

# MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

## Spring All-State Meeting



July 22, 2021

*(Unofficial Minutes)*

### Welcome/Call to Order:

President Nancy Fisher welcomed all ZOOM attendees at 10:00 A.M. and then turned the mic to Sarah Twedt, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and meeting host, who provided a brief overview of ZOOM meeting etiquette. Prior to the meeting, each should have received:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Officer and Chair Reports - July 22 State Meeting](#) (MFMC July 22 Meeting packet)
- [MFMC Club Reports July 22 State Meeting](#)

### Members Present:

**Apple Valley MTA** – Shirley Erickson, Sarah Twedt; **Burnsville MC** – Camille Buddecke; **Central Lakes MC** – Karen Erickson; **Chain of Lakes MC** – Fern Davidson; **Chin Rest and End Pin Society** – Faith Farr; **Club 88** – Rebecca Heerd; **Duluth MTA** – Vicki Ott, Liz Raihala, Nick Susi; **East Suburban MC** – Grace Kopitske, Kathy Schleusner; **Encore MC** – Cara Caravetta, Nancy Fisher; **Great River MC** – Angela Ringsmuth; **Hibbing Musicale** – Nadine Berg, Diana Giombetti; **Itasca MC** – Cathy Shields; **Keyboard Southwest** – Caroly Laufenburger, Carol Mattison; **Lake Area Bridgetones** – Renee Anderson; **Music Southwest** – Shannon Benson, Mary Kaye Rabaey; **North Suburban MC** – Deanna Anderson; **Southeast MN Federation** – Julie Gutzmer, Amy Heetland; **South Suburban MC** – Mary Wescott; **Successful Music Making** – Gwen Degner, Anna Jeanne Flesner, Christie Gergen; **Thief River Falls MC** – Kristi LaSalle; **West Central MTC** – Su Michaelson, Cheryl Schmidt, Christine Schneider; **NFMC Festival Chair** – Lori Jessen

Everyone recited the *Federation Collect*.

### Greetings from National Guest – Lori Jessen, NFMC Festival Chair:

Nancy introduced special guest, Lori Jessen, NFMC Board Member At-Large and National Festivals Chair. Lori challenged MFMC by citing three goals she wants to achieve during her tenure: 1) Make Festivals more of a collaborative effort; 2) Increase Festival entries; 3) Consider a state-wide competitive Festival event. “Be bold and daring in your vision!”

**Secretary's Report:**

Mary Kaye Rabaey, secretary, asked everyone to read/review the minutes of the April 24, 2021 Spring All-State Meeting (**pp. 1-5 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**). Cheryl Schmidt made a motion to approve; Kristi LaSalle seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Gwen Degner presented a summary of all transactions 7/1/20 – 6/30/21 (**pp. 6-9 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**), noting that the date on page 6 should read *June 30* instead of *April 21*. Because she will be moving sometime in mid-late September but does not yet have a new address, she made a plea for the current addresses of all club treasurers to contact when this transition does occur – especially since November marks the annual dues deadline. Gwen also requested that membership rosters be sent using WORD rather than PDF format so that she can cut and paste rather than re-type. Detailed report available upon request.

**Festival Report:**

Nadine Berg, Chair, directed members to her 2021 Festival Summary ([MFMC Festival Report](#)); little has changed since April. Her club, *Hibbing Musicale*, started using the new *VIVACE* Festivals Management program and Nadine spoke favorably of the data entry process.

Will the option of holding virtual festivals continue in 2022? Lori Jessen responded – more than likely, yes!

**Gold Cup, Insurance, North Central Region:**

Please refer to Sarah Twedt's reports (**pp. 9-13 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**). A few corrections were made since the April Gold Cup report. The insurance program for next season has yet to be determined; Sarah will inform MFMC members of updates through e-mails and via the website.

**Membership:**

Cara Caravetta, Chair. Membership numbers this past year took a hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past eight months, however, three inquiries about membership that have come through the website; it encouraging to see the website generate interest. Including the option of virtual festivals may also stimulate renewed growth and participation.

**MFMC Product Line:**

Cara Caravetta, Chair, noted that vendor product line information is now included on our website. She is looking for new product line items and fresh slogans; please e-mail her with ideas. Be sure to check out [www.warroadthreads.com](http://www.warroadthreads.com).

**Finance, Web Site, Half Notes Newsletter:**

Please refer to Cheryl Schmidt's reports (**pp. 14-15 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**). Cheryl asked that everyone periodically check out the website and e-mail her if there are items you feel should be included; she continues to update as requests are submitted. Information (ideas, articles, photos, etc) for the **Fall-Winter Half Notes Newsletter** may be sent any time now; she will begin the compilation process in late August.

### **Festival Online Report:**

Please refer to Grace Kopitske's report (**pp. 15-17 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**) for a thorough explanation of the NFMC VIVACE Festivals Management program. A ZOOM meeting is scheduled Friday, August 6 (10:00 AM) for interested MFMC members; Grace will provide an overview in greater detail and answer questions regarding the manual entry process.

### **International Music Camp:**

Please refer to Karen Erickson's report (**p. 18 MFMC April 24 Meeting packet**).

### **Historian's Report:**

Karen Erickson, Chair. MFMC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (60<sup>th</sup> State Convention) Celebration will be held **July 20-21, 2022** at the **Lakeville Holiday Inn**

20800 Kenrick Avenue  
Lakeville, MN 55044

Mary Wescott, co-chair of the Convention Planning Committee, shared these thoughts:

- ♪ we are looking for assistance with organizing ... especially from those who live in the area
- ♪ submit ideas for activities ...
- ♪ open with a first day luncheon
- ♪ organize a student recital featuring piano – voice – strings (at least one representative from each club?)
- ♪ also include a teacher recital?

### **Awards & Scholarships:**

Rebecca Heerdt, Chair, remarked that only two requests for MFMC Tuition Assistance Grants (may award a maximum of six at \$500.00 each) were received and that four more are available. There are also several scholarship opportunities posted on the national website.

### **Junior Composers Contest & Scholarships**

Please refer to Sharon Kaplan's report (**pp. 19-21 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**).

### **State Student Auditions:**

Please refer to Liz Raihala's report (**p. 21 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**).

### **NFMC Biennial Student/Collegiate Audition Awards:**

Please refer to Nick Susi's report (**p. 21 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**).

## **NFMC Board Representative Report**

Please refer to Mary Wescott's report (**p. 22 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**).

### **Musical Interlude:**

Attendees listened to a small section of "*Selcouths*" – a piece written and performed by Tim Guillaume, composition student of Randall Davidson and 1<sup>st</sup> place Junior Composers winner (national level).

### **New Business:**

1. *Budget for 2021-2022* – Cheryl Schmidt and Gwen Degner outlined the proposed budget (**p. 3 Meeting Agenda**). A motion to approve was made by Mary Wescott; Deanna Anderson seconded. Motion carried. Detailed report available upon request.

2. *Festival/Vivace meeting* – A ZOOM presentation on how to start the new registration process will be hosted by Grace Kopitske and facilitated by Nadine Berg Friday, August 6 at 10:00 AM. Please RSVP to attend.

3. *Recognition of Grand Cup winners, President's Cup winners and National winners* – President Nancy congratulated both students and their teachers, noting that complete details can be found in the **Spring-Summer 2021 Half Notes Newsletter**.

4. *Membership Chair* – Julie Gutzmer has agreed to assume this position; thank you to Cara Caravetta who served for the past two years.

5. *Parade of American Music and National Music Week* – Rebecca Heerdt, Chair, stated that details for both events can be found on the national website.

6. *Election of MFMC Officers* – Cheryl Schmidt made a motion to accept the slate of officers for the next two years ...

President: *Nancy Fisher*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: *Sarah Twedt*

Secretary: *Mary Kaye Rabaey*

Treasurer: *Gwen Degner*

Historian: *Karen Sue Erickson*

National Board Representative: *Mary Wescott* (appointed position)

Christy LaSalle seconded. Motion carried.

7. *Next Meetings:*

Spring Meeting (ZOOM) – April 23, 2022

Biennial Convention and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – July 21-22, 2022

President Nancy Fisher briefly referenced her President's Report (**p. 22 MFMC July 22 Meeting packet**) and extended a special "Thanks" to those clubs who submitted their ME 7.1 forms in a timely manner. Cara Caravetta then drew the names of three individuals who were the lucky recipients of MFMC Logowear door prizes. A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Wescott; Deanna Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary  
Reports:

National Federation of Music Clubs meeting June 14, 2021

President Frances Nelson called the meeting to order. The meeting started at 10AM with all the State Presidents and then the rest of the State Representatives were let in.

The discussion included appointments by the President. There were no big changes until Sarah Twedt nominated Lori Jessen to be the National Junior Festival Chair. Lisa Smith was not reelected as the Chair but Lori Jessen was nominated and elected with 60% of the vote. Lori is a piano teacher and participants in the Festival. I personally think she will be a good person for all the States Festival Chairs.

We had a Junior Division meeting that Lisa Smith overlooked having me attend the meeting. I was quite furious with her, because like our state the entire North Central Region's numbers were down by 30% from 2020.

There are a lot of reasons, but my concern was that there are teachers that were not comfortable with an in person Festival and they really did not want to try to do the Virtual Festival. I feel like most of our members that there are students that will be able to have consecutive superiors. However, this will be addressed at the Junior Division meeting next year in Indianapolis.

Those that you have selected to participate on your behalf in the National meetings should represent every teacher and every club. In Minnesota we are lucky because Nadine Berg cares about every club. I have made all the states Festival Chairs in the North Central Region to advise me of what transpired in 2021 in their Festivals.

The meeting was primary the election of Officers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Regards

Mary L Wescott

## Officer Report - 2020-2021

### **NFMC Biennial Student/Collegiate Audition Awards - Nicholas Susi, chair**

The NFMC Biennial Student/Collegiate Auditions became a strictly national competition this year due to continually low numbers of applicants. This change means that there is no longer need for a separate, state-level audition before the final national round. The chair position that I hold for MFMC will transition from coordination of applications to advertising/increasing the overall number of applicants in the state of Minnesota.

This year there were nine applicants nationally for these auditions, and adjudication for the event ended in mid-March.

### **MFMC 2021 Biennial Student Audition Report- Liz Raihala, Chair**

The MFMC 2021 Biennial Student Auditions received three applicants, two vocalists and one pianist.

All three were selected by judge Brian Kapp of Duluth. The winners are:

Lydia Rahn, pianist, student of Mary Wescott. Lydia is a Junior at Lakeville South High School.

Rachel Lanning, vocalist, student of Cheryl Schmidt. Rachel is a Senior at Willmar Senior High School.

James Cook, vocalist, student of Cheryl Schmidt. James is a Senior at Central Minnesota School.

Each received a \$600.00 award. More details about these wonderful young musicians can be found in the MFMC Half Notes. Congratulations to Lydia, Rachel and James and to their wonderful teachers!

This competition occurs in odd years only for Juniors and Seniors in high school with three \$600.00 awards available. Specific performance repertoire is required with a January deadline. All details regarding the Biennial Student Auditions are available on the MFMC web site in the drop-down menu under Scholarships, Awards and Grants.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your advanced students so start planning now to participate in 2023!

## FESTIVAL COMPOSITION CONTEST, MFMC REPORT, 2021

Entries:

Class	Ages	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
I	9 and under	5	4	1	3	4	4	
II	10 - 12	6	12	6	2	6	5	
III	13 - 15	9	5	8	5	4	4	
IV	16 - 18	6	4	7	7	3	2	
TOTAL ENTRIES		26	25	22	17	17	15	

Teachers and # entries

2021		2020		2019	
Fern Davidson	1	Dan Aalto	1	Narissa Bach	1
Randall Davidson	1	Fern Davidson	1	Fern Davidson	1
Sharon Kaplan	4	Independent	1	Paul Heisler (ind)	1
Sarah Miller	8	Sharon Kaplan	2	Susan Hoolihan	1
Nicholas Susi	1	Sarah Miller	11	Sharon Kaplan	1
		Nicholas Susi	1	Sarah Miller	9
				Tami Morken	1
				Sam Rudy (ind)	1
				Chris Wolf	1

Gold Cups in Composition earned this year: 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> cup

Winners:

	Name	Composition	Teacher	State	Region	National
Class I 9 and under	Emma Lu	Sundown	Sarah Miller	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	
	Gloria Reitsema	Dancing on Clouds	Sharon Kaplan	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Class II 10-12	Edward Wanger	The Detective	Fern Davidson	1 <sup>st</sup>		
	Kevin Chan	Christmas Feelings	Sarah Miller	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Class III 13-15	Steven Elsinger	Golden Gate Rag	Sarah Miller	tie	winner	1 <sup>st</sup> place
	Tim Guillaume	Selcouths	Randall Davidson	tie	winner	
Class IV 16-18	Aayush Raheja	There Will Be Rain	Sarah Miller	1 <sup>st</sup>	winner	Incentive award
	Clara Miller	Black Diamond Run	Sarah Miller	2 <sup>nd</sup>		

State Judge: Randall Davidson

NCR Judge: Paul Cravens

National Judge: Dr. Edward Knight

Scholarships offered to: Class III and Class IV winners. Accepted – Steven Elsinger, Aayush Raheja, Clara Miller, Tim Guillaume.

Finances:

This year we set our judge's payment at \$ 20.00/student which put us solidly in the black.

Sharon Kaplan  
Composition Chair MFMC

The Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs (MFMC) offers two scholarships of \$450 each to attend the summer music program at the International Music Camp (IMC). This scholarship amount will cover the basic tuition for a week at IMC. Located in the unique International Peace Garden straddling the border between the United States (North Dakota) and Canada (Manitoba), the International Music Camp provides a picturesque setting for learning.

Requirements for this MFMC scholarship are that a student in grades 9-12 must have received a Superior rating in the same year's Festival and complete an application with an audio recording and two letters of recommendation, one from their present MFMC-member teacher. The completed application is due by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

This summer's programming (2021) will be **IMC@Home** online sessions offered for week-long programs, half-day master classes, and lessons in June and July. The status of the US/Canada border and the health and safety of campers, faculty, and staff are key considerations in planning for this summer of 2021.

We had two students receive scholarships for IMC 2020:

**Kedrah Brooks** from Baxter, piano student of Cari Nygard of Brainerd, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

**Sophia Hornisch** from Eagan, violin/cello student of Susan Jacobson of Rosemount, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Since the entire camp season for 2020 was postponed to 2021, we will give these students their scholarships to be used this summer.

**Kedrah** would like to register for the University Prep A session from July 12-16, 2021. University Prep is for advanced high school musicians who are interested in the possibility of studying music at the university level. It allows students the opportunity to explore basic courses required of music majors at the university level and includes four daily classes in Music Theory, Ear Training, Music History, and a Studio Class with a lunch break and smaller breaks in-between classes. This session will be by Zoom from 9am to 3pm each day with breaks.

**Sophia** would like to register for an orchestra camp session in the summer of 2022 when residential camp sessions will be offered again at IMC. She received her Superiors in Cello Solo and Violin Solo and would like the experience of playing with a larger orchestra. The only sessions available to her this summer would be cello lessons or a cello master



class, both by Zoom. She will have just finished her 11<sup>th</sup> grade in high school by the summer of 2022.

We have received an application and reference letters from **Annika Nosbush** from Fairfax, student of Char Daniels of Fairfax, for the 2021 IMC session. She would like to attend in the summer of 2022.

State Meeting Report for NFMC Vivace Festivals Management Program

July 2021

The NFMC Vivace Festivals Management program, abbreviated to “Vivace”, is ready for existing clubs to join and use for the next festival season. What does this mean?

Vivace launched from the development to the live platform the end of December 2018. The first festival cycle began January 2019. As with any major computer project developed and tested by a small group, releasing a program to be used in many different festival settings reveals more questions and suggestions. The MFMC board decided in July of 2019 to recommend not to encourage any clubs in Minnesota to join Vivace until other clubs in the country tested Vivace.

Over the summer and fall of 2019 many details in Vivace were fine-tuned. The scheduling section received quite a bit of attention. Although scheduling can be accomplished in several different ways in Vivace, many additional questions and suggestions were addressed for the hundreds of versions of scheduling needs throughout the country. Reports were also added for various scenarios used in festival events.

In 2020, some clubs were able to use Vivace as intended prior to the March shutdown for the COVID-19 pandemic. East Suburban club here in Minnesota was fortunate to smoothly complete both of our festivals prior to the shutdown. Other festival areas were caught in the middle of registration. Support was available to extract registration information to be used in the unusual festival formats which had to be quickly invented for thousands of students to play in their festivals. Festival deadlines were extended for 2020 to ease the time crunch.

The 2021 Festival season found the pandemic still going strong in some parts of the country. While some Minnesota clubs were fortunate to hold safe in-person festivals and socially distancing, East Suburban found itself using a virtual format. Using Vivace, we were able to register online, print all the rating sheets with the correct information and create a spreadsheet with all the YouTube links of the student performances for the judges. Judges received and returned rating sheets which then were successfully recorded in Vivace. After ratings were certified, I was able to click and print the JR3-3, JR3-4, and Federation Cup reports in 45 seconds.

In April 2021, the MFMC board revised their position. Minnesota clubs are now advised to start the process to join the NFMC Vivace Festivals Management program. What does this involve? There are two major portions of the process. First, there is the one time “on-boarding” process which loads the student data from prior festivals referred to as “student point history”. Second, is using the program to conduct the many details of a festival, record ratings, manage student history and report the results to MFMC and NFMC.

The on-boarding process was reported by NFMC in the Junior Keynotes Winter 2021 article “Getting to Know Vivace” found on page 8. Here are the six steps Sandra Preysz, Festivals Online System Chair, defined in the article:

“The process includes:

1. **Requesting a project application by emailing: [festivals@nfmc-music.org](mailto:festivals@nfmc-music.org)**
2. Submitting the completed application.
3. Receiving the Project Education Guide and carefully studying the process outlined.
4. Attending an orientation webinar. (These are held once a month.)
5. Selecting the method of entering the historical data.
6. Beginning the process of preparing data for import OR having a National Admin set an appointment with your two Festival Area Admins to grant them access so they can begin the manual entry process.” (Preysz, Sandra. “Getting to Know Vivace”. *Junior Keynotes Winter 2021, National Federation of Music Clubs, Winter 2021, page 8*)

Also included in the Junior Keynotes article are two video links.

1. Vivace Support Center: <https://help.nfmc-music.org>  
This Support Center is extremely useful. First, users brand new to Vivace should be familiar with the HELPS for ~NEW~ONBOARDING FESTIVAL/AREA information. Once an area (club) has successfully completed the *onboarding process*, teachers and admins should return to the Vivace Support Center for additional guidance to *use* Vivace. It contains numerous printed and video versions of information needed to accomplish specific tasks in Vivace. Topics are grouped by user access. Everyone should be familiar with HELPS for ALL USERS. Teachers should be familiar with HELPS for TEACHERS. Area Admins should also review their specific help information. Roles within a club can change. Having all this information in one spot aids new admins to learn tasks and ask questions prior to actively stepping into their new role.
2. At the Vivace Support Center there is a video called “Vivace Overview”. View this 9:16 video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXAeX9eyvNA>  
It is worth the time to get an overview of what Vivace has to offer.

The first step for onboarding is the application process. A minimum of two admins are needed for each club. These are the two contact people who will help in the onboarding process. This application simply describes your club’s situation: how big is your club, when are your festivals held, when might you be available to onboard, what is the contact information for your two admins to start the process, etc. It is *not* a commitment for an onboarding at a specific time but rather it is gathering information for planning the onboarding process. Once approved for onboarding, the club’s area admins are added. The area then needs to decide to onboard with direct upload (\$\$\$ and developer) or manual entry (free but area enters the student point history).

Manual Entry process is described in a 17 minute video at the Vivace Support Center:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoflBh6vsLk> Manual Entry can be done by the two admins or with the help of up to 6 additional volunteers. Manual Entry is free. Be sure to choose only detail oriented volunteers for accuracy. A coach is assigned to the onboarding area (club) using the manual entry for additional support besides the Vivace Support Center. When I was testing, I added a club’s student point

history with 150 students to the development platform. It took about 10 hours which also included major stops in the process to report testing issues. Today it might take me 5-6 hours if all the data is complete.

Uploading data is the second option. Uploading large amounts of data is tricky. Data must be complete and in a precise format. The developer and his team of programmers would review, revise, and certify data uploaded to a development platform. Issues would be reviewed and resolved prior to upload to the live platform. There is a cost involved for this professional service. Due to the widely different methods used by club recorders (paper note cards to Access), it is difficult to give an estimate for a specific task when there is such a wide range of quality and quantity of data. For areas wishing to upload using the developer, starting the process is still the same: request and complete the application.

As of early July, two clubs in Minnesota have submitted their applications. A Zoom conference call is set for Friday morning, August 6 at 10:00am to overview in more detail and answer questions for the manual entry onboarding process. Both area admins who are the club's contact plus up to six additional detail oriented people interested in helping their club to manually enter student data are welcome. Contact Grace Kopitske [gracekopitske@comcast.net](mailto:gracekopitske@comcast.net) or Nadine Berg [bergpiano88@gmail.com](mailto:bergpiano88@gmail.com) for the Zoom meeting information.

Once all of Minnesota is onboard, the state reports can be used. NFMC hopes all areas will be onboard and using Vivace in the next couple of years. This powerful program will save many hours of festival and state report preparation as well as prevent errors which result in student disqualifications.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Kopitske  
[gracekopitske@comcast.net](mailto:gracekopitske@comcast.net)  
651-343-1951

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 Halfnotes 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!



#### Product Line Update

Vendor information for MFMC's product line is now included on our website. (If you notice that helpful details are missing, please let me know). We're working on getting a fundraiser specific PDF available to all members in an effort to make club fundraising as easy as possible.

#### MFMC Insurance Report

April 2021

**This was a slower year for insurance requests due to many festivals and meetings being managed virtually. There was also a slower response from NFMC as my e-mails were not being responded to and needed to contact VP Deborah Freeman for support. I will need to follow up with VP Deborah and Jennifer, NFMC administrator to see what I can do to make the process easier. Grace is the word that came up often this past year. I submitted requests for insurance that were late, but it has been a rough year for a lot of people and for lots of reasons.**

**As we know, we acquire insurance through NFMC for any MFMC or NFMC sponsored events. I am planning on this upcoming year being busier with more in person events. This is a great deal for our clubs – NFMC acquires the insurance, MFMC pays for it. It is very important that our clubs get this insurance coverage for their in-person events.**

**Insurance was requested for 29 events for the September – July 2021. I believe that not all these sites got the insurance as we only paid \$352 for this time. Not all clubs signed up for insurance *and many requests were past the deadlines.***

**I will provide forms for next year when I receive notice from NFMC VP Deborah Freeman as to the insurance program for next season. I participated in 2 executive meetings with NFMC regarding the insurance vendor in August 2020 – I will inform MFMC of any changes in the program as they are announced. Please watch your e-mails and the website for updates!**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sarah Twedt**

**MFMC Insurance Coordinator // 1<sup>st</sup> VP**

North Central Region Report June 2021

This past year has been frustrating, encouraging, sad, inspiring, hopeful, and exhausting all at the same time. I am proud and grateful for all the folks in the NCR that not only serve in the important local levels but give their time and talents to the Regional and National level as well. We all continue to come together to keep our organizations at all levels, moving forward. The NCR exhibited lots of examples of

being team players when confronted with the challenges of moving our programs forward during this particularly challenging past year.

We were sad to say goodbye to members Carol Flatau, Vivian Acuff, and recently, Bev Huckins. These, and other members, have contributed to our organization in countless ways and part of their legacy will be that we will continue to benefit from their years of service.

I finished my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the North Central Region Vice President and successfully hosted our July meeting via Zoom. I hosted many zoom meetings supporting our Junior Composer Summer Institute staff as they transformed this program into a virtual camp. COI, Composers Online Institute, was launched as our staff and board were convinced that they were not going to miss a year. This year plans are being made for a hybrid camp. COI and our in- person camp will take place at a new site, University of Wisconsin, River Falls during the same week in July. We are excited to be celebrating 20 years of our composer's camp in the NCR!

As part of my role as NCR VP, I participated in many board meetings throughout the year with NFMC as meetings were scheduled. I wear many hats in the Minnesota Federation as well and continued with my duties with insurance and being the cup chairman.

Our region came together and participated in the festival program – some in-person and some virtual. Clubs determined at a local level how best to make festival work for their areas. The festival numbers are lower this past year for our region but hopefully, we can find ways to increase the numbers.

We have many winners from our region in the Junior Composers Competition. We are also proud of our generous scholarships given out by our states, especially North Dakota and Wisconsin. Wisconsin gave out nine \$500 Apple for the Teacher Award to go towards their classroom needs. Giving back to our communities is a great way to strengthen our organization.

Our local clubs found that Zoom meetings were an efficient to host their local club meetings and many found participation levels increasing because it is easy to attend! I am hoping that we can continue to use these tools in the future to grow participation in our organization.

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs turns 100 years this year – our convention and celebration are postponed to next year and we will look forward to being together as we look back to our beginnings and look forward to the future.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our region and grateful for all the hardworking people serving our organization. Our communities benefit from our dedication to the arts.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Twedt, NCR VP

April 24, 2021

Sarah Twedt, MFMC Cup Chair

**Thank you!** I want to thank all folks involved in festival management for all your hard work. We all had to make significant adjustments in how we hosted our festivals during this covid-19 pandemic year, but I think we did it! All the cups and plates have been ordered and reports audited. As of today, I do not believe that any cups have been delivered and one batch of plates have been mailed to sites. **Please thank your festival chairman and recordkeepers – year after year these record keepers keep track of the details for each student. This is not easy work, and our teachers and students rely on the data being correct. Thank you!**

**Numbers.** We processed 2,929 Cup entrants and ordered 669 cups. Please see the excel spreadsheet report for the details. This is 691 fewer entrants than in 2020. 3,620 Cup Entrants and ordered 821 cups.) (This **includes 17 Junior** Composition Entries.) Of these, 2 were Grand Cup winners and 3 received the President’s Cup! Congratulations to students, teachers, and the parents!!

**MFMC Database.** Mark continues to import reports that are submitted electronically. As reported, this database *is not a complete* database of entrant’s records for some clubs, *as the manual entries do not include the consecutive superiors and event levels.* Mark scrubs the data and prepares to import into Access from Excel, then, builds queries to find mistakes.

**Prep for next year.** 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 are glad to help.

**Plates.** We continue to use John Schaake in St. Paul, MN for the engraving of the plates. Mr. Schaake charges \$3.25 per embossed plate. Ordering plates through Crown would cost .10 per letter engraved. I pick up and mail these to the clubs.

Please congratulate the following Grand Cup Winners in Piano and Violin Solo!

Malvika Gupta (Piano)	Woodbury	East Suburban	<i>Student of:</i>	Grace Kopitske
Zoe Johnson (Piano)	Woodbury	East Suburban	<i>Student of:</i>	Grace Kopitske

Please congratulate the following Presidents’ Cup Winner in Piano Solo!

Stephen Ma (Piano)	Woodbury	East Suburban	<i>Student of:</i>	Jackie Lo
Stephen Ma (Violin)	Woodbury	East Suburban	<i>Student of:</i>	Jackie Lo
Maleia Ryberg (Piano)	Buffalo Lake	Renville County	<i>Student of:</i>	Katie Runden

**Festival numbers:** This is a chart showing the decrease in festival cup entrants since 2010.

<b>Cup Entrants by year:</b>	
2010	5183
2011	5132
2012	5117
2013	5042
2014	4826
2015	4600

2016	4478
2017	4299
2018	4076
2019	3889
2020	3620
2021	2929

Once again, thanks to everyone who helps make our festival program in Minnesota a success. It took a lot of determination and dedication to festivals this year to make this happen. *I am tired of learning any more new technology!* Our students and parents are grateful that we muscled through this together. As always, I appreciate your friendship and kindness and hope that we continue to find ways to introduce MFMC programs into the lives of our community. Music is a positive force for good and our students greatly benefit now more than ever, being involved in music.

With kind regards,

*Sarah Twedt, NCTM*

MFMC Festival Cup Chair

### Words from your Festival Chair:

I hope you have all had a chance to “rest and recuperate” after the difficult year we have all managed to survive. So now we begin again to look ahead to the next Festival season. Because of the limited time of today’s meeting, we will be holding a special Festival meeting on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am, via Zoom. If you have not already received information about this, please watch for it. Grace Kopitske and I will chair this meeting, addressing general Festival concerns as well as highlighting the Vivace Online Festival Management System.

Since the spring MFMC meeting, I have been focusing on the Vivace System. I know of one club in the state – East Suburban – that has been using it successfully. Grace has managed this site and beta-tested the system. She is available to help & coach the rest of us. Hibbing and Duluth are in the process of manually entering data & planning to use it in the upcoming Festival season. A local colleague and I are doing the work for Hibbing & finding it to be very manageable. Our hope, as a state, is that some of the smaller Festival areas will make the effort to “on-board” to the online system soon. MFMC is expecting that full participation will eventually be achieved, albeit gradually.

Nadine Berg

MFMC Festival Chair



*We will have a Convention next year to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!  
Please note the dates and keep looking for more information as more  
plans unfold.*

**MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC  
CLUBS**

**100<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**



# **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