



## *North Central Region News*

*May 2015*

Greetings to all of you, from Jeanne Hryniewicki! This will be my last newsletter to all of you as my 4 years as NCR VP will end in Fargo in June. I have enjoyed serving the North Central Region for the last four years and would like to thank all of you for your help and support. Your willingness to give of your time is what makes our region awesome!

### **NFMC 2015 Biennial Convention**

The 2015 NFMC Biennial Convention will be held from June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> in Fargo, North Dakota. If you haven't made your hotel reservation yet, please do so ASAP as the deadline for reservations is 5:00 PM on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for registration and meal reservations is June 1<sup>st</sup>. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Fargo, 3803 13 Ave. S, Fargo, ND You may call or make reservations on line. The telephone number is 1-701-282-2700.

### **2015 NCR Days**

NCR Days 2015 will be held July 24 and 25 in Minneapolis, MN in conjunction with the 2015 Junior Composers. Rooms have been set aside at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5140 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, MN 55437 for July 23, 24 and 25. The room rates for our group are: one King-\$109.00, two Queens-\$122.00. In order to receive the group rate, you must contact Gale Strand at Barron Travel at 715-537-9033, X229, toll free at 877-651-9680, X229 or [btravel@chibardun.net](mailto:btravel@chibardun.net) to make your reservation. **Do not call** the hotel directly as you will not receive the group rate. **The deadline for reservations is June 12<sup>th</sup> so make your plans early!** You should have received the call letter that I sent out last week. We will be starting out on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM with a meet and greet followed by a business meeting and luncheon. Our National Guests are Ouida and George Keck who will speak to us after lunch. Friday afternoon will offer you some free time to sight see if you wish.

In the evening a performance by the Minnesota Sinfonia at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis will feature the winner of the fifth annual Orchestra Composition Contest. Saturday we will listen to all the compositions in the Junior Composers Salon Concert. We hope to see you all there!

### **Stillman Kelley Winner**

Congratulations to John Schindler from Hartland, Wisconsin on winning the NFMC first place Stillman Kelley award for 2015!

The Stillman Kelley award is funded by the Stillman Kelley endowment in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Stillman Kelley.

John Schindler began his piano studies at age 6, when he was drawn to expressing himself through music. As a pianist, he has been recognized in several competitions. Two of the highlights of John's performing experiences were to play with the Milwaukee Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber orchestras in the 2013-2014 season, and he will perform with the Wisconsin Philharmonic next year.

Last June, he was selected as a first-year scholarship recipient by the Chopin Foundation of the United States. In 2013, he was awarded third prize at the national finals of the MTNA Junior Piano competition. For the past two summers John attended the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina, where he studied with Norman Krieger. John highly values the master classes he has participated in with Joseph Kalichstein, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Julian Martin, and Nelita True, among others.

John is sixteen years old and attends eAchieve Academy, which is an online high school. Online high school gives him the flexibility he needs to manage his advanced piano studies. He currently studies piano with Margarita Kontorovsky.



*John performing at the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Convention on May 9<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Junior Composer Competition Winners**

The following are the North Central Region Junior Composer winners for 2015. Their compositions have been forwarded to National.

Class I  
1st Place Roger Young--Nebraska Teacher--Regina Carnazzo  
2nd Place Maria Paula Fix--Nebraska Teacher--Regina Carnazzo  
Honorable mention  
Kate Leverenz--Illinois Teacher--Dianna M. Varagona  
Lauren Marcuson--North Dakota Teacher--Helen M. Anderson  
Vaughan Hughes--Minnesota Teacher--Sara Miller

Class II  
1st Place Sam Hanson--Minnesota Teacher--Sarah Miller  
2nd Place Eliza Young--Nebraska Teacher--Regina Carnazzo  
Honorable Mention  
Martha Walstad--Nebraska Teacher--Nancy L. Schoen  
Nathan Yuan--Illinois Teacher--Claudia Sewell

Class III  
1st Place David Besonen--Minnesota Teacher--Chris Wolf  
2nd Place Andrew Cannestra--Wisconsin Teacher--Ken Bruce  
3rd Place Max Zelle--Minnesota Teacher--Sarah Miller  
Honorable Mention  
Sofia Vander Awaag--Nebraska Teacher--Regina Carnazzo  
Ian Ridenhour--North Dakota Teacher--Brad Stockert

Class IV  
1st Place Jacob Beranek--Wisconsin Teacher--Sam Ecoff  
2nd Place Colin Arntz--Nebraska Teacher--Regina Carnazzo  
3rd Place Jeremy Bell--Wisconsin Teacher--Sam Ecoff  
Honorable Mention  
Ciara Hourser--North Dakota Teacher--Karen Okenlund  
Sarraah Bushara--Minnesota Teacher--Sarah Miller

National Winners have recently been announced and the NCR winners are as follows:

Class III Winner: Andrew Cannestra (Wisconsin) "Sea of Tranquility", Teacher: Ken Bruce  
Incentive Award: David Besanen (Minnesota) "French Lullaby", Teacher: Chris Wolf

Class IV Outstanding Piano Composition Laura K. Wilson Memorial Fund honoring Dorothy Dann Bullock, PNP: Jacob Beranek (Wisconsin) "Piano Concerto in f# minor I. Allegro", Teacher: Sam Ecoff



*Andrew Cannestra, 2015 NFMC first place Junior Composers winner, Class 3*

## **Junior Composers Summer Programs**

Dates: Studio 7/13/15 to 7/25/15; Institute 7/19/15 to 7/25/15; Songwriters 7/19/15 to 7/25/14

Location: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

### **Junior Composers Summer Camp 2015 Offerings**

**by Pat Steege**

The Teacher Training Institute — established in 2014 — will be offered again to musicians, private teachers or public school teachers. Pat Plude of Avivo will instruct an expanded two-and-one-half day workshop entitled *Courage, Creativity, and Authenticity in Teaching*. Her colleague Leo Wanenchak will join her for an even broader offering of topics to help teachers become more creative and help their students become more creative. Areas of instruction will focus on teaching musicianship, aural skills, improvisation and composition. Avivo's teaching style is holistic, fresh and fun. The TTI will be held at the U of Minnesota Twin Cities on July 16-18. More information at [www.juniorcomposers.org](http://www.juniorcomposers.org) Pat Plude says, "This promises to be a delightful, curious, and creative learning community! Will you please help us spread the word among your colleagues?"

The theme of this year's JC summer camp program is Wind Ensemble. Students who are attending camp this summer are invited to compose a wind ensemble piece and submit it to Seth Custer by June 1. The exciting part is that these pieces will be given a professional reading by the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble. Students age 14-20 are invited to register for the camp via the JC website — [www.juniorcomposers.org](http://www.juniorcomposers.org). Our relationship with ASCAP is ongoing as evidenced by the receipt of another \$3,000 grant to be used for student scholarships. Thank you, ASCAP! Frank Felice from Butler University, Indiana, will be the JC camp composer-in-residence. Studio is the two-week residential camp; the Composers Institute and the Songwriters Institute are one-week residential camps. Faculty will again include Dr. Seth Custer, Dr. Sarah Miller, and Randall Davidson. The Songwriters faculty will be a young man who is a JC alumnus, Eric Radloff. Eric is currently living in California where he graduated with a music degree and now makes his living as a singer-songwriter. We are excited to have him return to camp to coach and inspire our students.

Quotes from previous camps:

"As usual, you provide incredibly helpful feedback & resources without taking over my piece. Seth is an amazing teacher!"

"What an amazing experience! You are doing perfectly. Randall is awesome!"

"I learned a lot and they had so many ideas I never would have thought of on my own. The week went too fast."

### Junior Composers 2014



Final Salon, 7/19/14, Ullman Hall, School of Music, U of MN, Minneapolis

### **Let's Try Something New that Helps Bring New Music to NCR by Pat Steege 4/15/15**

Junior Composers is courageously trying two new fundraising ideas this summer. Both ideas need support from our North Central Region people, and everyone who contributes gets a big hug plus something really cool. Here's how these ideas will work:

Commission Consortium: Dr. Seth Custer has gladly committed to composing a piano duet and we are seeking musical souls to help commission the work. Our goal is to sell 30 commission "shares" at \$200 each. Each person that purchases one or more shares will receive printed copies of the completed score by no later than September of 2015, with the understanding that they will be responsible for arranging a public performance of the piece within one calendar year. The money raised will help pay for the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble which will be our professional readers for student submitted pieces. Commissions may be purchased by using Pay Pal on the Junior Composers website [www.juniorcomposers.org](http://www.juniorcomposers.org). Please help us raise these funds and receive a fresh new piano duet for your studio library

Bag a Composer project: This project will be visible at the National Convention in Fargo but is something anyone can have fun helping with now. Donors who would like to help with this fundraiser are being asked to create a gift bag containing one bottle of local wine (from a winery in the North Central Region) plus any other music-themed items to make each bag interesting and appealing. We are hoping that each state in the NCR might be able to contribute ten bags to the cause. (Kudos to North Dakota who is well on their way to getting their's completed.) These bags will be collected at the convention and sold for \$30 each with the proceeds going to help the Junior Composers summer program. Please contribute a bag or please buy a bag or please contribute so that we can make a bag on your behalf! You might even be the one who purchases the secret, extra special bag that contains a piece of Black Hills gold jewelry. We aren't telling which bag it's in. You have to come to the convention to find out.

Thank you from the JC Committee (Heidi Hong, Lucinda Lear, Sharon Wesbrook, Pat Steege)



*Last October Sharon Wesbrook and Heidi Hong met at Pat Steege's house, along with Lucinda Lear, to begin organization work on Junior Composers bylaws and fundraising ideas, among other topics.*

### **News from Illinois – Gina Einig**

#### **Morning Etude Throws a Party:**

On Thursday, April 9, the Morning Etude Club of Carbondale threw a birthday party for Anne Hill, our dear friend and long-time member, on the occasion of her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Anne has always been a valuable addition to our club, short in stature but long in intelligence, humor, and true dedication to the arts. She is known in the community for her generosity to good causes, even endowing a composition scholarship in the Southern Illinois University School of Music. This year she is helping to support the Junior Composers Institute.

Anne's has always been involved in musical theater. She claims to have been "mostly a backstage person" but also did some acting and sang in "The Mikado" and "Die Fledermaus." She worked with the Music Theater of Chicago and McLeod Theater at SIU. She is a singer whose work in choruses and ensembles always gave her great joy. She has until very recently been a member of the Lorelei Singers, a group whose repertoire consists of traditional German songs. Anne was serenaded with some of her favorite songs by members of the Loreleis and also from the "Free Range Chicks," a lovely local trio.

She now lives at Liberty Village, a senior community in Carbondale. Many of her fellow residents came to her party, as well as club members and many friends. Gina Einig hosted the program, which consisted of songs from each decade of Anne's life. The audience enjoyed songs which ranged from "Stardust" and "Sentimental Journey" to hits from musicals all the way up to *Chorus Line*. Anne's interests are extremely varied, but we can all be glad to know a woman of such intellectual curiosity, commitment to social values, and – above all – a passion for music. Happy Birthday, Anne, and many more!



*Anne thanking her guests at Liberty Village.*



*Club members from the Lorelei singers: Betty Person Martha Ellert, Joyce Fornes, and Beth Haas.*



*Gina Einig in front of Anne on a spot promoting public television.*

### **News from Iowa-Karen Bourne**

#### **Siouxland Federated Music Club Holds Sonatina Festival**



Charity Koehler and Pat Herbold Chaired the annual SFMC Sonatina Festival held April 18, 2015. Students prepared Sonatinas commensurate with their Festival levels of playing. Michele Grossman judged them on memory accuracy, technique rhythm and musicianship. Winners received a monetary award. Pictured are Pat Herbold (left) and Karen Bourne (Right) with winners from the festival.

### **News from Minnesota – Cheryl Schmidt**

Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs State Student Auditions - Chairman, Marcia Benson

Strings--1st Place--Aria Stiles, Violin  
Apple Valley, MN  
Teacher--Elisabeth Small

2nd Place--Maggie Anderson, Cello  
Big Falls, MN  
Teacher--Dan Aalto

Honorable Mention--Madison Drinen, Violin  
Rosemount, MN  
Teacher--Susan Jacobson

Men's Voice--1st Place--Joel Finsaas  
New London, MN  
Teacher, Cheryl Schmidt

### **News from Wisconsin**

#### **2015 Apple for the Teacher Award - Cathy Paquette Apple for the Teacher Award State Chairman**

This year we are happy to announce that the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs awarded ten music teachers the \$300 Apple for the Teacher Award. The award was given to each of the following teachers: Cathy Heuer of St. John Primary School and Our Lady of Peace School in Marshfield, Kathy Clark of St. Alphonsus School in Greendale, Mary Lou Schinke of Summit View Elementary School in Waukesha, Cynthia Riley of Jackson Elementary School in Janesville, Justin Kamp of Harmony Elementary School in Milton, Erica Cosson of Whittier Elementary School in Waukesha, Nancy Bezak of St. Joseph School in Wauwatosa, Cathy Mumma of Janesville Catholic Schools Band (St. John Vianney, School, St. William School and St. Patrick School) in Janesville, Lauren Schell of Kennedy Middle School in Germantown, and Desirae Schultz of Northside Intermediate School in Milton. The Apple for the Teacher Award is designed to assist a public, private or parochial music classroom teacher from grades kindergarten through eighth grade. It is a \$300 award given to nominated teachers by a WFMC senior club member. The awarded funds are to go toward needs in their classroom, such as instruments and repair, tuning, music, transportation to concerts, etc. Our sincere congratulations go to these teachers from the members of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs.

#### **2015 Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship - Cathy Paquette Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship State Chairman**

The winner of the 2015 Ruth Kreuser Music Scholarship for this year is Max Lin, the student of Tatyana Smith of the Milwaukee Music Teachers' Association. The competitive \$500 award goes to this well deserving young man from New Berlin – a pianist, flutist and composer. Congratulations go to him, and to Tatyana, also (Max's teacher of 6 years) for being instrumental in helping Max reach his musical goals.

Max is a senior at Eisenhower High School in New Berlin. He has studied piano for over 10 years and has won numerous awards for his piano performances. Some of his achievements include: four-time winner of the Milwaukee Music Teachers' Association Youth Concert Series, winner of the Chopin Youth Piano Competition in Milwaukee, and honorable mentions in the Cardinal Stritch University Piano Festival, and the Wisconsin Music Teachers' Association Badger Keyboard Competition.

In addition to his work on piano, he has been playing flute for eight years. Max is a four-time winner of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition. In 2011, he served as the flute principal for both the National Band Association's Wisconsin All-State Junior Band and the WSMA Middle Level State Honor Orchestra. He was awarded five honorable mentions for flute and piccolo performances in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition - to name just a few of his flute and piccolo accomplishments.

Aside from the musical performances, Max has taken on composition and has been chosen twice as a MYSO's John Downey Fellow. He was the first place winner at the WMTA Young Composers Competition, and was also the winner at the WFCM North Central Region Young Composers' Competition.

Max plans on using the award money toward college tuition where he will continue his music studies at one of the four top music schools he has been accepted to attend. He is an extremely talented, dedicated and ambitious musician who will be making music his lifetime career. Our sincere congratulations and best wishes go to Max in his musical endeavors from the members of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs.



*Max Lin performing at the Wisconsin Federation of Music Club's State Festival Competition on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

### **Student Audition Winners from Wisconsin – Janet Acker, Chairman**

Piano:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cameron Pieper  
Lawrence University, Appleton, WI  
Teacher, Catherine Kourtsky
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Elizabeth Vaughan  
Lawrence University  
Teacher, Catherine Kourtsky

Woodwinds:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Eric Schultz – clarinet  
University of Minnesota  
Teacher, Alex Flerstein

### **WFMC State Festival Competition-Jeanne Hryniewicki, Chairman**

The Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs held its second annual State Festival Competition on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Any student who received a Superior rating in his/her 2015 district Federation Festival was eligible to compete. The events for the competition were Piano Solo, Piano Duet, Piano Concerto, Hymn Playing, Violin Solo, Violin Concerto, Vocal Solo-Art Song and Vocal Solo-Musical Theatre, and Flute Solo.

While the district Federation Festivals offer an opportunity for critiques, ratings and points earned for gold cup trophies for all students, this unique competition gives the "Superior" students a challenge in that they are able to compete with their peers and have an opportunity to "win". Students and teachers can reach for higher expectations which will be beneficial in the future.

Seventy-two Wisconsin teachers from the greater Milwaukee area, to Madison, Janesville, Menomonie, Eau Claire, Barron, Chippewa Falls, and Racine entered students. This is 16 more than last year. There were over 500 entries up from the 320 in 2014. Four NCR members from other states came to judge for the competition. They are: Karen Bourne-South Dakota, Lori Jessen-Iowa, Sharon Westbrook-North Dakota and Sarah Twedt-Minnesota.

Winners were announced and awards were presented, including scholarship awards, at 6:30PM. There was a short concert including Andrew Cannestra, the NFMC Junior Composers winner in class 3 and Max Lin, 2015 Ruth Kreuser Scholarship winner.

There were numerous donations for the scholarship awards which were listed in the program.



*Pre-Primary Piano Solo first place winner, Liam Wells/Tomjanovich*



*Medium Piano Duet first place winners and recipients of a \$200 scholarship Mara Rohloff and Zoie Weiss*

### **Announcement**

The North Central Region website is looking for a new webmaster. Thank you to Gordie Maier for many years of servicing this website. Any interested parties should contact Jeanne Hryniewicki at [jfkish@hotmail.com](mailto:jfkish@hotmail.com).