

# Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

**HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER — FALL 2023/WINTER 2024**

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

**COMPILED BY CHERYL SCHMIDT**

## Official Call

**Spring State Meeting:** Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:30am – 11:30am. Virtual via Zoom

**Summer State Meeting:** Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:30am – 11:30am. Virtual via Zoom

## President's Message – Sarah Twedt



**Sarah Twedt, MFMC State President**

Greetings to all members of MFMC! I hope this finds you ready for fall!

It has been “spring cleaning” time at my house and I found a saved handwritten note from our beloved Mary Angela Strasser. Rereading this eloquently written note with Mary's handwritten script and beautiful, often funny prose brought back delightful memories. A group of us had gathered in Hibbing to review duet music for the new bulletin, as Mary was the NFMC bulletin chair.



We sightread duet music during the day in Bob Dylan's hometown, taking many notes about quality of music, balance of genres, and level of difficulty. Evenings were hosted at Mary and Walter's home - minestrone soup, bread, and of course, the funny Glug Jug.

These are memories and relationships that I cherish, which never would have happened had Pat Steege not asked me to get involved and become the AVMTA festival chair in 1998. That led to Cheryl Schmidt asking me to consider becoming President of MFMC in 2003. I didn't think I was ready at the time, but I did agree to be the MFMC Arts Chair – which led to my role as National Federation Arts Advocacy Chair for 6 years. All of this led me to being asked to help with Mary's difficult bulletin project.

I have held many other positions too, but this note is not about my personal resume with MFMC/NFMC (boring!) but rather about the benefits of reaching out to those around us and developing leadership and friendships. I did finally say YES to being the President of MFMC and am humbled to serve as President now. I am reminded of the fantastic leadership we have had in this state who set the bar very high for integrity, dedication, and kindness; many who continue to work hard for our state. Our mission is always about our students and their success with their musical journeys but wouldn't be complete if it didn't include supporting and helping our fellow teachers.

We have a number of roles that need to be filled at MFMC. First Vice President/Insurance Coordinator is a big one. Other key leaders have been in their positions for a long time, and this is not sustainable.

My request today is simply to ask your festival chair, or local club president, or a state leader, what you can do to help. Small tasks matter and helping locally might give someone an opening to help at the state level. These state jobs can be rewarding and lead to wonderful relationships and great memories.

I understand firsthand folks are tired – managing festivals and recitals is a lot of work and as I have seen from years of Cup Reports, festival recordkeepers/managers remain the same year after year after year. If you notice someone who could potentially be a great candidate for a particular role, ask them! *And ask them again!*

When I returned home from Hibbing that hot summer day, I searched out purchasing my own Glug Jug. I look at the funny pitcher on my shelf and I'm reminded of those joyful, fun-filled days with my friends and colleagues.

The Glug Jug, Mary's handwritten notes and her picture in my office, bring me inspiration to do my best whatever the task, for inspiring my students, colleagues, friendships, and the Federation.



Thank you for trusting me to be your President. These are big shoes to fill. Let's together, fill some more of these shoes. Thank you for considering and I wish you all the best in your musical endeavors this fall and winter!

Kindest regards,  
Sarah Twedt, NCTM  
President, MFMC

## MFMC Biennial Convention Meeting Highlights

### **A new slate of MFMC officers were elected and installed on July 20, 2023:**

President: Sarah Twedt

Vice President: OPEN

Secretary: Mary Kaye Rabaey

Treasurer: Gwen Degner

Historian: Karen Erickson

National Board Representative: Nancy Fisher

The nominating committee has been finding it difficult to fill important positions for MFMC. These positions are important for MFMC to function and benefit all its teachers and students.

\*The MFMC executive committee is therefore recommending that all MFMC clubs with twenty or more members be required to provide a minimum of one member to fill/serve in MFMC Executive Committee and Chairperson vacancies.

MFMC requires a Vice President to provide leadership in the absence of the state president, mentor into the role of state president and is the MFMC insurance coordinator. The Finance Committee Chair is also vacant. Festival Chair, Scholarships, Awards and Grants Chair and Treasurer have expressed desire to vacate their positions in summer of 2024.

Please contact Sarah Twedt with your interest! If there is no response, clubs will be contacted accordingly to fill these positions.



**MFMC 2023 – 2024 Budget Approved.** The budget was approved, and it was very helpful to include the increase in dues and fees that were approved at the MFMC spring meeting. Notification was sent out by NFMC after our April meeting that insurance rates have been raised. This may have an impact on yearly spending and will be monitored by the finance committee.

**Vivace Online Registration.** In 2023 there were seven new areas which have entered their historical data to Vivace joining the 14 from last year, 13 which are still active. There are three remaining areas in Minnesota who have not onboarded.

**MFMC Insurance.** Insurance forms are available on the website - the due date for winter events is November 15, 2023. Please do your best to adhere to the deadline. Sarah Twedt will continue to manage the insurance until we have a new Vice President – *any takers?* Please let me know if you have any questions. Insurance for our festivals and other events involving our students is important to have – thank you for managing this small task in your clubs!

**2023 Festival and Festival Cups:** There were 2,833 participants and 616 total cups, including 5 Grand Cups and 2 Presidents Cups.

**2023 State Student Auditions:** Winners are Elizabeth Blilie (piano), David Lafferty (piano) and Cecilia Buzzeo (voice).

**Special Performance:** meeting participants watched a video performance of bassoonist Duncan Henry, NFMC Carolyn Nelson Double Reed Award winner.

Entire meeting minutes from the July 2023 meeting are available on the MFMC website.

## National Board Representative Report – Mary Wescott

June 13, 2023, to June 17, 2023. Most of the convention was about money. With the declining numbers in Festival entrants, the National organization is feeling the pinch. NFMC moved about \$30,000 around different accounts to cover the 2022-2023 operating costs. Basically, they blame the rise in printing costs for the deficit. The National Budget was approved on Saturday morning, June 17, 2023.



All clubs need to be in Vivace. The required date is June 30, 2024. In our region, there are 3 clubs in MN, 3 clubs in ND, and the entire state of NE which plans to onboard by September.

The Festivals Committee proposed 28 changes at the Junior Division meeting to be effective with the new Bulletin. At the meeting on Saturday morning where they presented the changes, only 12 were presented and not many were approved.

During this past year, 2022 to 2023, the Junior Division has worked tirelessly to get the language from Vivace to the New Bulletin to agree. The general rules were most affected, but it was a collaborative effort.

## NFMC Convention Report – Nancy Fisher

I wanted to share some information and some of my thoughts about my time in Norfolk. Thank you, MFMC, for sending me to the Convention celebrating 125 Years of NFMC. The theme was *125 Years & Still Making Waves*. Norfolk was a very fun place to visit, and since I had never been anywhere on the East Coast, except Florida, everything was new and exciting! It was also great to have Mary Wescott and Grace Kopitske at the Convention and to be able to spend time with them.

The first meeting I went to was about our new Festival Bulletin, which we will begin using in 2024. Janice Flint is the bulletin editor, and the goal is to have the Bulletin be user-friendly. Among other changes, there will be a guide for new users at the beginning. Mary as our North Central Region Festival Chair and Grace as the National Admin for Vivace are involved and knowledgeable about the new Bulletin. Mary made a request that *Festive Overture*, the piece that Melody Bober wrote for MFMC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary be included in the new Bulletin. This was approved and will be part of the repertoire in Piano Solo, Difficult II.

On Wednesday, during the Official Opening of the Convention, Duncan Henry from Savage, MN played his bassoon for the featured musical moment. Duncan was the winner of the Carolyn Nelson Double Reed Award, and he was sponsored by MFMC. Mary had the brilliant idea of recording one of Duncan's pieces while he played, and we hope to share that with everyone at our July MFMC State Convention.

All the reports from the Convention are available to read on the NFMC website. There were 189 attendees at the Convention. Here are some random tidbits of information that I noted.

1. Regarding the NFMC Website, all the applications for awards are now “live” - they can be filled in and submitted online. These can be found at forms.nfmc-music.org. You can also find them by navigating from the main NFMC website, menu option: “form upload”.
2. Insurance premiums will be increased by \$2.00.
3. There were several changes put forth by the Festivals Committee that were sent to the Junior Division. Those that moved forward were voted on by the Board on Saturday. Mary will be reporting on the changes that were adopted.
4. Regarding Vivace, there are now only 21 areas in the entire country that still need to begin the process of onboarding. NFMC did vote to require all areas be in Vivace by 2025, and they pledged their support to help any clubs that need assistance.
5. Virtual Auditions will still be acceptable for Festival participation.
6. Competitions and Awards, NFMC is no longer the #1 philanthropic organization in the country as we have not been giving out many of our awards. The monetary amounts of awards will be increasing.
7. The Arts Division has many ideas for club programming and also has 40 monetary awards available. American Music Division has several individual club awards for programs about American music, jazz, women composers, and sacred music among others.
8. FAMA grants are available to help with groups' needs for equipment or music. For example, a school that was affected by flooding received a large grant to replace damaged instruments.

Student/Collegiate Division, again many awards are available. You can print a *Competitions and Awards Chart* from the NFMC website and bring those to people you may know in the music department at colleges.

Nancy Fisher, NFMC National Convention - Norfolk, VA, June 2023

**Clarifications:** NFMC insurance increased from \$18.00 to \$20.00 per Festival event. After the national convention, NFMC has been unclear about the deadline for onboarding with Vivace. Dates will be communicated when received.

Thank you, Nancy Fisher!

Many thanks to Nancy Fisher for her outstanding leadership as our MFMC President the past four years!

MFMC has secured a lifetime membership for Nancy in thankfulness for her leadership and dedication to MFMC.

Nancy will continue to be active with MFMC as our National Board Representative to NFMC and will also serve on the MFMC finance committee.

## Duncan Henry – NFMC Carolyn Nelson Double Reed Award

During the Official Opening of the NFMC Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, Duncan Henry from Savage, MN played his bassoon for the featured musical moment. Duncan was the winner of the Carolyn Nelson Double Reed Award, and he was sponsored by MFMC.



Pictured L to R: Nancy Fisher, Duncan Henry, Mary Wescott

**Duncan Henry** is a bassoonist from Minnesota completing a one-year certificate program at the Aaron Copland School of Music where he is studying with bassoonist Frank Morelli. Duncan graduated from St. Olaf College in 2022 where he earned a B.M. in Bassoon Performance and a B.A. in Computer Science having studied with bassoonists Mark Kelley and Thea Groth. He will begin a M.M. in Bassoon Performance this Fall at the University of Minnesota where he will study with bassoonist Fei Xie. Before then, he is excited to be attending the Yale School of Music's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival this upcoming summer. In addition to music, Duncan is committed to fitness and works to live by and share his belief that thoughtful physical training can dramatically improve one's quality of life.

## 2023 Grand Festival Cup Recipients



**Sahana Bhatia** is a senior at St. Croix Preparatory Academy. She began her piano journey with Grace Kopitske at the age of six. She has performed in the Piano Solo event at the East Suburban Federation Music Club festival for 12 years. Starting in ninth grade, she has earned 4 consecutive superiors for the Piano Concerto event. After graduation, Sahana plans to perform one last concerto in the fall to earn her President's Cup.

Sahana has participated in several Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) theory and comprehensive piano exams, earning a high distinction for each one. She has competed in the MMTA's State contest and has performed at the state Honors Concert for contest winners. In addition to her piano studies, Sahana takes part in many non-school and school extracurriculars. She always has been fascinated with the arts and has been practicing the Indian classical dance, Bharatanatyam, since the age of 6 and completed her milestone Arangetram performance in 2021. She also volunteers at Regions Hospital every

Saturday and works with doctors and patients in physical therapy. In school, she is in Math League, and has contributed to her school for winning 2nd place for 3 years. She also founded her school's first ever diversity club, Discussions on Diversity, with the hopes of bringing awareness to the community and change to her school. In her spare time, Sahana loves being around her friends and family, loves adventures, and is always willing to try new things! In the future, she plans on pursuing a career in the Biomedical field.



**Serena Zhu** has studied piano under Dr. Jackie Lo for 12 years and is currently a junior at Woodbury High School. This year she earned her NFMC Grand Cup for Piano Solo. Serena also has studied violin with Dr. Lo since 2018, earning Superior ratings every year for six Violin Solos and three Violin Concerti.

Serena has participated in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association's comprehensive performance and theory exams for both piano and violin. She is the recipient of the MMTA Jeanette Benson Award, which recognizes the highest score in the state for the Piano Theory Exam. She has also competed in the MMTA piano and instrumental contests resulting in performances in the state Honors Concert and Instrumental Finalé Concert.

Aside from exams, contests and NFMC festivals, Serena plays violin in the top collegiate level Symphony Orchestra with the Minnesota Youth Symphonies orchestral training program and the MMEA All-State Orchestra. She also plays basketball for her school. Her hobbies include reading, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.





**Katy Nguyen** has been a student of Diane Anderson for 16 years. She is pursuing a degree at Rochester Institute of Technology as a physician assistant student with minors in piano performance, psychology, and military sciences.

In addition to her Grand Cup, Katy has had multiple superior ratings from the Minnesota State High School League Music Tournament in instrumental and chamber choir.

Her goal is to continue pursuing piano with a focus on Romantic era pieces in tandem with her professional medical training.



**Vladimir Tsiper** is a 10th grader at the Breck School in Minneapolis. He has been a student of Lucinda Marvin at MacPhail Center for Music since the age of five, and in the last three years he has also been taking lessons with Yulia Ziskel of the New York Philharmonic. In addition to violin, Vladimir is studying composition with Sarah Miller. He is a member of the Minnesota Youth Symphonies (MYS) Symphony Orchestra and the Artaria Chamber Music School. Vladimir has won many prizes at venues such as Sherer International Competition (Goshen IN), and in the Minneapolis area from Schubert Club, MNSOTA Mary West Solo Competition, Thursday Musical, the MacPhail Concerto/Aria Competition, and Minnesota Sinfonia Young Artists Competition. In the last two years he has performed with the Bloomington (MN) Symphony Orchestra, Dakota Valley Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis, and the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra. The highlights of this season include Vladimir's appearance on the national radio show From The Top, winning the MYS Solo Competition and soloing with the MYS in the Minneapolis

Orchestra Hall, receiving the Jacobson Prize at the Young People's Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA) finals, and becoming the West Central Division Winner of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Senior String Competition. Aside from music, Vladimir enjoys downhill skiing, theater, and traveling, especially visiting the tallest buildings in the world. He is a movie nerd and an active member of the film lovers' community.



Hi! My name is **Maddie Boie**, and I have been playing piano for almost 13 years now. I graduated from Century High School in Rochester and plan to attend South Dakota State University this fall with a major in animal science/pre-vet.

I enjoy swimming, hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, horseback riding, and trap shooting. I have really enjoyed developing my skills and passion for playing the piano and am very grateful to Mrs. Gutzmer for all she has taught me and my parents for all their support!

## 2023 President Festival Cup Recipients



**Vishnu Vundamati** is an East Ridge High School senior in Woodbury. He has been studying piano under the guidance of Grace Kopitske for the last twelve years. In 2023, he earned his 12th consecutive solo superior and 4th consecutive concerto superior. In addition to his NFMC accomplishments, Vishnu has qualified for the Minnesota Music Teachers Association's State Honors Concert nine times. Two of those Honors Concert performances were as a finalist in the Senior Young Artists Competition.

Outside of the musical world, Vishnu is a dedicated runner, snowboarder, and longboard. This year, his cross-country team qualified for the state meet and he ran the fourth fastest 5k time in school history. In school, Vishnu is the president of the National Honors Society and a board member of HOSA, the Health Occupations Students of America. He has also been learning Carnatic Music, a form of South Indian classical music, for the last nine years. Next fall, Vishnu plans on attending Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida and will be accepting athletic scholarship to run NCAA Division II cross country and track for the next four years.



**Kyra Sego** is a senior at Woodbury High School. She began her piano studies with Grace Kopitske in 2011. Participating in the East Suburban Music Club Festivals, Kyra has earned superiors each year, earning her 12th consecutive superior in piano solo in 2023. In high school, she performed four concerto events, also with four superiors. Additional piano performances include the Minnesota Music Teachers Association's comprehensive piano exams, theory exams, state contest and numerous recitals. In school, Kyra has been involved in musicals, including two lead roles in "Chicago" and "Anything Goes". She also participates in marching band and choir. She is on the school tennis team. Outside of school Kyra enjoys working out, spending time with friends and family and working at the local Dairy Queen. Next year she plans to study architecture at either Iowa State University or the University of Minnesota.

## MFMC and NFMC Scholarships, Awards and Grants

Please take time to visit the MFMC and NFMC websites to review all the scholarships, awards and grants that are available for your students. For example, Juniors can enter the essay contest and if chosen to have their essay featured in the Junior Keynotes Magazine.

There are opportunities for clubs and entrants of all ages and ability levels!

## MFMC 2023 Junior Composers Contest Results – Sharon Kaplan, Chair

	Name	Composition	Teacher	State	Region	National
Class I 9 and under	Arthur Scott	The Mysterious Spy	Sarah Miller	1 <sup>st</sup>	Winner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hon Ment
	Gloria Reitsema	Something New #2	Sharon Kaplan	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Class II 10-12	Emma Lu	Rising Stars on the Sea	Sarah Miller	1 <sup>st</sup>		
	Elise Fowler	The Flowing River	Sarah Miller	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Class III 13-15	William Feng	Symphony #1 in A-flat Major 1. Andante Pastorale	Sarah Miller	1 <sup>st</sup>	Winner	Incentive Award
	Timothy Guillaume	Color Songs	Randall Davidson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Winner	
Class IV 16-18	Stephen Elsinger	No Regrets	Sarah Miller	1 <sup>st</sup>	Winner	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Gordon Novak	5 Pounds of Dirt	Sarah Miller	2 <sup>nd</sup>		

State Judge: Douglas Harbin, Concordia College, Moorhead

NCR Judge: Michael Maiorana, composer

National Judge: Melody Bober

MFMC Scholarships offered to: Stephen Elsinger, William Feng, Gordon Novak, Tim Guillaume.

Accepted: William Feng, Stephen Elsinger, Tim Guillaume, Gordon Novak

Gold Cups in Composition earned this year: 4 - 1st cup and 1 – 3rd cup.

## SOMETHING NEW!! – Mary Wescott

The Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs has respectfully paid attention to our other states in our Region and in the USA that have an all-state honors program for Superior Rated students. Several of the board have observed Wisconsin's very successful program that is hosted in late April or early May. Interestingly, Wisconsin participants in Festival are primarily located in the areas south of Hudson, Wisconsin and going straight across the state. Wisconsin's event is adjudicated by 3 separate judges and awards are given to the winner of the event.

Minnesota is going to try to have an Honor's Recital for those that have Superiors in their Festival. It will be located in the metro areas at the Schmitt Music Store in Bloomington, Mn. We have the store for about 3 hours on April 28th, 2024. It will probably be limited to about 60 participants and an approximate fee of \$15 to participate. This is not limited to piano only students, but open to all students in Festival that received a Superior Rating.

There are 6 clubs in the Metro Area, Apple Valley, Burnsville, East Suburban, West Suburban, North Suburban, Chain of Lakes, and the Chin Rest Society. There are clubs located in Rochester and St. Cloud that might be interested.

This is just to get this off the ground and see if there is interest by teachers and their students. We will have some costs, printing of programs, hopefully some small gift to the student participating and it will not be a judged event.

Hopefully, we will not have to contend with snow as a travel problem.

We would like to get feedback from the teachers in the state and see what kind of response we will get.

Mary Wescott

## MFMC Club Reports!

### **Apple Valley Music Teachers Association**

Apple Valley Music Teachers Association wishes to thank President Nancy Fisher for her 4 years of dedication to the MFMC! It has been an honor to serve under your leadership. Our membership has benefited from your professionalism, grace, and dedication.

AVMTA wishes to thank everyone in leadership roles as well – MFMC cannot function as an organization without people working very hard in these various roles.

AVMTA had fun celebrating its 40 years of existence this past year – we had a large celebration in September with past officers, founding members sharing many stories!

In December, our annual teacher performance and Holiday event was held.

We also had 40 plus students and many teachers participate in a recital sponsored by AVMTA in April – it was good to be back with our in-person recital programs.

AVMTA continues to be a diverse group of teachers – many are church musicians, choral directors, string program leaders, participants in community bands and string orchestras, and many teachers judge all over the state for MFMC and for MMTA. We have studios for guitar, voice, theory, piano, organ, violin, viola, cello and many of the band instruments.

We are very proud of Mary Wescott, state board rep who is now the North Central Region VP and Shirley Erickson is the NCR Composition Chair taking on these regional positions. I continued my role as 1<sup>st</sup> VP of MFMC (Insurance responsibility) and Cup chair.

Our main event continues to be the Festival Program – we had 417 enter this year and 15 different events. Most of our 43 teachers are involved in the festival program. The festival events occur in fall and winter months.

Our membership continues to decline due to retirements and moves to other regions. We combined our festival program with the South Suburban Music Club – this has boosted our festival numbers.

I am honored to be a part of the AVMTA and the MFMC – these leadership roles take up some time but I'm grateful for the lifelong friendships that have been a big part of these positions.

Sincerely, Sarah Twedt, AVMTA President

**Burnsville Music Teachers Association** – No Report.

**Central Lakes Music Club**

The Central Lakes Music Club meets three times a year. In October we met at Carlson Music Center to collect membership dues and festival pre-registrations. In January we collected festival fees, reviewed Vivace and prepared for the festival. This meeting was held at Carlson Music Center too. The June meeting was held outdoors in the gardens by the Legacy of the Lakes Museum. This was our Annual Meeting at which we elected officers, reviewed who would fulfill the various responsibilities needed for the festival, set dates for next year's events, and discussed finances for our club.

Our local festival was held at Shalom Lutheran Church in Alexandria Feb 19, 24, and 25. An honors recital for students receiving superior ratings was held on Feb 26. There were a total of 152 students participating in 191 events, including theory, piano, strings and voice. It was our first year using Vivace, and everything went well.

The club awarded one \$500 scholarship to a senior who will use it to continue his music education.

Officers for next year will be Jill Fugleberg, President, and Karen Erickson, Secretary/Treasurer. We currently have 15 teachers with memberships in the Central Lakes Music Club. We are losing two teachers but have also gained a few.

We are thankful for the continued commitment of parents, students, and teachers to music education and look forward to another rewarding year.

Jill Fugleberg, CLMC President

**Chain of Lakes Music Club: Metro II**

The Chain of Lakes Music Club has only a few general meetings a year, usually to discuss the Festival and always including food. The everyday workings of the club is hashed out by an executive committee, which has virtual meetings monthly.

Our club holds two festivals per year, one the week before Thanksgiving and the second the last week in February. After extensive discussion, the group decided to keep the video option adopted during COVID in order to increase participation; this way, if kids get sick or if they live a great distance from our site or if other activities might preclude physical participation, they can still be a part of the overall musical experience.

This year we had a total of 91 students participating, 80 in piano solo events and 11 in the Lynn Freeman Olson event. 22 participated in November, 5 of those with submitted videos. 69 participated in February, of which 26 were videos.



All but 3 of the state's 18 composition entries came from our club. 4 of these were regional winners, and all of them received national recognition with 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners, one honorable mention and one incentive award.

We will reward ourselves with a luncheon at Christos in mid-July.

Sharon Kaplan, Outgoing president

### **Chin Rest & End Pin Society**

The Chin Rest and End Pin Society had Festival on 3 dates and venues in 2023, celebrating the accomplishments of 64 violin, viola, and cello students. This was our first year using Vivace and we found the learning curve quite steep. Three of our 6 teachers entered their students for Festival, and our Admins entered the students for the other 3.

In addition, Liz Ericksen and Faith Farr did a lot of work helping the 2025 Bulletin editors understand the difficulties the correlations between Violin Solo and Concerto (introduced in the 2016 Bulletin) have caused teachers and students. We look forward to improvements in the future.

Submitted by Faith Farr, Metro IV Record Keeper

### **Club 88, Renville County**

Club 88's annual meeting was held in June via Zoom. We reviewed the previous year, decided who would take care of various responsibilities and set dates for the coming year's events, discussed finances, and elected new officers.

Our local festival was held on February 25 at First Lutheran, St. Paul's, and New Life Community Churches in Hector. An honors concert for all students receiving a superior rating was held on Sunday, March 5 at First Lutheran Church. 79 students participated in 3 events, piano solo, voice, and violin solo. It was our second year using Vivace and everything seemed to go well.

Club 88 currently has 10 teachers, and one will be retiring soon. Our officers for the next year will be Katie Rudeen, President, Carol Bakker, Secretary, Lizz Strandberg, Treasurer. We look forward to the year ahead.

Katie Rudeen, Club 88 President

### **Duluth Music Teachers Association**

The Duluth Music Teachers Association has a membership of 20 teachers that mostly teach piano, but some also teach voice, band instruments, organ, accordion, and





theory/composition. All five of our executive board members attended the MFMC's 100th Celebration convention and enjoyed ourselves immensely.

We met on a monthly basis September through May, with various pertinent meeting topics. We were looking forward to a presentation by Dr. Diana Shapiro, UMD piano professor in March, but weather forced us to postpone until the fall.

Our Federation Festival was February 11 and 12 at the College of St. Scholastica, entirely in person. This was the second year of using the Vivace online Festival management software and we were thrilled to have one of our members, Lisa Forsell, volunteer to do the Vivace scheduling, reports, etc. Vicki Ott is still our Festival Chair, so our Festival is in wonderful hands. We had good student participation.

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

### **East Suburban Federation Music Club**

The East Suburban Federation Music Club was formed in 1999. This year we had 14 teachers in our Club. Our Club meets two times a year – May and October. The October 2022 and May 2023 meetings were zoom meetings.

On December 3, 2022, we added our first Fall Festival. This Festival was open to piano and string events and was held in-person. There were nine piano concerti, one piano duet, and three violin concerti performances.

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 (2023) we added a guitar event, and we now call the February Festival our Winter Festival. Both Festivals were held in-person.

Our Festival Honors Recital was first held in 2013. It is an annual recital held on a Sunday afternoon (ideally the Sunday right after the Winter Festival but it depends on the availability of the venue). It is free of charge for the students and their families. Since 2016 the Honors Recital has been held at the Church of St. Pascal Baylon in St. Paul. We developed the recital as a reward for students who earned two consecutive Superior ratings and to share their love of music in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. This year we had our in-person Honors Recital after two years of not having it due to the pandemic.

East Suburban would like to give special recognition to Presidents' Cup winners Kyra Segó and Vishnu Vundamati and to our Grand Cup winners Sahana Bhatia and Serena



Zhu, Kyra, Vishnu and Sahana are students of Grace Kopitske. Serena is a student of Jackie Lo. Watch for their articles in the Fall MFMC Half Notes Newsletter and NFMC Junior Keynotes Magazine.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Schleusner, President, East Suburban Federation Music Club

### **Encore Music Club**

Encore Music Club in Warroad had a great club year. Our 6 members kept busy teaching piano, voice, strings, and theory and hosting concerts, recitals, Festival, and participating in several community activities.

In October, we invited Dr. Marianne Lemieux and Dr. Tyler Wottrich from North Dakota State University in Fargo to come to Warroad. In addition to performing a community concert with vocal and piano performances, Dr. Lemieux provided a Master Class for the Warroad High School choir and Dr. Wottrich worked individually with several piano students. We highly recommend this talented and engaging duo.

In November, we prepared students to perform at our community Veteran's Day Program, but winter decided to come early (and stay late) and a blizzard caused the event to be canceled.

This year's Christmas recital was different in that students were given challenging Christmas music to perform. In the past, we have started on Christmas music in November with pieces that could be learned in a short time. This year Christmas music was handed out in early September. The students and listeners both appreciated the fruit of their labors.

Our Festival was held in January, with a Concerto Festival held in March. We had 65 students participate in 5 different events.

Vocal students had a worship recital in April, with a live worship band accompanying them. In May, we had Spring "Name That Tune" recitals and a "Show and Tell" recital for the beginning students.

Our students and teachers are active in sharing music throughout our community.

Nancy Fisher, President, Encore Music Club

**Great River Music Club** – No Report.



### **Hibbing Musicale**

Hibbing Musicale hosted a Festival event in February. We had 42 Festival participants, for 2023. We had four events: Piano Solo, Violin Solo, Viola Solo and Cello Solo. That's all from Hibbing Musicale!

Diana Giombetti, President, Hibbing Musicale

### **Itasca Music Club**

The Itasca Music Club members had a successful 2022 – 23 in spite of our low numbers in teachers and students. All members held a Spring Recital celebrating the accomplishments of their students.

IMC held an in person MFMC festival in February. We had two judges for piano and string events.

Currently our membership includes: Dan Aalto, Anne Dimich, Eileen Grosland, Glenda Kacon, Pedro Oveido, Magdalena Sas, 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, President, Itasca Music Club

### **Keyboard Southwest**

Keyboard Southwest has sites in Windom, Redwood Falls and Lamberton for judging of piano performance. We have 7 teacher members. Our students play at nursing homes and at some local activities in churches.

Carol Mattison, President, Keyboard Southwest

**Lakes Area Bridgetones** – No Report.

### **Music Southwest**

Music Southwest of Marshall meets 3 times a year but holds recitals or events in some of the months we do not meet. June is our annual meeting where we elect officers/set committees, review dues and festival fees and set the upcoming calendar. We currently have 16 teachers, adding 2 new teachers, and welcoming a former teacher back.



In August, we prepare for back to school and ensemble festival in November. This past November (2022) we had about 15 entrants in our annual ensemble festival, which was the first time since 2020 we held a recital. We were pleased the event was able to make a comeback at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Marshall. January, we meet to collect festival fees and make preparations for our upcoming festival days. In February and March of 2023, we held our two festival days, with 137 entrants in the areas of piano solo, piano duets, piano hymns, APFS, Organ, strings, and theory events.

In April, we awarded a \$300 Senior scholarship to a deserving student that will be attending college in the fall. We also held our student recital with about 12 students performing. We hope our events and numbers continue to increase and hold steady due to the Covid decline. We are excited for the coming year.

Shannon Benson. President, Music Southwest -Marshall

### **North Suburban Music Club**

North Suburban Music Clubs met in August and September to arrange plans for the year. We also had a January meeting with Grace to help us with the Vivace registration process.

We were pleased to have a recital with Melody Bober on October 8, and our festival on February 25. Our festival included theory and piano solo entrants. In April, one of our members (Emily Bavin) attended the district meeting.

We are looking forward to another summer meeting in August to discuss the next year.

Deanna Andersen, President, NSMC

### **Southeast Minnesota Federation Music Club**

The Southeastern Minnesota Music Club had a wonderful year. We met in September to start off our teaching year and welcome members back. Dues and Festival pre-registrations were collected in October. Members navigated Vivace registrations successfully in December with excellent coaching from our Festival chair, Julie Gutzmer. We were fortunate to offer our students the opportunity to have some pre-Festival coaching by one of our members, Dr. David Shaffer-Gottschalk. Students could play one of their pieces for feedback and we are grateful for the positive response we received for this valuable experience. It is our hope that we can offer this again next year.

Our Festival was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> at Bethel Lutheran church in Rochester, with a make-up day on February 26<sup>th</sup>. We had 232 participants. Students participated in Piano



Solo, duets, concertos, and a small number of violin students. During Festival we had a bake-sale fundraiser with cupcakes and cookies donated by Sam's Club.

A survey was sent to families after the Festival to ask for feedback. We had a wrap-up meeting in March following our Festival to go over those results and discuss ways to keep improving our Festival. We are looking at offering possible scholarships next year.

Currently our club has 21 teachers. Our officers for the coming year are as follows:

President- Amy Heetland, VP/ Festival Chair- Julie Gutzmer, Treasurer- Debbie Winters and Secretary- Vona Murrell

Our group is committed to creating a wonderful performance atmosphere for our students, and we are grateful to have the support of parents and students in our area.

Amy Heetland, President, SE MN FMC

### **Thief River Falls Music Club**

We are now on board with Vivace and it went very well!!! Thank you to Grace, Nadine, Sarah, and Nancy and all who helped in our first year with Vivace. You are all so thoughtful, kind, and prompt in answering any questions.

Our Festival was held March 4– 5, 2022. We had 7 teachers entering students this year with a total of 182 entries, 2 up from the previous year. (Piano Solo – 73, Piano Concerto – 1, Piano Hymn – 54, Piano Duet – 6, APFS – 3, Vocal Solo – 6, and Theory – 39.) 54 students were awarded Gold Cups (15 pt. – 30, 30 pt. – 20, and 45 pt. – 4) Another very successful year!!

A shout out to all the teachers in our club for your patience as we made the transition to Vivace. Thank you to the board members for your dedication and hard work! You are very much appreciated!

Kristi LaSalle, President, Thief River Falls Music Club

**Tuesday Music Club** – No Report.



### **West Central Music Teachers Club**

Our club remains active, holding 3 meetings per year, with each meeting held in person and via Zoom. Our membership has been fairly steady, though we are gradually losing some members due to retirement and only occasionally adding new (young!) members. We are currently at 24 members. Our finances are in good shape and we have chosen not to increase dues or fees for the coming year in spite of additional fees passed down to us by the National office.

Our meetings consist of a business meeting and a program. The program topics this past year included: sharing ideas for teaching students to recognize notes, sharing ideas of how to teach and demonstrate correct hand position, sharing ideas and demonstrating how to encourage musicality of our students, especially the more advanced students.

At every meeting our members feel comfortable bringing up recent questions regarding a number of topics, including aspects of the "business" of piano teaching.

Our members are active in the community, sharing their musical talents at worship services, community theater, nursing homes, schools, in community band and orchestra, serving on the Area Arts Council, and so on. We are active people by nature!

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Pieh, President, West Central Music Teachers Club

### **West Suburban Musicians**

Our West Suburban Musicians Club is quite small. The Covid Pandemic was quite influential on some of our teachers and student participants. Some teachers were either dealing with health issues (they discontinued) or were not engaged as much in the Festival as others were engaged.

This year we held our Festival on February 25 at Richfield United Methodist Church. We had 27 student participants in our Federation Festival with seven teachers in our Club. We are hoping to continue Festival with the teachers we have.

Sandee Stenzel, President, West Suburban Musicians Club

## 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 • National  
Board Representative



Sarah Twedt • President



Gwen Degner • Treasurer



Mary Kaye Rabaey • Secretary



Karen Erickson • Historian  
International Music Camp Scholarships



Julie Gutzmer • Membership Chair



Mary Wescott • North Central  
Region President



Cheryl Schmidt • Web Site,  
Half Notes Newsletter, Special Needs Awards



Nadine Berg • Festival Chair,  
Certificate Chair



Grace Kopitske • Festival Online  
Registration Administrator





Liz Raihala  
Biennial Student Auditions



Sheila Shusterich  
Student/Collegiate Auditions

Not Pictured:



Cara Caravetta  
Product Line/Logo Wear

Rebecca Heerdt • Parade of American Music

Sharon Kaplan • Junior Composers Contest and Composer Camp Scholarships

Louise Lundin • MFMC Web Site — Content Manager/Advisor



Peggy Karsten  
Parliamentarian/Advisor