



## *North Central Region News*

*May 2012*

Greetings to all of you! I hope you are enjoying the onset of spring with all the beautiful blossoms and greenery. Although many Federation programs are coming to a close at this time we have some upcoming important events.

### **NFMC Fall Session**

The 2012 National Federation of Music Clubs Meeting will be held from June 19-24 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The last day to submit your registration and make your hotel reservation is May 19<sup>th</sup>. The hotel is the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. You may call or make reservations on line. The telephone number is 317-635-2000.

### **2012 NCR Days**

NCR Days 2012 will be held July 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> in Minneapolis, MN in conjunction with the 2012 Junior Composers. Rooms have been set aside at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5140 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, MN 55437 for July 19, 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. The room rates for our group are: one King-\$86.00, two Queens-\$96.00. Be sure to mention the North Central Region Meeting in order to receive the group rate. You may contact Gale Strand at Barron Travel at 715-537-9003 or [btravel@chibardun.net](mailto:btravel@chibardun.net) to make your reservation. You may also call the hotel directly if you prefer at 952-831-1012. **The deadline for reservations is June 6<sup>th</sup> so make your plans early!** I will be sending out a call letter and registration form in the next few weeks. We will be starting out on Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM with a meet and greet followed by a business meeting and luncheon with keynote speaker, Michael Edwards, NFMC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President from Florida. In the afternoon, all are invited to attend the final salons for the songwriters featuring the pieces composed during the sessions. In the evening a performance by the Minnesota Sinfonia at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis will feature the winner of the second annual Orchestra Composition Contest. Saturday we will listen to all the wonderful compositions in the Junior Composers Salon Concert. We hope to see you all there!

### Junior Composer Competition Winners

The following are the North Central Region Junior Composer winners for 2012. Their compositions have been forwarded to National.

- Class I        Julia Peterson - Madison, WI (teacher – Dr. Douglas Jurs)  
                  Joshua Swanson - Bruno, MN (teacher – Margaret Christensen)
- Class II        Jared Swift - Bellevue, NE (teacher – Ellen Kershaw)  
                  Kaityn Rozeboom - Omaha, NE (teacher – Regina Carnazzo)
- Class III       Elizabeth Ophoven - Grand Rapids, MN (teacher Ann Dimich)  
                  Evren Ozel - Minneapolis, MN (teacher Sarah Miller)  
                  Adam Noel -Waukesha, WI (teacher Sam Ecoff)
- Class IV        Joanna Weng - Madison, WI (teacher Julie Chang)  
                  Daniel Weaver - Omaha, NE (teacher Regina Carnazzo)  
                  Grant Luhmann - Lino Lakes, MN (teacher Sarah Miller)

Congratulations to all the winners and best of luck at the National Competition!

### Junior Composers Summer Programs-Patricia Steege

Dates: Studio 7/9/12 to 7/21/12; Institute 7/15/12 to 7/21/12; Songwriters 7/14/12 to 7/20/12

Location: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Core features of the Junior Composers Summer Programs:

- Composition tutorials
- 2-hours of daily music theory/ear-training
- Master classes with a renowned guest composer
- Composing and performing new works
- Daily "salons" with guest artists
- Field trips: Minnesota Sinfonia, ice cream social
- Music technology lab, practice rooms
- Room and board at Middlebrook Hall, U of M

The 2012 Artist in Residence is a fantastic professional string quartet residing in St. Paul by the name of **Artaria String Quartet**. They will be doing readings of student-composed scores for string quartets. A guest composer from Luther College, Iowa by the name of Brooke Joyce will be with the students during the first week. Faculty for the Studio and the Institute are Randall Davidson, Linda Tutas-Haugen, Dr. Sarah Miller and Dr. Seth Custer. The final salon for these students will be on Saturday, July 21.

JC's collaboration with the Minnesota Sinfonia will continue another year. Jay Fishman, Artistic Director of the [Minnesota Sinfonia](#), has extended a call for submissions to the 2nd annual **Orchestra Composition Contest**. This opportunity is available exclusively for Junior Composers students enrolled in 2012 programs.

The winning string orchestra piece will be part of the Sinfonia's Young Artists Week, culminating in a performance on Friday, July 20, 2012 at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis.

The Songwriters Institute will be back again with faculty Michelle Whalen and guest songwriter Andy Thompson. Plans are underway to provide the students with a recording studio experience in collaboration with McNally Smith School of Music. The final salon for the songwriters will occur on Friday afternoon, July 20.

The public is invited to all afternoon salons by guest speakers and to the final salons featuring the pieces composed during the week(s).



Pat Steege enjoys a final moment before departure from a successful Junior Composers 2011 with composers (left to right) Chris Neiner, Dylan Perese, Andy Troska, and Luke Gion.



Three of Junior Composers five faculty members: left to right, Randall Davidson, Dr. Seth Custer, Linda Tutas-Haugen

### **News from Minnesota-Patricia Steege**

Minnesota Federation members have kept music alive and well over the winter months as teachers hunkered down in their studios preparing for Junior Festival, serving as church musicians and promoting music in their communities. Teachers and students spent hours preparing for the many Festival days hosted by our 24 senior clubs. Over 5100 juniors participated in the gold cup program. In addition, numerous adult students

performed. Over 1000 trophies of all sizes will be presented by teachers at their spring recitals. Minnesota had four grand cup winners.

After several years of no entries in our Student/Collegiate Audition contest because we lacked a chairman, we have now reintroduced this event to Minnesota's students. Under the leadership of our new chairman, Ann Oleksowicz, eight entrants earned scholarships totaling \$3500.00. The first place winner in piano, David Packa, will perform at our next all-state meeting.

The Junior Composers Contest had 24 entries. The biggest change in our profile was that level two (ages 10-12) had the most number of entries which shows a bright future for this event in Minnesota. As in every state, the top two winners in each age category advanced to the regional level of judging. Four of the ten winners chosen to advance to national judging are Minnesota students. MFMC awards at least \$1600 to participants in our state contest to help these composers attend the Junior Composers summer camp program held at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis.

Currently we are preparing for our April 28 all-state meeting held in Duluth, MN at the Women's Club overlooking majestic Lake Superior. At this meeting we will decide on or recognize scholarship winners, hear musical interludes and enjoy lunch together after our business meeting.

## **News from North Dakota**

### **Thursday Music Club – Pat Grantier**

Grand Forks Thursday Music Club began its year with a membership tea at which a quintet of members performed. Every month's program featured various performance ensembles from opera to strings to a trombone quartet--many performances by University of North Dakota students and faculty. Ten scholarships to International Music Camp were given by this club.

Due to parking congestion at their downtown meeting location, the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club came up with a unique solution. They began to schedule their meetings on federal holidays. Not only was the parking problem alleviated, but many people who'd been unable to attend meetings before were now free to do so, and they were able to invite members of the public to programs as well. This club awards many scholarships, and its scholarship winners often perform at club meetings. A very popular program was based around the book of study, "America's Musical Life" and a scholarly program on the history of American piano building. Following the presentation, the club's two Steinway grands came to life with duets and quartets in addition to a piano concerto by guest, Jenny Sun, a winner of the Young Artist solo competition.

Inspired by the state convention chorus, the Bismarck/Mandan Thursday Music Club formed a chorus, "Rhapsody" which performed at three assisted living homes. The chorus also brought in five new members to our club. A sacred music program, "Fuel for the Soul," held at McCabe Methodist Church featured performance groups from several area churches. Other outstanding programs included member composer, Mary Leaf, describing her composing process and playing her lyrical compositions. Another featured University of Mary vocal teacher singing and giving "tips for the aging voice." A number of community musical groups benefit financially from gifts we give, as do many scholarship winners.

The Valley Music Makers of Trail County sends several students to International Music Camp.

Housed in a town of 350 people, the club draws from surrounding communities, makes up in enthusiasm what they lack in numbers.

Thursday Musical of Williston chose as the year's theme, "How Can I Keep from Singing." Their kick-off meeting featured "Songs from My Youth." Other permutations of the theme were "Songs from Student Years" and "Those Golden Oldies." A community program for children will feature "How Can I Keep from Singing...about Food" using power-point images and sing-along to evoke memories of food-themed songs. The state can credit the Williston club with planning programs in Veterans Homes in November. Although Williston started it, now several clubs are planning their American music around Veterans Day and Veterans Homes. The Williston club funds 14 scholarships to the International Music Camp.

### **Minot Piano Teachers Club – Arnola Leverson, President**

The Minot Piano Teachers Club has had a busy year. The response to our need for used music for students and teachers affected by the flood has been good. But, even better, to this date, have been the donations sent by individuals for Ramstad Junior High School, which lost their building, and most of the percussion instruments and music for their music programs. If you have not received a thank-you, it is because Pat Schwan, the band director told me that they want to make a video of their groups. And they have not yet been able to put it together. They have been most appreciative and overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you for responding to the needs of so many flood-affected musicians.

We have tried to provide support for our students who have been directly affected by the flood; many have been practicing on keyboards all year. We listen as they tell of their repair work being done on their houses, or the new house that is nearing completion and the anticipation of the piano finally being brought "home". I personally feel that we have been more than just "teachers" this year.

### **News from Iowa-Linda Allebach**

The Spring Board meeting of the IFMC will take place on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, in Des Moines at Rieman Music Store. Reports provided at this meeting will provide the numbers of Festival entrants, Junior Composition entrants and winners, and our state campship awards. At this date, I do not the exact details.

The primary topic for discussion at this meeting will be how to reinvent our Junior Day activities for the state biennial convention to be held in Sioux City in 2013. Junior Day attendance has seen lower numbers for several years. We have some new members on our board who are willing to add different activities to this important event and hopefully add more participants.

Changes in our camp scholarship competition for Juniors have been put in place. For 2012, we are accepting DVDs of competing Juniors performing their Festival pieces for the \$300.00 scholarships. In the past, Juniors had to travel to a site to compete before a judge. As of this date, our Junior Advisor, Lori Jessen, is still finishing the competition. Because of financial restrictions, we are only awarding two scholarships this year.

We now have a State Historian that is actively seeking a place for our Iowa Federation archive. Mary Jo Bartel lives in Des Moines and is looking into either the Iowa State Historical Building or the State Capital as a place to house five crates of our history. Many of these items date back 50 years or more. Again, at our Spring Board meeting, we will have a chance to learn about a place to store our important historical items.

This has been a year of budget crunching and getting our finances in better shape. At our fall meeting, we cut some awards and decreased some award amounts while raising our State Festival fees to

\$2.00 per student. These are small changes but could easily add up to a healthier bank balance. Lucinda Lear has led the charge and we appreciate her leadership in this important area.

A Summer Sounding Board, our state newsletter, will be coming out in May with many more details about Federation activity in Iowa.

### **SUMMER MUSIC CENTERS - Odee Maier, NFMC Chair**

My new NFMC Summer Music Centers position is a delightful change for me. There are 37 possible scholarships/awards available to young musicians from all over the USA. I work closely with the representatives, some who are NFMC members and some who are the camp's administrators, to see that the awards get to the correct people; I also write a review of each camp and its winners for Music Clubs Magazine.

The North Central Region has 4 Camps including the International Music Camp, JCI/Sampson, Ravinia, and Simpson College Orpheus Festival. In 2012, Illinois had one winner, Alyssa Hensley; Iowa, one winner, Evan Schroeder; North Dakota, four winners (IMC) Casey Feldner, Kai Johnson, Rachel Mack, and (JCI) Mimi Brown; Wisconsin, one winner, Wyatt Underhill; and Canada, three winners (IMC) Mollin Baliisi, Timothy Sinkewicz, and Jay Uschold.

A complete listing of all SMC winners with pictures was printed in the winter issue of Music Clubs Magazine.

A note to teachers: some of these awards are open to any interested young musician in any area of the NFMC world. Of particular interest is the Idaho Gladys Comstock Award whose basic requirement is a letter stating which Camp the young person wishes to attend and a performance CD. Check the C&A listings for more information or contact me.

### **OUTGOING NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S FUND - Odee Maier, Chair**

This Fund, formerly the Past National President's Scholarship Fund, is a tradition started many years ago giving recognition to the immediate Past NFMC President for her/his efforts during her/his term. Carolyn Nelson, the current NFMC President and a member of our Region, has asked us to begin our fund raising early so we will reach our goal by 2015 when she leaves office.

Carolyn's goal is \$35,000 to be used for an endowed Collegiate orchestral double reed scholarship. In recent years, the NFMC has attempted to raise all ONP endowments to that level.

My latest data from the NFMC Treasurer, Suzanne Carpenter, indicates a balance of around \$1,500 and includes 2 states using our Plan A, which calls for each state to contribute \$250.00 for the 4 years, making a total donation of \$1,000. Oregon and Wisconsin have agreed to this plan. Ten other states (AR, ID, IL, LA, ND, OH, PA, SD, TX, & VA) have made donations during this period.

We hope the North Central Region states will consider our Plan A. You probably want to know what Plan B entails—well; it is to donate the \$1,000 whenever they can!

And, of course, individual donations will be gratefully accepted. Funds should be sent to me or Suzanne Carpenter, PO Box 357275, Gainesville, FL 32635.

Thanks for helping Carolyn's ONP Award Fund

### **Schools and Colleges Division – Shirley Carroll**

**The North Central Region** is busy with festivals, programs, and recitals. All of the states are in contact in some way with their schools and colleges in the name of JCI through their states. Club members attended elementary and high school musical performances.

**The Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club** gives two Agnes Jardine Scholarships to NDSU and has the winners perform for the club. Also, an NDSU student won two of our piano scholarships. Presentations of the Mikado and Fidelio will include both NDSU and Concordia students. Many of our members attend and support all of the arts performances in the colleges and high schools.

**The Thursday Music Club of Grand Forks** reports having given a scholarship to a UND student this year. They also gave \$400 to a new string group at UND. In the wake of the Minot flood, several state board members gave monetary gifts to Ramstad Middle School music department which had lost instruments and music in the flood. Personal notes thanking those board members showed the gratitude of the staff.

**Springfield and Bloomington, central region** just finished their Golden Lyre Regional Camp scholarship sending 2 students to a summer camp offering \$200.00 and \$300.00. Both cities are very involved in Junior Festival besides having the local colleges speak to them.

### **Stillman-Kelley Winner Announced**

John Schindler has been named the North Central Region Stillman-Kelley winner for 2012. John is a Student of Sam Ecoff at the Waukesha County Conservatory of Music.

### **JCI Gold Pin Awarded – Carolyn Nelson**

Lana Simons, Minot, ND, is our newest JCI gold pin recipient. She has donated over \$100 by buying online through IGive.com!!! Her total in JCI bonuses is now at \$117. Sign up today, indicate Junior Composers Institute as your cause.