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AFMC January Newsletter 2023



99th Annual Convention
April 28 - 29, 2023



Sing and Play It Forward

The Future of Music in Arkansas

**Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs
Convention 2023**

**April 28 & 29, 2023
Westminster Presbyterian Church
3819 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

Hosted by the Central District, AFMC

See more details on page 4



Generous Gift from Bill Yick Benefits AFMC

AFMC has (once again) been the beneficiary of a generous gift of \$20,000 from Bill Yick. Bill gave \$20,000 to AFMC almost 10 years ago which has helped finance the Young Artist Tour in Arkansas and to provide two scholarships to students in Arkansas AFMC-affiliated colleges. His generosity has allowed Arkansas to continue to be the only state in NFMC which has an annual Young Artist Tour. We are very grateful to Bill for his support and generosity towards our state and the future of young musicians in Arkansas and the nation.

Thank you, Bill!

Bill's Biography

Bill Yick, originally from Philadelphia, PA, spent most of his life in Arkansas, after marrying his wife Pat who was from Texarkana. He served in the United States Navy after high school as a musician in the NY Naval Band playing bassoon, flute and piccolo. After serving in the Navy, he attended Harding College, (now University) and graduated with a BA in Music Education as a voice major. He taught several years in public schools in Arkansas before going into private teaching in piano and guitar. He began piano service work tuning and repair qualifying as a Registered Piano Technician in 1975 in the PTG. (Piano Technicians Guild)

Bill joined the Fort Smith Coterie Music Club serving as Club President, then as a District President, and later as AFMC President. His wife Pat passed away in 2012 and he met and married Laresa in Texas in 2013. They now reside on a 275 acre ranch with cattle and goats in Izoro near Copperas Cove, Texas. He still does piano service work as a semi-retired tuner/technician in the local area.

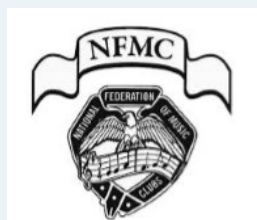
William Yick Scholarship Award

Since 2015, fourteen Arkansas college music majors have received a \$500 Yick Scholarship from



AFMC. These students have represented Arkansas State University, Henderson State University, Ouachita Baptist University, North West Arkansas Community College, Harding University, Williams Baptist University, and Texarkana College. When a college/university affiliates with AFMC, it is placed on an AFMC rota list of colleges. Each year two colleges on the rota are eligible to submit their choice for the Yick Scholarship. Each recommended student must meet a list of requirements in order to receive the scholarship. Unfortunately, the pandemic not only affected our NFMC, AFMC, and club memberships, but also the Arkansas college-affiliated memberships.

Carol Moore, our AFMC Vice President, and Freda Goodman, our Chair of Music in Schools/Colleges, have been working together diligently to contact every college in Arkansas with the information of AFMC membership and the possibilities of not only the Yick Scholarship, but also the numerous scholarships available through NFMC. If you have a link or relationship to a college or faculty member in your area, please make sure they know about your club and how a membership with AFMC can benefit their music students. The membership is not expensive: \$45 a year for colleges with less than 50 music students and \$75 a year for those with 50+ music students. Please contact Carol if you have made a contact or have information for her to pursue. She will be happy to help!



George Keck, Chair AFMC Young Artist Presentation Competitions and Awards Division

The annual Arkansas Young Artist Tour is an enormous benefit to our music clubs and local communities. The artists provide outstanding concert performances for club members and guests which we don't normally hear. The artists are an inspiration to our young musicians who hear what the standard is for a professional musician. Audience members usually have the opportunity to interact with artists socially and often form lifelong friendships. Club members especially form close relationships as they provide transportation, housing, and meals. Clubs who sponsor the concerts include the activity on club rating sheets. As the programs are advertised local communities become aware of the work and contributions of music clubs and the many contributions AFMC makes to cultural life in Arkansas. Several of the Young Artists have returned to teach in the state. Arkansas has certainly done its part in promoting the aims of the NFMC Young Artist program.



The **2023 AFMC Convention** will be held April 28 & 29 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 3819 Central Avenue (next to Chili's Restaurant). The designated hotel for those attending is the Comfort Inn & Suites, 3627 Central Avenue (back between Texas Roadhouse and Walgreens). The front cover of the newsletter shows the program cover and theme for the Convention:

“Sing and Play it Forward: The Future of Music in Arkansas”

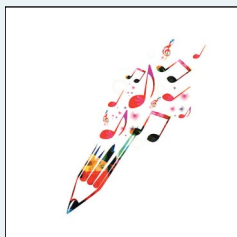
I will be communicating more details in the next newsletter along with a registration form for the Convention. The registration form will also be on the AFMC website by February 15th, but you will need to mail it along with your check to the listed address.

The Central District planning committee have been meeting frequently and working hard to present fresh, innovative meetings and programs during our time in Hot Springs. The committee is composed of Dr. Tom Bolton, Jolene Williams, Suzanne Babbie, Don Bingham, and Kathie White. We are very excited about the event and the future of music in Arkansas! I hope you will plan to attend with members of your club.

Kathie White

**Information and registration form on
the AFMC website February 15th: <http://arkansasfmc.org>**

It will be also sent to all club presidents and AFMC chairs.



Junior Composer's Corner Linda Kennedy, Chair

Happy New Year to all!
Have you made a resolution yet?



Here's a good one to try. Even though we as musicians/teachers are already busy daily as creative problem solvers, we can work at squeezing in even more creative expression moments into our students' lessons. Creativity can be invigorating and so contagious!

You can put this into action within the framework of your regular lessons by simply using existing assignments. Here are a few tips to help get started.

1. Ask the student to play the scale of the week in the rhythm of a horse's gallop or play the scale like a train just taking off from the station and building up to speed.
2. Take an extra moment sometimes with a scale and ask the student to experiment with changing a few notes in that scale to explore interesting sounds. Play the scale with some u-turns and skips (or leaps!), occasionally hold a note or two longer, and voila! a melody is born.
3. Using paint sample cards from your local paint store, ask students to play their scale, arpeggio, or cadence or even a piece they're working on to reflect the mood or aura of the color blue, yellow, red
4. When something they do sounds interesting, practice saying, "Oh, that's great! Why don't you play around with that this week and make it into a short little piece to play for me next week?" Then take the one or two minutes needed in the next lesson to hear it. If it's a gem, you can encourage them to make it longer. Even if a full composition does not grow out of a fun idea, your student will surely become more creative in interpreting repertoire and be more likely to explore further the marvelous capabilities of the instrument.

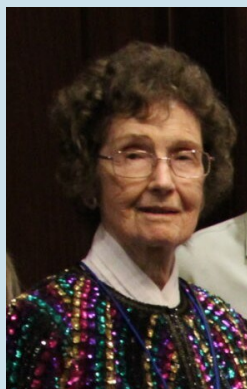
Carolyn Walker, Chair



Founders Day Share your Stories!

Just wanting to encourage all of our clubs to think about taking a moment during their meetings to share a short but interesting story about those who were part of the founding of your club. There is a special and good feeling that comes with sharing the actions that were taken to bring our clubs to where we are today. Everyone likely has a story to tell about how they are/have been influenced by past or current members to step up and make things happen for teachers or students of music.

These moments can cause absolutely positive ideas and actions that enhance our lives. Share your story or research for one from your clubs past. You and your club will benefit from taking just a little time to share!



Gloria Grilk, Chair National Music Week and Essay And Past Presidents Assembly

Dear Club Presidents,

Winter is a good time to have your "plan making" for National Music Week while things are quiet. If you haven't celebrated in a long time, then start small by using the black picture that NFMC sends to us as a "coloring contest" for a school or for yourselves! (I never thought there were so many adults that enjoyed doing the therapy of this kind of art, but I was wrong!) If you are looking for something different than you have done before, then try planning an outdoor neighborhood "musicale". This came about with the Covid days of no meetings. Someone shared it with me.

Think big, think small, or think different (it is good for the brain), but do something this year for your community to let them know that "Music is a Worldwide Adventure".



Dear Past Presidents of AFMC local organizations, or State, or District,

Please wear your PPA badges to the AFMC convention in Hot Springs, April 28 & 29, AND those of you who have not received your unique Arkansas PPA badge, please make an effort to COME, so that we can honor your servant/leadership to our beloved Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs!

Recently I heard a thought from L.R. Knost that read: "Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. The broken world waits in darkness for the light *that is You*". It reminded me of the selflessness of our past presidents, and how they have shed a light in their communities during good and bad times.
I am grateful....Gloria

Club Presidents! Sr. Club Reports Due
Check AFMC website for report forms & information

March 1 - Parade of American Music & Yearbook Evaluation

March 15 - Founder's Day Report & Opera Report

Many of you may have seen (and hopefully read) articles in "American Music Teacher" or "Clavier", written by Dr. Linda Holzer, piano professor at UALR. If you have heard her in concert, you are surely aware of her interest in American Women composers. Dr. Holzer has done an enormous amount of research and development on Arkansas native



and composer, Florence Price. She plays her music in concert, fills speaking engagements with fascinating stories of Florence Price's life and legacy, and on behalf of the marginalized composer, accepted Price's much-delayed honorary membership in MTNA, which was awarded posthumously. I recommend listening to the NPR interview she did for KUAR/ KLKRE. <https://www.ualrpublicradio.org/post/gathering-pieces-florence-price-legacy>

Whereas Florence Price deserves our attention and appreciation, there are also contemporary composers in our area whose music we can enjoy hearing and playing. I want to bring to your attention Robin Thomas, who is a chief musician at First Baptist, Texarkana. The worship services are online and on Television. Robin began her service at FBC just ahead of my retirement from there. She founded the School of Worship Arts at that church where they are training up young musicians who will replace us elders with a new generation of music leadership. From that very church, three individuals came away with Dove Awards recently: Daniel Carson (with Chris Tomlin), Kyle Lee ("Believe For It" with CeCe Wynans), and David Crowder. In addition to accompanying choir rehearsal and congregational singing, Robin has written numerous charts for church orchestra.

In the new Junior Festival catalog, you will find listed a piece written by Robin Thomas. Found in the Very Difficult Sacred section. She is a wonderful pianist and a sensitive collaborator. She studied for some time with Stephen Nielson (of the lauded piano duo, Nielson and Young), and has served churches in Louisiana, her home state, where she has been LFMC president. Her compositions are not for the novice - I'm a good sight reader, but I would never presume to play her works without rehearsal. Robin specializes in beautiful harmonies and witty arrangements. I recommend the purchase of a book of her works, such as "Keyboard Reflections" or "Brethren We Have Met to Worship" published by FJH. Perhaps someone in your club would enjoy playing a few for one of your meetings.



**Vicki Carr, Chair
American Women Composers**

Barbara Lippincott, Chair Music in Poetry

Last year we had more groups in our state participating in music and poetry activities than we have had in recent history. As we start a new year, we sometimes have a tendency to look back and focus on the things we did not do or did not do well enough. But the new year is really just a chance to start fresh, so take advantage of this clean slate to do even just a little more or a little better. I am looking forward to being able to report even more participation when I prepare our report for the current year. If your group needs ideas or suggestions, please have your music and poetry chair contact me!



The following poem (actually words to a song written and performed by Leonard Cohen) seemed to fit my feelings about this time of year.

Anthem

*The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don't dwell on what
Has passed away
Or what is yet to be*

*Ah, the wars they will
Be fought again
The holy dove
She will be caught again
Bought and sold
And bought again
The dove is never free*

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in*

Presenting 25+ performances at Inspiration Point in Eureka Springs
and venues throughout Northwest Arkansas

Farm Fresh OPERA

**ORPHEUS
IN THE
UNDERWORLD**
Offenbach

**L'ELISIR
D'AMORE**
Donizetti

**THE
TENDER LAND**
»» Copland ««

2023 SEASON
JUNE 23-JULY 21

Let's Go!

Isn't this a fun poster publicizing the Opera in the Ozarks Season for 2023? I especially like the symbols across the bottom that assure us of excellence in production! If you have ever attended OIO, you can attest to the wonderful quality of music by the singers and orchestra.

Now is the time to start talking about the OIO season in your club. Why don't you take the initiative and invite your club members to go with you?



Arkansas is one of five states in our Southwest District that supports OIO not only financially but also with our attendance during the opera season. There are several needs on campus that have been made known for the next season and one is a new refrigerator for the kitchen. Will you or your club give towards the purchase of a new (or good used) fridge for OIO? Musicians have to eat, too!

Send your checks to Jimmie Stephens, AFMC treasurer, and mark for "OIO fridge." This project is for Arkansas only and we need to give at least \$500 towards this need. Other states are meeting other practical needs on campus.

Let's do our part!

Club News—If you'll send it, I'll print it!

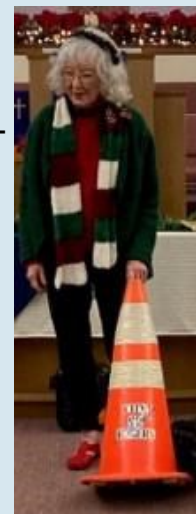


Andante Music Club Sounds like fun to me!

Andante Music Club does not meet in January, but we did have a great December meeting. Members were asked to share memories of "A Most Unusual Christmas." We had a wonderful variety. Poetry named "Bill" recited by Elin Wright with great animation! Jill Hale recited and acted "The Night before Christmas." Trio of Jo Evans, Hillary Sperry, Heide Boyd sang carols. A surprise guest guitarist, Kahle von Bose, delighted us. We hope to have him perform in the future. Marilyn Lee accompanied our newest member, Soprano Arlene Biebesheimer.



One of the most unusual presentations was by Marilyn Lee. She shared her collection of Christmas gifts. Yes that's a traffic cone! Marilyn accompanies the Bella Vista Men's Chorus and after they extracted a cone from under her car, they presented her with the trophy. You may wonder how it got there!



At our November meeting Martha Sheets was presented her Past President's pin by other past presidents. Martha, Willete Atkins, and Gloria Grilk, left to right.

Betty Pierce, President



Little Rock Coterie

The Little Rock Musical Coterie met Sunday January 8, 2023 at Trinity United Methodist Church for their well attended Founder's Day Concert. The concert showcased jazz music, featuring compositions by Fred Hersch, Theologies Monk, Irving Berlin and others.

Left to right: Woodwind instrumentalist Dr. Barry McVinney (standing), Pianist Tom Cox (seated), Vocalist Stephanie Smile and Coterie President Suzanne Babbie.



Hot Springs Music Club



The Hot Springs Music Club enjoyed a program by the Percussion Ensemble of OBU, directed by Dr. Ryan Lewis, for their October program. One interesting piece was an improvisation by several percussionists.



The HSMC January program featured the Hot Springs Dance Troupe under the direction of Amy Bramlett Turner. Two extended choreographed musical numbers were presented during the program. The numbers were “Still I Rise” based on the poetry of Maya Angelou and “Imagine” performed to John Lennon’s song. The program also included the Hot Springs Junior Academy Choir, a vocal solo, and an original composition for violin. **Dr. Tom Bolton, President**

In Memoriam Robin Williams



The Hot Springs Music Club and the whole Hot Springs musical community have been shocked and saddened with the death of Robin Williams. Robin was very active in HSMC and served as president in 2007-09 and in many other officer positions with the club. She was also active in the Hot Springs Sigma Alpha Iota Alumni Fraternity and played flute with the Hot Springs Flute Ensemble. Robin was also serving on the 2023 AFMC Convention planning committee and her creativity, energy, and sparkle will really be missed. Robin taught voice at OBU for several years before retiring in 2019. Robin was originally from Warren, Arkansas, attended OBU, graduated from Colorado State University and University of Rhode Island. Robin is survived by her husband, David K. Williams.



The National Federation of Music Clubs is celebrating a milestone 125th Anniversary this year!

Several goals have been set to celebrate:

Membership Goal: 125,00 Members

Student/Collegiate Goal: 125 Colleges/Universities

Invocation Competition. Create a new NFMC Invocation to honor the 125th Celebration

Members Donation: Every member, whether Junior, Student, or Senior member donate \$1.25. Clubs collect donations and send check to NFMC

125th Sponsors: Be an official sponsor by donating \$125 to NFMC .

Join with AFMC members in supporting this significant anniversary of promoting and supporting American music, performers, and music education.



Biennial Convention - June 2023 in Norfolk, Virginia - 125 Years and Still Making Waves

The 2023 Convention Committee invites you to join NFMC for a week of music-making, workshops, fellowship, and exploration. All meetings, performances and workshops will take place at the beautiful Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, located in downtown Norfolk.

Information and registration documents will be posted on the NFMC website by February 1.

Make plans to attend!