

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs

HALF NOTES NEWSLETTER — SPRING/SUMMER 2025

WEB SITE: WWW.MFMC.NET

COMPILED BY CHERYL SCHMIDT

Official Call

Summer State Meeting/ Biennial Convention: Wednesday, July 23, 2025
Virtual Meeting 9:30am – 11:30am

President's Message – Sarah Twedt



Sarah Twedt, MFMC State President

Greetings to all members! It is May and we can look forward to a new season! I owe everyone a huge thank you for all that you have done to support our organization this past year.



MFMC went through a transition beginning July 2024, when we elected a new treasurer, Shirley Erickson, accepted new chairpersons for insurance coordinator, Sue Quist, Festival Co-Chair, Grace Kopitske, and Scholarships and Awards Chair, Sheila Shusterich. There are others that continued their roles which were a much-needed anchor to our MFMC ship! Each of these new leaders did a tremendous job of learning the ropes of their respective positions, taking the time to work with clubs, learning, and meeting new friends along the way. Thank you all for your patience during this time and for the support given to each leader and volunteer in our organization.

We will be having another round of elections in July. Our summer meeting is scheduled to be held via Zoom on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. President, 1st Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian are all positions to be voted on at this meeting. As of this writing, the slot of 1st VP continues to be available. Cheryl Schmidt and Mary Wescott have worked tirelessly to fill this important slot. In 2 years, without a President, we will be looking a different organizational chart for MFMC. Please let me know if you have any questions about the position.

Sheila Shusterich, Grace Kopitske, Mary Wescott, and I will be representing MFMC at the June NFMC convention. A new board of directors, President and first Vice President will be elected. We will all be participating in many national committee meetings and look forward to giving a full report at our July meeting.

We had a successful festival season! We needed to collaborate and navigate through the bulletin corrections (which was made easier by the hard work of our very own Grace Kopitske) to get to the finish line, but because the program continues to offer great incentives for our students to grow in their music studies, and because we have amazing teachers and dedicated volunteers, we did it!

It is exciting to hear of the many honors recitals that took place throughout the state. I want to thank Mary Wescott for putting together the second annual Metro TC honors recital at Schmitt music this past April.

Our students and families benefit from having music and the arts in their lives. Thank you for supporting your students, families, and your local arts community! I am honored to be your President, and we are all grateful for the work you do for MFMC.

With kind regards to all,
Sarah Twedt, MFMC President

Meeting Highlights from MFMC State Meeting – April 26, 2025

Meeting minutes and the meeting packet reports are posted on the MFMC website. Meeting minutes are membership password protected – contact MFMC via the contact form on the website if you need to request the password.

Positions to be filled for MFMC and election of officers will be held at the July state meeting. Open positions: Vice President, Membership Chair, Certificate's Chair, Junior Composers Chair

The Finance Committee met in April, and these minutes are posted on the MFMC website.

Membership totals for 2024-2025: senior membership – 276, junior membership 2597, and adult membership - 20.

Grace Kopitske and Sarah Twedt are co-festival chairs. The MFMC website (<https://mfmc.net>) is the place for your MFMC questions. Thanks to Nadine Berg, past festival chair, for all you have done to make the transition easier.

Total Festival Participants: Juniors 2,466 Adults: 20

Festival Cup totals:

1st: 373, 2nd: 149, 3rd: 47, 4th: 7, 5th: 4, 6th: 3

Junior Composers Participants: 3 Cups

Vivace Online Registration Management System seems to be getting easier with lower errors this year. Please contact Grace Kopitske if you have questions or concerns. Problems cannot be addressed if they are not reported.

Sue Quist, insurance coordinator, asks to be sure the person/email listed on the insurance request form is a club member and that the email is correct. Please take note of the cutoff dates for requests.

NFMC Michael R. Edwards Graduating Senior Performance Award

Congratulations to Vladimir Tsiper, also featured in this newsletter as a MFMC President's Cup recipient, has received the National Federation of Music Clubs Michael R. Edwards Graduating Senior Performance Award of \$5000.00. Vladimir is a violin student of Lucinda Marvin.

This award is to recognize a high school senior who will be pursuing a performance degree. Visit nfmc-music.org for further details.

National Federation of Music Clubs Convention

The National Federation of Music Clubs convention will be held from June 10 to June 14, 2025, in Austin, Texas. Minnesota was well represented with many of our MFMC leadership in attendance, Sarah Twedt, Grace Kopitzke, Sheila Shusterich, and Mary Wescott. Please contact them if there are any items you would like them to address with our national organization.

2025 MFMC Biennial State Student Auditions Winners Announced!

Liz Raihala, chair of the MFMC Biennial State Student Auditions, announces the 2025 winners. Aeda Villnow, Quinn Eisenbacher and John Peter Moes. Each winner received a \$600.00 award.

The Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Biennial State Student Auditions is a competition for piano, organ, strings, voice, brass, woodwinds and percussion with specific repertoire requirements. The entry fee is \$25.00. Additional requirements are noted on the MFMC website.

If you have any questions, please contact Biennial State Student Auditions chair, Liz Raihala at Liz@Raihala.net.



Aeda Villnow, 2025 Biennial Student Audition Winner in Voice, is a senior at Willmar Senior High School. Aeda's parents are Nathan and Janna Villnow and she is a voice student of Cheryl Schmidt.

Aeda participated in Cardinal Choir and in 2701, a small group auditioned choir, and several musicals. She received superior ratings and best of sight designations at the state solo ensemble contest, superior ratings in the local vocal festival, and was accepted into the All-State Choir and the Central Lakes Conference Honor Choir.

She hopes to continue these activities at Waldorf University where she will be majoring in music education.



John Peter (JP) Moes, 2025 Biennial Student Audition Winner in Piano, is a junior at Warroad High School. JP studies jazz-oriented lessons with Lars Quincke remotely and classical oriented lessons with Nancy Fisher.

JP has participated in Junior Festivals and was selected to attend the 2023 Medora Music Camp in Medora ND where he received direct training by Dr. Nariaki Sugiura.

JP does jazz gigs with his younger brother for local establishments for fundraisers or service hours. He plays Saxophone in Warroad High School Band, piano for the jazz ensemble, accompanies the Warroad High School choir and was inducted into the MN National Honor Society in his junior year. He plays on the Warroad High School hockey, track teams, trap and golf.

JP is pursuing his Eagle Scout rank and is serving a 3-year term on a steering committee chartered to find ways for adults to better accompany youth in their faith. Along with this program, he is joining thirty other individuals on a mission trip to Jamaica to build homes and provide food for those in need. JP plans to continue studying music throughout his senior year in high school and in college.



Quinn Eisenbacher, 2025 Biennial Student Audition Winner in Voice, is a junior at ACGC High School in Grove City, MN, and her parents are Janelle and Harold Eisenbacher. Quinn has a love for music and singing with involvement in high school choir, band, jazz band, and has taken private voice lessons for four years with Cheryl Schmidt.

Quinn has had the opportunity to participate in several choral festivals, was selected last year to be a part of the MN All-State SATB choir. She is also involved in basketball, track and field, National Honor Society, Student Council, Theater, Theater Leadership, and Robotics.

Outside of school, Quinn is in Taekwondo training for her adult black belt, is active in her church, youth group, and an elected member of her Synod Lutheran Youth

Organization board. She is currently starting her college search and is considering a career in music education.

Tuition Assistance Grant – Sheila Shusterich

Sheila Shusterich, Scholarships, Awards and Grants Chair, announced that one tuition assistance grant of \$500.00 has been distributed. Tuition Assistance Grants are for private music students, up to the age of 18 or high school seniors and the deadline is July 15th.

All details regarding this grant are on the MFMC website. Thanks to Vicki Ott for being on the Scholarships, Awards and Grants Chair Committee. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sheila via the MFMC website.

Congratulations to MFMC Festival Grand Cup Recipient



Noah Scharback is a 10th grader at Minnetonka High School in Minnetonka, MN. His teacher is David Holmes. Noah served as principal cellist in the Minnesota Youth Symphony this past term and was last year's Symphony Solo Competition winner. He was also the 2024 Senior Division winner of the MN Sinfonia Young Artist String Competition, and a Junior Division winner of the Mary West Solo Competition this fall.

Noah placed highly in several other competitions this year including the Bruce P. Carlson Student Scholarship Competition through the Schubert Club, Thursday Musical Young Artist Scholarship and the Minnetonka Music Association Young Artist Competition. Noah is thrilled to have earned the NFMC Grand Cup this year and has his sights set on the President's Cup, a goal of his since he was 6 years old!

Noah enjoys exploring chamber music with the Emyrean Quartet of wonderful young people at Artaria Chamber Music School. He devotes his time to studying cello with his beloved teacher, Dr. David Holmes, whom he has studied with for 11 of the 12 years he has been playing cello. Noah plays travel soccer and is in his 10th season singing with the Minnesota Boychoir under the wonderful direction and mentorship of Mark Johnson. Noah's opera credits include La Bohème at Theater Latté Da and the role of Miles in The University of Minnesota Opera Theatre's production of Britten's Turn of the Screw; however, Noah's most accomplished role to date is that of Big Brother to his four little sisters

Scholarships, Awards and Grants are available!

Please visit the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs website, www.mfmc.net and the National Federation of Music Clubs website, www.nfmc-music-org and explore the many opportunities for your students of all ages and interests!

Congratulations to MFMC President's Cup Recipient



Vladimir Tsiper is a senior at the Breck School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has been a violin student of Lucinda Marvin at MacPhail Center for Music since the age of five. 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. He is a concertmaster of the Breck Chamber Players Orchestra.

Vladimir has won many prizes at venues such as Sherer International Competition in Goshen IN, and in the Minneapolis area from Schubert Club, MNSOTA Mary West Solo Competition, Thursday Musical, the MacPhail Concerto/Aria Competition, Minnesota Sinfonia Young Artists Competition and many other Concerto Competitions. In the last few years, he has soloed with the Bloomington (MN) Symphony Orchestra, Dakota Valley Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of

Minneapolis, the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Youth Symphonies, La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, and Mankato Symphony.

Vladimir was featured on the national radio show From The Top. In 2022 and 2025 he was the Winner of the West Central Division of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Senior String Competition and competed in the National Competition. As a prestigious Woodruff Award recipient, Vladimir will be beginning his violin studies with Professor Sergiu Schwartz at the Schwob School of Music of the Columbus State University in Georgia this fall. 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.

MFMC Bylaws

It is time for the MFMC Constitution and Bylaws to be reviewed and make changes as needed. If you are interested in serving on the Bylaws Review Committee, please contact Sarah Twedt. The current MFMC Constitution and Bylaws are posted on the MFMC website.

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



Nancy Fisher • National
Board Representative, Social Media



Sarah Twedt • President
Co-Festival Chair, Certificates



Shirley Erickson • Treasurer



Mary Kaye Rabaey • Secretary



Karen Erickson • Historian
International Music Camp Scholarships



Mary Wescott • North Central
Region Vice President



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



Sue Quist • Insurance Coordinator



Grace Kopitske • Festival Online
Registration Administrator
Co-Festival Chair



Liz Raihala
Biennial Student Auditions



Sheila Shusterich
NFMC Student/Collegiate Auditions
MFMC Scholarships, Awards & Grants



Cara Caravetta
Product Line/Logo Wear



Peggy Karsten
Parliamentarian/Advisor

Not Pictured:

Rebecca Heerdt • Parade of American Music

Sharon Kaplan • Junior Composers Contest and Composer Camp Scholarships

Louise Lundin • MFMC Web Site — Content Manager/Advisor