

JUNE 2026

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	Convention Information	Officer Nominations 2027-29
Official Call	Calendar	District Reports



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Happy Summer! As we end one club year and begin planning for the next, we should all attend conferences, conventions and summer music centers to refuel our own personal excitement in keeping music thriving.

Thank you for the past year of informative articles and fun pictures sent in to the *Lone Star Musical Messenger*. There were performances in assisted living places, sing-alongs on the courthouse steps, community leaders' involvement, young musicians enjoyed. The senior clubs are so innovative in programming and sharing music. Communication is the hardest thing to achieve and yet so important for the continuation of the Federation. The *LSMM* is important for statewide sharing and communication.

Every club has now elected new (or continuing) officers for the 2026-2027 year. Please send in this information to Cathy Neidert for inclusion in the TFMC State Directory and Lora Lynn Christensen for inclusion on emailing lists. Absolutely send the new Presidents' and Treasurers' names and addresses to Dawn Humphrey, TFMC State Treasurer.

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PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS CONTINUED

District presidents and chairs, as well as each senior club president and junior club sponsor, should plan on attending the TFMC convention in August. There will be various workshops available and pop-up moments of information. Hearing the Young Artist pianist Misha Gallant at the Steinway Hall will be a real treat, followed by a tour of the technicians' space. Although we meet only once a year, life-long friendships are formed, made more special by the bond of music. Be a first-time attendee and make new friends.

If you can possibly attend Opera in the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas (opera.org) for SCR Federation Days, July 15-17, please do. The new theater is exquisite (although we long-timers miss the sweating in the folding chairs and over-head fans and the semi-trucks and motorcycles roaring by at the most inopportune times). Three operas in three days, and the children's opera on one afternoon, will make for a wonderful experience. Singers from "the Point" also entertain after the luncheons and banquets. The brief meetings are informative. Please remember TFMC supports this summer music camp and consider a personal donation and/or a club donation for the upkeep and scholarships. Texas is host for the South-Central Region Federation Days, so we need lots of Texans to attend.

Musically yours,
Lora Lynn Christensen, TFMC President

- Please consider sponsoring the Young Artist Reception on Thursday evening; any amount will be appreciated. Because we actually won't have time for supper that day, there will be heavy hors d'oeuvres served.
- Donors will be acknowledged in printed materials.
- Send names for memorial service to Nancy Herring, TFMC Chaplain, nancy.herring@outlook.com.
- President and Treasurer of local clubs and districts, please send new officer information to
 1. Cathy Neidert, TFMC Incoming President, gdert9@gmail.com
 2. AND Lora Lynn Christensen, TFMC President, pianist@mac.com
 3. AND TFMC Treasurer Dawn Humphrey, dawnhumphrey59@gmail.com.

TFMC Convention Note

(Margaret Daniels, Membership Chair)

- Rounding up all criminals – I mean, Lifers – for a delightful breakfast, Friday, August 7, during the TFMC State Convention.
- Volunteers wanted: Wear – besides your stripes – lots of bling/bows, etc., for an impromptu style show. A "mug shot" will follow!

“Why should I attend Convention?”

- Please consider attending the TFMC convention in Dallas. There will be workshops on membership growth, officer training, instrument care, program ideas for your club; and there will be time to share your club's achievements and members' talents. You will make lifelong friends across the state—music makes for instant friendship. A most unusual event will highlight the convention: we will hear the Young Artist, Pianist Misha Gallant, and tour the Steinway technician's shop. Most unusually: this concert will be on THURSDAY of the convention at 6:00 pm. If you wait until Friday night, you will have missed it.
- There will be a lovely Memorial service to reflect on the dear friends we have lost during the past year. This is always a blessed time of sharing.
- This is an even year, so we must elect officers for 2027–2029 at this convention. Please be there to cast your vote.
- Come find out who will receive this year's TFMC Distinguished Service Award.
- It seems too expensive. Inflation: We are all familiar with that term by now. Of course everything has gone up, exponentially in some cases. Remember, your meal costs include 24% gratuity and 8.25% hotel/motel tax. The meal costs cover renting the meeting space, the linens, the preparation and serving of the food, oh, yes, washing all those dishes. With your room you do get free parking and a wonderful hot breakfast and a 4:00 pm happy hour snack time.
- Consider bring a first-timer to convention. Until a club member attends a state convention, they do not have a full view of Federated Music Clubs.

TFMC Board Meeting & More, August 6 – 8, 2026
Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Love Field
3880 West Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas 75220

SEND WRITTEN REPORTS by JULY 15: District Presidents and State Chairs, please send your written report to [Lora Lynn Christensen pianist@mac.com](mailto:pianist@mac.com) to be printed for convention attendees. Please be prepared to give your summarized report orally during the convention. Some chairs will be asked to do a mini workshop on their report. You will be notified well ahead of the convention.

TFMC Nominating Committee Report,
June 11, 2026
(By Brenda H. Ford, Chair)

The TFMC Nominating Committee (District Presidents) worked together to bring a qualified slate of officers for consideration to serve for the 2027 - 2029 term.

They are as follows:

Incoming President	Cathy Neidert	District 2
President Elect	Brenda Ford	District 3
VP Life Membership		District
VP Honorariums and Memorials	Margaret Daniels	District 4
Treasurer	Dawn Humphrey	District 4
Parliamentarian	Angela Smith (second term)	District 6
Recording Secretary	Dr. Elissa Stroman (second term)	District 1
Corresponding Secretary	Secretary (appointed by President Neidert)	District
Historian		District
Auditor	Lisa Loewe (second term)	District 4
Chaplain	(appointed by President Neidert)	District

Because the slate is not complete, during the TFMC Convention in August we will call for nominations from the floor and vote individually. Be sure to give this matter some thought ahead of time so that qualified candidates can be nominated. Also, please be sure to ask the candidates ahead of time for permission to nominate them.



Official Call

Texas Federation of Music Clubs 1111h Annual Convention
August 6-8, 2026 Embassy Suites Love Field (shuttle from airport)
Rooms \$159 + tax (\$10 more for extra person) **Make reservations by July 10, 2026**
Reserve your room: 214 357 4500 Code TF1



Name_____Local Club_____District_____
Office(S) or Chairmanship(S)_____
Life Member yes no Rose Fay Thomas Fellow yes no Yellow Rose Society Member yes no
First time at State Convention yes no
Address_____
City_____State_____Zip_____Guest(s) no. of_____

Schedule Thursday, August 6

9:30 Finance Committee
10:30 Executive Committee
11 - 4:30 Registration
12:00 Lunch in Atrium
1:15 Board of Directors Meeting
1:45 Convention
Business/Workshops
Election of Officers
6:00 Young Artist Concert/Steinway
8:30 Reception for Misha Gallant, pianist

Friday, August 7

7:30 Life Members Breakfast
8:30-2:30 Registration
8:45 Business Meeting resumes
11:00 Memorial Service
12:00 Luncheon honoring RF Thomas Fellows, YRS,
and OIO Life Members
1:30 Business resumes
Workshops
6:30 Formal Banquet
Installation of Officers
Starla Blair, National Guest Speaker
7:45 American Music 250 Talent show

Saturday, August 8

8:45 Business Resumes
Workshops
11:15 Lunch

Registration Form

Event	Price	No.	Total
Registration (required)	\$50		
One day Registration	\$25		
Thursday Lunch	\$35		
Thursday Reception	Sponsored		
Friday Lunch	\$54		
Friday Banquet.	\$58		
Saturday Lunch	\$41		
Total	Due by July 15, 2026.		

Make checks payable to TFMC

Mail to: Dawn Humphrey
2920 Edmond Ave
Waco, Tx 76707

Special Dietary Needs

2025-27 Officers and State Chairs

Please send your reports to: Lora Lynn Christensen
2026 N. 3rd Street, Abilene, Texas 79603
pianist@mac.com 325 721 8893

"Lifers" bring your hats and black and white striped clothing. Rose Fay Thomas Fellows, Yellow Rose Society Members and OIO Life Members bring your medallions.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS



DR. GEORGE KECK, Wendell Irish Viola Award Chair
2112 Hinson Road, Unit 23
Little Rock, AR 72212
Phone: 870-403-2951
Email: keckg@att.net

NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Competition 2026 Results

First Place Prize \$2,000: Jennifer Klang, Mountain View, CA
Second Place Prize \$1,000: Evangeline Lien, LaVerne, CA
Northeast Region Prize \$500: Grace Yu, Cincinnati, Ohio
South Central Region Prize \$500: Franklin Fang, Austin, Texas

Congratulations to Texan Franklin Fang of Austin, Texas,
the NFMC winner of the South-Central Region Wendell Irish Viola Award.

Congratulations to 2026 TFMC Junior Composers Contest winners!
(from TFMC Junior Composer Chair Edna Alejandra Longoria)

Class 1: Yeva Wu and Arthur Wertz

Class 2: Qi Wu and Eliot Wertz

Class 3: Tiger Shen and Alex Landry

Class 4: Grant Qu and James Liang

NFMC/TFMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 15 – 17	Opera in the Ozark Federation Days, Eureka Springs, AR
July 15	OIO - <i>Candide</i> by Leonard Bernstein
July 16	OIO - <i>Suor Angelica</i> and <i>Gianni Schicchi</i> by Puccini
July 17	OIO - <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> by Mozart
August 6 – 8	TFMC Board Meeting & More, Embassy Suites by Hilton Love Field, Dallas, TX
September 1	Submission deadline for articles/photos for <i>Lone Star Musical Messenger</i> from Region 2 (Districts 2, 3, & 5)
September 15	Publication date for Fall <i>Lone Star Musical Messenger</i>

Thought for the Day:

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

-- Henry Van Dyke



POETRY

What Is So Rare As A Day In June

(Excerpt)

By James Russell Lowell, 1819–1891

And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays;
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;
Every clod feels a stir of might,
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And, groping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers;
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and valleys;
The cowslip startles in meadows green,
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice,
And there's never a leaf nor a blade too mean
To be some happy creature's palace;
The little bird sits at his door in the sun,
Atilt like a blossom among the leaves,
And lets his illumined being o'errun
With the deluge of summer it receives;
His mate feels the eggs beneath her wings,
And the heart in her dumb breast flutters and sings;
He sings to the wide world, and she to her nest,
In the nice ear of Nature which song is the best?

DISTRICT REPORTS

News from District 8 Abilene Harmony Club

(By Lora Lynn Christensen)

Abilene Harmony Club has landed two new members this year. The eight programs have been varied under the leadership of Program Chair Linda White. Every December Harmony Club takes a chorus of 15 singers, pianist and violinist to sing at three assisted living centers. We have enjoyed violin music, vocal music, accordion music, and we danced the Macarena at the Ethnic Performance meeting in April. The club is blessed to have three violinists, two of them active teachers who share their students with us. Hardin-Simmons University students again thrilled the members with a wonderful opera program in February. The May program was great fun resurrecting American folk tunes from the late 1800s with lots of participation. Harmony Club is a performing club, with every member performing at least once during the year.

Celebrating Strings and Chamber music, Abilene Harmony Club enjoyed the Craig Middle School chamber orchestra under the direction of our own member, Caitlin Clark, standing in left side of the doorway.



Abilene Harmony Club members presenting a Christmas program for residents in the Wesley Courts Assisted Living Center.

DISTRICT REPORTS

Fort Worth Euterpean Club

(By Nancy Herring)

On May 07, 2026 the Fort Worth Euterpean Club held its final program for the year. 1926–27 Cathinka Venth Scholarship recipient, Sophie Gwaldo, was showcased during the program. Sophie is a current Vocal Performance Major at TCU. While at TCU, Sophie is studying under the mentorship of Twyla Robinson and is a member of many choral ensembles on campus including the TCU Purple, White and Blues vocal jazz ensemble under the direction of Amy Steward. Outside of school, she is a choral scholar at All-Saints Episcopal Church under the direction of Dana Campbell. In the TCU Opera program Sophie has performed the title role in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, Mrs. Grose in Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, and Kate in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* under the direction of Corey Trahan. In November 2025 she was named a finalist at the Texoma NATS vocal competition. In June 2025 she had the amazing opportunity to travel with the Tokyo Opera Studio to Japan and perform as the 3rd Spirit in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. This summer, Sophie will perform with the Houston Gilbert and Sullivan Society in their production of *The Gondoliers* (chorus).



Scholarship winner Sophie Gwaldo accompanied by Euterpean Club President Dana Campbell



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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