



Sharps & Flats



An Official Publication of the Florida Federation of Music Clubs

Theme: Music Raises Us Up

Song: *You Raise Me Up*

Convention News

Ann Stockton, FFMC President



This has been an extremely busy time of year for many of us. It is hard to believe that this is the last Sharps and Flats I will be doing as we will be electing our new officers at the FFMC 96th Spring Convention in Sarasota. This is a bittersweet feeling. I have enjoyed working with you and getting to know you. I have also enjoyed reading about your accomplishments. Keep up the good work!

It is that time again when our thoughts run to our conventions. Check your calendars now and save May 8-9 for the Junior Convention in Jacksonville and May 14-16 for the FFMC 96th Spring Convention in Sarasota. The Seminole District president Marian Cox and her team have been working hard to make sure you have a wonderful experience. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. The Convention Headquarters will be located in the Hilton Garden Inn. The team has worked hard to keep costs down and to provide a high quality experience for the attendees. The hotel has complimentary Wi-Fi, luxury ergonomic chairs, microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, outdoor heated pool and whirlpool, fitness center and free parking.

We are hoping for an excellent attendance. Each club should send the club president and treasurer as well as any club members who are interested in learning about what has been happening in the federation and the impact it will have on your individual club. The FFMC bylaws state how many voting members your club is entitled to have. In an effort to encourage attendance, FFMC has budgeted \$100 each for each club and district president to help defray convention costs. They must attend the full convention and will receive the check at

the end of convention. If the president is unable to attend, the treasurer may act as a substitute.

We are excited to have as our national guest the NFM Vice President of the Southeastern Region, Elaine Knight. We are proud that she has chosen Florida for her home, as she has moved to The Villages. She will be conducting a workshop as well as giving a keynote address on the state of the federation.

Workshops for the Junior Division will be conducted by Lisa Smith and Vickie Stake. Ann Stockton will be joined by the reigning Jeanie to conduct a session for the Senior Clubs on the history of the Jeanie/Stephen Foster Auditions. We will also be sharing ideas on Ways and Means and Outreach programs.

Please read the accompanying articles regarding things that are needed for the Spring Convention, such as reports, silent auction items and names of deceased members. This will help everything run more smoothly. Make it a point to attend. The official call is included in this issue. Be prepared to hear excellent music, interesting reports to help you as you go about your federation business, and fellowship in a beautiful setting in Sarasota! See you soon!

Convention Tidbits

It has been a pleasure working with Marian Cox and her mighty team that is making convention plans for you. I want to see each one of you there!!

The concert Friday night will be a wonderful. Andrew Lapp has been brought up in the Federation and is Steinway Young Artist. If you have any pupils that you would like to attend, tickets are \$10 each. The tickets are already included if you are going to the banquet. What a delightful way to spend an evening!



More Convention News and
Registration Form Inside

MUSIC FAMILY NEWS

We are saddened to announce several recent deaths of members of the musical family. Our thought and prayers are with the loved ones of:

Thelma C. Kells died in November in Lakeland. She was 104 years old. Thelma was active with the Tuesday Music Club and served on the Stephen Foster Committee for many years. She served as Jeanie Chorus accompanist. She was a charter member of Florida Fellows and was a member of TMC for 77 years.

Valda Guess died in November in Lakeland, and she was a past president of Tuesday Music Club. She was active in starting string programs in Polk County schools.

Merle Dexter died in December in Lakeland where she was a past president of Tuesday Music Club. She was an accomplished artist, having designed stained-glass windows for her church.

We realize there are others who are no longer with us. Please remember to send the names of those who have died this past year to Vickie Stake so that they can be honored at the Memorial Service during convention and their names can be included in the convention booklet.



NOTES FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

Vickie Stake, FFMC Chaplain
vickiestake@gmail.com

As FFMC Chaplain, I am asking each Club/District Area to send me the following about our dear music lovers and teachers whom we have lost this year.

- Name
- Club
- District
- Date of death
- How they served locally, state, nationally, community and/or church
- Years a member
- Personal Interesting thoughts about personality, style of leadership or particular passion in their service

Please also let me know who could best share about them at our Senior Convention in Sarasota. It's so special when someone from the area can give a personal glimpse into their life. If any family members happen to live close to our area, please invite them for this special service on Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

FLORIDA FELLOWS

Bess Stallings, Chairman



Don't these people in the above picture look happy? I think so, and I'd like to think it's because all seven of them are Florida Fellows. This picture was taken last November during the Bay Ridge district meeting in Lakeland. In the front row from left, are the Florida Fellow chairman Bess Stallings, Violet Mandese, Marilyn Fisher, Claudette Kemen and Annetta Graham. In back are Dave and Ann Stockton.

Violet was unable to attend the May state convention in Jacksonville, but was wishing to become a Florida Fellow ASAP. Her wish came true! Having her induction at the district meeting made it an extra special occasion.

Note the pride these Florida Fellows are expressing. Doesn't this make YOU want to become a part of this prestigious group? I hope so!

Consider making your one-time tax-deductible \$1,000 contribution to the operating fund of FFMC along with the other Florida Fellows. Also, this will guarantee your name being listed in the FFMC Directory for years to come – as your money is being used to further the goals of our organization.

To receive further information and an application, please contact me at PO Box 1865, Wauchula 33873, or by calling (863)773-3594 or emailing me at bessstallings2@gmail.com.

It will be my honor to induct you during the annual Florida Fellow luncheon at the 2015 state convention in Sarasota. See you there!

FFMC Memorial and Recognition Fund

If you are looking for a way to honor someone, consider a donation to the FFMC Memorial and Recognition Fund. These gifts can be made in honor of or in memory of members who have died. Please send your donations to Wilma Greenwood, FFMC Memorial and Recognition Fund Chairman, 19 Armbruster Ct., Frostproof, FL 33843. She will accept the donations and will notify the family of the monetary gift.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee has unanimously chosen the following slate of officers to be voted upon at the 2015 convention:

- Bess Stallings, President
- Cheryl Poe, Vice President
- Philip LeGrand, Recording Secretary
- Suzanne Carpenter, Treasurer

2015-2017 FPMC Slate of Officers Resumes

PRESIDENT: BESS STALLINGS

A native of Wauchula, music has always been a part of her life. She plays the piano and organ and loves to sing.

She earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Stetson University and taught grades K-2 before retiring to become a full-time mother and volunteer. She has worked for newspapers in Birmingham and Wauchula as society editor, proof-reader, and advertising executive. She now enjoys some freelance writing, plus helping edit FPMC "Sharps and Flats" for the last few years, as well as helping edit the annual convention programs and FPMC directory.

She proudly joined the Wauchula Wednesday Musicales, becoming a third-generation member and immediately resurrected the Junior Music Club. Ten years ago she co-founded The Heartland Chorale, a 100-voice chorus which gives annual concerts to standing-room-only crowds. She is the official fundraiser for the organization.

She served as president of her local club for four years. During her four-year term as Bay Ridge District President, she made the initial arrangements for the 2010 FPMC Fall Convention held in Lakeland. For the past two years, she has been her husband's cheerleader as he serves as president of The Wednesday Musicales where the membership has grown to over 70, with an age range of 4-102.

On the state level, she is completing two years as FPMC Vice President. She is currently chairman of both the Florida Fellows and Sacred Music Division. Among the committees she has served on are: the Scrapbook Committee, Together We Sing, Publicity/Photography Committee, Member of the Year, Nominating Committee, Jeanie/Stephen Foster Committee and Parade of American Music Committee. She also served on the finance committee, "Sharps and Flats" committee and has assisted with the FPMC ballet auditions.

Married for 47 years this summer, she husband Jim have two children and three grandchildren who love to sing and dance as "Granny" accompanies them on the piano.

VICE PRESIDENT: CHERYL POE

Current Community/Professional Activities:

President of Foundation for the Promotion of Music
President of Friends of Elementary Arts, Inc.
Member Clarinet Section of Gainesville Community Band
Board of Directors of A Musical Offering, Inc.
Secretary of Sigma Alpha Iota – Gainesville Alumni Chapter
Secretary of Univ. of Florida Friends of Music
President-Elect of Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

Previous Positions:

General Music and Chorus Teacher in Alachua County, Gainesville, 1980-2005
General Music and Band Instructor in Oregon, 1975-1982

Band and Clarinet and Woodwind Techniques Instructor at Minot State College, 1969-1976
Private Woodwind Studio owner and Kindergarten teacher in Vallejo School District, California and Sterling School District Colorado, 1965-1969

Education:

M. M. ED Music Education and Clarinet Performance, University of Portland, OR
BA in Instrumental Music Education, Clarinet Emphasis, Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado

Personal:

Cheryl moved from Oregon with her husband (now divorced) to Gainesville in 1980. Since retiring in 2005, she has dedicated her "free time" to advocating for music education and the arts in the community. Cheryl has two sons and three granddaughters. She is caregiver of her 91 year-old mother, Dorothy Kotwica

RECORDING SECRETARY: PHILIP LEGRAND

FFMC Experience:

Recording Secretary of FPMC
Treasurer of Capital District and Choctaw Bay Music Club
Assists Festival Chairman in organizing the Festival
2012 FPMC Member of the Year

Previous Positions:

Served 27 years in Air Force Civil Engineering with assignments at all levels of command. Retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Assignments took him all over the world.

Education:

BS Electrical Engineering, University of Cincinnati
MS Computer Information Systems, Boston University

Personal:

Married to wife, Karen

TREASURER: SUZANNE CARPENTER

Federation Experience:

FFMC Treasurer
Past NFMC Treasurer & Board Member
Life Member of NFMC and FPMC
Involved in State Junior Festivals since 1976
State Junior Festivals Chairman 2003-2005
FFMC Member of Year in 2002
Charter Florida Fellow, 2001
Suwannee District: Member of Foundation for the Promotion of Music since 1977
Musician of Year 2008
Gainesville Festival Chairman 2002-Present
Gainesville Area Gold Cup Chairman, 1980-1999

Professional Experience:

Private Piano Teacher 1976-Present
Bookkeeper 1959-1962

Education:

Master of Fine Arts, University of Florida with Major in Music History and Literature
Bachelor of Science, University of WI with a major in Elem. Ed and Minor in Music

Personal Information:

Married to Dr. Ronald H. Carpenter
Three children

Bursting With Pride!!!

Florida is so proud to have the President-Elect of NFMC a resident of our state. I am referring to our own **Michael Edwards** who is on



NFMC President-Elect, Michael Edwards with FFMC President, Ann Stockton

the slate to become the first male NFMC President, and the second president from Florida. The convention is being held in Fargo, ND on June 16-20. Look for details in your *Music Clubs Magazine*. Congratulations, Michael. We are so proud of all you do!

Member of the Year Award

The Member of the Year is someone who is honored by FFMC for going above and beyond in their service for the federation in their local club, district and state work. Clubs were asked to send their letter of recommendation for the candidate to their district president. The names of those who were entered were then sent to the chairman of the award who prepared a ballot. The district presidents then voted on the winner.

Thank you, Sherry Pollock, for chairing this committee. The winner will be announced at the Friday Night Banquet during Spring Convention. Who do you think it will be?



Announcing the Performing Artist for the 96th Annual Senior Convention...

Andrew Lapp is an American concert pianist and composer. He began his first piano lesson at the age of seven and later studied privately with Sandra Lawler. Throughout his childhood, Andrew participated in Federation Festival.

Andrew received a degree in Piano Performance as well as a Minor in Business and Minor in Music Technology from Southeastern University in Lakeland. Andrew has appeared as a solo pianist with the Imperial Symphony Orchestra, Venice Symphony Orchestra, and the Sarasota Pops Orchestra. Andrew performs concerts nationally, and in 2010 he debuted as an accompanist at Carnegie Hall. Andrew serves as Artist in Residence at First Sarasota, the Downtown Baptist Church. In 2010, Andrew was invited to join Steinway's Young Artist

Roster as the first American young artist. Now, he serves as a Steinway Artist.

This marvelous concert is included with your Friday night banquet ticket purchase. For those not attending the banquet, tickets are available for \$10 at the door.

NFMC – SE REGION

SE Regional Weekend Coming Soon

Elaine Knight, Vice President of the Southeast Region

Greetings to all of my good friends in the Florida Federation of Music Clubs! Our Southeast Regional Weekend is set for July 17-18 at wonderful, restful, peaceful Brevard Music Camp. We are to finalize details at this meeting so we can begin awarding our scholarship for Brevard to a qualified student (from the southeast region).

As usual, there will be check-in on Friday afternoon, a concert Friday night (The Hinda Honigman Concert), and the business meeting Saturday. The scholarship has to be named, and other details must be finished to set up an endowment at Brevard. As it gets closer to July, this Vice President will let you know the agenda for the Brevard Meeting. I will be driving if anyone wants to go with me. Barbara and I have had reservations at the motel there since last year.

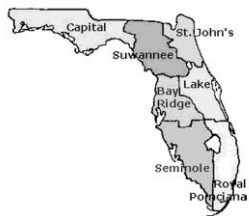
This Vice President wrote an Article for the National Federation Music Clubs Magazine and mentioned that the SE Region still has cookbooks for sale and Rich Westcott (from MCM) asked if we could provide a copy of the cover because the magazine wanted to put a high resolution image of the cookbook cover beside my article. Yes, we do have cookbooks left to sell! Be sure to contact Barbara Hildebrand via email at Bharmonyhall@gmail.com.

I hope to see everyone in Fargo, ND in June at the NFMC Convention. If you are going, don't forget to send in for your voting credentials and meal reservations. It is an important year as our Michael Edwards (FL) becomes the President of the NFMC, Frances Nelson (MS) will run for NFMC Vice President and Barbara Hildebrand (TN) will run for Member-at-Large and will continue to serve as NFMC Treasurer.

A number of other candidates from the SE Region are also running for Member-at-Large. We have the biggest region, so let us get the vote out!

Alas, the Ellis Duo Concert was cancelled this year because no candidates qualified. Please search high and low for people who qualify for this amazing opportunity; an opportunity for the artists, and an opportunity for us to hear the wonderful concerts!

DISTRICT NEWS



BAY RIDGE

DISTRICT

Dave Stockton, President

Tuesday Music Club of Lakeland was proud to have a NFMFC National Guest, Carole Plateau, as our speaker for the February General Meeting. Carole is the NFMFC Chairman of the *Together We Sing Songbooks* that are being used by many of our federated music clubs. She spoke about the Music and Life of Woody Guthrie, whose best known song is ***This Land is Your Land***. The other clubs of the district were invited to this special event. We were pleased when a group from the Wednesday Morning Musicales from Wauchula attended.

The Tuesday Music Club had a successful Dinner Theater to raise monies for the scholarships given to high school seniors and college students who plan to pursue a career in music. Entertainment was provided by a Barbershop Chorus as well as the Broadway Chorus.

Believing firmly that music should be promoted and provided for all ages, the Tuesday Music Club is sponsoring The Broadway Chorus which is composed of Senior Citizens who love to sing and want to share that love. The group performs regularly in area nursing homes, assisted living residences as well as clubs. A number of the TMC members have joined the chorus to show support for this project. This has been a successful project for all concerned.

The Winter Haven, Lakeland, Tampa, and Lake Wales teachers have had their junior festivals.

Wauchula Wednesday Musicales and President James Stallings have definitely been busy. The 2014-2015 season has been one of marked membership increase and the hottest competition for scholarship dollars in the club's history, dating back to 1925! The programs for the year have been the most well-attended in the club's history! And the club has welcomed to its podium more local musicians and instrumentalists than ever before!

Two of the programs were held in the homes of members, and focused on "Music in the Home" and the annual Past President's Tea. Christmas festivities were taken to the county retirement center and over 45 members contributed songs, poetry and musicians bringing Christmas cheer to the seniors and their family. Band students from the local Junior High School also presented their Christmas musical cheer as a finale to the program.

Rounding out the programs for the year were the favorite "Men In Music", the annual Patriotic concert in November, and our special guests of brother and sister, Joshua and Andrea Guaita, presenting a 45-minute concert on cello, violin and piano.

The talented teens received a standing ovation and rave reviews from the crowd at Faith Presbyterian Church. Their impressive selection of music included Bach's "Jesu. Joy of Man's Desiring," Pachelbel's "Canon in D," Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer," Chopin's "Etude," "I Know Whom I Have Believed," "He Leadeth Me," "For The Beauty of the Earth," "Power in the Blood," "Blessed Assurance," and "The Way of the Cross."

Andrea, 13, is a violin/vocal soloist who currently sings with the Sarasota Young Voices where she sings either alto or soprano. She has played the violin for 6 ½ years and is a student of the Sarasota Music Academy. She plays in the Sarasota Youth Orchestra where she has been the concertmaster for the last three years.

Fifteen-year-old Joshua, a gifted athlete in addition to his musical talents, has played the piano for 8 ½ years and the cello for 5 years. He plays the cello for the Sarasota Youth Orchestra for the Philharmonic Orchestra. He has won the Roger Roszell Music Scholarship for two consecutive years.

Musicales President James Stallings is happy that we have talent like the Guaitas in Florida and hopes to offer more concerts like this to encourage young gifted musicians and allow them to display their talents at as many forums as possible.

The 2014-2015 scrapbook has been completed and is ready for presentation to our executive board and to our membership. Our bylaws committee will be busy updating the bylaws. New officers will be in place by this summer, and the board will be making plans for the 2015-2016 club year. It should be outstanding!

SEMINOLE DISTRICT

Marian Cox, President

WELCOME

We are so happy to have a new senior club in Sarasota. The **Elizabeth Ferrell Music Club** joined our four other senior clubs in October. This new club participated in our Jr. Festival, and I am sure they will be an asset to the Federation. Seminole District meeting was held in November with all our senior clubs participating on the program. The guest speaker was our State President, Ann Stockton. We had 30 senior club members present, from Ft. Myers up to Bradenton. Seminole District is the host to the Federation of Music Clubs state convention May 14-15-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn between Sarasota and Bradenton, one mile from our airport. Please make your plans to attend this important event.

OFFICIAL CALL
96th FFMC SPRING CONVENTION SCHEDULE –
May 14-16, 2015
Hilton Garden Inn, Sarasota

Host District – Seminole District

Host District President – Marian Cox
Registrars – Ann & Dave Stockton

Host District Co-Chairman - Marian Cox & Gretchen Mason
Distribution Chairman – Gretchen Mason

Official Headquarters:

Hilton Garden Inn Sarasota-Bradenton
8270 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243
Phone- (941)552-1100
www.hiltongardensarasota.com

Directions:

From I-75: Take University Parkway (exit 213) west 6 miles. Turn right (north) on US 41 Tamiami Trail
Go ¾ mile. Hotel is on left.

Reservations:

Attendees, please call the **Hilton Garden Inn** at **941-552-1100**, give the date you will be arriving/departing and the group code "FFMC." The cost for two queen beds is \$104 plus tax. All rooms feature 37" HDTVs, complimentary Wi-Fi, luxury ergonomic chairs, microwaves, refrigerators, and Keurig coffee makers. Suites are also available for \$134 plus tax. Cutoff date to receive this rate is **April 24**. Hotel also has outdoor heated pool and whirlpool, fitness center, and free parking.

Meal Reservations:

Friday Lunch: Superb Chef's choice spread, Caesar Salad, Chicken/beef entrée, Pasta, Assorted bread/rolls and delicious chocolate dessert.

Friday Night Banquet: Chicken Cordon Bleu stuffed with imported ham along with Swiss and American cheese. Chef's choice of fresh catch of the day. Garden salad. Mashed Potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables.

Saturday Lunch: "Afternoon in Italy" Baked ziti with four cheeses. Italian sausage served with peppers and onions. Little meatballs in marinara sauce. Caesar salad. Garlic breadsticks. Surprise dessert.

Registration: Registration fee is **\$25**. Late fee is **\$30**. Deadline is **May 1, 2015**.

Plans of Work:

All FFMC and NFMC Chairmen and District/Club Presidents are to submit a report for spring convention including highlights of this year and plans for the next year. **Send or e-mail one copy of your report to Gretchen Mason** at 631 Avenida del Norte Sarasota Florida 34242. Email Pianogem@aol.com by May 5, 2015 so it can be included in delegates' packets. If you will be attending the convention, please be prepared to present a verbal report of no more than 3 minutes in length, and bring two copies of your written report to be given to the FFMC Recording Secretary and Archivist.

Silent Auction:

All Districts are asked to bring "treasures" to be raffled off as silent auction items to help offset the costs of the convention. Suggestions: Baskets of chocolates, wine and cheese baskets, bath and beauty baskets, music wreathes, silver glassware, music related items, etc.

96th FFMC SPRING CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Hilton Garden Inn, Sarasota, FL

May 14-16, 2015

Thursday, May 14, 2015

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Junior Division Committee
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Bylaws Committee
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Budget & Finance Committee

Friday, May 15, 2015

8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Registration – Hilton Garden Inn
8:15 am - 9:55 am	Junior Division - Vickie Stake
8:30 am – 8:55 am	Stephen Foster Committee – Ann Stockton
9:00 am – 9:55 am	Council of Club and District Presidents- Reports by Club Presidents Bess Stallings, FFMC Vice Pres., Officiating
10:00 am -11:30 am	Executive Committee/Board of Directors
11:35 am – 11:55 am	Music Break
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Luncheon Honoring Florida Fellows - Bess Stallings, Chair
1:35 pm – 1:50 pm	Music Break
1:55 pm - 3:30 pm	Official Opening of the 96 th FFMC Spring Convention
3:35 pm – 3: 50 pm	Music Break
4:00 pm – 4:45 pm	Junior and Senior Club Workshops
6:00 pm – 7:45 pm	Banquet honoring FFMC Member of the Year, Club and District Presidents, National Board Members
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Concert by Steinway Artist Andrew Lapp

Saturday, May 16, 2015

8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Registration – Hilton Garden Inn
8:30 am – 9:15 am	Memorial Service – Vickie Stake, Chaplain
9:20 am – 9:35 am	Music Break
9:45 am – 10:35 am	Report of National and State Chairmen. Council of District Presidents
10:40 am – 11:00 am	Music Break – Sara Villa, 2015 Jeanie
11:05 am – 11:50 am	Junior and Senior Club Workshops
12:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Luncheon Honoring NFMC National Guest, Keynote address – Elaine Knight
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Installation of state and district officers. Awards. Unfinished business. Invitation to 2015 Spring Convention by Suwannee District.
3:00 pm	Post Executive Committee Meeting (if necessary)

Jeanie / Stephen Foster Auditions

Ann Stockton, Chair

Did you ever wonder how the auditions and the Stephen Foster Folk and Culture Center got started? Lisa Smith, the FPMC Archivist, has uncovered some fascinating information in the state archives about how all of this came to be. Pictures and articles from newspapers tell a fascinating story about how some members from a music club got the ball rolling to give us the beautiful venue and event we have today.

You will be given an opportunity to find out more about the history of this Florida Federation of Music Clubs' project at our Spring Convention in Sarasota. The reigning Jeanie, Sara Villa, will also be there to answer questions and to tell her story about what it means to be a Jeanie, and how it has helped her grow as a musician.

Sara Villa was sponsored by the Friday Morning Musicale of Tampa. She will be a junior at FSU, majoring in Vocal Performance. Her parents are Angela Sauntacruz and Diego Villa from Brandon. Born in a musical family she is carrying on the family tradition. She has won numerous awards in state and county competitions. She enjoys participating in theatrical productions such as **Guys and Dolls** where she was cast as Sarah Brown. She enjoys traveling to Columbia where she performs concerts with local orchestras. Her musical ambition includes performing in opera companies and inspiring others with her love of music. In her spare time she loves paddle boarding, dancing, reading and painting. You will love meeting this young woman who is beautiful both inside and out!!!!

I hope you are looking for a young man or young woman whom your club can sponsor at our next Jeanie Audition. It will be held on March 4-5, 2016. Watch the FPMC website for further information. Please support financially this Florida project so we may continue this tradition.

Looking forward to sharing this Florida treasure with you at Spring Convention.

AMERICA MUSIC DIVISION

Parade of American Music

Pat Clarke, Chairman of American Music Division

The Coral Gables Music Club and the Coral Gables Junior Music Club presented the Parade of American Music celebration on November 23, 2014. The program was organized by Jr. Club President, Kevin Hoffer-Hawlik and was free and open to the public. The crowd enjoyed some magnificent performances from our talented young musicians and we received \$790 in donations.

ARTS DIVISION

National Music Week

Claire-Frances Whitehurst, Chairman

Music- Heartbeat of the Soul

May 3-10, 2015

The National Federation of Music Clubs has set aside one week annually to celebrate the importance of music in our nation. This year's theme is *Music- The Heartbeat of the Soul*. We are asking the clubs to send the entry form AR12-1 on any activity during the May 3-10 time period. The deadline to receive the form is no later than June 1. To receive credit, it is important to make sure all printed materials sent mention both National Federation of Music Clubs and National Music Week. Send forms to me at: Claire-Frances Whitehurst, 3360 SW 18th Street, Miami. FL 33415. Cash prizes available.

Sacred Music

Bess Stallings, Chairman

As I pen this, I am eagerly awaiting receiving your Sacred Music report for 2014-2015.

After looking over the Sacred Music reporting form on our website (www.ffmc-music.org), you may be surprised at how well-qualified your club may be.

If you do not use the computer and are unable to do this, please contact me, and I'll get one in the mail to you immediately. (Just a hint---I've already received an impressive one.) Don't miss out! Share with others!

For more information or a reporting form, call or e-mail me at (863) 773-3594, bessstallings2@gmail.com or write me at P.O. Box 1865, Wauchula, 33873. I am anxiously awaiting your reports!

BEWARE - The deadline has been extended to April 15th!

Arts and American Music Division Reports

Senior clubs, please be sure to send the appropriate forms to the committee chairmen so they can be compiled and sent to the national chairmen. Certificates will be given out at convention for those that have sent in the written reports as requested. The forms can be found on the NFMC website, www.nfmc-music.org. Areas involved include: Chamber Music, Sacred Music, Crusade for Strings, Opera, Together We Sing, Folk Music, Choral Music, Music in Poetry, National Music Week in the Arts Division and Parade of American Music in the American Music Division.

We are also asking the Senior Clubs to send the Senior Club Reporting Form (ME-7-1) to Connie Lill as soon as possible. This is a report of the club's activities, programs, and scholarships given this past year.



Installation of New Officers

Top Left - Lake District Officers. Pictured are Treasurer Sandy Kupetz, FFMC President Ann Stockton, Lake District President, Victoria Schultz and Vice President Barbara Browning. Not pictured Secretary Nancy Jontz.

Top Right – Capital District Officers. Loretta Hake, Roy Hoobler, Theresa McRee, Sharon Jeffrey and Annie Roper



Above – Seminole District Pres, Marian Cox

Left – NFMC Guest, Carole Fateau, at the Feb. meeting of Tuesday Music Club with special attendees Wednesday Musicale members and prospective members.

Bottom – Jeanie Court (l to r) Nicole Silverman, Stephen Foster-Gabriel Hernandez, Jeanie -Sara Villa and Ian Silverman



Wauchula Wednesday Musicale sponsored concert performers Andrea & Joshua Guaita



Junior Festivals Information

FFMC Festivals Chair, Lisa Smith

As the 2015 district festival season comes to an end, anticipation grows for those juniors who have qualified to participate in **State Junior Convention May 8-9** at the University of North Florida. The postmark deadline for applications is March 10, 2015, no exceptions. Applications can be obtained from ffmc-music.org. Please read and be familiar with the rules and guidelines in the Junior Division Procedures Manual that govern the State Junior Convention. Every new and renewing member of FFMC was sent an email containing this document last fall. If you are unable to locate the email, this document can be downloaded from the FFMC website under the Junior Festivals tab. It is important to note that although memorization is no longer required at area festivals for American Patriotic Folk Song event, it is STILL required at the FFMC State Junior Convention. If you have any questions about applications or guidelines, please feel free to contact me at lisa.ffmc.jrconvention@outlook.com.

Also, as of May 2014, the FFMC Board of Directors revised the rule requiring every participating festival area to provide workers to assist with monitoring duties at the Junior State Convention. The Junior Procedures Manual now states, "Each festival area having entries in the Junior State Convention will provide monitoring (minimum of half day for each worker) for each day of the competition as follows:

- Less than 3 participating teachers – ½ a day
- 4 - 7 participating teachers – 1 full day
- 8 - 10 participating teachers – 1½ day
- 11 - 20 participating teachers – 2 full days
- 21 – 30 participating teachers – 3 full days
- 31 or more – 5 full days

If not, they will make arrangement, including funding, to hire an individual to cover that responsibility. Names with contact information will be provided to the Monitor Chairman at least 14 days prior to the start of the convention." This rule has come to fruition because over the years it has become increasingly difficult for FFMC to obtain and secure willing volunteers to assist at the State Junior Convention. It is crucial that we have enough workers to help audit and monitor audition and practice rooms at the venue so that the event will run efficiently. Area Festival Chairmen, please start planning ahead now in terms of who will represent your area. I will let each area festival chairman know by email how many teachers have registered for State Junior Convention from his/her respective festival area once all applications have been received. Please contact the Monitor Chairman for this event, Gavin Taylor, at email address: gavin.taylor@arlington-umc.org or cell phone: 904-349-3422 with volunteer information.

Many thanks to the wonderful area festival chairs who volunteer their time and expend much effort to ensure all area festivals are conducted capably and with great success!



NFMC Junior Division Dance Winners

We are proud to announce that Florida has proven once again to have outstanding young dancers that have won NFMC Junior Dance Awards. Winners are:

- Junior I Ballet- 1st place winner: Claire Synhorst, age 14, from Valrico.
- Junior I Theater Dance 1st place winner: Claire Synhorst, age 14, from Valrico.
- Junior II Ballet 1st place winner: Makenna Ortiz, age 16, from Lakeland.
- Junior II Ballet 2nd place winner: Alexis Low, age 16, from Palm Bay.
- Congratulations!! We are so proud of you.

2014 National Music Essay Contest

Marian Cox, FFMC Essay Chairman

I was so pleased to receive a letter from Mary Ellen Ulmer, NMW Essay Contest National Chairman with this special news!

Congratulations to Shelby Harding of Sarasota who has been chosen as Florida's Winner in the 2015 National Music Week Essay Contest! She is a student of Marian Cox who has contributed much to Shelby's appreciation of music in her life. Shelby's essay will be printed in the upcoming issue of **Junior Keynotes Magazine**.

Entries were submitted by 135 students from 22 states. There was an increase of six more states over last year's submissions. Florida was well represented with 13 entrants. Congratulations!!

Official Call Junior Division
FLORIDA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS INC.
78th ANNUAL JUNIOR CONVENTION & AUDITIONS
University of North Florida, Jacksonville - May 8-9, 2015

**JUNIOR
COUNSELOR:**

Vickie Stake
 904-260-9873
vickiestake@gmail.com

**FESTIVAL
CHAIRMAN:**

Lisa Smith
 904-886-4188
lisa.ffmc.jrconvention@outlook.com

REGISTRATION DESK: All participants must register and pick up materials pertaining to times and room of events. PLEASE advise Registration Desk if a student drops out of any event, and this information will not be available prior to the convention. All students and teachers participating at the audition and convention must be pre-registered on the "Entrant and Performance Form." Other guests attending are free.

CHECK-IN AND AUDITIONS will take place in the Fine Arts Building: Check in Begins 7:30 AM. Auditions at 9:00 AM. Practice rooms will be available from Friday A.M to Saturday P.M: Intervals of 5 minutes. Please be courteous to others as all need to warm up. Please leave **Achievement Book** at Registration Desk for Judging.

DIRECTIONS TO UNF: Available on the University of North Florida web site.

PARENTS & STUDENTS: if you have questions, please allow your teacher or counselor to contact Lisa Smith, the FPMC State Festivals Chair, on your behalf. Thank you.

ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Friday, May 8th
7:30 PM

Concert by 2014 Winners
 in the Lazzara Theatre

Saturday, May 9th
7:30 PM

Concert by 2014 Winners
 in the Lazzara Theatre

Friday's results will be posted on-site on Saturday; all results will be uploaded to the FPMC website approximately two days after the convention has completed. Please do not call or e-mail Lisa Smith for this information.

JUNIOR OFFICER ELECTIONS: Interested eligible Juniors grades 9,10 & 11 may get an application and apply for the office of their choice at the Registration Desk all day Friday. All applications must be submitted by 10:00 A.M Saturday at the Registration Desk. Time and place for the elections will be posted at the registration desk. Juniors of all ages may vote for the candidates of their choice. Each person running for an office shares a short speech as to why they wish the honor of being a junior officer. Junior officers are required to work at Junior Convention.

RULES: All rules for the Junior Convention can be found in the FPMC Junior Division Procedures Manual. The document is located on our website www.ffmc-music.org under FPMC Junior Convention.

TEACHERS: you are responsible for securing all your awards for students not present at this assembly. You may secure them at the end of the evening. Make arrangements with a friend/parent if you will not be present. For those who are not able to stay for the evening ceremonies or make other arrangements to obtain their awards, please contact Lisa Smith at lisa.ffmc.jrconvention@outlook.com. The cost for shipping/handling is \$15 per trophy and \$5 per ribbon. All checks are to be made payable to FPMC, Inc. Mail to: Lisa Smith P. O. Box 32005 Jacksonville, FL 32237-0005. Please include the student's name, event/level won, and shipping address

URGENT: All Festival areas that have students enrolled in this event are REQUIRED to provide one worker for at least ½ day of the competition. (See guidelines listed in the Festival Information article.) Please provide no later than 14 days before the event the contact information for your area's workers. Our event is so huge it requires we make this a requirement to continue to be professional and successful. Send to gavin.taylor@arlington-umc.org, Monitor Chairman 2015.

2015 FPMC JUNIOR CONVENTION HOTELS: Thank you for using our posted hotels if possible. These hotels have been and are extremely supportive of the goals of the FPMC.

Embassy Suites Jacksonville-Baymeadows 9300 Baymeadows Road (Exit 341- Baymeadows Rd.) 904-731-3555 Special rates until April 22 nd or Sold Out	Four Points by Sheraton Jacksonville Baymeadow 8520 Baymeadows Rd. (Exit 341 – on Baymeadows Rd. at Bayberry) 904-562-4920 Go to: www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/FFMC2015	Hampton Inn Jacksonville South 4681 Lenoir Ave Jacksonville, FL 32216 904-281-2600 (Until sold-out) Send email to Beth Ruzzo at: Beth.ruzzo@hilton.com	Best Western / JTB 4660 Salisbury Road Jacksonville, FL 32256 (904) 281-0900 (Until sold-out) Call Front Desk to Make Reservations. Ask for Florida Federation of Music
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Frances Beery Ballet Auditions	April 4
Isabella Laude Dance Award Deadline	April 15
FFMC Hotel Registration Deadline	April 24
National Music Week	May 3-10
THEME: "Music- Heartbeat of the Soul"	
Deadline for Plans of Work	May 5
FFMC Junior Convention, UNF	May 8-9
FFMC 96 th Spring Convention (Seminole District)	May 14-16
NFMC Convention (Fargo, ND)	June 15-19
SE Regional Weekend (Brevard, NC)	July 17-18
Deadline for next newsletter:	August 1

Updated Information Needed

Many of the clubs and districts will have new officers this coming year. I am asking each district president to get the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of your district and senior club presidents and treasurers. Thank you for getting this information to me as soon as possible. Please call or e-mail me at (863) 773-3594, bessstallings2@gmail.com or write me at P.O. Box 1865, Wauchula, 33873



Florida Federation of Music Clubs, Inc.
Affiliate of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Inc.
P.O. Box 357275
Gainesville, FL 32635-7275

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FFMC 96th SPRING CONVENTION
MAY 14-16, 2015
REGISTRATION AND MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Make Checks Payable to: FFMC
Mail to: Registrar, Ann Stockton
6316 Pine Lane, Lakeland, FL 33813

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Alt. #: _____

Club Name: _____

Title(s) for Badge: _____

If you have any special dietary restrictions please notify the hotel as well as indicating it on this application form.

Friday Lunch: Chef's Choice Buffet \$18 _____

(Friday "Happy Hour" Available in Lobby Bar from 5-6 PM)

Friday Night Buffet/Concert: Chicken Cordon Bleu & Chef's Fresh Catch of the Day \$32 _____

Friday Night Concert Only: Included in Banquet Ticket \$10 _____

(Daily Breakfast Buffet available for \$10.50)

Saturday Lunch: Afternoon in Italy \$21 _____

Registration: Registration Fees: \$25 _____

Deadline: 5/1/15 Late Fee (after 5/1/15) add \$5 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

☒ **Check One if Voting Delegate:**

☐ FFMC Executive Committee

☐ Club Delegate

☐ Junior Counselor

☐ FFMC Board of Directors

☐ Individual Member

☐ Student Organization

☐ FFMC Life Member

Please check if you are a:

☐ Florida Fellow

☐ FFMC Past President

OFFICIAL CALL
96th FFMC SPRING CONVENTION SCHEDULE –
May 14-16, 2015
Hilton Garden Inn, Sarasota

Host District – Seminole District

Host District President – Marian Cox
Registrars – Ann & Dave Stockton

Host District Co-Chairman - Marian Cox & Gretchen Mason
Distribution Chairman – Gretchen Mason

Official Headquarters:

Hilton Garden Inn Sarasota-Bradenton
8270 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243
Phone- (941)552-1100
www.hiltongardensarasota.com

Directions:

From I-75: Take University Parkway (exit 213) west 6 miles. Turn right (north) on US 41 Tamiami Trail)
Go ¾ mile. Hotel is on left.

Reservations:

Attendees, please call the **Hilton Garden Inn** at **941-552-1100**, give the date you will be arriving/departing and the group code "FFMC." The cost for two queen beds is \$104 plus tax. All rooms feature 37" HDTVs, complimentary Wi-Fi, luxury ergonomic chairs, microwaves, refrigerators, and Keurig coffee makers. Suites are also available for \$134 plus tax. Cutoff date to receive this rate is **April 24**. Hotel also has outdoor heated pool and whirlpool, fitness center, and free parking.

Meal Reservations:

Friday Lunch: Superb Chef's choice spread, Caesar Salad, Chicken/beef entrée, Pasta, Assorted bread/rolls and delicious chocolate dessert.

Friday Night Banquet: Chicken Cordon Bleu stuffed with imported ham along with Swiss and American cheese. Chef's choice of fresh catch of the day. Garden salad. Mashed Potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables.

Saturday Lunch: "Afternoon in Italy" Baked ziti with four cheeses. Italian sausage served with peppers and onions. Little meatballs in marinara sauce. Caesar salad. Garlic breadsticks. Surprise dessert.

Registration: Registration fee is **\$25**. Late fee is **\$30**. Deadline is **May 1, 2015**.

Plans of Work:

All FFMC and NFMC Chairmen and District/Club Presidents are to submit a report for spring convention including highlights of this year and plans for the next year. **Send or e-mail one copy of your report to Gretchen Mason** at 631 Avenida del Norte Sarasota Florida 34242. Email Pianogem@aol.com by May 5, 2015 so it can be included in delegates' packets. If you will be attending the convention, please be prepared to present a verbal report of no more than 3 minutes in length, and bring two copies of your written report to be given to the FFMC Recording Secretary and Archivist.

Silent Auction:

All Districts are asked to bring "treasures" to be raffled off as silent auction items to help offset the costs of the convention. Suggestions: Baskets of chocolates, wine and cheese baskets, bath and beauty baskets, music wreathes, silver glassware, music related items, etc.