



Theme: ***Music for Life***

Song: ***Music Alone Shall Live***

As I prepare the 2020 Spring Edition of Sharps & Flats, my phone is sounding an EMERGENCY ALERT from the Florida Surgeon General: ***Stay home if 65+ or have medical conditions. All follow social distancing.*** This announcement is a jolting reminder that our world as we knew it just a few months/days ago has been forever changed due to the COVID-19 Virus. Through all of the uncertainty and tragic events we are experiencing, my faith in the human spirit remains hopeful. Our FFMC Theme: ***Music for Life*** and Song: ***Music Alone Shall Live*** - holds special meaning for me during these extremely challenging times.

People in our neighborhoods, our state, and our world are finding ways to support and connect with each other through music. We are seeing people in Italy singing from their balconies; musicians of all ages and skill-levels playing music together via the miracles of technology; students taking music lessons via "skype". Social media and YouTube have become a lifeline of sorts to help us cope with this pandemic.

This newsletter does not contain many of the wonderful articles that our district and senior club presidents submitted several weeks ago because events and activities that were highlighted have been postponed or canceled. However along with the disappointments; there is hope and positive plans for our Federation in the months and years to come. On the following pages our members offer you good news of musical accomplishments by our talented young people. Also included is important information about future FFMC events and projects.

Most of us have access to the internet. Please visit our website: ffmc-music.org often. Lisa Moore does an outstanding job of updating important information. It is also very easy to visit our seven districts and their websites by clicking on the Florida color-coded map. Social media is also playing an important role in keeping us informed and up to date on the activities of our Federation. We have two Facebook accounts; one is a members closed group and the other an open group. I encourage you to check both of them out. If you know of someone in your district or senior club who does not have computer/internet access, please reach out to them via phone or snail mail.

Meeting person-to-person may not be possible in the short term, but we can continue to communicate via telephone, email, and video conferencing. Stay "tuned" as we explore new ways of making music together. Please feel free to contact me: 352-316-0886; ffmc1917@gmail.com; or US Mail at 4016 NW 23rd Circle, Gainesville, FL. 32605. *Cheryl Poe*, FFMC President

MUSIC NOTES ...
for our members and our communities

FFMC Junior State Convention 2020 – Cancelled
Suzanne Carpenter, Junior Convention Coordinator

With great regret, the 2020 Junior Convention at the College of Central Florida, Ocala has been cancelled. The health of all was our overriding concern when COVID-19 reared its ugly head! The option to reschedule later this summer was not available because of planned renovation to the Fine Arts Building.

FFMC is now looking forward to 2021 at the College of Central Florida in Ocala for our Junior State Convention. As soon as we have a firm date, it will be on the website. We will be able to build on the initial groundwork completed for 2020. We thank the members of the planning team who began working on the details for the new location since last June. The College, the City of Ocala and the Tourist Development Council of Marion County were phenomenally welcoming and helpful. Kudos to our planning committee – Linda Blessing, Claudia Brill, GayLyn Capitano, Suzanne Carpenter, Leslie Hammes, Wanda Louie, and Cheryl Poe, who arranged for local businesses to supply trophies, pianos, piano movers, food and hotels.

Teachers applying for convention next year should take note of the following:

- Do not send application via certified mail. Include a self-addressed postcard if you want confirmation of receipt.
- Be sure to pay the required teacher fee of \$15 whether planning to attend or not.
- To clarify, students will not earn gold cup points for attendance.
- If the solo event is not entered when applying for concerto and/or ensemble, include a copy of the Area Festival Solo rating sheet with the application.

Hope to see you in 2021!

FFMC Spring Convention 2020 – Postponed
Cheryl Poe, President

Royal Poinciana District (RPD) planning team: Catherine Gavin, Chai L. Chen, and Erika Venable, and our FFMC Executive Committee were forced to postpone our Spring Convention because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, much of the groundwork had already been done by our Royal Poinciana hosts. RPD has graciously agreed to serve as hosts for the 2021 FFMC State Spring Convention which will tentatively be held in early June, 2021.

Attendance and participation during the 2021 Spring Convention will be of major importance because FFMC State officers will be elected.

President, Cheryl Poe, will be appointing a chair of the nominating committee in the near future. Copied from page 3 of our FFMC Bylaws are the guidelines for elections. During the coming year, let us all actively look for prospective leaders who will continue to promote and carry out the goals and mission of FFMC.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elective officers. FFMC elective officers shall be elected at the state convention in the odd-- numbered calendar year for a term of two years or until successors are elected. No elected officer of the Federation shall serve as president of a district or a senior music club at the same time.
Section 2. Nominating Committee.

A. Selection of the Nominating Committee: At the convention in the even-numbered calendar year, the state president shall appoint the chair of the nominating committee. The Board of Directors shall elect six additional members who have shown active interest in the Federation, one from each of the remaining six districts.

B. Duties of the Nominating Committee:

This committee shall present a complete slate of officers to the Executive Committee with their qualifications no later than February 15. The consent of all candidates must be obtained before the report is made. Only active members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination. The Nominating Committee shall ensure that all nominees meet the minimum qualifications for office as set forth in these bylaws.

On the first day of the convention the chair of the nominating committee shall present to the qualified voters a list of the names and qualifications of those nominated for each office. Nominations for any office may then be made from the floor.

Who Can Vote at FFMC Meetings?**Board of Directors:**

FFMC President - FFMC Vice President -
 FFMC Treasurer - FFMC Recording Secretary;
 FFMC Corresponding Secretary; FFMC Archivist -
 FFMC Chaplin - Council of District & State Presidents
 FFMC Financial Secretary - Past FFMC Presidents -
 FFMC Division Chairs - FFMC Committee Chairs -
 District Presidents - Club Presidents
Twelve members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

General Meeting:

Members of the Board of Directors - Life Members -
 Patron Members - Donor Members -
 Individual Members - Official delegates -
One delegate from each Student Organization
One adult teacher from each Junior Club who shall be a member of an active senior club or an individual member.

Chart to determine the number of delegates for each senior club:

- organizations of 25 members or less one: delegate.
- 26-50 members: two delegates;
- 51-75 members: three delegates;
- 76-100 members: four delegates;
- 101-125 members: five delegates;
- 126-150 members: six delegates;
- over 150 members: seven delegates.

Each club shall send to the treasurer the names of the delegates before the meeting convenes so that a list of all qualified to vote may be available.

No person shall be entitled to vote in more than one capacity and no absentee or proxy voting shall be permitted.

Twenty-five qualified voters shall constitute a quorum for the convention.

GOOD NEWS!**FFMC district presidents have chosen Linda Blessing****2020 FFMC Member of the Year**

Linda is a valued member of the Suwannee District, and is currently President of its Senior Club - The Foundation for the Promotion of Music. Her state duties include processing liability applications for the entire state and serving on FFMC Jeanie/Stephen Audition Committee. Linda also assisted with the planning and onsite duties for the 2019 NFMC Biennial Convention held in Jacksonville last June, as well as the 2020 Junior Convention. Linda is a dedicated servant of the goals of music education and Florida Federation of Music Clubs, Inc.

**Emily Singleton recognized for two Music Awards**

Emily is the NFMC/Southeastern Region winner of the Wendell Irish Viola Competition. And 2nd Place winner in the Class Four NFMC Composer Competition. Emily is a Gainesville resident currently dual enrolled in home-school and the University of Florida

Marian Cox, FFMC Junior Essay Contest Chair,**is pleased to announce winners:**

7th-8th Grade Division:

Abigail Pereira of Sarasota, 1st Place

Rachel Nicholson of Lithia, 2nd Place

9th-12th Grade Division:

Diahann Booth of Winter Park, 1st Place

Jeremy Nicholson of Lithia, 2nd Place

Nine-year-old, Parker Wolf of Pensacola

recently won gold medal in the 20th annual American Association for Development of Gifted and Talented International Young Musicians Festival. Learn more about Parker: www.youtube.com/c/ParkerWolf



In Sympathy

Charter Member of the Choctaw Bay Music Club, Doyle Dingus passed away on March 23, 2020. Dr. Doyle's numerous contributions to Capital District went far beyond his Senior Club. He designed the FFMC logo which continues to be the official logo of FFMC. We honor and remember his legacy.

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