

MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
All-State Meeting

100th Anniversary Celebration

July 21, 2022

(Unofficial Minutes)

Welcome/Call to Order:

President Nancy Fisher welcomed all attendees at 9:20 A.M. and then turned the mic to Michael Rector (half of the 2021 Ellis Duo that performed Wednesday evening), who made a quick pitch regarding recent music scholarship opportunities available at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay where he is currently Associate Professor of Music. Teachers of students considering music study at the collegiate level may want to check this out for more information.

Prior to the meeting, each should have received a registration packet including:

- ♪ 100th Anniversary Celebration program
- ♪ Meeting agenda
- ♪ Officer and Chair Reports

Members Present:

Apple Valley MTA – Deidre Michael-Mechelke, Karen Stiles, Sarah Twedt; **Burnsville MC** – Camille Buddecke; **Central Lakes MC** – Karen Sue Erickson, Jill Fugelberg; **Chain of Lakes MC** – Fern Davidson; **Duluth MTA** – Nona Harkness, Robin Johnson, Vicki Ott, Liz Raihala, Karen Sande; **East Suburban MC** – Grace Kopitske, Kathy Schleusner; **Encore MC** – Trina Billingsley, Nancy Fisher, Heather Hahn, Shelly Trott; **Great River MC** – Gail Gunnerson, Angela Ringsmuth; **Hibbing Musicale** – Nadine Berg, Roy Berg; **Itasca MC** – Cathy Shields, Sheila Shusterich; **Music Southwest** – Mary Kaye Rabaey; **North Suburban MC** – Marcia Benson, Vicki Crabtree, Angela Stanislawski; **Southeast MN Federation** – Cindy Breederland, Julie Gutzmer, Kris Pichelman; **South Suburban MC** – Mary Wescott; **West Central MTC** – Dale Degner, Gwen Degner, Yvonne Rammel, Cheryl Schmidt; **Honored Guests** – Drs. George and Ouida Keck (Arkansas), Pat Grantier and Sharon Westbrook (North Dakota), Karen Bourne and Arlene Lewis (South Dakota)

Nancy led everyone in the recitation of our *Federation Collect*. She then introduced all Committee Chairs present and asked that everyone read all reports on their own (at a different time) to stay on top of what is happening.

Secretary's Report:

Mary Kaye Rabaey, secretary, invited those in attendance to read/review the minutes of the April 23, 2022 Spring All-State Meeting. Cheryl Schmidt made a motion to approve; Camille Budecke seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Gwen Degner provided a detailed summary of all club transactions 7/1/21 – 6/30/22. Contents were reviewed and filed. Gwen is transitioning to a new email address specifically for MFMC purposes: treasurer.mfmc.22@gmail.com. This address will be used for future dues statements, for Festival and Cup reports, and for whatever else has to do with the Federation.

Included below are highlights from the Officer and Chair Reports packet (should you desire detailed information, please contact the committee chair):

Festival Report – Nadine Berg, chair

- ♪ pointed out that participation numbers continue to drop, but at a slower rate than the past two years. Festival Directives have been updated and streamlined, and may be found on the MFMC website.

VIVACE Report – Grace Kopitske, chair

- ♪ MFMC Directives were recently updated to coincide with the VIVACE program. One set of directives is available for VIVACE users and a separate set is available for those who have not joined yet.
- ♪ “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 visually, and immediately address any subsequent questions – preventing a long stream of emails, thus saving everyone’s time. As a VIVACE manual onboarding coach and state administrator, I am available to help during the manual entry onboarding process, and then address specific issues for all users using the NFMC VIVACE Festival Registration System during the festival season.”

Gold Cup Report – Sarah Twedt, chair

- ♪ This year 713 total cups were ordered (including four Grand Cups).

Insurance Report – Sarah Twedt, chair

- ♪ It is very important that clubs obtain insurance coverage for their in-person events. Forms are available on the website.

North Central Region Report – Sarah Twedt, chair

- ♪ Sarah will be completing her third and final year as North Central Region Vice President effective July 31, 2022.

Membership Report – Julie Gutzmer, chair

- ♪ Reach out to new music teachers in your area; share with them what MFMC has to offer and invite them to join this amazing organization!

MFMC Product Line – Cara Caravetta, chair

- ♪ If anyone has any general questions about the Logowear process, or the delay in launching the option to fundraise with MFMC products, please feel free to reach out to Cara via phone call or email.

Finance Report – Cheryl Schmidt, chair

- ♪ Finances and the treasurer's report were reviewed with the MFMC State Treasurer. The finance committee reviewed the proposed budget for '22 – '23 to present at the July 2022 state meeting.
- ♪ A separate budget was maintained for the 100th Anniversary Celebration by the planning committee. The MFMC Heritage Bank Fund will be used to cover any outstanding expenses from the 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- ♪ Membership and Festival participation has decreased again which affects MFMC's income source. MFMC is again sending representatives to the National Convention; this is an added expense we did not have during COVID. Virtual meetings are helpful in reducing expenses. If additional income is needed the expectation is that senior dues and festival fees may be increased.
- ♪ MFMC has an investment account with Ameriprise Financial. The market has not been doing well - our Ameriprise Financial advisor has not notified us about making any changes to our portfolio.

Website Report – Cheryl Schmidt, chair

- ♪ MFMC continues to have Louise Lundin as our web site manager and Mike McClure as our web site administrator. Jo Janssens assists with the membership list and mass email. The membership list is updated every year after dues are paid and Gwen receives membership information from the club treasurers.
- ♪ Cheryl responds to email inquiries made via the Contact Form on the MFMC website.

Half Notes Newsletter Report – Cheryl Schmidt, chair

- ♪ Half Notes Newsletter editions are compiled and sent to the membership digitally via our MFMC mass email system. Please contact Cheryl if you would like to contribute an article or have information to include in the newsletter.

- ♪ 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.

Historian Report – Karen Sue Erickson, chair

- ♪ Enjoy the 100th Anniversary Celebration, hearing from Past-Presidents, and viewing the Historical Displays and Presentations!

International Music Camp Report – Karen Sue Erickson, chair

- ♪ The last few years have required some flexibility in awarding IMC scholarships since the camp was not in session at all during the summer of 2020 and online only in the summer of 2021. We awarded scholarships based on qualified applications and with the understanding that attendance may be deferred until the camp opened in person in 2022 or courses taken online in 2021.
- ♪ Recent recipients have taken advantage of both options:
 - 2020:** Kendra Brooks (Piano), Baxter (teacher Kari Nygard) --- online summer 2021
Sophia Hornisch (Violin), Eagan (teacher Susan Jacobson) --- will attend 2023
 - 2021:** Annika Nosbush (Piano), Fairfax (teacher Char Daniels) --- will attend 2022
 - 2022:** Gabriel Maland (Piano), Alexandria (teacher Marcia Benson) --- will attend 2022
- ♪ We have also added the requirement that students pay the \$150 non-refundable registration fee with IMC to secure their spots and set up an account before the May 1 early registration deadline. The scholarship amount of \$450 will be deposited directly to IMC on May 1; this will cover the basic registration fee of \$600 for the camp.

Awards and Scholarships – Rebecca Heerdt, Chair

- ♪ MFMC and NFMC offer many scholarships, Awards, and Grants. From MFMC, we have *Biennial Student Auditions*, *International Music Camp*, *Junior Composers Contest*, *Junior Composers Summer Programs*, *Teacher Trust Grants*, and *Tuition Assistance Grants*. Check out our website to get more information on these opportunities. There are also many other scholarship, grant and award offerings to be found on the NFMC website. Check it out; there may be some that are perfect for your students.
- ♪ The *Tuition Assistance Grant* may be applied for year-round as long as there are still budgeted funds remaining and available after the deadline, and applicants are qualified. If applying for this grant, please make sure financial need is clearly described. This is a “one time per student” grant to help families who are having difficulty paying for lessons due to extenuating circumstances. All applications are kept confidential.

- ♪ Rebecca has received thank you cards and a video of some of our *Tuition Assistance Grant* recipients. Due to the confidential nature of this grant, she is unable to share them with us, but considers them absolutely delightful. It is encouraging to see the results of our efforts!
- ♪ We have an opening on our Scholarship, Awards and Grant committee. If you are interested, please email Rebecca at rheerdt@Reagan.com.

American Music Report – Rebecca Heerdt, chair

- ♪ November is ***Parade of American Music*** month. Start planning now! Requirements and forms may be found on the NFMC website.

State Student Auditions – Liz Raihala, chair

The MFMC 2023 Biennial State Student Auditions are coming up soon so start preparing your students now! This competition occurs in odd years only for Juniors and Seniors in high school. Three \$600.00 awards are available. Specific performance repertoire is required with a January deadline. All details are available on the MFMC website in the drop-down menu under: *Scholarships, Awards, and Grants*.

NFMC Board Representative Report:

Mary Wescott provided a summary of the June 2022 meeting held in Indianapolis. Key points included:

- ♪ due to the mid-term resignation of Frances Nelson, Deborah Freeman is our new National president and Michael Edwards has assumed the First Vice President position.
- ♪ Effective the 2023 Festival Year, time limits for the upper classes of *Piano Solo* are extended for choice pieces:

Moderately Difficult to Difficult 2 --- 8 minutes

Very Difficult to Musically Advanced 2 --- 10 minutes

President's Report:

Nancy Fisher, MFMC President (7/14/22)

Planning for MFMC's 100th Anniversary Celebration has meant a substantial investment in thought and time commitment. This was not an effort done begrudgingly, but it certainly involved persistence and diligence, and perhaps sometimes wondering what we - Gwen Degner, Karen Erickson, Julie Gutzmer, Cheryl Schmidt, Mary Wescott, and myself - had gotten ourselves into. Thinking back through the process that resulted in the celebration that is now happening, I can see numerous rewards from these efforts. First, it is rewarding to see ideas turn into action items and then progress to something tangible as these ideas come to completion. There are many examples I could mention. More than two years ago, Mary had the idea to invite the NFMC Young Artist-winning

Ellis Duo to perform in Minnesota. After untold emails, phone conversations, venue arrangements, postponements, more arrangements, renting pianos, tuning pianos, advertising, printing posters, tickets, programs, and hosting a dinner party the Ellis Duo will enrapture you at this celebration. I can promise it is will be a concert you will not soon forget. Another example of an idea turned tangible was the thought that celebrating MFMC's 100 years with an original composition would be memorable. Minnesota's own Melody Bober was asked and graciously agreed, a piece was written, a publisher found, music ordered, paid for, autographed, and ready for you to purchase at our Celebration. That idea resulted in a celebratory piano piece that you can touch, listen to, learn, and teach.

Learning about MFMC's history is also rewarding, as we look at the impact and influence our organization has had in the past and is having now and in the future. Hearing from our distinguished state Past-Presidents makes us grateful for the leadership we have had. We also learned more about our parent organization the National Federation of Music Clubs. Dr. George Keck's presentation, which I saw at the National Convention in Indianapolis made me feel humbled and honored to be a small part of the legacy and future of NFMC. Audrey Johnson's program on the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement coincides perfectly with our history. Gaining a better understanding the history of our organization has been very rewarding. As we look at these historical perspectives it will certainly shape us as we move into the days ahead.

Thirdly, the efforts that were made to include a student recital and a member recital as part of this celebration are rewarding. What a joy to hear from students from many areas in our state, and what a privilege for them to learn more about Federation by being here with us! How thrilling to hear our talented members perform and remind us in a bold way about our shared love of music!

Finally, it has been quite rewarding to work together with the other members of the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. All the time we have spent together in Zoom meetings, phone calls, and email conversations have only solidified what I have been learning since I became the President of MFMC – we have a talented, knowledgeable, unselfish, hard-working, and did I mention fun group of leaders in our state. I am thankful for each of you who make up MFMC and are here celebrating us!

New Business:

1. *Budget for 2022-2023* --- Cheryl Schmidt presented the proposed 2022-2023 budget, pointing out that we operated at a loss in 2021-2022. Senior membership and Festival participation have both decreased. The Festival is NOT a moneymaker; operating expenses continue to rise but participation goes down. Do we raise membership fees? Festival fees? Cup fees? The Finance Committee will be meeting in January to discuss possible options to keep receipts and disbursements in check.

A motion to approve was made by Mary Wescott; Julie Gutzmer seconded. Motion carried.

2. *Festival Directive Updates* --- Nadine Berg stated that two sets of directives have been drafted – one for current VIVACE users and one for those still using the old system. She reminded those enter students in Festival to read/reread the bulletin and check the NFMC website frequently for updates (there have been several with this bulletin!). Also, twelve-year consecutive winners may apply for a special certificate from NFMC.

3. *Next Meetings:*

- ♪ Spring All-Member State Meeting (virtual via ZOOM): April 22, 2023
- ♪ Biennial Convention (virtual via ZOOM): July 19, 2023

President Nancy Fisher wrapped up the morning drawing the names of three door prize (MFMC Logowear) winners and reminded everyone to check the website for student scholarship and program possibilities.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nadine Berg; Sarah Twedt seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kaye Rabaey, MFMC State Secretary

Please note: All details regarding the MFMC 100th Anniversary Celebration can be found on the MFMC website in the Half Notes Newsletters: 100th Anniversary Special Edition and Fall 2022 - Winter 2023 Edition.