



half notes



News from Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs | Summer | 2010

Next meeting announcement

KAREN SUE ERICKSON, MFMC PRESIDENT

The MFMC all-member state meeting will be held on Thursday August 12, 2010, at Albright United Methodist Church, 301 N. High St., Marshall, MN 56258.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. A Festival meeting will be held at 1:00 after a break for lunch.

All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

MFMC officers and chairmen are expected to attend. All clubs are expected to be represented at one or more state meetings a year.

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 will be sent to members in a special mailing and available on the MFMC website — www.mfmc.net.

Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend. ☞

Visit our websites:

MFMC • www.mfmc.net
NFMC • www.nfmc-music.org
NCR • www.nfmcncr.org

Four Grand Cups in Minnesota

BY SARAH TWEDT

MFMC had four Grand Cup winners in 2010.

Julian Romero — Grand Cup in Violin Solo. His teacher is Barb Ross of Apple Valley Music Teachers Association.

Katie Henry — Grand Cup in Piano Solo. Katie's teacher is Cora Barr, member of Southwest Minneapolis Senior Keyboard Club.

Cole Witter — Grand Cup in Piano Solo. Cole's teacher is Catherine Witter of Renville County – Club 88.

Alexis Aakre — Grand Cup in Piano Solo. Alexis' teacher is Kirstin Olson of Thief River Falls.

We had a total of 5,183 Gold Cup entrants this year with 1,059 total Cups ordered.

Students in Renville County's Club 88 earned seven 4th Cups in 2010. Out of 30 cups ordered for Club 88, eighteen were 30-point trophies and above.

Unfortunately, some Cups were delivered late; a situation out of our control. Next season, NFMC's Gold Cup Chair, Lucinda Lear, and MFMC's Gold Cup Chair Sarah Twedt will continue working together to ensure prompt delivery of the Cups.

"We will continue to refine this process to make our transition to the National database go smoothly," said Sarah. She added: "Thank you for your patience this past year as I learned the ropes of this important task. I am honored to serve as your Gold Cup Chair." ☞

A Message From the President



Karen Sue Erickson, MFMC President

Welcome to *Half Notes*, the official newsletter of the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs.

We are proud to be part of the National Federation of Music Clubs and to participate in many of the special programs offered.

Our Festival event is very active in many locations throughout the state. This past winter, 5,345 students and adults participated. For more details, read the Festival report on page 6.

Our 23 active adult clubs have a variety of meeting schedules and purposes from music appreciation groups to music teacher groups mainly interested in sponsoring Festival events.

As an organization, we rely on

Continued in next column

From the President, continued

volunteers to fill positions of leadership and we currently need to fill several positions. One is that of treasurer. Nadine Berg would like to step down from this position. On behalf of all MFMC members, a special thank you to Nadine for her many years of service to the MFMC.

Also, we need a coordinator for the MFMC Student Auditions which are held every even-numbered year. In 2010, we could not hold these auditions because we had no coordinator. We have many multi-talented members. Please consider where your gifts may be used and volunteer (today!).

In August, I will step down as President of MFMC and First Vice President Pat Steege will take over as president for the remainder of my term. She will then serve her three-year term as President of MFMC.

We are looking for a volunteer to fill the position of First Vice President for the rest of this term (2010-2011) and for the next two-year term of 2011-13. The First Vice President will then serve as President beginning in 2013.

Special thanks to Pat for all she has done as First Vice President during the last few years.

On a personal note, I wish to thank everyone for being supportive while I have gone through some difficult times during my term as president. My husband who battled brain cancer passed away last year, and my father this year. But I have also had two happy occasions this spring: the wedding of my son in April, and birth of a baby girl to my daughter and her husband in May.

Be assured that the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs will always be close to my heart and it is in good hands for the future. I am honored to have served as your president. ☞

MFMC Honors Memory of Mary Prudie Brown

At the suggestion of Mary Angela Strasser, and with the concurrence of the MFMC Board, a memorial donation in honor of Mary Prudie Brown, past MFMC President who died recently, was made to the Junior Composers Institute/Studio. The \$1,650 donation will help support workshop honorariums, student field trips to Orchestra Hall during the camp and increased costs due to growth of the Junior Composers program. ☞

Arts = Academic Success

BY SARAH TWEDT, ARTS ADVOCACY CHAIR MFMC, NFMCA

“The arts are proving to have a positive impact on our children’s academic success, on the new economy, and even on healthcare,” reports Sarah Twedt who attended the Americans for the Arts National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C., in April, 2010.

Arts Education will play a huge role in the new economy of the United States. CEOs are looking for and hiring people who have studied the arts and they cannot find enough qualified people.

According to information recently published by the Americans for the Arts:

- Eighty-five percent of surveyed business executives indicated that they are currently having difficulty recruiting individuals who possess creative ability.
- US employers rate creativity/innovation among the top five skills that will increase in importance over the next five years, and rank it among the top challenges facing CEOs.

Unfortunately, when schools need to reduce costs, among the first areas cut is arts education. Cuts to art have been made despite recent surveys showing that almost 91% of people agreed that we need more arts education in our country, not less.

“If we work together, we can stop this trend of cutting school funding for arts education,” says Sarah Twedt. “Involvement is key.” She recommends readers contact local school boards, regional and national representatives. Share information on how the arts have made a positive impact on (our) students and families.

“Together, we can make a difference.” ☞



MFMC's officers, elected at the August 2009 convention, pose with National Vice President Heidi Hong (left). MFMC President Karen Erickson, Secretary Mary Kaye Rabaey, Vice President Pat Steege, Treasurer Nadine Berg and Historian Cheryl Schmidt.

Arts Advocacy

READING LIST

- Article: *Arts Education given by Arizona Superintendent of Schools, Tom Horne - Arizona Department of Education*
- Karl Paulnack – Speech to freshman at the Boston Conservatory (Google “Karl Paulnack: “Speech to Boston Conservatory”)
- Nancy Hanks Lecture: Wynton Marsalis – *The Ballad of American Arts* (Google “Nancy Hanks Lecture”)
- Daniel Pink: *A Whole New Mind – Why the Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*

For links to these articles, log onto www.mfmc.net

Searching for MFMC Newsletters

BY CHERYL SCHMIDT, MFMC HISTORIAN

My goal is to compile a detailed historical record of MFMC activities and post it on our web site. The best source of historical information about MFMC is found in our newsletters.

The challenge is locating the missing newsletters: some missing from 2000-2003, 1982-83, 1970-1977; several from 1990-1998; all missing from 1978-1981 and 1946-1969.

If you have copies of these newsletters or sources to obtain them, please contact Cheryl Schmidt.

Email Cheryl Schmidt at cschmidt@en-tel.net

International Music Camp Awardees

BY WALT AND MARY ANGELA STRASSER

Based upon their applications and recorded auditions, MFMC scholarships for summer study at International Music Camp (IMC) have been awarded to Erin Grout, Taylor Reinke, and Molly Jane Kampa.

Erin will attend the band session in order to advance her study of flute and piccolo. She is from Pine Island, MN, and is a pupil of Julie Gutzmer of Pine Island.

Taylor, a singer, will attend the A Capella Pop Choir session. She is from Willmar, MN, and is a pupil of Cheryl Schmidt.

From Hastings, MN, Molly Jane will attend the Orchestra session where she will play the cello. Her teacher is Susan Jacobson of Rosemount.

All three 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 the example of these "happy campers" in 2011 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. ☞

Julia Gale Endowment Awards Two Prizes

BY PAT STEEGE

In the year 2000, MFMC received a \$10,000 endowment from the Julia Gale estate. Ms. Gale, who was an active member of the Minnesota Federation for many years, requested that interest earned on the endowment fund be awarded to Minnesota winners in the Young Artists competition.

Two Young Artist winners from Minnesota recently received disbursements representing the interest from the Julia Gale fund.

Nathan Knutson, 2007 winner in piano, received a prize of \$705.00, which was presented to him by President Karen Sue Erickson in May. Nathan, formerly of Mankato, has recently taken a position as Assistant to the Bishop in Sioux Falls, SD, where he will be advising about liturgical music.

Dr. Christopher Atzinger, winner in 2005 for piano, was awarded \$1,200. Dr. Atzinger, who teaches piano at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, was presented his check by MFMC Vice President Pat Steege.

"Both Dr. Atzinger and Mr. Knutson were very surprised and pleased to be recipients of this award," said Pat Steege. "Both plan to use the money to enhance [their] musical skill or stature, as was requested by Julia Gale in her will." ☞



MFMC Vice President Pat Steege (right) presents the Julia Gale Endowment Award to Dr. Christopher Atzinger.

Junior Composers Institute & Studio 2010

BY KAREN BOURNE, JUNIOR COMPOSERS DIRECTOR

This year features two programs for students age 14-20:

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- The **Studio** is a two-week experience with extensive instruction in music analysis, theory, ear-training, and a three-day residency with a master composer.
- The **Institute** is a week-long composer-performer camp with daily instruction in theory and ear-training. Program enrichments include numerous field trips and guest speakers.

Junior Composers 2010 will be held at the University of Minnesota School of Music, Minneapolis, MN. Dates: July 12-24 — Studio; and July 18-24 — Institute. This year's focus is *Composing for Film*.

The University of Minnesota School of Music has 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. Middlebrook Hall is the dormitory and cafeteria (located across the street from the School of Music). Meals are delicious and the camaraderie is first-rate.

Sponsored by the North Central Region, 2010 marks the ninth year of this experience.

For up-to-date information about Junior Composers, addresses for correspondence and a lot more, visit the JCI website — www.juniorcomposers.org.

“Hurry,” says Karen Bourne, “There may still be room for your composition student.” ☞



Minnesotans made up the majority of the 38 attendees to the 2009 Junior Composers Institute. From center — Composition Instructors Linda Tutas-Haugen (white shirt), Randall Davidson, and Seth Custer (stripe shirt). Attendees included 17 students, three instructors, support staff, and student counselors. (Photo by Pat Steege)

JC Scholarships Awarded

BY PAT STEEGE

The MFMC funds four \$400 scholarships for students ages 14-20 to attend the Junior Composers camp held at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis in July 2010.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

- **Brigid Niccum**, Vadnais Heights (teacher Kathy Martinez)
- **Luke Gion**, White Bear Lake (teacher Kathy Martinez)
- **Joshua Rumppe**, Richfield (teacher Doug Rohde)
- **Cody Bursch**, Golden Valley (teacher Mark Czech) ☞

Festival and Other Event Insurance Reminder

Tamie Morken, insurance coordinator for MFMC, wishes to remind all clubs to send her their Festival dates and times, along with dates of all club activities that need to be covered by insurance.

This list must reach Tamie by the 1st of July, 2010, to ensure proper insurance coverage of events and enough turn around time with National. ☞

Email Tamie at trmorken@gmail.com

Festival Report 2010

BY DAWN CARLSON

Festival season concluded with 30 sites reporting data for the year 2010.

There were 5,307 junior entrants this year – up from 5,289 last year – who earned a total of 3,590 Superior ratings, compared to 3,592 in 2009.

Ten sites reported adult entrants (up from eight sites last year, 2009). Thirty-eight adult entrants participated in six events, more than double the 18 entrants in six events last year. Fifteen Superiors were earned by adult individuals or ensembles, compared to 12 Superiors last year. The complete state report is available online at www.mfmc.net.

Specially Capable Junior Musician status is offered to students with physical or mental challenges. This status allows for some exceptions to the general Festival rules (see the Festivals Bulletin). Application deadline for this status is one month before the date of Festival. Application forms are available on the national website (mfmc-music.org).

MFMC's Adult Festival Club is designed to provide Federation membership to adults who wish to perform in the Adult Festival program. Membership is made by paying dues on the Senior Dues Statement which is sent to clubs by our state treasurer (Please note: no adults are included on the Junior Dues Statement). The list of adult Festival participants will be sent to NFMC as a separate club called MFMC Adult Festival Club. Adult members will not be listed in our local clubs.

The in-state transfer procedure implemented this year will continue. Look for an added notes/status column to be included in the JR3-4 reports for 2011. More information about these topics will be available at the forthcoming Festival meeting portion of MFMC's summer meeting this August.

Congratulations on a successful Festival season to all our site chairs and record keepers. Many thanks to Anne Dimich, Rennae Petersen, Barb Thompson, Kathy Williamson, and Judy Zylstra for their work auditing reports. ☞

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Web resources for Arts Advocacy:

Americans for The Arts • www.Americansforthearts.org


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

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

Save The Music • www.savethemusic.com

Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) • www.mmea.org

Grand Cup Winner Julian Romero

Julian Romero, a senior at Eagan High School in Eagan, Minnesota, recently received his Grand Cup in the Violin Solo Event. He completed the 75 points in February 2010, receiving a perfect score on Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in e minor*. Julian, who has been studying violin with Barbara Ross (Lakeville, MN) since the age of four, successfully memorized six Suzuki volumes and other repertoire. He has participated in many solo and ensemble events including school musicals, jazz band, and recitals. Julian played with the Minnesota Youth Symphony, he has played for weddings, and for his church. He is a past member of the all-state band, and he excels at the saxophone and guitar. Julian, son of Fabian and Debra Romero, has received a scholarship to the University of Minnesota Duluth where he will pursue a career in Music Education. 



Julian Romero and violin teacher Barbara Ross



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