



AFMC April Newsletter 2024

We Thank Thee

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
 For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet.
 For song of bird, and hum of bee,
 For all things fair we hear or see,
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky,
 For pleasant shade of branches high,
 For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
 For beauty of the blooming trees,
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light,
 For rest and shelter of the night,
 For health and food, for love and friends,
 For everything Thy goodness sends,
 Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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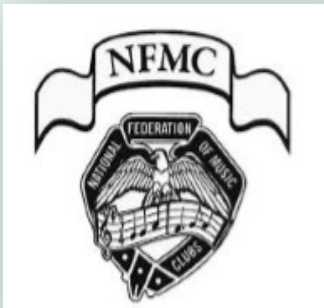
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*In Memoriam
 Laura Ferguson*



Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs 2024 William Yick Collegiate Awards

Every year AFMC awards the William Yick Collegiate Award to two students that attend one of AFMC's Federated Collegiate members. The award is \$500 for each student. Carol Moore, AFMC Vice-President, has worked hard to encourage Arkansas colleges to become Federated members of AFMC. Our collegiate membership had declined during the Covid years and we are now back to 8 members. One new member is UALR and we welcome them! The colleges are on a rota to receive the invitation to choose a worthy student for the Yick Award. This year those two colleges were ATU and UALR.

Students chosen to receive the AFMC \$500 William Yick Collegiate Award must meet the following criteria:

- * Student must be both a United States citizen and currently enrolled as a music major
- * Student must have completed 24 or more credit hours (music *and* non-music courses)
- * Student must have a *minimum* cumulative grade point average of 3.0;
- * Student will be chosen by the Music Department Chair in consultation with the student's primary instructor of applied music (and/or the student's academic adviser)
- * Student should be recognized by the Music Department Chair and the primary applied instructor (and/or academic adviser) for their noteworthy contributions to music performance and/or music scholarship

2023-24 Federated Collegiate Members of AFMC

**Arkansas Tech University
Harding University
Henderson State University
NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Ouachita Baptist University
Texarkana College
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Williams Baptist University**

AFMC 2024 William Yick Collegiate Award Winners

Nakira Bates is currently a Sophomore at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a double major in Music (Piano) and Business. Nakira was born in Little Rock and graduated from Hall High School 2022. She studies piano with Dr. Naoki Hakutani. She is a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (Xi Theta chapter of University of Arkansas at Little Rock).



Kris Campbell is a sophomore music education major at Arkansas Tech University. Originally from Alma, Kris has been playing trumpet for 8 years in a variety of genres and styles. At ATU Kris has participated in many ensembles including the Marching Band, Brass Choir, Trumpet Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and has been the principal trumpet for the Symphonic Wind Ensemble for 2 semesters.

**COMING
SOON**



The 2024 Arkansas Young Artist Tour! Anna Han, pianist

The annual Arkansas Young Artist Tour with Anna Han, pianist, will be September 9 through 15 following the usual schedule of performances, plus one added performance this year. Plan to hear this exciting NFMCA Young Artist at one of her six concerts across our state.

**Monday September 9 Arkadelphia
Tuesday September 10 Texarkana
Thursday September 12 Monticello
Friday September 13 Little Rock
Saturday September 14 AFMC Fall Conference
Sunday September 15 Bella Vista**

AFMC Club News

Southwest District Honors Recital -Texarkana

This is a picture of students who played on the Southwest District Honors Recital Sunday, March 10, 2024 at First United Methodist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas. Students who receive a superior are invited to play on the Honors Recital. We had a total of 54 superiors in piano solo and piano concerto and 34 superiors in theory. *Submitted by Leisa Arnett*



Jr. Composer - Jr. Class IV State and Regional Winner

Ethan Chen is a high school junior with a knack for composing music since the day he pressed his first key on the piano. When he's not busy creating music, he enjoys practicing on his piano by the fireplace, exploring local hiking trails, and playing alongside his school's varsity soccer team. Ethan is the son of Bill and Lucy Chen.



Ethan is a student of Linda Kennedy, AFMC's Jr. Composer Chair and a member of Little Rock Musical Coterie Club. Linda states "Ethan is involved in a variety of endeavors these days and is heavily into composing orchestral pieces. It's so rewarding to watch these kids grow! Without events like Jr. Composer Contest, they may never have exercised this "muscle"! The national Jr. winners will be announced at the end of April.



HOT SPRINGS MUSIC CLUB

presents

Spotlight on Jazz



The Hot Springs Music Club

spotlighted jazz during a free concert at the Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa on Sunday, April 14. The concert featured the Lakeside High School Jazz Combo under the direction of Carol McCraney, vocalist Shirley Chauvin, and instrumentalists Jonathan Van Houten, I.J. Routen, Stephen Colby, Mikey DiGiacomo, and HSMC members Kristen La Madrid and Shelley Martin. Dr. Tom Bolton is president of the Hot Springs Music Club.

Shirley Chauvin was a vocalist in the “jingle” recording business in Dallas and toured with local big bands in Texas as well as national tours with Paul

Neighbors, Buddy Morrow, and others. In 1992, she was a founder of the Hot Springs Jazz Society, and since 1994 she has been a featured vocalist with the Stardust Big Band/Arkansas Jazz Orchestra. For five years she served as featured vocalist with the Arkansas Symphony Big Band.



The Jazz Combo, from left, includes Kiernan Rose, Ryder May, Pike Williams, Aidan Mitchell, Jack Turner, and Caelah Carvin. (Submitted photo)

HSMC to spotlight jazz at free concert



Shirley Chauvin (Submitted photo)

**Little Rock
Musical
Coterie
Scholarship
Award
Winners**



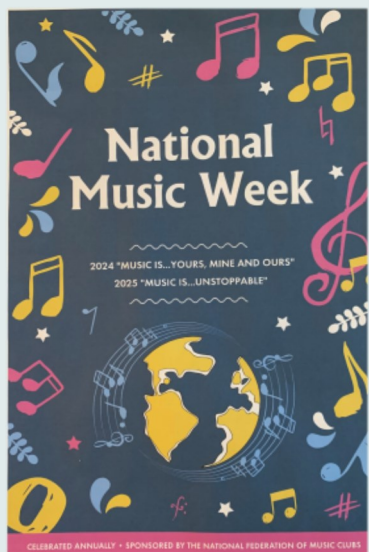
Left to right: Jane Fetterly, William Baker and Abraham Martinez Brito

Sunday April 14 the Little Rock Musical Coterie held its annual Coffee Musicale meeting/concert presenting our annual scholarship award winners.

Jane Fetterly, pianist, was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship from the Wang Coterie Award. She performed:
JS Bach Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV84
George Gershwin Prelude 1

William Baker, pianist, was awarded the \$1,000 Virginia Queen Piano Award. He performed:
Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Sonata in E Major Op. 14 No. 1
I. Sonata Allegro
Frederic Chopin Polonaise in C# Minor Op. 26 No. 1
Dmitri Kabalevsky Preludes Op. 38
No. 22 in G Minor
No. 8 in F# Minor
No. 6 in B Minor

Abraham Martinez Brito, violinist, was awarded the \$1,000 Little Rock Coterie Award. He performed:
Johann Sebastian Bach Partita for solo violin No 2 in D minor, Chaconne
Fritz Kreisler Präludium and Allegro in the Style of Pugnani
Alex Israel Alexandro, piano



HOW TO PREPARE FOR NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK

By Cynthia Augspurger, Andante Music Club of Bella Vista Publicity Chair

National Music Week, May 5-12, is alive and well in north-west Arkansas. Elen Wright and Ann Pope, NMW chairs of Andante Music Club of Bella Vista, have arranged music programs for each day of the week. The featured concert, organized by Martha Sheets, will be in Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel, Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30. Music composed by two Arkansas composers, Ellen Stephenson and Wayne Warmack, will be performed. Musicians from young juniors, to a college student and Andante musicians will play and sing to the enjoyment of the audience. On May 11 "Music in the Park" below the Loch Lomond Dam is another highlight of the week. Dulcimer, guitar and piano playing will be joined by poetry reading and a Sing-a-long.

The first NMW article published in the "Weekly Vista" newspaper focused on the 2024 theme, Music...is yours, mine, and ours, the history of National Music Week, and Andante's partnership with the public libraries in Bella Vista, Bentonville, and Gravette. A display of storybooks with a musical theme, free bookmarks made by an Andante member, and the official NFMC coloring page for children and adults to color will be in each library.

The NFMC website contains a treasure trove of ideas for National Music Week, the purpose for celebrating it, and its historic beginnings. It is extremely helpful for NMW chairs and publicity committees.

Andante member, Cynthia Augspurger, displays a coloring page promoting National Music Week, May 5-12, at the Bella Vista Public Library. Ashdon Wilson, Youth Services Librarian, holds bookmarks with the NMW logo. Several music programs will be open to the public during National Music Week.





Piano Teachers! Don't miss this opportunity!
QUIDA KECK PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**For Professional Development of the
Independent Piano Teacher
Award Amount-\$2000**

Application Deadline-May 1

This award was established to provide financial assistance annually to an independent piano teacher who demonstrates superior teaching in the private studio and wishes to further enhance teaching skills. Funds are to be used for advanced training through piano pedagogy classes; private piano lessons; attendance at pedagogy conferences and conventions featuring pedagogy in the area of piano; purchase of new piano literature, method books, computer software, instruments or other equipment needed to enhance the teaching environment.

Applicants must be members of NFMC and be U.S. citizens. They must be 21 years of age or older and have at least three years of private piano studio teaching experience. They are required to teach a minimum of 10 hours per week in the private studio and cannot hold a full-time college teaching position. While they may incorporate group lessons or classes into their teaching, the majority of their lessons must be individual instruction.

All Arkansas teachers fulfilling these requirements are strongly encouraged to apply. There has even been one previous recipient who is an AR teacher! And even if you have applied in the past, don't hesitate to apply again, for prior applicants applying again have also been named recipients. Unfortunately there have been years when no award was presented because there were no applicants, so don't ever think you won't have a chance to receive this funding.

In order to apply, go to the NFMC website and click on Competitions and Awards, Sr. Division and you can find the application form and full requirements. The Chair of this award can also be contacted with questions:

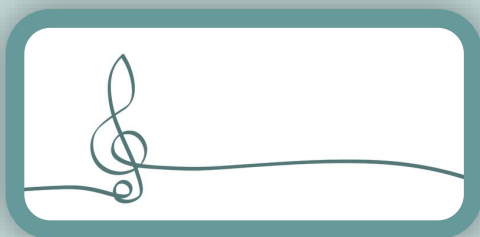
Dr. Elaine Brady
Pe973@gmail.com
703-967-1541



NFMC CONFERENCE

JUNE 11-15, 2024
Bettendorf, Iowa
Isle Hotel

Check out the NFMC website for more detailed information about the Conference, hotel, and to register for the week's event.



AFMC CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 14, 2024
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock AR

Opera in the Ozarks
Summer 2024 Season
June 21 - July 19
Tickets may be purchased at opera.org

La Traviata Giuseppe Verdi
The Crucible Robert Ward
Beauty and the Beast Giannini
L'Enfant et les Sortilèges Ravel



South Central Region
Federation Days
July 17 - 19, 2024
Inspiration Point
Center for the Arts
Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Please copy and give this form to any aspiring women composers in Arkansas that you may know!

Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs
Febro Grilk Arkansas Woman Composer Award

2024 Entry Form

First Place Award: \$500.00
Second Place Award - \$200.00

Deadline: July 30, 2024

Eligibility

Ages 16 and older (no boundary)
At least two years of residence in Arkansas
Letter of recommendation
Picture and Bio
Permission for all the above to be made public

Requirements

Composition must not have been published
Composition should be written for voice, instrument, or ensemble.
Entry Form, Manuscript, and Recording should be sent together by Postal Service.
Composer allows and aids the presentation at an AFMC meeting.

Name _____
Address _____
email _____
Cell# _____

Contact for information, or Send composition to:
Alice Martinson, 1052 County Road 310 -Berryville, AR 72616
alice.martinson@outlook.com



In Memoriam Laura Ferguson

Musician, wife, mother, teacher, grandmother, friend: Any or all of these roles would describe Laura Ferguson. Laura attended Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, majoring in music education, where she met the love of her life, Frank, also a music education major. They were married for 52 years.

Laura began her teaching career at Scott Central School in Forest, Mississippi, teaching elementary music, choir and piano. Moving to Monticello, Arkansas, in 1975 to follow her husband and support his teaching career, she taught piano and worked as a secretary at MonArk Boat Company. Frank and Laura had an opportunity to teach together at the Hermitage School District for three years before she accepted the choir director position with the Warren School District, where she remained for the next 25 years. During her tenure at Warren, she produced many outstanding choirs. Several of her students attended college on voice scholarships, while a number also chose education, inspired by her work in the classroom. For 25 years, Laura also directed the high school Junior Class play, usually a musical. For many of her students, their fondest memories of school came from acting, singing and dancing in her play productions.

Laura was a Past President of the Monticello Music Club and served in leadership positions with the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs. She was a member of the Monticello Music Club for 47 years.

Laura was the long-time organist at her beloved First Presbyterian Church in Monticello. She also served as an Elder and was active in the life of her church. In retirement, she enjoyed gardening, reading, keeping house and traveling.

Laura passed from this life on February 20, 2024, at Arkansas Hospice Inpatient Center, in Little Rock, following a lengthy illness.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Ferguson; two sons, Adam Ferguson and Gary Stuart Ferguson, all of Monticello; a beautiful and loving granddaughter, Swayzee Ferguson, of Colfax, Louisiana and her mother, Marjorie Cobb.