



Sharps & Flats



An Official Publication of the Florida Federation of Music Clubs

Theme & Song: *Find Us Faithful*

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Bess Stallings
Summer 2015



What a busy and productive few months we have had...beginning with our 96th convention in Sarasota under the most-capable leadership of Marian Cox and her faithful team. In addition to the important business transacted, what beautiful music we enjoyed!

We were honored to officially welcome to our state Elaine Knight, our new Southeast Vice President. She and her husband now reside in The Villages. Hopefully, we'll be seeing more and more of her as she meets our members and realizes our warmth and talents. We will make their retirement extra special!

Before concluding the 96th annual meeting, outgoing President Ann Stockton installed the new officers for the next two years. Following this formal "duty" of hers, she was appropriately recognized and thanked for the service she has rendered the Florida Federation of Music Clubs during her two terms as

president. She received a standing ovation for her dedication. (We would be remiss if we neglected to thank her husband, Dave, who has been there every step of the way.)

Dedicated officers who will be continuing to serve are Recording Secretary Phil LeGrand and Treasurer Suzanne Carpenter. Joining them as Vice President is Cheryl Poe of Gainesville. She comes well qualified and with an impressive resume (printed in our last Sharps and Flats). They were inducted, as was I, your new president and leader...a position I take very seriously! As those who were present will remember, my right arm was in a sling, and major surgery was scheduled in two weeks.

Because of this unexpected challenge in my life, I reluctantly agreed to accept this awesome responsibility. However, two unbelievably talented ladies—Cheryl Poe and Suzanne Carpenter—who both are sincerely devoted to FFMC, volunteered to "cover" for me until the surgeon releases me to return to my normal life. As I type this (with my left hand—my only working hand to date), this has not happened, yet I wish to bring you greetings to the new year and assure you of my determination to take over my responsibilities asap.

I look forward to attending each district meeting and sharing with you my enthusiasm to make sure that my president's theme and desire is carried out that "all who come behind us find us faithful." Let's determine to do our part in being faithful to our fellow members, our clubs, districts and state and national organizations.

The future is in our hands!

NATIONAL NEWS

OUR NFMC NATIONAL PRESIDENT:

Michael Edwards



FFMC is so proud! Our very own Michael Edwards was elected National Federation of Music Clubs President at the Fargo convention. We gladly share his expertise with the nation.

Michael has been a longtime dynamic force in Florida! Beginning as FFMC Junior member at age 8, he received a full scholarship from the Morning Musicale of Fort Lauderdale in his Junior year in High School to attend the Brevard Music Summer Camp. In 1983, Gretchen Van Roy convinced him to be the FFMC Junior Counselor in Miami. Since then, he has served as President and Treasurer of the Fort Lauderdale Morning Musicale, Royal Poinciana District President, and FFMC Junior Counselor for ten years. Named FFMC Member of the Year in 2006, he also was chairman of the 2009 NFMC Biennial Convention in Orlando. While serving as NFMC Vice President for the past four years, he influenced several other states to begin Junior statewide competitions. For service and expertise that count, count on Michael!

Pictured at right: Peggy Willis, Board Member representing Florida; Lisa Smith, NFMC Festivals Chair; Michael Edwards, NFMC President; Suzanne Carpenter, FFMC Member At Large; Chai Chien & Rob Coopman

Impressions of NFMC Biennial Convention

June 2015, Fargo, North Dakota

Peggy Willis, Board Member Representing Florida
The NFMC Biennial Convention was very productive. Much business was conducted, with many lively discussions, sharing of ideas, and decision-making. This year's highlight was the installation of the new NFMC President, Michael Edwards. Our FFMC members who were in attendance were happy and proud to share the experience with Michael. All FFMC members should support Michael during his next four years as NFMC President. Better yet, offer to assist Michael; I am sure he would appreciate knowing that he can call on you as the need arises. The work load is unyielding, but Michael is ready for the challenge and is a great leader.

The week in Fargo was filled with committee, division and board meetings along with general sessions, workshops, and special musical events. I attended a multitude of the scheduled events and hopefully contributed to discussions and decisions in a positive manner. Each of our FFMC representatives will continue to keep you informed on any changes which affect you. Fargo itself was delightful – terrific weather (the Florida humidity slapped me in the face when I returned!), friendly people, interesting places to visit (although time did not allow us to take advantage of all that was offered). Thank you for allowing me to represent you at this important event.



NFMC CONVENTION: FESTIVALS UPDATE

Lisa Smith, National Festivals Chairman

As of June, I am pleased to report 100,247 Juniors and 381 Adults participated in NFMC Festivals throughout the nation. The Festivals program is a vital part of the NFMC. During the past NFMC Convention in Fargo, ND the Festivals Committee and Junior Division accomplished many things.

Please see the following updates concerning NFMC Festivals:

1. The Drum Set event proposed and approved in 2014 for inclusion in the next Festivals Bulletin has been rescinded due to lack of support.
2. The roles for Regional Festivals Chairmen have been clearly defined and are:
 - a. To encourage and mentor new festivals within their respective regions.
 - b. To answer questions and facilitate conflict resolution.
 - c. To provide the NFMC Festivals Chairman with understanding regarding their region.
 - d. To assist with the formation of proposals and policy.
 - e. To identify and provide names of qualified individuals for positions within the Festivals Committee.
3. The Federation Cup Task Force Report (approved and accepted):
 - a. Each state should have a Federation Cup Chairman.
 - b. Federation Cup funds should be kept separate from Festival funds.
 - c. If a Junior discontinues being in the Festival, no Federation Cup refunds are given.
 - d. If local or state clubs give out a non-NFMC cup, it is a local or state recognition, not a NFMC recognition. It should not be called a Federation Cup, nor be represented as such.
 - e. The Federation Cup Chairman needs to give approval for Grand (75 point) and Presidential (90 point) cups. The JR 4-1 form should come from the State Federation Cup Chairman. The process is from the teacher to local chairman to state chairman to national cup chairman.
 - f. With Festival registration online, the entrant will automatically be enrolled in the Federation Cup plan. If the entrant does not want to participate in the Federation Cup plan, the teacher must make the selection to "opt out."
4. One printing company, designated by NFMC Headquarters, will print all certificates. State and Superior Certificates will be mailed together to streamline costs.
5. State and Superior Certificates used in Federation Festivals must be NFMC Certificates to be considered official.

STATE NEWS

FFMC MEMBER OF THE YEAR: PEGGY WILLIS



At the Senior Convention in Sarasota, Peggy Willis was honored as FFMC Member of the Year. She was recognized for excelling in all four levels of service to FFMC. Locally, Peggy works tirelessly in the Altoona area bringing musical programs to the community. At the District level, she is a vital part of Suwannee District and the Gainesville Area Festival having served as Festival Cup Chairman and now overseeing registration with outstanding organizational skills. At the State level, she has served as FFMC Financial Secretary with diligence and conscientiousness so our membership reports to National have been lauded. At the National level, Peggy has attended two National Conventions at her own expense (Indianapolis, IN and Greenville, SC) and as NFMC Board Member representing Florida, she contributed to the Board in Portland, OR and Fargo, ND. Peggy is always congenial, professional and supportive of FFMC goals and activities. Needless to say, her volunteer hours are voluminous! We are pleased her diligent efforts were recognized formally by FFMC.

FFMC LAWSUIT UPDATE

Great news! As of Aug. 4, 2015, a settlement agreement and release was signed and implemented to clear FFMC regarding an unfortunate incident which happened during a local club's event-- open to the public. The club did not have liability insurance since the building they were renting (and had been renting for many years) had full liability coverage. They were told this would be sufficient. This later proved to be incorrect.

Hopefully this serves as a warning to each of our clubs to BE SURE and purchase liability insurance for every meeting or event held. Fortunately, FFMC has made available to clubs, throughout our state, insurance coverage for \$18.00 per event. Be on the lookout for a second form from FFMC Treasurer Suzanne Carpenter for club events beginning January 2016. Your club cannot afford to be without this coverage which is a mandatory requirement if you cite FFMC having any connection with your event. Let's ALL be compliant.

We appreciate everyone who assisted in settling this lawsuit, thus avoiding going to court. We are particularly thankful for legal counsel, Richard Lopez, of Boswell & Dunlap, Bartow, who worked long and hard to get FFMC out of this "touchy" situation.

FLORIDA FELLOWS

Bess Stallings, Chairman

What a wonderful Florida Fellows luncheon we had in Sarasota! It ended up being full of surprises, even having a Part 2 the following day when we welcomed Florida Fellow #49.

A refreshing surprise was a performance by mezzo-soprano Chai Chien. She sang in Mandarin *The Moonlight Represents My Heart*. Chai is married to another Florida Fellow FPMC, member Rob Coopman, who honored her by making it possible for her to be inducted as the 47th Florida Fellow.



After making this presentation, I was surprised to see a gentleman standing in the doorway and motioning to me to come to him. I did, and found that after he witnessed the induction ceremony, he wanted to become a Florida Fellow himself.



He asked how soon it could happen, and since he knew he would be unable to attend the next day,

we decided there was no time like the present! Therefore, after giving a brief bio of himself and sharing his enthusiasm about FPMC, Dr. Jerome Lowe became our 48th member of this unique and special group of philanthropists



The next day the surprises continued with a visit from Dr. Isabella Laude, who founded Florida Fellows 14 years ago. She received a standing ovation and went to the microphone with greetings to her many friends and admirers. She offered words of congratulations, as well as inspiration, especially to the officers and leaders of FPMC with whom she was a member for so many years.



The final surprise of the day was to Dr. Monica Laude, daughter of Isabella and husband Walter, who wanted to honor her as Florida Fellow #49. She joins, not only her parents, but also her sisters Maria and Cecilia, as Florida Fellows. She is carrying on in

her Mother's footsteps by chairing the dance award which bears her Mother's name, as well as chairing the biennial FFMC Frances Rands Beery Ballet Auditions.

This report is bittersweet for me. As your new FFMC President, I cannot continue as the chairman of Florida Fellows. It has been an awesome, gratifying experience and an opportunity to help raise \$24,000 of the \$49,000 total monies raised since the inception of Florida Fellows. Also, I've come to know and love this organization and those who stand behind it. It has been a memorable seven years.

As founder, Isabella was Florida Fellow #1—NOW I have asked Florida Fellow #2, Connie Tuttle-Lill, to follow me. Connie was FFMC president 2001-2003 and 2005-2009, and it was during her first year of presidency that she supported Isabella in her endeavors to begin Florida Fellows. Once again we can utilize and appreciate her leadership skills. **Welcome, Connie!**

FFMC Convention Reflections

Elaine Knight, S. E. Vice President
National Federation of Music Clubs



What a WONDERFUL Convention here in Florida! I commend Marian Cox and her crew for all they did to make our stay PERFECT! The orchid bouquet was magnificent! The hotel was most cooperative and

helpful, and my husband and I enjoyed the hospitality! Florida certainly has a lot of friendly people, and I was glad to meet you!

The "goodie bag" had everything I needed, and the orientation materials will be used when we come back to Sarasota.

This officer can't say enough about the Presidency of Ann Stockton. It was obvious she was organized, thoughtful, and had a full understanding of her job, as well as being cognizant enough to use the team spirit of those with whom she was working. Plus being a fun-lovin' gal she was a natural!

I anticipate the upcoming Presidency of Bess Stallings. It was evident that she will be a wonderful successor to Ann. It was my pleasure to install her as well as the Vice President, Cheryl Poe; as well as re-install Suzanne Carpenter as Treasurer, and re-install Phillip LeGrand as Secretary. Officers who continue to serve during the term of the next President will give stability and continuity to the Florida Federation.



From left to right: Suzanne Carpenter, Treasurer; Philip LeGrand, Secretary; Cheryl Poe, Vice President; and Bess Stallings, President

Victoria Schultz was installed as the District President for the Lake District. This Regional Vice President was moved at the Memorial Service. The time came to remember old friends and mentors who have passed on and, as usual, Vickie Stake did a wonderful job of presiding.

This Officer was moved to see Ann Stockton's husband with an ear to ear grin participating in the activities, and helping if needed. We continue in prayer for his complete recovery.

This officer was impressed with the program as a whole, as well as the parts of the convention, such as the Musical Breaks. Everything was planned well, and the time constraints were observed well. I definitely would like to attend again, and hope to be visiting many of the Florida Clubs in the next two years while I have this office.

Additionally, please let me know if you have any questions about the Scholarships or Young Artists, or Competitions and Awards. If I don't know, I will find out!

Contact me: Elaine Knight eknight@utm.edu

Archivist Report

Lisa Smith, FFMC Archivist

I am pleased to report that 2014 - 2015 was a very productive year in terms of the ongoing process of converting the FFMC archives from paper to digital records.

Highlights:

- I received archival documents from NFMC twice. Items included: Miscellaneous State Bulletins, Sharps & Flats, Stephen Foster documents, and a couple of documents related to Biennial Conventions.
- Virginia Densmore sent me archival materials from the defunct Tallahassee Capital City Music Club. These materials were scrapbooks from 1979 – 2000.
- I made a trip to White Springs last August to scan State Bulletins ranging from 1935 - 1942. Additionally, I took pictures of a 1941 Friday Musicale of Jacksonville yearbook that is rapidly deteriorating.
- I created a Table of Contents for the 130 – page document which I scanned in 2013 titled "Prehistory and History of FFMC."
- I built a free website on Shutterfly.com for the storage of the digital archives. I added Jeanie and Stephen Foster Memorial Park pictures and videos of the competition to the site.
- I transferred scanned documents from Dropbox to Google Drive and then to the new Shutterfly website. I then linked the official FFMC website to the Shutterfly site via a link at the bottom of the "All Publications" page.
- Scanned, saved, and transferred documents to the Shutterfly website are:
 - State Bulletins Vol. 5 #1 –
 - State Bulletins Vol. 8 #1 – 4
 - State Bulletins Vol. 9 #1 – 4
 - State Bulletins Vol.10 #1- 4
 - State Bulletins Vol.11 #1–3
 - Sharps & Flats 2005 – 2013
 - Sharps & Flats 1972 Holiday Issue

If your club or district has outstanding programs, projects, performances or events you would like to have included in the FFMC archives, please feel free to send them to me anytime at ffmc.archivist@hotmail.com if they are in digital form. If they are paper documents and you do not wish to entrust them to the U.S. Postal Service, you can always give them to me at convention. I would love to add anything to the archives you feel would contribute to the valuable history of FFMC.



Sara Villa – 2014 Jeanie

Jeanie/Stephen Foster Auditions

Ann Stockton, Chairman

We are excited to have the Jeanie/Stephen Foster Auditions in the spring. The new date is the weekend of March 4-5, 2016. We have been trying to have a spring audition as we feel it gives the senior clubs more time to find a candidate, as well as more time for the participant to prepare.

The beautiful Stephen Foster Folk and Culture Center State Park in White Springs, Florida will host the 65th Annual Jeanie/Stephen Foster Auditions, sponsored by the FFMC and the Stephen Foster Folk and Culture Center Park. Talented young vocalists compete for the \$1,500 award and the titles of Jeannie and Stephen. The Jeanie Maid and the Stephen Runner-up are presented \$1,000 awards.

We are asking for your help in finding and sponsoring vocalists. Each vocalist must be sponsored by a senior club. The applications must be received by February 15, 2016. If you have difficulty in finding a candidate, I will be glad to match you up with a young person who has expressed an interest in the competition who does not have a sponsor.

Participants, chaperons, and accompanists are responsible for their own motel/hotel expenses unless this is provided by the sponsoring club. A large block of rooms have been reserved for the auditions at a special rate of \$50.00 a night at the Lake City Days Inn. This is off of Exit 303. Please contact them for a room at this rate as soon as possible. Telephone: 386/758-4224. Make sure you mention the auditions to get these special rates.

Donations from clubs and individuals are gratefully accepted to help with the expenses. May I take this opportunity to say how much the Stephen Foster Memorial Committee appreciates the financial effort that senior clubs have made in the past for this project?

A donor list is included each year in the printed Stephen Foster / Jeanie Program Book with these categories:

CAMPTOWN RACES..... Under \$100

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER.....\$100 - \$199

OH! SUSANNA.....\$200 or more

Please send donations to Suzanne Carpenter, FFMC Treasurer, earmarked for the Stephen Foster/ Jeanie Auditions. ALL MONIES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Information regarding qualifying rules, schedules, instructions and applications can be downloaded from the FFMC website: ffmc-music.org, or by calling Ann Stockton, Chairman at 863-701-2813 or e-mail: Redtops61@verizon.net. Thank all of you and the wonderful Stephen Foster Memorial Committee for your help and interest in making this a success.

Scott Joplin Piano Competition

"AKA" - The Joplin

Rob Coopman & Connie Lill, Co-Chairs

Scott Joplin began writing Ragtime music around the same time that the National Federation of Music Clubs was taking shape in the 1890s. Joplin's famous tune, Maple Leaf Rag, became the quintessential Ragtime tune and earned Joplin the title "King of Ragtime Writers."

I proposed the Scott Joplin Ragtime Piano Competition or "The Joplin" to recognize a great American composer and to liven up the day we spend at the Jeannie, with competition and entertainment for adults. The FFMC approved \$4,000 to get it going.

We are beginning our planning with the following in mind and are seeking creative ideas and volunteers to make this a success.

1. The completion would be open to any pianist over 21. Applicants would send audition tapes and only the best 6-10 would be chosen.
2. We would like to have a liquor sponsor that will both donate money and sponsor a reception. We prefer not to have fundraisers. We prefer sponsorship donations.
3. We want only one judge
4. There would be a small amount of overlap with the Jeanie.

Please contact Connie (connielill@cltuttle.com) or Rob (yak2rob@yahoo.com) if you would like to help.



FROM YOUR FFMC TREASURER

Suzanne Carpenter

Thank you one and all for the cooperative spirit as we work together. Updates:

LIABILITY INSURANCE: All FFMC events **must** have NFMC liability insurance. The annual disclaimer form has been sent to all District and Senior Club Presidents and Treasurers. The notarized signature on this form ensures that each event under FFMC auspices will have liability insurance. If choosing to *not* purchase this liability, an event cannot be considered as having any connection to FFMC. We cannot risk another lawsuit! Because we do not know the NFMC fee for events beginning 1 January 2016, liability insurance only can be purchased for events 1 September to 31 December 2015. That request form is on our website at:

<http://www.ffmc-music.org/liabilityinsurance.pdf>.

A form will be sent and posted for 2016 events as soon as we know NFMC rates.

DUES: Membership dues will remain the same for the 2015-16 fiscal year. At the NFMC Convention in Fargo, however, the Board of Directors voted to raise both the Junior and Senior dues for the 2016-17 fiscal year. At the FFMC Convention in Gainesville (2-4 June 2016), we will have to decide if the state portion is to be increased as well.

Celebrate the birth of your child or grandchild by securing a FFMC Cradle Roll Membership. This \$25 contribution to FFMC introduces them to FFMC musical adventures. Cradle Roll members are listed in Directory for five years. Form can be accessed on the website.

Suzanne Carpenter, FFMC Treasurer
Treasurer@ffmc-music.org

DISTRICT NEWS

Lake District

Victoria Schultz, President

The Florida Federation of Music Clubs is pleased to announce the Winners of the 2015 Lake District President's Scholarship Awards.

In the Strings Category, the First Place Award was received by Emily Palmer, a Freshman in the Florida Virtual High School, and Second Place Award was received by Vanessa Huber Weber, a Freshman in the Seminole County Virtual School program. Both students study violin under the direction of Dr. Alvaro Gomez.

In the Instrumental (other than Strings) Category, Jessica Chancey, a Senior at Lake Mary High, won the First Place Award performing on flute. Jessica studies private lessons with Colleen Blagov. Jacob Britton, a Junior from Osceola County School for the Arts studying percussion with Paul Parker, received the Second Place Award performing solos on the snare drum and xylophone.

The First Place Piano Award was received by Mia Shoquist, a Sophomore at Phillips Exeter Academy, taking private lessons with Oleg Barsov.

The competition was held at the Maitland Presbyterian Church June 17, 2015 and was open to High School students throughout Central Florida. The scholarship awards were presented by Victoria Lynn Schultz, Scholarship Chairman and FPMC Lake District President (victoria@victoriaschultz.com).

Bay Ridge District

Wednesday Musicale

James Stallings, President

This year, the Wednesday Musicale will be celebrating its 90th anniversary as a club. We will place special emphasis upon this accomplishment at each program and special event scheduled throughout the year.

The club welcomes its new treasurer, Ray Gill, for the coming season. Ray is recently retired from the public school system, and is a founder & director of an outstanding adult bell choir from one of our local churches. With the assistance of a local attorney, the club will also be updating its bylaws prior to the start of our seasonal programs.

This past year, the Club lost 5 of its most loyal members. We also added 15 new members, bringing our current membership to 65 as we start the new year.

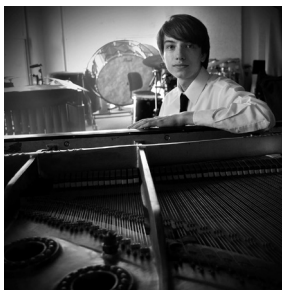
This past year, the Club handed out its largest amount of scholarship monies to senior high school musicians. Finally, the Club will be making one of its most important decisions it has faced: a new location for club programs and performances.



SUWANNEE DISTRICT**Foundation for the Promotion of Music***Linda Blessing, President*

I would like to introduce myself as the new president of the Foundation for the Promotion of Music which is the Senior Club of Suwannee District. My name is Linda Blessing and I am a music educator in Gainesville, Fla. We are excited about our 2015-16 schedule of events.

We began the year with a collegiate piano recital, Saturday, August 1, Oak Hammock at the University of Florida that featured Mr. Mark Irchai, a student at George Mason University, and former Gainesville resident.

**2015-16 Events Schedule:****Sunday, October 18** 2:00 pm

Guest Recital Thomas Center,
Featuring Gary Langford Jazz Combo

Saturday, November 21 All Day

Piano Sonata/Sonatina Festival,
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Sunday, November 22 2:00 pm

Winners' Recital Piano Sonata/Sonatina Festival,
Thomas Center

March 3 11:30 am

District Meeting Gainesville Country Club

Sunday, March 13 2:00 pm

Stellar Winds Recital, Thomas Center

Sunday, April 17 2:00 pm

Annual Meeting and Scholarship Winners' Recital,
Thomas Center

SEMINOLE DISTRICT*Marian Cox, President*

Seminole District hosted the FFMC annual convention in May at the Hilton Garden Inn between Sarasota and Bradenton.

There were 55 who attended the two-day event. I want to thank the Calusa Club from the Ft. Myers area, the Gulf Coast, and the Sarasota Music Clubs from Sarasota for making the event so successful. A BIG THANK YOU goes to Ann and Dave Stockton for all their help with the details that make a convention run smoothly.

Seminole District has five senior clubs. All are making plans for this next year. Now is the time for all Jr. Club teachers to encourage students to participate in the November composition contest, the December Essay Contest, and the Jr. Festival, February 2016. The Sarasota area festival will be February 19-20-21. May all the FFMC senior clubs have a productive and fun-filled year!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**Stephen/Jeanie/Joplin Competition**

March 4 & 5, 2016

Stephen Foster Cultural Center

White Springs, Florida

FFMC State Convention

June 2, 3 & 4, 2016

Gainesville, Florida

ST. JOHN'S DISTRICT*Lisa Smith, President*

St. John's District held its annual Greater Jacksonville Federation Competition on April 18, 2015 at Edward Waters College. This year we were pleased to have 174 students participate in 424 events. Additionally, we hosted the 78th FFMC State Junior Convention at the University of North Florida May 8-9th for approximately 1269 juniors in over 2500 events.

On June 3rd St. John's District, in conjunction with Harmony Senior Music Club, had its end of the year meeting and luncheon at Riverside Presbyterian Church. During this gathering, we heard wonderful performances given by the 2015 FFMC St. John's District President Scholarship winner, Katherine Kincaid, vocalist, and by the 2015 Mary Elizabeth Land Scholarship winner, Christy Schelenberger, pianist.

We recently awarded a \$300 summer music camp scholarship to Emily Taylor who attended Brevard Music Center in North Carolina. We are looking forward to our fall kick-off meeting that will be held at the end of September.

**85th Anniversary Celebration**

Sarasota, Florida, May 7, 2015 Sarasota Music Club celebrated its 85th anniversary at a Scholarship Awards & Recognition Luncheon on May 2, with performances by scholarship winners and presentations to representatives from the 10 area music performance and education organizations that received 85th anniversary donations.

The club awarded \$12,000 in music education scholarships to graduating high school students who reside in Sarasota or Manatee County. The scholarship winners are:

Nick Drivas (baritone), \$5,000
Manatee School for the Arts

Zoë Verbil (mezzo-soprano), \$3,000
Booker High School VPA

Jillian Polk (mezzo-soprano), \$2,000
Cardinal Mooney High School

Adriana Fernandez (soprano), \$2,000
Riverview High School

The scholarships, 85th anniversary donations and a special donation of \$500 to the Booker High School Music Department for assistance with scholarship auditions amount to a total of \$21,000 from the Sarasota Music Club donations this year.

For more information about the Sarasota Music Club, visit www.SarasotaMusicClub.org or contact Susan Hicks at 941.925.3602.

JUNIOR CLUBS NEWS

Junior Festivals Information

Lisa Smith, FFMC Festivals Chairman

First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Festival Center, Palm Beach in the Royal Poinciana District, and its ambitious chairman, Jan Fulford. As the 2016 Festivals season rapidly approaches, it is crucial that all area festival chairmen, junior counselors, teachers, and juniors meet national guidelines and deadlines. It is every teacher and junior counselor's obligation to read, comprehend and observe rules in order to ensure positive festival experiences for all participants. During the FFMC Spring Convention, many adjustments were made in the guidelines for district and state festival events. Please see below for the new guidelines.

1. JUNIOR CLUBS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ONLY ONE FESTIVAL CENTER

- Exceptions may be made by the FFMC Festivals Chairman.

2. MAKE-UPS FOR FFMC DISTRICT FESTIVALS

- Each Festival Center will create a make-up policy.
- Festival Centers have the option to not offer make-ups.
- Festival Centers that permit make-ups must publish and apply their procedures to ALL participating Junior Counselors and teachers.
- All make-up policies must be filed with the FFMC Festivals Chairman. The FFMC Festivals Chairman must approve any exceptions to a Festival Center's policy. The FFMC Festivals Chairmen must pre-approve all out-of-state make-ups.
- Festival Centers may not offer make-ups to Juniors who are registered in other Festival Centers.
- NFMC Theory tests cannot be given back to teachers or students in a Festival Center until all make-up theory tests have been taken.
- Skype/FaceTime/YouTube or video recording make-ups are not permissible under any circumstances.

3. CREATION OF FFMC FESTIVAL SITES

- FFMC Festival sites can be created through petition to the FFMC Festivals Chairman. The FFMC Festivals Chairman is responsible for forwarding the proposal to the FFMC Executive Committee for consideration.
- The petition process begins with the FFMC Festivals Chairman's supervision and consent.
- Petitions must include: Proposed area/county/city for new site, reasons for wanting to establish a new site in that area (i.e. teacher/student demand, exponential growth in an already established FFMC site, dissent), timeline for implementation of new site's first festival event, nomination by an established area festivals chairman or state/district officer, of an individual who has already committed to serve as chair of the new site, and the nominated chair's credentials and prior experience with the NFMC/FFMC Festivals Program.
- The new area festivals chairman and site must be supervised directly by another established area festivals chairman or by a designated FFMC state officer for the initial two years of the Festival Center's existence.

- If necessary, the FPMC Festivals Chairman may limit participation in the new Festival Center, depending on the circumstances.

4. DISSOLUTION OF FPMC FESTIVALS SITES

- In order to dissolve a FPMC Festivals Center, the FPMC Festivals Chairman or FPMC State President must initiate and submit a proposal for site termination to the FPMC Executive Committee for their consideration.
- The proposal must include: Valid and multiple reasons for dissolution of the area (i.e. repeated rule violations, unethical practices, absence of a festival leader with no replacement, financial issues, non-compliance in sending festival reports/monies, documentation of repeated violations despite numerous warnings, history of continuous quarreling amongst members/leadership), timeline for dissolution, and a plan for transferring teachers/students to other sites.
- Once the FPMC Executive Committee approves dissolution of a Festival Center, the FPMC Festivals Chairman will forward an official notification letter from the FPMC State President to the Festival Center chairman or chairmen.
- The District Treasurer will forward all remaining festival monies for the dissolved Festival Center to the FPMC Treasurer within two weeks of the site's termination.

5. STATE JUNIOR CONVENTION: ADJUSTMENT TO JUNIOR PROCEDURES MANUAL

Add general version of the State Junior Convention application "Checklist" to the Junior Procedures Manual.

- General Procedures pg. 5 paragraph 3 add: "State Junior Convention applications sent without the teacher fee(s) included will be assessed a \$10 error fee." AND "Any application form that fails to include the appropriate teacher's fee will not be processed until all fees have been received (including all penalties). Non-compliance will result in teacher/student disqualification."
- Add new paragraph in General Procedures pg. 5 after paragraph 5: "State Junior Convention applications cannot be sent by registered mail, certified mail, metered mail or stamp, or with computer generated/printed postage labels. All postage must be hand-cancelled by the U.S. Postal Service. "
- Pg. 6 amend last paragraph:

"The Junior Convention Committee is excluded."

- "Area Festival Chairmen are responsible for dispersing pertinent information concerning State Junior Convention volunteering policies to their area's participating teachers."
- "District Festival funds MAY NOT be used to cover this expense. "
- "Festival Centers will be assessed a fee for their portion of the monitoring fees. Fees must be paid 3 weeks prior to the State Junior Convention. Failure to comply will result in Festival Centers being barred from participating in the State Junior Convention the following year."
- Pg. 6 after 5th paragraph add: "Any awards not claimed from State Junior Convention by January 1st of the following year will be deemed recyclable for the next State Junior Convention and will not be obtainable by teachers/students/parents."
- Selection to Be Performed pg. 7 amend statement: "In all events, required selections must come from same the arrangement, compilation, book, or volume specified in the NFMC Festivals Bulletin."

- Sightplaying pg. 11 after first sentence add:
 - “To compete in sightplaying event at state, students must be entered (compete) in solo as well.”
 - “Entrants will be given 90 seconds to prepare the selection for playing.”
- Under Piano Concerto JR II and JR III Divisions pg. 8 add: “For state competition only, students competing in piano concerto Junior IIB may not regress back to Junior IIA in subsequent years. Students competing in piano concerto Junior IIIB also may not regress back to Junior IIIA piano concerto in subsequent years.”
- Provide Copy of Score pg. 11:

Add after “Electronically produced scores...”: “Music downloaded from the Internet must be accompanied by hard copy proof of purchase/receipt, permission to use the score, official notation on the music indicating purchase by the person using it, or a studio license obtained by the teacher or junior counselor.”

Omit: “Scores bought through an Internet source must have an official notation on the music indicating purchase by the person using it or a receipt confirming purchase
- Faithfulness to the Score pg. 11

Add: “In Fiddling events, where accompaniments are indicated only by chord symbols, pieces may be accompanied on piano, guitar or other instrument where the chords can be fully realized. If no chord symbols or published accompaniment exists for a specific piece the student(s) will perform unaccompanied.”

FFMC JR. ESSAY CONTEST

Marian Cox, Chairman

Now is the time to give students NFMC & FFMC Essay Contest information. The 2016 topic is “Music...Notes to the Future”. Find rules and applications on the website (www.ffmc-music.org). Two applications (one for state and one for national) should be sent to me along with a photo by December 15, 2015. After judging is complete at the state level, essays are sent to National where one winner from each state is chosen. For more information contact me at marianc@comcast.net.

NFMC FESTIVAL CUPS

Lisa Moore,

FFMC Festival Cup Awards Chair

Congratulations to these students (and their teachers) for earning "top cups" this year in their local NFMC festivals:

PRESIDENT CUP (90 Point Cup)

Christopher Tam - Piano (Teacher: Kamila

Shahtakhtinski)

Haley Neal - Violin (Teacher: Ann Buchholz)

GRAND CUP (75 Point Cup)

Callie Delaney - Piano (Teacher: Vickie Stake)

Ismail Ercan - Violin (Teacher: Huifang Chan)

Madeline Hsiang - Piano (Teacher: Loretta Hake)

Aurora Luong - Piano (Teacher: Maria Gomez)

Alfred Vinnett - Piano (Teacher: Gary Wolf)

60 Point Cup Honor Roll

1. Dena Alai / Violin Solo (Sherry Pollock)
2. Tianbo Chen / Piano Solo (Vladimir Khoklov)
3. Bailey-Michelle Collins / Piano Solo (Kevin Orr)
4. Parker Dewitt / Piano Solo (Marian Cox)
5. Emma Beth Fisher / Piano Solo (Anne Pray)
6. Caroline Hall / Piano Solo (Ann Buchholz)
7. Elizabeth Hargis / Piano Solo (Oleg Barsov)
8. Campbell Lee / Piano Solo (Charles Turon)
9. Kaylah Lue / Piano Solo (Ivanka Stefanov)
10. Helen Mathews / Piano Solo (Sandra Roberts)
11. Matthew Reichenberger / Piano Solo (Maria Gomez)
12. Antonio Romero / Piano Solo (Ruth Lewis)
13. Antonio Romero / Piano Duet (Ruth Lewis)
14. Noah Stone / Piano Solo (Peggy Edwards)
15. Haley Taylor / Piano Solo (Suzanne Hollis Herman)
16. Holly Vlach / Piano Solo (Peggy Edwards)
17. Calvin Yeung / Piano Solo (Yunling Hsu)
18. Vivian Zhai / Piano Solo (Maria Gomez)

FFMC FESTIVAL CUPS AWARDED*Lisa Moore, Chairman*

15 Point Cups	1,035
30 Point Cups	322
45 Point Cups	105
60 Point Cups	18
75 Point Cups	5
90 Point Cups	2
Total Cups Awarded	1,487

Take Note!*Peggy Willis, FFMC Financial Secretary*

All FFMC members who are primary junior counselors should have received the Junior Bill and instructions by USPS in early July. The Junior Bill and instructions are also available at www.ffmpegusic.org/juniorbill.pdf. Remember, you can send

in your Junior Bill and student list now and still have the ability to update that student list up until December 10th. You do not need to delay sending in your Junior Bill due to concerns about a change in your student list.

FFMC members who are additional counselors in another member's junior club should be in communication with that primary junior counselor and should provide the counselor with appropriate fees, address-email-phone information, and student lists.

All FFMC members who participate in festival: PLEASE read the junior bill instructions. There is a multitude of crucial information provided in those instructions.

If you have adult students who plan to enter festival, be sure that each adult student joins as a senior member. The adult student can either join a senior club or join as a senior individual member. Senior membership for adult students entering festival is an NFMC requirement.

Send me an email at finsec@ffmpegusic.org if you have any questions. I am always glad to help.

American Women Composers*Ann Kay, NFMC Chairman*

I am your new chairman of American Women Composers. I encourage your club to have a program consisting of entirely American Women Composers' compositions. These programs are so interesting and enjoyable. A copy of the rules and award entry form are on the website: www.nfmc-music.org. The forms can be downloaded. Go to Publications and under that, click on American Music. The form is AM 6. Also helpful is a book AM5-1 listing American Composers which can be ordered from Headquarters.

Please contact me at any time if I can be of help. annkay@comcast.net.