March 2021 – E-Bulletin

TO: FFMC Leaders
FROM: Cheryl Poe, President FFMC
RE: Sharps and Flats E-Bulletin ... Updates and Deadlines

Please forward this bulletin to all members in your senior clubs.

Unfortunately, this e-bulletin is being sent to FFMC members in place of a hard-copy *Sharps and Flats Spring Edition*. My apologizes, no excuses, except that I just couldn’t make it happen. None the less, please review important information and forward on to all your senior club members.

**2021 Virtual FFMC State Junior Convention** in partnership with HeartOut.io is happening! We are offering weekly e-news for anyone interested in participating in the event.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Monday, March 8 – 9:00 am. Esther Umansky will present “how to” training for all Junior Convention Coordinators. Other FFMC members/counselors/teachers who would like to attend are welcome. The link is:

   Topic: 2021 FFMC Virtual Jr. Convention - Training  
   Time: Mar 8, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
   [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88310262704?pwd=M0ZUeFk2ZC8rVjJtdVRQYjZ5anluZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88310262704?pwd=M0ZUeFk2ZC8rVjJtdVRQYjZ5anluZz09)  
   Meeting ID: 883 1026 2704. Passcode: 364041

HeartOut Team will provide links to practice videos and information for students, teachers, and parents during March and April. Look for links on the ffmc-music.org website and announcements on the weekly e-newsletter. Registration information will be available on the website: ffmc-music.org the second week of March. **Deadline to submit registration/fees summary is March 30.** Actual recording auditions to HeartOut will take place the last week of April. Auditions will be judged the first week of May.

**Remembering Former FFMC Members**: Chaplain, Dr. Jerome Lowe, honors FFMC members who have passed on page 3.

**2021 Virtual FFMC Spring Convention** hosted by Royal Poinciana District will happen June 10-12! RPD President, Chai L. Chen, and her planning team are working very hard to make this a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow members throughout the state. **Call to Convention** is on page 2. Nominating Committee Chair, Marian Cox, announces slate of FFMC officers for the 2021-2023 term. Bios of the candidates are on pages 4 & 5.

**FFMC Senior and Junior Club Members are Winners on many fronts!** See details on pages 6 & 7.

Questions/Concerns: ffmc1917@gmail.com

website: ffmc-music.org
The Royal Poinciana District (RPD) has marched on and will be the host with an online video conferencing platform using Zoom to offer you an inspirational, educational and professionally curated conference from your own home.

We are delighted that Deborah Freeman, NFMC President Elect, will be able to join us in our new virtual world. Important business items will include election of 2021-2023 FFMC Officers and approval of the annual budget. Several workshops and break out rooms for discussions are being planned which include committee meetings, official convention program, musical interludes, Friday night concert, memorial service, district reports, club president reports with trivia and games. With a hybrid format, there will some pre-recorded and live. In addition, our break-out rooms will have an exercise time during breaks. The full schedule will be on the FFMC website and please visit our Facebook Page “FFMC 101st Spring Virtual Convention” for a complete week-by-week schedule with videos and postings. Presentations planned include Folk Music, Using “Vivace, Technology Best Practices, and Coffee Zoom Socials.

Mark your calendars! Pre-register by clicking http://bit.ly/3sBUc1y and you will receive an email from Erika Venerable, our registrar, to proceed with payment of $25 for the conference. There will be step-by-step instructions on how to log on to Zoom from your laptop, desktop computer, tablet, smart television or smartphone. Checks are due on June 6th and can be paid via PayPal.

An interesting way for all of us to feel like we are together!
Participate in our first virtual choir and/or chamber music by recording your instrument part. You must indicate your interest when you pre-register. Instructions will be provided after full registration

Let’s all meet together on
We will always remember our Bright Shining Musical Stars, Music lovers of the Federation of Music Clubs

Almost everyone started out 2019 with great enthusiasm. As 2019 was closed out and 2020 ranged in, new families were added to in the very first week, new jobs were announced, new homes were purchased, new cars were bought, new churches were open and small congregations were expanded, congregations grew larger and new members joined our Federation of Music Clubs nationwide. Manufacturing in the auto and airplane industry started out promisingly but these bright plans and promises did not last much longer in the first quarter of the year 2020. Everyone was up for a rude and drastic surprise with the entrance of Covid-19. This pandemic undid what took many years and even centuries to build and accomplish. Soon our world was submerged in a recession.

Scholastic institutions closed their doors, churches, department stores and government buildings, small and large businesses took a downward spiral, people started dying across the world and soon isolation was the order of the day. Hopes and dreams were lost. Both youth and aged fell victim to a new norm of change. The rich assortment of music that previously played from the many different chapters of the National Federation of Music clubs, soon became silent as our very own members became victims of various illnesses. Some were just sick and tired of all the deaths and losses taking place all around and not receiving much desirable answers. Many resorted to playing and listening to rich assortment of music until they fell asleep in their eternal home with music playing in their ears, some with a single audience and others with scanty onlookers. We remember several whose lives followed suit, we who are alive, will never forget the years of 2019-2021.

Many bright shining stars went off into the land of perpetual music and we will always remember their presence and contributions. We remember:

- Dr. Elver Hodges, d. 9/25/19 – Wauchula
- Heath Florence, d. 8/20/20 – Wauchula
- Bell George, d.9/12/20 – Wauchula
- Maenpaa Joyce, d. 10/14/20 – Oxford, MS
- Aaron Krosnick, 11/24/20 – Jacksonville
- Grice Mitzi, d.7/29/20 – Wauchula
- Ken Baar, d. 8/3/20 – Sarasota
- Faith-Marie Blais, d.9/7/20 Sarasota
- Dr. Lev Gurevich, 9/18/20 – Orlando
- Maenpaa Joyce, d.9/12/20 – Oxford, MS
- Faith-Marie Blais, d.9/7/20 Sarasota
- Dr. Lev Gurevich, 9/18/20 – Orlando
- Ann Pray, d. 12/23/20 - Tampa

We remember those whose names are not in this remembrance acknowledgement. Wherever your faith rests, we will remember and we will keep you in our prayers and we are committed, as an organization to keep and cherish such fine memories. May those who have gone on before rest in peace.

Please inform me of anyone who has passed that is not recognized on this list. Include name contact information, brief description of how the person was involved with FFMC in the district and senior club.

Respectfully,
Dr. Jerome Lowe Th.D. – FFMC Chaplain
Ljerome777@yahoo.com 347-210-6600

Questions/Concerns: ffmc1917@gmail.com  website: ffmc-music.org
Passing the Torch

Michael Plaut, Vice President
Foundation for the Promotion of Music (Senior Club) Suwannee District

As we think about electing officers for our state organization, it may be helpful to think about how those departing from office can best pass on what they have learned to their successors. This need is important not only for our state organization but for our regional clubs as well.

I realize that in some organizations, especially small ones, the same people may hold on to certain positions for years. However, it is important to consider that the function of the organization itself is paramount. Any of us could become unable to fill our responsibilities due to illness, injury or prolonged absence. *None of us is indispensable!!* So, what can we do to ensure continuity?

*While in Office*

Even though bylaws may define our positions, there are things we do that our successors should know about. It may be helpful for each officer to prepare a brief description of what they do and where they keep things. This description can be amended by succeeding officers as necessary.

It may be helpful to establish backup in case something might need to be handled in your absence. Whenever I have served as a president or committee chair in any organization, I have tried to keep my vice president or vice chair apprised of all that I do, so they could step in if necessary. Digital documents can be shared. There might be duplicates of keys, if that is relevant. Access to bank and insurance accounts needs to have backup.

**FFMC Nominating Committee**

*Marian Cox, Chair*

The Nominating Committee has unanimously chosen the following slate of officers to be voted on at the 2021 FFMC Spring Convention.

**Introducing Our FFMC Nominees For The 2021-2023 Term**

**FFMC President Nominee:**
Claudia Brill, a pharmacist by profession and accomplished flutist, lives in Gainesville. Brill has held numerous leadership roles in the Suwannee District including Suwannee District President, and Foundation for the Promotion of Music (Senior Club) President. Additionally, Brill chairs and volunteers with several committees: hospitality

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Hearts Bible Study, a nondenominational study for women.
An accomplished flutist, Brill is member of several musical organizations and has toured world-wide with the International and Metropolitan Flute Orchestras

FFMC Vice President Nominee:
Christina Hunting Gant grew up in Winter Park, FL in a musical family. She was a participant in the FL FFMC Junior Festivals throughout high school. She was concertmaster of the FSYO for two years during high school.
Gant graduated from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, MA, with her Bachelor of Music degree, and earned a Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY. She has been performing and teaching violin since she was 16 years old.
Gant is currently a member of the Bach Festival of Florida Orchestra, and the Brevard Symphony (FL). She has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Pops, Dallas Opera, Orlando Philharmonic and the Naples Philharmonic (FL) and performs Duo music with her husband Bradley Gant, a pianist.
She received Fellowships to attend the Aspen Music Festival, AIMS- Graz Opera Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, MA, & Sarasota Music Festival, FL.
She is the Director and strings teacher at the Suzuki Music School in Maitland, FL.
Christina and Brad raised two sons, Stephen and Jon, who are both pursuing advanced University degrees in Florida and California.

FFMC Recording Secretary Nominee:
Phil LeGrand has held this position for many years and is willing to continue in this capacity
Phil also serves as Treasurer of Capital District, FFMC and Choctaw Bay Music Club.
He organized financial records and produced an accurate report after several years of incomplete information.
As an active member of the local club, Phil sends out information about the meetings to members, organizes the setup and refreshments for meetings.
Phil has served as Co-chair for Federation Festival since 2015. In preceding years he assisted Festival Chairman in organizing the annual Festival by providing lunch for the workers and judges and “anything else” that needed to be done to make the event successful.
Phil enjoys listening to good music, especially when performed by young musicians.
In Phil’s past life, he served 27 years in Air Force Civil Engineering with assignments at all levels of command. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Phil is now “retired” after 20 years with a Florida-based engineering firm.
Phil holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from Boston University.
**FFMC Treasurer Nominee:**
Suzanne Carpenter, a person of a few words and a huge capacity for all things financial has served the Federation for more than 20 years. Her affiliation began as a parent and studio piano teacher in 1976. Suzanne has served the Suwannee District and Foundation for the Promotion of Music (Senior Club) in many leadership roles including Gainesville Festival Chair, Financial Secretary, and Gainesville Area Gold Cup Chair. Her dedication to serve expands to the state and national level in all things financial! Suzanne currently is the NFMC Treasurer on on its Board of Directors. Suzanne holds the Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Florida.

**FFMC CELEBRATES AWARD WINNERS!**

**FFMC Essay Contest**
*Marian Cox, FFMC Essay Chair*

The 2001 NFMC Jr. Essay contest has been judged, and I would like to thank the teachers, and students who participated in this event. The FFMC 1st place winner in the 7th & 8th grade level was Kaitlyn Kirby, from Lithia. 2nd place went to Natalie Ceaser, from Sarasota. Winner of the 9th thru 12th grade division was Jeremy Nicholson of Tampa, and the 2nd place award went to Diahann Booth of Winter Garden This year the Theme was “MUSIC...IS A STORYTELLER”. Mary Webb, from Bradenton was our judge. The teachers included Amy Duncan, Suzanne Herman, Laura Miller, and Marian Cox.

**NFMC Junior Composition Contest**
*Lisa Moore, Chair*

There were 11 entries! Everyone earned a ribbon or trophy. BRAVO to all who submitted compositions!

**Class IV**
1st Albert Wang $500 + Trophy
2nd Emily Singleton $350 + ribbon
H.M. Andre Botero - ribbon only
H.M. Marco Jimenez - ribbon only
H.M. Mena Williams - ribbon only

**Class III**
1st Alex Banull $400 + Trophy
2nd Vito Geraci $250 + ribbon
H.M. Henry Swenson - ribbon only

**Class II**
1st Elias Fernainy $250 + Trophy
2nd Grace Fernainy $150 + ribbon
H.M. none

**Class I:**
1st Caroline Smith $100 + Trophy
2nd none

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2021-2023 Additional Leadership Opportunities and Responsibilities
*Cheryl Poe, Outgoing President*

Our 2021-2023 Elected officers will be seeking several important committee chairs such as junior division, festivals, junior convention, American Music, Opera, Public Relations, Media, etc. Now is the time to consider volunteering your expertise and services to insure the continuing growth and success of our Federation. Your willingness to serve will make all the tasks before us manageable. I am grateful to be on our FFMC TEAM.

**Together Everyone Achieves More!**

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NFMC Recognizes Senior Clubs!

Congratulations to five of our senior clubs who received an Award of Merit for Outstanding Support of Opera!

- Music Club of Coral Gables
- Tuesday Morning Musicale
- North Broward Preparatory School
- Music Club of Hollywood
- Choctaw Bay Music Club

Certificates are in the mail!

News Notes Committee and Club Leaders

Friday Morning Musicale (Senior Club)
Bay Ridge District
Laura Hollis, President

As we all continue to live these unprecedented times, Friday Morning Musicale of Tampa perseveres under the very capable leadership of our President, Laura Hollis. We continue to hold Board and General meetings online every month. Our entertainment is still top notch; although the missing post-performance social hour with lunch lacks a bit in warmth and intimacy.

As always our intentions to maintain our beautiful historical building continue. With good fortune, highly acclaimed architects and structural engineers have graciously given of their time to evaluate what is needed to keep a sound roof over our heads and safe walls around us. We are researching grants and Yvonne March, Chair of our newly formed Grant Committee, is acquiring skills for writing them. As a wise person once said, “When you have achieved your 119th year, what’s another 100?

FFMC Offers 2021 Summer Music Camp Scholarship!

The FFMC Summer Music Camp Scholarship Application has been revised and is now available to download from the FFMC website. For more information visit: https://www.ffmc-music.org/FlaSummerMusicCamp-2021.pdf.

Frances Rands Beery Ballet Award
Deadline has been extended to
March 8 (postmarked)
Contact: ballet@ffmc-music.org

Memorial & Recognition Fund
Mary Webb, Chair

The Memorial and Recognition Fund is a loving way to honor music club members, families and friends. Any contribution up to $1,000 made out to FFMC is accepted. A record is kept and acknowledgement is sent to the family. Please contact maphwebb@gmail.com Mail information with donation to: Mary Webb 3016 21st Court, West Bradenton, FL 34205

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!
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