

# The History of the New York Federation of Music Clubs

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## **The History of The New York Federation of Music Clubs**

**1919 – 1946**

### FOREWORD

In writing this History many happy memories have been revived. It soon became evident to me that the Federation was made up of dedicated women and men.

My first experience started at Chautauqua in the Summer of 1946 when Olivia Knox asked permission to present my name as a member of the Board of Directors in October..

From then until 1962 my main interest, aside from my family, was the Federation. At this time I was forced to give up travel to the Board Meetings and Conventions.

However, the work on the History continued and finally was completed in October 1964.

The material for this History was compiled from the two old Scrap Books, the Secretary's Minutes and Minutes from the Board Meetings, various papers, etc., which an organization accumulates.

Some information was found in **Music Clubs Magazines** and a great deal from the Scrap Books, (now called Achievement Records) of the last five administrations.

The responsibility assumed as President, plus other offices later, was more than compensated for by the association with fine musical people, artists, composers and others dedicating their lives to music. Contacts with our creative and musical youth was a rich and rewarding experience.

The long lasting friendships made during these years will be treasured always.

Mrs. A. Stuart Carpenter

Historian

## THE NEW YORK FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS ORGANIZATION MEETING

"Music Club in every City, in every County, in every State in the Union, and Soldiers' Clubs and Junior Boys' and Girls' Clubs - Auxiliary."

Thus reads the top of the page in the old Scrap Book recording the organization meeting of the New York State Federation of Music Clubs.

Clubs were called to order at 10:45 A.M. on Tuesday: .December 16, 1919. Mrs. Julian Edwards in the chair.

In her greeting, Mrs. Edwards spoke of the need of cooperation and sacrifice "to put music in its proper place", exhorting her hearers to do all in their power that America become the leader for the world in music, as in commerce and other things, placing music first.

The Second Vice President of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Mrs. Frederic Abbott of Philadelphia, spoke of the listing of clubs in that organization, of the Empire District comprising New York, New Jersey and Connecticut (with 270 clubs), urging extension work, that the Federation be the Mother of every great move for music in America.

After the roll call of the delegates, two from each club, a nominating committee including one representative of each club in attendance and appointed by the Chair, retired for action:

By invitation of the Chair, representatives and guests present gave reports of their work.

Mrs. Morris (Philomena), Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Mrs. Ritchie, Brewster, N. Y.  
 Mrs. Campbell, Community Singing  
 Miss Baiermeyster, Troy, N. Y.  
 Mrs. Crowe, Mississippi  
 Mrs. Rose, Rochester, N.Y.  
 Mrs. Clark, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Mrs. Rogers, Jamaica, Long Island  
 Mrs. Oglesby, Texas

On report of the Nominating Committee the following officers were elected by the New York State Federation of Music Clubs:

President .....	Mrs. Julian Edwards
First Vice President .....	Mrs. Lepps
Second Vice President .....	Mrs. R. C. Grant
Third Vice President .....	Mrs. Edna Marione
Recording Secretary .....	Miss Teresa Meier
Treasurer .....	Miss Edba West
Auditor .....	Mrs. John Rumph
Historian .....	Mrs. Rogers

On motion of Mrs. Rose, seconded by Miss Baiermeyster and unanimously carried, the nominations were closed.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that the ballot be cast in one vote whereby the officers of the New York Federation of Music Clubs as nominated were duly elected with no dissenting vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jennie E. Slater  
 Secretary Pro-tem

A vote of thanks was given Mrs. Abbott for her assistance in organizing the state Federation. Mrs. Abbott gave an interesting talk on Extension suggesting ways for creating interest in forming and federating new clubs.

Mrs. Etta Hamilton Morris, chairman of Resolutions, presented the following:

1. To establish a National Conservatory.
2. To prevent the publication of degrading songs.
3. To have a two-week drive to increase the national membership to 500,000.

Mrs. Frances Clarke (now Dr. Clarke), National Chairman of the Department of Education, gave an interesting discourse on means to be used by clubs in helping children by memory contests, the formation of orchestras, instruction and recitals by club members.

The first event recorded in the Scrap Book was a concert April 29, 1920, in the P.M. at Aeolian Hall, New York:

Ruth Hutchinson, Soprano  
Arthur Klein, Piano  
Graham Harris, Violin

They were national winners in Young Artists' contest. ("Contest" seems to have been used during these years instead of "Auditions".)

A Forum on Church Music with Mr. Harold V. Milligan as Chairman, was held March 18, 1920.

The first N. Y. State Convention was held at Rochester. May 10-11-12, 192-1, Mrs. Julian Edwards, President, urged all to further the cause of music, to bring music to the fore in our country. This should begin in the schools with music placed on the same plane as other subjects.

Rochester schools were cited as a model for what can be done in cities.

Mrs. Frank Seiberling, National President, Akron, Ohio, was an Honor Guest.

Mrs. Frank Elliot Clarke, National Chairman of Education, Philadelphia, Pa., addressed the delegation lauding the bigness of Federation in bringing musical people together. She also praised Rochester for the progress made in "music in the schools".

A concert by "Empire District" winners in the Young Artist Contest was given by:

Carmela Ippolito, Violinist  
Enrique Ros, Pianist  
John Carver, Bass

In October, 1921, the New York Federation presented two young artists to Hotel Pennsylvania:

Mary Bennett, Contralto  
Creighton Allen, Pianist

Hotel Pennsylvania, N.Y.C., was the headquarters of the New York Federation of Music Clubs and the following forums, dinners, etc., were held there:

March 28, 1921 - "A Musical Forum!"

Guests of Honor:

Mme. Clara Novello-Davis, the distinguished vocal teacher from London and Marguerita Sylva, the Belgian prima donna

About 160 guests were present to hear these artists:

Alice Bracey and Elvin H. Schmitt, from the LaForge School  
Elizabeth Thorn Boutella, the young composer - singer - pianist  
Antonio Rocco, a young Italian tenor who will be a member of the Chicago Opera Association in the season 1922

"Music Memory Contests" was the subject for the address of Miss Gertrude Borchard.

The Federation is now one year and three months old.

Sigmund Spaeth spoke on "Education of Music" at January Monthly Forum.

April 25, 1921 - Another Musical Forum.

A dinner invitation was sent out by Mrs. Julian Edwards, President, when American Music, the advancement and encouragement of same, would be discussed.

The establishment of a Club House for Musicians was still one of the projects to be developed.

Mme. Marione, who was Vice President, had been very active in promoting Federation activities and was elected State President at the State Convention in June 1922.

At this second annual Convention, the State Federation discussed the attitude of the Critics toward artists and condemned personal comment in reviews and destructive criticism.

Howard Clark Davis of the National Academy of Music spoke on credits for outside music study for students.

Mme. Edna Marione announced a collection of books had been offered to the Federation as a nucleus for a library.

At the Board Meeting in October, Professor Alberto Himan was appointed librarian.

Mr. James Boone, chairman of Finance, suggested that the Federation have a social Tea once a month, offering his studio for Sunday, November 26, 1922, and the next to be at the studio of Mrs. Irvine, January 7, 1923.

At the January 29th special meeting we find the Juniors mentioned for the first time. It has to do with the blanks for Junior membership and the initiation fee. The Board is still uncertain as to who gets the \$5.00 for a Junior artist member (?) what part goes to the National and what part to the State.

Two interesting motions were made in these early meetings to the effect that each chairman be empowered to raise funds for his specific work and another that all minutes, reports, etc., be on file at the headquarters, Pennsylvania Hotel, so that any member may have access to same.

Another by Mr. Davis, "I move that it be the sense of the meeting that each Director and members of standing committees consider themselves morally obligated to secure one Life member, one Club and five Artist members, before March 1924."

A little touch of humor is discernible in this motion: "I move that all bills approved by our President and Treasurer to date, (February 16, 1923), be paid by State Treasurer as soon as she has sufficient funds for the payment of same."

These early meetings were attended by an average of seven directors.

The Treasurer's report for 1920-21 states:  
The total receipts for dues are:

New York Chamber Music . . . . .	\$10.00
Rochester Tuesday Musical. . . . .	17.00
Music Study Club of Troy . . . . .	3.50
Musical Assembly . . . . .	5.00
Musical Society of Jamaica. . . . .	5.00
Total. . . . .	\$40.50

The following year, 1921-22, shows  
quite an increase in clubs and dues:

Women's Orchestral . . . . .	\$ 2.00
Lockport Musical Club. . . . .	6.90
Morning Musical, Syracuse . . . . .	50.00
Morning Musical, Watertown . . . . .	18.00
Musical Society of Jamaica . . . . .	5.00
Oneida Morning Musical . . . . .	17.50
Southland Singers, N.Y.C. . . . .	5.00
St. Ceceila Society, Brewster . . . . .	2.10
Treble Clef Club, Niagara. . . . .	3.00
Musical Assembly, N.Y.C.. . . . .	26.00
Monday Musical, Albany . . . . .	37.50
Tuesday Musical, Rochester. . . . .	42.00
Musical Study Group, Troy. . . . .	4.50
Allenville Musical Club. . . . .	2.50
Total. . . . .	\$229.90

Three of these clubs are still members of our Federation in 1957 after 36 years of continuous service in music.

Between October and December 1922 Mme. Edna Marione was married to Mr. Thomas Grant Springer. Her name thereafter was listed as Madame Marione-Springer.

In these early years it seems there were monthly meetings of the Federation officers and Directors, and at first they had an **annual** convention. In fact the minutes always state "a meeting of the Federation of Music Clubs", not Directors.

During 1923 there was a Pre-Biennial Tea on May 4th, observing Music Week, a first recital of scholarship pupils of the Musical Assembly".

Another Musicale was held May 18, 1923 in the ball room of the Hotel Pennsylvania by Madame Marione- Springer, state President.

Young Artists were:

Miss Grace Divine, Mezzo-soprano

Miss Barbara Rarvie, Soprano

Miss Marion Nicholson

Mr. Creighton Allen

There are two interesting Brochures in the Scrap Book (1923) of our former Recording Secretary, Daisy Krey, a Young Artist vocal winner. The picture is lovely, and the press notices very favorable.

At this time the Federation had a presentation committee whose work was to present young artists in concert, not only the winners but those who showed promise and ambition.

On February 20, 1923 the first concert in a series of "American Composers and Artists" was given at the John Wanamaker Auditorium.

Composers listed were:

James G. MacDermid  
MacDowell

Hans Barth  
E. S. Barnes

A second concert, same place, on March 6, 1923, composers were:

Andrew C. Haigh  
Mabel Wood Hill  
Paul Tiejens

The third followed on March 21, 1923. Represented on this program were:

James H. Rogers  
Frederic Vanderpool  
Harvey Gaul

Fannie Dillon ,  
Louis Baker Philips

These concerts were presented by Caroline Lowe, Chairman of the American Music Committee.

Music Week was observed April 30 - May 5, 1923, including a concert by American composers:

John Powell  
Edwin Grasse  
R. Huntington Terry

Griffes  
MacDowell

Composers usually performed.

Six Concerts were presented:

"The Musical Assembly".. Edna Marione-Springer, President, and the NYFMC presented and endorsed these young artists on April 7, 1923:

Mabel Zoeckler, Lyric Soprano  
Martin Burton, Pianist  
Nell Esslinger, Contralto  
Daniel Saidenberg, Cellist  
Viola Blanchay, Coloratura Soprano

At the first official meeting of the year, September 21, 1923, in the studio of Mme. Marione-Springer, President, the first mention is made of a **Board of Directors**. Mrs. Jean Bartlett, Albany, Chairman of the Program Committee of the coming convention in April 1924 to be held in Albany met with the Board.

Albany was the scene of much activity during April 24-25-26 when the 1924 **Convention** was held there followed by Music Week in Albany and surrounding cities. Press notices state, "This National movement has been endorsed by President Coolidge."

Extensive preparations were made for programs embracing twelve subjects for discussion.

Miss Elizabeth Hoffman, President of the Monday Musicales, gave the address of welcome. Other ladies assisting were: Mrs. John S. McEwan, Mrs. Jean N. Barrett, Mrs. Wendell M. Milks.

Some notables taking part in the convention at Albany were Charles L. Grey, Judge of the New York Supreme Court, who was toastmaster, and Mr. A. M. See, secretary and manager of the Eastman Theatre and School of Music. Dr. Elmer A. Tidmarsh directed the chorus of the Monday Musical. Arthur Middleton, basso-baritone was guest artist.

Hon. Charles L. Grey is the writer of an article called "Music" in which he states: "The whole world is sick to the very core of its being, not merely sick physically, but mentally and spiritually, and the great work of healing or rebuilding rests upon us as a paramount duty. I want this nation to become not merely a music-loving nation but a **music making** nation. It is as much a duty of this nation in the great reconstruction work of making the world well and strong and sane again, to awaken the musical spirit of the nation, as to use other agencies to that end." This reference was prompted by World War I.

Other speakers were Mrs. Frances Elliott Clark, 2nd Vice President of the National Federation; Charles H. Miller, Director of Music, Schools of Rochester; Mrs. Helen Harrison Mills, Editor of the National Federation Bulletin; Joseph M. Priarelx, Manager of Charles H. Ditson Co.; C. M. Tremaine, Director National Bureau for the Advancement of Music; Mrs. James I. Barcus, President of the Children's Community Chorus; Roessle McKinney, President of the Albany Community Chorus; George Edgar Oliver, Director of Music Albany High School; Dr. Elmer Tidmarsh and Ralph G. Winslow, Supervisor of Music, Albany Schools. Mrs. Harry L. Vibbard, State Treasurer was elected State President. Mrs. Vibbard resided in Syracuse.

It is interesting to note in an official letter sent by Mme. Marione-Springer, President of the NYFMC, that the Monday Musical "will be the hostess club and they are assuming financial responsibility."

The reader can readily understand that it is quite impossible to give detailed accounts of the many fine programs given at conventions. We find that American music and American composers are stressed and that young artists always have a place on the programs.

During this time a strong plea was made for the American artist (1922) by Mme. Ciseros at the State Convention. Many foreign artists were coming to our country, leaving war-devastated Europe, and were crowding out some of our fine American artists. Mme. Ciseros urged music clubs, music committees to do all in their power to aid our own artists, to have at least 50% of the program artists American.

In the concert field we have not progressed as much as we could to aid the American composer. One notes on the usual concert program only the last group by an American composer, and this in 1957 after forty years of effort!

Many times it is recorded in the minutes, or mentioned elsewhere, the need for a state bulletin whereby clubs can learn more about the Federation and each other.

### **The National Board Meets in New York City.**

In the Official Bulletin of the National Federation of Music Clubs is a picture of thirty-two National Board members who came to New York for a Board meeting en route to Portland, Maine in 1925.

They advocated a "Course of Study" for clubs and also a "Training System for Clubs" and to aid in the establishing "Civic Music Federations" with the assistance of the clubs. The object was to coordinate all civic music organizations thereby engaging active interest of business men. Every society however remotely connected with music, was eligible.



The Certificate of Incorporation is dated May 2, 1922, and signed at Albany, February 9, 1923. An outline chart shows three main departments: Educational - Publicity - Philanthropic.

There were eight **Special Committees**: Legislative, Research, Official Music, Dancing, Finance, Library Extension, Reception, Pageantry.

Under **Advisory** Board there was an Executive Committee which included Elected Officers, Chairmen of Departments, Chairman of Advisory Board. The Board of Management included Executive Committee and Chairmen of all Standing Committees.

Mme. Hortense d'Arblay, Chairman of Extension, extends an invitation to a Musical Forum, Hotel Pennsylvania, April 25, 1921, when Carrie Jacob Bond was among the honor guests.

October 1926 is the date the new monthly bulletin appeared, "*The Empire Record*". This was a small 8-page bulletin which grew into quite a pretentious publication, but after a few years publication ceased.

1924 - There are now 28 Senior Clubs - 2 Junior Clubs, one being at Watertown. Three Senior Clubs have a large membership: Monday Musical, Albany, 339 - Philomena, Brooklyn, 165, Etta Hamilton Morris, conductor; Ionian Club, Buffalo, 90, Madam Nellie Gould organized this club. She was on the Board of Directors.

**During the administration of Etta Hamilton Morris** the Federation increased considerably in the number of clubs and activities. Mrs. Morris put forth a real effort by visiting clubs in the state, organizing new ones, both Senior and Junior, and she envisioned large **festivals of singing** which did materialize.

Penn Yan "Annual Concert to take place in Penn Yan".

This included soloists from Geneva, Lima and the Eastman School of Music. Samuel Richard Gaines' cantata from Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith" was sung by the choir, assisted by Grace Wynne Tapley, Geneva soprano and Regional Director of the NYFMC.

Many area musicians participated in the festival program 1936  
headline -

"Finger Lakes Music Festival - 300 people take part." This listed as the second annual festival and was held at **Geneva**. Previous to this one Mrs. Morris had attended a festival at **Watertown**. Eight musical groups participated. Guy Fraser Harrison of the Eastman School of Music was guest conductor of the Geneva Civic Orchestra for the Overture and the combined chorus and orchestra numbers.

Similar large festivals were given in 1936, '37 and '38. Mrs. Morris was State Chairman of Festivals, Grace Wynne Tapley, local Festival Chairman. Mrs. John McClure Chase was now President.

There were also large choruses at the World's Fair, 1939-40 and a very large inter-faith chorus which sang at Temple Emanu-El.

Some 3000 voices were anticipated for the World's Fair Chorus. This was a N.F.M.C. project with the NY Federation participating.

The Finger Lakes group conducted its annual festival presenting the "Messiah" for three presentations in Geneva and other towns. This was recorded in a newspaper article at the time that the Board of Directors met at Geneva for the first time. No date on paper. Mrs. Grace Wynne Tapley was very active in presenting these groups in the Finger Lakes Region and was on the Board of Directors.

Six women's college glee clubs - Rochester Women's College, Syracuse University, University of Buffalo, William Smith College, Geneva, Kenka and Buffalo State Teachers College participated in a festival held at Eastman Theatre on the evening of April 22, 1940.

In the afternoon each group sang separately at Cutler Union.

In the evening the massed chorus was accompanied by the Rochester Civic Orchestra, conducted by Guy Fraser Harrison.

In 1940 there was a Festival held at Rochester when six women's college glee clubs presented around 250 girls in chorus.

Mrs. Harry Schroeder, Regional Director, was active in enrolling groups for singing at the World's Fair when 1500 participated in a massed chorus.

"College and State Normal Groups have held contests - last year in Buffalo and this season in Buffalo and Watertown." April 1934-- Empire Record.

At the Board Meeting, May 5, 1936, the President, Mrs. John McClure Chase, felt the Federation should have a radio chairman. This was heartily approved by the Board, and left to the President to appoint one. (First mention of "radio".)

Gena Branscombe was appointed June 2, 1936.

Mrs. Cahill was reappointed as Motion Picture Chairman at State Convention in Binghamton, April 1933. Mrs. Cahill, newly elected President, was also appointed Editor-in-chief of the Empire Record.

The Board of Directors named Mrs. Edmund Cahill as Chairman in full charge of the World's Fair Music, representing the NY Federation.

Mrs. Gould (Madam Nellie Gould) cooperated with Dr. Erb in making lists of Directors for his use in connection with the plans for the massed chorus in Baltimore in which the Ionian Club of Buffalo planned to participate. This club was organized by Mrs. Gould.

Excerpts from 1936-1938 report:

Expense allotment for President's expense throughout the year to be \$300.00.

A budget committee was elected to serve for a term of two years and to send out monthly statements to each Board Member.

Mrs. Cahill reported March 31, 1939 there were 48 entrants in Young Artist auditions - 28 voice, 13 piano, 7 violin.

Mrs. Warren Knox, Albany, elected Treasurer at the State Convention in Albany, April, 1942. (Mention is made here of Olivia Knox as future years proved her to be a most beloved and valuable member of the State and National Federation.)

In 1943 there was some mention made of selling the Loan Library.

The President, Mrs. Thomas, urged that we have Spring contests in each District.

Miss Darnell reported \$280.00 sent to Etta Hamilton Morris as a gift from the Federation. Clubs were solicited for this gift in view of the fact that Mrs. Morris has been so generous to the Federation and now evidently needed some assistance.

Gifts to the Federation were reported as follows:

Mrs. Edgar Stillman Kelly . . . . .	\$200.00
Mrs. Gannett, National President. . . . .	\$100.00
Mrs. Thomas \$200.00 for the State Convention.	

It was voted to use a small News Sheet during the year for the duration.

Mrs. Harrison Havener explained Mr. Barzin's Young Musician's Contest. This is state-wide, age limit 23 years.

New Chairmen were appointed:

Mrs. Anne Molineaux	-	Composition
Miss Adelaide French	-	Radio
Mrs. Martha Atwood Baker	-	Chairman of Music in Hospitals

The Annual Report of May 1944 reads in part:

Mrs. Edgar Stillman Kelley, general chairman; co-chairman was Mrs. William B. Thomas, President.

Martha Atwood Baker reported on Music in Hospitals, outline of plans and the work accomplished.

Music in industry was featured -

Christos Vrionides was the principal speaker.

Clarence Menser, V. P. of N.B.C. presented the forum on Television.

(First mention of T.V.)

Sergeant Eugene List from the Special Service Branch of the Port of Embarkation was a speaker.

Reception was given by the Musician's Club, Mr. Frank LaForge, President, assisted by Miss Ruth Otero and the Perole String Quartet playing Henry Hadley's Quintet in A minor.

Federation members were guests of the Morning Choral, Brooklyn, at the St. George Hotel at a Silver Jubilee Luncheon. Mr. Herbert Stavely Sammond was the conductor of the Morning Choral and served for twenty years. He was given a Life Membership by the Choral at the Convention held at the Waldorf Astoria.

Sunday was Choral Day when an inter-faith chorus drawn from New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey sang at Temple Emanu-El. Dr. John Warren Erb, conductor.

Mildred Dilling, Concert Harpist presented a program.

Winning contestants were presented in concert, Mrs. Harrison Havener presiding.

Evidently the Empire Record had ceased publication or was having difficulty as it was moved at the May meeting 1944 "that we publish an Empire Record twice a year."

At Hotel Woodruff, Watertown, 1943, the President spoke of expenses being paid for members of the Board. Needless to say this suggestion was not approved. This follows - Board members are to pay their own expenses except the President and Treasurer.

October 4, 1944. Mrs. Grace Gores Rockwell, now Editor of the Empire Record, reported:

Cost of 300 copies was . . . . .	\$ 263.00
Advertising space netted . . . . .	73.00
Postage and envelopes . . . . .	12.13
Expense for insignia . . . . .	1.50

Work had begun on the Junior Choir Festivals.

The Board wishes to have a voice in the selection of Judges for Contests - not satisfied with the Contest numbers.

The advertising committee of the Empire Record is now enlarged by the services of Vera Bull Hull and Alvirda Schroeder.

The Motion Picture Division (Mrs. Rockwell, Chairman) is doing fine work. New York pioneered in this work - working for good music in motion pictures as later was done to improve the music on radio.

Mrs. Garner invited the Board to come to Rochester for the next meeting, thirty expected to be in attendance.

Mrs. Harper moved that the Board of Directors of the NYFMC accept and endorse the formation of a foundation for encouraging and promoting the works of native born American composers. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stover, National Board member, spoke of the war work and said Mrs. Ober, a past National President, had sent a lady from Virginia to give a concert for returned soldiers.

Mrs. Ruth Burgess told of the work her group was doing in hospitals. Mrs. Burgess was giving one whole day every week. The coin boxes were of interest to her pupils.

Mrs. Edward French of Albany was suggested as a Board member to fill a vacancy. Mrs. French did serve for several years and proved to be a most efficient, valuable member.

Letters of condolence were sent to Mrs. Kelley, Mr. Tapley, and Mr. Garland by Mrs. Dunbar, corresponding secretary - indicating the loss of valuable members of the Federation.

The Stillman-Kelley auditions are held for young people 14-17 years of age - those in need of assistance to continue with their musical education. These auditions are held yearly, alternating in the four regions. The winner in voice, piano or violin, receives \$250.00 annually for four years.

Mrs. Stillman Kelley said that 20,000 MacDowell slips had been returned to her, and she hoped to receive 200,000. This evidently refers to the project of the Federation to obtain votes for the placement of a bust of Edward MacDowell in the Hall of Fame in New York. Ruth Bradley later continued with this project which was successfully completed in 1964.

Miss Jean Graham, winner of the Stillman-Kelley Audition, was presented in a program at the Forum held December 7, 1944.

A letter from the National President, Mrs. Gannett, urged Federation members to send letters to the sponsors of the Symphony broadcasts.

Mr. Edwin Hughes spoke of the contests, stating the standards were high and the music difficult. It meant hard work and the contestants might not win for three or five years.

Mrs. Chase reports she had sent 1200 letters to obtain Special Members.

Five choirs took part in the Junior Choirs Festival, Chairman, Grace Leeds Darnell.

Mrs. Stover, as a National Board Member, was to buy a Bond through her American Music Club.

Mrs. Ruth Burgess reported 50 war boxes distributed, and pencils selling well.

Sigmund Spaeth is mentioned as promoting a Magazine dealing with music in the films. Our interest in this music was communicated to the Film Corporation and - created a favorable impression. Mr. Spaeth (later Dr. Spaeth) urged the Federation members to continue their interest in this new project.

Mrs. Thomas made a gift of \$100.00 toward the coming convention in Albany.

Jessie Nash Stover gave an interesting account of the National Board Meeting and of the excellent work done in War Service. She told of the work being done by Paul Weaver under International Relations. "This plan tells where the boys are and what they are doing in the musical field."

Mrs. Neary reported that the Port Washington Club had entertained for the Merchant Marine Rest Center.

Mrs. French reported that all members of her club had subscribed for the National Magazine.

The State finals are to be held in Albany on Thursday evening and the winners to appear on the program Friday evening at the Convention.

Motion Picture division doing fine work and American composers and their music being given places of honor in the musical world.

Rose Raymond had charge of the Junior "Festivals" which name was now replacing the word "contest". The fact is stressed that the Juniors are not competing with each other but each one striving for a degree of excellence, or superior rating.

Mrs. Harrison Havener was the chairman of Junior Festivals following Rose Raymond.

Leon Barzin was chairman of the Student Auditions.

Opera Chairman, also Festival Opera, is listed under Mr. Homer Mowe. Nothing has been recorded in the minutes as to any progress in opera since the production of **Aida** under the direction of Mrs. Morris.

Mention is often made of the Artists' Presentation Service -and that the Federation should receive 20% for services.

March 31, 1939- Mrs. Cahill reported 46 entrants in the Young Artists, Contests - 28 voice, 13 piano and 7 violin.

A recommendation was to be presented at the President's Council that there be more than one prize for voice (now called "award"), \$500.00 for pianist, \$500.00 for violinist, \$500.00 for soprano, \$500.00 for alto, \$500.00 for tenor and \$500.00 for bass voice.

A tentative budget was offered by Mrs. Morris:

President's expense . . . . .	\$ 15.00
Treasurer. . . . .	30.00
Corresponding Secretary. . . . .	20.00
Blanket postage . . . . .	100.00
Printing . . . . .	100.00
Junior Department. * . . . .	75.00

The treasury would have a balance of \$570.00 when all monies due were paid.

Preparations were being made to participate in the musical program of the World's Fair in May 1940.

Edith Baxter Harper offered to house the Loan Library. Expense to be only in handling the music. (1939) (About 20 years later moved to Oneida, recorded later.)

Mrs. Alvirda Schroeder resigned as the regional director of Long Island. This would include also the presidency of the Long Island Festival Association.

Mrs. Thomas reported that the Binghamton Clubs would be having a festival in April. They would be giving the "Creation".

Mrs. Morris reported a deficit in the publication of the Empire Record, and suggested a solution might be the publishing of fewer issues. Mrs. Morris also told of the moving of the Library (Loan) and suggested a nominal fee be charged to the clubs for maintaining same.

Finances were low - National had not as yet sent money to defray expenses of the World's Fair Program of music - which responsibility no doubt had to be assumed by the State.

Some difficulty was recorded (1939) in electing a President of the Liberty District. New Jersey and Pennsylvania sent a name of which New York did not approve - and would not sanction. A protest was recorded and sent to National.

Dorothy Reims was Recording Secretary for several years. Later Elinor McCoy has signed the Minutes. Occasionally Alvirda Schroeder has acted as Secretary Pro Tem.

In the two years, 1936-38, according to the record of the secretary, there were eight regular meetings, two special meetings and one duplicate meeting.

Three hundred (\$300.00) dollars was to be allotted for the President's expenses.

The Treasurer's office was to handle finances pertaining to the Empire Record and at the June meeting the balance in the treasury was \$706.35.

"Federation Day" is mentioned frequently.

Mrs. Dunbar of Kingston had asked for Federation Day to be held there in the Fall. One was held in Buffalo, Mrs. Gould, Chairman. Clubs from Jamestown, Dunkirk and Buffalo, participated. Another was held in the Northern District. Later the Liberty District held a luncheon and program in the Fall. Perhaps this was also "Federation Day".

Recorded in 1941, the death of Madame Marione-Springer.

Madame Katherine Von Klemmer, President of the National Opera Club, was to fill the unexpired term of Madame Marione-Springer.

Motion was made and passed to approve the organization of State Defense Committee and to work in line with National Defense.

Mrs. Grace Gores Rockwell read original brochure asking New York Federation of Music Clubs to sponsor a National Sing once a year as an annual choral concert to be broadcast at the same time. Columbia Broadcasting Company interested. Motion carried to accept Mrs. Rockwell's plan "America Sing" and cooperate with C.B.S.

More Junior Choirs have federated and the Festival will be held in January, so reports Miss Darnell.

Mrs. La Fleur-more Junior Counselors be appointed in various towns. Also that contestants and officials in Festivals (evidently meaning Judges) understand that contests are definitely competitive.

Mrs. Cahill, President, urged members to write in suggestions which might be used to further publicity and deplored the fact that there is such a lack of material about the organization in print.

### **February 1940**

Mrs. Thomas moved the ratification of the appointment of Miss Felice Haubiel as Junior Counselor and Contest Chairman of the N. Y. region.

Mrs. Morris reported on the massed chorus for the Convention and also on the College Girls' Festival which had gained three new clubs this year.

Mrs. Cahill told of convention plans and reported \$200.00 had been given the composition contest.

Miss Darnell was appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Convention to be held at the Great Northern, New York, during the World's Fair.

### **May 1940**

Mrs. John McClure Chase gave her report as President of the Liberty District on the second day of the Convention.

Mrs. Cahill, President and Senior Music Contest Chairman, gave a report stating that the winners would be heard on the Sunday World's Fair program.

### **April 23-25, 1942**

Convention in Albany at Ten Eyck Hotel.

Mrs. Tapley moved that as a state of emergency exists, the Board is to allow the President to conduct the meeting as she sees fit.

Mr. Gordon Baitz moved that Madam Nellie Gould be made an honorary member of the Board.

Mrs. Tapley moved that Mrs. Elbert Horton be made honorary member of the Board.

Recommendation that Juniors provide "Everlasting Needles" for Victrolas as part of their "war work".

"Singing to Victory Luncheon" held in ballroom of Hotel Ten Eyck - the speaker, E. R. Eastman, editor of American Agriculturist; and a "Sing" conducted by Mrs. Tapley.

A Tea was held at the Executive Mansion, Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman, hostess. Henry Parker, Baritone, provided a musical program.

A concert was presented by the Albany High School under the direction of Mr. Bailey, and the Monday Musical Club under the direction of Dr. Elmer Tidmarsh. Soprano solos by Ruth Garner, accompanied by Mrs. Garner.

April 25, 1942 - Board Meeting (still the Convention).

Mrs. Warren Knox elected Treasurer of NYFMC.

Mrs. Cahill made two recommendations:

1. That the members life (?) of the Board be doubled.
2. That the Federation be organized by counties throughout the state.

Mrs. Stover moved that the endowment fund of \$159.00 be invested in War Bonds.

First **Radio** Report Season 1936-37, Gena Branscombe, Chairman.

Fine report by Mrs. Cahill, Chairman of **Motion Pictures** for National. Clubs had cooperated in showing musical films on a percentage basis. Some listed were "I Dream Too Much", with Lily Pons; Gladys Swarthout in "Give Us This Night"; Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in "Rose Marie", "The Gay Desperado", "Romeo and Juliet", "Wings of the Morning" and many others were sponsored by music clubs, and at least 100,000 non-theatre going music lovers attended these films. "That in itself is a fine record," states Mrs. Cahill.

Hazel Fletcher Hawley reports 47 **choral groups** - 35 women's choral, 10 mixed and 2 male groups.

Carolyn Beebe reports optimistically on **Chamber music** which has gained greatly in favor by the public at large, also activities of the various chamber music groups of artists has increased.

Chairman of **Hospitality**, Elsie F. Rogers, reports on five "Federation Days".

Hotel Astor, Dr. Erb held an interesting Forum, 228 remained for luncheon.

Mr. Sammond gave a concert in the evening which was well-attended.

A second one at Buffalo - luncheon at Town Club, arranged by Mrs. G. Gould.

Albany sponsored a third with luncheon at DeWitt Clinton under the supervision of Mrs. Guy Smith.

The fourth was a lunch at the Great Northern in honor of Special Members - 91 present.



The fifth was outstanding. Charles Haubiel had charge of the Forum and Dr. Erb was program chairman. The Great Northern could not accommodate the large number attending, and only 361 could have luncheon there. This shows the marked growing interest in "Federation Days".

One **Publicity** report states there were four releases sent out about the NY Federation Day. Two of these went only to NY papers, the other two covered the entire State as well as the City, requiring sufficient copies to cover sixty papers.

Preceding the Young Artist Contest two releases were sent to the entire mailing list of sixty papers. Also releases were sent to Syracuse University, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College of Music, Potsdam Normal School, Buffalo University, Cornell University, Albany and Buffalo State Teacher's Colleges and Kenka College - for posting.

The **Opera** Department still maintained enthusiasm, but the times were hazardous so far as finances were concerned.

These were the days when the **Adult Festivals** were flourishing.

The first, April 18, 1937, in Buffalo with the College Girls Glee Clubs participating was held in conjunction with the Spring Meeting of the Eastern Educators Conference. Those competing were: Syracuse (Dorothy Hubbard); Buffalo University (Mr. Van Lier); and Kenka College (Isabel Chase Nichols).

Two groups from Pennsylvania appeared as guest clubs, and the whole ensemble consisting of some 500 voices sang in the finale "May Night" conducted by Miss Nichols - a thrilling close to a fine program.

The second, held in Watertown, May 7th and 8th.

Over 200 singers appeared in the two massed choruses, under the direction of Charles Burmeister. The Watertown Musicale Chorus won the award for the third time, thus entitling them to keep the trophy permanently.

The third, Finger Lakes Festival with 300 participating, has been mentioned previously. The massed numbers were accompanied by the Geneva Civic Orchestra. Guy Fraser Harrison conducted. "Full credit must be given the Regional Director, Grace Wynne Tapley of Geneva, without whose fine work it could not have been accomplished."

**Music Week** is reported and discussed. From one report the fact was brought out that the National Federation originated the idea. There has been some overlapping of Festivals in schools and Music Week.

Surprise! In leafing over the reports a list of twenty clubs from Binghamton was found. Later found that Mrs. Morris had federated 11 of these, Mrs. W. B. Thomas had federated the others.

The Harmony Club sponsored 600 tickets for a coming convention.

Mrs. Thomas was then the Regional Director of the Southern Tier. She had two dinners for Mrs. Chase, over seventy attended each. Her report shows - 28 calls in Oswego, 175 letters to school Music Teachers, 50 letters to Clubs and Choir Directors, hundreds of phone calls. A meeting at her home to talk about federating. Later Mrs. Thomas became State President.

Excerpts from report of Kate F. Chase, President, April 22, 1938, at the Binghamton Convention.

"I would like to see the dues raised, as they are in some states, for no great work can be carried on without financial backing and one never gets something for nothing.

"I would like to see the election method changed and the officers elected by the body of delegates rather than the 21 elected members. This brings the officers much nearer the individual clubs and it seems to me to be their right and privilege. This is done in many states.

"I would like to have it obligatory that Presidents must alternate from Up-state to Down-state.

"I could not let a two year report be given without speaking of this convention, for it is the result of a whole year's planning. I must speak of the results accomplished by our Chairman, Mrs. William B. Thomas of Binghamton, who has practically created a District. Before it was only geographic. Today it is a live fact with 36 clubs.

"I extend my sincere thanks to all my co-workers who have stood by with such unselfish loyalty. Work done with high ideals, noble intentions and faithful adherence to duty can only be a joy and must surely draw its own reward."

Northern Region Report in 1937.

There were 18 clubs. Music Festival was held combined with Senior and Junior contests in Watertown. This was a three-day meeting.

Featured were: massed chorus, Presidents' dinner, organ recital and open forum.

Mrs. William B. Thomas succeeded Mrs. Edmund H. Cahill as President, being elected in New York City, February 25, 1942.

Mrs. Thomas had added many new clubs. She was chairman of the first convention ever attended by your Historian. To her this was an exciting event and made a lasting pleasant impression. This convention was held in Binghamton, April 1938.

For some unknown reason to your Historian, Mrs. Thomas failed to turn over her files to the succeeding President, Mrs. Warren Knox, who was elected in Albany, May 1946. This was a handicap to Mrs. Knox, but she met the emergency with dignity and calm, calling on the National Office for help as to clubs, Special Members, Chairmen, etc. Mrs. Knox had previously served as State Treasurer, and was a member of the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Knox is known for her wise, unbiased decisions, her accuracy in whatever job she may be taking part, either State or National, and to date she has served both in many capacities.

## **The History of The New York Federation of Music Clubs**

### **1946 – 1985**

Grace S. Summers, Historian

Mrs. Warren Knox – 1946-1950

Mrs. Knox was elected President at the Albany Convention, May 9 and 10, 1946, held at the Dewitt Clinton Hotel, and at the New York City Convention, May 5 - 8, 1948 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

There is very little information available concerning these years. Apparently, in 1942 Mrs. Knox was elected Treasurer of the Federation, having been a Board member for several years. With help from the National and from other sources, she was able to work out an excellent program while she was President. She supervised the drafting of the state Constitution.

Mrs. Knox was an active member of the Albany Musical Club, which in the early days had over 300 members. Many fine programs were given by this club at the Governor's Mansion.

Mrs. Knox did a great deal of work with Extension and Legislation, and held many offices at the state and national levels.

Mrs. A. Stuart Carpenter – 1950-1954

Mrs. Carpenter was elected President at the Convention of May 11-13, 1950, held at the Utica Hotel, Utica. She was re-elected at the May 8 - 10 Convention at the Henry Hudson Hotel in New York. There are no details on either of these conventions available.

During Mrs. Carpenter's tenure, the Ithaca Music Club was organized, and joined the New York Federation under her leadership.

The National Convention of NFMC was held in New York in April, 1953, at the Hotel Roosevelt. There were many outstanding events, including the Opera Carmen, with Risë Stevens. Other events included tours of Radio City and a concert at Radio City Music Hall. On Sunday, the group attended church, with Norman Vincent Peale giving the sermon. Mrs. C. Arthur Bullock was National Chairman of this Convention, and Mrs. Carpenter was the local Chairman.

Mrs. Carpenter was a strong advocate of Chautauqua, spending many summers there attending New York Federation programs.

She was Chairman of Music Clubs Magazine subscriptions for NFMC.

In 1953, Community Opera, Inc. was started by Gladys Mathew and the New York Federation of Music Clubs.

The Biennial Convention was held May 8, 9 and 10 at the Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse. Mrs. Edward French, State Junior Counselor was speaker at the Junior Day Program. The \$1000. Stillman-Kelley Award winner, Morey Ritt, 16 year old pianist, performed. The Ithaca Juniors performed excerpts from H.M.S. Pinafore, and instrumentalists from Watertown entertained the delegates.

The National Guest of Honor, Mrs. Frederik Marin, Northeastern Vice President, extended greetings, The evening program included a Sacred Concert by 75 mixed voices, directed by Dr. John D. Clough. Naomi Farr, lyric soprano and Young Artist Winner at the National Convention in 1953 was guest artist. She was accompanied by her husband, Lowell Farr.

A Song Cycle, Youth of the World, words and music by Gena Branscombe, was directed by the composer. She also directed One World, by Geoffrey O'Hara. Sigmund Spaeth was speaker at the Banquet. He was National Chairman of Radio, Motion Pictures and Television. Dr. Alexander Capurso, Dean of Fine Arts College, Syracuse, also spoke. The Guest Artist was Claudette Sorel, pianist, Young Artist Winner of 1951.

#### Miss Gladys Mathew – 1954-1958

A benefit for the Young Artists Projects, called The Troubadour Tour, was an outstanding event during the presidency of Miss Mathew. It was held on March 20, 1955. Dr. Merle Montgomery was Chairman. For \$10.00 guests could visit the homes of Risè Stevenc, star of the Metropolitan Opera, Isabell Banks Maskell, celebrated American artist, Luben Vichy, distinguished bass of the Metropolitan Opera, and Edwin Hughes, noted Pianist and educator. The tour included a concert at the home of Mrs. Sterling F. Boos. Performing were Claudette Sorel, pinaist, winner of Young Artist Award of 1000; Donald Gramm, Bass Baritone, winner of Paul Lavallo Award of \$1500, given in the late 1940's; Mrs. Harriet Serr, winner of \$1000 Steinway Award in 1954; Naomi Farr, lyric soprano, winner of 1953 NFMC Young Artist Award of \$1000; John Browning, pianist, winner of \$2000 Steinway Centennial Award in 1954; Francine Falcon, mezzo soprano, finalist in the NFMC Young Artist Auditions in 1947 and winners of 1955 Young Artist Auditions. This was an artistic and financial success, well attended, and an excellent concert.

The NYFMC Biennial Convention was held on April 27-29, 1956, at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel, New York. Dr. Sigmund Spaeth was honored. A program by composers Martin Kalmanoff, Norman Dello Joio, Gena Branscombe, Alec Wilder, Babriel Lukas, Wintter Watts and Ruth Bradley was given. Members of 16 Junior Clubs performed on the Youth Day program. A Benefit at the National Arts Club was an All Mozart Program, to raise money for Summer Camp Scholarships. On a special radio broadcast by Dr. Herman Neumann, many young artists performed.

On March 24, 1957, a Special Concert was given for the benefit of the Scholarship Fund. Performers were Sylvia Rosenburg, violinist, Tana Bawden, pianist, Marjorie McClung, soprano and William Metcalf, baritone.

The Biennial Convention was held in Ithaca, May 23-25, 1958 at Willard Straight Hall. It was during this Convention that the ten Districts of NYFMC were mapped out. It was hoped to get more upstate groups, especially in Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo.

At the Convention, the Cornell Trio played music of Robert Palmer. Marjorie Elliott of Oneida accompanied several of her songs, and the Treble Trio sang several of Annetta Rosser's songs. Dr. Dorothy Dann Bullock, of Canton, Pa., was National Honor Guest.

#### Dr. Merle Montgomery – 1958-1960

Dr. Merle Montgomery was elected at the Biennial Convention held in Ithaca, May, 1958. In July of that year, a Northeastern Conference of NFMC was held at Chautauqua, with Dr. Montgomery as official hostess. Doris Allbee Humphrey, Vice-President in Charge of Northeastern Region attended the conference.

Following the Federation week-end, an Extension Tea was given at the Twentieth Century Club in Buffalo on July 19. Mrs. Olive Bond Pleadwell was hostess, and Past Presidents Miss Gladys Mathew, Mrs. A. Stuart Carpenter, and President Dr. Montgomery spoke on the virtues of Federation projects and scholarship auditions and competitions. Miss Mathew spoke of the accomplishments during her administration, and invited those present to join.

Realizing that the greatest need of the NYFMC was some means of communication, Dr. Montgomery compiled and edited the first edition of the Empire State News. During her regime 27 new or reinstated clubs were added to NYFMC. Programs of music by New York State composers were broadcast over WNYC during American Music Month.

Another phase of the Federation's work was scholarships. Having been the first National Chairman of Summer Scholarships, she visited each summer camp where a Federation Scholarship was given. \$4500 was given in NYFMC Scholarships while Dr. Montgomery was President, including the Chaliapin scholarship, given to a young baritone, John Fiorito, and scholarships to Camp Solitude, Minnowbrook Camp, Chautauqua and Camp Undercliff.

New York City Opera Guild, of which Dr. Montgomery was a Founding Member, became a member of the NYFMC in 1959. The NYFMC was one of the sponsors of the first performance of "The Triumph of St. Joan" by Norman Dello Joio at the City Center, April 16, 1959. Profits went to music scholarships. Many other concerts were given for the scholarship funds as well.

During this administration, Ruth Bradley, Chairman for NYFMC for the committee to place Edward MacDowell in the Hall of Fame, achieved success. Edward MacDowell was elected in March, 1960; Stephen Foster is the only other musician to be so honored.

The NYFMC Convention was held May 20-22, 1960 at the Manger-Vanderbilt. Hotel in New York City, and honored the memory of Enrico Caruso, who had made his home in this Hotel for several years. The Celebrity Luncheon had as guests of honor, well-known figures in the music world seated at each table. Ada Holding Miller was Mistress of Ceremonies, and Ivan Davis, pianist, 1955 NFMC Young Artist Winner, and recent winner of the Franz Liszt Award, performed.

Following luncheon, Community Opera presented Douglas Moore's opera "Gallantry". On May 21, Youth Day, a program of Superior winners performed, Dr. Marion Morrey Richter presented awards to winners in the Composition Contest, the winners compositions were performed, and the Federation Chorus sang.

Dr. Montgomery presided at the Gala Banquet, Quaintance Eaton was Toastmistress and Miss Gladys Mathew was Convention Chairman. "Tenors of the Future" sang Arias made famous by Caruso. At the close of the Convention, the NFMC National Music Week and Parade of American Music Awards were presented.

Mrs. Ruth Burgess – 1960-1964

The 1962 Biennial Convention was held May 24-27 at the Manger Hotel, Rochester. The Music Forum for Piano Teachers of Buffalo, presented a program of American Music, and Dr. Marion M. Richter, State Chairman, presented Parade of American Music Awards.

A music program was given by Mary Helen Rowen, violinist, NYC, 6th Annual Winner of the National Arts Club competition. She was accompanied by her mother, Dr. Ruth Rowen. There was an AudioVisual Panel Discussion, and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo gave an evening program of music. Youth Day was held at the Eastman School of Music, with an afternoon concert at Kilbourn Hall.

At the Banquet, Mrs. C. Arthur Bullock, President NFMC was National Guest of Honor, and Dr. Howard Hanson speaker and recipient of a NYFMC Citation. The 1961 Stillman-Kelley Winner, Abbot Lee Ruskin, pianist, performed. A "raffle" of Famous Paintings, or choice of your own portrait, with Gladys Mathew as Chairman generated much interest.

The 1964 Biennial Convention was held in New York May 7 -10 at the Hotel Commodore, with many outstanding events. At the Presidents Luncheon, Mrs. Hazel Post Gillette, National Vice President was the speaker. Many noted guests were present. A private train took guest and members to the New York World's Fair in the afternoon. The Youth Day Program was dedicated to the founding of New York, this being the Tercentenary Year. Many outstanding students from all over New York State performed, including the Olympia High School Chorus of Rochester.

Mrs. Gillette was toastmistress at the Banquet, and Guests of Honor included Dr. Herman Neuman, Dr. Joseph Wincenc, Dr. Joseph Saetveit, and Mr. Edwin Hughes. The address by Dr. Carleton Sprague Smith was "Women Composers". A music program was given by the Philharmonia of New York, which included Elizabeth Mannion, mezzo-soprano, Young Artist Winner of 1963. A White Breakfast on Sunday concluded the Convention activities.

Mrs. Herman C. Beyle – 1964-1968

During the Presidency of Mrs. Beyle, great stress was put on improving the membership of the organization. Some distinguished music schools became members: Crane School at Potsdam; Eastman School of Music at Rochester; the School of Music at Syracuse; Mannes School of Music in New York City; Columbia; and the Juilliard School.

The NYFMC expanded into the Buffalo area through the work of Emilia Figura, in the Albany/Saratoga area through Mrs. Warren Knox, the Rochester area through Dr. Merle Montgomery, and including the Syracuse area through the President, Mrs. Beyle.

Emphasis was laid on helping students through scholarships to summer music camps, and encouraging participation in the many contests. Junior Festivals were established in the Buffalo area, and exceptional artists from throughout the state were encouraged to enter the National Artist's Competition.

One of the highlights of the second term of Mrs. Beyle's administration was hosting the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Convention in New York City. This was a great success. Dr. Merle Montgomery was National Chairman, Mrs. G. Walter Zahn was Chairman for New York and Mrs. Warren Knox Vice-Chairman.

Although Mrs. Beyle recognized the difficulties of coordinating such a scattered organization, and the lack of communication, she made important contributions by involving all areas of the NYFMC in the many projects and activities.

Mrs. G. Walter Zahn – 1968-1972

The administration of Mrs. Zahn was marked by membership growth (from 5200 to over 8500); by the addition of scholarships in strings, piano, harp, voice, the dance, and music therapy; by the affiliation of the Juilliard, Mannes and Manhattan renowned music schools in New York City, and of the Music Departments of Columbia, New York University, Queens and Brooklyn Colleges.

A Music Projects Fund was established by successful fund-raising, which enabled NYFMC to make substantial contributions to the Music Library of Lincoln Centre and to the Fund for the National Federation of Music Clubs Headquarters. New York was the largest contributor.

The work in hospitals, particularly in the Buffalo area, under Emilia Figura, increased to noteworthy proportions. The interest and the efforts of the Ten Districts under their dedicated Presidents throughout the State was reflected in stepped-up activity and involvement in programs to-meet local needs.

During her presidency, Mrs. Zahn was elected Vice President of the NFMC Council of State and District Presidents, and became Chairman of the International Music Scholarships Committee of NFMC.

The Biennial Convention held at the Royal Manhattan Hotel, New York City, on May 13, 1972 celebrated the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the NYFMC.

Mrs. Thomas Martin was Chairman of the Convention, and Mrs. Warren Knox Chairman of the Banquet. Dr. George Seuffert was Toastmaster, and there were six Past State Presidents at the speaker's table.

Citation scrolls were presented to Marcel Grandjany, Milton Cross and Thomas Scherman. Mrs. Dwight D. Robinson, Vice President in Charge of the Northeastern Region was the National Guest of Honor.

Mrs. Albert F. Strasburger – 1972-1976

In 1973 a Junior Competition Award was established by the Board of Directors to provide an award in rotating categories for various instruments. A Dime for Juniors project was begun, which was to provide funds for additional Junior awards. During the first year of this administration, membership was reported to have grown from roughly 8500 to 11,000. The amount of scholarships to Meadowmount and Chautauqua was increased.

State prizes for Composition were innovated, with Prof. Rudolf R. A. Schramm Chairman.

The Diamond Jubilee Convention of the NFMC was held in Atlantic City, April 5 - 10, 1973. Many NYFMC members participated in the programs: Joyce Barthelson's Opera, "Feathertop" was performed; Sylvia Rabinof and Seymour Bernstein conducted workshops, and Van Cliburn played a concert. A Celebrity Luncheon was held honoring ASCAP, with a program by Jerome Hines of the Metropolitan Opera. At the Diamond Jubilee Banquet, Shirley Verrett, soprano, entertained.

The NYFMC Biennial Conference was held May 17-19, 1974, at Nazareth College. An unusual program of piano compositions by Women Composers extending over a period of 300 years was given. Pupils from Districts V, VI and VII performed at the Youth Day Recital.

The 1975 Junior Endowment Competition was for flute, with Georgia Vraz donating the prize, in memory of Victor Vraz. The Piano Competition was won by Karina Eberl, with honorable mention to Ken Noda.

The NFMC participated in the National Music Council's Parade of American Music in Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., Nov. 17, 1975. This was a smashing success. 90 students from Buffalo University played band music in the foyer before the concert in the South Concert Hall. Claudette Sorel played the MacDowell "d minor Concerto", magnificently, with the National Orchestra Association of Youth, under the direction of Mr. Leon Barzin.

The Biennial Convention of 1976 was held May 6 - 8 at the Belmont Hotel, New York, with Mrs. Raymond Reece, National Guest of Honor. A banquet was held at Fraunces Tavern and Museum, with the presentation of "Sunday Excursion" by Eric Wilder, by members of Community Opera, Inc. At the Saturday Youth Day luncheon, Mme. Adele Marcus was speaker, and Dr. Herbert Axelrod was toastmaster.

**Dr. Marion Morrey Richter – 1976-1980**

The administration of Dr. Richter was marked by promotion of new special interests, Dance and Music Therapy, as well as by ongoing National and State objectives. There was emphasis on performance opportunities for young professional members as well as competition winners, and for composer-members. Notable among these events were the "Talent Showcase Concert" at the Donnell Library Auditorium, "Decade of Women Concert", Julia Smith Chairman, where NYFMC composers, including a world premiere by Wally Weigl, were presented, under the co-sponsorship of Carnegie Hall.

A continuing NYFMC Radio Series on WNYC, New York, with Dr. Richter as Chairman, presented members and other composers and performers. NYFMC, with President Richter as Chairman for New York, participated in the National Bicentennial Celebration, with the Empire State Radio Series, presenting New York State composers and performers over 14 radio stations throughout the state. Memorial plaques were presented at homes of late notables and historic New York sites during 1976-1977.

Scholarships were established which included: Dance; Music Therapy; one-year Memorial Scholarships honoring distinguished late members Olivia Knox and Herman Neuman; and a \$1000 Voice Award Competition donated by composer Helen Schafmeister was established in her honor. Additional Dance Scholarships were donated by Chairman Mrs. Frederik Rutgers, and dance winners, Junior and Student were presented in studio recitals and at the 1980 Convention in New York.

The 1978 Biennial Conference was held April 28-30 in Ithaca, with Mrs. Hal H. McHaney as National Honor Guest, and Mrs. Earl Reese as Chairman. Concerts were held at Cornell University, Ithaca College, and the Youth Day Recital featured Tana Bawden, NFMC Young Artist Winner. NYFMC Citations were presented to Karel Husa, and Pamela Gearhart.

NYFMC had two Young Artist National winners in 1977 and 1979, and two National Student Audition Winners. Treasurer Barbara Amos updated the NYFMC Roster, and a large quantity of music for all media was given to the noted high School for the Performing Arts, New York.

In 1980 the Biennial Convention was held in New York City on May 2 - 4 at the Gotham Hotel. Dr. Merle Montgomery was National Guest of Honor. The events included the Decade of Women Composers Concert, workshops, scholarship winners recitals, and presentation of Haydn's Opera "The Apothecary" by the Community Opera, Inc.

**Mrs. Wilmot W. Irish – 1980-1985**

During this administration, the emphasis was on reaching out to all parts of the state, by publishing a Newsletter, holding meetings and Scholarship auditions in various communities and visiting the state Senior Clubs.

In 1981 NYFMC had National winners in Stillman-Kelley, Music for the Blind composition and Lancaster Summer Orchestral Competition, and in 1983 a winner in Student Auditions for Piano. Composition students continued to win top prizes, and in 1984 captured the first 3 Victor Herbert/ ASCAP prizes. Junior Composers won top awards in 1983 and 1984, and won the top National awards in three categories in 1985.

In 1981 Ralph Evans won the NFMC Young Artist Auditions. Liberty District Auditions were held in New York in 1985, chaired by Dr. Ruth Halle Rowen, and Cheryl House, cellist, was NFMC Finalist.



From September, 1981 to June, 1982, Mrs. Irish was on leave, and Vice President, Mrs. Helena Arkus, was Acting President. The 1982 Biennial Conference was held May 14 -16 at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester. NYFMC Citations were awarded to David Zinman and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and to Elmer Brooks, President of Mason & Hamlin.

In 1981 and 1985, New York hosted the NFMC week at Chautauqua, and increased the scholarship contribution. The Eastman School of Music won the NFMC Educational Institution Award for American Music in 1981, with Honorable Mention to Crane School, SUNY Potsdam. The 1982 Award of Merit for Summer Festivals was won by Guggenheim Concerts of New York, and in 1983 by the Adirondack Festival of American Music.

Six new competitions were endowed: The Volya Cossack Award for Piano; Gladys Mathew Award for Voice; Prof. Rudolf R. A. Schramm Award for Composition, and the Louisa M. Pricher Prize and Memorial Gift award for Composition; Wendell Irish Junior String Competition Award and Viola Award. A pamphlet with all NYFMC Awards listed was printed. A New York Opera Studio Award was given by Ruth Kelley Martin.

The Bylaws were extensively revised, and the NYFMC History brought up to date and printed. Membership goals were emphasized, with 3 new Senior Contributing members, 5 Life Members, 2 Cradle Roll, and new, or reinstated Student Organizations: Nazareth College, Ithaca College; Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam; Syracuse University. Crouse College; Vassar College and Cornell University Department of Music. One new Past Presidents Assembly Charter was granted. District V showed the most growth, with establishment of Junior Clubs and Junior Festivals.

The Biennial Convention of 1985 was held at the National Arts Clubs, New York City, with Mrs. Dwight D. Robinson, NFMC President as National Guest of Honor. Citations were presented to Edward O.D. Downes and Martin Bookspan. and a Presidential Citation to Mrs. G. Walter Zahn, President National Arts Club. Events included a NFMC Composers Concert, harp recital, Young Artist Piano Concert, and Youth Day Winners Recital.

POSTSCRIPT

After reading through the past forty years of accomplishments of the New York Federation of Music Clubs, I couldn't help feeling what a great contribution we have made in music, not only in our state and nation, but to the world.

The Young Artists who have prospered, and the hundreds of organizations, schools, local clubs and individuals who have worked with us have all, from our association, helped to form the future of America.

May we continue to grow in strength and prosperity to bring peace and love to the world.

As Shakespeare said, "If music be the food of love, play on".

Grace S. Summers

Historian

1965-1969 and 1980-1985

**The History of  
The New York Federation of Music Clubs**

CONVENTIONS 1921-1985

1	Rochester	Hotel Seneca (Collection taken to defray expenses)	May 10-12	1921
2	New York	Hotel Pennsylvania	June 5-7	1922
3	Albany	Ten Eyck Hotel (Hostess Club, Monday Musical)	April 24-26	1924
4	Syracuse	Hotel Syracuse (Hostess Club, Morning Musicales, Inc.)	April 20-22	1926
5	Brooklyn	Hotel St. George	April 23-25	1928
6	Rochester	Hotel Sagamore	April 2-5	1930
7	New York	Hotel Victoria	April 7-9	1932
8	Watertown	Hotel Woodruff	May 10-12	1934
9	New York	Hotel Astor	April 18	1936
10	Binghamton	Arlington Hotel	April 20-22	1938
11	New York	Great Northern	May 18	1940
12	Albany	Hotel Ten Eyck	April 23	1942
13	New York	Hotel Biltmore	May 4-7	1944
14	Albany	DeWitt Clinton	May 9-10	1946
15	New York	Waldorf Astoria	May 5-8	1948
16	Utica	Utica Hotel	May 11-13	1950
17	New York	Henry Hudson	May 8-10	1952
18	Syracuse	Syracuse Hotel	May 9-10	1954
19	New York	Barbizon Plaza	April 27-29	1956
20	Ithaca	Willard Straight Memorial Hall	May 23-25	1958
21	New York	Manger-Vanderbilt	May 20-22	1960
22	Rochester	Manger Hotel	May 24-27	1962
23	New York	Commodore Hotel	May 3-10	1964
24	Buffalo	Sheraton Motor Inn	May 19-22	1966
25	Syracuse	Hotel Syracuse	May 5-6	1968
26	Watertown	Holiday Inn	May 1-3	1970
27	New York	The Royal Manhattan Hotel	May 11-14	1972
28	Rochester	Nazareth College	May 17-19	1974
29	New York	The Belmont Hotel	May 6-8	1976
30	Ithaca	Ramada Inn	April 28-30	1978
31	New York	Gotham Hotel	May 2-4	1980
32	Rochester	Eastman School of Music	May 14-16	1982
33	New York	National Arts Club	May 3-5	1985

CONVENTIONS of THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS in New York State

Hotels Roosevelt and Waldorf Astoria, New York	1953
Hotel New York Hilton	1967

**The History of  
The New York Federation of Music Clubs**

PRESIDENTS 1919-1985

Mrs. Julian Edwards	Rye, N. Y.	elected at	Organizational Meeting December 16, 1919
Mrs. Frank L. Henderson	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Rochester Convention May 12, 1921
Mme. Edna Marione	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Hotel Pennsylvania, Conv. June 7, 1922
Mrs. Harry L. Vibbard	Syracuse, N.Y.	elected at	Albany April 26, 1924
Mrs. Harry L. Vibbard	Syracuse, N.Y.	elected at	Syracuse April, 1926
Mrs. Etta Hamilton Morris	Brooklyn, N.Y.	elected at	Brooklyn April, 1928
Mrs. Etta Hamilton Morris	Brooklyn, N.Y.	elected at	Rochester April, 1930
Mrs. Etta Hamilton Morris	Brooklyn, N.Y.	elected at	New York April, 1932
Mrs. Etta Hamilton Morris	Brooklyn, N.Y.	elected at	Watertown April, 1934
Mrs. John McClure Chase	New York, N.Y.	elected at	New York April, 1936
Mrs. Edmund H. Cahill	New York, N.Y.	elected at	New York May, 1940
Mrs. Edmund H. Cahill	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Albany April, 1942
Mrs. Wm. B. Thomas	Binghamton, N.Y.	elected at	Special Meeting, N.Y.C. February, 1943
Mrs. Wm. B. Thomas	Binghamton, N.Y.	elected at	New York May, 1944
Mrs. Warren Knox	Albany, N.Y.	elected at	Albany May, 1946
Mrs. Warren Knox	Albany, N.Y.	elected at	New York May, 1948
Mrs. A. Stuart Carpenter	Salamanca, N.Y.	elected at	Utica May, 1950
Mrs. A. Stuart Carpenter	Salamanca, N.Y.	elected at	New York May, 1952
Miss Gladys Mathew	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Syracuse, May, 1954
Miss Gladys Mathew	New York, N.Y.	elected at	New York April, 1956
Dr. Merle Montgomery	New York, N. Y.	elected at	Ithaca May, 1958
Mrs. Ruth Burgess	New York, N.Y.	elected at	New York May, 1960
Mrs. Ruth Burgess	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Rochester May, 1962
Mrs. Herman C. Beyle	Syracuse, N.Y.	elected at	New York May, 1964
Mrs. Herman C. Beyle	Syracuse, N.Y.	elected at	Buffalo May, 1966
Mrs. G. Walter Zahn	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Syracuse 1968
Mrs. G. Walter Zahn	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Watertown 1970
Mrs. Albert F. Strasbilraer	New York, N.Y.	elected at	New York 1972
Mrs. Albert F. Strasbilraer	New York, N.Y.	elected at	Rochester 1974
Dr. Marion Morrey Richter	Scarsdale, N.Y.	elected at	New York 1976
Dr. Marion Morrey Richter	Scarsdale, N.Y.	elected at	Ithaca 1978
Mrs. Wilmot W. Irish	Ithaca, N.Y.	elected at	New York 1980
Mrs. Wilmot W. Irish	Ithaca, N.Y.	elected at	Rochester 1982