



The Voice of Music



An official publication of the Virginia Federation of Music Clubs

VFMC CONVENTION OFFICIAL CALL IS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER!

The Virginia Federation of Music Clubs Convention will be held on May 16,17,18,19, 2012, at The Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites Bristol Convention Center for the purpose of receiving reports and transacting the business of the Federation. Please see the attached official call and registration form for more details and to register.



President's Prose

Dear VFMC Members,
 What a busy time of year this is! Who would have thought February would have ended with 60 degree temperatures here in Northern Virginia! I know some of you have experienced "winter" this year, but those of us in the Northern part of the state are still waiting. Mother Nature often keeps us guessing as to what her plans will be. You know, this is not a bad idea. It keeps us in a continuous state of expectation and wonder. Sometimes, not quite knowing what to expect makes life more exciting and interesting. For those of us who are teachers, we can find ourselves continuously teaching the same lessons and pieces and using the same method books. After 25 years of teaching, I find that I really appreciate the diversity of the music in the NFMC Festival Bulletin. Often, I am able to present a new American Composer to my students as well as different styles of playing. For those of you who are not teachers, I think you would enjoy listening to some of this "new" music. As members of VFMC, you are fortunate to have the opportunity to hear the best of the Festival Music performed by the best of the Virginia Federation of Music Club students. The Finals of the Mary Smart Competition will be held May 19, 2012 in Bristol, Virginia. This is the final day of the VFMC Annual Convention and the final program is open to all members. This year, our 91st convention will have many highlights. We will begin by showcasing the posters created by our students in honor of National Music Week (club presidents – don't forget to bring the posters from your club's entries). Thursday, the Official Opening of the Convention, will offer us the opportunity to attend a play at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon (along with a few surprises!). Friday, of course, is the awards luncheon and the presentation of awards earned by the VFMC Clubs. The Nancy Hoback Milne



Citation will be presented to a deserving member of District I. The evening will end in a spectacular formal banquet with Lana Bailey as our National Guest and a wonderful concert by pianist Kwan Yi - 2011 NFMC Young Artist. So you can see, this will be a convention you don't want to miss. All members and friends are welcome to attend the concerts, meals and meetings beginning with the Official Opening on Thursday morning. The members of the Convention Committee in District I have been working hard to make this an unforgettable VFMC Convention. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Bristol. Sincerely,
 Marcia B. Chaplin, President
 Virginia Federation of Music Clubs

From the Chaplain

Some people choose to give up something during the season of Lent. Perhaps this year we could look at this practice another way. Let us not simply give up something, but attach a bit to the practice, such as...
 Give up complaining – practice gratitude.
 Give up harsh judgments-- think kind thoughts for only God is our judge.
 Give up worry -- trust God to provide.
 Give up bitterness -- be more forgiving and see how that works for you.
 Give up hatred -- return good for evil.
 Give up anger -- be more patient.
 Give up giving up -- pray for perseverance.
 I'm certain you can and will add more things to give up. No need to stop when Lent is over at Easter. If we work at this sort of behavior it could become a habit!!
 May each of you enjoy the many blessings in your life,
 Rebecca S. Ford, VFMC Chaplain



Nancy Hoback Milne Citation for Distinguished Service

Forms were sent for the Nancy Hoback Milne Citation recipient to each District Director to distribute to their Club Presidents. This year the recipient is to be a member from District I but any member of VFMC can submit a person for consideration of this Citation. The forms need to be emailed to me no later than May 7 for consideration. If you do not have the forms, I'll gladly send them to you. My email address is stury@earthlink.net. I have a committee composed of one member from each district. The recipient of this years Citation will be announced at the Convention. *Susan P. Tury, Citations Chair*

Club Notes

The **Tazewell Music Club** celebrated a stellar year in 2011 with excellent programs and a blockbuster concert and residency activities by cellist Zuill Bailey. The concert garnered over \$5000 for the Eleanor Jones Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to area music students and music programs. Five graduating high school seniors and two students graduating from college received the Award of Merit from the Club. Three Tazewell County high schools and one middle school were also awarded funds to assist with their choral and band programs. The newly established Southwestern Virginia Music Academy in Tazewell received financial support as well.

The 2012 year is underway with equally exciting programs to culminate with support of the annual Festival of the Arts – VIVA ITALIA! sponsored by Southwest Virginia Community College. National Music Week will be celebrated with a performance on the newly rebuilt Reuter organ at Tazewell Main Street Methodist Church. Proceeds from the organ recital will help sustain the Awards of Merit program for area musicians.
Mary. W. Lawson, President

South Hill Music Club

The South Hill Music Club met on February 9th at the Overby Dance Studio for a wonderful evening of “Dancing with the Stars, South Hill Style”. The dance demonstrations were done by Michelle and Kim Overby of South Hill, VA. Many dances were shown such as Samba, Fox Trot, Two-Step, Rumba, Waltz and others. The evening was a great time had by all and we had a member (Ruth Reams) dance with one of the partners. She stepped right into the role and did a wonderful job.

On March 31st, the South Hill Music Club will hold a fashion show entitled “Fashions in Bloom”. Proceeds from this fashion show support the Annie Lou Williams Scholarship Fund. We continue to fund a number of scholarships in music for deserving students on a local and national level. The fashion show has been an annual event and the community looks forward to supporting this endeavor. Fashions will be from the shop of “JuLee’s” in South Hill.
Charlene W. Gray, President

Music Study Club of Chesapeake

Folk Music brings to mind the times past. But we must keep in mind that the folk music of tomorrow is being written and sung today. It is an ever evolving art. Bert Berry, long time member of the Music Study Club of Chesapeake makes dulcimers and teaches students of all ages how to play them. He has a work shed in his back yard with all his tools. He carefully selects what type of wood his next dulcimer will be, sitca ~ maple ~ spruce and starts to bend and shape the wood. The styles of music played on the dulcimer are Mixolydian Style: Ole Joe Clark ~ Traditional, Mississippi Sawyer ~ Traditional, Wildwood Flower ~ Traditional. Gaylax Style:

Unclouded Day ~ Traditional. Ionian Style: Red River Valley ~ Traditional, Redwing ~ Traditional, Hand Me Down My Walking Cane ~ James Brand. Bert provides a Folk Music Moment for all our meetings from September ~ June. He passes out music and teaches us a folk song and plays it for us every month. What a Blessing! What a talent! Thank you Bert for your time and teaching us something new each month.

Faith Ewell Gutierrez, President

Piedmont Music Club



The Piedmont Music Club sponsored a field trip to the Manassas Symphony Orchestra at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas on March 3. Geoffrey Haydon performed a spectacular piano concerto and met with club members afterwards. On Friday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. the PMC will be hosting a roundtable discussion on pedagogy topics to share and receive teaching ideas and find out what works and doesn't work for other teachers in the area. Mary Beran and Mary Dart, our new festival co-chairs, along with a great team of volunteers, did a spectacular job of running Festival this year.

Valerie Harris, President

The Portsmouth Music Club

The Portsmouth Music Club met for the February meeting on Wed. Feb. 22. The program was given by club member, Mrs. Muriel Shumate, her husband and friends, who dressed in period costumes of the Civil War Era. Several of the ladies' dresses were created by Mr. Bob Archer, a noted costume designer, who also gave a most interesting speech about the music of the Civil War Era and how important it was to the citizenry and soldiers of the times, both of the South and North. Several songs that were popular at the time were sung by Mrs. Shumate, including Dixieland, the song of the month from the Together we Sing book followed by a fashion show of the costumes with commentary by Mr. Archer. The program was given in commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War and included all American music.

Susan Cross, President

Mary Smart Preliminary Information

District II Preliminaries

District II Mary Smart Preliminaries will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at Manassas Baptist Church in Manassas

District III Preliminaries

Cadenza Music Club is hosting the preliminary auditions for District III for the VFMC Mary Smart Competition on Saturday, April 28th at Ewell Hall at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg.



The Mary Smart Finals will be held on May 19 at the VFMC Convention in Bristol, VA.