



Michigan Federation of Music Clubs

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CounterPoint

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President's Message



Beatrice Wassenberg
MFMC President

Dear MFMC Members,

As you are all aware, we are experiencing some trying times as we struggle to deal with the global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us have been affected in some way, and our organization must do our part in helping to control the spread of this virus. Along with the cancelling of two award auditions, our regular Spring board meeting and changes with the final three Festival site adjudications, the MFMC Board has agreed to cancel this year's Annual Convention which was to take place in Grand Rapids on May 29-30, 2020. It was also decided that the NW District will continue as host district for the 2021 MFMC Annual Convention.

We all look forward to attending our convention each year to enrich ourselves at the wonderful workshops, to enjoy the musical guest artists, participate in the Choral Day Program, hear our student award winners at the Awards Gala and the chance to spend time with fellow members. Our state federation has much to be proud of, so let's make a strong effort to support the MFMC by attending the Annual Convention in 2021!

As always, I thank you for your dedication to our organization and the important part all of you play in its success. Please stay strong and be safe!

Beatrice Wassenberg
MFMC President

FESTIVAL UPDATE

I wanted to give you an update on our MFMC Festivals. Twelve of the Michigan festivals were held prior to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, but three were scheduled after the CDC mandates were issued to:

- limit gathering size
- social distancing
- sheltering in place

Obviously, the Festivals could not be held and comply with these CDC rules.

The NFMC Junior Division leadership advised these Festival sites and others around the nation to **absolutely** follow the CDC recommendations and gave Festival chairs these options for their Festivals:

- Festivals can be held through online sites such as Skype, FaceTime, and Zoom
- They maybe held by receiving audio, including video, recordings
- Festivals may be postponed until the CDC and state restrictions have been lifted

Each Festival chair may choose which option will work best for their site and move forward with the facilitating of that option. NFMC has moved the Festival Records deadline date from May 31 to August 31 to allow for these options.

The MFMC Board and I would like to thank all of our dedicated Festival chairs for the hours of work they put into these events for our Junior members. We pray that the remaining three Festival sites are able to be held soon and the angst of having to redesign their Festivals, due to the current conditions, is not overwhelming. Stay safe everyone and again, THANK YOU!

Mary Jane Timmer
MFMC Festival Chair

We are pleased to announce the following MFMC Junior Award Winners:

Piano - Tejas Shivaraman

Voice - Alexis Gearty

Composers - Class I - Ethan Kim, Nino Bellomo

Class II - Nahil Edrisinha, Zachary Farnsworth

Class III - Richard Shao, Olivia Guzman

Class IV - Jacob Gloetzner, Andrew Glotzbach

NFMC Wendell Irish Viola Award - Kelly Avila



More details to follow in Profiles

MICHIGAN FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

ROSAMOND P. HAEBERLE MEMORIAL PIANO AWARD – 2020

Rosamond P. Haeberle was President of the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs from 1993 – 1995. She died in 2005, and bequeathed this award to the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs, for a student pursuing a degree in music, whose major instrument is piano. This annual award serves as a testament to her enduring love of music and to her constant desire to encourage and assist young musicians, everywhere.

The auditions for the twelfth annual MFMC Rosamond P. Haeberle Memorial Piano Award were held on March 14, 2020, at University Presbyterian Church, Rochester Hills, Michigan. Due to the advent of the COVID-19 virus pandemic, one of the originally scheduled adjudicators, (Dr. Susan Wheatley, (Indiana University, Pennsylvania, Retired)), was unable to attend. The adjudicators who served, were Dr. Philip Adamson, (University of Windsor, Canada), and Dr Robert Conway, (Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan).

Ten (10) applications were received. One applicant withdrew prior to the deadline. Following guidelines established by MFMC, after review of the applications by the Applications Evaluation Committee, all remaining nine (9) applicants were selected to audition. Immediately prior to the audition date, one applicant withdrew, leaving eight (8) applicants to audition, each one performing for approximately thirty minutes.

The winner is Ji-Hyang Gwak, who is 28 years old, and is originally from Seoul, Korea. She has performed many recitals both nationally and internationally, including; in Jeongam Art Hall, Seoul, Korea; in Palffy Palace, Prague, Czech Republic; in Benaroya Hall, Seattle, Washington; in Pepsico Recital Hall, Fort Worth, Texas; and in Britton Recital Hall, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Also, she has performed as soloist with the Bucheon Chamber Orchestra, Seoul, Korea; the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Ann Arbor, Michigan; and the Eastman Philharmonia Orchestra, Rochester, New York.

Ji-Hyang has won many prizes in international piano competitions, including: the Richard Vines International Piano Competition, Spain; and the Germany and Korea Brahms Association Piano Competition, Seoul, Korea. Most recently, she has won First Place awards in the Seattle International Piano Competition, and the prestigious High Point University Piano Competition; and she was a semi-finalist in the Sicily International Piano Competition. Previously, she competed in the Hastings (England) International Piano Competition, the Takematsu (Japan) International Piano Competition, the Epinal International Biennial Piano Competition (France), and the Isang Yun International Competition, (Tongyeong, South Korea). Also, she was winner of the Eastman School of Music Piano Concerto Competition and the MTNA Michigan Piano Competition.

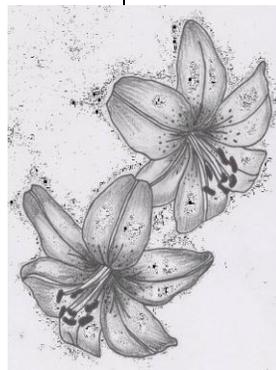
Her festival appearances include: PianoTexas at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas; University of Florida International Piano Festival; and Cincinnati College of Music Piano Festival in Prague, Czech Republic. Also, Ji-Hyang has worked with many world-class pianists, including: Pascal Rose, Philippe Bianconi, Tamas Ungar, Robert Roux, Peter Serkin, and Elisabeth Pridonoff.

Ji-Hyang earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance, at Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, where she studied with Natalya Antonova. Currently Ji-Hyang is studying with Christopher Harding at the University of Michigan, while pursuing a Doctorate in Piano Performance.

Mary M. Irvine, Award Chairman

In Memoriam: Jill Crane
(2/16/1946 – 8/8/2019)

Longtime member of the Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac, Jill Crane died on August 8, 2019, at age 73. She spent her career as a kindergarten teacher in the Pontiac Public Schools and was a much-loved and active member of Tuesday Musicale. Over the years she sang in the Tuesday Musicale Chorus, played handbells, and served as director of the Adele Thomas Ringers. She also served as president and secretary of the group, as well as giving service in many ways. Jill always had a smile, and came out to help even when she was dealing with serious health challenges. A memorial service was held for her at Orchard Lake Community Church on October 5, 2019. Members of the Tuesday Musicale Chorus, Adele Thomas Ringers and Bellissima! joined with the musical groups at OLCC-P to remember Jill's life and to honor her with music. She was a treasured friend and is much missed.



In Memoriam: Aileen Erdmann
(4/18/1919 – 10/20/2019)

A staunch member and former President of The Birmingham Musicale, Aileen Erdmann passed away in Ohio at the age of 100+. Born in North Platte, Nebraska, she was a life-long music lover and sang in church and community choirs throughout her life. Aileen and her husband moved to Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where she worked as a librarian at Baldwin Library in Birmingham. The Erdmanns joined the First Methodist Church of Birmingham and Aileen sang in the choir. In fact, she was a 30+-year member! Eventually, Aileen moved to Westerville, Ohio, where she lived at Feridean Commons, served as their librarian and enjoyed beating her friends at Bridge. "I was the oldest there and I won!" she would boast.

Aileen was proud to be a member of The Birmingham Musicale and faithfully sent in her yearly dues until the very end. She is survived by two children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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