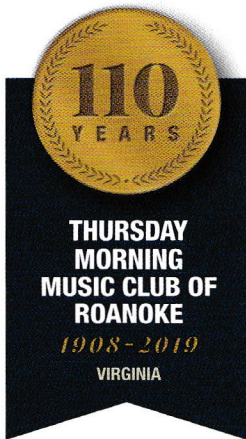


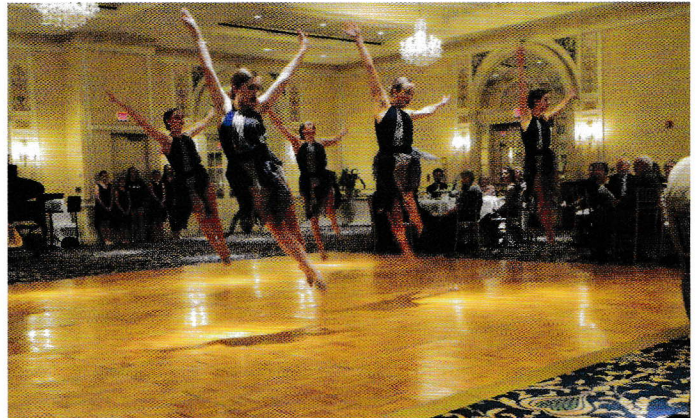
Federations and Music Club Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries



THURSDAY MORNING MUSIC CLUB OF ROANOKE CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

borrowed from Mike Allen, The Roanoke Times

The Thursday Morning Music Club of Roanoke, VA celebrated its 110th anniversary on March 30 in Hotel Roanoke's Crystal Ballroom. There they listened to live classical music and opera, watched a dance performance, and received a key to the city from Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea.



Members of the Linda Watkins School of Dance, all members of the TMMC's Footnotes Junior Club, perform at the 110th anniversary celebration.

Club members came for the same reason that led to the club's founding in 1908 – a love of music, and a desire to share. Beginning with 10 charter members, all women, the club grew in its first 20 years to a membership of more than 550, with a student division adding about 400 more. In the 1950s and 1960s, the club met regularly on Thursday mornings in Hotel Roanoke's Crystal Ballroom and served as the heart of the musical arts in the Roanoke Valley.

grassroots effort that led to the founding of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. Further efforts by club members helped lay the foundations for several long-standing Roanoke Valley cultural institutions, including the Roanoke Valley Choral Society, Southwest Virginia Ballet and Opera Roanoke.



Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea presents TMMC president Judy Barger Edgell with a key to the city.

The ballroom where the club met to commemorate its 110th isn't the exact same room where the club met at its zenith, but it has the same name. However, the entertainment continued the tradition, with a program consisting of singers from

Opera Roanoke's Apprentice Artist program, dancers from the Linda Watkins School of Dance in Roanoke, chamber music players from the Roanoke Symphony, and a piano performance by RSO Music Director David Stewart Wiley.

In the 1910s, the club brought the New York Philharmonic Orchestra to Roanoke. Beyond booking prestigious acts for a concert series, the club organized and promoted regional music and dance performances, even starting a Roanoke orchestra in the 1930s in cooperation with Hollins College that lasted until World War II.

In the early 1950s, the club recruited conductor Gibson Morrissey in a

In the 21st century, membership has dwindled to about 100 members and about 100 junior members. Meetings are no long restricted to Thursday mornings. The club still books a performance season that runs from October to May, providing a showcase for classical music and dance by professional performers. The club gives yearly scholarships to students, including a dancer, a singer and an instrumentalist.

The club concluded its 2018-19 season with a performance celebrating National Music Week the morning of May 11 at the Tubman Museum of Art. Current president Judy Barber Edgell sent the story and pictures for this edition. 🎵



Head table guests include, right to left: Lana Bailey, past NFMC president; Elaine Brady, Virginia FMC president; and Judy Edgell, TMMC president.