

half notes d

News from Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs | Summer | 2008

Official Call

KAREN ERICKSON, MFMC PRESIDENT

The MFMC all-member state meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with a Festival meeting at 1:00 p.m., at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Edina.

All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Attendance is expected by all club presidents (or designated representatives), MFMC officers, and chairmen.

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 enclosed within this issue. Please complete and return it as directed by July 25. ❖

Directions

from to Hampton Inn to Good Shepherd Church, Page 9

NFMC Fall Session

August 5-10, 2008 • Denver, Colorado • Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver Colorado 80207.

Theme: America the Beautiful MFMC members who will attend are Pat Steege, Sarah Twedt, Cora Barr, Karen Erickson, and Kathy Wilson. ❖

MFMC • www.mfmc.net

NFMC • www.nfmc-music.org

Young Artist Winner 2007 Nathan Knutson

will perform at August meeting

Pianist Nathan Knutson will perform in recital at the upcoming MFMC meeting in Minneapolis on August 13. Mr. Knutson is the 2007 winner of National Federation of Music Clubs' Young Artist competition, and he is the first ever recipient of the Mason Hamlin - NFMC piano Young Artist award.

The following is an excerpt from Mr. Knutson's bio:

Acclaimed for his masterful command of technique and sound, Nathan J. Knutson continues to delight



Nathan Knutson, 2007 winner of NFMC's Young Artist competition

audiences worldwide, provoking intellects, captivating emotions and entertaining souls. He is particularly noted as an interpreter of a vast range of musical genres "...allowing him to be versatile, understanding and equally comfortable with composers and styles that are very different, making his rendition of a wide variety of repertoire natural, thoughtful, and very musical."

Earning highest marks in chamber music and solo performance, Mr. Knutson holds a Master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he studied with internationally renowned faculty including Paul Barnes and Antonio Pompa-Baldi. Additionally, Mr. Knutson attributes much of his technique to the well-known pedagogical tradition of Joseph and Rosina Lhevinne. As a consequence of his competitive success as a young artist by the age of 17,

A Message From the President



Karen Sue Erickson, MFMC President

Greetings!

I am very pleased and proud to be elected and installed as the 2007-09 President of the MFMC. Music is at the heart of much of what I do, so here is a little bit of my history. I grew up in St. Paul taking piano and flute lessons in elementary and junior high school. I was not able to continue in high school as a new program to encourage the sciences was given to the top students – and it was during the music classes.

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota with a major in art history taking some introductory music classes for non-music majors. My Master of Arts degree is also from the U of MN in Library Science with a focus on early printed books and public libraries.

However, music remained a passion and I continued to play piano, organ,

Continued in next column

From the President, continued

flute, and recorders while our children were growing up. When our youngest went off to college, it was time for me to get a job and giving private music lessons came to the top of the list of possibilities when the local music store asked if I would give flute lessons there. Seeing the need for more piano teachers in town, I also took piano pedagogy courses at the University of Minnesota in Morris and soon had a full studio of flute and piano students. I now give lessons completely at my home and have found that to be most rewarding.

Other music activities include directing a community flute choir, being a church organist and pianist, accompanying high school students for solo and ensemble contests, playing flute in community theatre musicals, presenting community education courses, volunteering special music at church, for community events and in care centers, and making music at any possible time.

My local club is the Central Lakes Music Club.

If I had to choose a theme it would be along the lines of music...fun for a lifetime. One of my favorite songs is *How Can I Keep From Singing*.

My goal as president is to lead Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs by respecting our past and moving forward into the future.

Teacher Trust Grant

BY KAREN SUE ERICKSON, MFMC PRESIDENT AND TEACHER TRUST GRANT CHAIR
The Rose Zygmanski Teacher Trust Grant was awarded to
Ruth Aaseng of Alexandria for continuing education. She will
attend a workshop this summer in Oak Park, Illinois on
teaching adult piano lessons sponsored by Musikgarten. She
will be learning more about the concept of Recreational
Music Making and the new curriculum Musikgarten Adults:
Enjoying the Piano Together for adults who want to learn to
play the piano solely for their own enjoyment.

Festival Problem-Solving Workshop

BY CORA BARR, STATE FESTIVAL CHAIR

Do you know what happens when a student is disqualified? Do you know what should happen? Do you know how to transfer a student into a Festival or out of it? These are just a few of the problems that site managers encounter. Participate in an interactive session to solve problems that actually occurred this year and learn how to avoid them in your own club. Win prizes for the best solutions. (Bring your Bulletin and find all the answers.)

This session is open to all members who want to understand more about preparing a student for Festival. However, the site manager, record keeper and the president of each club should attend.

Adult Composer 2008

Winner • Karen Erickson



Karen Erickson, 2008 Winner of Adult Composer Critique and Virginia Kendrick **Scholarship**

Congratulations to Karen Erickson, new winner of the Adult Composer Critique Event, and the Virginia Kendrick Scholarship. Karen, a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College with a major in French and minor in music, received her Ph.D. in French from Yale University in 1987. She teaches French at St. John's University, where she took composition classes on the side from Dr. Brian Campbell. His teaching was a true inspiration to Karen, and she has continued to compose and work in music.

Her current French language projects include the use of French folk songs in the language and culture classroom, and she directs and sings in the Collegeville Consort, an early sacred music

vocal ensemble; their CDs include A Mother's Tale: Marian Chants and Motets (2001) and Dwelling Places (2005). Her "Five Shakespeare Songs" premiered on October 26, 2001, at the Steven B. Humphrey Auditorium, St. John's University. She also serves as liturgical musician for special services at several area churches.

Karen's two children are active in music. Daniel Erickson, 16, sings in the choir and has passed his Level 9 MMTA theory exam and plays violin. Her daughter Leah Webster, 14, sings and finds Karen's extracurricular creative endeavors to be an inspiration for her own hopes and dreams.

Karen will be heard playing her winning composition, "London Fanfare," at this year's August MFMC meeting. &

Congratulations to Lisa Zylstra

Lisa, a junior at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, has been awarded the Gretchen Van Roy Music Education Scholarship for 2008. This \$1000 award will be sent directly to the University to be applied to her expenses next semester. ò

Adult Composer Critique

BY BETTY OLSON, ADULT COMPOSER CRITIQUE CHAIR

The Adult Composer Critique is an opportunity for composers 18 years of age and older to have their unpublished music critiqued by a college professor of theory and composition.

The 2008 winner of the Virginia Kendrick Scholarship will be announced at the end of June, and the first place recipient will perform at the fall board meeting in August.

The next deadline is April 15, 2009. Information is available at www.mfmc.net or contact

Betty Olson (952) 831-3854 bolsonflute@cs.com >>

Junior **Composers** Institute

July 6-12, 2008 — Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN Website www.juniorcomposers.org Sponsored by the North Central Region of the National Federation of Music Clubs

Karen Bourne, Director (712) 274-7284 director@juniorcomposers.org

Arlene Lewis, Registrar (712) 252-0734 arlenelewis@juno.com ≈

Changes to Gold **Cup Report for**

BY BARB THOMPSON, MN GOLD CUP CHAIR

All areas will be required to provide the chairman with a summary of the number of each size of Festival cups plus the total number of cups that need to be ordered in that area. Separate summaries will be needed for Silver Cups as well. This information could be provided on the Gold Cup report or on a separate sheet.

A few sites provided this information last Festival, and the chairman found it to be very valuable and a time saver.

Example: GOLD CUPS

> First cups: 14 Second cups: 12 Third cups: TOTAL: 29

Also please count the type and number cups you receive from NFMC. Last year there were shipments where the wrong size cups were delivered. Be sure to contact me as soon as you can. 🌫

NFMC Events

2008 NFMC Fall Session

August 5-10, 2008 Denver, Colorado

2009 NFMC Biennial Convention

June 1-9, 2009 Orlando, Florida

2010 NFMC Fall Session

August 3-8, 2010 Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Arts Advocacy BY SARAH TWEDT, NFMC AND MFMC ARTS ADVOCACY CHAIRMAN

Jumping on the Arts Advocacy bandwagon is becoming more and more important in today's economy and it behooves us all to become informed and involved.

Americans for the Arts economic impact study reported that total expenditures in America for the nonprofit arts and culture industry was \$166.2 BILLION dollars in 2005. This is equivalent to 5.7 million jobs.

Arts and arts education funding is most vulnerable when budgets get tight. Do you remember the 32% reduction in the arts budget In 2003 which reduced total arts spending in the state of Minnesota in 2004-2005 from \$25.3 million to \$17 million? Total arts funding for the state is currently about \$10 million out of a total state budget of \$35 billion.

We are in a unique situation this fall. Voters in Minnesota will have the opportunity to vote on the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. MCA (Minnesota Citizens for the Arts) reports that this increase in sales tax (3/8 of 1% or 38cents for every \$100 spent on items which are subject to sales taxes) will raise approximately \$291 million per year in dedicated funds and would be allocated as follows:

- 33% to an outdoor heritage fund to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game and wildlife;
- 33% to a clean water fund to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater;
- 19.75 % for arts, arts education, arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage and;
- 14.25% to support parks and trails or regional or statewide significance.

Passage of this amendment would increase arts and cultural heritage funding to approximately \$58 million annually.

Please, members, become informed about and involved in this important issue. Clubs might even choose to include discussions about this issue and other arts issues at fall meetings. And most importantly, discuss these issues with friends, neighbors, clients, colleagues and local and national representatives.

Thank you for your continued support of Arts Advocacy! >>

NFMC Student Awards

The NFMC Biennial Student / Collegiate Student Awards honoring Agnes Fowler and Mary V. Thiesen will be held in 2009.

Students are eligible to enter in the following categories: Piano, Organ, Harp, Classical Guitar, Man's voice, Woman's voice, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double bass, Orchestral woodwinds, Orchestral brass and Percussion

Age Limit

Instrumentalists: 19 through 26 and Vocalists: 19 through 26

Entry Fee

\$30 for each category

Award Amount

\$1,500 for the winner in each category. Supplemental Awards also available (see chart on MFMC website).

Deadline for Application

January 15, 2009

Send completed application to:

Sheila K. Shusterich 314 Lewis St. Duluth, MN 55803 sshusterich@charter.net

This scholarship is funded by the Agnes Fowler Endowment, and the Mary V. Thiesen Legacy

For more information, log onto the NFMC web site www.nfmc-music.org ≈

IMC Awardees





Maria Manto

Katie Pepera

International Music Camp Awardees

BY MARY ANGELA STRASSER

Based upon their applications and recorded auditions, MFMC scholarships for summer study at International Music Camp (IMC) have been awarded to Maria Manzo and Katie Pepera.

Maria will attend the orchestral session in order to advance her study of the 'cello. She lives in Savage, MN and is a pupil of Susan Jacobson of Rosemount.

Katie attends Lake of the Woods High School and will study piano while at IMC. Her teacher is Shelley Galle of Warroad.

Maria and Katie have both attended International Music Camp in previous summers, and it was their positive experiences that motivated them to apply for Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs camp scholarships.

Both students have compiled impressive records of achievement in NFMC Festivals and other musical activities. They share a true passion for their music making; have inspired highly laudatory comments in their letters of reference; and project true emerging artistry in their audition recordings.

Teachers of high school students who may wish to follow in the footsteps of these "happy campers" in 2009 are encouraged to check with their Festival site managers for next year's application information. This is distributed during January of each year. Applications can also be downloaded at www.mfmc.net. ~

Junior Composer Institute 2008

Scholarships awarded

BY PATRICIA (PAT) STEEGE, JUNIOR COMPOSER'S CONTEST CHAIR

The Institute is a summer camp experience for composition students between the ages of 14 and 19. It is held at Augsburg College during July when students live on campus for six days.

The MFMC funds four scholarships for students ages 14-19 to attend the Junior Composer Institute. The top two winners in Levels 3 and 4 of the Junior Composers Contest are automatically offered the scholarship. The scholarship amount per student is \$400.

This year's scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Melissa Mogan (teacher Kathy Wilson, Burnsville MTA)
- Jared Hoeft (teacher LeRene Soderberg, Litchfield Cadenza Club)
- Kate Meyer (teacher Cathy Shields, from Itasca Music Club)
- Joey Munson (teacher Nancy Boecher from Apple Valley MTA)
- Alex Hetzer (teacher Kay Koehnen from East Suburban Fed. MC)

Alex Hetzer, who participated in the Junior Composers Contest but did not place in the top two of her age level, made application for a scholarship, it was reviewed and approved &

Junior Composers Contest • A great success

BY PAT STEEGE, JUNIOR COMPOSER'S CONTEST CHAIR

There were 23 entries in the Junior Composers Contest last January. Pieces reflected the creativity and variety of our Minnesota kids. Submissions included several pieces for band, instrumental ensembles, vocal songs with accompaniment, and piano solos. Titles received included *Storm Dance, That Robot, Tumbleweed Dance, Yellow Lady Slippers, Morning Dreams, Snowdream.*

Cora Barr from Minneapolis judged the two younger levels. Wynn-Anne Rossi of Wayzata judged the two older levels. The top two winners in each age level were:

Level one:

1st: *The Jumping Grasshopper* by Madeline Oines, Farmington, MN

2nd: Walking Through the Dark Cave by Danielle

Thompson, Savage, MN

Level two:

1st place: Dancing Ghosts of the Deep Abyss by Julia Kloehn, Minneapolis, MN

2nd: Jazz Man on a Blues Train by Ben Eischens,

Rosemount, MN

Level three:

1st: *Journey Home* by Kate Meyer, Grand Rapids, MN 2nd: *Cat and Mouse* by Joey Munson, Bloomington, MN

Level four:

1st: *Al Niente* by Melissa Mogan, Savage, MN 2nd: *Rain* by Jared Hoeft, Hutchinson, MN

All winners advanced to the regional level of judging. Kate Meyer then advanced to the national level where she received a \$50 incentive award.

Along with learning from judges' comments, participants can also elect to earn points towards a Gold Cup. &

MFMC History by Cheryl Schmidt, Historian

The Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs first organizational meeting was held on April 14, 1921 in Minneapolis. ~ The first convention was held in 1923 in St. Paul, with Mrs. Peter Rodange of Litchfield presiding as state president. ~ As your new historian, my goals will be to inform MFMC members about interesting historical information so all of us become familiar with our past. It is also my aim to get all of our historical records updated and filed with the National Federation of Music Clubs and the State of Minnesota. Trying to compile every newsletter since 1946 will be a challenge but worth the effort as the newsletters are a wealth of historical information.

I look forward to celebrating our MFMC history! ≈

State Student Audition Winners 2008

BY ELIZABETH RAIHALA, MFMC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Piano: Laurie Buer, First Place

Laurie Buer is the daughter of Steve and Kathy Buer. She lives in Willmar, MN and is a senior at Willmar High School. She has been taking piano lessons from her teacher, Gayle Marcus, for 11 years. Laurie is involved in band, choir, jazz band, volleyball, track, and church youth group. Also, she teaches six piano students. Next year she plans to attend Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, with a major in political science or history and a minor in music. &

Piano: Danelle Cook, Second Place

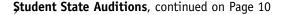
Danelle Cook, Pennock, MN, age 16, has studied piano with Gayle Marcus the past 8 years. Danelle has participated in MFMC Festivals the past eight years, earning a Superior rating each year. In addition to piano, Danelle plays violin, viola, and guitar. She participates in the Crow River Area Youth Orchestra, plays in her church orchestra, accompanies her youth group on guitar, and fiddles with her family for various functions. Danelle's other interests include art and taking care of the animals on her family's hobby farm. She appreciates the opportunities she has had musically through the MFMC. \approx

Man's Voice: Philip Solyntje, First Place

Phil Solyntjes began his undergraduate life at University of Minnesota, Duluth in 2005-2006, where as a freshman, he was a chorus member in *La Boheme*. During summer of 2006, Phil performed in opera at the Sieur Du Luth summer music festival. In 2006, Phil began studying with Rachel Inselman. He participated in opera studio performing various small roles. The current school year looks exciting for Phil with his being cast in a principal role in the spring opera production of *The Merry Widow*. \approx

Man's Voice: Ryan Werdon, Second Place

Ryan Werdon is a vocal music education student at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He earned his first bachelor's degree in business from Northern Michigan University, where he also studied voice with Dr. Robert Engelhart and sang with the university's ensembles, Superior Light Opera Association and Marquette Choral Society. Ryan currently studies under UM-Duluth Professor Dr. Rachel Inselman, participates in University Singers, Opera Studio, Lake Effect Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Arrowhead Chorale. Also, Ryan is director of the St. James Church Choir in West Duluth. &





Laurie Buer, First Place, Piano SSA 2008



Danelle Cook, Second Place, Piano



Philip Solyntje, Man's Voice, First Place



Ryan Werdon, Man's Voice, Second Place

Carolyn Axt, Logowear Chair (952)890-1284 | cabaxt@aol.com

Cora Barr, State Festival Chair and Minnesota State Representative on the NFMC Board of Directors (612)869-2525 | corazbarr@msn.com

Nadine Berg, Treasurer and Opera (218)262-3582 | treasurer@mfmc.net

Gwen Degner, Secretary (320)848-2156 | degnerdg@hutchtel.net

Karen Erickson, MFMC President and Teachers Trust Grants Chair (320)762-1713 | teachertrust@mfmc.net

Peggy Karsten,

Parliamentarian/Advisory Chair (320)231-9838 | karstenmarj@msn.com

Betty Olson

Adult Composers' Critique Chair 952) 831-7935 | BOlsonflute@cs.com

Verna Patrick, Music in Poetry Chair (320)796-2627

Elizabeth Raihala, State Student Auditions Chair (218)525-2379 | liz@raihala.net

Cheryl Schmidt, Historian Joyce Walsh Award Music Scholarships for Challenged Students (320)231-0027 | cschmidt@mfmc.net

MFMC Officers and Chairmen | 2008

Sheila Shusterich

Student Awards and Scholarships Chapman Award Chair NFMC Biennial Student/Collegiate Auditions Chair (218)724-9287 | sshuster@mfmc.net

Jeannene Simonson, Certificates (952)435-6448 | jeannenekay@hotmail.com

Pat Steege, 1st Vice President Junior Composer's Contest Junior Composer Institute Scholarships (651)463-2492 psteege@mjssecurity.com

Mary Angela Strasser

Festival Extension Chair IMC Summer Scholarships Chair Member at Large NFMC Board of Directors (218)263-8188 | bkwrms@mchsi.net

Barb Thompson, Gold Cup Chair (952)423-3543 | barbjune20@frontiernet.net

Sarah Twedt, MFMC Arts Advocacy and NFMC Arts Advocacy Chair (651) 688-0843 | sarahtwedt@hotmail.com

Mary Wescott, Membership Chair (952)892-6750 | thewescott@aol.com

Kathy Wilson, Parade of American Music Chair MFMC Insurance Coordinator (952) 890-7935 | kawilson@speakeasy.net

Web resources for Arts Advocacy:

Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA) • www.mncitizensforthearts.org

Minnesota State Arts Board • www.arts.state.mn.us

Save The Music • www.savethemusic.com

MMEA • www.mmea.org

Americans for The Arts • www.Americansforthearts.org

MFMC All Member State and Festival Meetings

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Registration: Please complete this form and mail as directed by July 30, 2008.

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone/Email
Club Affiliation/Position
Please check your choices:
I will attend the MFMC all-member state meeting I will NOT attend the MFMC all-member state meeting I will attend the Festival Meeting MORNING COFFEE "AND" Morning Coffee with Sweet Bread LUNCH CHOICES Prices do not include gratuity Primo Box Lunch (1/2 sandwich) • \$14 Deluxe Box Lunch (whole sandwich) • \$15
Grilled Chicken on Focaccia Roast Turkey Club on Ciabatta Molinari Salami Toscano on Ciabatta Meditarranean Tuna on Baguette Vegetable (roasted peppers & more) on Whole Wheat TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

Please fill out and cut this form on dotted line and enclose with payment. Make checks payable to MFMC and mail by July 30, 2008, to: MFMC All-Member State and Festival Meetings C/O Gwen Degner, 251 Main St N, Hector, MN 55342

MFMC All-member State Meeting Wednesday, August 13, 2008 **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** 2801 France Ave So., Minneapolis, MN 55410 Phone: 612-927-8849

Meeting Schedule:

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

• All-member State Meeting begins

Mid-morning Break

• Performance by Nathan Knutson • LUNCH

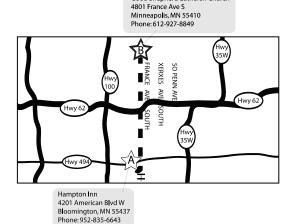
12:00 noon

1:00 p.m.

• Festival Meeting

• Registration

Thank you for registering. See you at the meeting!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Nathan Knutson, Continued from Page 1

Knutson made his orchestral debut with the South Dakota Symphony in a series of four concerts for the grand opening of the Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion. Having pursued further professional study in Austria and France, he has been in high demand as a college professor across the United States.

His great passion for Gregorian chant has found fulfillment as director of Scholar Cantor, specializing in chant and Renaissance polyphony.

Together with wife Lisa, a choral director and organist, they are proud parents who advocate the sacred and performing arts.

His services are made available through the National Federation of Music Clubs' Young Artist Program. Read Mr. Knutson's bio in entirety. Log onto his website at www.nathanknutson.com. &

SSA Winners, Continued from Page 7

SSA Violin: Jerica Burchard,

Second Place

Jerica Nicole Burchard began studying violin and flute in elementary school and has been steeped in music ever since. While in high school she won many awards, participated in All-State Band and Orchestra, Sioux City Philharmonia Orchestra and Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra. While attending UM-Duluth, Jerica has studied with Rudy Perrault; she is a



Jerica Burchard, Second Place, Violin

member of the NHS, UMD Honors Society, and has received the Isaac and Rose Gershgol Scholarship, Gregg Johnson Scholarship, Chancellors' Scholarship, Matinee Musicale Scholarship, and is on the Music Department and the College of Science and Engineering's Dean's List. Jerica is a member of the UMD Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra, and winner of the UMD Concerto Competition and has performed the first movement of *Saint Saens' Concerto No. 3* with the symphony. \approx

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Half Notes