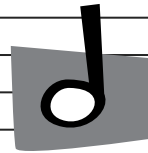


Half Notes



Publication of Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

SUMMER 2013

Official Call

BY PAT STEEGE, MFMC PRESIDENT

The next MFMC all-member state meeting and convention will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, August 7 and 8, 2013, at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 20800 Kenrick Ave. South, Lakeville, MN 55044. Hosts are Burnsville, South Suburban, and Apple Valley.

All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. MFMC officers and chairmen are expected to attend. All clubs are required by the Bylaws to be represented at one or more state meetings a year or lose their eligibility to hold a Festival. Members of MFMC active adult organizations, individual adult members, and life members in good standing are eligible to vote on actions proposed at this meeting.

On Wednesday, registration and continental breakfast will begin at 8:45 a.m. The all-member state meeting starts at 9:30. During this meeting we will vote on state officers. Club presidents should be prepared to give a two-minute report on their club's activities. The Festival meeting will be held on Thursday August 8, at 10:15.

An outline of the convention's schedule is included in this newsletter.

The registration form will be emailed to members and available on the MFMC website – www.mfmc.net. ☞

Darin Tysdal Performs at Convention

Darin Tysdal will be the featured concert performer at the upcoming Biennial Convention



Darin Tysdal earned a BM in Music Composition from Moorhead State University and a MM in Music Composition from Northwestern University. He has taken piano lessons from Nancy Harris at Moorhead State University, and from Gary Sipes and Judy Lin at MacPhail Center for Music.

He has participated and performed in master classes and concerts. He has performed with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra in Minneapolis, the Minnesota Freedom Band, MacPhail Orchestra, Dakota Valley Symphony, Minnesota Symphonic Winds, Moorhead State University Concert Band, Kenwood Symphony, and the Minnetonka Civic Orchestra.

He was conductor of the Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra for five seasons. He has accompanied many soloists and choirs including his church choir at Christ The King Lutheran Church. He received two invitations to compete in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. He won his way to the semi-finals the first time and received an award for Most Original Programming in the second. He has participated in the Amateur piano competition in New York and Boston and will return to Boston for the upcoming competition in June. Darin lives with his wife Lynda and their cats Sunny and Sherry. ☞

Message From President Pat Steege



This is the final message that I will post as your MFMC President.

I admit I took a ten minute break from writing and editing this article to play through my most recently learned piece *The Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen*. It is a reminder to me that what I do as MFMC's President is because of my love for music.

My term as President ends August 7. About 15 years ago, as a direct result of my curiosity about the Federation's "bigger picture," I attended my first state meeting. I'll never forget my first encounter with then President Gloria Lien in the parking lot of a church in Willmar. Although we had not met, Gloria was bold enough to ask me to take on a Board position. I declined. After all, I hadn't even stepped inside the building for my first meeting.

I remember the joy of becoming acquainted with people just like me from around the state and being awed by the broad scope of Federation activities. I had stepped into a much bigger picture than I imagined and I found it enticing. Soon after, I began chairing the Junior Composers Contest and found a lot of support from the state organization.

Minnesota was producing some unbelievably good composers. How exciting! Then I applied for a teacher grant and received \$200 to put *Finale* on my studio computer. During the past 15 years, I have grown in leadership, writing, administration, and management. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. This Kansas girl has toured practically the entire state of Minnesota while performing MFMC presidential duties and promoting Junior Composers summer camp program.

I am grateful to all the MFMC officers, chairmen, and members for their help and support during the last four years. I plan to stay involved in this organization knowing that I am never too old to learn, make friends, and enjoy music.

The MFMC Presidency will pass to Stacey Voit during our August convention. The MN Federation will continue to serve the local clubs under strong leadership as Stacey takes the reins of her position and regales you (and me) here in the President's Message. Excuse me. I hear the piano calling. ♪

Summary of April 20 meeting in Andover

BY PAT STEEGE

Tucked in among April's snowy days was a bright, warm and dry April 20 — the day of MFMC's all-state meeting in Andover. The meeting was hosted by President Gloria Kroeger and fellow members of North Suburban Music Club.

Discussion led to a vote commissioning Chris Wolf of Rosemount to compose three piano solos in honor of Rose Zygmanski. Also, MFMC decided to host an exhibitor's table at the MMTA convention and to buy ad space in their yearly handbook. Scholarships awarded at the meeting are announced in this newsletter.

Areas reported on included opera, arts advocacy, insurance, and the logowear design contest. Junior Composers program reports show that our Minnesota kids are composing more than ever, and doing it well. The Adult Composers Contest has been retired due to several factors including lack of interest. The idea of offering a final composition contest in Virginia Kendrick's name to a student of the Junior Composers camp was tabled. Dawn Carlson

Meeting continued on Page 5

MFMC's 56th Biennial Convention

BY KATHY WILSON



The symbols *mp-mf* mean mezzo piano on first playing, mezzo forte on the second. We are interpreting those well-known terms in a new way as our convention theme: **mp (Musical Performance) – mf (Minnesota Festival).**

This convention is not to be missed. Clubs — in their reports during the general session — will share abundant activities to inspire and educate. On Wednesday, we have set up two workshops that focus on working with students: Dr. Christopher Atzinger from St. Olaf will offer a session on memorization; Doug Rhode of Minneapolis will instruct a class on how to use improvisation with our students.

Following the workshops: Student Performances. Please note that the Honors Recital is open to any student who has received a Superior rating at the 2013 Festival. We have only one piano on site, and therefore, some events will not be represented. However, we encourage instrumentalists, vocalists, and pianists to apply.

In honor of the “mp” status of the day, we will dress in our best performance attire and reconvene for the convention banquet. There we will dine to music provided by The Paul Woell Jazz Trio. Our NFMC President Carolyn Nelson will speak and we will install our new MFMC officers. And then — our “Tribute to Gershwin” featuring Twin Cities’ pianist Darrin Tysdal.

The first day of our convention will be mp—Musical Performance. After we hold a memorial service for members who have passed, the second day moves to mf—Minnesota Festival. We will hold a discussion about judging (ever necessary). Please bring your new Festival Bulletin and use it to note new rules and any other changes to ensure a successful Festival 2014. Also, check your favorite new piano solo repertoire (through Medium Class) as presented by fellow teachers.

Throughout the two-day convention, we will indulge in great food, marvelous musical interludes, and outstanding opportunities for fellowship with our peers. As you leave the convention, we hope you will feel inspired and richer in knowledge as you look toward the new school year. ↪

For more information, please see Page 12

Convention Schedule

Wednesday • August 7

- 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM — Registration
- 8:45 AM — Breakfast / Coffee
- 9:30 AM — All State Meeting
- 12:00 Noon — Lunch
- 1:00 PM — Dr. Christopher Atzinger Workshop
- 2:15 PM — Doug Rhode Workshop
- 3:30 PM — Break
- 4:00 PM — Honors Recital
- 5:00 PM — Break
- 5:45 - 7:00 PM — Paul Woell Trio & Banquet with Carolyn Nelson, NFMC President
- 7:00 PM — Installation of Officers
- 7:15 PM — Break
- 7:30 PM — Darin Tysdal Concert • *A Tribute to Gershwin*
- 8:30 PM — Reception

Thursday • August 8

- 8:45 AM - 10:45 AM — Registration
- 8:45 AM — Breakfast / Coffee
- 9:30 AM — Memorial Service
- 10:00 AM — Interlude
- 10:30 AM — Festival Meeting
- 12:00 Noon — Working Lunch
- 1:00 PM — Continuation of preview of piano music from new Bulletin
- 3:00 PM — Conclusion

Future MFMC Meetings

- **July 19, 2013** — NFMC North Central Region meeting held in conjunction with Junior Composers camp, U of M Minneapolis School of Music
- **August 7-8, 2013** — MFMC convention held at Holiday Inn, I-35 at County Road 70, Lakeville, MN. Convention hosted by Apple Valley, Burnsville and South Suburban.
- **April 2014** — to be announced

Dr. Christopher Atzinger

BY PAT STEEGE

Our featured guest at the upcoming Biennial Convention is Dr. Christopher Atzinger, who will present a very informative and inspiring session on memorization techniques on August 7.

Dr. Atzinger, a native of Michigan, is especially loved and revered in Minnesota because of his long time affiliation with the Minnesota Federation through numerous performances and master classes given at conventions and club meetings.

In 2007, Dr. Atzinger won the coveted first place prize and title of NFMC's Young Artist in Piano. He has been praised in Gramophone for his "abundant energy, powerful fingers, big sound and natural musicality" and in the San Francisco Chronicle for his "fervency and panache." He has won many prestigious awards at international competitions and we are honored to have him share with us about improving memorization of music. ↪

Dr. Atzinger is the Associate Professor of Music-Piano at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.

He enjoys an active career as a worldwide performer.

Please see his entire impressive biography on the MFMC website.



Dr. Christopher Atzinger



Doug Rohde

Doug Rohde Workshop • MFMC Biennial Convention

Doug Rohde's Workshop on Wednesday at the Convention is titled "Beyond Interpretation: Using Popular Styles to Teach Arranging, Improvising, and Composing."

This interactive session will provide tools to serve students strongly drawn to improvisation, aural learning, and the uniquely American contribution to the world of music. (*Every studio has them!*) Specific focus will be the ability to play from a "lead sheet" (just melody and chords). This skill, in addition to being essential for today's working musician, can move any musician, especially the classically trained pianist, "beyond interpretation" and into arranging, improvising, and composing.

We will also spend time talking about the Festival "Classical Improv" event. ↪

VISIT OUR WEBSITES

MFMC — www.mfmc.net

NFMC — www.nfmc-music.org

National Guest NFMC President Carolyn Nelson



Carolyn Nelson, NFMC President

Carolyn Nelson, President of the National Federation of Music Clubs, will be our National Guest and featured speaker during the banquet at the convention.

Carolyn, prior to becoming NFMC president in 2011, has served on many governing boards both in and outside of Federation.

Within Federation, she was First Vice President and chairman of the Budget committee and the liability insurance project. She is a member of the NFMC Board of Directors and has chaired the Legislation/Arts Advocacy committee. She was vice chairman of the Council of State Presidents. She served on the NFMC membership and bylaws committees. She is a NFMC Rose Fay Thomas Fellow.

She was North Central Region VP, and NCR secretary-treasurer, NDFMC club rating chairman, bylaws chairman, archives chairman, arts advocacy chairman, vice president and president of NDFMC (1997-2001). She is a life member of Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity and NFMC. Read more about Ms. Nelson on our website — www.mfmc.net

Time of Remembrance

BY JEANNENE SIMONSON

A time of remembrance will be held at the convention on Thursday August 8, at 9:30 a.m. This memorial service will pay tribute to MFMC members who have passed away since our last convention in August of 2011.

When writing tributes, please include personal and anecdotal information and, most importantly, club affiliation, number of years of membership, offices and chairmanships held within both the home club and MFMC. Send — by July 15 — names of those whom you wish to remember to Jeannene Simonson, 17670 Italy Path, Lakeville, MN 55044, or email jeannenekay@hotmail.com. Please include the name of the person who will read your tribute at the convention.

Andover Meeting continued from Page 2

stated that the new Festival Bulletin will be arriving this spring. Membership deadlines are being changed to earlier dates. Judy Zylstra will take over the position of State Festival Chair. A section of the August convention will be entirely devoted to Festival.

Officers slated to be voted on at the August 7 meeting: Stacey Voit, President; Mary Westcott, 1st Vice President; Gwen Degner, Treasurer; Cheryl Schmidt, NFMC Board representative; Pat Steege, Historian. There are two vacancies that need to be filled: 2nd Vice President and Secretary. A convention planning report was heard. The minutes of this meeting can be read on the state website www.mfmc.net.



Treasurer Gwen Degner and Kathy Wilson, American Music Chair, at the state meeting in Andover

Tuition Assistance Grant Criteria

BY PAT STEEGE

Following a very successful start to the Tuition Assistance Grant program last November, round two of funding will begin July 25, 2013. All applications — in order to be accepted — must be postmarked on or before July 25. The TAG application is available on our website — www.mfmc.net.

Please note the criteria (below) designed to help parents and teachers write the applications and to assist the grant committee in making awards:

- One student per teacher
- Financial need is described
- Festival participation is described
- Longevity of lessons
- Value of music to the family
- Student potential
- Student's talent and desire
- Character of student/ work ethic
- Student receives only one grant

In their letters of recommendation, teachers are encouraged to answer these questions: Are you already giving a discount? What fee do you normally charge? How have you become aware that there is a financial need? The maximum grant is \$500. If the yearly costs stated on the application are less than \$500, we will award the lesser amount. The teacher should send MFMC a one-page report on how the money was spent by the end of May. ↪

Liability Insurance Change

BY TAMIE MORKEN

President Carolyn Nelson recently stated: "We are switching to the calendar year for insurance so watch your email inboxes for an announcement as to when your Festival and event dates and locations are due. After 4 years at the same premium, we need to raise the premium a dollar for next year. The event premium is now \$15 per event and includes liability for attendees and members, and sexual misconduct." Future email from Tamie Morken will alert our clubs of Minnesota's deadline for receiving the necessary information for insurance coverage. ↪

Festival 2014 Logowear Design Contest for Students

BY TAMIE MORKEN

The Festival Logowear Committee is holding a student design contest for the 2014 Festival logowear — with the winning design printed on tees, totes, and sweatshirts. Students from across the State of Minnesota are welcome to enter. Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, and musical appeal. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$50 and be invited to attend the August All-State Convention in Lakeville, MN. Download the entry form on our website — www.mfmc.net. Deadline for entries is June 30, 2013. For more information, contact Tamie Morken at trmorken@gmail.com. ↪

JC Scholarship Winners 2013

BY PAT STEEGE

Five composition students from Minnesota were awarded \$400 scholarships to attend the Junior Composers summer camp at the University of Minnesota.

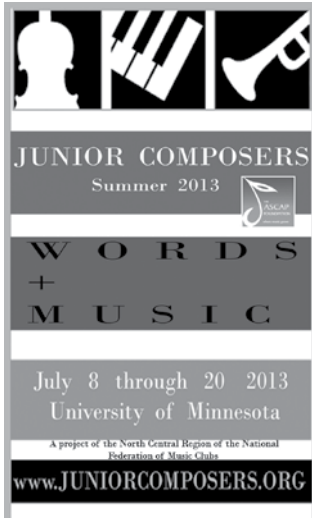
Winners:

- **Luke Gion**, White Bear Lake
(Teacher Kathy Martinez)
- **Jonas Fisher**, Warroad
(Teacher Heather Hahn)
- **Sarrah Bushara**, Eden Prairie,
(Teacher Sarah Miller)
- **Zachary Bigelbach**, Vadnais Heights
(Teacher Kathy Martinez)
- **Ariana Bachman**, Eagan
(Teacher Martha Davis) ↪

Junior Composers Studio / Institute 2013

BY PAT STEEGE

Junior Composers 2013 will feature three programs for composition students ages 14-20. **JC Studio** is a two-week experience with extensive instruction in music analysis, theory and ear training. **JC Institute** is a one-week composer-performer camp with daily instruction in theory and ear-training. **Junior Songwriters Institute** features a songwriting-recording experience as well as theory and ear training. Program enrichments include numerous field trips and guest speakers. Junior Composers is held at the University of Minnesota School of Music, Minneapolis, and is sponsored by our own North Central Region.



Dates: July 8-20, 2013 (Studio) and July 14-20 (Institute and Songwriters). The theme of this summer's camp is **Words and Music**. VocalEssence will provide professional readings of compositions by students who have registered for the 2013 camp.

Log onto www.juniorcomposers.org or Email Pat Steege, Administrative Director, psteege@mjssecurity.com

Junior Composers Contest

BY PAT STEEGE

In January of 2013, Junior Composers Contest received a record-breaking number of entries from all across Minnesota: twenty-nine pieces representing all levels of skill and creativity. Compositions were evaluated by Judge Wynn-Anne Rossi of Minnetonka, who stated: "The quality has never been better . . . it feels like some sort of invisible dam is breaking."

Two 15-point trophies and one 30-point trophy were awarded this year. Entries were placed into one of four age levels spanning ages 5 to 18 years. The top two winners in each age category were sent to the Regional level of judging. The eight Minnesota winners:

Class I — ages 5-9 (2 entries)

1. Iggy Rosado, *The Spooky Lion* — Teacher Sarah Miller, Chain of Lakes
2. Joseph Caswell, *I Like Cheese* — Teacher Sarah Miller, Chain of Lakes

Class II — ages 10-12 (10 entries)

1. Max Zelle, *Piano Trio #3 in C* — Teacher Sarah Miller, Chain of Lakes
2. Ronan Armstrong, *The Black Diamond* — Teacher Sarah Miller, Chain of Lakes

Class III — ages 13-15 (11 entries)

1. Evren Ozel, *The Journey* — Teacher Sarah Miller, Chain of Lakes
2. Derek Hartman, *Frantic Tarentella* — teacher Sarah Miller, Chain of Lakes

Class IV — ages 16-18 (6 entries)

1. Luke Gion, *Withered Lullabies* — Teacher Kathy Martinez, East Suburban
2. Elizabeth Ophoven, *Matanuska Wind* — Teacher Anne Dimich, Itasca Music Club

Three Minnesota winners who advanced from the Regional to the National judging also won at the National level. Congratulations to Iggy Rosado, Max Zelle, and Evren Ozel. ♪

New Festival Chair Judy Zylstra

Former State Festival Chair Dawn Carlson has retired from the position. Judy Zylstra of Litchfield —recommended by Dawn — will serve as our new Festival Chair. Welcome, Judy!

Judy became involved in Federation in 1993 when she first entered four piano students in the Willmar area Festival. Since then, she has served as Festival Chair for the Willmar East/Cadenza Club and been an auditor under Dawn Carlson for the state Festival reports. Judy's students have entered the Music Week Essay Contest and the Junior Composers Contest.

Judy teaches about 40 private piano students. She accompanies various groups including Litchfield schools and Litchfield Community Theater, and her church where her husband serves as pastor.

"So, I just play all day," says Judy. "I often joke that when I grow up I'll get a real job." During the second day of our convention (August 8) Judy will introduce us to the new Bulletin and lead discussion about other Festival issues.

Thank you, Dawn, for serving MFMC members during the past several years. We appreciate that you have always been well organized, articulate, and diligent in your duties. You gave advice and found answers to the many situations that arose with Festivals. We wish you the best. ♪

President's Cup Winner 2013 Ashley Nelsen

Two young Minnesotans have been awarded NFMC's prestigious trophies for outstanding achievement in Festival: Ashley Nelsen of Big Lake won the President's Cup and Matthew VanRisseghem of Eagan, the Grand Cup.

Ashley Nelsen, Big Lake, MN, was awarded the President's Cup for her accomplishment: 91 points earned by receiving 13 consecutive Superior ratings in the Festival Solo Event starting in 2001; and by preparing Concertos and receiving two (respective) Superior ratings.

Ashley began studying piano at age five with Lois Muelich of the Great River Music Club. Along with participating in Festival, she has performed in the Honors Recital seven times and in the Senior Young Artists competition. She has completed Levels 1-10 Comprehensive Piano Exams earning High Distinction every year. Also, Ashley has taken Music Theory Examinations through Level Four.

As a senior at Big Lake High School, Ashley has been a member of her high school band and choir. She is a member of NHS and was Captain of the Big Lake Swim and Dive team this year. She has a Black Belt in Karate, teaches swimming lessons to about 125 students. Next year, Ashley will attend the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in the College of Biological Sciences. ♪



Ashley Nelsen, winner of the President's Cup 2013

Gold Cup Winner 2013 Matthew VanRisseghem

Matthew VanRisseghem, of Egan, Minnesota was awarded the National Federation of Music Clubs Grand Cup in recognition of his achievement: 78 points earned for quality performances in Piano Solos and Piano Concerto performance events. Matthew is the only student in Minnesota to receive the Grand Cup award in 2013. In addition to the trophy, he will receive a \$500 scholarship from MFMC.

Matt has participated in Junior Festivals since 2002 and received recognition from the NFMC for his consistent level of excellence in piano performance — 10 consecutive Superior ratings. He has participated in a variety of Minnesota Music Teachers Association Programs including Theory exams, Keyboard Skills exams, and MMTA Contest. Matt qualified as a winner in the MMTA Piano Contest three times and played in the MMTA Honors Concert at Northrup Auditorium, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

He began taking piano lessons in kindergarten and has continued for 13 years with teacher Jill Kilzer of Apple Valley. He has performed in various venues, played for his school choir, and at several churches. Matt plays the guitar and likes to compose and improvise. He plays soccer, lacrosse, and is in cross-country. Matt graduated from Egan High School in June and will attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth this fall to study accounting and continue his study of music and music theory. ♪



Matthew VanRisseghem of Egan, MN — Winner of the Grand Cup 2013 — photographed with his teacher Jill Kilzer of Apple Valley

Gold Cup Report

BY SARAH TWEDT, MFMC GOLD CUP CHAIRMAN

The Cups get bigger — and bigger. As students continue with lessons and Festival, points accumulate and awards are larger. And, if students participate in multiple events, they earn Cups in those events, too.

NFMC Festival provides our students with incentive to continue studying and practicing — violin, band instruments, piano, and/or voice.

This year, MFMC had the honor of awarding a President's and a Grand Cup. The Presidents Cup was awarded to Ashley Nelson, student of Lois Muelich of the Great River Music Club, St. Cloud, who earned a total of 91 points. The Grand Cup was awarded to Matthew VanRisseghem, student of Jill Kilzer, Apple Valley Music Club, who earned a total of 78 points. This was and is a huge accomplishment for both student and teacher.

Changes in reporting are forthcoming as we prepare for the national database system to take effect. Plans are being made to integrate the participants report into our access database. Our current program was set up to only include Gold Cup points, names of students and club regions. Expanding the program will make our reporting system easier for everyone. Please prepare to send me information as requested. Our goal is to keep this simple for everyone. As you have read in the Jr. Keynotes, two pieces of information that will be needed include birth dates and middle names. (Please do nothing at this point until you hear from Sarah.)

A total of 1,060 cups were ordered this

Gold Cup continued on next page

Gold Cup continued from Page 9

year for 5,042 Gold Cup participants. The breakdown is as follows: 704 First Cups, 268 Second Cups, 82 3rd Cups, four 4th Cups, one 5th Cup, and one 6th Cup.

"I want to thank members of the MFMC for their kindness and support during this past year. This is a big job in a very short amount of time and thanks to the great efforts by your record keepers, we managed another successful year." ~ Sarah Twedt

Please thank your club's record keepers – they all did an amazing job this year. ♪

Festival Reports on Website

BY DAWN CARLSON

Members may access the full array of 2013 Festival reports on the state's website

www.mfmc.net. Numbers from the reports show that Minnesota had 5131 Festival participants: 4302 in piano events, 161 in voice, 400 in strings, and 204 in Musicianship Theory. Of special note: Two dance students participated in the Renville County Club 88 Festival. This is a first for Minnesota. ♪

Arts Advocacy • Web Resources

- Americans for the Arts — www.americansforthearts.org
- Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA) — www.mncitizensforthearts.org
- Minnesota State Arts Board — www.arts.state.mn.us
- Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) — www.mmea.org

International Music Club Scholarship Winners

BY KAREN SUE ERICKSON, COORDINATOR

The MFMC recently approved scholarships for two students to attend the International Music Camp (IMC). This scholarship is available for a student who earns a Superior rating in the Festival prior to the summer he/she wishes to attend the International Music Camp (IMC).

The IMC is a summer school of fine arts offering sessions in music — band, choir, orchestra, musical theatre, composition, dance, handbells, piano, and organ — and creative and visual art for high school students and adults. It is located at the International Peace Garden on the border between North Dakota and Manitoba. Their motto is "Enriching lives through artistic expression and personal growth."

Isaac Heikkila from Farmington came highly recommended by his violin teacher, Susan Jacobson, and the activities director at his local nursing home where he often performs. His intense and challenging week of music study will provide opportunity to improve his musical skills and enhance the quality of music he shares with his community.

Hanna Kennedy from Brainerd is a piano student of Sue Kavanaugh. Sue noted Hanna's dedication to learning and how Hanna has accomplished much through piano lessons and sharing her talents at church. Hanna looks forward to making new friends who love music, and to increasing her knowledge of music theory and exploring music careers. ♪

Georgia Chapman Scholarship Awarded

This scholarship is for students in grades 6 through 9 and covers tuition and Festival fees. The application deadlines are April 15 and October 15 of every year. The application form can be downloaded from our website — www.mfmc.net. ♪

Arts Advocacy Story

BY SARAH TWEDT, MFMC/NFMC ARTS ADVOCACY

This is a story about what can happen when you take time to learn about the profound impact the arts have in the lives of our young people and become inspired.

Kelly Carter and Tricia Morgan-Brist co-founded "Advocates for Community through Musical Excellence (A.C.M.E.);" a *Twin Cities Music School for All* based on the *El Sistema* philosophy. *El Sistema* is an orchestra/choir program founded in Venezuela to help children living in desperate poverty. Gustavo Dudamel, current conductor of the LA Philharmonic, is the best-known product of this highly successful music program. As Dudamel explains it, "*El Sistema* is not a music conservatory, [is] not a musical factory. It's a social project, working in communities, especially where problems are more exposed. With *El Sistema*, you not only change one life, you change the life of the community."

Kelly was inspired to start the A.C.M.E. program after watching a "TED Talk" about the program. Kelly and Tricia assembled a team of supporters and volunteers, wrote a business plan and convinced local arts groups — including Musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Youth Symphonies, Schmitt Music and Claire Givens Violins — to support the venture. In September 2012, A.C.M.E. opened at Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School in North Minneapolis. They currently have 15 students enrolled and a waiting list.

Arts participation helps our students be successful in life. The A.C.M.E. brochure states ". . . participation in ensemble music has the power to change a person's life and transform [his/her] community by creating beauty and accepting oneself and others. Music is a powerful universal language, and a venue for positive personal and emotional expressions. Music achieves life skills such as creativity, discipline and self-confidence. Participation in a classical orchestral ensemble nurtures cooperation, mutual respect and responsibility, and gives students a chance to develop their identity in a safe, nurturing and healthy environment."

Other *El Sistema* programs in the United States include one in the New England Conservatory, another in Philadelphia. These groups mentor the A.C.M.E. team. It indeed does take a village for these programs to work.

*I am excited to share this story for many reasons. The NFMC/
MFMC is an arts organization – our mission is to promote the arts,*

Continued on Page 12



Stacey Voit

Introducing Stacey Voit Our Next MFMC President

BY PAT STEEGE

Stacey Voit, pianist/instrumentalist from Ghent, MN, will become President of the MFMC during the August convention. She studied music performance and music education at the University of Minnesota, Morris, and Southwest Minnesota State University. She teaches piano and flute lessons and works as manager and instrument repair technician at Music Street in Marshall. Stacey is a member of MFMC/NFMC, her local club Music Marshall, MMTA, MTNA, and NAPBIRT (National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians). Stacey and her band director husband John have two young musicians (children) Elizabeth (11) and Joseph (7).



"It is in great awe of and with great appreciation for the current President Pat Steege that I step forward to fill the presidential position of MFMC."

~ Stacey Voit



Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs (MFMC) 56th Biennial Convention

mp-mf • Musical Performance – Minnesota Festival

Wednesday & Thursday • August 7 & 8, 2013

Holiday Inn and Suites, Lakeville, 20800 Kenrick Avenue South, Lakeville, MN 55044

Phone: 952-469-1134 • The hotel has set aside a block of rooms under the name Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs for August 6 and 7. The price for a standard room with one or two beds is \$99 plus tax.

Please plan to attend the upcoming 56th Biennial Convention. Your **REGISTRATION FORM** is included in this issue of *Half Notes*. Fill out as directed, check the days you plan to attend and select your food choices. Write your check for the Grand Total (amount due). Send your check and your completed registration form to Burnsville Area Music Teachers Association in C/O: **Diane Anderson, 14821 Summit Oaks Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337**

Please note: The Registration Fee is required for all MFMC Adult Members and is non-refundable. Meals — except the Thursday Box Lunch — are available by pre-registration only. For discounts and meals, the pre-registration forms must be postmarked by July 25, 2013.

Also in this issue:

FESTIVAL HONORS RECITAL APPLICATION FORM.

All students who received a Superior rating in their local 2013 Festival are invited to apply to perform at the MFMC State Convention. See the enclosed form.

FREE TICKETS for concert on Wednesday: *A Tribute to Gershwin*

These tickets are designated for students who participated in the 2013 MFMC Festival. Teachers, you may copy the concert ticket as needed and give them to your Festival students. Tickets must be presented at the door for free admission.

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention! If you are missing any forms or need further information, please email Kathy Wilson: kawilson@mchsi.com.

Arts Advocacy continued from Page 11

American musicians, and composers. I am very proud that Kelly and Tricia are part of my music club — Apple Valley Music Teachers Association — and we fulfill this mission when we support programs such as “El Sistema.” Last December, AVMTA members bought gifts for students to be shared at their concert. Although it is a very small piece of the puzzle, it was truly meaningful for the students. It will be fun to watch this program [“El Sistema”] and see how it develops. Kelly and Tricia are an inspiration and I hope MFMC will join us on the Arts Advocacy Band Wagon. It is very cool to be a part of this village. ~

~ Sarah Twedt

MFMC President Pat Steege

- Junior Composers Contest
 - Junior Composers Summer Camps
 - Junior Composers Scholarships
 - Student Awards and Scholarships
 - Georgia Chapman Award
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MFMC Officers and Chairmen | 2013



Walter Strasser dons a Viking helmet at the convention in Alexandria (2009)

Remembering Walter Strasser

We will miss him

In August of 2009, Walter Strasser (with his usual good humor) donned the Vikings helmet during a musical moment at the Alexandria convention. Walter passed away on May 9, 2013, at the Mayo Clinic after having lost the battle with a systemic infection. He was greatly loved and respected for his intelligence, witty humor, and his work on the Half Notes newsletter and Junior Keynotes Magazine. Rest in peace, Walter. We think of you with love and will not forget you. ♪



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