



# Music Clubs MAGAZINE

FALL 2024 VOL 103, NO. 1



## *2024 NFMC Conference* **MUSIC ON THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI**





## Message *from the* President

by Deborah T. Freeman

### Resilience

I'm writing this message following a devastating hurricane, and the outpouring concern from our membership warms my heart.

*Resilience is the ability to adapt to and recover from difficult situations, or to return to a previous state after a crisis.*

It is not merely about enduring hardship but thriving in the face of it, emerging stronger and more capable – this is NFMF.

Since 1898, this organization has risen to challenges of a constantly changing world by incorporating teamwork and solidarity - we're alive and well!

November is the official month of celebration for American Music, and I'm eager to learn about how you and your clubs will contribute. Be sure to document your activities with photos, post them on social media, and send to our American Music chairs.

Deborah Freeman

*Deborah T. Freeman*

NFMF President

**President's Theme:**  
"Celebrating our Musical Heritage"

**President's Song:**  
"God Bless America"

Irving Berlin



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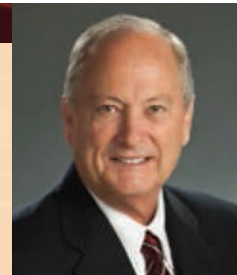


## MICHAEL R. EDWARDS

NFMF 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 NFMF Federation cup. For rules (JR22-1) and application (JR22-2) and more information please visit [nfmf-music.org](http://nfmf-music.org)



**Deadline: May 1st**  
**Award Amount: \$5000**  
**Chair: Michael R. Edwards**  
**Email: [micedwards@aol.com](mailto:micedwards@aol.com)**



## Table of Contents

- 2 Message from the President
- 3 Contact Information
- 4 Chaplains Corner
- 5 2024 Conference Wrap-Up
- 10 Founders Day
- 11 U.S. Armed Forces American Music  
Composition Competition Award Winners
- 12 Benefactors and Creativity: Emil and Ruth  
Beyer Composition Awards 2024
- 13 Ouida Keck Winner
- 13 Bluhm Flute Award
- 14 VanRoy Winner
- 15 Youse Award
- 16 NFMC Convocation
- 18 "Insignia In Sight"
- 18 National Music Week
- 19 Senior Club Reporting Summary
- 20 Including United Nations Agenda 2030  
In Your Plans for the Year
- 21 Arts Division News
- 21 Senior Club Yearbooks on Display
- 23 Where Are They Now?
- 24 Regional News
- 27 State News
- 38 NFMC Senior Award Opportunities
- 39 NFMC Student Award Opportunities

## Advertisers' Index

- 2 Michael R. Edwards Performance Award
- 4 The Frances Clark Center
- 12 Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award
- 13 Ouida Keck Professional Award
- 14 Music Teachers National Association
- 15 Frances J. Nelson Tuba Award
- 19 Red Leaf Pianoworks
- 21 NFMC Music in Poetry & Song
- 21 NFMC American Music
- 23 Federation Festivals Bulletin
- 26 NFMC Student/Collegiate Handbook
- 33 NFMC Junior Composers Contest



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Follow us on  

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



# *It was Always about the Joy*

by Kathie White, NFM Chaplain

This is being written towards the end of the 2024 Olympics. My, what a joyful two weeks my Mom and I have experienced in watching so many of the events. It seems this Olympics has been especially joyful and successful for the USA. It has also been inspiring to watch so many examples of good sportsmanship. With all the doom and gloom we normally see and hear online and on television, these Olympics have been a refreshing reminder of the best in the human spirit.

Some of the commercials have also been inspiring. One that caught my ear while I was working on our state newsletter had the phrase "It was always about the Joy." All the training, all the long hours of exacting practice, all the tough days, all the disappointing and frustrating tries: these were held in tension with the actual joy of doing the sport. That joy began early and fueled them for later experiences of growth.

I am at the age where I have more past behind me than future ahead and yet it is the joy of music that keeps fueling me on. It began in a small church in south Arkansas with a congregation that encouraged young people to have a place in worship through music. It continued in piano and voice lessons as a youth and then many other wonderful educational experiences in college and seminary. I have enjoyed a career in music as an educator, high school choral director and church musician.

How good it is to remember the joy that first captured us for music. Most musicians do not receive great monetary compensation for their careers in music, but oh the joy!!! Remember your joy today. It is a gift from God and also your strength.

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NCKP:  
THE PIANO CONFERENCE





# 2024 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

by Lucinda M. Lear, 2024 NFMC Conference Chair

The 2024 NFMC Conference was the greatest thing since sliced bread (and we now know that machine was invented in Iowa). The theme for the 2024 NFMC Conference was Music on the Mighty Mississippi and boy did we have it in excess! We could almost put the adjective “Magical” in front of that theme because that sums up the entire week of music, meetings and meet-ups!

The week began with a day set aside for state presidents to connect, converse, to learn the value they hold in NFMC and to meet the NFMC Division chairs and officers. The weather could not have been more glorious as we enjoyed ‘ol Man River to its fullest and a scrumptious buffet dinner aboard the Celebration Belle Paddlewheel dinner cruise.

The performance by our four NFMC Young Artists on Wednesday night was one-of-a-kind as they collaborated together to present a phenomenal performance. Faithful Federation members have commented that we have never experienced this kind of Young Artist collaborative performance in the history of NFMC.

The Iowa Federation clubs came together to provide a great taste of Iowa with local items to every registered attendee. In the SWAG bags were lavender sachets from a Des Moines lavender field, popcorn and BING chocolate candy from ‘the other side’ of the state, instant oatmeal packets from the Cedar Rapids Quaker Oat factory, potato chips from Davenport, notepads from the University of Northern Iowa and coasters from Waterloo John Deere Tractor Works. The Iowa City group not only gave us fun black and gold pom-poms with which to cheer our own Caitlin Clarke, who showed up at the Regional luncheons, but one of their own distinguished members made a special guest appearance as W.A. Mozart at Melody Bober’s presentation—thank you, Dr. Jason Sifford!

Thursday’s focus was on pedagogy with sessions by Melody Bober, Dr. Helen Marlais, and Dr. Jason Sifford. We literally enjoyed fun and games with Melody and learned more about piano pieces in the new 2024-2028 Festival Bulletin. The electrifying performance of the Happy Dog Duo on the historic Pleyel Double Grand Piano was a highlight of the week and once-in-a-lifetime experience. Special thanks to our Quad-Cities Federated Music Teachers group who helped in hosting and serving an Iowa picnic BBQ supper prior to the concert.

It was gratifying to hear the fruit of our labor in the performances of Wendell Irish Viola, Marilyn Caldwell Piano and Beyer Composition award winners. This is tangible evidence of the work we all do to promote and sustain music throughout our Federation. The week wrapped up with an enlightening session by Sam Ecoff on how to engage membership through social media and a moving performance by guest artist, Audrey Johnson on the influence and important role that music played in the Women’s Suffrage movement in America.

This truly was a history making conference and there are not enough words to express my deep thanks and appreciation to all who made this

a conference to remember. Our NFMC National Meeting Committee joined together with the Iowa Federation of Music Clubs to present outstanding workshops and phenomenal performances. Thanks for coming and it is our sincere hope that your time here was filled with unforgettable experiences, cherished memories, and the warm hospitality that defines our great organization. Together, we can overcome any challenge and achieve remarkable things.

View of the Convention hotel from the cruise.



Past President Lana and husband Dr. Zuill Bailey enjoy a buffet supper served on the dinner cruise.



The Celebration Belle is docked and ready to accept conference passengers for a night cruise on the Mississippi River.

Continued on page 6



# 2024 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP



*American Legion District 11*



*The Fort Iowa Brass Quintet provides opening music for the conference.*



*Composer Debra S. Hughes accompanies the singing of her new "NFMCC Invocation" for the opening session and Saturday memorial.*



*Dr. George Keck, chair of the Wendell Irish Viola Award, presents the winner, Grayson Geisness, who performed for the conference. He was accompanied at the piano by past NFMCC president Lana Bailey.*



*Take a look at the accompaniment Lana Bailey had to perform for violist Grayson Geisness!*



*Don Dagenais, president of the board at Opera in the Ozarks, South Central Region Summer Music Center, registers for the 2024 NFMCC Conference."*



*Starla Blair, chair of Young Artist Presentations, poses with 2023 YA after their concert: Leland Ko, Strings; Krista Pape, Women's Voice; Michael Celentano, Men's Voice; and Anna Han, Piano.*



*Newest Rose Fay Thomas Fellow Betty Pierce of Arkansas is welcomed by NFMCC president Deborah Freeman.*



# REGIONAL LUNCHEONS



*Western Region*



*Northeastern Region*



*Southeast Region*



*North Central Region*



*South Central Region*



*Mystery guests at the Regional luncheons included conference chair Lucinda Lear, First Vice President Heidi Hong and NFMC president Deborah Freeman.*



# 2024 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP



*Rose Fay Thomas Fellows*



*Caleb Kinman, Marilyn Caldwell Piano Award winner, performs for the conference.*



*The Happy Dog Duo of Drs. Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung performed a concert Thursday night on the 1904 Pleyel Double Grand Piano Piano at a nearby church.*



*Soprano Carla Johnson is one of several volunteers performing "Opera on Tap."*



*The Festival Chorus takes a bow after its concert. At right is Dan Andersen, choral director, and at left is Kristin Ivers, Pennsylvania FMC president, who accompanied.*



*Oklahoma FMC president Debra Rue shops at Browse 'N' Buy between sessions. Also shopping is Starla Blair.*



# 2024 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP



*Retired Texas Supreme Court Justice Phil Johnson leads other Texas delegates in inviting everyone to the 2025 NFMCC convention June 10-14 in Austin.*



*"Proud Mary (Rollin' on the River)" was the theme for the courtesy resolution summing up high points of the conference.*



*Gloria Grilk provides piano accompaniment for her daughter, violinist Karen Noorani, for the memorial service.*



*Bethany Priualx, National Music Week winner from Iowa, reads her winning essay at the closing board meeting.*



*Dr. George Keck lights candles as Jean Moffatt reads Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 during the Memorial Service.*



*Duo Piano Young Artists Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung greet Gilda Bocock at the reception following their Thursday night concert.*



# FOUNDERS DAY

by Cynthia H. Elmore, NFMCF Founders Day Chair



**FOUNDERS DAY**---a celebration of our musical heritage on the national, state and local club level. A Founders Day program/celebration held each year is a wonderful way to introduce the Federation to your community.

*Each member is asked to contribute \$1.00 to honor founders and these funds go to support the Young Artists competition. The clubs listed gave funds for 100% of their membership.*

### Louisiana

Music Teachers of Greater Baton Rouge, Metairie MC, North Shore MC, Bossier-Shreveport Junior Counselors

### North Dakota

Bismarck-Mandan Thursday MC, Fargo-Moorhead Area MC, Southeast Central MC, Valley MC, Schumann Music Guild, Thursday MC, (Grand Forks), Thursday Musicale (Williston), Devils Lake MC, St. Cecelia MC

### Pennsylvania

Allentown MC, Dushore MC, Johnstown Music League, McKeesport MC, Mercer MC, Mozart Club of Wilkes Barre, Musical Art Society, Music Study Club of The Stroudsburgs, Opus 1 MC, Williamsport MC, Pittsburg Music Professionals, Paula Kudelco (individual member).

### Florida

Orlando MC

### Missouri

The Morning Etude MC, Evening Etude MC

### Arkansas

Arkadelphia Philharmonic Club, Ar-Tx Music Connection aka Wednesday MC, Fort Smith Musical Coterie, Hot Sprigs MC, Little Rock Musical Coterie, Monticello MC, Russellville MC, Schubert Walnut Ridge MC, Jonesboro Treble Clef, Andante MC-Bella Vista

### South Carolina

MC of Greenville, Apollo MC, Columbia MC, Greenville Woman's MC, Crescent MC

### Virginia

Historyland MC, Lynchburg Music Teachers Assoc., Piedmont MC, Portsmouth MC, Richmond MC, Rappahannock Music Society, Scherzo MC, Shenandoah MC, Tazewell MC, Thursday Morning MC, Woodbridge MC

### Texas

Matinee Musical Club of Rockdale, The Harmony Club (Fort Worth), Lubbock MC, Harmony Club (Abilene), Euterpean Club (Fort Worth).

### Tennessee

Ebenezer MC

**Certificates of Outstanding Merit** were awarded to the following clubs for Founders Day programs that were submitted for review—Andante Music Club of Arkansas and Crescent Music Club of South Carolina.

**Certificates of Merit** were awarded to the following clubs—Orlando Music Club of Florida, Music Club of Greenville, South Carolina and Morning Etude Music Club of Missouri. 🎵



# U.S. ARMED FORCES AMERICAN MUSIC COMPOSITION COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS



## FIRST PRIZE STAFF SERGEANT JORDAN ROBERTS

### *"Lake Michigan Scenes" for Symphonic Band*

Born and raised in Southwestern Michigan, Staff Sergeant Jordan Roberts has been playing brass instruments since childhood. Before graduating high school, he performed regularly with professional ensembles, including the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra on tuba. In his senior year, he was accepted into the United States Army Band program as a tubist.



During his Army service, Roberts served as staff arranger and music librarian for various bands. He also attended the University of Alabama in Huntsville, majoring in Music Performance. He has performed with the Grammy® Award-winning Rebirth Brass Band, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, the Seoul Philharmonic, Twickenham Winds, and other professional groups.

Roberts' compositions have premiered with the Latvian National Guard Orchestra and several military ensembles, with many of his arrangements becoming staples of Army band repertoire.

Currently, he serves with the 126th Army Band (Michigan National Guard), playing tuba in the concert and marching bands, and trumpet, trombone, and vocals in the Jazz Combo. He is finishing a Music Education degree at Grand Valley State University, where he is involved in the tuba and composition studios and writes drill and arrangements for the Laker Marching Band. In his spare time, he enjoys arranging, composing, and playing goalie in a local men's ice hockey league.



## SECOND PRIZE STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW KOSINSKI

### *Brass Quintet No. 2*

Staff Sergeant Andrew Kosinski is a composer, arranger, and conductor from the Jersey Shore. Praised for his "virtuosic, turbid musical language" and "efficient and effective use of time," his compositions have

been commissioned, performed, and recorded across Europe, Asia, and the United States by artists such as the Monmouth Symphony Orchestra, Peabody Concert Orchestra, Voices of Change, Patagonia Winds, Quinception, violin soloist Tim Fain, and Philadelphia Orchestra piccoloist Erica Peel to name a few.

Kosinski's music has been broadcast on 103.3 WPRB Princeton "Classical Discoveries," and has earned him multiple awards including winner of the Voices of Change Composition Competition, finalist for the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, and Best Music Composer in the Tokyo Film Awards. As an active-duty staff sergeant, Kosinski serves as staff arranger for The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" based in Arlington, Virginia. In this capacity he composes and arranges music for occasions ranging from public concerts to presidential inaugurations. Kosinski also serves as the conducting fellow of the Montgomery Philharmonic for the 2023-2025 seasons.

Sergeant Kosinski earned his degrees in composition at the Peabody Conservatory and Rutgers University where his mentors included Kevin Puts, Amanda Harberg, Scott Ordway, and Robert Aldridge. ♪



# Benefactors and Creativity: Emil and Ruth Beyer Composition Awards 2024

By Donald M Hassler

I open this article on two talented Award winners with my former chair of the Division and other very senior benefactors who make such creativity possible. When I began this work several years ago the Chair of the Division was Ouida Keck. Now my "boss" in the Division is Lucinda Lear. But a year ago at the NFMC in Norfolk, George Keck presented a fine slide presentation of research he had done on the early Founders of Federation. I told him he should make a book of the work. One of the key women in his talk was Mrs Frank Seiberling of Akron, Ohio at her restored Tudor Mansion Stan Hywet Hall. As a high school student I went many times to this building, which is now a museum. Similarly, our work with musical creativity has been substantially sponsored by Emil and Ruth Beyer, who were active with the Federation in Southern Ohio. I never had the opportunity to meet the Beyers, but their funds this year are going to support some very interesting work by two gifted composers. Money and creativity.

The proper rules that the Division has set do not allow me to name the judges that we use, but I am permitted to quote their ideas to the composers themselves. And by extension I can talk about the creative energy in the work itself. These ideas plus the support of the individuals I mention above stir the motivation that keeps me and my judges working at these administrative tasks. I think the end results are very rich and promising.



John Flannery

### JOHN FLANNERY

*Voice with accompaniment*

Our winner this year in the category of setting to music a piece for voice and instrumentation is **John Flannery**. He set a poem by e.e. cummings. Here are one of my judges comments: "very effective idiomatic writing for both voice and piano; highly skilled setting of the text in terms of appropriate accents and other elements relating to the sound of the words; excellent notation; very effective musical structure." Flannery is a poet, performer and composer.... As a pianist, they have performed as a soloist with the Southwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra and Augustana Symphony Orchestra. They have appeared on Iowa Public Television performing in the Terrace Hill Piano Competition in 2019."



Nate Krebs

### NATE KREBS

*Chamber Music*

Our Winner this year in the category of ensemble or Chamber Music is **Nate Krebs**. He won 2nd Place in this category in 2022. His piece that wins this year is titled "Room" Here is a judge comment: "very successful overall musical structure; idiomatic, well written for the individual instruments; very effective composition; many pieces that use techniques such as these don't really work. This one works!" Krebs now is working on his doctor of Philosophy at the University of Minnesota in composition and electronic music studies with Sivan Cohen-Elias 🎵

## Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award

**Are you a high school senior who will be majoring in music next year at a college, university or conservatory?** Check out the Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award forms JR 20-1 and JR 20-2 to find the rules and application for this \$1,500 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



# Ouida Keck Winner



## MEGAN GILLES

**Megan Gilles** is an independent piano teacher in Willmar, Minnesota. Megan is honored to be selected to receive the 2024 National Federation of Music Clubs Ouida Keck Professional Development Award for the Independent Piano Teacher. The judges selected Megan based on her impressive qualifications.

Megan will be using the monetary award to help purchase another piano to be used for spring outdoor studio recitals, two piano repertoire, piano quartets, and for students to warm-up on before their lesson. Also being added to the studio will be a duet bench and a piano dolly for the piano to be moved to different areas in the studio.

Megan teaches students from age 5 through adult. Her studio size is typically around 45 students. She has been a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs for 20 years and her local club is the Great River Music Club where she serves as the treasurer. She also is a member of MTNA and the Minnesota Music Teachers Association where she serves as Vice President of Finance for the state board of directors and serves on the MMTA Foundation board as the secretary.

Helping music thrive in her rural community and creating the next generation of humans who will have a lifelong appreciation of music is her passion. 🎵

# BLUHM FLUTE AWARD



## TYREE WILSON

**Tyree Wilson**, a sophomore at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, is the winner of the Ernest A. Bluhm Fute Award. The announcement was made by Dana Boney, chair. Tyree lives in Tuscaloosa. He is a student of Dr. Diane Boyd Schultz, flute professor. 🎵

# Ouida Keck \$2000 ANNUAL AWARD for the Independent Piano Teacher



to be used for  
Professional Development



Ouida Keck  
NFMC President 1999-2003

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

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

# Van Roy Music Education Winner



### ELIZABETH CORBETT

**Elizabeth Corbett**, from Yardley, PA, is a junior at Duquesne University studying Music Education with a piano concentration. She serves as the president of collegiate NAFME Chapter 159 and as Vice President of Duquesne's collegiate ACDA chapter. At Duquesne, she is a Resident Assistant, she sings in the Voices of Spirit and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and she is a liturgical cantor, organist, and pianist for the Duquesne Chapel of the Holy Spirit and for other churches in Eastern and Western PA. One of Elizabeth's favorite activities during her time as a Music Education student has been teaching preschool music classes at the YMCA Children's Development Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Elizabeth is so grateful to the National Federation of Music Clubs for this award! 🎵



## 2025 MTNA National Conference

March 15–19, 2025, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The 2025 MTNA National Conference, March 15–19 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will bring together the most representative cross-section of the MTNA membership. Michelle Cann and the first-prize winner of the National Chopin Piano Competition will highlight the evening recitals. Composer Libby Larsen will provide the keynote address. Pedagogy Saturday boasts five tracks: Artistry; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Musician Wellness; Recreational Music Making; and Young Professionals. As always, the national competitions will feature the outstanding performances of students in all instrument areas as well as composition. And perennial favorites like the exhibit hall, poster sessions and showcases will all be a part of the conference experience.

**VISIT MTNA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**MICHELLE CANN**  
ADVANCED PIANO



# Youse Adult Composers Award

Debra S. Hughes was the recipient of the Glad Robinson Youse Adult Composers Award in 2023. This biennial Senior award is given in odd numbered years. She entered an original vocal art song based on a poem by Georgia Douglas Johnson, who was born in Atlanta, Georgia and an important figure of the Harlem Renaissance. Hughes, of Georgia Federation, chose to use syncopation and 7th/9th chords in the song's accompaniment, because these rhythmic and harmonic elements were prevalent during Johnson's life. The lyrics in contrast are sung as a smooth, single line to emphasize its message.

"Your World" - G.D. Johnson

"Your world is as big as you make it.  
I know, for I used to abide  
In the narrowest nest in a corner,  
My wings pressing close to my side.

But I sighted the distant horizon  
Where the skyline encircled the sea  
And I throbbed with a burning desire  
To travel this immensity.

I battered the cordons around me  
And cradled my wings on the breeze,  
Then soared to the uttermost reaches  
With rapture, with power, with ease!"

Those wishing to enter this contest as a NFMC member must have never published any compositions before. Hughes was inspired by the poem's message when she found it researching for Music in Poetry samples. She currently is the Southeastern Region Chair for Music in Poetry, NFMC's Chair for Angie Greer Music in Poetry and Editor of the Music in Poetry and Song Book. Hughes has enjoyed writing various programs for church, public school and private school programs in which she had been involved through the years but currently maintains a private music studio. She is very grateful and excited that she came in first place and thanks NFMC for the encouragement and honor to receive this award. 🎵



## INVOCATION CONTEST

Debra Hughes also entered the 125th celebration's contest for a NFMC Invocation and won. It was introduced at the National Conference in Iowa this past June 2024. Here are the lyrics:

### "NFMC Invocation" - Debra S. Hughes

LORD, put your song within our hearts,  
Help us each to do our part.  
Let us do it with Your grace.  
We're friends, Federation Clubs, as one,  
till the work we have to do is done  
for good music in this place.

All creation sings out loud to praise  
Your gift of life and music.  
Morning, noon and night it brings Your light  
within Your gift of music, in America!

LORD, help us press on forward now,  
asking You to show us how  
to spread peace and wisdom here  
We join together as we sing  
harmony and goodwill bring  
to the nation that we serve.

## The Frances J. Nelson Tuba Award

**This \$800 annual award is for those students studying tuba. Applicants must have reached their 19th but not their 26th birthday by application deadline. Applicants must also be a Student/Collegiate member of the NFMC.**

**For information see the NFMC website at [nfmc-music.org](https://nfmc-music.org). Click on Competitions and Award Division/Student/Collegiate Awards. The deadline for entry is **MARCH 1**.**



*Frances J. Nelson*  
NFMC President • 2019 - 2022

# NFMC Invocation

Words and Music by  
Debra S. Hughes

$\text{♩} = 90$

LORD, put Your song with in our hearts. Help us each to do our

3

part. Let us do it with Your grace. We're friends, Fed-er-a - tion Clubs, as

6

one, till the work we have is done for good mus-ic in this place.

9

All cre-a-tion sings out loud to praise Your gift of life and mus-ic.



Morn - - ing, noon and night it brings Your light with-in Your

gift of mus - ic, in Am - er - i - ca!

LORD, help us press on for-ward now, ask-ing You to show us how to spread peace and wis-dom

here We join to - geth - er as we

sing har-mo-ny and good-will bring to the na-tion that we serve.

## “Insignia In Sight”

by Janie Gilliam, Ph.D., NFM Insignia Chair

**Oh, say, can you NFM “See”  
Our Insignia anywhere?  
On your “Cup,”  
Case  
Or Cap,  
Your Lapel,  
Guitar Strap –  
Send a photo of logo to share!**

Our versatilely-gifted National President, Deborah Freeman, has had the ingenious idea for an “Insignia In Sight” Challenge. Whenever, wherever you see our NFM logo or merchandise, take a snapshot. And, if you have favorite Federation items, make pictures of them.

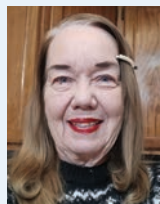
Then, e-mail your Insignia photos to me at [WingsofMusic@prodigy.net](mailto:WingsofMusic@prodigy.net) in a high-resolution “jpg” format. Be sure to include your name, state and a label for small items, such as “State President’s Pin,” “Senior Charm,” etc. The pictures will be compiled in a collage, featuring each of our five Regions.

Here is a sample collage based on the rhyme, with special thanks to President Freeman for her excellent idea and lovely “Cup” photo and to Public Relations Division Chair Julie Watson for her invaluable assistance and digital expertise.



The deadline for submitting “Insignia In Sight” snapshots is January 1, 2025, in order that the collage may be published in an upcoming issue of *Music Clubs Magazine*.

**So, let your Federation colors show  
With photos of our NFM logo!**



## NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK

by Gloria Lien, National Music Week Chair

Our National Music Week had 17 entrants, involving both senior clubs and junior clubs. There were many recitals, poster and flyer displays in libraries, churches, studios, elementary schools, Proclamations from the Governors, the Mayors, newspaper articles, radio interviews, banquets (when scholarships were given), inductees into Musicians Hall of Fame, sponsored hymn sings, hosting the high school concert.

We had reports of celebrating National Music Week (first week of May) through Facebook, websites, club music students encouraged to be NMW Ambassadors, hang up pennants at their festival and for display in their teacher’s studios. Junior leaders also handed out treats with the NMW theme as a reminder to celebrate and participate. In one club, juniors were encouraged to have music pen pals.

So many wonderful ideas of promoting our love of music, our love of our Federation, by people of all ages. Music is what is needed for dealing with stress, chaos, jealousy, enmity between people. Music is what is needed to promote unity, working together and having common goals. Music is welcomed everywhere, whether at senior retirement facilities, being serenaded at a credit union, chamber of commerce, support groups, a sixth grade choir performance at a bank, city hall.

After reading all these ways of bringing music to our communities, let us think how we can promote National Music Week, May 4-11, 2025, with the theme:

**Music. . .Is Unstoppable.**







*by Linda Flick, NFM Senior Club Report Chair*

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

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

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

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

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

North Central: North Dakota (100%), South Dakota (100%), Wisconsin (1%)

South Central: Arkansas (67%), Kansas (33%), Missouri (29%), Texas (1%)

North East: Michigan (46%), NNE (100%) Ohio (100%), Pennsylvania (56%),

South East: Kentucky (100%), Louisiana (1%),  
South Carolina (81%), Tennessee (46%),  
Virginia (44%)

Western: California (50%) Idaho (89%)

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

Each of the above listed states will receive an Award of Merit for their participation. Congratulations to North Dakota, South Dakota, Northern New England (Vermont and New Hampshire), Ohio, and

Kentucky for achieving 100%! Let us make it a goal to have all states achieve 100% of their Senior Clubs' reports next year. We can try to achieve that goal by having each State President or State Chair sending letters or e-mails out to each club in their state throughout the year encouraging them to send in their reports.

This year we had 18 states that reported. Next year I hope to receive a report from every state so we can achieve 100%.

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your NFMC Senior Club Report Chair. 🎵

[illegible]



# Including United Nations Agenda 2030 In Your Plans for the Year

by Dr. Liana Valente, NFM Representative to the UN Department of Global Communications

What do you think of when you hear the words, “think globally, act locally?” For over 50 years this powerful phrase has been used to energize individuals to make changes within their communities that have a positive ripple effect on the larger world. As musicians and teachers, we do this daily as we mentor the current and next generation of artists, encouraging them to use their talents to improve the lives of those around them. Every recital, religious service, outreach program, and celebration that we’ve performed or created has uplifted, informed, and comforted others.

What does this have to do with UN Agenda 2030?

Some of you may not be aware that our Federation has been involved with the United Nations since 1949.

## BACKGROUND

In 1946 the United Nations General Assembly established the Department of Public Information (DPI) to promote global awareness and understanding of the work of the UN. The DPI’s mission was dedicated to communicating the ideals and work of the United Nations to the world, to interacting and partnering with diverse audiences, and to building support for peace, development, and human rights for all.

In 1949, three years after the creation of the Department of Public Information, the National Federation of Music Clubs was accredited and recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization within the UN DPI, one of the first music organizations so recognized. For seven decades the Department of Public Information fulfilled its mission and was an integral part of world-wide changes supporting the pursuit of equality, peace, and prosperity for all. In 2019, DPI was renamed the Department of Global Communications. With it came a new directive, that the department was now committed to the success of **Agenda 2030** and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**.

## WHAT IS AGENDA 2030 AND WHAT ARE THE 17 SDGS?

UN Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for our world, a roadmap for ending poverty, protecting the planet, and tackling inequalities. The 17 SDGs, the cornerstone of the Agenda, offer the most practical and effective pathway to tackle the causes of violent conflict, human rights abuses, climate change, and environmental degradation, and aim to ensure that no one will be left behind. The SDGs reflect an understanding that sustainable development everywhere must integrate economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection.

## HOW CAN YOU CONNECT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND UN AGENDA 2030?

As your representative to the UN Department of Global Communications, one of my responsibilities is to share with the NFM members the work of the United Nations. If you visit the NFM website,

you can access the page, **NFM And The United Nations**. <https://www.nfmc-music.org/about-us/nfmc-and-the-united-nations/> Information about UN Agenda 2030, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and links to UN web TV (<https://webtv.un.org/en>) are all located on that page; links to previous MCM articles are located there as well.

In addition to sharing information with NFM members, as an NGO affiliated with the UN DGC, I share information with other members of civil society about the work of the Federation. This is accomplished in a number of ways, including my attending and participating in UN meetings and conferences, and my involvement with the UN Decade on Healthy Ageing. My focus on improving the quality of life for older persons stems directly from my experiences with NFM, and has led to a number of conference presentations as well as the submission and acceptance of a field report that has been published as part of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing progress report. NFM is prominently mentioned throughout that report. <https://www.decadeofhealthyageing.org/about/secretariat/progress-report-2023?searchQuery=progress+report>

All members of NFM are encouraged to explore the goals and ideals of Agenda 2030. The UN has provided resources and information available to all which can be easily accessed through their web pages. You and your club members can begin your exploration of Agenda 2030 here:

### 1. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

This page includes a brief history of UN Agenda 2030, an introduction to the 17 SDGs, and links to the Progress Reports.

### 2. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

In addition to basic information about UN Agenda 2030, this page links directly to a pdf of the official document.

### 3. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>

The UN published a light-hearted document entitled “The Lazy Person’s Guide to Saving the World,” which can be accessed here.

## PLANNING FOR THE YEAR

We all understand how powerful and meaningful music can be. As musicians we often share our talents to support our families and communities in a variety of ways; providing music for weddings, birthdays, and funerals, and performing public concerts and recitals. I encourage all of you to develop new ways to address the needs of your communities, to think globally and act locally. This could include your senior club holding a fundraising concert to benefit an organization you and your members have chosen, or combining an end-of-year concert with a food drive for a local charity. You might consider partnering with local organizations to provide music at hospitals, senior living facilities, or after-school programs. We are resilient and imaginative; tap into your creativity and see what ideas your members have.

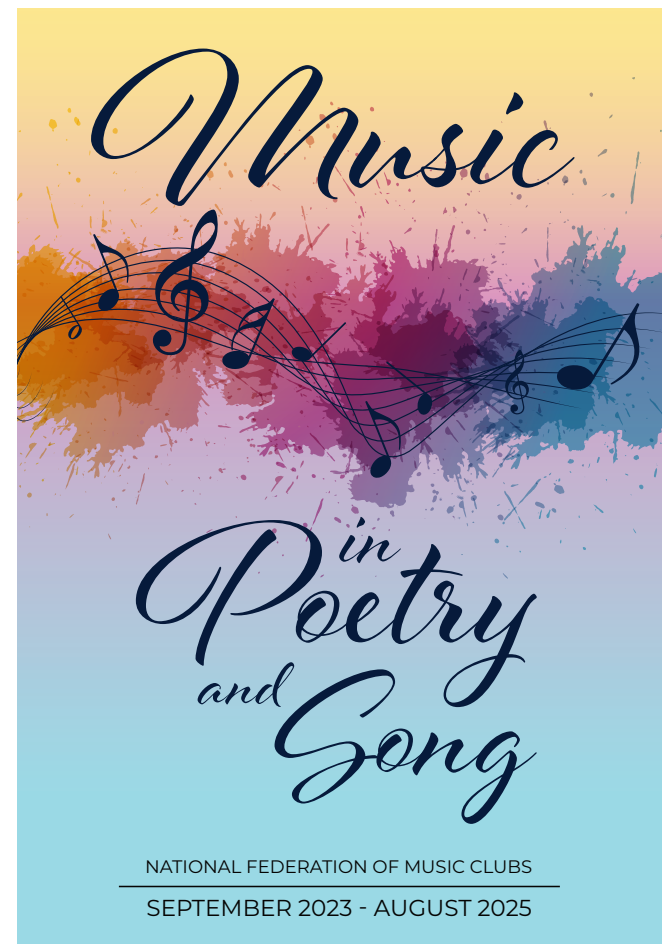




Once you've considered what you and your club members can and want to do, share your ideas, plans, and successes with other teachers and students, your state and national officers, and with me (Liana@omegatower.com), your representative to the United Nations. Advertise your events locally and perhaps even on social media. If your events directly reflect your commitment to UN Agenda 2030, use hashtags including #SDGs and #GlobalGoals. By acting locally and thinking globally, we can make a positive difference in our world through music. I wish you all a successful and fulfilling season and look forward to hearing from you about your programs.

### BRIEF BIO:

Dr. Liana Valente has served as the NFMC Representative to the United Nations Department of Global Communications since 2016. In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of this position, she focuses her research on SDGs #3, *ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages*, and #4, *ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all*. Dr. Valente's 2019 NFMC Convention address was re-recorded, uploaded to the NFMC YouTube channel, and can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbXu53HrHas&t=10s> 🎵





# Arts Division News

by Ellen Leapoldt, Arts Division Chair

Thank you to those that attended Arts Division meetings in Bettendorf. We are a hard working group that hopes to increase the outreach of NFMC through our efforts. We have asked the Finance Division and the Competitions and Awards Division to consider some additional financial awards for clubs/individuals doing outstanding work in the Arts Division. We currently have awards listed in the C&A chart for Senior Clubs in Music Outreach, International Music Relations, Celebrate Strings, Choral Music and Sacred Music. We offer Junior Club awards in International Music Relations and Celebrate Strings. The National Music Week Essay is also part of the Arts Division, but the financing for the \$75 award to each state winner comes from other funding.

The individual award for most hours spent in Music Outreach last year was given to Olena Mladenova of Powell, OH. She gave 747 hours of her time to bring music to audiences confined in hospitals, nursing homes, long term care facilities etc. What a generous gift! The Senior Club giving the most hours was the Mac Dowell Music Club of Louisville, OH. They spent 1,141 hours in service.

We have some new chairmen:

### Outreach chair:

Beverly Henderson  
1270 Shadow Way  
Greenville, SC 29615  
bhmusic@bellsouth.net

### Opera chair:

Dr. Carolyn Copeland  
1467 County Road 225  
Carthage, TX 75633  
carolyncopeland37@gmail.com

### New Regional chairs include:

South Central Music in Poetry: Judy Shaw  
Southeastern National Music Week: Bobette Spear

Hope your plans for your Senior Clubs and Junior Clubs include: Celebrate Strings, Chamber Music, International Music Relations, Music In Poetry and Song, Music Outreach, Sacred Music, Choral Music, Music in Schools and Colleges, and National Music Week and Music Week Essay. Nearly all of these departments mean reaching out and supporting musicians beyond your local clubs. Invite musicians, support musicians and music programs in your schools and communities, spread the joy of music and remember the National Music Week theme for 2025 is "Music is...unstoppable!". 🎵



# SENIOR CLUB YEARBOOKS ON DISPLAY

by Gilda Bocock, NFMC Yearbook Chair

Senior club 2023 – 2024 yearbooks from seven states were on display at the NFMC Conference. Many conference participants checked out the yearbooks and met with Gilda Bocock, NFMC Yearbook Chair. Nine of the thirty received extra attention since they were embellished with gold seals of excellence, denoting perfect evaluation scores on Form ME 5-2, NFMC Special Requirements for Club Yearbook.

Each yearbook gives a peek into the spirit of the club, as it provides club information and details of the year's meetings and scholarship programs. Special touches in yearbooks included: spiral binding, a sweet dedication on the inside cover listing club members who passed away the previous year, Club poems, color photos of performers, and many more.

Yearbooks for 2024 – 2025 will be displayed at the 2025 national convention in Austin, TX. Senior clubs are encouraged to submit their yearbooks by March 1, 2025, to be included in the display and evaluation. It was identified that clubs in at least one state submitted yearbooks to their state yearbook chair, mistakenly expecting them to be forwarded to the national chair. Club and state yearbook chairs are encouraged to be clear about the submittal process, since it varies from state to state. 🎵





## Where Are They Now?



### RALPH EVANS 1961 YOUNG ARTIST WINNER

**Ralph Evans**, violinist, prizewinner in the 1982 International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, concertized as soloist throughout Europe and North America before succeeding Leonard Sorkin as first violinist of the Fine Arts Quartet. Evans, who has toured worldwide with the Quartet for over 40 years, has recorded more than 100 works released on over 50 different albums. A complete discography is listed at: [fineartsquartet.com/evansrecordings](http://fineartsquartet.com/evansrecordings)

Evans, a multi-award-winning cum laude graduate of Yale University and Fulbright Scholar in London, studied with Szymon Goldberg and Nathan Milstein in Europe, and subsequently won the top prize in a number of

major American competitions, among them, the Concert Artists Guild Competition in New York. Films of his prize winning performances of the Tchaikovsky Concerto and Bartok Concerto No. 2 in the International Tchaikovsky Competition are viewable on YouTube.

Evans has also received international recognition for his work as a composer. His award winning composition "Nocturne" has been performed on American Public Television and his String Quartet No. 1, released on the Naxos label, has been warmly greeted in the press ("rich and inventive" - Toronto Star; "whimsical and clever, engaging and amusing" - All Music Guide; "vigorous and tuneful" - Montreal Gazette; "seductive, modern sonorities" - France Ouest; "a small masterpiece" - Gli Amici della Musica).

Evans is Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the New School University's Mannes College of Music in New York. He was the 1961 Young Artist winner in Strings for NFMCC. 🎵



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# Regional News

## NORTHEASTERN REGION

*Submitted by Linda Maurhoff, NER V-P*

**NFMC NORTHEASTERN REGION FEDERATION DAYS** took place July 12-14, 2024 at the Chautauqua Suites in Mayville, NY and Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, NY. We gathered to celebrate our 80th Anniversary. That's a lot of meetings! We had 25 members from MI, OH, PA (in addition to Individual Members from IN) attend the NE Region annual business meeting at Chautauqua Suites. In total, we had 28 for the events at Chautauqua Institution. We are so excited to see an increase in participation from previous years and hope that trend continues.

On Friday night, members attended a Meet and Greet dinner at the She Sings Restaurant, newly opened near the hotel where the meeting was held. After the dinner, Karl Morris, NE Region Historian, gave everyone an opportunity to view the regional Achievement Record Books and history of our gatherings at Chautauqua Institution since 1945.

The Saturday morning session included lots of wonderful music and singing. Many thanks to Barbara Murray for directing and Kristin Ivers for accompanying our opening session. We heard reports from NE Region Officers, National & Regional Chairs, State Presidents and from the NE Region VP. Sincere thanks to NE Region Officers: Dr. Penny Draper, Secretary; Dr. Gwen Brubaker, Treasurer and Parliamentarian, Pat Walter for their part in conducting the meeting. Member contributions to our meeting came from Kristin Ivers with a sing along with Broadway tunes, Ruth Ann McChesney who shared some highlights from the NFMC 2024 Conference in Bettendorf and a wonderful history lesson from Karl Morris.

Karl and Jeannine Morris have been participants in the NE Region Federation Days over 50 years. Our history has shaped who we are, and we need to remember those who laid the foundation. Many thanks to Karl for sharing just some of the highlights and to the Morrises for bringing the photo albums to share with us. The morning session ended with a Memorial Service written and led by NE Region Chaplain, Ron Marenchin.

Saturday afternoon was the Chautauqua Institution School of Music student recital featuring NFMC Award recipients from individuals and states in the region. Nine students performed; the tenth student was ill and unable to participate. The level of talent was beyond expectation. What

a wonderful program! More information about the award recipients will come from NFMC Summer Music Centers Chair, Mary Ellen Nolletti. Saturday evening, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, one of the most exciting and innovative modern dance companies in the world, performed with the Chautauqua Symphony in the 5,000-seat amphitheater.

Most members attended the Sunday morning ecumenical service and the largest outdoor pipe organ in the world in the Amphitheater. Five from our Region sang with the Chautauqua Choir for the morning and evening services. The Rev. Leyla King, Canon, Mission in Small Congregations, Episcopal Diocese, West Texas, was the preacher. Sunday afternoon was certainly a highlight for the 80th Anniversary of NE Region Federation Days. Leland Ko, 2023 Young Artist Winner in Strings and his accompanist, Adria Ye, presented a concert that was nothing less than amazing. Some of our first-time attendees were speechless! What a privilege for NE Region to "show off" what NFMC is all about. We look forward to featuring a Young Artist Recital again in 2025.

The weekend closed with the Sacred Song Service using the theme "The Family of Abraham Gathers" in the amphitheater.

Many thanks to all who attended Federation Days at Chautauqua this year. Looking forward to seeing each one again in 2025 along with the many new attendees you can bring!



*Young Artist Leland Ko performs on the cello with Adria Ye as his accompanist.*



*Attendees at NFMC Northeastern Region 80th Federation Weekend at Chautauqua Suites & Chautauqua Institution- July 13 & 14, 2024. Seated: Karl Morris (OH), Jeannine Morris (OH), Carolyn Marenchin (OH), Heather Buffington (PA), Linda Mauroff (PA), Gwen Brubaker (OH), Penny Draper (MI), & Pat Walter (PA). Row 2- Mary Anne Stefanick (OH), April Bennett (OH), Ron Marenchin (OH), Julie Riegler (OH), Mary Kitchen (PA), Linda Flick (PA), Christie Smith (OH), Peg Bryan (IN), Barbara Murray (PA), & Ruth Ann McChesney (PA). Row 3- Kristen Ivers (PA), Carol Koehler (PA), Lana Walmer (PA), Allen Kitchen (PA), Mack Hassler (OH), Les Bryan (IN), & Bill Draper (MI).*



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

All five states in the South Central Region participated in Federation Days July 17-19 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Final registration count was 66.

Missouri hosted the meeting and was led by Judy Shaw, president. Different states hosted the various meals, with Arkansas and president Kathie White taking the Wednesday luncheon, Oklahoma and president Debra Rue hosting Thursday's luncheon, and Kansas with president Janis Saket hosting Friday's luncheon. Texas, with president Lynn McNew, hosted the Friday banquet with speaker Heidi Hong, NFMC Vice-President and special guest.

Business meetings occupied the day's activities, with a highlight being the performance of "Little Red's Most Unusual Day," Thursday afternoon. This production featured studio artists from the company who took the production to various Northwest Arkansas libraries and schools to introduce youngsters to opera.

A silent auction at the conclusion of the meeting raised more than \$1,800 for Opera in the Ozarks. A memorial service honored members who have passed away during the year. Twelve Servant Leadership awards were presented.

A highlight was viewing the MainStage productions each night. Opera lovers were able to experience *The Crucible* by Robert Ward, *Beauty and the Beast* by Vittorio Giannini, *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* by Maurice Ravel, and *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi. All were accompanied by full orchestra and performed in their original language with English supertitles with full sets and costumes. Opera talks from the company preceded each production.

The MainStage productions were the final ones in the performance pavilion, which will be replaced by a new performance space now being constructed. Be looking for information on the grand opening next spring to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Opera in the Ozarks.

### Federation Days Eureka Springs, AR July 17-19, 2024

Submitted by Brenda Ford



Greetings to our board, leaders, guests and friends. My journey to OIO took time and education and others' testimonies of the wonderful performances that I was missing.

In 1990, I was invited to join Marshall Music Club. I had my second child that summer and was not returning to teach for a while. I could be involved with music in a new way and have musician friends around me.

It was later that I was asked to fill a position in the club and they wanted me to be the accompanist. I told them that I didn't play well but they insisted. After that year, they understood that "I didn't play well. I would only play the melody of the song (with hours of practice). Choral Director suited me better.

Each year, I had other jobs such as typing the Yearbook and filing our reports. I was involved in planning events, leading studies and opening concerts. It came time to fill VP shoes under a great President, Eleanor



Presidents of the five states in the South Central Region pose with a special arrangement created to honor Catherine Coke, late president of the Oklahoma federation. Each president donated flowers from her state into the permanent crystal vase. From left, the presidents are Janis Saket, Kansas; Debra Rue, Oklahoma; Lynn McNew, Texas; and Judy Shaw, Missouri. Kathie White, Arkansas president, attended but left before the picture was taken.

Harris that walked with me during those two years and then held my hand during my two years as President.

It was during this time that I had to be involved with the state meetings and learn more about our organization. In the state meetings I heard more about the activities of our South Central Region (who knew) and our national work.

After some of my club members, Jean and Roy McCarrol went to OIO and came back with lots of stories encouraging our involvement, I was curious again to try another layer of the musical world of support with students.

After serving on the TFMC Executive board for several years, the leadership scale added a new rung. The next thing I know, it's 2020, I am the Covid Queen Bee of Texas and we had to have a state meeting. Our board decided to have a ZOOM platform for each activity of our 2-day meeting. Virtually raising money through a registration check box for OIO was the only way. As President of TFMC, I was made aware of the responsibilities to Opera in the Ozarks.

I decided to take the plunge and drive to Eureka Springs to hear a great week of opera. It was like hearing an opera at a campsite. I like camping a lot. It was there that I learned about the 5 states who were in our region and their support and collective leadership. It was after a new director was hired, Nancy. She was strong, intelligent and interesting. A rascal of sorts. I was curious and wanted to learn from her as she was more than a leader, she brought with her lots of different work hats to the table.

Then I met the Lady of the Point. She was like Lady Liberty! She was organized, welcoming, encouraging and driven to make the year a better year than the last. Carole Langley was dedicated because she was one of the students of OIO. Wow! A celebrity! It was later that I learned she was President of the Board. (of the Board, of the board, of the board).

I will say that I was hooked that year. And today, there is a trail from my house to this house that is paving a way for others to find their way to the POINT. I am inviting friends from my neck of the "Piney Woods" to experience the joy of watching young adults learn and grow in their craft: Opera!

I have been recipient of the Servant Leadership Award and Life membership as well as other fine recognition.

The opportunity to serve you individually and with this group has been a delightful and satisfying journey. I am looking forward to another adventure with all of you.

OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE THE OZARKS TO OIO.

Continued on page 26

### Regional News *continued*

#### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

*Submitted by Joel Adams, NFMC Southeastern Region Vice President*

The NFMC Southeastern Region convened on Friday, July 12, 2024, at Brevard Music Center for a two-day meeting that was meant to impress! Hosted by the South Carolina Federation, Sara Kellar, President, we experienced something amazing that has not occurred in recent memory. There were so many members wanting to register that our usual event space was deemed not large enough to accommodate the numbers. However, our host committee worked it out by omitting a traditional head table, and seating officers and special guests at a regular table of eight.

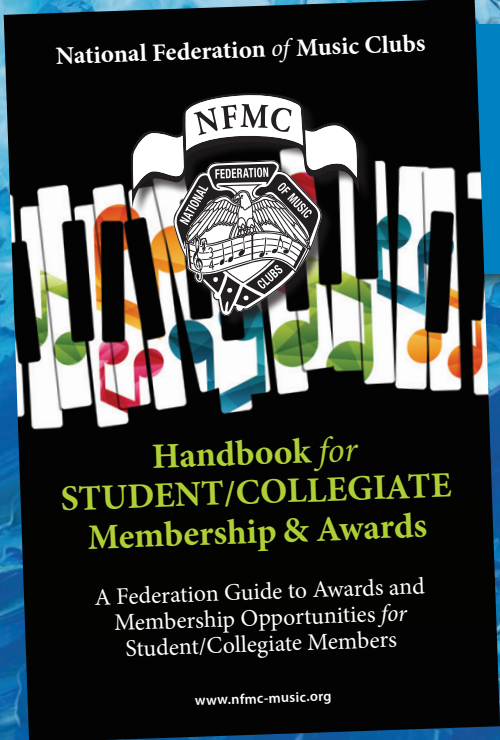
The perfect program theme was “Nature Inspires Music” (we were surrounded by beautiful North Carolina mountains) and National Guest, NFMC President Deborah Freeman gave a thought-provoking address which left us with wonderful visions regarding nature and music. After the banquet meal, the group walked over to the Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium for a splendid symphonic concert by one of the Brevard student orchestras.

There were 40 SE Region members registered representing: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee and Virginia. South Carolina won the attendance trophy, a large loving cup on a pedestal with small plaques for engraving the winner's name each year. In 10 years, no state has ever won the cup but South Carolina, so “Bravi Tutti” to such a motivated State Federation.



Much was accomplished at the Saturday business meeting, but the most exciting moment came when Ruth Morrow and her committee presented the new, beautiful, NFMC Southeastern Region Fellows Medallions. 20 members received them by making a \$500 donation to the new Scholarship Endowment for Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro NC, and Sewanee Summer Music Festival in Sewanee, Tennessee. The Southeastern Region has set a 5-year period to reach the goal of \$100,000.

After the luncheon on Saturday to honor the Southeastern Region's 4 scholarship winners, we were treated to a mini concert: Arowyn Almeida, cellist from Virginia; Samuel Lee, bassoonist from Maryland; Lian Levine, pianist from New York; and Daniel Huang, pianist from South Carolina. Prior to adjournment, the members voted to meet next year, 2025, in Sewanee with the Alabama Federation hosting. 🎵



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# State News

## ARKANSAS

### AN OBVIOUS PUBLICITY MEDIUM

*Submitted by Andante member and publicity chair, Cynthia Augspurger*

Three members of the **Andante Music Club of Bella Vista** became 'television stars' on the "Bella Vista and Beyond" program produced by Bella Vista Community Television (BVCTV) in January. This was a new way for the club to promote its objective of increasing the appreciation of music in the area. According to Cynthia Augspurger, the Andante publicity chair, she expected to reach a new audience for their monthly music programs.

The usual publicity channels of articles in the local and larger area newspapers and posters on church and public bulletin boards are still effective. The music programs and performances are free to the public. The church located in the center of Bella Vista, which hosts the club's music programs, offers plenty of parking and seating, so why isn't the sanctuary overflowing?

The idea of a television interview appealed to Cynthia because people watch their TVs all the time. Last fall Cynthia emailed a volunteer with the BVCTV and was connected with the host of a popular interview show.

Andante President Gloria Febro Grilk, Carolyn Walker, AFMC Founders' Day Chair, Jo Evans, Past President of Andante and Bylaws Chair and Cynthia met with the TV host to discuss the questions and their answers for the program.

As publicity chair, Cynthia provided photos and informational posters in a digital format and three short videos of featured musical artists as requested by the host.

During the 30 minute "Bella Vista and Beyond" television show the three Andante members presented information about the founding of Andante, their affiliation with the National and Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs, the Young Artist concert with Leland Philip Ko, National Music Week in May, the Junior Festival, Opera in the Ozarks connection, and an invitation to Andante's February 6 music program.

The trio from Andante Music Club answered interesting questions such as "why should someone come to an Andante music program?" and "what is the best part of being a musician?" with heartfelt responses.



*Bella Vista Community Television studio with host, Nancy Noyes, on left. Seated from left to right are Bella Vista Andante Music Club members, Gloria Febro Grilk, Carolyn Walker, and Jo Evans. Cynthia Augspurger is standing.*

### Little Rock Musical Coterie Scholarship Winners

Sunday April 14 the Little Rock Musical Coterie held its annual Coffee Musicale meeting/concert presenting our annual scholarship award winners.

**Jane Fetterly, pianist**, was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship from the Wang Coterie Award.

She performed: JS Bach Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV84 and George Gershwin's Prelude 1

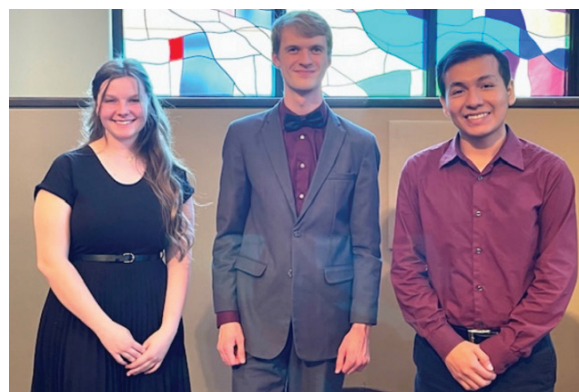
**William Baker, pianist**, was awarded the \$1,000 Virginia Queen Piano Award. He performed: Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Sonata in E Major Op. 14 No. 1, I. Sonata Allegro

Frederic Chopin Polonaise in C# Minor Op. 26 No. 1

Dmitri Kabalevsky Preludes Op. 38  
No. 22 in G Minor  
No. 8 in F# Minor  
No. 6 in B Minor

**Abraham Martinez Brito, violinist**, was awarded the \$1,000 Little Rock Coterie Award. He performed: Johann Sebastian Bach Partita for solo violin No 2 in D minor, Chaconne.

Fritz Kreisler Präludium and Allegro in the Style of Pugnani. His piano collaborator was Alex Israel Alexandro.



*Left to right: Jane Fetterly, William Baker and Abraham Martinez Brito*

*Continued on page 28*

## State News *continued*

### ARKANSAS

#### Treble Clef Club of Jonesboro



*Presentation of the \$5000 check to the ASU HOWL Program. Picture includes Dennis Hay (Treble Clef Club President), Dr. Kristin Johnson (Director of the HOWL Program at Arkansas State University), and (far right) Julia Lansford (Director of the Special Needs Program Students), and Students from the HOWL Program.*

Mrs. Pat Qualls and Mrs. Julia Lansford, longtime Treble Clef Club members, had the opportunity over several years to direct ten outstanding concerts highlighting musical performances by special needs students. The concerts were always well attended by the community who helped support them with their monetary donations. These women saw the positive interaction that can happen with music and special needs. The eleventh concert had to be cancelled because of the Covid outbreak.

Qualls, Director of the Special Needs Concerts, polled donors about their 2020 donations to the Treble Clef Club Special Needs Account. Most of these generous donors agreed to leave those monies so they could be used by the Treble Clef Club to fund a special needs project. Mrs. Lansford, Assistant Director and vocal teacher, spoke with an ASU representative who suggested possible special needs projects. Treble Clef Club members voted to donate \$5000 to a new program established in 2019. Members felt that the HOWL program would be very beneficial to our special needs community and would spread the joy of music.

Helping Our Wolves Learn (HOWL) is a transition program which helps accomplish ASU's mission of bringing the A-State experience to students with intellectual disabilities and autism. This program provides mentoring, social skills, career planning, independent living skills and tutoring to special needs students. In the photo above, Dr. Kristin Johnson, HOWL Program Director, is shown receiving the donation from Treble Clef Club President, Dennis Hay. Also pictured on the far right is Mrs. Lansford and students currently in the HOWL program.

#### Winner of the AFMC Febro Grilk 2024 Arkansas Woman Composer Award \$500 - Ellen Foncannon Stephenson



The AFMC Febro Grilk 2024 Arkansas Woman Composer Award winner is Ellen Stephenson for her composition "Ivory Tower". It may be classed as an art song potentially for 2 or 4 voices. It has been evaluated by a very experienced collaborative pianist who describes it as a "truly lovely, gentle piece of music that should be a joy to perform". Ellen is a resident of Holiday Island, Arkansas.

#### Ellen Foncannon Stephenson's Biography

What happens when you're eight years old and fall in love with the piano?

You become the church organist in the fourth grade and play for the next 60+ years.

You play the Beatles "She Loves You" for the fifth grade talent show and suddenly you are booking your 2025 concert season.

You sell over a million copies of a crazy musical parody "Cold and Fugue Season". (Thank you, Mr. Bach.)

You start writing music and can't stop. (700+ songs)

You start recording music and can't stop. (3 albums so far)

You find students at your door and let them in. A thousand or so later and you're an expert.

You find Boomwhackers Musical Tubes and make a business out of them.

You can't imagine your life without music. You are truly blessed!



## CALIFORNIA

### The Burlingame Music Club

The Burlingame Music Club promotes, encourages, and supports Greater San Francisco Bay Area music students and local Professional Artists. Students ages 12 through 20, in our program compete in the BMC Young Musicians' Competition. Student performances at our monthly meetings enhance their performance skills and students learn poise and discipline from Professional Artist performances.

Winners of the 2024 Young Musicians' Competition gave a recital for our season-ending meeting in May. The meeting was a celebratory concert with nine student winners showcasing their winning numbers. The Club presented prizes ranging from \$1200 for first place winners to \$300 for Honorable Mention winners, in two categories: Piano and Strings.

After the recital, awards ceremony, hors d'oeuvres and cake, the students were off to a musical summer, with a little more performance experience gained from the BMC Young Musicians' Competition program.

In June, BMC had a booth at "Get in the Game, Burlingame," as one of 20 local volunteer organizations. Members of the community attended the informational event to learn about volunteer opportunities with local groups and city government. It was a great way to spread the word about Burlingame Music Club.

BMC looks forward to a Fundraising Meeting in October 2024, with silent auction items donated by members and local businesses. Visit us at our website: [www.burlingamemusicclub.org](http://www.burlingamemusicclub.org).



*BMC Information Table "Get in the Game, Burlingame" Information Fair in June 2024  
Left to Right: Sandy Berry, BMC VP, Edna Steele BMC President emeritus, Marcia Leonhardt, BMC President elect.*

### BMC Young Musicians' Competition Winners 2024

From Left to Right;

Katelyn Deng, First Place Piano,  
(The Patron of the Arts Award)

Peter Parra, Honorable Mention Piano

Huisun Hong, First Place Strings, cello

Irene Hwang, Second Place Piano

Kayla Lee, Third Place Strings, violin

Bryan Im, Honorable Mention Strings, viola

Aiden Kim, Second Place Strings, cello

Oliver Corro, Honorable Mention Piano

Sora Corro, Third Place Piano



*Continued on page 30*

## State News *continued*

### FLORIDA

#### FLORIDA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

*Submitted by Claudia Brill*

The Florida Federation of Music Club teachers are preparing for the many area festivals being held in February. Students that receive a superior at festival can enter the FPMC Junior Convention which will be held the first weekend of May at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

The Orlando Music Club held a Founder's Day Program with a recital of many of the students. A reception followed with a beautifully decorated cake.

The Friday Morning Musical in Tampa also held a Founder's Day program with a Silver Tea followed by a performance from a vocalist that had participated in the Collegiate Vocal Auditions.

The Foundation for the Promotion of Music in Gainesville sponsors an annual piano Sonata/Sonatina Festival. The winners of each division perform at the honors recital.

The Club also funds an outreach project for underserved elementary students. The students are learning piano in the afterschool program at their school.

The FPMC Collegiate Vocal Audition was held at the Historic Thomas Center in Gainesville. Nine college vocal students performed. Three men and three women were awarded first, second, and third place. The awards are \$2000, \$1500, and \$500.

#### News from Florida Federation of Music Clubs, Inc.

*Submitted by Claudia Brill, President and Cheryl Poe, Past President*

*Taking Care of Mind, Body, and Soul for Musicians of All Ages* was the theme of The Florida Federation of Music Clubs (FFMC) 104th Annual Convention held June 27-29, 2024, at the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida.

Successful business meetings were interspersed by talented musicians of all ages from 10 years old to "senior" adults.

Informative workshops and seminars lead by Dr. Brenda Smith (*Gathering the Tools for Lifelong Singing*); Dana Holmes (*Body Mapping in your Studio*); Ferol Carylass and Ricky Kendall (*Using Music to Enhance Health and Well-Being*); and J. Stephanie Gonzalez (*Learning for All*) offered practical strategies to enhance all ages as we travel through our musical lives.

We were honored that Southeast Region NFMC Vice President, Joel Adams, was our keynote speaker. His message confirmed his personal reflections of the importance of music in his life and the historically significant influence NFMC had on supporting opera. Joel noted that the Library of Congress holds at least 70 entries of original operas dating back to 1915.

A very successful FFMC State Junior Convention was held May 3-4 at the University of South Florida in Tampa. There were approximately 1930 entries, 69 events, and 23 endowed awards were given. Emi Stefanov is chair of the Junior Convention and Esther Umansky-Roth is the state Junior Division/Festivals chair, and both did an amazing job of organizing the event.

FFMC has 16 Senior Clubs, 12 Festival Areas and many individual members. We also have two Junior Board Officer/Ambassador groups: one in Jacksonville and one in Gainesville. Junior members of FFMC in grades 8-12 are encouraged to participate in the Junior Board. Students help with local Senior Club events, Festivals, and the Junior Convention.

We look forward to another wonderful year ahead fulfilling the mission of the Federation.

Please look at our website: [ffmc-music.org](http://ffmc-music.org), to view many photos from the FFMC Junior Convention and State Convention.



*FFMC Convention: June 28, 2024, began with a lovely morning musical interlude by talented Gainesville musicians.*



*Connie Tuttle-Lill, Chair of the Florida Fellows Committee, honored local Florida Fellows. From left to right: Connie Tuttle-Lill, Lisa Smith, Suzanne Carpenter, Alan Clark, Cheryl Poe, and Claudia Brill.*



## FFMC: NEWS FROM FLORIDA!

*Submitted by Susan Hicks, Sarasota Florida*

The Florida Federation of Music Clubs 2023 Convention ended with a celebratory dinner and concert at the home of Sarasota Music Club member John Fischer. A gourmet dinner with three entrée selections was enjoyed before a performance by two-time Suncoast Music Scholarship winner Danae Tran on violin, accompanied by Michael Stuart on a 1921 Steinway Model D Concert Grand piano. John, along with his partner, Jim Weisenborne, introduced the other amazing instruments in their grand music room: a 1931 Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ and a 1923 pipe organ from the home of wealthy Oklahoma City businessman W.T. Hales, along with two additional grand pianos that had reproducing features. They shared some of their vast collection of piano and organ music rolls, explaining how they worked and demonstrating their performance operations. It was a splendid end to the 2023 state convention.



*Dinner and concert at the home of Sarasota Music Club member John Fischer.*

## MINNESOTA

*Pictured are six past and present Minnesota State Presidents, all attending the 2024 NFMC Conference in Bettendorf, Iowa. From left to right: Sheila Shusterich, Pat Steege, Mary Wescott, Nancy Fiser, Sarah Twedt, and Gloria Lien.*



## MISSOURI

### MISSOURI STATE NEWS

Missouri Federation of Music Clubs has had a busy Three months. In May, the state convention was held in Springfield, Mo. Highlights were Missouri's own Connie Craig as guest speaker and Krista Pape as the "Young Artist" performer. Composer Glenda Austin provided a fun and informative workshop. Two "church musicians of the year" were featured, as well as Missouri's most musical family and Missouri's official ragtime piano player, Gary Ellison. Participants in the Junior Competition were from the fourteen festivals that were held across the state. It was a fun-filled musical weekend.

At least fifteen Missourians were at the national convention in Bettendorf, Iowa. The week started with a dinner cruise on the Mississippi. It was great catching up with NFMC members we see once or twice a year. Workshops were lively and interesting. It was a treat to see Melody Bober, Helen Marlais and Jason Sifford share their music and thoughts with us. On Thursday evening, the Happy Dog Duo regaled us with a wonderful concert on the historic Pleyel double grand at Ashbury Methodist Church.

Missouri was the host state for the south central region "Federation Days" at Opera in the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. This was the last season of the outdoor theater. Next year, performances will be in the new indoor theater. The operas this year were "The Crucible", "Beauty and the Beast", "L'Enfant et les Sortilèges" and "La Traviata". For supporters and members of OIO, new president Don Dagenais published a history of the first 75 years of "Opera in the Ozarks", with some wonderful pictures from the archives.

*Continued on page 32*

## State News *continued*

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Dushore Music Club Enjoys “The Mystery of the Naked Violin”

Violins, varnishes, history, mystery, and the universal language and power of music were the topics that the Dushore Music Club was treated to at their monthly meeting held at the Sullivan County Library on Tuesday evening, May 21, 2024.

M. J. (Mary Jane) McCluskey, author of several children’s books, came to Sullivan County to speak to the Dushore Music Club about her soon to be published book, *The Mystery of the Naked Violin*. The title refers to the fact that the violin, a real violin, has had its varnish removed and no one knows why, or indeed, anything specific about the violin. Her previous books were: *Grace Comes at Christmas* in 2018, *Grace, Peace, and Noelle* in 2019, *Captain Dargo: Born to Serve* in 2020, and *Love, Hope, and a Pink Bucket: The Handsome Henry Story* in 2022.

The mysterious violin came into the possession of concert pianist, harpsichordist, choir director, music teacher, and York College professor Gretchen Dekker. It was she who proposed to MJ that the story of the violin, with its mysterious history and the potential of it being a very old and valuable instrument - or “one of little value,” would make a good children’s story. Gretchen came across the instrument following the death of Dr. Charles West Wilson of Chestnut Hill Estate, a historic property in Red Lion, PA. Dr Wilson was the owner of 13 harpsichords and other historic instruments. It was he who invited Gretchen, and her students, to come to his estate to make music on the very old harpsichords. Gretchen and her students played for him many times, including shortly before he died.

MJ’s book relates the story of Charlie and Alexandria, who find 4 old violin cases in a locked closet, much as Gretchen found them in the closet at Dr. West’s home. The hope is that the story could provide interest in and perhaps raise funds for musical training for more students. Mrs. Dekker was the inspiration behind York’s Miller Make Music Festivals in January and June celebrations of International Make Music Day. She is a passionate promoter and advocate of music and music education in the York area.

Ms. Dekker, with the mysterious violin, accompanied MJ to the library event to provide background about violins and in particular about the discovery of this special violin. Grace Zelewicz, a student at Sullivan County High School and a student violinist, accompanied the presentation with a special performance of Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy*. Grace’s fans in the audience included her mother Jen, brother Lucas, and friends David and Lida Lentz, both student musicians themselves.

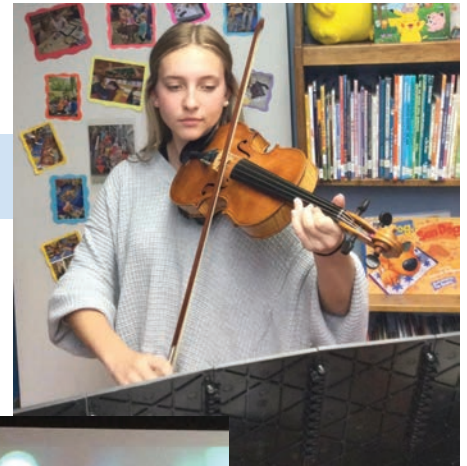
Music Club members were privileged to speak with both Gretchen, MJ, and Grace about the book, the violin, and Gretchen’s plans for planting a music academy in the heart of York. She currently has the YC Prep at the college, and she’s hoping to marry that to SHINE, the foundation for underserved students, and have a “branch office” in downtown York.

MJ read the beginning of the story to Sullivan County’s 5th graders in February of 2023 and they shared some creative ideas for the ending of the story. The book has ties to World War II in France and the

Netherlands. MJ noted that when the French families fled Paris upon the arrival of the Nazis, they often could only take what they could carry, and a violin case made a very good small suitcase, while hiding the contents. Themes that run through the story are the universal language of music and the power of music to heal. Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy*, featured in the story, was played by student violinist Grace Zelewicz on the mysterious violin and Gretchen Dekker on keyboard.

DMC members want to thank MJ and Gretchen for making the long trip to Dushore to share this exciting musical story, and a special thank you to Sullivan County’s own Grace Zelewicz for sharing her talent on the violin.

Grace Zelewicz plays the actual ‘naked violin’



Gretchen Dekker shares her story



MJ McCluskey shares some of the book





## State Festivals Competition

PFMC was especially proud and excited to have our State Festivals Competition take place at Lycoming College in Williamsport this year on the Saturday following our 89th State Convention.

After the local Festivals are held throughout the State, only the students who receive a “Superior” rating can enter their Regional competitions. From there only the top winning students from the Regionals are invited to the State Competition to compete for monetary prizes, plaques and trophies.

Currently the State Competition is offering competitors to compete in Piano Solo from the Medium Class on up through Musically Advanced Class and Piano Concerto in both the Junior and Senior levels.

The overall winner this year and top performer went to Jordan Chen, student of Deborah Kelleher who took the Aikens-Cadman Memorial Award as well as winning for his Concerto performance in the Senior Class and won the Musically Advanced Class Level II. All of the students performed so well and we look forward to next year’s Competition!!



## 89th State Convention

Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs held its’ 89th State Convention on April 25-26, 2024 in Williamsport, PA. The Theme was “Together We Rise” and our special guest was Dr. Ouida Keck.



State President Kristin Ivers and National Guest Dr. Ouida Keck

*For the latest news, sign-up for the  
NFMC Monthly Newsletter!*



*Scan the QR code  
to sign up.*



**NFMC**  
FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

# JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST

[nfm-music.org](https://nfm-music.org)  
Visit the Competitions & Awards page for more information.

Continued on page 34



## State News *continued*

### SOUTH CAROLINA

*Submitted by Sara Kellar, SCFMC President*

SCFMC has had a spectacular 2024 Spring, planning programs and meeting with state music friends. Our Western Region meeting was held March 2nd. Pictures included are: Spartanburg Club members, SCFMC Liability chair Barbara Guley, SCFMC President Sara Kellar, and SCFMC Treasure Bill Cooper. Julie Stephens SCFMC event chair, who is a multi-talented task member at decorating/details for an event. Western Region members entertained by Spartanburg Philharmonic Music club members – a grand performance! Our VP of Western Region is Thea Coleman Jackman who planned the program!

Our SCFMC Conference occurred on April 19th at Thornblade Club in Greer, SC. with 48 in attendance. Table display looked glamorous thanks to Julie! Overview of conference luncheon. See any familiar faces? auction items by Elizabeth Guest Martin and Julie Stephens – SCFMC benefited well, and everyone had fun winning!

Before our conference, Ruth Morrow suggested that SCFMC vote on a musician of the year award! This award received a lot of interest and applicants from many clubs! Our first recipient was Jane Bauer, appointed by The Music Club of Greenville. Jane is a member of MCOG and Grace Notes, a music outreach ensemble which entertains in the Greenville area. Award was given to Jane at our conference and was a complete surprise!

Friday evening of April 19th, eighteen of our members gathered at Capris Italian restaurant in Greenville for a fun dinner together! Sara Kellar and Helena Meetze were caught by Deborah's camera. What was the secret girls?

Junior Day was held on April 20th in conjunction w/ our 2024 conference at John Knox Presbyterian. Pics include, Deborah Freeman installing 2024-2025 SCFMC Junior officers, proud grandmother and past SCFMC president, Helena Meetze with granddaughter junior winner Lily Meetze, Angie Greer Poetry winner and also NFMC SER Jr. composer award winner, Renee Kelly and her grandmother, Dot Kelly, senior member of GWMC. Elizabeth Guest Martin – SCFMC Jr. Counselor, Ann Guest SCFMC past president, and Deborah Freeman NFMC president.

SCFMC hosted SER weekend in Brevard, NC July 12-13. Theme was Nature Inspires Music. Julie's tables and decorations were fabulous, 37 attended, 6 states represented, food was delicious, and everyone enjoyed the mountain experience! This is our SC group picture with attendance trophy again this year! The pic includes our SCFMC scholarship winner Daniel Huang, back row toward the right.



*SCFMC hosted SER weekend in Brevard, NC*



*Sara Kellar and Helena Meetze enjoy our Capri's outing*



*Members select donated auction items*



*See any familiar faces?*



*SCFMC Musician of the year Jane Bauer and Ruth Morrow*



*Judy Doudoukjian and Deborah Freeman*



*Tables by Julie Stephens*



*Gathering of SCFMC members*



*Installation of 2024-2025 SCFMC Junior Officers*



*Angie Greer Poetry Winner, Renee Kelly and her grandmother Dot Kelly. Renee also won the NFMC Southeast Region Junior Composer Award.*



*Elizabeth Guest Martin, Ann Guest, and Deborah Freeman*



*Lily Meetze and her grandmother, Helena Meetze*



## SOUTH DAKOTA

*Submitted by Daryl Jessen, President*

I hope all is well with everyone. What a wonderful conference in Iowa and it was full of wonderful performances and excellent information sharing.

Remember that WE make an impact as music teachers in our student's life. With all that is going on in the world we can provide a stable, safe place for those in our studios. Even though we may get frustrated when they do not practice enough, in the long run we make an impact not just with music but in their future life as an adult. So, as you go forth towards a new year of teaching, keep in mind that "You make a difference!" Take time in lessons to talk and really get to know your students. The music teacher provides a unique opportunity for relationships. Many times, we don't know what an impact we've had until our work is finished.

The Siouxland Center for Active Generations received a FAMA grant for the purchase of music stands. South Dakota Federation members are Karen Bourne (director), Lori Jessen (pianist) and Arlene Lewis (alto). The choir is a group that really enjoys singing and the music stands have helped them so much to continue an activity they love. Many are of the age where it is hard to just hold the music, and the purchase of these stand has contributed to the quality of their rehearsals and performances. Thank You! to NFMC for this opportunity to help bring the spiritualizing force of music to the "vintage" population in our community with equipment that accommodates their needs.

SD-FMC gave away scholarships to college students this past summer. One of those students, Rachel Bonzonie, a recent graduate with degrees in Music Performance (cello) and Music Education (vocal & instrumental) attended the Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy. This is a pre-professional orchestra that allows advanced musicians of college and high school age to enjoy a side-by-side performance experience with our outstanding faculty members. This year's program features Szymanowski's Concert Overture and Mahler's Symphony No. 7. Rachel will be teaching next year and she stated that this will help her to be a better musician and help young musicians she will be instructing.

## TENNESSEE

### Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs Report

*Submitted by Bobette Spear, President*



*Mary Ellen Nolleti*

Mary Ellen Nolleti, chairman for National Music Week, does an outstanding job promoting this event with the help of her Thursday Morning Music Club. This club also celebrates many genres of music in their exciting programs throughout the year.

The Obbligato Club in Nashville was excited to add new members to the roster. This club is making plans for The Festival to be held at Lipscomb University.

Many of our Tennessee Senior Clubs had members who have been involved in celebrating through the Christmas holidays. The Ebenezer Club had most of their members participate in the special musical Worship Service on December 24.



*The Ebenezer Club  
Worship Service*



*Etowah Music Club*



*Cowboy & Cowgirls in Susan's program*

## TEXAS

The Texas Federation of Music Clubs has completed a busy year and faces an even busier one ahead of it. Led by president Lynn McNew, TFMFC had an excellent convention April 4-6 at the Crown Plaza Airport Hilton in San Antonio.

Ruth Morrow, American Music Division chair for NFMC, was the national guest, and Leland Ko, 2023 Young Artist winner in Strings (cello), was the featured performer. Other musical groups and soloists from the area also performed.

Special luncheons recognized life members of Opera in the Ozarks and members of the Yellow Rose Society and Rose Fay Thomas Fellows. A Life Member breakfast inducted new Life Members of NFMC/TFMC.

Decorated baskets were auctioned off to benefit Opera in the Ozarks. A memorial service led by Carol Gessner recognized members who have passed away this year. Junior winners from the state festival performed via the internet, coordinated by Jennifer Key.

New officers will be installed at the April 2025 meeting the first weekend in April in Lubbock. Districts 1 and 8 will be hosts. A major item will be preparations to host the June 2025 convention in Austin.



*Continued on page 36*

## State News *continued*

### VIRGINIA

The Virginia Federation of Music Clubs took its first baby steps in 1920, and how she has grown! Just 32 years after the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMFC) was founded, representatives from the Virginia State Teachers Association and numerous State Music Clubs came together and took the initial steps to become a state organization under the NFMFC. Since that historic gathering in Roanoke, Virginia, the Virginia Federation of Music Clubs (VFMC) has become a “Star State” within the NFMFC. At its inception, the VFMC adopted the objectives established by the NFMFC – to promote creative and performing arts in America and to foster young musical talent. To this end the VFMC has remained committed to high musical standards, the advancement of music and the arts in our communities, music education in our schools, and promotion of American music and musicians.

Virginia celebrates the home of two NFMFC Presidents – Julia Fuqua Ober (1937-41) and Lana Bailey (2007-11). It was Julia Ober who interpreted the meaning of NFMFC’s blue and gold emblem. Lana Bailey was instrumental in securing the current location of NFMFC headquarters in Greenwood, IN.

Celebrating 100 years in style, Virginia held its 2023 convention in the city of Roanoke, Virginia where it all began. Of course everyone showed up in their 1920’s finery! Jazz Music created the mood for the evenings and High Tea was celebrated at the Hotel Roanoke along with a “visit” from our first VFMC President Mrs. James Procter Brown (Prudie). With such a wonderful occasion, the celebration lasted through the 2024 Convention. (You only celebrate 100 years once!) The convention theme of “Fascinating Rhythm” continued along with a streetcar ride through Historical Fredericksburg, VA. Our National Guests were NFMFC President Deborah Freeman and Southeast Regional Vice President Joel Adams. We are

not sure when the celebration will end, but we do know Virginia will continue growing through the federation with the commitment from the VFMC members who have kept us moving towards our future.



Cheryl Davis and Deborah Freeman



### WASHINGTON

*Submitted by Sally Palmer, WSFMC President*

The WSFMC has ten Senior Clubs, and the clubs are primarily teaching clubs consisting of several Junior Clubs. Our membership roster also includes five Junior Associate Clubs consisting of youth orchestras and symphonies in the Puget Sound area.

We have jumped on the bandwagon to try and recruit new members through social media as well as word-of-mouth. We publish a monthly e-newsletter, *Melody Lines*. In this newsletter, the president gives a short message, announcements are made, congratulations are given, reminders are stressed, and NFMFC newsworthy items are mentioned, with encouragement to participate. We include articles from our WSFMC Chairs, and we solicit participation in both social media and volunteer service. We also continue to maintain our WSFMC Website, [www.wastatefed.com](http://www.wastatefed.com) and our WSFMC Group Facebook page. Please be sure to “LIKE” and “FOLLOW.”

In August of 2023 our North Sound Federated Music Club hosted a concert featuring Eric Lu and Kate Liu as they made a stop in Seattle on their way from Japan and Singapore, respectively. The concert also featured the Cascade Symphony and Maestro Miropolsky.

In September 2023 we held our first in-person State General Meeting since the COVID shutdown. It was nice to see everybody in person again! Leadership changes were made and voted in unanimously. Sally Palmer is our new WSFMC President, with Selina Chu as our 1st VP over Festivals and our state Helen Crowe Snelling Competition/Awards. Yelena Balabanova serves as our Secretary and Carol Hibbard serves as our Parliamentarian. Ellen Leapaldt continues to serve as our State Member-at-Large to the NFMFC. Our special musical guests at our meeting were some of our Junior Composer Competition winners, including Eli Anthony, Honorable Mention recipient at the Western Region Level, with his original composition for cello and piano titled *Forest Fantasy*.

This year we celebrate our 103rd birthday! We will be celebrating in September at our General Meeting.



Left to right: Ellen Leapaldt, Yelena Balabanova, Selina Chu, Carol Hibbard, Sally Palmer



## WISCONSIN

### Barron Federated Music Club

The Barron FMC will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary (federated in 1924) in 2024-2025 with concerts, hymn sings, and a final banquet, to name a few celebrations, that reflect being a “spiritualizing force for music” in the Barron community since 1917.

BFMC is a club that sponsors multiple community events in celebration of National Music Week held in May. In June the club is part of an international day of making music, called Make Music Day (MMD). This day of music is on June 21st each year and MMD asks that music be “Performed by anyone, Free for everyone.”

The Barron club sang at several apartment complexes, as well as played piano at the Barron Public Library and the Barron Community Center. Pianos were set up for anyone to play on the day of making music. Other activities of MMD can be seen at [makemusicday.org](http://makemusicday.org).



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

## SENIOR AWARD OPPORTUNITIES



AWARD AMOUNT	AWARD	APPLICATION DEADLINE
\$800	Glad Robinson Youse Composition Award	January 15 (odd year)
\$1,000	Vivian Menees Nelson Disabled and Visually Impaired Award	February 1
\$2,000	Honigman Blind Award	February 1
\$20,000	Ellis Duo Piano Award	February 1 (odd year)
\$20,000	Young Artist Award	February 1 (odd year)
\$1,500	Mayfield Opera Award	February 1 (odd year)
\$4,000	Emil & Ruth Beyer Composition Award	March 1
\$2,000	Virginia Allison Collaborative Award	March 1
\$5,000	Martha Mack Senior Vocal Award	March 15
\$500	Ruth Morse Wilson Handbell Award	April 1
\$2,250	Veterans Awards	May 1
\$2,000	Ouida Keck Pedagogy Award	May 1

Please be sure to review Student/Collegiate category awards, as some awards have identical age requirements. See form CA 20-1 for full details.

For award requirements and application forms visit the NFMF website @ [www.nfmc-music.org](http://www.nfmc-music.org)

### NFMF HEADQUARTERS

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

Phone: (317) 882-4003 / [info@nfmc-music.org](mailto:info@nfmc-music.org)



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

## STUDENT/ COLLEGIATE AWARD OPPORTUNITIES



AWARD AMOUNT	AWARD	APPLICATION DEADLINE
\$20,000	Ellis Duo Piano Award	February 1 (Odd Year)
\$20,000	Young Artist Award	February 1 (Odd Year)
\$800	Bluhm Flute Award	March 1
\$5,500	Barbara Irish Harp Award	March 1
\$2,000	Classical Guitar Award	March 1
\$2,000	Paris French Horn Award	March 1
\$1,500	Student/Collegiate Composition	March 1
\$1,500	Music Therapy Awards	March 1
\$1,500	Valentin Violin Award	March 1
\$1,500	Van Roy Music Education Award	March 1
\$1,500	Nelson Double Reed Award	March 1
\$1,000	Mehan/Morgan Music Education Award	March 1
\$800	Nelson Tuba Award	March 1
\$6,000	Lynn Freeman Olson Piano Pedagogy Award	March 1 (Odd Year)
\$3,000	Student/Collegiate Auditions	March 1 (Odd Year)
\$2,250	Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award	March 1 (Odd Year)
\$750	Wiegand Music of the Faiths Award	March 1 (Odd Year)

*Please be sure to review Senior category awards, as some awards have identical age requirements. See form CA 20-1 for full details*

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1646 West Smith Valley Road  
Greenwood, IN 46142

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## *Coming Dates to Highlight:*

**November 2024**

**Parade of American Music**

**May 4-11, 2025**

**National Music Week**

*Theme: Music...is Unstoppable*

**June 10-14, 2025**

**NFMC Biennial Convention**

*Hilton Austin (TX) Airport*

**Competitions and Awards**

*Inside back cover and [www.nfmc-music.org](http://www.nfmc-music.org)*

*Music Clubs Magazine is published three times annually by the National Federation of Music Clubs. It is sent free of charge to all active Federation senior club members. Others may subscribe by contacting NFMC headquarters at the above address. An annual subscription is \$7 in the U.S. and \$22 to a foreign address.*

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