



half notes



News from Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs | Summer | 2007

Official Call

CHERYL SCHMIDT, MFMC PRESIDENT

The MFMC all-member state meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis.

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 15. ☺

Map & Directions from to Hampton Inn to Good Shepherd Church, P. 7

Time of Remembrance

A time of remembrance will be held during the banquet on Wednesday, August 15, at MFMC's state convention. Please see Page 6 for details. ☺

Visit our websites:

MFMC • www.mfmc.net

NFMC • www.nfmc-music.org

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs 53rd Biennial Convention 2007

Let Us Entertain You

Southwest Minneapolis Senior Keyboard Club will host MFMC's 53rd Biennial convention on Wednesday and Thursday, August 15 and 16, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis, MN. In planning its first state meeting, SW Keyboard has been guided by a double mantra: *be prepared for serious business*, and *let us entertain you*.

The first day will begin at 8:30 AM with registration and continental breakfast. The MFMC All-Member State Meeting starts at 9:00 AM with MFMC President Cheryl Schmidt presiding.

Following the meeting and shortly before lunch, Sonja Johnston, winner of the Virginia Kendrick Scholarship, along with a quartet, will perform Sonja's award-winning hymn, *The Earth is One*.

After lunch, you'll be entertained by the Wildkats, a girl group like none other, comprised of a minister's wife, endoscopy nurse, and piano teacher. The Wildkats perform throughout the Twin Cities and have produced several CDs. Their music and lyrics were written by Beth Anderson.

The Festival meeting takes off at 2 PM, during which the new Festival handbook will make its debut. Three workshops will be offered, designed to introduce new Festival Bulletin music for students participating in piano, voice, and/or instrumental.

Shortly before dinner, you'll enjoy a diversion from duties: Bryce Davidson's performance, a hip-hop demonstration.

Following that will be a feast: a Greek-Cypriot dinner of *mezedhes* prepared by Soterios Stavrou, an authentic Greek-Cypriot. The traditional *mezedhes* are little *hors d'oeuvres* which comprise the most important part of a meal.

During dinner, we'll hear from guest speaker Senator Carolyn Nelson, Vice President of the National Federation of Music Clubs North Central Region.

After that, Mela Dailey will delight you with a vocal performance. Ms. Dailey is the 2005 NFMC Young Artist winner in Women's Voice, 2005 Metropolitan Opera District

Continued on Page 8

A Fond Farewell From the President



Cheryl Schmidt, MFMC President

Dear MFMC members,

My term as your state president will end with the induction of new officers at the state convention.

Before I say farewell as MFMC president, I wish to thank the MFMC chairpersons for facilitating our programs and scholarships and the MFMC executive committee for helping me make decisions and being supportive. And thank you to all MFMC members for their ongoing effort with students and the study of music.

Once again, I invite and encourage you to attend our MFMC 53rd biennial state convention in Minneapolis on August 15 & 16. This is where we provide opportunities for professional growth, bring together old friends and new members of MFMC, share information, make personal musical connections, foster involvement of talent in our organization, and experience many

From the President, continued

wonderful performances.

Please read carefully this issue of Half Notes; it includes convention information and registration forms.

Club presidents, remember that a written report of your club's activities over the last two years must be presented to the state president. Each club president will be asked to share one or two highlights from this report during the state meeting.

Festival site managers and record keepers, I cannot stress enough how important it is that you attend the Festival meeting. If you cannot attend, please send a representative from your Festival.

Please join me in extending thanks to Southwest Minneapolis Keyboard Club for hosting the 53rd biennial convention. Please take note of the registration deadline and get your registration in on time.

One last request: please support your new MFMC administration and consider helping with positions at the state level. Much needs to be done and your assistance is welcome and appreciated. Each of you has unique gifts to share.

My serving as state president has been very rewarding. We all can be proud of our many successful Festivals and scholarships given to students.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing all of you at the convention! ♪

Get ready to be entertained by Southwest Minneapolis Keyboard Club, host of MFMC's 53rd Biennial Convention. For a sneak peek at presenters and performers, read on. For performance times, refer to schedule on Page 4.

Saving Cypriot Ethnic Music Through the Children

Elizabeth Stavrou, (see photo, right) piano, flute and voice teacher, will acquaint us with the Mediterranean country of Cyprus and its ethnic music: the teaching of music in public and private schools; and how ethnic music is being saved for the children. In 2004, Ms. Stavrou received a grant from the National Music Teacher's Association to begin her formal exploration of Cypriot music and culture.

She holds a BA in music education and has taught piano and voice and has directed children's choirs for more than 35 years. ♪



Carolyn Nelson

National Guest at MFMC State Convention

Carolyn Nelson is Vice President of the National Federation of Music Clubs North Central Region. She served as ND Federation president from 1997-2001, several terms as president of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club, and the first secretary-treasurer of the North Central Region. She wrote bylaws and set up the NCR/JCI Endowment. Since becoming vice president of the NC region, she has facilitated designing websites for both NCR and the Junior Composers Institute; she currently serves as webmaster of both.

On the national level, Carolyn serves on the bylaws committee, the budget committee, is an advisor to the Council of State Presidents, and chairs the NFMC Arts Advocacy Committee. She is an announced candidate for NFMC First Vice President, a position to be elected in Salt Lake City this summer.

Carolyn is member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and Sigma Alpha Lota music fraternity. She was the handbell choir director at First United Methodist Church in Fargo for 25 years and taught handbells at International Music Camp for three. Choirs under her direction participated in national festivals. Carolyn served as clinician or massed choir director in Orlando, Lincoln, Berkeley, Fargo, Sioux Falls, Worthington, Mankato, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis.

Carolyn was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1986 and again in 1992. She has represented District 21 in the state Senate since 1994. Ms. Nelson is currently the Senate Assistant Minority Leader, the first woman senator in state history to hold a senate leadership position.

Carolyn and her husband Gil Nelson have three children and nine grandchildren.

We look forward to hearing her as our featured speaker at the banquet and will appreciate her information and inspiration during her attendance at all of our convention events. ♪



Senator Carolyn Nelson, Vice President, NFMC North Central Region, will speak at MFMC's State Convention in August.

Mela Dailey

2005 Young Artist Winner

Vocalist Mela Dailey, first place winner of the 2005 National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Young Artist Competition, will perform at the upcoming 53rd Biennial Convention.

Mela Dailey was the 2005 NFMC Young Artist winner in Women's Voice, 2005 Metropolitan Opera District Winner, and Metropolitan Opera South Regional Finalist. She has received recognition in a wide variety of musical genres including opera, oratorio, art song, musical theater, vocal jazz, gospel, country and popular music.

Ms. Dailey, who earned her master's degree in opera performance *summa cum laude* from Texas State University, Austin, made her professional debut at Carnegie Hall in 2003. She received the New York University Talent Scholarship for achievement in musical theater, won the Second Annual University of Texas Opera Gala Aria Competition, and was selected as a New Young Artist at the Victoria Bach Festival.



Vocalist Mela Dailey will perform at the upcoming 53rd Biennial Convention.

Convention Schedule 2007

Wednesday, August 15

8:30 AM

Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM

MFMC All-Member State Meeting

11:50 AM

Sonja Johnston Performance

12:00 PM • Lunch

1:00 PM

Wildkats!

2:00 PM

New Festivals Bulletin Music Workshops

4:30 PM • Recess

5:45 PM

Break Dancing Demo by Bryce Davidson

6:00 PM • Greek Banquet

Senator Carolyn Nelson, guest speaker

8:00 PM

Young Artist Concert

Thursday, August 16

8:30 AM

Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM

Ethnic Music of Cyprus

10:00 AM

Festivals Honors Recital

11:00 AM

Tom Linker on Musical Diversity

12:00 PM • Box Lunch

1:00 PM

Festival Guidelines and Rules Meeting

Sonja Johnston

Sonja Johnston, Virginia Kendrick Scholarship winner, will perform her award-winning hymn *The Earth is One* at the upcoming state convention.

Sonja, who began playing piano by ear at age three, majored in piano performance at the University of North Dakota. Sonja is Minister of Music at the Minnesota Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. She enjoys writing choral music, satirical plays, poetry, and works at her church with musicians of various musical styles. ☺



Sonja Johnston, Virginia Kendrick Scholarship Winner



Wildkats! Will Tickle Your Funny Bone

Wild, wacky and tastefully tacky! The leopard-clad trio Wildkats! will delight you with their zany,

off-beat humor and original tunes about life's craziness. A sample of their tune titles: *My Legs Are Blue From Waitin' On You*; *Big Butts Are Comin' Back*; and *Bruce, My Masseur*. Since their debut 15 years ago, the Wildkats! have produced four Mother's Day shows at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis, and have entertained countless fans at conventions, meetings, parties, benefits, a dog show, and the MN State Fair. Don't miss their performance at the state convention. ☺

Tom Linker & Musical Diversity

Tom Linker, a great believer of improvisation in all musical styles, will introduce us — through his unique stage performance — to new, lesser known musical works, and re-introduce us to familiar and beloved music. Tom, who often collaborates with other composers to create new work, has produced many one-man shows. He uses pianos — toy, forte, player and grand — narrative, improvisation, lighting, and movement to illuminate the music. ☺

Cora Barr Leads Festival Meeting

On Thursday at 1:00 PM, Cora Barr, MFMC State Festival Chair, will preside over the Festival meeting for site managers, record keepers, and others working with Festivals.

This meeting will delve into the directives for sites, along with interpretation of guidelines in the new Bulletin. It will end with a question and answer period.

On Wednesday, Cora will facilitate the sessions covering material in our new Festival Bulletin.

Cora Zuponic Barr lives in south Minneapolis where she has a private piano studio. She has been involved with Festival for almost twenty years since she first organized a group of teachers into a club. Currently, all of her students participate in Festival, working towards their Festival Cups.

Cora is active as a judge throughout the state and volunteers for various organizations. ☺

2008 Festival • It's a date!

Kathy Wilson, Insurance Coordinator, requests that each Festival Site Manager email her the following information regarding their 2008 Festival and MFMC events as soon as it becomes available.

1. Name of the event
2. Event location with correct street address
3. Site manager's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address
4. Date(s) of the event(s)
5. Ask your site's office manager if they must have a hard copy of the Certificate of Insurance. Indicate YES or NO on your response. If YES is the response, you must include the FAX number and contact person's name. The Certificate of Insurance will be FAXED to the site's office manager or secretary. If you have responded to Kathy Wilson for inclusion, your Festival or Recital will be covered by insurance. Questions? Email kawilson@speakeasy.net ☺

Fee Increases

MFMC Membership Dues and Festival Fee

- Adult Senior Club dues have been raised from \$4.00 to \$12.00
- Festival Fees raised from \$2.50 to \$4.00.
- Adult Individual dues remain at \$20.00.

This action, proposed by the budget committee, was unanimously approved at the state spring meeting in April.

Please plan ahead and assess your own club's membership and Festival fees. ☺



Attention Festival Site Managers

Please remember to bring your blank Festival cup plates to the state convention. We will use them for the 2008 Festival, which will generate cost savings for all of us.

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 Katie Evans and Tia Lauve.

Katie, 17, will attend the orchestral session in order to advance her study of flute and piccolo. She attends Prior Lake High School and is a pupil of Betty C. Olson of Bloomington.

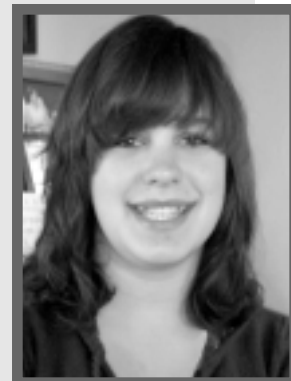
A rising sophomore at Renville County West High School, Tia will study piano while at IMC. Her teacher is Char Daniels of Danube.

Both students have compiled impressive records of achievement in MFMC 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 the example of these "happy campers" in 2008 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. ☺



Katie Evans



Tia Lauve

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Time of Remembrance

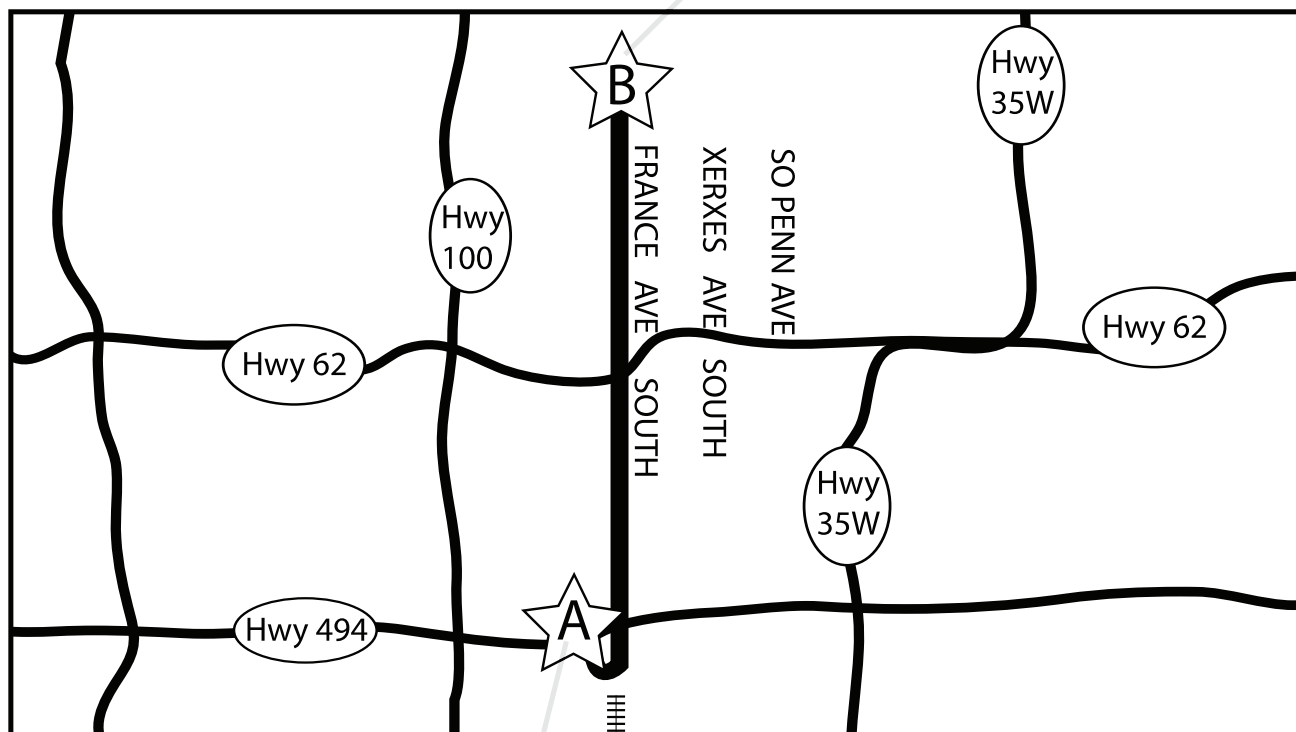
A time of remembrance will be held during the banquet at MFMC's state convention on Wednesday, August 15. We will honor and pay tribute to MFMC members who have passed away since our convention in May of 2006.

When writing tributes, include personal and anecdotal information, and most importantly, club affiliation, number of years of membership, offices and chairmanships held within (home) club and MFMC.

Send names of those whom you wish to remember, along with the name of person who will read tribute at the convention, to Cheryl Schmidt, 1100 SW 14th Street, Willmar, MN 56201, or email cschmidt@en-tel.net, by July 15, 2007. ☺

Map & Directions

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4801 France Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55410
Phone: 612-927-8849



Hampton Inn
4201 American Blvd W
Bloomington, MN 55437
Phone: 952-835-6643

Hampton Inn, 4201 American Blvd W, Bloomington, MN 55437, 952-835-6643

1. Start out going **SOUTHEAST** on **AMERICAN BLVD W** toward **FRANCE AVE S/CR-17 S**.
Proceed 0.2 miles
2. Turn **LEFT** onto **FRANCE AVE S/CR-17 N**.
Proceed 4.1 miles
3. End at church.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4801 France Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55410, 612-927-8849

Estimated Time: 10 minutes • Distance: 4.43 miles

Room Reservations/Rates

The convention rate is \$99.00 plus tax for one room with two double beds, and \$119 for one King-non-smoking room.

These rates apply if reservations are made by July 17 (cut-off date). To ensure that you receive the special group rate, please phone the Hampton Inn at 952-835-6643 and specify your group name – MFMC, Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs.

See you at the convention!

Wanted: Composers

Are you — or is someone you know — talented, curious, open minded, eager to learn?

Then MFMC wants YOU (or him/her) to enter the Adult Composer Critique Event.

By submitting your favorite composition, you will receive a thorough critique from a college professor and be eligible to win the Virginia Kendrick cash award.

Compositions featuring any instrument/voice combination and all levels of ability are welcome.

Detailed information is posted on www.mfmc.net, or contact Betty Olson. Email BOlsonflute@cs.com or phone (952) 831-3854. ✉

MFMC 53rd Biennial, Continued from Page 1

Winner and Metropolitan Opera South Regional Finalist. She has received recognition in a wide variety of musical genres including opera, oratorio, art song, musical theater, vocal jazz, gospel, country and popular music.

Thursday's events begin at 8:30 AM with registration and continental breakfast. At 9:00 AM, attendees will hear an inspiring talk by Elizabeth Stavrou about the teaching of music to children on Cyprus. Ms. Stavrou received a grant from MMTA to study this fascinating subject.

Ten AM brings about the Festival Honors Recital, where students who received Superior ratings are honored, and will perform their pieces.

At 11 AM, Tom Linker, composer and performer par excellence, will engage you with his performance.

At 12 noon, you will break for a special boxed lunch from Cecil's Deli, then re-convene at 1:00 PM for the Festival Guidelines and Rules meeting. It is extremely important for every club to have key Festival personnel attend.

We hope that you will have accomplished all your aims at the convention and that you have been entertained along the way. Maria Edgeworth stated it well: *All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy.*

See you in August.

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs



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