



Friends of Music of Shenendehowa

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FOMS NEWSLETTER
Fall 2011

A Message from the President

What is FOMS? "FOMS is a non-profit organization of parents, students, teachers, and other members of the Shenendehowa community who feel that music is a vital part of a student's educational and social development. Our mission is to enhance the experience of all student musicians in the Shenendehowa Music Program." That's a big goal for a small organization. We are small in size (fewer than a hundred members) and small in budget (about \$3000/year). But we think our mission is more important than ever. There are fewer teachers and resources, yet it speaks highly of Shen's music program that the number of students in the choruses, orchestras, and bands continues to grow.

Why do we need FOMS? Imagine a sports team without parents standing along the sidelines cheering, holding events to recognize the athletes, and instilling pride in their team. That's what FOMS does for music. FOMS helps teachers put on special music events, such as the Jazz Festival. FOMS recognizes the accomplishments of our student musicians. FOMS helps offset students' conference fees and can help students in need pay for instrument repairs or fees. And FOMS is a group of parents who have accompanied their children through the Shen music program and can share their experiences with you.

Why do we need members? FOMS doesn't hold fundraisers. Our only sources of funds are membership dues, t-shirt sales, and sales of refreshments at the high school musical. We also need members who will volunteer to help with events and to bring ideas and energy to the organization. And members can vote on who runs FOMS and how our funds are spent.

Have a happy and very musical new year.

Marta Gomez, FOMS President

What is NYSSMA?

NYSSMA is the New York State School Music Association. New York State is divided into 15 NYSSMA zones. Shenendehowa is in Zone 7, which includes nine counties. School music teachers can become members of NYSSMA and its parent organization, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). NYSSMA provides resources and continuing education for music teachers and works to ensure that students in New York continue to receive music education.

NYSSMA selects sites throughout the state where festivals and conferences are held. The solo festivals are where students perform alone in front of a judge and are scored on various aspects of their performance. All music students are eligible to participate in the NYSSMA solo festivals and register through their school music teacher. The student's music teacher selects a solo piece from the current NYSSMA manual at the appropriate level (1 is easiest, 6 is hardest). (It is possible to attend a NYSSMA festival with a private teacher, but the registration form must be submitted to a school music teacher.) Festivals are held in the spring, but students begin preparing their music and scales well in advance of the festival. The audition scores tell a student where his/her strengths and weaknesses lie, and give the student invaluable experience at auditioning.

NYSSMA also convenes Conference All-State music groups. Being invited to Conference All-State is restricted to students who were judged performing a level 6 piece as sophomores and juniors, and are invited as juniors and seniors. Students must be recommended by their school music teachers and most received a score of 98 or better on their solo performance.

For more information about NYSSMA, go to www.nyssma.org.

Shen students invited to the Area All-State Conference

Twenty-six students were invited to compete in the NYSSMA Area All-State Conference held at Saratoga High School on November 18 and 19.

Arjun Acharya	Angela Harper	Olivia Moran	Stephen Shimple
Grace Barkhoff	Brianna Kelly	Maria Paley	Lauren Silberstein
Bonnie Culpepper	Casey Kobylar	Christopher Patrizo	Caitlin Sofko
Lauren Fish	Alexandria Kosek	August Rice	Sierra Vorsheim
Kayla Fraser	Howon Lee	Nicholas Ringelberg	Nicholas Wroe
Darrin Frodey	Lisa Liu	Yana Salei	
William Golden	Daniel Lyng	Lyndsay Schaefer	

Six of these students were selected to perform with NYSSMA's All-State music groups.

Bonnie Culpepper, vocal	Dan Lyng, vocal
Casey Kobylar, vocal	Josh Opitz, percussion (alternate)
Siyao (Lisa) Liu, violin	Julia Knowles, cello (alternate)

All of these students are commended for their talent and dedication in their pursuit of music.

SHEN MUSIC T-SHIRTS

\$10

Attractive good quality t-shirts in sizes: S, M, L, and XL. On sale at all middle and high school concerts. Look for the FOMS table or order one by email fomshen@gmail.com.

All proceeds support our activities.

FOMS Officers 2011-2012

President.....	Marta Gomez
Vice President	Vee Abbitt
Treasurer	Mary Fran Verostek
Secretary.....	Carol Harper

Fine and Performing Arts

Academic Administrator..... Frank Rosselli

IMPORTANT DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOMS Member Meetings: Wed. Jan. 4, Wed. Feb. 1, Wed. March 7, Thurs. May 3 (7:00 p.m. HSE Satellite Cafeteria)

Music Workshop (grades 6-12): TENTATIVE DATE
Saturday, April 21

Excerpt from “Music Makes Me Come Alive” by composer Joan Tower “After 60 plus years of composing and performing, I believe more than ever in the extraordinary power of music....Music is not just my most trusted friend. It makes me come alive, to show strength and passion and to feel useful. Music makes me feel like I'm doing something terribly important. I believe that with music I can help to change the world around me—if just a little bit.”

Aired November 27, 2006 as part of the series “This I believe,” National Public Radio

FOMS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your membership fee is tax deductible. Cash or checks accepted. Make checks payable to FOMS. Mail the form and payment to FOMS, PO Box 1164, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

Name (as you wish it to be listed): _____

Email(s): _____

Phone(s): _____

FOMS Membership Levels (membership good through October 2012)

Adagio \$10 *Andante* \$25 *Allegro* \$50 *Presto* \$100 *Other amount* \$ _____

I would like to be a FOMS volunteer.