AFMC March Newsletter 2022

New AFMC Website Launched!

*Hallelujah*

A new AFMC website has been designed and launched with the release of this newsletter. There have been many “ups and downs” in getting the site designed and functioning over the past months and there will probably be more modifications, updates, etc. added in the coming days, but it is ready for use!

You will find on the home page a list of our officers with contact information, a Welcome statement, information about OIO, and an updated calendar for AFMC and NFMC events. The menu heading at the top is the same as before except with an AFMC Newsletter heading where all AFMC Newsletters from this year will be stored. If you notice errors or omissions, please let me know. It has been a tremendous task to get all the current info together and we may have overlooked something.

Kathie White/ AFMC President

The graphic below shows the home page of the new website. The website address is the same as before:

http://arkansasfmc.org/
54th ANNUAL YOUNG ARTIST TOUR
George Keck, Young Artist Presentation Chair

In spite of a blizzard in New Haven, and COVID, rain, snow, ice, and cold in Arkansas, AFMC sponsored the 54th annual Young Artist tour with pianist, Rachel Breen. The tour was mostly planned for September 2021 when it was decided that COVID was simply too contagious to risk the health of our Young Artist and audiences. Holding the tour February 21 through 27, 2022, worked very successfully in spite of the challenges.

This tour would not be possible without the cooperation of many people, our federated music clubs, the Yick Endowment, and educational institutions. The tour was organized with great help from Shelly Brown of Texarkana, Frank Ferguson of Monticello, Dr. Naoki Hakutani and Suzanne Babbi of Little Rock, and Betty Pierce of Bentonville. Arkansas is so fortunate in having the financial resources from the Yick Endowment, a gift to AFMC from Mr. Bill Yick, which helps to fund the annual YA tour. In addition, several colleges and universities help support the tour, including Ouachita Baptist University, Texarkana College, University of Arkansas Monticello, and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

Rachel Breen was an outstanding Young Artist whose five performances revealed why she was chosen by the judges for this award. Every concert was a complete success. At the end of the tour Rachel wrote to express the reason that AFMC has for 54 years worked so hard to promote the careers of our NFMC Young Artists.

A Note from Rachel: “I couldn’t be more grateful to have the chance to be a Young Artist. It has been a saving grace—both financially and personally—in this period of concert cancellations and general uncertainty! I am also so grateful to have been asked to make the Arkansas tour; I have been looking forward to it ever since it was mentioned, and it far exceeded my expectation in every way. Thank you so, so much, from the bottom of my heart!”

Rachel has been accepted as a contestant in the Van Cliburn Competition in which she will compete in two weeks. We wish her every success and take no small pride in Arkansas’s support of this very talented Young Artist.

Photos from Around the State

Central District—Rachel’s visit to the Little Rock Musical Coterie Club. Seen here with Dr. Ouida Keck and Coterie President Suzanne Babbie.
Report from Southeast Arkansas District

A very special thanks to Dr. George Keck for arranging and coordinating the 2022 Young Artist tour recently. Pianist Rachel Breen was an outstanding performer as we enjoyed the differing genre of classical styles of piano compositions. Rachel is an extraordinary skilled pianist with a gift for memorization. She was incredible! We had several in attendance for the concert from the university including a good representation of club members from the Southeast Arkansas District which includes the Monticello Music Club and the Pine Bluff Musical Coterie. The concert was performed on February 24th at the University of Arkansas at Monticello Fine Arts Center. The Southeast Arkansas District members extend a huge "thank you" to Frank and Laura Ferguson for being such gracious hosts to Rachel during her stay in Monticello; and in route back to Little Rock. After the concert a few of us enjoyed supper together with Rachel Breen. Those able to meet for supper were (pictured from L-R): Frank Ferguson, Laura Ferguson, Lewis Hinkle, Rachel Breen, James Rushing, Brenda Rushing, and Carolyn Stover.

Southwest District—Rachel (bottom left) with a photo of Conlon Nancarrow at Texarkana College. She began her concert with a very unusual piece by this Arkansas-born composer, Samuel Conlon Nancarrow. He was born in Texarkana, AR in 1912 and died in Mexico City in 1997. He composed innovative music and produced a body of work largely for player piano. Much of his work was written while living in Mexico where he became a citizen in 1956.

Northwest District—(Below) Rachel with Starla Blair, the NFMC Presentations Chair for Young Artists.

Southwest District—AFMC President Kathie White with Rachel at Ouachita Baptist University.
Junior Composer’s Corner - Linda Kennedy, Chair

I am proud to introduce to you our two AR state winners in Jr. Class III of the Junior Composers Contest. Their compositions have been forwarded to regional competition. Congratulations to both Natalie Achua and Alex Reyes and best of luck at regional!

Alex Reyes, (13), is a seventh grade student at Christ the King Catholic School in Little Rock, AR. and has studied piano with Sherry Mashburn for the past six years. Alex participates in Quiz Bowl and Mu Alpha Theta at school. His hobbies include playing video games such as Madden football, Nitro Type and playing the guitar. He enjoys composing pieces for the piano and has entered the AFMC composition contest for the past two years.

Natalie Achua is a freshman and honors student at Maumelle High School. In addition to piano, she loves reading, history, and traveling. She was born in Kathmandu, Nepal and has since travelled to over 30 countries. She hates injustice and enjoys serving.

In our last newsletter I urged you all to just ask your students to make up a little piece or find an interesting start for a piece, hoping you’d have at least one who would be happy to give it a try. I would love to hear how that went for you. Let me know either by text (501-516-4963) or email (PianoLK@aol.com).

Meanwhile, another tip might help get some of the others going: Ask all students to draw a picture of their favorite animal, and then ask them to create a short piece that used sounds that could be associated in any way with that animal. I did this a while back, and the pictures were priceless and the compositions ranged from quite short to a couple of fully developed pieces! It was great fun as they shared their pictures and pieces in a group class setting. I did not require the pieces to be written out during this 2 week project. Always praise creative efforts so as not to dampen the students’ creative spirits.

Until next time when I’ll toss out another tip, happy teaching!

Creatively yours, Linda Kennedy, AFMC Junior Composer Chairperson

Hot off the Press!

Natalie has just been declared one of ten winners from the 2022 NFMC JCC South Central Region competition for her composition entitled “Serendipity”. The ten winning compositions will be forwarded to the national chair for inclusion in the national competition. Judging at the national level will commence on April 1, 2022. Congratulations to Natalie and her teacher, Linda Kennedy!
Zoom Jr. Honors Festival
Saturday, May 14th, 10 a.m.
Since it has been so long since we have had a Junior Honors Festival, we are planning to have a Zoom Jr. Festival for students, teachers, parents, AFMC members on Saturday, May 14, at 10:00 a.m. One to three students from each festival will be chosen to perform. The student may choose to perform live on zoom or to prepare a video to be shown. More information will be sent to festival chairs and teachers about the event, but feel free to contact me at whiteka23@yahoo.com with any questions.

Jr. Division and Festival News
It has been heartening to see our AFMC Junior Festivals taking place around the state this year. Almost all of the festivals were in-person with a video/zoom option for students. Below are some of the brief reports from some of the festivals.

Mandie Poemoceah—Andante Junior Festival—Centerton
There were 23 events at our Junior Festival - 9 violin solo and 14 piano solo. There were 17 Superiors. We had ice and snow covering our roads in the days previous to our Festival, but thankfully we were able to still hold it on February 26 - with a delayed start time and schedule change.

Jolene Williams—Hot Springs Junior Festival
Hot Springs area Festival: 36 students participated in the Hot Springs Festival this year. The majority of events entered were piano solo, but we also had entries in art song and musical theater vocal solo, violin solo, cello solo, and piano hymn. Five of the 36 participants entered the piano solo event as well as another event. The festival was February 19.

Vicky Kiehl—Russellville Junior Festival
Russellville’s Jr. Festival had 26 entries and took place on March 5th.

Sherry Mashburn—Little Rock South Junior Festival
Little Rock South, 56 students, February 18, 2022, in person.

Susan Robbins—Little Rock Musical Coterie Junior Festival
The festival was in-person on Saturday, March 5 at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock. 25 students registered to perform. The participants wore masks and surfaces were disinfected between students.

Carolyn Stover—Pine Bluff Musical Coterie Junior Festival
The Jr. Festival was on March 5th. Three teachers entered students.

Leisa Arnett—Southwest District
The Southwest District had an in-person festival on Saturday, February 26 at Texarkana College. They offered a virtual option for students who wished to use that option. Careful precautions were followed.
Greetings, AFMC Members! In the midst of a chaotic world, music remains our universal method of expressing hope and joy! I hope your club is using all available means to express our beautiful gift of music!

The two schools that are eligible for the Yick Scholarships this year are Ouachita Baptist University (Dr. Gary Gerber) and Arkansas State University (Dr. Laura Schack Clark). We are currently awaiting their nominees and look forward to presenting them to our AFMC members.

It is now time for our AFMC Committee Chairs to begin sending in reports to our state and national organizations. Please be diligent in sending these reports in on time! If you are unsure about dates, please, communicate with me so we can get the information in on time. Thank you for your work and support of AFMC

Due date: April 1

Chamber Music Report
Choral Music Report
Crusade for Strings
Dance
International Music Relations
Music in Schools and Colleges
Music Outreach
Sacred Music
Together We Sing

Due Date: April 15

Arts Advocacy
Music in Poetry

Due Date: April 30

Folk Music

Due Date: May 1

Chapter PPA
Media Report (Internet, Radio, TV)

Due Date: June 1

American Music Club Jr. Award
American Music NFMC Club Award
American Women Composers Award
Junior Club Rating
National Music Week

Due Date: July 15

Senior Club Annual Summary Form
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
National Federation of Music Clubs News

Deborah Freeman of South Carolina is the new NFMC President. Deborah has been serving as First Vice President and now has stepped into the role of President with the resignation of Frances Nelson.

National Music Week—May 1-8, 2022
Theme: Music is ….. Inspiration!

The National Music Week Brochure is now available at NFMC headquarters to order or download for your National Music Week Celebrations. The form is AR-24.

NFMC Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana
June 13-18, 2022
Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel

Theme: History and Music in the Circle City

Registration forms and information are online at nfmc-music.org. Registration deadline is June 1.
Opera in the Ozarks  June 24—July 22

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

Federation Days are July 20-23, 2022

AFMC is responsible for hosting Federation Days this year and we want to represent our state well. I may be calling on some of you to help us with hosting duties for that week or if you would like to help, please get in touch with me. Make plans to attend one of the operas during the season or come as a club! It would be great to have a large AFMC presence attending the operas during Federation Days.

Has your club joined OIO?  $25
Have your club members joined?  $25
Can your club provide a “Night of Opera” for $300 as a memorial for our AFMC members?
$3 as a scholarship for a young singer?

Opera in the Ozarks will also be performing the children’s opera, Pinocchio, around the Bentonville area. Look for the finalized schedule of all performances on the www.opera.org website.

It’s always good to know or refresh your memory about what an opera is about before you go! Here are some links with interesting information, a synopsis, some history, and music about each opera being performed at Opera in the Ozarks this summer. Check them out…or go to Youtube to see an entire opera or excerpts. It will whet your appetite for more!

Cosi fan tutti

La Rondine

A Little Night Music
https://stageagent.com/shows/musical/203/a-little-night-music
In Memoriam

In the past three months, AFMC has lost dear members that have invested years of leadership and service to our organization. We are not able to give the full obituaries of each, but we want to recognize these and honor their memory. Many of you have fond, wonderful memories of times together in your clubs, in programs, lessons, and schools. Their names, along with those of Brian Conatser and Ann Shields, will be recognized during the NFMC Memorial Service at the Convention this summer. If there are other AFMC members that have passed during this year, please let me know and I will add their names for remembrance at the NFMC Convention. Please also send those names to Dr. Chris Thompson, our AFMC Chaplain, for our memorial service at the AFMC Conference on September 10.

Ernest Walter Grilk, age 92, born in Davenport, Iowa, July 25, 1929, passed away on February 9, 2022 at NW Medical Center, Bentonville, Arkansas. Ernest attended Davenport Public Schools, served in the U.S. Navy, then attended Chicago Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago, Illinois. He was winner of the coveted AID (American Institute of Decorators – now known as ASID (American Society of Interior Designers) and the Rorimer Medal in Interior Design and Decoration. Ernest was the husband of Gloria Febro Grilk and they have 4 daughters. Ernest was a Life Member of Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs and also Opera in the Ozarks, He was a Rose Fay Thomas Fellow in the National Federation of Music Clubs. He was a member of Andante Music Club and the NWA Music, Art, Poetry Students.

Dr. John Dennis “JD” Kelly, age 89, of Jonesboro, died on December 16, 2021, at NEA Baptist Hospital. He was born in Lindsborg, Kansas on August 15, 1932. He grew up in central Kansas, graduating from Salina, Kansas High School, in 1950. Following this, he attended the Kansas City Conservatory of Music, earning a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in 1954. After graduating he entered the United States Army where he served in the 48th and 49th Army Bands in Europe. After his discharge from the military, he taught piano for one year at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music, before entering Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where in 1959 he earned a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance. In 1970, he entered the University of Kansas City Conservatory of Music where in 1974 he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance. He came to Arkansas State University in 1975, where he remained until his retirement in 1998. He retired as professor Emeritus – Piano. Dr. Kelly served as President of the Jonesboro Treble Clef Club and served AFMC in several positions through the years.
Mary Shambarger, age 86, passed away on February 27, 2022, in Rogers, Arkansas. She was born March 6, 1935 in Morrilton, Arkansas. After graduating from Morrilton High School, she earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University, later earning her master’s from the University of Arkansas. Mary’s first teaching job was at Cassville High School in Missouri, where she met her husband, the late Dr. Jake Shambarger, a basketball coach. As newlyweds, the two moved to teach at Williams Baptist College, where they remained for six years before moving on to Ouachita Baptist University in 1966. While at Ouachita, Mary formed and directed The Ouachita Tones, an all-female choral ensemble, and after 25 years restructured the group combining women and men into The Ouachita Sounds. At the time of her retirement from Ouachita in 1998, she was the Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music, emerita. The same year, the Mary Shambarger Competition for Singers was established and continues to be held on the OBU campus each February. Some of her professional affiliations include the Andante Music Club, NATS, American Choral Directors Association, Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society, Sigma Alpha Iota international music fraternity for women and the Governing Board of Opera in the Ozarks.

Shirley Elaine Hofmann, 94, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died December 7, 2021. She was born June 14, 1927 in Canfield, Ohio. Shirley graduated from Canfield High School in 1944. She attended Ohio State University on a one year scholarship and then completed her college work at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois in 1948. She received a master’s degree in elementary education from Colorado State College in Greeley, Colorado. She did post-master’s work at Normal University in Normal, Illinois. She and her husband moved to Deerfield, Illinois where she taught in the Elementary School for 3 years and then in the Highland Park school district for 22 years. She and her husband moved to Bella Vista in 1987 where she continued her work in the music department of the First United Methodist Church. She also sang in the Bella Vista Women’s Chorus and the Northwest Arkansas Chorale. She was preceded in death by her husband. Shirley was a long-time member of AFMC and served as Chair of Music in Poetry.
Thoughts on the President’s Theme
“Music has the Power to bring People Together”

Music indeed has the power to bring people together. We know it gives identity to people collectively and individually often based on nationality, shared experiences, religion, and local community. This rich heritage of music each of us has received has been handed down to us by many people and musicians before us—a host of historical musicians, our families, churches, teachers, and “influencers”. We have also experienced the power of music through our innate desires to hear and make music shaped by our individual sensitivities, talents, and honed skills.

How appropriate that this page follows the In Memoriam page as we remember those that have given so much of themselves to AFMC and into the lives of so many through their musical passions and gifts. That gift continues through us and we, as people and an organization, must keep the gift moving forward together.

I also initially chose this theme due to the pandemic and the “shut-down” of many of our clubs and members during this time. We have lost members through death, but also through isolation, club inactivity, loss of motivation and contact. Making music and teaching others to make music is at the heart of who we are as musicians and these pandemic days have wrecked havoc on our clubs...and we have lost some clubs too.

The amazing and hopeful thing to me is the tenacity of the human spirit in times like this. It is astounding to see how people around the world have found ways to make music together over the past two years (think virtual/zoom choirs and orchestras). Let’s explore new ways in our clubs to keep the “power and gift of music moving forward...together”. Share your ideas with me!

Thoughts on the President’s Song
“Over my head, I hear Music in the Air”

Often, the reason for a President’s song choice is obvious. My choice may not be as obvious as some, but I chose this song because it expresses the intangible yet real HOPE that music brings. This song, like most African American spirituals, was borne out of the experience of slavery and I can only imagine the despair of those times.

Today, we all have felt and witnessed the despair of so many with the pandemic and now the onslaught of terrible destruction in Ukraine. How deeply moving it is to see people express their unity, pain, determination, and strength through music while standing before bombed rubble. Our hearts grieve with them yet we celebrate the hope, strength, and inspiration that music brings to the human experience.

This song also has an ending phrase not in the title. It says “Over my head, I hear music in the air, there must be a God somewhere.” I love that! I want to encourage all of us to keep giving the gift of music as hope to our communities. We all need hope today. How is your club giving the gift of music as hope to your community? We can do it together.