



# Lone Star Musical Messenger

SPRING EDITION

MAY 2019

VOL. 40, NO. 3

Website: [Texasfederation.org](http://Texasfederation.org)

## District 1 Hosts the 104<sup>th</sup> TFMC Convention



Lavonna Whitesell, NFMC guest, installs 2019-21 TFMC officers present at the convention. From left, they are Brenda Ford, president; Connie Randall, Linda Royals, Bill Yick and Glenda Reynolds, vice-presidents; Lynn McNew, secretary; Lois Armor, parliamentarian; and Annette Griesbach, auditor.

More than 75 delegates from across the state participated in the 104<sup>th</sup> TFMC Convention, March 27-30 in Lubbock where the Musical Breezes Flow through the Cotton Fields. District 1, led by President Mary Ann Bridges and Carla Jean Johnson, hosted the meeting.

Lavonna Whitesell, NFMC's South Central Region Vice-President, was our National Guest. An added treat, Lavonna's husband Dr. Leon Whitesell also attended.

Music was plentiful throughout the convention. Thursday's musical interlude was Kenny Maines, who sang a number of Buddy Holly songs, accompanying himself on the guitar. Thursday evening started off with a visit from Elvis. Our dinner speaker was Amy Andrus, who spoke on her very interesting journey as a Music Therapist, followed by music provided by the Devienne Trio (piano, flute and bassoon), playing selections from "Portrait of Colorado" accompanied by slides of mountain wildflowers and snow-melt. The Lubbock Christian University's Women's Chorus Forte, under the direction of Dr. Laurie Doyle, also entertained us with music from some of Disney's films.



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TFMC is a member of the  
National Federation of  
Music Clubs



An official publication of  
the Texas Federation of  
Music Clubs

### Lois Armor

*TFMC President*

11003 Whisper Valley St.  
San Antonio, TX 78230

### Marcia Edwards and Marie White

*Newsletter Co-Editors*  
mjhedwards18@gmail.com  
mariewhite@austin.rr.com

Newsletter Deadline for  
the next issue is  
July 1, 2019.

Please send your  
material to  
mjhedwards18@gmail.com.

Friday started early with the “Lifer’s Breakfast” and the induction of Mary Thomason as the newest Life member. During Friday’s luncheon honoring Life Members of NFMC/TFMC/OIO, the Yellow Rose Society, Rose Fay Thomas members and our own Francis Christmann, we were treated to an

“Afternoon at the Opera” by OIO alum Frank Rendon. The luncheon concluded with a video of NFMC’s Dr. George

Keck, interviewing Francis Christmann about her many years as a member of the NFMC. This interview was originally shown at the National meeting in Dayton, Ohio but had not been seen by Francis or many of those in attendance at Lubbock. Music in Poetry Chair Marque McKay announced Carlie Burdett as the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the Music in Poetry challenge to compose music for the poem “In the Evening” by Fenton Johnson.

Of particular amusement was a musical interlude with Carla Johnson and Rhonda Stege performing, in costume, Rossini’s humorous duet for two cats, “Duetto Buffo di due gatti.” The lyrics consist entirely of the repeated word “meow.”



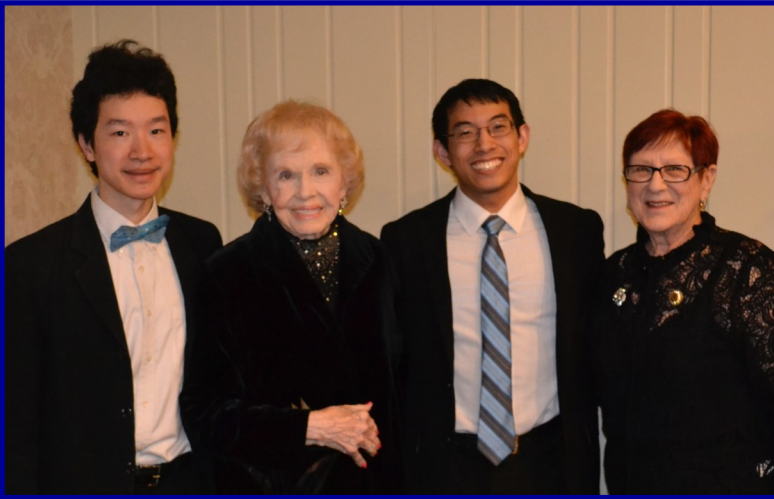
Lois Armor recognizes Jean Moffatt, (40-year editor of the TFMC Musical Messenger), and Dorene Allen, (28-year TFMC treasurer).



New TFMC/NFMC Life Members recognized at the breakfast are Mary Thomason, Lavonna Whitesell, and Leon Whitesell. They pose with president Lois Armor and convention host Carla Johnson.

The Formal Banquet Friday evening was held at the Lubbock Women’s Club. During the evening, The Honorable Phil Johnson was awarded the TFMC Distinguished Service Award for 2019, Dorene Allen and Jean Moffatt were honored for their many years of service to the Texas Federation of Music Clubs, and the TFMC Officers for the 2019-2021 term were installed. Our guest speaker Lavonna Whitesell, along with her husband on piano, presented a program of well-known songs for each month of the year. She invited the audience to sing along to tunes such a “Let Me Call you Sweetheart” for February, “When Irish Eyes area Smiling” for March, and “School Days” for September.





Young Artists Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung, the Happy Dog Duo winners of the Duo-Piano Competition in 2017, pose with YA Chair Lee Meyer and TFMC President Lois Armor following their performance at the TFMC Convention.

(Convention Report continued from page 2)

The evening was topped off with the performance by the Ellis Piano Duo Young Artists Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung, known as the Happy Dog Duo. Most of the evening's performance was four hands on one piano. When the Duo realized there was a second piano on the premises, they performed their last encore on two pianos. And what a concert they put on for us. Such amazing young men.

We enjoyed even more music Saturday morning when students of Dr. Ya-Li Chung Pekowski and the String Ensemble from the Youth Orchestra of Lubbock performed under the direction of Dr. Laura Williams. Carla Johnson announced that the Youth Orchestra of Lubbock was the winner of the 2019 Texas Dyer Award of \$500.

After a quick lunch it was back home with lots of wonderful memories from our 104<sup>th</sup> TFMC Convention held in Lubbock, Texas where the Musical Breezes Flow through the Cotton Fields.

By Lois Armor



An ensemble from the Lubbock Youth Orchestra performs for the convention.

## CALENDAR

- |                      |                                                                                             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 18 – 22, 2019   | NFMC Biennial Convention, Hyatt Regency Waterfront, Jacksonville, FL                        |
| July 1, 2019         | Deadline for submissions for the Summer Edition of the <i>Lone Star Musical Messenger</i> . |
| July 17 – 20, 2019   | Federation Days, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, AR                                      |
| August 23 – 24, 2019 | TFMC Fall Board Meeting, Embassy Suites Love Field, Dallas, TX                              |



## Educate, Mentor, Include From the TFMC President

Hello TFMC Friends,

This is my last letter to you as your President. It has been a privilege to serve you in this capacity. There have been many visitations and speeches, a number of miles put on my vehicle – it has been a wonderful two years. I look forward to serving you in other capacities in the future and enjoying the conventions and Federation Days at Opera in the Ozarks.

What a wonderful convention we had in Lubbock in March! We had approximately 75 registered participants and our Convention Co-Chairs, Carla Johnson and Mary Ann Bridges of District 1, made sure we had a marvelous time from our convention hotel, the MCM Eleganté, to lots of wonderful musical entertainment and fabulous door prizes. Of course our National Guest, Lavonna Whitesell, and her husband Leon, completed the picture.

Next month I will be heading off to Jacksonville, Florida for the NFMC Convention. I hope a number of you will be joining me. This is an election year and new officers will be installed to lead our National Federation of Music Clubs for the next two years. This is also the time when the new Young Artists will be announced.

In July, the Texas Federation of Music Clubs will be hosting Federation Days at Opera in the Ozarks. We are diligently preparing for that undertaking. There is still time for you to become a member of Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony, better known as OIO. Membership starts at \$25.00 a year and that amount can do so much to continue the fine work at this Summer Camp for Opera hopefuls sponsored by our South Central Region of NFMC. You can join online at [www.opera.org](http://www.opera.org).

Have a great summer, and I hope to see you in Jacksonville for our NFMC Convention, in Eureka Springs for Federation Days at Opera in the Ozarks, and in Dallas for our TFMC Board Meeting “and More,” August 23-24, 2019.

Lois

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## NEW OFFICERS FOR TFMC

TFMC Incoming officers for 2019 – 2021 include the following:

President – Brenda Ford (Marshall)

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Connie Randall (Kaufman)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Linda Royals (Lorena)

3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Bill Yick (Copperas Cove)

4<sup>th</sup> VP – Glenda Reynolds (Lubbock)

Treasurer – Sandra Chamness (Carthage)

Parliamentarian – Lois Armor (San Antonio)

Auditor – Annette Griesbach (Rockdale)

Recording Secretary – Lynn McNew (Ft. Worth)

Historian – Sue Breuer (Austin)

Corresponding Secretary – to be appointed by new President



## Introducing the incoming President Brenda Ford (Marshall)

I was born and raised in the Corpus Christi area. Running track and playing basketball were my interests. I didn't win or play during a real game. That's ok. I was with my friends and I lettered. I wanted to be in choir but there were not enough robes.

Virginia Dupuy was my first voice teacher at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. She inspired me. I made As in voice and choir. After 2+ years she sent me to East Texas Baptist College to her sister, Alice Hyde, my second voice teacher. I had no idea that they were from Marshall and grew up in my Marshall neighborhood.

ETBC was where I lived, ate, played and made friends--until I got a red '66 Mustang. Well, the rest of the story goes like this. I went to school for a gob of years and then after marriage and a baby, I finally passed enough courses to get the All Level Music Education BM Diploma from East Texas Baptist University. Yes, I went till it was a university to graduate. After my Senior Voice Recital, my dad said, "I thought you were getting an 'opry' degree" (as in Grand Ole Opry). Oh well!

Following graduation I taught part time for 10 years in Catholic schools, ranging from pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade music, drama, Spanish, and art. I substituted in the jail, correctional schools, and low-performing campuses. Band, choir, strings, general music, Spanish, history, agriculture, senior English, algebra, special education, sciences and PE were other assignments. Also, teaching music camp for Bible School and for summer programs were fun experiences. Two boys fit in there somewhere.

As an evangelist's secretary, I typed and proofed my boss' autobiography. Two years went to a CPA office. The Texas Forest Service, Ryan's Crossing Townhomes affordable housing manager, and assistant manager for Fairfield Inn and Suites were other opportunities. Helping pull together estate sales is fun. Now I am an agent for Primerica Financial Services.

Jeff is my favorite husband. Besides being a high school World Geography and World History teacher, Jeff has owned Ford's Good News Cycle since 1989 in our garage.

My favorite activities include sewing, quilting, collecting art and pottery, gardening, swimming, beach combing, camping, fishing, cooking and eating different ethnic foods, traveling and reading.

Now, for my favorite people! You are my favorites! From Marshall and across Texas, TFMC members are my favorite with so many personalities and backgrounds, doing wonderful things where they live. I remember my first taste of TFMC. Nellie Melone and Sandy Toussaint made sure I got there.

That's enough of that!

*Brenda Ford*

P.S. No, I didn't tell you everything!

## Awards and Honors

### Scholarship Winner

by Carla Johnson



Congratulations to the TFMC Leake J. Ward Music Therapy Scholarship winner Sierra Belmares!

Sierra graduated from Roosevelt High School in San Antonio. She is a current student in the Music Therapy Program at the University of the

Incarnate Word under the supervision of Director Dr. Janice Dvorkin. Sierra is a member of the UIW Cardinal Chorale where she auditioned for, and was awarded, the position of alto section leader. She was also elected by her peers to be an officer in the Chorale. Sierra is an accomplished singer and a demonstrated leader; she exudes joy.

The recommendation letters for Sierra were outstanding. The UIW Department of Music Chair states that Sierra is one of the most genuine and gentle souls he has ever taught. She is patient, kind, truly interested in others, and a model of compassion. Sierra's voice teacher has witnessed firsthand her strong work ethic and teachability. She has also seen Sierra go out of her way to serve, help, and cheer others. Sierra is president of the Music Therapy Student Association, additional proof of her desire to be an influence for good in the lives of the students who rely on her leadership. Sierra has used her musical talents to teach students both the physical and emotional benefits of music through her volunteer efforts at Morgan's Wonderland Academy in San Antonio. During a practicum class, she volunteered to run a weekly group at a day center and received glowing evaluations for her therapy ability.

Here are Sierra's own words about her career plans:

*I wanted to pursue a career in music but I wanted to help others by doing so. I wanted services for those who need a voice to stand up for them. After going back and forth on what path I wanted to take, everything just seemed to fall into place when attending UIW. I have been able to explore what clinical fieldwork feels like by having assigned practicum sites including NICU, an all-female adolescent outpatient program at Laurel Ridge and assisted living with nursing home residents. I am learning something every single day and falling more in love with this field. This is what I was meant to do.*

Award Chair Carla Jean Johnson and TFMC members are pleased that we have made a small contribution to the future of Sierra Belmares as a music therapist.

### The Honorable Phil Johnson Receives TFMC's Highest Honor

by Lois Armor

The Honorable Phil Johnson, who has served the Texas Federation of Music Clubs for many years, was named the latest recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the TFMC 104<sup>th</sup> Convention on March 28 in Lubbock. His behind-the-scenes work providing transportation for our Young Artists, sight-seeing, meals, etc.--as well as his financial advice and photography skills--have not gone unnoticed.



Born in Arkansas, Phil and his family traveled to the places where his father was stationed. He took piano lessons for a while, but soon found that his love was in sports. He played baseball in high school and college. After graduating from Texas Tech University, he entered pilot training with the U. S. Air Force. Following flight training, he was assigned to the Republic of South Vietnam where he flew an F-100 and received decorations including the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with multiple silver oak leaf clusters, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. After his tour of duty in Vietnam, he served at Reese AFB in Lubbock. There he met his wife Carla, a future president of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs.

Phil attended the law school at Texas Tech University where he was a member of the Texas Tech Law Review and graduated with honors in 1975. He then practiced law with the Lubbock firm of Crenshaw, Dupree, and Milam for 24 years. He was elected and served as Chief Justice on the Texas Seventh District Court of Appeals until Gov. Perry appointed him to the Supreme Court of Texas in 2005. He served there until his retirement on December 31, 2018. He has received many awards including the Texas 2018 Jurist of the Year.

Phil is a member of the Lubbock Music Club, a TFMC/NFMC Life Member, and a Life Member of Opera in the Ozarks. He has been active in church, civic and professional organizations. And, he is married to TFMC Past President Carla Jean.

Congratulations to this Year's Distinguished Service Award recipient, The Honorable Phil Johnson.



## History of the State Newsletter

To the members of TFMC:

The new co-editors of the TFMC newsletter asked me to submit an article summing up my forty years as editor of the Musical Messenger. I promised to try.

I must begin by thanking TFMC for the beautiful pin and generous contribution to Opera in the Ozarks to honor Dorene Allen and me. I didn't expect it and am truly grateful for it as well as all the friendships I have made in the 50 years I have been a member of the Federation. Now, after 40 years as editor, I am glad to relinquish the honor to Marie White and Marcia Edwards.

I remember Lennie Lou Sims as editor of Lines and Spaces and Wilda Dyer as editor of Texas Music News. They brought their unique perspective to the position, as did I, and I know Marie and Marcia will move us ahead even farther in this digital age.

I served as District 2 president from 1978-80, and I attended the TFMC convention in Amarillo in 1979. Rachel Quinn was the state president, and notable past presidents there were Mary Prudie Brown, Laurel Ince, Francis Christmann, Bernice Brown, and Caroline Bock. We watched as Wilda Dyer told the group that she could no longer continue to edit the state newsletter, but that it was important to have one. Rachel asked everyone to seek out someone for the job and said it would pay up to \$200 per edition, to publish quarterly.

My ears perked up at the chance to combine my journalism background with my love of music. I went back to the motel room and asked my printer husband if we could produce the newsletter for a target price of \$200 per edition. He agreed that it could be done, and when I reported back to the group the next day our willingness to take on the project, you would have thought we had saved the world. We came home and went to work.

I had produced a monthly newsletter for District 2 called the Moffatt Musical Messenger, so I decided to incorporate that into the masthead (I like alliteration!). The first edition came out in the spring of 1979. Forty years and 160 editions later, the last one came out in the winter of 2019. It changed from offset print and mimeograph to online; its format changed from 8 1/2 x 14 to tabloid 11 x 17. We obtained a second-class mailing permit, but it was more trouble than the money it saved. Online is even better!

I have worked with eighteen wonderful presidents in these 40 years (Gloria Thrasher two terms). I count myself in there from 2001-2003; people asked who I would get to do the MM during my term, and it turned out to be me! Those eight editions were the easiest of all, because I knew what to include and didn't have to ask anyone else to contribute.

After Rachel came Mary Elizabeth Moore, then Grace Mueller, then Betty Hall, Louise Whitworth, Dottie Ramsey, Alma Doss, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Sue Breuer, Jim Ann Taylor, Carolyn Poe, me, Gloria Thrasher (first term), Dortha Bennett, Lora Lynn Christensen, Carla Johnson, Cletis Williamson, Gloria Thrasher (second term), Lynn McNew, and now Lois Armor. Each has contributed mightily to our Federation and I have enjoyed working with them all.

Now I am passing the torch to Marie and Marcia. I have total confidence in their ability to produce a newsletter worthy of our great Federation. I will do all I can to help, and I know you will also. I will continue to mail to the few who have requested a paper copy. Send your news to Marie and Marcia in Austin. We eagerly await their productions.

Gratefully yours,

*Jean Moffatt*

## District Reports

### DISTRICT 1

Lubbock Music Club

Allegro Music Club

Behind the scenes at the State Convention:

Mary Ann Bridges (President Lubbock Music Club and Convention Co-Chair), "I remember in 2017 someone said District 1 would host the State Convention in 2019 – and I thought that is TWO years from now! Wow, how fast time does fly! Suddenly, it was Fall 2018 and time to put into action all the plans we had for the event. Co-Chair Carla Johnson secured the hotel, and we arranged for the Young Artists concert to be held at the Lubbock Women's Club. Then, the work began! We have very talented and eager people in our clubs and community who are willing to help and perform. Dr. Jane Ann Wilson and her trio, De Vienne, performed "Portrait: Colorado." Maxine Brozo, an Allegro member, has a talented son who surprised his mother at the Convention when he arrived as Elvis! Amy Andrus spoke on Thursday night about Music Therapy. She is a member of our club and does so much good in our community. Maureen Hobbs, President of Allegro, made all the table decorations for Thursday. She also furnished the cute mini-windmills! Dr. Marion Williams honored us with a beautiful spiritual Friday afternoon. Our local clubs support the Youth Orchestra of Lubbock, and it was a delight to have several of them perform Saturday morning. They were awarded the \$500 Dyer Award for strings. Members of this group also perform at our local clubs during the year. Our members worked very hard on the Convention, and I hope our out-of-town visitors enjoyed themselves while in our windy city!"

District 1 Spring Board meeting will be May 17. Our Fall Conference is September 28. We look forward to having new TFMC President, Brenda Ford, as our honored guest speaker. District 1 supports three universities and one college: Texas Tech University, Lubbock Christian University, Wayland Baptist University, and South Plains College. Our District gives a rotating scholarship to these groups. The scholarship recipient performs at our District Conference each year. Our local clubs also support the schools. Our clubs are fortunate to have several talented women composers as members. We honor them every year with per-

formances of their music.

### DISTRICT 3



Carthage Music Club

by Carolyn Copeland

"Sharing the Bench, an Evening of Piano Four Hand Duets" was the title of the Carthage Music Club program led by Judy Galetar on April 9 at Panola College. "Theme and Variations" performed by Drew Cawthon with his teacher, Judy Galetar, demonstrated the use of accompaniment for early level piano compositions. "Bulldog Blues" played by Ellie Cawthon with Abigail Dial, was an example of equal level of difficulty for two performers. "America the Beautiful" used a student accompaniment by Rachel Monroe for the teacher's melody performance done by Mrs. Galetar. "Climb Every Mountain" done by Kristine Agpalo with Mrs. Galetar demonstrated a gradual increase in level of difficulty. Two married couples performed as equals on pieces that required careful attention to counting, but also allowed a chance for enjoyment in making music together. Steven and Annissa Jackson performed "Sidewalk Café," and Kevin and Ginger Cook played "Spanish Dance, Opus 12, No. 3."

After a reception hosted by Nancy Langford, Jacinda Gwinn and Charles Niswonger, members approved the slate of officers for 2019-2021. A Panola College music major, Jordan Bonds, was approved as the 2019-2020 scholarship winner. A special club scholarship was awarded to Drew Jackson who will become a music major at Baylor University. Certificates for 50 years of service in Church Music were awarded to Ginger Cook, Stephen George, Dwaine Hubbard, Marcia McKillop and David Yarbrough.



## District Reports

### District 3 (continued)

Marshall Music Club

by Brenda Ford

Marshall Music Club focused our study this year on Hymns, The Foundational Cornerstone of Sacred Music. Each member featured a favorite hymn during the year, and we coordinated our Together We Sing selections with each study. We also explored the hymns of Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley.

For our Parade of American Music celebration, we had a visitor, Fannie Crosby, poet. Her interview was quite inspirational with a great story of love and triumph with her Savior. We joined in singing her favorite hymn, "Blessed Assurance."

"Shaped note Singing Schools" highlighted our study for Founders Day with music reading and part singing. A series was shared from YouTube demonstrating the four shapes versus 7 shapes. Lowell Mason founded music education in the schools using the 7 shaped note technique.

"Music with a Twist" showcased the hymns of early Gospel writers Thomas Dorsey and Edwin Hawkins. Composers from the club wrote and presented "Decorating with Descant"--introducing how the sacred selections could have an added high melody or key change or how to piggy back songs for an enhanced worship experience.

To end our studies for the year, we sang our favorites from the Gettys and the Gaithers, who are continuing to write inspirational hymns and arrange the standards for a contemporary corporate worship. Two of our own members have stories and experiences with both of these prolific songwriting ministers as they go to composition workshops for encouragement, tips and editing before publishing.

As a district, we are pursuing our service in the community with volunteerism in the schools with no music program.



### DISTRICT 4

Matinee Musical Club of Rockdale (MMC)

by Annette Griesbach

MMC, one of three clubs in District 4, was entertained by our junior club, The Keyboard Melody Makers, under the direction of Sr. MMC member, Dixie Whitmore. Also in March members Mona Butala and Annette Griesbach attended the 104th TFMC Convention in Lubbock. MMC participated in Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) with member Lee Sparky Thomason, himself a jazz trumpet player, leading April's music program entitled "The Jazz Trumpet Family Tree-A Force of Nature." The program began with a brief history of the trumpet before its use in jazz and touched on more than a dozen trumpet greats: Louis Armstrong, "Dizzy" Gillespie, Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, and Wynton Marsalis to name a few. In May we celebrate National Music Week. We will hold our final meeting of the year with a salad supper and music program entitled Beyond the Sea and end by installing our newly elected officers for 2019-2021. In June we will join our sister clubs, Waco Euterpean Music Club and Navasota Music Study Club, for the annual District 4 meeting in Navasota, June 15.

### DISTRICT 6

Wednesday Morning Music Club

by Janie Keys

The WMMC program year began on Oct. 5, 2018 with the fall luncheon, which is dedicated to our past presidents. It featured outstanding performances by flutist Marianne Gedigian and pianist Rick Rowley, both on the music faculty at UT. During the year we had programs dedicated to the guidelines NFMC suggests: Federation Day, International Music, Parade of American Music, American Women Composers, Sacred, Chamber Music, Crusade for Strings, Opera, and National Music Week. The Wilcox Maurer high school awards competition was held in March 2019. The winners were awarded substantial scholarships and will perform at the May 2019 luncheon. WMMC has enjoyed having meetings this past year in a new home, Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, after 75 years in the historic Texas Federation of Women's Clubs building. Members were comforted in knowing that our music will follow us wherever we go.

## District Reports

### District 6 (continued)

#### WMMC Fielder Grant Competition By Michelle d'Arcy

On a picture perfect first day of spring, the Wednesday Morning Music Club of Austin hosted its biennial Bonnie Cummins Fielder Grant for Vocal Career Advancement competition. There can be no doubt Bonnie Cummins Fielder was smiling when she sent both glorious weather and highly accomplished contenders for the competition. An enthusiastic audience of members, judges, participants, and their guests gathered to enjoy an afternoon of some of the most beautiful arias of the opera world performed by some of the most promising young voices . . . all extremely talented young women on the way to brilliant careers on opera stages both here and abroad.

A dedicated member and past president of WMMC, Bonnie was a generous supporter of many promising vocal students. She provided scholarships, travel and coaching expenses, living quarters, and practical advice about careers. In 2005, Bonnie was inspired to donate \$25,000 to establish the Fielder Grant Competition. Later the fund was increased by a \$100,000 contribution from her estate. Currently grants totaling \$12,000 are awarded biennially to singers with promising vocal careers. The purpose of the grants is to assist young singers (between 22 and 32 years old) with expenses incurred in pursuit of a professional career.

Grants were awarded to four finalists: the winner of a \$5000 grant was Rebekah Howell, a coloratura soprano currently a member of the Opera Colorado Artists in Residence Program; Bronwyn White, a soprano, and currently a member of the Young Artists Program at the Fort Worth Opera, was the recipient of a \$4000 award. Emily Helenbrook, a soprano and graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Ivy Calvert, a soprano with a Master of Music from the University of British Columbia, each received a grant of \$1500.

The WMMC thanks pianist and vocal coach Dr. Maimy Fong for accompaniment, and judges Katherine Altobello from Southwestern University, Cheryl Parrish of Texas State University, and Darlene Wiley from the University of Texas at Austin.

All four finalists expressed their admiration of the competition to Elisabeth Moreno, Chair of the Fielder Committee. They praised the manner in which the competition was held and emphasized their delight in taking part in a pro-

cess free of nerve-wracking elimination rounds and tense interactions among competitors. Without doubt the 2019 Fielder competition is a just and fitting tribute to the legacy and generosity of Bonnie Cummins Fielder, from Uvalde, Texas, who simply loved opera.



Please express  
our thanks to all  
our Texas friends! It  
was such a wonderful  
Convention! We appreciate  
all of the special gifts and  
kindness - transportation and  
delicious meals! We loved  
it and we love you!  
J. W.

Dear Lois,  
Thank you so much for  
your grand hospitality! It  
was my pleasure to have  
been selected as your National  
Guest in Lubbock! I really  
won the TFMG Jackpot! We  
loved every minute of it!  
Thanks for everything!  
Love, Savanna Whelsh



## SUMMER FUN AT OPERA IN THE OZARKS

By Lee Meyer

At Opera in the Ozarks (OIO), the scenic views from Rock Candy Mountain looking out at Beaver Lake and looking down into the valley at White River have given the opera training center its name, Inspiration Point Fine Arts Center (IPFAC). Poetically described as “a mountainous place not too far from heaven,” Inspiration Point is located a few miles northwest of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Eureka Springs is an historic town, often called the Little Switzerland of America. There are lovely hotels, restaurants, gift shops, and scenic natural springs. Trolley cars are available for tours.

The NFMC members of the 5 south central states will meet for Federation Days and attend the last 3 OIO performances July 17 – 19. Many participants stay at convention rates at Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs. Call direct 479-253-9768, and mention OIO rates to reserve a room. Ask for a room on the ground floor near the convention center.

There is a benefit dinner July 17 at the historic Crescent Hotel, where strolling singers serenade the diners. Singers perform at other meals also.

Every summer three main stage operas with an orchestra (\$25 - \$30 each) are presented in an outdoor air-conditioned theatre. This year these are *La bohème* - Puccini, *Abduction from the Seraglio* – Mozart, and *Little Women* – Adamo. A touring family opera is given free one afternoon. This summer it is *Monkey See Monkey Do* by Robert Rodriguez.

Other extra programs are offered. There will be a chamber music program at the City Auditorium of Eureka Springs for \$25 (July 15) and a Broadway Cabaret evening at the Basin Park Hotel for \$30 (July 16).

The highly professional staff members at OIO are led by Artistic Director and Maestro Tom Cockrell of the University of Arizona, Tucson. He is a full professor and the director of Orchestra, Opera Theatre, and Conducting there.

For tickets, visit [opera.org](http://opera.org) or call 479-253-8595. All seats are reserved. Join your Federation/WMMC friends in Eureka Springs this summer for great entertainment in an idyllic setting!



Texans at the Governing Board meeting for Opera in the Ozarks in Oklahoma City April 5: front row: Lee Meyer, Sue Breuer, Lois Armor, Jean Moffatt; back row: Richard Drapeau, Bill Yick, Tim Danielson, John Schmidt.



Arranging a poem for **Choral Reading** at a senior club meeting takes a little time and work, but it pays off greatly in the end. And it also can be remarkably easy. One BIG HINT: ***Anytime a poetic line or phrase is repeated, look for new meanings.*** Stress different words in each repeat. They will usually belong to different voices with differing attitudes. Use two to three voices—more only if necessary.

## WHERE TO START

1. Read the poem over and over until you think you know what it says. Look up any words you do not fully understand.
2. Read the poem out loud three times.
  - A. Listen for changes or contrast in tone or attitude. Mark these lines, words, or phrases.
  - B. Listen for exceptions or changes of opinion. Mark these lines, words or phrases.
  - C. Listen for decision or conclusions.
3. Assign marked lines, words, or phrases with similar attitudes to a single reader.
4. Voice 1 will be the narrator and deliverer of conclusions.

The following poem can be read as if two separate voices are discussing the same idea, one male and **one female**.

*(Notice: When beeping out the script, give each reader a different color and a different line. When two readers say words from a single poetic line, divide the line at the reader change and indent the new line to show where it belongs to the original line. Underline words to emphasize and include stage directions in brackets and italics.)*

## LET'S PLAY

**My November Guest**

By Robert Frost, 1874-1963

My sorrow, when she's here with me,  
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain  
Are beautiful as days can be;  
She loves the bare, the withered tree;  
She walks the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.  
She talks...and I am fain to list;  
She's glad the birds are gone away,  
She's glad her simple worsted grey  
Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted tree,  
The faded earth, the heavy sky,  
The beauties she so truly sees,  
She thinks I have no eye for these,  
And vexes me for reason why.

Not yesterday I learned to know  
The love of bare...November...days  
Before the coming of the snow  
But it were vain to tell her so,  
And they...are better for her praise.

(In the public domain)

My sorrow, when **she's** here with **me**,  
Thinks **these** dark days of autumn rain  
Are beautiful as days **can** be;  
**She loves the bare, the withered tree;**  
She walks the **sodden** pasture lane.

Her **pleasure** will **not** let me stay.  
**She talks...and I am fain to list;**  
**She's** glad the birds are gone **away**,  
**She's glad** her simple worsted grey  
Is **silver** now with clinging **mist**.

The **desolate, deserted** tree,  
**The faded earth,**  
the **heavy** sky,  
**The beauties she so truly sees,**  
She thinks **I** have no **eye** for these,  
And **vexes** me for reason **why**.

Not **yesterday** I learned to know  
The **love** of **bare...November...days**  
**Before** the coming of the snow  
**But it were vain to tell her so,**  
And **they...are better** for **her** praise.

*("fain" means "ready and willing")*