

FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

Spring All-State Meeting



April 23, 2022

(Unofficial Minutes)

Welcome/Call to Order:

President Nancy Fisher welcomed all ZOOM attendees at 10:05 A.M. and then turned the mic to Sarah Twedt, 1st 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 (were also displayed on shared screen throughout meeting)
- ♪ PDF Gold Cup Report

Members Present:

Apple Valley MTA – Sarah Twedt; **Burnsville MC** – Diane Anderson; **Central Lakes MC** – Karen Sue Erickson, Jill Fugelberg; **Chain of Lakes MC** – Sharon Kaplan; **Chin Rest and End Pin Society** – Faith Farr; **Club 88** – Rebecca Heerd; **East Suburban MC** – Grace Kopitske, Kathy Schleusner; **Encore MC** – Trina Billingsley, Nancy Fisher; **Hibbing Musicale** – Nadine Berg, Diana Giombetti; **Itasca MC** – Cathy Shields; **Keyboard Southwest** – Carolyn Laufenburger, Carol Mattison, Deann Steele; **Music Southwest** – Mary Kaye Rabaey; **North Suburban MC** – Marcia Benson; **Southeast MN Federation** – Julie Gutzmer; **Successful Music Making** – Anna Jeanne Flesner, Christie Gergen; **Tuesday MC** – Sue Quist; **West Central MTC** – Peggy Karsten, Cheryl Schmidt; **West Suburban MC** – Sandee Stenzel

Karen Sue Erickson led everyone in the recitation of our *Federation Collect*.

Secretary's Report:

Mary Kaye Rabaey, secretary, invited those in attendance to read/review the minutes of the July 22, 2021 All-State Meeting. Julie Gutzmer made a motion to approve; Cheryl Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gwen Degner provided a detailed summary of all club transactions 7/1/21 – 4/8/22. Our current net worth is \$161,083.14; however, several bills have yet to be paid before the June 30 fiscal year end. Membership and Festival participation is down but because there were no “in person” meetings or conventions the past two years, expenditures were also down. Gwen asked that everyone use updated forms with her

current (Benson, MN) address. Sarah Twedt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Sharon Kaplan seconded. Motion carried.

Festival Report:

Nadine Berg, Chair, stated that a final tabulation was not yet complete because she received the last reports this past week. Over half of Minnesota's clubs used the *VIVACE* on-line system; there are still a few "bugs" but everyone is learning – we all need to be patient.

Participation certificates were an issue because of a printing complication at the National level so they didn't arrive until late March.

It is important to read the Festival Directives closely next year; with the new *VIVACE* registration system, as issues crop up, changes will be made.

***VIVACE* Report:**

Grace Kopitske, Festival On-line Registration Administrator, presented the following:

"As of January 2022, the majority of MFMC areas are now using the NFMC *VIVACE* Festival Management System! During the summer and fall of 2021, fourteen of the twenty-three Festival sites in MFMC entered their point history. Thirteen entered their point history manually and one site paid to have the developer upload their history. Congratulations to the fourteen sites who have successfully added their point history and completed their first festival using *VIVACE*:

- Duluth
- East Suburban
- Grand Rapids-Itasca
- Hibbing
- Marshall
- Metro II (Chain of Lakes)
- Renville County
- Rochester
- St. Cloud
- Tracy (Successful Music Makers)
- Warroad (Encore)
- West Suburban
- Willmar (merged Willmar I and Willmar North)
- Willmar East (Cadenza Music Club)

When onboarding, an assigned *VIVACE* coach is available to answer specific questions. Some of the new sites were able to enter history with very little or no help at all from the coach. Others emailed or zoomed to find answers to questions and issues were quickly resolved. The majority of the point history was entered without any problems. There are a few unique situations, like Specially Capable Musicians and non-piano American Patriotic and Folk Song history which will be addressed this summer.

Four additional areas have begun the process to add their point history and currently have access to *VIVACE*. There are five areas remaining to submit their application to begin the onboarding process. **NFMC has requested all areas be onboarded by August of 2022** (as announced in the August 2021 Special Edition NFMC newsletter). The March 2022 NFMC newsletter emphasizes the push for *all areas* to be using *VIVACE* for the 2022-2023 season. Sites are encouraged to submit their applications now. Request a project application by emailing: festivals@nfmusic.org then submit the completed application. Visit <https://www.nfmusic.org/festival/online-festival-management/> for detailed information.

If a site chooses the paid import option, it is very important to start the process *now* to get in the import queue. The developer has other non-NFMC projects and is very busy. Imports are addressed in the order received as time permits. Note that most sites do the manual entry rather than the import. As of last summer, less than 20 sites did the import.

The manual entry of point history is not difficult, but this tedious task does demand attention to details. Point history, which means the points of *current and active* performers only, must be accurate. Requesting a point history report from the MFMC Federation Cup Chair (Sarah Twedt) at the beginning of the process is recommended. Although the site administrator and assistants try their best to enter the history carefully, mistakes are unavoidable. Teachers and administrators must review their data upon completion of the process. A checklist is provided which includes the spelling of each name, class level and total number of points. Our MFMC areas were very careful adding their history with just a few errors. Congratulations! Some of those errors were caught right away, others at registration time and a few more at report and audit time.

As with any new program, there can always be improvements. Every site across the country seems to have their unique way of running their festivals with different needs. With close to 5,000 teachers currently using *VIVACE*, many suggestions have been made and heard. Sometimes an update is needed for the program. Other times, teachers and admins will need to adjust and learn a different way to do a task. During the coming summer, the non-peak festival season, the scheduling module will receive quite a bit of attention. There is also a short list of issues to be addressed. At the same time, new *VIVACE* users will be doing their part, onboarding and learning to use the program.

The national reports generated by *VIVACE* are accurate and serve the reporting purpose. During this transitional time, it was important to keep the existing JR3-3, JR3-4 and Federation cup reports for the non-*VIVACE* users. *VIVACE* adapted to the paper reports. The required data for reports is ready in *VIVACE*, waiting for a fresh look from the old JR3-3 and JR3-4 format.

For MFMC members, the JR3-3 created confusion about what fees should be paid. The JR3-3 does not include the cup fees. As stated in past years, MFMC should disregard the financial portion of the JR3-3 and continue to use the state MFT-1 form. During this transitional year, the Federation Cup Report needed to be converted to a spreadsheet

format for MFMC purposes. The NFMC Federation Cup Report is being reviewed this summer so hopefully this will not be an issue next year.

The useful MFMC Directives need to be updated to coincide with the *VIVACE* program. Since all sites in MFMC should be using *VIVACE* in the next festival year, only one set of Directives will be needed. A summer meeting is planned to restructure those Directives. Look for a fresh set in the fall of 2022.

Transitions are generally challenging. With a positive outlook and willingness to learn new skills, the process can be exciting and enjoyable. Support is available through emails, phone calls and a personal favorite, zoom calls. A zoom call can answer questions and immediately address any subsequent questions, preventing a long stream of emails and saving everyone's time. As a *VIVACE* onboarding coach and state admin, I am available to help the onboarding process as well as address specific issues during the festival season using the NFMC *VIVACE* Festival Registration System."

Gold Cup Report:

Sarah, Twedt, Chair, began by thanking all Festival record keepers, for keeping meticulous records and sending information in a timely manner.

"My role changed this year with many clubs using the *VIVACE* system. Mark and I completed *complete* cup audits for twelve clubs and, for the remaining, only audited students receiving cups. Mark needed to rewrite scripts for the Access database to order the plates orders received from the *VIVACE* group. We requested the PDF reports be converted to excel so that these reports could also be used for plate and cup orders. Mark also reworked scripts to audit at least students receiving cups and a few errors were discovered (data entry errors). Students not earning cups this year and entered into the *VIVACE* system will not be audited in the future by us. Our data is incomplete and it will take a few years for all errors to be eliminated but it will be up to the teachers to manage these errors. Data from the state database was not used for any transfer of data into *VIVACE*.

All cups have been ordered and shipped. When plates are finished, they too, will be sent to the clubs.

2022 Numbers: I ordered 712 total cups, including 4 Grand Cups.

Plates: We continue to use John Schaake in St. Paul, MN for the engraving of the plates. Mr. Schaake increased his fee to \$3.65 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 Solo:**

- ♪ Soumya Raman (student of Grace Kopitske)
- ♪ Kyra Segó (student of Grace Kopitske)
- ♪ Vishnu Vundamati (Student of Grace Kopitske)
- ♪ Kylee Stroble (student of Grace Kopitske)

This is a chart showing festival cup entrants since 2010:

Cup Entrants by year:	
2010 ---	5183
2011 ---	5132
2012 ---	5117
2013 ---	5042
2014 ---	4826
2015 ---	4600
2016 ---	4478
2017 ---	4299
2018 ---	4076
2019 ---	3889
2020 ---	3620
2021 ---	2929
*2022 ---	

Once again, thanks to everyone who helps make our Festival program in Minnesota a success. As always, I appreciate your friendship and kindness.”

Insurance Report:

Sarah Twedt, Chair, remarked that, since many festivals and meetings were managed virtually, it was another slow year; 34 insurance requests from area clubs were processed. Insurance is acquired through NFMC for any MFMC or NFMC sponsored event. This is a great deal – NFMC acquires the insurance, MFMC pays for it. It is very important that our clubs get this insurance coverage for their in-person events. When we receive notice from NFMC as to the insurance program for next season, appropriate forms will be provided. Please watch your e-mails and the website for updates!

North Central Region Report:

Sarah Twedt summarized –

“My role on the executive board for NFMC as the NCR Regional VP has kept me busy since July 2021.

As the regional VP, I serve on the board of Composers Institute (previously Junior Composer Summer Programs). Since the pandemic, this JCSP board has been reinventing itself, now offering multiple offerings on-line with the traditional in-person camp. Here are a few of the items of interest for MFMC:

- ♪ JCSP is now Composers Institute – the name reflects potential year-round offerings
- ♪ The new website is: <https://www.composersinstitute.org>. Please check out the website for course offerings!

- ♪ The new location for the in-person camp is University of Wisconsin River Falls – the board loved working with the Wisconsin faculty and staff at UWRF in 2021 and are making plans to return this summer.
- ♪ CI (Composers Institute) is in the process of setting up its own 501c3 and unique IRS EIN number – separate from the NFMC. This will allow the organization to be eligible for more grant monies.

I have been working diligently with CI on developing their by-laws so that they are consistent with continued membership in the North Central Region. This continues to be a work in progress, but we are hoping to have these by-laws ready for the June NFMC meeting in Indianapolis with a planned vote scheduled for the July 2022 NCR days. The board is excited, and Randall Davidson is the driving force behind several of these changes. This has kept me busy the past 5 months.

I also serve on the Executive Committee for NFMC. The board meetings, since Summer 2020, have been held via zoom. As was reported in February 2022, Past President Frances Nelson resigned. This resignation was the result of actions by this executive committee – not the full board of directors. Meetings held in January and February were both contentious.

After the board voted to ask Frances Nelson to resign, I announced my intention to step down from my position as NCR VP effective July 2022. As a board member, I did not receive any information in writing or otherwise, that would have warranted such a vote. Several other resignations followed, among them Louis Rose, NFMC Parliamentarian, and Cecil Fox, NFMC Treasurer. I do believe that as an organization, it is our utmost responsibility to lift each other up, help each other out and uphold our oath to support the positive mission of the organization.

I will remain NCR VP through the July 2022 meeting as I am committed to follow through with the Composers Institute revamping. I also plan to attend the Indianapolis meeting in June.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Federation at the National level and I am grateful for the friendships that have developed through this group.

Let us continue to work to enrich our communities through music and the arts.”

Membership:

Julie Gutzmer, Chair, had one person's information forwarded to her who expressed interest in joining a Federation Club in Minnesota. He lives in Foley so was given contact information for the Great River Music Club.

Finance:

Cheryl Schmidt, Chair, is continually updating MFMC's 100th Anniversary Celebration budget with the planning committee. Currently, expenses are estimated at \$16,250.00; income sources will be from registrants, concert attendance, clubs sponsoring the receptions, and selling ads in the program booklet. MFMC received a \$1,000.00 grant to help defray the costs for presenter Audrey Johnson.

The fiscal yearly budget for 2022-2023 will be compiled with information from Gwen, our state treasurer, and reviewed by the finance committee for presentation at the MFMC state meeting on July 21, 2022. Membership and Festival participation has decreased which affects our income source. MFMC is again sending representatives to the National Convention – an added expense that we did not have during COVID.

Web Site Report:

Cheryl Schmidt, Web Site Chair, noted that we continue to have Louise Lundin as our web site manager and Mike McClure as our web site administrator. Jo Janssens assists with updating the membership list and mass email every year after dues are paid and Gwen receives membership information from the club treasurers.

There has been some discussion about implementing an online registration and payment for membership, meetings, competition entry fees, etc. This would require a funding commitment and a small knowledgeable task group to implement.

A special notice is included on the website home page to assist with locating information regarding MFMC's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Half Notes Newsletter:

Cheryl Schmidt, Half Notes Publisher, stated that our newsletter is no longer in hard copy format but rather distributed via MFMC mass email (twice a year). Recent editions have included notice of the proposed constitution and bylaw revisions prior to voting as required in the MFMC constitution and bylaws.

A special Half Notes Newsletter edition was compiled for MFMC's 100th Anniversary Celebration to include the schedule of events, performers and presenters, registration, and hotel information.

International Music Camp:

Karen Sue Erickson, Summer IMC Scholarship Coordinator, reported the following:

The International Music Camp has not had in-person camp for the past two summers, so we have awarded scholarships in 2020 and 2021 and allowed the students to postpone their attendance or take the online option in 2021 if they wish.

Kendrah Brooks was awarded a scholarship in 2020 and she chose to take the University Prep Online Program A in 2021 which met between 9am and 3pm July 12-16.

Sophia Hornisch was also awarded a scholarship in 2020 but chose to wait for in-person camp since she is a violin player who would benefit greatly from the orchestra camp session. She will attend the 6th Session for Orchestra this summer from July 24-30.

Annika Nosbush was awarded the scholarship last year and also chose to wait for in-person sessions at IMC. She will attend the 4th Session for Piano this summer from July 10-16.

For 2022, one scholarship application was received. Marcia Benson made a motion to offer Gabriel Maland (student of Marcia's) a \$450 scholarship to attend the Piano Camp; Sharon Kapland seconded. Motion carried.

Our MFMC treasurer sends funds directly to the International Music Camp by May 1st to take advantage of early registration and the students complete their registration online individually.

Historian's Report:

Karen Sue Erickson, Chair, stated that she and Cheryl have been rummaging through boxes of old documents and will be putting together a display for the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Awards & Scholarships:

Rebekah Heerd, Chair, reminded everyone of the numerous scholarships, awards and grants available: from MFMC, we have *Biennial Student Auditions*, *International Music Camp*, *Junior Composers Contest*, *Junior Composers Institute*, *Teacher Trust Grants*, and *Tuition Assistance Grants*. Check out our website to get more information on these opportunities. There are also many offerings available on the NFMC website. Check them out – you may find something perfect for your students.

One may apply for MFMC's *Tuition Assistance Grant* year-round as long as there are still budgeted funds remaining after the deadline, and if applicants meet the necessary qualifications (see website for details).

We have an opening on our Scholarship, Awards and Grant committee. If you are interested, please e-mail me at rheerd@Reagan.com.

National Music Week/Parade of American Music:

Rebecca Heerd, Chair – Mark your calendars! *National Music Week* is coming up May 1-8. This year's theme is *Music...is Inspiration*. Please let us know how you are celebrating!

November is *Parade of American Music* month – start planning now; there are monetary rewards for the winners of this contest! Check out the NFMC website for registration forms and participation requirements. If your club did anything November 2021 to celebrate, please let us know.

Junior Composers Contest & Scholarships:

Sharon Kaplan, Chair - There were fifteen entries representing only three teachers in the 2022 contest – Randall Davidson (1), Sharon Kaplan (3) and Sarah Miller (11).

The winners are as follows:

Age	Name	Composition	Teacher	MN	NCR
CLASS I 9 - under	Emma Lu	<i>"Hope in Despair"</i>	Sarah Miller	1 st	
	Luke Andrie	<i>"Marching Band"</i>	Sharon Kaplan	2 nd	
CLASS II 10 – 12	William Feng	<i>"Waltz in G Major"</i>	Sarah Miller	1 st	2 nd
	Kevin Chen	<i>"Avalon"</i>	Sarah Miller	2 nd	1 st
CLASS III 13 - 15	Tim Guillaume	<i>"Birds and Bugs"</i>	Randall Davidson	1 st	1 st
CLASS IV 16 - 18	Clara Miller	<i>"Just Another Summer Day"</i>	Sarah Miller	1 st	
	Stephen Elsinger	<i>"The Sherriff's Been Shot!"</i>	Sarah Miller	2 nd	2 nd
	Zeca Brando	<i>"Telephone"</i>	Sarah Miller	Hon Men	

State Judge: Rachel Brandwein
NCR Judge: Jonathan Posthuma

Scholarships to attend Composers Institute were offered to: Clara Miller
Stephen Elsinger (*accepted*)
Zeca Brando (*accepted*)
Tim Guillaume (*accepted*)

Sharon then posed the question, "Would any clubs be interested in working with me on ways to integrate teaching composition into lessons? Not all kids will produce, and most who compose will do so just for the cups, which come much more easily in composition than in solo instrumental work. If nothing else, little composition exercises are a great benefit in teaching theory and musicianship and students who compose develop a better understanding of the music they are playing."

MFMC Product Line:

Cara Caravetta, Chair, was unable to attend today's meeting but submitted the following report:

"Happy Spring music friends! As I write, I am waiting to see if the next snowstorm is a myth or a reality, even though the trees are fuzzy with pre-leaf buds and the song birds have returned to my yard.

In preparation for the Centennial celebration this summer, conversations are in progress regarding limited edition items with the Centennial logo. The **Warroad Threads Company** is willing to post Centennial items on their website for order ahead of time; orders placed by a specific deadline could be hand delivered to the event if members are interested in saving postage costs. (Timeline and availability will be communicated to members through a mass email once **Warroad Threads** determines how much lead time is needed for our order).

There are very few changes to report regarding the product line. Chocolate logos are still available from the **Widman Candy Company**, and the *Double Sharp Music Club* hosted the first official logowear fundraiser last summer. It was a learning process and we worked out the first layer of kinks in its foundation. The intention was to launch the

How To Guides as well as pdfs for club orders last fall, however in the middle of our fundraiser, our vendor realized the prices they quoted us on our branded items no longer matched their cost. Prices from *their* vendors had increased, and **Warroad Threads** made the choice to honor the prices they had quoted us before the fundraiser started. For future use, in an effort to keep costs as low as possible for individual clubs, **Warroad Threads** has suggested coordinating a state-wide fundraiser once or twice a year. Each club would still compile, order, and pay for their own fundraiser. By essentially combining orders in the same time frame, the larger numbers would allow **Warroad Threads** to utilize screen printing as a more cost effective option, rather than producing each item by hand in their own workshop. Clubs would still have the freedom to set their own prices and determine individual profit margins.

If the board sees MFMC logowear as a viable fundraising option, my recommendation is to consider setting two dates for potential fundraisers (for example: April and October) for clubs to put on their calendars. Participation would be optional and based on each club's financial goals; pre-set dates would help **Warroad Threads** facilitate and simplify orders, reducing chances of last minute substitutions if they run into supply issues.

If any one has any general questions about the logo wear process, or the delay in launching the option to fundraise with MFMC products, please feel free to reach out to me via phone call or email.

Old Business:

1. *100th Anniversary Celebration, July 20-21, 2022* – Julie Gutzmer, Convention Registrar, highlighted some of the events that are planned:

- ♪ Melody Bober has been commissioned to write a piece; Sarah Twedt will perform
- ♪ Meet NFMC National Guests, George and Ouida Keck
- ♪ Soprano Audrey Johnson will present “*You’ve Come a Long Way, Ladies!*”
- ♪ One student (or ensemble) from each club is invited to perform in a *Student Showcase Recital* (each piece limited to five minutes in length); participants will receive a free ticket to the Ellis Duo concert.
- ♪ Teachers representing each club are invited to perform in a *Teacher Recital*
- ♪ A reception will follow each recital; each club is asked to contribute \$25.00 to offset those expenses
- ♪ If you know of a business/organization that might be interested in buying an ad to place in the convention booklet, please share the flyer sent to those present at today’s meeting

2. *VIVACE Onboarding* – **NFMC has requested that all clubs be onboarded by August of 2022.** See Grace Kopitske’s *VIVACE* report above.

New Business:

1. *MFMC Proposed Bylaws and Constitution Revision* – Cheryl Schmidt and Peggy Karsten (Parliamentarian) summarized the proposed changes (official notice was published in the ***Fall-Winter 2022 Half Notes Newsletter***); President Nancy Fisher called for a vote which was unanimously approved by those present.
2. *Festival Bulletin Restructuring* – Mary Wescott, National Board Representative, NCR Festival Chair – was not in attendance but is looking for input on improving the next Festival Bulletin; please email her with suggestions.
3. *Nick Susi, NFMC Biennial Student/Collegiate Audition Awards Chair* – is stepping down from this position as he is moving to South Carolina; a replacement is needed.
4. *Format of future MFMC meetings* – Following a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of various meeting styles, Peggy Karsten made a motion: MFMC will have at least one virtual meeting per year with the format of the second to be determined by the Executive Committee --- virtual, in-person, or hybrid. Diane Giombetti seconded; motion carried.
5. *Next Meeting* – Biennial Convention and 100th Anniversary Celebration – July 20-21

President Nancy Fisher wrapped up the morning by expressing gratitude to club presidents, the Executive Committee, all clubs who started *VIVACE*, and the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. She encouraged everyone to mark their calendars and gather “live” in Lakeville, MN to celebrate MFMC’s 100th Anniversary.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sandee Stenzel; Karen Sue seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary

