



Half Notes

Summer
2014


PUBLICATION OF MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Official Call

By STACEY VOIT, MFMC PRESIDENT

The next MFMC all-member state meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2014, at Mount Carmel on beautiful Lake Carlos (outside of Alexandria). Central Lakes Music Club of the Alexandria area will host the meeting. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The business meeting will start at 9 a.m. in the Chapel. A lunch will follow at the lodge. There will be overnight accommodations available in the lodge or in cabins for \$67 per person.

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 per 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.

The registration form is inserted in this newsletter and available on the MFMC website – www.mfmc.net. 

PHOTOS 1-3 (right) taken at the Albertville all-member meeting on April 26, 2014 

1—Nancy Fisher, Kathy DeOliveira, and Heather Hahn

2— Sarah Twedt and Gwen Degner

3— Roy and Nadine Berg and Cheryl Schmidt hold a Federation plate that was owned by Rose Zygmanski



Message From President Stacey Voit



In childhood, we are surrounded by poetry: nursery rhymes, Dr. Seuss, children's songs. As we age, we are surrounded by poetry primarily through music. We no longer rhyme simple phrases for fun. Bestselling books are rarely poetry. We become absorbed in what is our everyday life. For most of us in MFMC, our life is music. Unless you are a vocalist or songwriter, it is the unspoken, unsung music, the majority of us use. Instrumentalists try very hard to get emotion across without the use of words.

I have become jealous of vocalists and songwriters. They use music as a backdrop upon which to paint words, allowing words to add to a mastery of meaning and art of their performance.

As MFMC's Music in Poetry chair, I challenge you to reclaim the poetry you left behind; to open your eyes to poetry as something deeply connected to music.

Expand your horizons and step out of your comfort zone. Revisit your childhood poetry. Read Dr. Seuss. Sing folk songs. If the mood strikes you, try writing poetry — free verse, Haiku, or for the more daring, a Sonnet. If you feel you can't write, find poetry to read by Shakespeare, Walt Whitman, Billy Collins, or the now departed Maya Angelou.

I look forward to sharing more poetry in the newsletter and at meetings.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming meeting at Mount Carmel. For now, I leave you with a poem by Walt Whitman. ~

That Music Always Round Me

*That music always round me, unceasing, unbeginning, yet long
untaught I did not hear,*

But now the chorus I hear and am elated,

*A tenor, strong, ascending with power and health, with glad notes of
daybreak I hear,*

*A soprano at intervals sailing buoyantly over the tops of immense
waves,*

*A transparent base shuddering lusciously under and through the
universe,*

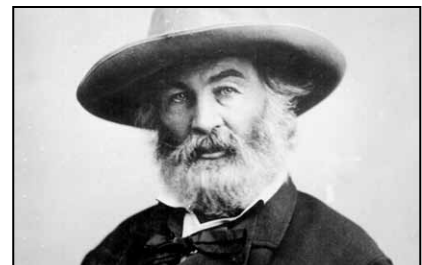
*The triumphant tutti, the funeral wailings with sweet flutes and
violins, all these I fill myself with,*

*I hear not the volumes of sound merely, I am moved by the exquisite
meanings,*

*I listen to the different voices winding in and out, striving,
contending with fiery vehemence to excel each other in emotion;*

*I do not think the performers know themselves--but now I think
begin to know them.*

~ WALT WHITMAN (1819-1892)



Walt Whitman

Junior Composers Teacher Training Institute

By PAT STEEGE



Junior Composers and Avivo are pleased to announce a new partnership and the creation of a summer Teacher Training Institute.

...At the end of an Avivo workshop, I was more energized mentally and physically than I have been at a pedagogical event for years.

~SHARON KAPLAN, INDEPENDENT MUSIC INSTRUCTOR, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

During this Teacher Training Institute, music teachers will...

- Be students themselves, playfully opening up their own creative voices and building confidence in their creative ability
- Embark on an active exploration of the pedagogy of improvisation and composition
- Experience specific improvisational activities designed to exercise and strengthen their own and their students' creative muscles
- Learn a proven pedagogical approach to teaching musicianship, with a goal toward giving students the tools to express themselves through original improvisation and composition

This workshop will be facilitated by Patricia Plude, Director of Avivo, a community of Teaching Artists dedicated to promoting an integrated approach to music education that infuses every learning situation with improvisation and composition.

Please plan to join us for an optional dinner on Saturday evening, July 19 and an opening improv session that evening. Our workshop will conclude at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 20.

Prior to this workshop you are cordially invited to enjoy the Salons of the Junior Composers summer program that will take place the morning and afternoon of July 19. The Salons are free of charge.

Registration fee is \$150. Room and meals, if requested, are provided at a minimal cost. Registration forms and instructions are on the Junior Composers website — www.juniorcomposers.org.

The teaching artists of Avivo embody what pedagogy is all about: inspiring and bringing forth the unique musical and creative spirit in each of us.

~DINA GLENDENING, PIANIST AND INDEPENDENT TEACHER,
LOS GATOS, CA

Teacher Training Institute

A partnership between Avivo & Junior
Composers

Saturday, July 19 — Sunday, July 20, 2014

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

We hope to see you in July, ♪



Chairmen Needed

Please note:

MFMC needs chairmen to fill the following positions:

- State Festival Chair
- Student Auditions Scholarship
- Teacher Trust Grant

Junior Composers Summer Program 2014 • FILM + MUSIC

BY PAT STEEGE, CHAIR

In July 2014, Junior Composers will feature three programs for composition students ages 14-20.

Junior Composers Studio — July 7-19, 2014

JCS is a two-week experience with extensive instruction in music analysis, theory and ear training. A hallmark of this program is the professional readings of film scores written during the Studio. The composer in residence is Richard Werbowenko of the Twin Cities.

Junior Songwriters Institute — July 13-19, 2014

JSI will feature songwriting and recording experience along with theory and ear training. The hallmark of the Songwriters program is the professional recording through McNally Smith.

Junior Composers Institute — July 13-19, 2014

JCI is a one-week composer-performer camp with daily instruction in theory and ear training. Institute students will conduct and perform each other's pieces and will receive recordings from the final Salon.

Pieces composed during camp will be performed and premiered at the end of the session in Ferguson Hall at the U of M campus.

The theme for this year's summer program is Film + Music. Minnesota Sinfonia will provide professional readings of the students' silent film scores and provide an opportunity to submit a score for the Minnesota Sinfonia contest.

Program enrichments include field trips and guest speakers. Field trips include orchestra concerts and an ice cream social.

Junior Composers is held at the University of Minnesota School of Music, Minneapolis, MN.

The University of Minnesota School of Music is a world-class facility on the banks of the Mississippi River near downtown Minneapolis. Finale and Sibelius music notation software is available for students' use in their technology lab. Middlebrook Hall will house our students, staff, and counselors.

Our North Central Region of the NFMCS sponsors the Junior Composers Summer Program. ♪

Junior Composers website •

www.juniorcomposers.org.

Pat Steege, Administrative Director •

psteege@mjssecurity.com



Minnesotans who attended the Junior Composers camp in July of 2013

2014 JC Scholarship Winners

BY PAT STEEGE, CHAIR

Congratulations to each of the six students listed below who earned a \$400 MFMC scholarship to attend the Junior Composers summer camp program in Minneapolis July 7-19, 2014:

- Luke Gion, White Bear Lake, Teacher Kathy Martinez
- Sarrah Bushara, Eden Prairie, Teacher Sarah Miller
- David Besonen, Apple Valley, Teacher Chris Wolf
- Zachary Bigelbach, Vadnais Heights, Teacher Kathy Martinez
- Louisa Byron, Waseca, Teacher Sarah Miller
- Allison Eide, Farmington, Teacher Pat Steege ~

Bravo!

Samuel Hanson took first place in the National judging in Class 2. Elizabeth Ophoven and Luke Gion received incentive awards in Class 4. View biographies and pictures of these three National winners on Pages 6 and 10 in this issue. ~

"MUSIC EXPRESSES THAT WHICH CANNOT BE SAID AND ON WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SILENT."

~ VICTOR HUGO, HUGO'S WORKS: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"USE WHAT TALENTS YOU POSSESS: THE WOODS WOULD BE VERY SILENT IF NO BIRDS SANG THERE EXCEPT THOSE THAT SANG BEST." ~ HENRY VAN DYKE

"IF I WERE NOT A PHYSICIST, I WOULD PROBABLY BE A MUSICIAN. I OFTEN THINK IN MUSIC. I LIVE MY DAYDREAMS IN MUSIC. I SEE MY LIFE IN TERMS OF MUSIC."

~ ALBERT EINSTEIN

In the Winner's Circle

Junior Composers Contest 2014

BY PAT STEEGE, CHAIR

Twenty-nine students lined up at the starting gate of the Minnesota Junior Composers Contest in January. There were three at the National finish line in April. Between January and April, students learned from judges' critiques and nine students earned Gold Cups.

This year's Junior Composers Contest featured varied submissions from 29 students, ages 8-18, in four Classes organized by age. These students were not "running the race" just to win; they were also learning from the experience of submitting their work to a judge for critique and earning points towards Gold Cups.

Abbie Betinis, composer in residence of the Schubert Club since 2005, was this year's judge. She determined a score for each composition and chose the winners from each class. Ms. Betinis gave students encouraging comments to help them build their compositional skills. She judged composed pieces titled *Giggles*, *Dreaming in Moonlight*, *Within the Morning*, *Video Game Suite*, and *Mi Chamocha*, to name a few.

The winners of this year's contest:

- Class 1: 1st *Kirsten Stuber, *The Cat and the Bird*, Shakopee, (Teacher Sarah Miller)
- 2nd Sophia Anderson, *Sometimes*, Alexandria (Teacher Marcia Benson)
- Class 2: 1st * Samuel Hanson, *The Animal Suite*, St. Paul (Teacher Sarah Miller)
- 2nd * Isadora White, *Voyager*, Minneapolis (Teacher Sharon Kaplan)
- Class 3: 1st * Evren Ozel, *Sonata in G minor*, Minneapolis (Teacher Sarah Miller)
- 2nd Sarrah Bushara, *17 Easy Waltzes*, Eden Prairie (Teacher Sarah Miller)
- Class 4: 1st * Luke Gion, *Fruition*, White Bear Lake (Teacher Kathy Martinez)
- 2nd * Elizabeth Ophoven, *To Pevensy*, Grand Rapids (Teacher Anne Dimich)

* Denotes student who advanced to National Level (Six out of eight). ~

Junior Composers Contest Winners

By PAT STEEGE

Congratulations to our Junior Composers Contest winners! Read about them on Page 10.



Sam Hanson, age 11, is the 1st Place National winner in the Junior Composers Contest



Luke Gion wins first place in Class 4 of the Junior Composers Contest



Elizabeth Ann Ophoven, winner of national recognition for her composition *To Pevensy*

Junior Composers is Downright Fun



Junior Composers students enjoy a moment of fun, July 2013

Gold Cups

By SARAH TWEDT, MFMC GOLD CUP CHAIRMAN

The Cups and Plates have arrived, have been distributed and once again, we can sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labors. We are reminded by students' smiles that these Cups provide incentive.

The Festival program enables our supporting students in various ways. Many teachers enter their students into multiple events. MFMC offers solo events for piano, strings, voice, and band instruments. The Bulletin supports duets, trios, quartets, and concerti of all levels. Students can earn Cups in a second or even a third event.

Our Apple Valley club supports several dates for its Festival program, which allows students to participate in multiple events.

This spring, Mark Twedt assisted us in importing data for an estimated 2,000 Gold Cup entrants into our current access database. By using Excel, we successfully imported data from many sites. We are on our way to building a more complete database.

As Gold Cup Chairman, I ordered a total of 1,096 cups this year for 4,825 Gold Cup participants. In 2013, we had 5,042 Gold Cup participants.

The breakdown: 730 First Cups, 279 Second Cups, 70 Third Cups, 17 Fourth Cups. I want to thank members of the MFMC for their kindness and support during this past year.

Please thank your club's record keepers. They did an amazing job this year. And remember to check out the many events, which are offered in our Bulletin. ~

(Right:)
**Stacey Voit
and Jason
Klassen at the
Albertville
meeting**



State Student Auditions Winners 2014

Four students were awarded scholarships in the MFMC biennial State Student Auditions held in February 2014.

- Aria Stiles, Apple Valley (Teacher, Elisabeth Small) - 1st Place Strings Division/Violin - \$500 Scholarship
- Alia Gribbon, Duluth (Teacher, Michelle Gribbon) - 2nd Place Strings Division / Violin - \$400 Scholarship
- Brandon Voigt, St. Cloud (Teacher, Mary Neidermeier) - 1st Place Piano Division - \$500 Scholarship
- Justin Cook, Penneck (Teacher, Gayle Marcus) - 2nd Place Piano Division - \$400 Scholarship ~

MFMC State Student Auditions

By STACEY VOIT

The MFMC State Student Auditions will now be held in odd-numbered years only. Students are eligible to enter in the following categories: Piano, Organ, Man's Voice, Woman's Voice, Strings, Brass, Woodwinds and Percussion. Awards: First and Second Place Awards are available in each category where winners are declared. First Place Awards — \$500.00; Second Place Awards — \$400.00.

Deadline for Application: December 30 of even-numbered years (2014) . Applications are available online on the MFMC website: www.mfmc.net ~

Tuition Assistance Grant

By REBECCA HEERDT

The third round of funding grants through MFMC'S Tuition Assistance Grant has begun. More grants will be available this year because the annual amount designated for the TAG program was increased to \$3,500. The maximum grant awarded per applicant is \$500.

The criteria for determining awards:

- One student per teacher
- Financial need described
- Festival participation desired
- Longevity of lessons (student needs to have had at least 1 year of lessons)
- Value of music to the family
- Student potential
- Student's talent and desire
- Character of student/work ethic
- A student may only receive a TAG grant once

Items for the teacher to consider when writing the letter/s of recommendation:

- Are you already giving a discount
- What fee do you normally charge
- How have you become aware of their financial need

If the yearly costs stated on the application are less than \$500, the grant will be adjusted accordingly. The teacher of an applicant must send MFMC a one-page report by June 1, on how the money was spent. The deadline for a TAG grant is July 25. The application is available on the MFMC website under scholarships. ~

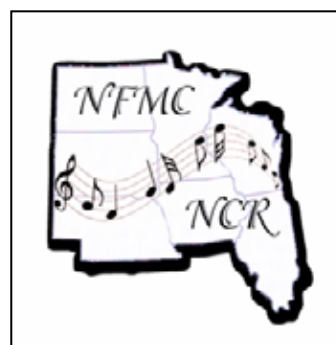
Liability Insurance Deadline

By TAMIE MORKEN

The National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) coordinates general liability insurance coverage for approximately 1000 events held annually throughout the United States. Events are insured to protect our state federation at a specific location in the event of a lawsuit. This is a one-million-dollar insurance policy. There are two registration deadlines again this year:

- July 15 for events held September 1 through December 31
- Nov 1 for events held January 1 through August 31.

Look for an email from Tamie Morken requesting the necessary info for insurance coverage. ~



North Central Region (NCR) of NFMC • Letter of Call for the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the North Central Region of the NFMC will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 18-19, 2014, at the University of Minnesota, School of Music in Ferguson Hall, 2106 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55455. Any Federation member of the North Central Region may attend and participate (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). We also welcome guests from other regions. Please see enclosed page for Registration Form. ~

MFMC Officers and Chairmen | 2014

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- Junior Composers Summer Camps
- Junior Composers Scholarships
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Sam Hanson, age 11, who loves music, has been composing since he was in second grade. Sam plays the piano and violin, and listens to classical music. His love of nature has inspired many of his compositions, such as *The Animal Suite*, which has five movements: *Monkey Dance*, *Chipmunk Party*, *Drowning Swan*, *Slinking Raccoons*, and *Flight of the Butterfly*. Sam lives in St. Paul, MN with this mother, father, brother, two cats, and a rabbit. ♪



Elizabeth Ann Ophoven, winner of national recognition for her composition *To Pevensey*, studied piano with Anne Dimich and the late Rose Ann Fritz of Duluth Music Teachers. She has received her second Gold Cup in composition. Elizabeth plays violin, mandolin, fiddle, guitar, and has been involved in string programs, including the Itasca Symphony Orchestra. Elizabeth will study biology and pre med at St. Scholastic in Duluth where she received a scholarship to play in the orchestra. ♪



Luke Gion won first place in Class 4 of the Junior Composers Contest. His composition titled *Fruition* advanced through Regional judging and won an incentive award at the National level. Seven years ago, as Luke began taking piano lessons from Kathy Martinez, he developed a burning love of music, expression, and teaching others; a love that he will take into his study of Music Education and Philosophy at the University of St. Thomas this fall. ♪

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