



Sharps & Flats



An Official Publication of the Florida Federation of Music Clubs

Theme: "Music is Tonic for the Soul"

Song: "It is Well With My Soul"

Message from the President

It is hard to believe it is already November, the pumpkins are out, and some are planning to journey north to view the beautiful fall leaves.

The Senior Clubs have planned their calendars for the year and the student musicians are back at their lessons and preparing for Festival that will take place in a few short months. FFMC members are busy putting the mission into action. I can think of nothing more rewarding than making this a better world through music.

I am so thankful for all that you do to keep our Federation thriving.

Please look at the new NFMC website (nfmc-music.org). It is very easy to navigate and there are many untapped awards for large amounts that I hope you will look at. If you look at "About Us" and scroll down to "Divisions" you will find ways to participate in the American Music Division and Arts Division where you will find out how and qualify for monetary awards for your Senior Clubs. We all have very busy schedules, but maybe, in the morning over coffee, you can sit at your computer or tablet and look at the website and view all that NFMC has to offer.

Also, please look at our state website, ffmc-music.org, and under Competitions and Awards you will find the many awards offered for your students.

Please mark your calendars for May 3-4, 2024, for the Junior Convention that will be held at the University of South Florida. This year we will have convention hotels reserved. June 27-29, 2024, will be our FFMC State Convention that is being held at the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville.

I wish all of you a wonderful fall and holiday season. My mother always said "time flies when you are having fun." I hope that amidst all the business of your lives you will have time to enjoy the seasons and the fruits of your labors.

Looking forward to hearing about all your musical events.

Best Wishes,

Claudia Brill. FFMC, President

NFMC Celebrates 125 Years!!!

Exciting things are happening as NFMC celebrates its 125th anniversary! Check out the new and improved NFMC website - www.nfmc-music.org to learn more about how NFMC benefits.

Discover important and interesting news about numerous offerings and activities available to NFMC members. Look for a list of monthly newsletters from NFMC President, Deborah Freeman, in the "about us" tab. Find out how to host one of the outstanding NFMC young artists. What does it mean to be a "cradle roll" member? Find out the answer in the "membership tab". Explore the "Competitions & Awards" tab. Your students may qualify for a monetary scholarship!



Be sure to sign up for the monthly newsletter – to “stay in the loop” with all things NFMC. Sign up at the NFMC website home page: nfmc-music.org

2023 NFMC Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards Results **Lisa Smith**, Chair

There were many noteworthy and creative musical ideas contained within the entries for the 2023 NFMC Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards, and the keyboard compositions selected for awards reflected originality, a firm grasp of compositional skills, and strict adherence to the competition requirements.

The first place winners for 2023 were:

Intermediate : Charlotte Chen, student of Gayle Vann GA
Composition: "On A Snowy Evening"

High School : Arwyn Chavosky, student of Diana Pettit of AL
Composition: "English Morning"

Advanced : Ivy Liu, student of Dianne Higgins of NC
Composition: "Chinese Flower Garden"

There were no honorable mentions awarded in either the Intermediate or Advanced categories but we did have four honorable mentions in the High School category:

Emilie Paris Vu, student of Gayle Vann for her composition "Snow Drifts"

Emma Dong, student of Gayle Vann for her composition "The Hunt for the Magic Flower"

Rachel Lane, student of Dan McCurry for her composition "Down to the Red River"

Kyra Andrews, student of Gayle Vann for her composition "Shooting Stars"

Congratulations to these remarkable students for their entries. The next NFMC Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Awards competition will be in 2025. The rules, guidelines for entry and application can be obtained from the NFMC website.

NFMC Theory Event

by Heather Rathnau, NCTM

Sunshine & sparkle! That must be a common thread in everyone's individual studio in Florida! How can you add more of it? Incorporate the NFMC Theory Event into your Federation plans. How easy can it be? E.A.S.Y! Your students will learn more about the language of music while raking in MORE Federation trophies! There is one level for every potential year of study, so no excuses!

The age requirement to enter the new A, B & C levels is 8 years or younger on the day of testing. Otherwise, choose the appropriate level to plug into the program. I will help you level your students to get started if you email me at info@theorytime.com. Use the coupon code SAVE20 to receive 20% off on all Theory Time workbooks purchased at theorytime.com. AND if you are not comfortable teaching the upper levels, we offer the Theory Time Online Academy which will do the teaching for you!

See page 436 in the NFMC Festivals Bulletin for a curriculum guide. Sample tests are available at nfmc-music.org or go to the Theory Time **Facebook** page and click on the NFMC link pinned to the top of the page. Become "that" teacher that students love and parents appreciate!

Incorporating music theory into your studio will set you apart from everyone else!

HONOR ROLL - 2023 Festival Gold Cups - Top Achievements!! Student & Event & Teacher
Julia Seltzer, Federation Cup Chair

PRESIDENT CUP (90 points)

- 1 Catherine Du Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Zalina Gurevich
- 2 Spencer McKee Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Mary Watanabe McKee
- 3 Jan Melia Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: A. Kenji Suganuma
- 4 Norrich Pongkeasorn Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Jae Eun Jung
- 5 Hannah Shen Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Zalina Gurevich
- 6 Isabelle Tseng Violin Solo/Concerto Teacher: Rimma Bergeron-Langlois

GRAND CUP (75 points)

- 1 Andrew Bai Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Jae Eun Jung
- 2 Peter Blay Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Wanda Louie
- 3 Hannah Ciupe Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Lisa Catharine Smith
- 4 Alexandra X. Lin Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Aida Ribeiro-Mechetti
- 5 Jessica Lu Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Ruth Lewis
- 6 Matthew Phan Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Peggy Edwards
- 7 William Finley Wilkinson Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Gavin Hall Taylor
- 8 Samuel Wu Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: A. Kenji Suganuma
- 9 Zachary Zeng Piano Solo/Concerto Teacher: Jae Eun Jung

Esther Umansky-Roth

NFMC Southeast Region Festival Chair

FFMC Junior Division Chair

FFMC Festivals Chair

Hello FFMC members!

I hope everyone has enjoyed a relaxing summer and is ready to start another exciting musical season!

FFMC wrapped up the 2022-2023 season strongly, with Florida having the largest number of Festival participation in the country, roughly 6,900 entries! This is all thanks to you, the members, who teach, foster, and inspire students daily.

FFMC's Senior Convention in June was hosted wonderfully by Sarasota. This annual event is open to all members and is where FFMC's committees present, discuss, and vote on all things FFMC. The approved proposals are summarized below for your convenience!

All members, especially those who anticipate entering students in the State Junior Convention in May, must be familiar with the Junior Procedures Manual (JPM). Review all the event correlations, rules and eligibility requirements (which sometimes differ from the Festivals Bulletin) which can be found in the JPM. The FFMC Junior Convention is a Florida event - that's right! Not all states have a state competition!

Changes to the Junior Procedures Manual:

- General housekeeping and the removal of outdated information.
- The most current list of Junior Convention endowed awards will be available on the FFMC website.
- Junior Convention awards must be claimed by August 1 of that year.
- Monitoring: teachers will have the option to monitor themselves, or pay an opt-out fee. Due to issues with volunteers, adult replacements will not be an option in 2024.
- The Junior Convention Chair, upon discussion with the Convention Committee, may immediately disqualify and/or suspend future participation of any teacher or student from the Junior Convention for disobeying JPM procedures.

Have you checked out FFMC's website? See ffmc-music.org It is constantly being updated with new information and many resources can be found there!

If you need to reach a fellow FFMC member by email, contact festivals@ffmc-music.org.

Bay Ridge Festival Tampa - - -

February 10-11 and 17-18 at Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City.

We are expecting student participation in over 750 events, prepared by more than 30 teachers.

Application deadline in Vivace is December 1.

Questions can be emailed to bayridgefestivaltampa@gmail.com

For more information go to <https://www.bayridgefestivaltampa.com>

LAKE DISTRICT

Lake Brevard / East Coast Music Club

Submitted by Tim Murphy, President

The East Coast Music Club currently has 23 members – all of whom have renewed their dues for 2024. Since the last Lake District meeting, our 2023 Festival was held on February 4. There were 237 entries in 12 events, representing 15 clubs. The events included piano, voice, guitar, strings, woodwinds, and theory. A total of 27 15-point cups, 6 30-point cups, and 9 45-point cups were earned. A few of our teachers had students participate in the FFMC Junior Convention in Tampa on May 5-6, 2023.

Our 2024 festival planning meeting was held over zoom on August 27. We are once again in full swing with the use of the NFMC Vivace system!! A new choice composer (Heinrich Klassen) was added to the Vivace system in August.

Our 2024 festival will be held on Saturday, February 3 at Creative Music, Art, and Learning Center in Melbourne.

Lake Central (Orlando) Festival

2024 Festival dates: January 27 and 28 at University of Central Florida, Orlando

Lake Martin County

Submitted by Maribel Gomez

Saturday, Feb 24th

Located at Little Prodigy School of the Arts

851 SE Johnson Avenue

Suite 205

Stuart, FL 34994

Altamonte Music Club

Submitted by Larysa Hughes, President

February 2023 was a month of Federation competition where our students got qualifications for the State competition. In March we had our local Lake Altamonte (North) club competition. Children were awarded ribbons and small toys for our younger group. Also, we have monetary prizes for all our winners. We also had a nice little party at the park to celebrate all the achievements.

April 22nd and April 30th, our club had two-day recitals in preparations for the 2023 FFMC State Junior Convention. And of course, the State competition in Tampa was a great experience for all of our students.

Orlando Music Club

President: Elaine Knight
Vice President: Christina Gant
Secretary: Balina Smith
Treasurer: Lisa Moore

Our year ahead will be busy - 90 members are in the midst of planning for NFMFC Festival.

OMC Calendar – check out our website: orlandomusicclub.org

September – OMC Kick Off (Zoom meeting)
November – Parade of American Music Competition (deadline November 17)
December – Holiday Community Service Recital
January – Founders Day on Saturday, January 13
February/March – Teacher workshop(s) ... TBA
March – String Awards Competition ... TBA
April – Piano Awards Competition ... TBA
April – OmniHarmoni™ Young Composers Contest (deadline April 10)
May – Elections

South Metro Music Club

Submitted by Victoria Schultz, President

SMMC has resumed monthly meetings to plan for an exciting 2023-2024 season of activities. With our 17 members we have created committees to organize performance, community, and competition projects. Several student concerts are planned to entertain residents of local retirement homes.

We are focused on the District Student Festival in February.

We had 108 participants in the 2023 District Festival in piano, voice, strings, and guitar categories. Several participated in State bringing home First Place Trophies and Honorable Mentions in voice and piano.

One of our junior club members, Safin Karim, was accepted at NYU with an \$80,000 per year scholarship to major in Musical Theater, piano and voice. I am happy to report that he is already doing auditions and had a paid gig as a vocal accompanist in New York City. Safin was a vocal soloist for the FFMC 84th State Convention as well as singing the National Anthem for the FFMC 85th State Convention. Safin's performances at the FFMC State Convention have earned him Seven Place State awards for Art Song Voice, Musical Theatre Voice, and Piano Sight-play, as well as Gold Cup awards for 12 consecutive years of Superior ratings. Safin will return to Orlando to perform in the Ruby Holland Foundation Winners' Concert October 7, 2023.

Another SMMC sponsored student, Ella Kim, was accepted to perform on harp with the FSYO. We look forward to another productive year of concerts and Festivals.

SAINT JOHNS DISTRICT

Harmony Music Club - Jax Showcase

Connie Lill

What a great way to end the 2022 -2023 Harmony Music Club season with a Showcase of Talent.

Many FFMC members remember Mary Elizabeth Land. She was the Harmony Music Club and the Saint Johns District President. She also was the FFMC state president from 1999-2001 and Member of the Year in 2001. She has two named awards on the state level as well as one on the club level.

This year Dominic Fusco, Chairman of the Mary Elizabeth Land Award presented Spencer McKee with a plaque and a check for \$1,250.00. His Teacher/ Mother Mary McKee had a brilliant idea. Hence, Spencer performed one of his first songs, Gutierrez - "Chugga, Chugga, Choo, Choo", as a beginner. Now as a Freshman at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, he is studying piano performance. He performed Mozart – Minuet in C Major, K6 and Chopin – Sonata in B Minor, Op 58, I. Allegro Maestoso, II. Scherzo, Molto Vivace, III.Largo, IV. Presto, Non Tanto. Spencer won FFMC Junior Convention awards and a 90-point Festival Cup.

Preceding Spencer was Courtney Dantzler with lite Jazz, followed by FFMC award winner Alexandra Lin with Schubert/Liszt – Erlkönig. Next was Matthew Phan who won several awards at the state level junior convention. He performed Ravel – Gaspard de la Nuit, No.1, Ondine. These students' teacher is Aida Ribeiro Mechetti of Jacksonville.

Many thanks to our incoming Harmony Club President, Ludi Mocke who secured the Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Jax Beach, great acoustics and a 9' Steinway. The event occurred August 12, 2023. Not only a grand finale, but the start of a grand year!!!! Yes, the Saint Johns District has talent.

Here is just a composite for Harmony Club, Jacksonville
Submitted by **Susan Reed:**

of members: 73 with 9 new members!

New officers: Susan Reed, President St. Johns District, Ludi Mocke, President Harmony Club, Annie Rueff/Dominic Fusco Membership Chairs, Betty Atkinson Chaplain. Returning officers for another term - Gavin Taylor VP, Debbie Carter Treasurer, Lisa Smith Secretary

Recent activities - First General meeting, Sept. 20 at Mandarin Baptist Church - honoring outgoing president Connie Lill and other board members, Honorary Club memberships awarded to Jack Melvin (Keyboard Connections) and Duane Carter (Tech Support)

Presented the 2023-24 Calendar of Events. Introduced New Harmony Club members. Events planned: New Member orientation for all things Festival planned for November

District Luncheon October 27 at Seasons 52

Featuring special guest speaker: Claudia Brill, FFMC State president.



Our year kicked off with a Showcase celebrating the Mary Elizabeth Lands Scholarship winner, Spencer McKee on August 12th. We'll be hosting the FFMC President, Claudia Brill for a luncheon on October 27. Currently the Junior Board nominations are in process and our Junior Board should be established by November 15, 2023. St. Johns District Festival is scheduled for February 23 & 24, 2024 and the Harmony Club is planning another Greater JAX Piano Competition on April 20 & 21, 2024.

After that we'll all be gaining momentum to make a splash at the Junior Convention and look forward to meet with the other districts at the biggest showcase of the year!

HARMONY CLUB PRESIDENT, LUDI MOCKE

News for Sharps & Flats from
Suwannee District/Foundation for the Promotion of Music
Cheryl Poe, District President and Linda Blessing, FPM President

Suwannee District/Foundation for the Promotion of Music members enjoyed a luncheon meeting on September 29 at the Community Foundation of North Central Florida, Gainesville.

Twenty-five members and guests were delighted to share activities and planned projects for the upcoming year. In addition to future planning, we learned about the new Reilly Arts Community Education Project from our newest FPM member, Margaret Dixon, www.reillyartscenter.com.

Long-time FPM member, Rebecca Micha, announced the Gainesville Orchestra's young person concerto competition and shared her newly published book, "Wolf Song".



Hannah and Mikaylah, twin sisters (pictured at left), performed several lovely violin duets.

Our 2023-24 season promises to offer a wide variety of musical experiences for our entire community. All our events are at the Historic Thomas Center, 302 NE 6th Avenue, Gainesville are free and open to the public.

October 15 – 2:00 PM: Guest Artist Recital featuring UF Assistant Piano Professor, Dr. Hsiang Tu.

November 19 – 2:00PM: Stellar Student "Honors Recital" featuring winners of the Piano Sonata/Sonatina Festival

January 27, 2024 – 10:00am-4:00PM: FFMC Collegiate Vocal Competition

January 26-28, 2024: Gainesville Area Junior Festival (strings)
at Celebration United Methodist Church

February 17-18, 2024: Gainesville Area Junior Festival (piano, voice, woodwinds, theory)
at UF Music Building

March 3, 2024 – 2:00PM: Recital featuring International Musicians in collaboration with the Greater Gainesville International Center

April 14, 2024, 2:00 PM: Spring Awards Recital and Musician of the Year Awards

June 27-29, 2024: FFMC State Sr. Convention at the Best Western Gainesville Gateway Grand Hotel

FFMC Junior Convention News

We are excited to return to University of South Florida in Tampa for the 2024 FFMC Junior Convention.

Friday, May 3, 2024 and Saturday, May 4, 2024
3755 USF Holly Drive, MUS 101
Tampa, FL 33620

Application and Invoice deadline is March 10, 2024

Please consult the correlation and memorization requirements listed in the Junior Procedures Manual. Though the requirements do not apply to Festival, they do apply to the Junior Convention, and require teachers to plan accordingly.

Any Junior Convention questions should be emailed to: jr.convention@ffmc-music.org

For more information and most recent updates go to <https://www.ffmc-music.org/junior-convention>



FLORIDA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS APRIL 2024 BALLET AUDITIONS

Highland School of Dance Saturday April 6, 2024 10:00 a.m.
6929 Old Highway 37, Lakeland, FL 33811



BALLET ENTRANTS WANTED FROM ALL OVER FLORIDA INFORMATION/APPLICATION AVAILABLE:

<https://www.ffmc-music.org/classical-ballet-award>

Male and Female Ballet students between the ages of 12 and 18 are invited to apply for the ballet auditions. (Applicants must be at least 12 years old and not have attained the age of 18 on March 1, 2024.) First prize \$750; Second prize \$2,50. Winners also receive a plaque and a sketch of the career of Frances Rands Beery. Honorable mention awards are \$25. First place winners may not re-enter more than 1 (one) subsequent Audition. Winners may be invited to perform at local and state events. Visit website for more:

[RULES](#)

[INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS](#)

[APPLICATION](#)

[INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP](#)

QUESTIONS? Contact **Monica Laude**, Chair at mlaudlaw@gmail.com

NFMC/FFMC

National Federation of Music Clubs & Florida Federation of Music Clubs

Essay Contests

Theme of 2024 Essay:

Music ... is Yours, Mine, and Ours

FFMC Awards

Grades 7 – 8	1 st Place - \$150.00	2 nd Place - \$100.00
Grades 9 – 12	1 st Place - \$150.00	2 nd Place - \$100.00

To Enter the FFMC Essay Contest: Send your essay to Amy Duncan (FFMC Essay Contest Chair; 16559 Arrowhead Trail, Clermont, FL 34711) along with your completed FFMC entry form and \$5.00 entry fee postmarked on or before December 15, 2023.

NFMC Awards

A National winner from each state receives \$75.00 and is published in the *NFMC Junior Keynotes* magazine.

To Enter the NFMC Essay Contest: Upload all entry materials via the NFMC portal by January 10, 2024. Include a high resolution (1+MB) JPJ photo.

Teachers, encourage your students to participate!

NFMC / FFMC JUNIOR COMPOSERS CONTEST

Students who like to write music are encouraged to submit their own “musical creation” at the NFMC website and possibly win a cash prize! Hand-written or digitally prepared music score are given equal weight.

The judge will take both content and musicianship into account.

Any medium is accepted (keyboard, voice, other instruments, or any combination thereof).

Online submission of PDF score with MP3 audio-recording.

Entry fee: \$30 includes the “NFMC” fee of \$5 and the “FFMC” fee of \$25.

OPTION: Include \$6 more to earn points toward a gold cup: \$36.

If junior individual membership is needed, add \$13 more.

Deadline: February 1 for online application and payment of fees.

VISIT THE FFMC WEBSITE

<https://www.ffmc-music.org/junior-composers-contest>

Review NFMC rules for additional information:

<https://www.nfmc-music.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/JR-7-1.pdf>

Questions? Contact Lisa Moore: composition@ffmc-music.org

FFMC Collegiate Vocal Competition - Begins 2023

Connie Lill, Chairman

On Saturday, January 28, 2023, the FFMC Collegiate Vocal Competition was held at the Historic Thomas Center in Gainesville, Florida. This was a one-day event with vocal auditions beginning at 11:00 am followed by a gala luncheon – “Southern Style”. Many, many thanks to the Foundation for the Promotion of Music of Gainesville for organizing and setting up the luncheon. FPM Committee members were Cheryl Poe, Claudia Brill, Linda Blessing, Wanda Louie, and Suzanne Carpenter. FPM has also unwritten the payment of The Historic Thomas Center.

Many thanks are in order to the following clubs who were willing to sponsor vocal competitors between the ages of 17 – 24. Foundation For the Promotion of Music – Gainesville; Choctaw Bay Music Club; Sarasota Music Club; Friday Morning Music – Tampa; Harmony Music of Jacksonville; Music Club of Hollywood.

Claire Goodwin, a 19-year-old FSU sophomore/ soprano won first place in the Women’s Division. She was sponsored by the Sarasota Music Club. She was performing in Georgia this summer.

Jabari Lewis, a 21-year-old FSU senior/ tenor won First Place in the Men’s Division. He was sponsored by the Music Club of Hollywood. He sang at Opera in the Ozarks from May 24th – July 22nd at Inspiration Point.

Immediately following the luncheon, a concert was performed by our 2022 winners, Cecilia Malley and Andrew Kapsar. Cecilia studied opera in Italy this summer. Andrew is currently working on his Master in Vocal Performance.

ATTENTION ALL SENIOR CLUBS. Now is the time to add this line item to your budget. Each club should be on the lookout for talented singers to compete in this annual event. Spread the word about the FFMC voice scholarships available: 1st Place: \$2,000, 2nd Place: \$1,500, and 3rd Place: \$500.

All information is on our FFMC website. Date: January 27, 2024 “The Historic Thomas Center – Gainesville, Florida. Do call Connie Lill if you have questions or would like to sponsor a candidate. Candidates can be sponsored by Senior Clubs, but also now individuals and/or service organizations may sponsor. Maybe you would like to be on the committee??

Current members of the committee are Phil and Karen LeGrand; Ted Urqhart; Claudia Brill; Cheryl Poe; Lisa Moore; Linda Goetz; Petra Sussman; Suzanne Carpenter; Linda Blessing; Lisa Smith; Bill Lill.

A MIGHTY BIG THANK YOU IS IN ORDER!

The Sarasota Music Club with Janet Jackson and Mary Webb at the helm have voted to give \$5,000.00 to our voice competition. This year, Sarasota Music Club will still sponsor a talented voice student. Two of our talented voice contestants performed for the FFMC State Convention in Sarasota. They were 2nd Place winner, Jackeline Petichakis, sophomore at FSU and 3rd place winner, Kristopher Stam, also a sophomore at FSU.

SAVE THE DATE!

FFMC 104th Spring Convention

*Featuring NFMC Dignitary: Joel Adams, Vice President,
Southeastern Region NFMC*

June 27-29, 2024 – Gainesville Florida

Local Hosts:

Suwannee District and The Foundation for the Promotion of Music



Convention Hotel: Best Western Gateway Grand
4200 NW 97th Boulevard Gainesville, FL. 32606

Visit ffmc-music.org often for updates
regarding hotel reservations and convention registration.

NFMC Arts Division - Ellen Leapaldt, Chair

As you plan for your club meetings you'll be delighted with the new "Music in Poetry and Song" edited by Debra S Hughes and Barbara Murray with music arrangements by Kristen Ivers. This spiral bound book includes the poem and the song for September 2023 thru August 2025. One book instead of two and only \$4.00.

