

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER — FALL/WINTER 2020

WEB SITE: WWW.MFMC.NET

COMPILED BY CHERYL SCHMIDT

Official Call

Spring State Meeting: Saturday, April 24th, 2021 at 10:00am - virtual meeting via Zoom.

100th Anniversary Celebration/State Meeting: July 14 & 15, 2021

President's Message – Nancy's Notes



Nancy Fisher, MFMC State President

Back-to-School Shopping. My youngest son, Justus, is having his last First Day of school. Since our five children are quite spread out in age, and my oldest son started



kindergarten in 1990, this is the 30th First Day of school at our house. Both Justus and I are thankful that we will be able to be back inside our high school building when school starts. I will be teaching most of my piano and voice lessons in person, following our district guidelines for returning to school safely. If we have learned nothing else in the past six months, we have learned what it means to be flexible, and we realize we could be back to distance learning at any time.

Back-to-School Shopping has always been a fun tradition. The new clothes and school supplies symbolize a fresh start and a reminder that we are progressing to the next grade level and the milestones associated with that. The shopping list looks a bit different this year. Face masks are definitely a new item, and although hand sanitizer has been a staple for a while, this year will see us buying a lot more. I wanted to have the best supplies for cleaning piano keys between students without damaging the keys. I spoke with the piano sales manager at Popplers Music and he advised me to clean the keys with a disinfecting wipe that is damp, but not dripping wet. Then after cleaning the keys, dry them off with a microfiber cloth.

This year **Back-to-School Shopping** also includes the fun of buying brand new Festival music. You can order your new Festival Bulletin on the NFMFC website if you do not already have it in hand. There is a list of revisions that came your way in an MFMC email mid-August, so remember to print those out. I am looking forward to learning the new pieces along with my students and am happy to see some familiar favorites in there as well.

Our MFMC membership has the opportunity to go **Back-to-School Shopping** for some amazing MFMC logo wear designs. The MFMC Practice Notes product line is ready! I so appreciate all the time that our Membership Chair, Cara Caravetta, has invested in this venture. The designs are truly unique and inspirational and were created just for the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs. You will even find face masks with sizes for adults and children. You can find all the information you need to start shopping on the MFMC website. These would make a great fundraiser for your club. I wish you a happy Fall as we get back to making music!

Nancy Fisher
MFMC President

Save the Date! MFMC 100th Anniversary Celebration

July 14-15, 2021

Come Celebrate 100 years of Music In the Making

*Holiday Inn
2800 Kenrick Avenue
Lakeville, MN. 55044*

Karen Erickson and Mary Wescott, Planning Committee Chairs

NFMC 2020 Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Ed. Scholarship – Grant Goulson



Grant Goulson is a senior Instrumental Music Education Major at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Originally from Dayton, Minnesota, Grant has been playing piano since second grade, and trombone since sixth grade.

He has continued to study both into his undergraduate career, and enjoys performing on both instruments in jazz, contemporary, sacred, and classical settings. Grant is the Music Student Association President.

When not studying music, Grant enjoys attending concerts, spending time with friends in Duluth, and enjoying anything related to Star Wars.

The NFMC Gretchen E. Van Roy Music Education Scholarship is awarded to students in their junior year of college and majoring in music education. Please visit www.nfmc-music.org for more details.



MFMC Biennial Student Auditions – Lia Raihala, Chair

Get your students prepared to participate in the 2021 MFMC Biennial Student Auditions! Open to high school Juniors and Seniors with three \$600 awards available for winners. Students teachers must be members of MFMC. Please visit the MFMC web site for all application details and repertoire requirements – deadlines are in January 2021.

NFMC Student/Collegiate Student Auditions – Nick Susi, Chair

Please contact student musicians that are now at the collegiate level and inform them about this award opportunity, the 2021 NFMC Student/Collegiate Student Auditions. Students must be age 19 – 25 by February 1st of the year entered. \$3,000 award first place in each category, \$500 award for second place in each category. Please visit the MFMC or NFMC web site for all application details and repertoire requirements – deadlines are in February 2021.

Tuition Assistance Grants – Rebecca Heerd

There are still some Tuition Assistance Grants available for this school year. If you have any families struggling financially as a result of this pandemic, please visit our website and take advantage of this program. Information and applications are under the Scholarships, Awards, and Grants drop down menu on the MFMC web site. You may also e-mail me with any questions.

Rebecca Heerd
rheerd@reagan.com

2020 MFMC Festival Grand and President's Cup Recipients

MFMC is proud of our musicians who have earned cumulative Festival points to obtain the Festival Grand Cup, 75 points and President's Cup, 90 points. Enjoy reading about these young musicians and MFMC extends our sincere congratulations!

2020 Festival Grand Cup Recipients



Stephen Ma is a junior at Woodbury High School and has participated in the NFMFC festivals for 12 years, earning 9 piano solo and 2 piano concerto consecutive Superior ratings. Involved in MMTA, he has qualified as a finalist in the state piano contest for 8 years, completing all 8 levels of Music theory exam and 10 levels of the Piano Comprehensive Examination. He has also accompanied many students for their string exams.

Stephen participates in National Honors Society, Red Cross Club, Cross Country and has volunteered 200 hours in various areas. He enjoys drawing in his free time and hanging out with his younger sister. He plans to continue music beyond high school and hopes to study Computer Software Engineering in college.

Stephen's teacher is Jackie Lo.



Benen Sego has earned a Grand Cup in the Piano Solo event. Besides the NFMFC festivals, he participated in MMTA theory exams and comprehensive piano exams, passing with Distinction and High Distinction, and State Contest performing in the State Honors Concert.

As a percussionist, Benen participated in the marching band, percussion ensemble and drumline. Frequently he can be found improvising, composing, and sharing his music at the local Woodwinds Hospital and at his church.

This fall he plans to go to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN to pursue a degree in Business and Entrepreneurship.

Benen's teacher is Grace Kopitske.



Rahul Polavarapu has earned the 75-point Grand Cup in the Piano Solo event. Rahul participated in numerous MMTA events passing theory exams and comprehensive piano exams with Distinction and High Distinction.

He also participated in the state contest several years and performed in the winners MMTA Honors Concert in 2016.

Rahul was active in his high school's robotics, Science Olympiad and tennis teams. He will be attending the University of Wisconsin Madison to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Rahul's teacher is Grace Kopitske.



Maleia Ryberg is a senior at BOLD High School and received her grand cup in piano solo with thirteen consecutive superior ratings for piano solo and three consecutive superior ratings for piano concerto. She is also active in MMTA state piano having been finalist seven times.

Maleia accompanies at four churches, school choir, band ensembles, area funerals, and entertains at the healthcare center. She is involved in cross country, track, Student Council, National Honors Society, Concert Band, FFA, FCA, and is a manager for the BOLD Girls Basketball team.

In the summer, she enjoys lifeguarding and helping with her family's farm and mowing service.

Maleia's teacher is Katie Runden



Madeline Nickell earned her Grand Cup in piano solo. She is musically experienced with xylophone mallet, piano, trumpet and singing. Maddie was a top student at Eagan High School, participated in every vocal choir and bell choir at her church, excelled at the trumpet, and was awarded the John Philip Sousa award at EHS.

Other than music, Maddie played softball, ran track, and found herself playing goalie on the EHS girls hockey team. This made for many interesting scheduling changes with piano lessons to support her musical goals!

Maddie will continue to play hockey for Hamline University and trumpet for the University Jazz Band, as well as continuing her work with vulnerable adults.

Maddie's teacher is Sarah Twedt.

2020 Festival President Cup Recipient



Joyce Zhu earned a superior rating in piano solo for 12 consecutive years and performed in NFMC concerto festivals. Joyce has won the annual MMTA State Piano competition 7 times and has won numerous scholarships in the MMTA Comprehensive Sight playing and Theory exams.

Joyce is a member of her school's Cross Country and Track teams, the National Honors Society, and president of ECM. She also regularly volunteers at Woodwinds Hospital and various nursing homes.

This fall she will be attending either the University of California at Berkeley or the University of MN to major in computer science. Joyce's teacher is Jackie Lo.

MFMC Logo Wear and Items now available on the MFMC Web Site!!

Organized by Cara Caravetta, the *Practice Notes* collection is a carefully curated product line. Logo wear, motivational quote magnets, and custom chocolate logos are all ideal for teacher/student gifts as well as club fundraisers.

A variety of items are available – please go to the SHOPPING PAGE button on the home page of MFMC web site and enjoy shopping!



NFMC Guidelines for Festivals in the Age of COVID

Nadine Berg, MFMC State Festival Chair has sent guidelines to Festival Site Managers provided by NFMC regarding Festivals and events for 2020-2021.

Nadine states, "After you have read this information, please contact me if you have any questions. Contrary to NFMC's statement that each STATE will determine how to conduct Festivals, Minnesota is leaving that up to each Festival LOCATION. We are all in very different situations and we feel it would be unfair to dictate the best way for you to hold your Festival. Deadlines will, of course, still need to be observed."

You can contact Nadine via the contact form on the home page of the MFMC web site.

American Music Month – Joseph Renville

“The National Federation of Music has declared the month of November as American Music Month. The Professor Rudolf R. A. Schramm Parade of American Music honors its founder, Ada Holding Miller, by encouraging NFMC clubs to increase programming and performance of American music: to bring more recognition to American composers; to stimulate public appreciation and awareness of American music; and to broaden the knowledge of American music. The Parade encompasses all aspects of music and was established in 1987 by the widow of Professor Rudolf R. A. Schramm.”

(from NFMC website, Competitions and Awards AM 1-1)

American Music Month will soon be here! In the spirit of recognizing American composers, I would like to showcase a composer from our own area, Joseph Renville. In fact, our own Renville County, Minnesota was named after him.

Joseph Renville (1779-1846) was born near the present St. Paul area. His father, Joseph Renville Sr., was a French fur trader and his mother, Miniyuhe, was a member of the Kaposia band of Dakota (Sioux). He lived with the Dakota until he was ten, at which time he moved with his father to the French Canadian Territory and was placed under the care of a Catholic priest in order to receive an education in Christianity and French. Joseph returned to Minnesota about six years later, after the death of his father.

Because Renville was fluent in both the Sioux and French languages, he was in high demand as an interpreter. He was an officer in the British army during the war of 1812. In 1822 he established the Columbia Fur Company, and after selling it to the American Fur Company of New York, he moved his family to Lac qui Parle (the Lake that Speaks) and established a trading post there. It was surrounded by a stockade, and became known as Fort Renville, where anyone passing through would receive a warm welcome.

In 1835, Renville met Rev. T.S. Williamson, who was looking for a place to begin a mission. Together, he and Renville founded the Lac Qui Parle Sioux Mission. The Gospel of Mark, along with some sections of the Old Testament were translated into the Dakota language by Renville from his own French Bible and dictated to Williamson, and then published in 1837.

The Hymnal Dakota dowanpi kin, published in 1842, was composed by Joseph Renville and sons and the Presbyterian Missionaries of The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions at the Lac qui Parle Mission. It was succeeded by Dakota Odowan, printed with music in 1879, and is still in use today. The most famous of Renville's Hymns is "Lac qui Parle", which is an authentic Dakota melody. It is currently found in many Hymn Books, known as "Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works", and is also a selection in our Federation Festivals Bulletin in Class I Piano Hymns.

As it seems that recitals and music programs may be scarce this year, I would encourage you to have your students research Joseph Renville, Jr. as a way of celebrating American Music Month this November. What I have shared is only a bit of his fascinating life's story, and him also being a composer makes it even more interesting!



**Many and great, O God, are thy things,
Maker of earth and sky.
Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;
thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at thy word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey thy voice.**

**Joseph Renville
(Paraphrased in English by Philip Frazer)**

MFMC Clubs are encouraged participate in the Professor R.A. Schramm Parade of American Music Annual Award. Reporting Period is November 1-November 30 with Awards of \$300 first place, \$125 second place and \$75 third place.

Details are available on the National Federation of Music Clubs web site – Parade of American Music – Form AM 1-1.

MFMC 2020 Festival Outcomes – Nadine Berg & Sarah Twedt

Festival Event	Juniors	Adults
Piano Solo	2667	7
Lynn Freeman Olson Piano Solo	16	
American Patriotic & Folk Song	19	
Piano Concerto	37	
Piano Duet	76	
Piano Trio	9	
Piano Hymn Playing	140	
Organ Repertoire	6	1
Vocal Solo Art Song	32	1
Vocal Solo Musical Theater	71	1
Violin Solo	173	1
Violin Concerto	18	
Violin Duet	4	
Viola Solo	15	
Viola Concerto	4	
Cello Solo	48	
Classical Guitar Solo	25	
Pick Style Guitar Solo	3	
Fiddling Solo	1	
Flute Solo	11	
Clarinet Solo	1	
Theory Exam	220	
Total Entries	3596	11
Total Events	22	5
Number of Teachers	321	9
Total # Superior Ratings	2742	8

MFMC processed 3,620 Cup Entrants and ordered 821 cups. This includes 17 Junior Composition Entries. Of these, 7 were Grand Cup winners and 1 received the President's Cup.

****There are many Updates and Corrections for the 2020-2024 Festival Bulletin. Please review this information! Go to <https://www.nfmc-music.org/2020-2024-federation-festivals-bulletin/> where at the bottom of the page you will find the link for UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS.**

North Central Region Vice President – Sarah Twedt



Our world, as we know it, pivoted quickly in March. Teachers, students, and parents alike geared up quickly to figure out how to continue learning, using technology.

The North Central Region “Junior Composers Summer Program” was no different and the pivot was impressive. JCSP quickly transformed itself into “Composers Online Institute” or (COI) once it was clear students were not going to be meeting in person. The dedicated team led by Dr. Seth Custer, Randall Davidson, and the board, devoted an amazing amount of time in quickly putting together the first ever virtual composers camp for 20 excited enrollees from all over the region.

I witnessed the fruits of their labor watching videos that had been uploaded to the private *COI YouTube Channel*. It was a pleasure to see the learning in action and relationships being developed remotely. While I was impressed, I realized quickly I had no idea what they were talking about! Jargon like “COI TRACKdrop”, “bouncing videos”, “DAW”, “google drives” being thrown around with ease between teachers and students. It was very humbling and quite entertaining to witness! It was apparent also, that I will need to embrace some of this technology, and study it to support our local festivals and other club events. Our world is changing!

Another project of the NCR is our International Music Camp located in North Dakota. In-person camp did not take place, but the learning continued. Dedicated instructors who were set to teach at the camp, provided opportunities for on-line lessons for students. These are just a few snapshots of the many pivots which were made in our region and all over our country and were successful because groups came together as a team to support each other. Some of these pivots have been reluctant ones. It is quickly becoming apparent that the future of our organization, NFMC, and of the many local clubs, states, and regions under its umbrella, will be dependent on these pivots. Our students, teachers, and communities depend on these pivots as the arts are vital, not only as economic engines for communities, but also for the important role they play in the education of an ever-increasingly diverse family of students.



These opportunities for study in the arts change lives. I am hoping to strengthen our team effort to support growth in our organization by focusing on our mission statement as an Arts Organization.

There are a lot of people hurting right now in our society, and our region's goal needs to be that we are motivated to look beyond our own needs, focus on the big picture (our mission), and be a force for good. We are a good team and our strength is in numbers. People in need in our communities are waiting for us.

MFMC State Meeting on July 22, 2020

The MFMC Spring State meeting was held on July 22, 2020 via Zoom, due to COVID -19, with 36 people in attendance comprising of Executive Committee, Chairpersons, Club Presidents and Festival Managers.

Full meeting minutes are posted on the MFMC web site – here are some highlights:

Festival Online System – Vivace – MFMC is not moving ahead with any club using the online system until it is completely ready, and our state discusses, at length, the best way to get our data into the system.

Member Support – solicited interest from attendees in pursuing the following webinars:

How to host Virtual Festival if necessary (dependent on club location AND situation at the time – it may be possible to hold live festivals)

How to apply for 501c (3) status.

MFMC will no longer serve as a fiscal agent for senior clubs or other entities, and those organizations are encouraged to apply for their own federal and state tax identification numbers, and obtain their own 501c(3) or EIN status through the IRS.

The following reports can be located with the minutes on the MFMC web site: Secretary, Treasure, Festival, Festival Cup, Insurance, North Central Region, Membership, Finance, Web Site, Half Notes Newsletter, Festival Online, International Music Camp, Awards and Scholarships, Junior Composers Contest and Scholarships, State Student Auditions, NFMC Biennial Student/Collegiate Auditions, Proposed 2020-2021 Budget, State President.

MFMC Award of Merit for activities accomplished by our Senior Clubs



All of the musical activities MFMC members participate in makes us important advocates for the arts. As stated by the NFMC Arts Advocacy Department:

"The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts bring us joy, help us express our values, and build bridges between cultures. The arts are also a fundamental component of a healthy community—strengthening them socially, educationally, and economically—benefits that persist even in difficult social and economic times."

Source: AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts, February 2019.

MFMC Officers and Chairs

*Thank you to everyone in leadership roles for their dedicated work for MFMC!
Members, please acknowledge their hard work that benefits you and your students!*

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



Nancy Fisher: President



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



Cara Caravetta: 2nd Vice President
Membership Chair



Mary Kaye Rabaey: Secretary



Gwen Degner: Treasurer



Karen Erickson: Historian
International Music Camp Scholarships



Mary Wescott: NFMC Board
Representative



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



Nadine Berg: Festival Chair,
Certificate Chair



Grace Kopitske: Festival Online
Registration Administrator



Liz Raihala: MFMC State
Student Auditions



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



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