OIO embarks on exciting journey
Philanthropist lends support to enhanced vision

Governing Board members and trustees of Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony accepted an exciting vision which will greatly enhance the South Central Region NFMC summer music center at their meeting Nov. 15-16 in Oklahoma City.

Alan Brown with WolfBrown, liaison between the Point and an anonymous philanthropist, led a comprehensive discussion with the board which involved broadening the Point beyond its current emphasis on opera. They want to improve the living facilities, the performing place, and the production space while retaining the “rustic charm” of the Point. While continuing the major focus on opera, they envision broadening the scope and enhancing the cultural climate of northwest Arkansas with this vision.

Brown spoke to a variety of stakeholders, ranging from potential users of the new facilities to peer vocal training programs, in order to understand the regional needs that new facilities could fulfill and the ways in which new facilities could enhance the core summer training program. OIO is still early in conversations about this potential transformation. WolfBrown will continue to work with staff to develop a plan for use of the new facilities.

The Governing Board heard Alan Brown’s presentation and then voted unanimously to accept the proposal. Much more work lies ahead.

In related news, OIO participated in “GivingTuesday” on Nov. 27, with all money donated earmarked for scholarships. While the final total is still being determined, the effort exceeded the goal of $10,000.

The Annual Fund is continuing through Dec. 31, with a goal of $105,000. Texans Maria Putter of Austin and Glen and Lorie Bear of Houston are three of the Challenge Granters matching the first $50,000 donated or pledged by the deadline. Since the Annual Fund began in 2005, it has raised more than a million dollars to support the Point and its annual budget of more than $400,000. Please join OIO and contribute to the Fund.

Texans attending the Governing Board meeting for Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony Nov. 15-16 in Oklahoma City are, front row: Tim Danielson, Lee Meyer, Lois Armor, Laresa Yick, Sue Breuer, Tom and Lynn McNew; back row: Jean Moffatt, John Schmidt, Bill Yick and Richard Drapeau.
From Your TFMC President
by Lois Armor, president, Texas Federation of Music Clubs

Hello again, my TFMC Friends,

I can’t believe the holidays are already here. Thanksgiving has come and gone. I know I have a lot to be thankful for, one of them being you, my TFMC family. I always enjoy when we can get together at our conventions and getting to know you in your clubs when I come to visit.

I am looking forward to this next year and our convention in Lubbock. District 1 and its president, Mary Ann Bridges, are diligently working to provide us with a marvelous time. We are planning on lots of music, including The Happy Dog Duo, the NFMC Ellis Duo winners, as our featured Young Artists, and Lavonna Whitesell, NFMC South Central Region Vice-President, will be our National Guest. More information will be available in our next issue of Musical Messenger.

Sue Breuer, Tim Danielson, Lee Meyer, Lynn and Tom McNew, John Schmidt, Bill and Laresa Yick, Jean Moffatt, and I just returned from an OIO Governing Board meeting in Oklahoma City where we earned of exciting happenings which will be shared with you later. The Federation Days at OIO are July 17-20, 2019. The operas being presented will be Mozart’s The Abduction from the Seraglio, Puccini’s La Boheme, and Adamo’s Little Women, including the children’s opera just for us.

Remember all you composers out there: the challenge of Chair of Music in Poetry Marque McKay has put before you. The information is again printed in this Musical Messenger.

I’ll close for now, with my wish to all of you for a safe and happy holidays.

Lois

TFMC president Lois Armor presents Laresa Yick of Lampasas with her yellow rose and medallion as the newest member of the Yellow Rose Society. Founded in 2013 to perpetuate the memory of past TFMC and NFMC president Mary Prudie Brown, who called herself “The Yellow Rose of Texas,” the society now claims 49 members and welcome more at any time.

Calendar of Events
March 28-30, 2019 -- 104th annual TFMC convention, Lubbock, hosted by District 1
May 18, 2019 -- TFMC State Festival, San Marcos
June 18-22, 2019 -- NFMC Biennial Convention, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL
July 17-20, 2019 -- Federation Days, Opera in the Ozarks at Eureka Springs, AR

NMW suggestion from club
With National Music Week looming the first week in May, clubs might look at how the Harmony of the Hills Senior Music Club observed NMW last year on Monday, May 7. They hosted students and adults playing and singing at the Kerrville Mall.

A display table displayed the Governor’s Proclamation as well as brochures, a poster, Gold Cups, Junior Keynotes and Music Clubs Magazine, as well as the Federation Bulletin.

Thirteen junior members and three adult members played the piano; one student played the violin; a church choir sang, and an original song was performed by Percy and Ada Smerick. The surprise of the evening was the performance of senior member Rebecca Anderson of Waltz by Durand and her student Roan Schultz who played a Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto

Darlene Stevens solicited students for the coloring contest in school. She gave prizes to the winners. See another story elsewhere in this edition.
TFMC meets in Dallas in August

Carolyn Copeland, District 3 president, holds the Ruth Humphrey Community Service Award presented at the summer board meeting August 17-18 in Dallas. Other district 3 members from left are Sandra Chamness, Brenda Dearman, TFMC president Lois Armor, Brenda Ford, Tim Danielson, and Nancy Langford.

District 3 wins service award; major changes loom for meetings

TFMC members from across the state gathered in Dallas Aug. 17-18 for the 104th annual state board meeting at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Love Field.

A highlight was the presentation of the Ruth Humphrey Community Service Award to District 3. Several District 3 members have volunteered to bring music to small public schools in their district who cannot afford a music teacher. The activity was highlighted in the fall edition of Music Clubs Magazine.

Regarding TFMC future meetings, everything will be the same for 2019, with the convention in Lubbock and the board meeting in Dallas. For 2020, the executive committee recommends, on a trial basis, three regions be formed for the purpose of conducting the annual convention/board meeting in August as follows: Region 1--Districts 1, 8, 9; Region 2--Districts 2, 3, 5; and Region 3--Districts 4, 6, 7.

For these three years, the meeting will be at the Embassy Suites Love Field, with Region 2 taking the lead in 2020, Region 3 in 2021, and Region 1 in 2022. Re-evaluation will be conducted in 2022 to see how well it works to have one annual meeting in the same place. Other possibilities are Austin or San Antonio when Region 2 hosts, and Lubbock or Odessa/Midland when Region 1 hosts. Keep an open mind and know that things can change.

OIO performer gives concert

Martha Rose Hayes, soprano from Denison, now a senior at Texas State University in San Marcos, provided the evening entertainment at the August 17-18 board meeting in Dallas. She was accompanied by Lora Lynn Christensen.

Martha was a TFMC scholarship winner last summer at Opera in the Ozarks. She played the roles of Silver Dollar in The Ballad of Baby Doe and Tisbe, one of the step-sisters in Cinderella, the touring children's opera.

In addition, Martha was assistant stage director to David Ward for the Act II finale scene from Lucia di Lammermoor in the Evening of Opera Scenes which immediately preceded Federation Days.

Roles she has performed in college are Governess in Turn of the Screw, Dew Fairy in Hansel and Gretel, Barbarina in Marriage of Figaro, Luci Johnson in Lady Bird: First Lady of the Land, Lily in The Secret Garden, and Casilda in The Gondoliers.

She has had past experiences in the TSU Opera Theatre, Cornish-American Song Institute, Amalfi Coast Italy Opera Festival, Washington National Opera Summer Institute, and Cimarron Opera Camp.

Awards she has won are TSU Presser Scholar, NATS Texoma Regional Conference Semi-Finalist in 2016 and finalist in 2017. Martha has studied with Cheryl Parrish and Sylvia Rivers.

She spoke positively of her experiences at OIO and her hopes of returning next year and perhaps having a leading role in one of the upcoming productions. She plans to make her career in music.
Districts host interesting conferences

District 1
District 1 had its 14th annual conference Saturday, October 13, at the Lubbock Women’s Club. Allegro Music Club, with Maureen Hobbs as president, was host.

Mary Ann Bridges, district president, conducted the sessions. Lois Armor, TFMC president, installed the 2019-21 officers.

Guest speaker was Ronald Bennett of Odessa, longtime teacher and composer. Dr. Ruth Holmes played selections from Musing, one of his latest compositions, during his speech.

Recipient of the D’Aun Marshall District Scholarship was Marisa Anthony, sophomore music education major, of South Plains College in Levelland. She performed three numbers on her trumpet.

A memorial service recognized five Allegro members who passed away during the year. A total of 27 registered for the conference representing both clubs.

District 3
Clubs in District 3 observe American Music Month annually in November through the Parade of American Music. Carthage Music Club celebrated on Nov. 13 at Panola College with music performed by the combined Project String Power Ensemble and Piney Woods Youth Orchestra, directed by club member Marcia McKillop. The program, “America, Land That We Love,” opened with 19 string players, plus Carthage Music Club 2018 scholarship recipient Nicklaus Powell, on drums, playing the National Anthem as club members and family sang along.

Marcia McKillop gave background information about each musical selection, which also included “An Armed Forces Tribute,” arranged by Andrew Dabczynski. Veterans were asked to stand as their service branch song was played.

“Fantasy on American Themes,” arranged by Curtis Bryant, included two American hymns, “Land of Rest” and “Holy Manna,” both of which are included in more than 100 hymnals.

“America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America” were also performed by the string ensemble. This year is the 100th anniversary of the writing of “God Bless America” by Irving Berlin on the day that he became an American citizen. CMC member Stephen George sang the verse and the audience joined on the chorus.

The December 11 Sacred Music program was held at First Baptist Church as a Christmas evening with Marilyn Popey, led by David Yarbrough.

District 4
Sixteen members of TFMC District 4 attended their annual meeting, held at Christ Lutheran Church in Waco June 9.

Carolee Botkin reported that in March 2017 the Music Study Club of Navasota hosted Bernardo Madeiros, a 2017 participant of Opera in the Ozarks and a graduate student at the Moores School of Music in Houston.

Annette Griesbach reported the Matinee Musical Club of Rockdale co-hosted the Parade of American Music with the Rockdale Reading Club at the public library. Pictures of this meeting were featured in the NFMC magazine.

Pat Retzlaff reported the Waco Euterpean Music Club used their dessert raffle funds to give two scholarships this year to graduating seniors who had participated in Junior Festivals.

Euterpean Club member Hank Roesing informed the group about Guitars4Vets, a national program he participates in through the Waco Veterans Administration. Hank teaches vets to play the guitar. When they complete the course, they are given a guitar. Those present voted that District IV donate $200 to Guitars4Vets to benefit one vet.

Pictured from left to right are John Baber, who graduated from the Guitars4Vets program this past summer, and Hank Roesing, Euterpean member and instructor for the Guitars4Vets national program.

More TFMC Conference Reports
Page 5

Participating in the District 4 conference June 9 in Waco were, seated from left: Annette Griesbach, Liz Loewe, both from Rockdale, Carolee Botkin (Navasota), Linda Royals, Kay Bradford, Elizabeth Solis, Jane Calvert, all of Waco; standing from left: Hiram Solis, Susan Anderson, Sue Jennings, Dawn Humphrey, all from Waco; Carol Gessner (Navasota), Donnie Rinn (Rockdale), Pat Retzlaff, Sue Ann Roesling (both Waco).

Photo by Hank Roesing, Waco
District IX held its meeting on November 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Midland at the home of Jim and Jo Ann Collett. There were six members and one guest present. District President, Jo Ann Collett, called the meeting to order.

Laverne Love, District Parliamentarian, gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner”. The national anthem was accompanied by Jackson Thomas, a third grade piano student of Jo Ann Collett.

The Welcome was given be Beverly Wise, President of The Midland Musicians Club. The Federation Collect was recited, followed by the roll Call by clubs and the reading of the November 11, 2017 minutes by Peggy Jones, District IX Secretary.

A musical interlude, via the internet with words and beautiful pictures, was presented and all present sang the District President’s song “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing”.

District officers gave their reports: President Jo Ann Collett, Recording secretary Peggy Jones, Treasurer Phyllis Anderson, Opera and Insignia Peggy Jones, Odessa Music Study Club Phyllis Anderson and Midland Musicians Club Beverly Wise.

Laverne Love provided the entertainment from the Odessa Music Study Club by singing and accompanying herself on the piano, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”

Department Chairmen present gave their reports: Folk Music, Jo Ann Collett. A report from Julie Wingfield, Junior Division Festival Chairman, was read. A short but meaningful Memorial Service was given for Marilyn Stevens by members of the Odessa Music Study Club.

Present were five district officers, one state chairman, and three TFMC Life Members. The NFMC Official Benediction, “The Gift of Song” was sung, accompanied by Laverne Love on the piano.

The meeting was adjourned and a delicious luncheon meal was served by Jo Ann Collett.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
TFMC is a Winning Organization

We hope all of you were able to enjoy the Autumn issue of the Music Clubs Magazine and read the Member Spotlight story about our Carthage Music Club and their work with getting music in the schools. Also in that issue was a recap of the various NFMC club reporting statistics. Texas and Texas clubs were mentioned frequently and in case you didn’t get a chance to read your magazine, let’s highlight some of the report activities.

Senior Club Reporting: Texas was second to Kansas in reports submitted by the South Central Region. We can do better by having all Senior Clubs submitting a report next year.

Membership: Texas is third behind Michigan and Florida in number of Senior Club members. First in number of Life Members joining last year. First in number of student club members. First in total number of members, and first in number of senior clubs.

Founders Day Honor Roll 2018: Abilene Harmony Club, Allegro Music Club of Lubbock, Carthage Music Club, Etude Music Club of San Antonio, Fort Worth Euterpean Club, Fort Worth Harmony Club, Lubbock Music Club, Marshall Music Club, Music Club of Kingsville, New Braunfels Music Study Club, and Rockdale Matinee Music Club attained 100% contributions to the Founders Day Fund that supports the Young Artist Competition.

Past President’s Assembly Scroll of Honor: Texas had 22 clubs submitting reports as follows: Dallas Melodie Music Club, Austin Wednesday Morning Music Club, Odessa Music Study Club, Kingsville Music Club, McAllen Music Club, Fort Worth Harmony Club, Waco Euterpean Music Club, Lubbock Music Club, Brownwood Schubert Music Club, Euterpean Club of Fort Worth, Midland Musicians Club, New Braunfels Music Study Club, Carthage Music Club, Marshall Music Club, Navasota Music Study Club, Lubbock Allegro Music Club, Corpus Christi Music Club, Rockdale Matinee Music Club, Brady Damrosch Music Club, San Antonio Etude Music Club, Abilene Harmony Club, and Gonzales Music Study Club. The money collected through the Past Presidents Assembly reports goes toward the Young Artists Fund.

American Music Awards had several Texas winners. R. A. Schramm parade of American Music: Waco Euterpean Music Club was awarded 2nd place and received $125; Folk Music: Carthage Music Club received a $100 award; American Women Composers: Lubbock Music Club received a $100 award, and Honorable Mention was given to Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin.

Music Outreach: Matinee Music Club of Rockdale received recognition for giving at least 1,000 hours in outreach for the year, and Carolyn McColloch of Wednesday Morning Music Club was recognized for giving 100 hours or more during the year.

The Melodie Club of Dallas received a cash award for Choral Music for their formation of a new ensemble.

Second place in the Composition Competition for Veterans Award was won by Edward Knoeckel, a member of the Air Force Band of the West stationed at Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

Texas led with 17 yearbooks submitted for grading by NFMC Chair Patsy Whitaker.

Junior Dance awards were received as follows: Theater Dance I, Tap; 1st place award to Sydney Robin of Carthage. Ballet I, second place to Sydney Robin of Carthage; Theater Dance I, Jazz second place award to Kipton Travis of Carthage; Theater Dance II, Jazz second place award to Molly Windham of Carthage.

Three Texas juniors were featured in the fall edition of Junior Keynotes magazine. A President’s Cup winner was Melissa Wijono, who is taught by Zamfira Zade, and is a 2018 graduate of Westwood High School in Austin. Melissa has played piano for seven years and also played violin in the Westwood Symphony Orchestra. (continued, page 7)
Winning Organization Continued

Melissa has received 12 consecutive Superior ratings in Piano Solo and 4 consecutive Superior ratings in Concerto. She has won several All-State Piano Solo and Piano Duo competitions and, with distinction, passed exams for all Grades 1-8 for the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music.

Julian Falco of Houston, a student of Dr. Hsiao-Lan Wang, received the Incentive Award in Class IV of the NFMC Junior Composers competition. Julian is a recent graduate of Friendswood High School. He has played piano since age five and flute since sixth grade.

Julian’s first composition, titled Winter Skies, was performed by the Friendswood Junior High Band his eighth grade year. Since then he has written Journey Beyond for orchestra, Reflections for band, and various pieces for flute and piano.

Natalio Castaneda of Wake Village, a senior at Texas High School and a student of Larry Dymott, won the “Scottie” award in the Scott Joplin Regional Music Heritage Celebration last spring as part of the 100th anniversary of Joplin’s death in Texarkana, TX/AR. Castaneda played “Gladiolus Rag” by Joplin. Natalio has a trail of Junior Festival Superior ratings marking his path toward continued music study in college.

Congratulations to all!

TFMC volunteer brings music to Medina school

Medina School dropped their music program several years ago, replacing the music teacher with a theater arts teacher, Mr. Matthews. So Harmony of the Hills club member Darlene Stevens volunteered to bring the joy of music back to the children during National Music Week.

Mr. Matthews and Mrs. Stevens went rummaging through the shipping container where they had sadly put away all their musical joys. Mrs. Stevens grabbed some music CDs, hand drums, maracas, sand blocks, and many other noise-making trinkets.

Next, they scheduled so that she could come in and teach every grade level (during his class time) for one class period during that week. She was able to place the joy of music into the heart of EVERY Pre-K 3-year-old, Pre-K 4 year old, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade child, 18 junior high, and 9 high school students.

She began every class by saying, “I am going to give you instruction without using my mouth, without saying a word. Then, you are going to complete the instruction by doing the same.” I showed them (and their teacher) how to listen for the musical cue. Therefore, “No matter where you are from in the world, we can all understand and speak the same language. Music is the Universal Language!” If I wanted them in a scattered position, I rang the chimes. Guiro for a line. Gong for “Stop, Look and Listen.” They loved it!”

There is more to the Medina story, but we’re out of room. To be continued! See page 10

In the Evening

by Fenton Johnson, 1888-1958

I
In the evening, love returns,
Like a wand’rer ’cross the sea;
In the evening, love returns
With a violet for me;
In the evening, joy begins,
When the course of mirth is done;
In the evening, kisses sweet
Droop upon the passion vine;
In the evening comes your voice:
“i am yours, and you are mine.”

This poem is in the public domain.

Published in Poem-a-Day on February 18, 2018, by the Academy of American Poets

2017-2019 Music in Poetry Challenge

from Marque McKay, TFMC Music in Poetry Chair

For all you accomplished and aspiring composers out there in TFMC-Land, here is a poem by Fenton Johnson. He was born in Chicago, IL in 1888 and died in 1958. He was a forerunner of the Harlem Renaissance writers.

Let’s see what you can do with it!

Deadline for entries is January 15, 2019. No CD’s. Send to Lois Armor, 11003 Whisper Valley, San Antonio, TX 78230; loisarmor@sbcglobal.net

Winners will be announced at the 2019 TFMC convention.
NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK ESSAY CONTEST

Helena Meetze, Department Chair
613 Hatrick Road
Columbia, SC 29209
(803) 776.6500; E-mail: hmeetze@bellsouth.net

REGIONAL CHAIRS:
Northeastern Region:
Mary Ellen Ulmer, Chair: 168 E Branch Road, Mercer, PA 16137; (561) 613.7237; ulmerme@hotmail.com
States: CT, DE, IN, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT

Southeastern Region:
Julianne Edwards, Chair: 3829 Mountain View Ave, Pasadena, CA 91107; (561) 613.7237; jmedwards220@gmail.com
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:
2018 Theme: Music – The Universal Language
2019 Theme: Music – A Magic Key

- 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 (www.nfmc-music.org/applicant-file-upload).
- The current year’s theme and entrant’s name must be typed at the top of the first page. The teacher’s telephone number or a contact 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.

Entry Form for National Music Week Essay Contest

Entry form and essay must be sent to the Regional NMW Chair of the entrant’s home state by postmark deadline 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 ____________________________________________
Name _____________________________________________________
Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _______________________________
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:

Teacher’s Name ______________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________ Telephone __________________________

*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 CONTEST

Rules & Requirements

Annual Award*

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

Requirements:

1. The applicant must be a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs, either through junior club/junior associate group membership or individual junior membership. If not currently a member, visit www.nfmc-music.org/payment to pay the required dues of $13.00.
2. Applicant must be an American citizen. Proof of citizenship will be subject to verification.
3. Applicant must not have reached the 19th birthday as of application deadline.
5. An entry fee of $5.00 is required. Visit www.nfmc-music.org/payment to make entry fee payment.

Rules:

1. The poem must be an original, unpublished creation of the entrant.
2. The poem must be typed on white paper, have a musical theme and a musically themed title.
3. The poem should be no longer than 30 lines and no shorter than 8 lines.
4. Any form of poetry is acceptable. The poem may be in traditional rhyming form, free verse, story in poetry form, etc.
5. Include all contact information – name, address, city, state, zip code, an e-mail address and telephone on the application JR 12-2.

Questions or concerns should be directed to the National Chair: Janie Gilliam, Ph.D., WingsofMusic@prodigy.net.

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 would be notified of the award change.

Encourage your juniors to enter the NMW Essay Contest and the Angie Greer Music in Poetry Contest Winners receive cash prizes!
More of Darlene Stevens's story:

We sang, danced, partnered for rhythms, echoed the leader, and used other fun songs that let them use instruments. For instance, "A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea" using claves, maracas, etc. I showed Mr. Matthews how to incorporate song into his acting classes with songs such as "I’m Skinny Minny."

For the junior high and high school classes, I brought my Djembe Drums and we brought Africa to Texas. I added smaller drums and agogo bells to a rotation so that all students got their hands on the Djembes.

I had a blast! Mr. Matthews had a blast! The students had a blast! The teachers all heard about the blast, and now they are all fired up to get music back in their school! I pray it happens!

Many thanks to the National Federation of Music Clubs for sponsoring this joyous event, and for putting the burr under my saddle to take part.

Merry Christmas to all!

and

Happy Musical New Year 2019!