

# Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

**HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER — SPRING/SUMMER 2020**

**WEB SITE: [WWW.MFMC.NET](http://WWW.MFMC.NET)**

**COMPILED BY CHERYL SCHMIDT**

## Official Call

The next MFMC state meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020 in Moorhead. Members will be notified regarding the status of this meeting given the global pandemic.

## President's Message – Nancy's Notes



Nancy Fisher, MFMC State President

Excerpt from Nancy's Notes - March 31, 2020

It is truly hard to believe how many things have changed in just a few weeks' time. For someone like me who is a creature of habit and routine and schedules and lists, these events have really been unsettling. And for someone like me who is a planner and a person who likes to have a measure of control over what is happening in the next weeks and months, all these unknowns have been a struggle. As I write to you, the



membership of the MFMC, I realize that we have all experienced great change and loss and it is somewhat overwhelming. When our Governor closed all Minnesota schools, I found myself suddenly without a job, since I teach lessons full-time at the school. In trying to find an alternate way to continue teaching, I soon realized that having students come to my home for lessons was not going to work either.

Once I pulled my emotions together, I started thinking about other options. I have been teaching my grandchildren in South Dakota via Face Time for a few years now and they have been making good progress, although sometimes it is challenging. I also learned that our school district supports Google Hangouts, which is another remote video option, and all the students were sent home with Chromebooks. So, I made contact with the families of students who I felt were good candidates to try remote lessons and last week several students had their first video lessons with me. I know the parents and students appreciate the stability of being able to continue their music lessons through this time when so much in their lives is different. I am definitely a technically challenged individual, but thankfully my teacher friend Cara and my sons helped me get things figured out.

I hope that you and your families are staying well and safe. I will conclude with two verses from the Psalms that have meant a lot to me these past weeks. Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble." and Psalm 94:19 "When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul."

Nancy Fisher

MFMC President

## International Music Camp Scholarship Recipients – Karen Erickson, Chair

Two \$400 scholarships have been awarded to attend the International Music Camp (IMC) Summer Program.

Recipients are **Sophia Hornisch** from Eagan, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade - cello, student of Susan Jacobson and **Kedrah Brooks** from Baxter, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - piano, student of Cari Nygard.

This year, because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, IMC has decided to postpone their 65<sup>th</sup> Season from this summer to 2021. The recipients can use their scholarships next summer - the camps will run from June 20-August 3, 2021.

Scholarship eligibility: for students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades who receive a Superior in the Festival preceding the summer camp sessions. Go to the MFMC web site for further details.

## New Themed MFMC Web Site

New look, user friendly and welcoming! The new MFMC web site project is complete, so please take time to check out the newly designed MFMC web site. If you wish to access the protected membership list and need the password, contact MFMC via the web site.

## MFMC Executive Committee – Important Items to Share

All Festival cups for MFMC have been ordered and paid for and members will be notified when the orders begin to ship. The plates have been picked up and will be sent out the first week of May – please proof these plates when you receive them so that corrections can be made timely.

The 2020 – 2024 Federation Festivals Bulletin is complete and will begin shipping to NFMC members in mid-May. The cost of the bulletin is \$10 per book plus shipping. Please contact NFMC Headquarters directly to place an order. Currently, the NFMC office is closed due to COVID-19. However, voicemails are checked often, and calls are being returned.

The National Federation of Music Clubs has cancelled the June Conference and the office staff is working from home. MFMC is waiting to hear updates from National on how to will move forward without this June gathering.

Festival On-line project discussions are tabled until more information is available from NFMC. Decisions cannot be made about implementing this system until it is finished, and we have better information from NFMC about the costs to our state and or individual Festivals sites.

2021 is our MFMC 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration! Karen Erickson is the chairperson for this event and the planning committee is beginning its work.

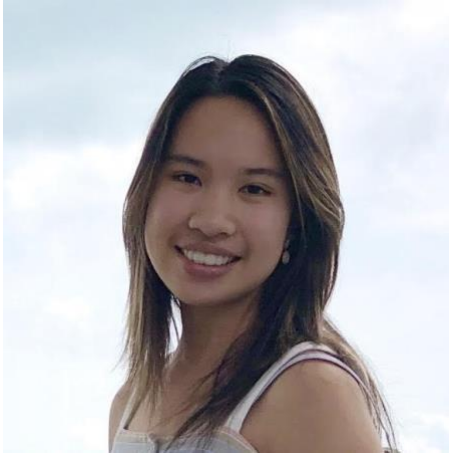
Mass email system and New Themed Web Site/Security Update projects have been completed.

The next state meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2020 in Moorhead. Members will be notified about the status of this meeting depending on the status of the global pandemic.

MFMC Executive committee members are in continuous contact with each other via email and will meet remotely as needed to conduct necessary MFMC business.

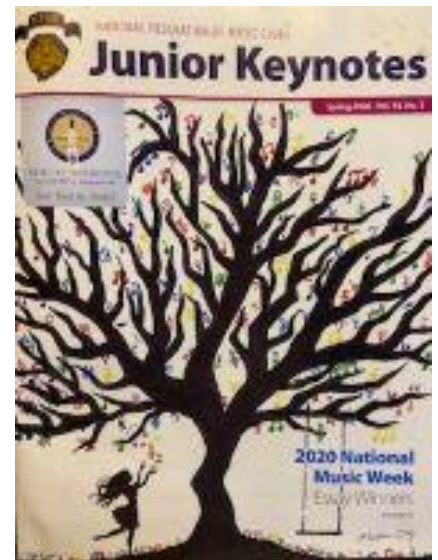
A new computer is being purchased for use by the MFMC treasurer to maintain and backup all financial information and reporting.

## Junior Keynotes Cover Artist – Alisha Wong



**Alisha Wong** was chosen to have her artwork featured on the recent National Federation of Music Clubs Spring 2020 Junior Keynotes Magazine. Alisha is a 15-year-old who lives in Farmington. She began playing piano when she was five and is still pursuing her musical studies. After winning two MMTA logo contests, her teacher notified her of this opportunity. With an ardency for all things that convey emotion, she uses writing, art, and music to create a world she can vicariously live through.

Students interested in submitting cover artwork, contact Jeanne Hryniewicki at [jfkish@hotmail.com](mailto:jfkish@hotmail.com).





National Music Week 2020 Essay Winner – Maggie Iten



**Maggie Iten** is a National Federation of Music Clubs, National Music Week 2020 essay winner.

The theme for 2020 National Music Week and the essay writers is: *Music....a Magic Carpet.*

Maggie is an eighth grader who resides in Lake Bronson and her teacher is Kirstin Olson.

Enjoy reading her essay, *A Magic Carpet.*

A Magic Carpet  
by Maggie Iten

I love music, I love playing piano, and I love to fly. "All aboard!"

When I was five years old, I dreamed that I could fly. I loved to fly each night; oh, the places I could see. I never minded going to bed because I was excited to fly again. I hungered to fly in real life, but I knew it would probably never happen because all I had was a big piano in our big living room. I spent all my time practicing on that piano. I had to take piano lessons once a week, every month, all year long. Any spare time I had was spent practicing on that piano. My piano instructor and parents would always say, "Practice, practice, practice!" I used to think how would I ever have time to learn to fly, let alone take flying lessons and have time to practice flying? Somehow, I was pretty sure, the flying instructor and my parents would tell me again to practice, practice, practice. I was much too busy spending each waking hour practicing on my piano.

Then one day as I walked up to my piano and began practicing my piano music, I realized the piano could be my magic carpet. So, as I sat at the piano that day and began to play, it felt as if it took off! And I began to fly. Each time I practiced I began to fly even more. Yes, the more I practiced the more and more I flew. I loved soaring around the living room. After all this practicing, pretty soon the living room wasn't big enough. I needed more room to soar. So, I began to travel around the world, traveling to a whole new world, visiting places I had never seen before. I flew with Bach, I flew with Mozart, and even with Beethoven. Why, I flew with some of the best pianists in the world! As I would finish each song, I felt as if I had visited their homes and homelands.

After all these piano lessons, I learned I was taking flying lessons and practicing flying each day. I didn't need a plane, a jet, or any flying vessel: piano is my flying carpet and piano lessons are my flying lessons. I am so excited to practice playing the piano because it is then when I usually get to fly, soar, and travel.

I am now thirteen years old and my dream has come true. I don't believe in magic or magic carpet rides, but I am the proud owner of a big piano and I know how to fly. After much practice, practice, practice, I can actually fly it. Yes, I can fly so well that I now can take others on a sort of magic carpet ride. That's why I shout, "All aboard!"

## National Music Week Essay Contest

Basic requirements to compete in the National Music Week Essay contest: Contest is open to 7-12th grade students. Essay must be typed and no longer than 500 words. Essay is judged on content, neatness, and legibility. The current year's theme and entrant's name must be typed at the top of the first page.

Membership in NFMC is NOT required to enter. Entry form and essay, by deadline date of January 10, and must be uploaded to the NFMC website ([www.nfmc-usic.org/applicant-file-upload](http://www.nfmc-usic.org/applicant-file-upload)).

An award of \$75.00 will be presented in each state in which a winner is declared.

The theme for 2021 is *Music – is a storyteller*. For those writers that want to get started on next year's contest!

## We are All in this Together!!

The MFMC Executive Committee extends our sincere hope that all of you and your families are well and safe during these uncertain times given the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

Music teachers have had to make adaptations to continue teaching remotely and we are thankful for the technology that allows this to happen.

Please contact us via the MFMC web site if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your patience as we continue the work of MFMC with this fluid situation regarding COVID-19.

Continue to support each other, care for each other, and let us all keep the importance and the joy of music in the forefront for ourselves and our students. Music is immensely powerful!

<https://abc7news.com/coronavirus-choir-symphony-zoom-music-musical/6059702/>

## MFMC Officers and Chairs

CONTACT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE MFMC WEB SITE: [WWW.MFMC.NET](http://WWW.MFMC.NET)



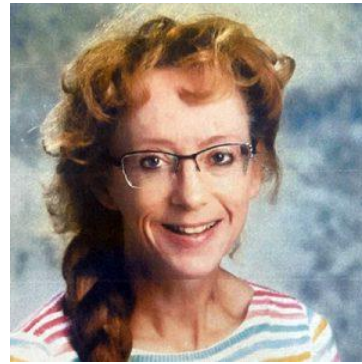
Nancy Fisher: President



Sarah Twedt: 1st Vice President  
Insurance, Festival Cup Chair



Cara Caravetta: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Membership Chair



Mary Kaye Rabaey: Secretary



Gwen Degner: Treasurer



Karen Erickson: Historian  
International Music Camp Scholarships



Mary Wescott: NFMC Board



Cheryl Schmidt: Finance Chair, Web Site,  
Half Notes Newsletter, Special Needs Awards





Nadine Berg: Festival Chair



Grace Kopitske: Festival Online  
Registration Administrator



Liz Raihala: MFMC State  
Student Auditions



Nick Susi: MFMC chair for NFMC Biennial  
Student/Collegiate Audition Awards



Jeannene Simonson:  
Certificate Chair



Peggy Karsten:  
Parliamentarian/Advisory



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

Sharon Kaplan: Junior Composers Contest and Scholarships

Louise Lundin: MFMC Web Site – Content Manager/Advisor