



Half Notes

Winter
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 Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Country Inn & Suites, 6554 Lamplight Drive, Albertville, MN 55301. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with morning refreshments of coffee, orange juice, fruit, and doughnuts. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

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. ➤

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Message From President Stacey Voit



Greetings to all during this seemingly never-ending winter!

I am truly honored to take up the reins from our amazing past president Pat Steege. This terrific honor punctuates my personal history with MFMC, allowing me to review other memories of my time with our organization.

At the very first state meeting I attended, Gloria Lien, President of MFMC at that time, used . . . wait for it . . . a gavel? I was in awe of belonging to such a professional group.

The crowning of Cheryl Schmidt as “Queen of MFMC” by Mary Angela Strasser assured me I had found a fun-loving group of people I needed to get to know better.

I recall the state meeting hosted by Music Southwest in Marshall under the direction of Rennae Petersen and the late Jane Roots. These are the two ladies who led me to first join Federation and to whom I will always be grateful.

I was astounded at the amount of detail in Chris Wolf’s informative Festival Music Workshops; what an amazing dedication to sharing of knowledge!

Finally, while attending my first national meeting in Minneapolis, I greatly admired the state leadership and planners. Their

work was a showcase of Minnesota music and will remain forever in my memory.

We all have had defining moments in MFMC and I hope to continue the great work of our preceding leadership.

Our strength is our membership, especially our core of independent teachers and musicians. We support one another, acting as role models through our unique blend of individuality and strength. No one member is more important than another. It is through our individuality that we find our strength as a group. We learn as others share their history and experiences. We learn other possibilities that are open to us and to our students. We rejoice in our membership and accomplishments, while we mourn the passing of our members.

On behalf of our members, I offer condolences to the family and friends of two of our members, Barbara Root and Mary Angela Strasser. Barbara, a dedicated teacher, lost her life in a car accident while traveling in participation of a Federation Festival planning event. Mary Angela Strasser, with her larger than life personality, and huge influence on local, state, regional and national Federation, will be sorely missed by everyone in our organization. As we start together on the journey of this presidential term, please take time to reflect upon influences like Barb and Mary Angela in your musical journey.

Our MFMC organization is nearing the milestone of 100 years. It is fun to think about the changes that occurred between the first meeting of interested society ladies in 1914 and the actual formation of MFMC in 1921. I can only imagine the changes during that time: the quiet Edwardian grace giving way to the energetic Flapper influence.

When you attend our upcoming all-member meeting you will have an opportunity to meet a couple of the characters from that time. (Can I convince a certain past President to don full flapper regalia?)

I look forward to serving as your president, meeting with you and hearing your comments and suggestions at the all-member meeting. In the meantime, does anyone know where I can get a deal on a matching gavel and crown? ✨

Junior Composers Summer Program 2013

BY PAT STEEGE

Junior Composers summer program 2013, sporting the theme **Words+Music**, was held at the University of Minnesota, July 8-20. Thirty-four young composers from around the United States gathered to engage in creativity and to attain higher levels of expression through composing music. In addition to creating musical works, students performed and collaborated to improve each other's work.

Faculty for 2013 were four kid-friendly professional musicians and composers: Dr. Seth Custer, head of the composition department at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC; Dr. Sarah Miller, composition coordinator at MacPhail Center for Music in St. Paul, MN; Randall Davidson, long-time established composer from Minneapolis and currently Administrative Director of the National Lutheran Choir; and Andy Thompson, prolific songwriter and producer from McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, MN.

Readings of student-composed songs were given by well-known Twin Cities soprano Maria Jette, accompanied by Mary Jo Gothmann. Choral works were given a professional reading by The Rose Ensemble of St. Paul. It is a highlight of the Junior Composers' experience to hear their work performed and gently critiqued by professionals.

A typical day at our urban "camp" features theory and ear-training classes, friendship development, private lessons, laughter, quiet breakfasts with sleepy teens and lively lunches with same, leg muscles aching from walking the river bridge to

the cafeteria, composing or storytelling until bedtime, daily salons with professionals, and fieldtrips. In 2013, fieldtrips included an evening concert at Lake Harriet and eating hamburgers and ice cream at Annie's Parlour. ☞

Dates for 2014 Junior Composers

- July 7-13 Junior Composers Institute Session #1
- July 7-13 Junior Songwriters Institute
- July 7-19 Junior Composers Studio (two weeks)
- July 13-19 Junior Composers Institute Session #2
- July 13-19 Junior Producers Institute (optional second week for songwriters)

The theme for this year's 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. Professional recordings of Songwriters' new creations will be made at McNally Smith in St. Paul. Field trips include orchestra concerts and an ice cream social. Visit www.juniorcomposers.org for registration information. ☞



Minnesotans who attended the Junior Composers camp in July of 2013

Festival Logowear Contest 2015

BY TAMIE MORKEN

MFMC's Festival Logowear Committee is looking for the next new Logowear 2015 design to feature on Festival t-shirts, sweatshirts and totes. Students from across the state are invited to enter the competition.

Students, sharpen your pencils and generate a new fun, new, eye-catching design for Festival 2015. Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, and musical appeal. The creator of the winning design will receive a cash prize of \$50 and a tee shirt featuring his/her design. Deadline for entries is May 31, 2014.

Entry guidelines: Email images (JPG) of original drawings to trmorken@gmail.com. Or send a printed copy via snail-mail to *2014 Logowear Contest, 14596 Elysium Place, Apple Valley, MN 55124.* ☞



MFMC President Stacey Voit displays the winning 2014 Festival Logowear design created by Jessie Wang



Members of MFMC's Tuesday Music Club celebrate the club's 80th anniversary. (Pictured left, front row) Ruth Wollenberg and Kathryn Duckett. (Back row) Sue Quist, Chris Wolter, Christina Hall, Nikkia Hall, and David Perry

TUESDAY Music Club Celebrates 80th Anniversary

BY RUTH WOLLENBERG, PRESIDENT OF TUESDAY MUSIC CLUB

On September 15, 2013, Tuesday Music Club of Minneapolis celebrated its 80th Anniversary at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Edina, MN. Works of Purcell, Bach, Scarlatti, Schubert, Schumann, Shostakovich, and Massenet were performed. Sue Quist presented new works by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Eric Coates. Guest artist David Perry, professional classical guitarist and tenor soloist, also performed. David was one of Jane Jensen's first students. Jane Jensen is co-founder and long-time member of Tuesday Music Club. ☞

4 *It was a beautiful musical day.* ~ RUTH WOLLENBERG, PRESIDENT



Mary Angela Strasser

Mary Angela Strasser

BY NADINE BERG

After a long and difficult journey, Mary Angela Strasser passed away on Friday, January 24, 2014, surrounded by good friends and caring nursing home staff. She will be greatly missed.

Mary was a driving force and a seemingly permanent fixture in the life of the Federation of Music Clubs at local, state & national levels. Having attended Federation functions with her mother, Rose Zygmanski, since she was a very young girl, Mary knew all the nooks and crannies, strengths and weaknesses, rules and idiosyncrasies of the organization. She loved every bit of it and was thoroughly dedicated to making things work in the best way possible.

Although she was a stickler for detail, she was flexible and easy to work with. Mary was the go-to person for any question that arose in the life of the Federation. She promoted, organized, and encouraged us. Her wit and use of vocabulary inspired us, even while keeping us all in line.

I am grateful to Mary for prodding me to get involved beyond the local level. We developed a wonderful friendship over the years, especially during long car trips to and from state meetings. Her warm relationships with all of her colleagues and students always deepened into binding friendships. Mary will always remain in our memories and in our hearts. ♪

Memorial Service information on Page 10



Chris Wolf debuts two of her trio of pieces composed in honor of the late Rose Zygmanski

MFMC Commissions Trio

Chris Wolf of Apple Valley Music Teachers Association (AVMTA) was commissioned by MFMC in April 2013 to write a trio of pieces for solo piano in honor of the late Rose Zygmanski.

Chris has completed two of the three pieces that were inspired by the life and the travels of Rose. The first premier, *By Any Other Name*, was heard at the August 2013 convention in Lakeville. The second, *Bella Rosa*, was premiered during a recent AVMTA meeting in the home of D.D. Michael-Mechelke. The two pieces were written for early intermediate students. ♪

Federation members, you are going to love what you have commissioned. We eagerly anticipate the world premier of the third composition. Thank you, Chris.

~ PAT STEEGE

Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education Scholarship

Cheryl Schmidt has been named chairperson for the Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education Scholarship. College students who are juniors and music education majors are eligible to apply for this National Federation of Music Clubs scholarship.

Cheryl is Minnesota's National Board Representative and also chairs the MFMC scholarships for special needs musicians.

For more information about these scholarships visit the MFMC or NFMC websites or contact Cheryl Schmidt at cschmidt@en-tel.net. ☺

Georgia Chapman Piano Study Award Winner • 2013



Dr. Jackie Lo & her student
Jeremy Yeung at the 2013
Minnesota State Piano
Contest Honors Concert

Georgia Chapman Piano Study Award Winner 2013
Jeremy Yeung and his teacher Dr. Jackie Lo

NCR Days

BY JEANNE HRYNIEWICKI, NFMC VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Hello Everyone. I hope you're surviving the very challenging winter this year.

At our NCR meeting last July, we set the 2014 NCR Days for July 25 and 26, coinciding with the end of Junior Composers. However, because Junior Composers Camp starts one week earlier (ending on July 19), we have changed the dates for NCR to July 18 and 19.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomington, Minnesota for July 17, 18, and 19. Room rates are \$94.00 for a room with one king bed and \$99.00 for a room with two queen-sized beds. To make reservations, please contact Gale Strand at Barron Travel, phone 715-537-9033, ext. 229. Or call toll free at 877-651-9860, ext. 229. Email Gale at btravel@chibardun.net. The deadline for making a reservation is June 1, 2014.

I will be in touch with all of you in early spring with more details. Stay warm! ☺

Friends Forever



(From left, clockwise) Sarah Twedt, Pat Steege, and Cheryl Schmidt surround Mary Angela Strasser at the funeral of Walter Strasser in Hibbing, June 2013

Re-cap of MFMC's 56th Biennial Convention

BY PAT STEEGE

Applause and accolades to our three hosting clubs for a job well done on the all-member convention — Apple Valley, Burnsville and South Suburban. And thanks to Kathy Wilson, Mary Wescott, and Pat Steege, for pulling together the elements of education, entertainment, and encouragement.

The convention theme, *mp-mf Musical Performance-Minnesota Festival*, was chosen to depict the difference between Day 1 and Day 2 agendas.

Day 1 featured the all-member meeting, election of officers, and the world premier of Chris Wolf's *By Any Other Name*, the middle movement of a commissioned suite of piano solos commemorating MFMC's beloved Rose Zygmanski. Club reports were read and discussed. Dr. Christopher Atzinger and Mr. Doug Rohde instructed participants on how to improve musical performances. Members enjoyed student presentations including a stellar performance by Grand Cup winner Matthew VanRisseghem. Six-year-old Iggy Rosado stole the show wearing a Mozart costume while playing his award winning composition *The Spooky Lion*. Ziggy's mother Shannon Guse was his accompanist. Three students who performed in the Festival honors recital won \$50 each for exceptional performance.

Rudy's Redeye Grill catered the evening banquet, serving their famous prime rib. The tables at Holiday Inn Lakeville were beautifully set with the Inn's elegant black and white linens. NFMC President Carolyn Nelson captivated members with her account of the Federation's 120-year-old history.

Members left the banquet hall (or "waddled out," as Pat Steege phrased it) with gifts of red roses and Abdalla chocolate and proceeded to the concert ballroom. The Day 1 evening performance featured pianist Darin Tsydal who performed a *Tribute to Gershwin* and covered other well-known Gershwin tunes including *I Got Rhythm*, *O Lady be Good*, and *Swanee*. Darin performed three preludes, other concert pieces, and finished with a dreamy *Someone To Watch Over Me* sung by Mary Wescott.

Day 2 dawned with a breakfast buffet of French toast, bacon and eggs and fresh hot coffee. Jeannene Simonson led a reverent memorial service for five deceased MFMC members, lighting a

candle for each of the deceased while friends read tributes. Members sang Hymn of Promise from the official NFMC Songbook "**Together We Sing.**"

On Day 1, the Junior Composers summer camp program was the subject of reports, financial grants, and conversation. In accordance with the convention theme, Day 2 provided opportunity to sing a composition written by 15-year old Christian Messier of Lakeville. Christian composed his piece at the 2013 JC camp at the U of MN.

Also on Day 2, Judy Zylstra guided members through what is new with Festival for 2014 and what is new in the Bulletin. The National organization, "a dignified elderly lady of traditions," is slowly and carefully bending to the age of technology. Therein lies the need to begin preparing in Minnesota. Festival leaders/teachers are now required to submit full names (first, middle, last) of all Juniors to the state treasurer by November 1 of each year and pay a \$1.00 per student membership fee. Pat Steege states: "Be aware that eventually birthdates will also be required. By having collected this data ahead of time, we will be better prepared for on-line Festival registration when it finally comes upon us."

National is building a database to track all Festival participants, Juniors and Seniors and their Gold Cup points. This will allow a student who moves to a new location to transfer his/her records without a risk of losing the history of individual trophy points. To put this into perspective, Minnesota has over 5,000 participants in Festival each year; over 90,000 Juniors across the United States participate yearly.

To help piano teachers prepare for the
Re-cap continued on next page

Re-cap continued from Page 5

2014 Festival, Judy Zylstra enlisted the help of seven members plus herself to preview all the piano pieces from Pre-Primary through Medium levels.

Schmitt Music assisted the 56th Biennial Convention by bringing their portable music store for teachers to purchase Festival music at a 20% discount. Also Schmitt provided a nine-foot concert grand Steinway — an iconic symbol of MFMC's passion for good music. ♪

There is a spiritualizing force to music. With our official Collect we pray that God guides us as we bring this force to the United States, through this nine foot grand piano, through our musicians, and through their voices and instruments, into the buildings and streets of our nation. ~ Pat Steege



Enjoying the evening concert by Darin Tysdal on August 7: First row from left, Michelle Prosch and Barb Thompson. Second row, Gil Nelson and Carolyn Nelson, president of the National Federation of Music Clubs



Members of the Tuesday Music Club attend the evening concert, "A Tribute to Gershwin"



Convention planning committee's last minute meeting before the launch of the 56th Biennial Convention in August. From left, Pat Steege, Stacey Voit, Kathy Wilson. Standing, Mary Wescott



Many thanks to volunteers who helped with the 56th Biennial Convention. Shown at the registration table (from left) Barb Thompson, Mary Kay Lanz, Lois Bodurtha, and Mary Wescott

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Please note: MFMC will need one or more chairmen to fill Mary Angela's positions of Teacher Trust Grants and Festival Extension

Memorial Service for Mary Angela Strasser

A memorial service for Mary Angela will be held on Monday, February 17 at Immaculate Conception Church, 1924 5th Ave East in Hibbing. In lieu of a visitation, there will be a celebration of Mary's life in the arts, including music and readings by former students, friends and colleagues at 10:00 a.m. The Funeral Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon at Jimmy's Restaurant, 531 East Howard Street in Hibbing, around the corner from the church. An open invitation is cordially extended to all who wish to attend. ☞

Note of Appreciation

On behalf of MFMC, thank you, Dawn Carlson, for filling the position of State Festival Chair recently vacated by Judy Zylstra. And thank you, Judy, for getting Festival 2014 off the ground. Best wishes. ☞

VISIT OUR WEBSITES

MFMC — www.mfmc.net

NFMC — www.nfmc-music.org

JC — www.juniorcomposers.org

August All-Member State Meeting

The all-member state meeting will be held in Alexandria, Mount Carmel on Wednesday or Thursday, August 13-14, 2014. Registration and coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

Mount Carmel Ministries is a Christian family camp and conference center located on the northwest shore of beautiful Lake Carlos near Alexandria, Minnesota. More information forthcoming. ☞

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