



Prairie Rose Notes

North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs

Editor - Pat Grantier

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NORTH DAKOTA FMC News

Alpha Roeszler, President

I have received many reports from our clubs in the state and have been impressed with all of the creative ways that have been used to keep in touch. Examples included:

- Continuing the giving of scholarships to many students for furthering their music education.
- Sharing videos of music concerts, recitals, etc. to the members made by local teachers, colleges, etc.
- Sending cards during the year including Christmas and Spring to each member.
- Encouraging renewing membership by paying dues and encouraging extra giving to help with scholarships.
- Sharing the Together We Sing songs with members by email and u-tube videos including a background of the song.
- There was some sharing of music at Retirement and Nursing homes done by some of the members if it was allowed at their facility.
- One club was able to meet in person due to small numbers and had a program every month in addition to an in-person festival.

Festivals took on many different ways to be completed depending on the community.

We have lost some very active women within our state organization including Carol Flatau and Vivian Acuff. Many of us have lost members within our own chapters as well.

A positive from this epidemic has been the use of other ways to communicate, including email and Zoom. Our own club has been meeting monthly for our board meetings. Personally, I do a lot of Zoom with my church position and my family. We can still learn new things. Isn't that great? Hopefully our next club year of 2021 - 2022 will be back to normal.

FALL BOARD MEETING FOR NDFMC

Saturday, September 25th at 1:00 p.m. CDT on Zoom

After polling the NDFMC board on whether we should meet in person or use the Zoom platform, the tally was fairly close. With 16 replies, 9 wanted Zoom, 5 wanted in-person and 2 would go either way. SO, we are going to Zoom again. With the virus becoming more prevalent, it will be a better choice. Also, our NDFMC saves travel expenses. It would be fun to visit in person, but personally, I think we can visit to some extent virtually. Look for an agenda in September but please let me know of any items you would like to have us attend to.

A Note from the Editor - Pat Grantier

At the April NDFMC Board Meeting, the decision was made to distribute the **Prairie Rose Notes** by e-mail. If anyone does not have e-mail capability, the president of that member's club is asked to print and mail a copy to them. Sending PRN electronically will save both money and labor. And more color pictures can be used. Much of this issue is composed of reports that were delivered at the April board meeting (also some attachments). Please read them to get ideas for your club's new year.

It has been a privilege to edit **Prairie Rose Notes** the past few years, most recently with the able technical help of Effie Carr. Because most of my family has moved to Minnesota, I will be moving to join them there in a few weeks. One of the great pleasures of my past 24 years in North Dakota has been my involvement in music clubs: First with the St. Cecelia Club of Dickinson, then with the Bismarck/Mandan Thursday Music Club and the state and national federations. Thank you, friends. No matter where I live, part of my heart stays in my native North Dakota. Please stay in touch.

Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club

Submitted by Denise Anderson, President

With monthly meetings cancelled the past year, focus was instead on the songs of Together We Sing, which we shared.



In February as a special treat on Valentine's Day, program committee member Teri Fay made special

arrangements with Dawn Hagerott, her friend and director of the Bismarck State College Men's Ensemble, to have the group do virtual love songs that were recorded and sent to our membership. Smiles came to our faces as we watched these wonderful young men sing to us with both their hearts and their voices!

Scholarship chair Marnie Kraft arranged scholarship auditions for the Belle Mehus and Greg Slagg awards to be held at the band room on the Bismarck State College campus March 24th. Applicants were greeted personally by Dr. John Darling, chair of music at BSC, who helped them feel comfortable. The winners were asked to send a video recording of a performance to the group.

The **Belle Mehus piano scholarship winner is Dominic Gardner**, an 11th grade student at St. Mary's Central HS, a student of Dave Poffenberger.

The **Greg Slagg Scholarship winner is Aubrey Spangelo (percussion)**. She is in grade 12, Mandan, ND, a student of Brad Stockert

In preparation for Easter, I sent out my original song, ***My Brother, My Friend***, written in honor of my brother, Derwin Ward, who passed away at the age of 16 in July of 1973. The song speaks poignantly of death and the resurrection.

Grand Forks Thursday Music Club, submitted by *President Elaine Einarson*

Although the Grand Forks Thursday Music Club was unable to meet during the pandemic, the Junior Music Festival was held via Zoom. One-hundred-and-twenty students took part and we had four judges. Chairman Mavis Ness reported that it was a success.

We purchased a professional Zoom account for our Thursday Music Club.

Although no Christmas Musicale was held in 2020, in December a Christmas Card Greeting was sent to all our members. This card included a video of Christmas music by Delores Clark and Dr. Yen Lee Loh playing a duet on the piano.

In our April meeting we gave two scholarships to the **Northern Valley Youth Orchestra**, two scholarships to the **Grand Cities Children's Choir**, a scholarship to **Zephaniah Perlstein** who is a cello player from Hatton, ND going on to get his master's degree. We gave monies to sponsor one principal musician for a **Grand Cities Symphony Concert**, a donation to **East Grand Forks Stages** for summer groups - Misty Koop director, we gave donations to **Summer Performing Arts** and we also gave a scholarship to a UND student as we do each year.

Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club

Submitted by Jill Post, President

With the pandemic still raging in December, all of our 2021 spring meetings and programs were cancelled. However, the board sent several links to local online concerts and recitals to our membership, and many of our members enjoyed those presentations in the safety of their own home. The board continued to meet monthly by zoom all year long to conduct business and keep up to date with possible plans for the future. We will be planning a regular year starting this June. The Scholarship Committee met several times by zoom throughout the year. We will be awarding all 14 of our music scholarships this spring with the idea of beginning two more in the near future.

We have also set up a fund in memory of our late member, Carole Flatau, that will be used for a high school student. Also, a parent of one of our scholarship winners will be setting up another scholarship in honor of his mother who taught piano for years. The Festival was again held this spring by Zoom, and by all accounts was successful.

Throughout this past year the Noteables, our women's chorus, met by Zoom every two weeks to stay in touch. During the Christmas season we had a Christmas Carol sing along on Zoom. We are hoping to be able to meet in person beginning in October.

Valley Music Makers Club Report

Submitted by Katie Hillestad, President

The Valley Music Makers Club continued to make music with our students during the pandemic, although many of our regular activities were cancelled or reconfigured. Because schools in our area remained in-person, our lessons were held in person as well. This was a welcomed change. We had fewer entries in our annual festival but held two events to accommodate families in Northwood and Thompson communities. The entries included solos, duets, trios, and hymns.

The Pollywog Music Junior Club (teacher Melanie Joerger) held a Christmas performance class in which students performed for one another and held a recital in May. The Thompson Tunes Junior Club (teacher Julie Brorby) Spring recital featured duets, trios, and group songs. The Treble Makers Junior Club (teacher Katie Hillestad) recorded student pieces for a virtual recital in May that was shared with family and friends of the students.

Although some of our activities looked different this year, we are thankful to spread the joy of music through our students.

2020 – 2021 Report for St. Cecilia Music Club – Dickinson

Submitted by Kris Brugamy, Club President

St. Cecilia has 15 members this year. We have not held any meetings, but our festival committee planned and ran a festival in March for the southwest part of the state.

Thirteen of our senior club members entered a total of 154 students in our local festival, which was held at Dickinson State University with a make-up day two days later at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Dickinson.

Fifteen of our Gold Cup recipients performed in an honors recital at the end of March at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Dickinson. Due to COVID-19, no reception was held following the program.

WILLISTON CHAPTER REPORT - Submitted by Ann DeLorme Holmen, President

Our goals for the 2020-2021 season were to encourage and support music for all ages in our community. Below are the programs we facilitated.

In **September** we launched our year with a fall festival theme. **October's** theme honored women composers with a special tribute to the late Carol Flatau. A Salute to the Armed Forces program on **Veterans Day** saw members playing patriotic music at the senior citizen center during their lunchtime. We also toured the newly renovated music department of Williston State College. In **December** we supported the local string musicians' concert. **January's** theme of winter memories featured music, poetry, and winter childhood memories with residents at a senior living center. Again, in **February** everyone shared a romantic story at the senior center on the theme, "Love is in the Air." Music Festival dominated **March** which was held in person following appropriate protocol and procedures.

In **April** we began celebration of Williston Music Club's centennial celebration with a mayoral proclamation,

program, and cake. **May's** Music Week features daily radio programs and banners in local stores, then in **June** we hold a composer camp. We are excited that our membership grew with four new members plus one honorary collegiate member.

- ***Congratulations to the Williston Club named a national winner in the Crusade for Strings Contest.***
- ***Kudos, too, to the Fargo Moorhead Club which received an award for its Opera Report!***

Sky Martin, Junior Composer - Awarded Evelyn Sampson Award

The 2021 Evelyn Sampson Award recipient for Junior Composers Summer Program is Mason City, Iowa's Sky Martin, age 15, whose musical journey began when she was nine. Since then, she has played piano, viola and guitar, and has also participated in school choir since 5th grade. A member of orchestra and choir, Sky's favorite academic classes are Spanish and math. Outside of school Sky's interests are artistic—painting, drawing, journaling, and reading. She hopes to study psychology and/or music in college.

Sky attended a composition camp earlier this year composing a piece entitled "Serene" which is Sky's middle name. She describes "Serene" as a conversation with herself. "When my teacher Mary-Kate was recommending this camp to me, she mentioned that here you get to learn about music theory every day. This and working with others who know more about music will help me with becoming a better musician, and a better composer."



Teacher Mary Kate Hines says she is impressed by Sky's creativity, musical conceptions, and excitement about her project. "She always had an idea of where she wanted the piece to go next. My role in

our lessons was merely to help unlock the ideas in Sky's brain by helping her learn compositional techniques that can be used to convey her musical expression and how to notate them. Sky thinks of music in terms of telling a story." Listen to Sky and all 19 compositions performed by Jr. Composers Summer Program on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yYsNkgR9Eg>

News from International Music Camp

Submitted by Tim and Christine Baumann, IMC

The International Music Camp once again offered a summer of altered programming to youth across North America in the summer of 2021. In addition to offering over 200 opportunities for online instruction in the form of weeklong programs, masterclasses, and lessons with world class teaching faculty, IMC also created a series of three-day day camps for band students across North Dakota. The IMC On the Road camps were held in Minot, Fargo, and Bismarck with guest conductor Jason Rygg. Students from communities across the state participated and presented fabulous performances for general public and supporters online. We appreciate all of the support given to IMC this year. We are hopeful to return to the International Peace Garden in 2022 and look forward to welcoming the National Federation of Music Clubs back to celebrate with us!

The following article is reprinted from the August edition of the National Federation of Music Clubs newsletter, "Make Note of This"



Arts Division – Dr. Ouida Keck, Chair

After a year and a half like the past one, it's time to re-group, literally! COVID has kept us apart, bored at times, frustrated, lonely, discouraged and missing so many important events in our lives. We are now beginning to

see hope with more and more people being vaccinated and things beginning to open again. So this is the time to begin thinking about your 2021-22 club year, programs you can feature, and getting together to share music in person while possibly still sharing times together virtually with some of your members. The Arts Division of NFMC has ideas for you. How about a program featuring Chamber Music, Sacred Music and/or Opera? And many of our programs offer monetary incentives to recognize clubs who feature outstanding work in the Crusade for Strings, International Music Relations, Choral Music, and Music Outreach. If there was ever a need for musical outreach, it is now as we re-enter life and resume our full promotion of music. Awards in this area of outreach are available for Sr. Clubs as well as individual members. Our Jr. age members can receive awards in the National Music Week Essay competition for their creative writing. This year's National Music Week theme, "Music is Inspiration", challenges Sr. Clubs to promote this important program in NFMC dating back to its first

national observance in 1923, while giving our young people a topic to inspire them as they compose their essays. And now that schools and colleges are resuming in-person studies, this is the time to support our Music in Schools and Colleges program by promoting the many offerings NFMC has for our Jr. and Student age members listed on the NFMC Competitions and Awards Chart, available online.

Two important new publications offered in the Arts Division are now available for use in your work this year. "Together We Sing", our NFMC songbook, is being published for use in the 2021-2023 club years. Songs included are being arranged by Kristin Ivers and it will include a few songs from earlier issues, some familiar songs, and some not so familiar. And our Music in Poetry area is proud to promote "A Year in Verse", second edition, for use in the 2021-22 club year.

The Arts Division hopes to see increased reporting/application response this coming year as more award opportunities were recently made possible as a result of the recent change in our eligibility policy: "First Place winners of Arts Division monetary awards may win First Place multiple times, but not consecutively. Exception: All awards offering multiple equal monetary awards which will be listed as Recognition awards (Crusade for Strings-Jr. and Sr. and Choral Music). Previous winners of these awards will receive lower priority than new applicants of equal merit." This means that even if you received an award in these areas in the past, you could possibly still be declared a winner

So it is time to take our division at its word: **ART—Act, Report and Triumph** over your successful 2021-22 club year and re-entry back into NFMC's full array of programming possibilities.

