



Prairie Rose Notes

North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs

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Alpha Roeszler, NDFMC State President

To all members of NDFMC,

This article will be short. Due to isolation guidelines because of corona virus, we are not able to hold the April 25th State Board Meeting in Jamestown. As you know, the Jamestown College is closed and we do not want to be out in public at this time either. We will not plan to make up this meeting but we will schedule a Fall Board Meeting. The date will be determined later but it would most likely be during the last part of September.

The minutes of the September 28, 2019 Board Meeting are now available on our web site ndfmc.org under **News** and then **Meetings**.

Because we are not meeting, I am asking each of you to submit any concerns that we need to act on in the meantime. I am also asking anyone that usually submits reports to please send them to me via e-mail (alpharoeszler@gmail.com) by the end of April. After they are compiled, I will send them to each person that usually receives them at board meetings. Keep safe and well.

THE DEVILS LAKE MUSIC CLUB



Dianne Gunderson

For more than a century, the dedicated members of the Devils Lake Federated Music Club have been promoting music in the community. The original club was formed in 1906, and the list of past presidents shows that a broad cross-section of the community has held an awareness of the enlightening power of music and how important it is to our quality of life.

Presently, Kathy Homan and Dr. Kristin Kenner co-chair the club. Kathy says, *"I enjoy music. It is an important part of my life. I want to do what I can to enable others to enjoy music as I do."* This statement epitomizes the goal of all music club members.

For years, the DLMC has hosted the Federated Music Club Festival giving piano students from throughout the area the opportunity to perform for and learn from talented judges. In 1995, the club began sponsoring the annual Gold Cup Dance Festival which is the only one of its kind in the state. Although the dance festival is unique, the club wishes to encourage other music clubs to consider adding dance to their annual schedules.

The club also gives scholarships to local students wishing to attend the International Peace Garden Music Camp. Fund-raising for these scholarships is an ongoing project, and club members are grateful for the kindness and big-heartedness of

the people of the Lake Region who support the club's scholarship fund. Although our membership is small, we are very proud that we've been able to sustain a steady stream of scholarships for students of piano, orchestra, band, dance, and visual arts. Each year, fifteen to twenty students benefit from this scholarship program. For many, attending IPGMC has been a life-changing experience.

The Club has a history of identifying needs and promoting projects which improve the musical quality of life for the people of the Lake Region. In 1947, the club spearheaded a drive to raise money to provide a grand piano for Devils Lake High School. After that piano was installed in the school's auditorium, the Community Concert Association was born. The club's choir regularly performed for many events throughout the area. Monthly meetings which were held in members' homes occasionally featured local musicians, and members presented lessons on a variety of topics such as the lives of famous composers or the history of opera or anything else related to the promotion of and understanding of music. The club was proud to be given the "Unsung Hero" award in December of 2016 in recognition of its years of dedication to its mission.

In recent years, there have been changes. Meetings are not as frequent, and some of the activities from days gone by have continued to live its mission "to bring the spiritualizing force of music to the inner life of our nation." As they have done since the beginning, these enlightened music lovers are doing their part to keep a song and a dance in the hearts of the people of the Lake Region.

GOLD CUP DANCE FESTIVAL

In the spring of 1995, the Devils Lake Music Club hosted its first-ever Gold Cup Dance Festival. In the time since, nearly four hundred students have danced for a panel of dance



experts who have evaluated their performances. The dancers have all been students of Miki's School of Dance. Founded by Miki Noltimier (pictured) in 1979, Miki's School of Dance is well respected throughout North Dakota and beyond for excellent dance instruction.

With an average annual enrollment of well over one hundred students, the school has produced many fine dancers, some of whom have gone on to establish studios of their own or even professional dance careers.

It was Noltimier who first asked the Devils Lake Music Club if they could sponsor a Gold Cup festival for her school. She

studied the Federated Music Club Dance Festival curriculum to develop a solid understanding of what was required for every level, and she and fellow dancer and Devils Lake Music Club



member Dianne Gunderson made all the arrangements. The first event was held in the auditorium at Lake Region State College where it has been held every year since.

Several competition teams from Miki's School travel to dance festivals throughout the upper Midwest. The teams regularly bring home high ratings. The massive number of trophies lining the walls of Miki's studio are testament to the teams' success! Competition season kicks off every year after Christmas, and the Gold Cup Dance Festival serves as a great venue to debut some of the dance pieces which will travel to these competitions. Gold



Cup Dance Festival judges are usually graduates of Miki's School and take great care to be helpful and encouraging. Participating dancers range in age from five

to eighteen, and the feedback they receive from the judges is important for their proper development.

Miki's School has also spawned the Heritage Arts Ballet Company, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage an appreciation of dance in our community. Every year around Christmas, this group delights audiences with a new production. Some years it's a story ballet such as Coppelia or Sleeping Beauty. Other years it's a dance revue



featuring numbers revolving around a central theme. And yet other years, Miki has put her imagination to work and crafted a dance show of her own based on a beloved

fairy tale or a children's story. Perhaps most notable of these have been several productions of The Nutcracker which have been favorites! The casts are made up of dancers from Miki's School and others from the high school or the community, and the LRSC auditorium is typically filled for these productions. Of course, an annual recital showcases all of Miki's dancers from baby ballet to adult tap-dancers, and her dancers are all regulars in stage productions throughout the area.

Miki is originally from Schenectady, NY, but years ago made Devils Lake her home. The Lake Region is happy she did.



A photo from the 2020 Gold Cup Dance Festival held February 8. Pictured here are two of Miki's instructors, Kinsey Malarkey, left, and Kelcee Ewert, right. Judges for the event were Trisha Olson and Sadie Hefta, 2nd and 3rd from the left. Also pictured is Dianne Gunderson who has served as the judges' assistant ever since the first festival in 1995.

International Music Camp Scholarship Notice

Tim Baumann, Camp Director

NDFMC Scholarship Applications to attend the International Music Camp are due Friday, May 8, 2020. This scholarship can cover up to 75% of camp costs for campers who study with an NDFMC member.

Application forms can be found at:

www.internationalmusiccamp.com/registration.

Please contact Tim Baumann or the International Music Camp office at 701-838-8472 or info@internationalmusiccamp.com with further questions.

Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club Report

Denise Anderson, President

Always an evening of musical talent and friendship, the Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club's annual Student Honors Night at Veterans Memorial Library was held Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. This program honors our scholarship winners and allows us to hear performances by our members' students.

Program Chair was JoLynn Keller with hospitality provided by Vanessa Wold and Loretta White. Belle Mehus Scholarship winner Sean Brynjolfson played Chopin's *Waltz in C# Minor* and *Prelude-Novelette in Fourths* by Gershwin. Sean is a Junior at Century High School in Bismarck.



Photo: Instructor David Poffenberger (far right) with two of his students who performed at student honor night. From left Jamison Lang, an 8th grader from Simle Middle School, and Belle Mehus Scholarship winner Sean Brynjolfson

Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club

Jill Post, President

The Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club celebrated the Christmas season with its annual "A Christmas Carol Ring and Sing Along" on December 2nd in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. The Noteables, along with BELLissimo, (the community handbell choir sponsored by the club) presented several carols each. They collaborated on a few others as well as their traditional ending song "Peace, Peace." Organists from the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists accompanied carols between readings and the special music. The free will offering that night benefited our Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In January our program was called "Jazz in January." Michael Helm, the son-in-law of member Sharon Westbrook presented a program of piano jazz. In the past he had played for several famous musicians in Las Vegas, so besides playing some wonderful jazz pieces, he shared many humorous stories of his time in Las Vegas.

Our February meeting featured the clarinet choir from North Dakota State University. The March St. Patrick's Day evening program was cancelled due to the coronavirus. We hope to meet in April, but we will follow CDC guidelines in making our decisions.

GREATER GRAND FORKS THURSDAY MUSIC CLUB

Mavis Ness, Festival Chair

This year Thursday Music Club will celebrate 122 years of an organized music club in Grand Forks. The Ladies Thursday Musical Society was organized August 4, 1898. A group of women wanted to hone their own musical skills plus promote music in the community. Thursday Music Club is the result. The Grand Forks Club was the second club organized in North Dakota, four years after Fargo.

Initially, membership was by audition and included only performing musicians. For the first 10 years, only Grand Forks residents were included. Membership was soon available to anyone, "interested in music and extending it to the community," and able to pay club dues. No one was issued an invitation. New members were traditionally enrolled at the fall tea.

In 1919, the club affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs and was a prime mover in organizing the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs.

The club has a very active board that takes care of almost all business, so people come to the meeting for the musical program and fellowship. Our meetings include our National Anthem, the National Federation collect and benediction, programs focused on community and UND talent, a reading of poetry, and business.

The club focuses on promoting National Music Week, holding scholarship auditions to the International Music Camp, organizing the annual Christmas Musicales held the first Sunday in December, and a Northeast Junior Music Festival in which students can earn gold cups in noncompetitive performances. Approximately 350 students took part in this year's festival.

Each May we hold a Gold Note Luncheon honoring someone in our community who has supported music in the Greater Grand Forks area. Recipients may be performers, producers, teachers or other citizens interested in promotion opportunities for the enjoyment and appreciation of music in the Greater Grand Forks area. This prestigious award was first presented in 1995.

Membership in Thursday Music Club is about 120 members and is open to anyone interested in music; it is not necessary to perform for membership. The total music scholarships and donations that Thursday Music Club has awarded since 2008 is about \$50,000!

Recently a group of women began learning songs from the Golden Age of Musical Theatre and call themselves the 2nd Act Singers. As time allows, visits are made to nursing homes, shut-ins, dementia units, senior centers and retirement homes. The residents enjoy the music and give applause, hugs, kind remarks, and sometimes tears because the music has taken them for a walk down memory lane. The 2nd Act Singers are fulfilling their mission.

The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at Trinity Free Lutheran Church, 3426 Chestnut Street, Grand Forks, with the exception of December, and May through August.

This quotation appeared in the Club's 1946-47 program booklet,

"Let us say to the world that the nation grew to strength on the wings of song and will continue to live because of that spirit. Let there be music in the land."



Photo: Sally Nordlie (above) made the beautiful music quilt and gifted it to her sister, Susan Christianson. The quilt is always displayed at our Music Festival and students can be seen having their picture taken with the quilt.



Photo: Our 2019-2020 Thursday Music Club officers are left to right: Delores Clark, secretary; Elaine Einarson, vice president; and Karen Braaten, president. Diana Randall, treasurer, is not pictured.



Photo: The Northeast Junior Music Festival Committee busy recording the student ratings on February 15, 2020. Left to right: Mavis Ness, chair; Annette Ray, contacts UND for festival date and rooms; Sandi Kerr, records and reports ratings; Kay Roch, compiles gold cup points; Susan Christianson, schedules students with a judge; and Sally Nordlie, files applications for teachers.

Editors' Note: In this issue we highlighted histories of two clubs: *Grand Forks and Devils Lake*. Next issue we will highlight two more. Please submit all articles of interest to NDFMC members to patg@bis.midco.net

Next Deadline: August 15, 2020 - Text in Word and pictures: jpg

2020 NDFMC Junior Composer Contest Winners

Sharon Wesbrook, Chairperson

Class	Rating	Student Name	Teachers Name
Class 1	Winners - Tie	Peyton Blom	Sharon Wesbrook Detroit Lakes, MN
		Elaine Liu	Gloria Bethke Grand Forks, ND
	2 nd Place	Sophia Christianson	Sharon Wesbrook
Class 2	Winner	Zane Smaaladen	Amy Jo Paukert Michigan, ND
	2 nd Place	Aiden Blom	Sharon Wesbrook
	3 rd Place	Drew Knecht	Sharon Wesbrook
	Honorable Mention	Brooke Evans	Gloria Bethke
		Dustin Knecht	Sharon Wesbrook
Class 3	Winner	Dylan Knecht	Sharon Wesbrook
Class 4	Winner	Marit Ellingson	Amy Jo Paukert
	2 nd Place	Aidon Huck	Michelle Kallod West Fargo, ND

The 2020 NDFMC Junior Composer Contest was judged by Doug Harbin – Concordia College. Thank you to Judge Harbin!

Upcoming Award Deadlines

See www.nfmc-music.org for details

Award	Deadline
\$400 Dance Award	May 1, 2020
\$1000 Lana Bailey Piano Concerto Award	May 1, 2020
\$2250 Veterans Awards	May 1, 2020
\$1750 Oida Keck Pedagogy Award	May 1, 2020
\$4000 Michael R. Edwards HS Senior Piano	May 1, 2020

Award	Deadline
\$600 Evelyn Sampson scholarship to Jr. Composers Summer Program, U of MN Contact patg@bis.midco.net	May 20, 2020

Umbrella Policy Review

Beginning January 1, 2021, only teachers new to the festival program who wish to be mentored in the program by an experienced teacher may umbrella their students under that teacher's junior club. (The experienced teacher will become the new teacher's mentor.) Qualifying teachers may umbrella an unspecified number of their students for two consecutive years. To do so, they will pay \$14.00 to the NDFMC which will cover \$8 in state umbrella dues and \$6 for Junior Keynotes. In addition, the umbrella-ing teacher will be responsible to pay any additional junior dues required if the total club membership exceeds 16 after adding in their students.

Teachers who have previously umbrella-ed, but do not qualify to umbrella under these new guidelines, will need to either: 1) form their own junior club, or 2) have their students become individual members of the Junior Division.

Junior Festival Information from NFMF Festivals Chair, Lisa Smith

"Thank you for your hard work and patience during this difficult time. NFMF is appreciative of your efforts through this COVID-19 crisis to ensure as many musicians are able to safely perform their Festival events as possible. Please see the following new information from NFMF as approved by the NFMF Junior Division Committee and the NFMF Executive Committee:

- ALL Festival centers will comply with all CDC guidelines relating to COVID-19 for the health and safety of our teachers, parents, students, volunteers.
- Festival centers are hereby given an extension until August 31, 2020 to conduct Festival auditions and file the JR 3-3 (Festival Summary Report). Festival auditions may be conducted in the traditional manner (if in compliance with CDC guidelines regarding mass/group gatherings) OR conducted electronically using methods such as FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, YouTube, etc., OR through any combination of the above (this seems to be the option most states/areas are taking).
- All states are to determine the manner(s) in which they will conduct their Festival auditions. It is recommended that State Festival Chair be in regular contact with each Area Festival Chair during this critical time to lend support and guidance.
- The Regional Festival Chair reporting deadline will be extended to Sept. 30, 2020."

If you have further questions regarding Festivals and/or the JR 3-3 and JR 3-4 reports, please contact me at ecarr@midco.net.

Effie S. Carr
NDFMC – Festival Chair
701-880-5515