

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER – FALL EDITION 2017

WEB SITE: WWW.MFMC.NET

Compiled by Cheryl Schmidt

Thank you, Southeast MFC

Thank you to the Southeast Minnesota Federation Club for hosting the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs state convention in Rochester on July 27 and 28, 2017. Enjoy the pictures included in the newsletter. Special thanks to Pat Steege for providing the photos.

Presidents Message



Mary Wescott, MFMC State President

Where did summer go? As we start the new school year, I have been busy setting up my studio for the school year and trying my best to accept change. I am at week four of lessons and planning holiday recitals, participation in our local recitals, and of course, Festival in February.

The Southeast Federation of Music Clubs did a wonderful job in putting on a great All State Meeting in Rochester, MN, this summer. Unfortunately, attendance was not the best. As a result, we will explore having regional meetings in 2018.

I want to encourage all of our members to attend summer meetings. It was the consensus among attendees in Rochester that we will try regionalized meetings. The goal is to hold meetings within an hour and half from member's homes making them easier to attend. The executive committee has already streamlined meetings, so the business portion is about 2 hours.

We are expecting a new online system from the National Federation, and are awaiting more information about it. The National Federation expects it to be ready by December 2017. I have been in contact with our National President Michael Edwards about this program. Because most of the clubs in our state register their students before December 31, 2017, we will not participate in this program until the 2018-2019 school year. As it stands right now, we do not know the cost of this program. We know there will be fees but do not know who pays them. There are a lot of "ifs." Our state basically led the discussion on needing a program that was completely user friendly.

Upcoming meetings: The Metro area meeting, hosted by Tuesday Morning Musicales, will be held at the Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Delano, MN, on July 26, 2018. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch. The meeting will begin at 10AM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Each club should try to have three members in attendance — president, treasurer and Festival chairperson. We will discuss online registration, NFMFC news, etc. We will have more information to share next June.

Also, please plan to attend the NFMFC Summer Meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Summer meetings are when the NFMFC Convention is discussed and presented. We will have more on the regionalized meetings as locations and dates are finalized.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mary Wescott, MFMC State President

MFMC State Treasurer Gwen Degner

Members, please remember November 1 is the deadline for sending dues statements back to me. If you have any questions, contact me at gwen.degner@gmail.com.

Senior Club Treasurers, please double check your senior club roster for accuracy. Pay special attention to email addresses. Please include your teaching specialties and judging information for our website. This will help in making referrals to other teachers, and provides a resource in finding Festival judges.

Senior club members not receiving *Music Clubs Magazine*, or teachers not getting *Junior Keynotes*, please let me know.

Wishing you a successful school year!

Gwen Degner, MFMC State Treasurer

Gwen Degner has notified the executive committee that she would prefer to no longer be the MFMC State Treasurer. If you are interested in being our state treasurer or know someone to recommend, please notify Mary Wescott, MFMC State President. A full job description is available. This is a very important position for our organization and the executive committee would like to honor Gwen's request as soon as possible.

2017 International Music Camp Scholarship Recipients



Sonja Selikoff



Paris Whalen

The two \$400 MFMC Scholarships to the International Music Camp for 2017 were awarded to Sonja Selikoff of Apple Valley, student of Susan Jacobson, and to Paris Whalen of Eagan, student of Michelle Whalen.

Sonja Selikoff chose to attend the orchestra session to study cello. She received a Superior rating in both the Cello Solo and Cello Concerto categories in the Festival. She likes challenges and plans to continue studying cello after high school. She plays cello in several community orchestras and plays string bass in a jazz ensemble at Apple Valley High School.

Sonja's thank you note described what the week was like for her: "I played cello for at least 7-and-a-half hours a day. My fingertips burned and [were] sore in the most surprisingly pleasant way, all tingled in delight. The teachers were incredible . . . I've accomplished something that I never thought I could." She appreciated gaining new knowledge, being first chair in string orchestra and second chair in symphony orchestra, and playing in a string trio all the while making many new friends.

Paris Whalen chose a musical theatre session to study voice. Music is her favorite subject and she hopes to continue through high school in many musicals and performances. She has talent in singing, acting, and dancing and is a fine member of any ensemble whether in a lead role or in the chorus. Piano has also been an area of study for her and she has participated in Festival in both areas through the years.

Paris appreciated the excellent instruction in musical theatre she received, and she enjoyed meeting so many other students with similar interests. The ninety students at the musical theater session were divided into groups of 12-15 and her group performed a number of popular pieces. In her thank you note she said, ". . . it was an all-around amazing experience. In addition to all I learned while at IMC, I met many wonderful and talented students from around the world. I will treasure it always."

We have received positive comments from teachers who were able to attend the adult sessions. Susan Jacobson had this to say: "Another awesome season of International Music Camp was successfully completed. This was their 62nd year. Amazing! I am proud to have attended my 16th year during the Orchestra/Art week. Teachers, students, and staff were absolutely wonderful. Instruction was inspiring and I look forward with great anticipation to returning as many

times as possible. I enthusiastically recommend the IMC experience to students, parents and teachers.”

Thank you to the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs for giving these scholarships to students for the invaluable experience of attending the International Music Camp for a session.
Karen Sue Erickson, International Music Camp Summer Scholarship Coordinator

Festival 2018 Highlights

Happy Autumn, everyone! The Festival Directives for 2018 are posted on our MFMC web site. Please read them carefully and follow instructions (as always) and ask questions if you are unsure. This year we will return to the “colorful” Consecutive Superior certificates. In addition, a line will be added for the teacher’s signature to make the certificate more personal.

Jeannene Simonson is planning to step down as Certificate Chair. She has been kind enough to compile a job description for this position, which is included in this newsletter. If you feel you could help out MFMC by volunteering for this job, please contact Jeannine or me. Contact information for both of us is in the Festival Directives.

Nadine Berg, MFMC Festival Chair

WANTED! CERTIFICATE CHAIR

Please consider volunteering for this important Festival position. The position details are noted for your consideration. If interested, please contact Nadine Berg, Festival Chair.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR CERTIFICATE CHAIRMAN — TIMELINE:

In September, order Participation Certificates from Express Print in Hibbing (eprint@mchsi.com). Count what you have left from the past year provided the officers are the same in the current year. If the Festival Chairman and/or President has changed, ask that they contact Express Print about changing their signatures on the certificate. Order the number you need for the current year including extras.

When you receive the Reply Form #2 (on the website under Festival forms) from Site Managers, send them the number needed and add a few extras. Keep a record of how many have been sent to each club and save postal receipts so you can be reimbursed by the treasurer.

Talk with the Festival Chairman and make a decision about who will order the Superior Certificates. If a decision has been made to order from National, you may order for two years or perhaps even more. You must remember to order enough as you cannot order more during the current year. Use the previous year or two to determine how many you will need. As with the participation certificates, you will want to keep records as to how many you have used and what is left from the previous year. Always keep mailing receipts and anything else you will need to purchase for mailing.

If a decision is made to once again order the colored superior certificates from Express Print, you will need to keep accurate records of how many you have sent of each year in order to estimate what you will need for the current year. ALWAYS ORDER EXTRAS! I have found that it’s easier to use Priority

Envelopes which I pick up at the post office. They are just the right weight and the cost to mail is always the same. I purchase a few padded envelopes (#5) for extra-large orders, but they are expensive to buy and you will still need to pay for mailing. I also use manila folders to encase the certificates inside the mailer in order to secure them. Send your receipts to: Gwen Degner, MFMC Treasurer, for reimbursement.

Scholarships and Grants

There have been several changes to some of our Grants, making them more available as needed, rather than only available at certain times of the year.

There is no longer a deadline for the Teacher Trust Grant. This will be awarded as needed throughout the year until the annual budgeted amount has been met. Other criteria remains the same.

The Tuition Assistance Grant has been modified to make it available throughout the year. The deadline is still July 15. However, once the qualifying July 15 applicants have received their grants, additional applicants meeting the requirements will be considered until the yearly budgeted amount has been reached. This year's Tuition Assistance Grants have already been awarded and there are still funds available. If you have a student who finds him/herself in need of financial assistance during the year and he/she meets the criteria, please consider applying for this grant.

Information and applications for these and other Scholarships and Awards can be found on the MFMC website. Also, please check out many other opportunities for Scholarships and Awards on the NFMC website.

Rebecca Heerdt, Scholarships and Awards Committee

Historical Highlights

The first MFMC State Convention was held in 1923 in St. Paul. In 1925 the Junior Department was created and in 1926, there were four Junior Clubs with a total of 115 members.

Inspirational Musical Quotes

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music." ~ Albert Einstein

"Music . . . can name the un-nameable and communicate the unknowable." ~ Leonard Bernstein

"Life's most soothing things are a child's goodnight and sweet music." ~ Edison Ford

National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Residing in Minnesota



Nicholas Susi

Nicholas Susi, NFMC Young Artist is residing and working in Duluth, Minnesota. He wants to extend an invitation to you, to all MFMC members to contact him if you are interested having him present a solo recital, lecture, workshop, and/or masterclass. Also, he is available for adjudication. Contact Nick at nicholas.j.susi@gmail.com to request his 2017-2018 Booking Packet.

National Federation of Music Clubs Grand Cup in Piano Solo



Colin Lamoreaux

Colin Lamoreaux earned his NFMC Grand Cup in Piano Solo with combined points in Piano Concerti and he received his 12-year consecutive superior this year. Colin is the first student in the South Suburban Music Club to receive the NFMC Grand Cup.

Colin started piano lessons with his mother, Robin. He transferred to teacher Barbara Thompson and studied with her for eight years. He participated in Minnesota Music Teachers Association Comprehensive Piano exams Levels 2 - 10, Theory exams and Music Bridges, and received exemplary ratings in all the events.

Colin was active in music programs at Rosemount High School where he played piano in Jazz Band I, On Stage variety shows, and pit orchestra for RHS musicals. He accompanied solo ensemble events, and played piano in the honors jazz band at St. Olaf College. Colin played trumpet in RHS Marching Band, Concert band, and in the University of Minnesota honor band, and in the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire honor band.

Colin earned his Eagle Scout rank with a project that involved creating a concert for a senior living home. He will attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire this fall, where he will study actuarial science and piano.

Others who received the Grand Cup include Charlotte Read (Piano Solo), teacher, Jill Kilzer; and Jeremy Yeung (Piano and Violin Solo), teacher, Jackie Huei-Ping Lo. The complete Festival Cup report is available on the MFMC web site.

Highlights from the State Convention • July 27 and 28, 2017



Zumba!

More Highlights from the Convention



Photos • Top Row: 1) Karen Bourne, Vice President, North Central Region, Special Guest at State Convention — 2) Gwen Degner and Karen Erickson Second Row: 1) Sarah Twedt and Doug Rhode — 2) Junior Festival Honors Recital Participants Third Row: 1) Piano Master Class with Dr. David Shaffer-Gottschalk — 2) Hosts, Southeast Minnesota Federation Club

MFMC Officers and Chairpersons

CONTACT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE MFMC WEB SITE: WWW.MFMC.NET

Mary Wescott: State President

Nancy Fisher: 1st Vice President, Insurance Coordinator

Sarah Twedt: 2nd Vice President, NFMC Board Rep., Membership and Festival Cup Chair

Mary Kaye Rabaey: Secretary

Gwen Degner: Treasurer

Karen Erickson: Historian, International Music Camp Scholarships

Cheryl Schmidt: Finance Chair, Web Site, Half Notes Newsletter

Nadine Berg: Festival Chair

Rebecca Heerdt: Scholarships, Awards and Grants Chair, Parade of American Music

Sharon Kaplan: Junior Composers Contest and Scholarships

Marcia Benson: State Student Auditions

Jeannene Simonson: Certificate Chair

Peggy Karsten: Parliamentarian/Advisory