

Louisiana Federation of Music Clubs

90th Annual Convention

Saturday, April 7, 2018

John Calvin Presbyterian Church
4201 Transcontinental Drive, Metairie, LA

We Are Music! Program Highlights

- **Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung, Happy Dog Duo Pianists**
NFMC Young Artists 2017

For over a decade, Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung have performed four hands originals, transcriptions, and classics alike with a focus on bringing humor and joy to the classical music world. Happy Dog Duo has been performing four-hands and two-piano repertoire together since they were in middle school. They won both the 1st Prize and the Abild American Music Award of the 2017 Ellis Duo-Piano Competition hosted by the National Federation of Music Clubs. They have also won a record-setting 13 gold medals in piano duo events of the United States Open Music Competition, and have performed with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Diablo Symphony Orchestra, and the Vallejo Symphony.

The name Happy Dog comes from their eponymously titled 30-second compositional "masterpiece," Happy Dog. Neither Nathan nor Eric owns a dog

- **Masterclass**

Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung will do a Duet Masterclass for Juniors Saturday afternoon.

- **Steve Masakowski: "Thoughts on Jazz Improvisation and Hearing"**

Steve Masakowski is Coca-Cola professor of Jazz Music at UNO. He has played guitar with most of New Orleans' greatest musicians including Alvin "Red" Tyler, Ellis Marsalis, Earl Turbinton, Al Belletto and James Black. He has also performed with Grammy Award-winning artists Bobby McFerrin, Nicholas Payton, Allen Toussaint, Dianne Reeves and others at major festival concert halls around the world. He has twice been voted "Best Guitarist," and won "Best Contemporary Jazz Group" three times by Gambit and Offbeat magazines in their annual reader's polls. He has published lessons in Guitar Player magazine and authored a book on jazz ear training for Mel Bay.

- **Rita Lovett, "Legit vs. Belt, What does it mean?"**

Rita Lovett, a Wisconsin native, has appeared on TV, musical comedy and concert stages in Milwaukee, Dallas, Kansas City, and New Orleans. She has written, produced and accompanied shows for children's theatre in all those cities. In 1990, she came to Tulane University as Professor of Practice and Director of Vocal Studies, also becoming a regular on the Tulane Summer Lyric Theatre stage. A past president of the Baton Rouge Music Club, she is now president-elect of the Philharmonic Club of Baton Rouge and continues to sing within those clubs.

- **Jan Schaeffer Cox, Collaborative Pianist**

A native of Ohio, Jan received a bachelor of music education degree from Kent State University, then to New Orleans for a Master of Music from Loyola. After teaching for a few years and having two children, she worked as a "dueling pianist" at Pat O'Brien's for 27 years and accompanied many instrumentalists and vocalists. She also served in several churches as organist and as musical director for shows and musicals at Le Petit Theater and the Manship Theater.

- **The Bayou Brass Quintet**

The Bayou Brass Quintet has been playing together for twenty-two years, and has played numerous times for the Music Club of Baton Rouge. They perform a wide variety of music ranging from classical standards to ceremonial music, church music, jazz and pop. They are called on for anything from a brass fanfare on a special occasion, a concert, or music for a birthday party.

And More