



**MARY ELLEN ULMER, EDITOR**  
**KATHY SKEWIS, CIRCULATION MANAGER**  
**MARCH 2021 – SPRING ISSUE**

Web Site: [www.pfmc-music.org](http://www.pfmc-music.org)



Dear Friends of **PFMC**,

As we watch old man winter's grip slowly fade, we eagerly await spring. The Four Seasons is a timeless masterpiece by Antonio Vivaldi. The first concerto of the Four Seasons by Vivaldi is "*Spring*," describing its freshness and beauty. The first movement includes birdsong and a spring storm, the second a shepherd who sleeps with his faithful dog by his side and the third is a lively spring dance. The concertos offer their own musical exhibition through all players, the soloists burning the brightest.

*"Spring" or "La primavera," starts with the clarity and crispness of a typical spring day, accompanied by the choirs of birds and streams. It is invaded by a sudden thunderstorm, but the singing birds soon regain dominance. The movement ends with a lively country dance, with inhabitants celebrating the return of fauna and flora after a harsh winter."*

In some ways, the above description of "*Spring*" can run as a parallel metaphor for what the entire human race has had to endure through the past year with the COVID-19 pandemic. Vivaldi's "*Spring*" music composition certainly symbolizes the year 2020. The clarity and hidden similarities between the concerto's storyline and the actual reality of what we have endured is quite remarkable. But, as Vivaldi shows us there is hope for brighter days and gives us a chance to wash away winter's grasp with an energetic dance.

Yes, we have ALL been directly impacted by the pandemic over this past year, in too many ways to count. But, it seems we are giving ourselves the opportunity to let our anxieties go and enjoy a new year that, we hope and pray, 2021 allows us to have some of our freedoms back. These include good health (with the help of vaccines), thus providing us with the ability to get back to work which then pays forward with supporting local businesses and restaurants and finally, thankfully, the chance to be able to be with our friends and family – in person rather than over an internet phone line.

*"Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," sits at the very pinnacle of classical music alongside Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony." With greatness so pristine, its merit will never be bounded by time, but only through the genius of its creator"*

**PFMC** is also achieving great things by fostering a love of music. We sit at the top with premier events like the Festival program which promotes American music, competitions, student auditions, numerous scholarships, and contests, all the while providing opportunities for composers and performers to develop and maintain high musical standards to reach their greatest potential. Especially, as we are emerging from the fog of COVID, we can be of service to communities with music outreach and provide outstanding musical performances to uplift our hearts and minds and heal our souls.

I take pride in preserving our heritage and our legacy with Federation. How can YOU show your pride? Do you share what your involvement is with **PFMC** with others? Do you promote events and/or performances in your community? Do you invite new people and include them in **PFMC** gatherings (even on-line)? Do you connect with the younger generations and educate them about **PFMC** and all that it offers? Do you wear an Insignia pin that would allow a conversation to begin about **PFMC**?

These are just a few suggestions. Remember **PFMC** membership is all inclusive, professionals, amateurs and supporters of the arts. We are the *connection* that can provide the **PFMC** the longevity it deserves!

### **The Federation WELCOMES EVERYONE !!!**

Our organization is unique and just as Vivaldi showcased in his “*Spring*” composition, the story is ever-changing. Our ability to adapt and change in an ever-changing environment is one of our strengths. **I am PROUD of PFMC and you should be too!!!** Springtime is upon us! Become a “soloist” for the **PFMC** and make some *CONNECTIONS!!!*

Be sure to keep checking the new **PFMC** website for up-to-date information, list of calendar dates to remember and upcoming events. [www.pfmc-music.org](http://www.pfmc-music.org)

*“Keeping Musical Connections Alive So We Can Survive and Thrive”*

*All my best wishes to you and “SPRING” BLESSINGS,  
Charlene, PFMC President  
[pfmcpres123@gmail.com](mailto:pfmcpres123@gmail.com)*

## **MEET THE BOARD**

We are delighted to welcome Jessica Wood to the **PFMC** Board as state chair for Music in Poetry and Musical Theme Artwork.

Wood is a young musician from Wampum, Pennsylvania. She holds a minor in Music Arts from Oral Roberts University and has been actively sharing her love for music in the form of teaching since 2015. Over the past two and a half years Jessica has been building a local clientele of piano and violin students in her home studio located in Ellwood City.

Jessica studied violin under James Stephenson and received her piano training from Joan Cosgrove, both from New Castle. Jessica participated in numerous **NFMC** Festivals piano events for thirteen consecutive years earning the **President’s Cup** her senior year. She is now encouraging her students to grow in their musical abilities by participating in this program!

Aside from music, she greatly enjoys gardening, reading, and spending time outdoors.



## **KEYSTONE TRIBUTE**

Keystone Tribute Gifts have been given to the Keystone Tribute Fund.

In memory of **Gaddy Wienckdski** given by the *Musical Art Society*, her home club in Lancaster.

In memory of **Gwen and John Klus** given by *Mary Ellen Ulmer*.

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

## MEMORIALS



Former **PFMC** Board Member **Gwen Elsie Klus** was born in Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania and lived there most of her life. She passed away on February 25, 2021, at the age of 81. Gwen earned her Music Education degree at Susquehanna University where she met her husband, John Klus. They were married on March 25, 1960. They had three sons, Kenneth, Brandon and Tyler.

Gwen taught music in the Sullivan County School District. She loved Folk Music and shared her passion and collection of folk instruments with others with programs for the Dushore Music Club, of which she was a member and other audiences within the community. She was the Folk Music Chair for **PFMC**. Gwen served as the national Folk Music Chair for **NFMC**. In addition, she was involved with the Sullivan County Scholarship Association. Gwen was close to her roots. She shared historical programs throughout the area, and was active with Sullivan County Museum.

Her smile, laugh and active mind will be missed by all who knew her and shared her passion for folk music, folklore and history. Music has lost a great friend and advocate.

**John Robert Klus**, age 82, of Laporte, PA, passed away on Thursday, December 24, 2020, at the Highlands Health & Restoration Center, in Laporte, PA, after a brief illness.

John attended Susquehanna University, where he met his future wife, the former Gwen Park, of Eagles Mere. After graduation he served in the army for three years..

He was a registered surveyor in the field of Civil Engineering in PA and MD for 50 years before retiring to Sullivan County in 2002. In that time John he served as Borough Engineer and a council member for Laporte Borough.



John enjoyed model trains, tinkering, woodworking, and serving his community as a member of Eagles-Mere Lions Club, Sonestown American Legion Post #601, and acting as Little League coach for his three boys.

**Gwen and John** will be missed by their friends throughout the Sullivan County area and the music community.

## SENIOR CLUBS

### MERCER MUSIC CLUB

During the winter months members continued to enjoy music by internet and by postings by members to be shared. Musical Valentines brightened the days of February.

Our connection to the elementary music program provided us with a happy surprise. Tracy Weller, the elementary music teacher shared a video of the students performing on their drums and Orff instruments. We had enjoyed many of these students as guests through the years at our March meetings. It was a great reminder that music does form a bond.

We are now considering ways to start up our meetings as the social distancing requirements are eased. One thing that remains is the true bond with our members, our schools and our community.

Mary Ellen Ulmer

### MUSICAL ART SOCIETY

I am pleased to announce that our club gained one member this year. Her name is Deborah Kelleher who has moved her piano studio to the Lancaster area and will be entering her students in NFMC Festivals this year.

Philadelphia District (South) NFMC Festivals was held virtually again this year on Saturday, March 20, 2021 with several teachers and studios in the Philadelphia District who will be entering their students.

We did not hold programs in January or February this year due to declining attendance at our programs. Our March program is entitled “**A MUSICAL CRUISE AROUND THE WORLD**” and will feature Harmonia Music Association President, H. Lee Moyer, on electronic keyboard singing and playing songs from different countries.

Our April program is entitled “**SPRINGTIME SERENADE,**” and will feature the members of the Workshop For Young Performing Artists (W.Y.P.A.) and will be chaired by the W.Y.P.A. Counselors.

We have decided to cancel our annual May Banquet again this year, which was scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be giving our Memorial Awards to qualifying students who will receive their checks and certificates either at the April program or in the mail.

We are still undecided if we will be holding our “Music For A Summer Night” concert series this year which is held every Tuesday evening in June. Linda Flick, Fed. Secretary

### **OPUS I MUSIC SOCIETY Does Poetry And Rutter!**

We in Opus I are so thankful to Tatiana Sinelnikova for hosting our Zoom club meetings the last couple months. On February 8th, 14 members were on-line to share poems! It was also a celebration of the Junior Music in Poetry contest that our member, Jessica Wood, chairs for **PFMC** and the winning poems were read by Jessica, Ginny Netchi, Daryl Kemerer and Kathy Csellar. It turned out to be a very meaningful time for each of us and almost brought tears. From Karen’s “How Do I Love Thee?” inspirational moment to Dennis’s poem written to Joyce on their 25th wedding anniversary, it was a complete variety of offerings.

On March 8th, again via Zoom, Kathy Csellar did a program on the life and music of John Rutter, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of his birth! She presented an excellent overview of his musical accomplishments and even read what he wrote about himself in a short bio! Most interesting and well done. Phyllis Smouse read Rutter’s poem “Look at the World” for our Inspirational Moment. One verse states: “Look at the earth; bringing forth fruit and flower; Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain. Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain”.

April 12th we’ll celebrate NFMC’s National Music Week theme, “Music.... Is a Storyteller” with members sharing short stories that are meaningful to them! Ruth Ann McChesney, President

## **COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS**

### **MUSIC IN POETRY AND MUSICAL THEME ARTWORK**

Do you have students that enjoy expressing their musical ideas in words or picture form? As chairman of both the Music in Poetry and Musical Theme Artwork federated events, I encourage you to keep these unique opportunities in mind! Participation in these events have increased this past year and I hope to see more creativity coming my way in the years to come.

The Music in Poetry deadline is January 15th and the Musical Theme Artwork deadline is March 1st for any given calendar year – and they are free to enter! The applications and rules for each of these events can be found under the “Forms” section on the PFMC website. The winning poem from each age bracket can also be entered into the National Poetry Contest, titled Angie Greer.

These winning poems and artwork are then published in our Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs Junior Winners Book that Priscilla Day beautifully orchestrates. Reach out to her for your own copy – I guarantee you will be inspired by the creativity and talent of our youth displayed in this book!!

I would like to share my favorite poem with you from this year's selection. Not only is it very well written, it is so relatable by us all! The author is Siya Jain and she is a very active young musician. I hope you enjoy her poem as much as I have:

Jessica Wood, Chair

## **Covid Music**

When Covid filled the world  
music uncurled  
My ears heard the cries  
but also heard the wise  
The sound of music overflowed  
And its rhythm was the secret code  
Da dum da dum da dum  
was the hum  
When Covid filled the world  
music uncurled

With every note I heard  
the world became clustered  
With every silent rest  
someone waited for a test  
With every sharp higher up  
people bought a pup  
With every flat lowering  
the West was smoldering  
With everything halted  
music resulted  
When Covid filled the world  
music uncurled

Concerts through Zoom  
in the family room  
The noise filled the home  
with Google chrome  
Musicians all around  
were set down,  
but many played on  
despite the marathon  
People listened to the melody  
and loved endlessly  
When Covid filled the world  
Music uncurled

Siya Jain  
1<sup>st</sup> Placed of Class III 2021

## JUNIOR AWARD WINNERS



**Siya Jainis** is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. She has been studying music for 8 years. She has participated in the **PFMC** Music in Poetry and Music Theme Artwork contests for several years. Her artwork has been featured on the cover of the annual **PFMC** Student Composition Publication.

She has performed in the national program for the past 8 years in Guild performing a 10 piece program each year. Siya enjoys participating in tennis, Indian classical dance (Bharatanyam), and debate.

## COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

### NFMC NE REGION WENDELL IRISH VIOLA AWARD

As the **NFMC** NE Region Wendell Irish Viola Award Chair from PA (Publicity Only), I encourage each of the clubs in PA to participate by encouraging viola students to continue to study with a teacher of the recipient's choice by providing financial assistance and/or by giving them information to introduce them to the competition. The information can be found on the **NFMC** Website: [nfmc-music.org](http://nfmc-music.org). The PA State Chair will attend to the promotion of the award in PA and will carry out the PA state recorded auditions. The Regional Chair will promote the award and assist the State Chair.

I have sent publicity letters out to the state presidents or their representatives and the state chairs in the nine states in the **NFMC** NE Region reminding them to contact the teachers and studios in their state to introduce their students to this competition.

Linda Flick, **NFMC** Northeast Region Chair

## DEPARTMENTS

### CRUSADE FOR STRINGS

I encourage all PA clubs to participate in Crusade For Strings this year by appointing a club Crusade For Strings chair to promote club programs, community programs, and to involve young people in string programs and concerts. Clubs should seek outstanding students and give them information regarding **NFMC** auditions and awards and have well-qualified string teachers as judges for string entries at all levels in **NFMC** Festivals and in all other Federation auditions. Clubs should also include string programs involving speakers, workshops, or performers for at least one club program each year. Your club could also participate by supporting a youth string orchestra, a full orchestra, or by offering scholarships to string students to attend summer music or string camps.

The purpose of Crusade For Strings is to encourage performance and appreciation of string music among the members of the **PFMC** who, in turn, should introduce Crusade For Strings in their communities. The goal should be to organize performing string ensembles or orchestras in every community in Pennsylvania.

NOTE: Even if your club didn't participate this year due to COVID-19, please send a report saying that your club didn't participate. If your club participated virtually, please send a report noting that.

All Crusade For Strings reports are to be submitted to me by April 1, 2021.

**(NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE):**

**Linda Flick, 428 West King Street, Apt. 1, Lancaster, PA 17603-3796.**

Linda Flick, Chair

## SACRED MUSIC

To help your club to become more active in Sacred Music, I encourage each PA club to appoint a Sacred Music Chair to help to include sacred music in club programs and activities, and to sponsor programs of sacred music in their club and also in hospitals, nursing homes, and in the community. This chair could give suggestions for including sacred music selections or an entire sacred music program during the club year's activities. These suggestions should include hymns which refer to music and song within the text. Each club can support and participate in church music programs and provide scholarships for young people pursuing careers in sacred music. Your club could also organize a choir festival or sponsor programs of sacred music using choirs and ensembles of all ages. Christmas, Easter, weddings and funerals would be excellent opportunities to offer programs of sacred music in churches and in the community.

Clubs could also invite a guest artist to perform a program of sacred music at a club program or in the community. Sacred music is an important part of our lives and the goal is to promote the performing of and the listening of sacred music as a focal point for the enrichment of club and community life.

NOTE: Even if your club didn't participate this year due to COVID-19, please send a report saying that your club didn't participate. If your club participated virtually, please send a report noting that.

All Sacred Music Reports are to be submitted to me by April 1, 2021.

**(NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE):**

**Linda Flick, 428 West King Street, Apt. 1, Lancaster, PA 17603-3796**

Linda Flick, Chair

## SENIOR CLUB RATING AND EVALUATION

I encourage all PA clubs to participate in the Senior Club Rating and Evaluation report this year 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 also be completed by the club president, an appointed chair, or a committee. It can be completed at a club meeting as an orientation program to assist members in understanding the full scope of PFMC work. A notebook could be provided at each club meeting to record the volunteer hours given by each club member in the community, church, or any other organizations.

The Senior Club Rating and Evaluation Sheet is an excellent source of information for programs and special projects. Please use it in planning interesting and informative programs for the club year that will generate enthusiasm and promote interest in all phases of the work of the **PFMC**. It can also serve as a gauge to evaluate the successes and failures of the club year.

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.

Please download and use the new updated Senior Club Rating and Evaluation Report Form

(ME 7-1) which you will find on the **NFMC** website. Please use this form as this is the most recent form. Click on "Publications", then click on "Membership", then select ME 7-1 for the Senior Club Reporting Form.

NOTE: Please send reports in for Senior Club Rating for activities your club did participate in for 2020-2021 even though it may not have been very much activity due to COVID-19. I still need reports for what your club did participate in. Please report any virtual programs or activities for this year. Your reports should be submitted to me by July 1, 2021.

**(NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE):**

**Linda Flick, 428 West King Street, Apt. 1, Lancaster, PA 17603-3796.**

Linda Flick, Chair

## NEWS SHEET SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS, & SPONSORSHIP

It's subscription time. 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 our Summer issue. **Deadline:: June 30.**

Don't miss out on all PFMC is doing to keep music in our lives and the lives of our community. Send your **individual subscription** and hopefully a Sponsorship to **Linda Maurhoff, 203 Downieville Road, Valencia, PA 16059-1413.** as soon as you finish reading this issue.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION  
OF MUSIC CLUBS, INC.**  
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