

District II hosts TFMC in Fort Worth



Matthew Lipman poses with Starla Blair, Vice-President of South Central Region, Lora Lynn Christensen, his accompanist; and Lynn McNew, TFMC president, following his concert March 17 at the TFMC convention in Fort Worth.

102nd convention features NFMC notable, YA winner

The 2017 TFMC convention March 16-18 at the DFW Airport Marriott South may well be called "The Viola Convention" because much emphasis was placed on that instrument.

First, the NFMC guest, Starla Blair, is a violist and strings teacher in Springfield, MO. She is completing her term as vice-president of South Central Region. She spoke at the banquet and installed the 2017-19 officers.

Second, the featured Young Artist was violist Matthew Lipman, 2015 Young Artist winner in Strings. He performed the featured concert March 17, accompanied at the piano by Lora Lynn Christensen. He is the first violist to win a Young Artist award.

Third, special music Friday morning came from Shan Su, the 2016 Wendell Irish Viola Award winner. Shan is from Tyler, is a 2016 graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas, and is currently attending the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Other than the viola connection, the 102nd annual TFMC convention was fairly routine. "Music—Cowboys—Culture" was the theme. Lynn McNew was completing her term as TFMC president, assisted by the clubs in District 2. Sixty-four officially registered for the convention.

One highlight was awarding the state's fifteenth Distinguished Service Award to Cletis Williamson of Ranger, the 50th TFMC president. She was a longtime member of the Eastland Music Club and is a TFMC/NFMC Life Member and a Yellow Rose Society member.

Cletis Williamson Receives Distinguished Service Award



Cletis Williamson holds her Distinguished Service Award certificate presented by Lynn McNew (left), TFMC

president. Standing with her mother is daughter Lori, and beside her is her daughter Lauren.

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From Your TFMC President

by Lynn McNew, president

As I started writing this today, I couldn't help but think, "This is the last article like this I will be writing." What a bittersweet thought! I have certainly enjoyed my two years as TFMC President. It hasn't always been the easiest job in the world; however, the friendships I have made along the way have been well worth the few worrisome occasions I have encountered.

What a busy time it has been—lots of traveling to all parts of our state from Lubbock to Corpus Christi. All the clubs and districts I have visited have been so welcoming and have treated me to such wonderful programs. All I can say is, "Texas is alive and well and we have some very creative people within your clubs."

Have I accomplished everything I set out to do? No, not at all. Some of our schools are still struggling to keep or start their music programs—after all, don't we need a band to entertain at halftime of football games? The cities seem to be doing okay. Keller and Northwest school districts in the Fort Worth area were recently named Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. "The awards program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of the curriculum," from the Keller Citizen. There were 45 districts in Texas, out of a total of 257 in the country, who received this award. If your community was one of them, congratulations. We are making progress.

I am also continuing to be concerned about our membership. Although some of our clubs are growing by leaps and bounds (yeah, Corpus Christi!) we are losing others. We all need to work together on this problem—Corpus, I think you will have to tell us your secret!

Our 2017 state convention was very successful. We didn't have as many people in attendance as in the past, but I blame that on Spring Break.

Members had already made plans with their families to travel, etc. But those who were there really enjoyed it, I think. The theme was "Music—Cowboys—Culture." Thursday night was our cowboy night, with attendees dressed in their finest Western wear and a varied program that included everything from singers to a recorder ensemble and music of all types.

Friday night was our culture evening, with our formal banquet and a delightful concert by our Young Artist, Matthew Lipman. Our new officers for 2017-2019 were elected and installed. Your new president will be Lois Armor, from San Antonio.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Cletis Williamson. She was delightfully surprised and honored. Her son and daughter, grandson and granddaughter were in attendance to see the presentation.

Starla Blair was our National Guest, along with her husband Terry. Starla is South Central Region Vice-President. She and Terry are always such an enjoyable couple and have given so much of themselves to NFMC.

Our first musical interlude on Thursday afternoon was someone we all know and enjoy, Shan Su, violist, who was the 2015 Wendell Irish Strings winner. This was definitely the "viola" convention, as both Shan and Matthew play viola and Starla does as well.

On Friday we had two musical interludes—the first being a call for "Arkansas Gives" fundraiser, with a rousing rendition of her original song led by Jean Moffatt. The other was a vocalist from Abilene, Shalesia Brown, who is going to be attending an opera training program in Austria this summer. She presented a varied program from opera to gospel, which really showed her abilities.

On Saturday, our TFMC Festival Chorus, under the direction of Mary Helen Collier, and accompanied by Kathy Moriarty, entertained us. There selections included "Let Freedom

Ring," "What a Wonderful World" and "Hymn of Promise." Well done!

Carlie Burdett led us in a moving Memorial Service with a special pictorial tribute to Gloria Thrasher and beautiful music, including a Ladies' Ensemble singing "Blessings," by Laura Story and the entire assembly singing Ronald Bennett's "We Pause to Remember," arranged by Marque McKay.

The 2018 convention will be in Midland. Start making plans to attend. If you have never been to a state convention, you should go—you won't be sorry. Other up-coming events, although not so far in the distance, are the NFMC Convention which will be in Dayton, Ohio, June 20-24, Federation Days at Opera in the Ozarks, July 19-22, and the Fall State Board Meeting August 18 & 19, at the Embassy Suites Love Field in Dallas.

Some changes have been made in the Junior Division. Cathy Neidert, after over 20 years in a dual role, has become of TFMC All-State Festival Chairman; Jennifer Key has moved to the position of NFMC Texas Festival Chairman; and Shirley Cheung has taken on the job as TFMC Festival Cup Chairman, vacated by Jennifer. Mary Thomason continues as TFMC Junior Counselor. TFMC certainly owes Cathy a huge debt of gratitude for her many years of spearheading all the Jr. Festival responsibilities. She and Jennifer and Mary have made sure that most of the teachers in Texas are in the new data system, making us a leader in the program. Thanks, Cathy.

Earlier in this article I mentioned "Arkansas Gives." This fundraising opportunity for non-profits in Arkansas was sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Foundation and has been in existence for the last 3 years. Opera in the Ozarks is one of the non-profits contributing and this year over \$45,000 was raised for OIO. I don't know yet how many Texans contributed to this total, but a big "Thank you" to all those

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Convention, cont. from p. 1

Three clubs were announced as monetary award winners for membership growth. They were Thursday Morning Music Club of Corpus Christi, \$500; Lubbock Music Club, \$300; and Marshall Music Club, \$200. The awards were funded by Francis Christmann of Lubbock.

Four became members of the Yellow Rose Society: Carolyn Cope-land, Sandra Chamness, Connie Randall, and Mary Thomason. They bring to 50 the membership, with several more prospects pledging to join.

Carlie Burdett scored her third victory in the TFMC Music in Poetry contest. Her musical setting of "In Flanders Field" was judged the best.

The finance committee voted to allow the executive committee to spend \$100 in memory of a past state president. They voted to place a commemorative brick at the new rehearsal hall of Opera in the Ozarks in memory of Gloria Thrasher, who served as TFMC president from 2003-5 and 2013-15.

They also voted to donate \$100 to the Past Presidents Fund honoring Michael Edwards, who will be completing his term in 2019. It was pointed out that TFMC gives away 80 per cent of its funds in scholarships and awards.

The silent auction raised \$700 for Opera in the Ozarks. It was given April 6 during ArkansasGives, which raised \$45,763 for the Point. This was second in the medium category and

seventh in northwest Arkansas. Bonus money was to be awarded later.

A special guest performer was vocalist Shalesia Rhodes-Brown of Abilene, who is raising money to spend the summer in Graz, Austria with the American Institute of Musical Studies.

The TFMC Festival Chorus was directed by Mary Helen Collier and accompanied by Kathy Moriarty. They performed three numbers: "Let Freedom Ring" by Fethe, "What a Wonderful World" by Weiss/Thele, and "Hymn of Promise" by Sleeth.

It was announced during the student department reports that Texas has two student winners going on to National competition: Rebecca Yoder, organ; and Shan Su, viola. A new Life Member installed during the breakfast was Jody White of Navasota.

Carlie Burdett, chaplain, conducted a memorial service which recognized twelve members who have died in the past year: Maye Payne and Wanda McMinn, District 1; Kathryn Hawkes and Mary Frances Stidham, District 2; Lila Seagraves, District 3; Gloria Thrasher, District 4; Agnes Buhl, Frances Jackson and Virgie Scott, District 6; Jean Kiel and Dr. Graciela Salazar, District 7; and Doris Munger, District 9.

There is something of a shake-up in the Junior Division. Cathy Neidert will continue as all-state Festival chairman, while Jennifer Key will take over as chairman of the NFMC Texas Festivals.

Shirley Cheung will become Festival Cup chairman. Mary Thomason continues as Junior Counselor.

President, cont. from p. 2

who did. Unfortunately, this is the last year for this program.

Since the convention, we have traveled to Oklahoma City for the Opera in the Ozarks Governing Board meeting. There are a lot of exciting things happening in Eureka Springs, the biggest of which is a new rehearsal hall. The board voted last fall to go forward with this building and it will be ready for the opening of the up-coming season. It is located between the office and the dining hall and will contain two rehearsal halls, offices, storage areas and restrooms for use during the evening performances. There are still several areas for contributing to the building: the entire building can be named for a \$70,000 price tag. Duane and Carol Langley have named one rehearsal hall, but the other is available for \$30,000. Less pricey items include \$5000 for a piano or \$50 for chairs in the rehearsal halls. Bricks in the retaining wall may be purchased for \$100 each. TFMC and the Waco Euterpean Club have donated \$100 each for 2 bricks in Gloria's name.

This is the "Year of Strong Women" at the Point. The three operas to be presented are "Carmen," by Georges Bizet, "The Marriage of Figaro," by Wolfgang Mozart, and "Susannah," by Carlisle Floyd. Texas will be hosting the Thursday luncheon and our theme will be based on "Susannah." I look forward to seeing many of you there. Visit opera.org for ticket information. Again, Federation Days are July 19-22.

It is time for me to bid you "Adieu" as your TFMC President. As I said at the beginning of this article, it has been a wonderful two years and I will hold many dear memories for years to come. I know you will offer the same support and cooperation to Lois that you did to me. I'll be around. I send my love to all of you. God Bless You.

Lynn



Lynn McNew pins the TFMC President's Pin on her successor, Lois Armor, at the conclusion of the 102nd convention. See other officers pictured elsewhere in this edition



TFMC district presidents for 2017-19 take their oath of office from Starla Blair (right), Vice-President in Charge of South Central Region, NFMFC. From left, they are Jo Ann Collett, District 9; Lora Lynn Christensen, District 8; Mary Thomason, District 6; Annette Griesbach, District 4; Carolyn Copeland, District 3; Kathy Moriarty, District 2; and Mary Ann Bridges, District 1. Mary Ann is also second vice-president of TFMC.



Starla Blair (left) install new TFMC officers: Lois Armor, president; Brenda Ford, 1st vice-president; Linda Royals, 3rd vice-president; Tim Danielson, 4th vice-president; Nancy Langford, recording secretary; Lynn McNew, parliamentarian; Sue Breuer, historian; and Sandra Chamness, auditor. Not pictured is Dorene Allen, treasurer.

Calendar of Events

May 7-14, 2017 -- National Music Week; theme "Music...An Adventure for Life"

May 20, 2017 -- TFMC State Festival, Texas State University, San Marcos

June 20-24, 2017 -- NFMFC Convention, Crowne Plaza, Dayton, Ohio

July 19-22, 2017--South Central Region Federation Days, Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony, Eureka Springs, AR

August 18-19, 2017--TFMC Fall Board Meeting, Embassy Suites Love Field, Dallas

November 3-4, 2017 -- Governing Board meeting, Opera in the Ozarks at IPFAC, Wyndham Gardens, Oklahoma City

March 22-24, 2018 -- 103rd TFMC convention, Doubletree, Midland Plaza, Midland

Thank You to TFMC

Thanks to everyone for your generous gift of a Life Membership to Opera in the Ozarks. It means a lot to me, and I will never forget how it came about. I am very grateful for your generosity.

Lynn

March, 2017

Dear TFMC,

Thank you so much for having me as your national guest at your state convention. Terry + I both loved being with all of you + appreciated all the kindness + hospitality you showed us.

I loved all the gifts you presented me from the turquoise necklace, embroidered towels, to a basket filled with all kinds of goodies!

Lynn you ran a great convention + again thank you for letting us be a part!

Look forward to seeing you + many of our Texas friends this summer.

Love,

Stark + Terry Blair



Jody White of Navasota accepts her "life sentence" as the newest TFM/NFMC Life Member.



TFMC 3rd vice-president Jo Ann Collett reads her "in for life" charge to Starla and Terry Blair, as husband Jim Collett tries to keep a straight face. Activity took place at the annual Life Member Breakfast March 17 at the 102nd TFM convention.



Shan Su, 2016 NFMC winner of the Wendell Irish Viola Award and now a student state winner in viola, performs for the TFM convention March 16 in Fort Worth.

Breuer receives OIO award

Sue Breuer of Austin, a past TFM president and longtime vice-president of the Governing Board of Opera in the Ozarks, was presented with an IPFAC Pace Setter Award last fall.

She has stepped down as GB vice-president but continues to be membership chairman and an at-large member of the board. We thank Sue for her dedicated service to NFMC, TFM, and OIO!



TFMC president Lynn McNew recognizes Carlie Burdett for winning the TFMC Music in Poetry contest. Carlie set the poem "In Flanders Field" to music. This is her third straight victory in the contest.



Texans at the fall and spring OIO Governing Board meetings in Oklahoma City include Lynn McNew, Sue Breuer, Lee Meyer, Tim Danielson, Bill and Laresa Yick, Richard Drapeau, John Schmidt, and Jean Moffatt.



CHEYENNE GORDON

Cheyenne Gordon, a music therapy major at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, is the 2017 winner of the Leake J. Ward Music Therapy Scholarship of \$1,000.

Cheyenne is a home school graduate from Zephyr. Her major professor and advisor at WTAMU is Dr. Ed Kahler.

Students applying for this scholarship are asked to write a review of their music accomplishments as well as their personal incentive for seeking a degree in music therapy. Cheyenne begins, "For my sixth birthday, my parents gifted me with the present I had begged for all year. . . piano lessons. That was the launching pad into my career.

"In seventh grade," she continues, "I joined my first choir, and that is where I really discovered I wanted to become a music therapist. I have been blessed with parents who instilled a love of music and people in me. I have also been blessed to pursue a career in music therapy at West Texas A&M because I know so many do not have the opportunity. I know it will not always be easy, but this is what I have a passion for, and my degree in music therapy is the way I will achieve it."

Recommendation letters for Cheyenne were outstanding. Dr. Kahler states that not only is she a strong student, but she typically does best in her

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A Note from the Incoming TFMC President

Dear TFMC members,

First, thank you for electing me your President for 2017-2019. It is truly an honor and privilege. As you know I have some large shoes to fill, but with your help we can make the next two years our best yet!

I have chosen as my song "*For the Beauty of the Earth*", my theme is "Educate, Mentor, Include" which leads to my goal of "Membership Growth".

Let's create a natural progression for growth from our Juniors, College students and Scholarship recipients into membership in our local Senior clubs. I have a plan -- Educate, Mentor, Include these students into our great Federation of Music Clubs.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you these next two years.

Lois



Starla Blair's thank-you note (see page 5) fits right in with our "viola" conference!

Deadline set March 1

At the March 16-18 TFMC convention, the executive committee voted to standard the deadline for getting reports to state chairmen as March 1, to enable chairmen to prepare their reports for state. This may not work for all, but hopefully for most.



This is a fundraising project for the
SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY GUILD
to support the Springfield Symphony Orchestra

"Bass Line" by Deby Gilley
Woodcut Printmaking
Juror's Choice Award
"Music To My Eyes" 2016 Exhibit

Ward Winner, from p. 7

class on exams and courses overall, which is evident in her high grade point average.

Cheyenne's private piano instructor at WTA&M says that she is an ideal student: one who can assimilate new ideas with thoughtful reflection and practice intelligently for an integration that will benefit her long-term. She adds that in her estimation, Cheyenne's skills in sight-reading and harmonization at the piano far exceed the average music therapy student.

Her applied voice teacher echoes many of the same sentiments and adds that Cheyenne possesses the right blend of maturity, compassion and musical skill required of a music therapist. In the words of her youth minister for the past eight years, "Cheyenne is the real deal. It's not just words to her, but a lifestyle that comes from within. An investment in Cheyenne will be an investment in others."

Ward chair Amy Andrus concludes, "It is rewarding to know that TFMC will have had a small part in the many lives that she will without a doubt touch during her future as a music therapist."