



## Prairie Rose Notes

North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs

Editor - Pat Grantier

Co-Editor – Effie Carr

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### Introducing Alpha Roeszler, NDFMC – State President

Might I introduce myself as your new State President. I have been active within the Federation since 2007 after retiring from teaching and have served as a local officer in Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club since

2008. I have also served as an NCR chair and attended six of the last National Conferences and Conventions. On the State level, I have been Vice President for four years under Robyn Vinje in addition to being State Club reporter and chair of other divisions. Part of learning what our Federation is about is to participate in many Division areas including the American Music Division, Arts Division, Junior Division and other miscellaneous areas.

It is difficult to recruit volunteers on the state level and is probably just as difficult at the local level. Due to this problem, I have decided to have a short workshop (at our Fall Board Meeting) on filling out reports on the local and state level. Our club has been successful in winning monetary awards that we contribute to our scholarship funds. Please consider coming to the Fall Board Meeting to learn some tips on how to fill out these reports.

**Fall Board Meeting – Saturday, September 28 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at Jamestown College.**

More information will follow with a Letter of Call. If the main board members cannot attend, consider sending someone else in your place as it is a way to learn the “ins and outs” of our organization.

An added note of my personal background - I have two degrees, one in Elementary Education and another in Music Education. I have taught full-time for 22 years plus part-time music teaching for another 3 years. In addition to that, I have taught private piano lessons since the late 1960's and continue to do so today. I also am a music director for St. Mark's Lutheran Church and have been for 28 years. I serve as organist, pianist, and choir director.

My hobbies are my music, word puzzles, working on the computer for Federation reports, genealogy, movie making,

some traveling, and attending a lot of concerts and theatre productions.

This president role will be a new one for me, and I will appreciate any advice or tips. The [ndfmc.org](http://ndfmc.org) website will soon be updated with a new roster. Please watch for it.

May your upcoming year be a very successful one with good programs and ways to enjoy the scholarship winners you have chosen.

**See you at the board meeting in September.**

### Robyn Vinje Completes NDFMC Presidency Term, BUT She is Definitely Not Retiring

In the four years that Robyn Vinje has been our president, she has charmed everyone she has met while visiting clubs and conducting meetings. Last year, she conducted a survey of the scholarships that NDFMC local clubs are giving and was pleased that 74 scholarships totaling nearly \$20,000 were available. That dollar amount has likely increased this year. This does not include state-given scholarships. Last year the state increased the amounts of the Jardine scholarships and created new IMC scholarships totaling up to \$2000. Tim Baumann, IMC co-director, is now a member of the NDFMC board strengthening our ties to the camp.

Robyn feels grateful to attend conventions and conferences on our behalf and has represented us graciously and well. Always her focus is on what is best for the teachers and students that NDFMC serves. BUT she's not done yet. Robyn has recently become the North Dakota Representative to the NDFMC Board and is Secretary/Treasurer of the North Central Region. Additionally, she is secretary and scholarship chair of FMAMC. She will continue to serve on the NDFMC board as Past President as well. **Thank you, Robyn**



### Introducing Effie S. Carr – NDFMC State Vice President; Junior Festival Chair – State & South Central District, Co- editor of Prairie Rose Notes

Effie Carr graduated from the University of Mary with a Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration. After

working for Basin Electric at the Antelope Valley Station for 30 years, Effie worked at the Headquarters office for 3 years,

retiring in 2017. She lost no time loafing. Instead she directed her energy, expertise and organizational skills to NDFMC by taking on chairmanship of the South-Central District Festival the past two years. Next, she offered to help with the Prairie Rose Newsletter and the convention registration materials—husband Mark helped, too. Now she has taken on the state festival chairmanship along with the state vice-presidency.

Effie says, “Retirement is a good opportunity to serve a community – for me that is the community of NDFMC – especially Junior Festival. I have such respect for piano teachers and their dedication to music education. I admire the students for their interest in learning to play piano and the discipline it takes to memorize and play at Festival. Their talent inspires me.” She looks forward to meeting more members of the NDFMC and the Junior Festival 2019-2020.

Effie took piano lessons as a child and started lessons again as an adult. She currently takes lessons from David Poffenberger in Bismarck – previously from Peggy Bodine in Hazen. Son Wesley’s family lives in Bismarck - includes wife Amber - grandchildren, Brinley and Avery. Daughter Sara Carr and husband Adam Bruderer live in Portland, OR.

### North Dakota Member David Sorenson Wins 1<sup>st</sup> Place in NFMF Beyer Piano Solo Composition Award

David Sorenson, a member of the Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club, won First Place in Piano Solo for the Emil and Ruth Beyer Composition Contest held by The National Federation of Music Clubs. Sorenson, a graduate of Williston High School, obtained his bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance from The University of Mary and his Master’s in Music Composition from Central Michigan University.

The composition, *Scherzo*, is early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Style with dissonant harmonies; however, it blends in Romantic elements such as those found in Chopin’s early Scherzo. A recording of the solo from a recital performed at the Central Michigan University was used to audition for the award.

Receiving the call from the award committee was a surreal experience, David notes. This was his first major award received for his work, and having it be a National Award helped to propel his career as a composer forward.

Sorenson has been composing music since his undergraduate years in college. He tends to imagine a sound approach, and then considers who will be performing the piece. He prefers working with staff paper and pencil during the development stages, then transfers the work to a computer music notation program once it is complete.

Sorenson encourages young performers and composers to go into a competition without expectations. “You never know what judges are looking for,” he says, “It is more important to get your name and work out in as many avenues as possible, as at any time or place, there may be a someone who likes what they hear.”

Sorenson can be contacted via e-mail at [dvdsrnsn@gmail.com](mailto:dvdsrnsn@gmail.com) or text message at 701-570-1522 for information about his compositions, performance opportunities, and the award.



Recordings of Sorenson’s compositions, including *Scherzo*, can be found at <https://soundcloud.com/dvdsrnsn>

For information about this and hundreds of other awards offered by NFMF, go to [nfmc-music.org/competitions-awards/](http://nfmc-music.org/competitions-awards/)

### Ella Zhang Wins President’s Cup



Ella Zhang, a 2019 graduate of Red River High School in Grand Forks, North Dakota, was awarded the NFMF President’s cup at her Senior Recital, at which

she performed an impressive program of Bach, Haydn, Chopin, Debussy, Brahms, Glinka-Balakirev, and Joplin on piano and violin. Ella started piano lessons at age 4. Her primary music teachers have been Ashley Riveland, Hyley Lee, Gloria Bethke, and Dr. Nariaki Sugiura. She has received Superiors and gold cups in the Grand Forks NDFMC Music Festival for solos, concertos, theory, and composition.

Ella has won multiple state piano competitions, such as the state NODAK, Popplers, and Scott’s Competition. Ella won the 2016 UND Concerto Competition and performed a Mozart concerto with the orchestra. Named winner of the 2019 Grand Forks Symphony Concerto competition, Ella will perform Beethoven’ Concerto No. 3 with the Symphony in December 2019.

Concertmaster of her school and community youth orchestras, Ella has been a member of ND All-State Orchestra all four years of high school. She is also president of her school’s National Honor Society and orchestra, vice president of Key Club, and is involved in many other extracurriculars such as Student Council, mentoring, and Math Track. She also figure skates, and enjoys running and watching movies in her free time. Ella will attend Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore this fall where she will pursue a major in neuroscience, while continuing to involve music in her life.

## North Dakota Composition Competition, 2019

State composition chairman, Sharon Wesbrook, announced winners in the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composition Competition.



**Level I – 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Peyton Blom** is from Detroit Lakes. She has also been taking piano lessons from Sharon Wesbrook for 2 1/2 years. Peyton also gets musical inspiration from her 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Schuld. She is teaching herself to play drums and guitar. Her other interests

include dance, gymnastics, singing, and acting. "Dancing Waterfall" is dedicated to her poodle, Daisy.



**Level II - 1st Place - Aiden Blom**, "Miracles." Aiden Blom is a 5th grader in Detroit Lakes. He started taking lessons 2 1/2 years ago under the guidance of Sharon Wesbrook. He is also learning to play the French horn. He has taught himself to play the steel drum, lap harp, accordion, and recorder. In

addition to music. In addition to music, Aiden loves animals. His parrot, Seymour, loves to sit on his shoulder as he plays piano. "Miracles" was written as a memorial to his pet fish, Murphy.

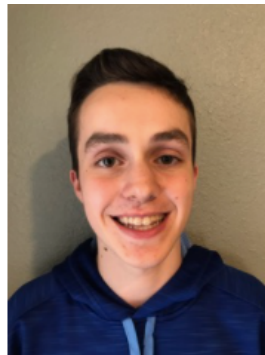


**Level II – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Grant Oakland**, 13, a student at Simle Jr. High, Bismarck, ND. "When I learned to play "Fur Elise", it triggered my creativity to write a piece in A minor. I just love composing. His composition is "Jazzy Travelers."



**Level III – 1st Place – Marit Ellingson**, student of Amy Paukert. Marit is 15 years old and attends Dakota Prairie High School in Petersburg, ND. Marit has entered the contest three times, also receiving 1<sup>st</sup> place in 2017. This year Marit's winning piece was a solo for

piano titled "Swan's Melody".



**Level III, 2nd Place-- Zachary Turner** Age 15, attends Shiloh Christian School in Bismarck, ND. Of his composition, "Keys of Thunder" Zach says, "I was inspired to start composing after I heard another student play her composition at our spring recital last year."



**Level IV – 1st Place – Liza Miller**, age 17, is homeschooled. Liza says, "I've suffered from anxiety since I was 10. Since I started taking medication, I know what peace feels like, and that was my inspiration for "Spirit of Peace."

## State Convention and Board Meeting Reports

*NDFMC Secretary Jill Post has posted minutes for both the April 25, 2019 board meeting and the April 26 Biennial convention on the NDFMC website: [ndfmc.org](http://ndfmc.org)*

Additional Notes from the April 2019 NDFMC Board Meeting Club reports:

Congratulations **Thursday Music Club, Grand Forks area**. Celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> year, President Karen Braaten reported membership of 112. This vibrant club awards up to ten full-tuition scholarships to IMC annually, one to a UND Music Major, and gives funds to Summer Performing Arts as well. The Christmas Musicale, private donations, and Gold Note card sales fund them. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> Act Singers group provides Music Outreach. Monthly programs concentrate upon classical performances.

The **Valley Music Makers**, comprised of members from Buxton, Thompson, Mayville and Grand Forks, held its Music Club Festival in February with 70 students taking part, Karen Hillestad reported.

The **Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club** cites as its main objective presenting scholarships to students ranging from Jr. HS through University. The 14 living past presidents kick off the club year hosting a Silver Tea. Meeting programs often feature those scholarship winners' performances, the Notables Women's Chorus, organ, jazz and opera. Free will offerings support the 12 scholarships given each year. Because the club submits details of its activities to national, FMAMC has won top awards several times.

The **Bismarck Mandan Thursday Music Club** convention committee planned the April NDFMC convention. When the program committee gets together in the Spring energetic brainstorming results in fun for the year. A "Bach's" lunch in



September with singing led by the Rhapsody Chorale, a Sacred Music variety program at a church in October, at Touchmark in November for patriotic poetry and IMC scholarship winner performances are featured. A holiday house party in December, romantic music from the BSC men's group and poetry in February, in April a Ukelele band performed and a local music store lent ukes for the members to learn a few songs. May's fundraiser luncheon at the Former Governor's Mansion rounds out the year. Thanks to the accomplished performers who freely share their talents. A free will offering at the October gathering helps fund scholarships, but we need to raise more funds for scholarships.

### Committee Chairman Reports:

**Michelle Kallod, NDFMC Festivals Chairman**, reported on the 2019 Festivals. There were 1961 entries from 122 Junior Clubs performing in 61 events. A special thank you to Michelle who has chaired the Festival committee for several years and has chosen to resign. This is an important, time-consuming responsibility, and the Federation thanks you for your very able leadership.

**Bonnie Stromme, NDFMC Gold Cup Chairman**, reported that students earned 470 cups, one being the President's Cup winner featured in this issue. This, too, is a big job. *Thanks Bonnie.*

**Tim Baumann, NDFMC Board Member and IMC Camp Director**, reported that rising costs have been somewhat offset by generous bequests and grants. He cites strong enrollment and thanks both the state and national federation for continuing gifts through the many years. This is the second year that NDFMC will issue scholarships to IMC. Many clubs have given scholarships for years, and the NDFMC ones are meant to supplement those. NDFMC budgets up to \$2000 annually for the program.

### North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs State Convention, April 26-27, 2019 Theme: 100 Years of NDFMC

Dedicated to our beloved member, **Carole Flatau**, who is no longer able to participate, the NDFMC state convention was headquartered at the Ramada Hotel in Bismarck, with concerts venue the Bismarck Veterans Public Library auditorium.

Also recognized was **Kris Brugamy** who has so capably handled the NDFMC Treasurer's job for 20 years and continues to do so.

Following the board supper Thursday evening, the Bismarck/Mandan Thursday Music Club presented its Greg Slag Scholarship recipients, Tiffany Peterson, cello; and Jackson Data, marimba in concert.

**Carma Kulish**, NDFMC historian, presented a short retrospective of NDFMC history as we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> year since Federation.

### Another Great Year for International Music Camp

Excerpts from report by NDFMC Representative Deborah Eraas

The attendance for camp this year was 1750 students along with 180 faculty members. Students from 15 countries in addition to the United States and Canada attended. The International Music Camp offered over 40 programs with student ages listed between 10-90 years old. The Camp also has a Festival of Arts Series which brings in different guest artists each week to perform concerts for the attendees. Two students were enrolled in the Honors Program this summer as well as 215 in the Adult Music Camp. Adult Camp is one of the favorite sessions. The students are inspired by and engaged with their camp experiences. Between 50% and 60% of all the students attending IMC have some form of scholarship to help with their finances. Overall, 60% of the students were from the USA, and 40% were from Canada.

A very special "thank you" was received from Directors Tim and Christine Baumann for the financial support as well as the many scholarships that are given to the students attending camp. Deborah Eraas presented a check to IMC for \$1000.00 as a gift from the NDFMC. They both feel that the IMC is a strong and well-grounded organization that has deep roots in quality programs and positive interactions between campers, faculty, staff, and the beautiful setting of the International Peace Gardens. They believe we all work to develop our young people as responsible individuals who are able to work together with people of different backgrounds to achieve a common goal. Music Camp is not just developing musicians, it is developing people.

### 2019 Jardine Award Winners



**Award Winners Front Row:** Abbey Smith; Calista Weise; Elise Smokey (Holding Certificates)

**Award Winners Back Row:** Andrew Rutten; Giles Askim; Reilly Sutlic (Holding Certificates)

**Also pictured are** Tim & Christine Bauman and Deborah Eraas

## North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs State Convention, April 26-27, 2019

*Theme: 100 Years of NDFMC*

*Photos courtesy of Carma Kulish*

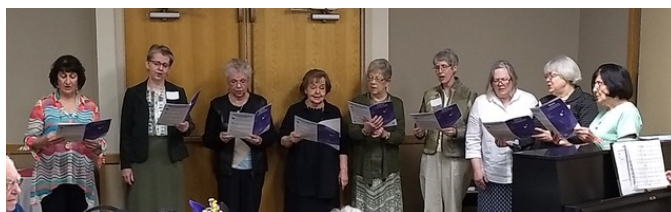
Mary Hoberg, Eileen Geske, Lisa Fair McEvers memorialize deceased members.



Carolyn Nelson installed these new NDFMC officers:



**Alpha Roeszler**, President, Fargo  
**Effie S. Carr**, Vice-president, Bismarck  
**Elaine Einarson** and **Glenna Leedahl**, Co-Eastern Vice-presidents, Grand Forks  
**Jill Post**, Secretary, Fargo  
**Kris Brugamy**, Treasurer, Dickinson



Director **Teri Fay** leads the BMTMC *Rhapsody* chorus.



President's Banquet head table: **Gil and Carolyn Nelson**, **Robyn Vinje**, **Kevin Ahfat**, **Alpha Roeszler**,



Four Present and Past Presidents of NDFMC: **Carolyn Nelson**, **Alpha Roeszler**, **Robyn Vinje**, and **Pat Grantier**



*Kevin Ahfat pictured with Marissa Russon, Aleasha Marcotte and AJ Ash prior to Saturday's Masterclass*

### AMERICAN MUSIC: Promote it; Perform it; That's Our Mission

As you make programming plans for your club's year, include *promote*. Remember that November, especially, is dedicated to American Music. Read now the criteria for the American Music awards that are on the NFMC-music.org website. Both cash and honorary awards are available to the winning clubs. But you cannot win if you do not document and enter. Our clubs, students and teachers could use the money now being "left on the table."

FOR EXAMPLE: Check these on the website. Updated forms for the 2019-2020 will be posted in late September. Some monetary awards will be raised.

- *Professor Rudolf R.A. Schramm Parade of American Music*
- *American Music Division-NFMC Award*
- *American Women Composers Programs Award*
- *Folk Music*
- *Music therapy awards for student*
- *American Music in the Armed Forces Composition Award*
- *Music Education Awards*
- *Sacred Music*
- *Just Jazz*