

The Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship met on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at Music and Arts in Sterling. Members present included Phyllis Vickers, Sandy Isaacs, Ellen Winner, Felicia Kissel Crawley, Sherri Stricker, Annie Feigles, Sandy Titus, Arlene Manger, Diane Kimble, Kay Willett, Lydia Kriso, Amy Work, Sharon Reck, and Libby McConnell.

Sharon Reck called the meeting to order at 9:50 am. In the absence of Sandy Baker, Sharon presented the treasurer's report. Recent outgoing expenses included \$2000 to MusicLink, \$101.94 for chocolate roses for the Ensemble Festival, and a refund to a member. We have \$24,158.16 in the checking account. Notably, Rene Plourde's company The Capital Group doubled his contribution in memory of wife and former FLMF member Nancy Plourde, donating \$2000.

Sharon read a letter from Joanne Haroutounian expressing thanks for FLMF's \$2000 donation to MusicLink. This money was raised from the Dulles Holiday Recital, which was very successful in December. The FLMF sound system aided sound projection at the Dulles Holiday Recital and will be used at the Ensemble Festival. Name plates honoring Nancy Plourde have been added to the speakers.

The next Reston Community Center Recitals will be May 16, with a registration deadline of April 27.

Annie Feigles presented information on Ensembles for Everyone, a concert event hosted by the Loudoun Symphony Youth Orchestra. This event targets the special needs community. The audience participates in the concert using percussion instruments. The concert will be held March 21, 2015, with a 3:15 pre-seminar, 4:00 concert, and 4:45 after-activities, including a musical petting zoo, instrument crafting tables, and more. Tracy Swope, a music therapist with "A Place To Be," will give the pre-concert seminar. Please register at www.ensemblesforeveryone.org.

Sherri Stricker made a motion to donate \$300 to the LSO in support of this special event, pending approval from Sandy Baker. The motion was seconded and approved.

Amy Work reported on the recent Ensemble Festival sectional rehearsal. Students were well-prepared, and the rehearsals ran smoothly. She thanked Music and Arts for donating a Yamaha digital piano valued at \$1100 for the raffle. Teachers should encourage parents to purchase raffle tickets at the next sectional rehearsal (1/\$5 or 3/\$10) and to bring cash to purchase chocolate roses or flower bouquets at the concert for \$5 each. Ornaments and note cards will also be sold at the event. The dress code is black and white. Sherri Stricker will make dinner reservations at an Italian restaurant near the event venue. The Ensemble Festival concert will be January 31 at John Champe High School, with a snow date of February 14, and will be dedicated to Nancy Plourde.

Kay Willett brought the library to the meeting. Members were encouraged to sign out and use materials. She asked that we consider whether to continue to house a library when so few teachers use it.

Libby McConnell read the November minutes. They were seconded and approved.

The FLMF website has been updated recently. Jeri Bennett and Sandy Baker are working on adding a PayPal link for registration, event fees, and dues.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30. Sharon thanked Music and Arts for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Lydia Kriso welcomed Dr. Patricia Parker, adjunct professor of piano and accompanying at George Mason University. Dr. Parker discussed pianistic independence for all students as well as sightreading skills in her program, "The Useful Pianist After Lessons End."

Respectfully submitted,

Libby McConnell
Recording Secretary

Notes from Patricia Parker

To improve sight reading:

assign 2 pieces/week a bit below the difficulty of the student's repertoire. Simply play it 2 times per day.

Repeat line note names: "EGBDF" as a mantra. Do this with other line/space note names.

You Can Sight Read (Havill)