



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Junior Keynotes

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Artwork by Allie Uyeno
Las Vegas, Nevada



NFMC Junior Keynotes Directory

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



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The annual MTNA National Conference has long been the premier gathering for music teaching professionals. In 2026, we invite you to Chicago to honor an extraordinary milestone in music education history.

Be part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration as we reflect on our rich legacy and look toward the future of music teaching.

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#MTNA2026



Message from the President

by Deborah T. Freeman

As the days grow longer and flowers begin to bloom, we are reminded of the endless possibilities ahead.

Spring is the season of renewal and growth, and it invites us to embrace change, explore new beginnings, and appreciate the beauty around us.

This issue of *Junior Keynotes* is packed with interesting articles that may encourage a new adventure for you. Be sure to take note of the available awards that would impact you and your junior club, and take the next step.

Here's to new adventures!

Deborah 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

Greetings NFMC teachers, students, and friends!

Spring has arrived and we can marvel at the new leaves on trees, the blossoming flowers and the increased warmth and sunshine.

By now most of the Federation Festivals have taken place. We hope all were successful and students were pleased with their auditions.

We appreciate the efforts of Elite Printing for publishing and mailing both *Junior Keynotes* and *Music Clubs Magazine* in a timely manner. Their continued communication and support have been invaluable.

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

Have a fantastic summer!

Jeanne Hryniewicki, Editor
Junior Keynotes Magazine

American Music

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Junior Division Updates

by Laurie M. Marshall, Chair

Dear Federation Colleagues and Friends,

First, congratulations for yet another successful Junior Awards and Festival year. Much gratitude to the thousands of volunteers – teachers, graduate students, parents, and of course, JUNIORS who work, perform, and share the gift of music in their community.

Next, thank you for your feedback on the new Festival Bulletin literature: It is exciting to hear from teachers who were introduced to several composers for the first time and whose students achieved much success in both learning and performing these remarkable compositions.

On a personal note, it was exciting to introduce my younger students to living American composers who I thought they may develop an ongoing music relationship. Two quick stories: Entering five younger students with their Festival piano solo compositions in a regional competition where traditionally only classical literature performances achieved finalist status, four of the five students received winner status. It was exciting that they broke through the tradition of non-American composers as the only winning compositions.

Next, my favorite success story is Easton, who began his piano studies just seven months ago at seven years old. He began Scott Price's "Deep Green Sea" over the Christmas holiday break, then with just two lessons and a remarkable sense of musicality earned a Superior at his January 19th Festival. He has also mastered two Brock Chart compositions and is excited to perform in our March Festival. Easton said, "I love playing these guys!" I wish I could just list the number of composers who have sparked excitement in these young musicians where my students continually ask to learn more of their music. BRAVO!

Additionally, it was exciting to fill my music library with new literature – several will become standards by these new American masters! Even though this Festival season is coming to an end, we are enjoying new literature everyday year-round!

As this is my final *Junior Keynotes* message to you, thank you for your support and advice over the last four years. Your feedback and constructive ideas are how we get better at serving you and your students. Several notable Junior Division team achievements to date include:

- The Vivace Team has successfully onboarded 508 Festivals across the nation. A special thank you to NFMV Vivace Chair Sandra Preysz and her team.
- Well over 8,000 teachers use Vivace. Over 150,000 students are either current Festival participants or have their records archived in the system. A special thank you to NFMV Festival Admin Lori Jessen and her team who provided outstanding personalized support.
- Lori, Sandra, along with NFMV Federation Cup Chair Mary Jane Timmer and Vivace Tech Support Grace Kopitske and Sadie Cole have provided professional support with great knowledge and experience. Their chain of command model helps Festival Area Admins and Chairs streamline all information. We cannot calculate the hours they volunteer to serve you - the teachers and admins.
- Words cannot fully express my gratitude to former NFMV Competitions and Awards Chair George Keck and current Awards Chair Lucinda Lear. Their knowledge is invaluable as they continue to provide support for all Federation awards including the additional support needed by Juniors.
- A special thanks to Editor Jeanne Hryniewicki with her ongoing support of the *Junior Keynotes* magazine. It continues to be both informative and inspirational celebrating all things JUNIORS!

Finally, please consider volunteering your time and talent at any Junior event. Opportunities are available at your local Festival as well as local and state Junior Club activities and events. Please remember to share your stories with the *Junior Keynotes* Editor for future publication.

Thank you for all you do.
Laurie JK



Meet the Cover Artist

Allie Uyeno | Las Vegas, Nevada

I'm Allie Uyeno, a 12-year-old artist, musician, and volleyball player from Las Vegas! My artistic journey began six years ago when I started learning piano from Mr. Jee Wong. When I'm not creating music or art, you can find me spiking and serving on the court with my awesome team at Dig-this Volleyball Club. I've been drawing since I was six years old. Between piano keys and volleyball nets, there's never a dull moment in my world!





Federation Festivals

by Lori Jessen, Chair

Just 1 Point...

Sometimes I get emails where teachers have a student that is just one point away from a large cup. They ask, "Isn't there anything to do so that this student can earn another point and get that cup?" I also hear about situations where teachers *have* awarded larger cups to students just one point away because they were so close.

We can all agree that one point away is a frustrating place for a student. So close, but yet not quite attaining the goal. Earning one of the larger cups is something a student has been working on for a long time. And after spending all that time, shouldn't we just say, "It's close enough, let them have the cup"?

While we can all understand the emotion of this situation, we need to pause our hearts long enough for our minds to consider all the aspects of this situation.

If we award a cup to a student who hasn't earned all the points, we are taking away the accomplishment of those who *have* earned all the points. We are diminishing their work. In the Festivals program, we want to celebrate all the levels of success, but we never want to do so in a manner that takes away from the success of another. While we can brainstorm and see if there can be some solutions in the future where the majority of students could earn that last point, inevitably there will always be situations where a student is one point short. It's just the nature of how it works.

I'm reminded of a story I read recently. One of the characters in the book, an eccentric elderly lady named Ruth was hatching some duck eggs by using her oven as an incubator. The duckling in one of the eggs hatched without incident. But the second duckling was having a difficult time, struggling to create an opening, and Ruth was worried that the duckling wasn't going to be able to get out of the eggshell. So, Ruth, in a rare display of tender-hearted goodness, reached in and helped the duckling just a little bit.

However, this proved to be tragic. You see, if ducklings don't strive and break out themselves, they do not have the necessary strength to

continue to live. The struggle of getting out of the shell strengthened the duckling for life outside the egg. In the story, the duckling that Ruth helped out of the shell didn't make it. While Ruth meant well, and her desire to help the duckling was commendable, her action had the opposite effect of her intention.

Not allowing our students to struggle through the disappointments that come their way robs them of opportunities to develop their inner grit. Handled in a healthy manner, disappointment strengthens our character for future success. While we always want to see our students succeed, and we do everything we can to help them, sometimes the hardest thing and most needful thing we do is to let them experience the disappointment that is always a part of life. I always say that the Festival process is great preparation for life—that is true whether for celebrating the joys or comforting the tears and disappointments.

Not achieving a goal is one of life's lessons that, while heartbreaking, is so necessary. We won't always come in first place. We won't always get that "A". We won't get to sit first chair. But we can learn how to handle small disappointments so that when larger ones come our way, they won't devastate us.

At the Olympics they only give the gold medal to the winner. They don't give it to the person who came in second even if they were just .02 seconds later. But we still celebrate those silver and bronze medal winners, because their achievement deserves recognition. We can show our students that even if they didn't get all the points to earn that next cup, they have accomplished so much.

As another Festival season begins to wrap up, I look forward to seeing all the accomplishments of our students in the reports that come my way. But the intangibles that don't show up on any report, those are actually the greatest measure of student success. It's gratifying to know that we're part of a program that can have so much impact on a student and helps them develop skills they need that will serve them for a lifetime.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;
It's about learning to dance in the rain. **JK**



Cover me, please!

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

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

Email JRK@nfm-music.org for more information.



Vivace Updates

by Sandra Preysz, NFMV Vivace Chair

We are approaching the end of another year of Festivals, and the Vivace team is happy that there are so many Festival admins who are becoming very knowledgeable in the workings of Vivace. Questions and problems communicated to the NFMV National Admins are including the complete information needed to resolve the issues. We truly are becoming a team from teachers to national administrators.

In mid-January, there was so much use of the Support Center that our bandwidth needed to be increased. It happened late one evening when many were at work, and our tech department quickly increased the bandwidth so that the Support Center was back up and running. This is another good sign that teachers and admins are becoming much more adept at solving questions using the resources of the Support Center.

Checklists for teachers and admins for first of year (September), mid-year (Festival time) and end of year would be helpful to all and this will be one of the items we will work on this coming summer. It is important to update membership records for teachers and students every year and the checklists will include the correct timeline for taking care of this important part of Vivace. It will also include the other steps because we know that many do not remember the exact sequence of procedures when Vivace is only used a few times each year.

We do want to emphasize the importance of having all information needed before entering a student in Vivace. This includes the full legal name and the date of birth. Changing a date of birth requires verification. One of the issues this year that seemed to cause the most frustration was transferring students from one teacher to another. It is important to archive all students who are no longer in the studio at the beginning of the new Festival year. This means late summer or early fall. There is a safeguard that students cannot be archived once there is an active registration on record for the year. A national admin should be contacted if a transfer is needed after a fall event has been completed and the student then changes teachers. Otherwise, archiving is a summer or fall task.

Teachers who have retired should also be archived by the area admin as the new Festival year begins. Make sure to wait until the festival year has ended so this is a late summer task. FIRST, the students should be archived from the retiring teacher's student list so that those students are available for another teacher to find and add as students.

As we add the online Bulletin to Vivace, these membership housekeeping items will be an important step and is necessary to match membership records and dues with Vivace access. NFMV headquarters is working on this process and more information should be available soon. **JK**

Martha Marcks Mack JUNIOR VOCAL 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 <https://www.nfmc-music.org/competitionscategory/junior-division/>. This competition has a **March 1st, 2026** deadline so put those finishing touches on your performance and prepare your videos! Contact Kristin Ivers, National Chair. kivers210@gmail.com



Federation Cup Winners

by Mary Jane Timmer, *Federation Cup Chair*

PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS

IDAHO



Rowan Betts

Ever since **Rowan Betts** was a young piano student and first heard about the coveted President's Cup, she set her sights on earning it. It took 12 years in the Solo Event with the last four years combining Solo points and Senior Concerto points to complete her goal. In 2024 she earned the Grand Cup. Now, here she is with the largest cup awarded to juniors in the NFMFC. Rowan has also participated in the Duet Event and the Patriotic/Folk Event through NFMFC.

Rowan is driven and pushes herself to always do her best. Every challenge she meets, she takes charge, faces it head on, and gets to work. She is an eager student, and her music is filled with emotion. Music has always been a large part of her life. She is a 13-year piano student of Cynthia Waldon.

This Spring she will graduate from Timberline High School in the Boise School District in Boise, Idaho, with a 4.016 GPA. While at Timberline, she has participated in softball, National Honor Society, the award-winning Timberline Marching Band-the last two years as head Drum Major. She has been the principal high brass in the THS Concert Band. She played French horn in Wind Symphony. She was section leader of the rhythm section in the THS Jazz Band. She was also accompanist of the THS Jazz

Choir and accompanist for the Liberty Elementary School Choir. She has held a part-time job through high school as well.

Rowan's future plans include attending college with the goal of pursuing degrees in astronomy and music. She is also planning to participate in Drum Corps International. She is interested in a career in Astrobiology. Music will always be a part of her life.

UTAH



Derek Hopper

Derek Hopper has been taking piano lessons from his grandmother, Sandra Preysz since the age of 4. He has reached a point where he loves to practice each day and has taken a special interest in Jazz music. Along with piano, Derek is an accomplished mountain biker racing for the RacKraft team as a Category 1 Downhill racer and just finished his senior season on the Alta High School Mountain Bike Team as the team captain and a varsity racer. During the winter months he loves to ski at Snowbird.

Derek plans to attend college in the fall and is still making his final decisions about the school. He just finished an EMT course and has obtained his EMT license. He plans to find a job working in this field as he attends college. He would love to be on the Ski Patrol next winter at one of the Utah resorts.

Ouida Keck

\$2,000 ANNUAL AWARD for the Independent Piano Teacher



to be used for
Professional Development



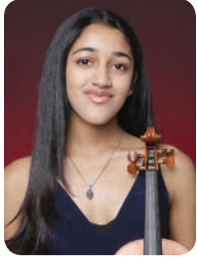
Ouida Keck
NFMFC President 1999-2003

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

For more information see the NFMFC website at nfmc-music.org. Click on Competitions and Award Division/Sr. Annual Awards. The deadline for entry is May 1.

GRAND CUP WINNERS

FLORIDA



Raveena Cherry

Raveena Cherry is seventeen years old and has been playing the violin since the age of four. In October 2022, she won first place at the Alhambra Concerto Competition and performed with the Alhambra orchestra as a soloist. Since September 2022, she has led the Dreyfoos Philharmonic as the concertmaster. In May 2023, she won first place at the FSMTA Concerto Competition and Dreyfoos Concerto Competition. In August 2023, Raveena won the alternate position at the MTNA Concerto competition. Raveena currently studies

with Ms. Huifang Chen.

Raveena has been selected to play in the FMEA's All State Conference since the 7th Grade. In January 2022, she won the concertmaster position for the All-State Concert Orchestra. She has participated in the FPMC convention (2016-present) and has won both first place and honorable mentions. Raveena was concertmaster of the All County 6-8th Grade Orchestra and the 9-12 Grade Orchestra for several years. In 2019, Raveena took part in the Perlman Music Program conducted by Itzhak Perlman. In April 2022, she was selected to participate in the New World Symphony's (NWS) Side by Side Orchestra. In April 2024, she was selected through audition to be the soloist and concertmaster of the NWS Side by Side Orchestra.

Raveena is enrolled at the University of Miami to pursue both Biology and Instrumental Performance.



Mia Hakkarainen

Mia Hakkarainen is a rising senior at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida. She has been playing violin since the age of 2, when she began taking private lessons. She currently studies with Ms. Huifang Chen. From a musical family, she began to participate in chamber music along with orchestras in her community and in her school. Mia has participated in Florida Federation of Music Clubs Festival every year since age 4, taking part in solo, concerto, sight play, and duet/

trio categories over the years. She has won multiple categories such as Advanced II Violin Sightplay and Senior Violin Concerto, for which she was nominated for the Irene Muir Award. Outside of FPMC, Mia won first place in the state intermediate violin division for the Florida State Music Teachers' Association and third prize in the Alhambra Orchestra Young Artists Concerto Competition, where she was given the opportunity to perform with an orchestra. Additionally, Mia takes part in many different orchestras: beyond the Dreyfoos Philharmonic, she has attended the All-State Orchestra conference every year since 7th grade and was recently co-concertmaster for the New World Symphony Side by Side concert.

Moreover, she continues to take part in community orchestras, such as New River Orchestra and Orchestra Delray, and play chamber music outside of school.



Steven Savoie

Steven Savoie, age 18, of Santa Rosa Beach, FL, has earned the NPMC 75-point Grand Cup in Piano Solo combined with Piano Concerto this year. At Festival he has received 11 consecutive Superiors in Piano Solo and 9 in Piano Concerto. He has also received his 3rd level Gold Cup for Theory. He began his piano study in 2013 with Loretta Hake in Niceville, FL.

He has also participated in the National Guild of Piano Teachers Playing Auditions for 12 years, having received the Paderewski Gold Medal in 2022 for performing at least a 10-piece program for 10 years. He has also performed a Sonatina or Sonata in the Choctaw Bay Music Club's Sonatina Spectacular for 9 years and this year played in the club's Student Showcase.

Steven is an accomplished pianist and outstanding scholar. He graduated this spring from Home School, Dual Enrolled at Northwest Florida State College. This Fall he plans to attend the Florida Institute of Technology majoring in Aerospace Engineering. He hopes to continue his piano study, if not as a minor, then as a hobby.



David Xiao

David Xiao is a Class of 2024 graduate from the American Heritage School Plantation. He studies violin with Ms. Huifang Chen. David has participated in FPMC (Florida Federation of Music Clubs)'s annual Festivals and Junior Conventions ever since he started to study with Ms. Chen. He won consistently in 9 years of participation in the FPMC, FSMTA (Florida State Music Teacher Association), and other competitions. Some awards include winner of the highest violin solo level, Violin Solo Advanced

Class II (and recipient of its Endowment Award), at the FPMC 2022 Junior Music Convention and State Competitions, 1st Place in the 2024 and 2022 FSMTA District 6 Senior Strings Concerto Competitions, and 1st Place in the 2024 FSMTA State Senior String Concerto Competition. David received the Judges' Distinction Award & 1st Place at the American Protégé International Concerto Competition 2022. He was also chosen as a 1st Place Winner of the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition in Spring 2022 and performed solo at its Winners Recital at the Weill Recital Hall of the Carnegie Halls in 2023. David has served as a concertmaster in the 2024 Florida All-State 11-12th Grade Orchestra, 2023 New World Symphony Side-by-Side Orchestra, 2022-2024 Florida Youth Orchestra's Principal Orchestras, and 2022-2023 Broward All-County Gold Orchestras.

David performs violin for church worship, hospitals, fundraisings, senior communities, children's groups, libraries, and meetings heavily. He also taught violin in youth summer programs every year in high school. He is therefore nominated for the 2024 "Miami Herald Silver Knight Award" by American Heritage School in the "Music and Dance" category. David is also a 2024 Arts for Life! Award Winner presented by former Florida First Lady Columba Bush and the Foundation for Excellence in Education. He will be studying Violin performance at Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music starting Fall 2024.

continued on page 10

GRAND CUP WINNERS ...continued

IOWA



Carter Routt

Carter Routt, a high school senior from Jesup, Iowa, has been honing his musical skills since the young age of 5 when he first started playing the piano. Taking lessons from Chandar Boyle at Music Hill Studios in Waterloo, Iowa, Carter has achieved notable success in his musical pursuits. This year, Carter was awarded the Grand Cup for his piano solos and concertos, along with 2 Composition Cups, highlighting his talent as both a performer and a composer. In addition to his piano skills, Carter also enjoys

playing percussion, participating in theater both at school and in the community, and singing in Jesup High School's choir. Looking ahead, Carter plans to attend the University of Iowa in the fall to major in film and minor in music. His aspiration is to work in the film industry, with music playing an integral role in his future endeavors.



Jessica Treinen

Jessica Treinen is currently a senior at Columbus High School and has been studying piano for thirteen years, having had four different teachers in that time. She has been involved in the Federation Festival all thirteen years, earning superiors consistently. In addition to Federation, Jessica has participated in the IMTA piano competition, where she has won districts in level A, E, and F and state in level F; in addition, she has been on the theory honor roll every year she has participated. Outside of piano, Jessica is involved in cheerleading, where she captained her team to a state championship; large group speech and theater, where she is a 5-time all-state nominee; student government, student ambassadors, and student lighthouse team; mental health club; National Honor Society; pastoral council; and mock trial, where she was selected as an all-district witness. In her free time, she enjoys reading. Jessica plans to go to the University of Iowa to major in Psychology and to continue studying piano. JK

FAMA

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(FAMA) grants are designed to support a specific music education/outreach project. They are non-renewable and are not intended to support ongoing projects. New grant applicants will receive priority over previous grant recipients, and preference will be given to community projects that strengthen music education/music appreciation in the United States. All decisions of the committee are final.

Dr. Ouida Keck, Chair
keckouida@gmail.com

DEADLINE: MAY 15



For more detailed grant information visit The National Federation of Music Clubs at www.nfmc-music.org





JUNIOR COMPOSERS

by Sam Ecoff, *Chair*

The Numbers are in!

This year, the NFMC Junior Composers Competition had 563 entries from 38 states.

Results of state-level judging were released around March 1st, and the winners of each state have been forwarded on to the regional competition. Good luck to all the of juniors who entered!

Class 1 - 115 entries

Class 2 - 164 entries

Class 3 - 157 entries

Class 4 - 127 entries

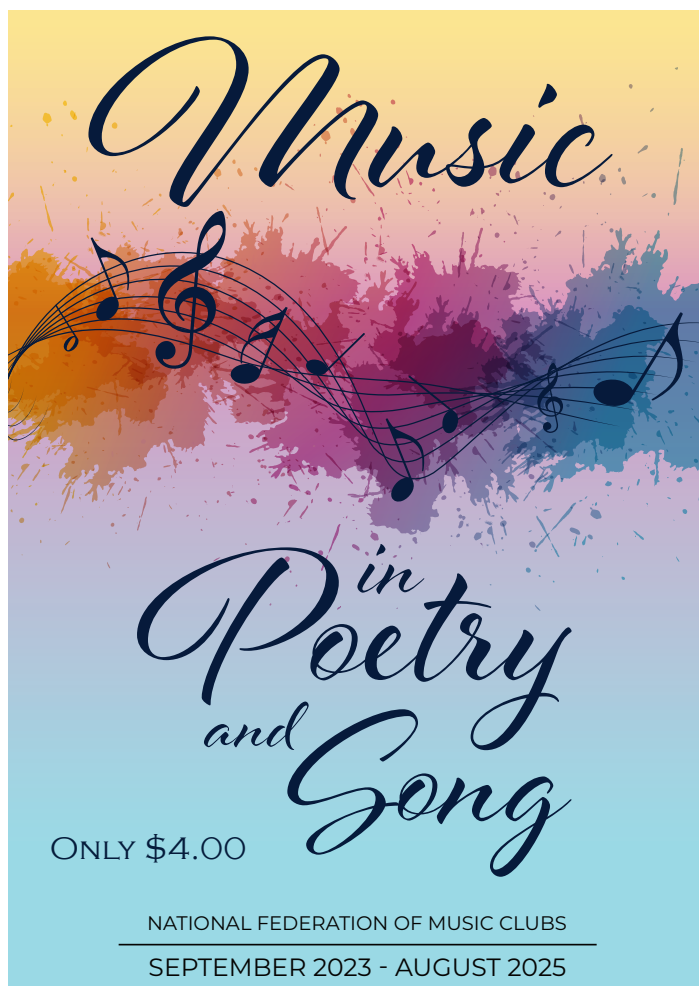
State	Number of Entries
Alabama	5
Arizona	11
Arkansas	1
California	20
Colorado	1
Florida	19
Georgia	43
Idaho	16
Illinois	21
Iowa	7
Kansas	1
Kentucky	3
Louisiana	19
Maryland	18
Massachusetts	10
Michigan	21
Minnesota	11
Mississippi	12
Missouri	6
Nebraska	7
New Hampshire	2
New Jersey	10
New Mexico	1
New York	6
North Carolina	22
North Dakota	6
Ohio	33
Oklahoma	1
Oregon	19
Pennsylvania	44
South Carolina	23
South Dakota	3
Texas	20
Utah	4
Virginia	69
Washington	6
Wisconsin	32
Wyoming	9



JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST

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

Deadline: Feb. 1



Music

in Poetry and Song

ONLY \$4.00

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
SEPTEMBER 2023 - AUGUST 2025



Junior Club Achievement

by Virginia Feitelson, Chair

The time is approaching for Junior Club Teachers and Counselors to turn in the Annual Achievement Summary Form (JR 1-1) I am so excited to hear about the activities your Junior Clubs have participated in. Each club that returns their form by May 1st, will receive a certificate and recognition in Junior Keynotes Magazine. Download the form from the NPMC website by searching **Jr 1-1** or **Junior Club Annual Achievement Form**. My contact information is located at the bottom. Please include any ideas and accomplishments that you would like to share. Even small acts of kindness can have a big impact on others. Thank you for representing NPMC and keeping America truly musical.

Now that this year is quickly coming to an end, have you thought about any new ideas to do with your Junior Club? Have some of the articles and news in this magazine motivated you? Inspired by the Greenville Junior Clubs in South Carolina, and a conversation with our national president Deborah Freeman, our club plans to start having an officer report on the articles they read from the Junior Keynotes Magazine. Keep sharing and collaborating! You are truly making a positive impact in your community and across the county.

Read below about some of the achievement activities organized by NPMC Junior Clubs.

JUNIOR CLUB EXCURSIONS

Contributed by Naomi Sanchez – To experience a real opera, students of the Berkeley Academy of Music attended Berkeley Repertory Theatre's production of **Matchbox Magic Flute** directed by Mary Zimmerman. Students ages 7-18, piano teachers, and parents enjoyed this re-imagination of Mozart's delightful masterpiece. *The Magic Flute* is a type of opera called singspiel, a German theater piece that includes singing and speaking, with songs in folk style. In this production, members of the orchestra - a cellist, a violinist, and you guessed it, a magic flautist - were on stage to enhance the story telling. We all agreed that Papageno was hilarious! After the performance, Pamina came out to pose with the children at the photo booth. We created such a wonderful memory together as a junior club, and many of us experienced opera for the very first time.

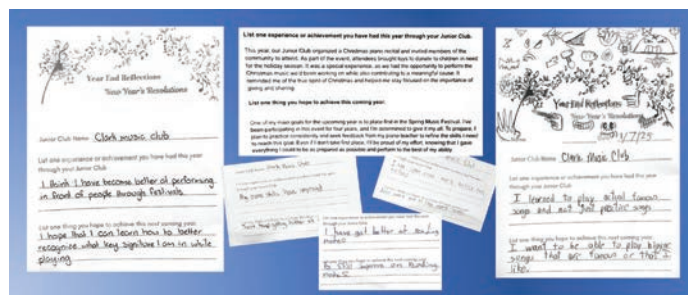


Junior Club Excursions -
Pictured: Pamina with Sybil Wyatt and Stella Wyatt in the Photo Booth at the **Matchbox Magic Flute**.

It's easy to organize an excursion like this. You can even ask a parent or club member to research the details. Our junior club has attended several programs over the years, and heard artists such as Yuja Wang, Jon Nakamatsu, Leonidas Kavakos, Anderson & Roe Duo, and one of our all-time favorites, Happy Dog Duo. You can find free concerts or group discounts, and sometimes kids can attend for free. In this latest case, the young people's discount extended from children to age 35!

JUNIOR CLUB PROJECTS

Contributed by Hailey Clark – One way to build connections within my club is to organize and display student activities. Recently we did Past Year Reflections, and New Year Resolutions. Everyone was excited to share what they learned or achieved over the year, and to also set goals for their future. I plan on keeping them, and pulling them out to read next January. It is important to look back on our goals in order to see what we have accomplished. It helps to appreciate and recognize that the hard work and effort we put in each day really does payoff.



Junior Club Projects - Collage of Reflections and Resolutions from the Clark Music Club

JUNIOR CLUB COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Contributed by Virginia Feitelson – In an effort to give back to our community, club members from the Southern California Music Festival Club partner with a local Rescue Center. Last year they helped hand out Turkeys at the Thanksgiving Food Drive, and wrapped toys for their Holiday Event. Working together and earning service hours is both a fun and rewarding experience. This summer they plan to collect school supplies and volunteer at the annual backpack drive. **JK**



Junior Club Community Outreach -
Pictured Above: Sophia Clark collecting toy donations at their club Holiday Recital

Junior Club Community Outreach -
Pictured Above: Ethan Feitelson, Harmony Feitelson, and Sydney Goldenberg volunteering at a Thanksgiving Meal Event



National Music Week Essay Contest

by Gloria Lien, *Chair*

Congratulations to all the young students who wrote essays on “Music. . . is Unstoppable”. There were 48 students from 19 states with each essay very unique and different from all the others. There was one winner from each of the 19 states chosen. A \$75 check was sent to the winners. The judges found them interesting, well-written and well thought out. We are proud of you and your accomplishments.

Now to happy reading about how “Music. . . is Unstoppable”.

NMW 2025 ESSAY WINNERS



MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE



NORTH CENTRAL REGION



IOWA

Isaiah Dawkins

Hi! I am **Isaiah Dawkins**. I am fourteen and in 8th grade. My first instrument was the tin whistle, which I learned in a homeschool group called Classical Conversations. I have been playing piano for six years. I enjoy such activities as playing the piano, studying the Bible, and reading books. I have been homeschooled all my life and have five siblings. I hope to build a battlebot with a friend of mine.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music, the very life blood of civilization and culture since the beginning of man. Evidence of man from the beginning of time enjoying music, resides in the discovery of ancient flutes all across the world and a single musical score over four thousand years old found in the ancient city of Ugarit located in northern Syria. Deep within every human seems to reside an ancient love of music springing from our very souls. Through hardship and famine, through death, wars, and near extinction, music prevails.

One of the masters of music from ages past was born in December 1770, and his name was Ludwig van Beethoven. Beethoven's childhood was a grueling one with constant practice on his piano enforced by his close family, who saw real musical potential in the boy but treated him harshly. Often being woken up at all times of the night to practice the piano, Beethoven grew to be an extremely bad-tempered man. Eventually the long hours of practice paid off, and Beethoven went on to write many of the best classical pieces in history. Sadly, around twenty-eight years old Beethoven began to lose his hearing. Subjected to this hardship, Beethoven began to lose his mind. As his hearing declined, he began to bite his piano to hear the sound of the instrument more clearly. Years passed; Beethoven eventually became entirely deaf at forty-five but was still composing. With hardship often comes loss and after Beethoven lost his hearing, his music took a darker edge, Beethoven became more and more introverted, his only interest his work, his art, his music. He continued composing music, up until his death on March 26, 1827. Millions of people still listen to Beethoven's music because of the power and pure emotion contained within it. Beethoven proves to us the power music can have in one's life and the influence it can have on everybody throughout all time.

Music can be heard everywhere, a staple of every culture, but sadly there have been “dark ages” of music. In some countries such as Cambodia and Saudi Arabia and Estonia, where music was banned by their government for a time, people had to make do without a music that made up much of their culture. But as these restrictions were put into place a tempest bubbled throughout the peoples of these countries. The people of Estonia sang out in the streets in protest, and those of the other countries rebelled. Now music is readily accessible to these countries and flows once again though the cultures of all of the Cambodians, Saudis, and Estonians. As Plato once said, “music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” Where would we be without the unstoppable power of music, the lifeblood of civilization the amazing ability to express all of our emotions?

continued on page 14



NORTH CENTRAL REGION *continued...*



WISCONSIN

Rayna Kavalauskas

Rayna Kavalauskas is a composer and clarinetist. She is a senior at Kettle Moraine School for Arts and Performance in Wales, Wisconsin. She plays clarinet in Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra's (MYSO) Senior Symphony and has written for other ensembles at MYSO. Rayna hopes to pursue a career in music through production music, film, and game composition.

but her perseverance as a female composer. In a male-dominated field, she became a composer for orchestras, wind ensembles, and military bands. Adversity, in the case of Ruth Gipps, inspired her to begin an all-female wind ensemble called the Portia Wind Ensemble. "To a chorus of disapproval and hatred, I became a woman conductor," said Gipps in 1989, which shows despite the discouragement of others, her dedication towards music was stronger. Her accomplishments in life showcase how despite facing adversity, the desire to create music can be an unstoppable force.

Florence Price (1887-1953) was an African American composer born in Little Rock, Arkansas. She attended New England Conservatory in Boston, and later when concerns about racial oppression were prevalent, her family moved to Chicago. Her music relates to the Harlem Renaissance, and in 1939-40, she composed her Symphony No. 3. Although it was her Symphony No. 1 that gave her the title of the first Black American woman to have an orchestral work performed by a major U.S. orchestra, Price's third symphony showcases unique themes that represent music from African slaves. The third movement called "Juba" is inspired by the Juba Dance, brought over by African slaves. Price represents this dance by using syncopated rhythms and a distinct ethnic expression used throughout. Her representation of culture shows how music recalls a memory, and the composer describes without boundary.

In times of adversity, these women have continued to share their story and prove to the world that music is an unstoppable force, and the ones who take risks to share their story, deserve to have it honored. Their accomplishments, not only through awards and titles, but the stories they leave behind is what can truly make a difference. It's what makes music unstoppable.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music has the ability to describe a setting, making this description have no boundaries. It's unstoppable. The unstoppable nature of both the composer and the piece help create a story, and these stories deserve to be shared, especially in the line of adversity. Not only is music unstoppable, but the ones who put their creative mind towards it help develop an invincible story. Through the stories of Ruth Gipps and Florence Price, proof of their determination through hardship and their talent for storytelling through music can be admired by many young composers seeking to tell their own stories.

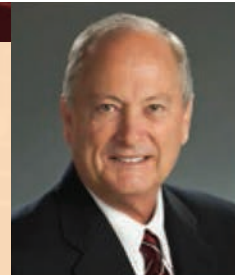
In the piece "Seascapes, Op. 53" by Ruth Gipps (1921-99) for a double wind quintet, the depiction of the North Sea is vividly portrayed to the listener. The inciting sounds of a peaceful, yet violent experience of the sea. Gipps proved her unyielding characteristics, not just by describing the waves and the ocean from her experience in Broadstairs, England,

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 more information please visit nfmc-music.org.



Deadline: May 1st
Award Amount: \$5,000
Chair: Michael R. Edwards
Email: micedwards@aol.com



NORTHEASTERN REGION



NEW JERSEY

Danika Farrell

Danika Farrell is a 7th grade honor roll student from New Jersey. She plays the flute in her school concert band and was selected to be a member of the 2024 All Shore Intermediate Band, which is a middle school honors band. She participates in the New Jersey 4-H program and serves

in several leadership roles including the New Jersey State 4-H Junior Equestrian of the Year and the Monmouth County 4-H Equine Junior Ambassador. She has 5 years of experience riding and being around horses. She enjoys playing flute and keyboard, public speaking, competing in horse shows, and photography.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music is unstoppable. We eat, breathe, and sleep music. It is all around us. It is everywhere. The force of music is insurmountable. Everywhere you turn, there is music. You are related to music. Your heartbeat is like a pounding drum. Your ears absorb the sound. In my everyday life, I feel the outstanding power of music surrounding me.

When I ride horses, I feel the pounding beat of their stride, like banging on the drums. When I count the strides in a show jumping course, I remember counting rests in different time signatures just hours before in band class. My horse and I have to sync up or harmonize in a band. As I get my horse ready

for a ride, I get a flashback of putting my flute together and warming up for band class. Just like you have to rely on your instrument and yourself to create the perfect rhythm for your music, I have to rely on my horse and the rider, myself, to find our perfect striding rhythm.

When I am in language arts class, I hear common Latin words like: *allegro* and *fortissimo* that remind me of music terminology. I am quick to answer because of my prior knowledge of these words. Similar to books, all music has structure and meaning. That is what the entire book or song is based on. Like music, most books have an important phrase or theme that is repeated over and over. For music, it is the chorus. Similar to poems, music has a steady flow.

When I feel a strong emotion, the music conveys my feelings in an indescribable way. This can range from *forte* to *piano*. My day is full of highs and lows, like pieces of music because of the many changes in tone or pace. Music has many layers to it, so does my day with different after-school and in school events. Like music, my day can unfold with the build up to the climax to the resolution.

Music can be made from anything. It can be heard everywhere. From a car beep to a yawn to water flowing, the possibilities are endless. When it comes to creating music, you can be as unique as you choose and even use a glass bottle as a guitar slide. You don't need any materials to create music, all you need is an idea and a passion, because music is all around us.

In conclusion, music is like the air we breathe, it is all around us. You cannot think of one thing that does not have a similarity or reference towards music. You can find music anywhere and it can find you because it is unstoppable.

continued on page 16



NORTHEASTERN REGION *continued...*



OHIO

Cynthia Li

Cynthia Li is a 13-year-old pianist who has dedicated 7 years to the study and performance of classical piano. Cynthia has performed in many recitals and competitions, receiving top prizes in local piano competitions, such as the Buckeye Audition Elementary Division (State Winner), BAMTA Nathaniel Patch Piano Competition Elementary B (1st Prize), and the Elementary Division (Grand Prize). She has also accompanied her younger brother, Frank Li, multiple times on piano while he plays violin.

Cynthia's favorite composers are Bach, Rachmaninoff, and Chopin. She has studied up to ABRSM Grade 5 music theory and received a Distinction on her music theory exam.

In addition to piano, Cynthia plays cello at recitals and in string ensembles. She is currently a member of Cincinnati Junior Strings and has performed at various venues, including hospitals, churches, and senior retirement centers. Cynthia has been studying cello for 3 years now.

Outside of music, Cynthia enjoys drawing, learning to animate, and reading. She admires digital artists like Samdoesarts and Sharlene Yap, and mostly draws cartoon/stylized anime in her free time, often watching her favorite artists' painting processes. Cynthia hopes to become an internet artist one day and possibly bring her drawings to life through 2D animation. She mostly reads realistic fiction, mystery, and fantasy when given the choice and spends a great deal of time each day reading.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music is free like water
but can cut into even the hardest
heart.

It leaves the listener anticipating
the next beat,
the next line.

Music is constantly changing, like
a river will always
be different the next time
you swim in it.

Messages, stories, thoughts
ride the ebb and flow of the rhythm, though
not everyone sees it the same way.

But
the emotions that music can bring,
it melts away the barrier of written language.
Humans use music to connect with God.

Humans use music to convey feelings far more
complex than words can summarize.

Humans are surrounded with music so often
that they themselves don't realize it's
everywhere. So I sit quietly and listen to that
wonderful, unstoppable

sound that brought together so many hundreds of people,
all of them listening as one.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

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\$2,000 JOYCE WALSH JUNIOR AWARDS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

\$1,000 MUSIC FOR THE BLIND COMPOSITION AWARD

\$1,000 BENZINGER/VALENTIN BLIND PERFORMANCE AWARD

DEADLINE MARCH 1ST





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SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



ARKANSAS

Julianne Klein

Julianne Klein is 17 years-old and about to graduate from high school. She does virtual school at River Valley Virtual Academy (RVVA). Julianne has won three essay contests in the past and one poetry contest. She has been writing since she was twelve and will certainly continue. In the future, Julianne wishes to study bio-chemistry in hopes of becoming a pharmacist, as well as a writer on the side.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

They tried to lock us up, to stop us from performing. *They* tried to bind our hands, to keep us from orchestrating. *They* tried to lace our drinks, to cease us from singing. But, nothing...nothing...would keep us from Song. That far distant palace.

The sweet utters of soothing vibrations, silken with harmonizing accents, emanate out of that peaceful place of paradise. Ever so tenderly, yet fixedly summoning, it calls. To those who heed to it, will find what they find. To those deaf unto it, will find what they find. As for us, we know better now, then to harden our hearing.

For each and all of us have found the reward for that. An ear tuned out of Song, is an ear tuned in to *them*. *They* have lead us nowhere. Yet, sadly, some of our people are still following *their* empty trail. Nevertheless, we trudge along to Song palace.

We pass through Music Lane, nearing the divine palace. Stopping by a satin stream, only for a brief drink of drunken dreams, we rest. Song glimpses at us through alluring eyes just over the peak of shrub. Alas! To our great horror, we're ambushed again!

This time *they* brought along *sadness*, *sorrow*, *regret*, and *despair*. Once again, we all have a choice. To fight or to flee. We choose to fight! This time with might we never knew we had.

We can't stop now, we can't. Why don't *they* see? Music is unconquerable, unbeatable, unstoppable! Down goes *sadness*. Down goes *sorrow*. Down goes *regret*. Down goes *despair*. As we gather ourselves, catching our breath, we are astonished to realize not another step needs to be taken. Behold, before our very eyes, Song has come to us.



MISSOURI

Colt Mason

Colt Mason is a 14-year-old homeschool freshman who resides in Springfield Missouri. He has been playing the piano for 4 years. Colt's favorite music style to play is tarantella, the faster the better! In his free time he loves to play baseball, listen to music, and enjoys a good

backyard game of waffle ball! Colt says his part of music is the ability to create by only using the same 12 notes.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

When I hear the term "music is unstoppable," I think about a force of nature, like a blizzard! Powerful. Beautiful. The power to change how we feel and even behave.

If the world tried to "shut down music," I doubt it would go well. What if they tried to get rid of all the musical instruments and music in the world? Would it work? Probably not. There are multiple reasons, but the main one is obvious, "music is unstoppable!"

It might be possible to shut down digital music platforms like Spotify or Apple Music, but with the physical amount of CDs, cassette tapes, and vinyl records that people own, it would be impossible! In my house alone we easily have over 150 vinyl records and CDs! What would happen if they took that all away? What if there were no more physical copies of music?

It wouldn't change a thing.

Most of the world has heard music and carries it in their mind. I have always had a song in my head ever since I can remember, whether it's one of my favorite songs or a random song I heard on the radio. Music is everywhere. You will never be starved of music because we carry it with us all the time, in our hearts and minds.

Can music ever be taken away? The only answer: no. It can't! Music is truly an unstoppable blizzard.

continued on page 18





SOUTH CENTRAL REGION *continued...*

OKLAHOMA

Jhansi Sirivennela Rapeti

Jhansi Sirivennela Rapeti is a 14-year-old who lives in Ponca City Oklahoma and attends Ponca City High School.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

I have always been interested in music ever since I was little. I learned a new instrument called the recorder in 3rd grade and I noticed

that I enjoyed playing it. I soon came to the end of 3rd grade but I still wanted to continue learning the recorder. My music teacher Mrs. Taylor recommended that I should go to Mrs. Suzi's Singing School. I eventually went to my first class and I learned much more about music. I also joined a singing group at Mrs. Suzi's. I have been learning music with Mrs. Suzi for about six years.

I started 6th grade at West Middle School. I joined the band program and learned to play the flute. I got the first chair for flute in 6th and 7th grade. I went to an Orchestra concert in 6th grade. During the concert, I found the type of sound and tone of the instruments are different from the band instruments. The violins were very interesting and I decided that I wanted to learn to play one. I joined the orchestra the second semester and I started learning the violin. I became the concertmaster of the orchestra a few months later.

In 7th and 8th grade, I auditioned for NCHO (North Central Honor Orchestra) and Red Carpet Honor Band and secured a place in both. Musicians from all over Northern Oklahoma audition for these programs. I participated in the OSSAA Solo and Ensembles program in 7th and 8th grade. The judges score how well you play from one to five, with one being the highest and five being the lowest you can receive. I achieved one's and two's in all of the events I participated in, including solos, ensembles, quintets, and trios.

I achieved many awards throughout middle school because of my interest in music. According to the Merit School of Music, "playing and learning an instrument increases brain power and functionality, resulting in a boosted IQ and improved concentration." This is why many people in the music program, including myself, perform highly in academics. Some of the awards I earned include, toppler of Advanced English, Talented Musician, BPA president, Honor Band, Honor Orchestra, and achieving second place nationally for an essay on Americanism.

Fast forward to the present, I am now in my freshman year of high school and I have once again received a position in NCHO and Red Carpet Honor Band. I am in the Ponca City Symphony Orchestra (directed by Mrs. Cochran) and Wind Ensemble Band (directed by Mr. Davis), the best music groups in Ponca City. I am in some of the best music and educational programs in Oklahoma and I thank all of my teachers and mentors for that. Thank you Mrs. Suzi and Mrs. Cochran for creating my passion in music, otherwise I would not be in the place I am today. Music is unstoppable.



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 Awards form JR 20-2 for rules regarding this \$1,500 annual award (\$500 2nd Place). The competition has a 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



SOUTHEASTERN REGION



ALABAMA

Troy Huang Rosa

Troy is a cheerful 7th-grade student at Jacksonville High School. He began learning piano at the age of seven and has been playing consistently ever since. He is enrolled in the Music Academy program at Jacksonville State University, where he has studied with various excellent teachers.

Troy has a deep appreciation for classical music, particularly the works

of Mozart. In addition to piano, he is an active member of his school's concert band, where he plays the trombone. When asked about his future, Troy says, "I'm not sure what I want to do yet, but music will definitely be a part of it."

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music heartbeat is unstoppable. It constantly evolves and changes with every generation. The only way music could "die" is if everything ceases to exist.

Music is unique and cannot truly duplicate another piece. It is inspired and original, staying with us through every challenge. Music adapts, evolving every day, and it will remain with humanity no matter what happens. It brings people together, binding us despite our differences, with its many forms and styles. Music has carried people through difficult times, offering solace and motivation when life feels insurmountable. It connects us, forming an unbreakable bond that transcends circumstances. Music will never stop; it is a force that endures, unyielding and eternal.

Music binds us all. Once it begins, it is difficult, if not impossible, to stop. Even when the people making music cease, its impact lingers. Music stays in our hearts, a universal thread we all share. Regardless of personal tastes or dislikes, music has something for everyone to enjoy.

Music is powerful enough to change the world. It takes many forms, even unconventional ones, reflecting its versatility. The appreciation of music lies in the eye of the beholder, and it has the ability to inspire and push people beyond their limits. Music defies efforts to suppress it, remaining an enduring presence. No matter how much force is applied against it, music persists. It is immortal, stretching back to the very existence of life itself, and it will always find a way to be enjoyed.

Even in the darkest of times, music thrives. Attempts to silence music only make it stronger, spreading from person to person, and even across species. Music is eternal—never-ending, never-stopping, and ever-changing. Whether it's doomsday or Armageddon, music will remain. It will persist through any extinction event, as long as the universe endures. Music prevails, surviving and thriving in all conditions.

Music is an intrinsic part of who we are. It exists in our minds, in our hearts, and in our lives. No matter how skilled or unskilled you may be at making music, you can still create it. Music is for everyone. It is a testament to human resilience, a beacon of creativity, and a timeless force that will never fade.



FLORIDA

Bryleigh Back

Bryleigh Back is a high school senior and dual enrolled student graduating in May 2025. She is planning on continuing her education at the University of Florida and will study Health Education and Behavior. After obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree from UF she plans on pursuing a Master's degree in Dietetics.

Bryleigh's ultimate goal is to become a registered dietician. In her free time Bryleigh's hobbies include playing the clarinet and bassoon in a local homeschool band class. She enjoys competing in the Florida Federation of Music Clubs and the Sacred Music competition each year. She also enjoys baking and fitness in her spare time.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music is often described as the universal language of the soul, transcending boundaries and uniting people from all walks of life. Whether it's the ancient chants of our ancestors or today's chart-topping hits, music has shaped human culture, history, and identity for millennia. It's more than sound—it's a force that stirs emotions, sparks creativity, and connects us to our shared humanity. Music is unstoppable.

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SOUTHEASTERN REGION *continued...*

Throughout history, music has played a pivotal role in shaping societies. One of the earliest examples can be found in the Bible, where Jubal, the “father of all those who play the lyre and pipe” (Genesis 4:21), is credited with introducing musical instruments to the world. King David, too, is remembered for playing the harp to soothe King Saul, illustrating how music was used for healing, worship, and emotional expression even in ancient times. From its earliest forms, music has been a constant companion in human life, used for entertainment, relaxation, and spiritual connection. Indeed, music is unstoppable.

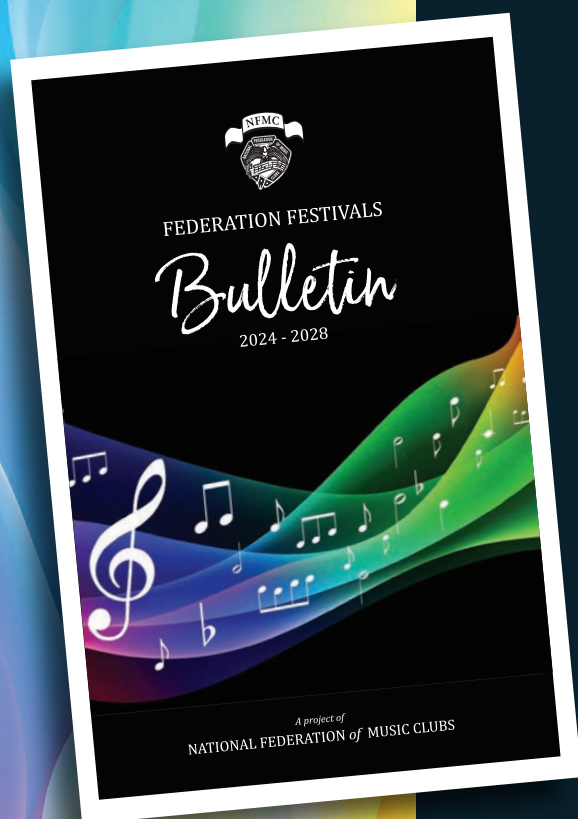
But music’s impact goes far beyond its ability to evoke emotions. A single melody can transport us to another time or place, triggering long-forgotten memories or feelings. It has the power to uplift, inspire, and console. A joyful song can make us dance; a melancholic tune can bring tears to our eyes. Music fuels our dreams, strengthens our resolve, and even helps us make sense of the world. It’s a vital force that shapes both individual and collective identities.

Culturally, music is an essential means of expression. Every culture has its own unique musical traditions, and each sees music as a reflection

of its values and beliefs. In Latin America, salsa embodies energy and joy; in New Orleans, jazz speaks to freedom and innovation; reggae in Jamaica conveys social and spiritual messages; and the blues in the United States gives voice to struggle and resilience.

Music often intertwines with dance, ritual, and celebration, providing a lens through which we can understand the heart of each culture. Native American communities have long used drumbeats and chants in spiritual ceremonies, while modern African cultures use song and rhythm to praise deities and connect with ancestors. In many societies, music is a vital part of both personal and communal life, marking milestones, celebrating victories, and offering solace in times of grief.

At its core, music is an integral part of human identity. It reflects who we are, where we come from, and what we believe. It’s a tool for cultural preservation, for telling stories, and for bringing people together. Whether it’s the timeless appeal of folk songs or the global influence of pop music, music continues to shape our world in profound ways. Ultimately, music has proven to be an unstoppable force in the human experience—one that continues to evolve, inspire, and unite us all.



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GEORGIA

Ayanna Modi

Ayanna Modi is a junior in high school who has been deeply involved in the realm of music since she was 10. Now, at 17, she aspires to continue her passion by spreading musical resources to all children.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

I met Jack while teaching at a tutoring center for special needs children. Jack, a ten-year-old boy with a bright, infectious smile, had a way of making every moment feel like part of an adventure. He was a musician—a prodigy whose heart seemed to beat in perfect rhythm with the world.

Jack's legs had stopped carrying him when he was very young. Despite the physical limitations that held him back from many things others took for granted, Jack was unshakable in his dreams. His music made him unstoppable.

Jack hummed when he rolled down hallways, drummed his fingers on the wheels of his chair, and sang melodies in perfect pitch. "One day," he would declare confidently, "I'm going to be the King of the World. And I'll have staircases that look like piano keys. Every step you take will play a different note. Those stairs will turn into a ramp for me, obviously."

His dream sounded like fantasy, but the conviction in his voice made it feel real. Jack wasn't just creating a metaphor—he was making music transcend boundaries. To him, music wasn't bound by notes on a page or confined to a concert hall. It was everywhere, in everything. It didn't matter that he couldn't walk those piano-key stairs—music was his way of soaring beyond them.

As his teacher, I was supposed to guide him, but it quickly became clear that Jack was the one teaching me. Despite his physical challenges, Jack never saw limits. Where others saw obstacles, Jack saw possibilities, especially when it came to music. One day, he sat at the piano in the center, fingers dancing across the keys as if he'd been born playing them. His improvisations were chaotic, joyful, and bursting with raw emotion. He would close his eyes and let the music flow, his face lighting up as if he could hear entire symphonies in his mind. And maybe he could.

Over time, I came to realize that Jack's idea of becoming the "King of the World" wasn't about power or grandeur. It was about music becoming a part of life itself, integrated into the very fabric of existence. Those piano key staircases in his future kingdom? They weren't just whimsical. They were symbolic of his unstoppable belief that music could transcend every barrier—physical, emotional, or intellectual. Even though he couldn't physically walk up stairs, music made him feel as though he could fly over them. Jack taught me that music isn't just a series of notes; it's an unstoppable force that connects us to something larger.

I realized that Jack wasn't just right about music—he was right about life. Music is unstoppable because it lives within us, uniting our hearts and

souls, and reminding us that there is always beauty to be found, even in the most unexpected places. And in Jack's world, that beauty will play from every staircase we climb—even the ones he imagined, where each step rings with the music that can never be stopped.



KENTUCKY

Ellianna Justus

Ellianna Justus is a dedicated pianist and musician from Lexington, Kentucky. She has played the piano for ten years under the directorship of Beth Mays and Rachel Taylor. Ellianna greatly enjoys learning advanced classical pieces. She also uses her skills to play hymn arrangements in church. Alongside the piano, Ellianna has played the flute in the Central

Kentucky Youth Orchestra and sings in the Lexington Singers Children's Choir. Finally, she teaches piano lessons to children.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

In the hushed recital hall, I powerfully threw my hands into the striking chord that unfolded the "Sonata no. 13," First Movement by Ludwig van Beethoven. Among the spellbound audience, my grandmother listened to me play. During the time I was learning the Beethoven Sonata, my grandmother simultaneously was recovering from unexpected paralysis. As I reflected back on this time, various memories created a timeline that brought together my journey learning the Sonata with my grandmother's path of walking again. Through this experience, I discovered that powerful music is an unstoppable force because it is interwoven into people's lives, inspiring unbelievable accomplishments.

The grievous introduction of the Sonata paralleled my grandmother's sudden paralysis. The shocking, opening chord depicted her inability to walk. Then, the slow tempo, minor notes, and fierce dynamics created somber sounds. Similarly, my grandmother's recovery was laborious and dismal. In her nursing home, creaking beds, persistent beeps, frightful cries, and screeching wheelchairs created an incessant, somber song. The never-ending sounds of the nursing home intertwined with the unstoppable notes of the piano. This united into an inspiring symphony, propelling me to continue learning the difficult piece as my grandmother persisted in pursuing walking again.

As I continued learning the Beethoven Sonata, I discovered that the ponderous introduction quickly transformed into a passionate melody. The song became a powerful soundtrack to the story of my grandmother's fervent effort to walk again. As I rehearsed the fast section, my hands quickly danced over the unceasing notes like a strong tornado in the wind. Repeatedly, I trained my hands to rapidly play the strenuous octave passages. Like this energetic section of music, my grandmother assiduously trained her legs to walk again through repeated physical therapy. The relentless section of the Beethoven Sonata portrayed the unstoppable undertaking my grandmother took to walk again.

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SOUTHEASTERN REGION *continued...*

On the day of my piano recital, I discovered that the Beethoven Sonata had been interwoven into my grandmother's life, inspiring two of her greatest accomplishments. In the recital hall, she sat listening to my performance of the Sonata. Afterwards, my grandmother told me she played this exact Beethoven Sonata over 50 years ago. Even though decades have passed, she remembered every note of the piece. For years, she talked about playing a long piano sonata by memory. However, I never knew that one of her highest achievements in piano was the same Beethoven Sonata I had been practicing while she was learning to walk again. The unstoppable music of the Beethoven Sonata echoed the greatest accomplishments in my grandmother's life, playing this powerful piece and walking again after persistent efforts.

The Beethoven "Sonata no. 13" never stopped in my grandmother's memory. We both powerfully played this ceaseless Sonata that stood the test of time. Through this, we discovered how intertwined it was in both of our lives, inspiring us to achieve impossible things. Music will continue inspiring people because music is unstoppable.



LOUISIANA

Elin Chen

Elin Chen is a 9th-grade student at Benjamin Franklin High School, a charter school in New Orleans, LA. She is an exceptional student with a strong academic record, consistently earning A grades in all her courses from elementary through high school. Beyond academics, Elin has a passion for the arts and actively participates in various artistic activities, including

drawing, ballet, and figure skating. She has received first and third-place awards for her work in painting and drawing, showcasing her creativity and talent. Elin began participating in debate competitions in the 4th grade. Over the past four years, she has achieved significant success in regional and national competitions, earning two first-place awards, two second-place awards, and four third-place awards. A dedicated pianist, Elin started learning piano at the age of six and has maintained a disciplined practice routine of one hour daily. Her commitment to music has earned her recognition in numerous domestic and international piano competitions. Elin's dedication to academics, the arts, and extracurricular activities highlights her well-rounded abilities and determination to excel in every endeavor she undertakes.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music—the language of the human soul, and one of the most formidable forces in the world. It is ubiquitous, universal. Unstoppable. Music mends broken hearts and comforts the mourning. It pieces together shattered souls, smoothing their jagged edges. It transforms the impossible into the possible and turns dreams into reality. With music, we can create and accomplish anything because music transcends all

boundaries. It knows no borders. Every culture on Earth, past or present, has created music, driven by humanity's innate yearning to connect, to feel, and to understand one another. Music allows us to do just that.

Even in the rhythm of everyday life, music is ever-present. The rustling of leaves, the click of a camera, the honking of cars in traffic, the pitter-patter of raindrops on a window, the melodic chirping of birds, or the steady ticking of a clock—these ordinary sounds form an unseen symphony. Music is all around us, embedded in the mundane, though most people fail to notice it. Life itself creates a rhythm that resonates within us, a reminder that music is woven into the fabric of existence.

Music conveys what words cannot. Whether it's a feeling, a motif, or an abstract concept, music has the power to ignite indescribable sensations within us. That is precisely why it is so profound. Music transcends gender, race, sexuality, and all other divisions. It has no requirements, restrictions, or rules. With music, there is complete freedom to express yourself—your identity, your beliefs, and how you wish to be seen. This freedom is why so many find solace in music. In a world that is ever-changing, where things come and go, music remains constant. It is the steady companion that helps us endure life's challenges and embrace change with courage and hope.

Music is more than sound; it is connection. It is comfort. It is inspiration. Music is beautiful. Music is boundless. Music... is unstoppable.



NORTH CAROLINA

Zaynah Khan

Zaynah Khan, a 16-year-old junior at Marvin Ridge High School, is an active member of her school community. She serves as Vice President of the Science and Engineering Research Club, Event Coordinator for the Anti-Human Trafficking Club, and Marketing Editor for the Literary Magazine. In addition to her leadership roles,

Zaynah is a passionate singer who has participated in various choir performances and she loves to compose pieces for piano. She has also earned four Piano Solo Superior ratings from the National Federation of Music Club Festival (District and North Carolina State). Zaynah has also received multiple awards for her mathematics research. For the past two years, she has volunteered as a performer at Summit Place at South Park Assisted Living Home, and has actively participated in initiatives to promote access to music in her community.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music is more than mere waves of sound traveling through the air; it is the movement of chords, rhythm, and lyrics that shape and mirror



the emotions of both its creator and consumer alike - a force that transcends any efforts to silence its impact on one's soul. Throughout history, music has served as a unifying force for revolution, a voice for the oppressed, a bridge between divided communities, a pillar of religion, and even a tool for social justice movements.

These so-called sound waves' ability to serve as both a catalyst and unifier for change demonstrates their strength. During the French Revolution, "La Marseillaise" by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, rang everywhere from battlefields to homes, rallying citizens together with its vision of liberty and equality. Similarly, during the Haitian Revolution, African drumming and Vodou ceremonial songs not only preserved cultural identity, but also became secret codes, symbolizing resistance and serving as a tool for one of the most successful uprisings in history.

Moreover, music transcends oppression. Spiritual hymns such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" by Wallace Willis and his daughter Minerva Willis, were offspring of the pain and tragedy of American slavery, yet amplified hidden messages of escape and hope. These hymns defied physical entrapments, mirroring the persistence and hope in the human spirit of individuals who were oppressed by the institution of slavery. Even in religion, music brings communities together, bridging faith and worship. Catholic congregations are unified by Gregorian chants, while Sufi songs such as Qawwali connect practitioners with their faith.

Music is also able to bridge incomprehensible divides, even in the most polarized societies. For example, during the apartheid era in South Africa, songs like "Nkosi Skelel' iAfrika" by Enoch Sontonga united activists who fought against racial segregation. Likewise, in religiously conflicted Northern Ireland, musical traditions that were shared by the Catholic and Protestant faiths created an avenue for practitioners to put aside their differences and connect, reminding them of the common humanity of religion.

Along with its capability to bridge divides, music has been a tool enlisted by social justice movements to amplify their voice and impact. During the U.S Civil Rights Movement, "We Shall Overcome," served as an anthem of solidarity and resilience. Furthermore, songs like Billie Holiday's, "Strange Fruit," and Sam Cooke's, "A Change Is Gonna Come," brought the brutal realities of racial injustice to the forefront of the social sphere, aiding the movement's demands for action and accountability. Reaching beyond protests, this music inspired people with visions of a more just world, maintaining hope during times of adversity.

Music overcomes physical, emotional, ideological, and spiritual barriers - resonating throughout the shared human experience. Whether as a catalyst of revolution, voice of justice, or unifying tune, music continues to prove that it cannot be silenced. Thus, it is a crime to claim that music is simply some arbitrary amalgamation of sound waves: music is unstoppable.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Josie Barrineau

Josie Barrineau, age 16, lives in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. She has been studying piano for 8 years, the last 4 years being under the direction of Dan McCurry. Josie is a student at the Charleston County School of the Arts as a piano major.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music is unstoppable because it is the core of human expression. It is universally shared throughout the world by everyone. From simple melodies to complex songs, music is inspirational and can spark emotions and create memories that last forever. The word music is unstoppable because the opportunities it offers are limitless. Music creates lifestyles and can change people's outlook on life. Music is timeless and has evolved for centuries allowing new instruments to be created to fit the many genres we have today. It is more powerful than words because you can communicate stories, emotions, and new feelings from a simple song without needing lyrics. Music provides jobs and lifestyles for many people. From playing music to listening to it, music provides indescribable feelings. Each genre of music can set moods such as reggae on the beach, rock music in the car, or jazz music to dance. The invincibility of music is extraordinarily unique. Music exemplifies the originality of one's personality by creating rhythms and etudes that propel individuals to feel the beat within their souls. Music can be communicated through anyone regardless of what language you speak. It has the ability to break language barriers and evoke shared emotions. Music unifies groups of people and creates a shared feeling of tranquillity. It is pretty amazing to think that Western harmony, the music most commonly listened to, is only comprised of 12 notes. Which is another reason music is unstoppable.

Music is unstoppable to me because, without it, my life would be altered completely. Throughout my whole life, I have always been around music. When I started playing piano, my perspective on music greatly changed. From only listening to music and yearning for the ability to play to now writing my own songs and attending an art school primarily to play piano, I was introduced to a whole new outlook on music. Having the ability to play piano has changed my life and created so many new, amazing opportunities for meeting people who share the same interests as me. Music is unstoppable because you never stop learning from it. Even people who we consider masters of music still learn from it every day. Music is unstoppable for me because whenever I listen to someone at a higher playing level than I perform, it inspires me so much that oftentimes it sends goosebumps up my arms. Listening to them perform the same instrument as you but at a higher skill level allows you to believe in yourself and motivates me by raising the goals I set for myself. Once you find yourself learning more about music, you will become unstoppable just like it.

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SOUTHEASTERN REGION *continued...*



VIRGINIA

Jacob Liu

Recent accomplishments:

- Performed in Eastern Mennonite University piano festival, received superior rating.
- Performed in Springfield Musical Club Spring festival, received superior rating.

- Honors Student at Horowitz studio fall festival.
- RCM first class honors for both levels 5 & 7.
- Performed at SMC Sonata/Sonatina Festival, received superior rating.
- Performed in the State Music Festival, received superior rating.
- Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Sonata Competition, received highest rating possible (excellent) and second round honors.
- National Federation of Music Clubs' Federation Festival, received superior rating.
- Currently Preparing for RCM level 8 and multiple festivals and competitions.
- Preparing for Baroque competition and Golden Key Competition.

Other Hobbies:

- Sports: Basketball, Table Tennis, Rock-Climbing(Indoor).
- Singing/Listening to music.
- Reading.



MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

"Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the Universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good and just and beautiful." - Plato.

I close my eyes, and picture walking up The Great Wall of China. In my vivid daydream, I gaze at the vastly stretched wall and the grand mountains that surround it, and I start to hear Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5" gliding through my head. I hear this theme when I picture the Great Wall of China because of the wall's dramatic and tragic history, where many lost their lives constructing and fighting on the wall. I believe this piece represents the history of the Great Wall well, given its dramatic style and composer. From the moment I was born, music has always captivated my attention like a diamond to a thief. No matter what mood I am in, music has never failed to comfort me in a fashion no other thing will ever be able to. It holds a key place in my life, dreams, aspirations, relationships, emotions, and faith. Even though my tastes in music have changed many times, starting in the world of pop, to a mix of classical and jazz, music has never failed to deeply touch both my spirit and soul. The dates of competitions, festivals, and recitals rack themselves in my brain and drive my perseverance in and through life. As an aspiring musician, my daily life is never organized with "five days until the weekend". It's "two weeks until my next piano competition". Music isn't just inside of me; it's a part of me. Through my whole being, there rings a statement crystal clear. Music is unstoppable.

As I walk down the street,
I hear rhythms and tones,
Crystalline melodies,
Breathy trombones.
I hear silky voices,
While piano keys ring,
My spirit rejoices,
A bird and its wings.
More delicate notes shine,
Such as the twinkling of bells,
Glitter like a gold mine,
Or children's wishes in a well.
Through love, death,
Motion and change,
Music is my breath,
Ideas exchanged.
Through life's confusion,
One fact remains unshockable,
It's not an illusion,
Music. Is. Unstoppable.





WESTERN REGION



ARIZONA

Jeshurun Borra

Jeshurun Borra is a 13-year-old 7th grader who attends Gilbert Christian Schools-Greenfield campus. He lives in Gilbert, Arizona.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music is a topic that transcends life! From the chirping birds to the loud rock bands, music is everywhere and most importantly, unstoppable. Just imagine a world without music - it will be dull and monotonous! There would be only noise and sound

but no soul or color to our world! Music has been an important part of human history since the earliest civilizations! Even many centuries later, music continues to play a major role in societies influencing every part of human life!

Music is everywhere around us! Think about it, it's even within us! Your heart is an instrument making rhythmic music every time it beats. Music also inspires creativity and innovation, making it resilient against whatever is thrown at it! Music also has a remarkable power to change our mood, impacting how we feel, act, and communicate with others. It has the ability to lift us up when we are feeling low and multiply our joy in the happiest moments. Music shapes our personalities, influences our emotions, and helps build our character. It shows that we can be unstoppable, just like music! The fact that music continues to inspire many artists and impact lives in many ways proves that music is truly unstoppable.

Music is a part of nature! Think of the chirping birds, crash of the waves, the gentle breeze that makes the leaves dance to its rhythm, the crackling of firewood, the pitter-patter sound of raindrops hitting the ground and even in the calls of the animals! Even the mundane sounds around us, when paid attention, will be sweet music to our ears! As long as there is nature, there will be music!

The dictionary defines music as an art form that expresses ideas and emotions with melody, rhythm, and harmony. Music has been there since the beginning of time and it has affected the cultures and influenced people through many generations. Music transcends barriers of language, culture, and nationality, bringing people together in ways that words alone cannot. It offers a new language with new dimensions to look at the world and a way to express what we feel and experience, helping us connect with others on a deeper level to express ourselves and build each other up! With advancement in different technologies, new instruments are created almost every day making music more vibrant and fun. It is also proven that music reduces stress and anxiety in moments.

In conclusion, music's presence in every aspect of our lives—from the rhythms of our bodies to the sounds of nature to the different forms of music—demonstrates its undeniable influence on us! As long as there is humanity surrounded by nature, there will be unstoppable music with its unshakable influence!



COLORADO

Jael Schuck

Jael Schuck was born the fourth child of a very musical family. She has been homeschooled for her entire education by a couple of brilliant parents. She lives on a farm outside of Colorado Springs and Frantkown, Colorado.

She has raised rabbits and participated in Four-H. Jael is a gifted dancer and pianist. She can improvise a piece that is original on request.

She has been playing piano 10 years and loves Grieg and anything fast. She is a long time NFMC Festival participant and a member of the Mile High Music Makers Junior Club.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

I cannot remember a time I have not been surrounded by music. From singing a capella at church, to listening to my siblings' practicing piano, to eventually having my own music lessons, many of my early memories revolve around music. So do many of my recent memories—learning cello, discussing dominant seventh chords and the analogies they present, precenting psalms at church, singing spontaneously with my family in the kitchen. Such musical memories are valuable to me, always ready for me to recall. Music is unstoppable. It transcends time and differences and human emotions to continue as itself, always changing and growing, and yet always the same, as it always has been and as it ever will be.

Music is unstoppable by time. Musical instruments were one of the first things mankind began crafting. In the Bible, Genesis 1-2 recounts the history of creation; just two chapters later, Genesis mentions Jubal, the father, or founder, of all who play the lyre and pipe. Music has been around since nearly the beginning of time, and ever since, it has continued to develop. Music will always exist. Another way music transcends time is seen in what happens when I try to play a repertoire piece of music from years past. Usually after one or two run-throughs, I can get it to sound nearly as good as it was years ago, because the music remains in my brain and fingers, just waiting to spring out and stand the test of time.

Secondly, music surpasses human differences. Music and the emotive themes contained therein cross language barriers, making themselves known to anyone. It was in the singing of "Silent Night" that the World War I Christmas truce unfolded between the Germans and the Allies. The Jewish exiles to Babylon found solace, justice, and unity in singing the Psalms. No matter the division or trial, music stirs people's very souls, bringing connection and healing.

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WESTERN REGION *continued...*

Lastly, music transcends even death. Perhaps the most obvious manifestation of this is in the fact that when a composer dies, their music lives on to grow, change, and inspire. But music is unstoppable by death in more ways than this. In Revelation 15, the Bible tells of those who have died and are now in heaven singing. Music will be waiting for us there. Music also brings comfort through the grief of death, allowing sorrow to overflow into chords and words and melody. Not even death or grief of death can stop the power and purpose of music.

Music is a glorious thing, moving hearts and souls, and letting light into dark places. Even the worst trials in life, whatever tribulations we fear most, are still surpassed by music. It goes on, and it always will go on, existing, encompassing, and encouraging. Music will always cross the barrier, because it must. Music is unstoppable.



IDAHO

Malia Studer

Malia Studer, an eleventh-grade student at Renaissance High School, enjoys writing and playing piano. She has been studying piano since kindergarten and loves exploring different musical styles. Her passion for creativity extends to writing, where she was honored to win NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Music has always been the heartbeat of my family, passed down from generation to generation like an heirloom. Growing up, I watched my grandfather play the piano with a kind of reverence that left everyone in the room silent, mesmerized. He had an unshakable connection to music, one that seemed to capture you in that moment. His melodies weren't just notes; they were emotions woven into stories. He often quoted, "Music doesn't stop for anyone, Malia. It finds its way, no matter what." Those words have stayed with me, even more so since his passing last July. Losing my grandfather felt like losing a piece of myself. Yet, in the silence that followed his absence, I found solace in music—the very thing he cherished. It wasn't just about sitting at the piano anymore; it became a way to connect with him, to feel his presence. I'd close my eyes and play the same songs he taught me, imagining his hands guiding mine. This passion didn't stop at the piano, however.

Inspired by him, I've explored other instruments, like the cello, and found joy in discovering their unique voices. Music became my lifeline—a thread of continuity when life felt fractured. But music doesn't only exist in the playing. It's in the listening, too. When I listen to a moving piece, whether it's Beethoven or a pop ballad, something

shifts inside me. Science tells us why: music stimulates the brain's reward system, releasing dopamine, the "feel-good" chemical. It can reduce cortisol levels, easing stress, and even synchronize brain activity across different regions, fostering creativity and memory. When I'm feeling overwhelmed or unsure of myself, music helps me refocus and re-center. It's as though my brain understands the language of music better than words.

Music's psychological effects go beyond individuals. Studies show that listening to music in groups fosters connection and empathy, creating shared emotional experiences. My family gatherings often feel like proof of this. We don't need to speak much when someone sits down at the piano, and others join in with a simple tone of voice. Music unites us without explanation, a reminder that while my grandfather may be gone, his legacy lives on in the notes we share. In a world that often feels chaotic and unpredictable, music is a constant—a language that endures through loss, hardship, and change. My grandfather's words, "Music finds its way," ring true now more than ever. Music has shaped who I am and how I see the world. It is unstoppable, not only because it can overcome personal struggles and foster human connection but because it is rooted in something unbreakable: the human spirit. As I continue to pursue music, I am reminded that it's not just an art form but a force that can heal, inspire, and endure. My family's legacy of music is one I carry with me every day, a reminder that even in silence, music never truly stops—it finds a way to keep playing.



WYOMING

Evaline Hieronymus

Evaline Hieronymus is an eighth grader at Eagleview Middle School in Colorado Springs. She has been playing the piano for 7 years, is part of the Mile High Music Makers Junior Club and has participated in NFMC Festivals for the past three years. She loves to play concertos.

Evaline has a great concern about justice and the feelings of others.

She has been chosen to play solo pieces for her school choir during their interludes and helps with service projects at school.

As a champion rock climber, she knows how to reach for high levels of accomplishment.

MUSIC... IS UNSTOPPABLE

Since the beginning of time, human beings have made music. In Greek mythology, Apollo was the symbol for the lyre, which is most likely the most important musical instrument in Greece's culture. The Babylonian people used drums for both secular and worship



purposes. In tropical places like Polynesia or Hawaii, the indigenous people used conch shells and instruments made from animal bones to hold rituals. Later on, it was used in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. It has been alive and viable since time immemorial. Music carries people through adversity and they come out stronger.

During Plessy vs. Ferguson, it was ruled by the Supreme Court that segregation was legal as long as it was separate but equal. Many erroneous people used this as an excuse to shun African American people and create a world of segregation. Through this all, gospel and spiritual hymns and songs such as "We Shall Overcome" helped peoples' morale and bolstered them to keep fighting for basic human rights. The Civil Rights Act, which was made by former president Lyndon B. Johnson, eradicated the injustice of segregation and music continues to play an important role in many African American traditions and celebrations today.

Next, music is unstoppable because it was created when humans and homo sapiens evolved 300,000 years ago and continues to this day. Music has been alive and thriving throughout human history. Many studies suggest that cave people used bone flutes as instruments and they used their own voice to create melodies. As society

developed, musicians were prized as both small village and high court entertainment. In current years, musicians and rock stars are celebrities garnering huge audiences for live concerts and recorded music. After all this time, music has still survived and is used in everyday life for relaxation, therapy, and worship.

Ultimately, music is unstoppable even through adversity. Nazis sent persecuted people to concentration camps (LGBTQ+ people, Romani, and Jewish people and supposed criminals) as they were marginalized for their appearance or culture. However, prisoners of the labor camps found the inspiration to write concertos and full symphonies while incarcerated. Researchers and scientists are just discovering many of these musical revelations. Even though people were experiencing the most trying of times, they found refuge and solace in utilizing music, an age-old device of humankind.

Music is employed as an important tool all over the world and has been for the last millennium. Music is valued throughout history, from its important place in the Civil Rights Movement to the role it plays in the face of adversity. Overall, it's been used in many different forms and called on to play different roles, but it is always unstoppable in the moment where it matters most. **JK**



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- \$25 NFMCF Celebrate Strings
- \$25 International Relations

Deadline May 15

- \$500 ASCAP Institutional High School Award
- \$250 American Music Award
- \$25 Just Jazz! Awards



Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award

by Debra Hughes, Chair

NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award was judged on the following criteria: Message, Poetic Devices, Creativity and Overall Effectiveness. It was a delight to read all of the entrants' poems. There was such a wonderful menagerie of beautiful writing submitted by all the Juniors who participated.

Congratulations to the 5 regional winners:

Southeastern Region winner:
Sean Lane - *"United in Music"*

Northeastern Region winner:
Hana Tsai - *"A Moment on Stage"*

South Central Region winner:
Aendri Srivastava - *"Music's Embrace"*

North Central Region winner:
Arabella Kang - *"Music"*

Western Region winner:
Malia Studer - *"Symphony of Silence"*



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Arabella Kang

Illinois

Arabella Kang is in 8th grade at Unity Christian School in Energy, Illinois. She studies four instruments: violin with Professor Michael Barta, piano with Dr. Junghwa Lee, organ with Dr. James Reifinger, and cello with Ms. Eunice Koh. She plays the cello in the

Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys reading books and writing poetry in her free time.

"Music"

by Arabella Kang of Carbondale, IL (teacher Junghwa Lee)

Music is like spring
Bright, green buds
Breaking through the frost
Like a fragile flower called hope

Music is like summer
Intense like the summer heat
With splashes of cool
Makes us long for it
If we can't have it

Music is like autumn
Every note carefully played
Like a beautiful color
That floats down from the trees

Music is like winter
The cold affects us all
Yet with frozen hands and each hoarse voice
Music brings us together
in the bleak, hopeless times

Music is life
Always flowing and awakening hearts
Music is all this and more
Never forget
So when bad seasons come around
Treat it as a friend





NORTHEASTERN REGION

Hana Tsai

New York

Hana Tsai, 16, is a student at The Spence School in New York City and studies violin at Juilliard Pre-College under Elizabeth Chang. She performs in a piano trio as part of the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Program. Beyond music, she enjoys reading, writing, and photography, exploring creativity in all forms.

"A Moment on Stage"

by **Hana Tsai of New York, NY (teacher Elizabeth Chang)**

I bring the violin up to my chin
A deep breath pulls me in,
Hovering over the strings,
The eyes in the front row blur,
And the backstage anxiety melts away,

The stage becomes mine,
As the bow strokes the silence,
Drawing out the first note,
Barber's Violin Concerto hums through me,
The tender melody bringing the nostalgia of my grandfather-

I'm seven again,
Curled on the floor next to my grandfather,
He snores a gentle rhythm in the background,
The carpet beneath me is soft, furry,

- And now, standing underneath the spotlight,
I remember that his voice is gone,
That I can no longer hear his gentle snores
Or feel the warmth of his presence nearby

I touch the strings, and there's a hollow space
Where his laughter once filled the air,
He passed quietly, as the evening sun dipped low,
A soft breath, then nothing more,

I was too young to grasp it then,
But I know now, as the music plays,
That he's here in every note,
A person woven into the melody,

For a moment, it's as if he's beside me again,
Listening, a gentle smile lingering,
And I play, letting the music carry me back,
Back to those moments on the carpet.



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Aendri Srivastava

Missouri

I am **Aendri Srivastava**. I'm a 5th grader at Greenwood Laboratory School in Springfield, Missouri. I am 10 years old. I learn piano from Cindy Dittrich and am part of Dittrich Studio. My activities include swimming, Girls on the Run, piano, robotics, dance, and archery. I enjoy writing, reading, coloring, and parkour on monkey bars.

"Music's Embrace"

by **Aendri Srivastava of Springfield, MO (teacher Cindy Dittrich)**

When playing music
A fog lifts from my mind
A weight once heavy
Now fades into the rhythm

Feeling lighter and lighter
As I see the notes around
Smiling at me,
Happier and freer as I go

I see the world anew
Vibrant and clear
My spirit soars high
And music's beauty blooms



continued on page 31



ELEVATE YOUR ARTISTRY AT PEABODY PIANO WEEK

Take your playing to the next level under the guidance of distinguished Peabody Conservatory and Preparatory faculty. Whether you're a college or high school student preparing for auditions or a dedicated teen artist seeking intensive training, this program is your gateway to artistic excellence.

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SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Sean Lane
North Carolina

My name is **Sean Lane**, and I'm a Senior at Davie High School in North Carolina. I'm involved in my school's band and Red Cross Club where I am able to organize blood drives to make a positive impact in my community! I serve as the church pianist for Sunday worship at one of our local churches and have played

both percussion and piano in our high school Jazz Band. Currently, I have a working internship for the town of Mocksville, NC and upon graduation from Davie High this spring I will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall of 2025. I've been a member and participant of NFMF since my Elementary school years, and am fortunate to have participated in the NFMF Federation Festival held at Wake Forest University, since my first year in piano. I have also been a yearly contributor to this annual writing event for the Angie Greer Music in Poetry contest. I hope you enjoy reading about the impact music can have through NFMF at the United Nations level and our emphasis that music is the international language. NFMF has been a member of the UN since 1949 and if you are interested in learning more about our role, please visit our national website, nfmf-music.org. Thank you for reading my entry "United in Music."

"United in Music"

by Sean Lane of Advance, NC (teacher Teresia Ann Queen)

The cadence of the voices ring
As nations together, united, sing
NFMF, A United Nations advocate
Striving to make noises
Striving
Passionate

To make noise heard from around the world
A signal of peace
A universal sign
That music isn't theirs, just his, or mine

It's ours - belonging to a world that is separate, but somehow united
A language
No translation needed
A heart
That is all
That's all it takes to hear it call

It heals, it binds, it joins, it brings
Life is better with music in our wings
As we fly
As we fly
As we fly to each corner of the globe
With love
With life
We can't let music go

That's the goal
The survival of music
A United Nations advocate
NFMF Unites through Music
Striving
Passionate



WESTERN REGION

Malia Studer
Idaho

Malia Studer, an eleventh-grade student at Renaissance High School, enjoys writing and playing piano. She has been studying piano since kindergarten and loves exploring different musical styles.

Her passion for creativity extends to writing, where she was honored to win NFMF Angie Greer Music Poetry Award.

"Symphony of Silence"

by Malia Studer of Eagle, ID (teacher Cynthia Waldon)

The air hums soft with whispered strings,
A ghostly chord that bands and clings.
The moonlight spills in silver streams,
Like echoes drawn from ancient dreams.
A lone piano, poised and still,
Awaits the touch, the artist's will.
Its ivory keys, both bright and worn,
Hold stories sung and sorrows sworn.
A violin sighs, a bow takes flight,
Its voice a thread of liquid light.
The cello weeps in hollow tones,
A melody of hearts and bones.
Yet in the hush between each sound,
A deeper music stirs unbound.
Not notes, nor chords, nor measured time,
But silence wrought in perfect rhyme.
For in the breath before release,
Resides the song of boundless peace.



Regional News

WESTERN REGION

Practice for Disaster

On August 8, 2023, devastating wildfires struck Lāhainā, Upper Kula, Upper Makawao, and Olinda on the island of Maui, Hawaii. The impact of these fires was profound, making it one of the deadliest U.S. wildfires in at least the past century.

Lāhainā was a community of extremes leading up to that fateful day—a hub for tourists and businesses while many residents faced daily struggles to pay the rent. In particular, Lahaina Junior High School has been highlighted as a place in need of assistance. The band director, Mark Gilmore, had to repair instruments on a daily basis.

Students from the Western Region have raised over \$3,000 through generous donations for their time spent practicing. We were able to purchase two flutes and four saxophones.

Attached are some pictures featuring a few of these remarkable students who have stepped up to make a difference for Lahaina.

This is a list of teachers and supporters who raised money for the Practice for Disaster fundraiser: Karen Almquist, Melinda Bliss, Ruth Brown, Pauline Eidemiller, Jane Evers, Kimberly Fairborn, Virginia Feitelson, Jill Foster, Wilma Hawkins, Risa Jun, Wohnte Kim, Hsieh Lee, Cheryl Langley, Weiwen Liu, Chang Lo, Betty Make, Shattuck McKenzie, Maria Nelson, M. Ochsner, Janet & Olivia Oruh, Sandra Preysz, Carolyn Richter, LaRayne Rowland, Holly Seneker, Liu Tang, Janice Walters and Rui Zhai.

Thank you once again for your support. The Western Region is currently looking for the next musical program to support.



Jackson Bliss, student of Melinda Bliss.



Sydney Goldenberg, Audrey Choi, Lily Choi, Harmony Feitelson, Hannah Choi, students of Virginia Feitelson.



CLAIRE ULRICH WHITEHURST PIANO AWARD

By Marcia Chaplin, *Chair*

THERE'S STILL TIME!

If you are currently a piano student in grades 9,10 or 11 and are hoping to win \$500.00 entering an NFMC piano competition, I have great news! You still have time!

The Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Award is available in even numbered years (**2026**) to high school pianists (grades 10,11,12) under the age of 19 as of March 1, 2026. All entries must be NFMC Members. The first-place winner will receive \$500 and the second-place winner will receive \$250. Applicants must submit a recording of their 15–20-minute performance by **March 1, 2026**.

The repertoire requirements information can be found on the NFMC website (nfmc-music.org). Just hover over *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 student interested in this award, now is the time to begin preparing.

State Buzz

FLORIDA

NFMC Junior Festival 2025 Florida Federation of Music Clubs

Submitted by Lisa Moore

Co-Chair Lake Central Festival/Orlando

It was a whirlwind of activity at our big festival weekend in Orlando, Florida. Many volunteers pitched in to help manage over 1,300 events. Busy bees! YES – and the weather cooperated: a beautiful sunny day! Most things went off without a hitch. A resounding success for one and all!

We are delighted that many participants continue year-after-year in the NFMC Festivals Program. Bristol Kivett is now performing in her 4th year. Bristol plays in the Piano Solo category. She has also participated in FFMFC State Junior Convention twice. Teacher Lori May says that Bristol is a very hard-working piano student who loves playing many genres of music. She enjoys being in both musical theater and softball.



Bristol Kivett

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville Melody and Harmony Junior clubs

Greenville Melody and Harmony Junior clubs served soup for the GWMC Annual Scholarship and Award Fundraiser.

The evening meal was a variety of homemade soups, salads, and scrumptious desserts. Crafts were sold and beautiful themed baskets were won by attendees!

These are two of three clubs sponsored by the Greenville Woman's Music Club.



continued on page 34

State Buzz ...continued

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Junior Federation News

Tennessee is excited to welcome 8 new Junior Music Clubs!

These are:

Jamie's Music Jewels – Jamie Barnum – Nashville; Belmont Academy JMC- Carrie Kimbrough- Nashville; Prestissimo Piano Club – Laura Triplett – Memphis; Dolce JMC – Gina Ayers – Knoxville; Musical Adventurers – Jaclyn DuKuiper – Nashville; Clavier Kids – Jessica Hill – Murfreesboro; Youth Pianist of Nashville – Selah Torralba- Nashville, and Sound Works JMC – Marcel Stowe – Clarksville.

The Tennessee Junior Federation members are busy preparing for Festival. Not only will students enter the Piano Events, but several students are preparing for Voice, Violin, and other Instrumental Events. Required Solos and Choice Solos have been chosen, and students are practicing for the Theory Tests. Several students will enter additional events. Some of these Junior Clubs have presented recitals during the fall semester. The Hendersonville Music Makers, led by Bobette Spear, held a costume recital in October to celebrate Halloween. After playing their solos, students played Music Bingo and later enjoyed refreshments. These students also performed Christmas Music at a Luncheon at the Saundersville United Methodist Church in December. Karen Hedges had her Shiloh Music Stars perform a Christmas recital for the residents at Charter Senior Living.

Students in Memphis and Murfreesboro will have an opportunity to participate in Festival with new locations and teachers added. Andre Duvall is assisting with the Festival in Memphis, and Dr. Sherri Stoner-Harris is the Chair for the Murfreesboro Festival. In Clarksville, the West Creek High School Advanced Orchestra has registered 28 of their 42 members for the Festival. The director of this program is Zenas Alexander. He is very excited to have these high school students add Festival to their busy schedules.



Performance for residents of Charter Senior Living



Students of Karen Hedges (Shiloh Music Stars from Shiloh Music Center in Mt Juliet, TN)



DANCE AWARDS

\$2,500 THELMA A. ROBINSON BALLET AWARD
DEADLINE FEB. 1ST

\$400 DANCE AWARDS IN BALLET OR THEATRE DANCE (JAZZ, LYRICAL OR TAP)
DEADLINE MAY 1ST



WASHINGTON STATE

Yelena Balabanova, one of our teachers from the North Sound Federated Music Club, had 13-year-old student Jimmy Huang perform the Rachmaninoff 2 Piano Concerto with a full orchestra at an event held in December. Congratulations to Yelena and to Jimmy!

Sally Palmer, a teacher from the Overlake Federated Music Club, held the annual Sally L. Palmer Music Studio Ensemble Recital in November. One of the most exciting things to happen in this event is when students want to participate in an ensemble with a parent and sibling. For example, Chloe Smith wanted to play a duet with her mother, Kristen, and Neal Patten had the honor of accompanying, on the piano, his mother, Deepa, playing a flute solo. Always a successful recital.

In 2024, WSFMC shared several “composer” Facebook posts, highlighting new compositions found in the new Festivals Bulletin. We also showed our support on Facebook for several community events sponsored by the likes of the Seattle Symphony, Kirkland Performance Center, Edmonds Center for the Arts, Tacoma Arts Live, Dance Theatre of Harlem held at the Paramount Theatre, 5th Avenue Theatre, Ladysmith Black Mambazo at the Neptune Theatre, Seattle Theatre Group, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Moore Theatre, and so many more. Musicals, instrumental concerts, workshop opportunities, vocal concerts, dance productions – we felt all of these were worth mentioning in our social media. We love supporting the Arts here in Washington State!



Chloe Smith and mom Kristen Smith

WISCONSIN

On Saturday, January 11, the Lake Country Music Club hosted composer Christopher Goldston for a master class and showcase of publications from Goldston Music. The event was well-attended, and everyone really enjoyed an opportunity to meet the composer in person! You can learn more about the Lake Country Music Club at www.lakecountrymusicclub.org and more about publications from Goldston Music at www.goldstonmusic.com.





2024-25 NFMC AWARDS-AT-A-GLANCE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

President: Deborah Freeman

2024-2025 COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS CHART

Competitions and Awards Board & Division Chair:

Lucinda Lear, lmlear@mchsi.com



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	NFMC Chair
NFMC Claire Ulrich Whitehurst (Flanagan) Piano Awards	PIANO SOLO	High School: Grades 10-11-12 Must not have reached 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$500 1st Place (for further study) \$250 2nd Place	March 1, even Numbered years	Marcia Chaplin 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	\$750 (Intermediate) \$1,500 (High School)	March 1, odd numbered years	Lisa Smith lcspiano@hotmail.com
NFMC Thelma A. Robinson Award in Ballet honoring a Past National President	BALLET	12 -14	\$20	\$2,500	February 1, odd numbered years	Beth Lee bethlee0123@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	NFMC Chair
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 Martha Marcks Mack Junior Vocal Award	VOCAL	High School Grades: 10 – 11 – 12 Must not have reached the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,500 - 1st Place \$1,000 - 2nd Place \$500 – 3rd Place	March 1	Kristin Ivers 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 19th birthday by May 1	\$10	\$1,500 – 1st Place \$500 – 2nd Place	May 1	Lana Bailey zblb@verizon.net
NFMC Joyce Walsh Junior Awards for Individuals with Special Needs	INSTRUMENTAL and VOCAL	Must have reached the 12th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$2,500—1st Place \$2,000—2nd Place 1 - \$1,000 award in each of the five regions.	March 1	Debbie Wisner djwisner@gmail.com
NFMC Stillman Kelley National Instrumental Awards	INSTRUMENTAL	Must not have reached the 19th birthday by March 1	\$10	\$2,000 – 1st Place (for further study) \$1,000 – 2nd Place \$750 – 3rd Place 5 regional awards @ \$500 each	March 1	Jason Sifford jason@siffordmusic.com
NFMC Thelma Byrum Piano Award in Stillman Kelley Auditions. (Kelley & Byrum awards cannot be applied for separately)	PIANO			\$750 for further study	March 1	

ANNUAL JUNIOR AWARDS (continued...)

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	NFMC Chair
NFMC Benzinger/Valentin Junior Music for the Blind Performance Awards	INSTRUMENTAL and VOCAL	Must have reached the 10th birthday but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,000 – 1st Place \$500 – 2nd Place 1 - \$250 award in each of the five NFMC Regions	March 1	Dianne Williamson dwillia879@aol.com
NFMC Dance Awards (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap)	BALLET and THEATER DANCE	Must have reached the 11th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	Age 11-14: Ballet and/or Theater Dance (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap) \$200 – 1st Place \$100 – 2nd Place Age 15-18: Ballet and/or Theater Dance (Jazz, Lyrical or Tap) \$400 – 1st Place \$200 – 2nd Place	May 1	Lisa Moore lisa.moore@ffmc-music.org
NFMC Mary Alice Cox Awards	CELLO OR DOUBLE BASS	Must not have reached the 19th birthday as of application deadline	\$20	\$2,500 – 1st Place \$1,500 – 2nd Place \$1,000 - 3rd Place	March 1	Anna Cosma themusicalpiano@gmail.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	Dianne Williamson dwillia879@aol.com
NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Awards	POETRY	Must not have reached the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$5	\$100 in each of the five NFMC Regions	February 1	Debra Hughes 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 (to regional chair)	Gloria Lien Gloria.hope.lien@gmail.com
NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Awards	VIOLA	Must have reached the 12th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$2,000 – 1st Place \$1,000 – 2nd Place 1 - \$500 Award in each of the 5 NFMC Regions	March 1	Dr. George Keck keckg@att.net
Marilyn Caldwell Piano Awards	PIANO SOLO	High School Grades 10-11-12	\$10	\$1,250 – 1st Place \$750 – 2nd Place	March 1	Christine Vitt cvittpiano@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	\$5,000	May 1	Michael R. Edwards micedwards@aol.com

JUNIOR COMPOSERS

Sam Ecoff, secoff@wfmc-music.org

Name	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application
Class I	9 and under	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$150-1st Place, \$125-2nd Place, and 2 incentive awards at \$100 each	February 1 to National Chair; contact chair for state deadline
Class II	10-12	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$175-1st Place, \$125-2nd Place, and 2 incentive awards at \$100 each	See Above
Class III	13-15	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$225-1st Place, \$175-2nd Place, and \$150-3rd-Place John and Margaret Pierson award; 3 Incentive Awards \$125 each	See Above
Class IV	16-18	\$5 per entry plus state entry fee	\$300-1st Place, \$200-2nd Place, \$150-3rd Place Olga Klein Nelson Award, and 4 Incentive Awards of \$150. \$250—Outstanding string composition. \$150—Outstanding piano composition, Laura K. Wilson Memorial Award honoring Dorothy Dann Bullock.	See Above
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 nfmc-music.org or ordered from NFMF Headquarters, info@nfmc-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, nfmc-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.

National Federation of Music Clubs

1646 West Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN 46142
Telephone: (317) 882-4003 • info@nfmc-music.org

nfmc-music.org

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

JUNIOR AWARD OPPORTUNITIES



AWARD AMOUNT	AWARD	APPLICATION DEADLINE
\$75 in all 50 states	National Music Week Essay Contest	January 10
\$2,500	Robinson Ballet Award	February 1 (even year)
\$2,000	Wendell Irish Viola Award	February 1
\$2,000	Stillman Kelley Instrumental Award	February 1
\$100	Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award	February 1
\$2,500	Joyce Walsh Disability Award	March 1
\$2,500	Mary Alice Cox Strings Award	March 1
\$1,500	Martha Mack Junior Vocal Award	March 1
\$1,250	Marilyn Caldwell Piano Award	March 1
\$1,000	Music for the Blind Composition Award	March 1
\$1,000	Music for the Blind Performance Award	March 1
\$500	Whitehurst Piano Award	March 1 (even year)
\$1,500	Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award	March 1 (odd year)
\$5,000	Michael Edwards Graduating Senior Award	May 1
\$1,500	Lana Bailey Piano Concerto Award	May 1
\$400	Dance Award	May 1
\$300	Junior Composers Award	Varies by state

For award requirements and application forms visit the NFMF website @ www.nfmc-music.org

NFMF HEADQUARTERS

1646 W Smith Valley Road / Greenwood, IN 46142-1550

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Submit all materials to the *Junior Keynotes* Editor by the time frame listed:

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

Copy and Advertising Due Dates:

- August 1 – Fall Issue
- November 1 – Winter Issue
- February 1 – Spring Issue

Please send any change of address notice to info@nfm-music.org or National Headquarters in Greenwood, IN.

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