A Message from the AFMC President: We are very disappointed not to be able to meet in person this year for our annual September AFMC Conference, but we are grateful to have the technology that enables us to meet, see each other, discuss, and make decisions together as a club. As the virus continues to thrive and take all sorts of twists and turns, it seems this New Year (always the new year for teachers!) will continue to hold many challenges for musicians, AFMC clubs, and for our lives personally.

But!! The creativity of the human spirit has illuminated these dark days as new ways of doing things have emerged. It is amazing to see how musicians have adapted to create and share music. Technology has been a key factor as we adapted to teach by zoom, created virtual choir and instrumental performances (such as we will experience with Rachel Breem during our September Zoom Conference), and used other social platforms to share and create music. We all know nothing replaces live music, in-person teaching, and rehearsing to sing/play together.

I hope you will make plans and create a space to be part of the Zoom Conference on the 18th. If you are like me, I find it energizing and motivating to experience the vision and passion of other musicians, to share common struggles, and to renew our purpose in AFMC. We need each other. AFMC needs YOU!

Special points of interest:
- Zoom Conference
- Rachel Breem
- AFMC Officers
- AFMC Chairs
- Opera in the Ozarks
- In Memoriam
- Help Wanted

President’s Theme
“Music has the Power to bring People Together”

President’s Song
“Over my Head, I hear Music in the Air”
AFMC Conference 2021

The 2021 AFMC Conference will take place on Saturday, September 18, starting at 10:00 am via Zoom.

We are privileged to have Rachel Bream, the NFMC Young Artist 2021-22, join us for a performance and "meet and greet" during our meeting. Club presidents, please share this official call with your officers and members. Festival Chairs, please share with festival teachers.

The zoom link to join the meeting is at the bottom of the Official Call email. If you did not receive the email, please contact whiteka23@yahoo.com.

Agenda

9:50 Enter Waiting Room
10:00 General Session:
   Call to Order
   Opening Invocation & Memorial Service
   Minutes
   Treasurer’s Report
   Financial Committee Report
   Festival Report
   Opera in the Ozarks
   NFMC News

10:30 Performance by Rachel Breem.
The program will include a brief introduction, followed by a performance of Beethoven’s final Piano Sonata Op. 111. After the performance, Rachel will be available to answer questions in the chat.

11:00 Break-out Sessions:
   Club Presidents—Gloria Grilk
   Club Treasurers
   AFMC Chairs
   Festival Teachers - Shelly Brown & Janine Tiner
   AFMC Needs - Kathie White

11:30 Feedback
Closing Business
The AFMC Young Artist Tour with Rachel Breem has been postponed for the fall but will be rescheduled for the spring.

Hear other great young artists on the NFMC website.

A word from George Keck:

The 2021-2022 Competitions & Awards Chart listing all awards will soon be available on the NFMC website NFMC-music.org. Please look at the Chart and encourage Juniors, Students, and Senior Club members to apply for these wonderful awards.

A word from Jennifer Griffin:

The 2021-2023 NFMC Manual is available now on the NFMC website. State chairs need to refer to this manual for information. The NFMC Board voted at the 2018 conference to require all award applicants submit applications via the NFMC website. This includes awards that start at the state level. If an applicant from your state applies, a notification will be sent to the chair listed in the NFMC database. Information will be sent at a later date to all new award chairs on how to access the uploaded documents.

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2021-22 NFMC Young Artist

Rachel Breem

Pianist Rachel Breen received her Bachelor’s degree with Academic Honors from the Juilliard School, where she was a student of Julian Martin. Previously, she studied with Dr. Sharon Mann at the San Francisco Conservatory; until age 10, she was self-taught. She is currently enrolled in dual Master’s degrees at the Hannover Hochschule fur Musik and Yale School of Music with—respectively—Lars Vogt and Boris Slutsky, and is based in both Europe and the United States.

Breen has won prizes in the Georges Cziffra International Competition (Senlis, France), the Nuova Coppa Pianisti International Competition (Osimo, Italy), the Livorno International Piano Competition (Tuscany, Italy), The Gallinari International Competition (Bologna, Italy), Premio Melini (Trento, Italy), the Spanish Composers International Competition (Madrid, Spain), the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition (Charleston, SC), the Mondavi National Competition, and the NFMC Young Artists’ Competition, as well as being selected as a National YoungArts Finalist and receiving the 2021 Kurt Alten Prize at HMTMH.

This past year, she was chosen a semifinalist in the Beethoven Vienna International Competition, at which she will perform in October of 2021. Aside from piano, Breen graduated from Miramonte High School (CA), where she received first prize on the National Latin Exam and third prize on the National French Exam.

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Get to know some of the Officers of AFMC

Kathie White, new AFMC President for 2021-23, is a resident of Hot Springs and a member of the Hot Springs Music Club. She served as HSMC President for 2015-2019 and also as AFMC Vice President in 2018-21. Kathie taught high school choral music for 8 years at Lakeside High School and 10 years at Lake Hamilton Jr. & Sr. High School in Hot Springs. She retired from teaching in 2013 and has served as music/choir director for Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Hot Springs for 18 years. Kathie is an active member of Hot Springs Sigma Alpha Iota Alumni Chapter and the director of the Hot Springs Threshold Singers. The Threshold Singers are part of Threshold Choir International and provide songs of comfort and encouragement for Hospice patients. She also spent 12 years in Scotland as a music missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and 3 years in Germany as part of a missionary training team.

Lewis Hinkle, new AFMC Vice President & Student Adviser, was raised and continues to live in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He has been involved in church music ministry for the past 42 years serving Olive Street Baptist Church for the first 22 years; and currently working with Summit Baptist Church. Lewis' love for music began in junior high school as a trumpet player in the Pine Bluff Schools and continued through his college days at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. While in college, he developed a love for vocal music that enabled him to sing lead rolls in operettas and popular musicals such as "Hello, Dolly" . . "South Pacific" . . and "Brigadoon." He sings for various social events and clubs around Southeast Arkansas including the continuation of instrumental music playing baritone in the Pine Bluff Community Band. His pride and joy is the Summit Soundz Celebration Band, a 30 piece wind band made-up of area high school, college students; and band directors. They perform concerts throughout the year as well as for worship services at Summit Baptist Church. Lewis has been married to Debbie Carter Hinkle for the past 36 years. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren; and Molly - a miniature Yorkie who literally "runs" the house! "I encourage students to get involved in the interests that they have but to always remember that long after the baseball bat has been put in the back of the closet they can continue to sing and play an instrument for an entire lifetime."

Jimmie Sinquefield, AFMC Treasurer, has served the state for several years in this capacity. She lives in New Boston, TX, and is a member of the AR-TX Connection Club. Jimmie plays the dulcimer, stand-up bass, and loves to sing. She has attended National NFMC Conventions and serves NFMC as Chair of the Membership Committee. Jimmie and her husband, Chris, have delighted children throughout southwest Arkansas by playing Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.
Frank Ferguson, Parliamentarian, is a 40-year veteran educator who retired in 2014. He was a high school band director for 18 years and a high school principal and district administrator for 22 years. Frank taught in Scott County, Mississippi, the Monticello School District, the Hermitage School District, the Drew Central School District, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He holds BME and MME degrees from Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. and additional graduate study in Educational Leadership and Supervision from UA Fayetteville. He currently serves as AFMC Parliamentarian, Secretary of the AFMC Finance Committee, Southeast District President, and President of the Monticello Music Club. He has been director of the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church in Monticello for 35 years and also serves as Secretary of the board of directors of the SEARK Concert Association, a community arts organization that for over 40 years has worked to bring live music, dance and theater to the seven-county southeast Arkansas area. Frank enjoys watercolor painting and bread making in his retirement. He and his wife, Laura, have been married for 50 years. She has been active in the Monticello Music Club and AFMC for over 40 years. They have two adult children, Adam and Stuart, and one precocious granddaughter, Swayzee, who is in sixth grade this year.

Chris Thompson, AFMC Chaplain, lives in Walnut Ridge in NE Arkansas. He is a member of the Schubert Music Club, currently serving as club president. He teaches piano, music theory, ear training and music appreciation at Williams Baptist University. He also active as a deacon at First Baptist Church of Walnut Ridge and serves as chaplain of the Lawrence County chapter of The Gideons International. Chris has also served as president of AFMC.

Janine Tiner, AFMC Junior Counselor, is a member of the Little Rock Musical Coterie, a pianist, organist, and private piano teacher in North Little Rock, Arkansas. She also currently teaches private piano at Harding University in Searcy, and Music Appreciation classes for UA-Pulaski Technical College. She is the daughter of Byron and Audrey Reeves.

Shelly Brown serves as Corresponding Secretary for AFMC. She is also Chair of Federation Cup and Festival.

Adam Savacool serves as Recording Secretary for AFMC. He is also Chair of Publications and Website.

Danny Stinson, the new AFMC Auditor, is a member of the AR-TX Connection Club in Texarkana.
Mary Dixon  Opera Chair/AFMC

What a fun season at Opera in the Ozarks with Donizetti's "Lucia de Lammermoor" and Massenet's "Cendrillon!" Jules Massenet wrote Cendrillon in 1899. The opera's performance this summer had a bit of a contemporary flair. The wicked stepmother and two daughters wore mini skirts, smoked, and wore extremely high heels - with the exception of one daughter who wore gray sparkled platform shoes. They really made Cinderella look sweet and innocent. The choreography in the background of the Prince's ball upon the meeting of Cinderella and the Prince was in very, very slow motion, another spectacular modern addition to an ageless story.

Both operas are available to be live streamed for $20 each from the Opera in the Ozarks web site — www.opera.org. Many have taken advantage of the streaming option. It will be a special treat for you!

OIO Photos
Part of Arkansas’ decorations for the Cendrillon luncheon on Friday.

The character “Edgardo” explaining his part in Lucia di Lammermoor.

The entire cast sings “Climb Every Mountain” at the end of the last night of Opera in the Ozarks.

Donna Smith, Ft. Smith Coterie, was nominated as our 2021 Arkansas recipient of the Servant Leadership Award for South Central Region Federation Days. She was recognized and awarded the Leadership pin at the Saturday meeting.
Opera in the Ozarks 2021 Federation Days

Arkansas representatives at the Arkansas Meeting Federation Days, 2021.

Part of our task during the meeting was to set goals for our state concerning Opera in the Ozarks. We set two goals:
1. That every AFMC club join OIO—only $25!
2. Each Club President encourages every member to join OIO—also $25.

There are five NFMC states that help to support Opera in the Ozarks. The states include Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas. Our state is so privileged to have the OIO here and yet, our state gives the least amount to help support this tremendous program. If you have ever been to OIO, you know what a treasure we have had for 70 years in Arkansas. I was impressed with the vision, determination, and “spunk” of the OIO General Director, Nancy Preis, and the leadership team. Meeting with the OIO Board for the first time gave me a real sense of the passion and dedication they have to making OIO work on many levels. Financial support is the first prerequisite to “making it work” and we need to do our part. - Kathie White

Arkansans attending: Photo (back) Carolyn Walker (Bella Vista), Betty Pierce (Bella Vista), Judy Rownak (Fayetteville), Gay Strakshus (Hot Springs), (front) Janet Parsch (Fayetteville), Kathie White (Hot Springs), Dr. Jackie Flowers (Hot Springs), Dr. Ouida Keck (Little Rock).

Other Arkansans attending Federation Days included: Gloria Febro Grilk (Bella Vista), Dr. Alice Martinson (Berryville), Karen Noorani (NWA Music, Art, and Poetry student in Arkansas).

More ideas....

* Create a synopsis page for each opera as a short quiz time during a club meeting
* Play or have someone sing a famous aria from one of the operas and discuss the character, plot, etc. during a meeting
* Plan a group outing to one of the operas at OIO in Inspiration Point. In June/July
* If your club is having zoom meetings, invite one of the leaders of OIO to be part of the zoom. Ask questions, learn about the needs of the coming season, and catch the vision of Opera in the Ozarks!

* See www.opera.org

Opera in the Ozarks Season 2022

Cosi Fan Tutti
(Mozart)

Rondine
(Puccini)

A Little Night Music
(Sondheim)

Federation Days
July 20-23, 2022
This sign has become a common sight during this time of pandemic and uncertainty. Many businesses are finding it hard to find and keep employees, much less our volunteer organizations! We have several needs in AFMC for Chairs of Committees and to promote the work that is the core of our existence. Actually, the work of these Chairs is often to publicize the opportunities of scholarships & awards, to promote club activity in various areas, and to report that activity. If you haven’t served on a state level before, take a first step and get involved. We only get out of something what we put into it with our attention, energy, and service. Thank you!

**Chairs Needed:**
- Dance
- Bylaws/Revisions
- Insignia
- Music in Poetry

In Memoriam

Brian Conatser, president of the Russellville Music Club, and his wife, Ann Shields, were killed in a car accident this summer on their way to church.

**Sabra Ferguson:** My main memories of them are of how much they gave to our community. They were organists at the First United Methodist Church here in Dardanelle and they are missed greatly by the congregation. Brian provided accompaniment for so many students and productions at Arkansas Tech. They were both such a wonderful couple and were so giving of their time. Ann provided lessons to so many students and worked with Vicki for many years at Central Presbyterian Church as co-organist. Their love of music will live on in all the students and friends they have touched over the years.

**Vicky Kiehl:** Ann and I were organ duet partners in the past and played programs in the state and also in St. Louis. She was very, very talented, having played piano in her church since childhood, taught piano in Arkansas and Missouri, and performed recitals, too. She and I became co-organists at Central Presbyterian Church years ago, alternating who played which Sundays. Ann was ALWAYS cheerful, positive, and uplifting. I miss her dearly.

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