



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Junior Keynotes

Fall 2025 • Vol. 99, No. 1



Artwork by Irene Wang
Tumwater, Washington



NFMC Junior Keynotes Directory

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Join us for the next MTNA National Conference in Chicago, March 21–25, 2026—a landmark occasion as we celebrate 150 years of excellence in music teaching!



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

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



ANGELA HEWITT
Tuesday Recital



SCOTT YOO
Keynote Speaker



JANE MONHEIT
Opening Session



ALAN CHOW
Advanced Piano Master Class



NANCY O'NEILL BRETH
Intermediate Piano Master Class



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Message from the President

by Deborah T. Freeman

Greetings!

I hope all of you had a wonderful summer and are now excited about returning to school. Some of you will be in the school band or orchestra, and others will also be studying privately, but one thing ALL of you can do is share your music.

How can you do that?

What about planning Junior Music Club meetings?

- Elect officers
- Learn the NFMC Collect, Pledge and hymn
- Perform in a friendly environment
- Participate in NFMC Festivals
- Share your music with shut-ins or in retirement centers
- Enter the National Music Week Essay contest
- Submit a drawing for the cover of this magazine
- Enter the Angie Greer Poetry contest

Music brings people together, builds social skills, and fosters community.

Remember, YOU can make a difference!

Deborah Freeman

Deborah T. Freeman

NFMC President



President's Theme:
"Celebrating our Musical Heritage"

President's Song:
"God Bless America"

Irving Berlin



From the Editor

by Jeanne Hryniewicki

Greetings NFMC teachers, students, and friends!

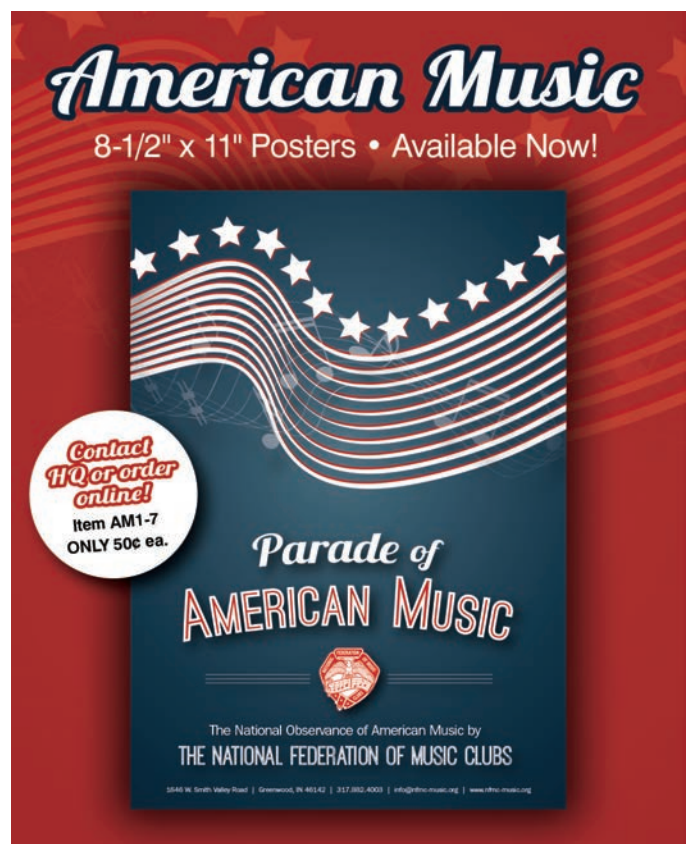
Welcome to the fall season-another year of articles, news and awards highlighting the Junior members of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

In this "Winners Issue", you will find Grand and President Cup winners, Junior Composer, Joyce Walsh, Mary Alice Cox, NFMC Dance, Thelma A Robinson, and Wendell Irish Viola winners along with many informative articles and of course the fun and interesting "State Buzz."

We are looking forward to seeing many of our Juniors participating in the competitions and festivals of 2025-26. Be sure to check out the Awards-at-a-Glance chart at the back of this issue for entry information and deadlines.

Keep the articles, pictures and artwork coming. We are always interested in news and pictures from Junior Clubs in each of your states!

Jeanne Hryniewicki, Editor
Junior Keynotes Magazine





Juniors are the Future of the Federation!

by Lori Jessen, Chair

This is the motto chosen as the Junior Division's rallying cry for the next two years. America's young musicians are amazing, and NFMFC is here to support, inspire, and guide them in their musical journey.

We have Festival, awards, and competitions for every interest. Some of you are even forming traditional junior clubs that take on musical projects in the community. Please share your successes with us by submitting articles so that everyone can celebrate with you. We want to see what you are up to in your neck of the woods!

This issue is full of our Junior Award and Federation Cup winners. Take a look at all the amazing achievements and future goals of these incredible young people in addition to their musical accomplishments. You'll see future doctors, welders, blacksmiths, and performers. Reading their bios gives one so much hope for the next generation.

Here are some of the recommendations (see Debbie Wiser's article for the complete list) from the Junior Division that were passed in Austin. We are always trying to respond to changes requested by the membership, and all of the Festival changes originated as teacher requests. These changes will be reflected in any documents in the Publications section of the website and also in the Online *Bulletin* once it is live.

- Change the date for the Angie Greer Music in Poetry submission deadline from February 1 to November 1. **Get your junior poets writing now!**
- Federation cup pre-orders must be approved by the NFMFC Federation cup chair and NFMFC Headquarters. This means that if your Festival Area likes to award cups on the day of Festival, you can order cups *before* Festival. **Look for future instructions as to the process you'll need to follow.**

- The Popular Piano Solo event choice piece may or may not be from the required list. **This was an overwhelming request from teachers, and we're happy to be able to fulfill it.**

- The solo correlations for the Violin Concerto Event are not mandatory; they are guidelines only.

Please read the articles by the new Festivals Chair Debbie Wiser, the new Federation Cup Chair Dawn Steggerda, and the new *Bulletin* Editor Jennifer Key. Get to know these amazing ladies and always feel free to reach out to them for all of your questions. And do not forget to check out Vivace Chair Sandra Preys's article in order to be up-to-date on what is happening with Vivace.

Mary Jane Timmer served as the Federation Cup Chair for many terms. Her knowledge and expertise on the Festivals team was invaluable. She could always be counted on to give a perspective that was thoughtful, fair, and always put the student experience first and foremost. Her diligence in her duties was always appreciated. We'll miss you, Mary Jane—have fun at the lake!

I also want to take a few moments to thank Janice Flinte for her service as *Bulletin* Editor for the past four years. Her work on getting the Online *Bulletin* ready for release was tireless. We are grateful for the many hours you have given to our organization.

And most of all I want to express a deep heartfelt thanks to Laurie Marshall for her leadership of the Junior Division for the past four years. She helped us all be much more collaborative. She worked tirelessly to ensure that we had the support we needed. She encouraged each one of us in the Junior Division to set a high professional standard for our respective areas of service. She is an amazing colleague.

As we embark upon a new year of membership, I wish everyone wild success in their Federation endeavors this year! **JK**



Meet the Cover Artist

Irene Wang | Tumwater, Washington

Irene Wang will be a 7th grader, in the fall, at Tumwater Middle School in Tumwater, Washington. Outside of school she enjoys ice-skating, art, singing, and playing the piano.





Growing Together: A New Chapter for NFMF Festival Participants

by Debbie Wiser, Chair

“Music has the power to heal, to bring people together, and to inspire change.”

—Aretha Franklin

As the new Festivals Chair, these words resonate deeply with me. Through the power of music, we can bridge distances, strengthen bonds, and grow a vibrant, united Festivals community.

The launch of our inaugural **Online Bulletin** is a milestone in our shared journey. This platform is designed to connect us and inform us.

Growth, however, is not just about individual achievement. It is about collective progress—helping one another improve, fostering a culture of listening, learning, and mutual respect. The NFMF Festivals is a place where every step forward enriches our community.

As we step into this exciting new chapter, I invite you to share your insights and connect with me. The future of the NFMF Festivals is bright, and with your dedication and passion, the harmony we create together will resonate for years to come.

A SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Janice Flinte** for her unwavering dedication to NFMF. Her years of thoughtful work and commitment have been instrumental in bringing the *Online Bulletin* to life. We are deeply grateful for her passion and leadership—and we look forward to sharing the finished *Bulletin* with you very soon.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CERTIFICATES & THEORY TESTS

With new National leadership in place, updated certificates will be required for this new Festival year. Your National dues provide your certificates—your only cost is shipping. Please dispose of any old certificates.

UPDATES & BULLETIN CHANGES FROM THE 2025 CONVENTION

- **JR 3-13 Specially Capable Musician Application:** Now requires approval from local (area) and State Festivals Chairs only. National Festival Chair approval is no longer needed. A one-time filing for permanent conditions is now allowed. Teachers must keep the approval form and resubmit it to the Area Chair each year.
- **Federation Cup Pre-Orders:** Must be approved by the NFMF Federation Cup Chair and NFMF Headquarters.
- **Popular Piano Solo Event:** Choice piece may or may not be from the required list.
- **Sight Singing / Sight Playing:** Class correlations and requirements have been eliminated. First-time entrants may start at any level. Entrants may stay in each level for two years, regardless of rating. No regression is allowed. Entrants must still be registered in the solo event.
- **Violin Concerto Event:** Solo correlations are now guidelines only, not mandatory. **JK**



Cover me, please!

Submit your original artwork for
Junior Keynotes front covers!

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

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

2025 FESTIVAL STATISTICS

The Top 10 Events

Piano Solo	43,805
Theory	6,989
Violin Solo	3,080
Piano Concerto	2,683
Piano Duet	2,078
Piano Hymn	1,973
Musical Theater Solo	1,481
Violin Concerto	918
American Patriotic Folk Song	824
Art Song Solo	707

Events with less than 10 entries

Art Song Duet	9
Piano Trio (piano-violin-cello)	9
Keyboard Percussion Solo	9
String Bass Solo	8
Oboe Solo	8
French Horn Solo	8
Vocal Ensemble	8
Drum Set Solo	7
Viola Trio	6
Recorder Duet	6
String Orchestra	6
Clarinet Concerto	4
Recorder Quartet	4
String Trio	3
Piccolo Solo	3
Tuba Solo	3
Accordion Solo	2
Harp Concerto	2
Fiddling Duet	2
Viola-Cello Duet	2
Bassoon Solo	2
Alto Sax Duet	2
Tenor Sax Solo	2
Harp Hymn Playing	1
Piccolo Concerto	1
Oboe Concerto	1
Bari Sax Solo	1
Electric Bass Guitar Solo	3

Events with no entries

One-Hand Piano Solo
 Viola Quartet
 Classical Guitar Ensemble
 Pick Style Guitar Duet
 Flute Quartet
 Clarinet Duet
 Clarinet Trio
 Sax Quartet (2a-t-b)
 Trumpet Duet
 French Horn Concerto
 Ballet
 Ballroom
 Contemporary
 Hip Hop
 Jazz
 Modern
 Tap Dance
 School Orchestra
 Flute Choir

Historical Summary

Year	Total Events	Difference
2016	99,220	
2017	98,277	-943
2018	95,179	-3,098
2019	91,502	-3,677
2020	83,158	-8,344
2021	70,532	-12,626
2022	71,933	1,401
2023	70,375	-1,558
2024	69,621	-754
2025	69,344	-277

Number of teachers 4,688

2025 FESTIVAL STATISTICS

by Section

Piano Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Piano Solo	43,507	302	43,809
Lynn Freeman Olson	458	5	463
Piano Concerto	2,661	22	2,683
One Hand			
Popular Piano Solo	314	5	319
Collaborative Piano	22	2	24
Sacred Music Piano Solo	237	5	242
Piano Hymn	1,959	14	1,973
Piano Duet	2,065	9	2,074
Piano Trio	153		153
Piano Duo	59	1	60
Piano Quartet	120		120
Total Piano Events	51,555	365	51,920

Organ Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Organ Repertoire	18	1	19
Sacred Organ	10		10
Organ Hymn	64	3	67
Total Organ Events	92	4	96

Accordion Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Accordion Solo	2		2
Total Accordion Events	2	0	2

American Patriotic Folk Song Section	Junior	Adult	Total
All instruments	818	6	824
Total APFS Events	818	6	824

Sight Playing/Singing Section	Junior	Adult	Total
All media	582	1	583
Total Sight Playing/Singing Events	582	1	583

Voice Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Art Song Solo	695	12	707
Musical Theater Solo	1,452	29	1,481
Art Song Duet	9		9
Musical Theater Duet	74	5	79
Total Voice Events	2,230	46	2,276

Strings Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Violin Solo	3,051	29	3,080
Violin Concerto	911	7	918
Violin Duet	208	5	213
Violin Trio	41		41
Violin Quartet	22		22
Viola Solo	288	3	291
Viola Concerto	82	2	84
Viola Duet	18		18
Viola Trio	6		6
Viola Quartet			
Cello Solo	688	10	698
Cello Concerto	112	2	114
Cello Duet	44		44
String Bass Solo	6	2	8
Harp Solo	60	4	64
Harp Concerto	1	1	2
Harp Hymn Playing	1		1
Fiddling Solo	54	1	55
Fiddling Duet	2		2
Total Strings Events	5,595	66	5,661

Chamber Music Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Violin-Viola Duet	36		36
Violin-Cello Duet	17	3	20
Viola-Cello Duet	2		2
String Trio	3		3
String Quartet	36		36
Piano/String Quartet	12		12
Piano Trio (piano-violin-cello)	9		9
Total Chamber Music Events	115	3	118

2025 FESTIVAL STATISTICS

by Section

Guitar Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Classical Guitar Solo	207	4	211
Classical Guitar Concerto	13		13
Classical Guitar Duet	10		10
Classical Guitar Ensemble			
Pick Style Guitar Solo	38	1	39
Pick Style Guitar Duet			
Electric Bass Guitar Solo	3		3
Ukulele Solo	15		15
Total Guitar Events	286	5	291

Woodwinds Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Piccolo Solo	3		3
Piccolo Concerto	1		1
Flute Solo	238	4	242
Flute Concerto	12	1	13
Flute Duet	33		33
Flute Trio	12		12
Flute Quartet			
Oboe Solo	8		8
Oboe Concerto	1		1
Clarinet Solo	40		40
Clarinet Concerto	4		4
Clarinet Duet			
Clarinet Trio			
Bassoon Solo	2		2
Alto Sax Solo	15	1	16
Alto Sax Duet	2		2
Tenor Sax Solo	2		2
Bari Sax Solo	1		1
Sax Quartet (2a-t-b)			
Soprano Recorder Solo	16		16
Recorder Duet	6		6
Recorder Quartet	4		4
Total Woodwinds Events	400	6	406

Brass Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Trumpet Solo	20	3	23
Trumpet Duet			
French Horn Solo	8		8
French Horn Concerto			
Trombone/Euphonium Solo	9	1	10
Tuba Solo	3		3
Total Brass Events	40	4	44

Percussion Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Snare Drum Solo	18	2	20
Keyboard Percussion Solo	9		9
Drum Set Solo	7		7
Total Percussion Events	34	2	36

Dance Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Ballet			
Ballroom			
Contemporary			
Hip Hop			
Jazz			
Modern			
Musical Theatre	62		62
Tap			
Total Dance Events	62	0	62

Musicianship Section	Junior	Adult	Total
Improvisation	18	1	19
Theory	6,942	47	6,989
Total Musicianship Events	6,960	48	7,008

Ensembles	Junior	Adult	Total
Vocal Ensemble	8		8
School Orchestra			
String Orchestra	6		6
Flute Choir			
Total Ensembles	14	0	14

2025 FESTIVAL STATISTICS

by Region & State

Regional Totals

Southeastern	25,055
Western	17,694
South Central	9,880
North Central	8,613
Northeastern	8,102

Region	State	Junior	Adult	Groups	Total
W	Utah	6,781	49		6,830
SE	Florida	6,634	15	4	6,653
SE	Georgia	6,080	39		6,119
SC	Texas	4,492	66	3	4,561
SC	Missouri	3,815	42		3,857
SE	Virginia	3,528			3,528
NE	Ohio	3,419	15	2	3,436
SE	North Carolina	2,693	15		2,708
NE	Michigan	2,625	47		2,672
W	Idaho	2,626	25		2,651
NC	Minnesota	2,466	20		2,486
NC	Wisconsin	2,258	28		2,286
SE	Louisiana	2,043	5		2,048
W	Oregon	1,874	35		1,909
W	California	1,794	6		1,800
NC	North Dakota	1,300	3		1,303
SE	Tennessee	1,236	11	2	1,249
W	Washington	1,199	25		1,224
NC	Iowa	1,132	9		1,141
W	Nevada	996	17		1,013
NE	Pennsylvania	981	7		988
W	Wyoming	973	5		978
NC	Illinois	942	2		944
SE	South Carolina	911	14		925
SE	Alabama	812	2		814
NE	New Jersey	767	5		772
SC	Arkansas	728	10		738
W	Arizona	555	6		561
SC	Oklahoma	532	1	3	536
SE	Kentucky	514	1		515
SE	Mississippi	492	4		496
W	Colorado	346	1		347
NC	Nebraska	267	6		273
SC	Kansas	183	5		188
W	Alaska	183			183
NC	South Dakota	180			180
W	New Mexico	159	15		174
NE	New York Salt City	87			87
NE	NNE (NH, VT)	74			74
NE	New York Thompkins	73			73
W	Montana	24			24



Vivace Updates

by Sandra Preysz, NFMV Vivace Chair

Thanks to everyone for the many hours of service to Festivals. Vivace has helped Festivals management in so many ways and many admins are now becoming very adept at using the system. It has come to our attention that some admins are sharing their personal login and password so that others can do some of the work. Vivace was designed to let us know who does what in the system. If another person is to help with admin duties, that person should be made Admin 2, Reviewer 1 or 2, Scheduler 1 or 2, and/or Rater 1 or 2. Area admins can authorize the Reviewers, Schedulers and/or Raters. Please understand how important it is that **no one should share login information.** This is absolutely against procedure. Privacy and confidentiality need to be safeguarded. Permissions are assigned specifically to the one person so that all records can be traced to the person who has completed the transaction. This level of trust is implied when the permissions are granted to the admin or teacher. Please honor and respect this trust.

This summer, there have been several new features added to Vivace.

1. IMPORTANT: With the expansion of the alternating option to include so many more events in the new 2024-2028 Bulletin, there has been a need to accommodate this with changes in procedure to the Registration process. It will now be necessary to check the COMBINE box for both the Solo and Concerto events that are to be combined in the same year. Similarly, if ALTERNATING is desired, the ALTERNATE box will need to be checked for the event in the prior year and the different alternating event in the current year. Because this is new, there will be some instances where the alternate box was not checked previously. Admins should send information to a National Admin to make sure the previous year is checked. Then Vivace will be able to correctly calculate the Student Point History.
2. During the registration approval process, it is now possible to click on the search eyeglass icon by the choice piece. This will allow the reviewer to see all choice pieces previously performed! It will be much easier to verify that the choice piece has not been performed in a previous Festival.
3. Several new reports will be available in the scheduling module.
SET FESTIVAL SCHEDULING FORMAT
When the Festival is first created, you may now select STANDARD (individual times) or RECITAL (group times with all arriving at the beginning of the session). All reports will follow the format selected.

SCHEDULE BY ACCOMPANIST

The trick will be to type the name of the accompanist exactly the same way in every entry. If there is even the slightest variation, then there will be two accompanist lists:

DESIRED: Sandra Preysz

VARIANTS: Sandra Preysz (two spaces between first and last name)
S. Preysz, Sandy Preysz, Sandi Preysz

These 5 variations will produce 5 separate accompanist lists.

My guess is that it may take some editing by the admin AFTER scheduling is complete. If the accompanist is appearing on two or more lists, then some edits in the registration will be needed. Different teachers using the same accompanist will be more likely to enter the name in various ways.

SCHEDULE BY DATE/TIME

Many areas have requested this sort option to supply a list for participant check in.

4. At the Austin Convention, a Vivace tech support representative was in attendance at the Vivace Q & A session. Members who attended were able to express their ideas to improve the scheduling module. This summer, tech support has been working to incorporate some of the ideas. Stay tuned!
5. The State JR 3-3 lists all Festival areas on the form. This enables the State Festival Chair to see all Festival areas and the status of the reports for each area. If the name of the area appears in **RED** with the *, this indicates that the Festival area has not yet completed and certified all Festivals. The State JR 3-3 is therefore not ready to be sent on to Regional and then to National.
6. Many areas have reported that the .pdf for Consecutive Superiors does not line up when printing the certificates. We are working to make sure that the .pdf is matching as closely as possible. With the variety of computer/printer setups, it makes it very difficult to create a format that will work for all. A template Word document for mail merging certificates is available in the Support Center. It allows for alignment adjustments and can be accessed from the Table of Contents: Troubleshooting: Report and Certificate Downloads and Printing.

Make sure to check the Support Center for the teacher and area admin checklists. These checklists will remind everyone of the steps that should be done at the beginning of each Festival year. **JK**



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events and awards.



Federation Cup Winners

by Dawn Steggerda, *Federation Cup Chair*

My name is Dawn Steggerda, and I will be your new Federation Cup Chair in the Junior Division. I was the Iowa State President from 2019-2025, so I've met some of you at National conventions. I've also held the position of Junior Advisor for our state, and I've done a little of everything at the local level, including serving as our club Festival Chair for many years.

I'd like to thank Mary Jane Timmer for her past years of service working as the Federation Cup Chair for NFMFC. We appreciate all who volunteer their time for our Federation.

I'm excited for the opportunity to meet more of you who are involved in Festivals as we reward participants for their hard work in so many areas of music performance. We do have one important detail to pass along to all of you. The Crown Awards NFMFC pricing for our gold and silver cups will increase 5% effective September 1, 2025. Please plan for this cost increase when you are setting your Festival fees.

PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS

CALIFORNIA



Surya Donath

Surya Donath has been taking violin lessons with his wonderful teacher, Armine Nerkararyan, since he was five years old. He has participated in the Violin Solo event for the last twelve years and the Senior Violin Concerto event for the last four. Violin has become a cherished part of his life, and some of his favorite pieces to practice and perform over the last twelve years are Tchaikovsky's "Violin Concerto", "Meditation" from Thais, and "Zapateadi" by Sarasate.

Surya graduated from Walnut High School in the spring of 2025, where he enjoyed playing in the Walnut High Symphonic Orchestra and served as concertmaster his senior year. In addition to music, Surya participated in various science competitions throughout high school and won over 20 medals in Science Olympiad. Surya is very passionate about earth science and astronomy, and loves learning about stars, planets, and cool rocks.

Surya will begin his undergraduate studies at Stanford University in the fall, where he plans to major in geophysics and pursue a career in academia and research. Surya is also looking forward to becoming a member of one of Stanford's orchestras.

FLORIDA



Samuel Wu

Samuel Wu is a graduating senior from Sunlake High School, Tampa, Florida. He is Valedictorian and was selected as 2025 Outstanding Senior for Pasco County Schools. He started taking lessons when he was 4 years old with Kenji Sukanuma at the Academy of Musical Arts in Tampa, FL. For 14 years he has participated in 76 Festival events that include: Solo, Concerto, Duet, Hymn Playing, American Patriotic/Folk Song, Sight Playing, Recorder and Theory. This year he has earned the 90-point President's Federation Cup for Piano Solo & Concerto, combined. Additionally, Samuel has achieved 14 consecutive superiors in piano solo. He will attend Yale University in the Fall majoring in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry.

MICHIGAN



Isabella Barretto

Isabella Barretto is a pianist from Rochester, Michigan, and began her piano journey with Pamela Slomka at the age of 5 years old. Isabella has been participating in the Federation Festival for the last 12 years and earned the President's Cup this past year with her solo and concerto performance. Not only has she dedicated much of her life to piano, but she is also heavily involved in her high school band and marching band at Stoney Creek. There, she plays the trombone, french horn, and trumpet and has received many of the highest scores at MSBOA's Solo and Ensemble both at an individual level and with her class.

Outside of her musical life, Isabella is heavily involved in tennis and plays Number One Singles for her high school team. She plans to attend the University of Toledo next year where she is committed to playing D1 Tennis and will major in Exercise Science.

MINNESOTA



Annie Nguyen

Annie Nguyen has been participating in Festival since kindergarten and began piano lessons at the age of four with Diane Anderson. She graduated from Visitation School in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, where she was active in theatre and robotics. Annie will attend Northeastern University with a major in electrical and computer engineering.

MINNESOTA *continued*

Vladimir Tsiper

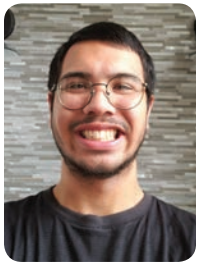
Vladimir Tsiper is a senior at the Breck School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has been a violin student of Lucinda Marvin at MacPhail Center for Music since the age of five. In addition to violin, Vladimir is studying composition with Sarah Miller. He is a member of the Minnesota Youth Symphonies (MYS) Symphony Orchestra and the Artaria Chamber Music School. He is a concertmaster of the Breck Chamber Players Orchestra.

Vladimir has won many prizes at venues such as Sherer International Competition in Goshen IN, and in the Minneapolis area from Schubert Club, MNSOTA Mary West Solo Competition, Thursday Musical, the MacPhail Concerto/Aria Competition, Minnesota Sinfonia Young Artists Competition, and many other Concerto Competitions. In the last few years he has soloed with the Bloomington (MN) Symphony Orchestra, Dakota Valley Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis, the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Youth Symphonies, La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, and Mankato Symphony.

Vladimir was featured on the national radio show *From TheTop*. In 2022 and 2025 he was the Winner of the West Central Division of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Senior String Competition and competed in the National Competition.

As a prestigious Woodruff Award recipient, Vladimir will be beginning his violin studies with Professor Sergiu Schwartz at the Schwob School of Music of the Columbus State University in Georgia this fall. Aside from music, Vladimir enjoys downhill skiing, theater, and traveling, especially visiting the tallest buildings in the world. He is a movie nerd and an active member of the film lovers' community.

MISSOURI



Hans Miller

Hans Miller started taking piano lessons at the age of 4. He took lessons with Leann Rodman until he was 16 and is now taking lessons with Dr. Wei-Han Su. Hans earned the President's Cup for reaching 90 points this year, and has attained a superior rating for piano solos for 13 consecutive years. Hans has also attended the Missouri State University Young Artists Keyboard Academy for the past 2 years. In addition, Hans has been playing drums for 8 years. Hans loves music and it will always be a special part of his life.

OHIO



Arya Babu

If ever there was a person who deserves the title Virtuoso Piano Student, it is **Arya Babu**! One of her greatest achievements is performing not once, but thirteen times at Carnegie Hall. She has also performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Royal Albert Hall in London, playing on Elton John's red piano.

Winner of the NFMFC 90-point President's Cup, Arya began lessons at age four with master teacher

Cynthia Crotty who, Arya says, has been the biggest musical influence in her life. Her teacher has always been very encouraging and made her the pianist she is today.

Arya has competed in international competitions in Salzburg, Barcelona, Amsterdam and Bonn, winning first place every time. With her teacher as her collaborator, Arya also won top prize in American Protégé's International Concerto Competition.

A self-confessed perfectionist Arya is meticulous in everything she undertakes. Her friends make fun of her because she takes so long to do things.

A full scholarship student throughout her high school years at Hathaway Brown in Shaker Heights, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and bestowed her school's Performing Arts Award and Directors Award for her violin skills in the school orchestra. She made first place in the 2024 FICA Cleveland Student Achievement Award. She won "18 under 18," an award given to the top 18 Indian students in America. An avid chess player, she volunteers with Progress With Chess and has ranked 16th nationally.

This fall Arya will attend Babson College in Boston where she will major in entrepreneurship and finance. In her spare time Arya teaches piano and will continue teaching piano and performing gigs while in college.

Fun fact: Arya's favorite composer is Mozart, and her dog's name is, you guessed it, Mozart!

OREGON



Ethan Chang

Ethan Chang, a senior at Mountainside High School in Beaverton, Oregon, is a refined young musician. Under the guidance of Fen-Fang Tsao, he began playing piano in first grade. Ethan has showcased his musical talent at numerous piano festivals and competitions, consistently impressing adjudicators with his skill and musical sensitivity. He has received numerous awards in solo, ensemble, and concerto categories over the years. Notably, he also received the prestigious President's Cup from OFMC. Additionally, Ethan completed the 10th level of the OMTA syllabus with distinction.

Beyond piano, he finds joy playing viola with the Portland Youth Philharmonic. Sharing music with others warms his heart, whether it's bringing joy to nursing home residents or enriching church gatherings. While classical music is an integral part of Ethan's life, he also enjoys exploring different genres of music and arts. With a curiosity for culture and travel, he's always eager to experience new adventures!

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PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS ...continued

PENNSYLVANIA



Annika Batavia

Annika Batavia received the prestigious NFMC 90-point President's Cup in Voice after 13 years of participation in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festivals. She earned this honor through consistent Superior ratings in Musical Theatre, as well as four consecutive years of Superior ratings in the Art Song event, where she performed classical repertoire in foreign languages. Annika has been studying voice with Antonia Botti-Lodovico at Batavia Studios since the age of 5. Under her teacher's mentorship, Annika has developed a deep appreciation for storytelling through song and has consistently challenged herself with advanced repertoire across a wide range of vocal styles.

Annika recently graduated from Seneca Valley High School, where she performed in musicals, madrigals and choirs. During her senior year she pioneered the school's first-ever musical theatre program for students ages 12 and under as part of her senior project. Her initiative gave younger students in the district a chance to explore theater in a meaningful, inclusive way, and was met with overwhelming enthusiasm.

In addition to her vocal studies, Annika has dedicated over a decade to musical theatre performance and has taken on both leading and ensemble roles in numerous productions. She has also studied acting, ballet, jazz, and tap, and is passionate about the collaborative nature of theatre. Outside of performance, Annika has participated in service-based projects and led arts education initiatives for younger children in her community. She will be continuing her artistic journey this fall as a BFA Musical Theatre major at Penn State University.

Annika is deeply grateful to her teacher, Antonia, for her unwavering support and guidance, and she credits her years in NFMC as a vital part of her growth as both a musician and a performer.



Eric Chen

Eric Chen is a graduate of Seneca Valley High School in Pennsylvania with a passion for music and science. Eric, a student of Linda Maurhoff, participated in NFMC Festivals for 12 years, consistently earning Superior ratings in Piano Solo, Piano Concerto, and Theory and this year received the NFMC 90-point President's Cup.

As a member of the school's Academic Games team, he enjoys problem-solving and collaboration. In his free time, Eric enjoys playing the piano and

hanging out with his friends. Eric also participated in the SVHS Marching Band as a percussionist.

With a keen interest in STEM subjects, Eric is always excited to explore new opportunities and pursue his passion.

This summer Eric plans to return to Hillman Academy for a continuation in the cancer research intern program he previously attended. Eric plans to attend Johns Hopkins University for his 2025-2026 academic year.



Rohin Jayaraman

Rohin Jayaraman is a 2025 graduate of Seneca Valley High School, Pennsylvania and has been a student of Linda Maurhoff for the past 5 years. He has participated in the NFMC Festivals since Kindergarten receiving Superior ratings in Piano Solo and Concerto events. He has earned his NFMC 90-point President's Cup this spring.

Rohin's interests involve Academic Decathlon, Academic Games, piano, and saxophone. "I have played piano since the age of 5 and have thoroughly enjoyed it."

Some other passions involve participating in his high-school's musical and traveling the world while spending time with his family. His plans are to attend Northwestern University next year, majoring in Psychology.



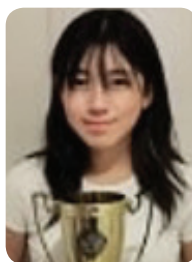
Owen Kline

Owen Kline has received the NFMC 90-point President's Cup, which he earned while participating annually for the past 12 years in NFMC Festivals.

Owen is from Mountaintop, PA, the son of Dr. Gerry and Cathy Kline. He has a brother, Alex. A recent Crestwood Area High School graduate, Owen plans on attending Penn State University, Main Campus, on a merit scholarship, as an industrial engineering major, with a minor in

finance or information systems management. He has studied piano the past 12 years with PFMC and Senior Mozart Club piano teacher Andrea Bogusko, who is chairperson for the annual NE PA Wilkes-Barre Festival. Owen has performed in numerous recitals and festivals including the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA and Carnegie Hall, New York.

Owen is a National Honor Society member, has achieved straight A's throughout middle and high school and attended National Leadership Conference for Future Business Leaders in Orlando, FL. He was a varsity starter for his school soccer team and has a black belt in karate.



Alyssa Li

Alyssa Li is pleased to receive the National Federation of Music Clubs 90-point President's Cup—a prestigious honor recognizing her sustained excellence and dedication to the art of musical composition. Alyssa is a student of Deborah Rodgers. Alyssa's journey with composition began in elementary school, and as she now prepares to enter Grade 12, her body of work reflects years of creative exploration, growth, and passion for music. She has composed original music for a variety of instrumentations, crafting

her melodies into interesting chamber works. Although Alyssa does not plan to pursue music at the university level, she values the strong foundation and deep understanding she has developed through years of creative exploration—and will carry that appreciation for music with her wherever she goes.

PENNSYLVANIA *continued*

Inara Niaz

Inara Niaz, a senior at Parkland High School, has achieved the NPMC 90-Point President's Cup from 12 consecutive years of superior piano solo ratings and 4 consecutive years of superior senior concerto ratings in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival. She has been studying with Mrs. Susan Kuntz since her first lesson when she was 5 years old. Through the 13 years she has been a student of Mrs. Kuntz, Inara is grateful for her teacher's inspiring and contagious love for music.

She has been challenged to play increasingly complex pieces and encouraged to participate in competitions such as the PA Federation of Music Clubs State Festivals Competitions where she won awards for her Senior Concertos including the Best Senior Concerto award for Mvt. III of Howard Hanson's "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 36" and President's Award for Best Overall Concerto for the 1st mvt. of the Saint-Saëns "Second Piano Concerto." Inara has also achieved the 10-year National Roll in the Piano Guild Auditions, the 5-year plaque and 10-year Superior-plus trophy in the Achievement Awards Auditions, and 7 years and levels of music theory in the Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival, LVMTA, PMTA.

At school, Inara participates in National History Day competitions where her winning exhibit has been displayed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History showcase. She played the violin in the school orchestra for 5 years and was also a member of the Honors Jazz Band. She also leads the Operation Smile, Club Med, Amnesty International, and Welcome Pack student organizations for which she organizes school wide donation drives, charity events, and human rights education meetings. Outside of piano, she dedicates her time to local community service as well as larger organizations such as fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society.

Inara would like to thank Mrs. Kuntz for helping her explore the world of music for the past 13 years, sharing the stage with her for concerto performances for the past 4 years, and passing on a lifelong passion for learning. She dedicates her successes on and off the stage to Mrs. Kuntz's unwavering support and profound influence. Though Inara plans on pursuing a pre-med track at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2025, she will continue piano as a lifelong passion.

UTAH



Jameson Hilbig

Jameson Hilbig has studied under Monika Preyz of Harmonies Music Studio since the age of 5. He has been lucky enough to follow his 4 older siblings to learn and achieve his performance goals with Monika's skilled training. His participation in Solo and Concerto events have been a motivating factor in learning a variety of music, and have helped to shape his musical journey. He finished his senior year with music from Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Tchaikovsky. He especially loves to play jazz improv, and jamming with his dad and brothers.

Jameson is soon to be a graduate from Alta High School in Sandy Utah, where he has played midi on the men's lacrosse team - JV and Varsity, and cello in the school's chamber orchestra for 4 years as well. In his spare time Jameson also enjoys playing guitar, snow-skiing in the beautiful mountains of Utah, and camping and taking road trips with his friends.

Jameson is a great student, having earned a High Honors diploma, and received his Eagle Scout award when he was a freshman. He will attend Brigham Young University in the Fall of 2027 after serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints among the people of Luanda, Angola.

We are so appreciative of Monika of Harmonies Music Studio, The Utah Federation of Music Clubs, and all the patient, hard-working piano teachers that offer this gift of a lifetime to their students! Bravo! And, Thank you!



Everett Myers

Everett Myers began his piano studies at the age of four and has developed a love and skill of practicing through the years with the help of his teachers, Cleo Brimhall and Bonnie Jack, and Mom. He applies those same skills and discipline to many areas of his life. He was one of 11 pianists selected for BYU's Musician's Institute during the summer of 2023 and 2024. Everett is a good mix of being goofy, kind, serious, and is a peacemaker making him a favorite of his 3 siblings and many kids at school and church. He works hard at school and especially enjoys his choir and Spanish Bridge class. He loves playing defense on the high school lacrosse team, lifeguarding at the local rec center, wrestling and nerf wars with his brothers and sister, and his ultimate favorite hobby — eating.

WISCONSIN



Logan Krueger

Logan Krueger graduated from Nicolet Union High School in June of 2025. During his four years at Nicolet, Logan played piano and cello in the Chamber Orchestra and piano in pop and jazz ensembles. He received the "star player" award for the Chamber Orchestra in 2023 and 2025. He was an active member of the Music National Honor Society and received the highest ratings in the Wisconsin School Music Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival for both piano and cello. Logan participated in the National Federation of

Music Clubs Federation Festival for thirteen years and the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs State Festival for three years. In the 2023 State Festival, he won first place in the senior concerto event and honorable mention in the piano solo event. He was a first-place winner in the piano duet event in 2024 and 2025. Logan was awarded the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs High Achievement Scholarship in 2024 and the Peggy Radmer "I Love Music" Scholarship in 2025. He was awarded the "Best Performance Award" in the Jazz Unlimited Competition in 2023 and 2025.

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PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS ...continued

WISCONSIN continued

Logan was on the honor roll all four years at Nicolet and received the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Merit Awards. He was awarded the William Padway Scholarship by the Nicolet Athletic Department for being a three-sport athlete for four years. He was the recipient of Nicolet's varsity swim team "Hardest Worker" award in 2023 and 2025.

Logan will attend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in the fall of 2025. He will major in Automation Engineering and be a member of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh men's swim team. When not swimming or playing the piano, Logan works as an American Red Cross certified lifeguard and enjoys time with his family, friends, and pets.



Collin Runnoe

Collin Runnoe graduated from Whitefish Bay High School in June of 2025 and was a member of the Whitefish Bay High School Chamber Orchestra for four years. He participated in the National Federation of Music Clubs Federation Festival for thirteen years and received a "12+ Years Consecutive Superiors Certificate" for earning thirteen consecutive superior ratings. Collin participated in the Wisconsin School Music Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival for six years and won three "Exemplary Performance Awards." He was also a member of the Wisconsin School Music Association's Honors Orchestra for six years. He was a first-place winner of the 2024 Civic Music Association of Milwaukee's High School Competition and was a participant in Civic Music Association's Showcase Recital in 2023. Collin soloed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra as a finalist in the 2024 "Stars of Tomorrow" auditions. He played in a piano trio for four years in the Advanced Chamber Music Institute at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and was a cellist in the University Community Orchestra and the University Community String Orchestra, both sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Collin was selected as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA) in 2024 and 2025. In 2024 the orchestra, under the direction of Marin Alsop, played in Carnegie Hall and in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. In 2025 the orchestra, under the direction of Gianandrea Noseda, played in Carnegie Hall and went on a six-city Asian tour to Tokyo, Osaka, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, and Seoul.

When not participating in musical activities, Collin can be found on the golf course, either as a golfer or as a caddie for the Milwaukee Country Club. Collin will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and double major in music and chemistry.

GRAND CUP WINNERS

CALIFORNIA



Lok Kay Teo

Lok Kay Teo, a senior at Claremont High School in California, recently earned NFMFC Grand Cups in both piano and violin. His musical journey began at the age of two in Singapore and continued after his family relocated to California. For the past twelve years, he has studied piano with Carol Hendrixson and violin with Olga Meisel at the Claremont Community School of Music.

Since 2014, Lok Kay has been a dedicated participant in the NFMFC Festival, entering events in Solo, Concerto, Ensemble, and Theory, steadily accumulating points that led to his Grand Cup achievements.

Beyond NFMFC, Lok Kay is an active member of both the Claremont High School Orchestra and the Claremont Young Musicians Orchestra, where he has found joy and inspiration in collaborating with fellow young musicians.

Outside of music, Lok Kay has a wide range of interests including cooking, baking, and airplanes, as well as a deep fascination with Formula One racing and food.

FLORIDA

Lyna Tran is a Junior at Hillsborough High School, Tampa, Florida. She started taking piano lessons when she was 6 years old with Kenji Suganuma at the Academy of Musical Arts in Tampa, FL. For 11 years she has been participating in Festival events that include: Piano Concerto, Solo, Duo, Duet, Sight Playing, American Patriotic and Folk Song, and Theory. She earned the 75-point Federation Grand Cup for Piano Solo & Concerto combined this year and hopes to earn the 90-point President's Cup next year. Lyna enjoys reading mystery novels and hopes to study engineering in college.

IDAHO



Rachel Beck

Rachel Beck, 17, is a gifted fiddler and vocalist from Melba, Idaho, known for her expressive swing style, rich vocals, and charismatic stage presence. A standout in the sibling trio *Fiddle Express*, she began performing at age three and recently contributed vocals and fiddle to their latest album, *Musical Rizz*, which blends bluegrass, swing, and Western roots with a modern edge.

Rachel has earned several top honors, including first place in the Junior Fiddle division at the Idaho State Fiddle Contest and announced as the alternate in the 2024–25 Idaho State MTNA Senior Competition. She was also one of only a few violinists from Idaho selected to participate in the prestigious 2025 NAFME All-Northwest Orchestra. Rachel has been an active member of the Boise Philharmonic Symphonic Youth Orchestra for the last 4 years.



This summer Rachel was awarded a full tuition scholarship to attend a highly competitive 4-week music intensive in Chicago—a program that recognizes exceptional young musicians with advanced training opportunities.

Rachel has participated in humanitarian outreach through the World Ukulele Project, traveling to Guatemala to teach music to children in underserved communities. Outside of music, Rachel enjoys painting, skiing, and rafting—activities that reflect her creative spirit and love for the outdoors.

She has studied classical violin with Jenny Iroga for ten years and currently trains under Craig Purdy, a professor at Boise State University. Her fiddle mentor of seven years has been national champion Matthew Hartz. Looking ahead, Rachel plans to study music education with an emphasis in violin.



Owen Godfrey

Owen Godfrey has been taking violin lessons with Jenny Iroga for 12 years and has participated in the Boise Tuesday Musicales festival each year. Owen is currently a Junior with Boise Online and also attends classes at Borah High School and Dennis Technical School. In addition to playing violin, Owen enjoys working on cars, exercise, listening to music, playing guitar and the occasional video game. After graduation, Owen is looking forward to attending school for a career as a tradesman.



Lydia Malan

Lydia Malan of Boise, Idaho is a recent graduate of Mountain View high school graduating with a 3.98 GPA. She has enjoyed playing the piano since she was 5 years old. Since that time, she has participated in 13 concerto and solo festivals. She is a member of Boise Tuesday Musicales and has had the privilege of training with Dr. Del Parkinson for the last 6 years. Along with the piano Lydia has spent much of her time competing in gymnastics, and this year took up pole vaulting. She is looking forward to attending Boise State University this fall to study nursing.



Abigail Perdomo

Abigail Perdomo has been studying piano for 12 years with the same teacher, building a strong foundation in both classical technique and musicality. Throughout her piano journey, Abigail has participated annually in the Piano Festival, where she consistently prepared and performed two piano solos and one movement of a concerto each year. In addition to piano, Abigail plays tuba, trombone, euphonium, violin, organ, guitar, and ukulele. She enjoys connecting with music through many instruments and settings, from solo recitals to ensemble performances. This fall Abigail will attend Boise State University to pursue a double major in piano performance and nursing. Abigail hopes to eventually become a nurse anesthetist. She is deeply honored to receive her 5th Gold Cup and is thankful for support and guidance of her teacher and mentors who have played such an important role in her growth as a musician.

MINNESOTA



Luke Piper

Luke Piper is a rising senior at Eagan High School, and recently earned a 75-point cup, having studied piano since the age of 6 with Sarah Twedt. Luke has been participating in NFMC solo piano events for the past 11 years, earning 11 superiors, and concerto piano events for the past 3 years, earning 3 superiors. He has also performed in the MMTA's state contest, finishing as a state winner.

At school, Luke plays soccer while also being a member of NHS. In addition, he enjoys playing baseball; spending time with friends; working part-time; and volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, Habitat for Humanity, and Loaves and Fishes. He plans on a future in mechanical engineering or business.



Noah Scharback

Noah Scharback is a 10th grader at Minnetonka High School in Minnetonka, MN. Noah served as principal cellist in the Minnesota Youth Symphony this past term and was last year's Symphony Solo Competition winner. He was also the 2024 Senior Division winner of the MN Sinfonia Young Artist String Competition, and a Junior Division winner of the Mary West Solo Competition this fall. Noah has placed highly in several other competitions this year including the Bruce P. Carlson Student Scholarship Competition through the Schubert Club, Thursday Musical Young Artist Scholarship and the Minnetonka Music Association Young Artist Competition. Noah is thrilled to have earned the NFMC Grand Cup this year and has his sights set on the President's Cup, a goal of his since he was 6 years old!

Noah enjoys exploring chamber music with the Empyrean Quartet of wonderful young people at Artaria Chamber Music School. He devotes his time to studying cello with his beloved teacher, Dr. David Holmes, whom he has studied with for 11 of the 12 years he has been playing cello. Noah plays travel soccer and is in his 10th season singing with the Minnesota Boychoir under the wonderful direction and mentorship of Mark Johnson. Noah's opera credits include *La Bohème* at Theater Latté Da and the role of Miles in The University of Minnesota Opera Theatre's production of Britten's *Turn of the Screw*; however, Noah's most accomplished role to date is that of Big Brother to his four little sisters.

MISSOURI



Carter Meints

Carter Meints is from Springfield, Missouri. He has studied piano for ten years with Cindy Dittrich. He cites Claude Debussy, Frédéric Chopin, and Scott Joplin as his favorite composers, and he especially treasures his concerto performances with Mrs. Dittrich. In addition to his musical accomplishments, Carter has earned his private pilot license. He plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he will study physics and pre-engineering while competing in cross-country and track. Carter often quotes Mrs. Dittrich's words of wisdom: "Practice more," and "If you're the smartest person in the room, find a new room."

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GRAND CUP WINNERS ...continued

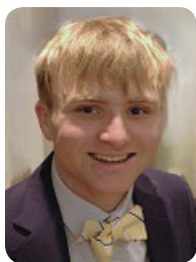
NORTH DAKOTA



Nathaniel Mehrer

Nathaniel Mehrer, has been a piano student of Sharon Geggelmann for twelve years and has earned a 75 point cup. He has participated in piano solos for 12 years, duets for 9 years, and concertos for 6 years receiving superior ratings in all events. Throughout middle school and high school Nathaniel has also participated in band playing the alto and baritone saxophone for pep band, concert band, and marching band.

Nathaniel enjoys working with his hands and has taken agriculture and shop classes throughout his high school education. At the age of 14, he took up the hobby of forging and crafting knives. Following his passion, Nathaniel plans to start a business as a blacksmith and bladesmith following graduation from South Heart High School in May.



Sam Wiederholt

Sam Wiederholt 18, has received his education through homeschooling and part-time classes at St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, ND. He has taken piano lessons from his grandmother, Priscilla Keogh of Dickinson, since he could reach the piano keys. Sam's musical awards include Poppler's Music Competition, placing 1st and 2nd in 2 years of the elementary division, and most recently was a finalist in the Bismarck Mandan Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition.

His ability to improvise jazz brings joy to all who hear him at random pianos in airports and lounges, and he has become a sought-after performer for parties and socials. Sam also plays the violin, performing with his teacher, Lilian Bielinski, has participated in concert and jazz choir at St. Mary's earning many awards including the American Directors Association Award, and currently is principal pianist with the Bismarck Mandan Youth Symphony Orchestra. He will be performing a Mozart concerto with them this spring.

Besides music, Sam plays baseball for St. Mary's and is a varsity swimmer on the Century High School Swim team, as well as a senior swimmer for the Mandan Marlins swim club where he is a beloved coach to many young swimmers. Welding is another passion of Sam's and he hopes to become a professional welder in the coming years.

OHIO



Leen Akras

Leen Akras, a sophomore at Hawken Upper School in Gates Mills, has earned the National Federation of Music Club's 75-point Grand Cup and her 12th consecutive superior in piano solo. Accompanying those exciting accomplishments were the Elsie Stupp Grand Cup Award from the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs, the Gold Cup Award from Cleveland Federation of Music Teachers, and a special letter of commendation from NFMFC.

Leen started lessons at The Music Settlement at age four with her devoted teacher Patti Evans. In Leen's own words, "Ms. Evans cares very deeply for her students and always puts us first. She was born with a love for her students. She is not only interested in our success but cares that we are proud of ourselves." Leen credits her teacher for her love and passion for the piano.

Piano study has made her see the value of persistence and determination daily, be it mastering just a line or learning new theory concepts. She says the "struggle zone" is necessary for growth.

Leen is a member of The Junior Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland. Besides the NFMFC Festival, she regularly participates in NE-OMTA Fall Festivals and masterclasses at The Music Settlement. Last year, she was awarded first place in the Stars of Summer Competition.

A well-rounded student, Leen has been active on her school's speech and debate team, competes on both club and school volleyball teams, plays tennis and is an avid skier. She enjoys baking fancy cakes for parties and events and even has an online presence: Consumer favorites are tiramisu and chocolate-cherry cookies. She has a grey and white tabby called Bean, who sits next to her when she practices piano. When Leen leaves the house, she puts on music for her cat so it does not feel lonely.

PENNSYLVANIA



Roshini Umesh

Roshini Umesh, a student at Seneca Valley HS in Pennsylvania had an interest in music at a very young age. She started piano lessons with Mrs. Linda Maurhoff in first grade and has also played the violin since fourth grade. This interest in music led her to play music for hospice patients while volunteering. Roshini has established a program named HEART Volunteers to specifically recognize the unique needs for hospice patients through acts such as playing music. Roshini has participated in NFMFC Festivals since first grade receiving Superior

ratings in Piano Solo and Piano Concerto. She received the NFMFC 75-point Grand Cup this Festival year.

Alongside her interest in music, Roshini has played an important role for her school's Decathlon Team and has been elected to be one of four Blue Senators in the YMCA Youth and Government, for the state of Pennsylvania. Roshini is very grateful for the opportunities and experiences Mrs. Maurhoff has offered her and is very excited for the 2026 festival season!



Ray Yang

Ray Yang has earned the NFMFC 75-point Grand Cup from the National Federation of Music Clubs, a distinguished recognition that honors years of dedication, creativity, and excellence in musical composition. Ray is a student of Deborah Rodgers. Reaching this 75-point milestone reflects many years of quality work, and this achievement in composition is a testament to both talent and commitment. Ray's musical journey began in preschool. Over the years, Ray has composed a growing collection of original pieces, impressing

festival judges who recognized them through numerous composition prizes. Beyond composition, Ray is a multi-instrumentalist who plays piano, violin, and sings. This firsthand experience with different instruments and vocal performance allows a composer to write music that is deeply informed by the perspective of a performer. The Grand Cup not only honors each recipient's success in the Jr. Composer Contest but also celebrates the musical foundation they've built—one that will no doubt continue to grow in beautiful and unexpected ways.

UTAH



Brigham Bennion

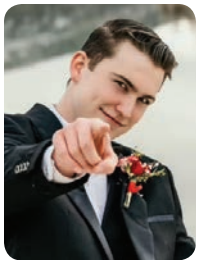
From an early age, it was clear that **Brigham J. Bennion** was destined for a life immersed in music. He began piano lessons at the age of four, spending quiet hours at the keys crafting melodies that would grow into a lifelong passion and a powerful form of self-expression.

A true multi-instrumentalist, Brigham's musical talents span piano, violin, guitar, saxophone, harmonica, bass guitar, and organ. His versatility and dedication led him to the stage as the lead singer of a band. That experience ignited his drive to begin producing his own original music and lyrics.

Brigham's musical journey also includes the Hale Theater Children's Choir and participating in various school choirs. Throughout his experience, he took on numerous vocal solos and earned spots in elite audition choirs at Mountain Ridge High School. He especially thrived in the jazz genre, where his talents truly stood out.

Now, Brigham has set out on his next adventure—sharing not only his faith, but also his gift of music. He is serving a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Tucuman, Argentina, bringing inspiration and harmony to the people of Argentina.

Brigham extends heartfelt thanks to Sheri Staten and Manette Allred for teaching him piano and nurturing his love of music. Their guidance, support and encouragement will always be part of his song.

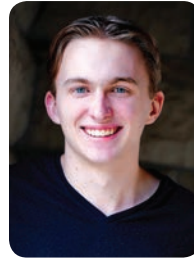


Joseph Mitsvotai

Joseph Mitsvotai grew up in Manti, Utah, where Sanpete County has always felt like home. When he's not working on his family's farm, moving pipe, milking goats, and caring for chickens and ducks, he's usually either at the piano or spending time with his collection of unique pets. From snakes and geckos to parrots, spiders, and a German shepherd named Yeager, Joseph's love for animals runs deep.

He started piano lessons at age five and has now been playing for eleven years. This year, he earned his 75-Point Gold Cup after performing "Waltz in D-flat Major (the Minute Waltz)" and "Scotch Poem," both of which earned Superior ratings. In fact, Joseph has received Superior ratings on every single festival piece he's ever performed. He credits much of his success to his piano teacher, Nan, who taught all seven of his older siblings, making him the last in the family to carry on that tradition.

In addition to music, Joseph has been involved in a variety of plays and musicals, including *Willy Wonka*, *Newsies*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Whether he's on stage, at the keyboard, or working hard at home, Joseph brings energy, creativity, and commitment to everything he does. Now, he's setting his sights on the 90-Point Gold Cup—the President's Cup—as his next big goal.



Quinn Sackewitz

Quinn Sackewitz has been taking piano lessons since the age of 4 and plans to continue learning and playing the piano after he graduates high school this spring. He also enjoys theatre, singing, cooking, and making short films with his friends. Quinn will be attending Brigham Young University in the fall and plans to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His hope is to keep playing the piano as long as he is able to.



Ailie Skowronek

Ailie Skowronek began playing the piano and violin at the age of three. Throughout her young career as a violinist, she was part of multiple musical groups, including the Old Time Fiddlers and the New Fiddlers. Along with the groups and her family, she performed at many senior communities and nursing homes. Ailie began competing in state-wide and national fiddle contests on the violin at age five and the mandolin at age nine, where she has been awarded numerous trophies and awards.

Ailie became a member of Lyceum Orchestra in 2016 as a violinist. She was selected to perform solos in 2016 at age nine, in 2019 at age twelve, and a duet with her sister in 2018 at age eleven.

In addition to the violin, Ailie began playing the piano in 2010. She has earned superior ratings in the Piano Federation since age four, and has been selected for the "Best of Federation" every year since 2016 when she was nine.

Outside of Ailie's musical talents, she has many other interests, such as drawing and reading. Ailie is set to graduate high school in 2025 from Copper Hills High School with high honors, as well as an associates degree in health science from Salt Lake Community College. She has earned honor cords in history and a Seal of Biliteracy in Japanese, along with multiple scholarships from universities across Utah and Idaho.

Ailie enjoys her work as a nursing assistant at an assisted living facility. In her free time, she loves spending time with her friends, family, and her three golden retrievers.

Ailie is incredibly appreciative of the support she has received from her family, friends, and especially her music coaches Manette Allred and Susan Wilcox.

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GRAND CUP WINNERS ...continued

UTAH continued



Amruta Tadinada

officer, Junior VP, and VP of my school's chapter of National Honor Society, President of the Red Cross Club, and an IB Honors student.

Hi, my name is **Amruta Tadinada**! I graduated from Hillcrest High School and I am going to be an upcoming freshman at the University of Utah this fall. I will be getting a degree in Psychology with the goal of becoming a pediatrician. I started learning music at the age of 3 and started piano at the age of 5. I did federation every year and as soon as I started 9th grade, I played concertos as well. I also play the flute and oboe and I competed in many competitions throughout my high school years. Outside of music, I also was the Sophomore

WASHINGTON STATE



Nathan Cheng

to attend the University of Southern California this fall.

Nathan Cheng, a recent graduate of Newport High School and piano student of Betty Mak in Bellevue, Washington, has participated in The National Federation of Music Clubs Piano Festivals since the age of eight and has participated in Piano Solo, Concerto and Theory events since 2013, earning consecutive Superior ratings throughout his time of playing. Through Ms. Betty's piano studio, Nathan has continued to play and perform in recitals as well. Nathan's other interests include playing tennis, coaching, and hiking. Nathan plans



Anderson Foong

for the past four years. A nature enthusiast, he also enjoys wildlife and macro photography, especially of his pet tarantula, Itsy Bitsy. In June 2025, he graduated from Interlake High School in Bellevue, Washington, earning his International Baccalaureate and high school diploma. Anderson will be studying biology at Purdue University in West Lafayette.

Anderson Foong began learning piano at the age of 4 under the guidance of Mrs. Betty Mak. He participated in his first Piano Festival in 2011 and has continued to do so for 14 years, achieving Superior ratings each year in Concerto, Solo, and Theory until earning his Grand Cup this past year. His favorite composers are Bach, Handel, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. Outside of his time practicing piano, Anderson has been active in the Science Olympiad, an interdisciplinary STEM competition, where he has placed in the top 3 at the state level

WISCONSIN



Shaurya Bansal

earning an Exemplary Performance Award as a freshman and an Honorable Mention as a senior.

Shaurya Bansal has been awarded the Federation Grand Cup for his Violin Solo in 2025. He began studying violin at the age of 8 under Ludmilla Anisimov. He is an advanced violinist who has performed with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) since fourth grade. He was a member of the MYSO Metropolitan Orchestra through his sophomore year. From fifth grade through senior year, Shaurya consistently qualified for the State level of the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Solo & Ensemble Festival,

In addition to violin, Shaurya has played the French horn since fifth grade. He joined MYSO's Senior Symphony as a sophomore and toured Belgium and the Netherlands with the ensemble in the summer of 2023. He also played as the principal horn player until this year. Along with that, he was also named a semi-finalist in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Stars of Tomorrow competition and performed Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4" with the MSO. Shaurya was also a devoted member of his high school band and volunteered to play violin at nursing homes and school events.

Music has always been a crucial part of Shaurya's life and he will continue playing both instruments. He is now a freshman enrolled at Purdue University in Indiana studying Computer Science.



Hanh Bui

Hanh Bui is a dedicated pianist and multi-instrumentalist from Franklin High School's Class of 2026. Under the instruction of piano teacher Tami Samorajski since 2014, Hanh has built a strong foundation in technique, musicality, and performance.

Over the years, Hanh has earned four Gold Cups and a Grand Cup from the National Federation of Music Clubs, received 11 consecutive superior ratings in the Solo Piano category, and three consecutive superior ratings in the Piano Concerto category. She has also mastered 50 Piano Olympic Events through the Milwaukee Music Teachers Association (MMTA). Hanh has performed in both Class B and Class A MMTA Youth Concerts, earned four trophies with Associated Piano Teachers, and received gold ratings in the Wisconsin State Music Association (WSMA) Piano Solo and Non-Improvisation Jazz Piano Solo categories from 2021 to 2025. She was also nominated for the Exemplary Performance Award in piano by the WSMA and received an Honorable Mention in the Wisconsin Federation of Music Club's State Competition for her piano solo.

In addition to piano, Hanh studies clarinet and saxophone. She has served as Principal Clarinet for the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Franklin High School Wind Ensemble, and WSMA State Honors Music Project, and received multiple awards for clarinet and saxophone performance.

Hanh continues to perform actively and contribute to music events through volunteer work, section leadership, and mentoring younger musicians.



Leon Cao

Leon Cao is a rising senior at Brookfield Central High School in Brookfield, Wisconsin. He started taking violin lessons at the age of 7 and has consistently participated in the National Federation of Music Clubs every year under the mentorship of Yuri Anisimov. In addition to violin, Leon also plays piano, competing in events organized by both the WPMC/NPMC and Wisconsin Music Teachers Association. He has achieved notable success at the WPMC state level, winning several violin auditions and piano auditions. Throughout his school years,

Leon has performed with his school orchestra and has been actively involved in the Wisconsin Solo & Ensemble Festival since the 6th grade.

In addition to his music pursuits, Leon is a member of his school's cross-country and swimming teams. He also dedicates his time to volunteering with Key Club and the National Honor Society, making meaningful contributions to his community. Leon is always enthusiastic about exploring new activities and embracing challenges that foster his personal growth while helping others.



John Cebulski

John Cebulski is a senior from New Berlin, Wisconsin. After starting lessons at 4 years old, he participated in his first Junior Festival in 2014, participating annually ever since. This year, John was awarded the Grand Cup, having received exclusively Superiors in Piano Solo and Piano Concerto for his 12 years of participation. He was also awarded two honorable mentions at the Wisconsin State Festival Competition.

John plays piano for his church's worship team, and is a member of the Brookfield Central chamber choir. He is also a senior member on his FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team.

John plans to attend the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to pursue Mechanical Engineering, and hopes to continue to develop his musical talents alongside his academic pursuits.



Vivian Feng

Vivian Feng is a rising junior at Middleton High School (MHS) in Middleton, Wisconsin. She has been playing the piano since age 4 and currently studies with Shu-Ching Chuang. Vivian has participated in the Federation Festival since she was 5 years old. Since then, she has received 12 Superiors for Piano Solo and 2 Superiors for Piano Concerto.

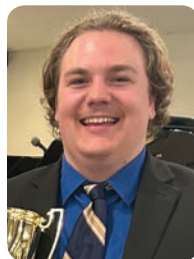
Vivian received Honorable Mentions at both the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras (WYSO) Concerto Competition and the Middleton

Community Orchestra Young Artist Competition in 2025, and at the MHS Concerto-Aria Competition in 2024. From 2017 to 2024, Vivian has been a winner, runner-up, or trophy recipient of the Sonatina Festival. She was the WMTA Badger Winner in 2021 and 2022, and the winner for both the WMTA Badger Regional Competition and the WMTA True State Piano Competition in 2023 and 2024. In addition, Vivian was awarded the Solo and Ensemble 2024 Exemplary Performance Recognition Award for her piano solo. She also enjoys playing in recitals

for the senior citizens at retirement homes in her area.

Vivian is also a violinist, and has been a member of WYSO since she was 8 years old. Additionally, she is an active participant in FBLA. Recently, she was a national champion with her team in her event, Parliamentary Procedure.

In the future, Vivian hopes to continue her piano study in college and share her music with more people.



Aaron Haas

Aaron Haas just completed his freshman year at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He is studying Music Performance, with his primary instrument being piano and his secondary instrument being voice. Aaron began taking piano lessons at the age of 7 from Mrs. Hasenstein. Since beginning his competitions in the NPMC in 2015, he achieved 11 consecutive superiors in his solo work and 9 consecutive superiors in the duet category, as well as a 3rd Duet Gold Cup.

He would like to thank his twin brother, Carter, for 9 amazing years of duet playing together. For his final year, Aaron competed with another duet partner, as his brother was off at military training. Aaron also added competing in concertos in 2019 and received 6 consecutive superiors.

Aaron has also participated in the Wisconsin State Festival Competition since 2015. These years of competition earned him a total of seven 1st Place trophies and 10 Honorable Mentions.

Outside of piano, Aaron began playing tenor saxophone in sixth grade at Slinger Middle School, which he continued to play through high school, both in symphonic and marching bands. During his sophomore year at Slinger High School, he began his journey as a self-taught oboist, which he still plays in Carroll's Wind Ensemble. Aaron also played the Alto Saxophone in the high school's jazz band, which he now plays as a member of Carroll's marching band. Other instruments he has taught himself include the trumpet, clarinet, accordion (both piano and diatonic button), and the pipe organ.

Aaron has also participated in choir since eighth grade, joining Men's A Cappella in his sophomore year. During the summers, he was invited to perform with the Honors Performance Series in Vienna, Austria and at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia. He continues to sing at Carroll as a member of Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and PIONissimo and PIO Tones (two of Carroll's student-run a cappella choirs).

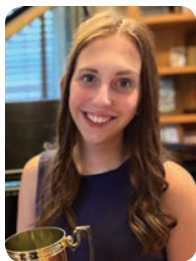
Outside of music, Aaron is a member of the Eagle Scout Class of 2020, finishing his Scouts BSA journey with 10 Eagle palms. He has also been in 21 theatrical productions since the age of 7, with large or lead roles in most productions. After finishing his bachelor's degree, Aaron plans to attend seminary to become a Methodist pastor.

A big thanks to his family, Mrs. Hasenstein, and all those who have helped him in his musical journey to achieve this amazing Grand Cup Award!

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GRAND CUP WINNERS ...continued

WISCONSIN continued



Cali Johnson

Cali Johnson has studied piano with her mother, Kadie Johnson, for the past 14 years. She has participated in the NFMF piano solo event for the past 13 years, and has also performed piano concertos the past seven years. Through her hard work and dedication to fine-tuning her musical abilities, Cali has earned her final gold cup this year. She has grown tremendously in her technique, finesse, and touch, and has furthered her love of music and always encourages others to do the same.

Two and a half years ago, Cali suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, impeding her ability to share and express herself and her love of music, but has worked endlessly to overcome many obstacles to now be in a place where music has a strong, steadier than ever presence in her life. She plans to keep music in her everyday life not just next year, but always. In the fall, Cali will be attending St. Olaf College with plans to major in Spanish and chemistry, on a pre-med track.



Gabriella Kozicki

Gabriella Kozicki is a senior at De Pere High School. At 5 years of age, she started piano with Mary Larsen and promptly began participating in the Federation Festival. She loves the variety of musical selections and is very motivated by the incentive of the beautiful trophies. Gabriella was born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Besides playing the piano, she enjoys classical ballet, reading, modifying her project car, hiking, biking, skiing, and traveling with her family. Her faith is very important to her and she volunteers weekly

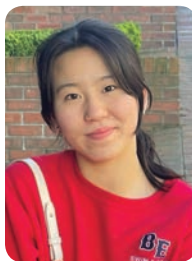
in support of congregation activities. She has a kind heart and a sincere interest in others. With a desire to be of help and support to those around her, she is motivated to pursue a career in nursing. She works hard in school, maintaining her 4.0 GPA, and is an active member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. As a result of this hard work, Gabriella will already have over 40 credits toward her nursing degree by the time she graduates high school.



Yiwen Ma

Yiwen Ma started playing the violin when he was 4 years old. Besides performing in his school orchestra, he has participated in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra for about 6 years and is now currently a member in both of their top levels (Senior Symphony and Chamber Orchestra). In addition, Yiwen performs in several bluegrass and jazz ensembles at his high school and various chamber ensembles. Every summer he attends the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and this past summer also participated

in the UW-Madison summer music camp. In his free time, Yiwen is very active on the Nicolet High School FEAR team (robotics), works out, and volunteers at local farmers markets.



Jenny Mei

Jenny Mei is a junior at Brookfield East High School. She has been studying piano for 12 years and is a current student of Mr. Richard Saler. This year, she has received the Grand Cup for her twelve consecutive superior ratings from the annual Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs piano solo and senior concerto junior festivals. Additionally, Jenny is also a winner of the Exemplary Performance Award in the Wisconsin School Music Association auditions, multiple-time winner of the Milwaukee Area Piano Teachers Association

Young Artist Competition, and multiple-time winner at the State Festival Competition of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs. Outside of competition season, Jenny has played piano in the Brookfield East High School pit orchestra since freshman year, in musicals such as *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Chicago*, and *Footloose*. This past year, Jenny started studying music theory and composition with Mr. Sam Ecoff, to support her music learning in another facet. A growing basis of music theory helps Jenny better understand the music she performs and allows her to develop her creativity in her own compositions. As a musician, Jenny thinks that she still has a lot to learn but really enjoys all her involvement in the different aspects of music.

Other than music involvement, Jenny is cofounder of the Brookfield East High School Atomic Habits Club, swims on the Brookfield East Varsity Swim Team, and is a Varsity CX debater for Brookfield East. She is also president of the nonprofit Cricket Chinese Youth Volunteering, where she can contribute to the education of the Chinese community and culture.



Aniket Singh

Aniket Singh earned his fifth cup in piano solo this year. Aniket has also earned festival cups in music theory, piano concerto, and composition. Aniket is a student of Sam Ecoff at the Waukesha County Conservatory of Music. In addition to his many successes in music, Aniket was awarded the title of 2024 Division B National Champion by the National Association of Rocketry. Aniket will be attending Georgia Tech next year, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. 

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JUNIOR COMPOSERS

by Sam Ecoff, *Chair*

CLASS 1 - AGE 9 AND UNDER



Palmer Ann Wingfield

FIRST PLACE

South Carolina

Palmer Ann Wingfield is a 3rd grader in Charleston, South Carolina. She began taking piano and composition lessons in 1st grade with teacher Dan McCurry. Palmer's second composition, a minimalist string duet titled *Lonely People*, has received recognition in the following contests: NPMC Junior Composers Contest (1st Place National Winner, South East Regional Winner, and South Carolina Winner), MTNA Composition Competition (Southeast Honorable Mention, South Carolina Winner), and South Carolina MTA Composition Competition (Honorable Mention). Aside from composing her own music, Palmer also enjoys singing and choreographing her own dances. In her free time, she takes jazz and travels for cheer competitions.



Hiroki Kimura

SECOND PLACE

Ohio

Hiroki Kimura is a 4th grader in Cincinnati, Ohio. Hiroki's major instrument is piano while he also loves composing music. He began studying piano at age 6, and he is currently studying under Dr. Takako Hayase Frautschi. Hiroki enjoys participating in NPMC Festivals in piano, theory, as well as composition annually. This year, he received his first festival cups in piano solo and theory.

Hiroki is a prize winner from numerous solo and concerto competitions such as Tri State Piano Concerto Competition and Julia Bartles Concerto Competition. While he is mostly interested in learning classical repertoire, he recently received an invitation to learn and play Connor Chee's composition and played for him in a masterclass for the "We Are One" program which is organized for the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Meeting a living composer who successfully blends the traditional style and Native American culture in compositions was inspiring for Hiroki, and he looks forward to incorporating a similar idea by including his family's Japanese heritage in his own composition for the upcoming year.



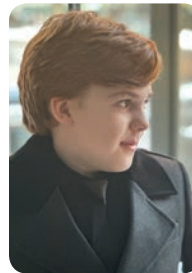
Nathan Bergin

INCENTIVE AWARD

Missouri

Nathan Bergin

Nathan Bergin is a 10-year-old composer who has been playing piano for five years. He currently studies piano with Dr. Olivia Zimmermann and composition with Dr. Ian Coleman. Inspired by the music of his favorite composer, J.S. Bach, he enjoys creating pieces that reflect his growing love for classical music. When Nathan is not at the piano he loves swimming, reading adventurous stories, and building intricate Lego creations.



Arthur Scott

INCENTIVE AWARD

Minnesota

Arthur Scott

Arthur Scott (9) studies composition with Dr. Sarah Miller at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, MN. At MacPhail Arthur also studies piano with Dr. Irina Elkina and violin with Lucinda Marvin. He also studies bagpipe with Michael Breidenbach at Macalester College and has participated in Minnesota Youth Symphonies for four years.

Arthur has won numerous competitions for composition, piano, and violin, and has had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall three times. In addition to music, Arthur loves making movies and learning about cars.

CLASS 2 - AGES 10-12



Yola Smova

FIRST PLACE

Arizona

Yola Smova

Yola Smova lives in Tempe, Arizona and has been taking music lessons with Richard Wall since the age of 4, originally for piano and now for composition. Her music has been performed by the Phoenix Symphony. She has a passion for playing the cello which she discovered under the guidance of Dr. Panagiota Kalantzi. Yola is currently taking cello lessons from Tom Landschoot and she plays cello for the Mesa Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Apart from her interests in composing and playing the cello, Yola also enjoys K-pop dancing, baking, learning French and drinking boba tea.

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JUNIOR COMPOSERS *continued*CLASS 2 *continued*

Tiger Shen

Tiger Shen**SECOND PLACE***Texas*

Tiger Shen is in sixth grade. He lives with his parents in Allen, Texas.

His journey into composition began at the piano. While practicing, he often found himself straying from the written notes, improvising his own melodies instead. Realizing that these spontaneous

ideas could turn into real compositions, he decided to learn how to write music. He has now been studying composition with Dr. Liang Liang for over a year and truly enjoys exploring different musical styles and techniques to express emotions and ideas.

Beyond music, Tiger is deeply curious and loves building things—whether it's a song, a robot, or a line of code. He is passionate about composition, robotics, and programming, all of which let him combine creativity with problem-solving. Recently, he has also developed an interest in Quiz Bowl, where he enjoys learning and challenging himself across many subjects.



Jacqueline Liu

Jacqueline Liu**INCENTIVE AWARD***North Carolina*

Jacqueline Liu, a seventh-grader from North Carolina, began her musical journey at a young age. Her talents span composition, piano performance, and vocal artistry. At just six years old, she started participating in prestigious competitions across the United States and internationally, earning numerous accolades along the way.

In 2024, Jacqueline was named the State Winner in the MTNA Composition Competition and received an Honorable Mention in the Southeast Division. She has won First Prizes in multiple piano competitions, including the NCFMC State Royalty Competition, NC Young Artist Auditions, and American Music Talent Competition. She was also awarded the distinguished State Maxine Taylor Fountain Award and named Grand Prize Winner of the 2023 Concert Artists International Competition.

Jacqueline has graced world-renowned stages and collaborated with professional symphony orchestras such as the Nanning Symphony Orchestra (China), the Winston-Salem Symphony (North Carolina), the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonics (Czech Republic), and the New York Chamber Players Orchestra.

Equally passionate about singing, Jaqueline has earned top honors in international vocal competitions, including the American Protégé International Vocal Competition (Classical Repertoire Category). She has also been selected for the NCMEA Honors Chorus two consecutive years – an achievement that represents the highest level of recognition in choral music in North Carolina.



Eliot Werntz

Eliot Werntz**INCENTIVE AWARD***Texas*

Eliot Werntz has studied piano for five years at Sherry Frush's Music Studio in Abilene, Texas and his favorite activity at the studio is composition! Eliot participates in various Texas Music Teachers Association programs; he is a medalist in World of Music and state theory tests, performs in the multi-piano ensemble, and is a TMTA SA composition

winner. He is one of seven Music Teachers Association national finalists in composition this year. He enjoys performing locally as well as at the TMTA state convention. Eliot is also in his second year of violin; he participates in private lessons with Susan Rose as well as the large music ensemble, Mission Strings. Outside of music studies, Eliot is very involved in church activities, enjoys playing with his dog Annie, and brother Arthur, as well as reading, playing board games, and competing in tennis and baseball.

CLASS 3 - AGES 13-15



Grant Qu

Grant Qu**FIRST PLACE***Texas*

Grant Qu is a passionate 9th-grade student of composition, piano and clarinet from Austin, Texas. He started piano lessons with Dr. Liang Liang at age 5, and began composition at age 10. He was 1st Place Winner of the 2024 Finland 12th Jean Sibelius International Composition Competition Ages 13-16 Group, two-time 3rd

Place Winner of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National Junior Composition Competition in 2021 and 2023, two-time Finalist of US National Young Composers Challenge in 2023, 2024, six-time 1st Place Winner of the Texas Music Teacher Association (TMTA) composition competition in 2020 – 2025, and Finalists of 2023, 2024 TMTA piano solo performance contest, first chair clarinet of 2022 Texas Music Education Association (TMEA) All Region Band and Orchestra, and 2025 TMEA All State Band qualifier.



Adrian Zhang SECOND PLACE

New York

Currently a 10th grade student in New York, **Adrian Zhang** has already earned considerable recognition as a composer.

Adrian was accepted into the BUTI Young Artists Program this year. He was a finalist in the 2023 National Young Composers Challenge and earned

the Emerging Composers prize for the 2023 Tribeca New Music Young Composers Competition. Adrian was the MTNA 2023 Winner of the Junior Category Eastern Division. His piano quartet "War" premiered at the "In Bloom" concert in New York City in 2023.

Adrian began his composing journey improvising on the piano; now, he learns composition from Mr. Yiming Wu and Dr. Lu Wang. Adrian aims to compose music that explores both classical and modern styles, creating ambient landscapes in which contrasting elements guide the listener through shifting perspectives.



Olex Li PIERSON AWARD THIRD PLACE

Illinois

Olex Li is a passionate musician and composer currently a sophomore at Princeton High School. With nearly a decade of experience in piano performance and music studies, Olex has cultivated a deep appreciation for classical music. His dedication to piano has earned him recognition in several city-level competitions in Shanghai, China, showcasing his technical skill and artistry.

As an aspiring composer, Olex has also achieved notable success, including awards and honorable mentions in prestigious competitions such as the NFMJ Junior Composers Competition, MTNA Composition Competition, and the *DownBeat* magazine Student Music Awards. His compositions reflect his love for music's expressive power, and he strives to share the joy and beauty of music.

Olex is very grateful for the dedicated music teachers that he is fortunate to have encountered — including piano teachers Bing Bing Chang, Erik Allesee, and Yuan Qing Li, and composition teacher Yi Ming Wu.



Elaine Liu INCENTIVE AWARD

Texas

Elaine Liu is from Austin, Texas. She has been playing flute for almost four years now and piano for nine. She has also been composing for a little over two years. Her chamber music has been recognized by several musical organizations, including the 2025 Music International Grand

Prix which she was a finalist for, the MTNA where she placed second in her age group nationally, the National Young Composers challenge where she was a finalist, the 2025 Boston International Composition Competition, and many others. Her solo piano pieces have also been recognized by the TMTA Original Composition Contest. Elaine also loves to play flute, having been accepted into the National Flute Association's High School Flute Choir where she will be playing at the NFA's 53rd Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia and placing in local competitions.



Matthew Vallero INCENTIVE AWARD

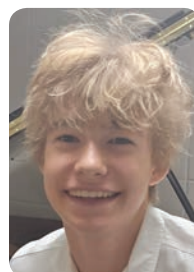
California

Matthew Vallero has trained in voice and piano since age 7 and that has given him a solid foundation for composition. He has competed as both a countertenor and bari-tenor in multiple genres of vocal performance, and in most of the languages for classical voice, at iconic venues such as Carnegie Hall and

Matthew Vallero

Merkin Hall in New York. Last year, his music trio ensemble won first place in the Vocal Ensemble division of VOCE for the Music Teachers Association of California. This spring he won the Young Artists Competition for voice and was honored to be accompanied by the Solano Symphony Orchestra while singing "Largo Al Factotum" (Rossini) from *The Barber of Seville*.

Due to his many years of music study, Matthew sings and plays his own compositions, and then arranges them for different multi-voice and multi-instrument ensembles. You can listen to some of his original work on major music streaming platforms (Spotify, AppleMusic, iTunes). He also arranges for his high school a cappella group, which performs at many UC Davis events, including a cappella collegiate showcases, and performs the national anthem at NBA and MLB games.



Brandon Zaryczny INCENTIVE AWARD

South Carolina

Brandon Zaryczny is an accomplished composer, pianist, and violinist based in Greenville, South Carolina. He began formal piano lessons at age seven and started composing and arranging music by ten. Inspired by composers such as Chopin, Ravel, and Debussy, Brandon blends impressionistic colors with vivid natural imagery and emotional depth to create music that is uniquely his own. His work is distinguished by complex and unconventional chord progressions, lending his compositions a striking sense of individuality and flair. Brandon has earned numerous awards at the state level and has twice been named a national finalist for his original compositions.

Brandon Zaryczny

continued on page 26

JUNIOR COMPOSERS *continued*

CLASS 4 - AGES 16-18



Charlie Plante

Charlie Plante**FIRST PLACE***Wisconsin*

Charlie Plante is a 16-year-old composer from Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Since beginning piano at age 3 and composition at 8, Charlie has been acclaimed in numerous national, regional, and state competitions for his work, including winning the Music Teachers National Association Composition Competition this year. His works have been

performed by multiple groups at the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Waukesha County Conservatory of Music, UW Whitewater, UW River Falls, the Junior Composers Institute, and other professionals, as well as receiving lessons from Vanderbilt University and the Juilliard School. Additionally, Charlie has performed with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Racine Symphony Orchestra, and as the Head Drum Major for the Cedarburg High School Marching Band. He studies composition under Sam Ecoff and piano under Margarita Kontorovsky.



Phoebe Pylant

Phoebe Pylant**SECOND PLACE***Georgia*

Phoebe Pylant, is a flutist, harpist, pianist, soprano, and composer from metro-Atlanta. She aspires to play flute with a symphony orchestra and share with the world more original music compositions by under-represented composers. Phoebe is the youngest music student to be commissioned three times by the Woodwind

Faculty of the School of Music at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She also is the youngest winner of the National Flute Association's Flute Choir Call for Scores and the first state winner of the inaugural Georgia Music Composition Competition adjudicated by Juan Ramirez of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and hosted by Ztunes Music. Her works also have been recognized and adjudicated by YoungArts, National Young Composers Challenge, The National Federation of Music Clubs, and the Music Teachers National Association. Phoebe's compositions have been featured in concerts, university degree recitals, masterclasses, and professional recordings. Additionally, two universities in the United States have requested her compositions for their music school libraries. She is among the graduating High School Class of 2025 studying flute performance with Dr. Tadeu Coelho in the School of Music at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Phoebe will continue studying flute performance with Grammy Award-winning flutist Molly Barth at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music (Class of 2029). Explore Phoebe's complete collection of works at www.shecomposes.com



Emily Bennett

Emily Bennett**OLGA K. NELSON AWARD THIRD PLACE***Massachusetts*

Emily Bennett is a pianist and composer living in the greater Boston area. She has been playing the piano since she was seven years old. Emily began composing at a young age as well and loves telling stories through her music. Emily has a passion for drawing others into her love for music, as demonstrated in how she frequently writes and arranges pieces for herself and her three sisters to play together. Emily and her sisters also love singing together, including acapella hymns and barbershop arrangements. Emily will graduate high school in 2026 and plans to pursue music composition.



George Fisher

George Fisher**INCENTIVE AWARD***Minnesota*

George Fisher is a rising composer from the Twin Cities area. He started composing at the age of 12 and released his first album two years later. George's most recent works include his latest release, "Cosmic Brilliance," an immersive experience meant to take listeners through the cycle from one night to the next. The climax of this album includes "Evening Glory," a piece written for concert band, which placed in the top 10 of the NFMC national composition contest.

In addition to composition, George's musical career extends to a variety of instruments, including clarinet, saxophone, and piano. George is a student at Maple Grove Senior High, as well as a part-time student at the University of Minnesota, where he is a member of the UMN Gospel Choir and the West African Music Ensemble.

Outside of composing and the many groups he is involved in, George is a cross-country runner and downhill skier. He enjoys contributing to his community by playing clarinet at local memory care facilities and is a counselor in several summer programs, including Camp Olson YMCA and a local strategy board gaming camp at Minneapolis's West Suburban Summer School. You can find George's music on a variety of platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, and many more. Make sure to listen to his playlist "Best of George Fisher."



Campbell Leiloglou

Campbell Leiloglou**INCENTIVE AWARD***Texas*

Campbell Leiloglou is an award-winning young composer from San Antonio, Texas who enjoys music, reading, and drawing. He is a piano student of Dorothy Yan Halstead and composition coaching student of Edna Longoria. Campbell plans to double major in music composition and piano performance at Biola University.



Julia Lu
INCENTIVE AWARD
Maryland

Julia Lu is a composer who believes music has the power to bring people together. She has been studying music composition for about 5 years. With a love for exploring unique sounds and techniques, she creates works that evoke deep emotion. Julia started off her composition journey with Yimin Wu, and was led by David Serkin

Ludwig from 2024-2025. Her recent compositions push the boundaries of traditional music, blending classical and contemporary elements. Her music often draws inspiration from nature and everyday life. For Julia, music is a way to connect, inspire, and move audiences.



Elaina Stuppler
INCENTIVE AWARD
Oregon

Elaina Stuppler is a composer, singer, and multi-instrumentalist from Portland, Oregon. She is Assistant Principal Trombone with the Portland Youth Philharmonic and participated in All-State and All-Northwest Bands for both jazz and wind ensembles. Currently, she is All Classical Radio Station's Young Artist in Residence, a member

Elaina Stuppler

of the Young Composers Project, and a Luna Composition Lab Fellow alumna with the Oregon Symphony.



Andromeda Wen
OUTSTANDING STRINGS AWARD
California

Andromeda Wen is a San Francisco-based composer and multi-reedist. Her works have been performed by Friction Quartet, Hub New Music, International Contemporary Ensemble, PHACE, SOLI Chamber Ensemble and Telegraph Quartet, in Vienna, Austria, where she studied for a year, the Alba Music Festival in Italy and in the USA.

She has given solo performances at Stanford, Legion of Honor, SF City Hall, Guild Theatre, and West Valley College Jazz Festival, and studied at Tanglewood, Interlochen, the Walden School, and presently, SFCM pre-collegiate program and with Stanford Jazz Workshop Big Band. She is currently scoring a short film starring Lea Salonga.

She will be performing at Lincoln Center in May 2025 with her jazz band as a finalist for Essentially Ellington. She recently received a first-place prize and scholarship from the Pacific Musical Society and Foundation Competition.



Cynthia Liu
WILSON OUTSTANDING PIANO COMPOSITION AWARD
Texas

Cynthia Liu is from Austin, TX. She has played the piano for 12 years, the flute for 6, and composed for 5 years. Cynthia is a frequent participant and finalist in the annual Texas Music Teachers Association Composition Contest (TMTA), where her works have been nominated

in small ensemble, large ensemble, and piano solo categories. She also placed nationally in the 2023 Golden Key Composition Contest, the 2025 National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) Composition Contest, the 2025 Boston Int'l Music Competition, and has just been named the winner of the Teen Composition Category in the 2025 Music International Grand Prix. In addition to composing, Cynthia also loves performing with many different groups across all genres of music, some of which include the various TMEA groups, her high school marching band, jazz orchestra, pit orchestra, and flute choir. Outside of music-related activities, Cynthia will most likely be found reading, writing, cramming homework, or mindlessly scrolling TikTok. JK





Junior Club Achievement Honor Roll 2024–2025

by Virginia Feitelson, *Chair*

This year, 19 Junior Clubs from eight different states submitted their Annual Achievement Summary Forms. It was an honor to connect with so many dedicated counselors and to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our Junior Clubs at the NFMFC Convention in Austin, Texas. Keep up the fantastic work in making both your communities and America truly musical.

Congratulations to the following Junior Clubs and Counselors for recognition to the 2024–2025 Junior Club Achievement Honor Roll

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley Academy of Music, Naomi Sanchez
Clark Music Club, Hailey Clark
Miller Piano Studio, Madeline Miller
SKC Violin Academy, Soo Choi
Staccato Stars, Virginia Feitelson
Suzuki Piano of Southern California, Lisa Siebelink
Teresa's Music Club, Teresa Wang
The Entertainers, Keri Crampton

MICHIGAN

Tanner Music Studio, Barbara Tanner

OHIO

Amanda Beagle Vocal Studio, Amanda Beagle

PENNSYLVANIA

Junior Shubert Club, Cynthia Fultz

SOUTH CAROLINA

Crescent Heritage JMC, Gilda Hendricks
Easley Jr. Music Club, Emma M. Talley
Greenville Harmony Music Club, Deborah Freeman
Greenville Melody Junior Club, Deborah Freeman
Greenville Tempo Music Club, Deborah Freeman

TENNESSEE

Sparkling Keys and Strings, Simone Parker

VIRGINIA

Piano Lessons with TLC, Terry L. Criner

WASHINGTON

Sally L. Palmer Junior Music Studio, Sally L. Palmer

Add your club to next year's Junior Club Achievement Honor Roll by returning the Annual Achievement Summary Form (JR 1-1) before May 1, 2026.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT CONTRIBUTES TO FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The majority of Junior Clubs reported helping with their Federation Festivals. Students from Southern California took pride in sorting certificates and ratings sheets to make sure they were in the correct order for evaluators. Charity Riddle, secretary of the Crescent Heritage Junior Music Club in Easley, South Carolina, shared her personal experience as a festival volunteer,

"What fun can be had in the 'behind the scenes' of a Junior Festival. I have been studying piano for 10 years and participated in Festival for 9 of those years in the areas of piano solo, hymn playing, improvisation, and theory. My job has been two-fold; to collect rating sheets and deliver them to the records room and to call students from the waiting room and walk them to their judging room. Although I am on my feet for the day, it is enjoyable to see other students, interact with the teachers, and be there from start to finish. Next year will be my last year as a student – but many former students return each year to assist with the process to keep a smooth-running Festival and I hope to do that as well."

Junior Club members of the Michigan Southwest District not only assisted as runners and in the practice rooms, they also helped with festival day workshops. Barbara Tanner, director of the Tanner Music Studio, along with her co-festival chair Karla Shotts, created these workshops for their festival students, especially those who travel over an hour to attend. For the second year in a row, she has organized a composer workshop where students prepared a short report on a composer, and then played one of their pieces. Last year the students were gifted the book, "Meet the Composers Book I" by June Montgomery and Maurice Hinson. This year Dan Forbes, President of the Battle Creek Monday Musical Club, added a second workshop that focused on creating motifs with various rhythms and harmonies. Other workshops held in previous years included Duet Playing, Voice Adjudicating, and Piano Techniques to impress the adjudicator. These workshops were not only informative, but they also gave students the opportunity to get to know each other.

Thank you to all of your Juniors for helping out to make your local festival a success. Your dedication inspires others and demonstrates the powerful impact of music and service in our communities. **JK**



Composers Institute

by Landon Zientara, *Faculty Aide*

WHAT: Composers Institute summer residential music program

WHEN: July 13-20, 2025

WHERE: University of Wisconsin - River Falls

WHO: Ten music composition students and faculty members

Every year at Composers Institute is a magical experience, but after attending and serving in this residential music camp for seven years, I have never had such a beautiful and profound experience as I did this year. Young composers, ages 14-20 from around the Midwest, attend this camp annually, conjuring original music of their own creation into the world. Sharing in such a unique and transformative experience and forging lifelong friendships along the way never fails to fill me with joy and purpose.

Copper Street Brass Reading Session: Upon arriving on the University of Wisconsin - River Falls campus, we were grateful to continue our tradition of collaboration with a local guest ensemble when Copper Street Brass read five original brass quintets written and submitted by students prior to the days of camp. The recording of this session is currently public on the Composers Institute YouTube channel, which will also feature the final showcase from this year, along with a live improvisational scoring session of two silent films!

Breakdown of the Week: During the week, students at the camp each write an original work that is rehearsed by their peers and performed at a showcase on Sunday. Meanwhile, each day was filled with informative classes, collaborative activities, and private composition lessons taught by CI program director Kim Sherman and UWRF music professor, Casey Palbicki.

Kiara Motwani, who attended camp for the first time this year, says that “I... learned a significant amount about composing music in general. We spent time analyzing composers’ music, learning about film music, and exploring different ways to compose. The camp was also extremely fun, and the week I attended was definitely one of my favorite weeks this year! I would definitely recommend giving Composers Institute a try!”

“I wouldn’t be half the composer I am without Composers Institute,” says composer Tim Guillaume, who has attended the camp since 2020, when the camp was held exclusively online after years at the University of Minnesota campus. “...the [UW-RF] campus suits the environment of a seven-day-long composing odyssey perfectly... [and] CI helped me remember how amazing music and musicians are, how to listen to my voice and receive feedback, and to write, write, write!”

I am always amazed at the encouraging atmosphere and development of camaraderie fostered at camp each year, but never before have I seen a group so connected and supportive of one another as I did this year. I am really looking forward to the future of Composers Institute and continuing to create and maintain valuable connections.

Join us in July of 2026 when we celebrate our 25th year. composersinstitute.net JK





National Music Week Essay Contest

by Kathie White, *Chair*



CELEBRATED ANNUALLY • SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Attention Juniors 7th-12th grade!

Here is a chance to win \$75 and have your essay and picture featured in an upcoming *Junior Keynotes* magazine. Each state can have a winner in the NMW Essay Contest. Students are not required to be members of NFMC, so you can invite friends and relatives from other states that do not have clubs to help NFMC celebrate National Music Week for the 103rd time May 3-10, 2026. The theme is "Music...is our constant companion". The rules for the essay can be found in Publications, Arts Division, AR 13-1. The deadline for uploading your **original** essay (no AI please), your high resolution jpg picture, and completing the form on the [nfmc-music.org](https://forms.nfmc-music.org/forms/) website upload system is January 10, 2026. The theme should be easy for you to write about: how many times do you find yourself humming a song, or thinking of lyrics, or sitting down to play a favorite, or singing along with friends. Music grabs us all and holds us for a lifetime! Think about how music is your constant companion and write about it. Submit it to the NFMC website <https://forms.nfmc-music.org/forms/> by **January 10, 2026**.



Taking Those First Steps – Supporting United Nations Agenda 2030

by Dr. Liana Valente, *NFMC Representative to the UN Dept. of Global Communications*

10 years ago in 2015, all 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously approved **Agenda 2030** and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, a plan for people and the planet to create a more equitable, safe, and prosperous world for all. During the past decade progress has been made but there is still much work to be done. As I've shared in previous articles in *Junior Keynotes* and *Music Clubs Magazine*, you and your students can have a marked and profound effect when you think globally and act locally. But sometimes the most difficult part of taking action is that first step that begins with two questions:

1. What do you and your students want to do?
2. How can you and your students realize your goals?

You can, of course, start with the resources available through the United Nations website, especially the pages dedicated to Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth/> I was excited to learn about the **World's Largest Lesson Planet Protectors Toolkit Guide** and its accompanying, downloadable **Planet Protectors Lesson Toolkit**. <https://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/resource/planet-protectors-toolkit-guide/>. While designed for students age 8 – 14 and focused on SDGs 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17, the ideas and suggestions can easily be modified for older and younger students and be expanded to include other SDGs.

Once you have a clearer understanding of what challenges exist, you and your students can decide which SDGs to focus on, and how best to make a difference in your community.

Because the goals of Agenda 2030 do not specifically mention the impact that fine artists can have, we as musicians can use our talents and inspirations to support the SDGs in innovative and exciting ways. For example, if your studio presents recitals during the school year, you might consider hosting a food or materials drive for a local community organization such as a food pantry, animal shelter, or senior living facility. You can contact your local organization, request a list of what is most needed, and advertise that information to your audience members. Students can be involved at every step of the project including researching and choosing local organizations to assist, creating a publicity campaign for the event, communicating with the organization's representatives (or assisting as you make contact), coordinating the collection of the materials on the day of the event, arranging for delivery, and following up with the organization's representatives. Students can also chronicle the work by writing blog posts, making short videos supporting their project (with permission from their parents or guardians), and documenting steps through photos. You might consider inviting a representative of your chosen organization to your event, during which they can briefly speak about the impact your donation will have. As an additional outreach opportunity, you and your students might perform your recital a second time at a senior center, nursing home, or adult activity center.

In the past, I've encouraged readers to implement small changes into their studio policies. These can include recycling paper and

plastics, encouraging car-pooling to lessons and events, and even creating a lending music library for scores and books.

As an example of what may be possible for you and your junior clubs, allow me to share how the California Federation of Music Clubs is making small but powerful positive changes.

In March, 2025, I received an email from Sydney Goldenberg, **Staccato Stars Junior Club** Secretary and UN Club reporter. She and her peers were excited to learn about Youth involvement at the UN through my articles in *Junior Keynotes Magazines*, and were eager to implement many of the suggestions I offered.

With the assistance of California Federation Vice President and **Staccato Stars Junior Club** Advisor Virginia Feitelson, a new page was created on the CFMC website dedicated to the Federation's involvement with the United Nations. (<https://sites.google.com/view/ca-fmc/programs/united-nations-nfmc>) Additionally, Sydney and her fellow club leaders highlighted and supported multiple Sustainable Development Goals at their festival welcome tent this year.

Virginia Feitelson shared, "We welcomed over 200 students and families through our doors, and provided a water bottle hydration station, free music library (big hit!), recycle receptacle, and a sign with information about the SDGs. Everyone was interested in reading the information, and students are looking forward to bringing music next year to exchange in the free music library. We also emptied the recycle bin more often than we thought, proving that just one simple act can make a noticeable difference."



Junior leaders from Southern California Music Festival Club
Left to right: Ethan Feitelson, Loukas Tran, Kai Sheen, Sydney Goldenberg, Harmony Feitelson

By encouraging your students to think globally and act locally, and to use their talents and abilities in innovative ways to better their communities, everyone will benefit. I look forward to hearing from you and your students, sharing your ideas and successes, and serving as an inspiration to others. **JK**

Liana's bio: Dr. Liana Valente is honored to serve as the NFMC Representative to the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Appointed by President Michael Edwards in 2016, she actively supports UN Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, focusing 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. Contact her at Liana@omegatawer.com.

Joyce Walsh Award

by Cynthia Waldon, Chair



Colin Chu
FIRST PLACE - \$2,500
Massachusetts

Colin Chu is a 14-year-old passionate violinist from Ludlow, MA. He has been studying under Dr. Linda Rodger's private studio in Las Vegas, NV for the last 5 and a half years via online platform.

Colin's orchestral experience includes the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) and University of Hartford Opus '89 Orchestra. Colin was the Concertmaster for the 2024-25 CT All-State Music Festival.

Colin has a particular passion for Baroque and Romantic period composers. His other interests and hobbies include astronomy, math, and robotics.



Caitlin Cox
SECOND PLACE - \$2,000
Minnesota

Caitlin Cox is a 17-year-old Senior who attends Hermantown High School in Hermantown, Minnesota. She has been taking piano and vocal lessons from Julie Ciurleo since elementary school. Caitlin enjoys playing Christmas music on the piano and singing Disney songs. Outside of lessons Caitlin enjoys Legos, puzzles, Drama Club, Speech, and History class. Caitlin

would like to thank her piano teacher Julie Ciurleo for all the support she has provided throughout the years, and will never forget the first time she saw Mrs. Ciurleo playing the piano at church.



Grace DeWeese
SOUTHEASTERN REGION WINNER - \$1,000
Virginia

Grace DeWeese, 16, is the Southeastern Region winner of the 2025 NFMC Joyce Walsh Junior Award for Individuals with Special Needs competition, and she was awarded \$1,000.00. She is finishing 11th grade.

Blind since birth, Grace has studied piano and theory with Mrs. Terry L. Criner, NCTM, for 8 years. In addition to piano, Grace is a straight-A student who enjoys riding horses, playing the Baritone in the school Concert Band, and hanging out with her friends.

Grace lives in Salem, Virginia, with her parents, Mike and Robin DeWeese, her older brother, Isaiah, and her very special "friends", Max, her German Shepherd, and Dixie, her Beagle. 

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

SPECIAL AWARDS

\$2,500 JOYCE WALSH JUNIOR AWARDS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

\$1,000 MUSIC FOR THE BLIND COMPOSITION AWARD

\$1,000 BENZINGER/VALENTIN BLIND PERFORMANCE AWARD

DEADLINE MARCH 1



Attention Teachers...

Do you teach a student with disabilities?

Check out the annual Joyce Walsh Award open to junior instrumentalists and vocalists who are mentally or physically challenged.

Applications are due March 1st

Cynthia Waldon, Chair
cynawaldon@hotmail.com



Mary Alice Cox Award

by Anna Cosma, Chair



Kristin Kim
FIRST PLACE - \$2,500
Oregon

Kristen Kim is a 15-year-old cellist from Portland, Oregon. She began playing the cello at the age of six and currently studies with the cellist Hyun-Jin Kim.

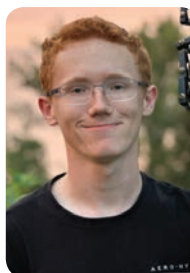
Kristen made her solo debut at the age of 12 with the Oregon Mozart Players Orchestra after winning first place in the 2022 Oregon Mozart Players Young Soloist Competition. She has since performed as a soloist with several prestigious ensembles, including the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, following her success in the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and the Oregon Sinfonietta, after winning the Oregon Sinfonietta Concerto Competition. Additionally, Kristen was a winner of the 2022 Cognizart Young Artists Debut! Competition, which led to a solo performance with members of the Oregon Symphony. She also performed at Carnegie Hall as a winner of the American Protégé International String Competition.

Additionally, Kristen has achieved awards in many competitions. She won first place in the 2021 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Oregon State Junior String Competition and was an alternate winner in the Northwest Division. Furthermore, Kristen earned first place in the 2022 Best Bach Competition, second place in the Oregon American String Teachers Association (ASTA) Competition, and first place in the 2024 OPUS State Competition.

In the summer of 2024, Kristen attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), where she was appointed principal cellist of the Young Artist Orchestra. During this transformative experience, she had the privilege of participating in a masterclass with the legendary cellist Steven Isserlis.

Beyond her individual accomplishments, Kristen is deeply involved in the Portland musical community. She serves as principal cellist of the Portland Youth Philharmonic Orchestra (PYP), was the principal cellist of the 2025 All State OMEA Orchestra and an active member of both a PYP quartet and the Camerata PYP chamber orchestra. She is also the Executive Director of Project Prelude, an initiative where she shares her musical experiences and helps foster the next generation of young musicians.

Outside of her musical pursuits, Kristen loves to read and bake muffins with her mom!



Joshua Thrush
SECOND PLACE - \$2,000
Virginia

Joshua Thrush is a double bassist from Vienna, Virginia. He has been playing bass for eight years under the instruction of Ira Gold of the National Symphony and is in his fifth year with the National Symphony Youth Fellowship. Festival and orchestral experience include Domaine-Forget International Music Academy, the New York String Orchestra Seminar (NYSOS), the National Youth Orchestra of the United States (NYO-USA), and Boston University's Tanglewood Institute's Young Artist Orchestra. Joshua has also been a featured soloist on NPR's *From the Top* and has been recognized by YoungArts in classical music for the past three years. He is principal bass of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and the All-Virginia Orchestra as well as a semifinalist in the International Society of Bassists 15-18 Solo Competition. Joshua attended the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado this summer on a full fellowship and intends to pursue a career in classical double bass performance. **JK**



Junior Awards

\$2,500 Mary Alice Cox Cello/Bass Awards

\$2,000 Stillman Kelley Instrumental Awards

\$2,000 Wendell Irish Viola Awards

\$1,500 Martha Marcks Mack Vocal Awards

\$1,250 Marilyn Caldwell Piano Awards

\$500 Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Awards

Deadline: March 1

More Information :





Music in Poetry Award

by Debra Hughes, Chair

HELLOOOO JUNIORS and TEACHERS! Get out your thinking caps and start soon to write those poems for the Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award because there is a brand **NEW DEADLINE OF NOVEMBER 1** which is much earlier! Here are the items that the judge uses to evaluate each entry: Poetic Devices, Creativity, Overall Effectiveness and Music Message. We are looking forward to reading the Junior poems from all five regions. Best wishes for superb writing!!

Questions to Chair Debra Hughes: bndhughes@comcast.net.

Did you hear of the very important development?
The ANGIE GREER Award has a new deadline.
Music in Poetry is now due **NOVEMBER 1ST**.
So it's soon time for Juniors to write and shine!

The judge is looking for poetic creativity.
Make it about MUSIC without using AI for verse.
It has to be original and at least 8 lines long.
Each winner will add \$100 to their purse.

Don't write a super big ballad or epic poem.
It can't be more than thirty lines long.
Humor, acrostics or repetition are all welcome
Even if it would work as lyrics for a song.

There are so many things that you can use:
Imagery, rhythm, form and alliteration,
Metaphors, similes, hyperbole and irony,
Figurative language and personification.

So get started **NOW** to write, dear Juniors
Prose, ballad, free verse, elegy or rhyme.
Go to NFMCMusic.org to download your poem
And remember **NOVEMBER 1 IS THE NEW DEADLINE!**



Deadline Mar 1

\$100 November Parade of American Music

Deadline April 1

\$25 Ethnic Performance
\$25 Celebrate Strings

Deadline May 1

\$25 Just Jazz!
\$100 Folk Music Programs
\$100 American Women Composers
\$250 Yearlong American Music



Thelma A. Robinson Award (TARBA)

by Beth Lee, Chair

Cassidy Broach

FIRST PLACE

THELMA A. ROBINSON AWARD (TARBA)

South Carolina

Cassidy Broach is a rising 9th grader. She started dancing in 2nd grade, and has danced with International Ballet in Greenville, SC for five years. Cassidy dances under the direction of artistic director Vlada Kyselova, academy director Adair Kempf, trainee director Josha Williams, and instructor Victoria Yanchuck. Under their guidance and training Cassidy has danced many roles, but some of her favorite include “Merliten”, “Waltz of the Flowers”, and “Marie”. She has just been accepted into their company for the 25-26 year. Cassidy has participated in the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities summer intensive and was recently selected to participate in the preprofessional program at the Fine Arts Center. She is a member of the Junior National Honor Society for Dance Arts. She sings in the choir at her church, and she enjoys volunteering as a Salvation Army bell ringer. Her favorite quote is, “Find out who you are, and do it on purpose.” **JK**



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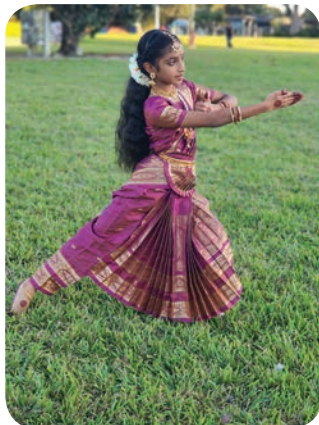


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20

Congratulations to our 2025 Dance Winners – AGNES FOWLER ENDOWMENT

by Lisa Moore, *Chair*



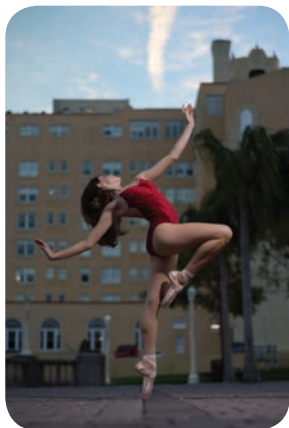
Tanishka Chinthamaneni
WINNER OF NFMFC DANCE
JUNIOR (AGES 11-14) \$200

Tanishka is an ardent and versatile dancer with a profound passion for exploring diverse dance genres. For the past five years, she has been diligently training in Bharatanatyam, a traditional Indian classical dance form, under the expert guidance of Anandi Srinivasan at Navarasa Academy of Performing Arts. Recently, she has also begun to delve into

Kuchipudi, another classical dance style, with Swapna Kommaraju at Srishti Dance Academy.

Tanishka's love for dance knows no bounds, and she revels in learning and performing various styles, including Kathak, Bollywood, Contemporary, and Hip-Hop. Her creativity extends to choreographing routines and mentoring young dancers to showcase their talents at local cultural events and competitions. Her work was recognized with an award for her choreography in the 2024 Reflections competition for the theme "I am hopeful because....".

Apart from her dance pursuits, Tanishka showcases her artistic flair through playing the violin and singing, highlighting her creative versatility.



Lilliana Stewart
WINNER OF NFMFC JUNIOR I
BALLET (AGES 11-14) \$200

Lilliana Stewart is a student of Highland School of Dance in Lakeland, FL. Lilly has been dancing since she was 2 years old. Her dance training includes ballet, tap, jazz, modern, acrobatics, hip hop, and musical theatre. She has attended many workshops and conventions including Florida Dance Masters, MODAS, Orlando Ballet School, Cecchetti Council of America, STEPS

Summer Intensive, Broadway Beginnings NYC, and Hollywood Ballet Academy Intensive. She has won various awards and scholarships including FDM Mini Miss Dance, FDM Junior Miss Dance, NFMFC Dance Award, FDM Scholarships (Jazz, Overall). She is homeschooled and is also an equestrian student at Mainstone Riding Academy.



Melena Zervas
WINNER OF NFMFC JUNIOR II
BALLET (AGES 15-18) \$400

Melena Zervas is 17 years old and will be beginning her senior year at Lakeview High School in Cortland, Ohio. She has been a student at Jordan School of Ballet, under the direction of Lisa Jordan for the past 8 years. Melena enjoys ballet, bowling, Greek dancing, and being very active in her church, Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Warren, Ohio. She studies at Jordan School of Ballet, Teacher: Lisa Jordan 



DANCE AWARDS

**\$2,500 THELMA A.
ROBINSON
BALLET AWARD
DEADLINE FEB. 1
(ODD YEARS)**



**\$400 DANCE
AWARDS IN BALLET
AND/OR DANCE
STYLES
DEADLINE MAY 1**



Wendell Irish Viola Award

by George Keck, *Chair*



Edward Lee FIRST PLACE

New York

Edward Lee is the winner of the first-place prize of \$2,000 in the 2025 NFMW Wendell Irish Viola Competition. Edward is a 17-year-old violist currently studying at the Juilliard Pre-College under the guidance of Sophie Arbuckle. He has achieved notable success in various music competitions, securing grand prizes at events

such as the Prodigy International Music Competition and the New York International Young Musician Competition, and he was named a National Young Arts award winner. His artistic development has been further enriched by his participation in masterclasses with renowned musicians, including Jessica Bodner, Carol Rodland, Martha Katz, Sheng Li, Jeffrey Irvine, Atar Arad, and Roberto Diaz. In addition to his studies at Juilliard, Edward has enhanced his musical skills through summer programs like NYO-USA, Morningside Music Bridge, Paris International Music Academy, and Astona International Summer Music Academy, gaining exposure on a global stage.

Edward is deeply involved in community outreach through his leadership roles in various organizations. He is a co-founder of Clexical, an initiative dedicated to making contemporary classical music accessible in underprivileged communities. He serves as the President of the Show Me Your Heart Foundation and as the Regional Director of the Back to Bach Project, promoting classical music appreciation among young students. Additionally, Edward is a Youth Ambassador and President at EnoB, demonstrating his commitment to community service.



Jennifer Kang SECOND PLACE

California

Jennifer Kang of Mountain View, California, won the second-place award of \$1,000. Jennifer is a 15-year-old violist and a sophomore at Mountain View High School. She has been studying the viola under the tutelage of Dimitri Murrath, having previously trained with Sujung Seok and Minji Kim. Passionate about chamber music, she has

participated in the Young Chamber Musicians program.

Jennifer was named a semifinalist in the 2025 Johansen International Competition in Washington, D.C., and a quarter-finalist of the 2025 Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition in Newcastle, England. She has also earned numerous accolades, including first place in the 2024 American Viola Society Competition and multiple awards at the 2023 NorCal Viola Society Young Violist Competition, where she won first place, the Best Bach Performance award, and the Best New Piece Prize.

She has attended prestigious summer programs such as the Perlman Music Program (2024), Morningside Music Bridge (2023), Music@Menlo Young Performers (2022), and Heifetz PEG (2021). She has also had the privilege of working with and participating in masterclasses led by esteemed violists, including Carol Rodland, Kirsten Docter, Steve Tenenbom, Jeffrey Irvine, Hsin-Yun Huang, Teng Li, Ori Kam, Nicolas Cords, Atar Arad, Jonathan Vinocour, and Michael Klotz.

Beyond her musical achievements, Jennifer is committed to using her talents for social good. Since 2017, she has actively participated in benefit concerts for Red Cross Disaster Relief. Additionally, she serves as the regional director for the Santa Clara division of the Back to Bach Project, an initiative dedicated to inspiring children through music. Her dedication to these community efforts has strengthened her belief in music's ability to provide emotional comfort and create a positive societal impact. Outside of music, Jennifer is also a passionate writer. She has received recognition in various writing competitions, including the Scholastic Awards and the Geek Competition.



Ian Gavilan NORTHEAST REGION WINNER

New York

Ian Gavilan

Ian Gavilan, 13, is a talented violist studying with Molly Carr and Yi-Fang Huang at Juilliard's Pre-College Division. He is the winner of the \$500 Northeast Region Award. Ian has earned numerous prestigious awards, including Grand Prize at the 2022 Prima Volta Music Competition, 1st Prize at the 2023 Vivo International Music Competition, and Honorable Mention at the 2024 DePaul National Concerto Competition. Ian has performed at Gordon Hall as part of the Harlem Quartet Workshop (2019–2021) and with the Cuba National Orchestra in Cuba, expanding his international experience. He was featured in a televised New Year's Eve concert in Havana (2019) and later appeared in the PBS documentary *Los Hermanos / The Brothers* (2021). He is fluent in English, Spanish, and Korean.

David Perrin SOUTH CENTRAL REGION WINNER

Texas

David Perrin is the winner of the \$500 South Central Region Award. David is from Plano, Texas, and a viola student of Dr. Unkyoung Kim.

continued on page 38

Wendell Irish Viola Award *continued*

Paul Rodriguez

Paul Rodriguez
SOUTH EAST REGION WINNER
Florida

Raul Rodriguez is an 18-year-old violist from Boca Raton, Florida, and winner of the Southeast Region award of \$500. He is a current high school senior at the North Broward Preparatory School and currently studies with Mr. Michael Klotz. He has been a member of the Florida

Youth Orchestra (FYO) since 2015 and principal violist of FYO's Principal Orchestra since 2021. He has been a Florida All-State Orchestra violist yearly from 2020-2024. Raul was selected to be the principal student violist of the New World Symphony Side by Side ensemble from 2023-2025. Awards include an Honorable Mention in the 2024 Eastern Music Festival concerto competition, winner in the 2024 YoungArts competition in the classical music/viola category, and third place in the 2025 Alhambra Orchestra concerto competition.

Raul hopes to pursue his musical studies in college as well as pre-medical studies.



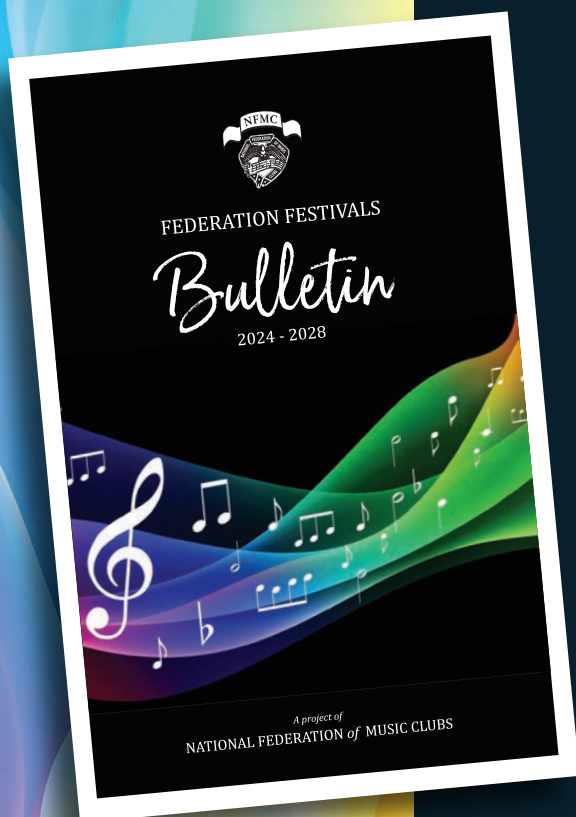
Hannah Girges

Hannah Girges
WESTERN REGION WINNER
Washington State

Hannah Girges, an 18-year-old violist from Maple Vale, Washington, is the winner of the Western Region award of \$500. She currently studies with Joseph Gottesman in Bellevue, Washington. Hannah has been recognized in multiple competitions, earning 1st Place at the 2024 Classical Viennese Festival, 2nd Place at the SIFF Virtuoso Artists Festival, and first prizes in the Charleston

International Competition, Seattle Russian Festival, and Music Festival Northwest. She also received an Honorable Distinction for a Complete Program at the Seattle Young Artist Music Festival and won the Luzerne Music Center Solo Showcase Competition.

An active orchestral and chamber musician, Hannah has enjoyed playing with the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Chamber Music Society, Seattle Conservatory of Music, and Elite Strings Chamber Group of the Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has served as Principal Violist of the Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra for three years and was a member of the San Jose Youth Chamber Orchestra. As a soloist, she has performed with the San Luis Obispo Chamber Orchestra, Tacoma Orchestra, and Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra and was featured as a guest artist on Spokane Public Radio. **JK**



FEDERATION FESTIVALS

Bulletin

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2028

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BUTTERFLY CONCERT

On Thursday, February 27, Mrs. Haylee Lytle's 600 music students from 4-K through 6th grade who attend Almena, Ridgeland, Riverview, and Woodland Schools of the Barron Area School District (BASD) were treated to the phenomenal experience of a Butterfly Concert. In order that all students had the chance to participate, two concerts were held at the Barron Area Community Center (BACC) auditorium.

The Butterfly Concert was an enchanting celebration of live music that featured a diverse repertoire performed by soloists and ensembles from the UW-River Falls Music Department. Faculty musicians included Ivan Konev and Ji Young Lee, piano; Joseph Hagedorn, classical guitar; Patrick O'Keefe, clarinet; and Momoko Tanno, soprano. All selections of music were inspired by butterfly themes. Included were the works of composers: Chopin, Albanese, Schumann, Catan, Giuliani, Puccini, Grieg, Ilyinsky, and He Zhanhao & Chen Gang.

The concert was an idea of Mary Ella Jerome who was inspired by the amazing and artistic photographs taken by her sister, Julie M. Brown. Her photos were shown at the very beginning of the concert.

Mrs. Haylee Lytle commented that the project was a "lot of work" but that it was also a "labor of love". It made a big impact on the students. In preparation for the concert, the students studied the UW-RF Faculty's pieces in school; they decorated butterflies as art projects to be displayed along the front of the concert stage; as part of the concert, they learned to sing and do hand movements to songs: "Three Thousand Miles" which they loved to sing and "La Bilingual Butterfly" (with teacher John Krall) and "Pretty Butterfly".

An important part of their learning was related to the importance of the Monarch Butterfly and its reliance on the milkweed plant. The issue of sustainability was emphasized.

The word of the day on Thursday, at school and at the concert, was excitement! A few hours prior to the concert, the first graders who had been at recess came into Mrs. Lytle's room, chanting, "Butterfly Day! Butterfly Day!"

Students also got into the spirit of the day by wearing butterfly jewelry, clothing, and small butterfly tattoos. Mrs. Lytle wore a butterfly cape.

While the performers were presenting their pieces, the students were attentive and focused. Then they expressed their appreciation with enthusiastic applause.

Upon arrival at the BACC, the Barron Federated Music Club (BFMC) provided lunch for the performing UW-RF musicians. The BFMC is celebrating its 100th anniversary and has provided a "Young Audience" experience for the BASD elementary students for several decades. Funding for the Butterfly Concerts was provided by the BFMC in partnership with the Mary Ella Jerome Family Foundation.

Comments from students, teachers, performing UW-RF music faculty, and attending adults have been very positive.

Young Audience is an ongoing series sponsored by the BFMC for elementary age students in the school district. The BFMC has funded this outreach program for over 30 years. **JK**





Let's Do Improvisation!

by Lori Jessen, Junior Division Chair

One of the great things about Festival is that there is a large variety of events in which students may participate. Let's spotlight one of those events, Improvisation.

You'll find the event in the Musicianship Section, on p. 336 in your *Bulletin*. This is an event for keyboard instruments where students play scales & chord cadences, and apply rhythm, melody, harmony, and form to create improvised compositions.

"Why, that sounds marvelous!" you say, "My students would definitely benefit from entering that event. But what do I do?"

Let me walk you through the process...it's just three basic steps:

1. You'll need to **pick a melody** to improvise.
 - a. For Levels I-IV, there are specific folk song titles to use. For level V-VI, you are free to use any melody. Traditionally, folk song melodies are played.
 - b. For your convenience, we have provided notated scores with single line melodies in the proper keys of the required pieces. These scores are linked in the Online *Bulletin* or email the NFMF Festivals Chair or *Bulletin* Editor and ask for them. However, you are also free to use a published score, or notate it yourself.
2. Next, **check the requirements chart**. The entrant will need to prepare the designated *scales* and *chord cadences* along with practicing the improvised song.

I can hear you already...you're saying, "But how can it be improv, when it's practiced?" While it may not be an absolute improvisation during the Festival audition, the preparation of the event creates the perfect atmosphere for teaching how to make it different each time you play. This then gives the student additional experience in determining what sounds they like and how they prefer to play the piece. Just as a solo audition gives feedback regarding the preparation of a piece, so does this process. The adjudicator is providing a critique of what choices the student eventually makes as they play the improvised piece.

3. **Prepare the score**. You are free to add chord symbols above the melody line, but you cannot notate any part of the accompaniment.
 - a. Use this opportunity to teach the triads based on the scale. Encourage students to consider using more than just the primary chords in their improv. Think about borrowed chords to add some interest.
 - b. Determine the rhythmic possibilities of the accompaniment part. Be creative! Show students how to play varying rhythms during different parts of the music. Demonstrate how to change it up every time they play.



The Improvisation Event has its own specially designed rating sheet, the **JR 5-2**. Vivace does not yet generate this rating sheet, so when you enter students in this event, remind your Festival Area Admin that they'll need to download and fill this out. Go to nfmf-music.org, click on the **Festivals**

text, and scroll down to find it. OR once you have Online *Bulletin* access, there's a download link on that page.

Your students are already learning scales and chord cadences. Many method series and individual resources illustrate the teaching of lead sheets. Teaching the skill set for this event is probably already a part of your curriculum. Why not add this event for **your** students this Festival year?

Email me (LoriJessen@gmail.com) if you have any other questions about the Improvisation Event. I'm always happy to help. **JK**

Folk Song List—Levels I & II

1. Mary Had a Little Lamb
2. Polly Wolly Doodle
3. Row, Row, Row Your Boat
4. Down in the Valley
5. Shoo Fly
6. Skip to My Lou
7. Lazy Mary
8. The Mulberry Bush
9. Old MacDonald
10. Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Folk Song List—Levels III & IV

1. Pop! Goes the Weasel
2. Home on the Range
3. You Are My Sunshine
4. The Bear Went Over the Mountain
5. Lavender's Blue
6. She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain
7. Clementine
8. This Old Man
9. Yakee Doodle
10. I've Been Workin' on the Railroad

Level I: I - V - I (block chords)	Level I: I - V6 - I (cadence form)
Level II: I - V6 - I (root position)	Level II: I - V7 - I (root position)

Fortifying Our Foundations through Festival: The APFS Event

NFMC's foundational mission has always been to support American music and American musicians. One of the ways we do this is through the American Patriotic & Folk Song Event in our Festivals program. This event is open to all keyboard, vocal, instrumental, and string entrants. While the required music list in the *Bulletin* is specific to piano entries, the titles from those classes are utilized by other entrants when finding appropriate arrangements for their discipline.

Some perks of the APFS event:

- APFS is perfect for students who have challenges with memorization, as scores can be used.
- It can be a suitable introductory event if a student is not quite ready for a regular solo event.
- In the intermediate and upper classes, there are artistic arrangements by many names familiar in the *Bulletin* in the solo event. This type of repertoire is perfect for performances out in the community as audiences always appreciate hearing familiar favorites played with a high degree of skill and technique.
- Many method books utilize patriotic and folk songs in their curriculum, which makes it very easy to add the APFS Event to

a student's experience. They are already learning a piece in their regular lesson/performance/solo book which can be utilized as the choice piece!

- Be sure to include a bit of the history of each song. These bits of information can be quite fascinating...who knows what "Yankee Doodle" is all about? And what is a "dandy"?

It is vitally important that we incorporate our American patriotic and folk songs in our teaching. Passing along our American cultural heritage through music gives our students a foundation in understanding the music of the past which has influenced our nation, as well as just being so much *fun!* 



Martha Marcks Mack JUNIOR VOCAL AWARD



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

This is an annual award, given to a deserving and talented singer in High School grades 10, 11, & 12, for the purpose of further musical study. The goal of this award is to encourage young singers toward a musical career.

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

Highlight on Caden Lewis: “Piano Man”

by Kristin Ivers, PFMC President

On May 23, 2025 the *Explore Vanango* online magazine featured Caden Lewis in an article that caught the attention of this PFMC State President. Just a month before, I had the privilege of hearing him play at our State Festivals Competition and subsequently had the honor of awarding him several awards, including the highest award of best performance of the day.

So it was with great interest that I read the back story to his success... He is just 15 years old and only began playing a keyboard when he was 10 years old. The keyboard was a birthday gift from his dad to see if Caden would have any interest. Interested, he was, and Caden began taking formal piano lessons, all the while practicing on his keyboard. His first 2 years were mostly Zoom lessons as a result of the Covid outbreak. His beginning years were under the guidance of **Kathy Krouse**, before he joined **Junior Schubert Club**. He soon began studying with **Dr. Amber Shay Nicholson**, Assistant Coordinator for the club. Together, both women helped him develop his God-given talent and have helped him realize his high potential.

“I mostly just play for myself and those closest to me,” Lewis noted about his involvement with playing piano. “I haven’t thought too deeply about where I want piano to take me past high school. All I know is I love playing.”

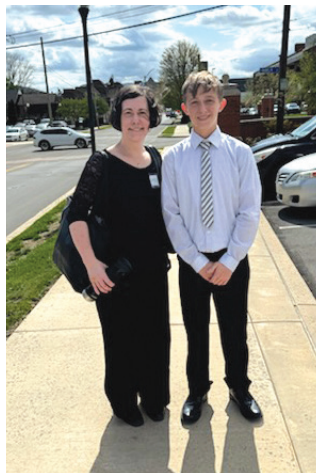
Caden is extremely grateful to his parents who have provided time, transportation, and the means to participate in Festivals and Competitions. Caden’s dad spends many hours listening to Caden practice and this is a meaningful support for Caden.

The last several years Caden has enjoyed Superior ratings on his festival performances, which has propelled him on to win at the Regional and State Competitions. The State Competitions are held in Williamsport, about 3 hours away from his home, requiring the family to be up and on the road in the early morning hours.

In April, Caden won the Piano Solo Very Difficult Class, Level II category for his performance of *Prelude in C# Major (Op. 3, No. 2)*, written by Sergei Rachmaninoff. The judges awarded him another first-place distinction in the Senior Concerto competition for his performance of the *Concerto in A minor first movement*, by Edvard Grieg. For his stellar performance, he was also awarded Best Overall Concerto performance, the Suzanne Anderson Memorial Award for Best Overall Performer of the Competition, and the President’s Award.

“I’ve loved playing at the State Competition. Playing there sounds so professional and beautiful. The room we play in is absolutely stunning, and the pianos are tuned perfectly. Everyone I connected with was very talented and nice. It was an all-around great experience again this year.”

Caden builds discipline into his days by also running long distance track for school. He credits the discipline as good for anything you want to achieve in life... you have to put in the time; and between long distance running and practicing piano he knows all about that! Caden is passionate about playing piano but, for now, he’s just excited to learn about more classical composers and master his next set of material for his next recital. The other goal for 2025 that remains is securing a new piano to continue his passion. We’re working on that for you, Caden. **JK**





May Awards

 \$5,000 Michael Edwards Senior Performance Award	 \$2,000 Dr. Ouida Keck Professional Piano Teacher Development Award	 \$2,000 Lana Bailey Piano Concerto Awards for Juniors
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Deadline: May 1st

More Information :



PFMC State Festivals Competition

by Kristin Ivers, PFMC President

April 26, 2025 was an exciting day for piano performers who gathered in Williamsport, PA for the PFMC State Festivals Competition. Twenty-seven competitors, who had received Superior ratings at their local Festivals locations, chose to come and compete in piano solo Medium class through Musically Advanced II class. They came from the West (W), Central (C), and East (E) regions of PA. In addition to the piano solo classes, there were also seven competitors in the Concerto classes, Junior 1B, II, III, and Senior, four of whom also competed in piano solo. **JK**

Congratulations to these disciplined students and their fine teachers!



PFMC 2025 STATE COMPETITION WINNERS/ AWARDS

Concerto Senior Class: Caden Lewis (W) - teacher Amber Nicholson, \$100/trophy

Concerto Junior Class: Owen Dill (W) - teacher Amber Nicholson, \$100/trophy

PS Medium: Ethan Kim (W) - teacher Kiki Barley, Certificate/\$100

PS MD 1: Aurelia Carter (E) - teacher April Pellegrini, Certificate/\$100

PS MD 2: Sonia Lee (E) - teacher Darlene Ziegler, Certificate/\$100

PS MD 3: Alison Lin (C) - teacher Joanne Yang, Certificate/\$100

PS Diff. 1: Jesse Niu (E) - teacher Susan Kuntz, Certificate/\$100

PS Diff. 2: Lydia Nicholson (W) - teacher Amber Nicholson, Certificate/\$100

PS VD 1: Ethan Nguyen (E) - teacher Susan Kuntz, Certificate/\$100

PS VD 2: Caden Lewis (W) - teacher Amber Nicholson, Certificate/\$100

PS MA 1: Eddy Zhang (E) - teacher Darlene Ziegler, Certificate/\$100

PS MA 2: Lea Beishline (C) - teacher Amanda Gunderson, Certificate/\$100

Memorial Award: Medium-MD 3 Sonia Lee \$100/plaque

Memorial Award: Diff 1-MA 2 Ethan Nguyen \$100/Plaque

President's Award for Outstanding Concerto: Caden Lewis \$250/Plaque

President's Award for Outstanding Piano Solo: Ethan Kim \$250/plaque

Grand Champion Award: Suzanne and Paul Anderson Memorial Award Caden Lewis, \$500/Plaque

Honorable Mention: Elijah Lin VD2, Jayden Jiang Diff. 1, both C-Joanne Yang, Certificate/Rosette

NEW REPERTOIRE



LATE INTERMEDIATE - EARLY ADVANCED

Dancétudes: 7 Vignettes of Dolls and Pets

Thomas H. Kerr Jr., edited by Susanna Garcia and William Chapman Nyaho

BEGINNER

Weaving Sounds: Elementary Piano Pieces by Native and Indigenous Composers

Compiled and edited by Connor Chee and Renata Yazzie



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PIANO
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PIANO EDUCATION
PRESS

THE PIANO CONFERENCE:
NCKP

State Buzz

CALIFORNIA

California extends their heartfelt gratitude to Geraldine Keeling for her more than 37 years of service as both the California State Festivals Chair and the Pasadena Festival Chair. Her dedication to the National Federation of Music Clubs and to music education has made it possible for students across the state to participate and earn Gold Cups through the Festival program.

In November, The Southern California Music Festival Club hosted its inaugural *Parade of American Music*. The event featured an American Jazz Recital by local Junior Clubs, including The Staccato Stars, The Entertainers, and Miller's Piano Studio, and was followed by a catered lunch. Guests also contributed donations to support the Canoga Park Family Rescue Center's Thanksgiving Meal Event. Larry Moore was honored with the *Champion of Music* award in recognition of his dedicated volunteer work. The club also received commendation from the County of Los Angeles for its outstanding service to the community.



Geraldine Keeling



Southern California Music Festival Club members and guests at the Parade of American Music Event



Southern California Music Festival Club members pictured from left to right: : Virginia Feitelson, Keri Crampton, Soo Choi, and Madeline Miller.



Pictured: Pasadena festival teachers at their gold cup ceremony celebrating Geraldine Keeling's service

ILLINOIS

Members attend NCKP 2025

Heidi O. Hong, 1st NFMFC VP, and Lucinda Lear, Competitions and Awards Division Chair, attended the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in Lombard, Illinois recently. NFMFC had a table with information about our awards, competitions, and membership opportunities which was viewed by many attendees. Brochures and award posters were available for NCKP attendees.

Composers Glenda Austin, Brock Chart, Conner Chee, Tom Gerou, and Christopher Goldston, say 'hi' to the NFMFC Junior Division! You will recognize these composers because they are in our NFMFC Bulletin.

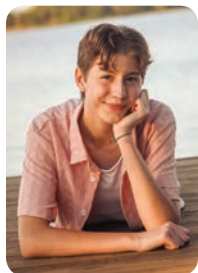
Both Heidi and Lucinda said it was a positive experience to meet so many keyboardists and fellow musicians. NFMFC is proud and pleased to be a part of generating enthusiasm for the study of music by having a presence at this conference. Having a relationship with other music organizations helps strengthen us all in the continuing legacy of music education, participation, and performance.



Heidi Hong and Lucinda Lear at NCKP

MINNESOTA

Minnesota High School Student Audition Winners



Aeda Villnow

Aeda Villnow, 2025 Biennial Student Audition Winner in Voice, is a senior at Willmar Senior High School. Aeda's parents are Nathan and Janna Villnow and she is a voice student of Cheryl Schmidt.

Aeda participated in Cardinal Choir and several musicals. She received superior ratings and best of sight designations at the state solo ensemble contest, superior ratings in the local vocal festival, and was accepted into the All-State Choir and the Central Lakes Conference Honor Choir.

She hopes to continue these activities at Waldorf University where she will be majoring in music education.



John Peter (JP) Moes

John Peter (JP) Moes, 2025 Biennial Student Audition Winner in Piano, is a junior at Warroad High School. JP studies jazz-oriented lessons with Lars Quincke remotely and classical oriented lessons with Nancy Fisher.

JP has participated in Junior Festivals and was selected to attend the 2023 Medora Music Camp in Medora ND where he received direct training by Dr. Nariaki Sugiura.

JP does jazz gigs with his younger brother for local establishments for fundraisers or service hours. He plays saxophone in Warroad

High School Band, piano for the jazz ensemble, accompanies the Warroad High School choir and was inducted into the MN National Honor Society in his junior year. He plays on the Warroad High School hockey, track teams, trap and golf.

JP is pursuing his Eagle Scout rank and is serving a 3-year term on a steering committee chartered to find ways for adults to better accompany youth in their faith. Along with this program, he is joining thirty other individuals on a mission trip to Jamaica to build homes and provide food for those in need. JP plans to continue studying music throughout his senior year in high school and in college.



Quinn Eisenbacher

Quinn Eisenbacher, 2025 Biennial Student Audition Winner in Voice, is a junior at ACGC High School in Grove City, MN, and her parents are Janelle and Harold Eisenbacher. Quinn has a love for music and singing with involvement in high school choir, band, jazz band, and has taken private voice lessons for four years with Cheryl Schmidt.

Quinn has had the opportunity to participate in several choral festivals, was selected last year to be a part of the MN All-State SATB choir. She is also involved in basketball, track and field, National Honor Society, Student Council, Theater, Theater Leadership, and Robotics.

Outside of school, Quinn is in Taekwondo training for her adult black belt, is active in her church, youth group, and an elected member of her Synod Lutheran Youth Organization board. She is currently starting her college search and is considering a career in music education.

PENNSYLVANIA

Student Spotlight: Tory Giovannello Honored at National Level

We are excited to share that **Tory Giovannello** has received an *Honorable Mention* at the *NFMC National Junior Composers Contest* for her *original work called Lion King*.

She is a student of **Deborah Rodgers**.

This marks Tory's second **original composition**, and it's especially noteworthy considering she's only been studying piano for three years. Last year, she earned 2nd place in the Junior Composers Contest, and it's inspiring to see her continue growing as both a pianist and a composer.

Congratulations, Tory, on this well-deserved honor!



continued on page 44

State Buzz ...continued

TENNESSEE

Nashville and Brentwood Tennessee

Junior Club Counselor Marcilee Morgan, of Marcilee's Music Studio, is proud to report an outstanding academic year and summer season. Every student who participated in auditions and festivals earned Superior Ratings for their performances—an achievement that reflects their dedication and the studio's high standards of excellence.

A special congratulations goes to Kate Johnson, age 15, who was selected to attend the prestigious Belmont Summer Invitational Piano Camp at Belmont University in Nashville. Kate has been studying under Marcilee Morgan since 2019 and continues to excel in her musical journey.

Another heartfelt congratulations to Molly Hacker, age 14, who performed six complete Sonatinas from memory in her farewell performance before moving out of state this summer to study with one of Marcilee's former piano professors. Molly has been studying under Marcilee Morgan since 2021 and has such a bright future in music.

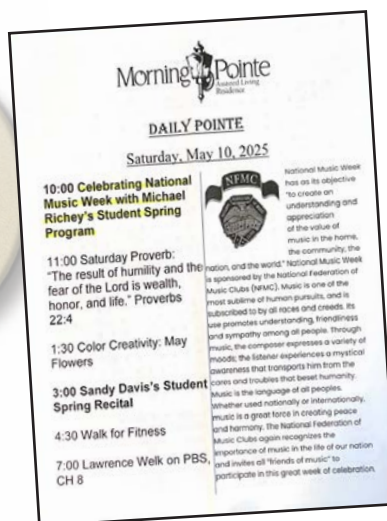
Congratulations to all the students at Marcilee's Music Studio for a year filled with growth, success, and music!



Marcilee's Music Studio - Molly Hacker



Marcilee's Music Studio - Kate Johnson



WISCONSIN

Phoebe Panozzo Ethan Squires Scholarship Winner



I am **Phoebe Panozzo** and I play the cello. I am 18 years old and have just recently graduated from Oconomowoc High School. I have been studying the cello since I was in 5th grade, for a total of 8 years! I study with Lindsay Patterson and she has been a part of my cello journey for the whole 8 years. With Lindsay as my teacher, she has helped me accomplish many things. One of those being playing in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. This is an advanced program for music students and has

many different orchestras and types of programs. I have made it into the top level of those programs. Another orchestra that I got to be involved in was the WSMA State Honors Orchestra. To get into this orchestra you must make it through a prestigious audition process and I am happy to say that I sat 3rd chair in the orchestra. I have had the honor to participate and win in many competitions over my career as a cellist. Those include Federation Festivals, WSMA, and concerto competitions through MYSO. I have also had the honor of getting to compete at the state level at WSMA and at the Federation State Festival Competition, winning exemplary performance awards at WSMA two times and gaining a first place at the State Competition twice. I am going to continue my career as a cellist in college by attending UW Stevens Point and majoring in Cello Performance and Chemistry. My choice in continuing at Stevens Point is not a coincidence. It is because of the people around me. Seeing my music make other people smile is very encouraging for me. Seeing how the work that I put in helps others makes me want to continue playing cello for as long as I can. I feel that my playing has helped others in ways that I cannot even explain or that I may not even know. I feel as if I am educating people and making their days better with my music. Whether it is when people hear me practicing through the apartment walls or my mom telling me how sad she is that she is not going to be able to hear it every day when I go off to college. But, one thing that stands out to me is when my grandparents were ill. All three of my grandparents that have been ill and ended up passing had told me how proud they were of me; how happy it makes them to hear me play through the tv when they could not come to see me. How they would tell others about me and make them smile. That is what really keeps me going. I believe that my music is still helping them to this day. Thinking of them and how much of an impact I have made on people is more than I know and I hope to continue to make people smile and keep helping others through the cello. **JK**

2026 NFMF CONFERENCE Scottsdale, AZ



The countdown is on!

You can feel the HEAT of excitement as we prepare for the 2026 NFMF Conference in Scottsdale AZ! Plan to pack your bags for June 9-13, 2026! Get ready for four days of inspiring performances, featuring local entertainers and a Native American Ensemble! Of course, we also have a few surprises in the works that you will not want to miss! Stay tuned!

Whether you're a seasoned member of NFMF, a dedicated teacher, or a passionate supporter of the arts, the 2026 NFMF Conference promises to deliver a fresh new experience! Join us for a refreshing drink by the pool, a stroll in downtown Old Scottsdale, or dancing under the stars with an authentic Mariachi band. Arizona is proud to host your stay, and we look forward to seeing you June 9th-13th in Scottsdale!



2025-2026 NFMF AWARDS-AT-A-GLANCE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

President: Deborah Freeman

2025-2026 COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS CHART

Competition and Awards Board & Division Chair:

Lucinda Lear, lmlear@me.com



BIENNIAL JUNIOR AWARDS

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

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	NFMF Chair
NFMF Claire Ulrich Whitehurst (Flanagan) Piano Solo Award	PIANO SOLO	High School: Grades 10-11-12 Must not have reached 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$500 1st Place (for further study) \$250 2nd Place	March 1, even Numbered years	Marcia Chaplin Marciachaplin2@gmail.com
NFMF Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards	COMPOSITION	Intermediate: Grades 7-8-9 High School: Grades 10-11-12	Paid by private donor	\$750 (Intermediate) \$1500 (High School)	March 1, odd numbered years	Lisa Smith lcspiano@hotmail.com
NFMF Thelma A. Robinson Award in Ballet honoring a Past National President	BALLET	12 -14	\$20	\$2,500	February 1, odd numbered years	Beth Lee bethlee0123@gmail.com

ANNUAL JUNIOR AWARDS

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

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	NFMF Chair
NFMF Herman and Mary Neumann Award to Interlochen Arts Academy	PIANO, VOICE, ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS	Must be in High School	NONE	\$1,000	February 1	Interlochen Arts Academy Interlochen MI 49643
NFMF Martha Marcks Mack Junior Vocal Award	VOCAL	High School Grades:10-11-12 Must not have reached the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,500 - 1st Place \$1,000 - 2nd Place \$ 500 – 3rd Place	March 1	Kristin Ivers Kivers210@gmail.com
NFMF Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Awards honoring a Past National President	Piano Concerto	High School Senior who has not reached the 19th birthday by May 1	\$10	\$1,500 – 1st Place \$ 500 – 2nd Place	May 1	Lana M. Bailey zblb@verizon.net
NFMF Joyce Walsh Junior Awards for Individuals with Special Needs	INSTRUMENTAL and VOCAL	Must have reached the 12th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$2,500—1st Place \$2,000—2nd Place 1 - \$1,000 award in each of the five regions.	March 1	Cynthia Waldon cynawaldon@hotmail.com
NFMF Stillman Kelley National Instrumental Awards	INSTRUMENTAL	Must not have reached the 19th birthday by March 1	\$10	\$2,000– 1st Place (for further study) \$1,000 – 2nd Place \$750 – 3rd Place 5 regional awards @ \$500 each	March 1	Dr. Jason Sifford jason@siffordmusic.com
NFMF Thelma Byrum Piano Award in Stillman Kelley Auditions. (Kelley & Byrum awards cannot be applied for separately)	PIANO			\$750 for further study	March 1	

ANNUAL JUNIOR AWARDS (continued...)

Name	Category	Age Limit	Entry Fee	Amount of Award	Deadline for Application	NFMC Chair
NFMC Benzinger/Valentin Junior Blind Performance Awards	INSTRUMENTAL and VOCAL	Must have reached the 10th birthday but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$1,000 – 1st Place \$500 – 2nd Place 1 - \$250 award in each of the five NFMC Regions	March 1	Dianne Williamson dwillla879@aol.com
NFMC Agnes Fowler Junior Blind Composition Award	COMPOSITION	Must have reached the 10th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10 per manuscript	\$1,000	March 1	Dianne Williamson dwillla879@aol.com
NFMC Dance Awards	BALLET and/or Dance Styles	Must have reached the 11th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	Age 11-14: \$200 – 1st Place \$100 – 2nd Place Age 15-18: \$400 – 1st Place \$200 – 2nd Place	May 1	Lisa Moore nfmcdance.award@gmail.com
NFMC Mary Alice Cox Awards	CELLO OR DOUBLE BASS	Must not have reached the 19th birthday as of application deadline	\$20	\$2,500 – 1st Place \$1,500 – 2nd Place \$1,000 – 3rd Place	March 1	Anna Cosma themusicalpiano@gmail.com
NFMC Angie Greer Music in Poetry Awards	POETRY	Must not have reached the 19th birthday by November 1	\$5	\$100 in each of the five NFMC Regions	November 1	Debra Hughes bndhughes@comcast.net
NFMC National Music Week Essay Contest	ESSAY	Must be in grades 7 through 12	NONE	\$75 in each of the 50 states	January 10 (to regional chair)	Kathie White Whiteka23@yahoo.com
NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Awards	VIOLA	Must have reached the 12th but not the 19th birthday by application deadline	\$10	\$2,000 – 1st Place \$1,000 – 2nd Place 1 - \$500 Award in each of the 5 NFMC Regions	March 1	Dr. George Keck keckg@att.net
Marilyn Caldwell Solo Piano Awards	PIANO SOLO	High School Grades 10-11-12	\$10	\$1,250 – 1st Place \$ 750 – 2nd Place	March 1	Dr. Marschnee Strong mstrongpianist@gmail.com
NFMC Michael R. Edwards Graduating Senior Performance Award honoring a Past National President	Scholarship for Music Major	Graduating HS Senior year of the award	\$20	\$5,000	May 1	Michael R. Edwards micedwards@aol.com

JUNIOR COMPOSERS

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



INSTRUCTIONS FOR AWARD APPLICANTS

COMPETITION AND AWARDS (C&A) CHART

The C&A Chart may be downloaded from nfm-music.org or ordered from NFMC Headquarters, 1646 Smith Valley Rd. Greenwood IN 46142. The Chart includes only endowed NFMC Awards. Check Individual State Federation websites for possible additional awards.

APPLICATION FORMS, INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Award requirements and application forms are available on the NFMC website nfm-music.org or contact the Chair of the specific award. All NFMC Individual award applications must be submitted online by uploading them to the NFMC website. (*Exception: Club Awards should be mailed to the award chair*)

U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

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

NFMC MEMBERSHIP

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

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

FIRST PLACE WINNER LIMITATIONS

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

THE NFMC

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

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

Anyone wishing to become a NFMC member, subscribe to magazines, receive literature or make a tax-exempt contribution may contact the National Headquarters. For more information about the Federation, visit the website listed below.

National Federation of Music Clubs

1646 West Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN 46142

Telephone: (317) 882-4003 • info@nfm-music.org

nfm-music.org

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS



JUNIOR AWARDS

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

For award requirements and to apply, visit the NFMF website: www.nfmc-music.org

NFMF Headquarters

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

Copy and Advertising Due Dates:

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

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