

The Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship met on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, on Zoom. FLMF members included Annie Feigles, Phyllis Vickers, Jeri Bennett, Sandy Baker, Connie Olivera, Jan Bode, Karen Pino, Claudia Libero, Melinda McCullah, Rachel Harmatuk, Libby McConnell, and former member Gretel von Pischke.

Annie Feigles opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The March minutes were read and approved.

**Membership:** Melinda McCullah announced we have one new member since March. One member has renewed for next year. Members are reminded that it's time to renew membership for the coming year. An email will be sent to the entire club.

**Website:** Jeri Bennett is keeping the site up-to-date. Members are reminded to send her any updated teacher information over the summer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sandy Baker reported that the balance is \$7,595.84. The only expense was recital programs for Ashby Ponds. Income came from the RCC recital and the Ashby Ponds recital. She will file for tax-exempt status in July.

**Ashby Ponds:** This April recital was well attended by Ashby Ponds residents and the family and friends of students. Four teachers entered 24 students. Four students played the harpsichord, thanks to Sandy Baker transporting the instrument. There was one violinist, and repertoire included nice selections of all levels for the piano. Residents have asked when the students will play again. Parents liked the venue.

**Reston Community Center Recitals:** The dates for next year are October 16, 2022 and April 30, 2023. This May 22 is under-enrolled due to a conflict with the NVMTA Sonata Festival.

**Harpsichord:** Jim Davis fixed the broken string and tuned it for no charge. Members who would like to house the instrument in the coming year should contact Libby McConnell.

**Ensemble Festival 2023:** Libby McConnell shared take-aways from the post-festival survey: We need to simplify the event to make it enjoyable for all participating teachers. We should focus more on the music and less on decor, theme, or speakers. The event should be much shorter.

We need more options for elementary students.

We have a continuing issue with this event's budget.

Hoping for more students/teachers to enter the event in its traditional form is not workable.

Thus FLMF would like to hold a Piano Ensemble *Recital* for 2023. The event would take place entirely in one weekend, with rehearsals on Saturday and two different 50-minute recitals scheduled for Sunday afternoon. We have a tentative reservation for February 11-12, 2023, at Ashby Ponds and would need to rent one grand piano alongside the grand available at the Ashby Ponds recital hall. We can use the screen onstage to highlight any seniors with pictures and bios. Teachers would be invited to choose their own repertoire and to register their students to perform any piano ensemble music that uses two pianos—duets, trios, or quartets by two sets of students, two-piano works, even concertos. We would prefer only student performers (no teachers). Teachers could get really creative with the options available and include 2, 4, 6, or even 8 students in one performance!

Time savings: No music selection meetings needed. No FLMF program month needed. No rehearsals at Piano Express. Most of the job list would be unnecessary.

Saturday rehearsal time would be allotted to teacher studios for running pieces onstage. If two different teachers decide to work together, they could rehearse together then. If conducting is required, the teacher would do it.

Possible expenses besides piano rental: Create a lovely small keepsake program and include student cover artwork. No fee for Ashby Ponds thanks to Jane's position on the Entertainment Committee. Thus the entry fee could be halved to \$25, similar to other recital entry fees, though this event has the rental costs.

Members discussed lack of parking at the venue. Libby reported that Jane Webb has done some observation and found open parking behind Maple Grove. Attendees would need to allow time to park and walk to the recital hall.

Members thanked Libby and Sharon (in her absence) for the time spent thinking of and planning for a revamped ensemble event and were supportive of the idea.

**Fall Festival 2023:** This event will be November 19, 2022 with a registration deadline of October 20. It will be held at Leesburg Community Church. Students will play two memorized pieces from two different musical periods and receive judged comments. Last year's event came out in the black. Jan Bode encouraged teachers to consider participating this fall as a kick-off event for their studios. She is happy to answer questions on repertoire or the festival.

**September meeting:** The September 14 meeting will be at Connie Olivera's home with presenter Daniel Adam Malz: <https://www.danieladammaltz.com/about>. The FLMF board of officers approved a payment of \$400 for the presentation due to the travel involved for this world-known speaker.

**Officers:** The positions of Vice President and Harpsichord Chair remain open.

FLMF thanked Jeri for hosting on Zoom and will reimburse her Zoom membership fee.

Annie wished everyone a wonderful summer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby McConnell, FLMF Recording Secretary