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AFMC Fall Newsletter 2022

AFMC Fall Conference News

The AFMC Fall Conference met at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock on Saturday, September 10, 2022. Twenty-six members of AFMC representing every district were in attendance and the day was spent in one group as we shared, learned, and enjoyed fellowship with each other after a long time of not meeting in person. Photos and information from the conference will be on the following pages of this newsletter.



AFMC Officers (l-r)

Frank Ferguson, *Parliamentarian*, Barbara Lippincott, *Historian*, Kathie White, *President*, Carol Moore, *Vice President*. Jimmie Stephens, *Treasurer*, Shelly Brown, *Festival*, Chris Thompson, *Chaplain*, (absent: Nancy Griffin, *Recording Secretary*)

What's Next in AFMC?

Make plans now to attend our AFMC Convention 2023. It will be held in Hot Springs on April 28 and 29th at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. More details to follow!



Scenes from the AFMC Fall Conference September 10, 2022 Little Rock



Jimmie Stephens (AR-TX), Tim & Kristen Smith (Russellville), Chris Thompson (Walnut Ridge), Suzanne Babbie (LR), Ouida Keck (LR), Robin Williams (Hot Springs)



Karen Granderson (Hot Springs), Frank & Laura Ferguson (Monticello), Geroge Keck (LR), Mary Dixon (Mena), Freda Goodman, (MAPS), Gloria Grilk (Andante & MAPS), Barbara Lippincott (MAPS)



Dannie Morrison (Arkadelphia), Lynn Williams (Jonesboro), Pat Qualls (Jonesboro), Christine Graham (Ft. Smith), Sheree O'Rorke (Hot Springs), Carol Moore (LR)



The **Memorial Service** at the Fall Conference was led by Dr. Chris Thompson, Chaplain of AFMC. We remembered and honored the following:

- ERNEST GRILK -- *Bella Vista Andante*
- SHIRLEY GUY -- *Walnut Ridge Schubert*
- SHIRLEY HOFMANN -- *Bella Vista Andante*
- DR. J. D. KELLY -- *Jonesboro Treble Clef*
- JOYCE McCOMBS -- *Arkadelphia Philharmonic*
- MARY SHAMBARGER -- *Bella Vista Andante*

Three vacant offices were appointed by the state president at the Fall Conference. We welcome the following to the leadership team:

AFMC Vice President

Carol Moore has recently moved to Farmington, AR but she grew up in Little Rock and has been a member of Little Rock Musical Coterie for many years. She is a past president of LR Coterie. Carol is also a 3rd generation member of Coterie. Her grandmother, Melba Harris, began the AFMC family legacy and her mother, Martha Rosenbaum (Lifetime Member of AFMC), served as a past president of LR Coterie and also State President of AFMC. Carol's sister, Kathryn Coleman, is the current Treasurer of LR Coterie. Carol graduated from U of A with a BSE in Secondary Education and a minor in Organ. She and her husband, Rick, have two daughters, Anna and Madelyn. Carol enjoys playing the organ, piano, and harp. She has been a realtor for 15 years.



AFMC Recording Secretary

Nancy Griffin has been a member of the Little Rock Coterie since the early 90's. She has served the club in many capacities and was the club president from 2013-2017 and is presently the Recording Secretary for Coterie. She is a class piano Instructor teaching third age piano through Extended Ed at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Nancy has three children and four grandchildren and has taught them all music. She also currently plays the keyboard at her church.



AFMC Historian Barbara Watts Lippincott

Although I have no formal music education, I began piano lessons in Branson, MO, when I was seven years old and continued them until I graduated from high school. While I have always had a piano, I only recently began playing again, this time for my own enjoyment. My professional background includes careers in public accounting, banking, as a professor of accounting, and more recently as an academic editor. I have a PhD in accounting and finance from the University of Missouri. However, my undergraduate degree is from the University of Arkansas, and I have been a Razorback since 1971. I moved back to the Ozarks to Bella Vista, AR, in 2019 where I live with my husband, Charlie, and our standard poodle, Jasper.



President's closing remarks at the AFMC Fall Conference



*Let us with renewed consecration dedicate ourselves to the purpose of our Federation, to bring the **spiritualizing force of music to the inner life of our nation**. Open our minds that divine knowledge and wisdom may teach us how best to execute our pledge.*

This statement from the collect has been on my mind lately. It's good to visit again those foundations that have inspired and guided us. I lived in Scotland for 12 years and one of the things I loved to do was to look for the "Cairns" on the bare hillsides. Cairns are stacks of stones that can represent many things: "Look, I made it up this hill. Let's build a monument to commemorate!" Some can give guidance through the brush and heather to reach the hilltop. Some are simply artistic expressions of a person or group to express their satisfaction and joy of the moment. I like to think of them as symbols of hope. The Bible tells us of times that the children of Israel often stacked stones to remember a place of significance.

This statement from our collect is one of those "cairns" for us. We must go back to it and especially during times when our clubs get despondent or low. (I'm going to read it again.)

One of my favorite scriptures is Psalm 121 "I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" We need to remember to look up or to look again at why we do what we do. Is it just to provide nice programs and to have fellowship with each other (as important that is for us as a club)? **We have a greater purpose than that.** We must see how much our communities need the music we can share. Have our clubs become mere consumers ourselves? Do we just take or make the music for ourselves? Music to inspire, to lift up by giving hope, to calm, to stimulate minds, and to energize for greater things is what we are about!

Do we really see that we have something that is a "spiritualizing force that affects the inner life of our nation"? Do we see our communities as people needing what we have to give? Can we be inspired by music to seek ways to share it meaningfully in our culture? Most of us do not live in towns with great resources of music, programs, extraordinary talent, or financial means. The second part of the collect statement is really a prayer: Open our minds that divine knowledge and wisdom may teach us how best to execute our pledge. We can share ideas but you must make it fit for where you are. We need open minds and wisdom to do that.

Let's use this statement as a "Cairn" for our organization and our clubs. Keep looking to it as a beacon, as a foundation for your club this year. If we ever needed a **spiritualizing force for the inner life of our nation**...we need it now.

Would you read it again with me?



Competitions & Awards George Keck, Chair

The 2022—2023 **NFMC Competitions and Awards Chart** is now on the NFMC website and are available for all to search and download. Encourage your students to seek out opportunities to apply for awards listed on the Chart in categories for piano, strings, voice, brass, and woodwinds. Many of these awards have very generous prizes and often have no applicants. Let's get our talented Arkansas musicians to apply for awards and win our share of prizes. In addition, your club can apply for awards based on your club programs. Note the awards under American Music and Arts Divisions in the Chart. Let me know if I can help in any way.



Young Artist Presentation George Keck, Chair

Arkansas's 54th annual Young Artist tour was a resounding success with Shaina Martinez, soprano, and Mary Scott Smith, piano. Five concerts were hosted by Monticello Music Club and Pine Bluff Musical Coterie, Little Rock Musical Coterie, Andante Club of Bella Vista, Ouachita Baptist University and Arkadelphia Philharmonic Club, and Texarkana College and Texarkana Music Club. The Andante Club concert was sponsored by Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Susan Goss in memory of her mother, long-time music club member Mary Shambarger. The Young Artist Tour continues to be one of the most successful programs of NFMC and AFMC. Arkansas is especially blessed to have the Yick Endowment which supports this annual tour.

Many of you will remember Alexander Hersh, cellist, who came to Arkansas for the tour in September 2019. Alex will be making his Carnegie Hall debut on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in New York City. It is such a pleasure to follow the careers of our Young Artists as they continue to develop professional careers. Another of our Young Artists, Zuill Bailey, cellist, recently performed with the Texarkana Symphony orchestra and will perform next May with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

(Photo) Mary Scott Smith, Shaina Martinez, and Kathie White at the YA Concert at OBU, Arkadelphia.

Arkansas Past President Assembly Gloria Febro Griik, 2022-2023 Chair



Dear Friends of AFMC,

Since becoming your PPA Chair, I have been saddened by our organizations not meeting, having to meet in the garden, or on zoom, but as you know our Young Artist competitions and our Young Artist Tour of Arkansas continue. We now need to establish the “importance” of PPA as a SUPPORT to that YA expense.

NFMC PPA CHAIR, Irene Vile, has brought me up-to-date on some things. Many times your organization has sent this money, honoring you, but not all clubs have done that, so the way we will begin is this:

\$2.00 dues (one to NFMC and one to AFMC). (Total of \$4.00)

An extra \$2.00 (one to NFMC and one to AFMC) is a donation above and beyond regular dues, but your donation can be MUCH more if you so desire.

Please pay it to your local Treasurer and then ask them to send directly to our State Treasurer.

Thank you!

Special note from Kathie: A focus on Past Presidents was made at the Fall Conference in Little Rock. Gloria had pins created (see above) and presented these to each Past President (club or state) in attendance. **(Photo right)** Lynn Williams, Jonesboro Treble Club, being presented her PPA pin. Pat Qualls, Jonesboro Treble Club, has just received her pin.



(Photo below) Past Presidents in attendance at Fall Conference: (front, l-r) Mary Dixon (Mena), Gloria Griik (Andante, MAPS), Dannie Morrison (Arkadelphia), Shelly Brown (AR-TX Connection), Laura Ferguson (Monticello), Sheree O’Rorke (Hot Springs), Lynn Williams (Jonesboro), (back, l-r) Frank Ferguson (Monticello), Robin Williams (Hot Springs), Carol Moore (LR Coterie), Ouida Keck (LR Coterie), Kathie White (Hot Springs), Pat Qualls (Jonesboro), Tim Smith (Russellville), Chris Thompson (Walnut Ridge), George Keck, (LR Coterie).



Arkansas Past President Assembly
AFMC Individual Dues Form

I am a Past President _____

My local organization is _____

Date of My Service as President was _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Dues: \$2.00 for AFMC (this includes the \$1.00 donation)

\$2.00 for NFMC (this includes the \$1.00 donation)

If you would like to add more to the donation \$ _____

Please send this form along with your money to the STATE Treasurer, unless you prefer to send through your local treasurer, then let the State Chair know of this, so that everyone may be counted.

Jimmie Stephens
2287 Boston Avenue
New Boston, TX 75570

We are a unique group of “leaders and servants” at the same time: Leading through our knowledge and serving through our compassion for others. We belong to a unique national Music Service organization that survived world wars, depressions, recessions, Covid, and multiple individual crises, and yet as we serve we are better citizens for having the experience. I am grateful to be part of your Team!

Gloria Febro Grilk, Past Arkansas State President

November - American Music Month Sheree O'Rorke, 2022-23 Chair



What is your club doing for American Music Month? Please share your ideas, programs, photos with me or Kathie.

Our NFMC President, Deborah Freeman, has chosen her President's Theme as **"Celebrating Our Musical Heritage"**. Using that theme alone would give many directions to pursue for American composer ideas whether in November or other times. Since we do not meet physically as a group, I am planning to call each club during the year to share ideas and plans. You can contact me at 2kidos@gmail.com or call 501-655-3673

Founders Day Chair Carolyn Walker, 2022-23 Chair

Hello Arkansas Senior Music Clubs!

My name is Carolyn Walker, and I live in Bella Vista. I am a member of the Andante' Music Club here. In the near future, I hope to be in touch with you regarding what program/event or just a time of special mention that your club gives in honor of your club's founders. If this is not a part of your program, please let me visit with you about that.



If you would send me the information for a contact person in your club, I would very much appreciate it.

E-mail: nanacinbv@gmail.com Text or call: 405 412 0471



**Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, November 28
Let's make Giving Tuesday a great day for our "Opera in the Ozarks"!**

"Giving Tuesday" has been around long enough that most groups will know about this opportunity to share a gift that supports their favorite mission or charity. Don't forget that clubs and individual donors can simply send their special "Giving Tuesday Gifts" for OIO to one of the addresses below:

OIO Treasurer, Duane Langley
1203 Whispering Pines,
St. Louis, MO 63146

Opera in the Ozarks - "GivingTuesday Gift"
PO Box 127
Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Check the OIO Website www.opera.org for how to donate

Opera in the Ozarks 2023 Season

The Elixir of Love by Donezetti

Orpheus in the Underworld by Offenbach

The Tender Land by Copland

Federation Days - July 19—21 2023

Little Rock Coterie News

The Little Rock Musical Coterie held their Members Perform concert on October 9, 2022. The concert consisted of brilliant performances on the piano and flute and also a vocal performance. Our music club celebrates the outstanding performances by our talented members.



Left to right: Pianist Janine Tiner, pianist Kathryn Coleman, pianist Kristin Duckworth, pianist Sabrina Shivley, pianist Sherry Mashburn, flutist Sharon Burrall, vocalist Katie Howell and pianist Dr. Lei Cai.



The Little Rock Musical Coterie
invites everyone to attend

Happy Holidays In Music
Sunday December 11, 2022, 2pm

featuring the UA Little Rock Vocal Group
Night Shift

Trinity United Methodist Church
1101 N. Mississippi Street Little Rock

The concert will be followed by a reception
with holiday refreshments.



Hot Springs Music Club News

The opening program of the Hot Springs Music Club was held on Sunday, September 18. The program was entitled "Spotlight on Members" with several members of the club performing. A guest performer was Sarah Mesko, daughter of Kathy Mesko and the late Allan Mesko.

Sarah has performed roles at the Metropolitan Opera, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Opera Theater of St. Louis, and will be singing the role of Carmen at the Lyric Opera in Chicago in 2023.

She performed "Ombra mai fu" by Handel, "Seguedille" by Bizet, and "Morgan!" by Strauss to conclude the program.

Other HS club members performing included Gay Strakshus and Jolene Williams, Shelley Martin, Lowella Cherry, and Kathy Mesko.



The HS Music Club Ladies Ensemble performed three pieces under the direction of Dr. Tom Bolton, club president. The Ensemble was started in 2015 by Kathie White and it is now composed of 15 members of the Hot Springs Music Club. Dr. Elsen Portugal was the accompanist for the Ensemble.



Thanksgiving

BY EDGAR ALBERT GUEST

Gettin' together to smile an' rejoice,
An' eatin' an' laughin' with folks of your choice;
An' kissin' the girls an' declarin' that they
Are growin' more beautiful day after day;
Chattin' an' braggin' a bit with the men,
Buildin' the old family circle again;
Livin' the wholesome an' old-fashioned cheer,
Just for awhile at the end of the year.

Greetings fly fast as we crowd through the door
And under the old roof we gather once more
Just as we did when the youngsters were small;
Mother's a little bit grayer, that's all.
Father's a little bit older, but still
Ready to romp an' to laugh with a will.
Here we are back at the table again
Tellin' our stories as women an' men.

Bowed are our heads for a moment in prayer;
Oh, but we're grateful an' glad to be there.
Home from the east land an' home from the west,
Home with the folks that are dearest an' best.
Out of the sham of the cities afar
We've come for a time to be just what we are.
Here we can talk of ourselves an' be frank,
Forgettin' position an' station an' rank.

Give me the end of the year an' its fun
When most of the plannin' an' toilin' is done;
Bring all the wanderers home to the nest,
Let me sit down with the ones I love best,
Hear the old voices still ringin' with song,
See the old faces unblemished by wrong,
See the old table with all of its chairs
An' I'll put soul in my Thanksgivin' prayers.