

Past, Present, and into the Future
with The Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club

Summary for the 130th anniversary, November 2024

Now it is November 2024! And we celebrate 130 years since Edward Albert Smith, musician, pipe organist, teacher, college graduate, came from Vermont, taught at Fargo College, founded the Fargo Musical Club, which became the Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club in 1978.

During those 130 years:

- 64 people, men and women, have volunteered to be our local presidents;
- Two club members have served as President of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Agnes Jardine from 1933-1937, and Carolyn Nelson from 2011-2015. We are proud to remember their excellent leadership;
- 520 scholarships have been given since 1947, currently with over \$7,000 given to encourage budding musicians;
- 48 Junior Festivals have been held since 1976, encouraging memorization and performance involving 20 FMAMC piano teachers;
- 74 seasons of Public Outreach have been donated since 1940, with ladies singing in a Voice Section, now known as the Noteables;
- One and only “Incomparable Hildegard” Usselman Kraus was a theater organist, playing for silent movies at the Orpheum and Fargo Theater on the Might Wurlitzer from 1920’s – 1982;
- 10 pipe organists currently continue to share their music in programs for FMAMC, while also belonging to the Red River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, RRVAGO, which emerged from our local music club in 1945;
- Hundreds of concerts, programs, and recitals have been carefully planned and presented to eager listening ears, free and open to the public;
- Membership is always encouraged, since the Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club is continuously encouraging musical youth on their musical adventures.

So the torch of music appreciation, of musical excellence, of service to the community, and the joy of listening have all been carried forward one year at a time, for 130 years to date!

As we go forward into the future, may quality music ring, sing, play, be appreciated and be continually supported by this strong heritage of the Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club!

Compiled by Susan B. Clambey, Past President (1991-1992), Centennial Chair (1993-1994), 125th Anniversary committee member (2018-2019).