AFMC January Newsletter 2022

Welcome to our AFMC Winter Newsletter!

You will find much information and a lot of encouragement in this issue. It has been heartening for me to receive “volunteer” reports from some of our clubs and AFMC chairs. Although “distanced,” we are not alone and our work goes on, sometimes in unexpected ways, but we push forward towards musical excellence in our teaching, creativity, and performance for our communities. Hope you enjoy this issue and find it helpful!

Kathie White/ AFMC President

AFMC Young Artist Tour with Rachel Breen is still on at present! See the schedule of concerts and contact information for the Arkansas Young Artist Tour below and make plans to attend the concert nearest you! All concerts are open to the public free of charge.

Monday, February 21, 2022 7:30 P.M.
Mabee Fine Arts Center, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, 71998 phone 870-245-5129.
Dr. Gary Gerber, Chair; gerberg@obu.edu

Tuesday, February 22, 2022; 7:30 P.M.
Great Room, Truman Arnold Center, Texarkana College, 2500 North Robinson Road, Texarkana, Texas, 75599 phone 870-773-1118.
Shelly Brown, President; 903-824-0501; mrsdrerb@aol.com

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Fine Arts Center, University of Arkansas at Monticello, 346 University Drive, Monticello, Arkansas, 71656 phone 870-460-1060
Mr. Frank Ferguson; ferguson1951@gmail.com

Friday, February 25, 2022, 11:00 A.M.
Trinity United Methodist Church, 1101 North Mississippi Street, Little Rock, 72207 Suzanne Babbi, President; 501-922-6418; suzебabbie@suddenlink.net

Sunday, February 27, 2022, 2:00 P.M.
White Lecture Hall of Robert Burns Building, Northwest 5, Arkansas Community College, #1 College Drive, Bentonville, Arkansas, 72712 phone 479-619-4261; Marc Turner, Chair; mturner1@nwacc.edu

*Notice will be sent to AFMC members if the concert tour has to be canceled. Read Rachel’s biography on back page.
Reports from AFMC Clubs

Little Rock Music Coterie –Suzanne Babbie, President

The Little Rock Musical Coterie hosted the Baptist Preparatory School Choir at our December 12th “Sing We Now Christmas” meeting and concert held at our host church, Trinity United Methodist Church. Our Immediate Past President Carol Moore presented the program. The school’s Choir Director is Rebecca Sanders. Our audience was greatly expanded as many justifiably proud family members were in attendance to hear the beautiful student voices. The Choir filled our hearts with both Sacred and Traditional Christmas songs. The Coterie board of directors invited our audience members to donate non-perishable food to the Trinity UMC food pantry outreach program at both our November and December concerts, to help those in our community facing food insecurity issues.

Andante Music Club, Bella Vista - Betty Pierce, President

The Andante Music Club of Bella Vista’s February 1, 2022 program will be Brio Woodwind Ensemble performing favorites from Cole Porter and George Gershwin. These woodwind players perform with the Bella Vista Community Band every summer at the outdoor stage at Blowing Springs Park in Bella Vista. In addition to the band, each musician plays with other orchestras, bands, ensembles and solos for programs in our area.
Andante member, Marilyn Lee (left), will accompany the ensemble as their pianist is unable to play. We eagerly await their program.

Andante Music Club will also host a reception for NFMC’s Young Artist, Rachel Breen, following her concert Sunday, February 27, 2022 at White Lecture Hall, Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

Left to right: Bob Betts, Andrea Schomaker, LeAna Colf, Cynthia Augspurger, Jean Kittelson

Reports and Tips from AFMC Chairs

Crusade for Strings - Mandie Query Poemoceah, Chair

Ways you can include strings in your club:

1. Contact local string teachers and invite their students to perform for your club
2. See if you have string talent within your club members and enjoy them performing for you
3. Sponsor a local orchestra (they often include sponsorships in their program notes, so would give your club some publicity too!)
4. Give a scholarship to a string student either for private lessons or college
5. Volunteer hours to work in the office at a string school.

Let me know what your club did to include strings this year by sending in the Crusade for Strings Club Report! Due April 1.

Mandie   mandentp@gmail.com
Welcome to our new Junior Composer Corner! I’m so happy to have this outlet through which I can share tips that will hopefully encourage and inspire you to start asking your students to compose and enter our Junior Composer Contest each year. Note that up-to-date information about the contest is always available on our state website.

You’re probably thinking, “Why should I try to add one more thing to our already packed lessons?” Just 3-5 minutes in a few lessons can get them started or give you time to hear their latest ideas or how they’re developing an already working idea. Then occasionally hear their progress. They need plenty of time to live with their ideas and “grow” their pieces during practice time at home. Just be sure to include the word, composition, in their assignment even if you don’t work on it in the lesson. They’ll let you know when they’re ready for you to hear more or help!

There are several good reasons **WHY** we should all incorporate this creative activity:

1) To help our students make friends with the piano and music.

2) To put students in touch with their creative centers – which will benefit them throughout their lives.

3) To develop greater appreciation for the printed pages of their repertoire and realize how important all those markings in the music are!

4) As with any language, composing brings the circle of learning to a close – read it, write it, speak it.

5) It gives the teacher a window into what they each “own” both in the language of music itself and what technique is now truly within their realm.

6) And, last, but not least, it is fun (always be affirming of students’ efforts!) and it is motivating and exciting for the teacher as well.

Now for the most important **TIP** I can give you – just ask them to make up a little piece or find an interesting start for a piece. If you simply ask all your students, I would bet that one or two might come in the next week with a great start or even a whole piece. These are usually those who love to just play around on the piano at home and may be budding composers naturally! These students are the easiest of all when you’re getting started with composition. How do we decide if the musical idea is good enough to warrant living with and growing it for a while? If they can do it for you again in essentially the same way, that’s a good sign! And, can they answer this question affirmatively – Is it interesting enough that someone would want to hear it again? If so, you’re off and running!

In our next Junior Composer Corner I will share some tips for your students who did not just jump on the composing bandwagon when you asked. There are many other ways to get one going! **Creatively yours,**

Linda Kennedy, Junior Composer Chair, pianolk@aol.com, 501-851-7127
Parade of American Music - Sheree O’Rorke, Chair

Welcome from your Parade of American Music Chair! I hope 2022 is finding you safe and well. If you had a program in November representing American Composers, you have a couple of opportunities I would like to tell you about.

**First**, you can receive a certificate from National Headquarters for having a November program consisting of the majority of American music. All you need for the certificate is the following:

1. A printed program from November with the majority of American music. The programs **must have** the NFMC logo and the following, or similar wording. “The National Federation of Music Clubs observes American Music Month annually in November through the Parade of American Music.”

**Second**, if your club is interested in competing for a monetary award of $300, $125, or $75 you might consider entering the “Professor R.A. Schramm Parade of Music” award. You would need the following to enter:

1. Fill out National form AM 1-1.
2. Printed program. See details above.
3. Proclamation of Parade of American music by city officials (if possible).
4. All publicity of the event.
5. Include any other programs that were presented during the month of November involving the advertisement of NFMC American Music Month with the majority of the program consists of American Music.
6. Photos of performers and displays. Additional points will be awarded for repeated activities.

I hope that one of these opportunities appeal to your club.

The deadline for all submissions to me will be February 15th. I will send submissions to meet our March 1st National deadline. Please contact me with any questions.

Sheree O’Rorke, Parade of American Music Chair, 2kidos@gmail.com, 501-655-3674

The Hot Springs Music Club presented a **Parade of (Mostly) American Music** on November 14. The program was planned by Sheree O’Rorke and a variety of American Music including George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, William Grant Still, Samuel Barber, Dominick Argeno, Lori Laitman, and Henry Krieger was performed by local musicians. Two composers from Hot Springs Village, Dr. Benjamin Harlan and Glen Grussau, were also on the program. Glen Grussaute performed his **Let Your Heart Be Troubled No More** and was accompanied by Dr. Harlan.

Jerry Jones (right) sang **Jesus Came to Dwell**, composed and accompanied by Dr. Harlan. A Posting of the Colors was presented by the Troop 10, Hot Springs.
Do you know an aspiring young woman composer in your area? Through the generosity of Gloria Febro Grilk, AFMC is offering a $500 Competition Award to an Arkansan this year. Please spread the word, show the form, print it out, or send the newsletter to some young woman composer. You might also share it with any of college music faculty members in your area.

Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs presents
The Gloria Febro Grilk Award

2021-2022 Young Arkansas Woman Composer Award
Award: $500
Presenting Award at Fall Conference, September, 2022

Application Requirements
Ages 16 and older
Eligibility: a citizen of Arkansas or proof of two year residency

Composition Requirements:
Composition should not be a published work.
It should be written for voice, instrument, or ensemble.
The composition should be written so that it can be presented at an Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs' event.

Application Deadline: May 1, 2022 Send a completed application form postmarked by May 1 to Gloria Grilk, P.O. Box 5092, Bella Vista, AR 72714.

Composition Deadline: August 1, 2022 The composition must be sent and postmarked by August 1 to Gloria Febro Grilk, P.O. Box 5092, Bella Vista, AR 72714.

Application

Name______________________________
Address_____________________________Zip Code__________
Phone #________________________Email:_________________
Age_______ School/College________________________
Type of Composition____________________________________

Contact for information: Gloria Febro Grilk, P.O. Box 5092, Bella Vista, AR 72714
AFMC $300 Challenge for OIO!

I am issuing a $300 Challenge to all our Club Presidents and Officers to talk to clubs and members about helping AFMC sponsor a “Night of Opera” this summer at Opera in the Ozarks. We have lost several AFMC members this year and I would like us to honor these musicians in this way as a memorial. If every club voted to send $30-50 to our AFMC treasurer for this purpose, I know we can meet this goal.

I also believe we can go even further and offer money over $300 as a Scholarship donation to one of the students at OIO. They have to pay for their summer at OIO and our money can help ease their burden and provide a great encouragement to a young artist.

Has your AFMC Club joined OIO? Only $25! Has every member of your club joined OIO? Also only $25!! Send your checks for the $330 Challenge and for memberships to our treasurer: Jimmie Sinquefield Stephens, 2287 Boston Ave, New Boston, TX 75570

OIO Fresh, Updated Website

Take a moment and go to the OIO website, www.opera.org, and explore their new, updated website. It is fabulous and has much new information about OIO. One of OIO’s new projects is described on their website. “In response to the continuing challenges facing high school musicians during the COVID pandemic, the principal players of the Opera in the Ozarks Orchestra recently made recordings of the required audition excerpts for the 2022 All-State music festivals in four of the states in our home region: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. Students, in these YouTube videos you will find performances by professionals which you may emulate. These teacher/performers offer helpful demonstrations and insights that will assist you to surmount challenges as you prepare a strong and successful audition.” Although All-State is soon, let your students know about this opportunity for this year and next!

Another section to check out on the OIO website is the “Support Us” section. There are new and numerous ways to help support OIO in this next season. Individuals and clubs may want to take on one of these as a club project for this Spring or next year. Financial support is the first prerequisite to “making it work” and we need to keep “polishing” this OIO gem we have here in Arkansas.

Kathie White AFMC/President

OIO 2022 Season

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

Federation Days

July 20 - 23, 2022
Eureka Springs
Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs

The National Music Week Brochure/Booklet is at press and should be mailed out soon.

Updated AFMC Bylaws and Standing Rules will be sent out soon to members for approval.

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

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

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.

AFMC Treasurer’s New Address:
Jimmie (Sinquefield) Stephens
2287 Boston Avenue
New Boston, TX 75570