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AFMC Summer Newsletter 2023

Did I miss



Something?

AFMC President's Remarks

If you did not attend the Arkansas Federation of Music Club's 2023 Convention in Hot Springs, you definitely missed a great weekend! We had 42 registered to attend and it was a good reunion of fellow musicians, friends, and cohorts! We had many more attend the Friday evening concerts with exceptional young performers and also our Jr. Honors Recital on Saturday. You also missed important discus-

sions about the future of AFMC and hearing about the good things that are happening across the state through our clubs.

It is easy to feel isolated and sometimes overwhelmed in our club work but oh how energizing and motivational it is to share concerns, inspiration, and innovative ideas with other club members in order to keep the "spiritualizing force of our music" alive in our communities. I will share some photos from the AFMC and NFMC Conventions and from Federation Days held last week in Eureka Springs. It was a privilege to represent you -**AFMC**- at these events. We also had a great group from Arkansas at each occasion.

If you didn't make any of the above events, don't feel left out! We will have our **AFMC Conference in Little Rock, at Second Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, September 16, starting at 10:00 am.** Make plans now to attend with your club for inspiration, ideas, and connection with other AFMC members. Good things are happening in our state!

In August I will send out a Call to the Conference with registration and information about the Conference. Hope to see you there!

Kathie White



99th Annual Convention
April 28 - 29, 2023



Sing and Play It Forward
The Future of Music in Arkansas



Larry Dunn, guest speaker, and Kathie White



Carol Moore, Vice President



Gloria Febro Grilk, PPA



Kathie presiding



Jean Moffat, NFMC guest speaker, installs new officers of AFMC for 2023-25: Kathie White, president: Carol Moore, vice-president: Nancy Griffin, recording secretary: and Jimmie Stephens, treasurer

AFMC Convention—Friday Evening Concert Performers



Andrew Pierce, OBU student



Destiny Diaz, OBU student



Dr. Carlos Feller and Dr. Mary Chung, OBU



Dr. Austin Motley, OBU



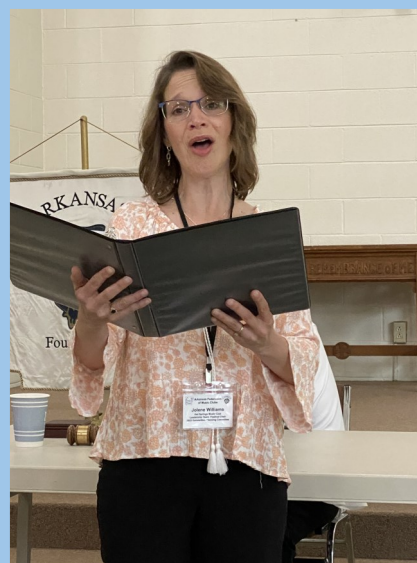
Reece Ruhl, HSU graduate & graduate student at Wichita State University



Reece Ruhl (center) received the Robin Williams Memorial Vocal Scholarship for attending Opera in the Ozarks this summer. He is seen with Dr. David Williams and Dr. Tom Bolton, president of HSMC.



Attendees (l-r) Nancy Griffin (LR Coterie), Mary Bolton (HSMC), Don Bingham (LR Coterie), Bill Yick (TX), and Vicki Carr (AR-TX Connection)



Jolene Williams (HSMC) began the morning meeting by singing the NFMC Invocation



2023 AFMC William Yick Collegiate Award Winners

Bill Yick presented the AFMC Yick Collegiate Awards (\$500) to Colton Scoggins (saxophone) from Texarkana College and to Caulder Toland (trombone) from Northwest Arkansas Community College.

AFMC Convention—Junior Honors Recital

Ten students took part in the recital on Saturday morning. Jolene Williams (HSMC) led and planned the program. We had an attendance of 50+ for the recital. All of the students had received at least 3 superior ratings at festival to be chosen for the recital. Linda Kennedy (LR Coterie), Chair of Jr. Composers, recognized two of her students as winners of the Junior Composition Contest.

Each played their composition.



Jr. Composition Winners:

Amelia Green (Junior III Third Place),
Linda Kennedy, John Jones (Junior IV
First Place and Regional Winner).

Steel Drum Workshop

A hands-on steel drum workshop was presented by Dr. Mary Chung, Laura Cornelius, and Madi Rawls of OBU and Arkadelphia. The Ouachita Community Arts Program is offered weekly during the school year for students 3rd-8th grades. Offerings include a children's chorus, percussion club, keyboard explorers, and an adult keyboard class.

Everyone enjoyed playing the drums!





The NFMC Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, was an interesting and exhilarating week. It was my first time to attend a national meeting and I enjoyed getting to know many people and making new friends. There were many informative meetings, enriching presentations, and wonderful performances by a variety of musicians and musical styles. Look for the next issue of Music Club Magazine which will have many reports and photos of the Convention in Norfolk.

Going to a national convention or conference gives you a wider scope of understanding about the work and absolute impact of NFMC in our country. The standard of performance by the Young Artists and other young performers was stellar and often brought thrills to my heart and tears to my eyes. You will not want to miss the Young Artist tour in Arkansas this September as we host **Leland Philip Ko**, cellist, and his collaborator, **Adria Ye**. Leland is currently pursuing an A.D. at the New England Conservatory in Boston, after receiving his MM from The Juilliard School. There are several videos on YouTube of Leland performing. Check them out!

Before I retired from teaching, I did not have much time to be involved in our Hot Springs club. I would pay dues and go to a program now and then. After retiring in 2013, I became more involved in our local club, but I must admit that AFMC and NFMC almost seemed like foreign entities to me then. They represented a place where we sent our dues. Some of you may be like that and I understand the constraints of jobs, family, church work, and so much else that requires our time. Just know that what you do on your local level has an impact in your community but is also an important part of the greater American musical landscape promoted by AFMC in our state and NFMC across our country.

Is AFMC an integral part of NFMC? Yes, indeed!

Dr. George Keck (LR Coterie) AR Board Representative, NFMC Archives Chair, Headquarters Building Chair, Wendell Irish Award Chair

Dr. Ouida Keck (LR Coterie) FAMA Chair, NFMC Bylaws and Finance Committee

Barbara Lippencott (MAPS) South Central Region Music in Poetry Chair

Gloria Grilk (Andante) - NFMC Music in Schools and Colleges Chair

Jimmie Stephens (AR-TX Connection) - NFMC Individual Membership Chair

Kathie White (Hot Springs Music Club) State President & NFMC Chaplain

2023 NFM C CONVENTION



Young Artists Winners: (L-R) Anna Han (piano), Leland Ko (strings), Krista Pape (woman's voice), Michael Celentano (man's voice) with Deborah Freeman, NFM C President



Gloria Grilk, Dr. Maggie Garrett, Dr. George Keck, Dr. Ouida Keck, Kathie White



Drs. Ouida and George Keck with Anna Han, Young Artist Winner in piano



Linda King, Harriet Coker, and Gloria Grilk - Rose Fay Thomas luncheon.



Kathie White & Betty Pierce

Opera in the Ozarks and Federation Days



Arkansans at OIO and Federation Days

Back row, l-r: Betty Pierce, Dr. George Keck, Gloria Grilk, Jim Swiggart OIO Board, Ed Henson OIO Board Treasurer **Front row:** Carolyn Walker, Dr. Maggie Garrett OIO Board, Dr. Ouida Keck, Judy Rownak OIO Board, Janet Parsch OIO Board, Kathie White OIO Board. **Standing front right:** Dr. Nancy Preis, General Director of OIO, and Dr. Alice Martinson, OIO Medical Director

Our own **Janine Tiner** (LR Coterie) was awarded the Servant Leadership Award for our state.

Reece Ruhl represented our state well in several roles in the operas. He sang the main role of Martin in *The Tenderland* (see right), Aristée/Pluton in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and sang as a chorus member in the other operas.





Inspiration Point Center for the Arts

Design of New Theater

Thanks to the Walton Family Foundation, Opera in the Ozarks has received a \$34 million gift to design and construct a new theater, lobby, costume room, and faculty housing on the OIO campus. Construction has begun and it is estimated that the OIO Season in 2025 will take place in the new facility which will seat 300. The theater is seen as a center for the arts in Arkansas and will host not only OIO from May to July, but various arts related events will take place through the year at the newly named Inspiration Point Center for the Arts. IPCA will have its own governing board and will need to raise money for other needs such as student housing, cafeteria, and maintenance for the buildings. The NFMC South Central Region, made up of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, is still needed to give and raise financial support for the upgrade of these other facilities on campus.

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Below: One of the vibrant, fun scenes from Offenbach's *Orpheus and the Underworld*. It was a riot!



Above: The cast of Rosini's *Cinderella*. The opera was sung in 14 different locations around northwest Arkansas. It was presented as an opera for children



NFMC Young Artist Tour in Arkansas

**Schedule of concerts
& contact information
for the Arkansas
Young Artist Tour with
Leland Philip Ko
(cellist) and Adria Ye
(collaborative piano).**



Monday, September 11, 2023, 7:30 P.M. Mabee Fine Arts Center, Ouachita Baptist University Arkadelphia, AR 71998 ph. 870-245-5129.
Dr. Caroline Taylor, Chair; School of Fine Arts.

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 7:00 P.M. Stilwell Humanities Music Hall, Texarkana College, 2500 North Robinson Road, Texarkana, TX 75599 ph. 870-773-1118.
Shelly Brown, President; Texarkana Music Club 903-824-0501;
shelly@arkansasfmc.org

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 7:00 P.M. Fine Arts Center, University of Arkansas at Monticello, 346 University Drive, Monticello, AR 71656 ph.870-460-1060
Mr. Frank Ferguson; fferguson1951@gmail.com

Friday, September 15, 2023, 11:00 A.M. Trinity United Methodist Church, 1101 North Mississippi Street, Little Rock, AR 72207 ph. 501-666-2813
Suzanne Babbie, President; Little Rock Musical Coterie 501-922-6418
suzebabbie@suddenlink.net

Sunday, September 17, 2023, 3:00 P.M. Bella Vista Presbyterian Church, 1880 Forest Hills Boulevard, Bentonville AR 72715
Betty Pierce, President; Bella Vista Andante Music Club ph. 479-621-3414
bettypierce@outlook.com

Contact for more information: George Keck, Young Artist Presentation Chair,
ph. 870-403-2951 keckg@att.net

**Bill Yick**

AFMC is proud that we are the only state in the NFMC that actually has a NFMC Young Artist Tour. There are states that may invite a Young Artist to perform for an event such as a conference or convention, but we are privileged to actually give our entire state an opportunity to attend a Young Artist concert. Our concerts cover central, southwest, southeast, and northwest parts of the state. There is some expense for the AFMC clubs hosting these concerts, but none of it would be possible for us without the generosity of Bill Yick to AFMC. We do extend our heartfelt thanks to Bill for his gifts to AFMC and, once again, Bill has stepped forward so that we are able to have Leland's collaborator, Adria Ye, to accompany him on this tour. He has given \$1000 to cover the transportation costs and fees for Adria.

Those of us at the National Convention felt it was absolutely necessary to have Leland's collaborator on the tour. Both were equally dynamic! Thank you, Bill, for making this possible! I hope each of our members will make a special effort to attend one of the YA concerts this September. You will not be disappointed. Look up Leland Ko on YouTube and you will find several concerts or performances by him which will whet your appetite to hear more!



AFMC Conference
Saturday, September 16th, 10 a.m.
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

The Call to the AFMC Conference information and registration form will be sent by August 10th to club presidents, AFMC officers and Chairs. Important changes will be proposed for voting at the conference. These will be outlined and explained in the conference information coming out August 10th; thus, it will be important for clubs to share with each member.

Below is the annual report I submitted to NFMC about our state.

Arkansas Report of NFMC activities 2022-23 Kathie White AFMC President

The **2022 AFMC Fall Conference** was held on September 10 in Little Rock. Twenty-six members enjoyed being together for the day since it had been since 2019 to have an in-person meeting. Business was conducted as well as video performances by our 2022 William Yick scholarship winner and our first winner of the Gloria Febro Grilk "Arkansas Women Composer Award".

55th Annual Young Artist Tour: 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

It was heartening to see the **AFMC Junior Festivals** taking place in February and March around the state. AFMC had 13 festival events involving 671 Juniors and 5 adults, with 568 juniors and 2 adults ranking superior. 55 juniors ranked excellent and there were 99 first place, 25 2nd place, and 11 3rd place. There were also 5 student composition winners.

AFMC was proud to have two state winners in Jr. Class III and IV of the **Junior Composers Contest**. Congratulations to Amelia Green and John Jones for representing Arkansas well. John was also declared a First Place winner in the 2023 NFMC JCC South Central Region competition for his piano composition entitled "Eclipse". Both Jr. Composers are students of Linda Kennedy.

AFMC will participate in the five-state **Federation Days Meeting** in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The meetings this year will be held on July 19-21. The three operas performed at Opera in the Ozarks this summer include *L'Elisir D'Amore* by Donizetti, *Orpheus in the Underworld* by Offenbach, and *The Tender Land* by Copland. AFMC contributed over \$1300 to OIO for the purchase of new refrigerators for the student campus.

The state president produced 4 AFMC Newsletters in September, November, January, and April. These newsletters can be accessed on the AFMC website: <http://arkansasfmc.org/>

The **2023 AFMC Convention** was held on April 28 and 29 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This was the first in-person convention since 2019 and 41 were in attendance. The theme of the convention was "Sing and Play It Forward: The Future of Music in Arkansas" and the NFMC guest speaker was Jean Moffatt, Vice President of the South Central District. The Convention included a motivational speech by one of Arkansas's dynamic choral directors, a Friday evening concert by young performers from the Central District, a scholarship presentation to Reece Ruhl for his participation in Opera in the Ozarks this summer, a steel drum workshop presented by Ouachita Baptist University, a Jr. Honors Recital of gold cup winners from the central district, and William Yick scholarships were awarded to two Arkansas college students.