



Half Notes

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2015

PUBLICATION OF MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Official Call

By MFMC President Stacey Voit

The next MFMC all-member state meeting will be held on April 18, 2015, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 511 NW Cedar Ave, Warroad, MN 56763.

Encore Music Club will host the meeting. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The business meeting starts at 9 a.m. Lunch will follow (cost is \$9.00 per person). Overnight accommodations will be available at The Patch and Super 8 Motel (see Registration form for hotel locations, phone numbers, and cost). The [registration form](#) is available for download on the MFMC website — www.mfmc.net

All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. MFMC officers and chairmen are expected to attend. All clubs are required by the Bylaws to be represented at one or more state meetings per year or lose their 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.

Mark your calendars:
MFMC Biennial State Convention in Marshall, MN on Thursday and Friday, July 30 & 31, 2015.
More information forthcoming.

From the President Stacey Voit



MFMC President Stacey Voit

"We are only as strong as we are united." J.K. Rowling

Welcome to our "transitioning-to-digital" issue of the MFMC digital newsletter.

The original HN (print) format will be featured on the website, available for download and printing. The HN you receive via email is our groundbreaking digital Half Notes. Both formats — print or email — will be available for us in the future.

I would like to thank the folks who have made it possible. Special thanks go to Louise Lundin, our ever-patient editor, to Pat Steege, my mentoring presidential predecessor, and to Mary Wescott, vice president and membership chair.

And many thanks to all of you — our MFMC members and chairs who keep the organization running and running well.

Many thanks to my dear fellow Festival auditors: Julie Gutzmer, Rennae Peterson, Shannon Benson, Michelle Prosch, Kathy Williamson, Liz Ericksen, Shirley Erickson (and me).

From the President Continued on Page 4



Junior Composers Summer Camp 2015 Offerings

by Pat Steege

The Teacher Training Institute — established in 2014 — will be offered again to interested teachers in the North Central Region. Pat Plude of Avivo will instruct an expanded two-and-one-half day workshop entitled **Courage, Creativity, and Authenticity in Teaching**. Areas of instruction will focus on teaching musicianship, aural skills, improvisation and composition. Pat's teaching style is holistic, fresh and fun. The TTI will be held at the U of Minnesota Minneapolis on July 16-18. More information at www.juniorcomposers.org

The theme of this year's JC summer camp program is *Wind Ensemble*. Students age 14-20 are invited to register for the camp via the JC website — www.juniorcomposers.org. Register early and receive a \$50 discount and the chance to win a \$100 ASCAP scholarship. Frank Felice from Butler University, Indiana, will be the JC camp composer-in-residence. Studio is the two-week residential camp; the Composers Institute and the Songwriters Institute are one-week residential camps.

Continued on next page

JC Summer Camp continued

Faculty will include Dr. Seth Custer, Dr. Sarah Miller, and Randall Davidson.

Quotes from previous camps:

- As usual, you provide incredibly helpful feedback & resources without taking over my piece.
- Seth is an amazing teacher!
- What an amazing experience! You are doing perfectly. Randall is awesome!
- I learned a lot and they had so many ideas I never would have thought of on my own.
- The week went too fast.

A note from Pat Steege: *The latest issue of Junior Key Notes magazine (P. 20) featured an extensive article describing last summer's JC camp. Please read about this fantastic composition camp for teenagers, which is held every year at the U of M Minneapolis.*



Pat Plude helps teachers explore new sounds from inside the piano during the Teacher Training Institute.

New and Novel Way of Contributing to Junior Composers

by Pat Steege

The JC committee has launched a new and novel way for you and/or your music club to contribute to Junior Composers and to the field of New Piano Repertoire. The committee is selling shares to commission Dr. Seth Custer, Junior Composers general director, to compose a new work for piano for four hands.

The selling of thirty \$200 commission shares will raise enough to pay Dr. Custer \$1,000 and to give Junior Composers a gift of \$5,000. This enterprise begins now and will conclude at the National Convention in Fargo in June 2015.

Each person who buys one or more shares will receive a printed copy of the newly completed score by September 2015. Each shareholder will then arrange a public performance of the piece within one calendar year.

The money Junior Composers receives will be used to hire this summer's featured artists — the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble — directed by Jerry Luckhardt and composer Frank Felice.

Purchase your share today. Mail a check payable to Junior Composers to: Catherine Besonen, Treasurer, 13935 Fawn Ridge Way, Apple Valley, MN 55124. If you have questions, please contact Pat Steege, administrative director of Junior Composers. [Email Pat](mailto:Pat@juniorcomposers.org) or Phone 651-334-1355

About the piece:

This commission will target difficulty levels of late intermediate to early-advanced. The composer's goal will be to write a piece that can be performed as a teacher/student duet, or a student/student ensemble. The style will feature musical language that is fresh, warm, and interesting, accessible and attractive to a wide variety of performers and audiences.

About the composer:

Dr. Seth Custer is an active composer, performer, clinician, and adjudicator whose music is well known throughout the United States. He has received numerous ASCAP composer awards. The Music Teachers National Association named him the Distinguished Composer of 2010. Dr. Custer, Assistant Professor, is Head of the Department of Music Theory, Composition, and Technology at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. He serves as the Program Director of the NFMC's Junior Composers summer camp program in the North Central Region.

You can hear sound samples of Dr. Custer's recent compositions on his website —

<http://www.custermusic.com>

Junior Composers is the National Federation of Music Clubs North Central Region's sponsored program designed to challenge young musicians ages 14-20 to spread their creative wings through composition, to practice their instruments, to conduct ensembles, and to find a deeper fellowship through music-making.

Visit Junior Composers website:

www.juniorcomposers.org

Junior Composers Contest 2015

by Pat Steege

In January, I received 27 compositions from Minnesota students who submitted their work for critique by one of two judges. Minnesota certainly grows some amazingly creative and courageous students

Judges who have been affiliated with the Junior Composers summer camp as students and as counselors were asked to judge this year's entries. Mr. Nathan Todhunter judged Levels 3 and 4 and Mr. Ben Davidson, Levels 1 and 2.

The titles of compositions were delightfully entertaining. Examples: *Sunny Coffee Cup*; *Traffic on 35*; *Magical Garden*; *Crooked Dances Under the Rising Sun*; and *Autumn in the Afternoon*. All entrants will have earned points toward Gold Cups.



Three students received \$400 scholarships from MFMC to attend Junior Composers Summer Camp program 2015. Pictured from left: David Besonen, Luke Gion, and Jonas Fisher. and Pat Steege, JC summer camp chair.

Junior Composers Contest 2015 Winners

Class 1

1st place: Vaughn Hughes, *The Kitten Keys*, teacher Sarah Miller

2nd Place: Kirsten Stuber, *The Cockatiel*, teacher Sarah Miller

Class 2

1st place: Sam Hanson, *The Crooked Dances Under the Rising Sun*, teacher Sarah Miller

2nd place: Eleanor Traxler-Menz, *Melancholy Beat*, teacher Sarah Miller

Class 3

1st Place: Max Zelle, *The Bird*, teacher Sarah Miller

2nd Place: David Besonen, *French Lullaby*, teacher Chris Wolf

Class 4

1st Place: Jonas Fisher, *Credence*, teacher Heather Hahn

2nd Place: Sarrah Bushara, *Autumn in the Afternoon*, teacher Sarah Miller

SAC Committee

by Rebecca Heerd

During the past year the Scholarships and Awards Committee (SAC) awarded six Tuition Assistance Grants and one Georgia Chapman Award. Awards ranged from \$350 to \$500. We will provide updates on Scholarships and Awards at the upcoming state meeting.

Please read the thank you notes the committee received —

From teachers:

- *Thank you so much for your tuition assistance grant for our student. She is one of our most gifted (students) and your blessing to help her through very difficult times for her family means a lot. We were able to cover part of a year's tuition for her because of your generosity. Thank you for making this opportunity available.*
- *I was so excited to hear about my student ... having received a Tuition Assistance Grant. She is definitely a hard working musician. I am glad that she can continue her (music) studies without financial concerns. She is interested in participating in the MFMC State Student Auditions. Thank you again for considering (this student) for this grant.*

From student:

- *Thank you for the ... grant. It really helps to pay for my (music) lessons. I will work hard to get better and better.*

From a parent:

- *We are still feeling the glow of receiving a ... grant from the Minnesota Federation of Music clubs. You have no idea how incredible this gift was for (our child). She loves playing ... and I'm told she's very talented. (Her teacher) is always seeking the best opportunities for her students so she is truly a blessing also. Again, thank you for your generosity.*

Note — Because the TAG is a need based grant, recipients remain anonymous.

State Student Auditions

by Marcia Benson

State Student Auditions were submitted in January 2015. Two violinists, a cellist, and an entrant in the Man's Voice category were received from around the state of Minnesota. Judge Brenda Handel-Johnson determined the winners (below).

Guidelines for entering SSA: Entrants audition by submitting a CD three pieces recorded in one sitting. One selection must be by an American composer, the remaining two from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary music periods. Pieces must be performed from memory, with the exception of Brass, Winds, Percussion and Organ. Awards of \$400.00 and \$500.00 are available. These auditions are held biannually.

SSA Winners for 2015

Strings 1st Place — Aria Stiles, Violin, Apple Valley, MN, Teacher--Elisabeth Small

Strings 2nd Place — Maggie Anderson, Cello Bigfork, MN, Teacher--Dan Aalto

Strings Honorable Mention — Madison Drinen, Violin, Rosemount, MN, Teacher — Susan Jacobson

Men's Voice 1st Place — Joel Finsaas New London, MN, Teacher, Cheryl Schmidt

Many thanks to our 2015 judge, Brenda Handel-Johnson.

MUSIC...Heartbeat of the Soul NFMC Convention upcoming in Fargo, ND at the Holiday Inn Hotel on June 16-20, 2015. Registration and Schedule of Events available online at www.nfmc-music.org

Music Education

Scholarship

by Cheryl Schmidt

Do you know a junior in college who is a music education major? If so, please direct him or her to apply for the Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education Scholarship. The winning student will be awarded \$1,150.00, which is paid directly to their college for senior year tuition. Please visit the National Federation of Music Clubs web site for details. The application deadline is April 1.

For more information, contact chairman [Cheryl Schmidt](#)

South Suburban's Recital Program

by Mary Wescott

South Suburban's long-running Recital Program provides many benefits for its students. We have one recital in October, another in January, and the third in April. October's recital is non-memorized and titled *Anything Goes*. The January recital is designed for the MMTA State Contest and Festival, where memorization is required. The April recital is dedicated to helping students prepare for piano exam. And it rewards students who have had two consecutive Superiors in Festivals or were runners up in the State Contest. Students who participate in two or more recitals during the school year receive a medallion.

Each student pays \$8.00 per recital (each medallion costs \$5). Each medallion is engraved with the student's name and school year. We now have about 150 students in our recitals. Our medallion method is a win/win for our club and students.

From The President, Continued from Page 1

With no Festival chair in place this year, your job has been especially important in keeping our records accurate. Also, thank you to our Gold Cup Chair Sarah Twedt. Sarah is one of the most dedicated members we have in the MFMC. Her attention to detail makes the Gold Cup program viable.

A colossal thanks goes to Nadine Berg, who has agreed to be our Festival chair for 2016. I am so grateful! Nadine has been a leader of incredible capability through the years. It is a blessing and relief to have her step into this position.

Finally, thank you all for reading this, and for your patience and support.

Melody Bober Workshop

The SSMTA and AVMTA clubs will co-host a meeting at 10:30 AM on April 10, 2015, with featured guest Ms. Melody Bober. Ms. Bober will present a talk titled *Energize Your Students for Your Recital*. The meeting and presentation will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 7800 W. Cty Road 42 in Apple Valley. Any and all music teachers are welcome to attend. For more information, email [Mary Wescott](#)



Beverly Brown Rolfsrud, age 94, fellow MFMC member, musician, teacher, wife, and mother of six, died peacefully on January 26, 2015, in Bloomington, Minnesota. We will miss her.