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## AFMC February Newsletter 2024



### It's almost Spring and that means it's Festival Time!

Spring is Jr. Festival time for our AFMC Clubs and many of you are in the middle of making sure everything is organized and ready to

go! It is exciting to hear about our festivals and we appreciate all the hard work of our teachers and students to make it a challenging, learning, and encouraging event. I wish I could visit every festival and hear your students. The students that performed at the Convention last April were wonderful and these programs always remind me that "this is what we are really about"....passing the skill of performing and love of music along to future generations. We all know that our students gain so much more than just being able to play a piece—as great as that is! They learn so much more that is carried with them throughout their lives whether or not they become professional musicians. These things can include a knowledge of a musical world, appreciation of beauty, sensitivity and subtly in thought and expression, ability to analyze what works and what went wrong, emotional expression, critical thinking skills, complex physical movements, openness of mind to new genres and expressions of music and thought, a delight in performing for others, persistence until a goal is met, awareness and openness to other art forms (poetry, dance, art, theater, etc.) What a wonderful occupation and challenge we have as music teachers! Thank you, AFMC Festival Teachers, for your hard work, love of music, and especially your care for your students. I can't wait to hear about your festivals this spring!

**Kathie**



## · AFMC Junior named South Central Region Winner of the Angie Greer Music in Poetry Award

We are proud to announce that an Arkansas State Federation Junior Member, Julianne Klein of Fort Smith, has won the South Central's Region Award for the Angie Greer Music in Poetry competition. Julianne will receive \$100 for her poem entitled, "Play For Me, Before I Am Gone". Her teacher is Mary Moon, a member of the Fort Smith Musical Coterie. Julianne is the daughter of Elijah and Misun Klein.

We thank Mary for encouraging Julianne to enter the competition. The Angie Greer

Music in Poetry is a project of NFMC that encourages Juniors to write poetically about music since poetry and music have so much in common and enhance each other in many ways. Her poem will be featured in the next Junior Keynotes magazine.

**Julianne's Bio:** My name is Julianne Klein. I am 16 years old and in the 11th grade. I have been playing the piano for eight years and writing since I was twelve. My mother taught me piano for one year before sending me to piano class, gracefully taught by Mrs. Moon, for seven years.

I was homeschooled from preschool to 3rd grade, and have been virtual schooling since 4th grade. Reading is a passion that has inspired me to write (I give credit to my mom for pushing me to read).

I have won first place for two essays in the past from NFMC, and this is my first time winning a poetry contest. I am grateful to the judges for picking me as the winner, and I hope to inspire any person that reads my work (Isn't that the purpose of writing?).

I also love to dance ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap, and hip hop. I also like to draw, play piano, walk in nature, read, write short stories and poems, and spend time with animals. I have four cats, named, Maddy, Socks, Pandie, and Rusty. I also adore my older sister's dog, Fluff, who is very close to me. In the future, I hope to become a successful pharmacist and author.



## Play for Me, Before I am Gone

Julianne Klein

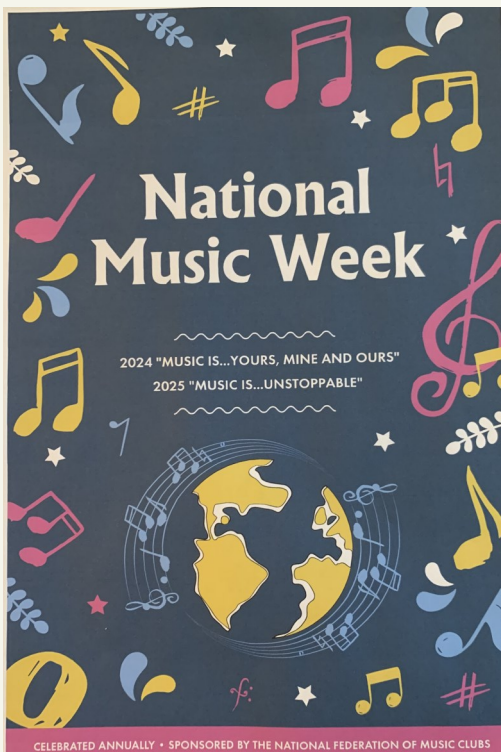
Sing me a song  
before I am gone.  
Play me a piece  
make haste do not cease.  
Bring me a flower  
A lithe yellow flower  
It can be found high up in a tower.  
Pluck your strings, draw the bow  
Let it sing, high and low.  
Play me a song  
before I am gone.  
Let your hands dance,  
the piano's a trance.  
Please hurry, before I am taken away.  
I'll be stol'n away to the wilderness bay.  
The lands will sweep me their way.  
They will sweep, sweep, sweep,  
As I weep, weep, weep,  
Longing for the music you play.  
There, I will dream.  
Dream by the stream with no musical beam.  
So, please hurry.  
Play me a song, lest I forget  
The sweet sounds before the sunset.  
Touch your lips to a flute  
Blow a breeze through my roots.  
Then it shall seep, seep, seep,  
As I leap, leap, leap,  
Away, to the wilderness bay

## Announcing the 2024 Arkansas Young Artist Tour!

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 NFMC Young Artist at one of her six concerts. Born in Arizona, Anna studied privately with Fei Xu for thirteen years. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of former NFMC Young Artist, Robert McDonald, receiving the prestigious Kovner Fellowship and William Schuman Prize. She currently lives in Berlin where she is pursuing an Artist Diploma at the Barenboim-Said Akademie under the tutelage of Sir Andras Schiff and Schaghajegh Nostrati.



## How is your club planning to observe National Music Week in 2024?



In making plans for NMW week, go to the newly designed NFMC website and do a search for National Music Week. There you will see two pages of downloads related to National Music Week. These include coloring pages for students, brochures, mayor and governor proclamations, radio scripts, forms, ideas, rules for the National Music Week Essay Contest (grades 7-12) and much more! Check it out!

**Contact Christine Graham,  
AFMC Chair of National Music  
Week, for more information.**



## ***AFMC Club News***

### **The Schubert Music Club of Walnut Ridge** **Dr. Chris Thompson, President**



Dr. Trent Broussard, the Fine Arts Department Chair of Williams Baptist University, presented a voice recital to the Walnut Ridge Schubert Club on Thursday evening, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Broussard, baritone, sang selections including Mozart, Sullivan, Verdi, and Bizet. The collaborative pianist was Mr. David Ellis.

Ten members and two guests attended the performance and one of the members attending was 102-year-old Catherine Ponder. A cake-&-punch reception followed the event in the foyer of the Maddox Fine Arts Center.

### **Little Rock Musical Coterie** **Suzanne Babbie, President**



The Little Rock Musical Coterie featured “Opera and Other Delights” on Sunday February 11, 2024 (weather postponement from January 14) at Trinity United Methodist Church. This exceptional vocal concert was introduced and presented by nationally known Arkansas opera singer and vocal educator, Christine Donahue. The program included show music and classic operatic songs. The versatility and beautiful vocal performances were stunning.



**Hot Springs Music Club  
Dr. Tom Bolton, President**



## **Founders Day Program Presented at Hot Springs Music Club**

In recent years, our club has not done anything special in the way of honoring Founders Day, so this year I thought we would do a program that emphasized the musical heritage of Hot Springs and Arkansas.

Some of you know that I have degrees in both vocal performance and musicology, so I appointed myself to come up with a program about singers who were born in Arkansas or lived here at some time during their lives and appeared on either the Metropolitan Opera stage or major opera houses in the world.

After about six months of research the result was an audiovisual program entitled "The Operatic Heritage of Arkansas." It consisted of a PowerPoint presentation with embedded recordings and videos of operatic singers who performed from the 1920s to the present. To my surprise, I had crossed paths with seven of the singers we spotlighted.

In a change from our normal church venues the program was presented in the auditorium of the Garland County Public Library, which had the equipment necessary for this type of presentation. The original date of January 14 was snowed out, so we moved it to January 21. It was fortunate that the program did not involve live performances and was easily moved.

While the weather was still not perfect, we had about half of our membership show up. I was fearful that they would be bored to tears by this former professor, but there seemed to be a genuine interest in the history of Hot Springs performing venues and the talent that emerged from Arkansas to appear on the world's stages.

I am including the printed program which contains pictures of singers who at some point called Hot Springs home. I hope this gives you some ideas about including a Founders Day program next year.

## *Spotlight on the Operatic Heritage of Arkansas*

Welcome Dr. Tom Bolton, President

Hymn of the Month *Another Year Is Dawning*

### **Program**

Audiovisual Presentation Dr. Bolton

#### **Historic Hot Springs Theatrical Venues**

The Grand Opera House  
The Theater Auditorium

#### **Native Arkansans at the Metropolitan Opera**

Mary Lewis — Hot Springs and Little Rock  
Frances Greer — Piggott and Helena  
Robert McFerrin, Sr. — Marianna  
Mary Jennings — Hot Springs  
Sarah Caldwell — Fayetteville  
Mignon Dunn — Tyronza  
Barbara Henricks — Stephens  
Susan Dunn — Malvern and Bauxite  
Kristin Lewis — Little Rock  
Sarah Mesko — Hot Springs

#### **Native Arkansas Opera Singers with Major Careers Outside the Metropolitan Opera**

Mary McCormic — Belleville, Dardanelle, Ola  
William Warfield — West Helena

#### **Non-Native Arkansas Residents at the Metropolitan Opera**

Marjorie Lawrence — Hot Springs  
Blanche Thebom — Little Rock  
Marjo Carroll — Hot Springs  
Diane Kesling — Hot Springs



Mary Lewis



Mary Jennings



Sarah Mesko



Marjorie Lawrence



Marjo Carroll



Diane Kesling

*"Spotlight on Sacred Music"* will be March 3, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.  
at First Baptist Church — 2350 Central Avenue.

**Did you know Hot Springs at one time had a wonderful Opera House? It was built in 1887, closed in 1917, and torn down in 1961. Sad to say there is a parking lot in its place today. In 1904 there were 178 performances! What is the history of music in your town?**



## **PHOTO**

*Bella Vista Community Television studio with host, Nancy Noyes, on left. Seated from left to right are Bella Vista Andante Music Club members, Gloria Febro Grilk, Carolyn Walker, and Jo Evans. Cynthia Augspurger is standing.*

## **AN OBVIOUS PUBLICITY MEDIUM**

Three members of the **Andante Music Club of Bella Vista** became ‘television stars’ on the “Bella Vista and Beyond” program produced by Bella Vista Community Television (BVCTV) in January. This was a new way for the club to promote its objective of increasing the appreciation of music in the area. According to Cynthia Augspurger, the Andante publicity chair, she expected to reach a new audience for their monthly music programs.

The usual publicity channels of articles in the local and larger area newspapers and posters on church and public bulletin boards are still effective. The music programs and performances are free to the public. The church located in the center of Bella Vista, which hosts the club’s music programs, offers plenty of parking and seating, so why isn’t the sanctuary overflowing?

The idea of a television interview appealed to Cynthia because people watch their TVs all the time. Last fall Cynthia emailed a volunteer with the BVCTV and was connected with the host of a popular interview show.



Andante President Gloria Febro Grilk, Carolyn Walker, AFMC Founders' Day Chair, Jo Evans, Past President of Andante and Bylaws Chair and Cynthia met with the TV host to discuss the questions and their answers for the program.

As publicity chair, Cynthia provided photos and informational posters in a digital format and three short videos of featured musical artists as requested by the host.

During the 30 minute "Bella Vista and Beyond" television show the three Andante members presented information about the founding of Andante, their affiliation with the National and Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs, the Young Artist concert with Leland Philip Ko, National Music Week in May, the Junior Festival, Opera in the Ozarks connection, and an invitation to Andante's February 6 music program.

The trio from Andante Music Club answered interesting questions such as "why should someone come to an Andante music program?" and "what is the best part of being a musician?" with heartfelt responses.

(Written by Andante member and publicity chair, Cynthia Augspurger)

## NFMC Competitions and Awards



**From George Keck:** This is the season for NFMC competitions and awards. Search the NFMC website at <https://www.nfmc-music.org/> to locate the C&A Chart which lists all awards with requirements and links to application forms. All kinds of awards are available, including performance, composition, poetry, essay, awards for club programs and projects.

Let's make certain hard-working Arkansas Junior, Student/Collegiate, and Adult musicians receive the recognition and awards they deserve by applying for NFMC awards. Check out the Sr. & Jr. Awards and deadlines for application on the following two pages. Encourage your students to apply!





**Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs** is proud to be a supporter of this new chapter in the life of Opera in the Ozarks! The building is projected to be completed by the 2025 season and many exciting plans are underway for the grand opening.

The money graciously given by the Walton Foundation for the new theater is fabulous but it doesn't include all the furnishings needed for the theater and faculty/student building. We are needed at this crucial time to continue our support of OIO and to even "raise it up a notch".

I am asking **all** of our clubs to look over the list of needs sent to me by the OIO General Director, Nancy Preis. Determine as a club what you can contribute to help purchase one or some of these items. We need to not only give as clubs but many of us can help individually to provide needed items. OIO had a fantastic "Giving Tuesday" back in November and we need to keep the "fires stoked"

These are items that will be needed in the common rooms on each floor of the faculty housing:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| \$ 60 each  | Chairs for each porch (24 needed)      |
| \$ 125 each | Microwaves (8 needed)                  |
| \$ 500 each | Under-counter Refrigerators (8 needed) |
| \$1500 each | Stacking washer dryer units (8 needed) |

Clubs send a check to Jimmie Stephens and indicate what the amount is for. Individuals send a check to OIO, P.O. Box 127, Eureka Springs, AR 72632, or you can donate directly on the OIO website: [www.opera.org](http://www.opera.org)

Plan **now** to attend one or all of the operas offered during the OIO season this summer. “Enchanted Evenings” is the theme. Not only will you enjoy a splendid evening of instrumental and operatic music, but you will be able to see the tremendous work already done on the Inspiration Point property.

If you go to the [opera.org](http://opera.org) website, you will be able to see drone footage of the building progress. It is really impressive and will be a beautiful campus for the new theater. You will also find the Season Calendar on the website for all the operas. I would love for you to plan to come during Federation Days and help represent Arkansas at our South Central Region meetings. We have a good time!

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

**OPERA In The OZARKS**  
AT INSPIRATION POINT

**2024 SEASON**  
JUNE 21-JULY 19

**Enchanted Evenings**

La *Traviata*  
By GIUSEPPE VERDI

The *Crucible*  
By ROBERT WARD

A DOUBLE BILL:

*Beauty and the Beast*  
By VITTORIO GIANNINI

*L'enfant et les Sortilèges*  
By MAURICE RAVEL

Presenting 25+ performances at Inspiration Point in Eureka Springs and venues throughout Northwest Arkansas

VISIT [opera.org](http://opera.org) FOR TICKETS & SCHEDULE INFORMATION  
16311 Highway 62 West / Eureka Springs, AR / (479) 253-8595



## Little Red's Most Unusual Day

An operatic version of the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* based on scenes from operas by J. Offenbach and G. Rossini will be presented as a children's opera during the OIO season.

Opera In The Ozarks is proud to take family-friendly operas into the community. They reach thousands of people during a season, and share the unique gift of opera. You can experience these fabulous and fun productions yourself! Look for a library or event center in the Northwest Arkansas area. Schedule and venues announced on the OIO website..

## NFMC CONFERENCE

**JUNE 11-15, 2024**  
**Bettendorf, Iowa**  
**Isle Hotel**



Meredith Willson had it right when he wrote, “Oh, there’s nothin’ halfway about the Iowa way to treat you.” And IFMC plan to treat you to an exciting conference filled with good food, fun and fellowship. The last time Iowa was able to greet NFMC was when the then “Tri-Cities” hosted the 1921 Biennial convention. It’s time to update and upgrade! The Tri-Cities added one more Iowa river town, Bettendorf, to make the Quad-Cities an example of congenial collaboration to explore and enjoy.

The Isle, the conference hotel, is located on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi river. A buffet BREAKFAST IS INCLUDED in the cost of your hotel room this year. Come a day early on Tuesday and enjoy a unique experience of an evening dinner cruise on the **Celebration Belle**, an authentic paddlewheel boat designed for cruising the waterways of the great Mississippi River.

Wednesday morning officially begins the conference. The emphasis this year will be on **life-long learning**, whether adult or junior. Some of the Festival Bulletin composers and pedagogues will be taking part (see next pages). Some compositions in the **new 2024-2028 Festival Bulletin** will be highlighted and ideas presented to inspire and ignite interest in repertoire. The Festival Chorus director, Dan Andersen has ideas to help voices age better and continue singing throughout life!

There will be special performances by the NFMC Young Artists on Wednesday evening and performances by some of the award winners as Musical Moments are sprinkled throughout the meetings. The Bix Beiderbecke Museum is located in downtown Davenport and the director of this museum will share more insight into the world of jazz in the 1930’s at the Rose Fay Thomas luncheon along with a pre-luncheon concert by a small jazz combo.

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

(All conference information taken from NFMC & IFMC websites)

## CALLING ALL TEACHERS! NFMC 2024 CONFERENCE

The 2024 NFMC Conference will be one you'll not want to miss. The entire conference will be energizing with concerts and workshops, but **Thursday** will focus on one of the largest participation areas of NFMC—**Federation Festivals**.

Three renowned composers whose literature has been on the Federation Bulletin required list will be presenting engaging workshops on Thursday, June 13. Here is a brief overview of the day and workshop presenters:



Melody Bober

**Melody Bober starts us out on Thursday, June 13, 9 a.m.** Her workshop title is: Station Rotation: Looking for exciting ways to energize your group lessons? Join Melody as she presents ideas for unique, enjoyable, and musically productive group gatherings.

As a composer, Melody Bober enjoys creating motivational piano pieces that foster her students' understanding and love of music. Melody graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a bachelor's degree in music education. She later received a Master of Arts degree in piano performance from Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Melody credits much of her success to her influential teachers who include Joel Shapiro and Andrew Froelich (piano), Mary Hoffman (music education), and Tony Caramia (jazz). An active church pianist and accompanist, Melody has also held the position of church music director. In addition to teaching piano in her private studio, Melody's music-teaching experience includes 20 years of public school and two years at the university level.

A dynamic clinician and innovative composer, Melody is in great demand at conventions and workshops for piano teachers across North America. She resides in Minnesota with her husband Jeff.

**Helen Marlais will present Thursday, June 13, 2-3:00 p.m.: Sound, physical gesture, and imagination.** Join Dr. Helen Marlais as she explores ways to look at students' repertoire in three dimensions. She will discuss musicality, sound, and tone color, body-friendly physical gestures, and will discuss many ways to stimulate students' imaginations so they feel and think about the music. In this way, we can guide our students to play with artistic personality.



Helen Marlais

*(continued from page 13)*

**Dr. Helen Marlais'** performance schedule includes concerts, pedagogical sessions, and teaching in N. America, India, S. Korea, Taiwan, Italy, England, France, Spain, Hungary, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Lithuania, Estonia, China, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, and Russia. Her recording with husband, concert clarinetist Arthur Campbell, *Music for Clarinet and Piano*, was nominated for the International Classical Music Awards, one of

the most prestigious distinctions available to classical musicians today. She has given well over 800

presentations and master classes in the past 20 years. One of the joys of her life has been creating piano materials to support piano teachers as they guide young musicians. Dr. Marlais teaches applied piano lessons to a select number of exceptional piano majors who come specifically to study with her, and directs the Piano Pedagogy Certificate program at GVSU. Many of Dr. Marlais' pre-college through university majors are awarding-winning pianists. [www.HelenMarlais.com](http://www.HelenMarlais.com), Facebook: Succeeding at the Piano Method, You Tube: Piano Lessons Helen Marlais writing.

**Dr. Jason Sifford will present Thursday, June 13, 3:30-4:30 p.m:**



Dr. Jason Sifford

### **"Exactly the Same - Only Better: Writing for Students, Writing for Teachers"**

In the session, Jason will talk about composing music for two different audiences, and how each has very specific interests and needs. Students need music that is engaging, fun, and a joy to practice and perform; teachers need music that's pedagogically sound and helps them address the educational needs of their students. Finding and writing music that covers both sides of that coin can be a challenge and he will share what he's discovered over the last 25 years of teaching.

Dr. Jason Sifford is a freelance pianist, teacher, and composer. He maintains a private teaching studio in Iowa City and performs regularly with local artists. He is a composer/clinician for the Willis Music Company/Hal Leonard and has also been published by [ComposeCreate.com](http://ComposeCreate.com), Editions Musica Ferrum, and the FJH Music Company. His music has been featured in several state syllabi, the NFMC Bulletin, and most recently, the Royal Conservatory of Music's Celebration Series anthology. He is also the composer for the Footliters Traveling Playhouse, a children's theatre project for the City of Coralville.

**Thursday evening** is a special Iowa treat. We will journey a few blocks down the street to Asbury Methodist church where is housed an historic Pleyel Double Grand piano, the only working piano of its kind in this hemisphere.

**The Happy Dog Duo** enjoyed playing on this unique instrument at the 2019 Iowa Conference and they will be back bringing humor and joy to classical music!



The final concert on Friday will be an extra special presentation by Audrey Johnson entitled “We’ve Come a Long Way, Ladies! A Musical Celebration of the 19th Amendment.” This program brings the Women’s Suffrage Movement to life through historical music, projected images, onstage costume transformations, a spoken narrative, and audience participation.

On the final morning of the conference, a memorial service will be led by Kathie White (NFMF Chaplain and AFMC President) before the final Board meeting. The service is to remember and honor NFMF members who have passed in 2023.

## **Why would a local club member want to go to a National Conference?**

If you have never been to a national conference: *It gives you a broader view of the impact of NFMF across the country*

If you are a Teacher: *You will get new ideas, training and inspiration for teaching*

If you are a Music Appreciator: *You will hear top notch Concerts*

If you are interested in Service to your Community: *You will find a wealth of information and ideas about encouraging music in your community*

If you have unanswered questions about your local Music Federation Club and its activities: *National and State officers & Chairs are available to discuss and answer questions*

**COMING  
SOON**

**Opera in the Ozarks  
Summer 2024 Season  
June 21 - July 19**

*La Traviata*      Giuseppe Verdi

*The Crucible*      Robert Ward

*Beauty and the Beast*      Vittorio Giannini

*L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*      Maurice Ravel

**AFMC Young Artists Tour**

**September 9-15, 2024**

**With Anna Han, pianist**

**AFMC 2024 Conference**

**September 14, 2024**

**Little Rock**