



Sharps & Flats



AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

THEME: The Challenge of Change

www.ffmc-music.org

SONG: "Sing" Joe Raposo



ON A HIGH NOTE



With the dawning of a new year and a new 44th US President, we are out to get the job done – whatever job that may be. We are filled with hope and vitality to volunteer more in whatever organization we feel we can do the most good. As each one of you reads this, I hope you will select the arts and the Florida Federation of Music Clubs to volunteer your time, talents, and dollars.

All of the teachers of Juniors are in the throngs of teaching and by now perfecting their student's talents for one of the fourteen festivals in February. Best of luck to all of the musicians who will receive ribbons, festival cups, superiors, and will go to the FFMC State Junior Convention and competition, May 1-2. It will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

The senior clubs should be in the midst of quality music programs, luncheons, and fund raisers. Remember the district meetings? Each district will host a luncheon or dinner at the convention. The cost of the centerpieces, favors, etc. will be the responsibility of the clubs and the district.

Save the dates May 14, 15, & 16, 2009, for the ninety-first annual FFMC Convention being held in the Suwannee District – Barbara Kirby, President. It will be at the Hilton in Ocala, Florida, where the horses prevail. We will have an important 2009 convention committee meeting. Elections will be held for the 2010-12 FFMC Board of Directors. All new district presidents will be sworn in at that time.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Enjoy the season. Fill each day with music.

My best,

Connie Tuttle-Lill, *President*

NOTICE

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE FRANCES RANDS BEERY MEMORIAL AWARD IN CLASSICAL BALLET IS APRIL 1, 2009.

Ages 12-18. First prize \$500 and Second prize \$250. Auditions are Saturday, April 25, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Highland School for Dance, 6929 Old Highway 37, Lakeland, FL 33811. For information, see the FFMC website, www.ffmc-music.org, or e-mail Dr. Laude, isabellamary@verizon.net.

What to Expect, Why Attend?

The NFMCF Fifty-fifth Biennial Convention will be held June 1-7, 2009, in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Michael Edwards, Chairman, Beth Philbrick, Registrar. The convention has so much to offer for all FFMC members, not just officers. Let's talk about the music first. The Young Artist Auditions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, **June 1 & 2, 2009**. The winners will each receive \$10,000 and a two year booking. Everyone is invited to listen to the auditions. On Tuesday, **June 2, 2009**, Gail Smith will present an evening with Fanny Mendelssohn. The famous international Perlman, Schmidt, Bailey Trio will perform on Wednesday evening, **June 3, 2009**. The newly chosen Ellis Duo Piano team will perform in concert, Friday, **June 5, 2009**. On Saturday evening, **June 6, 2009**, The Singing Sons Boys Choir will perform. They hail from Fort Lauderdale, performing around the country. On Friday morning, **June 5, 2009**, our Jeanie, Jeanie Maids, Stephen and Stephen runner up will present music from a gone by era. These are just a few highlights.

Junior Day will be Saturday, **June 6, 2009**. See the brochure insert in this edition of Sharps & Flats. Nancy Jontz is the Junior Day chairman along with all of the Lake District members. It will be a great opportunity for our Juniors to meet one another from Florida as well as from around the country. The committee would like to encourage the teachers and parents to set this day aside. This is a great step forward to include the Juniors at the National Convention.

All members can attend committee meetings, exchange ideas, and make lasting friendships.



EDITORIAL

Submitted by June Buck,
President of the Sarasota Music Club

Subject: The Musician

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin. It was a cold December morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that a thousand people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule.

A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy, tagging along with his mother, who stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell played to a sold out theater in Boston. The seats averaged \$100. each.

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This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

“ I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all arts are the keys to learning.”

-Plato

Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to all 17 Juniors who entered the FFMC Essay Contest. The Essays were great. The Florida winners have been named and all the essays have been sent to the National Contest. Florida Winners were:

Avery Geehr, 7th grade, teacher Ann Buchholz, Ponte Vedra, FL

Honorable mention Abigail Brigham, 8th grade, teacher Vickie Stake, Jacksonville, FL

Lauren Markowski, 10th grade, teacher Loretta Hake, Niceville, FL

Honorable mention Jeremy Hsiang, 11th grade, teacher Loretta Hake, Niceville, FL

I wonder who will be the National Winner from Florida?

Our Judge was Lois Duncan, who wrote the book, "Hotel for Dogs". The movie came out January 16. We thank her for helping us, and I thank the teachers who encouraged the students to write their thoughts down on the subject "Music,,Poetry of the Heart".

Marion Cox, Essay Contest Chairman


Here Ye, Here Ye Club Presidents
Now is the time to download Senior Club Reporting Form #ME 7-1 from www.nfmc-music.org. This report must be filled out and sent to FFMC Chairman, Wanda Wiranis, 201 W. Tropical Way, Plantation, FL 33317-3326, (954) 587-1967, e-mail wandapiano@aol.com by May 1, 2009. This provides a means to evaluate the work of local clubs throughout our state and NFMC. It gives a record of all of the programs, funds, etc. that have occurred during this musical season.

Stephen Foster Day at White Springs

In 1951 the United States Congress adopted a joint resolution calling for the observation of National Stephen Foster Memorial Day on the anniversary of the composer's death, January 13, 1864. He was 37. He composed more than 200 songs and is considered America's first professional song writer.

The Florida State Legislature declared Foster's composition, "Old Folks at Home" the official state song in 1935. The song became the inspiration for the founding of the Stephen Foster Memorial in White Springs in 1951. In 1953 the Florida state legislature adopted a resolution naming January 13-19 as Stephen Foster Memorial Week in Florida.

2009 marks the fifty-eighth year of the Jeanie/Stephen voice competitions. Nicole Estima, (Friday Morning Musicale of Tampa), our Jeanie 2009, was featured at the Annual Stephen Foster Day at White Springs, January 16, 2009, along with the Stephen Foster Runner-up, Hal Berkelhammer (Foundation for the Promotion of Music, Gainesville). FFMC members who have not had the opportunity to hear our voice winners, are invited to attend a concert at the NFMC Biennial Convention, Friday, at 10:00 M, June 5, 2009, in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. Stephen 2009, Mark Hakes, (Calusa Musicale), and our two Jeanie maids, Lisa Ulseth (Boca Delray Music Society), and Adrianna Rodgers (Sarasota Music Club), will also perform a little bit of Florida history via song.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!
2009 NFMC Biennial Convention in Orlando
Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive • Orlando, FL 32819-8114
1-800-627-8258 • June 1-7, 2009
While you are thinking about it,
Register Online:
Enter www.RosenPlaza.com on the internet
In left column, click Reservations
Beneath information blocks, click "groups"
Click "yes" on security information questions
Enter attendee Code 1330 – click "attendee login"
Click "yes" for security information
Proceed with dates, credit card info, etc.

Music In Poetry Contest

The NFMC Angie Greer Junior Music in Poetry Contest deadline is **March 1, 2009**. Having said that, there is still time to inspire a junior, poet aged 10 years but not yet **19 by March 1, 2009**.

- Any form of poetry is acceptable.
- The poem may be in traditional rhyming form, free verse, story in poetry form, etc.
- The poem must be typed on white paper and have a title.
- The poem should have a musical theme.
- The poem should be no longer than 30 lines and no shorter than 8 lines.
- The application can be downloaded at www.nfmc-music.org.

One annual award of **\$50.00** will be presented to the winner of the contest in four regions. Florida is a member of the Southeastern Region.

Be Advised Festival Teachers !!



It has come to my attention that some Festival teachers are charging their students more than the established fee set by their Festival Chairman. For example one teacher is charging her students \$20.00 per event when the Festival fee is \$10.00.

FFMC addressed this issue several years ago. The motion adopted reads as follows:

Teachers may not charge their students in excess of the entry fee established by FFMC. Teachers who charge an entry fee in excess of the established fee will have their membership suspended.

This motion can be found in the Junior Procedures Manual under Junior Convention. This motion applies to ALL Junior activities sponsored by FFMC. Many volunteers selflessly donate their time and talents to organize the Festivals held throughout our state. It is inexcusable and will not be tolerated for some teachers to be inflating the festival fees and financially profiting from it.

Michael Edwards
FFMC Junior Counselor

Just a Reminder - Orlando

Each of the seven districts have acknowledged their willingness to host the following events!!!

- **Saint Johns District**, President Vickie Stake bdstake@juno.com
Tuesday, June 2, 2009, Fanny Mendelsson Pre Concert Soiree
- **Seminole District**, President Jim Weisenborne jamesweisenborne@yahoo.com
Wednesday, June 3, 2009, Host Universal Studios Tour
- **Lake District**, Acting President Beth Philbrick..... jphilbrick001@cfl.rr.com
Wednesday, June 3, 2009, Fraternity Luncheon
- **Bay Ridge District**, President Bess Stallings bessstallings2@gmail.com
Thursday, June 4, 2009, Five Regional Luncheons
- **Capital District**, President Sharleen Williams bdwilli@cox.net
Friday, June 5, 2009, Rose Fay Thomas Luncheon
- **Royal Poinciana District**, President Michael Edwards micedwards@aol.com
Saturday, June 6, 2009, Saturday Evening Banquet
- **Suwannee District**, President Barbara Kirby tkirby2@bellsouth.net
Sunday, June 7, 2009, Memorial Breakfast

Now how are we going to pay for this?

It is recommended that each club donate \$100.00 or whatever amount is comfortable to their district to use for the above projects.

Past Presidents Assembly

Helen Dingus is Chairman of the FPMC Past Presidents Assembly which include past state, district and club presidents. This assembly was founded in 1923 with its main objective to provide funds for the Young Artist Auditions. Annual chapter reports (Form FI 9-3) shall be filled out accompanied with \$2.00 per member to Helen Dingus by April 15, 2009. Additional contributions may be added to the NFMC Young Artist Fund. Note: The form may be downloaded by going to www.nfmc-music.org.

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Delray Beach, Florida 33483-5633

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