



MARY ELLEN ULMER, EDITOR
KATHY SKEWIS, CIRCULATION MANAGER
NOVEMBER 2020 – FALL ISSUE

Web Site: www.pfmc-music.org



Warmest Autumn greetings to everyone,

Sitting down to compose this Newsletter as the newly elected President for **PFMC**, I am truly at a loss for words. This is very unusual for me and as a piano teacher, I am used to being able to communicate my thoughts and insight on a daily basis. What I can say, is that 2020 is turning out to be a year that we all want to forget. As the saying goes, **'every cloud has a silver lining'**, and I'm certain that many of you had bright spots this year, even if they were a bit unusual.

From Birthdays celebrated with drive-by wishes, Anniversaries recognized by a virtual zoom congratulations, meetings held over Google meets, etc., etc. Yes, the covid-19 pandemic, there I said it, has caused quite a change in how we move through our daily lives. Not to mention, all of the live music provided by orchestras, concerts and recitals, and all other planned musical performances that have disappeared since March. It is unbelievable how our lives have been impacted, but music seems to be that one **CONNECTION** that is giving people **HOPE!!!**

I have continued to teach my piano students since March virtually, and as I do I am reminded each and every time that I am making a **"connection"**. I am giving **HOPE**. Throughout history, time and time again, music has inspired, educated, comforted and given us hope. Music truly is a salvation, a way to communicate, a way to express our emotions. Three most prominent Russian composers of the day, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Khachaturian were named as enemies of the people for writing music that went against Soviet ideals. This formal decree caused Shostakovich to lose his teaching positions and his music was banned. But, these composers and many, many others that followed used their music to convey a message, to protest, to provide an opportunity for people to have hope, to **'make a connection'**.

My theme this year is, **"KEEPING MUSICAL CONNECTIONS ALIVE SO WE CAN SURVIVE AND THRIVE"**. There is no better time than now, to reach out and make a connection. As we move towards winter and people tend to stay indoors, make a phone call to a friend, check on your neighbors and, of course, share music when you can. You just never know when a passing conversation can turn into something meaningful. Or, maybe, even a new member for your club!

Especially during these times, music can uplift us, it can motivate us, it can move us, it can remind us of the past and it can be a beacon for the future. Music is a healer, a warm hug, an invitation for your imagination, and can give us the hope that better days are ahead.

I wish you all good health as we once again navigate these uncertain waters. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones, and enjoy the Christmas holidays!

All good wishes,
Charlene Hubbard
PFMC President

KEEPING MUSICAL CONNECTIONS ALIVE SO WE CAN SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

NEWLY ELECTED AND INSTALLED PFMC OFFICERS

Since our 2020 PFMC Board Meeting and Convention was held virtually, you may not have been a part of the elections and installation of our new officers. Some of our new officers are also fairly new to PFMC or have not had the chance to visit some of our Districts.

Below are some introductions to these officers. Notice that they often mention the person that introduced to PFMC and encouraged them to participate at the board level. This is where it begins.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS OUR LEADERS. GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOU DO FOR PFMC.

CHARLENE HUBBARD, PRESIDENT



I have had the opportunity to work with several board members, and Sr. Club members mostly those from the Pittsburgh District. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future, possibly over a zoom meeting and hopefully someday in person!

There are actually two introductions to make: one is of course, my personal one and the other is my PFMC one! I will start with my personal one. My family and I moved to Pittsburgh 20 years ago due to my husband's job relocation. We raised two children who are both now grown with the older living in Florida and the younger in Ohio. I have taught piano since 2003. I never would have thought that I would be a piano teacher. I started playing piano at the age of 7 and continued on through high school graduation. I found a piano teacher, Dr. Becky Billock. She encouraged me to first join the Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Assoc. (PPTA), and second, teach! I thought she was joking, but here I am 17 years later...and still teaching!

This leads me into the second introduction. After joining the PPTA, I held many positions on the board, was both social chair and scrapbook editor. Many of you know Joan Stanisha, and it was she who asked me in 2009 to attend a Fall Conference and help with recording the Minutes. At that point, I wanted to learn more about this "PFMC" and attended the 2010 NFMC Convention held in Pittsburgh. From then, I was voted in as the Pittsburgh District Chair. I also helped plan and organize the PFMC Biennial Convention in 2014 held in Pittsburgh. And then I was co-Chair for yet another PFMC Convention in 2018. It was at this time that I took the West Chair position for the Jr. Competition. I have also held the PFMC board position of 1st VP/Finance Chair for the past 4 years. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, I was installed as the new PFMC President via a zoom virtual board meeting in September.

I have continued to teach from my home studio since March using FaceTime. I love seeing their smiling faces each week and it keeps me motivated to ensure that they are getting their weekly dose of "musical" medicine!!! (I think **Ruth Ann would like that analogy**) **I will never forget her gigantic syringe and needle that served as an illustration "injecting some VITAMIN E for Encouragement and Enthusiasm!!"** That's what we all could use is a little of both to keep our spirits up as we all try to get through this very scary and stressful time in our history.

I look forward to serving the PFMC as President and want to stay "connected". So please reach out to me anytime at pfmcpres123@gmail.com or call my cell at 412-654-5912. I would love to talk with you and hear your thoughts and ideas about making connections!!! My theme is: ***Keeping musical connections alive so we can survive and thrive***

LINDA FLICK, CO-VICE PRESIDENT

My interest in music began when I was very little and at seven played little tunes on the piano. Formal piano lessons began when I was nine years old. I have always loved playing the piano and enjoyed listening to most all kinds of music. I have been playing the piano in various churches off and on since I was 17 years old.

As member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster since 1985, I play the piano for a breakfast the church has for homeless and needy people every Sunday since 2007. When COVID-19 hit in March, my opportunities to play have been limited to only a few times while they handed out "breakfast to go".



Emma Herr introduced me to PFMC in 2000 when I started as Choral Music Chair. Through the years, I have had various chairmanships in PFMC which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I have just completed four years as Philadelphia District Chair. I enjoyed going around to the clubs in the District, listening to their programs, and meeting their members.

KRISTIN IVERS, CO-VICE PRESIDENT



Kristin Ivers has recently retired from a 37 yr. vocal and piano teaching career. She is currently a staff accompanist at Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pa. Having raised her family in Central Kansas, she and her husband were actively involved in music performance in that area.

Kristin was raised in Williamsport and she participated in Music Club/festivals during elementary through high school years. She was President of her Junior Club, went to Chautauqua School of Music and Opera in the Ozarks Inspiration Point via Music Club scholarships. So, when she moved back to Williamsport 10 years ago, she was keen on joining the Senior Club. Six years later, she served her club as President from 2016-2018. A highlight of her career was singing, by audition, in a performance of Britton's War Requiem at Carnegie Hall, directed by Robert Shaw.

SUE ROY, RECORDING SECRETARY

Sue Roy brings much experience to her position as PFMC Recording Secretary. Although her main focus has been in the medical field. Beginning as a degreed nurse, she has served at various levels and types of medical involvement in hospitals, health care institutions, community health agencies and health care employee training. She has served as a Community Nurse Specialist for BSST Area Agency on Aging, Inc. and continues to serve as the Bradford County Chair.



In addition she is involved in many community activities. She is a current member of the board of the Bradford County Historical Society and a member of the PA Breast Cancer Coalition event planning committee. Sue also enjoys gardening,

Her other **PFMC** positions include duties as NE District Chair, Towanda Musical Society President, and Achievement Book chair. When asked how she became involved with **PFMC**, Sue answered that Linda Chernosky, the wife of a coworker, invited her to a meeting.

LINDA MAURHOFF, TREASURER



A young mother of 3 girls, in 1983 I started teaching a few students and did my music shopping at May's Music in Butler. Several years later (1987, I think), Joy May shared information about a program called Junior Festivals. It sounded inviting – something I wanted my students to experience and this was my introduction to **PFMC**. To meet the requirement of being Federated, I joined the Tuesday Music Club of Butler. It was an interesting experience to say the least! The club was suffering from a decline in membership and a few years after I became a member, they decided to disband the club. I tried several times to convince the few remaining members to move their club to southern Butler Co, hoping to reach teachers from the Mars-Cranberry Twp. area. It did not happen and that was the prelude to the birth of Opus I Music Society.

Positions held in **PFMC**, **NFMC** Northeast Region and **NFMC**:

NFMC: Co-Chair 2010 Pittsburgh Conference; Board of Directors; Policy Resolutions Committee; Convention Rules Committee; Bylaws Committee; Chair of Nominating Committee for Elected Officers.

Northeast Region: Festivals Chair, Music in Poetry Chair, Secretary, State News Chair (MCM); Bylaws Committee; Investment Committee.

PFMC: President; VP; Festivals Chair; Convention Chair; **PFMC** Pianist; NW District Chair & Vice Chair; current **PFMC** Treasurer,

Local: Founding President Opus I Music Society and all officer positions.

As immediate Past President for **PFMC**, I continue to promote **PFMC** as a wonderful opportunity for anyone and everyone of all ages.

It truly is a BIG DEAL!

Dear Federation Friends,

Once again, my sincere "Thank You" for the kindness expressed and the beautiful gifts presented to me during the **PFMC** virtual meeting held this past September. I was overwhelmed by it all!

Please enjoy the photo of the platter which shows the theme of my Presidency. It is a gift I will treasure for years to come!

Blessings t Linda Maurhoff – **PFMC** Immediate Past President



WEBSITE NEWS

This is with grateful thanks to Karl and Kristin Ivers, **PFMC** has an updated website. Please check it out at: <https://pfmc-music.org> Use this password: Musicclb2020 to access the protected area for PFMC members only. It is through their efforts that the information on the website is easy to find and that the content will be current and hopefully filled with pictures in the photo gallery. This is our "FACE" to the internet world and I think it says "we are making **CONNECTIONS** and would love for you to join us!!!

I wish you all good health and happiness through Thanksgiving and the holiday season. Let's all hope and pray that the scientists and doctors produce a vaccine very soon. Until then, I shall leave you with a quote, "*We are the silver lining in any and every dark cloud we could ever find. There is no need to go looking for the light when you bring it with you.*"
--Tyler Knott Gregson
Charlene, PFMC President

KEEP MUSICAL CONNECTIONS ALIVE SO WE CAN SURVIVE AND THRIVE

Please, if you have website suggestions, or need to make a correction on the website OR the Roster, send it to me either via my email, pfmcpres123@gmail.com, send me a note using the new "Contact" page on the website, or call me at 412-654-5912. I will then forward the corrections onto the webmasters. Any photos to be added to the website can be emailed directly to Kristin Ivers at kivers210@gmail.com.

Editor's note: Our **PFMC** website originally went up in 2004. Mary Ellen Ulmer was creator, web master and owner at the time. We have had two web masters through the years, Larry Hoffman and Dave Dayton. We thank them both for their efforts to keep **PFMC** in the limelight. We are grateful to Karl and Kristin Evers for continuing this vital work.

KEYSTONE TRIBUTE AWARD

2020 KEYSTONE TRIBUTE AWARD WINNER



The 2020 recipient of the Keystone Tribute Award is Emily Hazlett of West Middlesex Pennsylvania. She is currently a senior at Seton Hill College and is a voice major with a secondary major on trumpet.

This award is given to a student who is pursuing a music education degree

Emily has demonstrated dedication to the importance of music education in our schools by holding a leadership position in the collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Educators and participating in an early childhood music teaching workshop at Temple University as well as maintaining a strong academic standing.

We wish her the best of luck and know that she will continue to promote the purpose of the federation.

Paula Kudelko, Chair

KEYSTONE TRIBUTE

The Keystone Tribute Fund was established in 2010 and presently is an award of \$500.00. It is supported by gifts of at least \$25 and/or more to honor or memorialize individuals, clubs, organizations and studios. A PFMC Scholarship for a college student studying music education is awarded annually from this fund.

Pat Walter, Chair

PFMC TREASURER NOTES

ATTENTION JUNIOR CLUBS

Reminder to Area Festival Chairs: New Studio/Club applications are due before Dec 31st. **No applications for new studios will be processed after January 1st** for the current Festival year.

PFMC Federated Studio/Club dues can still be paid but must include the \$25 late fee. The cut-off date for Studio/Club dues is now 30 days before the first scheduled PFMC Festival.

Dues must be received by **February 1, 2021 for students** to participate in the 2021 Festivals.

Reminder: Be sure to use the memo line on your check to indicate the purpose of the payment.

Best Wishes for a good year!

Linda Maurhoff, PFMC Treasurer pfmctreasurer@hotmail.com

BE SURE TO CHECK THE PFMC WEBSITE, pfmc-music.org under Membership Information and Standing Rules

SENIOR CLUBS

CORRECTION TO ALLENTOWN MUSIC CLUB

July 2021 edition

The last sentence should read: A few years after graduating from West Chester University, my daughter, Michelle Peters became the founder and director of the Delaware Music School in Milford, Delaware. She was recently honored for the position at a special program.

We apologize for the misinterpretation in the original article.

MERCER MUSIC CLUB

Like most every other club our year began casting about for ways to keep our music growing and a part of the community. Our president, Marilyn Rost, and our historian, Carol Mixer, worked together to bring some activities together that keep us in touch not only with each other, but also with wonderful music and the history of our club.

One of those ideas was to pass our Achievement Books from member to member. This not only reminds us of our history, but allows us to remember the members and activities we so cherish. It also gives us an opportunity to “see” each other and talk a bit, albeit with masks and social distancing.

Mary Ellen Ulmer

MUSICAL ART SOCIETY

As I reported the past several years, we continue to see a loss of members. Our current club membership is now currently 30 members. We have been trying to collaborate with several musical organizations in the Lancaster area but so far have not had any success.

For our 2020-2021 season, we have a variety of programs planned. Our programs include: November 8, 2020 – “String Chamber Music” featuring John Hamilton and his string students. This program is dedicated to NFMCA “Crusade For Strings.” December 13, 2020 – “Holiday Mosaics” featuring the students of the Workshop For Young Performing Artists. March 14, 2021 – “A Musical Cruise Around the World” featuring H. Lee Moyer, President of Harmonia Music Association, Lebanon, who will be singing and playing a variety of musical selections from around the world on the electronic keyboard

Linda Flick, Fed. Secretary

OPUS I

Opus I has had successful Zoom meetings during October and November as Kathy Kemerer completed the Course of Study with a program on “Music at the White House” and one on Amy Cheney Beach, American composer in honor of American Music Month. Very interesting information and so well done. Thank you, Kathy. December it’s a “Member Participation” meeting with musical selections by students as well as members, all interspersed with stories, poems and ‘show n tell’. Should be fun.

We are so thankful for the technical assistance of Tatiana Sinelnikova for hosting the “meetings”. And we welcome back former member, Mary Ann Shoenthal, and her daughter, Anna, (a GCC piano major graduate looking for students for her piano studio). We are encouraged to have 31 members this year and invite anyone to “join” our meetings from your computer. Just let me know of your interest at pfmCRAM@hotmail.com. Stay safe and well and wear those masks .

Ruth Ann McChesney, Pres.

JUNIOR AWARD WINNERS

GLADYS WASHBURN FISHER WINNERS FOR 2020 PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR COMPOSER CONTEST

CLASS I: Ages 9 and under

First Place:	Lucas Cao	Age 9	Deborah Rodgers West Chester Jr Composers
Second Place:	Michelle Zhou	Age 8	Ning Zhang
Third Place:	Eloise McComas	Age 8	Deborah Rodgers
Honorable Mention:	Lily Tang	Age 9	Ning Zhang

CLASS II: Ages 10-12

First Place:	Ally Yali Wen	Age 12	Ning Zhang
Second Place:	Shania Li	Age 11	Ning Zhang
Third Place:	Vidhu Sriram	Age 12	Deborah Rodgers
Honorable Mention:	Rachel Yang	Age 10	Deborah Rodgers

CLASS III: Ages 13-15

First Place:	Michael Li	Age 15	Deborah Rodgers
Second Place:	Jia Lin	Age 15	Deborah Rodgers
Third Place:	Yanfei Sophie Wen	Age 15	Dr. Ira Taxin
Honorable Mention:	Aaron Guo	Age 15	Deborah Ro

CLASS IV: Ages 16-18

First Place:	Rishi Raman	Age 17	Deborah Rodgers
Second Place:	Jennifer Liu	Age 17	Ning Zhang
Third Place:	Julia Li	Age 17	Deborah Rodgers
Honorable Mention:	Diana Morales	Age 17	Deborah Rodgers

BLACKBURN AWARDS

First Place: Rishi Raman - \$100.00

Second Place: Jennifer Liu - \$50.00

NORTHEAST REGION WINNERS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

CLASS II: Ally Yali Wen – 1st Place

CLASS III: Michael Li – Honorable Mention

CLASS IV: Rishi Raman – 2nd Place

JUNIOR MUSIC IN POETRY CONTEST

	Student Name	Age	Teacher
CLASS I			
First Place:	Mehar Jain	9	Phyllis Chvostal
Second Place:	Ayana Singh	9	Phyllis Chvostal
CLASS II			
First Place:	Aradhya Sircar	10	Phyllis Chvostal
Second Place:	Advaita Sircar	10	Phyllis Chvostal

MUSICAL THEME ARTWORK

First Place:	Siya Jain	13	Phyllis Chvostal
Second Place:	Aradhya Sircar	10	Phyllis Chvostal
Honorable Mention:	Keerthana Visveish	9	Phyllis Chvostal
	Laila Barley	6	Katherine Barley
	Sonika Duggal	7	Phyllis Chvostal
	Darsh Gurupitty	6	Phyllis Chvostal
	Shruti Visveish	7	Phyllis Chvostal

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are very proud of all of you

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK ESSAY CONTEST

All Juniors are invited to submit an essay for the 2019 National Music Week Essay Contest. The theme for 2021 is “**Music...is a Storyteller**”. Entry forms, pictures and the essay should be uploaded at the **NFMC** website before **January 10, 2021** . Winners receive \$75. Winner essays are published in Junior Keynotes and the News Sheet.

Let's have lots of entries from Pennsylvania.

JUNIOR COMPOSERS

The **January 15, 2021** deadline for the Jr. Composer Contest is coming up soon.

There is a level for everyone. 1st, 2nd, 3rd prize and honorable mention will be awarded in each category.

There is a level for everyone. 1st, 2nd, 3rd prize and honorable mention will be awarded in each category. The 1st and 2nd place winners in Class IV will also receive an additional prize. All applicants are eligible to earn gold cups for an additional fee. All applicants will receive a friendly, age appropriate evaluation from a qualified judge.

Class I - age 9 and under

Class II - age 10 - 12

Class III - age 13 - 15

Class IV - age 16 - 18

This year there will be an online application process. Please check out the **PMFC** website for rules and application.

MUSIC IN POETRY AND MUSICAL THEME ARTWORK

Please take note of these upcoming opportunities in poetry and art for your students.

The Music in Poetry deadline is January 15th and the Musical Theme Artwork is due March 1st. Submissions may either be mailed or emailed. Applications and rules for these contests can be found under forms at the updated PFMC website, pfmc-music.org.

I am looking forward to seeing more participation from teachers and students for these events. This is a great opportunity for students looking for something fun, imaginative and safe to do during this pandemic. Jessica Wood, chair Contact info: jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com, 648 Crabapple Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117

STUDENT/COLLEGIATE

2021 NFMC STUDENT/COLLEGIATE AUDITIONS

Biennial NFMC Student/Collegiate Audition applications and recordings are due **February 15, 2021**. Entrants must be between the age of 19 but not 26 by the application date. There is no judging at the state level. The NFMC Student/Collegiate Audition 6 awards are at various amounts with the winner receiving \$3,000. Additional awards are given in divisions according to merit. Procedures are changed this year. All applications and required repertoire are to be uploaded to NFMC. Entrants from Pennsylvania should complete the application and upload it to the NFMC site, www.nfmc-music.org/applicant-file-upload by **February 15**. The entry fee of \$30.00 is required to be considered for this award. The entry fee can be paid at www.nfmc-music.org/payment. The repertoire list recording should also be uploaded at www.nfmc-music.org/applicant-file-upload.

Entrants at the national level should contact Mary Ellen Ulmer at ulmerme@hotmail.com for information about state awards. Each PFMC entrant receives \$150 at the state level. If declared a winner in any national division, an additional award of \$500 may be added. All entrants in Pennsylvania are automatically eligible for the Harvey Gaul Award of \$2,000.. Mary Ellen Ulmer, Chair

DEPARTMENTS

CRUSADE FOR STRINGS

The purpose of Crusade For Strings is to encourage performance and appreciation of string music among the members of PFMC who, in turn, should introduce Crusade For Strings in their communities. Clubs should seek outstanding students and give them information about NFMC auditions and awards and have well-qualified string teachers as judges for string entries at all levels in NFMC Festivals and in other Federation auditions. Crusade For Strings reports are due by April 15, 2021. Linda Flick, Chair

SACRED MUSIC

I encourage all PA clubs to participate in Sacred Music this year by appointing a Sacred Music chair to include sacred music in their club programs and activities, giving suggestions for including sacred music selections or including an entire sacred music program during the club year's activities. careers in sacred music.

Sacred music is an important part of our lives. Our goal is to make performance and listening of sacred music as a focal point for the enrichment of club and community life. Sacred Music reports are to be submitted to me by April 15, 2021. Linda Flick, Chair

SENIOR CLUB RATING AND EVALUATION

A good way to start this year by by appointing a club Rating and Evaluation Chair who would keep an accurate record of all the activities of the club and its members throughout the club year. The report can be completed at a club meeting as an orientation program..

Just a reminder, that if your club has an outstanding program applicable to any of the sections of the Senior Club Rating and Evaluation Sheet, please include a report of that program with the completed sheet. All deserving clubs will be nominated for National Awards.

****NOTE: NFMC has created two new forms for two different types of clubs – “Music Appreciation” for senior clubs like the ones listed in the PFMC Directory and “Music Teaching” for clubs with members who are teachers who are in the club only for NFMC Festivals participation. PLEASE USE THE ME 7-1 FORM for your club report OR use the ME 7-2 FORM if your club is a club with teachers in the club only for NFMC Festivals participation. Your club may have to use both forms.. All Senior Club Rating and Evaluation Sheets are to be submitted to me by June 15, 2021.** Linda Flick, Chair

NEWS SHEET SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS, & SPONSORSHIP

It's subscription time. **This is your last issue** of last year's subscription. We hope you have enjoyed reading about all the things our PFMC clubs and members are doing. This year our juniors have been especially active. We think this will only continue and grow. You don't want to miss out. Thank you for your articles and pictures. Please send more for the February issue.

Send your **individual subscription** and hopefully a Sponsorship to **Linda Maurhoff, 203 Downieville Road, Valencia, PA 16059-1413**. Form found at pfmc-music.org forms.

Subscriptions are only \$7. Sponsorships are only \$12.



Merry Christmas from Mercer Music Club

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