



Letter from the President, Tamara Bertram

Dear North Dakota Music Teachers,

As I embark on the first year of my presidency, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow music teachers, young and old, who continue to strive towards improving their teaching practices and inspiring students to be better learners. Through my conversations with teachers at the NDMTA state conference in June, I was delighted to hear of many innovative studio initiatives, and to see these ideas inspiring other teachers.



After the June conference, I had a restful summer visiting family in Australia, and I have now returned to Grand Forks and settled into a new job at the University of North Dakota. This week I am also starting the daunting task of scheduling all my private studio students. I do however love the enthusiasm students bring to their lessons as the school year begins.

I wish you a wonderful start to the school year. Please feel free to reach out and introduce yourselves to me as I love sharing ideas and learning about your studios and the communities you teach in. I look forward to serving you as president over these next two years.

Top Five Reasons to sign up for Zoom Sessions for MTNA Certification (offered to all members of NDMTA)

- 1) The sessions are free!
- 2) Zoom is convenient! Zoom sessions will be held once a month (starting in September) for one hour and can be accessed from anyplace that has an Internet connection.
- 3) You will receive support from your friends! You and your NDMTA colleagues can ask each other questions about anything, share successes, help each other with challenges, and gain from each other's experiences.
- 4) Getting nationally certified will never be easier! You will receive help, guidance, and support through the whole process from Beth Gigante Klingenstein, who has successfully assisted numerous teachers and students with gaining NCTM status (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music).
- 5) You will gain a great sense of accomplishment in achieving this professional milestone, and you will be able to proudly add *NCTM* after your name! NCTM proves you teach to certain standards and is an asset when attracting new students, seeking new positions, listing credentials, and setting rates.



Interested or have questions? Contact Beth Gigante Klingenstein at beth.klingenstein@vcsu.edu. The more the merrier!

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By Beth Klingenstein

This year's Popplers Competition was judged by our wonderful convention presenter, Melody Bober.

We were able to award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the following categories:

- * The **Elementary** winners were:
 1. Elaine Liu, student of Gloria Bethke.
 2. Caroline Nelson, student of Karen Okerlund
- The **Junior High** winner was
 1. Ariel Bahn, student of Sue Nagel
- * The **Senior High** winners were:
 1. Katelyn Toomey, student of Amy Mercer
 2. Grace Zhong, student of Amy Mercer
 3. Jacob Hansen, student of Amy Mercer

Congratulations!

The winners were awarded with a check from Popplers Music, presented by Sharon Pugh. Each first place winner was invited to and chose one of their pieces to be played at the winner's recital.

Thank you to all who participated!



Left to Right : Sharon Pugh from Popplers, Katelyn Toomey, Jacob Hansen, Grace Zhong, Ariel Bahn, Elaine Liu, Caroline Nelson, Karen Okerlund

NDMTA Session I: Practice & Performance Tips for the Successful Pianist

By Sheryl Kjelland

Melody Bober's first session at NDMTA Conference was filled with many helpful ideas!

Melody stated the following ideas for teachers to share with parents of young students:

1. Encourage and provide short practice times for your child (10-15 minutes).
2. Determine what the best time of day is for your child's practice.
3. Record your child's playing occasionally or encourage them to record themselves.
4. Remind your child that they need to practice what they do not know and not only play their favorite songs.
5. Encourage them to use the metronome.

Melody listed the following ideas to share with all parents:

1. Be a cheerleader – give your child support with piano lessons and practice.
2. Encourage in house performances or recitals.
3. Let your children see you practice something – like woodworking, or cooking, or gardening, or quilting, or ?????
4. Let young children decorate the piano with stuffed animals, etc.
5. Let your child wear something special during practice time.

Melody had these tips for teachers to share with their older students:

1. Set realistic goals.
2. Plan your practice time.
3. Record yourself.
4. Use the metronome.
5. Reward yourself when you have accomplished a goal.

Melody had these additional tips for good quality practice/performance:

1. Check your students' posture/hand position/seating.
2. Have your student play their piece in a different key or an octave higher or lower.
3. Encourage them to vary the rhythm, dynamics, or speed of their piece.
4. Have them freeze at various places, count to 5, and then resume playing their piece.
5. Have them mentally practice – with or without moving their fingers.

(Continued on page 11)

NDMTA Session II: Composition in the Studio

Giving Students the Opportunity to Create

By Dianna Anderson

All music was created by someone, and by familiarizing students with the process of composition and providing basic concepts, teachers can offer the chance for students to become composers at any stage of development.

This workshop divided composition teaching into three developmental stages: Fun Beginning, Ideas for Intermediates, and Mentoring the Advanced.

Fun Beginnings:

To get started, Melody Bober suggest encouraging experimentation, using recording, and finding fun ways of generating material and ideas. One easy way to jumpstart composition is to provide the student with a rhythm and ask them to fill it in with notes that they know. She gave the fun example of translating your phone number into musical pitches, and then using the result as a jumping off point.

Ideas for Intermediates:

As students develop more theory knowledge and technique, their compositions can expand as well. Melody encourages them to choose different accompaniment styles for change of mood, employ left hand melodies, and even cross-hand technique. Form can be expanded at this stage by creating a contrasting B section, using minor mode, a change of register, tempo, dynamics and articulation.

Mentoring the Advanced:

Advanced students often experience a personal style emerging, and will need less help finding ideas, and more help executing them, especially

rhythmic notation. Be prepared to ask lots of questions to assist these students in clarifying their creative intentions.

Tips for Student Composers:

1. Use intervals and their characters to create drama.
2. Listen to and play music in a wide variety of styles. If you haven't heard it before, you won't be able to create with it.
3. Jot down small ideas and record improvisations.
4. Set aside time daily to work on composition.
5. Get to know scales and chords in all keys.

Melody's Melodies:

Melody gave examples of different compositional ideas and gave her recipe for a successful piece. It must have a solid melody line, rhythmic vitality, a section that departs for contrast, make broad use of the keyboard, and include technical elements for a challenge.

Benefits of Arranging:

The presentation finished with Melody playing some of her arrangements of familiar tunes, including "Hallelujah", "Star Wars", and "I See the Light", which can all be found on www.musicnotes.com.

Students can enjoy arranging music they are interested in and learn skills such as harmonization, accompaniment styles, and writing intros, segues and endings.

Session III: Musical Ideas for Summer Fun

By Lisa Schuler

The summer months often bring disrupted routines and the need for change. Melody Bober covered four areas to keep lessons fresh and fun during the summer. Here is a summary of what she shared in her third session at the NDMTA State Conference.

1. Offer Unique Choices – We can continue with individual lessons, but we can add family members through duets and trios and offer a recital in August in a park or outdoor church setting with a pot-luck or ice cream social. Teachers can offer group lessons or piano camps. A summer session could focus on only duets, trios, or quartets. Students can be given packets with activities and goals such as theory, memorizing a piece, composing, arranging, sight reading, or writing a short report on the history of the piano or a composer. Check out “Summer Quest” at Colourfulkeys.ie and Wunderkeys.com.

2. Options to Customize Students’ Interests and Needs – Teachers can help students catch up on theory if it was put aside to work on competitions and recitals during the school year. We can help them engage more in sight reading and ear training. Students can work on scales and pieces in a variety of keys. We can give students chord charts and fake books. Students can choose different genres to play, be it Disney, Broadway, pop, etc. A student could focus on a composer and play his or her music for the summer.



3. Group Lesson Ideas – Games are always a hit with students. Students could give composer presentations and play a piece by the composer. Parents and teachers could plan a field trip to a museum or a local college to hear a short talk from a professor or college students and hear them play. Guest artists could be invited to perform. A teacher could teach students to play three chords on the ukulele and have them accompany a student pianist. A teacher could present on performance anxiety and provide solutions. We could present on how to accompany a soloist and have the group try it. With volunteers, provide mini sessions with a theme where students rotate every 15 minutes, doing various activities and games.

4. Summer Ice Breakers – Melody Bober offered everyone at the session rhythm cards to be used for a “arrange-a-rhythm” game. She claps a rhythm, and her students put the rhythm cards in order (rhythm dictation). Melody then demonstrated many of the games

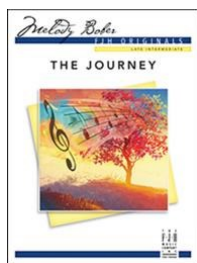
she’s created that she uses at both group and individual lessons. The games included musical twist-er, disk drop, concentration, darts, sight reading relay, musical cubes, musical basketball, baseball, and bowling. Audience members also shared fun game ideas used in their respective studios.

Thank you to Melody Bober for sharing her creative and fun ideas for summer lessons!



Session IV: Melody Bober's New Music Showcase

By Sue Nagel

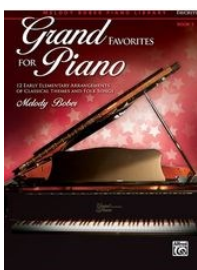


This session started off with one of Maxine Besler's students, Caleb, performing "The Journey", one of Melody's newly commissioned pieces by FJH. Filled with some of Melody's signature compositional styles – lyricism, interesting harmonies, octaves, and large chords, it was a crowd pleaser!

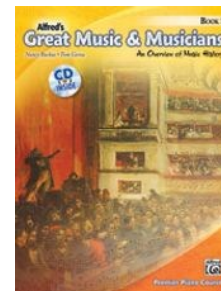
Melody highlighted many new publications, including the fun "Pentascle Pro" series, which she wrote with Gayle Kowalchuk and E.L. Lancaster. Full of varied teacher duets, this is a great way to help students start their technical journey.



The "Grand Favorites for Piano" is a new series of arrangements of classical themes and folk songs, progressing through 6 levels. Melody states in the introduction, "Learning classical themes introduces students to historically significant repertoire and famous composers".



She paired this series with Alfred's "Great Music and Musicians" books to highlight interesting tidbits and historical facts about some of the music. I especially love that Clara Schumann's first movement of her Piano Trio in G Minor is set as a duet.



Melody also played pieces from her "Contrasts in Style", Books 1 and 2 by Kjos and ended the session with a wonderful arrangement for 2 pianos of "Take Five" by Dave Brubeck.



Service to the Profession Award

By Amy Mercer

The 2022 Service to the Profession Award winner was Mr. Don Langlie. He was nominated by the GGFMTA local association. The nomination stressed his many contributions through his work at Popplers, some of which include allowing the GGFMTA to use the Popplers conference room at no cost for their association meetings, welcoming the 2019 NDMTA conference attendees to use Popplers as its meeting place, sponsorship of the annual Popplers Music Competition, providing Reading Clinics for public music educators and private piano instructors, use of the stage and pianos for recitals, facilitating the Popplers Music Lesson Program, support of programs through ad sponsorships, serving as an adjudicator, performing in various groups, and more. Congratulations to Mr. Don Langlie!



Amy Mercer and Don Langlie

IMTF Luncheon, Summer Music Classes: Ideas for Exploring Music with 3-6 year olds

By Tamara Bertram

Lisa Schuler gave a delightful presentation clearly communicating her enthusiasm for summer music classes with 3-6 year olds. She talked about practical tips that allow her to run these lessons to receive some additional income during the summer. She focused on suitable class sizes, environments that lend themselves to these lessons, as well as ideas that worked for her. Lisa mentioned tips for scheduling, outside class equipment that she uses, communication with parents, and activities and resources available to teachers who want to get started. Lisa had prepared a detailed and helpful handout, which outlined what she gives to each age group and why. She divides her classes into 2 groups: 3 years and 4-6 years.



Lisa went into great detail to explain what she teaches to students aged 3 years, by walking us through four consecutive classes. Following this

she repeated the process with the 4-6 year age group. Lisa also stipulated the importance and benefit of music lessons for young children and mentioned that this program could also be used as a recruitment tool for new piano students. Once they complete this course with her, she then starts her students with piano at age 7, as she feels this is the best age for future success.

The book 'Fun with Composers' was mentioned as an excellent resource for 4-6 year olds. Lisa walked through one song example with us teachers and used the CD to enhance our learning and engagement. She then skillfully extended the lesson by telling teachers which instruments she uses to further develop this lesson, all while being entertaining and comical in the way she delivered the information to us.

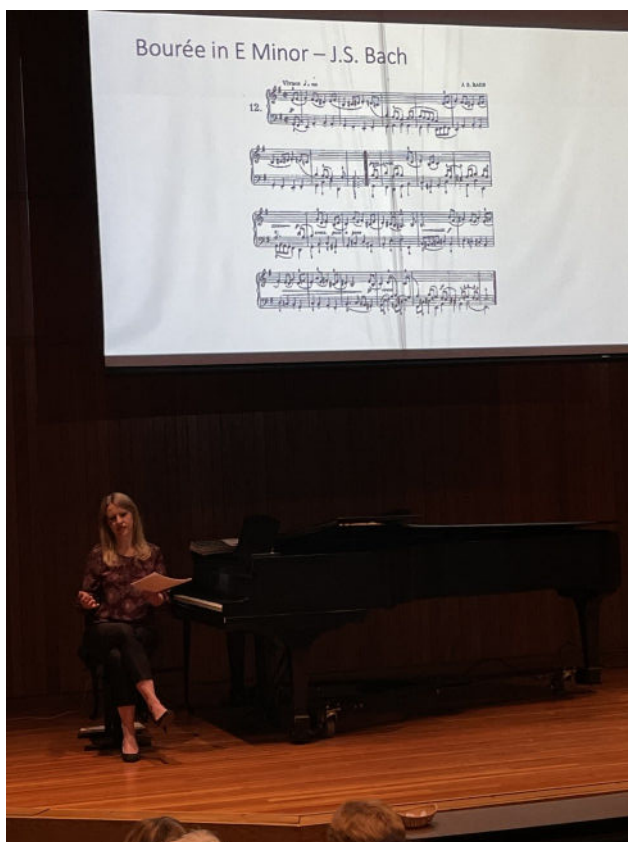


Lisa also gave other examples from this book to communicate how motivating it is to teach students of this age group. One example she gave was 'In the hall of the Mountain king' by Grieg. She stressed that students of this age group gain important social skills and learn how to: take turns, cooperate with one another, trust an instructor, listen, participate and be independent.

Upcoming Events

2022 MTNA State Competition Deadline	September 14	
2022 MTNA State Competitions	October 22	VCSU, Valley City, ND
2022 WCD Competitions	December	Video Performances
2023 MTNA Conference	March 25-29	Reno, Nevada
2023 Popplers Music Competition	TBD	Dickinson, ND
2023 NDMTA Conference	TBD	Dickinson, ND

Session V: Interpreting Musical Styles in Elementary through Intermediate Teaching Repertoire

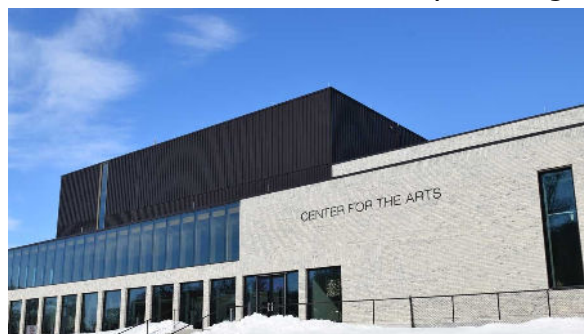


MTNA Competitions

By Sue Nagel

MTNA State Performance Competitions will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at Valley City State University. It will be exciting to hear students perform in VCSU's new \$32 million Center for the Arts building. Registrations are open now and will close September 14, 2022.

Please see [MTNA.org](https://www.mtna.org) for guidelines and rules about Performance, Composition and Chamber Music Competitions.



As always, I would like to invite any of our membership to help me in Valley City that day. Door monitors and time keepers are always welcome and needed!

Entry information for all competitions can be found on the MTNA website, <https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx>

NDMTA Annual Business Meeting June 2, 2022

Meeting called to order by President Dianna Anderson.

M/S/C Lisa Schuler, Kathleen Johnson to approve the agenda.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were approved.

Corinne Nustad stated that there are 34 registered for the Conference.

Vangie Johnson Parker stated that \$1,000 has been received for the Darla Sheldon Foundation Fellow process. \$1,500 is the final number needed.

M/S/C Kathy Bresee, Vangie Johnson Parker to approve proposed budget.

Priscilla Keogh announced that Catherine Rollin will be the presenter at the NDMTA June 2023 Conference in Dickinson. The dates have not been set yet.

Michael Langer was elected as Vice President. Tamara Bertram was elected as President.

Tamara Bertram was installed as the new NDMTA President.

Michael Langer was installed (by proxy) as the new NDMTA Vice President.

M/S/C Priscilla Keogh, Anne Morris to adjourn.

Respectively submitted,

Sheryl Kjelland

Secretary

New North Dakota Virtual Local

By Tamara Bertram

At the NDMTA conference in June, an idea surfaced to create a ND Virtual 'Local' MTA. This initial idea of connecting more teachers in rural areas across North Dakota, has evolved into the creation of the new NDVMTA chapter. The goal of NDVMTA is to offer membership to teachers across our state who otherwise would not be able to attend a local association in person.

Modelled on the Virtual Local initiative that is being developed this year in North Carolina, the NDVMTA hopes to reach out to and support rural teachers, while also attracting young tech-savvy teachers and training student teachers, who may find the flexibility of a virtual local meeting more accessible.

If you are a teacher in a rural community or know someone who is, please reach out to music professionals who are not yet NDMTA/MTNA members. While it is a challenge for us to identify potential members across such a large area, you know who your neighbors are. MTNA and NDVMTA are offering substantial financial incentives for first-time new members, so please invite them to contact us, and join our virtual local.

To sign up, send a text to 701 620 9043: include your name, location, and email address. Alternatively, you can use your phone to scan the picture.



Executive Board Meeting Minutes, June , 2022

Present: President Dianna Anderson, Tamara Bertram, Kathleen Johnson, Lisa Schuler, Michelle Schumacher, Gloria Bethke, Amy Mercer, Vangie Johnson Parker, Karen Okerlund, Sue Nagel, Eileen Geske, Anne Morris, Michael Langer, Michelle Kallod, Sheryl Kjelland.

M/S/C Sue Nagel, Tamara Bertram to adapt and accept the agenda.

M/S/C Vangie Johnson Parker, Karen Okerlund to approve Secretary's Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Current Income \$27,653.66 Expenses \$6,731.85 Current assets (CD & Savings Account & Checking Account \$47,590.37)

Committee Reports were given.

Discussion about next year's Conference was postponed because no Dickinson members were here.

M/S/C Tamara Bertram, Vangie Johnson Parker to allow members to opt for digital copy of our Directory this coming year.

M/S/C Vangie Johnson Parker, Tamara Bertram to increase President and Vice President stipends to \$2,000 each.

M/S/C Lisa Schuler, Anne Morris to approve the Conference budget.

IMTF stuff – Lisa Schuler will give it to Tamara Bertram and she will sort it out and decide if any should be made digital.



A massive meal enjoyed by Eileen Geske at Stone Town Grill, Fargo

Discussion about the best use of our savings/cd money happened. Should it be used as an endowment with the interest used for scholarships? Or free conferences? Or free new memberships? Or? The discussion will continue.

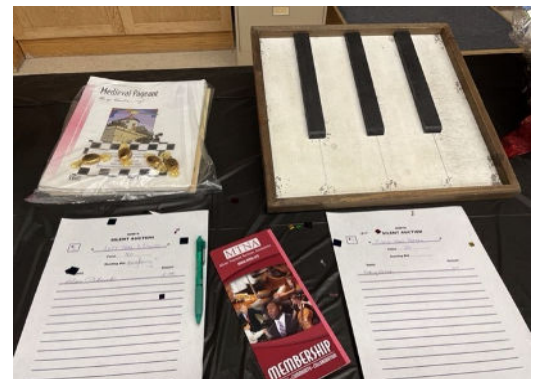
M/S/C Vangie Johnson Parker, Tamara Bertram to adjust Popplers' awards as suggested by Karen Okerlund (SH \$150, \$100, \$50, JH \$100, \$75, \$50, Elementary \$75, \$50, \$25)

We are looking for suggestions to fill Popplers Chairman and Historian. We are still looking.

M/S/C Vangie Johnson Parker, Michelle Schumacher to adjourn.

Sheryl Kjelland, Secretary

Conference Snapshots - a Few Silent Auction Items



(Continued from page 3)

6. Encourage students to play their piece on as many pianos as possible and in front of as many people as possible.
7. Have your student try clapping the rhythm of their piece or playing it while wearing a blindfold.
8. Encourage your student to sing their piece.
9. Research the composer and the time that the piece was written.
10. Have student look up any new terms that appear in the piece to find out what they mean.
11. Have student write out the troublesome measures on staff paper and listen to recordings of the piece.
12. Encourage your student to take care of themselves.

Melody discussed performance anxiety, which is overwhelming worry about failing when playing a piece, which causes excessive sweating, shaking, a rapid heartbeat, etc. She had some suggestions for us when dealing with students who are having performance anxiety:

1. Provide performance situations with gradual stress – play first for your family, then maybe at a nursing home. Maybe playing a duet would be less stressful.
2. Deal with mind strategies (ANTs – Automatic Negative Thoughts) – write down these thoughts. Are they true? Talk back to those ANTs.
3. Coping mechanisms are: I am doing this! I am good at this! I can control those ANTs!!
4. Teachers DO NOT force students to perform.
 - Teachers DO NOT tell students that they shouldn't be nervous.
 - Teachers DO NOT overly criticize their students.
 - Teachers DO choose appropriate repertoire.
 - Teachers DO help their students as much as they can.
 - Teachers DO assist their students to work on relaxation skills.
5. Encourage your student to walk through every part of their performance to prepare.
6. Encourage your student to visualize success.
7. Encourage your student to begin, to go for it, and to trust themselves!
8. Tell students to limit caffeine and sugar intake.
9. Tell students that the butterflies in your stomach are the fuel for performance.

Thank you! Outgoing Officers & Welcome our Incoming Officers!

Office

President
Vice President
Secretary
Foundation
Popplers
Historian

Outgoing

Dianna Anderson
Tamara Bertram
Sharon Geggleman
Vangie Johnson Parker
Karen Okerlund
Jean Guenther

Incoming

Tamara Bertram
Michael Langer
Sheryl Kjelland
Dianna Anderson
Tamara Bertram
Di Wu



Foundation Fellow Awards, Left to Right Vangie Johnson Parker, Foundation Chair Marge Johnson, 2021 Foundation Fellow Lisa Schuler, 2022 Foundation Fellow Dianna Anderson, President



Conference Exhibitors & Attendees



www.ndmta.org

Excelsior! Trio Performance

By Dianna Anderson

On Thursday, June 2, the Excelsior! Trio presented a concert in Beckwith Recital Hall. The trio members are all faculty at Concordia College, in Moorhead, MN and include Debra Harris, flute, Jay Hershberger, piano, and Russ Peterson, saxophone. This unusual instrumentation necessitates programming arranged works, as well as works composed for the ensemble, resulting in a varied and diverse concert experience. This concert marked the first time the trio had performed together since before the pandemic, and NDMTA was very lucky to witness this amazing concert at our conference! The program included arrangements of works by Chick Corea, Astor Piazzolla, Kyle Eastwood, Dave Koz, and the very surprising inclusion of a K-Pop tune entitled "You" originally by Kim Jin Hoon and Kim Hong II. Trio member Russ Peterson contributed three works to the program in addition to many of the arrangements, including Trio Italiano (2019), Tribute Trio (2014), and Sonata #2 for Alto Sax & Piano (2022) for which this performance was the world premiere. Both Debra Harris and Jay Hershberger also performed works for their instruments, standing alone from the trio. This energetic and virtuosic program was very well received by the audience. Thank you to the Excelsior! Trio for performing at the conference!

