



Special points of interest:

- ✓ New website & Directory being developed
- ✓ November American Music Month
- ✓ Notes from AFMC Chair of Music Outreach and Music in Poetry, page 2 & 3
- ✓ Opera in the Ozarks news, page 4 & 5
- ✓ New Together We Sing Songbooks
- ✓ Update on Rachel Breem, NFMC Young Artist
- ✓ Club Dues are Due!!
- ✓ Help Wanted! Always!



AFMC November Newsletter 2021



I know some of you may have tried to access updated information on the AFMC website the past few months. We have experienced problems in servicing that website, so we have a new website in the works and hope to have that up and running soon! It seems the National website and the AFMC website have been plagued by some of the same problems. Some of the information does not change much such as forms, deadlines, etc. on each website. We are also working on a new AFMC Directory and hope to send that by email soon.

If you have sent emails to me at the afmc address, I have been unable to access that email account. Please use my personal email, whiteka23@yahoo.com, to contact me. We are so sorry for this inconvenience. I will alert you when we have a new website and directory ready for use!

Thank you!
Kathie White
AFMC President

November AFMC American Music Month

How is your club celebrating American Music Month this year? Many people think of "patriotic music" when they hear about American music, but we know there is a world of great music written by American composers to reflect American culture, ideals, struggles, beauty, and values. What has been your club's best program to celebrate American music?

An innovative approach used by Hot Springs Music Club during the pandemic last year was to produce a YouTube video of club members performing the music of the Second New England group of Composers including Thomas W. Chadwick (1854-1931), Amy Cheney Beach (1867-1944), and Edward MacDowell (1860-1908).

A local pastor, David Fleming, was interviewed as MacDowell himself and told about his life and music to introduce the music program. It was a learning experience for the club but lots of fun!



Notes

If any AFMC Chairs or Clubs would like to put information about your club or area activities in the next newsletter (January), please contact Kathie White at whiteka23@yahoo.com. Photos of club meetings, programs, events, etc. would also be greatly appreciated! I know our local clubs do some wonderful things in our communities and we need to get to know and appreciate what is happening state-wide in our music clubs. I also find it inspiring and I learn so much from what other clubs are doing! *Kathie*

Notes from AFMC Chairs

Betty Pierce

Andante Music Club of Bella Vista AFMC Chair of Music Outreach

I hope your clubs are meeting, trying to get back to a more normal operation. My club, Andante Music Club of Bella Vista, is meeting regularly and have had three very good programs this new year.

Holidays are fast approaching. I know we are all busy but this is a good time to think about Outreach. Taking the gift of music to people who are partially or totally confined is especially appreciated during the holidays. Even if your club cannot manage a group entertainment, individuals could provide musical tapes/CDs and other musical materials that provide enjoyment of music.

A monetary award is given annually to an individual volunteer who has given the most hours of music-related services to people in their homes, nursing homes, etc. A monetary reward is also given to the club having the most hours. **Only hours given to the confined are counted.** Travel time and rehearsal time can be counted.

You can visit the manual for NFMC, Music Outreach for more suggestions. The information I give above is from the manual.

I hope your group will be able to participate in Music Outreach. Your club's participation must be reported to me before April 1, 2022.
Thanks. Betty Pierce



Barbara Lippincott

Northwest Arkansas Music & Poetry Students AFMC Chair of Music in Poetry

There is a strong connection between poetry and music that goes back as far as ancient Greece, where the lyric poets performed their work to the accompaniment of a lyre. Music and poetry are both used to express feelings and describe experiences; both rely on rhythm, meter, and patterns to express meaning and use a combination of sound and silence. Moreover, music has the ability to motivate a poet to write poetry, while a poem can inspire a musician to create music. Consequently, it seems only natural that poetry be a part of our music club meetings. Our group in northwest Arkansas is lucky enough to have more than one member who writes poetry and is willing to share it with us. If your group is also that fortunate, encourage them to read a poem at your meeting with you (and send it to me, if they are willing to have me share it with other groups.) Alternatively, you can encourage a member to select a poem by a favorite writer to read. In keeping with the season, I share the following:



When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Editor's Note: For those interested in exploring contemporary poetry, the website poets.org offers to send a poem-a-day to your email address. Check out the website to explore and find poems, poets, poets near you, books, etc. There is also an option to hear the poem spoken or read by the poet!



Alumni Recital Series



Weston Hurt (1995)



Alyce Daubenspeck (2018)



Louis Menendez, piano

Sunday, November 14, 2021, 2:30 pm

Holiday Island Presbyterian Church
111 Valley Dr. Holiday Island, AR 72631

The temperatures may have cooled down, but the music scene is heating up! This Sunday, November 14, at 2:30 pm, Louis Menendez, one of OIO's senior coaches and a spectacular pianist, will be accompanying two illustrious alumni in recital at Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, 111 Valley Dr., Holiday Island, 72631.

Weston Hurt, who attended OIO in 1995, has built a wonderful career singing the big baritone roles such

as Germont in *La traviata*, Scarpia in *Tosca*, and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*. He is a frequent guest of the Seattle Opera, and has sung in Madison, New Orleans, Chicago, Atlanta, New York, and a host of other venues. He is now on the faculty of the Conservatory at University of Missouri Kansas City.

Alyce Daubenspeck gave a memorable performance in 2018 as Augusta Tabor in our production of *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. She has most recently performed with Chicago Summer Opera, Amici Opera, and Opera Ithaca. She has won numerous awards, including first place in the South Carolina district of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in 2018. She teaches at DeSales University in Pennsylvania.

The program is very interesting - not the same old, same old arias you could sing in your sleep. Weston is singing the Schumann "Dichterliebe" (A poet's love) which are among the most beautiful Schumann songs. Alyce has chosen the Wesendonck lieder, a set of songs written by Richard Wagner. Wagner used these songs to try out ideas he later used in his opera *Tristan and Isolde*.

This concert is a ticketed event and tickets are available on our website, opera.org, by telephone (479-253-8595) or at the door. The concert will also be filmed for later streaming. All tickets are \$20.

Support Opera in the Ozarks

Make a donation on Giving Tuesday, November 30!

Designate Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony as your
charity on Amazon Smile! Every penny helps!

What has your Music Club done for OIO lately?

Your AFMC representatives at Federation Days in July set two goals we want to see achieved by our clubs this year!

1. 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 know this has been a rough year for many of our clubs but let me encourage you to discuss and make plans at your next meeting on how your club can better support OIO.

Financial support is the first prerequisite to “making it work” and we need to do our part.

Kathie White

AFMC/President

OPERA in the OZARKS
AT INSPIRATION POINT

2022 SEASON
JUNE 24–JULY 22

LOVE ON THE ROCKS

Così fan tutte Mozart
LA RONDINE PUCCHINI
A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC SONDHEIM

Presenting 25+ Performances at Inspiration Point in Eureka Springs and Venues Throughout Northwest Arkansas

VISIT opera.org FOR TICKETS & SCHEDULE INFORMATION
16311 Highway 62 West / Eureka Springs, AR

Opera in the Ozarks

2022 Season

Così Fan Tutti	Mozart
La Rondine	Puccini
A Little Night Music	Sondheim

Federation Days are July 20-23, 2022. Make plans to attend one of the operas or come as a club! Arkansas will be responsible for one of the banquets during Federation Days and it would be great to have a large Arkansas representation attending that day for the opera!

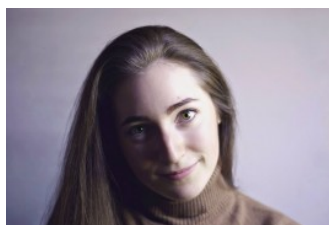


Chairs Needed:

**Dance
Insignia
Historian**

Website & Publications

If you can serve AFMC as Chair of one of the sections, please contact Kathie White at whiteka23@yahoo.com



Rachel Breem
NFMC Young Artist
2021-22

Those attending the AFMC September Conference via Zoom enjoyed the wonderful performance by Rachel and getting to meet her online. We are hoping to meet her in person as plans are underway for an AFMC Spring Tour. Final plans will be announced soon.

Rachel returned from the Vienna competition where she won fourth place in the Beethoven Sonata competition and received a special jury award. She will also audition for the Van Cliburn competition in the Spring and for a competition in New York.

We hope she can fit us into her busy schedule.



Sr. and Jr. Club dues should be sent to Jimmie (Singuefield) Stephens by November 1. **Those dues can still be sent to her!** She has to send them to NFMC by December 1. She has to pay a \$5 late fee to NFMC for every club that pays after December 1. Please send to:

Jimmie Singuefield Stephens
208 E Walters Blvd
New Boston, TX 75570-3807

Together We Sing

September 2021—August 2023

**Let Music Bind Our Music Clubs
Across the Nation**

Has your club ordered a copy yet? It can be ordered on the NFMC website. New this year are piano accompaniments arranged for each song. "Musical Notes" are written to give history or background on each song and the book also includes the Federation Collect, music for the NFMC President's song, the Federation Hymn, The Star Spangled Banner, and the Gift of Song.

Cost: \$2.50