

NOVEMBER 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 Ponderings	Event Calendar	Information
Met Opera Schedule	Districts II, III and V Reports	Native American Heritage Month



President's Ponderings

The "return" of the Lone Star Musical Messenger in August was a big success. So many people remarked they had missed the regular newsletter and were grateful to have the information. Again, thanks to Marcia Edwards and Marie White and the many who submitted items and articles to make it happen. We need your continued support and input...we have three more issues to fill this club year.

Every issue of the Lone Star Musical Messenger will include articles from various TFMC chairs designed to help you have a successful senior club. Communicating what needs to be reported and when and where is important to forward progress and encouraging growth.

The music year has certainly started with a whirlwind of activity. Again, thanks to so many people for getting out the Directory, updating the website, and saying yes to filling lots of chairmanships for TFMC.

Continued on next page



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS, CONTINUED

By now local Senior Clubs have met once or twice. The year's programs are planned and community outreach activities scheduled. Recruiting new club members should be on every member's mind. We are grateful to be able to continue working toward keeping music in schools, churches, communities and the soul of the nation.

Please send a copy of your club's yearbook to Pat Retzlaff for evaluation. This too can be a way your club ensures program variety and keeps your membership informed of activities at the state and national level. It is important to be aware of the big picture of being part of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Remember now to appoint a member (or members) to do the reporting for your club next spring and early summer. Reports are something we all fuss about, but it is our accountability to ourselves and the state and national organizations. If you start now keeping copies of programs and taking a few pictures, reporting will be much easier. The future issues of LSMM will help you know when which reports are due and hopefully make it rather painless.

As local clubs and districts, we should always be mindful of thanking those who do so much. It is on my mind this month to focus on Honorariums and Memorials. A Life Membership should be awarded to those who have faithfully served at any level of TFMC and NFMC. It can also be awarded to a faithful supporter, roadie, helpmate, someone who helps the official TFMC or NFMC members accomplish all they do.

Many of us are still floating on Cloud Nine after attending Opera in the Ozarks in the brand new theater. This brings up a bit of a sticky wicket. The TFMC Convention is not going to happen until August 2026. This will make it very difficult to do our usual fundraising for OiO. I am open to suggestions. The theater itself is still seeking "named" donations. There are chairs to be named (also piano keys, wall spaces, dressing rooms), all sorts of things that people can send donations toward to help keep the theater operating and have their name permanently on a plaque or name plate. If you do participate in this much needed funding, let me know so "Texas" can take some credit for doing "our" part. We could have a "no-bake bake sale" or a "stay at home dinner." Individual members or clubs could send in donations in the amount it would cost to make a cake, buy a cake, or buy tickets to a fundraising dinner. Let me know your thoughts and comments.

Here is information to help you throughout the club year. These are some of your TFMC VIPs:

TFMC MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION DIVISION

- Membership Extension Chair: Margaret Daniels (report new members, ask for help on recruitment ideas)
- Education Department (Yearbooks) Chair: Pat Retzlaff 1912 Rey Drive Waco 76712 pretzlaff@live.com 254 855 9025 Please send local senior club yearbook for Evaluation and Ribbons! By November 15.
- Senior Club Rating and Evaluation Chair: Lisa Loewe (due June 1, 2026, covers the whole year)
- Senior Club Orientation/Leadership Chair: Cathy Neidert (ready to help your club with questions)
- Memorials/honorariums: Mary Ann Bridges P O Box 65384 Lubbock 79464 poseyrosey5645@suddenlink.next
- Life Memberships: (now \$400) Margaret Daniels margarettannedaniels@gmail.com
4734 S Robinson Dr Lorena 76655



MORE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Good news!

Stephen George has agreed to be TFMC Choral Music Chair and Sacred Music Chair. Needed: one more chair to agree to accept forms for clubs using the Poetry and Song books monthly in meetings.

Sad news.

Pam Price, who wrote two wonderful articles for the LSMM August issue, passed away very unexpectedly. We mourn the loss of her smile, her enthusiasm and her direction and participation in the Ft. Worth Harmony Club chorus.

Useful news:

You can honor and memorialize anyone at any time by donating to the several TFMC endowed funds.

- TFMC VP of Memorials is Mary Ann Bridges, P O Box 65384, Lubbock, Tx 79464.
- Life memberships are \$400 (\$200 stays in Texas, \$200 is sent to NFMC). Outgoing officers at any level could be honored this way. Family members who support members in their support of music could be honored this way. One could always just honor oneself and join a great group of Life Members who love music to a fault.

NFMC/TFMC Life Membership \$400 checks should be sent to Margaret Daniels, 4734 S. Robinson Drive, Lorena, Tx 76655.

Not too late news:

Senior Club Yearbook chairs should send a copy of the club's yearbook to Pat Retzlaff for grading: 1912 Rey Drive, Waco, Tx 76712. If you prefer, you can email her a copy: pretzlaff@live.com. It is fun to get the yearbook returned at the next state convention with lots of ribbons for outstanding work affixed to the front.

It may be too late news:

Hopefully all clubs sent in proper dues to TFMC Treasurer Dawn Humphrey by November 1. Dues can be sent in after this date, with a late fee added.

New news:

NFMC honors Outgoing National Presidents by establishing scholarships in their name aimed at their favorite part of music. It takes four years to build toward this honor. States are requested to send \$250 each year (this is in the budget); Senior clubs and individuals are encouraged to send donations; Junior clubs have been requested to send donations as President Deborah Freeman's heart lies with the juniors. Send any and all donations to NFMC Headquarters with the designation "Deborah Freeman ONP Fund."

Blessings on you all as the "busy season" starts for all musicians.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NFMC/TFMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- NFMC celebrates Founders Day -

February 1

- Submission deadline for articles/photos for *Winter Lone Star Musical Messenger* from Region 2 (Districts 4, 6, and 7)

February 15

- Publication date for *Winter Lone Star Musical Messenger*

March TBA

- TFMC Board Meeting by Zoom.

May 1

- Submission deadline for articles/photos for *Spring Lone Star Messenger* from Region 3 (Districts 1, 8 and 9)

May 3 - 10

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

May 15

- Publication date for *Lone Star Messenger*

May TBA

- TFMC State Festival

June 9 - 13

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

July TBA

- Opera in the Ozarks Federation Days

August 6 - 8

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS - THE MET LIVE IN HD



RICHARD STRAUSS
Arabella

SATURDAY, NOV 22



WOLFGANG MOZART
*The Magic Flute—Holiday
Presentation*
ENCORE PRESENTATION

oliday Presentation

DEC 6 AND VARYING
DATES



UMBERTO GIORDANO
Andrea Chénier
LIVE IN HD

SATURDAY, DEC 13



VINCENZO BELLINI
I Puritani
LIVE IN HD

NEW PRODUCTION
SATURDAY, JAN 10



MASON BATES / LIBRETTO BY GENE SCHEER / BASED ON THE BOOK BY MICHAEL
CHABON

*The Amazing Adventures of
Kavalier & Clay*
SPECIAL PRESENTATION

NEW PRODUCTION
JAN 24 AND VARYING
DATES



INFORMATION

Founders' Day

The NFMC was founded in 1893 with the inspiration of Rose Fay Thomas as a four-day festival at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In 1897 an organizational committee was formed. On January 26, 1898, Alice Follett was elected as the first President. The NFMC is chartered by the Congress of the United States and is the only music organization member of the United Nations. My hope is that you will incorporate this information along with your own unique history in your NFMC Founders' Day program.

Nancy Herring, President
TFMC District II

Insignia Update

I hope you read every communication that comes via email from TFMC and NFMC. In the October 2025 issue of "In Tune with NFMC," the Message from the President included a mention of the insignia items that are available from NFMC Headquarters. It also included a link that takes you directly to the insignia page on the NFMC website. Most of the insignia items now have a photo, which is very helpful. Take a look and place an order for pencils, stickers, or a pin to wear.

Nancy Dobbs
Insignia Chair, TFMC
Treasurer, TFMC District 2
Secretary, Euterpean Club of Fort Worth

Festival Update

To best serve our Festival teachers and chairs, the TFMC Junior Division is excited to announce a new leadership alignment. The team now includes Jennifer Key as the Junior Division Chair, Shirley Cheung as the Festival Chair, and Kiersten Baker as the Cup Chair. Our team is dedicated to providing support and guidance to help ensure a successful Festival season for everyone involved.

Now is the time for Festival Chairs to submit their Child Protection forms. These are due by November 1 so that insurance requests can be submitted on time for Festivals.

The Online Bulletin was made available on October 11. Please check out this resource when reviewing rules for Festivals and before selecting repertoire. The required lists online are the most current and accurate, so please look at these first before making selections. The Online Bulletin can be accessed by going to www.bulletin.nfmc-music.org and logging in with your Vivace username and password.

It takes a team to make Festivals run smoothly and our Junior Division team is committed to helping teachers and students navigate through a successful Festival season. I also cannot create a bulletin on my own, so I look for and value feedback, suggestions, and criticism as I create a bulletin that is accurate and a valuable tool to all.

Jennifer Key
TFMC Junior Division Chair

National Music Week Essay Contest

It's not a moment too soon to start thinking of National Music Week and the Essay Contest! The theme for 2026 is "Music...is our constant companion." What a beautiful theme with so many possibilities! The essay contest is open to any 7th-12th grader--they do not have to be an NFMC member. So tell your children or grandchildren, school students, music students, friends and community members! The deadline of January 10, 2026 is fast approaching!

Just a quick reminder of the contest rules: the essay must be typed and no longer than 500 words. The essay is judged on relation to theme, continuity of thought, and completeness of application. An award of \$75 will be presented in each state that a winner is declared. For the complete list of rules visit [NFMC-music.org](https://www.nfmc.org), click on Competitions & Awards at the top, choose Junior Division and scroll all the way to the bottom. There you'll also find the Apply Now link which is open and ready for you to upload the essay, as well as a required student bio and photo. I know I'm already looking forward to reading the winning essays in the *Junior Keynotes Magazine*!

Emily Hendrickson, Chair
National Music Week and National Music Week Essay Contest

DUST OF SNOW (BY ROBERT FROST)

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

*From New Hampshire:
A Poem with Notes and Grace Notes
(Henry Holt and Co., 1923) Public domain.*

TFMC District II - Fort Worth Euterpean Club

The Euterpean Club looks forward to an exciting season of programs centered around this year's patriotic theme, "Oh! Beautiful for Spacious Skies!... Music of America." The program year opened with a celebration of American music, featuring fun, games, and a sing-along. Members tested their knowledge with American Music Bingo, Fill-in-the-Blank Song Titles, Word Unscrambles, and an American Music Crossword Puzzle. Prizes were awarded to the winners, and the afternoon concluded with a sing-along of patriotic favorites.



**NANCY DOBBS REPRESENTING FT. WORTH
EUTERPEAN CLUB WELCOME TABLE AT THE
WOMAN'S CLUB OF FT. WORTH OPEN HOUSE
ON 9/7/25**



**CLUB MEMBERS FOCUSING ON A PATRIOTIC
MUSIC-THEMED GAME**

TFMC District II - Fort Worth Euterpean Club continued

Our second program in October featured guest speaker Reverend Jim Goodwin, who presented a fascinating program on the American history of brass instruments and their rise to prominence in military, social, and educational settings. Reverend Goodwin shared how brass instruments first played an essential role in military life, later becoming a vital part of community dances, celebrations, and eventually, school music programs across the nation.

Adding a hands-on element to his talk, Reverend Goodwin brought several instruments for a “show and tell,” including two tubas—one a replica of a mid-19th-century model and another that will celebrate its 100th birthday next year. He also shared a 19th-century replica trumpet and spoke about the influential work of Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone.

Throughout the presentation, Reverend Goodwin demonstrated each instrument, performing short musical examples that brought history to life. His engaging style and deep knowledge—enjoyed by our members and guest—made for a memorable and educational afternoon, perfectly reflecting this year’s theme, “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies: Music of America.”

Dana Campbell, President
Fort Worth Euterpean Club



**REV. JIM GOODWIN
SHOWING THE REPLICA OF A
19TH CENTURY TRUMPET**



**REV. JIM GOODWIN PLAYING
AN AMERICAN TUNE
ON THE TUBA**

TFMC DISTRICT III - A NEW DAY

The Pinewoods of Texas are bursting with activity this year. There are more clubs and more potential of new clubs regenerating in areas that have had clubs in the past. It may be that clubbing will take on a new face.

This president has made contacts with District III South local presidents with ideas to build out of teacher senior clubs/junior clubs new federated groups that will facilitate the recitals, fundraisers, public relations, receptions for area school students/studios, and publicity for more venues to feature students as they practice to performance. Plans for president and vice president to visit the Conroe area are in the works. The future includes a goal to link students' families to become members of our organization and learn how to expose their beginner/seasoned student to the wonderful activities offered through Federation. This is what we are all about. They were informed about our meeting through email, but there was theory testing that same weekend.

The clubs met at Twisted Pines Winery. TFMC District III attempted to have a hybrid zoom/in person meeting on November 1. We had a newsy report from NFMC Opera Chair Carolyn Copeland of Carthage Music Club. She emphasized with encouragement the importance of being accountable to fill out forms. Chair Carolyn plans to be available to all the state opera chairs. Also, her experience at NFMC in Austin and at Opera in the Ozarks was delivered with invitations as she celebrated stories of fun and joy during those trips.

Other leaders participated by serving and looking forward to our Parade of American Music on November 12.

Vice President Stephen George and I have developed a TFMC District III folded business card to hand to folks we meet. It will be an introduction of the development of a club in their community. We voted to fund the card as a shared investment from each club and from the district funds. Each member would be a card carrier/giver to easily open a conversation and have information readily available to offer the interested person.

A membership activity introduced was the questions for an elevator speech. These are questions that would easily get a conversation started.

As District III President, I am focused on the goals of TFMC President Lora Lynn Christensen to take our service seriously through growth, communication and accountability. Our year is up and running, and we are making strides for Music.

Brenda Ford, President
TFMC District III

TFMC District V

Texas District 5-1, Gulf Coast Music Association (GCMA), held its first meeting in September. GCMA teachers are preparing for the upcoming Jazz/Pop Festival in November. This event is intended to encourage students to learn new pieces at the start of the academic year. The Festival permits students to select popular music, arrangements, and preferred pieces for performance. Participants may wear costumes and are eligible for prizes. Students perform in a recital format, receiving comments and ratings from a judge based on their performances. In October, GCMA conducted a workshop highlighting the range of events available to members of the Gulf Coast Music Association and Bay Area Music Teachers Association. Over a two-year period, these organizations offer various festivals, providing students with opportunities to study and perform music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary eras.

Jennifer Key, President
TFMC District V

IF YOU DON'T LIKE MUSICAL PUNS



YOU HAVE MY SYMPHONY

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH (NOVEMBER) “THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONIAL LIFE IN TEXAS” (BY SOLVEIG A. TURPIN)



(Excerpt from the Texas State Historical Association website tshaonline.org)

The accounts of early Spanish and French explorers confirm that music was an important part of Native American ceremonial life. In 1535 the first chroniclers of Indian life in Texas, the shipwrecked Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and his party, were greeted by native people who shouted, clapped their thighs, and brought out gourd-and-pebble rattles to which they attached great importance. Almost 200 years later, in what is now northern Texas, the French explorer Bénard de La Harpe was treated to a ceremony that lasted twenty-four hours, "during which time their music did not discontinue for a moment." Spanish archives are replete with accounts of Coahuiltecan dances that lasted as long as eight days and were motivated by such diverse events as seasonal harvests, battles, astronomical phenomena, and the threat of disease.

Singing apparently accompanied most of the dances, with the human voice the dominant source of sound. The 1582 Rodríguez-Sánchez Expedition to the area of modern-day Presidio, in far West Texas, described a festival in which the dancers raised their hands to the sun and sang "with much compass and harmony" so that three hundred men performed as one. Circa 1605, Spanish chronicler Andrés Pérez de Ribas described another such communal celebration, or mitote, in which motets were sung in "the tone and rhythm that they use, the same way one pauses and then repeats the brief verses of a song when accompanied by an organ." In 1645, writing specifically about the mitotes of the native people in the vicinity of Monterrey, in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo León adjacent to Texas, Alonso De León commented that the people sang "in their own peculiar way," words with no meaning (to the Spanish listeners), but pleasing to the ear. He thought that the participants sang so harmoniously, with no discordant voices, that all together seemed to make but one voice. The same impression was voiced by Fray Francisco de Céliz, diarist of the Alarcón Expedition to East Texas in 1718. During a welcoming ceremony, the Caddo men, women, and children were seated separately but sang "without disagreeing one point in their voices," making "a gentle although coarse harmony." That the same response was elicited from European observers so widely separated in time and space implies that Native American music, and especially singing, conformed to some uniform standard that transcended linguistic and social boundaries.


By the time European settlers colonized Texas, the indigenous populations had been decimated by internecine warfare and introduced diseases. Continued on next page.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CONTINUED



Many of the named tribes that are thought of today as native were in fact immigrants—the Apache in the late seventeenth century, the Comanche in the eighteenth century, and the Alabama–Coushatta and the Kickapoo tribes in the nineteenth century. The Tiguas of far West Texas are closely related to the Pueblo people of the Southwestern United States, rather than any more easterly Texas groups. The Caddos, with their tribal headquarters in Oklahoma, trace their ancestry to prehistoric agriculturalists of East Texas and Louisiana as well as Oklahoma. Although descendants of other native peoples undoubtedly still live in South and West Texas, their cultural identity has been lost. Unlike the sedentary Caddos, the vast majority of the indigenous people were hunters and gatherers who lived highly mobile lives that limited their ability to make and transport large or complex musical instruments. The early demise of so many native cultures is reflected in the paucity of the written accounts of their ceremonies, including their music.

The archeological record provides rare examples of rhythm sticks, rattles, whistles, and flutes but is incapable of recreating the totality of musical performances or explaining how and when they were played. Another bias is introduced by the preservation factor; more instruments have been recovered from the dry caves of West Texas than from the rest of the state, where wooden objects tend to decay rapidly. Taken together, and viewed in the context of New World cultures as a whole, archeology and ethnography do substantiate the interaction between music and ritual that undoubtedly prevailed in Texas as well as the rest of North America.



A composer is a guy who
goes around forcing his will
on unsuspecting air molecules,
**often with the assistance of
unsuspecting musicians.**

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!

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The ***Lone Star Musical Messenger*** is an official publication
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