



Michigan Federation of Music Clubs

Dear Federation Friends and Colleagues,

Congratulations to all as the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs enters our second century. I am completely overjoyed with our progress this year as an organization.

First, many thanks to our leadership at the club and state level. We are working tirelessly to seek, train, and advance those up and coming leaders. Leadership education is the foundation to sustain senior clubs through artistic excellence and membership growth.

Next, congratulations to the Festival teachers and students on another successful season. We added one new Festival site and several new Festival teachers. Michigan now boasts 227 junior clubs and 3,911 junior members.

Our crown achievement this year is the launching of the new MFMC website: MFMCMI.org. We secured Indiana Technology, the same technology developer used by the National Federation of Music Clubs, to 1) create a new Michigan website with the most current web technology; 2) integrate both the NFMC and MFMC sites for real-time communications and information; and 3) prepare for the up-coming Festival management system. Ultimately, this project allows us to better serve our membership by combining resources, up to date information, and methods to communicate needs.

Website Phase One included the structural design, general information, additional links for Michigan specific information including leadership, archives, competitions and awards, Festivals, membership, news, publications, complete convention details, and more. Please take some time to explore.

Phase Two began in April with the addition of an MFMC and Club Calendar and leadership pages. We continue to add MFNC and NFMC meetings, events, and report due dates; however, please consider submitting club programs. The MFMC calendar is another club publicity and membership growth opportunity. Phase Three will include the NFMC Festival online management system.

Next, it was an honor to work with the MFMC Southeast District on the 2018 MFMC Convention in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Its success is due to a strong collaborative effort and listening to the needs of our organization's members. The President's Tea and Thursday's Preconvention Reception proved to be new and popular events. Thank you to the University of Michigan music faculty and graduate students who provided artist educator performances and workshops.

Future convention plans include continuing to expand leadership education; performing artist and teacher professional development; student and junior scholarships, awards, competitions, and festivals; and collaborating with like organizations. The performing arts is an integral part of our cultural heritage. Convention is the one, state event where we can all come together.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you for the many invitations. I have enjoyed visiting several clubs and programs this year. It is at these events where members have shared ideas and concerns. The hundreds of calls and emails have allowed me to better serve membership needs. As an active member of Music Teachers National Association and the National Association of Parliamentarians, it is my honor to serve MFMC by helping with Bylaws, Administrative Manuals, Officer and Leadership Training, Teacher Professional Development, and Student and Junior Club Events. The talent within Michigan clubs are second to none!

Thank you for all you do.

Laurie M. Marshall, President