

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

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The Junior Division has had a very busy and productive year! Juniors are the future of the Federation, and we endeavor to spread the word about all the programs for our Junior members in NFMC. To that end, listed below are the actions taken this year by the various chairs within the Division.

- All chairs in the Division were seated at the Austin 2025 Convention. Thirteen of the thirty-one chairs were new to their areas of responsibility. Two chairs resigned during the award year (Bulletin Editor, TARBA) and new chairs were appointed. As of May 2025, two additional chairs have resigned (SER & SCR Junior Composers Contest); new chairs are being actively researched.
- Chairs regularly supplied articles for the monthly newsletter, *In Tune*. In addition to regular articles from the Festivals team, all awards were spotlighted to increase awareness of the awards and encourage participation.
- Chairs regularly supplied articles for *Junior Keynotes* magazine. *JKN* remains an important means of information distribution. Articles of particular interest to teachers are being actively solicited to pique reader interest.
- All chairs submitted annual reports except: Music for Blind Composition/Benzinger, Caldwell Piano, Edwards Performance.
- All awards scheduled to be given this year have been distributed (to the best of my knowledge). See individual Junior Division chair reports for specifics. Note: Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award is not given in the even years.

Serving as the new Junior Division Chair has been a learning experience. Previous chair, Laurie Marshall, has always been willing to answer questions and be a sounding board. Listed below is a synopsis of activity as Division Chair:

- Attended 2025 Austin Convention—pre-election as NFMC Festivals Chair and on-site moderator of Junior Division meeting; post-election as Junior Division Chair, bringing several recommendations to the board.
- Attended meetings of Executive Committee and Board of Directors, including the informal Coffee & Chat Zoom meetings.
- Communicated and collaborated with Federation leadership as requested.
- Communicated with all chairs within the Division as needed.
- Completed updates for all Junior Division publications for posting on the NFMC website.
- Completed updates for all Junior Division pages in the NFMC Manual.
- Attended regular Zoom meetings of the Festivals Committee.
- Attended regular Zoom meetings of the Vivace Committee.
- Hosted Zoom meetings as requested by Junior Division Chairs for the purpose of training, discussion, or trouble shooting.

- Moderated social media pages (Facebook): NFMC Festivals, NFMC Federation Festival Chairs
- Served as part of the exhibitor team for NFMC at the 2025 South Dakota Music Educators Association annual conference in Sioux Falls. Other team members: Daryl Jessen, Patricia Steege. See detailed article published in Winter 2025 *Junior Keynotes* for complete information.
- Served as part of the exhibitor team for NFMC at Music Teachers National Association 2026 Conference in Chicago. Other team members: Deborah Freeman, Daryl Jessen, Lucinda Lear, Sandra Preysz, Melody Stroth.
- Served as National Guest for the Louisiana Federation of Music Clubs 2025 Convention. Assisted in the installation of their newly-elected officers, assisted in presentation of junior awards, gave keynote speech: *Keepin' It Real*.
- Designed report template for Junior Division award chairs' annual report to include charts for statistics.
- Designed statistics spreadsheet to track participation in all Junior Division programs as an on-going administrative function.

For the future:

- Bring recommendations from the Division to the NFMC Board of Directors at the 2026 Scottsdale Conference.
- Coordinate with IT personnel to address website suggestions & issues reported by chairs before the award portals open for the 2027 award year.
- Continue to support and encourage division personnel in their work to see the Junior Division programs improve and grow.

The future of the Federation is in our Juniors. Based on the activity in the Junior Division this year, it will be a future filled with beautiful music made by beautiful souls who have learned to successfully “bring the spiritualizing force of music to the inner life of our nation.”



Lori Jessen
NFMC Junior Division Chair

2025-2026 Junior Club Annual Achievement Summary Report

Congratulations to the following 28 Junior Clubs for going above and beyond to make a meaningful impact in their communities by proudly promoting all that the National Federation of Music Clubs stands for.

2025-2026 Junior Achievement Honor Roll

Berkeley Academy of Music	Naomi Sanchez	San Francisco, CA
Clark Music Club	Hailey Clark	Santa Clarita, CA
The Entertainers	Keri Crampton	Palmdale, CA
Junior Music Cat Club	Mindy Cabral	Valencia, CA
Miller Piano Studio	Madeline Miller	Valencia, CA
SKC Violin Academy	Soo Choi	Northridge, CA
Suzuki Piano of Southern California Junior Club	Lisa Siebelink	Corona, CA
Staccato Stars	Virginia Feitelson	Porter Ranch, CA
Teresa's Music Club	Teresa Wang	Stevenson Ranch, CA
Piano Lessons with TLC	Terry L. Criner	Roanoke, VA
Tanner Music Studio	Barbara Tanner	Quincy, MI
Soli Deo Gloria	Lori Jesson	Dakota City, NE
Amanda Beagle Vocal Studio	Amanda Beagle	Warren, OH
Junior Shubert Club	Cynthia Fultz	Oil City, PA
Crescent Heritage JMC	Gilda Hendricks	Easley, SC
Easley Jr. Music Club	Emma M. Talley	Easley, SC
Greenville Harmony Music Club	Deborah Freeman	Taylors, SC
Greenville Melody Junior Club	Deborah Freeman	Taylors, SC
Greenville Tempo Music Club	Deborah Freeman	Taylors, SC
Sparkling Keys and Strings	Simone Parker	Clarksville, TN
Classic Key Club	Chris VanBuskirk	Tacoma, WA
Contrapuntal Music Club	Kathy Tung	Edgewood, WA
Kelsey's Piano Club	Jim Kelsey	Puyallup, WA
Michaela's Piano Music Club	Michaela Crawford	Bonney Lake, WA
Monsen's Musicians	Tia Monsen	Auburn, WA
Owen Music Club	Kenneth Owen	Puyallup, WA
Renton Red Door Music Club	Kaye Owen	Renton, WA
Trudy's Tunes	Trudy Jane Still	Puyallup, WA

Report Summary

It was truly inspiring to hear from counselors and teachers across the country as they shared their clubs' accomplishments, activities, and study topics throughout the year. The Puyallup Federated Club deserves special recognition for its significant impact in the Junior Achievement Program this year, with an impressive eight new clubs reporting.

Some interesting statistics from this year include:

- 60% of reporting clubs studied an American Composer.
- 40% of reporting clubs participated in a group event.
- 20% of reporting clubs attended convention.

Congratulations to all of our amazing Junior Club counselors and members for making this year's Honor Roll.

Notable Achievements

- Grace DeWeese, student of Terry Criner, was honored at their spring recital for winning the Southeast Regional NFMC Joyce Walsh Junior Award for Individuals with Special Needs
- The Tanner Music Studio had a student demonstrate and share his "Panda Drum" at their 2026 Festival Workshop
- Renton Red Door Music Club presented music from *Music in Poetry & Song* at their state Music Teachers National Association event.
- Staccato Stars Junior Club won the NFMC Just Jazz Junior Club Award
- Amanda Beagle Vocal Studio spread musical cheer to the Ursuline Sisters Senior Living Center and also at the annual Rock 4 Reason, Cancer fundraiser.
- SKC Violin Academy spreads musical cheer every month at the Oakmont Senior Living Center.

The Junior Club Annual Achievement Summary (JR 1-1) provides an opportunity for clubs to report their involvement in various activities and studies in which their club has participated in. This program is not a competition, but rather a chance for clubs to share their achievements at the national level and receive an Award of Merit for their contributions.

Report Submitted on 4/30/2025 by Virginia Feitelson, Junior Club Annual Achievement Summary Chair

Federation Festivals *Bulletin* Editor Report

May 2026

I began working as the *Bulletin* Editor in August of 2025 and jumped right into working on the Online *Bulletin*. I spent several months entering the general rules and specific rules for each Section and Event. With the guidance of the National Festivals Chair and the Junior Division Chair, we enlisted a group of testers to proofread the pages and submit feedback. The goal was to achieve accuracy and usability in the Online *Bulletin*. We wanted to make sure the Online *Bulletin* was accessible to those who paid for the *Bulletin* and make navigation logical and easy.

After that, I began securing *Bulletin* advisors for the 2028-2032 *Bulletin*. I have finalized about 60 advisors for *Bulletin* events and am working on securing more advisors for the few remaining events. Advisors are still needed for accordion, vocal duets, violin ensembles, string bass solo, school full orchestra, guitar solo, ukulele solo, flute ensemble, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, tenor sax, saxophone quartet, French horn and tuba.

I have contacted some publishers and composers, and I am in the process of contacting more, specifically the ones who submitted repertoire for the previous *Bulletin*.

I received feedback from a few composers and updated the process of submission to make it easier. Both digital and hard copy submissions will be accepted.

Leveling guidelines for piano events were created by a team led by Cathy Neidert. These guidelines will be available for all piano advisors moving forward. We are also beginning work on leveling guidelines for vocal, woodwind, brass, and percussion events. We are reviewing the string correlations as well.

Composers and publishers have through the summer of 2027 to submit repertoire for review. Advisors are already receiving music and beginning the review process. Proofreading will begin in the summer of 2027 and go through the end of 2027. Data will be entered in Vivace in the fall of 2027, and the new *Bulletin* will be available in 2028.

While I don't have an exact number of how many *Bulletins* were sold in 2025, the amount paid for *Bulletins* from July 1 2024-June 30, 2025 was \$15,921.00.

The most challenging part of the job of *Bulletin* Editor has been keeping track of the huge amount of details and deadlines and learning the process.

The best part of the job of *Bulletin* Editor is getting to meet more members of NFMC and collaborating with publishers and composers.

Jennifer Key

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

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National Festivals Chair / Committee Report - May 2026

With a new National Festivals Chair, Bulletin Editor, and Federation Cup Chair in place, this year has involved significant learning and mentoring. Special thanks to Lori Jessen, Janice Flinte, Mary Jane Timmer, and Sandra Preysz for their guidance and support during this transition.

Improving the Bulletin

- Launching the *Online Bulletin* in October 2025 capped more than two years of planning and development. Teachers from across the country, representing all *Bulletin* events, served as advisors, testers, editors, proofreaders, and reviewers. Their time and expertise helped strengthen the *Online Bulletin* user experience. Special thanks to Janice Flinte, 2024 *Bulletin* Editor, and Jennifer Key, 2028 *Bulletin* Editor.
- Esther Umansky-Roth drafted a proposal to combine points in the Sacred Music Piano Solo and Piano Hymn events, allowing entrants on the church musician track the opportunity to earn the Grand and President's Cups. This proposal will be presented at the NFMC Conference in Scottsdale, June 2026.

Improving Resources

- Certificate and theory test ordering moved to a Google Form, reducing human error and making the process easily accessible to all State and Area Festivals Chairs.
- Certificate printing costs remain high, and production time has been slow. We considered finding a new printer, but because NFMC's printing contract covers all NFMC publications—not only certificates—moving certificate printing elsewhere would affect broader contract pricing. As a result, the search was tabled.
- Cathy Neidert and her committee devoted substantial time to preparing a thorough Piano Solo Leveling Guide, returning us to the required repertoire leveling used in the 2020 and earlier *Bulletins*. This guide will be a valuable resource for the 2028 *Bulletin* Piano Advisors.
- All JR Forms and Festivals resources were consolidated into the *Online Bulletin*, making them accessible in one central location.

Improving Communication

- We strengthened communication with Area and State Festivals Chairs by launching the *All Things Festivals* newsletter through a free Mailchimp account. When Mailchimp changed its free-plan terms, the newsletter was paused for three months. We have since moved to a Mailer Lite free account and expect it to meet our needs.
- We created the NFMC Festivals private Facebook group as a central place for social media users to find official news, announcements, and direct answers from National Festivals leadership. This Facebook Group is not a replacement for the original and official NFMC resources. Administration rights will pass to future elected NFMC Festivals leaders, helping

preserve the accuracy and continuity of national communication. The group's membership continues to grow and now stands at 364. Monday posts are designated as "American Music Mondays," giving American composers an opportunity to share works beyond the pieces listed in the *Festivals Bulletin*.

- Crown Awards' year-long webpage restructuring to support an NFMC user engraving-data upload released prematurely and had a difficult start. Crown Awards has returned to the development talks with our Vivace team. The process is back on track and very close to completion. We are hopeful for an improved, smooth user experience this coming year.

Answering Questions and Concerns

- We helped a few nearly 19-year-old entrants find Festival dates before their birthdays, giving them one final opportunity to earn a Junior Federation Cup. This solution work well for those aging out. The opportunity will be communicated more broadly this summer/fall to State and Area Festivals Chairs.
- In an ever-changing technology landscape, we again clarified NFMC's position on using digital music and technology while honoring copyright requirements.
- As more teachers offer virtual lessons, we encouraged and guided Area Chairs in including distance teachers and their students in Area Festivals.
- We mediated tensions among State Chairs, Area Chairs, Festivals teachers, and parents in a variety of situations. Our priority is always the Festivals participant. We aim to help all parties reach solutions that are fair to the student, consistent with Festivals rules, and supportive of healthy relationships.

Festivals - 10 Year Comparison Chart

- The attached charts illustrate patterns of growth and decline over the past ten years.
- The complete National Festivals Statistical Report will appear in the Autumn 2026 issue of *Junior Keynotes*.

As reflected in the attached comparisons, NFMC Festivals has weathered significant challenges over the past ten years that have affected participation, morale, and reputation. Even so, we are encouraged by the 2025 increase in Junior Clubs (teachers). Renewing growth begins with strengthening unity and cooperation across our membership while continuing to improve our processes and procedures.

Festivals Committee Members

- National Festivals Chair – Debbie Wiser
- North Central Region Chair– Mary Wescott
- Northeastern Region Chair– Arlene Anger
- South Central Region Chair – Cathy Neidert
- Southeastern Region Chair – Esther Umansky-Roth
- Western Region Chair– Tiffani Smith
- Federation Cup Chair – Dawn Steggerda
- *Bulletin* Editors – Janice Flinte (thru July 2026) / Jennifer Key (beginning July 2026)
- *Junior Keynotes* Editor – Jeanne Hyrniewicki

FESTIVALS - 10 YEAR COMPARISON CHART

<i>Negative Influences</i>	<i>Economic Crisis</i>		<i>Covid</i>							<i>Bulletin</i>
Junior Clubs										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North Central	999	954	1,046	949		570	792	797	485	711
Northeast	860	619	627	743		671	694	599	571	549
South Central	790	708	789	751		670	700	725	676	677
Southeast	1,872	1,892	1,830	1,829		1,457	1,625	1,651	1,629	1,602
Western	1,433	1,419	1,109	1,348		1,206	1,124	1,101	1,126	1,149
National Total:	5,954	5,592	5,401	5,620	0	4,574	4,935	4,873	4,487	4,688

Junior Participants										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North Central	15,218	14,907	14,292	13,358		10,224	9,828	9,335	5,959	7,603
Northeast	16,869	16,851	15,498	14,221		10,662	11,327	8,337	8,310	8,026
South Central	12,348	12,439	12,757	12,437		10,009	9,841	10,183	9,934	9,750
Southeast	33,049	32,819	31,670	30,794		22,093	23,759	26,438	24,713	24,943
Western	21,311	20,926	20,571	20,300		17,148	16,796	17,182	17,580	17,510
National Total:	98,795	97,942	94,788	91,110	0	70,136	71,551	71,475	66,496	67,832

Adult Participants										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North Central	48	25	36	31		48	55	62	27	68
Northeast	78	60	50	29		48	33	43	63	74
South Central	27	36	52	28		62	54	73	95	124
Southeast	144	99	122	99		103	84	88	87	104
Western	135	115	131	111		136	141	179	195	184
National Total:	432	335	391	298	0	397	367	445	467	554

Festival Areas										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North Central						69				59
Northeast						41				50
South Central						67				60
Southeast						106				123
Western						93				96
National Total:	0	0	0	0	0	376	0	0	0	388

2026 Federation Cup Chair Report

The best news this year in Federation Cups has been the free engraving on the name plates through Crown Awards. This is a perk that can save our clubs or states a lot of money! The worst news has also been the free engraving. A lot of misinformation was generated around this topic that brought frustration along the way.

NFMC has been working with Crown Awards to streamline our ordering process, but it's been a tricky business. Right now, each state may choose how to order their Federation Cups, so it is impossible to standardize the ordering process for everyone. States may choose to 1) order through their State, 2) order by club with approval from their State Federation Cup Chair, or 3) pre-order with approval from their State Federation Cup Chair.

Whoever does the ordering in your state, it's important to use this link:

nfmc.crownawards.com/

The Crown Awards site gives step by step directions on how to enter the information for engraving, or for those with better computer skills the information can be entered from a spreadsheet.

NFMC is grateful to Crown Awards for offering the free engraving. Please remember that we are their customer so we cannot dictate how they choose to set up their ordering link. We are also not their only customer, so I'm sure they are working with many requests from many places. As we find ways to make ordering easier, we will be sharing that information with the State Federation Cup chairs. Thank you for your patience. If you have questions, please contact me directly at dawnsteg@gmail.com and I'd be happy to assist you in any way I can.

For those students who have earned Grand Cups or President's Cups, please fill out the JR 4-1 and include a copy of the Vivace Student History Report.

And here's a friendly reminder that the Federation Festival State Reports (JR 4-6) are due June 1. Thank you!

Dawn Steggerda, Chair

Vivace Report

This year, we have had quite a few “kidnapping” cases. Although Vivace has the safeguard to prevent a student from being added to a different teacher if there is a current relationship, some teachers have located an archived student on the list of possible matches and selected a student who is not really a match. Some have had the same birthday but different names, some have had similar names but different birthdates. Then the teacher would change the name of the existing student. To untangle the student records takes a lot of time and research. Because of this, name changes are now restricted to national admins. Please have the area admin send any necessary spelling corrections. It is important that Vivace data is accurate so DO NOT “fix” a spelling mistake by simply making another record. This only adds to the confusion on possible matches. National can determine if the request is valid, or if there is a case of attempting to match with a record that is not truly a match.

Birthdate changes have been limited to national admins for a few months, and do require that a birth certificate, passport or driver's license be submitted for verification. We have added a secure upload for this purpose. It can be found on the general nfmc-music.org website. Scroll down and select the picture File Upload. Select “Request to Change Birth Date.” These uploads are deleted from the secure site as soon as the change is recorded in Vivace.

Make sure that the 1st and 2nd pass of entering ratings looks for all student including those who cancelled after registration was approved. Many requests have come in to mark a student as NO RATING. These errors are probably occurring when raters try to speed up the process and look for ratings that are not superior. Those students are located and the excellent or satisfactory rating is entered. In an effort to save time, the rater then marks Superior for everyone else. Those students who cancel prior to Festival or No show on the Festival day seem to be the ones who are being marked Superior. Consider making a cancellation room in the scheduling module and moving all students who cancel prior to Festival day to this “room” This will provide an accurate list for the Raters. The No Shows should be recorded on the Room Schedule (Monitor/Judge) with a NO Rating . The Rater selects NR and may enter an explanation in the rating notes field to explain.

ALL TEACHERS should run the Student History Report for their studio once Festivals are complete. Proofread to make sure all ratings are correct, and pay attention to any alternating or combining. The time to fix these special details is at the end of the current Festival year. This will help to make sure that all earned cups are ordered and awarded to our hard working students. It also helps our Festival Chair and Federation Cup volunteers.

Sandra Preysz
NFMC Vivace Chair

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Stillman-Kelley / Thelma Byrum

Chair: Jason Sifford

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

1st (\$2000) - Ethan Mihaescu, piano, MI, Catherine Rollin

2nd (\$1000) - Leila Warren, violin, FL, Shannon Thomas

3rd (\$750) - Hana Tsai, violin, NY, Elizabeth Chang

Thelma Byrum Award (\$750) - Ian Lin, piano, RI, Jonathan Bass

Regional Awards (\$500 each):

North Central – Neal Eisfeldt, violin, IL, Almita Vamos

North East – Ian Lin, piano, RI, Jonathan Bass

South Central – William Chen, violin, TX, Unkyoung Kim

South East – Leslie Yang, marimba, VA, Keith Aleo

West – Brian Lin, piano, CA, Boris Slutsky

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

Adjudicators:

Dr. Lok Ng, pianist, Truman State University

Dr. David Hays, violinist, Missouri State University

The only issue encountered was with the website on the deadline date. Several people were unable to access the site.

It would also be helpful to find a way to have people pay online so that we can more easily track who's paying for which entrant. Having a separate payment system feels inconvenient, I don't see why we couldn't easily have a payment box on the application form. (Jotform can easily do this, for example. It should be relatively easy to implement.)

One issue we may face going forward is that as the number of entrants continues to grow, it might be more difficult to find judges. Listening to a 15 to 20-minute program and writing detailed comments is a significant time commitment. I feel like we compensate judges at a reasonable rate, but many qualified judges are busy that time of year.

At present, we're also getting applicants across a wide range of skill, so perhaps having sample programs or raising the application fee would help reduce the number of applicants and discourage those who aren't at a competitive level.

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	1
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	4
Total	5

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	1
Michigan	2
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	1
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	1
Rhode Island*	1
Vermont*	
Total	6

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	11
Total	11

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	1
Georgia	
Kentucky	1
Louisiana	
Maryland*	1
Mississippi	
North Carolina	1
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	1
West Virginia*	
Total	5

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	4
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	4

Total entries: 31

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award:

Chair:

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

Ian Lin of Wakefield, Rhode Island was declared the 1st place winner and Spencer Sun of Rochester Hills, Michigan was declared the 2nd place winner.

Each entry received a certificate of participation and comments from the judges.

The 1st and 2nd place winners received monetary awards of \$500.00 and \$250.00 along with the judges' comments and certificates.

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

The Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Award competition was held in March, 2026 and adjudicated by judges – Narciso Solero and Mariam Avalos Teie. The judges agreed on the top 2 entries.

The next Claire Ulrich Whitehurst Piano Award will be in March, 2028. This award is open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade juniors. It is not too early to start planning now for participation.

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	1
Georgia	
Kentucky	1
Louisiana	
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	1
West Virginia*	
Total	1

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	3
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	1
Rhode Island*	1
Vermont*	
Total	5

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	1
Total	1

Total entries: 9

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Walsh Award

Chair: Cynthia Waldon

Winner(s):

1st Place (\$2500): Grace DeWeese, Virginia, Terry Criner

2nd Place (\$2000): Caitlin Cox, Minnesota, Julie Ciurleo

SE Region Winner (\$1000): William Davis, Tennessee, Kim Leake

list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher

Chair comments: Adjudicator: Dr. Chad Spears, music professor, Boise State University

3 applicants

Grace learned of the award from her piano teacher.

Caitlin learned of the award from her piano teachers.

William learned of the award from the NFMC website.

I advertised in the Fall issue of Jr Keynotes Magazine.

This year two of the three applicants struggled mightily to upload their videos to the NFMC website. Julie Ciurleo, who has entered Kaitlin at least one previous year, couldn't upload anything. Last year she had no problems. So, everything came to me via email. She was able to pay online. Kim Leake could only upload one of William's two pieces. The struggle was real!

Since I am not well versed in technology, my daughter had to come to my aid. She was able to forward the videos to the adjudicator. Since it was difficult for me, AND the website isn't poised to accept those files, I think it would be best if I am no longer the chair of any award.

My recommendation for the future is Dr. Chad Spears as festival chair. He is young, proficient in the use of technology, and is also the brother of a handicapped man. This award is close to his heart. He knows I am recommending him to be the chair would accept the position.

Thank you.

Cynthia Waldon

Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	
Iowa	
Minnesota	1
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	1

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	
Georgia	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	1
Virginia	1
West Virginia*	
Total	2

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	
Total	

Total entries: 3

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award

Chair: Lana Bailey

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

First Place: First place \$1500; Paul Wubbena IV; Florida; Dr. Inesa Gegprifti

Second Place: Second place \$500; Recrei Park; California; Sharon Kim

Paul learned about this award through Federation teacher Mara Lauzums/MCM.
Recrei learned about it from his teacher.

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

Dr. Ouida Keck, Adjudicator

Dr. George Keck, Adjudicator

For Direct deposit: Seemed a bit awkward to send completed CA 20-4 forms to the adjudicators and ask them to complete his/her portion and forward the form to NFMC 1st VP. Unfortunately, I don't have a recommendation for a smoother process since the bank information is private.

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	1
Georgia	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	
West Virginia*	
Total	1

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	1
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	1

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	
Total	

Total Entries: 2

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Mary Alice Cox for Cello and Double Bass

Chair: Anna Cosma

Winner(s): list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher

1st place: Ellie Liu \$2,500 Oregon

2nd place: Izrael Lukman \$1,500 Illinois

3rd place: Natan Larkin \$1,000 North Carolina

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

- 1. For the Mary Alice Cox Award there have been 3 total adjudicators this year.*
- 2. I would like to have more access and control with the submissions. I cannot add or upload any missing information on the website.*

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	1
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	1

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	
Georgia	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maryland*	1
Mississippi	
North Carolina	1
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	
West Virginia*	
Total	2

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	1
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	1

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	2
Total	2

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Thelma A. Robinson Ballet Award

Chair: Karen Bourne

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

2026 is an off-year for this award;
next award will be given in 2027

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

Look for updated forms and information September 2026. Award portals open on November 1.

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	
Georgia	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	
West Virginia*	
Total	

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	
Total	

*states with limited or no organized Federation presence

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: NFMC Dance Award

Chair: Lisa Moore

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

1st place, Ballet II - \$400:

Lilliana Stewart, Florida - studies with Hayley Stewart

2nd place, Ballet II - \$200:

Sarah Thompson, North Carolina - studies with Mavis Scully

1st place, Ballet 1 - \$200

Cosette Alomia, Florida - studies with Mrs. Kate Robichaux

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

Lena Forster (Judge 1) judged both levels

2 entries in Ballet II and 1 entry in Ballet I

Samantha Macklin-Gonzales (Judge 2) judging Ballet II only

2 entries in Ballet II

The two judges for Ballet II rank 1st and 2nd agreed. Thus, we did not need to find a judge to handle the tie-breaker.

I've sent out word to the Florida State president Lisa Smith and will reach out to Dr. William Carroll, President of North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs. We had 3 total entries, all from the SouthEast. All 3 students had entered before. So, the word is not getting out.

Recommendations

- 1) **Membership:** Students should list their junior club if applicable.
- 2) That we collect contact information for the dance teacher: email/phone?
(Teachers do not need to be a member - so having a way to contact them might be of value..)
- 3) **Adjust the displays to remove the “Jazz, Lyrical, or Tap” MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES**

The online form has a vague “Area of Study” question (not sure what is expected)

And Event "help" message needs clean-up

Better term should be **Event Category**

And then Ballet or Dance Styles

The image shows a registration form with several fields and a dropdown menu. The fields are: City*, State*, Zip*, Telephone*, Email*, Age*, Event*, Area of Study*, and Years of Study*. The Event* dropdown menu is open, showing options: Ballet or Theatre Dance, Tap, Lyrical, or Jazz. Handwritten red annotations include: 'Category' written over the dropdown title, 'Styles' written below the options, and a red question mark next to the Area of Study* field.

- 4) **Recommendation:** that we increase all 8 awards:

\$300 / \$150 for Junior I (Ballet I and Dance Styles) - rather than \$200 / \$100

\$500 / \$250 for Junior II (Ballet II and Dance Styles II) - rather than \$400 / \$200

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	2
Georgia	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	1
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	
West Virginia*	
Total	3

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	
Total	

Total entries: 3

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Martha Marcks Mack Jr. Vocal Award

Chair: Kristin Ivers

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

1st Place: \$1500 - Clare Lee, North Carolina, Kimberley Bentley

2nd Place: \$1000 - Keri Neumann, Louisiana, Bonnie Knowles

3rd Place: \$500 - Meredith Severa, Louisiana, Bonnie Knowles

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

Judges for these competitors were Dr. Mark Johnson, Oklahoma City and Leah Ann Anderson, Lindsborg, KS., both career vocal professionals/ teachers/ at the high school and collegiate level.

Issues encountered were...

- applicants not submitting the required repertoire, resulting in disqualification
- difficulties uploading the required documents/videos - site not accepting - hours wasted. Resolved in most cases by me advising to send them directly to my email
- payment portal not working - later (on a different day) was successful
- Winners were unable to upload their bios on the NFMC bio form - would not accept - sent to my personal email instead.

Recommendations for future...

- going forward, I will be requesting a pdf or word document with unlisted You tube links, rather than video submissions - too time consuming for applicants trying to upload videos - in some cases hours and hours were spent in failed attempts, late into the night...
- It would be helpful to have separate fields to upload a headshot, a short bio, and repertoire list with YouTube links - it is a hassle to try to collect bios and headshots after the competition - better to have upfront. I would like to see my application portal fields changed.

Feedback...

- Hi Kristin: I have been working on downloads for the Martha Marks Mack Junior vocal award for several hours. I have two applications to file and it took quite a while to do the first one; however, I got a couple of error messages while I was trying. I am trying to do the second one and I keep getting an error message on one of the pieces. Everything else is taking a long time to download. Is there any problem with the system? I will keep trying as best I can, but I just wanted to see if you were experiencing any problems on your end. Thanks very much. Bonnie Knowles.

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	
Iowa	
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	
Wisconsin	
Total	

Southeastern

Alabama	
Florida	
Georgia	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	2
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	1
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Virginia	
West Virginia*	
Total	3

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New York*	
Ohio	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	
California	1
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	
Utah	
Washington	
Wyoming	
Total	1

South Central

Arkansas	
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	3
Total	3

Total Entries: 7

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

2026 NFMC Junior Division Award Chair Report

Name of Award: Wendell Irish Viola Award

Chair: George Keck

Winner(s): *list placing, award amount, name(s), state(s), teacher*

Jennifer Kang, First place, \$2,000, California, Dimitri Murrath
Evangeline Lien, Second place, \$1,000, California, Jonathan Brown
Grace Yu, Northeast Region, \$500, Ohio, Joyce Grabell
Franklin Fang, South Central Region, \$500, Texas, Matthew Cohen

Chair comments: *Include adjudicators engaged, issues encountered/resolved, recommendations for future, feedback from entrants, etc.*

Israel Getzov, adjudicator

Tatiana Kotcherguina, adjudicator

Statistics: list number of entries by state, then total of region

North Central

Illinois	0
Iowa	0
Minnesota	0
Nebraska	0
North Dakota	0
South Dakota	0
Wisconsin	0
Total	0

Northeastern

Connecticut*	0
Delaware*	0
District of Columbia*	0
Massachusetts*	0
Maine*	0
Michigan	0
New Hampshire*	0
New Jersey	0
New York*	0
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	1
Rhode Island*	0
Vermont*	0
Total	2

South Central

Arkansas	0
Kansas	0
Missouri	0
Oklahoma	0
Texas	4
Total	4

Southeastern

Alabama	0
Florida	0
Georgia	0
Kentucky	0
Louisiana	0
Maryland*	0
Mississippi	0
North Carolina	0
South Carolina	0
Tennessee	0
Virginia	0
West Virginia*	0
Total	0

Western

Alaska	0
Arizona	0
California	2
Colorado	0
Hawaii*	0
Idaho	0
Montana	0
New Mexico	0
Nevada	0
Oregon	0
Utah	0
Washington	0
Wyoming	0
Total	2

Total Entries: 8

**states with limited or no organized Federation presence*

ANGIE GREER MUSIC in POETRY AWARD 2026

Respectfully submitted, Debra S. Hughes, Award Chair - bndhughes@comcast.net; 770-401-1978

Description: Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award Contest is a Junior writing competition for ages up to 19 years old for original, unpublished poetry with a musical theme 8 to 30 lines. Its annual award is \$100 to the 1st place winners in each of the five NFMC Regions. Angie Greer was Georgia's FMC President & longtime State Festivals Chair who passed August 2025.

Publicity: Advertisements were placed in the *In-Tune* Newsletter in July, September, and October. In August, September, & October, the Chair sent a personal invitation to every president in NFMC asking that Angie Greer information be forwarded especially advertising the new deadline of November 1.

2026 Regional winners are:

- Northeastern Region - **Kate Shiflett**, West Orange, NJ - teacher Rebecca Eng
- North Central Region - **James Montplaisir**, Waterloo, IA - teacher Chandar Boyle
- Southeastern Region - **Luci O'Leslie**, Groveland, FL- teacher Amy Duncan
- South Central Region - **Esther Hann**, Russellville, AR - teacher Sarah Hann
- Western Region - **Alexander Wu**, Redondo Beach, CA- teacher Soo Choi

NFMC Portal: The NFMC online form was used successfully by all entrants for downloaded poems, as well as payment of fees. The poems were judged within one day of the event's deadline so as to quickly get the results into the *Keynotes* magazine. All entrants paid required fees.

Judge: Mary Jones has a degree in English Literature and loves poetry.

Junior Keynotes: The deadline for the Angie Greer Award is the same date as the *JR Keynotes* magazine's submission deadline. *Keynotes'* Editor was asked for an extension of time so that the winners' pictures, bios, and poems could be in the upcoming edition - Winter 2025. She graciously gave the extension. The judge knew of the magazine time line and so also very graciously finished her job within one day. All of the poems, bios, and head shots were into the Editor within 5 days' time with the short overview/introduction.

Follow up/Completion:

1. Winners were contacted, congratulated and asked for bio/head shot within 5 days time.
2. All of the non-winning entrants were contacted with the news of the winner in their region, thanking them for their participation and encouraging them to continue writing poetry.
3. Each state president that had a winner was contacted with congratulations & information about their winner.
4. NFMC's PR Chair & JR Division Chair were contacted with the winners' names and information.
5. The required payment forms were sent to the Treasurer and the 1st VP for payment to the five winners and the judge, respectively.
6. Certificates were requested from front office so to be signed and sent to winners. Winner names and their teacher names were published in December's *In-Tune*.

Recommendations:

1. **ONLINE FORM MODIFICATIONS:**
 - a. ***The form does not include a line to place the title of the poem, description of 'Region' or the email of the teacher. These would be helpful to include.

- b. *** The form’s “PR Release” seems to be unnecessary but was told to leave it. Each winner sent me their picture and bio which indicates to me that they were giving NFMC permission to publish.
 - c. ***There is no line for the entrant to sign saying that their poem was not AI generated in any way. I asked that it be added but no change was able to be made.
2. The instructions for my Award did not include sending certificates to winners. I’ve requested them from front office and am waiting for them to arrive.
 3. Online portal permits an entrant to complete entry without fees being remitted. This would be most helpful to change. It also permits an entrant to enter twice without it kicking out the 2nd entry. This is helpful when an entrant needs to resubmit but is confusing for the office staff when verifying fees.

Regional Representation: Every Region was represented this year with 38 Junior entries which was an increase of 18 from the previous year. That is a 90% increase.

North Central

Illinois	1
Iowa	3
Minnesota	
Nebraska	
North Dakota	
South Dakota	1
Wisconsin	
Total	5

Southeastern

Alabama	1
Florida	2
Georgia	1
Kentucky	
Louisiana	1
Maryland*	
Mississippi	
North Carolina	
South Carolina	7
Tennessee	
Virginia	4
West Virginia*	
Total	16

Northeastern

Connecticut*	
Delaware*	
District of Columbia*	
Massachusetts*	
Maine*	
Michigan	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	1
New York*	
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island*	
Vermont*	
Total	2

Western

Alaska	
Arizona	2
California	4
Colorado	
Hawaii*	
Idaho	
Montana	
New Mexico	
Nevada	
Oregon	1
Utah	
Washington	5
Wyoming	
Total	12

South Central

Arkansas	2
Kansas	
Missouri	
Oklahoma	
Texas	1
Total	3