Dear Fermata Friends,

Greetings to you with love and wonderful thoughts flying your way these days.

What should be the topic of this Messenger? How do music clubs go forward? What does going forward look like?

We are in the times of new or changing rules, mandates, questions about what is real and true. We even have new phrases added to our folk vocabulary 2020 such as “Oh man, I forgot my mask.” Or “I can’t believe people are mask littering!” Or “Cute, where did you get your mask?” School and lessons have been rearranged and the style of teaching is a video unperson person telling you the topic of objective for the hour and questions will have to wait. We have been at home more while trying to stay connected and keeping up with friends. Some are venturing out little by little.

Facetime, Meet and Zoom get lots of use.

Let’s look back at our Summer! What a summer it was! Music Club meetings came to a screeching halt. State Festival made unprecedented changes to hold their competition event safely and we had an Unconventional Convention, with virtually everything virtual. Concerts, receptions, workshops, meals, and meetings were pulled off so smoothly. Many I would like to acknowledge.

Our NFMC guest and Public Relations Chair, Julie Watson, joined the convention and meeting. Her topic, Eyeing Social Media, was a combination of presentation and question-answer format on building and using Facebook, websites, snap chat, Skype and Zoom to promote our membership, club work, concerts or events safely and effectively. LOL BTW, We Loved Having You!

Our NFMC Chair, Vivace Festival System, Sandra Preysz joined in on workshops and enjoyed concerts with us. She discussed her long-time work with upgrading technology systems and problem solving and weekly training for a transition to updated and better festival data systems collecting and tracking. She gave a report titled Crystal Ball: Festivals Past, Present, and Future which took us from the past years of Festival and the procedures created out of pandemic COVID-19 this year. On the national and state levels, our goals were to keep students involved and continuing to study. So enlightening! Thank you!

Paul Wolf, NFMC male voice winner, gave a recorded concert that was so moving and beautifully sung with artistic flair. His accompanist Matthew Wilson was a wonderful collaborator on piano, revealing his sensitivity of touch and tone and timing. The recording was able to pick up the beautiful fullness and ranges of sound from the selections. Also, cheers for adding the President’s song, Always, to the concert repertoire and for joining us for the reception interview that gave our members an appreciation of the hard work that goes into achieving NFMC Young Artist. Bravo, Bravo, Bravissimo!

Connie Randall, VP, was a great worker, advisor and a friend when this president was lost. The planning came together; the bags got filled with David’s help as well. The backdrop for the convention was her idea and hardwork. In the workshop, Clarity! Bird’s Eye-View of Federation, Connie created and executed a great little Jeopardy Game as a learning format for Federation categories. Beautiful, Wowweee, Woooool You nailed it!

Continued on page 3
CALENDAR

December 1          Tuesday after Thanksgiving All Things Opera OIO Fundraising
                      Giving Tuesday Make an appointment to give. We are vital to the strength of
                      our wonderful Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony

February 1, 2021    Deadline for submissions for the Winter Edition of the Music Messenger

June 15-19          NFMC Biennial Convention Theme “Music...Songs of the Sea,”
                      Norfolk, VA at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel

August 4-7          TFMC Annual Convention, MCM Elegante, Dallas, Texas

GivingTuesday - Coming Soon

I’m assuming we will all want to participate in GivingTuesday again this year, but maybe we can just take a quick e-mail vote – please send a reply of yes or no to me in the next week if you don’t mind. As you probably remember......

GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and support their communities. It’s a day when everyone comes together to give back in all forms—acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent or treasure. Nonprofits can leverage the energy of GivingTuesday to tell their stories, engage lifelong advocates and build a movement for their organizations - and that’s way more powerful than just collecting donors.

GivingTuesday is a global day of generosity that will take place on December 1, 2020. It is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. Created in 2012 it is a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past 8 years, this idea has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. At a time when we are all experiencing the pandemic, generosity is what brings people of all races, faiths, and political views together across the globe. Generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value anyone can act on.

Creativity always wins on GivingTuesday. Here are some ideas for how your organization can participate but the sky’s the limit: ● Share good news stories. Both from your organization and other stories that inspire you. Check out GivingTuesday’s social channels for examples. Showcase all the good happening in your community. ● Collaborate with other organizations to host a PPE drive, a holiday food drive for your community, or a virtual festival for your community members to learn about all the organizations’ missions. ● Thank your supporters. Host a thank-a-thon or add to a donor wall. ● 24 hours of gratitude. Post once an hour about things your organization is grateful for. ● Amplify others. Fundraise for another organization, create a Facebook album to share your partners’ work. ● Go live. Share how your organization has been participating and how it has positively impacted your community! ● Fundraise for your organization. You can use any digital fundraising tools you like! You can even use your existing donate button.

Soon, we’ll want to announce that Opera in the Ozarks is again participating in Giving Tuesday, held annually on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. That special day is December 1st this year so let’s build anticipation with a countdown – can you believe it’s coming so quickly, just a little more than 2½ months! So, start making your list now of those you can invite to help make Giving Tuesday a great day for Opera in the Ozarks!
Secretary, Nominating Committee Chair and friendly goody bag gal, **Lynn McNew** was on the ball and checking for anything she could do. What a great slate of officers the district president team put together. With Lynn’s encouraging manner, we will wait for the “rest of the story” in the next years ahead. What a great leadership lineup for next year. 2, 4, 6, 8… who do we appreciate? Lynn, Lynn, McNEW!… and CREW! Whew!

Parliamentarian, friend, counselor, **Lois Armor** was behind the scenes filling in the gaps with prompting notes and calls to aid when there were procedural oopsies. The meeting was productive because she took charge of the Zoom Rules by creating an introduction that was read at each meeting. She reminded us of our responsibilities and manners on camera and all played fair. (As we throw confetti in celebration).

The DUO Treasury Department womanned by **Dorene Allen and Sandra Chamness** kept watch over the budget and had reminders and warnings. They kept this president mindful of dollars and cents. (Or is it sense?) These two are delightful and we could not have better banking security protection. Thank you for the encouragement and good advice and help throughout the process. Cheers! Ching-ching!

Our accompanist, **Nadine Flowers**, and our Chaplain, **Ray Flowers**, accented our meeting with real power and excellence. We managed delightfully to sing (muted) with great recorded accompaniment, and the message for the memorial was very meaningful for us all as we will leave a legacy. Wonderfully done!

A big hug and thank you goes to the TFMC Tech Team (TTT). If you are not aware, this team made the meeting great and should be applauded. **Mary Thomason**, built the interactive calendar, revamped the website for ease of use, organized and put in place the meeting times and emails sent to registrants that put them on the Zoom meeting of their choice. As we know, she was the brains of the task force for who was assigned to what meeting to help to solve participant problems.

TTT member **Seth Thomas**, the Convention concierge, welcoming committee of one and MC, was responsible for helping folks find their way to the meeting site and maneuver around to the screens, mute, chat, and all things Concert. At the eleventh hour, he even studied another program and worked it to our advantage for the best way of showcasing our Festival Winners, the Young Artist Concert and Interview. High 5, 5 Down low, bump bump, whееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееееeee
Jennifer Keys, determined to get the teachers involved, took off running and contacted many groups and encouraged their attendance. She took calls and explained our Vision and got them excited about attending. Because of the continual and friendly communication whether through emails or through one-on-one telephone conversations, there were more teachers who attended for the first time. We now have a foundation to build from. Just one more thing, she hosted Kaleidoscope: Festivals Round Table discussion! Sandra Preysz sat in and heard ideas shared to make our Festivals better! Hallelujah! Great job, Jennifer!

A big thanks goes to Lora Lynn Christensen for the sassy Parliamentary role-playing segment called Peek into Parliamentary Kindness. It was a needed refresher, quite fun and full of good practice for all. Another advisor who guided in the workings of 2020 Vision from West Texas is Carla Johnson. She was there to listen and encourage as planning changed course. Our past presidents do play a vital role in keeping our focus and leading us through tried and proven ways to proceed. Past Presidents never retire! We appreciate the guidance. AAAAAAAHHHHH!

What a fun resolutions committee presentation by Pam Price, Charlotte Hoffman and Susan Hoffman. Could not have asked for a better "Shot" at all the participants. “You stepped up to the vision and made this a great convention. You did not give up on your shot!” Give them a great big.... Ready, Aim...POW! Pow! Pow!

Congratulations to all the clubs who reported. TFMC clubs captured many National awards and recognition as well. Members who take the time and write up the details while filling out the forms are rewarded, and we commend your faithfulness to report. Great work in your clubs AND great follow through!!!

A round of standing applause, whistles and cheers to those who registered and made this work all worthwhile. Thank you!

It has been said, “The more you know, the more questions you ask.” Of course, now that we are on the other side of Convention, there are more questions to ask because we know more.

By the way, go to the website and do the survey. Click on Convention...Survey box is there for you to start typing away. It is important to get info from you about the convention experience. It is all about improving on what we do.

We Are Better Together

Holding the Fermata,

Brenda

In Memoriam

Nadine Flowers, Melody Music Club of Dallas.

Maria Putter, friend of Opera in the Ozarks and and member of the Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin.
JUST ONE MORE THING
Convention Feedback

⇒ Loved attending the virtual convention. I liked the composer workshop. The concert was very nice.

⇒ Thank you so much for inviting me to the convention! You did a great job of putting it together! I especially enjoyed the composers, and the two concerts. Everyone did awesome! I enjoyed my experience - and saved paying for a hotel!

⇒ Bless you and the others.

⇒ I loved the clever “2020 Vision” theme and creative handbag we all received & everyone was so kind!

⇒ However, I felt that the convention was geared to admin members & fund raising, but not generally relevant to piano teachers I had hoped to learn about how to more effectively use Zoom during piano lessons, preventing performance anxiety among students, and other useful ideas to add to my teaching “toolbox.”

⇒ The sessions of the convention I attended seemed unorganized:

1. I was unsure which sessions I should attend... some of the links were cancelled

2. Scheduled speakers forgot their assignments suggesting there was a lack of follow-up from the organizers

⇒ I received the tote and gifts. Thank you! Thanks for a great meeting. Will look forward to next year.

⇒ I need to know how to get a copy of the end of convention rap on the last day. I want to do it for our first meeting in October. I thought it gave a good overview of the convention and in such a clever way.

⇒ You did a great job leading the convention and the performances were outstanding. Connie was a good support for you. I was able to attend almost everything. I think the only thing that I missed doing was shopping at the Silent Auction...

⇒ ... The lengths of the sessions were just right and there was just enough time between events to get to the bathroom, grab a snack and a drink and sometimes a short nap.

⇒ The tech people were excellent. Thanks for all the hard work your team put in to make it successful.

⇒ Thanks again for the cute tote and the theme was so clever. Awesome job! This may be the best convention I’ve been to.

Thought for the Day (dedicated to District VI Treasurer John Isaacks and to all of his fellow guitar teachers in Texas)

"I think everybody has a right to happiness and freedom and health care and education and guitar lessons." Bonnie Raitt, Musician (From October 2020 Reader’s Digest Quotable Quotes)
Fielder Grant for Vocal Career Advancement

To be awarded by the Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin, Texas, an affiliate of the Texas Federation of Music Club and the National Federation of Music Clubs

This grant has been established to assist singers with expenses incurred in pursuit of a professional career in classical music.

Applicants must be US citizens, current Texas residents, and between the ages of 22 and 32 as of November 1, 2020.
A total of $12,000 in grants will be available.

Application postmark deadline is November 15, 2020.

Finalists will be notified via e-mail on or about January 15, 2021. Finalists will be required to appear in Austin on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 for live auditions (subject to appropriate social distancing guidelines). Final selection of winners will be made at that time.

Qualified singers should download an application from the website and follow the instructions for submitting an application and supporting materials:

http://musicclubaustin.org
Member Spotlight: Donna LaFon

Many of you know that I came to Texas from Middletown, New York to attend Wesleyan University. My involvement with music began when I was very young.

At the age of 3, I started studying dance. At the age of 4, one could find me dancing for a Christmas program at a local hospital. At the age of 5, you would find me singing in my church choir, which I still do today. Throughout high school one would find me singing with many choral groups. During high school I was asked many times to perform different dances for the various musical productions. On some weekends I performed with a Newburgh company which traveled to small theaters along the Hudson. While at a junior college I choreographed different ballet numbers for their musicals. One summer George Balanchine, the Choreographer of The New York City Ballet, came to Middletown to visit our director, who was an old friend. He chose two of the older dancers to go to New York. We had an outstanding classical studio.

After the studio closed in Middletown, I taught ballet classes at a Jewish summer camp and in a local church resulting in recitals for the students. While living in Middletown I earned an A. A. degree in Medical Technology. One summer while attending a state university in New York, I had a chance to take classes with Martha Graham who introduced us to Modern Dance. I did work in medical research on polio in the histology division.

After I arrived in Texas, the American Ballet Company sent me a letter to come up to see them. By that time, Dr. James LaFon and I had become engaged. I was singing in the college chorus and in my church chorus. I decided not to go up north. After graduating from Wesleyan with two degrees (B. A. in Math & Chemistry and a B. B. A. in Business Management with an emphasis in Marketing), I returned to my church choir. I especially enjoyed writing a column in the Handley Herald for the Wesleyan Music Department. It was called Wesleyan Notes. Each month I wrote about the different recitals being offered, about the department’s outstanding graduates, and about the special programs offered by the department. The paper survived only a short 6 years. The editor died and no one took over the paper.

It was Dorothy Duncan and Mary Jo Springer who sponsored me to join Harmony Club. Presently I am a Past President of Harmony Club and a Past President of District II, a member of the Harmony Chorus, Publicity Chair, a member of Harmony Club’s Ways and Means committee, and Harmony Club’s Representative to the Fort Worth Federation of Women’s Clubs. I still sing in my church choir.

Jim and I still live in our original home; we’ve been here for 52 years. Our address is 6320 Woodbine Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76112. e-mail: donnalafon@aol.com

Important 2020 Election Dates

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 13-30</td>
<td>Early voting</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>Vote by mail applications due</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
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District Reports

District 2

Fort Worth Euterpean Music Club (By President Nancy Herring)
The Fort Worth Euterpean Music Club has been busy planning its program for the new season. Because of what we have all endured these past many months, we have decided on the theme of Renew, Refresh, and Rejoice. Our October 7 program will be on “The Joy of Music” with vocal and instrumental music built around the idea of Joy. We also plan a sing-a-long portion on the program. The “Poem of Joy” will be read by Nancy Herring.

On November 4 and 18, we will be emphasizing Parade of American Music. We will have an overview of Patriotic Music, and Lynn McNew will be our keynote speaker. November 18 will continue the patriotic theme, and Kathy Moriarty will present a program on the history of “America The Beautiful.” The poem “I Vow To Thee My Country” will be read by Nancy Dobbs.

December 16 will be our Christmas Musicales presented by the Euterpean Singers. Nancy Herring will speak on the story behind “I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day” and Lynn McNew will read the poem “In The Bleak Mid-Winter.” The Christmas Musicales will finish out our 2020 year.

Harmony Club of Fort Worth (By President Pam Price)
The Harmony Club of Fort Worth began meeting in October, respecting the guidelines for masks and social distancing for coronavirus protection at the Woman’s Club. The Chorus has not begun rehearsing due to the difficulty of singing under the restrictions. We have been challenged, but we are learning to think about things in new ways. We believe that it is important that we come together for encouragement and instruction. Our meetings are open to all.

October meetings included our New Members Welcome with a presentation looking historically at “Music in the Time of Crisis” as well as the NFMC Founders Day Observance.

The November 11 program will be “From Ropes to Hands,” a history of hand bells presented by Kakkie Cunningham. November 18 will be a course of study on the book The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk by Michelle DeRusha, presented by Sarah Thornburg. The meetings begin at 11 am.

District 3 (Marcia McKillop, President)

Carthage Music Club (Stephen George, President)
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISING EVENT — a wonderful success!!
by Claire Windham, Artist Committee Chair

The Carthage Music Club proudly presented Dr. Shellie O’Neal performing her original work “God Bless America: A World War II Radio Hour” Saturday, July 18, 2020 at The Country Music Hall of Fame in Carthage, Texas as the annual club guest artist. Dr. O’Neal drew inspiration for her one-woman show after researching our nation’s anthems in Williamsburg, Virginia; Brandon, Vermont; Boston, Massachusetts; Richmond, Virginia; Washington, D. C.; and Baltimore, Maryland.

Playing Sally Brennan, a radio personality, whose 1940s era show is called “Singin’ with Sister Sally,” O’Neal discusses our national anthem, the origins of our patriotic hymns, and their contributions to the development of our national principles. Audience members enjoyed her beautiful performances of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “America The Beautiful,” “God of Our Fathers,” “My Country, ’Tis of Thee,” and they were invited to sing along to “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “God Bless
America.” Sally’s show also included authentic 1940s era commercials and quotes from some of our past presidents and founding fathers. Audience members were invited to display their WWII era photos and memorabilia, and they were treated to a post show talk back, while enjoying delicious refreshments.

Carthage native Dr. O’Neal is currently the Chair of Theatre at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas and has directed over 70 NC Theatre productions. She began writing plays sixteen years ago. She has written 26 plays, two of which have won Texas state playwriting competitions and three of which have been published. Her children’s play, “911 Gnomes: A Christmas Emergency,” was chosen to be performed at the inaugural RAVE Theater Festival in New York City in August of 2019.

Dr. O’Neal is the daughter of Panola College Instructor and Texas State Historian Bill O’Neal, and she is a proud granddaughter of Ordria Gipson, a U. S. Marine who served at Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, and Bougainville during WWII and who was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his bravery.

The Carthage Music Club wishes to acknowledge and express appreciation to all our sponsors for this wonderful event and its success in raising funds for our scholarship recipients. Deep thanks to all our club members who worked so hard pulling the program together with the artist and the venue; the experience during this challenging time really stretched their patience.

**District 4**

**Navasota Music Study Club** (By Historian Carolee Botkin)

On August 17, 2020, as in years past, the Music Study Club of Navasota (member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Texas Federation of Music Clubs) once again honored the Navasota ISD music teachers with gift baskets. Our desire is to help launch their school year on a good note.

We treasure the opportunity to show our appreciation and support. Their endeavors to educate our children in the benefits of musical skills and performance help to build each student’s self-esteem, a powerful force promoting these attributes throughout their lives.

Navasota music teachers honored by The Music Study Club of Navasota at the Navasota High School Library:

- **High School Band** - Martin England
- **Junior High Band** - Dylan Williams
- **High School Choir** - Trey Shonkwiler
- **Junior High School Choir** - Ron DonLevy
- **High School Theater** - Stephanie Fitzsimon
- **Junior High School Theater** - Taryn Bowers
- **High Point Navasota ISD Elementary Music Teacher** - Colyn Szumanski

Officers standing L-R: Co-President Carol Gessner, Historian Carolee Botkin, Co-Secretary Cynthia Todd, and Co-President Marilyn Bettes
Cynthia Todd, Brosig Elementary music teacher Mrs. Harrison and her daughter, Carol Gessner, and Carolee Botkin

The MSCN present Laura Cherry with the award and certificate of $100.00 and a photo album for her presentation on "Women Composers."

Left to right: Co-Secretaries Joyce Jackson and Cynthia Todd, Co-President Marilyn Bettes, Historian Carolee Botkin, recipient Laura Cherry Purcell and Co-President Carol Gessner

Laura Cherry Purcell was presented the “Lifer’s Award” by the Music Study Club of Navasota, TFMC, AND NFMC in recognition of her faithful dedication to the promotion of music in the community, state and nation. She was honored with a ceremony at Navasota City Hall, August 14, 2020. Front row L - R: Carolee Botkin, Officer Robert Ghanem, Laura Cherry Purcell, Cynthia Todd, Joyce Jackson, Marilyn Bettes. Back row: Gerald Purcell, Carol Gessner and Jeanette Tanski
DISTRICT 6

Arpeggio Music Academy

News from TFMC Festival Districts 6-1 and 6-3 (By President Judy Gorrell)

(TFMC District 6-1 Festival Chair Judy Gorrell and TFMC District 6-3 Festival Chair Mike Gorrell)

We wanted to make sure to feature our students who earned 75 point Gold Cups this year. Some of these students have played in TFMC Festivals since they were in kindergarten, for a total of 13 years! We want to celebrate their perseverance and their great love of music by acknowledging their wonderful accomplishment. Earning these awards is also valuable to help students get accepted in college. We tell our students that they should write down all of the Festival ribbon and Gold Cup awards they have received on their college applications. Getting accepted to a college is not just about grade point averages. Colleges and universities look at the extra-curricular activities students have done. Playing an instrument and competing for years and years demonstrate perseverance to achieve a goal, intrinsic motivation to achieve perfection, and time management skills. These are the qualities of a leader!

TFMC District 6-3

Donnel Zhu, student of Geraldine Ong, has been performing in Festivals since he was in 5th grade. He achieved his high score of 75 points by playing in both Piano Solo and Piano Concerto and combined his points thus earning his trophy in Piano Solo this year. Donnel is a 2020 graduate of Health Careers High School in Northside ISD in San Antonio. He will be going to the University of Texas this fall and majoring in Computer Science. Best wishes and continued success to you, Donnel!

TFMC District 6-1

Helen Lundy, violin student of Deanna Badgett, has been performing since she was in kindergarten. She achieved her high score of 75 points by playing in both Violin Solo and Violin Concerto and combined her points to earn a 75 point Gold Cup in Violin Solo this year. Helen also won 2 monetary awards this year at the State Festival – Violin Solo Advanced II and Violin Concerto Senior Level. Helen is a home-schooled student. She attended Austin Community College and was a Dual Credit Graduate. She will attend the University of North Texas Honors College and College of Music in the fall. She will major in Violin Performance and plans to pursue a career as a violin pedagogue and professional musician. Congratulations to you, Helen! We are glad you will be a future violin teacher!

Emily Nguyen, student of Yulia Klueva, has been performing on piano since she was in kindergarten. She received her 75 point Gold Cup in Piano Solo this year. She achieved her high score by combining her points in Piano Solo and Piano Concerto. She has also been a piano solo winner in ADMTA in Austin. Emily earned grade 8 on all of her Trinity College Exams in music as well. She graduated from Westwood High School in Austin, 9th in her class, and she will attend Stanford University this fall and major in engineering. Bravo to you, Emily! We know you will continue to be successful in college!
District 6

Crownridge Music Club (By President Anna Kiefer)

The Crownridge Music Club of San Antonio had a great start to the academic year with our first General Meeting on Friday, September 11. Our Zoom meetings are a wonderful way to stay in contact during the pandemic; they keep those that have vulnerable immune systems safe, and allow members with babies and small children to continue their participation. We are planning for our local Festival, which will be on Saturday, February 6, 2021. The Festival will be online and in real time, and we are happy that we can continue to provide this opportunity to our students.

Opus 64 Music Teachers Club in Austin (Sue Bachus, Festival Chair)

Opus 64 has 21 teacher members. Teachers have been teaching lessons remotely with video conferencing and some have found creative ways to teach in-person lessons outside or in an open-air environment with masks and social distancing.

Although it’s too early to be sure, we can expect a slight decline in festival entries this year, due to the COVID-19 virus. Several teachers have reported that some of the parents are planning to skip festival this year.

The virus may continue to be with us for another year, so we have to plan for remote festival performances in case we can’t have in-person adjudications. I had considered using Zoom, but several teachers and one of the judges have expressed concern with the audio distortion and delay. Because of warnings from these and other teachers, we have changed our entry format to video submissions.

In an effort to simplify and improve efficiency, we have made a few changes over the years that we can expand upon this year. For the last 2 years, we loaded rating sheets onto flash drives for our judges so they could type their comments instead of writing. This change eliminated the cost of printing the rating sheets, made rating sheet errors easy to correct, and by typing instead of writing, judges could adjudicate more events in less time.

This year, we can take it a step further by accepting video performances of students from parents or teachers. They can email the videos to me with scanned copies of music (showing the music was purchased) and I will load the videos, ratings sheets, and music on flash drives and then send the drives to the judges for adjudication. After festival, I can email rating sheets from the drives to festival teachers.

Wednesday Morning Music Club (By President Sarah Harriman)

Here we are several months later and the story (or song) seems to be pretty much the same. Our board is aware that no meetings can be held for the next several months, and we’re trying to make plans for what to do in the spring of 2021. We want to keep our members safe, but at the same time provide opportunities for performers so we are working toward the possibility of having Zoom meetings with live performances from the performers’ homes. Stay tuned: we’re a work in progress.
Our Message to Coronavirus: “We Won’t Let the Music Stop!”

(By Cookie Nattinger, District VI Historian)

District VI Fall Conference was conducted via Zoom on Saturday, October 3, 2020, with 41 registrants. The New Braunfels Music Study Club served as our host, and we were treated to a marvelous musical program. Two emcees guided us through a wonderful musical meeting.

Judy Gorrell, San Antonio Arpeggio Senior Club President, introduced three special presentations. Jennifer Key, NFMC Texas Festival Chair, presented “Overview of Junior Festival Program and How Junior and Senior Clubs Can Work Together.” Next up was Anna Kiefer, San Antonio Crownridge President, who had us reflect on her topic “Choosing Repertoire in a Post-2020 World” and highlighted choosing music that shows sensitivity to students and audience members. Felicity Colman, Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin member, demonstrated yoga techniques with her program, “Release, Relax, Refresh,” which provided techniques for relaxing before and after musical performances.

Next on the agenda, we had a business meeting that included a report on our new Bylaws/Standing Rules. Some of the changes included procedures for conducting meetings on Zoom and voting in ways other than in person. New procedures allow for voting on nominations and other business issues by e-mail or by utilizing US Postal Service.

A memorial service was conducted by Marcia Edwards, District VI President. The Wednesday Morning Music Club member Virginia Kniesner remembered club members Kim Akenhead and Maria Putter. New Braunfels Music Study Club member Spencer Gremmer remembered club member Ken Triesch.

A musical interlude consisted of Scottish folk tunes performed by cello soloist Karen Akkerman of New Braunfels Music Study Club. Karen delighted us with eight different tunes including “Auld Lang Syne.”

Group 2 Presentations were emceed by Sue Bachus, Austin Opus 64 Music Teacher Club President. First was a dramatic reading by Marque McKay, Etude Music Club of San Antonio. Marque chose a poem from The Year in Verse, “Autumn Fires” by Robert Louis Stevenson. Brett Bachus, Austin Opus 64 Music Teacher Club member, educated us on “The Up and Downs of Good Pedal Techniques.” Thanks, Brett, for demonstrating the significance of “good pedaling”! Michelle d’Arcy, Wednesday Morning Music Club, enchanted us with her topic, “Heaven’s Harmonic Trio: Correspondence of Robert and Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms.” Michelle dressed as Clara Schumann. What a great example of music, love, and friendship.

District VI President Marcia Edwards thanked our host club, New Braunfels Music Study Club, as well as the performers representing each of the clubs in District VI, and technical experts Mary White and Lois Armor. Some things change, like formats of meetings, but some things never do: the love of music, the passion of facilitating and bringing music to others, and the joy of participating with friends who share those values! 2020 --- truly like no other year!
Folks who study poetry have specific names for rhyming patterns. **End Rhyme**, of course, names words that rhyme at the ends of lines: “Inky-dinky spider climbed up the water spout./ Down came the rain and washed the spider out” (Traditional children’s tune). Rhyming makes the tune easy for children to remember. **Interior Rhyme** names words that rhyme inside the lines: “It’s a victorious, happy and glorious new strain” from “I Feel a Song Coming On” by Jimmy McHugh, Dorothy Fields, and George Oppenheimer (1935). And, of course, some lyricists use both patterns easily and effectively: Consider the Verse from that same song:

“I remember my days of solitude/ When it was folly to ------ dream.  
When my heart-beat was not requiring/ a great inspiring ------ theme.

Further delineations called **Assonance** and **Consonance** name how some rhyming patterns are accomplished: by the repetition of vowels or of consonants, respectively. Consider Lerner & Loewe’s masterful 1956 show tune “The Rain in Spain” from *My Fair Lady*. It stresses both the long “a” sound and the “h” sound. These lyrics not only make clever use of rhyming patterns, they also demonstrate the “proper” way to speak the King’s English, the purpose for the song. Eliza Doolittle (clever name) has just learned her long A’s and aspirated H’s, a feat which will increase her social standing in late 19th century London, England, and all rejoice.

The three: “The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain!  
The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain!”
Henry: “In Hartford, Hereford, and Hampshire...?”
Eliza: “Hurricanes hardly happen./ How kind of you to let me come!”
Henry: “Now once again, where does it rain?”
Eliza: “On the plain! On the plain!”
Henry: “And where’s that blasted plain?”
Eliza: “In Spain! In Spain!”
The three: “The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain!  
The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain!”

Another poetic device called **Alliteration** involves the use of words that sound like their meaning. Consider “The Trolley Song” by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane from the 1944 film *Meet Me in St. Louis*: “Clang, clang, clang went the trolley./ Ding, ding, ding went the bell./ Zing, zing, zing went my heart strings./ From the moment I saw him I fell.” Movie patrons exited the theater singing that one after only one hearing. It was immediately immensely memorable.

Some lyricists use nonsense rhyming to interesting effect: “Moses supposes his toeses are Roses,/ But Moses supposes Erroneously,/ Moses he knowses his toeses aren’t roses,/ As Moses supposes his toeses to be!” (from “Moses Supposes,” a 1888 English-language nonsense verse and a tongue-twister adapted for the 1952 film *Singing in the Rain*). Others have invented words: “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious/ . . . precocious/ . . . atrocious” (by the Sherman Brothers from the 1964 Walt Disney film *Mary Poppins*). But most of all, lyrics that rhyme are FUN. The rhyming patterns contribute just as much or more to the popularity of the songs as do the music and the presentation. It happens not by accident. It is deliberate. Carefully crafted. Perhaps even divinely inspired. Modern show tunes contain fewer rhyming patterns and more complex musical patterns than did the popular tunes from the 20th century, but they seem to be more difficult to remember. Perhaps that is why the folks from the 20th century look back at the tunes of their youth with fondness. No matter how complicated the musical compositions, the rhyming patterns lyricists used made the tunes fun and easy to remember.

"Autumn Fires"
by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) (from NFMC’s *A Year in Verse*)

In the other gardens  
And all up the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall.
Dear Junior Club Teachers / Counselors,

I would like to introduce myself as your new NFMC Junior Club Achievement Chair! I am a teacher of a relatively small studio of piano students in the beautiful state of Washington. I am happy to serve in this position. My goal is to assist in bringing new life into our Junior studios by participating in some wonderful, fun, and educational opportunities.

If you take a look at JR 1-1 Junior Club Annual Achievement Summary Form, you will see that it has a due date of June 1st. I would like to propose that you look at this form NOW versus waiting for May to roll around. Look at it now for possible opportunities for your students to participate in this upcoming year!

This is not a competition or comparison opportunity. This is a chance for your students to be involved and for you to report that involvement and receive a certificate to show-off in your studio. Like I said, I have a small studio, but we make a big deal about our accomplishments. I put our certificates up on the wall for all to see! My students love to see these up on the wall! I bet yours would too!

You don’t have to check off all the boxes on the form to get a certificate. Review the opportunities and decide what you might want to add this year for the enrichment of your students. For example, this year my students are all going to try their hand at musically-themed poetry. I built it into the projects for the year. I’m also going to institute a fun new project – Composer of the Month – and we will focus on American composers. I got these ideas from looking at the Junior Club Annual Achievement Summary Form! I encourage you to take a look. I’ll bet you are already doing several of the listed items! Maybe set a goal to add one new one this year. Then, all you have to do is set yourself a reminder to fill out the form sometime during the month of May and have it sent in by June 1st. A lovely certificate will then be sent your way!

If you have any questions regarding Junior Club Achievement, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is spalmer19@hotmail.com or you can call/text at 425-442-1830.

Yours truly, with encouragement,

Sally L. Palmer

NFMC Junior Club Annual Achievement Chair
National Federation of Music Clubs

NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK ESSAY CONTEST AR 13-1

Ellen Leapaldt, Department Chair
10612 24th St E
Edgewood, WA 98372
(206)841.5430; E-mail: museiff@msn.com

REGIONAL CHAIRS:
Northeastern Region:
Mary Ellen Ulmer, Chair: 168 E Branch Road, Mercer, PA 16137; (724) 946.2877;
ulmerme@hotmail.com
States: CT, DE, IN, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT

Southeastern Region:
Debbie Barnes, Chair: 3007 Tidewater Cr, Madison, MS 39110; (601) 856.3697;
debbie.barnes@earthlink.net
States: AL, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA

North Central, South Central, Western Regions:
Jan Hansen, Chair: 101 Rio Mesa Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527; (541) 956.1659;
jlhansen3536@gmail.com
States: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, MT, NE, NM, NV, ND, OK, OR, SD,
TX, UT, WA, WI, WY

Awards:
• An award of $75.00* will be presented in each state in which a
  winner is declared.
• An Award of Merit Certificate will be presented to each winner
  and teacher.

Essay Rules:
2020 Theme: Music – A Magic Carpet
2021 Theme: Music – Is a Storyteller

• Contest open to 7-12th grade students. Essay must be typed and no longer than 500 words.
• Essay is judged on content, neatness and legibility. Membership in NFMC is NOT required to enter.
• Entry form with deadline date is January 10, and must be uploaded to the NFMC website
• The current year’s theme and entrant’s name must be typed at the top of the first page.
• The teacher’s email address or telephone number must be included.
• Email a high resolution (1+ MB) JPG photo along with your application form.
• The essays become the property of the NFMC and may be published. Teachers and state presidents will be notified in the winning states.

Continued on next page
Entry Form for National Music Week Essay Contest

Entry form, essay and picture must be uploaded to www.nfmc-music.org/applicant-file-upload by January 10. All entries become the property of NFMC and will not be returned. The undersigned hereby applies to enter the National Music Week Essay Contest. State winners are ineligible to re-enter.

Name of Entrant________________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________

Grade in School: __ 7 __ 8 __ 9 __ 10 __ 11 __ 12

Include high resolution (1+ MB) JPG photo

Are you a member of an junior club __ Yes __ No

If a member, give the name of your group__________________________________________________

I hereby certify that I am eligible to enter this contest according to the rules and will comply with all of the conditions outlined.

If I am one of the national winners, I request that my award be sent to the address listed above, and that the Award of Merit be presented to the following in my name:

Name of Teacher________________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________

Telephone ____________________________ Email Address ______________________________

*In the event of financial shortfalls, advertised award amounts may be adjusted. Applicants would be notified of the award change.
NFMC ANGIE GREER MUSIC IN POETRY AWARD CONTEST

Rules & Requirements

Annual Award*

An annual award of $100 in each of the five NFMC Regions to the 1st place winner

Submissions due online no later than February 1st

Eligibility:

To be eligible for this award, applicants must:

- be a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs
- be an American Citizen
- not have reached their 19th birthday as of the application deadline

Poem Requirements:

Any form of poetry is acceptable. The poem may be in traditional rhyming form, free verse, story, poetry form, etc.

The poem must:

- be an original, unpublished creation of the entrant
- have a musical theme and musically themed title
- have a length between eight and thirty lines
- be submitted as a PDF file with a white background and black text
- not explicitly include personally identifiable information, such as name, address, contact information, teacher information, club details, etc.

Submission:

1. Verify NFMC Membership: Membership type may be junior club/junior associate group or individual junior. If not currently a member, visit nfmc-music.org/payment to pay the required dues of $13.00.

2. Pay the Entry Fee: Visit nfmc-music.org/payment to pay the $5 entry fee. Be sure to select “Competition Entry Fees” from the drop-down menu. Enter “Angie Greer Music in Poetry Contest” in the description.

3. Complete the Application Form: Application form #JR 12-2 can be found on the NFMC website under Competitions & Awards > Junior Division.

4. Upload Files: Go to upload.nfmc-music.org, make the appropriate selections, and submit one .zip file with the following structure and naming conventions:

   Jane M Doe.zip
   │ — Jane’s Poem Title.pdf
   │ — JR 12-2.pdf

Questions or concerns should be directed to Jordon Young — jordon.young@outlook.com.

Application form #JR 12-2 can be found on the NFMC website — nfmc-music.org.

*In the event of financial shortfalls, advertised award amounts may be adjusted. Applicants will be notified of the change.

Photocopying permissible/download: www.nfmc-music.org August 2020
James carries the lawn chairs. I follow behind with Prima, a sweet calico who claimed us not long after we buried our last elderly cat. Behind a low cedar-post fence, we unfold our chairs and plop down. Prima chooses a lap and nestles into a comfortable position.

Overhead, cedar waxwings fly across the open sky followed by some black-bellied whistling ducks and a lone white-winged dove. With our feet propped up on the fence, we breathe in the evening air and gaze at what we call the Meadow, our adjoining vacant lot turned nature preserve.

Our evening “sits” in the Meadow go back more than a decade. Through the years, we’ve observed change, loss and rejuvenation. One spring, prairie verbena laid a purple carpet across the property. That show has yet to be repeated. Another year, still greenthreads bloomed in golden profusion—until coreopsis leaf beetles decimated their foliage. And we still talk about the Malta starthistle that grew in thick clumps along the street—then I learned we were hosting a nasty invasive. Garbage bags later, we finally eradicated the species. Gray vervain, fleabane, silverleaf nightshade and other natives grow there now.

This evening we admire the abundant bluebonnets that grace our corner lot. Sulphurs, honeybees and an occasional white-lined sphinx moth flit among the blue flower heads. From our chairs, we wave at a couple walking their dog. Chat with a father who has brought his toddler son to see the wildflowers. Holler greetings at a nearby neighbor who tells us how much she loves her view of the Meadow. It could be just another evening in our neighborhood. Only it’s not. Because a global pandemic keeps us apart. We must social distance and share air hugs.

Prima yawns and jumps down to nibble grass. James tracks a miniscule jet across the darkening sky. I lean over to watch a wolf spider scuttle through the grass. Virus or no virus, our sits in the Meadow keep us grounded and grateful. Our time there reminds us that we, too, as human beings, will always experience change, loss and rejuvenation. Like our vacant lot turned nature preserve, we will adapt and move on. That’s the cycle of life.

(Used by permission of the author, this essay originally appeared in the September 2020 Texas Co-op Power magazine. You may learn more about Sheryl Smith-Rodgers at her website Writer/photographer or on her blog Window on a Texas Wildscape.)