

Dear Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Members,

First, thank you for the privilege to serve as your state president.

Much excitement generated while attending the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Convention in June. Strong in tradition, it was refreshing just how progressive the organization as a whole is advancing.

You may have noticed the updated website, <http://www.nfmc-music.org/>, where information is readily available to download and updated weekly to help you with the administration of Senior and Junior Clubs. NFMC headquarters is also assisting us with online reports and award applications submitted directly to officers and competition chairs. Look for Michigan to follow with a completely updated, user-friendly website as well this fall.

Next, please note in this issue of *CounterPoint* the announcement of the 2018 Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Annual Convention, May 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, in Ann Arbor. I am thrilled to announce we are expanding the convention offerings to include an extensive leadership workshop for Senior Clubs; a workshop on Choral Conducting and Vocal Health; and Junior Day at the University of Michigan. Please add this to your calendar now as much more information will be available prior to the next *CounterPoint* publication.

Also, your Michigan leaders are working to include you more in the decision-making process. Please feel free to contact me at [Laurie@thechildrensacademy.us](mailto:Laurie@thechildrensacademy.us) to contribute your skill sets. With online video meetings, we are no longer restricted by travel time cutting into our busy schedules. Michigan is a vibrant Federated state with 20 Senior Clubs (1,315 members) and 237 Junior Clubs (3,998 members). I hope to have more of you involved!

Finally, I am so grateful for the support of the MFMC and NFMC leaders. Thank you again.

Laurie

*Music...the Universal Language*

**NFMC** is the largest nonprofit organization in America with over 135,000 members promoting and supporting American music, performers, and music education. Chartered by the United Nations in 1949, we continue to provide activities for the purpose of encouraging, developing, and maintaining high artistic standards by supporting community service and education through music and the allied arts.

**Laurie M. Marshall** is a full-time teacher, Director, Artist-Educator Coordinator, and Collegiate Master Class Seminar Director at *The Children's Academy*, with studios in Saint Joseph, MI and Chicago, IL. With over thirty-five years as a professional educator, Marshall is a long-time member of the National Association for Gifted Children as a Gifted and Talented Education Specialist, and formerly served as Director of *Gateway* and Director of the Hunterdon-Voorhees Magnet School of Performing Arts. Marshall completed her education credentials and continued her music studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN where she taught in the IU College of Gifted and Talented Youth. Marshall also serves as the Music Teachers National Association/Michigan Music Teachers Association Performance Competition Chair; Chicago Area Music Teachers Association Vice President; and founder of the Lake Michigan Music Teachers Association and Lake Michigan Music Club. She continues to be active in the Monday Musical Club where she serves as Finance Chair and Parliamentarian.