



North Central Region News

May 2014

Greetings to all of you! I hope spring is starting to arrive in your area and that you are enjoying the beautiful blossoms and greenery. Although many Federation programs are coming to a close at this time we have some upcoming important events.

NFMC 2014 Conference

The 2014 NFMC Conference will be held from June 24-28 in Portland, Oregon. The last day to submit your registration and make your hotel reservation is June 2nd. The hotel is the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220. You may call or make reservations on line. The telephone number is 800-325-3535.

NFMC 2015 Biennial Convention

The dates for the NFMC 58th Biennial Convention are June 16-20, 2015. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND.

2014 NCR Days

NCR Days 2014 will be held July 18 and 19 in Minneapolis, MN in conjunction with the 2014 Junior Composers. Rooms have been set aside at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5140 American Blvd. West, Bloomington, MN 55437 for July 17, 18 and 19. The room rates for our group are: one King-\$94.00, two Queens-\$99.00. 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 to make your reservation. **Do not call** the hotel directly as you will not receive the group rate. **The deadline for reservations is June 16th so make your plans early!** I will be sending out a call letter and registration form in the next few days. We will be starting out on Friday, July 18th at 9:30 AM with a meet and greet followed by a business meeting and luncheon with keynote speaker, Ellen Leapaldt, NFMC Western Region Vice-President. The Friday afternoon

sessions are to be announced. In the evening a performance by the Minnesota Sinfonia at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis will feature the winner of the fourth 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!

Junior Composer Competition Winners

The following are the North Central Region Junior Composer winners for 2014. Their compositions have been forwarded to National.

Class I	Kirsten Stuber - MN – Teacher - Sarah Miller Eliza Young – NE – Teacher - Regina Carnazzo
Class II	Isadora White - MN – Teacher - Sharon Kaplan Samuel Hanson – MN –Teacher - Sarah Miller
<i>Honorable Mention:</i>	<i>Tim Wang – WI – Teacher - Sam Ecoff</i>
Class III	Evren Ozel – MN – Teacher - Sarah Miller Andrew Cannestra – WI – Teacher - Ken Bruce Ian Ridenhour – ND – Teacher - Brad Stockert
<i>Honorable Mention:</i>	<i>Jacob Beranek – WI – Teacher - Sam Ecoff</i> <i>Sofia Vanderzwaag – NE – Teacher - Regina Carnazzo</i> <i>Jered Hololingworth – MN – Teacher - Sarah Miller</i> <i>Sarrah Bushara – MN – Teacher - Sarah Miller</i>
Class IV	Luke Gion – MN – Teacher - Kathy Martinez Elizabeth Ophoven – MN - Teacher Anne Dimick Max Lin – WI – Teacher - Tatyana Smith

Congratulations to all the winners and best of luck at the National Competition!

Junior Composers Summer Programs

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

Location: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Core features of the Junior Composers Summer Programs:

- Composition tutorials
- 2-hours of daily music theory/ear-training
- Composing and performing new works
- Daily "salons" with guest speakers and musicians
- Field trips: Minnesota Sinfonia, ice cream social
- Music technology lab, practice rooms
- Room and board at Middlebrook Hall, U of M

JC's collaboration with the Minnesota Sinfonia will continue for another year. Jay Fishman, Artistic Director of the [Minnesota Sinfonia](#), has extended a call for submissions to the 4th annual **Orchestra Composition Contest**.

The winning composer will be awarded \$500 and the composition will be featured during the Sinfonia's Young Artists Week, culminating in a performance on Friday, July 18, 2014 at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis.

Greetings from Junior Composers-Pat Steege, Administrative Director

Greetings from Junior Composers. We are so glad to hear from many returning students. Our enrollment is still lagging behind, however, the good news is that, of the 24 students registered so far, 19 are returning composers. I think that speaks well of our program. We still need to press on for new younger students who in turn will become returning students.

I want to introduce you to Lori Cannestra of Greenfield, Wisconsin, who has become our new treasurer after Jeanne Hyrniewicki needed to lighten her load in order to heal from back surgery. Lori is doing a great job of keeping track of our money and keeping the Googledocs budget up to date. Lori has a keen interest in JC because her son Andrew is returning to JC this year.

Vickie Steenhoek continues to serve as the most awesome Registrar in the world. Laura Crumbleholme is serving as Registrar for the Teacher Training Institute.

We are again holding our program at the University of Minnesota. One thing that is new this year is the U's requirement that our staff have background checks and training in the safe-child law. All this is good, but adds to the complexity and cost of preparing for July.

Brochures have been disseminated to all seven state composition contest chairmen. This NFMC contest is one of our best sources for students. Also, the state chapters are generous in providing scholarships to help students attend Junior Composers. Many winners in the state contests are Junior Composers campers.

Since Film+Music is the theme for 2014, we very much wanted to tout that Randy Newman was coming. After the initial excitement that he was considering it vanished with his non-response over the winter, we contacted local Twin Cities film composers who gladly came on board. These people have extensive experience and work well with kids. The Songwriters program is back again with instructors from the Twin Cities and recordings at McNally Smith in St. Paul.

New this year will be the debut of a Teacher Training Institute featuring the Avivo teacher, Pat Plude. She will present a wonderful workshop that begins on the evening of the final salons, July 19, and ends the following day with supper. Registration for the TTI will occur through the JC website. Please plan to attend this workshop – you won't regret it.

I will end with a few quotes from the kids from the 2013 program:

Luke: I have learned so much this week that I will use for the rest of my life. It was one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of my life. Many thanks.

Max: a phenomenal experience.

Jay: We learn soooo much invaluable information as we compose like busy ants. I thoroughly enjoy this.



The entire Junior Composers community of 2013 Nelson, NFMN President in the middle.



Christian Messier and Sarrah Bushara presenting with Carolyn Sarrah's comedic song, July 2013, U of MN.

TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE

A partnership between Avivo & Junior Composers
Saturday, July 19 – Sunday, July 20, 2014
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Dear Music Teacher,

[Junior Composers](#) and [Avivo](#) are pleased to announce a new partnership and the creation of a summer Teacher Training Institute!

...At the end of an Avivo workshop, I was more energized mentally and physically than I have been at a pedagogical event for years.

Sharon Kaplan

Independent Music Instructor, Minneapolis, MN

During this Teacher Training Institute, music teachers will...

- be students themselves, playfully opening up their own creative voices and building confidence in their creative ability
- embark on an active exploration of the pedagogy of improvisation and composition
- experience specific improvisational activities designed to exercise and strengthen their own and their students' creative muscles
- learn a proven pedagogical approach to teaching musicianship, with a goal toward giving students the tools to express themselves through original improvisation and composition

This workshop will be facilitated by Patricia Plude, Director of [Avivo](#), a community of Teaching Artists dedicated to promoting an integrated approach to music education that infuses every learning situation with improvisation and composition.

Please plan to join us for an optional dinner on Saturday evening, July 19 and an opening improv session that evening. Our workshop will conclude with an optional dinner on Sunday, July 20.

Prior to this workshop you are cordially invited to enjoy the Salons of the Junior Composers summer program that will take place the morning and afternoon of July 19. The Salons are free of charge.

Watch your email for another announcement when registration opens in about two weeks! Plan to register early as space is limited.

The teaching artists of Avivo embody what pedagogy is all about: inspiring and bringing forth the unique musical and creative spirit in each of us.

Dina Glendening

Pianist and Independent Teacher, Los Gatos, CA

Hope to see you in July,

Pat Steege, Administrative Director, Junior Composers
651-334-1355

**“Out of the Box” Teacher Training”
Karen Bourne, National Junior Composers Chair**

On October 5 several affiliated with Junior Composers traveled to Chicago to attend a 3 hour workshop that put a healthy boost of adrenalin into their teaching strategies, and not just for composition. I say "healthy" because of the brain stimulation and the body movement that accompanied the activities. Pat Plude, creator of the Teacher Training Institute and former member of the Walden faculty, led them in fun ways to work with students. Through progressive, easy steps she sneaked them into painless improvisation. All of a sudden they were creating new music and thought, "This is easy!" The workshop was a very condensed version of what Pat Plude would like to teach in a 2-1/2 day session next July as an add-on to the Junior Composers summer camp. [For information on this, contact Pat Steege, Junior Composers at psteege@msjsecurity.com] Sharon Kaplan stated that she came out of the hands-on session totally energized, both physically and mentally. In three hours, she got ideas that have been used at most of her lessons. Her theory classes have been totally reworded and revitalized. All of her students love the new format!

Several from the Junior Composers world who attended the sample workshop in Chicago hosted a "Cliff Notes" version of the workshop November 22 at Schmitt Music in Edina where Randall Davidson, Sharon Kaplan and Pat Steege got the participants involved, feet and all. All highly recommend learning more, and not just for the purpose of composing. Pat Steege began using several things she picked up at the workshop and will have lots of new "stuff" for her group piano lessons. All agree that Pat Plude's teachings go far beyond just improve and composition.

SUMMER MUSIC CENTERS AWARDS

Odee Maier, NFMC Summer Music Centers Awards Chair

The NFMC Summer Music Centers Awards winners have mostly been chosen for the 2014 Camp sessions. A complete listing of the Centers, type of summer camp, NFMC awards and other information is listed in the NFMC Competitions and Awards Chart under Summer Music Centers. To access this chart, please go to the NFMC website: www.nfmc-music.org and click on the Competitions and Award Chart, and finally, Summer Music Centers.

There is such a wide spectrum for young musicians to choose from including (to name just a few) strings, chamber music, composing, band, piano, voice! Some Centers take children as early as 9 years of age, and the mature vocal students go up to ages 35 or more.

In most cases, the young musician has to be enrolled in the Center's program before any monetary Awards are given. You will find the name of a contact person at each of the Centers who can give you more details; also each Center's email address is also listed.

Here in the North Central Region, there are 4 Summer Music Centers to choose from just as a start: Ravinia is in Illinois and this is for a jazz student; Simpson College/Orpheus Festival is in Iowa and this specializes in piano; Junior Composers/Sampson is in Minnesota but sponsored by the ND Federation for students with North Dakota teachers coaching in composition; and the International Music Camp is in North Dakota/Canada and has many musical venues to choose from.

Please share this information with teachers and parents who have students who might be interested in 2015 summer music camps all over NFMC land.

Together We Sing! Do you?

Carol Flatau, Together We Sing Chairman

*"Though April showers may come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May." * "My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet, though far-off sound that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?"***

These are this year's April and May songs in TWS, our NFMC songbook. At the Fargo-Moorhead April meeting, there were lots of comments about the continuing *snow* showers, but the singing was full of positive thinking. And how *could* we keep from singing? It's NCR's very own Carolyn's official presidential song, a strong reminder of our responses to the happenings that surround us. "All things are mine and I have life, How can I keep from singing?"

NCR folks are good singers. Smiles are 100 % at the sing-along time at our regional meetings. At the national conferences, there are always comments from non-NCR people who have heard our boisterous luncheon singing.

Does your club sing at the meetings? Do you sing at your state board meetings? Do you have copies of TWS? If you don't – get them! With songs for eight more months in 2014 and all of 2015, the \$1.50 per copy is definitely not prohibitive, especially since TWS also has our national anthem, the NFMC benediction "The Gift of Song," the Federation collect and hymn, and some just-for-fun rounds.

It's time for reports. There **is** form (AR9-3). When I give my report to national, which includes an alphabetical listing of the states who have responded, I always hope that no one notices that there's not much evidence that North Central Region is in the TWS loop.

Let me know how you're doing. Stay in touch. Send me a report. If you're not using TWS, tell me why. Give me some suggestions for TWS 3rd Edition, (which is already in the works). Sing with gusto. Enjoy. Have fun while you connect vocally with our heritage!

*April Showers. Words: B.G. DeSylva. Music Louis Silvers

**How Can I Keep from Singing?: Words: Pauline T.?: Music Robert Lowry

News from North Dakota – Carole Flatau

Carrie Kraft, member of the Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club and daughter of Carole Flatau, is the featured composer in the spring issue of *Junior Keynotes* Imagination Nook.

News from Iowa-Lori Jesson, President IFMC

Springtime Sonatinas

The goal of earning a cash prize is quite motivating to piano students. Combining that with promoting the study of a particular form of music, and you have the basis for the annual Sonatina/Sonata Festival sponsored by Siouxland Federated Music Club in Sioux City, Iowa. This year's Festival was held on April 5, 2014, at Morningside Presbyterian Church. First, Second, and Third Place winners were selected in four difficulty levels. The winners presented a recital on April 6 where they received their prize money and certificates.



Pictured are the winners and their teachers.

Martha Marks Mack and Ernest A Bluhm Awards

The Iowa Federation of Music Clubs is pleased to recognize two outstanding members for the achievements they have received, Jesse Donner and Emily Bicknese.

Jesse Donner received the Martha Marks Mack vocal award at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Center last summer. Originally from Des Moines, Jesse is a graduate of Iowa State University (2011, Vocal Performance). During his time at Iowa State, Jesse received one-on-one coaching and mentorship from international opera great and fellow Iowa native, Simon Estes. From there, Jesse elected to continue his musical training at the University of Michigan. Following the completion of his Master's degree in Vocal Performance in 2013, he has continued on at the University, pursuing a Specialist degree in Vocal Performance.

Mr. Donner is rapidly emerging onto the main stage. In March, 2013, Jesse made his debut performance as a tenor singing the role of Bacchus in the University of Michigan's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Since then, he has accomplished his first performance of Verdi's *Missa di Requiem* and the role of Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* as well as debuted in concert with the Adrian and Toledo symphonies. He is now contracted with the Lyric Opera of Chicago as a Ryan Opera Center Young Artist for the 2014 – 2015 performance year.

Emily Bicknese received the Ernest A Bluhm Flute award this spring. Emily is a homeschool graduate who is a sophomore Music Education major and German minor at the University of Northern Iowa. She currently studies with Dr. Angeleita Floyd.

During her high school years, Bicknese received private lessons from Carol Hester, Professor of Flute at Luther College, IA, and Brittany More, from West Union, IA. As a flautist, Bicknese is actively engaged in ensembles at UNI, including Wind Symphony, Flute Choir, and SoPhresh Flute Quartet. She also enjoys singing and playing flute and piano in church and for many other community and family performances. Bicknese teaches private piano and flute lessons at UNI and in her hometown, Elgin, IA.

As a language enthusiast, Bicknese enjoys learning and speaking German, as well as hosting international guests and traveling. Next spring semester, she plans to study abroad in Klagenfurt, Austria, at the Alpen-Adria University and Carinthian State Music Conservatorium.

Bicknese is an active participant in a number of student organizations, and enjoys co-leading a Bible Study, serving in Think Tank, a community improvement initiative, and serving as assistant musical writer for a homeschool musical.



Jesse Donner



Emily Bicknese

News from Wisconsin

Barron Federated Music Club – Heidi Hong

The Barron Federated Music Club of Barron, Wisconsin completed a successful fundraiser for music scholarships and outreach in the community with a 'Thanksgiving Hymn Sing' and silent auction at the United Methodist Church. The publicity for the event included the comment; "come to sing, come to listen, come to enjoy the songs of thankful giving." The club made every effort to incorporate social media in advertising and the day was a great success! The local city website, along with the club's facebook page played a role in promoting the hymn sing.

The afternoon featured club members accompanying hymns on the pipe organ, and the United Methodist Church Bell Choir as accompanists and performers. The congregation enthusiastically sang Thanksgiving hymns along with a massed choir that presented a medley of tunes including, 'Now Thank we all our God, and Sing to the Lord of Harvest,'

Silent auction items reflected the clubs theme of 'All Nature Sings' with hand-made quilts, pottery, baskets of Wisconsin crafts, wines and food, wildlife photography, bird houses, carved wooden birds and more! Kathee Yamada is serving as the Barron club's program chairman and coordinator of the silent auction, Heidi O Hong was chairman of the hymn sing.

It was truly a great day of singing and the club plans on making this an annual event and scholarship fund raiser.



Heidi Hong and Amber Gonske

WFMC State Festival Competition-Jeanne Hryniewicki, Chairman

The Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs will be holding its first annual State Festival Competition on Saturday, May 10th at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Any student who received a Superior rating in his/her 2014 district Federation Festival is eligible to compete. The events for the competition will be Piano Solo, Piano Duet, Piano Concerto, Hymn Playing, Violin Solo, Violin Concerto, Vocal Solo-Art Song and Vocal Solo-Musical Theatre.

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.

Students will be playing their required festival piece and will be judged by a panel of three judges. Each event and class has been divided so that there are no more than 10 students in each division. This allows for more students to win awards. Each division will have one winner and up to three honorable mentions. The winners will receive trophies and the honorable mentions will receive ribbons. In addition, Monetary scholarships will be awarded in classes Medium and higher. The scholarships are possible due to very generous donations from our WFMC members. The awards will be presented at a concert at 4:00PM on Saturday afternoon.

This event was in the planning stages for two years and it was exciting to see that there were a record number of entrants (over 300) for the first year of offering this competition. We hope to expand to include additional events in the future.