District VI hosts TFMC in Austin

101st convention features NFMC notable, winner

The 101st TFMC convention March 30-April 2 in Austin concluded activities of the centennial year.

District VI was host, with Mary Thomason as president. Four clubs assisting were Etude Music Club of San Antonio, president Marque McKay; Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin, president Dr. Marcia Edwards; Gonzales Music Study Club, president Shirley Spoon; and District IV Festival Clubs, with presidents Judy Gorrell, Sue Bachus and Donna Vinarskai.

Michael Edwards, NFMC president, was honored guest and gave the main address at the banquet. Convention co-chairmen were Carla Johnson and Carolyn McColloch.

Award winners and other special guests performed. See pictures and related stories in this edition.

Fall board will be August 26-27.

Carla Jean Johnson receives Distinguished Service Award

Carla Johnson, past president of TFMC and the Lone Star District Coordinator, was recognized at the April 1 banquet with the Distinguished Service Award.

Carla serves as American Music chairman for TFMC and chairs the Martha Mack vocal awards for Opera in the Ozarks. She is a regional chairman for opera as well.

She was co-chairman of the Austin convention, and heads the TFMC page on Facebook. She holds dual memberships in the Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin and the Lubbock Music Club, which she has served as president and as a scholarship winner while in high school.

Carla is an accomplished vocalist and frequently solos and sings with choruses on the state and national level. Her husband, Judge Phil Johnson, sits on the Texas Supreme Court and frequently accompanies her to federation meetings.

Both are Life Members of TFMC/NFMC.

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From Your TFMC President

by Lynn McNew, president

What a busy spring and early summer this has been, starting in March/April at our State Convention in Austin. It was a wonderful 3 days and District VI were wonderful hosts. Thanks to Mary Thomason, District VI President, and the clubs and Presidents in Austin, San Antonio and Gonzales. They include Marque McKay of the Etude Music Club of San Antonio, Dr. Marcia Edwards, Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin, Shirley Spoon of the Gonzales Music Study Club, and District VI Festival Clubs led by Judy Gorrell, Sue Bachus and Donna Vinarskai. Carolyn McColloch and Carla Johnson served as Convention Co-Chairmen.

Michael Edwards, NFMC President, was our National Guest.

The convention opened with the Presentation of the Colors by the Patrick Henry Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution—a very moving presentation, complete with Revolutionary War uniforms and instruments.

Francis Christmann had issued a challenge at the 2015 convention in Brownwood, with a promise of $500 to the club with the largest percentage of new members, $300 to the second highest, and $200 to the third highest. Waco Euterpean was first with a 35% increase, Lubbock Music Club was 2nd with 22% and Midland and Dallas Melodies tied for 3rd with a 12% increase. The challenge was so successful that Francis issued it again for the 2016-17 year. So work on your membership, you might win a sizable amount of money for your club!

Thursday afternoon JoAnn Collett, TFMC Folk Music Chair, presented an entertaining and informative workshop on folk music. Everyone enjoyed singing the old familiar songs.

Dinner honoring the Yellow Rose Society and OIO Life Members was Thursday night. Two new Yellow Rose members, Lynn McNew and Michael Edwards, were inducted during dinner.

Three interesting speakers, Tim Danielson, former OIO singer, Patricia Ratzlaff, first-time attendee in 2015, and Adrienne Loftus, former Youth Camp participant, recounted their experiences. The evening's entertainment was a program presented by Austin’s Wednesday Morning Music Club and included everything from talented singers to steel drums.

Friday morning began with the “Lifers’ Breakfast” with several new life members pledging their loyalty. Informative reports from various committee chairs followed. Francis Christmann brought us up-to-date on proper protocol in her workshop. Before the Rose Fay Thomas Luncheon, Carlie Burdett conducted a moving Memorial Service honoring those who have passed away in the past year.

Marvelous entertainment during lunch was the Alamo Angels under the direction of Mary K. Archuleta. A group of special needs adults from San Antonio, they certainly demonstrated what can be done with music.

Calendar of Events

July 13-16, 2016—South Central Region Federation Days, Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony, Eureka Springs, AR
August 26-27, 2016—TFMC Fall Board Meeting, Embassy Suites Love Field, Dallas
March 16-18, 2017 -- 102nd TFMC convention, DFW Airport Marriott South, Fort Worth, District II host
May 2017 -- TFMC State Festival, San Marcos
June 20-24, 2017 -- NFMC Convention, Dayton, Ohio

After lunch, there were more reports and then a delightful Musical Interlude presented by Mary Grace Russell, the winner of the J.C., Jr and Robert Dyer Strings Award.

Annette Griesbach again put together a highly successful silent auction, which took in over $1200, all for Opera in the Ozarks.

The day closed with the Formal Banquet honoring the NFMC President and Texas NFMC Chairmen. Michael Edwards was our guest speaker. The evening ended with an outstanding concert by the NFMC Young Artist winner in Women’s Voice, Christie Conover. Christie sang a varied selection of pieces, showing her versatility and vocal ability. She was accompanied by Lora Lynn Christensen.

Saturday was devoted to our Juniors, with reports from Junior Division Chairs. Cathy Neidert gave a very informative workshop, complete with power-point presentation, on the new data entry system being incorporated by the national junior division.

The convention ended on a musical note, with a performance by the TFMC Festival Chorus, directed by Madeline McCauley and accompanied by Carolyn McColloch, both from the

Carla Johnson holds her Distinguished Achievement Award while her son Philip and husband, Judge Phil Johnson, stand behind her. The arrangement at left is a gift from their daughter, Laura Pfortmiller, who was unable to attend.

Carla, continued from page 1

Carla is also a past district president and is a Life Member of Opera in the Ozarks. She is a member of the Yellow Rose Society.

Carla and Phil are the parents of three children and nine grandchildren. One of their sons was able to be with them at the banquet in Austin.
President, cont. from page 2

A buffet luncheon, hosted by the Gonzales Music Study Club sent everyone on their way, amid hugs and promises of “see you soon.”

June 20, 2016, this president traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, along with about 25 other Texans, to attend the NFMC Conference. Something new, in the form of a State President’s Day was added this year on Tuesday. It proved to be an interesting and informative day and an opportunity to meet presidents from other states. There were 30 presidents in attendance.

It was an exciting week, full of interesting workshops and wonderful music. Tuesday night the music began with the Canary Chorale, under the direction of Noma Curtis. They were a talented group of singers, started 10 years ago by a 20-something young man, who wanted to sing “good” music.

Wednesday morning began with music by a brass quintet, Brass Fusion, a group of college students from Fort Smith, Arkansas, who also played for the Opening Ceremony. As the day progressed, a musical moment was enjoyed, from pianist Christina Greenwood winner of the Caldwell & Bailey award.

In the meantime, Texans enjoyed the South Central Region luncheon and several informative workshops by Rob Coopman, who has successfully rebuilt a Federated club in Hollywood, Florida.

Wednesday evening had all South Central Region attendees “bursting their buttons” with pride at the amazing performances by talented singers from Opera in the Ozarks. Michael Edwards, NFMC President, couldn’t say enough good things about this wonderful place atop Rock Candy Mountain in Northwest Arkansas.

Thursday morning opened with a fun-filled Lifer’s Breakfast, aptly chaired by Rhonda Stege of Dallas. A good time was had by all and several new “lifers” were initiated. Many people from other states promised to take Rhonda’s ideas home and host a similar event at their own state convention.

The day continued with more meetings, including another informative session with Rob Coopman. Musical moments were enjoyed presented by Abigel Szilagyi, Walsh Award winner on the viola in the morning and in the afternoon music on the Native American flute by Jim Mayhew, who also gave a workshop on the flute later in the afternoon.

Thursday evening most of the Texas group joined for dinner at an Italian restaurant down the street from the hotel.

Then all enjoyed the musical talents of Nicholas Susl, Young Artist Piano winner, who entertained the group with a program of predominately Scarlatti Sonatas, as he is preparing to record his first CD.

Friday was again a day to make Texans proud, as the Musical Moment was presented by Shan Su, Wendell Irish Viola Award winner from Richardson, TX. Later that morning Susan Hong, Dr. Ouida Keck Award winner from San Antonio, presented a workshop on “Teaching Music to Students with Special Needs.”

After lunch, as the conference was beginning to wind down, the Festival Chorus, under the direction of Noma Curtis, entertained. Several Texans sang with this group. It was a challenging array of music.

Friday evening’s banquet included the presentation of the first Lifetime Achievement Award, won by our very own Francis Christmann. No one could be more deserving. Following dinner, during which Don Dagenais entertained with stories of opera singers and composers, was a program by Oklahoma Fancy Dancers. The beautiful clothing and fast moving feet of this family, including 3 children, was a delight to watch.

Connie Randall, of Kaufman, TX, NFMC Chaplain, conducted a beautiful and moving Memorial Service on Saturday morning. Music by the Federation String Quartet added to the solemnity of the occasion. Then everyone, except the National Board, packed up and headed for home, happy they had been in Tulsa, and looking forward to the 2017 NFMC Convention in Dayton, Ohio.

Thanks to all the Texans who attended and especially all those who had a part in making this a special time.

NFMC presents Francis Christmann with special award

A highlight of the NFMC conference in Tulsa was the presentation of the first Lifetime Achievement Award to Texan Francis Christmann, a member of the Federation since 1954. At that time the Federation was in its 56th year, and she has held continuous membership for 62 years.

Francis is a past club, district, and state president. She was also vice-president of the Central Region and has held most elective and appointive offices in NFMC, including Chairman of the Council of State President, Chairman of Division Activities, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and Woman’s Voice chairman in Young Artists for 23 years.

She is a charter member of both the Rose Fay Thomas Fellows and the Yellow Rose Society. She is a Life Member of NFMC/TFMC and Opera in the Ozarks. She has endowed a night of opera at OIO and an endowment in TFMC honoring past state presidents.

When her husband passed away in 2000, he established a Carnegie Hall Debut Recital for a NFMC Young Artist. Debuts were held for pianist David Shimon in 2002, violinist Christina Castelli in 2004, duo pianists Stephen Varney and Naomi Sanchez in 2006, and vocalist Daniel Seigel in 2010. After that, Francis gave the money to NFMC to raise Young Artist awards from $10,000 to $15,000. Now she is giving funds to raise them to $20,000 including duo pianists.

See the fall Music Clubs Magazine for more about Francis Christmann.

Dr. George Keck escorts Francis Christmann of Lubbock, TX to receive the first Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed by the National Federation of Music Clubs at the Tulsa conference on June 24. She received a standing ovation from the banquet crowd.
Highlights from TFMC convention

Lynn McNew, TFMC president, and Jo Ann Collett, TFMC Third Vice-President, flank new Life Members at the breakfast April 1 in Austin. New Lifers include Bill Yick, Vicki Ferguson, Dave Randall, Michael Edwards, Phil Johnson and Jim Collett.

Members of the Patrick Henry Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented the colors to open the 101st TFMC Convention March 30. Members include Jeff Wise, Commander; Jim Clements, Marvin Morgan and Ray DeVries.

High school guitarists performed at the Thursday night talent show arranged by the Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin.

NFMC president Michael Edwards and TFMC president Lynn McNew are the newest members of the Yellow Rose Society installed at the TFMC Convention. NFMC publisher Rich Westcott was inducted into the society at the NFMC conference in Tulsa.

Young Artist Christie Conover and her accompanist, Lora Lynn Christensen.
Also a part of the Thursday night talent show at the TFMC convention were steel drum performers from the University of Texas.

The Alamo Angels Accordion Orchestra of San Antonio, under the direction of Mary Katherine Archuleta, performed for the convention. The group is the flagship performing ensemble for Dreams Fulfilled through Music, serving special needs students and adults.

Mary Grace Russell, shown at left with Betty Hall and Francis Christmann of the J. C. and Robert Dyer Violin Award committee, is the 2016 winner and played for the convention. Mary Grace is 16 years old and resides in Hewitt, Texas. She has studied violin for 13 years under the tutelage of Dr. Julia Hardie, founder of the Central Texas String Academy of Waco. In 2015 she received a TFMC Junior Festival All-State Musician plaque for violin solo. This is her eleventh year to compete in Junior Festival in which she has earned ten straight superior ratings and three Cups. She also competes in the vocal art duet category at the Festival where she has won All-State plaques twice. Also performing for the state convention was Bethany Bobbs, Texas Stillman Kelley award winner. She studies cello with Christopher French and piano with her mother, Catherine Bobbs. Bethany has won the NFMC Mary Alice Cox cello scholarship award, plus many other awards and honors. She lives in Houston and is the home-schooled seventh child in a family of eight children.

Dawn Stewart, a student at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, has been chosen to receive the 2016 Leake J. Ward Scholarship in Music Therapy.

There were five applicants, including one from Sam Houston State, two from Southern Methodist University, one from Texas Women's University, and the winner. Dawn is a native of Albuquerque, N.M.

Dawn has sung in the university choir all four years. She served as president of the Southwestern American Music Therapy Association for Students in 2013-14. She is an active member of Mu Phi Epsilon and the West Texas A&M chapter of Circle K, associated with the Kiwanis Club.

One of her finest accomplishments was establishing Aktion Club, a service club for adults with disabilities. She almost single-handedly located and organized the club after nearly two years of research and investigation. She also works as a camp counselor at a special needs camp during the summer.

Dawn has been offered and has accepted an internship position at Bridgeway Academy in Columbus, Ohio beginning in August, 2016. Dawn’s degree in music therapy has allowed her to combine her two loves of music and interacting with individuals with special needs. She is an honors student with highest grades on examinations and in her music therapy courses.
Highlights of the NFMC Conference

The first-ever Lifers Breakfast at an NFMC meeting was held June 23 in Tulsa. Rhonda Stege (right) was in charge, with all of TFMC helping. Among the new Lifers installed from Texas were Judge Phil Johnson, and Bill and Laresa Yick. Because the Lifers Breakfast is such an important part of every TFMC convention, it's hard to believe that every state doesn't have one also. After seeing how much fun could be had, maybe other states will follow suit. It surely boosts Life Membership!

Because Texas was one of the five states in the South Central Region hosting the Tulsa conference, about 25 Texans were on hand for all or part of the events. Those attending included: Dorene Allen, Lois Armor, Mary Ann Bridges, Francis Christmann, Tim Danielson, Brenda Ford, Annette (and Gary) Griesbach, Laurel Ince, Carla (and Phil) Johnson, Jennifer Key, Marque McKay, Lynn (and Tom) McNew, Jean Moffatt, Cathy Neidert, Connie Randall, Pat Retzlaff, Glenda Reynolds, Rhonda Stege, Mary Thomason, Gloria Thrasher, Bill and Laresa Yick, Vicki Carr from Texarkana, and Nancy Hansen and husband from League City. Dorene and Mary Ann became Rose Fay Thomas Fellows at the meeting.

Texan performs for NFMC
Shan Su of Tyler, winner of the Wendell Irish Viola Award, performed for the NFMC conference in Tulsa. Her appearance was sponsored by TFMC.

She is pictured with Tony Carrillo, her accompanist; Dr. George Keck, chairman of the award; and Lynn McNew, TFMC president.

Shan has been principal violist of the Texas All-State Symphony Orchestra and is a May graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas with a degree in biology. In August she will be matriculating at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. She has worked as an English teacher, a lifeguard, a peer advisor, a supplemental instruction leader, and a medical scribe. She is a Dean’s List student.
On May 18, 2016, the Wednesday Morning Music Club ("WMMC") hosted its spring luncheon at the Austin Woman's Club ("AWC") to celebrate the 2016 winners of the Wilcox, Maurer, Rudd, and Putter High School music awards. In addition, President Marcia Edwards recognized 18 members who joined the club prior to 1980. Eight of these members were present and each received a white long-stemmed rose.

The President also presented the WMMC Distinguished Service Award to Maria de Waal Putter for her outstanding service to the club and for her generous support of music education and young musicians. Maria is a life member of NFMC, TFMC, and Opera in the Ozarks. She has been a member of The Wednesday Morning Music Club since 1986.

Club members were delighted to welcome Lois Armor, TFMC First Vice-President, as a guest at the luncheon.

Earlier this spring on March 19, eighteen students competed at the Steinway Piano Gallery in North Austin in the Wilcox, Maurer, Rudd and Putter music contest: 11 pianists, 2 violinists, 2 cellists, 1 flutist, and 2 singers, in the annual competition sponsored by the WMMC.

The winner of the Maurer Award, First Place, $1200, was Dohyun Kim, baritone, the son of Jong Seo Kim. He also received the Sally Straw Rudd Supplemental Award of $250. Dohyun is a graduating senior from James Bowie High School. He plans to attend the University of North Texas in the fall to pursue a major in opera performance. Dohyun's teacher is Dr. Minkyung Lee, a voice and choir instructor at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio. At the luncheon, Dohyun sang selections by Head, Fauré, and Donizetti. He was accompanied on the piano by Hanna Lee.

The Maurer Award, Second Place, $1000, was awarded to Rachel Cernosek, who plays the flute. Rachel is the daughter of Gary and Kerri Cernosek. Rachel is finishing her senior year at Cedar Park High School. This fall she will enter Texas Christian University to major in music education and flute performance. Her teacher is Ann Kjerulf Knien. At the luncheon Rachel chose to play Fantaisie, a piece written specifically for the flute by Georges Hüe. Dr. Storm Knien accompanied her on the piano.

The Wilcox Award (9th through 11th grade students) First Place winner, $800, was Jonathan Qi, a student at Westwood High School and son of Song Jin and Zhuo Qi. Jonathan delighted the audience with piano selections from Beethoven and Scriabin. His teacher is Dr. Betty Mallard, a member of the WMMC.

The Second Place winner of the Wilcox Award, $700, was Isabelle Hsiao, who also plays the piano and is a fellow student at Westwood High School. Isabelle is the daughter of Julia Hsiao. She played the third movement from Beethoven's "Waldstein" (Op. 53) sonata. Robert McDonald and Professor Anton Nel are Isabelle's teachers.

The WMMC judges for this year’s competition were Paula Bird, violinist with the Artisan Quartet, and teacher at Texas State University; Darlene Cluff, choral conductor, singer, voice teacher, and pianist; and Kiyoshi Tamagawa, concert pianist, collaborative artist, and Professor of Music and Associate Dean at Southwestern University in Georgetown. The WMMC thanks them for their contributions to the success of this year’s competition. WMMC also would like to express its gratitude to Mary Parse, who serves as Chair of the Wilcox, Maurer, Rudd, and Putter High School Awards Committee.

WMMC members and their guests were enthralled not only by the award winners and their brilliant performances, but also by the sound of the new Brodmann 6’2” grand piano taking its proud place center stage at the AWC. The piano, with its exquisite Strunz (German-made) soundboard, is a recent acquisition and the result of a robust fundraising campaign conducted by the AWC and supported by the WMMC. Every performance thrilled audience members, many of whom, for the first time, had an opportunity to hear not only these gifted young musicians but also the new Brodmann piano – an instrument impressive in tonal and dynamic range and surely to be relished by performers and audiences alike for many future generations.
TFMC Music in Poetry chairman Jean Barlow has selected "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae as her choice to be set to music. The winner will perform at the 2017 TFMC convention in Fort Worth.

Here are the words to the selected poem:

In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Field.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Field.

Connie Randall excels as chaplain

We were “Texas proud” at the beautiful prayers and memorial service led by our own Connie Randall, NFMC chaplain.

Connie, a past president of the Michigan Federation, how lives in Kaufman and also serves as state news and publications chairman for NFMC. She and her husband Dave are TFMC/NFMC Life Members, and she is also a Rose Fay Thomas Fellow.

Use correct forms

Be sure to use correct reporting forms (download from HQ) for your club’s activities. And send in a report even if your club doesn’t do something in a particular category during the year.