

# Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

**HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER — FALL-WINTER 2021**

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

**COMPILED BY CHERYL SCHMIDT**

## Official Call

Spring State Meeting: April 23, 2022 – Virtual

60<sup>th</sup> State Convention/100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: July 21 & 22, 2022 – In Person

## President's Message – Nancy's Notes



**Nancy Fisher, MFMC State President**

The last weekend in May was rather momentous at our house. My youngest son graduated from Warroad High School on Friday evening, and then on Saturday evening, my second youngest son graduated with his Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. SFCM held a virtual commencement, which we attended from home with extended family sharing in the excitement.



I was greatly impacted as I listened to SFCM President David Stull's address. His speech was an encouragement and a validation for those of us who teach and promote music and the arts, and I want to share some of his insights with you.

President Stull said that musicians are uniquely well-prepared to handle the complexities of life because of the skills they have honed in musical training. Instead of underestimating our strengths and abilities, President Stull said musicians need to realize they actually possess Superpowers!

The first Superpower that musicians possess is Resilience. More than any other field of study, musicians know how to meet challenges and solve problems. They experience stress and pressure and have a focus and drive to master concepts yet are constantly willing to accept criticism to become better. Just that fact alone, the willingness to accept criticism and learn from it is a huge advantage. Related to that teach-ability, musicians have learned to not fear failure, but to use even failure as an opportunity to learn. Even from day one, young musicians are internalizing skills that will make them resilient for their entire lives.

Superpower number two is Teamwork, a skill that is honed when working with other musicians. In music, people from very different backgrounds work together to solve problems and model how to move forward together. Goals matter more than individual egos. Teamwork is a skill that musicians learn as they come together in any kind of ensemble, small or large to make something beautiful. This superpower is another tool that will set a musician up for success, no matter where life takes them.

And finally, the third superpower that President Stull identified is Creative Excellence. The creativity that musicians cultivate will naturally become part of any discipline they are working in. Musicians are in a constant state of pursuing perfection. They don't accept mediocrity and they recognize the difference between good and better. This fundamental commitment to excellence is yet another advantage that musicians possess.

I really appreciated these new insights I learned while attending my son's graduation from SFCM. We who teach and promote music and the arts in our communities really don't need to be convinced of the importance of our mission, but some occasional inspiration is always good. These new thoughts about the superpowers musicians hold have definitely motivated me as I make plans for the fall lessons, recitals, and Festival. I wish you a Happy Fall.

Nancy Fisher  
President, Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs



SAVE THE DATE! 60<sup>th</sup> State Convention – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*Please note the dates and keep looking for more information as more plans unfold.*

# Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **60<sup>th</sup> STATE CONVENTION**

### **Lakeville Holiday Inn**

20800 Kenrick Avenue, Lakeville MN 55044

**July 20-21, 2022**

## **National Guests ~ Special Music Guests ~ Special Events**

Luncheon honoring past MFMC Presidents  
Skits, History, Surprises

## NFMC Martha Marcks Mack Vocal Award Winner – Rachel Lanning



Rachel Lanning was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the National Federation of Music Clubs 2021 Martha Marcks Mack Junior Vocal Competition. Her voice teacher is Cheryl Schmidt.

Rachel participated in Minnesota All State Choir, received Best of Site Award at Solo Ensemble Contest, Willmar Area Community Orchestra Young Artist and MFMC Biennial Student Auditions winner. Also, she performed lead roles in the musicals Anastasia and Newsies.

Rachel is a recent Willmar High School graduate and is attending Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota pursuing a choral music education major and a theatre minor.

## Festival Online System – Vivace!

Festival clubs are welcome to start using the National Federation of Music Clubs online registration system, Vivace.

There is a specific application process with details noted in the Junior Keynotes magazine.

MFMC has our own Vivace administrator, Grace Kopitske. Please see her report on the MFMC web site in the July 2021 meeting minutes for details and contact her if you have any questions!

## 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!



**Malvika Gupta** received a Grand Cup in Piano Solo. Malvika has always enjoyed music. She began her piano study at the age of four with her first teacher Ann Horgan. In the third grade she continued her formal study with Grace Kopitske.

Malvika has also participated in numerous MMTA programs as a state contest finalist and passing comprehensive piano exams with distinction.

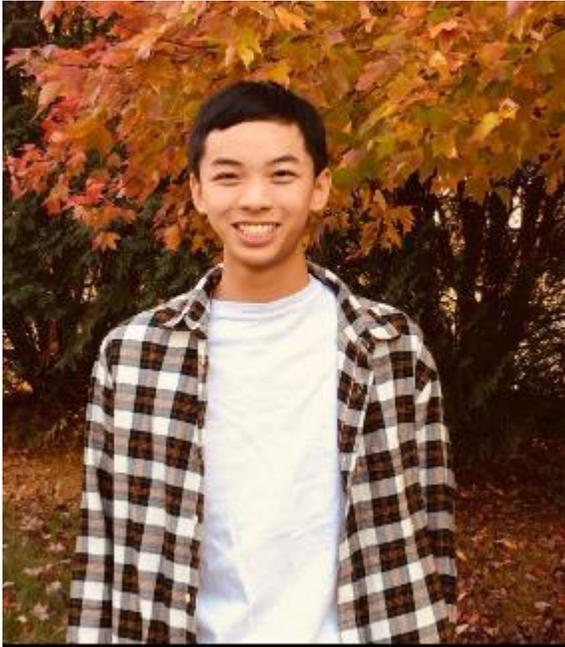
Outside of school, Malvika enjoys knitting and baking. This fall, she plans to go to the University of Minnesota, pursuing a chemical engineering major with a Spanish minor. Although not continuing formal study after high school, Malvika does plan to enjoy playing piano for the rest of her life.



**Zoe Johnson** has been playing piano for thirteen years. For the past ten years she has studied with Grace Kopitske. Zoe has also participated in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association's theory and comprehensive piano examinations, passing with high marks.

At East Ridge High School, Zoe has participated in various science and math clubs. The active Science Olympiad team has placed in the state competitions. Zoe also enjoys competing on the school's track team. With her elementary education at the Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy, she is also fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

As a graduating senior, Zoe is looking forward to studying civil engineering at Purdue University.



**Stephen Ma** received Presidents Cups in piano solo and violin solo. His teacher is Jackie Lo. He has participated in the NFMC festivals for 13 years and earned 9 consecutive piano solo superior ratings along with 3 consecutive piano concerto superior ratings. He also earned 13 consecutive violin solo superior ratings and 4 consecutive violin concerto superior ratings.

Stephen has participated in numerous MMTA programs and in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies.

He enjoys drawing in his free time, playing chess, and hanging out with his younger sister. He plans to major in Computer Science and Music at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



**Maleia Ryberg** received a Presidents cup in piano solo. She started playing piano at the age of four, accompanied at several area churches, choir concerts and contests, entertained at local healthcare centers and other community events.

Music awards she's received include the Outstanding Band Freshman and Sophomore Award, John Phillip Sousa Band Award, MMTA Bronze and Silver Pin, 8x MMTA Piano Contest finalist, Club 88 Pat Kadlecek Outstanding Musician Award, as well as 14 Piano Festival Consecutive superior ratings and 6 Piano Festival Gold Cups.

Maleia recently graduated from BOLD high school and Ridgewater College Post-Secondary with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

## 2021 Festival Cup Stats – Sarah Twedt, Festival Cup Chair

Site	Number of Cup Entrants	Cup s	1st Cup	2nd Cup	3rd Cup	4th Cup	5th Cup	6th Cup	Total Cups
ALEXANDRIA	202		28	14	1				43
APPLE VALLEY	453		59	27	6	2			94
BURNSVILLE	113		18	4	2				24
Burnsville (extra)			1	1					2
DULUTH	227		28	22	1				51
East Suburban	130		21	3	2	4	2	2	34
GRAND RAPIDS	42		11		3				14
HIBBING	70		13	3	1				17
MARSHALL I (2)	76		21	1	2				24
MARSHALL N/S	95		12	16	2				30
METRO I	33		4	1		1			6
METRO II	100		11	3	1				15
METRO IV	67		4	6	2				12
NORTH SUBURBAN	83		6	3	1				10
PEQUOT LAKES	152		29	8	5	1			43
REDWOOD FALLS	101		15	7	5	1			28
RENVILLE COUNTY	75		3	4	2			1	10
ROCHESTER	206		25	17	2				44
ST. CLOUD	265		35	24	7				66
ST. CLOUD			1						1
THIEF RIVER FALLS	161		24	4	6	3			37
Tracy	8			1					1
WARROAD	75		5	5	3	3			16
WEST SUBURBAN	43		9	2		1			12
WILLMAR I	54		8	4	3				15
WILLMAR III	18		3	2					5
WILLMAR EAST	51		8	1	1				10
WILLMAR NORTH	30		6						6
Jr. Composers	1								0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2931</b>		<b>408</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>670</b>

## Junior Composers Contest – Sharon Kaplan, Chair

The Junior Composers Contest announced the regional and national results.

Emma Lu: Regional Winner – teacher, Sarah Miller

Steven Elsinger: Regional Winner - teacher Sarah Miller

Tim Guillaume: Regional Winner, National 1<sup>st</sup> Place - teacher Randall Davidson

Aayush Raheja: Regional Winner, National Incentive Award – teacher Sarah Miller

The following students receiving MFMC scholarships to attend Junior Composers Institute Summer Camp were Steven Elsinger, Aayush Raheja, Clara Miller and Tim Guillaume. They share their experience!

## Junior Composer Summer Camp Scholarship Recipients



**Stephen Elsinger**

“From my first year, Junior Composers Institute has always been an amazing experience for me, and this year was no different. The programs were great, the teachers were helpful, and I was able to accomplish my goals and improve my skills. But more importantly than that, it was the people I was with who made this experience the highlight of my summer.

I was introduced to an extraordinary group of composers, some I'd already met, and some who were new. I made music with them, I laughed with them, I played with them. And at the end of camp this year, I didn't hear a single person say that they didn't want to come back.

That's the real joy with music programs like JCI. They bring in such amazing people, and that's what truly creates that wonderful experience! I plan on re-attending JCI next year, and for many years to come.”



Clara Miller

“JCI Composers Camp in 2021 was an amazing experience that I'll remember for a long time. I was very glad to be a part of camp this year, and considering it was my first year participating, I was blown away by how welcoming everyone was.

I got to listen to other's compositions performed live, take classes with really engaging teachers, and create a piece that was brought to life on the last day.

But by far the most enjoyable part of camp was being with amazing people. I made so many new friends there, friends I will continue to keep in touch with long after the camp. I am so happy to have been able to share this unforgettable experience with them.”



Aayush Raheja

“Hello, I'm Aayush, I am an incoming freshman at Lawrence University, and this was my first year attending JCI. I am relatively new to composition; I have only been writing music for a little under 2 years now, however I have been arranging for about 4 and half years. JCI was an amazing experience as no matter a person's musical background or skill, everybody, including myself, was able to make impactful and lasting connections. It was also amazing to be surrounded by a community of fellow composers, artists, and storytellers who were all dedicated to a craft. I have not been part of a community like JCI ever before and for the experience I am truly grateful. “



Tim Guillaume

“It was... incredible. I loved being with all these composers (and now my friends) and talking about music with them, as well as a whole bunch of other very fun things.

The teachers were amazing, as well as the other adults there. And the people that worked at UW River Falls were so nice.

There was so much fun there and I absolutely loved it. I can't wait for next year.”

## International Music Camp Scholarship Recipient – Kedrah Brooks

Kedrah Brooks received the International Music Camp Scholarship and participated in the online University Prep course offered.

The University Prep course is for advanced high school student musicians who are interested in the possibility of studying music at the university level.

Kedrah shares her experience: “I had a great experience with the IMC. I took one week of the online University Prep course, and I learned so much! I really enjoyed diving deep into music theory, ear training and history. Sometimes, it wasn't always fun to sit at the computer for so long, but I still had fun and got to meet people my age from all over the world. The instructor made the lessons engaging and gave us great advice on pursuing music as a career. Even though it's meant for students who are seriously considering music for college, I think any musician would enjoy and benefit from it.”

## MFMC Club Reports – Submitted for State Meeting on July 22, 2021

**Apple Valley Music Teachers Association** This year was a bit different for every music club. We did our best to help all of our members get through all the challenges with virtual teaching and the music festivals. Our club did 3 major festivals. We did a few in person festivals and quite a few virtual ones. Everyone felt safe and all the students did an amazing job. We had members that helped put together all the virtual guidelines. We had 37 teachers that participated and 453 students. I want to personally thank Sarah and Mark Tweedt for all the work they did on the virtual festivals. Many members volunteered their time to make sure everything worked. We are a diverse group with piano, voice, strings, theory, and instrumental teachers. One of our members, Shirley Erickson, has agreed to be the North Central Region Junior Composition Chair. Thank you, Shirley for all your hard work. Every year we help music link students with lessons and festival fees. We also give a few scholarships, when needed. I hope 2021-2022 will be a year we can go forward with our normal schedule, nursing home recitals, student recitals and sharing our music with various groups and also getting together with our members for meetings. This is my last year of the presidency of AVMTA. I will be helping the group wherever I am needed. I appreciate this group of musicians. They are amazing people and I have many friendships I have developed over the years. I hope that AVMTA can continue to grow with new members. Musically, Barbara Ross

**Burnsville Music Teachers Association** Our group had 6 virtual meetings through the year until May where we met outdoors for a luncheon. It was so lovely to see everyone!! We met on Zoom and in September and October meetings we had members perform some pieces from the new Bulletin. How fun to hear the new repertoire and see everyone's studio! We had 106 students participate virtually in our Festival this March. We had students upload videos to Youtube and then sent the links to the judges embedded in a critique for ease. It went really well!! We are planning to be back in person for all programming the coming year! Respectfully Submitted Camille Buddecke, NCTM President, BAMTA.

The **Central Lakes Music Club of Alexandria** had a full year of activities in spite of the Coronavirus pandemic. We found creative ways to keep many of our usual meetings and the Festival going through Zoom and some careful in-person events. We have three meetings each year as listed below. The October meeting was held by Zoom and membership and pre-registration checks and forms were mailed or delivered. January found a safe place at Carlson Music Center in Alexandria to meet to review the Festival Registrations. Some members also joined this meeting by Zoom. Our June Annual Meeting was held outside at the Legacy of the Lakes Museum Gardens in Alexandria which was a lovely place to meet on a beautiful June day. October: to collect membership dues and Festival Pre-registrations January: a working meeting to review Festival Registrations June: Annual Meeting to elect officers and review Festival and Scholarships One of our main activities is preparing the NFMC Festival for many students. We held the Festival in February

at Shalom Lutheran Church in Alexandria over four days with 205 events for 169 preregistered students. Our numbers were down a bit this year since we had to be creative to allow the judge to hear just one student at a time. Theory students took their exams in their teacher's studio to be corrected on Festival days. There were forty-three gold cups earned, but we could not hold a Recital for those who earned a Superior rating this year. We also give two scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are taking lessons from our members. We have a Certificate of Deposit with a local bank from the sale of a Steinway grand piano a few years ago and the interest funds this scholarship fund along with a small membership fee from students. Our officers are Marlene Larson and Jill Fugleberg, Co-Presidents, and Karen Erickson, Secretary/Treasurer. We had thirteen active members who give lessons in piano, voice, strings, flute, and guitar plus encouraging their students to take the theory tests. Their students participate in the annual Festival held in February each year and are eligible for the scholarship when they graduate from high school. We look forward to another exciting year of making a difference for our students through music studies! -Karen Sue Erickson, CLMC Secretary

#### **Chain of Lakes Music Club** – No Report Submitted

We call our club, Metro IV, "**The Chinrest and Endpin Society**". Our Junior Club is called "The Fine Tuners". All of our members are string teachers. This year we had 6 members in our Adult Club: Elizabeth Ericksen, Faith Farr, David Holmes, Cindy Marvin, Karin Valdizan and Nina Westbrook. We had 67 students participate in Junior Festivals this year – 23 Violin Solo, 3 Viola Solo, 39 Cello Solo, 2 Violin/Viola Duets. We had 5 virtual festivals this year. Two of the festivals were "live" on Zoom – the student played live at their home and the judge watched the performance as it happened. The other festivals were "YouTube" Zoom. The students uploaded recordings that the judge watched at a later time. Accompanists were optional this year. One of our judges was from Sun City, AZ – having an out-of-state judge was one of the advantages of holding Zoom auditions. Liz Ericksen President - Metro IV

The **Duluth Music Teachers Association** has a membership of 26 teachers that mostly teach piano, but some also teach voice, band instruments, organ, accordion, and theory/composition. The 2020-21 teaching year turned into quite the challenge due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. We met via Zoom with good participation, providing help and encouragement to each other as we navigated teaching virtually. We decided that we wanted to have the Federation Festival, even though we were unable to do so in person. Special thanks to Kevin Raihala who provided the platform/training/instructions for uploading our numerous student videos to Google Drive, which our judges accessed in order to write their critiques. We provided two training Zoom sessions and for the most part things went very smoothly! Our numbers were down a bit, but we still had over 200 students participating. Our students were so happy not to have another event canceled this year and it was so nice to have a goal to practice/prepare for. We plan on having an in person outdoor meeting this summer where we will vote on officers and talk about the



upcoming year. DMTA is a very nurturing, encouraging organization to be part of and our meeting topics are ones that are of interest and pertain to the private teaching profession. Respectfully submitted, Liz Raihala DMTA President

The **East Suburban Federation Music Club** was formed in 1999. This year we had 13 teachers in our Club. Our Club meets two times a year - May and October. The October 2020 and May 2021 meetings were zoom meetings. We did meet again in October and in November (zoom) to discuss options for the String Festival and the Piano Festival. In the end we felt it was best to have virtual festivals for East Suburban. In 2019 we began a String Festival separate from the piano events. The String Festival is held in January and the Piano Festival in February. This year students submitted their recordings to our computer person (Grace Kopitske) and she then forwarded them to the judges, who were able to judge from their home. Our Festival Honors Recital was first held in 2013. It is an annual recital held on a Sunday afternoon one or two weeks after the Piano Festival, depending on the availability of the venue. It is free of charge for the students and families. Since 2016 the Honors Recital has been held at the Church of St. Pascal Baylon in St. Paul. We developed the idea as a reward for students who earned two consecutive Superior ratings and to share their love of music in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Due to the pandemic our Festival Honors Recital 2021 was canceled. East Suburban would like to give special recognition to the following students and their teachers: Recipients of the Grand Cup: Malvika Gupta (piano solo) - Grace Kopitske Zoe Johnson (piano solo) - Grace Kopitske Recipients of the President's Cup: Stephen Ma (piano solo) - Jackie Lo Stephen Ma (violin solo) - Jackie Lo. Respectfully submitted, Kathy Schleusner President East Suburban Federation Music Club

Flexibility and determination were the themes of the **Encore Music Club** throughout this past year. We had to be flexible and adjust and re-adjust our teaching schedules between remote and in-person and back again more than once. We determined to persevere in order to give our students stability and help them continue their musical pursuits, not just to become better musicians, but to feed their souls and build them up, in ways that only music can. We planned an earlier Festival, for January rather than our usual March Festival, so that our students would have a goal and a focus from the start of the school year. We held our main Festival, live and in person at the end of January and had our concerto Festival in early March. Though we could not host concerts and master classes this year, we ended the school year with a flurry of musical activities. In April, our vocal students performed a worship recital, accompanied by a live praise band. In May, we were able to showcase our seniors with their own recital and the rest of our students performed in the "Name That Song" recitals, in two categories where the audience had to guess either which movie the song came from, or which famous composer wrote the piece that was played. One brand new event that happened this year in Warroad was a Piano Battle Fundraiser. On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, senior students Emmett Marvin and Karissa Dignan squared off in the Warroad High School Cafe. The two piano duel found

Karissa and Emmett taking turns playing successively harder piano pieces. They played familiar pieces from TV shows, movies, and popular artists like Neil Diamond, Queen, Elton John, and Billy Joel. They also impressed the audience with a Joplin Rag, Bach, and a Chopin waltz. They even willingly played additional pieces for an encore. Karissa and Emmett are truly amazing in their talents and ability to captivate and entertain an audience. They prepared for the program and did the promotion for the concert. Emmett and Karissa chose the Warroad Area Community Fund as the beneficiary of the almost \$500 in donations received at the Piano Battle event. This Piano Battle was part of the final project for a piano class taught by two of our Encore Club members at the Warroad High School for credit during the past two years. Our high school recently added many new class options to their curriculum and even allowed students to request particular classes. I would encourage you to check with your local schools and see if teaching piano or other performing arts for credit might be possible in your area. Nancy Fisher, President, Encore Music Club

**Great River Music Club** had members attending both state meetings. We had one new club member. We had our festival online this year. Our online festival was completed with a lot of help from various members. We created our own online registration via Google Forms. All students recorded their own performances of their pieces and submitted them. The judges were sent spreadsheets of the students along with YouTube links so they could watch and hear the performances. Students held their music up to the camera before their performances so that judges could screenshot the music for evaluation, and also to show that it was copyrighted appropriately. Judges were mailed evaluation forms which they filled out and mailed back to us so we could redistribute them to students. It worked quite smoothly once we created the method! Thanks so much for everything. Looking forward to Vivace! Angela, President of Great River Music Club St Cloud, Minnesota

Like everyone else, **Hibbing Musicale** was essentially inactive the past year due to Covid-19. We did, however hold a virtual Festival early in the year. All of our teachers got on board and things went very smoothly. We registered students a little earlier than usual, then gave them a 2-week window in which to record their Festival pieces (non-stop – no editing). Our most tech-savvy teacher set up an email account just for our club, and a private YouTube account just for our festival. Teachers uploaded their students' videos through Dropbox to the email, where they were uploaded to YouTube. Our judges were sent copies of the scores for each student and given a couple weeks to complete their judging by viewing the YouTube videos. We were very happy with the results. Some students preferred this method of performing, while others are anxious to return to in-person performance, which we are planning for this coming year. We are in the early stages of on-boarding to the NFMC Vivace Online Festival System. Next year we can report on how that all goes! Diana Giombetti, Hibbing Musicale President

The **Itasca Music Club** members had a successful 2020 – 21 in spite of COVID19. All of our members were able to teach lessons remotely by Zoom or Face Time when cases were high in our district. Most of us returned to in person lessons once COVID cases in our County decreased. No one held a Spring Recital in 2020 but all of us were able to hold an in person recital in 2021 with masks required and families social distancing. IMC was lucky enough to hold an in person MFMC festival in February. Our judge was willing to 'mask up' and judge in person and we were so thankful. Parents dropped their child off at the door of the church so there were very few people in the venue. We usually hold a recital featuring all the Superior students but cancelled that event this year due to COVID. Many decisions for the club were made through email this past year and we are looking forward to an actual in person gathering in August to plan 2022 Festival and just have a good visit. Currently our membership includes: Dan Aalto, Anne Dimich, Eileen Grosland, Glenda Kacon, Pedro Oveido, Cathy Shields. We are a small club and continue to reach out to new teachers in our area. Our teachers provide lessons in piano, strings, and composition. I feel so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of teachers to work with. We all get along well and often exchange ideas and offer guidance to each other in our teaching endeavors. Cathy Shields, Itasca Music Club President

**Keyboard Southwest.** 101 students in 2 classes participated in Festival. 3 members attended convention meetings. 10 members in Keyboard Southwest. Carol Mattison

**Lake Area Bridgetones.** We did manage to have our 2021 Festival. Since the school did not allow us to hold it there, we had it at 2 churches, allowing a minimal number to come in at a time. We had a total of 152 students between the 2 churches, 3 judges at each site and teachers assisting at each. Hand sanitizer and masks were used and each student was allotted 10 minutes. We had a total of 147 Superiors, 4 Excellents and 1 Satisfactory rating. Gold Cups and certificates were awarded at each of the 10 teachers' recitals. Some served wrapped treats afterwards, others did forgo the refreshments due to Covid. All in all, we feel we had a very successful Festival season and may conduct it much the same in the future. We feel the Festival is such a significant tool for expanding our musical abilities and education. We appreciate the opportunity to hold this event. Sincerely, Renee Anderson, Chairman of the Pequot Lakes area

**Music Southwest.** No Report Submitted.

**North Suburban Music Club** held our annual Piano Festival on Feb. 27, 2021, in person, at Oak Haven Church. There were a half dozen virtual students – their video performances were submitted to our judges ahead of the Festival. I'm grateful that we were able to safely have an in-person Festival with careful planning, social distancing, and masks. We also had an in-person honors recital in the late afternoon for students who received superior ratings. It was well-attended. Several students who may not have participated in



the festival did so because it was a unique opportunity to perform in person. Respectfully,  
Deanna Andersen

**Renville County, Club 88:** As with all the MFMC clubs in Minnesota, and nation-wide, this past year was a bit of a turn from the norm. I have often said that Club 88 runs like clockwork, with all members well-qualified to hold a smooth-running Festival, as well as the other annual events our club holds. This year, as you know, there was a “virus” in the clockwork! As teachers, we first needed to tackle how to continue holding lessons. Some continued in-person, using PPE and disinfecting well between students. Others moved to virtual lessons, and some used a mix of both. We had quite a few virtual meetings via Zoom to discuss the ever- evolving changes, as we were not able to plan Festival in our usual well-rehearsed way. The teachers in Club 88 rose to the challenge and I applaud them for coming together and as usual, having a well-organized and smooth- running Festival, despite the glitch. We held a hybrid Festival with 75 events (down from 91 last year) including piano and strings, 30 of them by video. After in person judging, we had the judges stay for the video judging. Eight teachers participated and we had three judges. It all went quite smoothly with only a few easy to correct mishaps! We provided our judges with plexiglass desk shields, and they could also wear a mask if they chose. Students and all others were required to wear masks at all times. We disinfected the pianos and benches between students’ performances. Several days prior to Festival we had put all judges’ copies of printed music into large plastic baggies coded with teacher and student numbers. The judges were then able to remove them from the bags, knowing they were not contaminated. Restrooms and doorknobs were cleaned at regular intervals. This year we had 3 First Gold Cups, 4 Second Gold Cups, 2 Third Gold Cups and Maleia Ryberg, student of Katie Rudeen, received her Presidential Cup. Our other annual events, the Chamber Event in the fall and the Honors Concert and Awards Program in the Spring were cancelled. Although it was a challenging year for us all, I am so glad we were still able to hold Festival. Many thanks to our creative and flexible teachers! Rebecca Heerd, President Club 88 SE MN Federation of Music

Greetings from Rochester and the **Southeast MN Federation of Music Clubs!** (SE MN FMC). We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. Our club has had a good year, despite the many challenges we experienced with Covid. We did our Fall and Spring meetings via Zoom, which worked out surprisingly well, especially for out of town teachers. In addition, I am pleased to say that we did our first (and hopefully only!) virtual Festival back in February. We used the HEART OUT app for our virtual Festival. This service is an online recording platform that is designed to provide organizations with a solution to both see and hear an applicant’s “live” performance digitally. Through meetings with the organization, it proved to be a wonderful alternative for our students, and it was an easy process to complete. The company was very helpful and it was a less expensive option than the traditional Festival. Our judges were amazing in trying to adjudicate through these uncharted waters! Although our numbers were down from last year, we still had

204 participants. Our club is extremely grateful to our Festival chair, Julie Gutzmer, for her tireless energy and organization in getting this off the ground for us. These were challenging times for our group, but I commend our teachers for their flexibility and perseverance in making this a positive experience for our families. Financially, our club remains strong, especially with the savings we had with doing a virtual Festival. I am also pleased to report that our club received a \$3,000 grant from the SE MN Arts Council. Julie Gutzmer has spearheaded this grant process for the past six years and through all her efforts, we have received the maximum grant each year. Going forward, we are hopeful that we will resume in-person meetings as we kick off our year with our first Fall meeting on September 16th. Plans are underway for our in-person Festival on February 12th, 2022. We are relocating our Festival to Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester. We are excited for the new change in venue. Our membership stands at 20 members, and we're hopeful to be adding a few new teachers this fall. We were sad to see Zoe Abrahamson, past president, move within the past year to Des Moines, Iowa, to be near family. Our slate of officers are as follows: President- Amy Heetland, Vice-President and Festival Chair- Julie Gutzmer, Treasurer- Cindy Breederland Secretary- Vona Murrell. We wish everyone a successful year ahead! Respectfully submitted, Amy Heetland

**Successful Music Makers.** We had an AMAZING year despite the challenges of the pandemic! A new teacher joined our site, we were able to do our meetings both on zoom and in person, we awarded a senior scholarship, and we welcomed a future piano student with baby gifts that were music related and practical (bibs and diapers). We met on January 4 th on Zoom to discuss our plan of getting students judged in person for the Festival on February 2 nd . When Festival day came, parents and students took the day in stride and we had a successful Festival! Our teachers were strategically placed at the site and armed with disinfectant. The student numbers were lower than usual due to students being in quarantine and having COVID-19, but we are hoping to get those numbers right back up for next year. SMM awarded a monetary scholarship to Rachel Przybilla, a high school senior who gave a 70 minute recital on May 16 th at Tracy Lutheran church. Rachel was also awarded the Ruth Stenson Award this year through MusicLink. Rachel is the student of Anna Jeanne Flesner. Congratulations to Rachel and teacher! We are in the process of being part of the National Federation of Music Clubs registry! This will be an item on our agenda for our September 2 nd meeting. Respectfully submitted, Christie Gergen, SMM President Thief River Falls Music

**Thief River Falls Music Club.** Our Festival took place on March 5-6, 2021. Six teachers entered students with a total of 161 entries. (Piano Solo – 66, Concerto – 1, Piano Hymn – 51, Piano Duet – 2, APFS – 5, Vocal Solo AS – 6, and Theory – 30) Gold Cups were awarded to 37 students (1st Cup – 24, 2nd Cup – 4, 3rd Cup – 6, and 4th Cup – 3) Numbers were down this year which was to be expected with the pandemic. However, we did do an inperson Festival following the CDC guidelines and it went very well. Thanks to the students, parents, teachers, and judges for making this happen. I think it was so great for

these kids to have their music especially when so many other activities were put on hold. We are looking forward to next year and hoping our numbers will be back up again! A big shout out and thank you to all working at the state level!! You are so appreciated for your hard work in helping to get through a difficult but rewarding Festival season! Kristi LaSalle, Pres. Thief River Falls Music Club

**Tuesday Music Club** really felt the limitations of Covid -- as our club, which normally meets monthly did not have any in person meetings. We did however share information on American music, Mn composers, Women Composers, Opera and Folk Music. Many of our long time members have a passion for music history. Some of our members participated in Church Music -- virtually as well as in person. We very much missed our time together -- that always includes prepared programs, singing from the Festival bulletin, and sharing all things music with the group. Our members are aging, and we are finding our group to be getting smaller -- but we are mighty in what we do. Our Festival was done completely virtual -- via submitted videos -- and we had a successful event. A teenage son of one of our members, took on the role of tech support for the group -- and helped with trouble shooting with all things digital. This proved to be very valuable to the success of the event. We look forward to a more normal year ahead. Sue Quist, Tuesday Music Club Treasurer/Festival Chair

**West Central Music Teachers Club.** Boom! Boom! ain't it great to be --crazy. Boom! Boom! Ain't it great to be nuts (dad-dle-de a-da) Foolish and silly all day long. Boom! Boom! Ain't it great to be crazy! This is just one of the songs that kept me going during the pandemic along with my devotions and songs that I sing every day. Being a little goofy helped survive the craziness of Covid. West Central Music Teachers Club did not have an in-person meeting the entire year. However, there were a lot of telephone calls. And, the best part was—we all had our festivals. Each group did theirs a little differently, but all went well. Praise the Lord! We are now eagerly looking forward to some semblance of normality for the next school year and a return to in-person lessons. We will be having a meeting in August to prepare for next year and choose officers for 2021-2022, plus any other organizing that needs to be done. Sharon Willen, President of WCMTC

The **West Suburban Musicians** held a Virtual Festival on February 27, 2021. Forty-six (46) students participated. Because three teachers did not submit students our usual number of students were less than half of our yearly number. One of our teachers set up the virtual program and we were very happy with the results. We are glad that our students had this opportunity under the pandemic rules. They all stepped up to the plate and performed admirably!!! Sandee Stenzel, President

## MFMC Membership & Logo Wear – Cara Caravetta

It has been quite a year since we had our first Zoom meeting last April. We've become acclimated to a new version of normal that just 12 months ago might have been surprising. Last spring there was speculation that membership numbers would decrease through the new year, and these estimates have been justified.

As our Treasurer reported in our Spring Half Notes Newsletter, MFMC's current membership numbers are lower than they were last year. When I originally looked at the included numbers, it took me a while to remember that the number of active participants is higher than those who left - and I am so grateful for each one. I am hopeful that, like the rest of life's ebb and flow, once the pandemic begins to ebb out the flow of new and returning members will increase.

Current senior members = 334 (375 last year)  
Current junior members = 3056 (3706 last year)

In the past eight months, Cheryl has passed along three inquiries about membership that have come through the website. It has been encouraging to see the website generate interest and create the opportunity for connections - so thank you to the team who created the updated website as well as those who maintain and monitor it!

COMING SOON: Details will be posted on the MFMC web site outlining details regarding the purchase of MFMC logo wear including fundraising options.

## MFMC July 22, 2021 Summer State Meeting

MFMC held its summer state meeting on July 22, 2021. The meeting minutes have been posted on the MFMC web site which includes the officer and chair reports.

These reports include, web site, newsletter, logo wear, membership, Festival cup, Festivals, Festival Vivace, national board representative, grants-scholarships-awards, student auditions, NFMC collegiate student auditions, Parade of American Music, North Central Region and presidents report.

Please go to the MFMC web site at [www.mfmc.net](http://www.mfmc.net) – Events – MFMC State meeting minutes.



## MFMC Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Based on unanimous approval from the MFMC Executive Committee, the MFMC Revision Committee is recommending the following changes to the MFMC Constitution and Bylaws. This notice fulfills the advance notice requirement to the entire membership and voting on the revisions will occur at the state meeting on April 23, 2022.

### ARTICLE III

#### OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS

The officers that comprise the executive committee of this organization shall be a president, ~~two vice-presidents~~, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a historian.

These officers shall be chosen by the vote of active membership assembled at the biennial convention. No member may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms of two years, except the treasurer and secretary.

### Article II

#### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

In the absence of the president, ~~the vice-presidents shall, in their order,~~ the vice-president shall perform all duties of the office.

The ~~first~~ vice-president shall be the insurance coordinator. ~~and the second vice-president shall be the membership coordinator.~~

#### Explanations:

Discontinuation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President position: The MFMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is a very difficult position to fill. Especially when asking someone to agree that in eight years they will fill the position of state president. It is adequate for the Vice President to have 4 years in that position to prepare to be state president. It is not currently typical for boards of organizations to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position.

No term limitations for the MFMC secretary: The current bylaws state two terms max for the MFMC secretary and MFMC, many times in past years, has not complied. Therefore, the MFMC secretary will not have term limitations - same as the MFMC treasurer. It is currently typical for boards of organizations to not impose terms limits on the positions of secretary and treasurer.

## 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](http://WWW.MFMC.NET)



Nancy Fisher • President



Sarah Twedt • 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Insurance, Festival Cup Chair



Mary Kaye Rabaey • Secretary



Gwen Degner • Treasurer



Karen Erickson • Historian  
International Music Camp Scholarships



Julie Gutzmer • Membership Chair



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



Cara Caravetta  
Product Line/Logo Wear

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



Peggy Karsten  
Parliamentarian/Advisor