

Half Notes

Newsletter for the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

Spring 2017

Compiled by Cheryl Schmidt

www.mfmc.net

MFMC STATE CONVENTION DATES ANNOUNCED

July 27 & 28, 2017

The MFMC State Convention will be held in Rochester, MN on July 27 & 28, 2017. Details and registration will be coming soon in a special Half Notes edition and on the MFMC web site.

The convention will include election of MFMC state officers and an All-Member State Meeting in which every senior club is expected to have a representative attending. Informative sessions and wonderful entertainment are also being planned.

*Special thanks to Southeast Minnesota Federation Music Club
for planning and hosting the MFMC State Convention!*

MFMC 2017 Festival

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2017 Festival season a success! You will find the 2017 Festival Junior and Adults Stats information on page 10.

The full Junior and Adult Festival reports are available to view on the MFMC web site, www.mfmc.net, click on *Festivals*.

Thank you to Nadine Berg, MFMC State Festival Chair, for compiling this information!



2017 MFMC Student Audition Winners Announced

by Marcia N. Benson, MFMC State Student Auditions Chair

State Student Auditions were submitted in January, and winners were chosen in February 2017 by judge Karla Wagner. Five entries were received, including two piano and three vocal solo entries from students around the State of Minnesota. Entrants audition by CD, recording three pieces in one sitting. One selection must be composed by an American composer, and the others from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary music periods. Pieces must be performed from memory, with the exception of Brass, Winds, Percussion, and Organ. Three awards of \$500.00 were distributed to the top three entries. Recipients for 2017: Ahnika Lexvold, Woman's Voice, Molly Tengwall, Woman's Voice, and Ahnika Lexvold, Piano.

Congratulations to these fine musicians and their teachers.
These auditions are held biannually, with our next event held in 2019.



STUDENT AUDITION WINNER

MOLLY TENGWALL \$500 Award—Women's Voice

My name is Molly Tengwall. I am a senior at Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa High School and have been involved with music my entire life. As a young child, I loved singing, and, after watching *The Sound of Music*, my love for musical theater began. As soon as I was given the chance, I auditioned and was given the role of Annie in *Annie* at the Barn Theater when I was ten years old. Since then, I have been in four other Barn productions including *Fiddler on the Roof*. After that initial summer filled with music, I wanted to bring music into the rest of my life. I started piano lessons at the age of 10, alto saxophone at age 11, and guitar and voice at age 13. These lessons allowed me to expand my knowledge and familiarity with music, but the greatest impact on my musical journey was starting voice lessons with Cheryl Schmidt in 2014. Her ability to see and nurture my potential allowed my voice to grow in ways I never imagined. I have a technical understanding in my voice that was never present before, and I am able to enjoying singing so much more because of her wisdom and guidance. I have loved growing in my relationship with music, and I plan to continue this in the future. This fall, I will attend Augsburg College and study musical therapy. This major will allow me to touch other people's lives and let them feel the same love of music that sparked in me so many years ago.



STUDENT AUDITION WINNER AHNIKA LEXVOLD

\$500 Award—Women's Voice • \$500 Award—Piano

Ahnika Lexvold has been homeschooled through high-school and has taken two years of PSEO classes at University of Northwestern, St. Paul online. In high-school, Ahnika has participated in 4-H, figure skating, piano, voice lessons, choir, and theatre. Ahnika has been active in piano for seven years and has participated in such activities as MMTA contest and Federation's Jr. Festival. She has worked with her piano teacher Marcia Benson for three years and worked with Barb Root before that. She has worked with three voice teachers in high-school: Linsey Bösl, Brenda Handel-Johnson, and currently Dr. Carolyn Finley, and she has also participated in MMTA and Federation activities with voice. She has been in all three choirs offered through the Youth Chorale of Central MN and is currently a member of their mixed choir, Cantanti, under the direction of Garret Lathe. Ahnika has been incredibly active with theatre in high-school, doing shows with numerous different community theatre companies, attending camps and classes, and teaching theatre. The theatre company Ahnika has been the most involved with is Great River Educational Arts Theatre (GREAT). Ahnika has acted in eight shows, assistant directed two shows, done make-up design for a show, been a summer camp instructor, taught after school classes, and volunteered for many shows with GREAT throughout high-school. Ahnika plans to continue her involvement in theatre and music in college and her career; she will be attending St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona this fall and plans on majoring in musical theatre and minoring in music. She hopes to one day be a professional director and then a professor and to always keep music in her life.

MFMC Executive Meeting

The MFMC executive meeting was held in Willmar, MN on April 29th, 2017.

Actions taken during the meeting:

- *Discontinue any use of the NFMC online registration system as it is not functioning properly.
- *All members must submit their signed Child Protection Policy form along with their annual dues as a requirement for membership in MFMC.
- *Reviewed the current treasurer's report. Several expenditures are still outstanding and a year-end report will be presented at the state meeting.
- *Discussed continuing commitments from officers with upcoming election and induction of officers at the state meeting.

Mary Wescott (State President), Cheryl Schmidt (National Board Representative) and Sarah Twedt (Festival Representative) will attend the National Federation of Music Clubs National Convention in Dayton, Ohio, June 20th through 24th, 2017.

Composition • Junior Composers Contest

by Sharon Kaplan, Junior Composers Contest Chair



MFMC State and North Central Region Winners

MFMC had 25 entries in the Junior Composers Contest with five students receiving their first Festival Cup and two students receiving their second Festival Cup. Compositions have been forwarded to the National Level for judging.

The MFMC State Judge was Rachel Brandwein, DMA: Performer, Composer, Educator. The North Central Region Judge was Bruce Pearson, Music Educator, Author, Composer, and Clinician. Adjudicator Bruce Pearson comments: "There were some excellent compositions by young composers in Class I. I found it difficult to select the best one. There were some very mature compositions in Class III. There were many outstanding and very mature compositions in Class IV which made the ranking of them very difficult."

NORTH CENTRAL REGION COMPOSITION STATS

North Central Region Participating States

<u>State</u>	<u>Students Participating</u>	<u>Submitted to Regional</u>
Iowa	11	5
Illinois	28	8
Minnesota	25	8
Nebraska	18	8
North Dakota	7	4
South Dakota	0	0
Wisconsin	11	6

FESTIVAL COMPOSITION CONTEST, MFMC REPORT, 2017

Entries:

Class	Ages	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
I	9 and under	5	4					
II	10 - 12	6	12					
III	13 - 15	9	5					
IV	16 - 18	6	4					
TOTAL ENTRIES		26	25					

Teachers and # entries

Dan Aalto	1	
Allison Eide	4	(new; former student of Pat Steege)
Kirsten Hanninen	3	
Marlene Larson	1	(new)
Sarah Miller	15	
Chris Wolf	1	

Gold Cups in Composition earned: 5 - 1st cups; 2 - 2nd cups.

Winners:

	Name	Composition	Teacher	State	Region	National
Class I	Caroline Stuber	Spring Birthday	Sarah Miller	1 st	Winner	
	Joey Schilling	Halloween Song	Sarah Miller	2 nd	Winner	
Class II	William Bradley	A Little Bit of Jazz	Sarah Miller	1 st		
	Stephen Elsinger	The Owl and the Mouse	Sarah Miller	2 nd	Winner	
Class III	Sam Hanson	Ironic Contrasts	Sarah Miller	1 st	Winner	
	Kolton Graf	Under the Lilypad	Dan Aalto	2 nd	Winner	
Class IV	David Besonen	Lento in E-flat Minor	Chris Wolf	1 st	Winner	
	Ronan Armstrong	A Conversion of Convergent Ideas	Sarah Miller	2 nd		

State Judge: Rachel Brandwein, DMA; Performer, Composer, Educator

NCR Judge: Bruce Pearson; music educator, author, composer and clinician

National Judge:

Finances:

In 2016 we were \$87.08 in the red. This year, due to adjusting our fees and to a change to total electronic transference of data, we are \$73.05 in the black.

Sharon Kaplan

MFMC State Treasurer Gwen Degner

Thank you to everyone who submitted their dues and information by the November 1 deadline. Your punctuality helped me to meet my national deadline of December 1. The biggest challenge this year was finding out our members' teaching specialties. Now that you have that information on file, next year should be easier.

Here are our MFMC membership statistics for 2016-2017:

Senior Club Members: 398

Adult Club Members: 27

Junior Club Members: 4,472

Junior Individual Member: 1

Student Individual Members: 2

Associate Club (Junior Composers): 1

If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me at gwen.degner@gmail.com. My home phone number is 218-566-2011 but because I am a public school music teacher, I am not available to talk during school hours. You can leave a message with Dale, my long suffering husband, or call later in the evening or on weekends. Just a warning: I'm not always coherent after 9 p.m., especially during the school year.

*Special thanks to our senior club treasurers for all their work throughout the year.
You are appreciated!*

Please review your information on the MFMC web site membership list to make sure all of your information is accurate. This includes:

- * Name, address, phone number and email
- * Senior Club you hold membership
- * Club President, Festival Manager
- * Teaching Specialty
- * Willing to judge

If your information needs updating, please click on "contact" on the MFMC web site and send a message with the corrected information. Thanks to everyone for submitting this information as it will be helpful to our entire membership.

Cheryl Schmidt, MFMC Web Site

JCSP Ramping Up for July Camps

by Pat Steege, Administrative Director—JCSP

Junior Composers Summer Programs is a MN 501c3 organization providing music composition instruction to young composers ages 14-20 and a 4.5 day Teacher Training institute for music educators and musicians. Our classes are held at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in July. Students from across the United States come to Minneapolis to spend time improvising, composing, performing and building relationships with professional composers and musicians.

The dates of this year's camp are July 10-22 when our theme will be WORDS+MUSIC. We encourage students to write a choral piece in the spring and submit it for a reading opportunity that will take place during the July camps. We are excited to announce that we have contracted with Phillip Brunelle and an ensemble from VocalEssence to give readings of those student works. VocalEssence is a well established and well known professional choral group performing in the Twin Cities and other locations around the state.

Our composer in resident has a large influence during the first week Studio. Sam Ecoff of the Wisconsin Federation will be teaching elements of electronic music and bringing some equipment from his home studio for the kids to experience. Sam has written tons of music for television, including the theme from Dancing with the Stars.

All students are expected to keep on track to improvise, compose, rehearse, revise and rehearse again in order to meet the one-week deadline to complete a piece of music for the mid-camp Showcase and/or the Final Salon on the last day of camp. Daily theory classes and sessions with professional composers augment the experience. It's a busy time for everyone, but one mixed with fun and friendship.

Four students who received MFMC scholarships to JCSP in July 2016 are: (below, from left) Ronan Armstrong, Sam Hansen, Louisa Byron, James Harley



The JCSP Community at the Final Salons July 2016



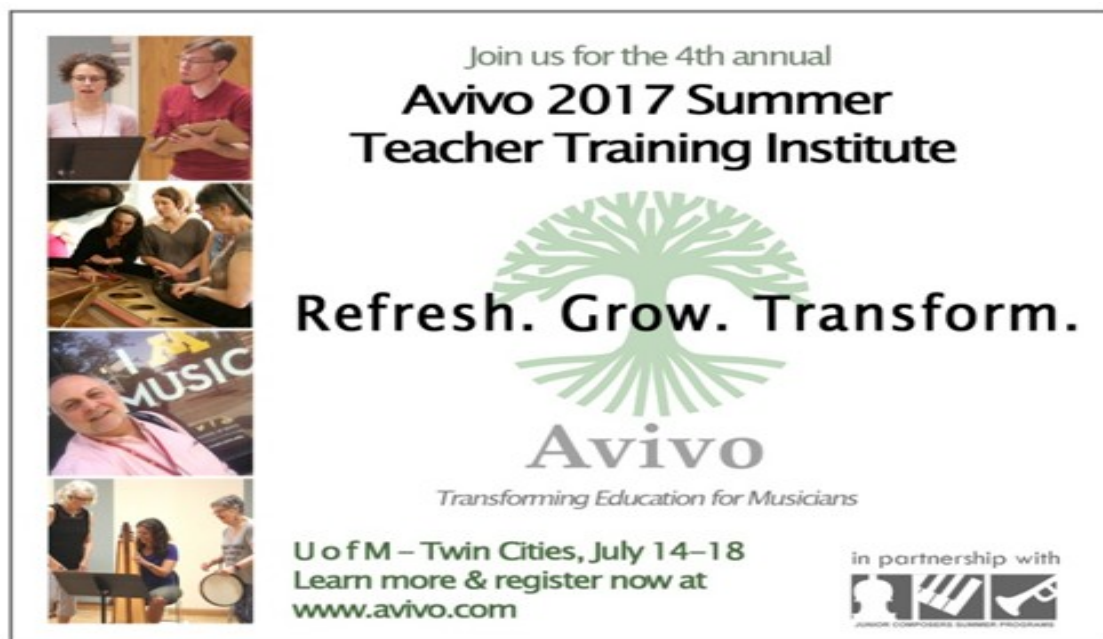
Quotes from 2016 students:

[My favorite thing about JCSP is] "having creative teachers and supportive environment in which to write music." "I had an amazing experience."

"I learned that I am a composer and gained knowledge for that career." "[I learned] theory for composing, not just playing. "

JCSP to Sponsor New Scholarship in Honor of Eli Kaplan

The Junior Composers Summer Programs Board of Directors extends a request for donations in honor of Eli Kaplan, husband of Sharon Kaplan, office manager during our summer camps and active member of Chain of Lakes music club. For many years, Eli Kaplan served the Junior Composers camp staff and kids as a volunteer doing what was needed, helping whoever asked, fixing and delivering equipment, giving support to the staff and counselors, doing the "airport runs" for students, and seemed to be everywhere with an easy smile and a comment of support. On November 10, 2017, Eli passed away suddenly leaving a hole in the JCSP community that can't be filled. The establishment of a scholarship in Eli's name will go to help deserving students attend the Junior Composers Summer Programs. It is Eli's spirit of selflessness and service that we wish to honor. Students who apply for the Eli Kaplan Memorial Scholarship will be asked to demonstrate the desire to write music, have a financial need, and honor Eli's memory by proving in their lives the "pay it forward" principle of helping others. Please consider helping us establish this special scholarship to honor Eli. *Information about giving can be found at our website www.juniorcomposers.org.*



The Teacher Training Institute (TTI) sponsored by Junior Composers Summer Programs will take place July 14-18, 2017 on the campus of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Music-oriented classes and activities will occur in Ferguson Hall, home of the School of Music. To act as faculty and leadership of the TTI, JCSP has selected two experienced members of the Avivo Teaching Artist Team, a group of music educators whose unique philosophy is in direct correlation to JCSP's mission. We have selected Patricia Plude and Leo Wanenchak to be our teacher artists.

Avivo's goals are: 1) to revolutionize the world of music education by teaching music as a language that is available to all as a means for personal creative expression – through improvisation & composition. 2) to nurture the whole musician and guide them on a personal path toward being a mature artist-teacher.

About eight individual class sessions will be offered, covering subjects such as philosophy of teaching, classroom management, nurturing the creative voice of the teacher, managing teacher burn out, applications of materials to different settings and age groups, and exploration of what should we teach, how do we teach it, and who is the teacher. Students will interact with faculty and peers in creative exercises that are playful, holistic and fun. Our students typically include music teachers of any amount of experience, such as pre-service teachers, public and private school teachers (elementary through collegiate level), studio teachers, home school teachers, and choral /band / orchestra directors.

Scholarships are available and optional room and board accommodations can be obtained at Middlebrook Hall on the West Bank of U of M Twin Cities.

www.juniorcomposers.org or www.avivo.com

MFMC Insurance Coordinator Nancy Fischer

My ears perk up when I hear someone call my name. I am “Mom” to my five children, “Nana Nancy” to my four sweet grandchildren, “Teacher Nancy” to my sixty plus piano students, and just “Nancy” to the rest of my family and friends. When I became “MFMC Insurance Coordinator Nancy” two years ago, I was not so comfortable with my new name. Thankfully, as piano teachers well know, with practice things do get better.

The main responsibility of your MFMC Insurance Coordinator is to assist your club in acquiring insurance coverage through the NFMC for your events. The planners for any NFMC sponsored event, such as Festivals, club recitals, and club board meetings should request insurance coverage. One of the many perks of your membership in the MFMC is that the cost of these insurance premiums is covered. We have two Festival/Event Registration windows each year and corresponding deadlines to submit requests for insurance coverage.

August 1, 2017 is the deadline to submit requests for events that will be held between September 1 and December 31, 2017.

November 15 is the deadline to submit requests for events that will be held between January 1 and August 31, 2018.

You can find the Festival Event Registration forms on our **MFMC website** under the MFMC Festival tab, drop down to Insurance.

Your MFMC Insurance Coordinator is also responsible for making sure the Clubs in our state are aware of the NFMC Child Protection Policy. A Child Protection Form is required by our insurance company and must be signed by the Festival/Event planner and returned with your request for insurance. No insurance requests will be processed by the NFMC's insurance carrier without the signed form.

Also, ALL MEMBERS of the MFMC must sign a copy of the NFMC Child Protection Policy each year. The request for the newly signed Child Protection Policy forms will be mailed along with the Annual Club Dues Statement in the fall. These must be signed and returned with the dues statement. As the form states, “The signature is required only to ensure all members are aware of our (NFMC's) policy and procedures and to document NFMC and its members are aware of the exposures involved with Children and the need for a proper policy and procedure.”

I am looking forward to seeing you in Rochester at the MFMC State Convention. Happy Spring!

Nancy Fisher, MFMC First-Vice President, MFMC Insurance Coordinator
(218)469-3733 • nancy.fshr@yahoo.com

2017 Junior Festival Stats 2017 • Adult Festival Stats

Total Junior Festival Stats 2017

Total Events: 148
Total Entries: 4,261
Total # Junior Clubs Participating: 365

Total # of Superiors: 3,156

Superior 1 year: 1, 275

Superior 2 year: 719

Superior 3 year: 454

Superior 4 year: 276

Superior 5 year: 178

Superior 6 year: 106

Superior 7 year: 61

Superior 8 year: 32

Superior 9 year: 36

Superior 10 year: 9

Superior 11 year: 5

Superior 12 year: 5

Total Adult Festival Stats

Total Events: 10
Total Entries: 18
Total # Clubs Participating: 1

Total # Superiors: 11

Superior year 1: 6

Superior year 2: 3

Superior year 4: 1

Superior year 6: 1

Scholarships, Awards and Grants Chair

Rebecca Heerdt, Tuition Assistant Grant

Sometimes the families of our students experience unexpected hardships. As teachers, it is hard for us to see a promising young musician unable to continue lessons due to financial difficulties. Sometimes we are able to help our student, but that is not always the case.

This is why the Tuition Assistance Grant was created. Its purpose is to help students stay in lessons when hard times happen, such as sickness in the family, job loss, etc.

The deadline for the Tuition Assistance Grant application is July 15th. The grant criteria, application form, and contact information can be found on the MFMC website under the MFMC Scholarships heading.

The Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Executive Committee



Mary Wescott, President



Nancy Fischer, 1st Vice President



Sarah Twedt, 2nd Vice President



Mary Rabaey, Secretary



Gwen Degner, Treasurer • Cheryl Schmidt, National Board Rep • Nadine Berg, Festival Chair