The UnConVentional Convention

WEDNESDAY, August 12

10:00 AM ZOOM
10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting
11:15 AM Executive Committee Meeting
1:30 - 4:00 PM Assembly of the Board Meeting with a break and interlude.

THURSDAY, August 13

9-11:30 AM ZOOM
Opening Ceremony Convention
11:30 - 1:00 PM Lunch with a prospective member
1:00 - 2:00 PM On-Line Workshops
2:00 - 3:45 PM Resume Convention Business
4:15 PM FACEBOOK LIVE
Jean Moffatt: Yellow Rose Society
Bill Yick: OIO Life Members
Lois Armor: Rose Fay Thomas Fellows
Julie Watson, National Publicity Chair
TFMC State Festival Concert: Part 1 YouTube

FRIDAY, August 14

8-9:15 AM ZOOM
Lifers: Mug Shot, BYOB and Joe
9:30 AM Convention Business Resumes
Nadine and Ray Flowers: Memorial
Sandra Preysz: National Guest, Jr Chair
Noon - 1:30 PM Lunch Out with a member
1:30 – 3:30 PM On-Line Workshops: Zoom
Paul Wolf, Tenor: Young Artist Concert YouTube
7:30 PM ZOOM
Reception for Paul Wolf: Interview

Saturday, August 15

9:00 AM YouTube
TFMC State Festival Concert Part 2
10:00 AM Sandra Preysz, National Guest
10:30 AM Convention Day Three
TFMC All State Festival:
Cathy Neidert, Chair
Convention Finishing Touches:
Picnic Lunch together
*** Registration will give you access to the meetings, workshops and the concerts.***

**2020**

**The UnConVentional Convention**

**REGISTRATION**

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Club Name and District #: ______________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Address (correction or addition only): ____________________________________

State office or chairs ____________________________________________________
Local __________________________ District ________________________________

☐ Life Member  ☐ Rose Fay Thomas Fellow  ☐ Yellow Rose Society
☐ First Time at State Convention

Registration per person (required) $40 X_____ = $__________
Circle to sponsor (per item) $10 X_____ = $__________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_______________

National Guest  Yellow Rose Society  OIO Scholarship  Past Presidents
Young Artist  Lifers  Virtual Blind Silent Auction  Workshops

Make check payable to: **TFMC**  Memo: 2020 Convention

Mail this form (2nd page) with Check by July 27th to:

Sandra Chamness, TFMC Treasurer
16010 Cutten Rd.  Houston, TX  77070

All Officer, Board, and Chair reports are due and to be sent to Brenda Ford. If you have questions, please email or call. **Brendaford57@gmail.com**  903-742-6558
Dear Fermata Friends,

I realize our state is struggling and not recovering as I would have hoped at this time. Not a problem. We are holding the Fermata!

Plans of having a TFMC Convention this year with activities and presentations to be held online or recorded sessions posted on our texasfederation.org are in motion. This will be a first for Texas. We are not cancelling. We are unstoppable.

TFMC members, club presidents and officers, be intentional and make plans to attend the Texas Federation of Music Clubs 2020 Vision: The UnConventional ConVention. This is a good time to bring a first time-attendee from your club, a teacher, or someone who is considering membership. Where do you bring them? You pick the place: your home, corner restaurant, back patio; the possibilities are endless. See the image here to get ideas! HA!

Forming good traditions that have value is what we have been doing for over 100 years. In these meetings, we do the business of Texas with the focus of our NFMC purpose in mind. We share accomplishments, trade ideas, build friendships, find mentors, grow leaders and encourage excellence in our communities throughout Texas. This convention will do the same when you participate.

EVERY club represented in our Texas meeting is a reasonable goal to attain.

There is something for everyone. Experience the excellence and artistry of the Top Festival Winners (Juniors) who are guided by our teachers. Learn how National Federation leadership enhances the quality and ease of reporting to meet the needs of a changing membership. Participate in our decisions as we become “new generation friendly.” Be assured, Lifers and “new offenders” are not left out. Today, be involved in building our exposure to the level of its unmatched legacy.

Holding the Fermata,
Brenda Ford

THE BATON IS PASSED. I want to officially welcome Sandra Chamness as our TFMC Treasurer as of July 1, 2020. The transition has been a major feat for both Dorene and Sandra to get accomplished. Sandra has been training and involved in the workings of the office throughout last year. She is coming in at a time of change and is ready for the challenge as we all are stepping up to make our Convention and another year great. I look forward to serving with her.

Dorene has been a wonderful treasurer for 28 years, and she has agreed to continue mentoring. She will still be a force in Texas. We wish her well in new adventures of retirement or semi-retirement. We thank her for years of dedicated expert service in TFMC. It has been a joy serving together.

THE DEADLINE IS JULY 31 for those who are presenting at the convention as a recorded audio and visual. Send your presentation to Mary Thomason for the convention website. She will direct you as needed. Her contact is icanlearnmusic@gmail.com

TFMC Slate of Officers 2021-2023

President: Connie Randall
1st VP: Carol Gessner
2nd VP: Lynn McNew
3rd VP: Lois Armor

4th VP: Lora Lynn Christensen
Recording Secretary: Pat Retslaff
Historian: Marcia Edwards
Auditor: Dorene Allen
Look at “The OFFICIAL Call” that was sent by email earlier. Fill out and send in your registration info with a check. Your registration gets you a tote of goodies with the schedule of live zoom dates and times. Meetings will be recorded and posted on our texasfederation.org site. We will have a Young Artist Concert and a live broadcast interview with Paul Wolf from Birmingham, Alabama.

Every member can register. After expenses are paid out, the registration will help us fund our Opera in the Ozarks and other worthy causes of our State. It is a bargain getting good workshops, a National Guest and others, and a thank you gift for participation. Also, it will help with the program layout and web expenses.

The days and times for events listed on “The OFFICIAL Call” are scheduled as tentative. Use it as your guide for planning your days. The on-line program will be the final. It will not be posted until a week before Convention.

TIPS FOR A FABULOUS 2020 VISION EXPERIENCE

1. Think about the real convention and the theme.
2. Clear your schedule to be available for each convention event.
3. Wear the clothes that are appropriate for the activities.
4. Be ready to participate and, if needed, have a helper on hand for navigating the internet.
5. Make it fun and have a few music friends over to enjoy the programs and workshops with you.
6. Keep your tote and program nearby. (program will be on our website for download).
7. For the Reception, be sure to have cookies and punch for yourself and a friend so that we can enjoy our live interview with Paul. Do not worry about a thing: I’m having cookies and punch for Paul and his wife delivered to his home.

TOOLS

1. Identify with the Federation by wearing your pins and music apparel.
2. Charge your laptop or other device and make a comfortable place in your own home for optimum viewing.
3. Bring your ideas, and pen and paper.
4. Bring your 2020 Vision Tote,
5. Have the Program at hand so you do not miss a thing.

ONLINE PROTOCOL

1. Have your area set up ahead of time and start logging in to the meeting ahead by about 15 minutes so that you are ready when all have gathered.
2. Turn your Audio and Video on so that we can see you and hear you.
3. The meeting host will invite you into the online meeting room.
4. When the meeting starts, be sure to mute yourself unless we are saying the pledge and singing together. The presenter will prompt you.
5. Side talking cannot be allowed as background noise interrupts the speaker.
6. Put your hand up for the camera to be called on.
7. Wait until you are recognized, then unmute yourself to talk.
8. Speak Clearly using your presentation voice so all can hear and understand.

Seeing you in a new light! The new generation of Clubbing is here and NOW.

Ray Flowers is preparing for our Memorial Service. Please send in names and some information about our music club friends who have passed this year. Contact him at rayflowers@yahoo.com
Brenda Ford
TFMC President
3430 Davidge Dr
Marshall, TX 75672
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Marcia Edwards and
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mjhedwards18@gmail.com
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Please send your material to
mjhedwards18@gmail.com.

TFMC is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs

An official publication of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs

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Please send your material to mjhedwards18@gmail.com.

2020 Annual Convention of the
TEXAS FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
AUGUST 12TH - 15TH, 2020

Each year, local club members from across Texas celebrate and report at the State Convention in Dallas. The energy of the art filled city is a great match for the event featuring, promoting and supporting American musicians, the work of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs (www.texasfederation.org) affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs (www.nfmc.org). Local music clubs around the State encourage, collaborate, educate and scholarship young people, colleagues, and adults in their work of music in schools, nursing centers, hospitals, concerts and many other activities in their communities. We appreciate you joining us to help spread the positive force of music in our world.

The COVID19 virus pandemic and the necessary precautions brought on by it have led us to the decision to have an online convention this year. Our energy and desire to produce a high-quality and well-attended event remains high, and using one of the meeting software packages means that we can expect even greater participation from among our membership. For the price of $100, we will advertise your business or organization during the convention multiple times, and you will receive the benefit of having your business or organization seen by people who support those who support us. We will keep the online presence for 30 days, allowing buyers even more time to view your ad in the online program. The price for $100 includes designing the ad by a professional graphic artist and sending via email a proof to you to approve. Please let us know by July 25th if you would like to be part of this great opportunity.

Please send your check made out to Texas Federation of Music Clubs with the word “AD” in the memo line to Stephen George, 6731 State Highway 315, Longbranch, TX 75669.

Send your ad copy to stephen@completeprinting.com and include a return email address for proofing purposes if different from the email you are using to send the ad copy.

Thank you for helping us to support music. music educators and young performers.

CALENDAR  (Subject to change due to COVID-19 pandemic)

October 1, 2020  Deadline for submissions for fall Lone Star Music Messenger
July 15-18, 2020  NFMC Federation Days and Opera in the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, AR
August 12-15, 2020  TFMC Annual Conference, (Districts 2, 3, and 5) VIRTUAL
June 15 – 19, 2021  NFMC 61st Biennial Convention
October 2021  NFMC Trip to Poland
“Walking in Chopin’s Footsteps”
From Your New TFMC Treasurer

The time is finally here to take my place as your treasurer. Dorene has been working towards “passing the torch.” As you know, July 1 is the beginning of the fiscal year, and we have been working with our Finance Committee Chair, Carla Johnson, to make as smooth a transition as possible. You will find my contact information at the end of this article. I ask for everyone’s patience and understanding as I settle into this very important position that I have been entrusted with. There is so much to learn and understand.

I know that you join me in thanking Dorene Allen for her past 28 years of extraordinary commitment and service as our TFMC Treasurer. I also want to thank Carla Johnson for all her help and support.

This year has been quite unusual, but an unusual time for me began last year. I was in the process of selling my house to move back home to Houston when I was elected as the new TFMC Treasurer. It was decided that Dorene would continue as acting treasurer until my move to Houston to avoid opening and closing bank accounts, etc. I sold my home in November with closing date December 2 and moved to Houston December 3, 2019 to look for a new home. I closed on a house January 2, 2020 and moved in January 11. While I was trying to unpack and get settled, COVID-19 decided to visit. Houston issued a “shelter in place” order in March, and now we are being asked not to leave our homes unless absolutely necessary.

A Bit about Myself

I was a member of the Carthage Music Club from 2001 until I resigned in 2019. I served in several positions, including as President from 2011-2013. I have served as TFMC Recording Secretary, Fourth Vice-President, Auditor, and member of the Finance Committee, where I served the past 2 years. I have enjoyed attending our Board of Directors meetings and conventions since getting involved with TFMC in 2011. I have formed such wonderful friendships, and I always look forward to seeing everyone. I have ALWAYS appreciated Music.

I am a native Houstonian who graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School. I attended San Jacinto Junior College, South Campus, studying business communications, word processing and dBase II. I also studied medical Spanish from the School of Language for Professionals and have an Associate degree in Culinary Arts from The Art Institute of Houston.

I have held positions as a bilingual receptionist-secretary. I have assisted accounting departments with accounts payable invoices and scheduling payment dates. I have also assisted payroll with calculations of timecards. I was secretary for the Fleet department where I maintained extensive records management by vehicle number for a fleet consisting of over 300 company vehicles; I balanced a “monthly leasing invoice” between $150,000 - $215,000. I processed monthly reports, ordered and issued credit cards, approved repairs of company vehicles, notified leasing company of vehicles transferred from state to state, prepared journal entries reflecting gasoline usage, and performed all aspects of secretarial duties. As payroll/accounting secretary, I typed all correspondence using Microsoft Word and Excel, prepared bi-weekly payroll for 1500-2000 employees, and handled employee and physician payroll concerns. As bilingual-receptionist to a group of orthopedic spinal section surgeons, I scheduled appointments, verified workman’s compensation paperwork prior to appointment date, and served as orthopedic group notary and cashier.

I hope this gives you an insight into my background. I look forward to working with you and learning all there is about my newly acquired duties and responsibilities. Stay safe and looking forward to 2021 and seeing everyone!

Sandra Chamness, TFMC Treasurer
16010 Cutten Rd.
Houston, Texas 77070-2010
ChamnessS@outlook.com
903-235-6662
Congratulations to 143 teachers and to their 1167 students who successfully registered in our first Virtual TFMC All State Festival. 222 All State Plaques! Eighteen monetary awards! Hundreds of ribbons! WOW! What a labor of love! Everyone who was involved helped pull this 45th Annual All State Festival through a gauntlet of pandemic proportions! Parents made video recordings of their students’ performances; teachers learned how to manage video files through multiple software platforms and transfers; festival staff became tech specialists by necessity; data auditors were enlisted to engage their eagle eyes to ensure we lost not one single byte of data; festival leadership had to create a totally new event from the ground up while learning/customizing/implementing online event hosting and management; our judges stepped up to evaluate performances using new tools; and the home of our Festival Chair became an impromptu shipping department to handle distribution of plaques, ribbons, certificates and monetary awards! Thank goodness we had a strong cheering section and the unwavering support of TFMC leadership! Whew! What a way to cap off the 2019-2020 festival year!

When it became clear that a large event held in San Marcos would probably have to be cancelled, we turned to online possibilities. 5,000 students, parents, teachers, judges, monitors, and other staff congregated in the Music Building at Texas State University was just too risky! Yet, thousands of students had been preparing for this highly anticipated occasion – keeping their festival pieces polished, staying in lessons with their teachers, hoping against hope that All State Festival would remain constant. Cathy was determined to find an alternative – to figure out a way that students wouldn’t lose another of the annual milestones that they were already having to forfeit because of governmental mandates in place to control the pandemic.

At first blush, taking this event online may appear to be an easy, inexpensive, logical solution to meeting national, state, and local governmental mandates which canceled so very many large gatherings. After all, we live in the 21st century when technological solutions abound and many are free for the download! We discovered quite the opposite to be true! Although Cathy’s twenty-four year experience has led us through five major shifts in administrative processes and software support, this year’s leap to Acceptd.com took all the mastery, diplomacy, and financial wizardry she could muster! Every document, policy, instruction and customary practice had to adapt to fit a new venue. New policies, practices, instructions, and procedures were developed as needed. Fee schedules had already been published and could not be increased to help defray the cost of using Acceptd’s platform. Despite savings realized by eliminating venue, monitoring, and refreshment costs, Cathy faced software platform costs, judges costs, plus the necessity of using paid subscriptions like Zoom to allow constant communication among festival staff as well as training sessions for teachers, judges, and helpers. This year’s festival was a fabulous albeit expensive learning experience! It would have been impossible to pull together without her leadership and commitment to our Juniors!

We built the bridge from paper to online processes in record time - in large part, thanks to Mary Thomason’s prior experience as the national IT project manager for an IBM/NYNEX buyout. She discovered and recommended the Acceptd.com platform based not only on the fact that Acceptd hosts preliminary auditions for the Van Cliburn Piano Competition, but also on interviews she conducted with several smaller music competitions that hosted their events on Acceptd. Without her continuous interaction with the Acceptd team, this transition would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish within such a compressed timeframe. The Acceptd team leader told us that Mary’s contribution accomplished in a couple of months what other organizations usually take a year to achieve. Acceptd has become a valued tool and will be utilized for future All State Festivals.
As with all software used to support the TFMC All State Festival, there is no “One Button” solution. Much of the scheduling and administration is done offline using spreadsheets. Her knowledge of databases and spreadsheets helped Mary track data, meet deadlines, and provide decision-making analysis to Cathy for action. Cathy built this virtual festival - like an architect designs and oversees the construction of a masterpiece. Mary acted as construction manager helping to bring the architect’s vision to life.

We worked fingers to the bone to make this event possible! Thankfully, we had lots of help along the way! These folks acted as our construction crew and helped us make the sudden transition from a live event to an online, virtual adjudicated event. I’ll attempt to name them here, then acknowledge their role in ensuing paragraphs: Jennifer Key (TFMC Festivals Chair), Shirley Cheung (TFMC Federation Cup Chair), Beverly Ryan (Judges Chair for this festival), Gary Neidert (Video advisor), Seth Thomas (Video Tech Team Captain, Data Auditor), Daniel Ales (Tech Team member, Data Auditor), Linda Royals (Data Auditor), Laura Cotto (Data Auditor), Brenda Ford (TFMC President and chief cheerleader), and Dorene Allen (TFMC Treasurer).

Seth Thomas, TFMC All State Recital Host, served as Tech Team crew chief for submitted video performances. His familiarity with today’s technology, supplemented by Gary Neidert’s experience with video productions, made him the perfect candidate to provide assistance to teachers struggling with the brave new world of recording and submitting student video performances for adjudication. He published Tech Tips, created training videos, and conducted Zoom meetings to help keep video submissions on track. Daniel Ales joined the Tech Team as deadlines neared and submissions increased. Both Seth and Daniel performed “other duties as assigned” and were especially helpful in data auditing and video tracking functions.

As students registered for All State Festival, the entire TFMC Junior Division leadership team (Cathy, Mary, Jennifer, Shirley) pitched in to review the entries to ensure all requirements were fulfilled as well as to audit repertoire/level selections. Realizing how easy it is to make an error on dropdown list selections, this team followed up with teachers to resolve all questions where repertoire did not match performance level selected. Registration deadlines were staged not only to accommodate the workload, but also out of the necessity to observe state and local governmental mandates and stay-at-home orders. Many ensembles, or entries that required accompaniments, could not video their performances until late May. This team, along with help from Seth and Daniel, audited and verified that music was uploaded (and legible!) and that videos were of the quality to allow adjudication. Many of the videos required some editing – either to eliminate excess time at the front or back of the video, or to “flip” the view of the video, or to request a do-over that would allow a judge to have full view of a performer. Yes, folks! A lot was going on behind the scenes!

When the time came that data on the spreadsheet had to be uploaded/entered/assigned to Acceptd, we needed help to ensure the accuracy and successful transfer of every single byte of data. That’s when the extra sets of eagle eyes belonging to Linda Royals and to Laura Cotto came to the rescue. They enthusiastically and energetically undertook the tedious task of comparing line-by-line items from spreadsheets to line-by-line items in Acceptd’s database for this festival. Discrepancies were resolved and festival data integrity was enhanced by their efforts.

June 13-15, 2020 were Judging Days! A mere three months from the decision date to take this event online! Yet, more than a month beyond the date we had planned for adjudication. We had twenty-one judges who completed their online adjudications over these three days. Post-event feedback from our judges has been very positive, not only supportive of all our efforts to provide this experience for our students, but especially complimentary of the performances rendered by our students despite the difficulties they and their families overcame in order to participate. Many of our longtime judges noted that the students were as well prepared as always.
This was a festival for the record books! Despite pandemic odds, TFMC Juniors did it! TFMC All State Festival 2020 met its goal, sustained its mission, and provided a positive experience for students and teachers during a time when other events were canceled. We provided an opportunity to help keep students focused on learning, practicing, and making music in their homes during this difficult season. All is worthwhile as we celebrate the pride, the joy, and the sense of musical achievement that this annual event brings our junior members. Thanks to all who made it possible! Congratulations!

The TFMC All State Festival 2020 Monetary Award Winners

Congratulations to these eighteen winners and to their teachers!

Piano Concerto - Senior
Sylvana Mvoi
Teacher, Thomas Wells

Piano Solo - Very Difficult II
Soham Govande
Teacher, Shirley Flint

Piano Concerto - Junior III
Sarah Chen
Teacher, Ya-Li Pekowski

Piano Solo - Very Difficult I
Savanna He
Teacher, Ya-Li Pekowski

Piano Solo - Musically Advanced II
Savva Wagner
Teacher, Natalia Skovorodina

Piano Solo - Very Difficult I
Sylvana Mvoi
Teacher, Thomas Wells
Contest winners continued.

**Piano Solo - Musically Advanced I**  
Ella Chen  
Teacher, Chris Childers

**Piano Solo - Difficult II**  
Emily Parmenter  
Teacher, Lily Tsang

**Piano Solo - Difficult II**  
Luxin Peng  
Teacher, Chris Childers

**Violin Concerto - Junior III**  
Dominik Djajadi  
Teacher, Jenny Yang

**Piano Solo - Difficult I**  
McKenzie Brown  
Teacher, Linda Chavez

**Violin Solo - Advanced II**  
Helen Lundy  
Teacher, Deanna Badgett

**Piano Solo - Difficult I**  
Sarah Chen  
Teacher, Ya-Li Pekowski

**Violin Solo - Advanced I**  
Hannah Choi  
Teacher, Jenny Yang
Contest winners continued.

**Violin Concerto – Senior**
Helen Lundy
Teacher, Deanna Badgett

**Vocal Solo – Art Song – Musically Advanced III**
Kristina Crawford
Teacher, Kathy Stevens

**Vocal Solo – Art Song – Musically Advanced II**
Ananya Anand
Teacher, Katja Lindner

**Vocal Solo – Art Song – Musically Advanced I**
Tori Sneed
Teacher, Kathy Stevens

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**Thought For The Day**

If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never. And what wine is so sparkling, what so fragrant, what so intoxicating, as possibility?"

-- Soren Kierkegaard
The District I Board meeting and potluck were held June 13th in President Mary Ann Bridges’ back yard. There were 15 members present. L - R Maurita Trevino, Glenda Reynolds, Lisa Trevino, Mary Ann Bridges, Dr. Ruth Holmes, Carla Johnson, Nancy Bartlett, Dona Nussbaum, Phil Johnson, Florence Gum, Jean Moffatt, Maureen Hobbs, Gary Wood, and Karen Richardson.

**District 1**

(Carla Johnson)

The Marshall Music Club had a very exciting and full year of music. We focused on *The Sounds and Flavors of Texas – Exploring Different Genres of Lone Star Music*. Each session followed the prescribed order of business and featured music per the Texas Federation and National Federation of Music Clubs, as well as a favorite song of Texas.

**September: Reassembling Luncheon and Business Meeting** at Roseville Bed and Breakfast – A delicious lunch was provided and we had the Orientation and Program Overview of the Yearbook. Our members were excited about the upcoming year. New officers previously sworn in were Glenda Clay, president; Melinda Boyd, vice president; Gerry Gibson, secretary; and Brenda Dearman, treasurer.

**October: The Sounds of Texas** featuring country and rock and roll was presented by Anne Leslie Tijerina and Marilyn Morrison. We also participated in the Texas Federation of Music Club’s **District III Fall Conference** in Carthage, TX. Our Texas song was “Texas Our Texas.”

**November: The Parade of American Music** and the MMC was presented a proclamation by the city of Marshall, TX. Melinda Boyd spearheaded this program. We had performers that did religious, country, and boogie woogie music. Our Texas song was “Deep in the Heart of Texas.”
December: We had a program of sacred Christmas Music – Recordings of Christmas Carols You May Never Have Heard Before. This was led by Dr. Robert Spencer. The members were thoroughly involved as we listened and compared performances by Kathleen Battle and Jesse Norman. Additionally, poignant and moving selections were played to evoke our understanding of the song’s lyrics and message. We also did caroling at Treviso Transitional Care nursing facility where Brenda Dearman currently lives. It was wonderful to bring the gift of song to all the residents and to be able to join in song with Brenda. We also had the first Marshall Sings – a community Christmas caroling event held in the historic Harrison County Courthouse. During this event, organized by Glenda Clay and Melinda Boyd, the community sang Christmas carols old and new. Nostalgia was very much a part of this event. It was held right before the Christmas parade and well attended by residents of Harrison County, the Marshall Music Club, and others.

January: Founders Day Observance: Linking our Beginnings to the Present. This program retraced the steps of the founders and how they took an idea and developed it into a viable organization advocating music. Additionally, the house in which this meeting was held is one of the locations that the original Marshall Music Club met in. All refreshments served were Texas originals. Brenda Ford did a fantastic job tracing the history of the Marshall Music Club. Our Texas song was “The Yellow Rose of Texas.”

February: A Little of This and a Little of That – Texas music focusing on two ethnicities in Texas: Mexican and African. Anne Leslie focused on the history of the Mariachi music, while Gayle traced the history of African American music from the blues to the boogie woogie and Mariachi music. They both performed music representing these styles. Our Texas song was “Irene, Good Night.”

March: Music Living Through Women: This program featuring the works of women composers in the club was done by Brenda Ford and Melinda Boyd. After giving a history, Brenda sang, accompanied by Melinda Boyd. Then Melinda played an instrumental selection by Carlie Burdett (deceased music club member). Glenda Clay gave a history of her most influential music teacher in Marshall, Dorothy Montgomery (deceased). Although not afforded membership into many venues because of her race, Dorothy Montgomery mentored music students who became highly successful. She obtained her undergrad and graduate degrees. Glenda had a copy of her thesis and other documents which were shared with the Club. Montgomery also had her own studio and concerts to present her students. Our Texas song was “San Antonio Rose.” The Marshall Music Club hosted the District III conference.

April and May meetings were cancelled because of the pandemic.

May: We hosted our first Virtual Young Artists Concert and posted it on our Club’s Facebook page. It featured students from the studios of Melinda Boyd and Rebecca Salmi. This information can be found on our Facebook page: Marshall Music Club – District III.

We are extremely fortunate to have people in place in the club who have rallied and stepped up to ensure that the focus of the club stays sure and that the mission of the club is upheld. With illnesses and death taking its toll this year, the Marshall Music Club members have continued to perform at nursing homes and throughout the city as permitted with the current health conditions.

Locally, they can be seen in music ministry service, various performances, and supporting concerts at various venues. It has been a very productive year for the Marshall Music Club.
Marshall Club (President Glenda Clay)

Marshall Music Club Recognized

The Marshall Music Club since 1913 has worked to advocate for the performance, promotion, and enjoyment of music in the community of Marshall, Texas, and surrounding areas. The Club is a member of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs. Through this collective effort, students continue to achieve and strive for excellence by keeping music on the forefront. The Marshall Music Club members continue to be recognized for their efforts. The Club is the recipient of the National Federation of Music Club American Women Composers Award. Only 10 are awarded each year. The MMC’s submission included works by local composers Anne Leslie Tijerina, Melinda Boyd, and Glenda Clay.

Anne Leslie Tijerina is a native of Marshall. Her early musical influences were from Marshall music members, performing church music for children and piano. In Junior High, she began singing and writing poetry and from that songs evolved. She and her father wrote songs about small town life like “Daddy’s Still Fishin’.” Anne Leslie can be found always performing and enjoying music.

Melinda Boyd has her own studio here in Marshall and serves as a Minister of Music. She instructs students on piano, guitar, voice, and improvisation. She is the arranger and director for the Annual Waxahachie’s Old Fashioned Singing. The music is songs from the Old Fashioned Singing Project specifically arranged for the production. This tradition began in the 1950s and has continued while being revised and updated. Melinda also composes and performs many songs that speak of her faith. Her students can be found in various performance venues. She is a sought-after accompanist in the community, and she serves as the accompanist for the Marshall Music Club.

Glenda Clay is a native of Marshall. She writes Christian inspirational music. Her music has been debuted in Missouri, Maryland, and Texas. She has completed one CD, “My Testimony in Song,” and is currently working on her second CD. Her music includes traditional and contemporary gospel sounds, meditative and healing songs, arrangements for children, treble voices, and SATB choral works. Her song, “Oh, Precious Jesus,” has been recorded by the Mark Dubbeld Family. Her hymn “Taste and See” has been published in the One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism ecumenical hymnal. In addition to numerous awards, Glenda is also the recipient of the “Unsung Hero Excellence in the Arts” award for the South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Great things are happening in the Marshall Music Club. It is also fortunate to have Brenda Ford, Texas Federation State President, as its long-time member. Members continue to have a presence and make a difference for the arts in Marshall, Texas. Additionally, the Marshall Music Club continues to offer scholarships to high school seniors studying music and college level students.
Waco Euterpean Music Club (Linda Royals)

WACO EUTERPEAN’S DWAYNE DANIEL SCHOLARSHIP GIVES AID TO MUSIC STUDENTS

Dwayne Daniel was a Texas musician and super trumpeter. His passion for music was evident in his unique expression for everything he played, whether it was his rendition of “Trumpeter’s Lullaby” at his high school graduation, his mournful playing of “Taps” on Memorial Day celebrations and veterans’ funerals, his jazz with various dance bands, his exactness playing with the San Angelo Symphony, or his worship with his instrument in church. Dwayne’s death in April, 2017, greatly impacted his two older sisters, Gladys Celey and Virginia Babb, both members of Waco Euterpean Music Club, and so to honor him, they began a memorial music scholarship in his name.

The first award of $500 was given to Atlee Daniel, 2017 high school graduate from Ft. Worth. A student of viola, Atlee played in both the Ft. Worth Youth Symphony and the Texas High School State Symphony. She was also the 2016 winner of the Wendell Irish Viola National Award for the South Central Region of the NFMC. Atlee has now attended Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, completing her junior year in December, 2019, and then performed her junior recital. Excerpts from that recital featuring music from “Romeo and Juliette” by Prokofiev can be seen on https://youtu.be/kTkVfebrNUU.

Donations for this scholarship continued to come in and another $500 award was given in 2018 to Mary Grace Russell of Waco who performed for our music club several times. She entered Junior Festival with her violin multiple times where she won awards including the Jane McFarland Scholarship in 2017. She also performed at the TFMC State Convention in Austin in 2016 as recipient of the prestigious Dyer Strings Award. Mary Grace is currently a music student at Baylor University.

The recipient of the Dwayne Daniel Scholarship for 2019 was Kaleb Hook, a graduate of Wortham High School. A student of piano since age 5, Kaleb is also talented vocally as a tenor and proficient on the French Horn. Over the years he has won awards from TFMC at Junior Festival and from TMEA and UIL. He has now completed his first year at Stephen F. Austin and has long range plans to be a music professor in college.

Donations this year have enabled our club to give two $500 awards. Fairlight Hallock, (pictured at left) a dual-credit student of High School and McLennan Community College (MCC), completed 9 years in Junior Festival, winning awards in both piano and vocal and as outstanding piano accompanist. Fairlight is already enrolled at Baylor University and plans to have her own piano studio.

The other recipient this year is Haden Johnson, a graduating senior at Lorena High School. An 8-year piano student, he has participated in TFMC Festival. He is a member of the Lorena HS Band and the award-winning Drumline. He also plays marimba and composes music. Haden has been a member of the Space Settlement and Design Competition Team at Lorena HS, advancing twice to international competition. Haden plans to combine these two passions, composing music for video games and other technology. He will attend Texas A&M in the fall.

This memorial scholarship honors Dwayne Daniel, while helping other young musicians in their future endeavors.
As July arrives, we are all eagerly awaiting the results from the TFMC State Festival. The State awards are being mailed to the teachers and they will be given to the students. This time the teachers are getting the results before the students, instead of the other way around. We don’t want to spoil the surprise, so we plan to tell the students their results via Zoom, so we can let them know “live” what they received.

The new NFMC Festivals Bulletin for July 2020 – June 2024 are now available. Our teachers are currently spending a lot of time perusing their copies. Every Festival teacher needs to know these pieces well so they can help their student pick the best required piece for their level to play at Festival 2021.

Congratulations to 6-3 teacher Elizabeth Gutierrez! Two of her piano compositions are in the new Festivals Bulletins – Crazy Cars in Primary 1 and Spirit of the Stallion in Primary 2. Elizabeth also regularly gives webinars for piano teachers at her site - https://pianoteacheracademy.teachable.com/. She also hosts an summer camp for piano teachers every year in June called Piano Camp for Piano Teachers. Be sure to check out her compositions and her camps!

We are all looking forward to the 2020 Vision TFMC Convention in August. Everyone should attend this year, since there is no driving or hotels involved!

Here come the hottest days in Texas. Stay cool everyone!

Etude Music Club of San Antonio (President Lovena Miller)

Etude Music Club of San Antonio may not be meeting together, but we are still adding beauty to our souls and to the lives of others.

We have members, of course, researching and typing our program book for next season. Cleaning closets seems to be a ubiquitous pastime. Members are planting flowers in the front yard to beautify it, making a snowflake quilt, and fostering kittens.

We have a member who is practicing Jazz pieces like Fats Waller, Andrew Lloyd Weber and the Gershwin era on the piano. Several give virtual piano lessons. Another is practicing bassoon just for the fun of Mozart. Getting organ playing skills back up to par is a goal of one member. Portuguese lessons are taking up a lot of time for another.

We have a member who sewed many masks for the folks at the church’s Food Pantry. Others are making phone calls to the church’s “shut-ins” as Stephen Ministers. Buying their first home is very exciting for one member, especially during the pandemic.

Pets–new and existing–are taking time and energy for others. Whether the dog is training the person or the person is training the dog has yet to be decided. Reading and jigsaw puzzles are saving sanity for some and are creating beautiful pictures.

Etude Music Club is still an active, vibrant group of folks, even though we are unable to meet together. We ask God’s blessing upon each of you! Stay safe, stay healthy and bring beauty to the world!
DistRICT 6

Wednesday Morning Music Club (President Sarah Harriman)

The Board of the Wednesday Morning Music Club, via Zoom, is carrying on the work of the club. We do not plan to begin meeting before 2021, and even then our meetings will depend on venue availability and member willingness to participate. We are seeking alternative venues and performance possibilities for our members. We are hopeful Club performers will record their performances and then share them with us via Facebook, YouTube or some other format. The program committee continues to seek proposals for upcoming meetings, whenever they may begin. A dedicated group of volunteers has made an effort to contact all of our members by phone to check on them and determine how they would like to interact with the club at this very unsettling time. All calls seemed to be greatly appreciated.

For the time being, we are watching performances on line and wishing we could be together again soon.

District 8

Harmony Club of Abilene (President Lora Lynn Christensen)

Every year Harmony Club of Abilene is allowed to put a National Music Week display in the Abilene Public Library Main Branch. The display case is a lighted, 5-foot case, with four shelves. This is one half of one shelf this year. Using “Music...a Magic Carpet,” I had several themes of where the magic carpet could take us. This is one of them: “Music takes our minds away to see imaginary beings.” Because of the pandemic, I could not put the display up until the middle of May, but it will stay up until the end of June.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Peggy Jones

I was born Margaret Capron on May 25, 1924 in Lincoln, NE. In Jr. High I decided I liked the nickname “Peggy” better than others my classmates were coming up with. So Peggy it has been ever since, except for official matters. Also in Jr. High I discovered I had a singing voice and enjoyed using it. In my elementary years we learned to read music as we learned to read words. Mother was able to find a good voice teacher for me when I was 16, and I studied with him for many years, through college. Through all these many years I have felt honored to be able to sing in some very fine choirs, choruses and chorales. I have enjoyed these experiences far more than the solo performances I’ve done.

I graduated from Lincoln High School in June of 1941 and started classes at the University of Nebraska that fall. I was a Home Economics major with the emphases on Clothing and Textiles. I managed to fit music courses into my schedule as electives. During the war years the army sent new recruits to the campus for some training, and I met and married a handsome young man from Denver, Philip Edgar DeSilva. Our son, Philip, was born just as Eddie was shipped to Europe. Sadly, he never returned. At war’s end I met a returned serviceman from Texas, Manton P. Jones. After our marriage we returned to his hometown Lufkin in East Texas. There I was invited by fellow church choir members to join the Stephen Foster Music Club and for the first time learned of the Federation of Music Clubs. At some point a group from the club went to Houston for a convention dinner where the speaker was Mrs. Few Brewster. I remember nothing of her speech, but I still have the small, white grand piano that was my table favor.

Since Manton worked for the Gulf Oil Company we were moved many times but somehow we always lived in or near Lufkin when each of our daughters, Patricia and Catherine, was born. In our moves to small towns around Texas I had no more access to music clubs until we landed in Midland in 1961. Here I was invited to join the Musicians Club of Midland in 1962 (the name officially changed to Midland Musicians Club in recent years), and I am happy to still be part of that club.

In the early years of this music club we started having a Musicale every year as a fundraiser. We used the ample talents of our club members for a very special entertainment for which we charged or encouraged donations. It became so successful that it grew bigger and more elaborate over the years. At one point, for some help with costumes for our cast, I went to our community theater and met the costumer. We became very good friends, and that started another phase of my life. I began volunteering at the theater and ended up staying at that for the next 15 years. I met more amazingly talented and interesting people and made a lot of new friends. During these years I have enjoyed being part of Federation efforts at a local and state level and learning more of the benefits of our organization.

As a child I became enchanted with opera music and began a lifelong love of the music, stories, and theater of opera. I have been a supporter of Opera in the Ozarks and enjoyed attending with my Federation friends. For several years I also have been a member of the Permian Basin Opera Board. It has been a pleasure to share opera with school children and adults in the Midland area.

As you have read I have no marvelous talent or teaching ability, but my years of singing have given me great pleasure. I have been blessed by the ability I was given for so much beauty in music and by the wonderful friends I have made through it. I miss seeing you, but I know all of you are still doing such good things through music.
Pat Hill

Pat Hill (Patricia Lou McCamy Hill) was born in Sioux City, Iowa, and grew up in West Fargo, North Dakota. Pat has been involved with music almost all of her life, starting piano lessons at age six and becoming the official pianist for her school and church at an early age. Pat moved to Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1947, to attend Texas Christian University, where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree Magna Cum Laude in Music in 1951. Highlights of her time there were performing at Ed Landreth Auditorium with the TCU Symphony and performing with the TCU Faculty String Quartet.

The same month she graduated, Pat married Dr. James Richard Hill. Their wonderful marriage lasted until his untimely death in 1985. Pat continued her love of music, becoming very involved in several music organizations. She recently received an Award for 71 years in Mu Phi Epsilon, International Professional Music Fraternity. Her ties to the National Federation of Music Clubs are numerous. She has a Life Membership in the National organization and has been active at the local level for many years.

Pat is currently Parliamentarian of the Melodie Club in Dallas as well as Past President. She was what was then Texas Fifth District President and was honored to have the national president, Merle Montgomery, come to her Convention as guest speaker. She has continued to have offices in the Second District, and she was State Parliamentarian one year along with holding other state offices. Pat taught piano off and on for many years while also raising two children, Deborah and Richard.

She has been an active Deacon and Elder in Northridge Presbyterian Church since joining in 1958. She is an Honorary Life Member of the Presbyterian Women’s Organization. Pat pursued other vocations while continuing her musical career. She worked at Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical School as Administrative Secretary of the Dept. of Internal Medicine. She owned a health food store for 20 years and also ran a Bed and Breakfast home for about 18 years.

Pat is now living at CC Young Retirement Home in Dallas and, approaching age 91, she is still active in the music community. In closing, Pat writes “Thank you for all you and others are doing to keep the sound of music alive! I would say that this “Hill is alive because of the sound of music”!

(Thanks to Marque McKay for sharing this cartoon.)
We all need to take daily steps to combat racism

By Simone Talma Flowers

The disease of racism has festered in our society for centuries and sometimes we are overwhelmed by its magnitude and power. Yet, we cannot keep it in the dark. We have to bring it into the light and expose it. It’s the only way for the disease of racism to be treated, managed and eventually cured. There are many things you can do to make a difference to help combat racism and biases. It takes a commitment to do the work, and a lot of times it’s in the daily acts that we can make a difference. Here are a few things you can do.

Listen when a person of color tells you they are in pain. Just shut up and listen. Do not try to explain the opposing point of view. Do not tell them they are overreacting or failing to see the full picture. Let them know you have heard them. Let them know you are there for them.

Fight like it’s your family affected. We are so resourceful when we are fighting for our loved ones. We will raise hell, challenge authority and demand justice. So if every racist incident offends us personally — if we fight for each of those victims as our own — we are invested in that fight and will not be distracted.

Bombard your elected officials. Let them know that you do not like what you are seeing or hearing. Don’t suppose one voice won’t make a difference. Show up and tell them what you think to their faces, send emails, call, make noise. Tell them that you want them to make changes that have meaningful pathways.

Stop protecting racism. We are so close to racism — we touch it and breathe it in all the time. Don’t close your eyes and ignore any instance of it. Tell people, including relatives and friends, you do not like it when they devalue another human. Let them know that such a mindset is one reason our country is struggling. Segments of our society remain in poverty and in harm’s way because those inequalities are dismissed by those views and comments. You are the best person they can hear it from because they know you love them and they love you. It’s hard to have those talks. Take deep breaths and stay in the conversation.

Support businesses owned by people of color. Share your expertise, invest, patronize and tell your friends to support these businesses regularly. Put your money where your mouth is.

Working to end racism is a lifestyle change, not a one-time occurrence. It does not work if you are only going to do this on a Sunday, or once a month, or at a specific gathering. This is constant work.

Systemic change happens when we change the policies that uphold institutionalized racism. Use your power and influence to make change at work, at your university, at your congregation, the businesses you patronize, with your friends, your neighborhoods, your schools and the political candidates you support. Pay attention to your surroundings. Are investments not happening in the areas that need them? Demand change.

My hope is that we continue to speak up, as uncomfortable as it is. We all have one new common experience: We have been staying home to help flatten the curve and mitigate the risks of spreading the coronavirus. This is an act we are doing to protect our lives and the lives of people who live in our community. This has been one of the greatest acts we have done. COVID-19 showed us that change can come if we think beyond our personal immediate needs. We just have to commit to doing it, living it and demanding it.
Lookin’ at Lyrics by Marque McKay

According to Thomas S. Hischak in Word Crazy: Broadway Lyricists from Cohan to Sondheim (Prager Publishers, N.Y., 1991), lyricists are “unsung heroes.” [chuckle] And he names George M. Cohan as the first lyricist to write truly American music for an American audience (early 1900’s). Believing that “Moon,” “Spoon,” “June” tunes doomed a love song faster than a sprained ankle ruins a dance number, Cohan instead used his own brash language to speak directly to the audience. At first, people left his shows a bit shocked, but they left with sound worms spinning in their brains, humming his catchy tunes and remembering his clever but simple lyrics. And his sheet music sold. Publishers and music stores made money. And so did his shows.

Even a century later, just mentioning “Give my Regards to Broadway,” “Mary’s a Grand Old Name,” “You’re a Grand, Old Flag,” or “Over There” will start somebody singing one of them. Fans of classic films still marvel as George M. Cohan (James Cagney) performs his music and dances down the stairs in the wonderful 1942 movie Yankee Doodle Dandy. And his lyrics -- simple, heartfelt, a bit naive, but American, and memorable -- roll off the tongue easily, without apparent thought. His lyrics rhymed and scanned without evident effort. They felt natural and full of confidence and joy. Consider “You’re a Grand Old Rag” (later changed to “. . . Flag” out of respect.)

“You’re a Grand Old Flag, / you’re a high-flying flag,
And forever in Peace may you wave.

You’re the emblem of / the land I love,
The home of the free and the brave.

Ev’ry heart beats true / ’neath the red, white, and blue,
Where there’s never a boast or brag.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the Grand Old Flag.”

There is nothing sprained about that plain language. And soon, the American public wanted “more.” Other song writers followed his lead. Many others. Stay tuned.

Just for fun: Mountain Greenery (composed by Richard Rodgers, with lyrics by Lorenz Hart)

From the 1926 musical The Garrick Gaieties

[Notice Hart’s characteristic use of enjambment (continuation of a sentence or clause across a line break) and witty and unexpected internal rhymes e.g. ‘lover let’ and ‘coverlet’ and ‘keener re...’ rhymed with ‘beanery’):

On the first of May, it is moving day
Spring is here, so blow your job
Throw your job away
Now’s the time to trust
To your wanderlust
In the city’s dust you wait, must you wait
Just you wait

In a mountain greenery
Where God paints the scenery
Just two crazy people together
While you love your lover
Let blue skies, be your coverlet
When it rains we’ll laugh at the weather
And if you’re good, I’ll search for wood
So you can cook, while I stand looking
Beans could get no keener reception in a beanery
Bless our mountain greenery home

Simple cooking means
More than French Cuisines
I’ve a banquet planned which is
Sandwiches and beans
Coffee’s just as grand
With a little sand
Eat and you’ll grow fatter, boy
S’matter, boy?
Huh, huh, ‘atta boy

In a mountain greenery
Where God paints the scenery
Just two crazy people together
How-how-how-how-how we love sequestering
Where no pests are pesterling
No dear momma holds us in tether
Mosquitoes here
Won’t bite you dear
I’ll let them sting, me on the finger
Beans could get no keener reception in a beanery
Bless our mountain greenery
Far from life’s machinery
Bless our mountain greenery home

Mountain greenery
Pianist Plays Music For Elephants That Lived Hard Life

Learn more at this link.

https://animalchannel.co/retired-pianist-plays-beautiful-music-handicapped-injured-old-elephants-sanctuary/

Need a face mask that makes a musical statement? Check out this link.