

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER — SPRING-SUMMER 2019

WEB SITE: WWW.MFMC.NET

COMPILED BY CHERYL SCHMIDT

Official Call – MFMC State Convention



The MFMC State Convention will be held on July 31 & August 1, 2019 in Duluth. Duluth Music Teachers Association will be hosting the convention. Details are included in this newsletter and on the MFMC web site. All MFMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

The convention will include detailed information regarding online Festival registration, election of new MFMC officers and performance by MFMC Young Artist, Nicholas Susi.

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**A reminder that clubs participating in Festivals, must have their club president, or a designated qualified representative, attend one MFMC meeting per fiscal year to be eligible to participate in Festivals.*

President's Message



Mary Wescott, MFMC State President

As I reflect on the past four years, I am amazed of the progress we have made. It is hard to get a group of Music Teachers together at the same time and find something that each attendee will value to take back to their club and share. I believe that we have made great strides in this area with master classes, recitals that involve composers, and having meetings in various parts of this state. This took great effort on the part of many clubs. Thank you so much to Music Southwest, Great River Music Club, SE. MN. Federation Music Club, and Tuesday Music Club for our great meetings over the past 4 years.

This year is no exception. Our meeting April 27, 2019 in St. Cloud had 15 members attend the meeting. The By-Laws and our Constitution were updated with very few revisions. Thank you to all that attended.

Our National Meeting will take place in Jacksonville, FL. As of right now it appears it will be very informative on the revisions to the online registration. We will not have a complete picture until the end of June, but we are planning on sharing the information at our bi-annual meeting in Duluth, MN. I believe that clubs should bring laptops for a complete demonstration.

Within a few days, you will receive the registration for our biennial meeting in Duluth. It is extremely important that each club register for this meeting as early as possible. There are limited hotels/motels in Duluth at this time. During the summer months, Duluth is so frequently visited that it has been difficult to get rooms. The registration for the meeting will be sent to the Presidents of our Clubs. I think that every president and festival chair should be in

attendance. Duluth Music Teachers has gone to considerable amount of effort to make this a great meeting.

In addition, we will be installing new officers to our organization. Also, we are looking for persons who would like to help out. I always have a hard time defining what small tasks need to be done; seeing we never know what tasks we have until the last minute. However, we do need volunteers for every meeting that we have. As all of you know, we have a great organization and a wonderful group of friendly people. The more I travel throughout our state I realize the impact Federation has on our students.

Thank you for honoring me to be your president.

Mary Wescott, MFMC State President

Shout out! MFMC Product Line

We are pleased to announce the creation of a MFMC branded product line. More information, as well as samples for viewing, will be available at the All Member Meeting in Duluth on July 31, 2019.

MFMC State Student Auditions – Marcie Benson, Chair

The MFMC State Student Auditions are held in odd-numbered years only. Students are eligible to enter in the following categories: Piano, Organ, Man's Voice, Woman's Voice, Strings, Brass, Woodwinds and Percussion. Monetary awards are given to the winners.

Students must be current Juniors and Seniors in High School, in the year of audition, and the applicant's teacher must be a member of the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs. An entry fee of \$25 is required and auditions are submitted via audio recording.

The recordings must contain one selection from three of the following categories: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary. One of the selections must be by an American composer. Additional requirements can be found on the MFMC web site.

Let's meet our 2019 State Student Audition winners:



Emma Taggart, First Place Award, Piano

Emma Taggart is a sixteen-year-old classically trained pianist and performs both as a solo artist and a member of the piano duo Taggart Squared--along with her brother, Jacob. Most recently, she won 1st place in the LaCrosse Symphony Concerto competition, which included an engagement with the LaCrosse Symphony Orchestra; and 1st place in the YPSCA Concerto Competition, which included an engagement to play the Grieg Concerto No. 1 with the MN Orchestra in their upcoming season. She was also named Grand Prix winner of the St. Petersburg, Russia Festival in Palace competition. She has been featured on Minnesota Public Radio's Minnesota Varsity and twice on National Public Radio's From the Top, where she received the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award and a \$10,000 scholarship. Most recently Emma was named

the 2018-2019 Featured Artist of the Nicholson Brothers' Classical Music Series at the Hanifl Center for the Performing Arts. Emma studies with her teacher of more than 10 years, Dr. Reid Smith.



Joely Palmer, First Place Award, Voice

Joely is a senior at Willmar High School and will be attending St. Olaf College in the fall for music studies.

She participates in many activities including Nordic skiing, softball, the school musical, and 2701 (a pop chamber choir) at school and hopes to continue with theater in college as well. Joely received a "best of site" citation for her vocal performance at the 2019 MN State High School League Solo Ensemble Contest.

Joely also spends a large amount of time with her horses and dog and loves hanging out with her friends.

Joely's voice teacher is Cheryl Schmidt



Andrew Lafferty, Second Place Award, Piano

Andrew is currently a Junior at Lakeville South High School located in Lakeville, Minnesota. He is currently enrolled in multiple Advanced Placement and Honor level courses and participates in the STEM program. After high school, Andrew plans on attending the University of Minnesota and earn a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Andrew spends most of his free time on music. He started piano lessons when he was 12 years old and played percussion in his middle school band. Andrew is a self-taught, acoustic and electric guitar player. In addition to guitar, he is learning to play the Woodrow, a string instrument which he purchased while vacationing in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Asheville, North Carolina with his family.

When Andrew is not busy with schoolwork or practicing his music, he enjoys hiking and playing golf. Andrew's piano teacher is Mary Wescott.



Sarah Dalmo, Second Place Award, Piano

Sarah has been playing piano for 12 years.

She is a senior at Lakeville High School and will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln next year to study business.

Sarah is involved in the National Honor Society, student ministries, and volunteers frequently.

Sarah's piano teacher is Mary Wescott.

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs- 2019 Biennial Convention- July 31 & August 1

Hosted by Duluth Music Teachers Association

College of St. Scholastica, Mitchell Auditorium and Music Department in Tower Hall

The Duluth Music Teachers Association Federation of Music Club invites you to the MFMC 2019 Biennial Convention.

Convention registration begins at 12:00 noon on Wednesday at the College of St. Scholastica, 1200 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, in the entrance to Mitchell Auditorium. Parking is available in the adjacent parking lot.

The convention will begin at 12:30 pm with the business meeting. Following the business meeting will be a Master Class by Dr. Nicholas Susi, who is a former NFMC Young Artist and is on the faculty of the College of St. Scholastica.

There will be free time mid-afternoon to early evening to check into your hotel, explore beautiful Duluth and have dinner out on your own. Suggested restaurants and sites to see in Duluth will be provided in your registration packet.

Wednesday evening, 7:00 pm, Nick Susi will be performing a recital in Mitchell Auditorium at the College of St. Scholastica. A reception will follow.

Thursday will begin at 9:30 am in the 3rd floor Tower Hall Music Hall, where we will have a Memorial Service where we will pay tribute to members we have lost over the past two years. Please contact State President Mary Wescott with the name of any members you would like to recognize. We will also have election of officers.

10:30 am we will start our very important Festival on-line informational/training meeting. We will have access to WIFI, smart boards, so please bring your laptops or tablets as they will be very helpful in learning the new Festival online registration system. Box lunches will be served in our Festival meeting room at Noon.

The convention will conclude no later than 3:00 pm

MFMC State Convention – Schedule of Events

Convention Information

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

2019 Biennial Convention

July 31 & August 1

Hosted by Duluth Music Teachers Association Federation Music Club

Held at the College of St. Scholastica- 1200 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota

IMPORTANT

Club presidents should submit their annual report via email by July 10, 2019 to Liz@Raihala.net. Reports will be printed and distributed to attendees.

Convention Schedule Wednesday

12:00 Noon Registration in the lobby of Mitchell Auditorium, College of St. Scholastica

12:30 p.m. MFMC Business Meeting

2:15 p.m. Piano Masterclass with Dr. Nick Susi

3:45 p.m. to 6:30pm Hotel check in, Explore Duluth; dinner on your own

7:00 pm. Piano recital—Dr. Nick Susi- Mitchell Auditorium-Free to Convention attendees;
\$5.00 adults; free to all students

Reception in the lobby of Mitchell Auditorium following the recital.

Convention Schedule Thursday

(Music Department area of the College of St. Scholastica—3rd & 4th Floor of Tower Hall)

Breakfast on your own

9:30 a.m. Memorial Service- 3rd Floor Music Hall in Tower Hall

10:00 a.m. Installation of Officers

10:15 am Break

10:30 a.m. Festival online registration information/interactive meeting

Bring your laptops, tablets!

12:00 Noon Lunch Break/box lunches provided

12:45 p.m. Festival Meeting Continues

3:00 p.m. Convention Adjourns

MFMC State Convention – Registration

MFMC State Convention Registration

Advance Registration - *deadline July 15, 2019

Convention Fee: \$65.00 (all-inclusive – all meetings, events, masterclass, recital, lunch)

Registration fee at the Door: \$75.00

Name_____

Club_____

Email_____

Home Phone_____

Cell Phone_____

Mail this form with registration fee (checks payable to DMTA) to:

Karen Sande, 450 Kenilworth Ave., Duluth, MN 55803
Please list any dietary restrictions: (gluten free, vegan, etc.)

Hotel Accommodations:

Mary Wescott has reserved a block of rooms at **La Quinta Inn, (\$139.00)** 1805 Maple Grove Road, Duluth and at **Country Inn and Suites (\$159/\$169)**, 4257 Haines Road, Duluth *****In order to receive these rates, you must coordinate your reservation with Mary Wescott directly no later than July 15, 2019. Please email her at thewescott@aol.com**

MFMC State Convention – Masterclass Form

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

2019 Biennial Convention

July 31 & August 1

Hosted by Duluth Music Teachers Association Federation Music Club

Held at the College of St. Scholastica
1200 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, Minnesota

Master Class Application

A Master Class for Late Elementary to Advanced piano students will be offered by Dr. Nick Susi at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, as part of the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Convention.

Applicants are encouraged to, but not required to choose pieces from the Federation Bulletin. The piece should be a work in progress, with the basics learned sufficiently well to identify areas requiring choices or needing technical, stylistic, or interpretive guidance.

Application deadline is July 1, 2019. Teachers will be notified by July 8, 2019

STUDENT APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME _____ AGE _____

FESTIVAL CLASS OR DIFFICULTY LEVEL _____

TITLE OF PIECE _____

COMPOSER _____

TEACHER NAME _____

TEACHER EMAIL _____ TEACHER PHONE _____

TEACHER FEDERATION CLUB _____

Please email information to Liz@Raihala.net by July 1.

Mailed applications may be mailed to Liz Raihala, 5015 Washburn Road, Duluth, MN 55804



2015-2017 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist, pianist **Nicholas Susi** enjoys a multifaceted career living out his deep love for music. The 2017-18 season saw engagements across the country as performer, masterclass clinician, competition adjudicator, lecturer, and community outreach speaker.

Nicholas's artistry has been recognized through prizes in such piano competitions as the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Award, the Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition, and Klavierfestival Rösraht, while his research has been awarded prestigious grants from such organizations as the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation, and Legacy Foundation for the Arts.

These and other grants enabled him to travel, study, and perform music across Europe; the experiences of researching Beethoven in Bonn, Debussy in Paris, and Mozart in Vienna have been central to his development as a musician and to his cosmopolitan understanding of musical styles. Other noteworthy appearances include two concerts for the Princess von Hohenzollern at her castle in Næmdey, Germany, his semifinalist recital at the TivoliVrendenburg in Utrecht, The Netherlands during the 2014 International Franz Liszt Piano Competition, and concerto solos with such orchestras as the Omaha Symphony, Wiener Residenz Orchester, St. Louis Chamber Orchestra, and Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City. His debut recording, *Scarlatti Now*, was released in late 2016 and has received critical attention and nationwide radio airplay.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Nicholas is currently based out of Duluth, Minnesota, where he is an Assistant Professor of Music at The College of St. Scholastica. In addition to teaching private lessons, he also teaches music theory and coordinates the class piano program. Nicholas received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, with previous studies at the University of Kansas and at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln as a two-time DAAD grantee. Primary teachers include Zena Ilyashov, Jack Winerock, Nina Tichman, and Arthur Greene. For more details, please visit the artist's website at www.nicholas-susi.com

National Federation of Music Clubs National Convention

The NFMC National Convention will be held in Jacksonville, FL on June 12 – 22, 2019.

Attending the national convention:

Mary Wescott - MFMC State President

Nancy Fisher - MFMC First Vice-President

Sarah Twedt - MFMC National Board Representative

Grace Kopitske - member of East Suburban Federation Music Club.

These MFMC members attending will vote during elections for the new NFMC officers and hope to obtain detailed information regarding the status of the Festival On-Line Registration.

Festival Report: Nadine Berg, Chair

I wish to thank everyone involved in making the 2019 Festival Season run smoothly, including teachers, site managers & record keepers. A special thank you goes out to my dedicated and efficient auditors: Barbara Baldrice, Shannon Benson, Liz Ericksen, Susan Hoolihan, Rennae Petersen & Barb Thompson. These wonderful ladies make sure every student is accounted for and duly rewarded.

We all owe a big debt to Sarah Twedt, not only for managing the Festival Cups, but for her expertise in helping me deal with questions that arise. Finally, I want to acknowledge the efforts of Grace Kopitske. She is in the throes of testing the revamped NFMC Online Registration System, which will hopefully be up and running very soon.

Here is a run-down of this year's Festivals:

In the Junior Festival, we had 3892 entries in 24 events. Minnesota has 30 Festival sites involving 347 teachers. Their students earned 2960 superior ratings, with 3 of them being 12-year consecutive superiors and one being a 13-year consecutive superior.

Ten adults participated in Festival in 3 events, earning a total of 6 superior ratings (two 1-year, three 2-year and one 3-year consecutive superiors). These brave students were taught by 9 teachers in 5 different sites.

Congratulations to one and all – keep those fires burning!

Gold Cup Report: Sarah Twedt, Chair

There are so many people to thank for such a smooth festival season! All the cups and plates have been distributed and those pesky reports audited and filed. **Please take some time to thank your local festival chairman and recordkeepers!** Things run smoothly because there are many dedicated people spending lots of time to make sure all details are correct!

As I have said to my music club many times, this isn't magic – these things don't just happen! Now is the time to prepare for next year! If you have any questions or need help with any aspect of your reporting, please let me know. We would love to help you make the reporting process easier for you. We continue to build our Access database – if you are in need of help with your clubs' records, we can help you. Please let us know soon if you would like help with your club's records.

NFMC has hired a new developer for the national on-line record keeping system and Grace Kopitske of East Suburban Music Club is fully immersed in this project! We are grateful for her dedication to this project on our behalf. A group of us will be attending the on-line training session in Jacksonville, Florida this coming June and look forward to giving you a complete report on this project in July.

We processed 3888 Cup Entrants and ordered 934 cups! Of these, 2 were Grand Cup winners and 5 received the President's Cup! Congratulations to students, teachers, and the parents!

Please congratulate the following Grand Cup Winners in Piano Solo!

David Michaeli	St. Paul	Metro IV	Student of:	Lucinda Marvin
Joyce Zhu	Woodbury	East Suburban	Student of:	Jackie Lo

Please congratulate the following Presidents' cup Winner in Piano Solo!

Nellie Benton	Eagan, MN	Apple Valley MTA	Student of:	Sarah Twedt
Leah Dahlstrom	Thief River Falls, MN	Thief River Falls	Student of:	Kristi LaSalle
Jacob Johnson	Minneapolis, MN	Metro 2	Student of:	Narissa Strong Bach
Michelle Quan	Apple Valley, MN	Apple Valley MTA	Student of:	Chris Wolf
Lexie Sorensen	Eagan, MN	Apple Valley MTA	Student of:	Sarah Twedt

Again, thank you for your dedication to the Festival program and to MFMC!

Junior Composers Competition and Scholarships: Sharon Kaplan, Chair

Winners:

	Name	Composition	Teacher	State	Region	National
Class I 9 and under	Kevin Chen Edward Wanger	Rondo The Lakeshore	Sarah Miller Fern Davidson	1 st 2 nd	Hon Men	
Class II 10-12	Vladimir Tsiper Dylan Leung	Rondo for Vn and Pno The Haunting	Sarah Miller Sarah Miller	1 st 2 nd	Finalist Hon Men	2 nd place
Class III 13-15	Stephen Elsinger Josiah Parsons	A Day in Rio A Nouveau Bassa	Sarah Miller Sarah Miller	1 st 2 nd	Finalist Finalist	Incentive award
Class IV 16-18	Alex Trujillo Sam Hanson	Fantasy Suite Procession for the Lost Elsewhere	Sam Rudy Sarah Miller	1 st 2 nd	Finalist	Hon Mention

Junior Composer Summer Camps scholarships awarded to:
Stephen Elsinger and Alex Trujillo.

Treasurer's Report: Gwen Degner

Thank you to all our Minnesota Senior Club treasurers for all their good and timely work during the past school year. Your attention to detail and deadlines makes my work much easier.

Our state treasury has a healthy balance in all our accounts, but we continue to lose a few members each year; consequently, our checking account balance has decreased as well.

Here are a few membership statistics:

	MFMC Membership		
	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
Sr. Club	398	382	374
Jr. Club	4,472	4,087	3,981

In spite of our decline in membership and money, our Minnesota Federation continues to fund scholarships and grants to many worthy recipients each year. We are committed to financially supporting programs that benefit our teachers and students.

On a personal note: This summer will bring change for my husband and me as we leave the north woods and move back to the prairie. If you need to contact me during this time of transition, please use my email address: gwen.degner@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do for our Minnesota students, and for all the ways you support each other.

Wishing you a rejuvenating summer!

Insurance Coordinator: Nancy Fisher

We had our last day of school in Warroad on May 23rd and I am quite sure that I am just as happy as the students when the doors fly open and we all spill out into summer! I still teach three days a week in the summer, but first I have two weeks off to find my house again and plant my flowers.

MFMC provided insurance for 82 events, 16 of them took place in the fall, and the remainder since January. Just a reminder of our MFMC policy "The MFMC is requiring that NFMC insurance **must** be requested for all Federation sponsored events. Every Festival site must have NFMC insurance coverage. Every Festival Recital must have NFMC insurance coverage. Any event which includes the MFMC individual club names or the MFMC name must have NFMC insurance coverage."

All deadlines and forms are available on the MFMC website, in addition all insurance information along with any new directives from NFMC will be presented at our State Meeting July31-August 1 in Duluth.

One more reminder, if you decide to have any MFMC club events this summer, you can and should still request insurance. The deadlines are in place because we pay the lowest premium when we meet them, and it helps your MFMC Insurance Coordinator stay organized! But it is not always possible to plan so far in advance, and sometimes we decide to host events after the insurance deadlines have passed. That does not mean you cannot still request insurance for those events.

See you in Duluth!

MFMC Web Site: Cheryl Schmidt

There have been some difficulties with MFMC members accessing the membership roster on the web site. These issues have been resolved.

If you do not remember the password to access the membership list, on the web site please email via CONTACT and request the password. Cheryl will confirm your membership and send you the password.

PLEASE take a moment to review your contact information on the membership roster. If you need to update your information, email Cheryl via CONTACT on the web site.

MFMC Constitution and Bylaws

The MFMC Constitution and Bylaws proposed revisions were approved at the MFMC state meeting on April 27, 2019 in St. Cloud. The MFMC Constitution and Bylaws are posted on the MFMC web site: About MFMC – MFMC Bylaws.

A sincere thank you to our constitution and bylaws revision committee: Cheryl Schmidt, Peggy Karsten, Rennae Petersen and Mary Pieh.

MFMC April 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April 27, 2019 meeting in St. Cloud are now posted on the MFMC web site.

www.mfmc.net >Events >MFMC State Meeting Minutes.

Thanks to all the MFMC members that attended and diligently assisted with approving the proposed revisions to the MFMC Constitution and Bylaws.

Thank you!

Thanks to all MFMC officers and chairs of committees, awards and scholarships who dedicate their time and talents to support all our music students in the state of MN.

A special thanks to Mary Wescott for her devoted service as our MFMC State President!

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 Coordinator, Half Notes Newsletter, Special Needs Scholarships

Nadine Berg: Festival Chair, Opera Chair

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

Sharon Kaplan: Junior Composers, JC Summer Programs Scholarships

Marcia Benson: State Student Auditions

Jeannene Simonson: Certificate Chair

Peggy Karsten: Parliamentarian/Advisory Chair