I hope you will mark your calendars and make plans to attend our first “live” AFMC Conference in three years. We will have several items to discuss and ideas to pursue for 2022-23. The official call for this Conference will go out mid-summer.

This summer I will send a revised Bylaws/Standing Rules document for you to preview for a vote at the Conference. Please let me know if you have questions about it before the meeting.

I will also send out a new AFMC Member Directory list to club presidents to check that all members, officers, addresses, contact information, etc. is correct before we have it published and distributed. If you have a recent list of your club members, please send that to me.

The NFMC National Conference is June 14-18 in Indianapolis and a few of us from Arkansas will be attending. The theme is “History and Music in the Circle City”. If you get on the NFMC website and look at the 2022 Conference, you can see the schedule of some wonderful training and music events offered. I will be representing our state and giving a state report (see page 6 of the Newsletter). I will send a National Conference report this summer. Looking forward to it!

Kathie White
Arkansas is the host this year for the Federation Days. It would be wonderful to have a good representation of our AFMC at the meetings and operas during that week. I have a few jobs needing done. Let me know if and when you can attend and help!
Drama, Comedy Await Audiences at OIO This Season

The summer 2022 season of Opera in the Ozarks opens on June 24 with Puccini’s light-hearted opera *La Rondine (The Swallow)*.

Mozart’s delicious comedy *Cosi fan tutte* opens on June 25 and Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music* follows suit on June 28.

The OIO season also includes a chamber music concert by OIO orchestra members on July 18.

OIO is sponsoring two Cabaret evenings with the talented singers from OIO singing favorite Broadway and show tunes. The first Cabaret evening is in Fayetteville at Mount Sequoya on Thursday, July 14. The second Cabaret evening will be on Tuesday, July 19 at the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs and will feature a full dinner.

Tickets for all events— the operas, the chamber music concert, and the Cabaret Evenings—are all available on the OIO website, www.opera.org.

*(Information gleaned from the OIO Good News Letter, Don Dagenais, Editor)*

ANDANTE MUSIC CLUB OF BELLA VISTA

Invites you to

A Taste of the Opera
Cast members of OPERA IN THE OZARKS WILL PRESENT ARIAS INTRODUCING THEIR 2022 Season:

TUESDAY—JUNE 7, 2022—1:00PM
HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1500 FOREST HILLS BLVD. BELLA VISTA, AR 72715

All Andante programs are free and open to the public
Meet Little Rock Coterie’s Katherine Stanick

Suzanne Babbie (left), President of the Little Rock Coterie, is seen in this photo with Katherine Stanick. Katherine is 105 and still an active member of Coterie since 1966. Suzanne sent me this photo last month and I was intrigued and eager to speak with Katherine, so we set up a phone call. She was so delightful and interesting that we talked for about an hour! She was an inspiration to me and I thought all of AFMC should know about her.

Katherine was born in the hills of Marshall, Arkansas, but her family moved to Conway when she was just a toddler. She attended Conway schools and eventually graduated from Hendrix College. Her father was a school principal but later studied to become a lawyer. He practiced law in Conway for many years and even argued a case before the Supreme Court.

She had piano lessons as a child and also in high school. She said her first teacher taught her well and laid a good foundation for her musical study. At Hendrix, she had one semester of piano but also took music theory, harmony, and music history. A young professor from New York came to Hendrix and he started a string ensemble. She took cello lessons for a year and a half to be part of that ensemble. It was not until her 60’s that she took up the cello again and eventually began playing with a UALR ensemble. She also played with a community orchestra in Little Rock for more than 20 years. Katherine majored in French at Hendrix but also went to library school. She worked as a school librarian before marriage and worked at a VA hospital as a medical librarian. Her husband was in the army until he retired and then he became an occupational counselor. She lives with her daughter now.

“Music has kept me going all these years.” This statement made by Katherine really hit home with me. She still plays the cello and has a small group of friends that come to her house and they play together. In fact, they played all through the pandemic wearing masks and socially distancing. Katherine has been blessed with good health but she has also kept herself interested and interesting through her musical activities.
Hi my name is Brandon Foley and I grew up and currently live in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I started music in the 7th grade, continued all throughout high school, and now currently major in Music Education at Arkansas State University, where I’m going into my Junior Year. When I graduate, I plan to be a band director because music has become one of my passions and joys and I’d love to positively impact other’s view of music as my directors once did for me.

2022 Jr. Festival Report

Shelly Brown/State Festival Chair
654 Total Entries
11 Festivals
13 Different Events
57 Teachers
540 Superior Ratings
$1635 Student Fees paid to AFMC
134 Federation Cups Awarded

2022 Jr. Honors Zoom Recital

A state-wide Jr. Honors Zoom Recital was held on Saturday, May 14th, at 10 a.m. Thirteen students were chosen from the different festivals to represent their district. Five students performed “live” and 8 recorded videos were presented during the zoom call. AFMC members, teachers, parents, and friends of the students were included in the zoom invitation.
The 2021 AFMC Conference was held via Zoom on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Along with NFMC and AFMC business, the group was privileged to have Rachel Bream, the NFMC Young Artist 2021-22, join the zoom call for a performance and "meet and greet" during our meeting.

54th Annual Young Artist Tour: 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. 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. The concerts were performed at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Texarkana College in Texarkana, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock, and Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

It was heartening to see the AFMC Junior Festivals taking place in February and March around the state this year. It had been almost two years since the festivals had taken place, although a few tried to have virtual festivals in 2021. Almost all of the festivals in 2022 were in-person with a video/zoom option for students and judges. AFMC had 654 Total Entries with 11 Festivals taking place. There were 13 Different Events involving 57 teachers. 540 Superior Ratings were given with 134 Federation cups awarded. $1635 student fees were paid to AFMC.

AFMC was proud to have two state winners in Jr. Class III of the Junior Composers Contest. Congratulations to Natalie Achua and Alex Reyes for representing Arkansas well. Natalie was also declared one of ten winners from the 2022 NFMC JCC South Central Region competition for her piano composition entitled “Serendipity”. Natalie is the student of Linda Kennedy and Alex is the student of Sherry Mashburn.

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AFMC will be this year’s host for the five-state Federation Days Meeting in July 20-23, 2022, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. It is held in connection with the Opera in the Ozarks final productions of three operas. The operas for the June-July season include Cosi fan tutti, La Rondine, and A Little Night Music.

A newly renovated website was launched in March. The website address is http://arkansasfmc.org/ The state president produced AFMC Newsletters in September, November, January, March, and May 2022. These newsletters can be accessed on the website.
The Andante Music Club always participates in The National Federation of Music Club’s celebration of National Music Week. But, this year’s event really turned out to be a challenge. We originally had planned to present six performers. The soprano was offered an opera role in California. Sorry to lose her but thrilled for her opportunity. We had just over a week to find another singer.

We had booked a wonderful harpist -- she contacted the virus. Then, a pianist also cancelled – the virus again. Okay our concert was shortened but all agreed to additional selections. And then, two days before the concert our new soprano had to respond to a family emergency in another state.

Find a soprano in just two days? WOW, was this event meant to be?

Yes, it was. A miracle happened. Our soprano appeared and National Music Week was indeed celebrated. Over 105 attended the concert in the beautiful Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel. The Chapel has been very generous allowing us the use of their facility for many years, before the pandemic interruptions too.

Andante Music Club of Bella Vista applauds Camille Austin, violin; Nolen Pridemore, tenor; Rachel Gubler, soprano and Garth Smith, pianist. They presented a wonderful concert and made the celebration truly memorable.

Betty L. Pierce

Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe proclaimed May 1-8, 2022 as National Music Week in Hot Springs.

The Hot Springs Proclamation encouraged all citizens of the community to observe and take part in activities, recognizing the importance of music, musicians, and musical organizations to the cultural life of the city. The Hot Springs Music Club initiated the week with a Student Honors Concert at a local church. Featured in the concert were students of local teachers and the Music Club’s three 2022 Scholarship Winners. Mayor McCabe presented the proclamation to Kathie White as the state president of Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs and a representative of the Hot Springs Music Club.
National Music Week—Northwest Arkansas Community College, a collegiate member of AFMC, offered its students the artistic relief from the stress of Finals in early May through coloring. When they had a few moments, the students would color the 2022 National Music Week poster with this year’s theme:

"Music is .......Inspiring"

Rene Garcia-Oliver, a member of NWA Music, Art, Poetry Students, is a singer, an adult student, and a Registered Nurse hoping to add Music Therapy to her professional life. As a part-time staff member introducing concerts and preparing the printed programs for musical offerings of the Music Department, she caught the idea as a win-win project for the college, the student body, and National Music Week.

Reminder to Club Presidents
Senior Club Reports Due
July 1, 2022

Please send your completed Senior Club reports (form ME 7-1 on the NFMC website) by July 1st to Kathie White, 125 Larkspur Court, Hot Springs, AR, 71901 or scan and email your form to whiteka23@yahoo.com.

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

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