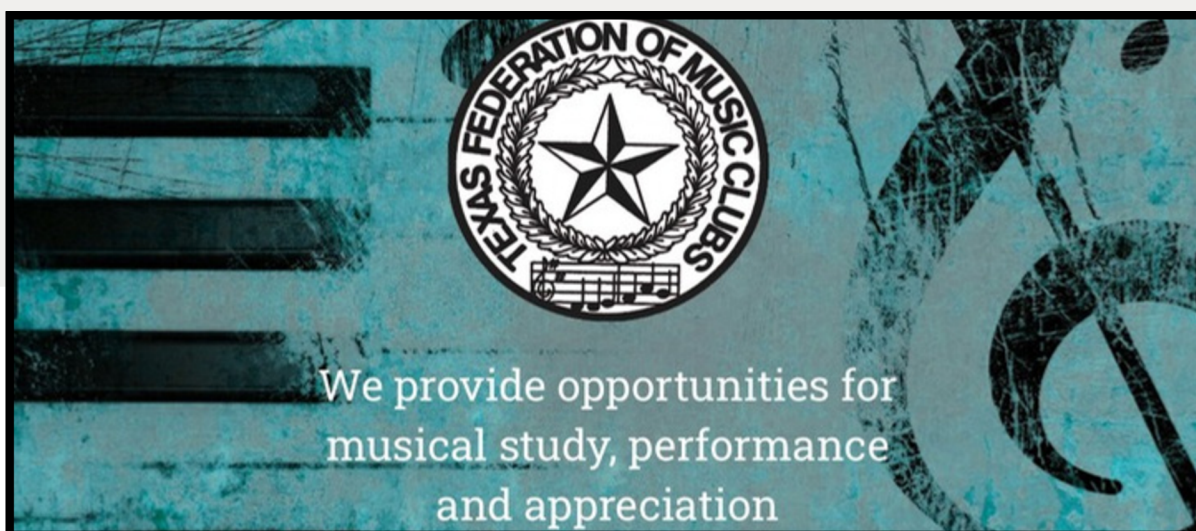


AUGUST 2025

Lone Star Musical Messenger



We provide opportunities for
musical study, performance
and appreciation

TEXAS FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

In this newsletter you can expect:		
President's Bio and Ponderings	Event Calendar	New TFMF Website Info
Directory Corrections --HELP!	NFMF Convention & OIO Reports	Welcome to New Clubs

RETURN OF THE *LONE STAR* *MUSICAL MESSENGER*

The *Lone Star Musical Messenger* will return to publication four times per year. Co-editors are Marie White and Marcia Edwards. The purpose of our newsletter is to inform and encourage senior clubs and districts to plan activities and promote music in their part of Texas. The August 2025 issue includes the incoming president's short biography and goals, news from the NFMF convention in June and Opera in the Ozarks in July, yearbook information, and the schedule requesting your input for future editions.

The November 2025 issue will contain corrections to the TFMF Directory and articles on National Music Week and Founders Day. Region 1 (Districts 2, 3, 5) should send in reports and photos to Marcia Edwards mjhedwards18@gmail.com by November 1 for inclusion in this edition.

The February 2026 issue will remind clubs about reports coming due, the Opera in the Ozarks schedule for 2026, and information about the NFMF Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona in June 2026. Region 2 (Districts 4, 6, 7) should send in reports and photos to Marcia Edwards by Feb. 1 for inclusion in this edition.

The June 2026 issue will contain the Official Call for the TFMF Convention August 5-7 in Dallas, an article on growing membership at the club level, and a reminder about honoring and/or memorializing individuals or clubs. Region 3 (Districts 1, 8, 9) should send in reports and photos to Marcia Edwards by June 1 for inclusion in this edition.

Other news items will appear throughout the year. If you have suggestions about what you would like included, please let the president know.



Lora Lynn Christensen, NCTM

Lora Lynn Christensen, NCTM, grew up in New Mexico in the famous Hatch Valley, then moved to Silver City and earned a Bachelor of Arts at Western New Mexico University. She married and moved to Baton Rouge, where she attended one semester of graduate work at Louisiana State University. When her husband Don graduated from LSU, they moved to Hays, Kansas; Mrs. Christensen completed her Master of Music at Ft. Hays Kansas State University. Don's work in the oil field led them next to Abilene, Texas, where they have enjoyed getting involved in the community.

Mrs. Christensen has accompanied and taught at all three local universities—Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, and currently McMurry University. She has accompanied numerous recitals and musicals at all three universities, as well as at Abilene Community Theater, Paramount Productions, and local high schools.

After many years and offices at every level in PTA, she served on the AISD School Board from 1998-2002 and helped found Abilene Opera Association. She is a 50-year member of Abilene Music Teachers Association (TMTA, MTNA) and Harmony Club of Abilene. Mrs. Christensen started the Junior festival in Abilene, and she began the AMTA Showcase Concert 25 years ago. This concert has become a benefit for Harmony Family Services (a children's shelter). She played for 15 years as pianist for Abilene Fine Arts Trio. She is currently church pianist at St. James United Methodist Church. She has served as president of the Abilene Kiwanis Club of Abilene and is incoming chair of the Harmony Family Services Board. She also served many years on the board of Young Audiences of Abilene; she chaired this board in 2011.

Mrs. Christensen has accompanied the Celebration Singers, Abilene's Premier Show Choir, for over 25 years. She is currently the Director, planning two programs presented to the community each year. In the past, Mrs. Christensen has had the privilege of playing for several NFMC Young Artists.

Now, prepared to serve a second term as TFMC President, she wants to thank all the presidents and officers who have served previously and who continue to do so.

As we begin the next biennium of TFMC and look forward to the semiquincentennial (250 years) of the United States of America in 2026, let us all press forward with new enthusiasm. Many clubs are still struggling to shake off the effects of the Covid pandemic. Sadly, many clubs did not survive it. Because of this, I want to share with you my hopes and plans for the next two years.

Theme:

We are all advocates of music, everywhere, all the time. We must learn to share our love of music and our knowledge of the importance of music with everyone. This includes inviting friends, parents of junior club members, business partners, everyone to join the local federated club so there is strength in numbers.

Song:

Morning Has Broken: The words of this song evoke the feelings of waking up one morning as if it were the first morning ever, in the Garden of Eden. Every new morning is a gift and a chance to begin anew and start refreshed. A chance to right old wrongs, or move past them. Let music invigorate you for the tasks ahead.

President's Goal:

Growth, Communication, Accountability: At the club, district and state levels we must grow. If you are not growing, you are shrinking. Membership growth should be on every member's mind, always. I promise to try to keep communication going both ways from the local senior and junior club through the state and on to the national level. Many wonderful things are being done in the field of music and by sharing them, others can be inspired and encouraged. Part of that sharing needs to be done through reporting. Yes, the dreaded (although they shouldn't be) state and national reports. By reporting we make an honest assessment of the club year. Did we accomplish something? Is there more to be done next year? I promise to make it easier to do the "reporting."

Please let me know what you need from me as State President. We really are all on the same side working toward keeping music in the lives of everyone, young and old. I look forward to serving you the next two years.

Lora Lynn Christensen, NCTM

325-721-8893

pianist@mac.com

President Lora Lynn Christensen's Song:

"Morning Has Broken"

(Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931; Music: Traditional Gaelic melody)

Excerpted from The United Methodist Hymnal, p. 145

Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

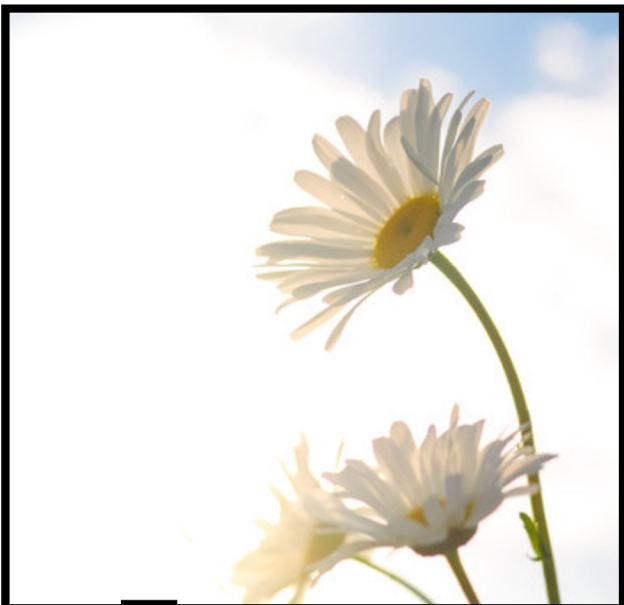
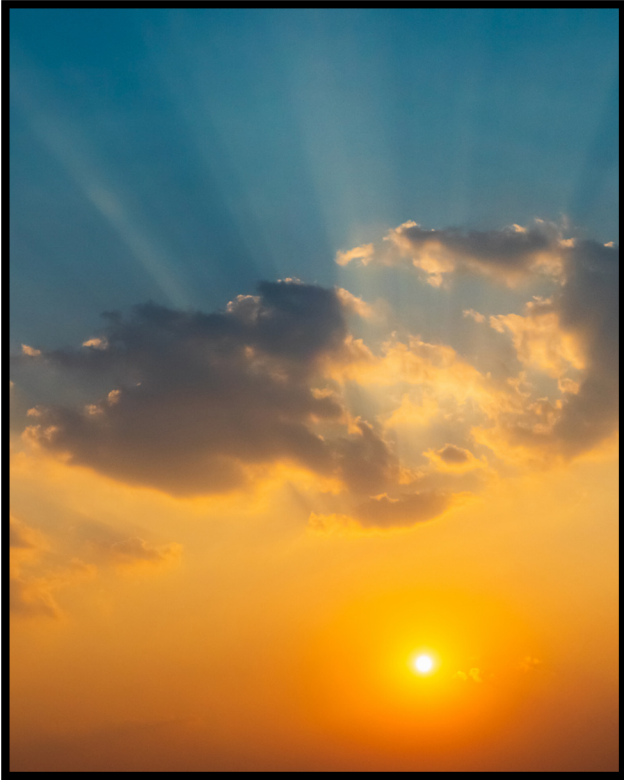
Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

"New Every Morning"

by Susan Coolidge (1835-1905)

(From *NFMC Music in Poetry & Song*, Sept. 2025 - Aug. 2027)

Every day is a fresh beginning,
Listen my soul to the glad refrain.
And, spite of old sorrow
And older sinning,
Troubles forecasted
And possible pain,
Take heart with the day and begin again.



NFMC/TFMC Calendar of Events

2025

August 15

- Publication date for Summer *Lone Star Musical Messenger*

November 1

- Submission deadline for articles/photos for Fall *Lone Star Musical Messenger*

November 15

- Publication date for Fall *Lone Star Musical Messenger*



2026

February 1

- Submission deadline for articles/photos for Winter *Lone Star Musical Messenger*

February 15

- Publication date for Winter *Lone Star Musical Messenger*

March TBA

- TFMC Board Meeting by Zoom

May 3 - 9

- National Music Week -Theme: "Music...is our constant companion"

May TBA

- TFMC State Festival

June 1

- Submission deadline for articles/photos for Spring *Lone Star Musical Messenger*

June 9 - 13

- NFMC Biennial Conference, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

June 15

- Publication date for Spring *Lone Star Musical Messenger*

July TBA

- Opera in the Ozarks Federation Days

August 6 - 8

- TFMC Board Meeting & More, Embassy Suites at Love Field, Dallas, TX



Community News

TFMC wishes to welcome these new clubs

1) Bluebonnet Music Club of North Texas - District 2
Club President - Amanda Latona
Caddo Mills, TX 75135
amandalatonapiano@gmail.com / #706-498-6376

2) Golden Music Club - District 3
Club President - Fang Daniels
The Woodlands, TX 77382
ffmusiclesson@gmail.com / #832-292-7987

3) Mi Sento Stanco Senior Club—District 6
Club President - Carol Feist
Austin, TX 78750
carolfeist@gmail.com / #512-963-3653



SENIOR CLUB YEARBOOK INFORMATION

For Senior Club Yearbooks,
please include the following:

- NFMC and TFMC information
- Club history (Past Presidents, etc.)
- Planned programs
- Membership List
- Club Projects
- Bylaws

Remember to send yearbooks for
grading to

State Yearbook Chair Pat Retzlaff
1912 Rey Drive, Waco, Tx 76712
254-855-0925
pretzlaff@live.com

You can send an actual hard copy or
email it. Suggested deadline Oct. 1.

New Course of Study List:

ME 5-1 at nfmc-music.org Publications
A book can make a great year-long
study or a study for 3 or 4 programs.

New Phraseology

International Music is now Ethnic
Performance. Plan a program with
instruments and music from another
country.

New Awards

Poetry: Regional Award \$50
Choral: \$300 1st place, \$200 2nd
place, five \$100 Honorable Mentions

TFMC Welcomes Three New Senior Clubs!

The Bluebonnet Music Club of North Texas was founded in 2024 and successfully held its first District Festival 2-2 with a recital format, very popular among the students and parents that attended. The first festival was held at the new Wylie campus of Collin College. President Amanda Latona, a recently transferred Federation member from Georgia, with a winning smile and friendly face, did all of the work to get this newest club off the ground and functional. It already has about a dozen members, most of them new to Federation, and it is still growing. Most teachers are pianists, but a few are also vocalists. This club isn't located in one area; it is able to move about as necessary to anywhere just northeast of the Dallas area. This club is off to a great start!



The Golden Music Club was founded by President Fang Daniels this last year. It is a club of several piano, string and vocal teachers, sponsoring the NFMC District Festival 3-6 in The Woodlands. Their first festival was a great success and they are looking forward to the new school year for even greater interest and growth in the NFMC Festival Program. Great job, Fang! Keep up the great work for your students and teachers!



The Mi Sento Stanco Senior Club is a recently formed club of long-time Federation teachers in our NFMC Festival Program. All of these very experienced teachers have participated for a number of years and decided they would enjoy the fellowship a club provides. This club's president is Carol Feist, who sponsors the District Festival 6-5 in Austin. They have about 7 teachers with very large studios. The selected club name comes with a bit of humor. It translates from Italian as "I feel tired." This is an inside joke for all hardworking teachers who continue their efforts for their students and for their Federation activities in spite of fatigue, although "mi sento stanco." Keep up the laughter and keep spreading the joy of music!

By Cathy Neidert
NFMC Board of Directors
NFMC South Central Region Festival Chair
NFMC Festival Committee
NFMC Arts Advocacy Committee
TFMC President Elect
TFMC All State Festival Chair
TFMC Arts Advocacy Chair
Bluebonnet Music Club of North Texas, Vice President





By Pam Price

TFMC Recording Secretary

4h VP and Program Chair, Harmony Club of Ft. Worth

Past President TFMC District 3

Past President, Harmony Club of Ft. Worth

Fellow TFMC members and friends,

Y'all put on some kind of shindig in Austin. Those of us who had the privilege of pitchin' in to help our president Lynn McNew host the event are right proud of what we accomplished. As a first-time attendee at the NFMC convention, I was absolutely overwhelmed at the talent, great information, and wonderful times of music, laughter, community, and sharing.

If you missed it, there were the necessary meetings, of course, but sprinkled liberally throughout were opportunities to learn how to make our local clubs better, and to experience some of the most talented, virtuosic young performers I've ever heard. Not only were they gifted performers, they were brilliant students, dedicated not only to making music but to using their gifts - but also to make our world a better place. Concert performer and luncheon speaker, Mela Daley, brought full circle the benefit of NFMC to young performers. Mela was the 2005 Young Artist Woman's Voice Winner who has gone on to become a Grammy-winning performer in opera, film, television and radio; a major national arts event producer; radio host; and philanthropic and community leader in Texas and beyond. I was made deeply aware of the benefits of being a part of something much bigger than my local club. The National Federation of Music Clubs truly "brings the spiritualizing force of music to the inner life of our nation." I will be going to Scottsdale next year!

INFORMATION/CORRECTIONS TO TFMC DIRECTORY

Information/Corrections for TFMC Directory
(By TFMC President Lora Lynn Christensen)

The TFMC Directory 2025-2027 has been emailed to members from pianist@mac.com. If you have not received it, please let me know and I will send it. Please share it with anyone you think needs a directory. Also, please keep sending me any corrections that need to be made; there will be many. In about 3 months we will send a corrected Directory for you to print in total. In the meantime, here are corrections you can make in your copy.

There are three new clubs in Texas: Bluebonnet Club of North Texas, Golden Music Club, and Mi Sento Stanco Senior Club.

New NFMC Invocation—there is music, also (it will be in the NFMC *Music in Poetry and Song* book).

NFMC INVOCATION

(Debra Hughes, 2023, composed for the 125th Anniversary of NFMC)



Lord, put Your song within our hearts.

Help us each to do our part.

Let us do it with Your grace.

We're friends, Federation Clubs, as one, till the work we have is done for good music in this place.

All creation sings out loud to praise Your gift of life and music.

Morning, noon and night it brings Your light within Your gift of music, in America!

Lord, help us press on forward now, asking You to show us how to spread peace and wisdom here.

We join together as we sing harmony and goodwill bring to the nation that we serve.

NFMC Office Manager is Ashley Mattingly.

Lone Star Musical Messenger co-editor is Marie White.

Claire Windham is president of Carthage Music Club (25-27).

Stephen George (of Carthage Music Club) is District 3 Vice President (25-27).

Rick Valentine is president of Bayou City Federated Music Club.

Lisa Garrett is District 2 Secretary.

NFMC/TFMC Life Membership list is being edited and corrected.

The Yellow Rose Society list is being edited and corrected.

IMPORTANT REMINDER! Please email additions/corrections for the TFMC Directory ASAP to President Lora Lynn Christensen, pianist@mac.com.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

TFMC Website: New Design
www.texasfederationmusic.org

The TFMC website has a new home and a new design! Jennifer Key has worked closely with Stacy Krejci, the son-in-law of Marque McKay and a professional web designer. They updated and streamlined the website. Most of the NFMC information was removed, and the new website was designed to be easier for visitors to view. In the members area, you will find the TFMC-related documents that are useful only to members. Also, new payment options have been added.

The website is only as good as the information that members provide. Please send any corrections, updates, and suggestions to Jennifer kwjjkey@gmail.com so that the website can remain current and accurate. Photos are always welcome too.

From Lora Lynn Christensen: “A great big Thank You to Jennifer Key who is re-designing the TFMC website and getting it updated. All was lost several years ago, and it has been a gargantuan task to redo the site. Please be patient as all information has to be updated.”





Lights up! A New Theater!

Opera in the Ozarks Federation Days, July 22-25, 2025

(By Pam Price, Harmony Club of Ft. Worth; Contributions to this piece provided by Marcia Edwards)

In the opening words of Stephen Sondheim's wonderful musical, *Into the Woods*, "I wish."

- I wish.....you could have been there to see the magnificence of the new theater, standing proudly against the backdrop of Inspiration Point views of the White River and the Ozark Mountains;
- I wish.....you could have felt the electricity in the air as patrons and actors experienced the reality of the dream that has come true;
- I wish.....you could have heard the voices of the 37 talented young performers who shared their incredible vocal gifts so generously, not only at the operas—*Into the Woods*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Carmen*—but also at the Broadway Cabaret, Federation Day luncheons, and dinner!

Opera in the Ozarks now offers the opera experience the way it was meant to be: a beautiful, comfortable space; 300 comfortable seats; state of the art technology and acoustics; and a welcoming lobby. Reality check from General Director Nancy Preis reminded us that while the construction was funded by a generous gift from the Walton Foundation, the operation, overhead, and upkeep are the responsibility of patrons and supporters. The Inspiration Point Center for the Arts organization will develop income-producing activities (including weddings), as well as community involvement opportunities. Ms. Preis announced that attendance in 2025 was approximately 46,000 compared to 32,000 in 2024.

You need go only once to understand how vital Opera In the Ozarks is for developing the next generation of opera singers. Donations from individuals, clubs, districts and regions of NFMCA are more than worthwhile; they are critical. Be part of the continuing legacy of Opera in the Ozarks. Consider joining OIO <https://operaintheozarks.com/patrons/> for all the latest information as soon as it's available. Maestro Thomas Cockrell has announced that the operas next season will be Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica*, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Bernstein's *Candide*. Watch this space for the dates in July 2026.



Texas attendees at OIO Federation Days



New Sign on the Highway



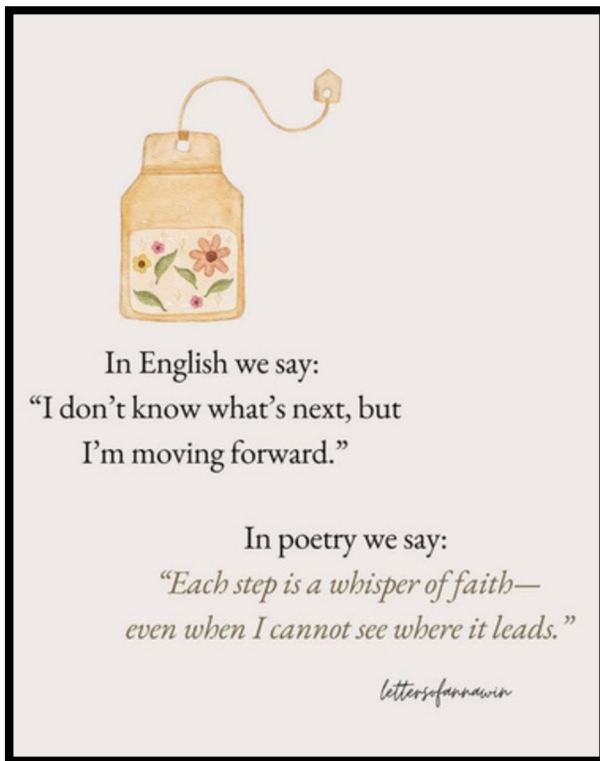
View from Inside the theater



New theater at night



IMPORTANT REMINDER! Please email additions/corrections for the
TFMC Directory ASAP to President Lora Lynn Christensen,
pianist@mac.com.



Please send newsletter
submissions to

mjhedwards18@gmail.com
or
mariewhite@austin.rr.com

Marcia Edwards and
Marie White
Newsletter Co-Editors

Thank you for reading!

TFMC President
Lora Lynn Christensen
pianist@mac.com

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