact me at any time!

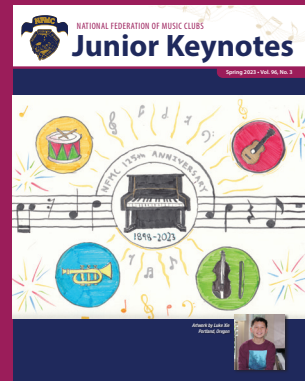
Thank you for all you do! JK

Meet the Cover Artist



Luke Xie | Portland, Oregon

My Name is Luke Xie. I am twelve years old and attend Tumwater Middle School in Portland, Oregon. I have been playing piano for about seven years. I am happy that I can play pieces on the piano. I also enjoy swimming and making video games in my life.





The AAR: Learning, Growing, Improving

by Lori Jessen, *Chair*

Festival is over. The adventure has been completed for this year. Whew! We made it! Now it's time for what my friend, the Sergeant Major, taught me is a very necessary component for any project, the AAR—the after-action review. And since we have been talking about Festival being an adventure, for today, it will be an After Adventure Review.

AARs have been used successfully by the Army to evaluate combat missions for decades. (It seemed like I should say something here about combat missions and Festival...but I will leave you to your own comparisons...) Currently, they are also employed by many organizations to ensure the continued success of their projects. We can learn a lot from this process. After all, we want to continue to make our Festivals program the very best it can be, and this cannot be accomplished without proper assessment.

An AAR asks four questions:

1. What did we expect to happen?
2. What actually occurred?
3. What went well and why?
4. What can we improve upon and how?

The AAR provides knowledge, and knowledge is power...the power to change what didn't go the way it needed to and the power to keep doing what was successful. In order to foster growth, we need to take time to think about all aspects of the Festival experience.

As a teacher, the AAR—as a form of self-evaluation—can provide the information that we need to be better teachers. As Admins/Chairs, the AAR can show us how to better manage our team and to refine our procedures. As an organization, the AAR can be used to identify which areas need attention so that we are providing our members with the very best experience.

In a group AAR, emphasize that any and all feedback is welcome. Create an atmosphere where your team feels at liberty to provide honest feedback, even if it is negative in nature. The process by which you conduct an AAR is adaptable for your needs. Do what works for you: in person meetings, Zoom meetings, Google Forms, hard copies, one-on-one conversations, phone calls. The important element is to get the feedback from which proper future decisions can be made.

While there are many AAR templates yielded by a quick internet search, a simple document containing the questions with room for answers or a sheet of paper will serve our purposes equally well. We just need a space to gather all the information. Be as specific as necessary. And in all comments, be kind, honest, helpful, and respectful. This is not the place to air personal grievances. This is the place where we all offer our input for the common good.

All of us do this in some form already, even if we just think about it. Going over the rating sheet with your student is a type of AAR, too. But let's be more intentional if we can. Have you thought of what part of the AAR process might need more attention in your specific circumstances? Now you have a basic framework for adapting this procedure. Writing things down helps us process and serves as a foundation for taking further action. We are hard wired to think that if it's written down, it's important. Don't think of the AAR as just another task to accomplish but as a vital tool that's necessary to create an excellent program. What's on your AAR?

As always, feel free to reach out to me directly at any time with your concerns. I'm always here to listen to and to help. We're all in this together. Let the adventure continue! **JK**

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Vivace Updates

by Sandra Preysz, NFMV *Vivace* Chair

As I look ahead, I am so excited this year because all it will take for me to prepare my Utah State Festivals Report is to click on the compile report button! No sorting through papers, adding numbers of participants and searching for why the report does not balance. What a time saver! All of Utah is in Vivace. One full weekend now free for my family. Many other states have reached this status as well. It is the bottom of the 9th inning for this project and all of us are winners because it will save our volunteers so much time.

With the full implementation of Vivace nationwide comes a new mindset.

ADDING NEW STUDENTS: It begins with the process of adding your new students to Vivace. Start well ahead of registration. As you interview new students, make sure to ask for their full name and their birth date. Also, ask what name they wish to have appear on official documents. Then, add the student to Vivace, carefully entering the data. Be aware that corrections to birthdates require a scan of the birth certificate or passport. To avoid this, double check the date you have entered one more time before clicking the save button. When adding a transfer student, it may be necessary to request that the previous teacher relationship be archived. Try to add the student to your list long before the registration closing date so that there are no delays at the time of registration. This way you can see the history of events and can make sure the student will be entering at the correct level as they begin studying with you.

REGISTRATION: Change your thinking about the closing date. Because there are things that may need to be requested, aim to complete your registrations one week prior to the closing date. Requests to add a composer are handled quickly, but it may take a few days. If needed, you may need to request that your area admin declare a solo

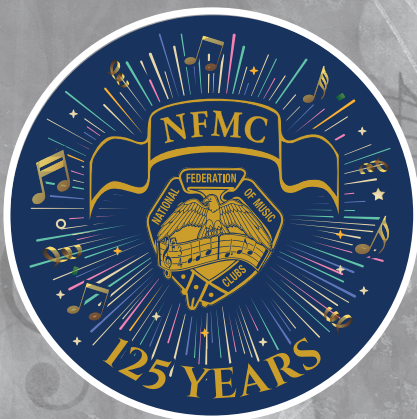
class so that you may complete a concerto registration. This also may take a day or two. And then there is the time differences across the USA. Closing time is midnight for Eastern, 11 PM Central, 10 PM Mountain and 9 PM Pacific. Register students as they pick their repertoire rather than registering everyone at the same time. This will ensure that you have helped them select from the correct class as Vivace will catch any errors in the required piece selection.

COMBINING/ALTERNATING: In order for Vivace to know that a student wants to combine or alternate, you must check the combine or alternate box on the registration form. Combining will also require that the grade in school is entered. (Yet another reason that you do not wait until the last day to register students) A clarification is needed here: Events that allow combining are explained in the Bulletin, page 11. Combining means in the same year. Alternating Events are defined throughout the Bulletin. These events are performed in different years, NOT in the same year, and the points are added together toward one Federation Cup.

ARCHIVING STUDENTS: This is one task where it is necessary to WAIT. Do not archive any students until the end of the Festival year. This is a summer task. Do it after July 1. For example, if your student is a graduating senior, and has completed all Festival events in February, DO NOT archive until July 1.

NEW FEDERATION CUP REPORTS:

The following new reports are being created to help area admins:
 Federation Cup Opt Out Report by Area
 Federation Cup Fees Report by Area – monies due to State Treasurer
 Federation Cup Order Form [JK](#)



The National Federation of Music Clubs was founded 125 years ago, in 1898. We are requesting creative art submissions for the cover of the 2023 Junior Keynotes magazines celebrating this amazing anniversary, 1898-2023.



Federation Festivals Bulletin

by Janice Flinte, *Chair*

THE BULLETIN. How many times have all of us heard two words of late – “the *Bulletin*.” With Festival season in full swing, these words have been uttered in numerous emails, committee meetings, and personal conversations in recent weeks and months. Only having been involved in NFMC and Festivals for a mere 20 years, I actually have no knowledge of the year of its birth. But I do know that since its humble beginning, it has risen to symphonic proportions! Its name can be heard on the lips of thousands of teachers, and its music sung or played by tens of thousands of students!

But, the first *Bulletin* did not actually begin with black ink on white paper way back “in the day.” Earliest artifacts include evidence of music from the beginning of time. There are exceptions, of course, but for the most part, we know little of the origins of much of our music. Did the inspiration from a piece begin beside a lake, in a dim, candle-lit room in a castle far away, during a joyous occasion, in a season of sadness? What situation in the human experience sparked the first ember of pieces our students play for Festivals? We will likely never know the answers to these questions, but we are certain that the flame of musical creativity will never be extinguished!

With this assurance, PHASE I of the 2024-2028 *Bulletin* production began. In this initial phase, publishers and composers were asked to submit repertoire to *Bulletin* Advisors for review and possible inclusion in the next *Bulletin*. The hardcopy, digital, and video submissions were submitted in abundance! There has been no end to the creativity evidenced in the new music produced by talented and dedicated composers in the last four years. It’s fresh and it’s exciting!

We are nearly at the end of PHASE II. During this phase, *Bulletin* Advisors have been hard at work choosing appropriate and pedagogically sequenced music for classes and sections of the *Bulletin*. They have checked publisher item numbers and availability of all music—not just current repertoire, but popular repertoire in past *Bulletins* that will be used in the next *Bulletin*.

In addition to many new selections in piano and voice events, we have new music in American Patriotic and Folk Song, Brass, Chamber Music, Guitar, Fiddling, Organ, String, Voice, and Woodwind. Suzuki repertoire is sequenced so that it corresponds with *Bulletin* classes. Every *Bulletin* Section has been impacted and we are extremely grateful to our Advisors.

And I must also say, I have been very impressed with their dedication, attention to detail, and enthusiasm. I have seen a real spirit of humility and servant attitude as they perform this service for NFMC.

PHASE III is an exciting time as Advisors enter repertoire in Vivace and the *Bulletin* “symphony” begins to take shape. Typesetting will also begin, and proofs will be transmitted back and forth so that we can offer you, the teacher, a beautiful and easy-to-use Festivals reference. We might just give you a sneak peek in the next issue of Jr. Keynotes!

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Federation Cup Winners

by Mary Jane Timmer, *Federation Cup Chair*

PRESIDENTS CUP WINNER

OREGON



Lydia Sauble

Hello, my name is **Lydia Sauble**. I started learning piano from my oldest sister when I was six years old. When I was ten, I started taking piano lessons from Jill Gambill who also happens to be my aunt. My favorite period of music is the Romantic period and one of my favorite composers from that period is Rachmaninoff. I enjoy playing duets and concertos, and accompanying different instruments on the piano. Apart from the piano, I also play saxophone and a little bit of clarinet.

I received my fifth gold cup in the Spring of 2021 and received my sixth gold cup in the Spring of 2022. Piano has taught me to play for Jesus because He is the One who has given me the ability to play in the first place. My wonderful piano teacher always points me back to this: that I should always play for God and give all the glory to Him. I have now been playing piano for thirteen years and hope to play for the rest of my life.

UTAH



Abigail Cole

Abigail Cole is a devoted musician. Cole started taking classical piano lessons at age four and soon after began participating in NFMC Junior Music Festivals. Abigail earned her thirteenth consecutive superior as well as the Presidents Cup in Nampa Musicale's 2022 Spring Festival. Cole is also an educator and has been teaching

piano and voice for the past two years with ten students. She enjoys teaching her students to truly appreciate music and its influence and emphasizes practice techniques that make approaching new songs easier. Abigail was gifted with perfect pitch and is able to play by ear, compose arrangements and original pieces, and transpose on demand. Starting back in fifth grade, she has enjoyed using these skills to accompany friends, family, small groups, large choirs, and the jazz band at her high school. In addition to piano, Abigail has also studied violin and drums and is now a freshman attending Utah State University as a Piano Performance and Pedagogy major. Abigail desires to continue not only her own music education but that of others.

GRAND CUP WINNERS

MICHIGAN



Karah Myers

Karah Myers began piano lessons at five years of age. She has participated in the Federation Festivals since the age of six. Karah has lived in Livonia, Michigan for her entire life. Her first piano teacher was her mother and then she transferred to Mary Siciliano in the 10th grade. She enjoys singing in choir and reading. She is active in church activities. Karah plans to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia as a dual degree major on scholarship.

OREGON



Juliana Tuong-Van Ha

My name is **Juliana Tuong-Van Ha**. I am a senior at McKay High School, and I have taken private piano lessons for over ten years, working with Mrs. Linda Greer for the past four years. Apart from my academics, I have been engaged in the music department at my high school. I have participated in orchestra and choir, and accompanied a couple of students on the piano. The experiences that I have gained through my participation in this area have been fundamental in shaping me as a musician, student, and overall person.

Focusing on my work with the private piano lessons, I have been an active pianist in the National Federation of Music Clubs' Gold Cup Festival since 2011. Entering Solo, Theory, and Concerto events have allowed me to earn my 5th gold cup in 2021. I have also participated in the Oregon Music Teacher Association's Syllabus since 2018, finishing Level X this year.

I will start my post-secondary career at Willamette University by double majoring in music and Japanese studies. I am a homebody, as I enjoy spending time listening to music and surfing the internet for fun. My time together with Mrs. Greer has not been the longest, but has been very fulfilling, and I hope to continue working with her this summer. **JK**



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- Best Nocturne, Etude, Polonaise, and Mazurka: \$500 each

Jury Members

- Graciella Kowalczyk (Chairman)
- Antonio Pompa-Baldi
- Kevin Kenner
- Kristian Klefstad
- Kenneth Broberg
- Nathan Aspinall
- Tamás Ungár
- Pavel Nersessian
- Kemal Gekić
- Charles Olivieri-Munroe

General deadline for applications is August 31, 2023 and the deadline for applicants requiring travel visas is July 1, 2023






NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK ESSAY WINNERS

By Ellen Leapaldt, *Chair*

National Music Week will be celebrated for the 100th year on May 7-14, 2023. I hope all Junior Clubs will participate in some activities throughout the week. We have essays from this year's winners in the NMW Essay Contest published in this issue of the magazine. You are welcome to use any of the essays in your celebrations if you acknowledge NFMC and the winning writer. Juniors are encouraged to join the NMW celebrations with performances of music, dance, theater, etc. or with posters, paintings, displays in libraries or local stores. Use your imaginations and celebrate the arts with mention of NFMC National Music Week and be sure your Junior Club reports to your sponsoring Senior Club. Our Junior members are talented and have much to share!

The National Music Week Essay contest this year had about 60 entries. This was a successful year in terms of complete applications. The updated upload system on the NFMC website meant that we received more completed entries; the improved system lets applicants know if something is missing! This made the regional chairman's jobs easier in that none of us had to "hunt down" missing pieces. The upload system became operational on January 1 which gave the competition a very short window for entries as the deadline is always January 10th. Change is a "learning opportunity" and we know that some were confused by the lack of the usual entry form on the website; the rules were basically unchanged from the past; only the entry process has changed. I do hope that the process becomes easy for everyone and that next year's contest will have entries from all federated states and more. The Essay contest is the only competition that is open to any 7th-12th grader, regardless of NFMC membership. Band, orchestra and choir directors around the country have entered students and are encouraged to do so.

National Music Week, May 7-14, 2023 with a theme of "*Music...is a Worldwide Adventure*". Make this year's celebration noticed in your community, your state, and our nation! 

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



SOUTH DAKOTA

Joshua Machan

Joshua Machan is a senior at Dakota Valley. He is a percussionist. He plays quads for marching band and is very active within the section. He has attended drumline camps in Nebraska. He is part of the percussion ensemble and has received superior ratings at regional contest.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

The worldwide adventure of music is one that can take you on many journeys as a person. The many genres of music can take you through an assortment of different planes of existence. The many ballads of life will take you on whimsical journey like through a forest of fairies or near a depressing death like atmosphere of a world where we can't live in harmony. Rap and Country music takes you through the different parts of the economic classes and how we view them and treat them. The music from video games takes you on an action adventure like no other, whether if its slow through a tragedy of a sad scene, or if it's an adrenaline rushed scene of a spy themed story. Pop music gives you a sense of joy and happiness in doing an activity while blues speak for themselves. The complex reality that we live in and that we go through on this journey of our own separate lives is something capitalized in the art of music. It really does take you on an adventure for how you make the decisions because it is your journey.



WISCONSIN

Kayla Ford

Kayla Ford is an 8th grade student in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. She enjoys weekly piano lessons with Mr. Sam Ecoff. In addition to studying piano, Kayla also enjoys reading, playing basketball, running, and musical theater. She is the daughter of John and Kathleen and a big sister to Kendall and Carson, both of whom also study piano with Mr. Ecoff.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

When I think of music, I am reminded of the adventure each note or beat brings to me simply by hearing the wonderful way sounds work together. Music is a very special adventure because it brings me to hear, feel, see, and understand a whole world of cultures, emotions, and people, all while hearing people and instruments work together to create a masterpiece. The world of music is an adventure like no other as you understand how our cultures, emotions, and people piece together our world.

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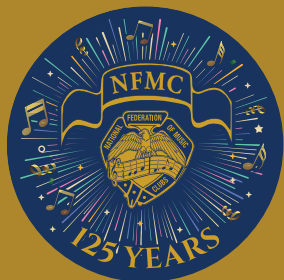
NORTH CENTRAL REGION *continued...*

Music is an adventure because it brings you to not only learn about but understand a world of cultures that complete our world today. For example, there are many different cultures in our world today because there are many different nationalities, countries, and histories that people identify themselves in. Music can help them communicate their culture to the world. When I hear music from other cultures, I am taken on an adventure of their peoples emotions, history, and traditions that make up their culture. Therefore, music is an adventure because it brings you to know the cultures that complete our world today.

Music is an adventure because it brings you to connect with a world of feeling and emotions. Every different song I hear brings me to experience a world of emotions. These include happiness, sadness, passion, excitement, confidence, and many more. Through every song I hear, music always finds a way to connect the meaning of the song to my life, giving everybody an emotional connection to music like no other. The world of feeling you receive through music is unique, and there is nothing else that can compare to it. This is why music brings you a worldwide adventure of emotions.

Music is an adventure because it brings you to connect with people all around the world. Musicians write music to share their feelings and experiences with the world. This helps you to connect with someone who might live across the world, speak a different language, or be someone you will never meet in your life and yet you have a special connection with them through the music they wrote. The musicians and people you can connect with through music make up the world we live in today. Therefore, music helps you to understand the people that complete our world all while bringing you on an adventure through it.

In conclusion, music is a worldwide adventure because it helps you to not only hear, but feel, see, and understand cultures, emotions, and people, all of which piece together our world and the adventurous place it is. Music is a true gift from God because it is an adventure like no other. Without music, my world would feel empty, and it would have an enormous impact on my life. That is why I am so thankful to have music in my life and the worldwide adventure it brings me on every single day.



In honor of our 125th Celebration, we are requesting every member (Junior, Student/ Collegiate, Senior) to contribute \$1.25.

Funds will go toward the 125th celebration events, with the remainder to be donated to the Fund for the Advancement of Musical Arts (FAMA)

NORTHEASTERN REGION

INDIANA

Taylor Mermoud



My name is **Taylor Mermoud**. I am 18 years old and have been studying the harp for 12 years under the instruction of Dr. Erzsebet Gaal Rinne. I have participated in the Indianapolis Youth Orchestra for 4 years and the Indianapolis Orchestra Side by Side Program in 2020. Most recently (December 2022), I had the pleasure

of playing with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra for their annual Christmas performance.

I have had the honor of placing first in the 2016 Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Scholarship Competition, with several honorable mentions since. In 2019, I was awarded the Sweeney Summer Camp Scholarship. I have also had the pleasure of winning the Indiana Federation of Music Clubs Junior Division in 2019 and Senior Division in 2021. I received an outstanding performance award for the 2020 Indiana Federation of Music Clubs Festival. In 2022, I won the National Federation's Music Essay Contest. I placed third in the 2020 Baku Music Academy's First International Competition of Performers. In the Great Composers Competitions, I have placed as follows: Handel (2nd Place), Music of America (2nd Place), Music of Europe (2nd Place). In the Charleston International Music Competitions, I placed first in the 2021 Romantic Music Competition and first in the 2022 Classical Music Competition.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

My life has been a testament to this statement. Through my journey in music, I have been able to experience, work with, and carry out music being a worldwide adventure.

My worldwide adventure in music started at the very beginning, when I met my music instructor who is from Hungary. She moved to the United States after she completed her university studies in Hungary. I have been taking private lessons from her for 12 years, so every week I am around small parts of her culture. My instructor has also studied music in multiple different countries. This is beneficial to me because my music education is made up of music techniques and skills from around the world.

Another great connection in music I have made is with a past judge of one of my competitions. I have also had the blessing of being coached by her multiple times throughout my life. She was born and raised in Zimbabwe, Africa and spent much time working in the music world in Hong Kong; this is her connection to the worldwide adventure.

Now, my worldwide adventure is with the harpists of the world and one of the places I have met the most harpists from around the world is at the International Harp Competition in Bloomington, IN. The first year I went to watch the competition, I met a young lady and her mentor from Mexico, as well as, a now dear friend of mine who is a harp maker, whose family is from Sweden. The second year that I went, I was able to meet my

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teacher's goddaughter and her family, from Hungary, who also came to watch the competition.

I have made it my mission, when I go on trips, to contact local harpists where ever it is that I am going. I went on a family trip a couple years ago to Georgia and while we were there, I sent a message to a local harpist. I ended up renting her harp for some personal practice time and getting to talk with her a little bit about her teaching and how she came to play the harp. On a bit of a larger scale, when I went on a study trip to France, I ended up contacting a few different harpists. Ultimately, I found one with whom our schedules aligned for me to rent their harp. It was a great experience. They were very kind to me and were easy to communicate with.

In my experience, everywhere you go, there will be music and where there is music there are musicians. Musicians, no matter where they are from across the world, they will welcome you and be happy to make music together. The world is made up of so many different people who create different types of music, which truly makes it a worldwide adventure.



OHIO

Andrew Helmick

Andrew Helmick, a sophomore at Canfield High School in Ohio, began playing piano at age seven, taking lessons with Diane Debiec and also with her mother, Fanny DiDomenico, throughout the years. He has been competing every year for the National Federation of Music Clubs earning superior ratings each year for

concerto, solo, and theory. Andrew was a 2nd Place State winner with the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs in 2022 and has been invited to play in multiple recitals and masterclasses with Dr. Caroline Oltmanns, Professor of Piano at Youngstown State University. Andrew has also been an accompanist for many younger students with concerti for National Federation of Music Clubs and has been teaching lessons to younger students as well. Outside of music, Andrew enjoys swimming competitively for his high school and club teams, cooking and baking, and designing roads and bridges on his computer software. He has been swimming competitively since age 6, and he enjoys swimming the 200- and 500 yard freestyle events. He is an active participant in high school clubs such as Leo's Club and Young Leaders Club. After high school, Andrew would like to pursue an education in either a field of engineering or medicine.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

Music is an incredibly powerful tool, a tool so powerful as to be able to take someone anywhere in the world they could ever desire, whenever they want. These transcendent abilities of music allow people to express themselves to others, and take people on an adventure they would've never dreamed possible. From the Viennese masterpieces of the late Classical to early Romantic eras to the marvels belonging to contemporary composers of the 20th century, these qualities make music, in all its shapes and forms, a worldwide adventure for everyone.

In every way one can think about music, it is a personal experience and a chance to see the world. Through the many different interpretations that exist of every piece, different emotions are expressed, different cultures displayed, and different stories told. Music can express an infinite amount of emotions, with each person telling their own story in how they play the music. Everyone can express their own thoughts, feelings, and emotions through what music they choose to play and how they choose to play it. These musical narratives are capable of taking ordinary people on an adventure they could never dream of --- taking people from sitting on a chair at home to a tour around the world, experiencing all of the different cultures of the world from as far back as music has existed. Music by composers such as Ravel take the listener on an adventure from all over the world, experiencing all of the cultural diversity the world has to offer, and giving the listener one of the most life-changing experiences one could ever have.

These experiences don't just stop there, though, since through composition, people are further able to express their feelings to the world and tell of the things happening within it, as well as tell their own stories. Take Shostakovich's music, for example, from the striking elements of his compositional style to the seemingly mutilated tonality of his music, he brings the listener through the pain and suffering he endured during the Soviet reign over the country, and he told stories through music that would have otherwise been censored and never put out for the world to hear. Whilst not to quite the same degree of severity as the music of Shostakovich, people have been expressing their thoughts, feelings, and anecdotes through music forever, both to express themselves and to share their life narratives with the world.

Through these aspects of music and more, music is in many ways able to take people on a worldwide adventure, traveling through different countries, time periods, world events, and more. It is for these reasons that all music tells a different story, not only because of the way in which it was created, but also because of the way in which it is expressed by the musician, showing what a powerful tool music is, and how it helps everyone to remain human.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



MISSOURI

Tayla Schroeder

My name is **Tayla Schroeder**, and I enjoy writing very much! I especially like to write using strong vocabulary, tactful sentence structure, and engaging topics. One of my life goals is to be an author; I want to write non-fiction books. My main life goal, however, is to glorify Jesus in every area of my life. Using my pen, I have the privilege of using my writing to point to the greatest story ever written. *His* story.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

Paintings are particularly beneficial for two purposes: they radiate beauty and emotion and show us the world. Music has the same power! Music gives us a tangible way to at least partially grasp intangible moments—moments and places of which we have never experienced. In a way, this wonderful art we call music transports us to other worlds; it is what one might call a worldwide adventure.

For example, who of us has seen Heaven? None. We have not seen the mighty angels, the praising creatures, or the beauty of an atmosphere that transcends all human ideas of perfection. And we have certainly never beheld the glory of the Lamb—Jesus—who is seated at the right hand of God. Yet through songs such as Reginald Heiber’s *Holy, Holy, Holy*, we may join with all the creatures of God’s otherworldly abode in singing the song of the ages: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to Come.

And which of us were present on that night in Bethlehem when Jesus joined the ranks of humans in bodily form? None. *Away in a Manger* reminds us of the profound humility Jesus portrayed in leaving his high home in heaven to walk with lowly sinners. Surrounded by shepherds and barn animals, we can imagine ‘the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.’

Through the hymn, *Alas! And Did My Savior Die*, is expressed Christ’s deep love for his fallen creation. While he hung on the cross, though in physical agony, his heart reached out for those whom He loves so purely, for those whose souls he desired to free so that they may live with Him forever, thus escaping the flames of hell. The song sings that it was ‘for crimes [we] had done he groaned upon the tree. Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!’

How I wish I could have been there on that day Jesus rose from his grave and appeared to his friends. Rejoice! He told them. He was alive again; there was no need to fear! And then as he ascended into the clouds, I can imagine the angels singing Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus*. Of course, they didn’t really, but Handel’s song conveys very well the powerful hope of Jesus’ disciples. It was the kind of hope that expects because it *knows* what lies ahead. I imagine the disciples thousands of years ago— as they watched Jesus return to heaven—proclaiming with intrepid spirits, ‘For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! And he shall reign forever and ever!’

Yes, music is indeed a worldwide adventure, and for me, an especially spectacular adventure into the world of God and the places Christ walked. Through music we may explore heaven, the birthplace of Christ, the death place of Christ, and his triumphal resurrection and ascension. Music allows us to “see” the world of the past and the glorious future for God’s children in the world to come.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION



FLORIDA

Beverly Deauna

Beverly Deauna is an enthusiastic 14-year-old, from Brandon, Florida, and a freshman in the International Baccalaureate program at Strawberry Crest High School. Since the young age of seven, she has enjoyed piano studies with her instructor, Suzanne Herman. During this

time, Beverly has performed regularly, and participated each year in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival, earning consecutive superior ratings in the categories of piano solo, theory, and piano concerto. In addition to her numerous scholastic and musical achievements, Beverly’s hobbies include painting, drawing, and gardening.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

For most individuals, listening to music closely resembles the same nostalgia and excitement that sparks when shuffling through a stack of books, withholding tales and memories so beautiful and important to one’s life. People often value the other-worldly and dreamy fondness that is presented to them through songs of many genres, like the chapters of your most treasured novels. Ardor and vehemence always successes through the layers of a song, often telling stories full of emotion and culture that weighs deeply on its artists’ and audience. However, music is not to be resonated with solely from its lyrics, melody, or intent alone, but it is closely tied to specific memories that can take you back to any point of time.

Tune into a subtle melody that floats into the peripheral, painting a picture of cascading waterfalls and a gentle atmosphere in your mind, and the presence of the cool breeze and lush grass almost feels real. With powerful symphonies and passionate operas, one can vision themselves traveling through the concert halls in the Romantic Era, or maybe walking through the streets of China upon hearing the song of a guzheng, as if it were a street performance. Essentially it is easy to be taken back into your mind, going anywhere you desire. There are many reasons why people dwell in their songs so often, and it is often because melodies tend to pick you up and take you places. However, words can be just as strong as melodies. People can string words together and take their listeners to another place. Hearing music from different cultures can set a scene in your mind, taking you across the globe. Listen to a mariachi, and suddenly you are roaming the markets of Mexico.

It is not only how music can make you feel in a particular moment, but how it used to make you feel as well. People constantly tie songs with moments in their life. Hearing a fan-favorite, such as Houston’s “I Wanna

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Dance with Somebody” in the 80’s, can take someone back to their youth, almost 40 years back. Taking cultural and traditional music into account, familiar music from different backgrounds can take someone back to their homeland. Music is not only a worldwide adventure geographically, but also an escapade through time.

Music is universal and is heard globally. In fact, many people will travel for the sake of hearing one of their favorite songs performed live by their favorite artist. Think of the uproar in South Korean Pop music in the past couple years. Many international artists will come to perform, and many international fans will be seen in the audience.

Essentially, through music people can be taken anywhere through the imagination. Both mentally and physically, people adventure to both places and a myriad of times. Truly, music is a worldwide adventure.



KENTUCKY
Olivia Coyne

Olivia Coyne is 13 years old and an 8th grader from Georgetown, Kentucky. She is a 6 year piano student of Dr. Rachel Taylor and enjoys playing percussion in her middle school band. Olivia loves playing the piano, listening to music, baking and reading in her spare time.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

Around the world’s seven continents and many countries, music connects cultures and creates an atmosphere of adventure. Music is used in a variety of ways throughout the world. It enhances and enlivens experiences. Every place has their own type or variation of music that, listening to it, is an adventure in and of itself.

Music has shaped many of my childhood adventures. As a young child I remember dancing with many others at the Bon Odori festival in Japan, wearing my yukata and moving to the shamisen, flutes and rhythm of the drums. In Hawaii, I watched fire dancing, rhythmic poi balls and singing set to traditional music, and learned how to hula. I spent a day last summer cooking in Positano, Italy where an Italian Grandpa made amazing gnocchi. We sang, danced and played the tambourine; an experience that stands out as a bright spot from our whole trip just because of the music. All of these experiences were adventurous, but the adventures were made memorable by the unique instruments, tone and atmosphere the music created.

Music transports everyone who listens, plays or experiences it to different times and places. As much as I would love to adventure all the time, my life mainly consists of school and extracurricular activities. Lucky for me, and for all of us, music has the power to transport us on an adventure wherever we are. Playing Tarantella composed by Albert Pieczonka transports me to the classical concert halls in Europe. Putting in my earbuds, I can enjoy classical Chopin or the K pop of Korea all with the tap of a button. Music in all its varieties makes life fun and full of adventure.

No matter where you live or travel to, music creates adventures. Music transcends language barriers. It heightens emotions, makes experiences memorable and unifies people all over the world. Music is a worldwide adventure.



LOUISIANA
Wilson Zheng

Wilson Zheng currently attends Lake Castle Private School in New Orleans, and is a member of National Beta Club. He has many hobbies such as sketching, reading, watching anime, and skateboarding. Along with those, he enjoys math competitions and had recently placed first in the Brother Martin Middle

School Math Tournament along with achieving second place in the Mount Carmel Academy Math Tournament.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

Music. It is a worldwide adventure, a trip around the globe. Music is the vehicle that will take you, as if on a voyage, around the world. The music you hear surrounds you and unveils mythical, wondrous places. The music immerses you and you are lost inside your mind, seeing never before visualized places and witnessing places of your dreams. It is the technology that will allow you to travel to any place you wish.

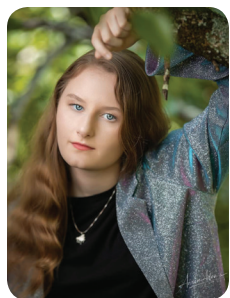
Music is a worldwide adventure as it has no border nor a limit. It cannot be said as belonging to a specific place as it is found everywhere. Every day, no matter where you are or when it is, you can always hear the sweet, sensational sound of music whether simply a rhythmic beat or a sensational rock and roll.

Music has no border, allowing it to take you wherever you wish around the world. Music, whether being traditional drum beating of African music, the soft melody of an ancient Chinese tune, or a classical European symphony, varies everywhere as it has no limits or borders. Its classical beat can take you to the place it was written, traveling across the globe in both distance and time. You can see the classical stage of Shakespeare’s play with the drama onstage and the cries of the crowd while the classical symphony plays. You can watch the samurai clash with bright pink cherry blossoms of spring in the background as the traditional Japanese tune rings.

Music is a worldwide adventure as it is found everywhere. No matter which civilization or culture, all have their own types of music. Each has different styles and instruments, varying everywhere, which shows how it is borderless and unlimited to the world.

Music is a worldwide adventure as it has no border, allowing it to have no limit allowing you to have access to the entire world, and can spark emotions within us that allows you to be immersed inside of the music, transported to a wonderful place. Music is the vehicle that is meant to take you on an adventure; an adventure around the world.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION



MISSISSIPPI
Sharlee Shumpert

Sharlee Shumpert is a sixteen-year-old Mississippi native who competed with NFMC for seven years. She won superiors every year in the following categories: piano solo, music theory, vocal art song, and vocal musical theater. Sharlee had the chance to visit one of the venues mentioned in her essay when she

performed in Carnegie Hall with the Honors Performance Series in 2022 as an alto in the treble choir. She has also performed with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra as a member of their children’s chorus. Currently, Sharlee is working on releasing a poetry book and an album of original music, both of which are set to debut in 2023.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

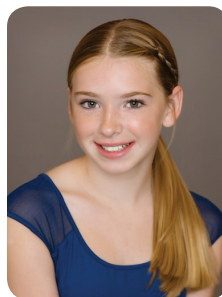
The Homes of Music: Music Venues of the World

Music is one of the bloodstreams of emotion. It is something shared by every nation, culture, and race throughout the planet. With that being said, it is no surprise that music venues have appeared across the globe to house the concerts and shows that share live music with us all. Whether you are traveling to see your favorite band or touring the continents as a musician, music can most certainly be a worldwide adventure as you visit its many homes!

Starting in the Western Hemisphere, the United States is home to Carnegie Hall, an iconic classical music site, and Radio City Music Hall, which houses the Rockettes. Both of these are located in flashy New York City! The Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado is a stunning venue situated between two enormous natural rocks. Canada houses the famous Roy Thomson Hall, which is the main host of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Mexico is home to the elegant Palace for Mexican Music, while Colombia boasts the lovely Teatro Adolfo Mejia with its fresco ceiling. Brazil’s Sala São Paulo is a train station that was transformed into a renowned music venue in 1999, but some of its tracks are still in use! Sala São Paulo is home to the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra. These beautiful facilities are only a few highlights of the Western Hemisphere.

Moving to the Eastern part of the world, Austria, a country known for its classical music, proudly owns the Musikverein in Vienna. This venue is internationally acclaimed for its Golden Hall, which is frequented by the Vienna Mozart Orchestra. England’s Royal Albert Hall, which is found in London, is as regal and well-known in the music world as the British monarchy. Greece’s capital city shows off the Athens Concert Hall with its expansive Music Library of some sixty-three thousand books. Japan is home to an octagonal venue called Nippon Budokan. This facility is known for hosting rock concerts, but it was originally built for Japanese martial arts! One of the United Arab Emirates’ famous venues, literally named MusicHall Dubai, presents multi-genre dinner shows. The Eastern Hemisphere possesses many more gorgeous halls as well!

As you can see, musicians have no shortage of glorious venues to call home all over the earth. Each music hall has its own origin story and cultural history that makes it unique, and any venue you choose to visit is sure to echo with the dreams and past melodies of its previous performers. Even local halls and theaters located in rural towns like my own are full of legends, history, and character that no other building in the world can mimic. Just as no two songs are exactly alike, no two halls will give you the same experience. With this wonderful news, it is safe to say that we will never run out of venues to explore on our musical adventure.



NORTH CAROLINA
Mallory Andrews

Mallory Andrews is 13 years old and is in the 7th grade at Ellis Middle school. She is a member of the Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the middle school band, where she plays the clarinet. She has many interests and hobbies, including tennis and dance. She is an avid dancer and has been

dancing since she was 3 years old at In Motion Dance Studio, where she is a member of the Dance Elite Competition Team. Mallory is also actively involved with the youth program at Hillsdale United Methodist Church, where she is a member. She has been playing piano since 2017, when she started as a second grader with Mrs. Teresia Queen of Advance, NC. She is a six-year member of NFMC, having competed and performed at the annual Wake Forest Junior Festival each year. Her music awards include NFMC Gold Cups in piano duet, hymn playing, American patriotic/folk songs, piano solo and the annual NFMC theory exam. When Mallory was in the 4th grade, she placed in the top 5 entries for the NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Contest

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

I was in the car, on my way to my favorite place in all the world – the BEACH! I turned on the radio to hear some beach music and was surprised to hear a Christmas song playing. It was the middle of summer! All of a sudden, I was in the middle of snow and lights. I could immediately picture our family Christmas tree and all of the decorations – even the small Christmas tree in my own room. Wait – it was summer, not the time for Christmas, but for a brief moment I was whisked away to that happy time of year.

I turned the station and then heard country music playing. My mind jumped forward to a farm in the middle of nowhere. There were cowboys and animals, fences and a farmhouse. While this music seemed out of place for a trip to the beach, just from hearing it, I could picture all the things that my mind imagined in a country music setting.

So, I just kept changing the channel to find some beach travel music. Along the way, I heard music from all different kinds of places. I heard a bit of a Beethoven classical piece – which of course made me pause

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and think of Germany for a moment. The next station had a Mariachi band playing and made me think of Mexico. I also found a ukulele being played and I thought for a moment about a luau on one of the Hawaiian Islands somewhere.

I realized I would just need to keep changing the station to find the music I had started searching for as I traveled on a worldwide adventure to get there. Before I knew it, I had traveled all over the world in search of the music for a beach travel day, but it was fun. As I sat back and just listened for the rest of the trip, it made me realize that even a car radio can take you anywhere with music!

That is how I went on my worldwide adventure in music, never even leaving my car as we were just on our way to the beach, one day back in the summer.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Tesia Hennessy

Tesia Hennessy is a sophomore in high school and has been playing piano since she was seven. Some of her other hobbies include theatre, writing, reading, composition, and crocheting. She is currently going for her Associate of Arts at Greenville Technical College as a dual enrollment student and is planning on majoring

in psychology and theatre after high school.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

The Opportunities Music Provides

Music is a path many travel. Musicians prepare for performance, a group of middle-schoolers tries to tune their instruments, a college student looks up a playlist to study with, and a mom listens to her 1000th repeat of "Baby Shark". These people, living different lives, possibly on different sides of the globe, all are partaking in music. What many don't realize, though, is music isn't just a playlist on Spotify or a piece you're trying to memorize for Festival. It is an adventure, a journey that is incredibly personal and quite possibly life-changing. A journey taking place in countless places around the globe simultaneously, yet is incredibly unique and reflective of the individual in each instance.

Imagine there's a boy named Stefan living in Poland. He and his friends are fans of the Polish metal band Behemoth. He loves the strong beat and the passionate lyrics, and knows all the words to "Kriegsphilosophie." However, Stefan's mother doesn't like heavy metal and instead prefers the music of Budka Suflera, which is much more mellow in comparison. His mother often plays Budka Suflera and has for Stefan's entire life. Because of this, Stefan has been immersed in two musical genres: the heavy metal he listens to with friends, and the pop rock he listens to with his mother. While he enjoys both genres, and both hold a place in his heart, he's never listened to much else. Little does he know, that will soon change for him.

Now imagine a new girl, Shu-Chuan, who moves to Stefan's town from Taiwan. Stefan meets her at school, and they strike up a conversation. Stefan brings up music, and Shu-Chuan tells him that she loves the artist Tsai Chin. Out of curiosity, Stefan looks up her music later that day and finds a song whose title translates to "Just Like Your Tenderness." He puts on his headphones and hits play, and his breath is taken away. The music is a far cry from what he normally listens to, but, to his surprise, he enjoys it. He doesn't know what the song is saying, but he's captivated by the sound of instruments he's never listened to before and is drawn in by the sound of Tsai Chin's voice and the flow of her words. As time goes on, Stefan starts listening to more Taiwanese campus folk music, a genre he never expected to enjoy but that he has found joy in.

Stefan's experience shows that music is truly an adventure. Sometimes, it may not be an expected adventure, but if you choose to take it, it can be a truly amazing and beautiful one. Listening to new or old music you haven't listened to before may lead you to a path you never expect to be on. And while that path may be relatively similar to Stefan's, or wildly different, never forget that it is something that, while experienced by everyone, is unique to you, and remember to cherish it



VIRGINIA

Garima Patel

Garima Patel is twelve years old and is in the 7th grade. She lives in Salem, Virginia with her mom, dad, brother, and grandparents. She is a straight-A student and enjoys playing the piano, dancing, singing, ballet, reading, and sports which include Tennis, Swimming, and Soccer.

Garima has taken piano lessons with Mrs. Terry L. Criner, NCTM for 4 years and has earned her 15-point Gold Cup Trophy in the NFMC Spring Festival.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

What is music? Music is a vocal or instrumental sound combined in such a way as to produce beauty of a form, harmony, and expression of emotion. Music is very important in our daily lives but most importantly improves your health and wellbeing. A study from Harvard University shows that relaxing music may lower blood pressure and heart rate after physical assiduity. It can also improve mood and reduce anxiety and through bringing people together, can be a remedy to loneliness and social isolation. A few more things about music is that it brings people together, improves confidence and toughness, and is a creative outlet and that means that you can express yourself in any way you want.

Now that you have gotten a bit of an overview of Music, let's talk about this year's topic Music... is a Worldwide Adventure. Whenever I hear this phrase I think that you can express yourself anywhere and you can play an instrument or sing in front of anyone. This means that every country is

continued on page 18

SOUTHEASTERN REGION *continued...*

different but they usually come together and make sense. This phrase can mean many things but I think the main idea is to understand that music is everywhere in the world and we have to be kind to people that have different music than us.

Now let's talk about the instrument that I play, the piano. What is the piano some people from other countries might ask? A piano is a stringed, keyboard instrument in which the strings are struck by wooden hammers that are coated with a softer material. Studies have shown that time spent at the piano improves mental health: people who make musical journeys have less anxiety, loneliness, and depression. Playing the piano has also been shown to be a great stress reliever and provides adequate opportunities to reinforce self-esteem. Some people think that the piano is the most important instrument. I ask myself why? The reason, I believe, is because it allows you to play both the melody and the accompaniment at the same time. In addition, the ability to play more than one note at a time is simply more fulfilling to a beginner student. On the piano, foundational concepts of music theory are easier to see than on other instruments. Friends and family members ask what are some benefits because they are interested in learning the instrument. Here are some of my satisfactions: it improves your memory, brain speed, expands your aural skills, sharpens concentration and focus to another level, increases happiness, and hand strength and dexterity. You can play a piano anywhere one is located if you have had proper training to do so. Piano expresses yourself and you should not feel embarrassed when you do things that shows your personality; there is nothing wrong with showing who you are. Always be yourself.

In conclusion, I have a very important quote to help you understand what I am trying to say. "Don't change yourself because you're afraid of what people think. Change yourself because you want to be better."

WESTERN REGION



WASHINGTON

Ellie Wu

Ellie Wu was born in Qingdao, China, and moved to Seattle in 2011, when she was five years old. She began her musical studies at the age of seven as a pianist, then as a singer with her elementary school choir, and as clarinetist with her fifth-grade concert band. Since then, she has moved from playing Hot Cross Buns


with her middle school's marching band to longer works with her high school's concert band and with SYSO's Junior orchestra. She also continues to enjoy singing and playing piano—recently she played Eric in Lakeside's musical Matilda, and she was awarded 2nd place at the Helen Crow piano competition. Additionally, she often plays in concerts for senior homes. She loves to share her thoughts and feelings with others through music, which is why she began composing. Outside of music, she is a thespian, swimmer, and cat owner.

Music...is a Worldwide Adventure

Music is like a smoothie; it is a blend of many ingredients and influences, with different tastes around the world. This blending of cultures has led to many wonderful developments, such as the jazz-influenced Korean rock I listen to while driving to school and the soundtrack of the *Dune* movie, which I rave about to anyone willing to listen. However, sometimes these musical smoothies get a little too chunky—a pink smoothie masquerading as strawberry-banana may turn out to be actually all banana and only one strawberry. Let me explain this convoluted metaphor through an example...

I recently attended the Seattle Symphony's "Tales of 1001 Nights," which included beautiful performances of Ravel's and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazades*. Both pieces take inspiration from Asia in a mythological sense—in a way we've now come to view as Orientalist. Orientalism is, essentially, the way in which the East is portrayed as "other" to the West—as a strange land of exotic, barbaric peoples—and, as postcolonial scholar Edward Said wrote, the resulting "relationship of power, of domination" which sanctioned European imperialism. However, Orientalism has not disappeared, in the same way that racism, xenophobia, and global violence still persist. The recent wave of Asian hate is yet another manifestation of the ideas present in Orientalist thought—that Asian people are somehow fundamentally different from other people.

With this in mind, here is the last sentence of the first paragraph of the program notes: "This exposure [at the world's fair of 1889] to non-western culture opened the floodgates for a European fascination with the otherness of the East and the allure of exoticism." Reading this, I thought: The language is definitely dated, and definitely not the words I would use, but surely the writers will explain how their references to "otherness" and "the allure of exoticism" were simply providing historical background, and then dive into present-day implications of the fundamentally Orientalist ideas behind the works, right? Wrong. This "otherness" and "exoticism" wasn't even mentioned again in the remaining eight paragraphs, and the program notes certainly did not expand on its negative effects!

This is what I mean by chunky smoothie. A 99% banana 1% strawberry smoothie can taste good, but you can't call it a strawberry-banana smoothie—and these Orientalist works can still be appreciated for their artistry, but must come with accurate historical context, and certainly not with a description that only perpetuates Orientalist ideas. Furthermore, Orientalism is only one example of the "chunky smoothies" that exist in the music world, the art world, and the world as a whole. As we are living in an age that is more connected than ever before, we must wield our double-edged (smoothie) blade with care, taking advantage of the worldwide nature of music while also ensuring that we are not inadvertently harming anyone on our musical adventures. 



Visit nfmcmusic.org
for all the latest NFMCM news,
events and awards.



Membership and Education Division

by Natlynn Hayes, *Chair*

The Membership Division is so proud of the teachers and students that support the Junior Membership!! The Junior Membership has the largest number of members in the NFMC organization. BRAVO!!! We know that many of the juniors participate in the NFMC Festivals each year. These students are the gems of this organization and the teachers are mining and shaping them into the precious stones of the future. This is an exciting time with everyone using the online Vivace program. Vivace speaks to our way of life. Movement that is brisk and lively. I would like to suggest that while you are on the NFMC website connecting with Vivace, that you check out the competitions and awards drop down. There's an essay contest for younger students and several money award contests for high school age students. These competitions require preparation, so start now by reading the requirements and preparing the repertoire.

NFMC has so many levels of membership and opportunities for your continued growth in music. Keep using your talents at the university level with a student membership and don't forget when you have settled into your career to become a part of a senior club and continue performing and using your talents. You may also go full circle and become a music teacher participating in festivals with your own students. Our world is a better place with music. Keep sharing YOUR gift of music!! JK

ATTENTION!!! BULLETIN UPDATES

Be sure to check the NFMC website for the most recent updates to the NFMC Federation Festivals Bulletin July 2020-June 2024. You will find the updates on the NFMC website (nfm-music.org). Click the **FESTIVALS** tab in the top banner; click Bulletin Updates.

Martha Marcks Mack Award VOCAL SOLO AWARD



1st Place \$1500, 2nd Place \$1000, 3rd Place \$500

This is an annual award, given to a deserving and talented singer in High School grades 10, 11, & 12, for the purpose of further musical study. The goal of this award is to encourage young singers toward a musical career. Check out nfm-music.org, Competitions and Awards, Jr. Division, forms JR 21-1 & JR 21-2. This competition has a **March 1st, 2023** deadline so put those finishing touches on your performance and prepare your videos! Contact Kristin Ivers, National Chair. kivers210@gmail.com



Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award

by Debra S. Hughes, Chair

This contest's namesake is a former President of Georgia Federation who as the State Festival Chair for decades served and supported Juniors participating in Festival. Angela Greer, a soft spoken, statuesque, dedicated worker and leader, also had a desire to have Juniors be involved with Music in Poetry to broaden their musical scope through writing. It was a pleasure to read the entries that came from around our nation. CONGRATULATIONS to all the Juniors who entered. They presented a wonderful variety of original poems on a musical theme. We are pleased to announce the winners:

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION:

Josie Yarborough of South Carolina

THE NORTHEASTERN REGION:

Lydia Hall of Pennsylvania

THE WESTERN REGION:

Emmy Lovell of Utah



SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Josie Yarborough

South Carolina

Josie Yarborough is a 10th grader at Greenville High School in South Carolina. She has been playing piano for 8 years and active in the Greenville Harmony Club. While not playing the piano she enjoys sports and other outdoor activities.

Tranquility

by Josie Yarborough

Standing in the blinding beams of the sun
 With leaves in motion all around me
 I hear the soft melancholy humming of the piano
 A tune playing in the distance from decaying keys
 Moving the air from tree to tree
 Encouraging the birds to sing their calls louder and louder

My imagination overflows with soft melodies
 My creativity takes me into unknown worlds
 My hand runs over the dusty, worn down keys
 The warm tune captivates me
 filling the void of nature's silence

I sit down on the battered bench
 Letting the music come to me in waves
 Music flies from my fingertips
 Peace finally coming to my heart

The wind calms outside
 The bicker of the birds subside
 The rivers gain their composure
 I sit and smile in serenity
 The tranquility that music brings to all life
 is truly phenomenal

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NORTHEASTERN REGION

Lydia Hall

Pennsylvania

Lydia Hall is a senior at Williamsport Area High School, Pennsylvania and has been participating in choir, concert band, and theatre since she was able. She's had a love for writing since she was a little girl, creating short stories and writing songs for her to sing while she plays her guitar. She is also

a member of the Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra, and a previous PMEA All State Musician. She's a lover of the outdoors and, after a music filled gap year, plans to pursue a double major in Vocal Performance and Environmental Studies.

Music for a While

by Lydia Hall

I retire to my room and lie in my bed in the silence of the evening.

This is when bards begin to play,

thoughts begin to dance.

worries begin their feast,

here in the palace that is my mind.

Others hear silence, but I hear a symphony,

Others see nothing more than a dimly lit room

While I see a performance of everything I have ever heard.

Every melody, every jingle, every movement, every soundtrack,

all working to dampen my worries.

Classical, baroque, romantic, contemporary

all come together to create one

magnum opus in my mind.

works like these can never be written,

and they aren't meant to be.

They are meant to gently lull a troubled mind into rest.

They are meant to comfort those who cannot find it elsewhere.

They are meant to teach love to those with stony hearts.

And they are there for those like me,

to drown out all other worries for a while.

Here is where I find my solace,

Here is where I may sit for hours'

listening to nothing and everything all at once.

Here is where I may find myself, where I may breathe -

So that my mind may finally rest.



WESTERN REGION

Emmy Lovell

Utah

Emmy Lovell, a senior at Stansbury Park HS in Utah, studies with Katrina Young. She plays flute and piccolo in several school ensembles and plays with the Utah Youth Orchestras and Ensembles. She has earned superiors at NFA Federation. Emmy also enjoys mountain biking and loves to read and write.

The People's Amalgam of Music

by Emmy Lovell

Here I have a collection of ideas from the recollection of people

All gathered and gumbled together to form this tedious mess of a poem

All based upon the collective idea of music --

a cacophony of waves that cry, lie, hide, confide,

mind and strangle the mindless numbness, fattening

the technical definition of the word spat between art and dance is ink plastered on a page

then

played on a hollow thing: a metal pie, a fussy wooden box, or a fleshy passage on a

page between the head and shoulders.

the speakers of this language of the soul begin by the technical definition the learn.

learn that music is a story

sold and told

by and beyond

sound.

Learn that music is timeless

toiled and coiled

threaded through

emotion

sometimes gently forced upon the hearer. emotion is consuming.

The architects of music mechanize expression and validation.

sometimes words don't work. Often.

Like words, music is worth nothing without the reader and the audience.

By the reader the language is given radiance.

To the audience is given sentence.

Melodies and symphonies,

concertos and sonatas,

all devices by which music lives and breaths inside

people.



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.

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 twelve 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 2024. **JK**

The next deadline for entering will be **March 1, 2024.**


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CLAIRE ULRICH WHITEHURST PIANO SOLO AWARD

By Marcia Chaplin, *Chair*

CALLING ALL JUNIOR PIANISTS IN 9TH, 10TH, 11TH GRADES!!!

Could you use \$250.00 or better yet - \$500.00?? NFMC Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Solo Award could be just the opportunity you are looking for. But wait, there's more! You have a year to prepare! The entry deadline for this award is **March 1, 2024**. All High School students under the age of 19 may qualify. The repertoire requirements include a video performance 15-20 minutes in length which represents various periods of music literature. You must also include one composition by an American composer. The information and application can be found on the NFMC web site (nfmusic.org). Just click on Competitions and Awards and click on Junior Division, then scroll down to the Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Award. If you are an interested Junior or a Teacher who may have a junior interested in this award, now is the time to begin preparing.

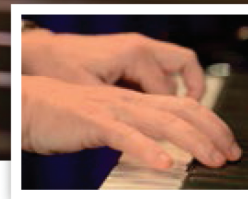
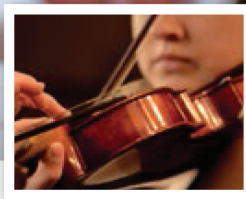
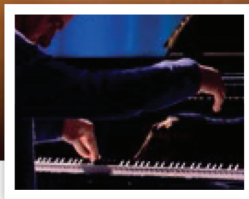
Please contact me if you have any questions.

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JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST

by Joanie Pegram, *Chair*

The Junior Composers Contest is rolling along with increased participation this year. The website updates promise to make it easier for students and teachers to register as we seek to continue growing. I'm thankful for our state and regional chairs who have valiantly helped our junior composers, their teachers and parents navigate the system in its inaugural year. Many thanks to Jennifer Griffin in the NFMC Office for ably assisting us with our many questions! We look forward to sustained development next year as we make improvements to help things run more smoothly. It is truly a delight to get to know the many creative young people across the nation and to know the future of American music is in their capable hands. **JK**

JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST

nfm-music.org
Visit the Competitions & Awards page for more information.

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Composers Institute

by Pat Steege, *Composers Institute Board of Directors*

Remember Junior Composers Summer Programs? We are still here teaching music composition but with a new name – Composers Institute. The name was chosen to encompass all the programs we now offer.

COI: Composers Online Institute is for online only instruction for any age.

JCI: Junior Composers Institute is a residential program in July that is a hybrid experience with online students.

JCS: Junior Composers Studio is a residential program also combined with online students and also held in July;

Cii: Crazy Ideas Institute, designed for girls ages 9-13, is a day camp in Minneapolis.

Last July our in-person residential programs were held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. This lovely campus is located in a largely rural area surrounded by rivers and farmland. The caliber of creative teaching and the resulting compositions remains high no matter where we gather, city or town. And students continue to make friends and interact with the professional composing community. Twenty-seven students journeyed from around the country representing the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, Virginia and Utah.

Guest artists included Kim Sherman from New York, Philip Brunelle from Minneapolis, and Phillip Adamo from Minneapolis. An impromptu piano accompaniment to silent film by Philip Brunelle was a favorite moment during the Studio as well as nine readings of student works by the Minnesota Percussion Trio.

Fifteen year old Tim has put it best: 'JCI is my favorite place to go. I wouldn't give it up for almost anything. It's profound to have a community of other students to share ideas, have fun with, and experience all the crazy things that come about just being ourselves.' In July 2023 we will continue to host our two signature Institutes which

combine online learning (for students of any age at home) with the residential experience (for students ages 14-20.) Registrations will be accepted through June 2023. Find us at composersinstitute.org to learn about all four programs. All students are welcome regardless of composition experience. **JK**

Students prepare to cut into a birthday cake to celebrate CI's 20+ years. Back row is Executive Director Randall Davidson. To the left of Randall is Becca Baker, student counselor. To the right of Randall is Mary Kate Hines, Administrative Assistant. July 22, 2022 University of Wisconsin-River Falls



The Minnesota Percussion Trio (seated center) provided readings of nine student compositions written for percussion only. July 17, 2022 University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Crazy Ideas Institute for girls ages 9-13. August 31, 2022 Hopewell Music Cooperative, Minneapolis, MN



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 apply online 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

The Stars of Summer Gala



Jayden Sun, a rising first grader at the time, was lucky enough to be invited to the Stars of Summer International Piano & Vocal Competition & Festival last summer. His dad took him on a 6-hour road trip from his hometown Ellicott City MD all the way to Cleveland, a beautiful city with lots of places to go. This was his first time working together with other musicians in a concerto setting and everything, from the rehearsal to the performance, was new to him. There was an idiom in Chinese that translates to “traveling thousands of miles is better than reading thousands of books” which I think best depicts this wonderful experience. In the end, what could be a better reward than a painted egg from the Ukrainian people! He loved it so much that he put it at the center on his trophy shelf.

Left: Jayden Sun, 7, plays the 1st mvt. of the Ukrainian Concerto by A.Peskanov. Gala Concert of the Stars of Summer Piano & Vocal International Competition, (Part 2) in the Hall of the historical St. Casimir Church of Cleveland.

“Little Jayden was traveling in the car with his dad from Ellicott City, Maryland to Cleveland, Ohio. He admired the beauty of the mountains and forests, but he also tried to sleep in the car. The hardworking, serious young pianist was preparing himself for the first of 7 rehearsals with the orchestra in the evening. Tomorrow he will play the first part of the *Ukrainian Concerto* by composer Alexander Peskanov, in the presence of Mr.Peskanov himself!

Dad said that in Cleveland he would meet the composer who is also coming to the concert, and also those people who help the Ukrainians in their war for freedom. In Cleveland, Jayden was enhanced by so many things - museums, parks, Lake Erie, and the Gala concert itself!

The beautiful ballerinas of the Cleveland Ballet opened the Gala concert on the Centennial Peace Plaza, the Main Stage of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, but then it began to rain forcing everyone to move to the historical St. Casimir’s church hall. Jayden played so well and received applause, gifts, and a beautiful certificate for his First Place. He met the composer, Alexander Peskanov who signed the program for him. He listened to a lot of beautiful music, and welcoming speeches and, of course, fell asleep in the car on the way to the hotel.

What event could have prompted Jaden’s dad and other parents to drive and fly to Cleveland, Ohio, from Maryland, North Carolina, Illinois, and Michigan in late August 2022?

Jayden, like many other young musicians from the United States, Europe, and China, took part in the 3rd Stars of Summer International Piano and Vocal Competition.

The panel of judges chose him and two other wonderful young pianists to play with the Cleveland Stars Orchestra during the elegant Gala concert.”

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens’ unique complex reflects the love and interest in the music of the city’s residents. The Gardens host various cultural programs, and professional and amateur concerts such as a popular Opera in the Italian Garden, the World on Stage series, and many others. The decisive role in organizing the competition incorporated into this cultural canvas belongs to Ms. Svetlana Stolyarova, the Vice President of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, an organizer of many cultural events in Cleveland and the Gardens. With her help, the Competition acquired its unique concept, the structure of two concerts free of charge to the public, (Gala and Laureates’ Concert), and much more.

The *Gala* concert and the Laureates’ concert of the Stars of Summer, both hosted by Cleveland Cultural Gardens, are part of the World on Stage program of CCGF but have different conceptions. The *Gala* concert is an open-air evening event where the Laureates share the stage with professional artists. It has a limited stage time of about 1.5 hours. One teacher can be represented by one student for the Gala concert (excluding the Concerto category). The Organization Committee invites performers. For this event, a part of the World on the Stage Program, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation provides its Centennial Peace Plaza Stage with the weather backup in the historical St. Casimir Church of Cleveland.

The *Laureate’s Concert* has been always scheduled a week after the *Gala*, on *One World Day in Cleveland Cultural Gardens*, a whole day event with an attendance of about 27,000. This concert entertains attendees of the festival and has been set for the past two years in the Italian Cultural Garden. All the Laureates of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place can perform and meet the public. The teachers might set their students to perform one or two times in different time slots. In 2022 the *Ukrainian Concerto* with the orchestra has been performed there twice in two-time slots among other programs.

The competition was conceived by its organizers as a tool to help music teachers in many ways, especially to keep their studios busy in the summer. It allows students, both beginners and advanced, to perform at the end of August for festival visitors. This determines the requirements for the choice of repertoire and the duration of the program no more than five minutes. Students do not take a prolonged break from classes, but rather maintain their progress and prepare for the next school season in good condition. The competition is a video-recorded performance in one round. There is a five minute time limitation for the video which can include one or two pieces. It allows teachers to use the competition as an educational instrument for advanced and beginner students.

There is a special category for American Composers. This allows teachers to use the repertoire prepared for the NFMFC festivals, polish it, and submit it to the international jury. It also helps to popularize the music of American composers in the world.

In 2022, the Stars of Summer participants Anna Chi, 7, Lyman Chi, 5, and Emily Xie, 12, have been invited to participate in the Final of the BMTG Intercontinental Competition *Immortal and Living Composers*. All three received Grand Prix in their age categories and performed in Carnegie Hall in February 2023! For vocalists, there is also a unique opportunity to receive an invitation to perform in the popular professional concert Opera in the Italian Garden. Alex Cosma, 11, successfully performed there in 2022, sharing the stage with professional opera singers. He also got the invitation to perform in the Opera in the Italian Garden in 2023.

The category especially loved by the participants is the MusiCats, which is any piece about cats. Beginners can make their first public performance with their small piece on the stage with the advanced performers of Copland’s Cat and Mouse.

Since 2022, the competition has been collaborating with the Cleveland Musicians Association Local 4, which has allowed for the inclusion of performances with an orchestra in the concert program. In alignment with the goal of the Federation of Cultural Gardens of Cleveland World, which promotes *Peace through mutual understanding*, and with the support of music teachers, the organizers carefully select piano concertos to be performed that feature composers or themes of the peoples represented in the Gardens, as well as composers recommended by the National Federation of Music Clubs in their Bulletin. Each participant performs one movement of the selected concerto. Because the Competition produces two different concerts, and in the Laureates' Concert the piano concerto with the orchestra is performed twice, it increases the chances of the participants winning a performance with the orchestra.

For the 2023 competition, the following concertos were chosen: "Italian Concerto" by A. Peskanov and "Miniature Concerto" by A. Rowley. This selection showcases the culture of Italy through the work of Ukrainian-American composer A. Peskanov and the work of English composer A. Rowley." It is to be hoped that the fourth competition at Cleveland Gardens will bring benefit and joy to audiences and musicians. **JK**

More information on the site:
www.thestarsossummerusa.com

NFMC 125TH ANNIVERSARY WORD SEARCH

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E	B	R	W	I	S	S	H	B	Y	D	B	D	E
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R	L	I	C	L	W	H	C	K	I	M	I	O	L
L	E	N	R	I	O	O	S	R	Y	I	E	L	H
H	L	L	R	K	P	O	G	A	C	I	H	C	H

EDWARDS
PARIS
NELSON
FREEMAN
UHL
IRISH
KECK
CHICAGO
NORFOLK
BAILEY

Right: Ms. Patricia Evans, OFMC District A-1 Festival Chairman & Counselor of The Junior Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, and Mr. Kenneth Kovach, President, Board of Directors International Community Council-Worldwide International Network, awarded the "Order of St. Romanus" by The Orthodox Church in America, are greeting guests and participants of the Gala concert on Centennial Peace Plaza.



Below: Composer Alexander Peskanov with young pianist Laureates of the Stars of Summer who performed at the Cleveland premiere of his Ukrainian Concerto with the orchestra: from right to left, Jayden Sun, 7, (1st mvt), Sarah Zhou, 12, (2nd mvt), and Benjamin Wei, 15, (3rd mvt).



Above: Cleveland Ballet traditionally opened the Gala Concert of the Stars of Summer 2022 on the Centennial Peace Plaza of Cleveland Cultural Gardens.



Left: Alex Cosma, 11, the Grand Prix Absolute Winner sings Torna a Surriento by E. De Curtis at the Gala concert Part 2.

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.



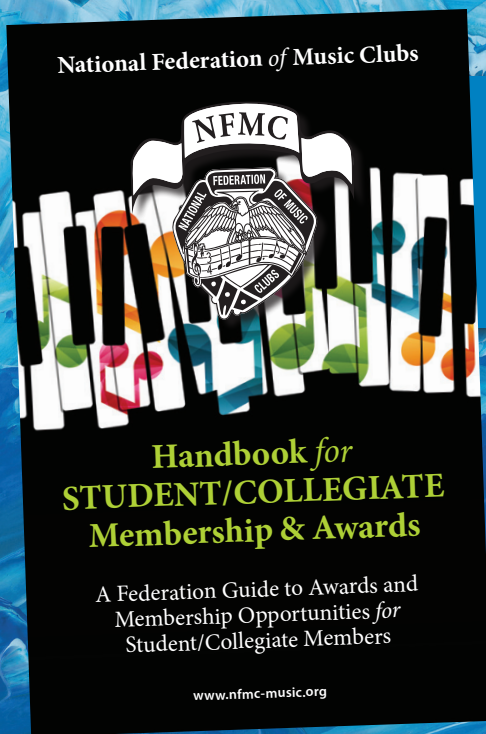
Deadline: **MAY 1**
Award Amount: \$4,000
Chair: Michael R. Edwards
Email: micedwards@aol.com

State Buzz

WASHINGTON

The piano students of the Westside Dizzy Fingers Junior Club of John Van Lierop, Jr, in Seattle, Washington, participated in two noteworthy events this past Holiday Season.

The first event took place at a shopping mall where the students played holiday music in addition to the piano classics. The busy shoppers enjoyed hearing the live music as they strolled through the mall. The other event for the students was putting together a YouTube video from their homes consisting of holiday music, to be shown at a Nursing Home Memory Care Unit in West Seattle, where John Van Lierop Jr's 101 year old father resides. The Holiday Video was shown to the residents the day before Christmas. The residents thoroughly enjoyed watching the children play the piano from their homes. Each student's home and piano was decorated with holiday decorations to add to the atmosphere. All the students wished the residents "Merry Christmas" at the end of their video. **JK**



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2022-23 NFMC Awards-at-a-Glance



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

President: Deborah Freeman

2022-2023 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

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 th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$500 1 st Place (for further study) \$250 2 nd 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	Lisa Smith 3774 Barbizon Circle S Jacksonville, FL 32257 lcsplano@hotmail.com
NFMC Thelma A. Robinson Award in Ballet honoring a Past National President	BALLET	Must have reached the 13 th but not the 19 th birthday by January 1, odd-numbered years)	\$20	\$2,500	February 1, odd 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 th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,500 - 1 st Place \$1,000 - 2 nd Place \$500 – 3 rd 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 th birthday by May 1	\$10	\$1,000 – 1 st Place \$500 – 2 nd 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 th but not the 19 th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$2,000—1 st Place \$1,500—2 nd 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 th birthday by March 1	\$10	\$1,500 – 1 st Place (for further study) \$750 – 2 nd Place \$500 – 3 rd 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 th birthday but not the 19 th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,000 – 1 st Place \$500 – 2 nd Place 1 - \$250 award in each of the five NFMC Regions	March 1	JR 18-2	Lee Ann Cummings 619 Highland Colony Park-Way Apt. 234 Ridgeland, MS 39157 cummings-lee28@att.net

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	Application Form #	NFMC Chair
NFMC Dance Awards (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap)	BALLET and THEATER DANCE	Must have reached the 11 th but not the 19 th birthday by application deadline	\$10	Age 11-14: Ballet and/or Theater Dance (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap) \$200 – 1 st Place \$100 – 2 nd Place Age 15-18: Ballet and/or Theater Dance (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap) \$400 – 1 st Place \$200 – 2 nd 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 19th birthday as of application deadline	\$20	\$2,000 – 1st Place \$1,500 – 2nd Place \$1,000 - 3rd 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 10th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10 per manuscript	\$1,000	March 1	JR 15-2	Lee Ann Cummings 619 Highland Colony Parkway Apt. 234 Ridgeland, MS 39157 cummings-lee28@att.net
NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Awards	POETRY	Must not have reached the 19 th birthday by February 1	\$5	Five \$100 awards	February 1	JR 12-1	Debra Hughes 237 Moorings Parkway Snellville, GA 30039 bndhughes@comcast.net
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 th St E Edgewood, WA 98372 museiff@msn.com
NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Awards	VIOLA	Must have reached the 12 th but not the 19 th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,750 – 1 st Place \$1,000 – 2 nd 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 st Place \$500 – 2 nd Place	March 1	JR 19-2	Linda Lind 4420 Miller Pkwy Manhattan KS 66503 lindalinda@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; jpeggram@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 st Place, \$125-2 nd 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 st Place, \$125-2 nd 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 st Place, \$175-2 nd Place, and \$150-3 rd -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 st Place, \$200-2 nd Place, \$150-3 rd 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 nfmf-music.org or ordered from NFMF Headquarters, info@nfmf-music.org. The Chart includes only endowed NFMF Awards. Check Individual State Federation websites for possible additional awards.

APPLICATION, INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Award requirements are available on the NFMF website, nfmf-music.org, or contact the Chair of the specific award.

All NFMF award applications must be submitted online on the NFMF 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.)

NFMF MEMBERSHIP

Applicants must be NFMF 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 NFMF 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 NFMF award listed in the C&A Chart is eligible to compete again for the same award. (Exceptions: NFMF 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 NFMF

The NFMF, 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 NFMF 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 NFMF offers more than three quarters of a million dollars annually in state and national competitions.

Anyone wishing to become a NFMF 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. 

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- **Photos:** Please email good-quality, high resolution digital images accompanied by a news article in Word format.

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