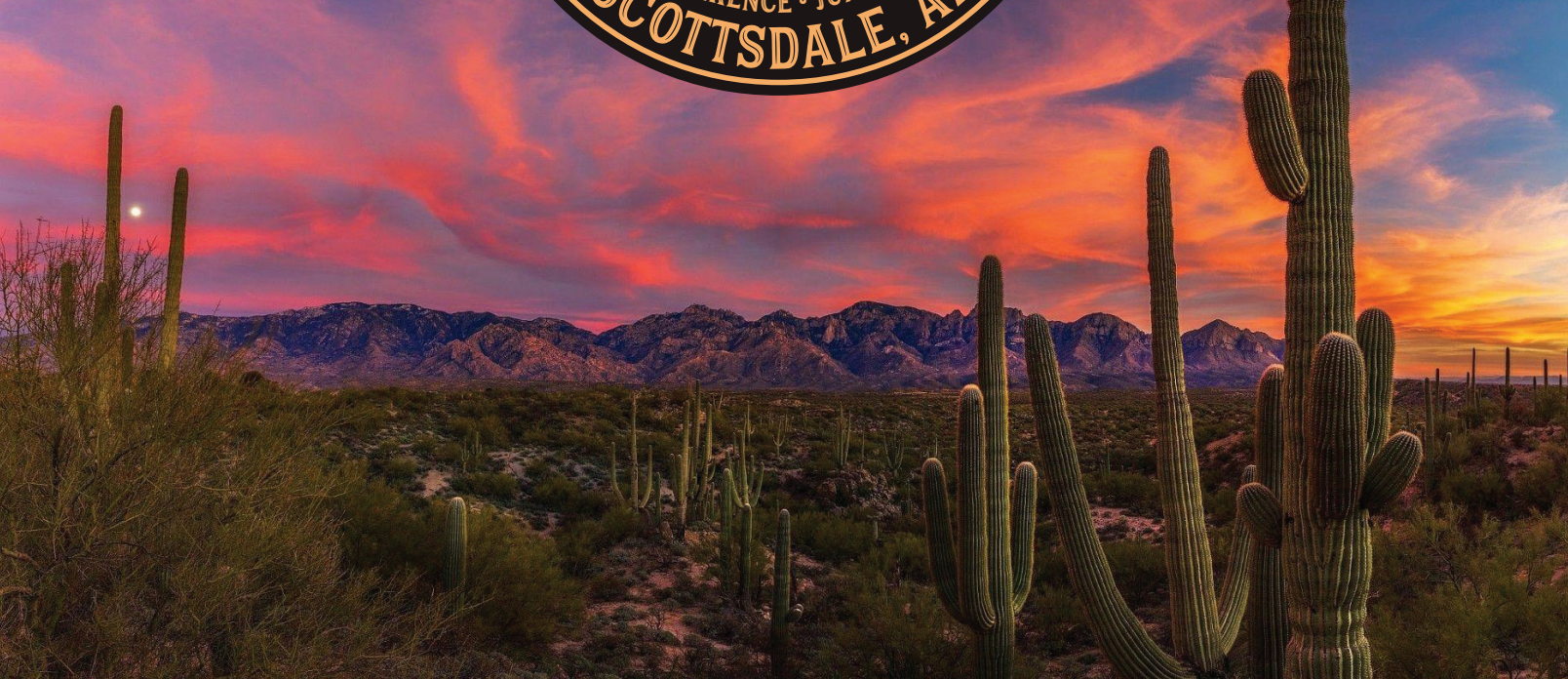




Music Clubs MAGAZINE

SPRING 2026 VOL 104, NO. 3





Message *from the* President

by Deborah T. Freeman

As the desert wildflowers begin to bloom and we welcome the warmth of spring, my thoughts are turning toward our upcoming Conference in the Western Region. It is a joy to invite each of you to the **2026 NFMF Conference**, which will be held from **June 9–13** at the beautiful Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale in **Scottsdale, Arizona**.

Set against the backdrop of the stunning Sonoran Desert, we will gather to conduct the vital business of the Federation, celebrate the winners of our Young Artist and student competitions, and—most importantly—renew the bonds of friendship that make our organization so unique. I encourage you to register early and join us for:

- **Insightful Workshops:** Designed to help your local clubs thrive and grow.
- **World-Class Performances:** Showcasing the extraordinary talent that the NFMF nurtures.
- **Shared Vision:** A chance to lend your voice to the future direction of our national organization.

While we look forward to June, the work you are doing right now in your local clubs remains our most vital mission. This is the season of Festivals and the celebration of **National Music Week (May 3–10)**. This year's theme, *"Music... Is Our Constant Companion,"* reminds us that our work provides comfort and inspiration to people of all ages.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the "Valley of the Sun" this June as we come together and celebrate the power of music.

Deborah Freeman

Deborah T. Freeman

NFMF President

President's Theme:

"Celebrating our Musical Heritage"



President's Song:

"God Bless America"

Irving Berlin

Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Award

Are you a high school senior who will be majoring in music next year at a college, university or conservatory? Check out the Lana M. Bailey Piano Concerto Awards form JR 20-2 for rules regarding this \$1,500 annual award (\$500 2nd Place). The competition has a deadline date of **May 1** so polish your performance and upload your video recording!

First or last movement from one of the Senior Class Piano Concertos in the 2024 Federation Festivals Bulletin.



Lana Bailey

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

Scan the QR code to sign up.



Music Clubs MAGAZINE

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Follow us on  

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



NFMF CONFERENCE 2026

JOIN US IN THE VALLEY OF THE SUN

You are invited to the 2026 NFMF Conference, June 9-13, in sunny Scottsdale, Arizona! Join us at the beautiful Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale for a week filled with inspiring music, engaging presentations, and unforgettable experiences. Enjoy the sounds of the desert southwest with mariachi, Native American Arts Ensemble, and more!



EMBASSY SUITES SCOTTSDALE RESORT

Relax in the luxurious resort setting:

- complimentary deluxe breakfast
- 2 outdoor pools, free bike use, fitness center
- free on-site parking
- close to Old Town Scottsdale



EXCURSION

You will be captivated by toe-tapping sounds and amazing sights as the Organ Stop Pizza organist "pulls out all the stops."



PRESENTERS

You will be engaged by notable presenters including Conner Chee, Navajo Pianist and Composer.

Experience the exciting sounds and beauty of the desert southwest!

Register at
nfmf-music.org



OFFICIAL CALL

NFMC CONFERENCE

June 9-13, 2026 • Scottsdale, Arizona • Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale

For activity and meal reservations, memorial contributions and voting credentials please visit nfmc-music.org after February 1, 2026.
An official name badge is necessary for attendance at every NFMC convention function.

REGISTRATION:

- **Full Registration price: \$150. Late fee \$25 after May 9.** Entitles the registrant to a program book, admittance to all open meetings and programs, evening concerts and receptions
- **Daily Registration is \$50.** Entitles the registrant to Guidebook app and admittance to all open activities for a single day/evening
- **Student and Junior member full registration price is \$25.** No charge for an official name badge for a single meal function

REGISTRATION HOURS:

Tuesday, June 9

7:30 – 9:00 AM, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Wednesday, June 10

7:30 – 9:00 AM, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Thursday, June 11

7:30 – 9:00 AM, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Friday, June 12

7:30 – 9:00 AM

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Wednesday, June 10	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursday, June 11	8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Friday, June 12	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

All sessions except for the executive committee meetings are open to all registrants. Each state is encouraged to have at least one representative attend each session. On Tuesday morning, a pre-conference administrative day will support all who wish to attend and participate in NFMC at the National, State and Local levels. The business meeting of a division or committee is for official business and observers may attend but the chair will control participation.

NFMC CONFERENCE LOCATION

Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale :
5001 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
480-949-1414

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Reservations can be made by visiting the NFMC website, www.nfmc-music.org and going to the Conference web page and clicking the link.

Hotel Reservation cutoff date is **May 9th 2026**. Each person is responsible for making his/her reservation.



Room rate: \$159 per night, includes the resort fee for single or double occupancy, plus state and local taxes. A complimentary breakfast will be provided every morning and a reception of drinks and light refreshments will be available in the AZUL restaurant from 5:00 to 6:30 PM every evening.

Resort Fee includes: WiFi; two bottled waters daily; self-parking; beach cruiser bikes; family games in Courtyard; tennis court use with rackets and tennis balls; 10% off \$50 or more in the Azul Clubhouse; resort shuttle within 3 mile radius (10am-6pm).

HOTEL AMENITIES

The hotel will provide complimentary internet in guest rooms; there is also a fitness center and outdoor pool. All guest rooms have cable television, mini refrigerator, hair dryer, alarm, coffee pot and ironing board. **No airport shuttle provided.**

WEARING APPAREL

June is considered a hot month for Arizona. Temperatures typically climb to over 100 degrees by mid-June. Plan to bring light clothing that is breathable and will protect you from the sun when doing outdoor activities. You will be inside an air-conditioned building for all events at the Conference. Evening activity at the pool will be after the sun goes down. Comfortable business attire is expected and appropriate for all sessions. **All hotel rooms open up to an outdoor courtyard that will not be enclosed. You will be walking outside to get to the Conference Center every day.** Rooms are booked close to the Conference Center and within easy walking distance. American Festival Chorus attire will be concert black.

BOARD ATTENDANCE

(NFMC Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2C): An unexcused absence from more than one Board session shall be considered a resignation. Board members are asked to inform the recording secretary if they must request an excuse for an absence. The excuse must be received before the conference starts.

VOTING CREDENTIALS

Voting credentials can be requested with online registration, in the Spring issue of MCM or on the website. Deadline June 1.

PROPOSED BYLAWS

Proposed bylaw changes are printed in the Spring issue of the MCM and on the NFMC website.

MEMORIAL SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

Any NFMC member may send a memorial contribution to the National Memorial Chair, Connie Randall, 606 South Jefferson St, Kaufman, TX 75142, using the form that appears in the Spring issue of MCM or on the NFMC website. Deceased Member List – State presidents are to send a list of names of deceased members since the last NFMC meeting to NFMC Chaplain Gloria Lien, gloria.hope.lien@gmail.com Deadline is May 15 2026.

REPORTS

No reports will be read at general meetings. However, all officers and chairs are expected to have written reports prepared for download on the NFMC website. The deadlines are as follows:

May 15 is the deadline for Committee chairs to email one page report to his/her Division Chair. State Presidents should email a synopsis of the year's activities to the Chair of the President's Council.
May 25 is the deadline for Division Chairs and Chair of President's Council to send compilation of Division committee reports to NFMC headquarters.
May 25 is the deadline for Officers to email their one-page report.

Reports will be compiled for all Conference registrants. Division Chairs will be introduced at a general session; they will then introduce their committee chairs in attendance. No reports will be presented but attendees are encouraged to download reports from the website, attend Division meetings and meet with chairs.

REGISTRATION

NFMC CONFERENCE

June 9-13, 2026 • Scottsdale, Arizona • Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale

Everyone attending the Conference is required to register; an official name badge is required for admittance to all events. No charge for an official name badge for a single meal function. Those attending more than one function (meal, presentation, workshop or concert) must register. The NFMC Conference registration does not include meals. Tickets for meal functions must be ordered by May 9; your packet of tickets will be given with your welcome packet. Registration cancellations cannot be accepted after June 1. Meal refunds cannot be made after June 1 unless the tickets can be resold.

Register and pay online at nfmc-music.org

-OR- Make check payable to NFMC - Scottsdale, Arizona

Postmark deadline for ticket order is May 9, 2026

Late fee of \$25 after May 9, 2026.

Mail check and registration to: NFMC, attn: Ashley Mattingly,
1646 W Smith Valley Rd., Greenwood, IN 46142

	Cost	X	# Tickets	=	\$ TOTAL
REGISTRATION FEES:					
FULL SESSION REGISTRATION	\$150	X		=	\$
DAILY REGISTRATION	\$50	X		=	\$
JUNIOR OR STUDENT MEMBER REGISTRATION	\$25	X		=	\$
MEAL RESERVATIONS:					
Wednesday, June 10 REGIONAL LUNCHEON (Region_____)					
<i>All 3-course Plated Lunch includes: Heirloom Tomato and Mozzarella w/fresh basil, sea salt flakes, aged balsamic, queen creek olive oil, and Apple Tart Almondine w/salted caramel sauce. Rolls, butter, iced tea.</i>					
1. Pan Roasted Pacific Salmon, Cilantro basmati rice with a mango-tomato salsa	\$72	X		=	\$
2. Citrus Gilled Free Range Chicken w/herb roasted fingerling potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables, roasted garlic jus	\$69	X		=	\$
3. Vegetarian option: Vegetable & Cheese Cannelloni topped with marinara sauce	\$67	X		=	\$
4. Vegetarian option: Stuffed Bell Pepper w/quinoa, bean and corn, roasted tomato-chili puree	\$67	X		=	\$
Thursday, June 11 Fellows & Friends (RFT #_____)					
<i>All 3-course Plated Lunch includes: Southwestern Caesar Salad w/herb croutons, Caesar dressing and Flourless Chocolate cake with house-made whipped cream. Rolls, butter, iced tea.</i>					
1. Carved Roasted Sirloin w/Yukon Gold shipped potatoes, grilled asparagus, cabernet reduction	\$83	X		=	\$
2. Achiote Rubbed Chicken Breast w/roasted corn rice with a tomato red onion salsa	\$68	X		=	\$
3. Vegetarian option: Vegetable & Cheese Cannelloni topped with marinara sauce	\$67	X		=	\$
4. Vegetarian option: Stuffed Bell Pepper w/quinoa, bean and corn, roasted tomato-chili puree	\$67	X		=	\$
Friday, June 12 CONFERENCE BANQUET					
<i>All 3-course Plated Dinner includes: Salted Golden Beet arugula salad, w/shaved fennel, crumbled farm goat cheese, orange segments, candied pecans, aged balsamic vinaigrette and Classic Tiramisu w/mascarpone, espresso, caramel sauce. Rolls, butter, coffee and iced tea.</i>					
1. Pan-seared Macadamia Nut Chicken Breast w/roasted fingerling potatoes, fresh green beans, lemon chardonnay sauce	\$107	X		=	\$
2. Braised Short Ribs w/sweet potato mash, seasonal vegetables, napa red reduction	\$116	X		=	\$
3. Vegetarian options: Stuffed Bell Pepper w/quinoa, bean and corn, roasted tomato-chili puree	\$113	X		=	\$
4. Vegetarian option: Vegetable Cannelloni w/marinara	\$116	X		=	\$
SHOW					
Organ Stop Pizza Buffet - Tuesday, June 9 (12:30 pm - 4:00 pm)	\$55	X		=	\$
Includes pizza, salad, drink and transportation					
PHOTO					
CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHS (Digital download link)	\$25	X		=	\$

GRAND TOTAL: \$

Name (Print Clearly) _____

Phone Number _____ Email address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Federation Office/Chairmanship _____ Date of arrival _____

List Dietary Needs: _____ List Food Allergies: _____

Plan to sing with the American Festival Chorus? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, please indicate vocal part: _____

VOTING CREDENTIALS APPLICATION

NFMC CONFERENCE

June 9-13, 2026 • Scottsdale, Arizona • Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale

DEADLINE: VOTING CREDENTIALS for all delegates must be received by June 1, 2026

VOTING CREDENTIALS: The voting credentials form is published with the Official Call and may be uploaded to the NFMC website, sent via email or mailed to the National Headquarters at 1646 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN 46142. Credentials will be included in your registration packet.

DELEGATE'S NAME _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

☐ I hereby apply for Voting Credential.

SIGNATURE _____

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING CREDENTIAL:

(Check only one)

- ☐ **Member of NFMC Board of Directors**
- ☐ **Appointed NFMC Officer**
- ☐ **NFMC Chair of Department or Committee**
- ☐ **State President or Alternate**
(Alternate's name must be sent to National Treasurer)
- ☐ **Individual Member, Life Member, Subscriber, Donor or Patron**
- ☐ **President of National Affiliate Organization or Alternate**
- ☐ **Senior Organization elected delegate:**

Each organization shall be entitled to delegate representation based on its paid membership on record in the office of the National Treasurer 20 days before the opening of the Biennial Convention, figured as follows:

- Organizations of 25 or less – one delegate
- Organizations of 26-50 – two delegates
- For each 25 members over 50 – one additional delegate, except no organization shall have more than 10 delegates.

Before voting credentials deadline each ELECTED DELEGATE must have his/her Club President send a written confirmation that he/she is the elected delegate of the club to national headquarters.

- ☐ **Student Active Organization delegate**
(list name and address of organization below)
- ☐ **Counselor of Active Junior Organization**
(list name and address of organization below)

ORGANIZATION NAME _____

ORGANIZATION ADDRESS _____

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

For each person to be listed in the Memorial Service program, a \$25 minimum contribution must be sent to:
Connie Randall 606 South Jefferson St,
Kaufman, TX 75142 conniebrandall@yahoo.com

Postmark deadline: May 15, 2026.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Check payable to NFMC. The check must be separate from the registration check)

NAME OF PERSON(S) CONTRIBUTING _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) BEING MEMORIALIZED _____

DECEASED MEMBERLIST:

State Presidents: There are no fees to list deceased members.
Email to: NFMC Chaplain Gloria Lien at
gloria.hope.lien@gmail.com

Deadline May 15, 2026.

SCHEDULE

NFMC CONFERENCE

June 9-13, 2026 • Scottsdale, Arizona • Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Investment/Finance Committee
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Pre-Conference Administrative Day
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Festival Bulletin Committee
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Budget Committee
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Finance Committee
12:30 PM - 2:15 PM	Tour: Organ Stop Pizza Luncheon/Performance
2:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Dr. Valerie Harris, pipe organ Demonstration, 1st UMC Mesa
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Registration
4:15 PM - 5:45 PM	Festival Chorus Rehearsal
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	Executive Committee (closed)

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Protocol Committee
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Regional Vice Presidents
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Sergeants-at-arms
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Welcome to AZ Reception Sponsored by Western Region

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Formal Opening
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Workshop: Benita Rose "Marcos Fernandez Barrero"
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Board of Directors
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Regional Luncheons
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Exhibit Hall
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Festival Committee
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Arts Division
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Student/Collegiate Division
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Registration
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Bylaws Committee
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Workshop: Dr. Valerie Harris ForScore Demonstration
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Festival Chorus Rehearsal

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Morning Star - Native American Dance Show
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Night Swim/Social at the Pool

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

Member Appreciation Day	
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Exhibit Hall
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	General Session, including Rachel Cox - 250 Celebration of Constitution
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Workshop: Charlene Jarvis "Implementing Engaging Theory into Your music lessons"

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 (CONTINUED)

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Workshop: Leila Viss "From Noodle to Masterpiece"
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Go-to toolkit for composing Council of State Presidents
12:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Fellows and Friends Luncheon Guest Speaker: Leila Viss American Music Division Junior Division
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	FAMA (closed)
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Registration
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Festival Chorus Rehearsal
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Demo: Piano Teachers
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Got to Have it! Tiffani Smith

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	NFMC Young Artist 2025 Winner, Claire McCahan
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Game Night! Charlene Jarvis Come play with your friends!

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Exhibit Hall
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	General Session
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Vivace Updates: Sandra Preysz
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Competitions & Awards Division
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Festival Chorus Dress Rehearsal

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Festival Chorus Concert
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Headquarters/Office Committee
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Public Relations Committee
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Arts Advocacy Committee
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Membership & Education Division
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Council of State Presidents
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Finance Division
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Young Artist Committee
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Ellis Duo Committee
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Conference Banquet Speaker: Brian Shepard, CEO MTNA
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Concert: Connor Chee, Navajo pianist, composer Sponsored by Alfred Music
9:15 PM - 10:15 PM	Sing-a-long - Come sing with your friends!

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Memorial Service led by Gloria Lien, Chaplain
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Board of Directors, followed by Executive Committee (closed)

Check NFMC website for most up-to-date schedule

BYLAW PROPOSALS

NFMC CONFERENCE

June 9-13, 2026 • Scottsdale, Arizona • Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale

Orange print indicates current bylaw verbiage

~~Strikethroughs~~ indicate proposed deletions

Bold black print indicates new bylaw verbiage

ARTICLE VI, Section 1

CURRENT BYLAW

COMPOSITION The Board of Directors shall consist of 63 NFMC members elected biennially...

PROPOSED BYLAW

COMPOSITION The Board of Directors shall **not exceed** 63 NFMC members elected biennially...

ARTICLE VIII Section 2A and 2A-1

CURRENT BYLAW

MEMBERSHIP Members of the Board of Directors shall be the President and the elected Representatives from the Qualified States, and sufficient additional Members-at-Large to bring the total to forty-one (41)... The remaining twenty-two (22) members shall be elected/appointed as provided in Section 5F and 6A of this Article.

COMPOSITION. The Board of Directors shall consist of sixty-three (63) NFMC members...

PROPOSED BYLAW

MEMBERSHIP Members of the Board of Directors shall be the President, ~~and~~ the elected Representatives from the Qualified States, twenty-two (22) members ~~shall be~~ elected/appointed as provided in Section 5F and 6A of this Article, and sufficient additional Members-at-Large ~~to bring the total to forty-one (41)~~ **for a total not to exceed sixty-three (63)**...

COMPOSITION. The Board of Directors shall ~~consist~~ **not exceed** sixty-three (63) NFMC members...

Rationale: To provide flexibility in the number of Members-at-Large elected biennially by replacing the inflexible number of 41 with flexibility for the possibility of having fewer members-at-Large with the phrase "not to exceed sixty-three (63)."

ARTICLE VIII, Section 2D-1

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

CURRENT BYLAW

To validate Member-at-Large nominations made from the convention floor, completed Member-at-Large Eligibility forms must have been received by the Member-at-Large Chair via email transmission one week prior to the opening day of the Biennial Convention.

PROPOSED BYLAW

To validate Member-at-Large nominations made from the convention floor, completed Member-at-Large Eligibility forms **(AD 1-02a)** must have been received by the Member-at-Large Chair via email transmission one week prior to the opening day of the Biennial Convention.

Rationale: To identify the official Eligibility form.

ARTICLE VIII Section 5E

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

CURRENT BYLAW

~~If forty-one (41) State Representatives and Members at Large have not been declared elected, the Board of Directors shall elect sufficient additional at Large members as the first order of business. Candidates for the open position(s) shall be restricted to those who were tied. A plurality vote shall be required for election. A tie vote by the Board shall be decided by lot. New members of the Board shall be invited to enter the meeting at this time.~~

Rationale: All Member-at-Large nominations must be submitted via email transmission one week prior to the opening day of the Biennial Convention therefore Section 5E is not relevant.

ARTICLE VIII, Section 5B

ELECTIONS BY THE BOARD

CURRENT BYLAW

The retiring Board and the outgoing or incoming State Presidents (as determined in Article IV, Section 2.A) shall meet together for the first Board meeting of the NFMC Biennial convention, at which time the Nomination Committee for Officers will present their slate of nominees. Following their presentation, floor nominations for just the elective officers may only be made by a Board member or the current State President. Nominations should include brief resumes of two minutes or less. Following this procedure, the State Presidents will be excused and the Board meeting resumed.

PROPOSED BYLAW

The retiring Board and the outgoing or incoming State Presidents (as determined in Article IV, Section 2.A) shall meet together for the first Board meeting of the NFMC Biennial convention, at which time the Nomination Committee for Officers will present their slate of nominees. Following their presentation, **pre-validated** floor nominations for ~~just~~ the elective officers may only be made by a Board member or the current State President. ~~Nominations should include brief resumes of two minutes or less.~~ Following this procedure, the State Presidents will be excused and the Board meeting resumed.

To validate Officer nominations from the floor, completed Officer Eligibility forms (AD 1-02) must have been received by the Officer Nominations Chair via email transmission one week prior to the opening day of the Biennial convention.

Rationale: To have consistent approaches to Member-at-Large and Officer nominations from the floor which provide equity, pre-validate candidate-eligibility, and efficiency in the nomination process.

ARTICLE VIII Section 1

QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION TO AN NFMC ELECTIVE OFFICE

CURRENT BYLAW

A. In order to be considered for nomination to the office of President, First Vice President, or Secretary, one does not need to be a current NFMC Board member, but must have served ~~two terms (4 years)~~ **4 years** on the Board.
C. Nominees for Regional VP must have served a minimum of ~~one~~ **2 year** term on the Board of Directors...

PROPOSED BYLAW

A. In order to be considered for nomination to the office of President, First Vice President, or Secretary, one does not need to be a current NFMC Board member, but must have served ~~two terms (4 years)~~ **4 years** on the Board.
C. Nominees for Regional VP must have served a minimum of ~~one 2-year term~~ **2-years** on the Board of Directors

Rationale: Four years of BOD experience for Officers and two years of BOD experience for Regional VPs, whether consecutive or non-consecutive, provides federation knowledge.

National Music Week May 3-10, 2026

2026 Theme: Music...is our Constant Companion

by Kathie White, NMW Chair



National Music Week is near and hopefully your club has exciting plans for May 3-10! The theme "Music...is our Constant Companion" has certainly been a good one to inspire our Juniors to write and submit essays. Remember to read the winning essays published in the spring edition of the *Junior Keynotes Magazine*. These essays are now the property of NFMC, but you are welcome to choose an essay to read at your NMW events, giving proper credit to NFMC and the student writer.

If one of these young people is in your state, why not write a note of congratulations and send it to their teacher or the state president to forward to them? If you are a Junior Counselor or Junior Club Sponsor, begin thinking of ways now to encourage your juniors to consider writing an essay for next year's theme: "Music...is a Never-ending Tale".

Every club will celebrate National Music Week in its own distinctive way, offering different activities and approaches. Our purpose is to take music out into our communities and to share the power of music to promote understanding, friendliness and sympathy among all people. In today's world, this is needed more than ever!

Don't forget about the resources available on the NFMC website to give ideas and materials for your celebration. Some of the resources available: AR 12-2 Mayor's Proclamation, AR 12-3 Governor's Proclamation, AR

12-8 Kid's Coloring Sheet of the theme, AR 12-7 NMW Theme Poster. All the materials and forms are available for free download under the Arts Division heading on the NFMC website: <https://www.nfmc-music.org/>

Local Clubs: We would love to read about what your club has done during NMW! Please send the National Music Week Club Report (AR 12-1) to your state's NMW chair along with programs, photos, etc. Be sure to give credit to NFMC on all your printed materials. Newspaper clippings must include the name of the paper, date of article, and city. Underline in red each mention of National Music Week and National Federation of Music Clubs. This report needs to be postmarked and sent by June 1.

State Chairs: State NMW Chairs will compile all information on form AR 12-5 and make recommendations for awards based on quality and amount of participation. These reports must be postmarked and sent to Regional Chairs by June 10. The Regional Chairs include *Southeastern Region:* Bobette Spear; *Northeastern Region:* Paula Kudelko; and *North and South-Central and Western Regions:* Virginia Feitelson.

Club Award Certificates will be sent this summer to state presidents. State Presidents can either mail to the club presidents or present to the club at the fall meeting. I am planning to compile a list of winners and to share some of the wonderful activities representing the 2026 NMW theme in my next article in the fall!

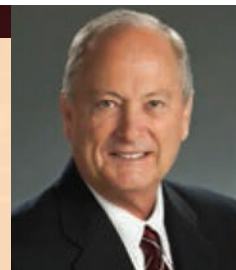
Enjoy exploring "Music...is Our Constant Companion" with your club during National Music Week. 🎵

MICHAEL R. EDWARDS

NFMC President 2015-2019

Graduating Senior Performance Award

This award will be given to a graduating high school senior pursuing a music performance degree on any instrument or voice who will be attending an accredited music school. Graduating seniors must have earned at least one NFMC Federation cup. For rules (JR-22-1) and more information please visit nfmc-music.org.



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

Liability Insurance for NFMC Members

by Heidi O Hong and Tracy Hernandez

Did you know? NFMC members can obtain liability insurance that is cost effective to cover all music-related events in clubs, states, or regions. Junior teachers can insure their recitals, as well as Federation Festivals. Insurance coverage is important, and it is imperative that you insure all music club events! You are protecting yourselves as well as others.

Events from January 1 to August 31
Deadline: preceding December 15

Events from September 1 to December 31
Deadline: August 15

Requests can be made after this date but only with a \$10 late fee. However, as soon as you know the date and venue of your events, insure them. Certificates are ONLY sent when they are requested, they are not sent automatically from the insurance company.

Here is the process:

- Send the request form, Child Protection form, and payment to your STATE liability chair. The form and state liability chair can be found on the website at <https://www.nfmc-music.org/about-us/liability-insurance/>
- State Liability chair makes copies for their records and sends documents and payments to NFMC Headquarters.
- The Insurance Agent sends certificates to the State Liability Chair, only when requested.
- The State Liability Chair sends certificates to those who made the request.

Forms and payments from states are generally processed by Headquarters once a month. Any changes to your event should be communicated with Tracy at Headquarters as soon as you have secured a new date, or venue. We hope you will take advantage of this benefit of membership and save potential headaches in the future. 🎵



Visit [nfmc-music.org](https://www.nfmc-music.org)
for all the latest NFMC news,
events and awards.



CONTEST

CELEBRATING AMERICA 250!

Now is the time
For a
Musical Heritage
Celebration!






Open to all NFMC Senior and Junior members
Contest dates: July 1 - July 31, 2026
Submissions due by **AUGUST 10**
\$250 prizes will be awarded for winning Jr and Sr programs

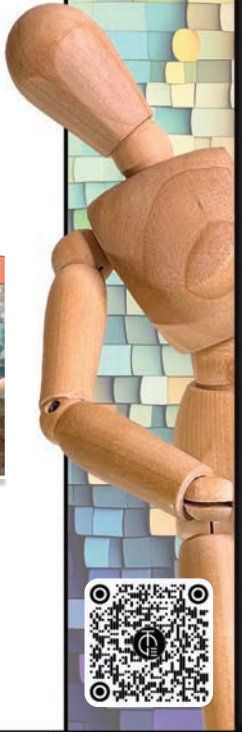


Go to [nfmc-music.org](https://www.nfmc-music.org)
to submit your club/state's
Celebrating America programs

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What Better Time Than Now?

by Dale Clark, Rose Fay Thomas Fellows Chair

The Holidays have come and gone and the New Year is well on its way. Every year many folks take the time to set forth New Year's resolutions only to find that they are broken before the middle of January!

Perhaps you are one of those who has noticed the announcements, encouragements, and challenges about becoming a Rose Fay Thomas Fellow that are issued on a regular basis, but have just never decided to make it a reality.

Procrastination has a way of robbing us of opportunities and accomplishments that we may have been thinking or dreaming about, but have never taken the final step to see that a particular action is achieved or that a dream is fulfilled in our lives.

Won't you consider taking this step before the end of the 2025-2026 Music Club Year to honor yourself or someone else as a Rose Fay

Thomas Fellow? Not only will YOU benefit personally by becoming a part of the most prestigious group in the National Federation of Music Clubs, but the FEDERATION ITSELF will benefit by seeing its Endowment Fund increase in value.

Applications (Form FI 10-1) are available on the NFMC website including instructions about how to complete the simple process. If you have any questions, the NFMC Chair's contact information is listed there for your convenience.

The words of Karen Lamb, "A year from now you will wish you had started today!" are an encouragement for us to take care of this important matter while it is fresh on our mind. Don't allow procrastination to cause you to put it off any longer!

This Chair is looking forward to hearing from you SOON! 🎵

FAMA

FUND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MUSICAL ARTS

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

Dr. Ouida Keck, Chair
keckouida@gmail.com

Deadline: May 1



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





America turns 250: How will you celebrate?

by Julie Watson, PR Division chair

On July 4, 2026, the United States will mark its **Semiquincentennial** — 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Far from a single-day event, **America 250** is a multi-year national initiative designed to engage all 350 million Americans through reflection, service, and celebration. As we consider our own mission is to promote and support American music, performers and music education, we are perfectly aligned! Consider two of their initiatives and how they are similar to some of our own programs.

AMERICA GIVES: An initiative to make 2026 the largest year of volunteer service in U.S. history. We also have an Outreach program, where we encourage sharing music with individuals in hospitals, retirement homes, prisons, retirement centers, schools for the disabled where people are totally or partially confined. We give an award of \$150 to the club and also the individual that has the most hours. As you prepare to submit your report by April 1, be sure to record your hours for our nation here: <https://america250.org/america-gives/>

AMERICA'S FIELD TRIP: A contest for students (grades 3–12) to submit artwork or essays on “What does America mean to you?” at <https://america250.org/fieldtrip/>. Students have a chance to win “unforgettable field trip experiences” to iconic historical sites. We also encourage essays and artwork. The Spring issue of the *Junior Keynotes* includes all our winners of the National Music Week essay contest. In addition, every *Junior Keynotes* magazine features cover art from a junior. Wouldn't it be exciting to see a cover that celebrates both NFMF and America 250? Be sure to encourage Juniors to create and submit!

Our Federation Festival has an American Patriotic and Folk Song Event. Wouldn't it be exciting to have many more students participate in this event? Last year, we had 824 entries. It would be awesome to double or triple that!

- Looking at our history, founder Ada Holding Miller established in February of 1955, the NFMF American Music Department along with the “Parade of American Music”. The monetary award for this was established in 1987 by Mrs. Schramm in honor of her husband, Professor Rudolf R. A. Schramm. American Music Month was changed to November by the NFMF Board of Directors in 1998. The top club receives \$300 for outstanding programs for “Parade of American Music” in November. We have a similar award of \$300 for clubs based on American Music programming all year long. Did you know that high schools and colleges/universities can also compete for a \$500 award in their division? Be sure to share this info! The entry deadline is May 1.
- How do you plan to celebrate America's semiquincentennial? Be sure to share your events on social media and in future magazine articles! 🎵



Ouida Keck

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



to be used for
Professional Development



Ouida Keck
NFMF President 1999-2003

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

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

Cherishing Senior Club Members' Legacies

by Heidi Hong, NFMC 1st Vice-President

I've been told that our MCM is not read by some members. This is a shame because in our magazines we learn of the accomplishments of our award winners, as well as what programs and music events clubs promote. With this understanding, we come to learn and appreciate what others have done before us. If we do not cherish our own musical legacies – who will? When broken, the generational chain of leadership and involvement in music cannot be reconnected. Music Clubs are unique in that all ages may participate in hundreds of programs, awards, and festivals. Our members do not only teach, their legacy of commitment to music goes beyond the studio or classroom into intricate, deeply committed community, sacred, outreach, sponsorship, and philanthropic giving.

There are 100-year clubs that have folded after reaching this incredible milestone. Why is that? Yes, members 'age out', clubs draw into themselves and no longer find relevance in their communities, or members do not accept leadership positions. "We cannot know that which we do not love, and we cannot love that which we do not know." This is a direct quote from our NFMC Installation of Officers. Do you really know NFMC publications, rules, application processes, Standing Rules and Bylaws, and the Collect?

Each member needs to cherish and honor our past in order to move forward with informed and intelligent forethought: Building on our strengths, promoting music, teaching, learning, sharing, and as friendships grow – loving what we do as music club members. Have you lost the love you once had in being a music club member? Has your club?

Allow me to share a true story with you as the Barron Federated Music Club in Barron, Wisconsin, begins its 101st year.....

My mother, Paula Hong was born in Riga, Latvia, a beautiful historic city on the Baltic Sea, in January of 1925. She grew up in a musical family in an era when families enjoyed evenings together playing instruments, singing, and dancing. Paula remembers her dad was a good accordionist

and could play the balalaika, the brothers and cousins played guitar, and violin, among other instruments. She and her aunts sang, and everyone danced. These are cherished memories of music in her childhood home.

Paula married a handsome GI in July of 1948, my dad, Harold. After a long trip across the Atlantic they arrived in the United States before Christmas in 1948. Thus began her next journey in life. Once settled on a dairy farm (in Barron), music again played a significant role in her life.



Wedding Photo: Paula and Harold Hong, 1947 (Germany)



The Hong's 30th Wedding Anniversary

What she expected in her home in the pursuit of excellence in music and music performance has certainly shaped the lives of her two daughters, Heidi and Rita, and their musical careers. Her gals were singing at the local nursing home in grade school for family members there. Among the first songs they learned was "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Both daughters have been church musicians for a combined 90 years, having begun performing in local churches in middle school. Without a doubt, both Harold and Paula supported and encouraged their girls to study music, including: piano, trombone, organ, and voice. Harold and Paula did not miss a music or theater performance in which their daughters participated.

Paula was a member of the BFMC since 1968. She did not wish to have leadership roles in the music club, but has been an active member serving as a hostess, co-hostess, performer, fundraiser, and consistent supporter of music in our local schools and churches. She has appreciated and cherished the many friendships she has enjoyed with music club members on a local, state, and national level. Her daughters continue to play organ, piano, and sing in several university and church choral groups. The tradition continues as her granddaughter, Haley Johnson, is a performer in local theatre, as well as being a talented vocalist.

Anyone who knew Paula knew that she had an opinion on the importance of music in one's life. And she would tell you so.

And thus, a music club legacy continues not only in a music club, but with friends and family in an ongoing expression of love. This story is reflective of the thousands of life stories our music club members have lived across the United States. Without the dedication of our long-term members other members would not have mentors, or financial foundations or endowments, on which to continue participation and involvement in music in their communities.

There is a time and a place for historic and archival sharing and not at every meeting.

It is the awareness of the history of your club and its members, that creates a bond of unity for all members, no matter what age.

One needs to consider that thousands of members have devoted years of volunteer hours in order to promote all things music whether in performance, programs, awards, or the creation or reimagining of NFMC programs. Have you thanked a long-term member lately? Been grateful for the legacy they leave you? Have you thought about, read, studied, or have knowledge of the beginnings of music clubs and what makes us unique in our nation? Do you know what or who has come before you in order for you to appreciate and plan for changes in the future? We cannot exist if we remain stagnant, irrelevant, or unwilling to make changes. However, we need to know the paths that have been taken in order to create meaningful change going forward.

Cherish the Past, Live the Present, Dream of the Future. Whatever you do, hold fast to the stories that lead us into a legacy of musical excellence because of the work past members have done. Reach beyond 127 years as an NFMC organization—reach to the stars waiting to be given the gift of music. 🎵

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

SPECIAL AWARDS

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

**\$1,000 MUSIC FOR THE BLIND
COMPOSITION AWARD**

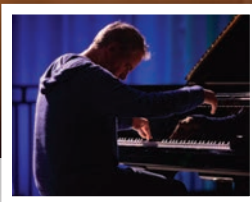
**\$1,000 BENZINGER/VALENTIN
BLIND PERFORMANCE AWARD**

DEADLINE MARCH 1



MTNA

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National Association**



Since 1876, Music Teachers National Association has been a leader in empowering the music-teaching profession by providing valuable resources and networking opportunities for its members. MTNA membership complements your NFMC experience and connects you to colleagues in the U.S. and beyond!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [MTNA.ORG](https://www.mtna.org)

Insignia **PINS** For You

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



Plan ahead!
Insignia pins from
NFMC always make
Superb gifts!

Purchase favorite
Items in stock
Now, for all your
Senior Club friends!

Prices will
Increase July 1, so
Note the date and
Start shopping soon!

Pictured above: Senior Lapel Pin – Q-09, \$3.00
Senior Pin with Bar for Engraving – Q-10, \$5.00

Here is a sample of pins commemorating
years of NFMC membership:



2-Yr. with Chain Guard – Q-20-02, \$4.00
25-Yr. with Chain Guard – Q-20-25, \$4.00
Life Member Pin – Q- 22, \$6.50

You will also find Item # Q-11 quite
“Charming.”



Charm – Q-11, \$5.00

Insignia Photos: Courtesy of NFMC

Where Are They Now?

ANDREW COOPERSTOCK 1989 YOUNG ARTIST IN PIANO



Pianist Andrew Cooperstock performs widely as soloist and chamber musician and has appeared throughout six continents and in most of the fifty states, including performances at New York's Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the United Nations; at the Chautauqua, Brevard, and Round Top music festivals, the Australian Festival of Chamber

Music, and Hong Kong's Hell Hot! New Music Festival, and on National Public Radio, Radio France, and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

With violinist William Terwilliger, as Opus Two, he has recorded a series of critically acclaimed single-composer discs of American

music by Aaron Copland, Paul Schoenfield, and George Gershwin, among others (for Naxos, Azica, and Bridge), and his recording *Leonard Bernstein: Complete Solo Works for Piano* (Bridge and Deutsche Grammophon) was lauded by *Gramophone* as "winning" and "brilliant." *American Record Guide* calls his newest recording—*Opus Two Celebrates Stephen Sondheim: New Chamber Music Arrangements*—"delicate and beautiful." And *The JW Vibe* praises the recording's "exquisite joy and fluid yet often appropriately quirky and whimsical soloing and duetting" as well as "Cooperstock's charming, high fallutin' piano solo of 'Now You Know' from *Merrily We Roll Along*."

A Steinway artist, Dr. Cooperstock was recently inducted into the Steinway Piano Music Teachers Hall of Fame. Dr. Cooperstock has served as Program Director of the Saarburg International Music Festival (Germany), faculty member at Adamant Music School, Brevard Music Center, and Round Top Festival-Institute, and he is currently Director of Global Seminar: Chamber Music France and Professor of Piano at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he received the 2020 Boulder Faculty Assembly Excellence Award in Teaching and Pedagogy. Additionally, he is past president of Colorado State Music Teachers Association and active with the Frances Clark Center, receiving the 2025 Outstanding Service Award.

In Spring 2026 he will serve as a Resident Fellow at the American College of the Mediterranean in Aix-en-Provence, France. Dr. Cooperstock is a graduate of the Juilliard School and the Peabody and Cincinnati Conservatories. 🎵

CAROLYN NELSON DOUBLE REED AWARD

1ST PLACE: \$1,500 | 2ND PLACE: \$750

Applicants must be a double reed player between the ages of 19 and 26 (at time of application) as well as a Student/Collegiate member of NFMC.

Audio recordings must be submitted by **March 1**.

More details available at www.nfmc-music.org



Carolyn Nelson

NFMC President 2011-2015





ELEVATE YOUR ARTISTRY AT PEABODY PIANO WEEK

Peabody's Piano Week offers an immersive experience designed to ignite the musical growth of serious high school and college students, led by world-class Peabody faculty artists.

Monday, July 6–Sunday, July 12, 2026

**peabody.jhu.edu/pianoweb
667-208-6640**

Also see our Youth Piano Academy • July 27–31, 2026



**REGISTER
NOW**

Young Annasemble Orchestra— Progress Toward Holiday Harmony

by Kemberly L. Moody, Annasemble Community Orchestra of Gainesville Board Chair

Powered by a grant from the National Federation of Music Clubs Fund for the Advancement of Musical Arts, Young Annasemble Orchestra launched the 2025–2026 season with renewed momentum. More than 47 volunteer hours were devoted to restoring and preparing loan instruments, ensuring students could rehearse and perform with confidence. The season began with a Pizza, Parent, and Practice evening that brought families together, followed by seven focused rehearsals and a public dress rehearsal at the T.B. McPherson Center—all building toward the Annual Holiday Concert on the porch of the Cade Museum overlooking Depot Park in Gainesville, Florida.

Despite brisk winds, our students adapted, learning to perform in “all kinds of weather”—with music quite literally floating in the air! Family, friends, and park goers gathered to enjoy seasonal favorites such as “Deck the Halls” and “Jingle Bells,” along with meaningful selections like “Shalom” and “O Kwanzaa.” A special highlight was the combination of ages and generations, including a memorable father/daughter duet that captured the heart of the YAS mission. A reception following the concert gave students and families time to celebrate accomplishments and reflect on a joyful and successful fall season.

Looking ahead to the spring, rehearsals will resume with excitement as YAS prepares for a milestone collaboration: performing alongside the main Annasemble Orchestra on the University of Florida Auditorium stage in May. This event will honor the 28-year mission of the founding director and bring together generations of musicians in a powerful celebration of community, growth, and the enduring joy of making music together. 🎵

www.annasemble.org



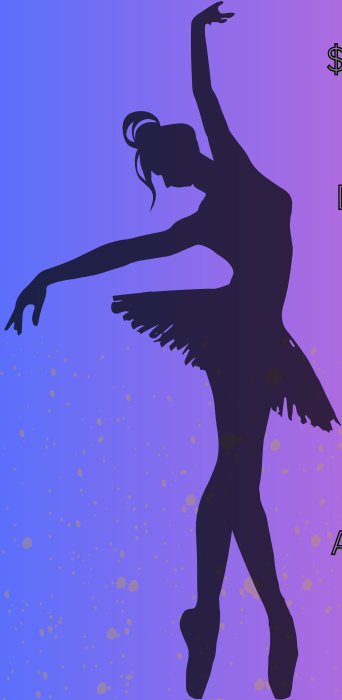


DANCE AWARDS

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



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



Regional News

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Submitted by Jean Moffatt

Chris Vitt, Vice-President in charge of the South Central Region, reminds everyone in the five states of coming events in which you will want to participate.

June 9-13 will be the NFMF Conference in Scottsdale, AZ. The theme is "Sonoran Summer Sounds" and the headquarters hotel is Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale. An interesting program is planned. See registration and program information in this magazine edition.

July will see Federation Days taking place July 15-17 at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, AR. Texas will be the host, with all five states taking part. Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma will host various meals, and a special NFMF guest will attend and give the keynote address.

Several special events are planned. Topmost will be viewing the three MainStage productions in the new theater: *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein, *The Marriage of Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and a double bill of *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicci* by Giacomo Puccini.

There will also be a special performance of "Monkey See, Monkey Do" by Roberto Rodriguez. This is the children's opera which will be presented to children in the northwest Arkansas region.

A Broadway Cabaret will be staged Saturday, July 18, in the new theater. The 2026 season will not end until the following week. Go to the OIO website at opera.org to order tickets and see the schedule of performances.

We hope to have good turnouts at both of these exciting events.



FEDERATION FESTIVALS

Bulletin

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2028

AVAILABLE NOW!

Contact NFMF Headquarters
for more information

317.882.4003 | info@nfmf-music.org

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Submitted by Joel Adams, NFMCSERegion Vice President

VICTORY for EASTERN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC and NFMCSOUTHEASTERN REGION

Finally, the smoke has dissipated and the path forward is now in clear view. The Southeastern Region of NFMCSERegion will meet at EFM, formerly known as EMF in Greensboro, NC on the campus of Guilford College, the only Quaker institution of higher learning in the Southeast. Gerard Schwarz, Music Director of EMF for 20 years, will return to continue in his position.

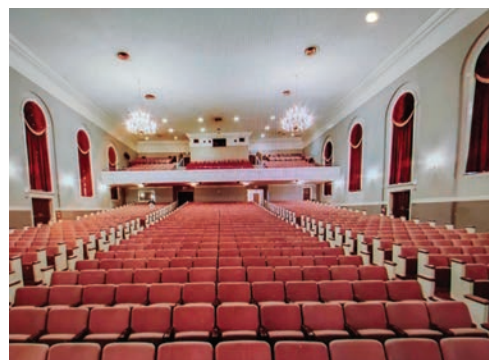
Cheryl Davis, President of the Virginia Federation (the host state) will travel to Greensboro on February 11 to meet with SER Vice President, Joel Adams, NCFMCSERegion President, William Carroll and the catering team from Guilford College.

The date for the meeting is July 10-11 in the historic Founders Hall. It begins with a banquet meal on July 10 to honor the special, invited guest.

Following the dinner, there will be a concert by the EFM Orchestra in Dana Auditorium, led by Maestro Schwarz. During the business meeting on Saturday, July 11, the group will be entertained by the NFMCSERegion Scholarship winner, before adjourning to return home. 🎵



Founders Hall at Guilford College



Dana Auditorium

SPRING 2026
VOL. 3, NO. 3

piano inspires KIDS

music & movement

DISCOVER
Sitting at the Keyboard

EXPLORE
Movement at the Piano

PLAY
New Music by Dennis Alexander

SHARE
Keeping Music Fresh

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State News

ARKANSAS

Submitted by Kathie White, State President of Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs

Hot Springs Music Connection Marks 75 Years with Founders Day Celebration



The Hot Springs Music Connection commemorated its 75th anniversary on January 11 with a Founders Day program blending historical reflection and musical performance. The event, held in the Parish Hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, drew members, alumni performers, and community supporters for an afternoon of celebration.

The program opened with President Tom Bolton sharing congratulatory messages from across the state and nation. Greetings were sent by Arkansas State President Kathie White, National President Deborah Freeman, past National President Dr. Ouida Keck, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, and former President Bill Clinton, who performed for the club as a young saxophonist in 1960.

Dr. Bolton then presented a history of the organization, featuring an interview with longtime member Pat Gladden. Gladden, who has been part of the club for 56 years and served twice as president, reflected on the group's evolution and enduring mission.

A special tribute honored internationally-acclaimed opera star Marjorie Lawrence, who was an honorary member of the club for many years and remains one of the most distinguished artists connected to its history.

The celebration continued with performances by musicians who had appeared on the club's programs during its first five decades. Performers included Sheree O'Rorke (1996), Jolene Williams (1995), Shelley Martin (1994), Gay Strakshus (1987), Kathie White (1978), Marc Bremer (1971), Carolyn Yeldell Staley (1967), and Diane Kesling (1996). The HSMC Ladies Ensemble closed the program, honoring a tradition that began with a sextet formed in the club's inaugural year.

The milestone gathering highlighted the organization's rich legacy and the community of musicians who have shaped it over three quarters of a century.

The Andante Club of Bella Vista American Music from the Pilgrims to the Present

The Andante Club of Bella Vista, Arkansas, had an exceptionally well-received program of American Music in November titled "American Music from the Pilgrims to the Present." It featured performances by several members and some guest artists from the community. We approached it from a historical or chronological standpoint, beginning with our local 103-year-old Native American Flute player Charles Whitford playing an improvised piece on his flute.



Charles Whitford



Dave and Rosie Floyd

That was followed by a local mountain dulcimer player, Rosie Floyd, talking about the popularity of her instrument in early colonial days and playing two pieces with her husband Dave Floyd.

Highland Winds next performed an "American Suite from the Civil War Era." The members are: Jean Kittelson, Charlotte Sorenson, Lisa Morrell and Cynthia Augspurger.



Highland Winds

Piano pieces by Edward MacDowell and Scott Joplin followed, played by Marilyn Lee. Arlene Biebesheimer sang a Stephen Foster piece followed by a Harry Burleigh arrangement of an African American Spiritual, accompanied by Yvonne Washer.

The program ended with a Sing-along, with songs ranging from the Revolutionary War to "The Sound of Music." We had a record attendance of 85 audience members.



Arlene Biebesheimer

KANSAS

Submitted by John Bechen, KFMC president

Even though this report is for the Spring issue of the Music Clubs Magazine, most of our nation is currently experiencing significant snowfall and arctic temperatures. But we know that spring will soon arrive and then the warm days of summer. Kansas still has six clubs, but two of those do not meet on a regular basis. This report will focus on our four active clubs and their December meetings.

The **Arkansas City Music and Dramatics Club** met in December at the Arkansas City United Methodist Church. The program featured vocal solos, duets and trios. Other performers featured the ACHS Symphonic Choir, Prairie Voices Children's Choir, and the First United Methodist Church Handbell Choir.



The **Pittsburg Treble Clef Club** met at a member's home with over 40 in attendance. The program featured a double duet played on two pianos, duets, group singing and an essay explaining much of the Christmas symbolism a member used in creating her original gingerbread tree ornaments.

The **Goodland Music Club** met at the United Telephone building. The program featured poetry readings, solos, group singing and a performance by the Goodland Recorder Ensemble.

The **Lawrence Music Club** met at the Pioneer Ridge Independent Living Community. The program opened with piano duets, poetry reading, a performance by the River City Reeds Saxophone Quartet, group carol-sing and closed with everyone singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

All of the programs finished with holiday treats and conversation, with the Goodland club also including a Christmas Gift exchange.

I am happy to announce that concert pianist Nicholas Susi will be the 2026 Kansas State Convention featured artist. You may remember Dr. Susi winning the 2015 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition. Dr. Susi joined the University of South Carolina School of Music as Assistant Professor of Piano in 2022.

The first Saturday in March will feature the second half of the Lawrence Junior Music Festival. Because of growth in recent years the Lawrence Festival is offered twice a year in November and March. Wichita is our second location offering a Junior Music Festival and also continues to experience growth in its offerings and number of participants.



Goodland Recorder Ensemble



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Continued on page 24

State News *continued*

LOUISIANA

Submitted by Margarita Harvey, LFMC President

I am so grateful for our Louisiana Federation Members!

As most of the states in our Federation, our members comprise Studio teachers, College professors, Church musicians, Band and Choir Directors, Orchestra musicians, Solo and Ensemble Performers and more from all around the state. Just as important, we have members who do not teach or perform, but value and love music for the beauty it brings to our lives. They choose to get involved to support and spread the beauty of music in their community and beyond.

The **Baton Rouge Music Club** is very active and has wonderful musical programs at their monthly meetings. They also raise a lot of scholarship money every year with their Spring Luncheon.

2025 marked the 60th Anniversary of the **Metairie Music Club**.

We celebrated with a choral program by the University of New Orleans chorus led by Megan Dearie, followed by a Congratulatory party and cake for all.

Our State Convention was held in Baton Rouge. NFMC President Deborah Freeman was our Honored Guest.

Martha Marcks Mack Award Winner, Imani Francis, charmed us with her beautiful vocal performance at the Friday night Banquet.

The next morning, at our General Meeting, Past Presidents were recognized, and Mark Vile was honored for his many years of service to LFMC. The Bayou Brass Quintet and former Young Artist Winner, Dr. Steven Rushing, entertained us with fun programs, as well as leading us in the Star-Spangled Banner.

We were also treated to a performance by some of our Junior Awards Winners in Composition and Performance.



The Bayou Brass Quintet



Imani Francis



Margarita and Deborah



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NORTH CAROLINA

Submitted by Joel Adams, NCFMC Treasurer and Southeastern Region Vice-President

The Charlotte NC Federation of Music Clubs Junior Festival Proudly Honors Elizabeth "Lib" Hughston and Charlotte Music Club's Centennial

By Karla Williams, Chair of the Charlotte Festival

For more than 50 years, Elizabeth "Lib" Hughston ensured that the Charlotte Federation Festival, sponsored by the Charlotte Music Club, was carefully organized and successfully presented each year. This was no small feat. The Charlotte Festival is the largest in North Carolina, enrolling more than 1200 students annually with seven to ten host locations across multiple dates in February. Lib managed those responsibilities with remarkable grace, efficiency, and unfailing kindness. Her professionalism and genuine concern for students inspired teachers, parents, adjudicators, and host facilities alike.

Even today, Lib remains actively involved, entering her own students and mentoring Festival planners. She freely shares her expertise and has coached countless teachers over the years. Through her guidance the Festival expanded to include not only piano and voice, but strings and wind instruments. Her generosity of time, knowledge, and spirit has sustained the Festival's positive impact for generations of young musicians.

Lib Hughston's influence extends far beyond the Federation Festival. While raising four sons with her husband Charles, she devoted countless hours to leadership within the Charlotte Music Club, including serving as President. Under the club's sponsorship, she oversaw annual scholarship auditions and helped sustain the 73-year tradition of presenting Handel's *Messiah* with a volunteer community chorus and orchestra each December. Lib has also served in church leadership, worked as a church organist, and remains a past President and active member of the Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum.



On December 14, 2025, during the Charlotte Music Club's Centennial Celebration and presentation of the *Messiah*, the community gathered to honor a century of music-making, service, and artistic devotion. This meaningful occasion was chosen to acknowledge Elizabeth W. Hughston for her decades of leadership and service to the city of Charlotte and the Charlotte Music Club.

Through the generous support of the Charlotte Area Festival members and Joel Adams, State Treasurer of NCFMC, Lib Hughston was presented with two distinguished honors: **The NFMC Southeastern Region Fellow**, the highest honor bestowed on an NFMC member in the Southeastern Region of the United States. **The Hinda Honigman Fellow**, the highest honor of the North Carolina Federation. Both Fellows are represented by beautiful medallions, expressly designed for NFMC Southeastern Region and the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs.



Elizabeth "Lib" Hughston

Elizabeth "Lib" Hughston is admired, respected, and beloved throughout both local and statewide music communities. These honors celebrate far more than her accomplishments, they recognize her lifelong commitment to music education, exceptional leadership, and the generosity and grace she brought to every endeavor. Through her vision and service, Lib Hughston has strengthened our musical community and set a standard of excellence that continues to inspire us all. **Congratulations, Mrs. Elizabeth Hughston!**



Members of the Charlotte Festival and Charlotte Music Club
L. to R.: Lee Lanier, Alina Rothenberg, Pamela Hughes, Lib Hughston, Ginger Wyrick, Sandy Barber, Karla Williams



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



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Continued on page 26

State News *continued*

OKLAHOMA

The Birmingham Musicale of Michigan

Submitted by Debra Rue - Oklahoma Federated Music Clubs - President

NEWS !!! Oklahoma music teachers are preparing their students for the upcoming Federation Music Festivals. Local/Regional winners will compete in the State Festival at Ada, OK in April.

PONCA CITY, OK - The **Ponca City Federated Music Club** (PCFMC) has had an active Fall! The November meeting featured members and guests in a Music Club Variety Show for the Parade of American Music. Performances included "The Flag Maker," from 1776, "The Ballad of Deborah Sampson" (a woman who posed as a male soldier and fought in the Revolutionary War), a patriotic medley and songs from OKLAHOMA! from the Choral Workshop. There was also an assortment of music by American composers performed by the Ukulele Club, a saxophone quartet and various vocal soloists. The concert was well-attended and everyone enjoyed refreshments following the concert.

On November 24th at the City Council meeting, Ponca City's Mayor Kelsey Wagner presented the Ponca City Federated Music Club with a proclamation designating November as American Music Month in honor of NFMC's "Parade of American Music." The Mayor recognized our support of local musicians and the importance of American composers and their music.

In December, a holiday concert featured instrumental music and the Prairie Carillon Handbells - a PCFMC Associate Organization - in "Songs of the Season." The concert also included a violinist, a bagpipe performer, a solo handbell ringer, a saxophone quartet and the Ukulele Club, as well as the full handbell choir.

Also in December, the Choral Arts Society of Northern Oklahoma - another PCFMC Associate Organization - presented "Christmas Peace." This was an assortment of Christmas choral music of different genres selected and conducted by Brandon Haynes, Adjunct Professor on the Voice Faculty of Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, OK. The performance is a musical highlight in Ponca City as acknowledged by the standing room-only crowd who looks forward to this holiday event.

A Silver Tea was held in January to raise money to supplement endowments for four scholarships presented to deserving students who wish to continue their music education at the college level. These scholarships are presented in the Spring through an audition and application process. The concert featured scholarship winners from the past - those currently studying music and others who are now professionals or enjoy performing music. Performers included vocal soloists, a string quartet, a string bass soloist and pianist. An elegant reception followed the concert and a beautiful silver punch bowl invited attendees to provide a donation. This year's Silver Tea raised over \$2,000.



Holiday Concert - "Songs of The Season"



THE CHORAL Arts Society of Northern Oklahoma (CASANO) held their annual Christmas concert, "Christmas Peace," at Grace Episcopal Church Sunday afternoon to one of the largest audiences in a while. They performed new arrangements of classic hymns, as well as more modern music. The choir was directed by Brandon Haynes. (Photo by Everett Brazil, III)

The Choral Arts Society of Northern Oklahoma



Silver Tea Scholarship Winners and Performers

PENNSYLVANIA

Submitted by Kristin Ivers, President of Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs

The Schubert Musical & Literary Club, of Oil City, PA, presented their "Sounds of the Season" Christmas concert on December 14, 2025, at the Oil City Grace United Methodist Church. The program included 5 organists, a Schubert Club 14-member handbell choir, and a French Horn trio. The president of the club is Eva Palmer.

The Allentown Music Club presented their "Sounds of the Season" Concert on December 6, 2025, and included performances from their Young Musicians Club.

Williamsport Music Club

Williamsport Music Club (WMC) presented programs during the Holiday Season, consisting of American Music, which were open to the public. In November, we were present at two area Senior facilities on Veterans Day to share patriotic music and recognize Veterans. In addition, the club had members out caroling as part of the Williamsport Victorian Christmas event, which takes place each year in our city. We presented a patriotic program on November 25th as we participated in the NPMC "Parade of American Music." Our Christmas Candlelight service featured Americana music, and we used the opportunity not just to celebrate Christmas, but historical moments in the life of America at Christmastime. Part of the program highlighted a recent musical and visual arts program designed to help veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, particularly around the holidays. (<https://www.youtube.com/@soproudlywehailed3125>) Also, in December, we had a caroling program at one of our Memory Care Centers, and we presented a musical program at our local museum's "Coffee Hour." We do this each year. It is coordinated and led by Leatha Kieser, a longtime WMC member. We are blessed, as a club, with members who enjoy making and sharing music together!

Continued on page 28

The Schubert Musical & Literary Club



Handbell Choir



French Horn Trio

Williamsport Music Club



Carolers



Kristin playing piano for Patriotic Event

The Allentown Music Club



Pictured are:

REAR: Lynn German Long (piano accompaniment), Siobhan DeRemer (Soprano), Camille Vernaar (flute), Darlene Ziegler (piano), Jesse Niu (flute & piano), Katelyn Brinton (piano), Ethan Nguyen (piano), James Chu (piano)
FRONT: Santa Peters (accompanist), Shourees Guditmetla (saxophone), Olivia Guo (piano & violin), Hannah Keberlein (violin), Audrick Hawk (violin)

State News *continued*

PENNSYLVANIA...CONTINUED

Williamsport Music Club



Singers at Christmas Program



Christmas Program



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SOUTH CAROLINA

Submitted by Ina Gottlieb, President of Columbia Afternoon Music Club

This year the Afternoon Music Club of Columbia, SC dedicated our yearbook to members who are ninety years old and older. These ladies have each served as President of our club and have remained active up to the present. The picture below shows the “nifty nineties” with a celebratory cake at our initial meeting held on October 13, 2025.



Left to right Lois Anderson, Helena Meetze, Nola Covington

Continued on page 30



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State News *continued*

TENNESSEE

Submitted by Bobette Spear, TFMC President

Tennessee's **Thursday Morning Music Club, Etowah** is very active and has wonderful programs each month. This past November, the theme was "Music of the World." Soloists, as well as a flute quartet, performed. Participants were Ray Calfee, Terri Aldrich, Angie Larson, Julieann Lowery, Susan Anderson, and Beth Bush.

The world trip started in Japan, with the flute quartet playing "Moon Over Ruined Castle" by Rentaro Taki. They then traveled to Russia, as Susan played a piano solo, "The Old Castle," by Mussorgsky. Julieann then took the club to Norway, as she played Grieg's "The Death of Ase." The next stop was Ireland, as Angie played "Danny Boy." Terri jettied the group off to France and treated everyone to "Le Cygne," by Saint-Saens. Italy was next on the itinerary, with the quartet playing Rossini's "William Tell Overture." While in Italy, the quartet also honored the birthplace of Handel by playing the "Hallelujah Chorus," which took them to England.

Everyone agreed that it was very educational to learn the history of the music selected. The Club was very grateful for the two guest musicians, Terri and Julieann, and are looking forward to their participation in the February program, featuring African-American spirituals. Plus, the club hopes to have two new members.



Flautists of Etowah

TEXAS

Submitted by Lora Lynn Christensen, Texas FMC President, NCTM, and Jean Moffatt, Texas Representative to the NFMC Board

Texas has shown some growth with the forming of new clubs. The Texas FMC is still recovering from the challenges of covid and the loss of access to the state website. The work is ongoing and taking much longer than anticipated. Junior clubs and festivals are growing again, also.

Our State Federation has a busy summer ahead. We hope lots of Texans will attend the NFMC conference in Scottsdale, AZ June 9-13.

The month of July will see opera lovers in the Federation host the Opera in the Ozarks Federation Days, July 15-17, in Eureka Springs, AR. There will be three productions in the new theater and also the traveling show of "Monkey See, Monkey Do" at the headquarters hotel, the Inn of the Ozarks.

The state convention will be August 6-8, 2026, at Embassy Suites Love Field, Dallas, and will feature the NFMC Young Artist Misha Galant in recital at Dallas Steinway Hall. An NFMC guest will be the speaker. Then the convention attendees will be invited to tour the technical facility. Everyone in music is involved with pianos, and working knowledge of the instrument could be most helpful.

Be watching for the *Lone Star Musical Messenger*, which will have all the details for these coming meetings. 🎵

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1 st Place: \$150 2 nd Place \$100 3 rd Place: \$ 50	Ethnic Performance	April 1
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\$50 in each Region	Music in Poetry Awards	April 1
10 @ \$100	Folk Music Awards	May 1

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Inside back cover and www.nfmc-music.org

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