

Half Notes



Publication of Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

WINTER 2013

Official Call

PAT STEEGE, MFMC PRESIDENT

The spring MFMC all-member state meeting will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013, from 9:30 am to noon at Fellowship Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Andover, MN, hosted by North Suburban Music Club.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. MFMC officers and chairmen are expected to attend. All clubs are required by the MFMC Bylaws to be represented at one or more state meetings per year or lose club eligibility to hold a Festival.

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 emailed to members in March and will be available on the MFMC website — www.mfmc.net ☞

Future MFMC Meetings

- **July 19, 2013** — NFM North Central Region meeting held in conjunction with Junior Composers camp, U of M Minneapolis School of Music
- **August 7-8, 2013** — MFMC convention held at Holiday Inn, I-35 at County Road 70, Lakeville, MN. Convention hosted by Apple Valley, Burnsville and South Suburban.
- **April 2014** — to be announced

MFMC Convention

BY KATHY WILSON

Our MFMC 2013 Convention is right around the corner — Save the date: Wednesday and Thursday, August 7-8, 2013, at the Lakeville Holiday Inn.

Join us for exciting presentations and workshops, the new Festival Bulletin, and terrific musical performances, including one by a Young Artist winner.

Enter your students who received a Superior rating in the Honors Recital. Groove to a wonderful Twin Cities jazz trio while dining at the Wednesday night banquet. Bring your sharp pencils and alert minds to the Festival meetings.

The Holiday Inn and Suites, Lakeville, is 10 minutes south of Burnsville Center on 35W. It has all the amenities for a fun and comfortable visit.

We look forward to seeing you at the convention. Your hosts are AVMTA, BAMTA, and South Suburban MTA. ☞



The quartet Promise entertained MFMC members with a joyous musical interlude during the August 2011 convention in Willmar. Joining the fun: former MFMC State President Cheryl Schmidt (right).

Message From President Pat Steege



Greetings!

We are in “Festival season” — that time between December and March when many MFMC members are either preparing for or evaluating a judge’s critique of their students’ performances. In my own studio, I am helping young pianists learn their pieces but keeping in mind the long term and more far reaching goals of increased skill, expanded musicality, and an ever-growing appreciation of music. Best wishes to teachers, students, judges and Festival workers as we navigate another Minnesota winter and the glorious road of “Festival.”

Along with Festival, Federation members volunteer for and enjoy the benefits of the Junior Composers Contest, the International Music Camp, the National Music Week activities like the essay contest, the Junior Composers summer camp program, and various arts advocacy projects. One of the benefits of being linked to the National Federation is that it provides liability insurance to every club at a greatly reduced rate.

As we look ahead to our all-state convention scheduled for next August, I am reminded that we will elect new officers. I greatly appreciate all the volunteers who have contributed talent and dedication to keeping MFMC alive and well for the last four years. Now it is time for a turnover in leadership and we are seeking individuals who would like to serve as 2nd Vice President, Secretary, National Board Representative, or Historian. Other chairmanship positions are available if you are looking for that one little niche to call your own in a wonderful music organization.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday April 20, hosted by North Suburban Music Teachers. Location of meeting: Grace Lutheran Church, Andover, MN. Thank you, North Suburban and NS President Gloria Kroeger.

Please plan to attend and help us look at the coming year, reward the passing year, and rejoice in MFMC friendships and accomplishments. ♪



Cheryl Schmidt and Pat Steege present Nadine Berg (center) with a retirement gift at MFMC’s all-member state meeting, Chisolm Baptist Church in August 2012

All-State Meeting Re-cap

BY STACEY VOIT, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Minnesota's 2012 fall all-member state meeting, hosted by Hibbing Musicale, was held at Chisholm Baptist Church on Thursday, August 9, 2012, with national guest NFMC President Carolyn Nelson in attendance.

The position of MFMC State Treasurer transferred from Nadine Berg, who held the office for twelve years, to Gwen Degner. Gwen returns to the position that she held prior to Nadine's term. Nadine has been a blessing and we thank her for her dedicated service.

Minnesota has money to spend. A Discretionary Spending Committee was formed at the spring meeting to advise how best to use the funds. The committee's approved actions:

- Create up to \$2500 in need-based scholarships per year
- Establish a \$500 scholarship for future educational expenses for all Festival Grand Cup recipients
- Increase the Gold Cup chairperson's stipend per entrant
- Update our MFMC website
- Increase membership communication through the publication of two state Half Notes newsletters each year.

Paul Woell, guitar and jazz theory teacher from Burnsville, received a \$500 grant from the Rose Zygmanski Teacher Grant fund.

In addition to the business carried out, members were treated to musical performances. Mikaela Krampotich performed two of



Mikaela Krampotich, who performed several original songs for the August 9 meeting in Chisolm, MN, hugs her piano teacher Mary Angela Strasser



Rennae Petersen, Sharon Kaplan, Kristi LaSalle, and Stacey Voit enjoy Greek dancing at the all-member state meeting in August, 2012

her compositions, one of which she wrote at the Junior Composers Institute held in Minnesota.

Gian Carlos Menotti's "The Telephone" was performed by Roy and Nadine Berg with son, Alan Berg, accompanying on the piano. Kathy Wilson led the singing of "How Can I Keep From Singing?" – a song NFMC President Carolyn Nelson considers the theme of her tenure. The day ended with members having an opportunity "get up and move" with a bit of Greek Folk Dancing before heading home.

The minutes from this meeting are available for viewing on the MFMC website — www.MFMC.net ☞



MFMC President Pat Steege presents a gift to National President Carolyn Nelson at the August 2012 meeting in Chisolm, MN

Tuition Assistance Grants

by Doug Rohde

During the April 2012 State Meeting in Duluth, a Discretionary Spending Committee was formed to decide how to best use a surplus of money in the MFMC treasury. The committee proposed several ideas at the state convention in August.

One proposal, which was approved, was to create a new Tuition Assistance Grant program that will provide five need-based grants per year, each in the amount of \$500 – for a total of \$2,500. Award criteria for 2012 included 1) financial need and 2) a commitment to musical education.

Applications were made available to all members late last fall. A total of twenty-seven students applied for grants. Because several students requested less than the full amount of the award, six grants were awarded.

The initial November deadline will be moved to July 25, 2013. A revised application form and further information will be available on the MFMC website — www.mfmc.net.

The Tuition Assistance Grant is yet another way MFMC helps its teachers and their students. Thank you to members of the committee: Nadine Berg, Gwen Degner, Kathy Wilson, Mary Wescott, Rebecca Heerd, Doug Rohde, and Pat Steege. ~

Teacher Trust Grant

Paul Woell, recipient of the Teacher Trust Grant sponsored by Rose Zygmanski, wrote this note of appreciation. The grant has enabled Paul to study with Dr. James Callahan.

I would like to thank the MFMC for the 2012 Teacher Trust Grant. I have been studying composition with Dr. James Callahan of St. Paul, MN since I received the Grant. We are working on crossing over techniques from the Classical Tradition and applying them to a more Jazz/Improvisational setting. I am composing for solo guitar and the Jazz Guitar Trio format. The ultimate long-term goal of these studies is to record another album of all original music. This has had a positive impact on the way I teach my own students compositional techniques. Thank you very much for affording me this opportunity.

~ Most sincerely, Paul Woell

Deadlines to apply for this grant are April 8 and July 25, 2013. Application forms are available at www.mfmc.net

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In Memoriam

BY ANNE DIMICH, PRESIDENT, ITASCA MUSIC CLUB

As the famous poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It's not the length of life, but rather the depth of life." And that depth and richness of life is made clear when we remember our fellow members Mary Jane Schroth and Joe Gallant, members of Itasca Music Club who passed away last fall.

Mary Jane was very active in MMTA as well as Federation. She was a top notch MMTA judge for piano exams and contest. She was an excellent piano teacher and her students always received high scores and honors in their endeavors.

Joe Gallant, highly respected teacher, was very active in Federation and MMTA. Joe's humor was a bright spot; he showed and shared compassion, openness, honesty, and integrity. He had a wealth of musical knowledge, was a great performer, and he had a music library that would rival the Library of Congress. ~

2013 Junior Composers Contest


BY PAT STEEGE, JUNIOR COMPOSERS SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Composition Fever rages in anticipation of who the 2013 winners will be in MFMC's popular (annual) Junior Composers Contest. Twenty-nine young composers will find out on February 23 when the results come in from judge Wynn-Anne Rossi.

"My mailbox was filled with an amazing amount of entries this year," says Pat Steege, JCC chair. Twenty-nine young composers ages five (yes, five!) to 18 years, sponsored by 11 Federation teachers, submitted new works. Titles of work included *Amore Mio*, *Meteor Shower*, *The Spooky Lion*, *My Puppy*, *Peril*, *Withered Lullabies*, and *Flickering Candles*. An 11-year old submitted a set of pieces entitled *Silly Suite*.

"I was overjoyed listening to their recordings and hopping on my piano to play some of the scores," says Pat.

Winners will advance to higher levels of judging. Some of the older winners will be offered scholarships to the Junior Composers summer camp.

"All composers are winners in that they completed this creative task and put it forward for a judge's review," states Pat. "Also important to all participants is the ability to earn points towards Gold Cups." 

Scholarship Application Deadlines

- Georgia Chapman April 15 and October 15
- International Music Camp - April 1
- Teacher Trust Grant - April 8 and July 25
- Tuition Assistance Grant - July 25

Junior Composer Summer Camp 2013

BY PAT STEEGE

Junior Composers Summer Camp is a music-filled group experience for young composers aged 14-20 held in July at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis.


Junior Composers brings in professional musicians who work with composition students for one or two weeks. Randall Davidson, General Director, says, "Junior Composers camp is not about the product [of a premiered composition], but about the process of creativity." Daily theory and ear training classes and frequent exposure to teacher and peer input are foundations of the program. Students compose in the genres of classical chamber music, electronic music and songwriting.

A featured opportunity gives a theme to each camp session. The theme in 2012 was Composing for String Quartet. The 2013 theme will be Music + Words.

Because of a recent ASCAP grant award, we can provide scholarships to the first eight registrants in the Studio and the first ten registrants in the Institutes (composers and songwriters).

Dates for July 2013:

- July 8-20 Junior Composers Studio
- July 14-20 Junior Composers Institute
- July 14-20 Junior Songwriters Institute

For more information about Junior Composers, visit www.juniorcomposers.org. 



Junior Composers from Minnesota who participated in JC summer camp 2012

Georgia Chapman Scholarship

Matthew Bruchmeier, student of Sarah Twedt, received the Georgia Chapman piano study award in the amount of \$741. This scholarship is for students in grades 6 through 9 and covers tuition and Festival fees. The next application deadline is April 15. Download the application from www.mfmc.net. ↻

New MFMC Website

By LOUISE LUNDIN, WEBSITE AND HALF NOTES EDITOR

Easy navigation, search options, capability to complete and submit registration forms online, good organization of scholarships and awards — these are several features that members stated they wanted in the new MFMC website at the August 2012 meeting.

Louise Lundin, website manager and designer, and Mike McClure, website developer, under the direction of Pat Steege, have designed a site that is visually attractive, easy to navigate, and will meet — and hopefully exceed — members' expectations.

"Our aim is to create a site that is compelling — attractive, interesting and fun; one that features relevant content, and is easy to navigate — so that MFMC members and non-member visitors will be drawn to visit again and again," states Louise.

This will be accomplished by frequent changes of the home page, especially with new photos, new scholarships and awards, reviews and recommendations on music used by teachers, along with other tips by teachers. We can feature videos of teachers teaching, students practicing and performing, testimonials, and photos of awards. And keep information on the website relevant and time-sensitive.

"We want the new site to reflect MFMC's personality, to tell MFMC's story and to showcase MFMC's offerings and achievements," says Louise. The newly designed MFMC site will launch this spring. The address will be the same — www.mfmc.net. ↻

Festival 2014 Logowear Design Contest for Students

By TAMIE MORKEN

The Festival Logowear Committee is holding a student design contest for the 2014 Festival logowear — the winning design will be printed on the tees, totes, and sweatshirts.

Who can enter: Students from across the State of Minnesota. Think "fun, eye-catching, and musically inspired."

Entries will be judged on originality, creativity and musical appeal. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$50 and be invited to attend the August All-State Convention in Lakeville, MN.

Students may submit drawings via snail mail or electronically.

MAIL TO:

2014 Logowear Contest, 14596 Elysium Place,
Apple Valley, MN 55124

EMAIL:

trmorken@gmail.com

Deadline for entries is May 31, 2013. For more information, contact Tamie Morken at trmorken@gmail.com. ↻



Festival 2013 Logowear is available for sale. Order forms and ordering information are on the website — www.mfmc.net

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- Junior Composition Contest
 - Junior Composers Summer Camps
 - Junior Composers Scholarships
 - Student Awards and Scholarships
 - Georgia Chapman Award
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MFMC Officers and Chairmen | 2013

In Memory of Rose Zygmanski



Rose Zygmanski, dear friend, honored teacher, and dedicated MFMC member, passed away on her birthday, December 16, 2012. We will cherish in memory what she shared with us: her love of music, words of wisdom, joyful smile, support, and encouragement.

Rose graduated from Hibbing High School, held baccalaureate and graduate degrees from the College of St. Catherine and the University of Minnesota, respectively. She was a teacher of music, English, and French in area schools and maintained a private piano studio.

Rose, member of Hibbing Musicale, served as the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs (MFMC) state president from 1970-1974; she was MFMC's representative to the National Federation of Music Clubs Board.

MFMC will commission a piano duet to be composed in Rose's honor. When it is complete and we listen to it, we will remember Rose. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Walter and Mary Angela (Rose's daughter) Strasser. ♪

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