

Martha Heise, PFMC Festivals Chair
12 Smedley Street
Oil City, PA 16301
Phone 814-758-2240
email: mheise@mail.ocasd.org



PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS, INC.
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PFMC Festivals Chair

First, I would like to introduce myself, as the new State Festivals Chair. I have been involved in the Festivals system since I was 6 years old and attended the Festivals myself under my own teacher. Back then, we drew a number from a hat and waited your turn to audition. It was somewhere in Grove City and I remember sitting in a long hallway waiting and waiting...time flies now 48 years later a lot has changed since then. I attended Festival through my senior year in 4 events and earning several cups in all events ending at Slippery Rock University before heading to university. After a few years in my own studio, I was asked to chair the festival in my area and have been doing so now for over 25 years now. I am pleased and honored to be serving you in this new capacity and hope you will bear with me as I jump in.

Now, as you prepare for your Festivals this year, please be aware of some new changes put into place for the year. PFMC has taken on the cost of covering the Child Protection insurance for each Festival Area, with the assumption that ALL teachers and judges will complete clearances for the event. Below are the links to apply online or to print out the paper form for you to obtain the clearances (at no cost) that are required to be a part of the event (apply as a volunteer). It is imperative that you complete this process and the area festival chair have a copy of your clearances for the Festival Day. If you currently have a position in a church or a school that already requires you to have clearances, you can use those. Simply make a copy and give them to your Area Festival Chair so they can check you off the list. Festival Area Chairs will be reporting to me that all judges and teachers have completed this in order to be a part of the Festival day. We do realize this is a new and possibly overwhelming thought for you to do. However, we have taken steps to make it as easy as we can for you, and once complete you will not have to do it again for five years, as clearances are good for that long.

Link to apply online or print form for Child Abuse Clearance (choose Volunteer for Festival Day):
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe/child-abuse-clearances/pa-child-abuse-history-clearance>

Link to apply online or print form for Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Check (choose Volunteer)
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe/child-abuse-clearances/criminal-background-check>

Thank you so much for you attention to this matter, all you do for your students. I look forward to working with you this year!

In Music,

Martha Heise