

half notes



News from Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs | Summer | 2009

Official Call


KAREN ERICKSON, MFMC PRESIDENT

The MFMC all-member state convention will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, August 12-13, 2009, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN. Registration/continental breakfast begins at 8:30 AM on both days.

All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

All club presidents (or designated representatives), MFMC officers, and chairmen are expected to attend.

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, 2009. 

The following forms are included in Half Notes:

- Convention registration
- Honors recital registration
- Map & directions to convention and hotel

These forms may be downloaded by visiting our website www.mfmc.net

Visit our websites:

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

Make Your Own Kind of Music

BY KAREN GRAF

Central Lakes Music Club members welcome you to Alexandria, MN – home of Big Ole, the Kensington Runestone, Carlos Creek Winery, and lakes galore – for the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs 54th Biennial Convention. Learn, laugh, and revitalize on Wednesday and Thursday, August 12 and 13, 2009.

Together we will make new discoveries in our shared love of music, nourish old friendships, build new ones, and replenish our teaching and motivational reservoirs.

As musicians and teachers, we are poised on the edge of a great new challenge: making more music-makers in the 21st century.

Toward that end, Christine Wolf, who opens our convention, will address the Pleasure of Participation. We will reclaim the joy, fun, and inspiration of life's musical moments.

When Tina and Lena, one of Minnesota's hottest comedy/singing/variety teams, launch into their rendition of *Thank You for the Music*, you'll discover another form of "wildlife." Tina and Lena's clean, clever style of backyard wit and wisdom are stuffed with a heaping helping of hilarity that will tickle your funny bone. And when you can bear to laugh no more, their beautiful blend of two-part harmony will lend sweet "moose-ic" to your ears.

Wednesday will bring workshop opportunities designed to revitalize you both personally and professionally. (Please mark your choice of A or B on the registration form.)

Option A includes two interactive classes held at the Knute-Nelson Wellness Center. Each section has a limit of 20, first come, first served, so get those registrations in early.

A: Drums Alive will lead participants through a dynamic workout using a stability ball and simple cardio movements set to powerful beats and rhythms of drumming. This

A Message From the President



Karen Sue Erickson, MFMC President

Greetings!

The Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs (MFMC) continues working hard to bring fine programs of the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) to musicians in Minnesota. With 22 adult clubs and many more junior members throughout the state, Festival is alive and well. Students throughout the state are encouraged to perform and advance and grow as musicians with the Gold Cup plan as their incentive.

But there's more. The NFMC is a strong advocate of the arts and encourages and supports opera, poetry in music, and scholarships.

Several MFMC members have taken on national positions of leadership within NFMC. Included are Sarah Twedt (Arts Advocacy Chairman), Sheila Shusterich

Continued in next column

From the President, continued

(Student/Collegiate Auditions Chairman), Mary Angela Strasser (National Board Member at Large), and Cora Barr (National Board Member for Minnesota).

We are a volunteer organization, and I want to thank all of you who contribute of your time and talents to make your organization run smoothly. Life is often "too busy" and it means a lot when you take on a position of responsibility in the MFMC.

We invite you to attend and enjoy our beautiful lakes region in Alexandria this summer when we host the 54th annual MFMC convention on Wednesday and Thursday, August 12-13, 2009, at Calvary Lutheran Church (please see map and registration form insert). Our committee has been working hard to prepare a fun, informative event filled with good music and great opportunities to learn and grow. Register today.

We extend a warm welcome to our new state Festival chair Dawn Carlson of Fergus Falls, MN, and to our new Gold Cup chair Sarah Twedt of Eagan, MN.

Prior to accepting the position of Festival chair, Dawn has worked as an auditor and we now look forward to her using her organized talents to maintain this wonderful NFMC program.

New Gold Cup chair Sarah has served our Federation well in various capacities at local, state, and national levels, and we appreciate her undertaking this position.

On behalf of our many members for whom Festival is the core of the club year, we thank outgoing Festival and Gold Cup chairs Cora Barr and Barb Thompson for their dedicated efforts on our behalf.

On a personal note, many of you know that my husband passed away peacefully in April after almost 22 months of living with brain cancer. His illness extended throughout my term as president. I greatly appreciate all who have helped me through this time, enabling me to continue carrying the responsibilities of the presidency. You have been most gracious and I am deeply grateful.

I have been very moved by all the cards, phone calls, gifts, prayers, and visits I received. Thank you for the beautiful dish garden of green plants given at the funeral; it is a gentle reminder of your love and caring and it brightens up my living room music studio. ☞

Heidi O. Hong, National Guest at MFMC State Convention



Heidi O. Hong

Heidi O. Hong is a second generation member of the Barron Federated Music Club in Northern Wisconsin (since 1987). Ms. Hong will share how she worked her way up the volunteer ladder of the WFMC and NFMC while involved in Orientation, American Music Week, and American Women Composers. She served as Festival chairman in Eau Claire for over 10 years and then as state president.

In 1997, Ms. Hong chaired the NFMC Convention in Milwaukee.

Following that she has served the NFMC in various ways, including Orientation, American Music Display, and Chairman of the Council (of State Presidents). She is currently the North Central Region Vice President.

“It has been a great ride thus far,” says Ms. Hong, “filled with wonderful, dedicated people and the opportunity to do some traveling, but most of all to advance the goals of the NFMC in supporting music in our homes, churches, communities and for, and with, each other as members.”

Ms. Hong enjoys the outdoors and the four seasons of the north country. She hikes and bikes and kayaks. During the Wisconsin winters she snowshoes. “The river is a wonder to behold and I enjoy the four seasons of the north country while paddling or walking.” ☞

Learn more about our performers...

- Christine Wolf • www.wolfpiano.com
- Tina & Lena • www.tina-lena.com
- Rebecca Thoennes • rebeccathoennes@yahoo.com
- Drums Alive • www.drumsalive.de
- Sign Chi Do • www.signchido.com



Christine Wolf



Tina & Lena



Rebecca Thoennes



State Convention Schedule 2009

Wednesday, August 12

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

• WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
BY CHRISTINE WOLF

10:30 AM

• FESTIVAL MEETING OR
• FORUM: FEDERATION OPPORTUNITIES

12:00 PM

• LUNCH
• TINA AND LENA

2:15 PM • Workshops A or B

A • DRUMS ALIVE AND SIGN CHI DO
B • REBECCA THOENNES AND
FESTIVAL ROUND TABLE SHARING

5:00 PM

• BANQUET
• HEIDI O. HONG, NATIONAL GUEST
• ALLISON BUIVID, VOCALIST

7:30 PM

• FESTIVAL OF THE LAKES CONCERT
• CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN DESSERT
RECEPTION

Thursday, August 13

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

MFMC ALL-MEMBER STATE MEETING

11:45 AM

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

12:15 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

HONORS RECITAL AND RECEPTION

Festival Meeting Alternative

We offer an alternate option for members not planning to attend the Festival meeting: *Forum: Federation Opportunities*. — Everything you always wanted to know about Federation programs but were afraid to ask (or had no idea were available). ☞

Festival of the Lakes Concert

BY MFMC PRESIDENT KAREN ERICKSON

On Wednesday evening, August 12, we will attend a very special summer chamber music festival — the Festival of the Lakes Concert — which has been held in Alexandria each August since 1993.

The evening's concert features works by François-René Gebauer (1773-1845, French), Bohuslav Martinu (1890-1959, Czech), William Hurlstone (1876-1906, English), Henri Dutilleux (1916-, French), and Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847, German). The 2009 Festival is celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth. Musicians — Norbert Nielubowski (bassoon), Peter McGuire (violin), and Kirsten Whitson (cello) — come to us from the Minnesota Orchestra. Dina Michelson Namer (piano) comes from Ottawa, Canada.

Program:

Gebauer: *Bassoon Trio in C Major, Op. 33, #2*
Martinu: *Violin & Cello Duo #2, H. 371*
Hurlstone: *Bassoon Sonata in F Major*
Dutilleux: *Sarabande et Cortège*
Mendelssohn: *Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 66*

Musicians:

Norbert Nielubowski, *bassoon*
Peter McGuire, *violin*
Kirsten Whitson, *cello*
Dina Michelson Namer, *piano*

United Methodist Church • 2210 6th Avenue East •
Alexandria, Minnesota

To view our map and directions, log onto our website —
Festival of the Lakes Concert Series • www.alexfest.org
☞

*I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be
thinking up something else.*

~ LILY TOMLIN (B. 1939) AMERICAN COMIC

Minnesota's Allison Buivid



Allison Buivid, national winner of Women's Voice

wins state, regional and national women's voice competition


BY SHEILA SHUSTERICH

Soprano Allison Buivid first won Minnesota's Student/Collegiate Auditions

Women's Voice competition. She proceeded to become the North Central Region's winner and has now won the national competition in this category. Allison will receive the Agnes Fowler/Marie V. Theisen award in the amount of \$1,200 plus the Irene S. Muir award in the amount of \$1,500.

Allison, native of Shoreview, MN, is in her final semester as a Master of Music candidate in vocal performance at the University of Minnesota. She has studied with Cynthia Lawrence and John De Haan, and currently studies with George Smith. Allison is a Berneking fellowship recipient who has been highly involved in opera theatre.

Last summer, Allison attended La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy, where she studied with Julia Faulkner and bowed as Musetta in *La Bohème*. While completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in music, communications and theatre at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, Allison was in the chorus and had several *comprimario* roles with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera.

Buivid's recent performances include concerts of opera scenes and arias with the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Aria Group, Twin Cities Opera Guild, Center for German and European Studies, and University of Minnesota's Symphony Orchestra. This summer, Allison will cover Norina in *Don Pasquale* and sing in the chorus of *Desert Song* for Skylark Opera in St. Paul, MN. 

And deep things are song. It seems somehow the very central essence of us, song; as if all the rest were but wrappings and hulls.

~ THOMAS CARLYLE


International Music Camp Awardees

BY MARY ANGELA STRASSER

Scholarships for summer study at the International Music Camp were awarded to Michelle Bromschwig and Ariana Groen at the MFMC spring meeting. IMC is located within the International Peace Gardens which straddle the frontier between Manitoba and North Dakota.

Michelle is a resident of Bloomington and will participate in the band session. She is a student of flute and piccolo with Betty Olson. Michelle is fifteen years old and will be a high school sophomore this fall.

A pupil of Cheryl Schmidt, Ariana will attend the choral session. She is seventeen years old, lives in Willmar, and is a rising high school senior.

Both girls anticipate growth of musical knowledge and an increase in personal and performance confidence as a result of their time at IMC. 



Michelle Bromschwig



Ariana Groen

MFMC's new Festival and Gold Cup chairs

The MFMC is pleased to welcome and introduce two new chairs for Festival and Gold Cup respectively.

Dawn Carlson of Fergus Falls will serve as our new Festival chair. Dawn, who assumes the position from outgoing chair Cora Barr, is a member of the Central Lakes Music Club. Dawn graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, with a degree in music education. She became a member of Music Southwest club in 2007 and got involved in the Marshall area Festival program. Dawn has served as record keeper for Festival, Festival site chair, and Festival records auditor.

Dawn Carlson • jazz94@charter.net

Sarah Twedt of Eagan, MN, has assumed the position of Gold Cup Chair, formerly held by Barb Thompson. Sarah, who received a BA in Music and German from University of Northern Iowa, has served as Festival chair and record keeper for Apple Valley. She and her husband Mark recently developed a highly efficient computerized system of registering, scheduling, and tracking progression of Festival students. Sarah brings creativity and organization to this post. Sarah also serves as National Arts Advocacy Chair.

Sarah Twedt • sarahtwedt@hotmail.com

*Her fingers witched the chords they
passed along,
And her lips seemed to kiss the soul
in song.*

~ THOMAS CAMPBELL, 'THEODRIC' (1824)

Grand Cup Winner, Julianna Passe

By CAROLYN LAUFENBURGER

Julianna Passe, a senior at Redwood Valley H.S. in Redwood Falls, MN, received her third cup in hymn playing and piano duet, along with the Grand Cup, at her senior recital on May 3.



Julianna Passe (front) pictured with teacher Carolyn Laufenburger holds recently won Grand Cup.

Julianna, daughter of Kevin and Bev Passe, has studied piano for 12 years, the past seven with teacher Carolyn Laufenburger. She has excelled in MMTA contests, ensembles, and exams. Her school activities include band, jazz band, choir, jazz choir, and Knowledge Bowl. She was a state finalist in the Music Listening competition and a member of National Honor Society. Julianna has scored Superior ratings in school solo/ensembles on xylophone, and has been an accompanist and performer for school and community. She is also on the hockey team. Julianna graduated at the top of her class in June 2009. ☞

Junior Composers Institute – Vocal Essence residency

Junior Composers Institute (JCI), a week-long intensive composition camp for students ages 14-19, has announced that Philip Brunelle and members of his professional chorus, Vocal Essence, will be in residence the week of July 5-11, 2009, to read and perform new choral works by student composers. Linda Tutas Haugen has joined the faculty and will work alongside returning instructors Seth Custer and Randall Davidson. The Institute is hosted by Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ☞

Scholarship Winners Junior Composers Institute

BY PATRICIA STEEGE

Four students each earned an MFMC scholarship in the amount of \$400 to attend the Junior Composers Institute in Minneapolis on July 5-11, 2009. Winning students include Jared Hoeft, Hutchinson; Kate Meyer, Grand Rapids; Christopher Neiner, Burnsville; and Graeme Shields, Grand Rapids.

Two students — Emily Custer and Jared Hoeft (pictured right) — received national recognition in the composition competition. Both are JCI alumnae who will return for further challenge and instruction at JCI.

For those who want to attend JCI, please apply now. Several openings remain in this year's camp where Phillip Brunelle and Vocal Essence and will work with students. Cost is \$650 for entire week.

Visit JCI's website — www.juniorcomposers.org — for details and registration form. Contact Karen Bourne via email — director@juniorcomposers.org — or contact Pat Steege at 651-463-2492 ☞

JCI offers teacher workshop

BY PATRICIA STEEGE

Learn something new: the Junior Composers Institute has added a Saturday workshop specifically for teachers, titled *Teaching Teachers How To Teach Composing*.

The workshop — scheduled for Saturday, July 11, at 9:00 AM — is staffed by the same instructors who work with teens during the week.

The day will include lunch, two working sessions, ample discussion about coaching young students, and JCI's final recital where participants will hear newly composed pieces.

The fee is \$150. Register today. Contact Pat Steege — phone 651-463-2492; email psteege@mjssecurity.com; or log onto www.mfmc.net or www.juniorcomposers.org.

JCI was created in 2002 by members of the National Federation of Music Clubs for the North Central Region. During a week-long camp, each of 30-plus students composes at least one new work which is then performed by the other students. Musical styles range from pop to avant-garde, jazz to songs, string quartets to percussion ensemble. ☞



Emily Custer



Jared Hoeft

JCI partners with iGive

BY KAREN BOURNE

JCI is partnering with an online service named iGive.com which makes giving online donations to the Junior Composers Institute a breeze. Log onto www.iGive.com/JCI, become a member, and select an option for making a donation. When you use the www.isearch.igive.com search engine, you will contribute \$.02 each time you do a search. Or you can shop online for products and services you need and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to JCI. Thank you for supporting Junior Composers Institute. ☞

Junior Composers Contest Winners

BY PATRICIA STEEGE

Twenty-one students entered the Junior Composers Contest in January of 2009. Linda Tutas Haugen of Burnsville, MN, judged all ages. Winners in Levels 1 – 4:

Level One

1st • Allison Eide, Farmington

Pink Ghost

2nd • None

Level Two

1st • Madeline Oines, Farmington,

Running Away

2nd • Rachel Pompa, Lonsdale,

Dance of the Butterflies

Level Three

1st (tie) • Christopher Neiner,

Burnsville, *Variations on an*

Original Theme in E

1st (tie) • Brenden Ying,

Bloomington, *Forgotten*

Level Four

1st (tie) • Jared Hoeft, Hutchinson,

Flight

1st (tie) • Kate Meyer, Grand

Rapids, *Expedition Overture*

Students listed above advanced to the regional level.

Kate Meyer, Jared Hoeft, and Christopher Neiner advanced to the national level. Jared Hoeft received a \$50 incentive award at the National level.

Honorable Mention in the Minnesota Contest go to Graeme Shields (Grand Rapids) and Danelle Cook (Pennock, MN).

Participants may elect to earn points towards a Gold Cup. ☞

Arts Advocacy

BY SARAH TWEDT

According to the Americans for the Arts economic impact study, an investment of \$4 billion in the arts by the federal government returned \$29.6 billion to the US Treasury; a 7:1 ratio of return on investment which is not matched by any other industry.

The importance of the arts goes beyond the economic impact. Arts education is vital for our school children. Americans for the Arts reports that 91 percent of voters indicate that arts are essential to building capacities of the imagination. And the new commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, a bipartisan commission, reports the following: “This is a world in which a very high level of preparation in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science, literature, history and the arts will be an indispensable foundation for everything that comes after for most members of the workforce. It is a world in which comfort with ideas and abstractions is the passport to a good job, in which creativity and innovation are the key to the good life.”

Call to ACTION: Visit the website of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts – www.mncitizensforthearts.org. Go to Legislator Finder, and send a quick note to your local representative to express your support for the arts and arts education. It is important to be concise, respectful and friendly. They will be glad to hear from you.

Together we can make a difference!

Thank you for your continued support of Arts Advocacy. ☞

Convention Comments • Summer 2007

“I thought that Garrison Keillor would be a hard act to follow, BUT the Wednesday night Greek dinner was out of this world. Thank you for the hospitality, acceptance, and friendship shown me as your national guest (and neighbor). It was a great two days.”

~ 2007 NATIONAL GUEST CAROLYN NELSON, NFMC FIRST VP

“EVERY ELEMENT OF THIS CONVENTION WAS SO WELL-PLANNED — NOT A WASTED MOMENT! MUSICAL AND ORIGINAL IN EVERY RESPECT — EXACTLY THE INNOVATIVE IDEAS THAT HELP TO LAUNCH A NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN A POSITIVE WAY.”

~ MARY ANGELA STRASSER

“Thank you for your kind words about the convention. As a contributor, I learned so much preparing and presenting both food and words.”

~ ELIZABETH STAVROU

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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

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

Americans for The Arts • www.Americansforthearts.org

Make your own, Continued from Page 1

workout encompasses the entire body, mind, and spirit. Sign Chi Do is a relaxation and stress-management program that is medically and spiritually-based. Both require comfortable clothing and indoor shoes.

Option B offers a myriad of creative and usable ideas for your teaching. Rebecca Thoennes will present Teaching Piano using Dr. Suzuki's Talent Education Philosophy. Participants will learn how the Suzuki method works and why it must be supported by supplemental note reading materials. Round-table discussion will follow, focusing on preparing students for Festival participation. Bring your favorite music books and prepare to share ideas and motivational teaching strategies.

After the Festival of the Lakes concert you are invited to experience our chocolate fountain dessert reception and meet our national guest Heidi O. Hong.

Learn. Laugh. Revitalize. Revel in performances by Allison Buiuid, young musicians at the Honors Recital, and others throughout the convention.

Early registration is recommended. See you at the convention! ☞

Time of Remembrance

A time of remembrance has been set aside at our state convention on Thursday, August 13, 2009. We will honor and pay tribute to MFMC members who have passed away since our last convention in August of 2007.

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

Send — by July 15, 2009 — names of those whom you wish to remember, along with the name of the person who will read a tribute at the convention to Pat Steege, 1st Vice President, 24755 Essex Ave, Farmington, MN 55024 or Email Pat at psteege@mjssecurity.com. ☞



Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs



Half Notes
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