

North Dakota Music Teachers Association

Newsletter, August 2014

Lisa Schuler, President

Table of Contents

Letter from Your President	2
MTNA Foundation Quarterly Report	3
Rally Update	4
MTNA Conference Report	5
2015 NDMTA Conference Update	6
Executive Board June Meeting Minutes	6
2014 NDMTA Conference	
NODAK Winner's Recital and Commissioned Composer Concert	9
Session 1 – Mary Sallee: Where's the Beat?	10
Session 2 – Sallee: How I Get My Students to Think Harmonically	10
IMTF Luncheon – Gary Ingle	11
Session 3 – NDMTA Annual Business Meeting Minutes	11
Session 4 – Tom Gerou: Alfred Showcase	13
Session 5 – Mary Sallee: Motivation Music for the Bored Student	13
Session 6 – Mary Sallee: Teaching Jazz	14

A Message from Your President:

I hope this newsletter finds you both mentally and physically refreshed after your summer break. The summers always seem to go by far too fast but if we reflect on what we've encountered this summer, hopefully we will find ourselves content and inspired.

When I reflect on my summer activities, I can't help but think of our state conference. The 58th Annual NDMTA Conference was co-sponsored this year by Dickinson State University and the North Dakota Council on the Arts and was hosted by our Badlands Music Teachers Association. A huge thank you goes out to Sharon Gegelmann and her organization for a wonderfully run conference! I felt this conference was especially exciting being we had three out-of-state presenters. You will read more about Gary Ingle, Mary Sallee and Tom Gerou in this newsletter. As with every conference, it was a time for fellowship with our colleagues, educating ourselves with various sessions and inspiring ourselves through music that lingered throughout the conference. It was a pleasure to meet Geraldine Ong from Valley State University who was our adjudicator and guest performer. Attending the Medora Musical was a highlight. This conference also made me proud to be a North Dakotan. The Medora Musical not only celebrated its 50th anniversary but North Dakota's 125th as well.

As you read this newsletter, you'll see the minutes from the executive board meeting and annual meeting, the changes in our constitution and various articles about the events at the conference. I would like to thank everyone who submitted to the newsletter, which enables our members to be fully informed of what NDMTA is all about.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the trust you have placed in me by electing me as your NDMTA President for the 2014-2016 term. I have faith that our officers and executive board will help me keep the energy flowing through our state and I am so grateful to be in this active role of leadership. Take note of the updated list of board members and be sure to thank them for the work they are doing for NDMTA and its members. We all reap great rewards from this organization!

Lisa Schuler, NDCTM
NDMTA President



MTNA Foundation Quarterly Report

“When you make a contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund, you are funding a more musical tomorrow by supporting MTNA's mission to advance the value of music study and music making to society through programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music, and support the professionalism of music teachers.” See www.mtnafoundation.org for more information on how your MTNA Foundation gifts are used.

During April through May 2014, NDMTA members gave \$837.00 to the MTNA Foundation. In addition to these gifts, the NDMTA association sent in \$130.00, making the total amount given by North Dakota \$967.00. We would like to recognize all of those that contributed. Below is a list of the individual contributors' names. Thank you for giving.

Jeanette Berntson

Gloria Bethke

Sara Bloom

Ellen Croy

Cheryl Dockter

Rose Frisque

Eileen Geske

E. Guenther

Janice Herr

Kathleen Johnson

Marjorie Johnson

Beth Klingenstein

Karen Okerlund

Michael Olson

Myung Park

Vangie Parker

Frank Pearson

Lynda Pearson

Cathie Scheid

Mary Schneider

Lisa Schuler

Michelle Schumacher

Darla Sheldon

Sandy Weisenberger

Rally Update

Greetings! As summer rushes by, it's time to think about teaching again. I have three items in mind which relate to Rally. First, if you ordered your Rally syllabus recently, you did not receive the study tests that are available for levels 1A, 1B, & 1C. They are not included in the syllabus from Illinois, because the North Dakota Rally Committee put these study tests together a few years ago. If you have never received these study tests or have misplaced your copies, please let me know and I will mail these 3 tests to you for \$1.50 (to cover the cost of printing and postage).

Second, Local Associations, please set your Rally dates as soon as possible and let me know what your dates are so that I can get your Rally materials to you in a timely manner. This is especially important if you are planning a fall Rally.

Third, I would again like to mention the theory workbooks that the Illinois Music Teachers Association publishes to complement their Rally materials. Our Rallies in North Dakota are built on the Illinois Rally Materials, so these workbooks work very well in Rally preparation, both for students and teachers.

These workbooks are available to coordinate with the various levels of Rally, beginning with Level 2. These workbooks provide excellent preparation for students who will be taking Rally tests and they provide an excellent learning experience even for students who are not involved with Rally. These workbooks contain exercises in notation, rhythm, terms, music signs, aural skills, harmonization, score analysis, sight reading, transposition, composers, and they also contain technique skills that are all written out for your student, such as 5 finger patterns, scales, chord progressions, tonic triads, arpeggios. There are play back, interval identification, and dictation examples included for use by teachers and students. I have used these workbooks with my students for several years and I have been very pleased with them. The cost (with postage) is approximately \$8.00 to \$9.00 per workbook.

You can order these workbooks from the Illinois Music Teachers Association. Go to their website ISMTA.org and follow the instructions listed under "AIM Publications." If you have problems with ordering through the ISMTA website, give me a call, and I will do what I can to help. 701-284-7586 or okjellan@polarcomm.com

Happy Summer and Fall to you!
Sheryl Kjelland

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MTNA Conference Report

submitted by Anne Morris

Wellness Forum

On March 24th I went to the MTNA National Conference in Chicago and attended the Wellness Forum presented by Gerardo Ascheri. One primary topic was the importance of physicians communicating with musicians concerning the physical problems that can arise from their occupation (such as tendonitis, anxiety, dystonia). The subjects discussed were wide-ranging and included the following: Relaxation techniques, the importance of physicians talking to musicians as they would to athletes, musicians' fear of losing their jobs if they admit to any injuries as it might be seen as a weakness, TMJ problems, stress and where to get information (from MTNA website), vision and/or auditory problems (may be discussed at a future conference), and dystonia.

Our international conference guests told us that the term 'wellness' is not used in Germany. Instead they use the term 'music medicine'. A number of famous musicians are speaking out about their injuries, helping to make the subject less taboo as it has been. Several attendees talked about how they had continued to perform despite the pain of their injuries because of their fear of losing their jobs, but now feel free to seek help.

Local Association Forum

I attended the MTNA Local Association Forum. Their focus this year is on collegiate chapters and promoting more college student enrollment. They also stressed the importance of regular checking of the MTNA website for the various affiliate programs, liability and insurance programs, free legal consultation for business problems, membership discount programs (Office Max, Avis) and membership portal for renewal of membership.

The board of directors of MTNA is focusing on collegiate chapters for giving college enrichment grants to students (up to \$500), and travel grants (up to \$100 per student). A teacher from the local association must write a letter of support. Also, the local associations should try to get the collegiate chapters involved in the MTNA and have them present topics at the state and local events. States can help raise funds for the competition winners along with using other methods for raising money for students. Teachers should also mentor college students to help prepare them for their teaching careers. Also available are teacher enrichment grants (up to \$1,000).

It was suggested to the associations that the old minutes should be digitalized to eliminate excess paper. Each local could have a volunteer as an archivist chairman.

New business: It was suggested that recent college graduates entering their first year of teaching should be allowed to pay only half of the membership fee for the first year. States could also allow first-year teachers to attend the conference free of charge. A list of free or reduced-charge on-line services was mentioned; for example: IT company to do online registrations; Brevura, ilvmta.org, Dorian; Elean credit company pay pal; Authorize.net; Constant contact flyers; Mail Chimp.

2015 NDMTA Conference Update

Gloria Bethke, Co-Chair GGFMTA

The Greater Grand Forks Music Teachers Association invites the NDMTA members to the 2015 NDMTA Conference June 24-26 in Grand Forks held at the UND Music and Fine Arts Building. "Music - the Voice of the Soul" is the theme of the conference and will be filled with recitals and exciting sessions by notable presenters. Put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend the conference.

NDMTA Executive Board Meeting

June 18, 2014

President Beth Gigante-Klingenstein called the meeting to order. Roll call included: Beth Gigante-Klingenstein, Mike Langer, Lynda Pearson, Ellen Croy, Gloria Bethke, Anne Morris, Kathy Bresee, Kathie Johnson, Arlene Gray, Lisa Schuler, Sharon Gegelmann, Michelle Schumacher, Darla Sheldon, Jeanette Berntson, Paige Keiser-Resac (via phone) and Mary Motta.

Mary Motta made a motion to adopt the agenda with one addition, seconded by Anne Morris. Motion passed.

Sharon Gegelmann gave the 2014 Conference report. Thirty-four members have registered to attend. Everything is ready to go. She presented the budget for the conference. Discussion was held concerning a refund for a cancellation past the deadline. It was decided to refund all but the registration fee, which in this case were meals and Medora tickets.

Officers Reports

Secretary Mary Motta read the minutes from the February 1, 2014 Board meeting. With one correction, the minutes were approved and filed.

Treasurer Kathy Bresee reported total income was \$14,010.42. Total expenses were \$11,736.45. She talked with Gate City Bank to see what might earn more interest for us. She presented the options and discussion was held. Michelle Schumacher made a motion to put \$10,000 in a 4 year CD at 2% interest. Lisa Schuler seconded and the motion passed. Because of this motion, Kathy will update some numbers in her proposed 2014-15 budget.

Vice President/Commissioning Composer Lisa Schuler reported our commissioned composer, Tom Gerou (pronounced "Geroo"), is ready for the premiere of his piece at our conference. She contacted Rebecca Raber (Fargo) to be our 2015 commissioned composer. Rebecca accepted and the contract has been signed. Lisa has been helping with conference planning, writing newsletter articles and recruiting a vice president.

President Beth Gigante-Klingenstein reported along with other activities, she attended the MTNA Conference in Chicago, where she accepted the award for Karen Okerlund, our Foundation Fellow. She would like the local associations to explore options for the way our annual conference is rotated and hosted. Small groups find it a challenge to do the conference alone. She sent copies to the whole

membership of the Constitutional changes and revisions, which will be discussed and voted on by the membership at the annual meeting.

Committees

Beth presented part of Certification Chair, Karen Kalinowski's report. Karen was assigned to reconstruct the Teacher of the Year award. She proposed using Service to the Profession award instead. This could be an individual, a school, a local chapter or a business that has contributed to the music profession. The nomination would include a letter – not an application form – explaining the reason why this “service” deserves the award. Criteria needs to be considered. Kathie Johnson made a motion to adopt Service to the Profession award in place of Teacher of the Year and the president, vice president and certification chair should meet to finalize the criteria to be voted on at our October meeting. Lynda Pearson seconded and the motion passed.

Advertising

New to this position is Michael Langer (Bismarck). He has just received the files and will begin revitalizing our advertising.

Competitions

Sue Nagel and Geraldine Ong will co-chair the MTNA competitions, October 24-25 at VCS.

Directory Editor

Michelle Schumacher reported her goal is to have the Directory ready by the first week of September. She needs any and all changes and will send out a mass email to the membership concerning this. Discussion was held about including cell phone numbers. Michelle said she would add them to the directory.

Foundation/Immediate Past President

Kathie Johnson reported ND is #1 in two of three categories of giving to Foundation. She will pass baskets for donations for Priscilla Keogh, our 2015 nominee, at the IMTF lunch.

Historian

Darla Sheldon continues to gather pictures, newsletters and directories for the archives. She has prepared scrapbooks to share at conference.

IMTF

Williston will be in charge of the speaker for 2015 and 2016.

Membership

Paige Keiser-Resac reported our membership is 121 as of March, 2014. She proposed a 10-year award as well as the 25-year award that is currently given. This could be in the form of a tiered pin, adding on each time an award is given. Paige will research possible pins. A motion was made by Anne Morris to have the 10-year award. Sharon Gegelmann seconded and the motion passed.

Newsletter Editor

Jeanette Berntson, editor, would like articles to be sent to her by August 10th. Various board members volunteered to write articles on each conference session.

NODAK

Arlene Gray proposed changes in expenses and award amounts for NODAK, which was discussed. Arlene indicated we have a significant donor to help with this. Kathie Johnson made a motion to change entry fees to Arlene's suggestions: Elementary - \$30, Junior High - \$35, Senior High - \$45, Collegiate and Solo/Chamber - \$50 and allow the following new award amounts: Elementary - \$75 (unchanged), Junior High - \$100, Senior High - \$150, Collegiate and Solo/Chamber - \$200. Motion was seconded by Mike Langer and the motion passed.

Rally

Sheryl Kjelland's report included the total profit from Rally was \$1,287.77. Four Rallies were held last year: LAMTA, Northwest MTA, UVMTA and FMMTA.

Nominating

Lisa Schuler reported Jeanette Berntson has been nominated for Vice President and will accept the position after the vote at the Annual Meeting.

Technology

Kathie Johnson brought up discussion about our website and whether or not to pay for two years instead of one. After consulting with Kathy Bresee and the budget, it was decided to pay for two years. She is keeping the website as current as possible and wants to include any pictures we can share from local association events.

Local Association reports were received from Valley City MTA, Badlands MTA, Devils Lake Area MTA, Northwest MTA, GGFMTA, FMMTA, Upper Valley MTA, Langdon Area MTA and Bismarck-Mandan MTA.

Business

Beth stressed the need for each local association to send in their certificate of compliance form, required because of the FTC investigation into our Code of Ethics. She alerted us to the upcoming annual meeting vote on our constitution changes, specifically Article IV, Section 3. With the changes to this, we would ensure a new president would enter with an experienced treasurer.

Discussion was held concerning future conferences. A motion was made by Arlene Gray that in-state and out-of-state presenters may be used at all state conferences upon approval of the board, thus suspending the previous every-other-year rotation of out-of-state presenters. Kathie Johnson seconded and motion passed.

At this time, Treasurer Kathy Bresee announced the updated budget report. Jeanette Berntson made a motion to accept the budget as amended. Anne Morris seconded and the motion passed.

Beth initiated discussion about rotation for conferences and the need for good communication between conference chairs. Our 2015 conference will be at UND in Grand Forks, June 24-26. We will be discussing the 2016 conference scheduled to be in Bismarck, at our October Board meeting. Presidents of all local associations were reminded to send any programs we host to Lisa Schuler for ASCAP.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Motta, Secretary.

2014 NDMTA Conference in Dickinson

NODAK Winner's Recital and Commissioned Composer Concert

submitted by Arlene Gray

NODAK Competition was held June 18, 2014 at Dickinson State University, Dickinson, in the Beck Auditorium of Klinefelter Hall. Four students were adjudicated and given constructive remarks by judge, Dr. Geraldine Ong, of Valley City State University.

Dr. Ong declared **Gary Wu**, student of Gloria Bethke, Elementary Winner and **Ella Zhang**, student of Gloria Bethke, Junior High Winner. **Taylor Ternes**, student of Lynda Pearson, earned Honorable Mention in Junior High.

President Beth Klingenstein welcomed the North Dakota Music Teachers Association to the opening of the NDMTA Conference. Beth introduced MTNA CEO, Gary Ingle, who shared a few remarks.

Each NODAK participant played one piece on the evening recital. **Bryant Nelson**, Junior High student of Michael Langer, performed on the evening recital with the three winners. Dr. Geraldine Ong performed one piece by Ravel.

Vice President, Lisa Schuler, introduced the commissioned composer, Tom Gerou, who performed his commissioned work on piano. Tom shared his joy in the creative process for his work. He enjoyed the writing since it was quite different from his ordinary work for Alfred Publishing.

A reception followed the evening program.



Tom Gerou, Mary Sallee, and Gary Ingle, our NDMTA 2014 conference presenters.

Session 1: Wheeere's the Beat? with Mary Sallee

submitted by Lisa Schuler, NDCTM

No, there isn't a typo in the title of this article. It is the actual title from one of Mary Sallee's sessions held at the NDMTA Conference. In this particular session, Mary reminded teachers that rhythmic skills are of utmost importance. She had a detailed handout that outlined the entire session. She touched on the following: establishing good practice habits, counting aloud, clapping patterns, explaining tempo as speed, count off strategies, how to introduce various rhythms, accentuation, and much, much more.

As she guided us through each part of the handout, she filled the presentation with analogies that will help our students really understand various rhythmic concepts. One example was about "cheating" beats from measures. She tells her students, "How would you feel if you asked your Dad for change for a one dollar bill and he gave you back three quarters for it? It wouldn't be fair, right? Dads shouldn't cheat their kids! When playing your rhythms, you have to be fair too. You can't just hold a quarter note for one eighth note; it must get two eighth notes to be fair." Another example she gave was to have our students count with conviction. Have students think about how they talk to a dog when having them perform tricks. It's not a delicate, wimpy type of voice but a strong, commanding voice so the dog will listen and follow through. Students should count with attitude so their fingers will follow their counting, not their counting following what their fingers want to do. The last example I will share from the session was about teaching ritards. Have students visualize a wind-up doll. The doll should gradually bend over and stop. Have students pretend to be the doll away from the bench while counting aloud. Instill that the biggest space or pull back in the tempo should occur between the next to the last note and the last note.

There is simply not enough space to share everything that Mary Sallee spoke about so attending conferences is the key to gaining all of the tips from experienced teachers! In closing, we must make sure that our students engage their ears, minds and body in every piece they learn.

Session 2: How I Get My Students to Think Harmonically with Mary Sallee

submitted by Lynda Pearson, NCTM

What a completely fabulous workshop! Who wouldn't want to improve in the area of teaching basic piano harmony - and here was a model for giving our students a grounding in useful, practical keyboard harmony skills. She gave us a three page hand-out outlining the basics from Unit One First Lesson onward.

I. Developing a Sense of Tonal Center from the Start.

II. Teach FUNCTIONAL Harmonization SKILLS to all students

III. Teaching Harmonization

A. Explain language of Roman Numerals, build on I, IV, V

B. Have student harmonize every note of the scale

C. After being in root position, teach IV and V7 in inversion

IV. Mastering Technical Demands of LH Chording

V. Reading from a Lead Sheet - adding LH Chords to Happy Birthday

VI. Moving Beyond I, IV, V7. A particularly useful term she used is the "Cousin Chord" - like the relative minor.

There was much, much more. In the end, her goal is to give students tools to accompany familiar songs. Very inspiring workshop! Thanks, Mary! Another thing - check out Mary Sallee's personal website: salleepiano.com

IMTF Luncheon with MTNA CEO, Gary Ingle

submitted by Cathie Scheid, Fargo, ND

What does the Federal Trade Commission have to do with you as a music/piano teacher? According to Gary Ingle, the Executive Director and CEO of MTNA, the FTC is becoming more aggressive in investigating organizations such as ours for “anti-competition” issues. Although we may consider other music teachers as colleagues and friends, the FTC wants us to consider each other as competitors. Prices and discounts for lessons and other things related to the financial aspect of being a piano teacher should not be discussed in a group setting. There should be no prohibiting of teachers soliciting students from other teachers.



Rather than enter into a lengthy and expensive legal battle MTNA has approved a “consent decree” which is a settlement between MTNA and the FTC agreeing to follow the guidelines set by the FTC. At the present time it will be more appropriate to discuss things on a “historical” basis when addressing questions among piano teachers. What else may transpire for future regulations remains to be seen.

Session 3: NDMTA Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2014

State Conference in Dickinson, ND

President Beth Gigante-Klingenstein opened the business meeting. Arlene Gray moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Darla Sheldon. Motion passed. The Secretary’s minutes were read. Lisa Schuler moved to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Jeanette Berntson. Motion passed and minutes were filed.

Kathy Bresee presented the Treasurer’s report, which included total income of \$14,010.42 and total expenses of \$11,736.45. The operating budget for the coming year will be \$14,430. Dues will remain at \$25 for active NDMTA member, \$20 for senior members and \$10 for student members.

Vice President Lisa Schuler read her report, which included finalizing details for our commissioned composer, Tom Gerou, and our 2015 commissioned composer, Rebecca Raber.

President Beth Gigante-Klingenstein presented her last report as NDMTA president. She highlighted her attendance at a number of forums and sessions at MTNA Conference. She secured Michael Langer to be Advertising Chair. She made many contacts with Sharon Gegelmann, 2014 Conference director.

As Conference Chair, Sharon Gegelmann reported 35 people registered. We were encouraged to write thank you notes to Dickinson State University for the use of their facility free of charge.

For Technology, Kathie Johnson reported the NDMTA website will hopefully soon have links to businesses, who will pay to advertise. She also reported for Foundation, that \$805 had been collected for our 2015 Foundation Fellow, Priscilla Keogh.

Gloria Bethke, Conference Chair, gave a warm invitation to all of us to attend the 2015 Conference in Grand Forks.

Business

The minutes of the June 18, 2014 Executive Board Meeting were read by the Secretary and highlighted by the President.

Beth brought our attention to finding ideas to help smaller local associations host future conferences. Could there be help between groups with one coordinator? Give any creative suggestions to Lisa Schuler.

The ND By-Laws concerning the event of dissolution have been worded so that any monies would go to MTNA. Each local association should have similar wording in their By-Laws, allocating any monies to NDMTA or MTNA. This needs to be done to safeguard our funds.

Ann Holmen made a motion to vote on each change to our Constitution separately. Vangie Parker seconded. Motion passed. Beth read the thirteen changes and each was voted on or amended and voted on and all passed.

Awards were given for 25 year MTNA membership to Linda Hanson and Sue Nagel.

Permanent State Certification awards were given to Michelle Schumacher, Arleen Norton, Michelle Gelinske, Wanda Wavra, Lisa Schuler and Karen Kalinowski.

The slate of officers and appointments to chair positions was presented. Ann Holmen made a motion to accept the slate of officers as nominated. Vangie Parker seconded. Motion passed. Beth led the installation ceremony which included: President – Lisa Schuler, Vice President/President Elect – Jeanette Berntson and Treasurer – Kathy Bresee (re-appointed). Other positions with new chairs appointed were: co-Chair for Competitions – Geraldine Ong, Advertising Chair – Michael Langer and Foundation Chair – Vangie Parker.

The meeting concluded with gifts presented to out-going President Beth and in-coming President Lisa. Eileen Geske read an original poem and played a recording of her original song entitled, “Lyrics for a Parting Lullaby”, which was depicted through sign language by her granddaughter, Nora.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,

Mary Motta, Secretary

Session 4: Alfred Showcase with Tom Gerou and Mary Sallee

Submitted by Lisa Schuler, NDCTM

NDMTA was lucky this year in that we had two out-of-state presenters at our conference! Tom Gerou was our 2014 Commissioned Composer but he also offered to do a showcase session for free. Mary Sallee was our guest clinician and she too offered to present with Tom at the Alfred Showcase. Mary and Tom opened the session with a duet and then proceeded to share their materials published by the Alfred Publishing Company.



Mary Sallee is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and has run her own piano studio in Norman, Oklahoma since 1988. She holds a double Bachelor's Degree in piano performance and vocal music education as well as a Master's Degree in piano performance and pedagogy, all from the University of Oklahoma. Mary shared her book "Great Standards and Love Songs", which is filled with her arrangements that would be perfect for dinner parties and other gatherings that students could play for.

Tom Gerou is a North Dakota native, graduating from Trinity High School in Dickinson. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor's Degree in composition and a Master's of Music Degree in composition from Yale University. Tom shared his "Piece by Piece" packet of three books and his "Great Music and Musicians" history book, which were sold at a discount for those attending the conference. His solo sheet "No School Today" was given to everyone for free. Mary jumped up on the stage to play the duet to this cute solo piece without warning Tom, which made for a light and spontaneous moment. The session concluded with the composers sharing various pieces from an Alfred Sampler.

Session 5: Mary Sallee: Motivating Music for the Bored Student

submitted by Kathleen Johnson

One of the benefits of listening to a composer talk about the music they've composed is the insight you gain about how to teach a particular piece of music. Such was the case when listening to Mary Sallee talk about her music. She touched on teaching pieces for elementary, intermediate, late intermediate and praise music. It was interesting to hear her explain why each piece was written and for whom. Below are some of the pieces she played and talked about.

Elementary:

- The Ice Cream Truck: was written to teach dynamics and is in 5 finger pattern.
- Beethoven's Boogie: Mary wrote this piece for two little boys "who were Monsters". She quotes well-known Beethoven tunes in boogie style.

Just Du-et:

- Slap That E: This piece was written for a beginning student to play at a mall. Mary wrote in scat words i.e. doo-be-doo doo-wap to help the student learn the rhythm.
- Getting 'A Round' to It: This is a duet that students play a little and then exchange places and continue playing.
- The Water Is Wide: This duet was written for a couple of adults who were not on the same level pianistically i.e. the parts are not equal. This piece could be used for church.
- Duet Showstoppers: This book of duets contains arrangements of old time favorites by LeRoy

Anderson and others. Some of the titles are ‘Nola’, ‘Take Five’, ‘The Entertainer’, ‘The Typewriter’, ‘Buglers Holiday’. The duets are lots of fun to play.

Other thoughts from Mary:

- Halloween music is a good time to teach staccato notes – kids love spooky sounds.
- It is important to find what captures the student’s imagination.
- Stretch ritards to the barline. The longest beat in a ritard is between the last beat and beginning of ‘a tempo’. Remember to ritard the rests!

Intermediate/late intermediate:

- Cool Breeze: Every student needs a pretty piece at some time in their study. This piece is a great ‘pupil saver’ for adults/teen girls.
- Route 66: This book of pieces is great for piano camps. It has songs and history of the legendary Route 66 with narration.
- Simply Joplin: Is a collection of Scott Joplin ragtime favorites in an easy-to-read format.
- Simply Classics: This book is great for teaching adults. It is user friendly for student and teacher. It contains well-known arrangements of famous composer’s music such as Beethoven and Mozart and has a good arrangement of the Moonlight Sonata.
- Oklahoma Heritage: There are good, exciting pieces for late intermediate in this book.
- Scenes of Vermont: Again, a book with great teaching pieces for intermediate students and adults.

**Mary Sallee said she promotes using the pedal for her pieces and feels her pieces are ‘under pedaled’ when she adjudicates students playing her pieces.

Sacred Music:

- Comfort in the Time of Need: This is a hymn suite with music appropriate for funerals. It is very accessible.
- Inspirational Hymn Medleys: This book of hymns pairs two hymn selections in one piece. It is appropriate for preludes, postludes, and offertories for the church pianist.

Christmas:

- Christmas Bell Suite: Includes several medleys of Christmas pieces that use the theme of bells, some which would work well for church postlude.
- Inspirational Xmas Medley: This group of Christmas songs are “not your mother’s Christmas songs”. It contains a variety of international melodies used at Christmas. They can also be used for church.

Mary also mentioned three collections of Jazz/Popular songs that are of interest but ran out of time to discuss them: Pop Performer Series: 20s and 30s, Popular Performer: The Best Songs from Movies and Radio of the 2000s, Great Standards and Love Songs. This was one of four sessions that Mary Sallee presented at the NDMTA State Conference in Dickinson. In the other sessions, “Where’s the Beat?”, “How I Get My Students to Think Harmonically”, and “Teaching Jazz”, Mary gave many ideas for teachers to use with their students. She was energetic, enjoyable, and fun to listen to.

Session 6: Teaching Jazz with Mary Sallee

Mary Sallee taught us the details of teaching both Ragtime and Jazz. She shared many helpful tips, such as, “Swinging the 8ths is NOT advised” for Rags. Another tip she shared for swing-Jazz is to sing “doo -BEE” with the 8ths to emphasize the second, shorter 8th. She gave us a four-page handout on this session. Try to get your hands on a copy!