



# half notes



News from Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs | Fall | 2006

## MFMC Spring 07 State Meeting

CHERYL SCHMIDT, MFMC PRESIDENT

The MFMC Spring All-Member State Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2007 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis. The meeting will include a state meeting and a convention planning session. The official call and registration will be sent to all members in a special mailing. All members are welcome to attend. ♪

## MFMC State Convention 2007 Announcement

The next MFMC state convention will be held on August 15 and 16, 2007, at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis. The convention will be hosted by the Southwest Minneapolis Keyboard Club, and will include a state meeting, Festival meeting, national guest speaker, educational and musical experiences and much more! Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. ♪

**Visit our websites:**

**MFMC** • [www.mfmc.net](http://www.mfmc.net)

**NFMC** • [www.nfmc-music.org](http://www.nfmc-music.org)

## NFMC Fall Session

Photos below and on pages 7 and 9, give you a glimpse of the action during Fall Session, August 2006. Photos, courtesy of MFMC member Pat Steege.



Mary Angela Strasser and Rose Zyganski enjoy the Fall Session activities.



Cheryl Schmidt, one of many MFMC hostesses, refills a water glass.



Deirdre Michael, National President Elizabeth Paris, and MPR's Mindy Ratner pause for a photo at the Rose Faye Thomas Luncheon where Ms. Ratner was guest speaker.

## From the President



Cheryl Schmidt, MFMC President

My sincere thanks to everyone who attended the MFMC state and Festival meetings in August. The attendance and participation were above my expectations and I heard many positive comments about holding this meeting in August and including a Festival meeting.

As I enter my last year as president of this organization, I have several goals to complete. First: develop a detailed budget for our organization. MFMC covers the cost of insurance for MFMC events, continues to expand our scholarship opportunities, commits to costs associated with communication venues, provides reimbursements for state representatives to attend national conventions, etc. Please be aware that when you pay your yearly dues to MFMC, the state organization gets only \$2.00 of this amount. The detailed budget will help determine if a dues increase is warranted and if so, determine this amount.

Second: I plan to assist our new

From the President, continued

membership chairman, Mary Wescott, in getting goals and processes in place. Not only will Mary make personal contact with people inquiring about membership, but will assist them in getting their membership finalized and connecting with a local club. Pursuing advertising options about MFMC membership will be explored and we will get our membership activity documentation finalized.

One of the many issues discussed at our Festival meeting was the need to find a way to add and accommodate new students. Some Festival are so large, clubs cannot meet the needs of additional Festival students and must turn down teachers who want to add them. It was requested that MFMC have a Festival Extension Chair; Mary Angela Strasser has agreed to take this position. Mary Angela will assist teachers in developing new Festival clubs. If you would like assistance with this, please contact Mary Angela.

Hosting the National Federation of Music Clubs Fall Session held in August was quite an experience! Minnesota Federation of Music Club members can be very proud of their efforts in orchestrating this successful event. Thank you, everyone.

I look forward to seeing you at our spring state meeting! ☺

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## Festival Cup Cost Increase

Dawn Lawrence, National Festival Cup Chairman, has notified MFMC about some new changes to our Festivals cups. Ms. Lawrence stated, "The process of making the cup gold or silver in color is different so the finish on the cups will be very smooth. It was very evident to all the members on the Jr. Division Board that the changes described in producing the new cups would give us an improved product. Accordingly, the board unanimously voted to accept the new cups. The style and size of the cups will remain the same. The decorative edging around the mouth of the cup will be new and there is a small decorative ball between the handle and the cup. I am confident that every cup chairman, teacher and student will like the new cups."

Because of this change in the Festivals cup processing, the price of the cups has increased. This cost increase – cup fees now \$5.00, up from \$4.00 – will be reflected on the Festivals form MFT-1 Report to State Treasurer of Festival and Cup Fees. ☺

**Read the Festival Meeting minutes  
from the National Fall Session, August,  
2006. Log onto [www.mfmc.net](http://www.mfmc.net).**

# Achieving the Grand Cup

SARAH TWEDT,

FESTIVAL CO-CHAIRPERSON/RECORD KEEPER AVMTA

ARTS ADVOCACY CHAIRMAN, MINNESOTA

Those Festival gold cups. Our students anticipate receiving them with such excitement and pride! They are even more eager as the trophies grow in size as they progress through the levels outlined in the Festival bulletin. As teachers we use these gold cups to inspire, motivate and cajole our students to continue to study, practice hard and to set and achieve goals.

Most of us are aware of what it takes to achieve the first, second, third and even the fourth cup earned with 60 points – twelve superiors. But are you aware that there are 2 more gold cups beyond the fourth cup? The 75 point Grand Cup and the elusive 90 point President's Cup.

## How does a student achieve the Grand and the President's Cup?

The answer is this: A student must participate in 2 events – the Solo Event and the Concerto Event. A student can earn the Grand Cup and the Presidents Cup by applying the rules regarding combination of points outlined on page 185 in the 2004-2006 Festival bulletin. (It is advisable to consult the bulletin carefully when making plans for your students. Read all pertinent sections very carefully!)

A student can begin to combine points from Solo and Concerto events when the student reaches the 9th grade. He or she must enter the Solo event at the Difficult 1 level or higher and the Concerto event at the Junior III level or higher. Points awarded to Junior III Concerti are on the same scale as the Solo event, but points awarded for the Senior Concerti are on a scale from 8 to 4 with the superior rating earning 8 points.

## You can see how fast the points will accumulate —

Up to 8 points awarded for Senior Concerto and 5 points for Solo, for a total of 13 possible points to apply to the Solo Event in one year. For certain, a student will not achieve the 75 or 90 point trophy without having participated in Festival beginning at a very early age. It is important to remember that you may combine points in 9th grade or higher to achieve any cup.

Sound simple? Indeed, it is not. It is difficult. And humbling. Your student is preparing 3 advanced pieces for Festival, and diligent, quality, practice time is an essential part of this. The student and teacher must be committed. A second piano is essential in preparing a student for this ensemble event and you will need to set aside time for extra rehearsals. But it is well worth the effort. Students are stimulated by this great literature and love listening to professionals play this music on CDs.

Continued on Page 4

# International Music Camp – a Great Experience

Rachel Schmidt of Willmar and Emma Ostby (pictured below) of Spicer attended orchestra week at the International Music Camp in July. In the beautiful setting of the International Peace Gardens, they received private violin lessons and experienced orchestra rehearsals and performances under the direction of outstanding musicians. Both girls agree that they learned a lot in one



Rachel Schmidt and Emma Ostby, are all smiles while attending orchestra week at the International Music Camp

week and also had a great time – it was really special to connect with students from other countries. ☺

**Get your copy of the International Music Camp brochure from your Festivals chairman, or contact Rose Zygmanski at [bkwrms@rangebroadband.com](mailto:bkwrms@rangebroadband.com)**

# Junior Composers Event Coming Up

PAT STEEGE

Junior composers, sharpen your pencils. Grab the manuscript paper and get your compositions going. This year's event is already underway in studios across the state even though the deadline for submitting scores is January 13, 2007.

Writing music takes time, imagination and guidance from teachers - a process that starts way before January. Last year we had 24 entries that were judged and earned Festival points. Several gold cups were awarded. Also some Minnesota kids had their compositions advance to the national level and some earned scholarships to the Junior Composers Institute.

I'm hoping for more of the same in 2007. Here's what you need to know:

Deadline for submissions of scores is Saturday, January 13. Students may not be older than 18 and the sponsoring teacher must be in good standing with the MFMC, either as a member of a federated club or an individual member. Cost is \$14 for the gold cup plan.

Forms and rules will be mailed to club presidents and Festival chairs in November. Application rules and forms can also be obtained now from the chair of this event.

Keep encouraging composition with your students! ☺

*For more information about Junior Composers, or if you have questions, contact*

Patricia (Pat) Steege,  
24755 Essex Ave. S.  
Farmington, MN 55024  
Phone 651-463-2492, or email  
psteege@mjssecurity.com

## 2007 NFMC Biennial Student Auditions

SHEILA K. SHUSTERICH,  
NATIONAL BIENNIAL AUDITIONS CHAIR

The 2007 NFMC Biennial Auditions will be conducted via CD. The age limit is 19-26 years of age by March 1, 2007. All interested entrants should consult the NFMC web site <http://www.nfmc-music.org> and click on Competitions and Awards and then Biennial Student /Collegiate Auditions. Interested students will find the application, repertoire lists, and audition requirements. Questions may be directed to Sheila Shusterich @ sshusterich@charter.net.

Audition categories include: Piano, Organ, Harp, Classical Guitar, Percussion, Man's Voice, Woman's Voice, Strings—Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass, Orchestral Woodwinds—Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Saxophone, and Orchestral Brass—French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, and Tuba.

Applications are due with a \$30.00 fee postmarked Jan. 15, 2007 to: Sheila K.Shusterich, 314 Lewis St., Duluth, MN 55803.

Please encourage your students—especially those on a path to a career in music. The monetary awards are terrific! ☺

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### Achieving the Grand Cup, continued from Page 3

At AVMTA, our Concerto Event has grown with more and more teachers beginning to teach concerti. We had two full hours devoted to the Concerto Event in our 2006 Festival, representing six teachers and classes ranging from Junior Class I-A through Senior Class.

This musical journey requires that the student plays very challenging music. For many, there will need to be a reduced focus on the individual ratings and consecutive superiors, and more focus on overall accomplishment and accumulation of points. Rapidly accumulating points towards larger and larger cups can be a great motivation year after year for some students, and the best part is that it pushes students to a musical accomplishment they had previously only dreamed of attaining. ☺

*The big secret in life is that there is no big secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you're willing to work.*

— OPRAH WINFREY, O MAGAZINE

# Accidents happen

## Be prepared and insured

KATHY WILSON, INSURANCE COORDINATOR

Let's all go to Germany this spring!—no, no, no—this little item is about INSURANCE for all our Minnesota Federation events.

This whole thing about insurance has been puzzling to many and just crazy to others. I hope to explain the ideas behind and the process forwarding insurance.

Most clubs host events where students perform or have something “special” going on. These events have a possibility of something going wrong—like a grandma, tripping on the sidewalk or a piano lid dropping unexpectedly and breaking, to name some. Who could imagine all the possible problems in producing a recital or Festival or other events.

Many of us live in Small Town, Minnesota, where nothing can or will go wrong at our events, and everyone has a pure heart. Well, national trends have seen a rise in litigation. Some things can and do go wrong. Accidents do happen!

During the summer months I asked all Minnesota clubs to declare their Festival sites and dates to ensure that they have insurance coverage. This means that at any site, throughout the state, a Festival is covered. Thankfully, most have been “silent”—there have been no claims made against any site—there have been no unfortunate incidents. I have recorded each event, its actual address, its manager, and so forth—sent

*Many of us live in Small Town, Minnesota, where nothing can or will go wrong at our events, and everyone has a pure heart. Well, national trends have seen a rise in litigation. Some things can and do go wrong. Accidents do happen!*

that information to National, and all is well.

When a Certificate of Insurance is requested by a principal, Pastor, or office manager, our national coordinator will FAX a certificate to the phone number that you have provided. Rarely is a certificate sent through the mail; it is not a casual request, nor is it something that can be sent if you feel like it. Lana Bailey will send a copy via FAX to the contact person you have designated.

Let me add more.

MFMC will also cover your club's recitals. Many sites have Festival recitals—Honors Recitals, we might say. These should be covered as well. This is NOT for an individual teacher's spring recital, but if your club has a special event involving students of Federation teachers, it is important to include this in your summer declarations. Your special event will be covered by our state organization.

**KNOW THIS—Every event's coverage costs \$17.00 per**

Continued on next page

# Junior Composers Institute (JCI) 2006

## Report for NCR

DIRECTOR DAWN LAWRENCE

With 21 enthusiastic young composers, 2 new clinicians, and a new location, the Junior Composers Institute was held July 7 through the 15th at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN. The transition to the new location went smoothly thanks to the help and support of Randall Davidson, Fine Arts Director for Augsburg and JCI Coordinator and Clinician.

Ear-training classes were added to the 2006 curriculum, which were taught by Randall Davidson. He also taught the composition classes. New clinicians from Augsburg's faculty Ned Kantor and Carol Barnett taught the improvisation and theory classes. Seth Custer returned to JCI as clinician for Music Technology and orchestration. The staff was very impressed with the talent of the young composers.

Evening activities included learning about and playing in a Gamelon from Indonesia, a faculty recital, a juggling performance by one of the JCI campers, and a trip to downtown St. Paul to listen to a rehearsal of Zeitgeist (sound ghost), an ensemble that plays and performs Avande Garde Music. The JCI recital was held on Thursday night, with a Salon held on Saturday morning. At the Salon, the participants performed compositions they wrote during their week at JCI. On Friday night, we attended a concert performed by the Minnesota Orchestra at Macy's Sommerfest in downtown Minneapolis.

Minnesota students who attended

Continued on next page

**Junior Composers Institute,**  
continued from Page 6

included Rachel Johnson and Reshad Amini from St. Paul; Jared Hoeft and Eric Radloff, Hutchinson; Alex Hetzer, White Bear Lake; Isacc Sanborn, Ham Lake; Kelvin Ying, Edina; Kate Meyer, Grand Rapids; and Emily Vomacka, Kandiyohi. NCR adults in attendance as counselors were Karen Bourne, Sharon Wesbrook, and Dawn Lawrence.

The dates for Junior Composers Institute 2007 are July 8 through the 14th. ☺

**Accidents Happen,**  
continued from Page 6

**event**, and Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs is willing to pay this fee because it is very important. More so—you should know that your activities to further music in your community are important and are supported by MFMC.

We look forward to your local club's success, and we want clear sailing for everyone. Please think through your club's annual activities, and consider what insurance needs you all might have. ☺

**Are you considering  
taking a class or  
lessons for continuing  
education?**

**Teacher Trust Grants are available  
to assist in funding these  
endeavors.**

**Contact Karen Erickson at  
teachertrust@mfmc.net.**

## **Sonja Johnston Adult Composer Critique 2006**



**Sonja Johnston, 2006  
Virginia Kendrick  
Scholarship Winner**

### **Virginia Kendrick Scholarship Winner**

Congratulations to Sonja Johnston who was selected by the judge of the Adult Composer Critique Event to receive the Virginia Kendrick Scholarship. She will be invited to perform her composition, *The Earth Is One*, at the 2007 MFMC State Convention in August, 2007.

Sonja, who has been playing piano since she was a toddler, majored in piano performance at UND. Because work and family interrupted her education, she graduated at age 49 from Metro State with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

She played piano and sang in nightclubs in Grand Forks for thirty-plus years, and playing piano at Daytons for several years. Also, she has served as Music Director (now Minister of Music) at the Minnesota Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. This year she co-chaired the National Conference of the UU Musicians' Network, which met in St. Paul last August.

Sonja based her hymn *The Earth Is One* on a poem by John Cummins (1926-) and performed it with her choir at the UU convention. This is the first composition contest that Sonja has entered. Participation in critique and the experience of winning have encouraged her to continue to create.

Sonja lives in Burnsville with her husband Bob, a retired vocal director, along with her two toy poodles, whom she calls "the girls." She has two grown children, Joanna and Bob who are into music (in addition to their day jobs). ☺

**The next Adult Composers Critique deadline is April 15, 2007. Contact chairman Betty Olson at [BOlsonflute@cs.com](mailto:BOlsonflute@cs.com) for details.**

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MFMC members have donned their special aprons, and are ready to serve the reception following Garrison Keillor's performance. Back row, L to R: Sarah Twedt, Kathy Wilson, Pat Steege, Cheryl Schmidt, Betty Olson, and Karen Johnson; Front row, L to R: Karen Erickson, Nadine Berg, Mary Angela Strasser, Sharon Kaplan, and Jane Jensen.

# Scholarships for Challenged Students

Luci Sirriani, a blind vocalist from St. Paul, MN, has received scholarship money through the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Scholarships for Challenged Students and also from our national organization.

If you know of students who face special challenges as a musician and would benefit from these scholarships, please contact Cheryl Schmidt at [cschmidt@en-tel.net](mailto:cschmidt@en-tel.net). Log onto [www.mfmc.net](http://www.mfmc.net) for details.



LEFT: Dierdre Michael and Sheila Shusterich model matching red dresses.

TOP: NFMC 2006 winner in dance, Kristina Doiron, from Thibodaux, Louisiana delivers a skillful performance.



Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs



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