



NDMTA NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2016

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A Message from your NDMTA President

Greetings NDMTA Members,

Since our last newsletter, two exciting things have happened for NDMTA! First, our organization was awarded a Special Projects Grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The funding will assist us in bringing presenter, teacher and composer, Jennifer Linn and recitalists Nariaki Suguira and Simona Barbu to the 2016 State Conference. You will find all of the state conference details in this newsletter and I hope that our membership will reserve June 15th-17th for professional development, entertainment and fellowship with music teachers across North Dakota. The executive board and conference planning committee has done a great job in planning sessions, recitals, an IMTF Luncheon and a banquet aimed at appreciating our NDMTA membership. We are working for a higher attendance at our conferences and we hope that you will be attending in Bismarck this year! You could do as I am doing and bring your family to make it into a family vacation. With the conference ending on Friday at noon, it leaves the weekend to visit the attractions in our state capital.



The second exciting announcement is that NDMTA has gained a new sponsor for the NODAK Music Competitions, which will keep this important program financially stable. Read further for more details about the new "Popplers Music Competition" that will give our students musical growth through competitions.

If you have ever felt the need to have a stronger connection with NDMTA, I invite you to contact me about serving on our executive board. I have been on the board in various positions for many years and have found it to be truly rewarding. NDMTA has a wonderful group of officers and chairmen who are valuable leaders. These special people have become my friends and musical family. If you would like be a part of this great network, I would be happy to talk with you about various areas in NDMTA that you could contribute to, to better not only the organization, but you as a person.

In closing, I would like to challenge each member who will be attending the conference this summer to invite at least one person to the recitals that are free and open to the public. The music entertainment being featured at the Popplers Music Winners Recital, the Commission Composer Recital and piano/cello concert are meant to be shared with the community, not just NDMTA members, so please spread the word in hopes of a great attendance to support our fine performers!

My best,
 Lisa Schuler, NDCTM
 NDMTA President
lschuler@utma.com
 (701) 256-2749

2017 Foundation Fellow Kathleen Berg Johnson



Kathleen Berg Johnson was born and raised on a farm near Wyndmere, ND. Her earliest music education began on the piano when she was three when her mother was teaching her older sister. Kathleen listened by the piano and after her sister's lesson was over, Kathleen climbed onto the piano bench and played the songs her sister had just been taught. She figured out how the staff worked and played every song in the book. This early introduction to the staff as it related to the keyboard and sound was important as she had perfect pitch and the sound as it relates to the place on the staff became forever imprinted in her brain. From grade 3 - 12 she was fortunate to be taught by Mary Stone, a wonderful teacher who had studied at Peabody Conservatory.

In high school, Kathleen was always on call to accompany the choir, soloists, and small groups. She also played the oboe in the high school band. She started playing the organ at church when she was 14 years old and continued until she graduated from high school, and often coming back from college to play for weddings.

Kathleen went on to study music education with a piano major at the University of North Dakota. She met her husband there and they moved to Langdon, ND where she taught public school music for 6 years. With the birth of her second child and the need for a piano teacher in the Langdon area, she began teaching private piano lessons. At the age of 43 she studied at UND again to earn a masters in piano performance while maintaining a studio of 65 students in Langdon. Through the Langdon Area Music Teachers Association (LAMTA) her students participated in the Music Rally every year, Multi Piano Recitals, workshops with Melody Bober and Wynne Ann Rossi and themed music festivals that the LAMTA sponsored.

After teaching piano for 39 years she retired from teaching. Throughout the years, many of Kathleen's students went on to study music at various universities and made music their career, either in teaching, music therapy, theater, or as music leaders in their churches and communities. Kathleen also accompanied for many church and community music programs over the years and is the church organist and the director of the praise band at United Lutheran Church.

The NDMTA/MTNA has always been an important part of Kathleen's professional life and has been a member for 39 years. Attending state conferences was always important to learn something new at the presentations and to greet fellow piano teachers and "talk shop". She has served on the NDMTA board for many of those years as president of the LAMTA, or as chair of one of the many state committees. She also served as NDMTA state president. Kathleen remains a member of NDMTA/MTNA after retiring from teaching and took on the challenge of redoing the NDMTA state web site that was in dire need of a make over. She still works on the state board as the Technology Coordinator, maintaining the website.

Kathleen's philosophy in teaching music has always been to first of all teach the student to read music so that whether they play piano or another instrument, sing, or simply listen to music, they will always enjoy it because they understand how to read it. Teaching the students the techniques of playing the piano is emphasized from the beginning, but not all students will be good at the piano so if they can at least read music, they will be able to transfer that knowledge to any instrument they would rather learn to play. Participating in music has always brought her great joy and the hope was always that her students would also find that same joy.

NDMTA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

June 15-17, 2016
University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota

Wednesday – June 15, 2016

- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm NODAK Competition Rehearsals and Auditions
Heskett Hall, Clairmont Center, University of Mary
- 4:00 pm Board Meeting
Founder’s Room, University of Mary
Select dinner choice on registration form
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration
Heskett Hall, Clairmont Center, University of Mary
- 7:00 pm Official Opening and NODAK Winner’s Recital, Heskett Hall
 Intermission (and a short, beautiful walk)
 Commissioned Composer’s Concert with Andrew Miller and Insprare
 Choir,
 Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel, Benedictine Center, University of
 Mary
 Reception to follow

Thursday – June 16, 2016

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration & Coffee/Tea
Heskett Hall Lobby
- 9:00 am – 10:15 am Session I – Jennifer Linn
 “The Young and Impressionable”
 Heskett Hall
- 10:15 am – 10:45 am Break – Silent Auction, Mingle with Vendors, Refreshments
- 10:45 am – 12:00 pm Session II – Jennifer Linn
 “But What Does ‘Musical’ Mean?”
 Heskett Hall

- 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm IMTF Lunch
Harold Schafer Leadership Center: Board and Great Room
(A close walking distance from Heskett Hall)
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Session III – Business Meeting
Heskett Hall
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break – Silent Auction, Vendors, Refreshments
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Session IV – Michael Langer
“Music of John Adams”
Heskett Hall
- 6:00 pm Banquet
Harold Schafer Leadership Center: Board and Great Room
- 8:00 pm Concert
Nariaki Sugiura and Simona Barbu
Reception to follow

Friday – June 17, 2016

- 8:30 am Registration & Coffee/Tea
- 9:00 am – 10:15 am Session V – Jennifer Linn
“The Wisdom of the Sonatina Masters”
Heskett Hall
- 10:15 am – 10:45 am Break – Last bids on Silent Auction, Refreshments
- 10:45 am – 12:00 pm Session VI – Jennifer Linn
Feature music and materials from Jennifer Linn and Hal Leonard
Heskett Hall
- Closing Remarks

2016 NDMTA State Conference Presenter

Jennifer Linn



Jennifer Linn is a multi-talented pianist, teacher, composer, arranger and clinician, and holds the title of Manager-Educational Piano for Hal Leonard. As a clinician, she has presented workshops, master classes, and Hal Leonard showcases throughout the United States, Canada, and India. In addition to her composing and arranging for the *Hal Leonard Student Piano Library*, Ms. Linn also was the editor and recording artist for the award winning new *Journey Through the Classics* series, the G. Schirmer Performance Editions *Clementi: Sonatinas, Op. 36*, *Kuhlau: Selected Sonatinas*, and *Schumann: Selections from Album for the Young, Op. 68*. Many of her original compositions for piano students have been selected for the National Federation of Music Clubs festival, the Music Teachers' Association of California Certificate of Merit, and other required repertoire lists worldwide.

Ms. Linn's teaching career spans more than 30 years and includes independent studio teaching of all ages, as well as group instruction and piano pedagogy at the university level. Ms. Linn received her B.M. with distinction and M.M. in piano performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory of Music where she was the winner of the concerto-aria competition. She was also named the outstanding student in the graduate piano division and given the prestigious vice chancellor's award for academic excellence and service. In 2013 Ms. Linn was commissioned to compose a collaborative work for the MTNA National Conference in Anaheim, California where her trio *Serendipity* for piano, flute and horn, was premiered. The University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance also named Ms. Linn the 2013 UMKC Alumni of the year.



Michael Langer was raised in Bismarck, North Dakota. In 2007 he completed a B.S. in Music Ed. and a B.A. in Music Performance at the University of Mary in Bismarck where he studied with Scott and Marylee Prebys. As a student, Michael performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Wind Ensemble.

In 2010 Michael completed a M.M. in Piano Performance at Boise State University, where he studied with Dr. Mark Hansen. Michael was also a graduate assistant director of the BSU Marching Band. In 2010, Michael won the BSU Concerto-Aria competition and performed Prokofiev's Piano Concert No. 3 with the BSU Symphony Orchestra. In 2012 he won a national audition and performed a solo recital in McCall, Idaho

He has performed on percussion and piano with Opera Idaho, the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, and the Missouri Valley Chamber Orchestra, with which he performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in January 2016. He has served as music director, pianist and organist at St. John's Cathedral (Boise), Ascension Catholic Church, Faith Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Charity Lutheran (Bismarck). He has performed extensively on percussion and piano with jazz combos in Boise and Bismarck. He has taught music privately since 2002 and has been a member of the Federation of Music Clubs and MTNA since 2009, serving as Chair of Advertising for NDMTA. His student won the BMMTA 2015 Scholarship Competition.

Michael has served as adjunct faculty at Bismarck State College since 2013, where he teaches Class Piano, Applied Piano, Music Appreciation, Jazz Combo, and is the primary accompanist. He has accompanied Dickinson State University students at BSC since 2014 and has taught applied piano for DSU since 2015. He has presented master classes at DSU and UND.

His composition, *The Light By the Barn*, was premiered in 2015 by the BSC Concert Choir. He anticipates the premiere of a new work for choir, organ, piano, and percussion by the professional vocal group *Inspirare*. He was awarded grants from the North Dakota Community College Consortium and the BSC Foundation to attend the MTNA National Conference in 2014 and 2015.

Michael will present a session at the 2016 NDMTA state conference in Bismarck. *The Piano Works of John Adams* will be a combination lecture and performance which will introduce listeners to the compositional style and uniquely American sound of this post-minimalist. Bismarck violinist, **Laura Prokopyk**, will join Michael in this presentation.

2016 NDMTA State Conference Recitalists

Nariaki Sugiura and Simona Barbu



NARIAKI SUGIURA Biography

Music critics have raved about Nariaki Sugiura's performances in Europe with such accolades as "the most sensitive touch on the piano," and "possessing the rigueur, passion, and discipline of an old Samurai." International concert artist Nariaki Sugiura has performed solo recitals and concerto engagements in the U.S., Europe, South America, and Asia at some of the most prestigious concert halls including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Shenzhen Concert Hall (China), Ferenc Liszt Music Academy Recital Hall (Hungary), Daejeon Arts and Cultural Center Hall (South Korea), Manoel Theater (Malta), Kioi Hall (Japan), and Museo de Arte (Puerto Rico). He has appeared as soloist with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, UND Chamber Orchestra, and many others. His arrangements for chamber ensembles and piano for 6-hands have been frequently performed, and he has also conducted his large ensemble arrangements.

A devoted teacher as well as performer, Dr. Sugiura has become of the leading piano pedagogues of his generation. He has given piano master classes at numerous institutions such as Civico Instituto Musicale "V. Baravalle" (Italy), Gheorghe Dima Music Academy (Romania), Xinghai Conservatory of Music (China), Ewha Womens University and Sunhwa Arts High School (South Korea), Universitas Pelita Harapan (Indonesia), St. Paul's College (Hong Kong), University of Denver, and many other music institutions around the world. Currently he is Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano at University of North Dakota while also holding visiting faculty positions at East China Normal University and Jiangyin Royal Piano Art in China. Previously, he has taught at DePauw University, Indiana University, Festival Internacional de Inverno da Universidade Federal de Santa Maria in Brazil, and Lamont Summer Pre-College Music Academy in Denver. While he was at Indiana University, he worked for legendary cellist/pedagogue Janos Starker as a staff accompanist. He has been an adjudicator for many national and international piano competitions in the US and Asia.

Sugiura has recorded eight CD albums for such labels as Klavier Records, Eroica Classical Recordings, and T. K. Music Productions. His performances have been featured on television and radio, broadcast nationally and internationally. Active as an editor, his editions of chamber music scores are published by Ludwig Masters Music Publications.

A native of Japan, Nariaki Sugiura began piano studies with his mother at age five. Under the tutelage of Michel Block and Shigeo Neriki, he received his Masters and Doctor of Music in Piano Performance degrees from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Other prominent teachers include Alicia de Larrocha, Friedrich Schurr, and Leonard Hokanson. He has won prizes at numerous competitions, including the 1999 and 2000 Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Competition Top Prizes. He was laureate of the 1993 National Music Competition in Tokyo and of the Annual Competition of Music from Spain and Latin America in 1999.

SIMONA BARBU Biography

An astounding cellist and educator, Simona Barbu, began her musical studies at age seven and gained public attention as a member of the leading string quartet of the Conservatory of Timisoara in her native Romania, where she made her solo debut in Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* with the conservatory's symphonic orchestra. She has traveled in Europe, Asia, and the United States as a soloist, a chamber musician, clinician, and most recently she held residencies at conservatories and universities in Shanghai and Guangzhou, China. Ms. Barbu has also been an active orchestra musician, performing with Memphis Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, Bismarck Symphony Orchestra, and serving as principal with several orchestras including the Eroica Ensemble in Memphis and the Starkville Symphony Orchestra in Mississippi.



Ms. Barbu graduated as the valedictorian from the Music Conservatory at Lynn University in Florida, and she continued her studies in the master of music in cello performance program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas under the tutelage of Nathanel Rosen and Christopher Adkins. Subsequently, Ms. Barbu received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Memphis where she studied with cellist Leonardo Altino. Ms. Barbu has participated in festivals such as Brevard, Masterworks, and the International Academy of Music in Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Italy, and performed in master classes lead by Timothy Eddy, Yehuda Hanani, Lynn Harrell, Carol Ou, Amid Pales, Aldo Parisot, and Janos Starker.

During her doctorate studies, Ms. Barbu was a faculty member at the Mississippi State University, where she taught strings, coached string ensembles, and conducted the orchestra. Currently Ms. Barbu is an Assistant Professor of Cello and Burgum Endowed Chair at University of North Dakota, and the director of Crescendo Chamber Music Program at the Northern Valley Youth Orchestra. She plays on the modern cello made by Andrew Carruth in 2003.

60 Sensational Years!
North Dakota Music Teachers Association Annual Conference
 Wednesday-Friday, June 15-17, 2016
 University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota
Registration Form

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____
 E-mail _____
 NDMTA Member? Yes No
 Local Association _____
 I am nationally (MTNA) certified. I am state (NDMTA) certified
 This is my first NDMTA Conference (have attended no sessions ever)

Registration Fee: (does not include meals)

Full Conference	\$95.00	_____
First Time Conference Attendee/Student/One Day Only	\$50.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday		_____

Meals: (All meals must be prepaid, includes gratuities and taxes)

Wednesday Executive Board Supper-on campus in a reserved room	\$9.00	_____
Mark one of the following choices (includes chips and soda or water)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Boxed Mediterranean Chicken Wrap		
<input type="checkbox"/> Boxed Club Wrap		
 Thursday IMTF Luncheon-on campus in a reserved room	 \$10.00	 _____
Assortment of sandwiches (turkey, roast beef, Italian)		
Assortment of salads (house garden, pasta, potato)		
Water/Ice Tea		
 Thursday Banquet-on campus in a reserved room	 \$21.00	 _____
Includes dinner salad, vegetables, rolls, water, ice tea, coffee, chocolate cake		
Mark one of the following choices:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Roasted Pork Prime Rib		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Maple Salmon		
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Pecan Chicken		

Late Registration Fee (postmarked after May 25) \$15.00 _____

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

Mail completed form and check payable to **NDMTA** to:
Vanessa Wold, 8402 Harvest Hills Dr., Bismarck, ND 58503

Refunds: Registration fees are nonrefundable with exception for emergencies and illnesses. Should these conflicts arise the registration fee, minus all food costs, will be refunded. Please contact Vanessa Wold of the Bismarck Mandan MTA at 605-366-7898 AND send a written request to Kathy Bresee: 438 Birch Lane, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Conference Hotel: Expressway Suites 701-222-3311 Free Hot Breakfast. Easy driving access to University of Mary. Fifteen rooms will be reserved under the group name of **NDMTA** until May 25 at \$99.95

Survey on Competitions

NDMTA members will receive an email regarding a survey on the topic of competitions.

The IMTF committee encourages your participation in the survey as it will guide the discussion at the IMTF Luncheon Program.

Thank you

Ellen Croy

IMTF Chair

POPLERS MUSIC COMPETITION

(Formerly the NODAK Competition)

Submitted by Lisa Schuler, NDCTM

The North Dakota Music Teachers Association would like to announce that it has started a new type of relationship with the Popplers Music Store in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Popplers owner, Don Langlie, has accepted a proposal from NDMTA to become a sponsor for the NODAK Music Competition! With



this new venture, the competition name will be changed to the “Popplers Music Competition”.

Be assured that nothing will change within the competition other than its name and how it is financed. NDMTA is excited to continue this important program and Popplers Music is helping to make that happen!

The Popplers Music Competition is a non-advancing competition held each year during the NDMTA State Conference.

(Picture: Lisa Schuler & Don Langlie)

The competition has four age categories with five types of competitions: Elementary Piano and String Competitions; Junior High Instrumental Competitions for piano, strings and woodwinds; High School Piano, Voice and Instrumental Competitions; Collegiate Competitions for brass, piano, strings, voice, and woodwinds; and Collegiate Chamber Music Competition. All of the requirements and rules for these competitions are listed in the NDMTA Directory and the NDMTA Website at ndmta.org.

NDMTA would like to thank Don Langlie and his business for partnering with us to promote educational events for our students. If you are a member of NDMTA, please consider entering your students in the Popplers Music Competition. This year’s competition will be held Wednesday, June 15th at the University of Mary. All questions about this event can be directed to Arlene Gray, the competition chair.



POPLERS MUSIC COMPETITION

(Formerly the NODAK Competition)

(Non-advancing NDMTA State Competition)

Official Application Form

(Rules are in the NDMTA Directory)

Entrant Information

(Do not use a pencil)

Name _____ Male _____ Female _____

Mailing
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____ Age as of June 1st _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Home Town Newspaper & email address _____

<u>Student Fee</u> (circle one)	Elementary	\$30.00(ages 8-11)
	Junior High	\$35.00(ages 12-14)
	High School	\$45.00(ages 15-18)
	Collegiate	\$50.00(ages 19-26)

Teacher Information

Name _____ Dues paid on _____ Membership # _____

Mailing
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of
Accompanist _____

Do you have students entered in other categories? No Yes

Write names & level on attached sheet.

Area entering (piano, woodwinds, brass, strings, etc.) _____

Repertoire for Competition Performance

This repertoire program must include title and number of each movement, tempo markings, and the composer's full name. *Please type the complete program on a separate sheet of paper and attach to the Official Application Form. **You must have a total of the time.***

<u>Composition</u>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Period</u>
---------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	----------------------

Example:

Sonata No. 1 in g minor, BWV 1001	J.S. Bach	Total 7:05	Baroque
I. Adagio (4:17)			
IV. Presto (2:48)			

Competition Agreement: *It is the responsibility of the teacher and the entrant to abide by the rules applicable to the NODAK Music Competitions.*

This form will be returned if there are any omissions or inaccuracies.

The undersigned verify that the information submitted on this application form is complete and accurate and that the teacher paid state and national dues.

Unmemorized programs require two (2) copies of the music.

Signature of **Entrant** _____

Signature of **Teacher** _____

Mail your completed **Popplers Music Competition** form with a fee check **payable to NDMTA**
to:

Arlene Gray, 4525 Camden Loop, Bismarck, ND 58503

E-mail address: ae6gray@gmail.com Phone: 701-250-0860.

This official Application Form must be postmarked on or before May 20, 2016.

Competition Date: June 15, 2016 Heskett Hall, University of Mary, Bismarck, ND



NDMTA Receives Special Project Grant

In support of their efforts to promote community arts, the North Dakota Music Teachers Association applied for and was awarded a \$1,250.00 Special Project grant by the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA).

The grant will help to provide funds to NDMTA for the 2016 State Conference to be held in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 15-17 at the University Of Mary College. The conference will feature presenters, Jennifer Linn and Michael Langer and recitalists, Nariaki Sugiura and Simona Barbu. The NODAK Winners Recital, Commission Composer Premier Recital, and Music Concert featuring Nariaki on piano and Simona on cello are free and open to the public.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The deadline for Special Project grant applications is four weeks prior to the start of the planned activity. For more information, contact the Council on the Arts at 701-328-7592 or visit www.nd.gov/arts.



Joshua Gratton Inspires Young Students

The students of Lisa Schuler's Piano Studio and their parents were given a treat on January 4th. Joshua Gratton performed and talked with families about his music journey. Josh grew up in Langdon and took piano lessons from Lisa Schuler for 8 years and has continued his music studies with Dr. Nariaki Sugiura for 4 years at the University of North Dakota. He will graduate with a Piano Performance degree and a Business Entrepreneurship degree.

Lisa and Joshua welcomed the audience and then Joshua performed the Third Movement from Beethoven's 23rd Sonata. After an exciting performance, he spoke to the families on how to practice properly, why people should study classical music, how parents can be more involved with their child's music education at home and why performing is important. He then opened up a question and answer session, which evolved into great discussions on what it takes to become a good musician. Following the event, Joshua was given an honorarium from the Langdon Area Music Teachers Association.

Lisa Schuler, her students and LAMTA would like to thank Joshua Gratton for his time and talents given to our Langdon area students.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2016

Call to order: President Lisa Schuler called the meeting to order. **Roll Call:** Lisa Schuler, Elsie Magnus, Jeanette Berntson, Vangie Parker, Lynda Pearson, Kathy Bresee, Gloria Bethke, Alisha Harris, Geraldine Ong, Ellen Croy, Sheryl Kjelland, Cheryl Dockter, Sue Nagel, Eileen Geske, Kathleen Johnson, Mary Motta.

Additions/adoption of the agenda:

A motion was made by Kathy Bresee to include the additional subjects of NODAK Competitions and possible 2017 Conference Presenter(s) There was a second by Mary Motta. Motion carried.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary: Vangie Johnson Parker read the minutes in the absence of Michelle Kallod.

Additions/corrections: It was suggested that it was more appropriate to list Nariaki Sugiura's wife as Simona Barbu in the minutes since she has been approved as a recitalist in the upcoming conference. The Historian's report correction was that the request for pictures was from the MTNA competition at VCSU, not the NODAK. A motion was made by Kathleen Johnson to accept the corrected minutes. This was seconded by Jeanette Berntson. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Kathy Bresee reported that total income as \$1,600.40 with Total expenses of \$1,566.12. She wishes to thank the Upper Valley auditors for the audit on our Treasury books. Kathy requested that members include their mailing addresses when submitting bills for reimbursement.

VP/CC: Jeanette Berntson reported that she contacted Susan Clambey for our 2017 Commissioned Composer. Susan says she is very excited about the prospect and is enjoying the composition process. Jeanette explained that we will not be using Mail Chip as previously suggested since using email lists have proven more effective. President Lisa thanked Jeanette for all her hard work in the position of Vice President and her efforts with our Skype technology options.

President: Lisa Schuler reported that Paige Rezac has resigned as Membership chair. Lisa thanked Kathy Bresee for serving as interim Membership chairperson. Lisa suggested that all Pedagogy classes be visited by a local organization member to promote NDMTA/MTNA and to invite prospective members. Lisa has completed an application for a Special Projects Grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The great news is that NDMTA received a \$1,250.00 grant.

Lisa met with the owner of Poppler's Music in Grand Forks for the purpose of discussing sponsorship of the NODAK competitions. He has accepted the proposal beginning in June of 2016. *(Please see NODAK Competition Committee Report for further information).

2016 NDMTA Conference Report: Alisha Harris reported that registration information has been sent. The University of Mary has been very accommodating. Lisa asked that we make note of the schedule changes. The concert will begin at 8:00 pm and the registration period has been shortened to one hour. Fees have been increased by \$5. A request was made to keep the Conference Registration and other forms in a PDF Format.

There was discussion regarding the option of a one day only Conference fee. A motion was made by Gloria Bethke to adjust the registration form by adding a one day fee at the cost of \$50.00. This was seconded by Sheryl Kjelland. Motion Carried.

There was discussion regarding the option of registering and paying registration fees online. Kathy Johnson said that this is something which can be done with the cooperation of the webmaster. Lisa asked Kathleen to investigate this option further for availability for the 2017 Conference.

Committee Reports

Advertising Coordinator: Michael Langer (absent) There is some general concern about the poor quality of the print in the directory. Sheryl Kjelland moved that we offer UND a \$25 advertising discount in the upcoming directory. This was seconded by Geraldine Ong. Motion Carried. Lisa will contact Michael and update him. Michael is also encouraged to send the letters regarding advertisements out by March. All members are encouraged to use the link supplied through our website when ordering music. We want to assure our advertising customers that their advertising dollars are put to good use.

Certification/Service to the Profession: Karen Kalinowski (absent)- She reminded all members to retrieve any desired Certification files as they will be shredded after the Conference in June. The Service to the Profession nomination letters have been sent out to the local associations. Corinne Nustad will be taking over the Certification Chair in June.

Competitions: Sue Nagel & Geraldine Ong- There were 5 entrants which participated in Wichita KS. None received awards this year however. Sue will be stepping down as Co-Chair this year. It is important that we find someone to Co-Chair this very important position with Geraldine Ong. Thank you for all your past efforts Sue!

Directory Editor: Michelle Schumacher (absent)- The subject of printer estimates has been tabled until the June 2016 meeting.

Foundation Report: Vangie Parker listed the Dec 31, 2015 total for Foundation Fellow Jan Herr and extended a hearty congratulations to the 2017 nominee, Kathleen Johnson. A silent auction will be held at the April 9th, 2016 Piano Rally in Fargo to assist with travel and National Conference expenses for Jan Herr. Other locals are encouraged to help support Fellows within their organization as well.

Historian: Darla Sheldon (Absent)- Darla is still seeking pictures of 2015 events and/or activities. Sue Nagel reported that she has very recently sent some to her. Darla will be leaving her position after the conference. Members can let Lisa Schuler know if they are interested in the position of Historian Chair.

IMTF: Ellen Croy asked for suggestions regarding the length of discussion time for the luncheon. It was decided that 35-40 minutes would be appropriate. The topic will be competitions. Lisa asked that Jeanette Berntson set up a survey on the issue of the relatively low participation in competitions. Geraldine and Ellen would be interested in having those results mailed to them.

Membership: There was further discussion regarding a NDMTA membership card with business discounts. This was decided against since there are already many benefits in place through MTNA. Kathy Bresee reported that it is imperative to have updated membership numbers in order to create an annual budget. Kathy reported that we have one new student member. We are asked to encourage all pedagogy students to join. We will need to be sure that our new members are receiving updated information. Lisa will contact Michelle Schumacher to be sure all new members have received updated directories. Kathleen Johnson continues to keep updates on the website.

Newsletter Editor: Elsie Magnus requested that all entries be sent with a Calibri size 12 font to keep a standardized format for the newsletter. She also reminded us to use the title of the newsletter article in the subject line when emailing items for the newsletter.

NODAK : Arlene Gray is looking for a replacement and would be happy to serve as mentor for one year. There was discussion regarding a new competitions sponsor. Don Langlie of Popplers Music in Grand Forks has agreed and is very interested in assisting us. Lisa suggested the following provisions to the agreement:

1. 1-year renewal option on June 1st of each year.
2. Contact for payment date will be May 1st of each year
3. Sponsorship to begin in June of 2016
4. Competition name change to read as "Popplers Music Competition"
5. A picture has been taken of Lisa and Mr. Langlie for press release upon the approval of his sponsorship

-Unanimous congratulations from the board was given to Lisa for taking the initiative to obtain the sponsorship. -A motion to accept Popplers Music Store in Grand Forks as a sponsor for the NDMTA Competitions with an adjusted competition title of "Popplers Music Competition" (Formerly the NODAK Competition). With the provisional agreement that we remove the NODAK name in 2018. Seconded by Elsie Magnus. Motion carried.

Nominating: Darla Sheldon (Absent) Nothing to report

Rally: Sheryl Kjelland listed concerns regarding a program which will allow for testing updates on Levels 1A, 1B, 1C. Muse Score was suggested and she will try that program.

Technology Coordinator: Kathleen Johnson moved that we ask Heidi Leben, the NDMTA webmaster to do the necessary upgrades to the NDMTA website to make it "Mobile friendly" per Google suggestions. Seconded by Geraldine Ong. Motion carried.

Business:

President Lisa asked for further suggestions for the State Pride Drawing at the National Conference. Sheryl Kjelland moved that we give a \$50 gift card to Jacob's Apiary and Honey. Seconded by Alisha Harris. Motion carried. There was discussion regarding the list of presenters and their sessions for the 2017 conference in Fargo. After discussion, the board narrowed the list to two options; Nancy and John Weems and Diane Hidy. Sheryl Kjelland moved that we ask Nancy Weems and her husband, John to speak at the 2017 convention. If they are unavailable, we would like to ask Diane Hidy, our second choice presenter. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Dockter. Motion carried. It was also requested that we reserve time for a certification discussion during the IMTF luncheon during the 2017 conference.

Local Association Reports

Badlands: Cheryl Dockter & Bismarck/Mandan: Alisha Harris: Activities as listed

Devils Lake: Lynda Pearson is retiring will be moving to Minneapolis. She will be missed.

Fargo/Moorhead: Mary Motta reported that our Iva Fillebrown Scholarship competition participation numbers are up. She also reported that the FMMTA has a new website of www.fmmta.org.

Greater Grand Forks: Gloria Bethke- Activity reports listed

Langdon Area: Lisa Schuler listed recent activities and thanked Kathleen Johnson and Elsie Magnus for their support.

NWMTA: Ellen Croy listed recent activities and expressed concern for the lack of area teacher's interested in membership. There are currently 3 active members: One of which will be moving in the next year and the remaining two nearing retirement age.

Upper Valley: Activities as listed

Valley City: Geraldine Ong spoke for Eileen Geske and discussed several opportunities to attend recitals/Master Classes/etc. at VCSU on Piano Day in March. Information will be added to the website. Informational flyers have been sent to all members as well.

President Lisa Schuler reminded us of the following Upcoming Events:

1. 2016 MTNA National Conference April 2-6 San Antonio, Texas
2. NDMTA Executive Board Meeting June 15 4:00 U of Mary
3. 2016 NODAK June 15 Bismarck, ND
4. 2016 NDMTA Conference June 15-17 Bismarck, ND

State Conference Rotation

2017 – Fargo 2018 – Dickinson 2019 - Grand Forks

IMTF Luncheon Rotation

2015-2016 – Northwest MTA 2017-2018 – LAMTA 2019-2020 – Upper Valley MTA

Meeting Adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Vangie Johnson Parker (for Michelle Kallod)

NDMTA Membership Breakdown for 2015-2016

Date	Reg.	Senior	Student	Amount	Check#	Issued
4/30/2015	29	9		\$905.00	099547	4/30/2015
5/31/2015	22	4		\$630.00	099957	5/31/2015
7/15/2015	15	2	1	\$425.00	101032	7/1/2015
8/14/2015	2	1	1	\$80.00	101572	7/31/2015
9/15/2015	10		3	\$280.00	102036	8/31/2015
10/8/2015	9	1	1	\$255.00	102458	9/30/2015
11/12/2015	2			\$50.00	102803	10/31/2015
1/8/2016	1			\$25.00	103272	12/31/2016
TOTALS	90	17	6	\$2,650.00		
Scott's Store						
trans from IL Debra Briedenbaugh 5 - 15						
New member Paula Gusiberger (?) 7-1-15						
(July check was 20.00 too much reimbursed to MTNA)						
New member T Mark Reeves 8/2/VC						
New member Jane Whaley 8/20/FM						
New student member Callie Stadem GF						
New member Reta Stein FM 10/31/15						
Reinstating member Laurie Dillon Guy UND 10/31/15						



...for a more musical tomorrow

January
2016
Issue
33

VIP Membership Newsletter
Mentoring: It's What We Do

Ginger Yang Hwalek, NCTM
Eastern Division Director-elect

Happy New Year's greetings, everyone!

...a new year, a fresh start, and a time for resolutions, reassessments and "refreshments."

"Refreshments" here meaning allowing ourselves to think again and again about our role as mentors. Let me share with you the following dictionary entries:

MENTOR 1. A wise and trusted counselor or teacher
 2. An influential senior sponsor or supporter

Origin: Mid 18th-century: via French and Latin from Greek *Mentor*, the name of the advisor of the young Telemachus in Homer's *Odyssey*

As you can see, several words rise to the top: **wise, trusted, teacher, influential, sponsor, supporter, advisor**. Even the word **odyssey** is relevant. We are on as many journeys as we have students, each with his/her own itineraries. These journeys can and do include:

- Lessons every week
- Supporting non-music activities either by attending or asking about them
- Using online tools to communicate with students during the week
- Group lessons incorporating theory, games, chamber music
- Mentoring a fellow MTNA colleague in obtaining certification
- Mentoring a college student in starting a teaching career
- Mentoring a prospective MTNA member
- Mentoring state and local leaders

In my private studio we have an annual performance class at the end of the first semester in which each student writes an evaluation for the performer. I find that pre-college students are a little shy to offer oral comments so I give them a template with questions so they know what to

write about. This way, my students become anonymous mentors and the comments are very astute!

Mentoring is what we do and continue to do, week in and week out. I find great comfort in knowing that all of us MTNA mentors are doing the same thing all across the country; that we all had mentors, and that we are creating mentors. Let us continue to support all our Telemachuses!



...for a more musical tomorrow

As an active MTNA member, you have the opportunity to have a voice in your professional organization by voting for your Division Director-elect for the 2016–2018 Biennium.

The Division Directors along with the National Officers are responsible for governance and oversight of the organization on your behalf. It is an important right and one you should take advantage of. This notice is to remind you to exercise this privilege and vote.

A slate of candidates and their biographies are found starting on page 39 of the February/March 2016 *American Music Teacher* magazine and electronically at www.mtna.org.

Remember: You may only vote for one candidate in your Division.

There are several ways to cast your ballot:

To vote electronically:

Go to the MTNA website at www.mtna.org, find “Division Elections” at the bottom left and click “Elections” Follow the instructions using your member number 9056906 and zip code 58249 **OR** send an e-mail to mtna@mtna.org containing your name and member number, and the name of the Division candidate you are voting for.

To vote via mail:

Detach the ballot found on page 43 of the February/March 2016 *American Music Teacher* magazine **OR** download a PDF version of the ballot from the MTNA website at www.mtna.org. Find “Division Elections” at the bottom left and click “Elections.” Download the ballot, print it, **THEN** complete the ballot, affix a first-class stamp and mail.

Voting closes on Wednesday, March 2, at 3:00 P.M. EST.



To: State Membership Chairs

Cc: State Presidents
MTNA Board of Directors
MTNA Directors-elect

From: Karen Thickstun, NCTM, MTNA Vice President, MTNA Membership Committee Chair

RE: Membership Update

Date: February 10, 2016

I just finished watching the Super Bowl. Peyton Manning credits Denver's success to persistence, teamwork and dedication. Post-game, he said, "This game was much like this season has been, testing our toughness, our resiliency, our unselfishness." This is exactly how membership development works. Together, we strive to make our organization better and meet our members' needs. Our efforts are ongoing and consistent. When we play together with common objectives, the results will come.

My favorite Super Bowl commercial was the Doritos commercial. Three dogs tried various strategies to sneak into a grocery store to buy Doritos. Once again, teamwork and persistence won the day.

As mentioned at the Summit in September, we will share *detailed* membership statistics on a quarterly basis, with the statistics for December, March, and June. However, if at any time you would like details about your state, please contact Melissa at mcurtice@mtna.org and she'll be happy to assist you.

As I review the most recent statistics (as of January 31, 2016), there are some bright spots worth sharing now rather than waiting until March. Collegiate membership is ahead of last year's year-end total --- 1,530 to-date compared to 1,514 year-end. Yea! Take a moment to celebrate with your favorite end zone dance.

Further, overall membership is still ahead of last year at this time (+0.2%). We have not yet reached last year's year-end total, but are trailing by only -1.8% (compared to -3.5% in last month's report). Let's keep going!

Football season may be over, but membership marketing goes on... Thank you for your dedication to MTNA and our ongoing membership efforts.



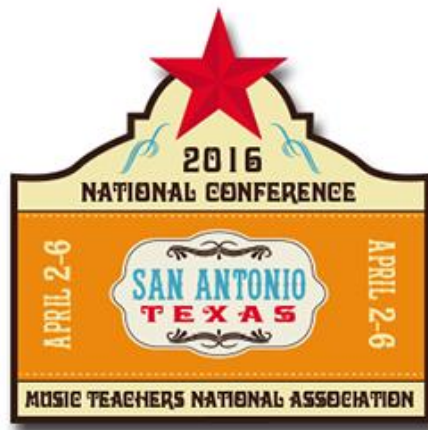
If you haven't made plans to attend the [2016 MTNA National Conference](#) in San Antonio, Texas, April 2–6, make sure to **register before February 3** to receive a member's discount!

Also, keep in mind that the **Grand Hyatt San Antonio** is the official hotel of the conference. MTNA's room block is expected to sell out, so be sure [reserve your room online](#) soon.

We hope to see you in San Antonio, because MTNA has put together a lineup fit for Texas. Highlights include:

- Entertaining trio [Time for Three](#) will perform in recital on Saturday, April 2, following the conference's Opening Session.
- Grammy-winning and world renown pianist [Emanuel Ax](#) will perform in recital on Tuesday, April 5.
- [Pedagogy Saturday](#) will take place on April 2 and feature five tracks: Advanced Piano/Teaching Artistry, Music Learning Theory, Musicians Wellness (co-sponsored by the American Psychoanalytic Association), Recreational Music Making and Young Professionals.
- [Seymour Bernstein](#), NCTM, honored last year with the MTNA-Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award for his book *With Your Own Two Hands: Self Discovery Through Music*, will present an advanced piano master class on Tuesday, April 5.
- [Seymour: An Introduction](#), a documentary based on Bernstein and directed by actor Ethan Hawke, will be screened at the conference on Sunday, April 3.
- [Bruce Berr](#), a professor of music at the Chicago College of Performing Arts, will present an intermediate piano master class on Sunday, April 3.

- [Barbara Fast](#), NCTM, Frieda Derdeyn professor of piano and piano area chair at the University of Oklahoma as well as president of the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, will present an intermediate piano master class on Tuesday, April 5.
- Don't forget that the [MTNA Student Competitions national finals](#) and winners concerts will also be taking place.
- When you have down time, step away from the conference and check out beautiful [San Antonio!](#)



When you register to attend the [2016 MTNA National Conference](#), don't forget to add on pre-conference favorite **Pedagogy Saturday**, which will take place Saturday, April 2, from 8 A.M.–5 P.M. Pedagogy Saturday has something for everyone, featuring five tracks covering an array of topics sure to be of interest to all teachers. Attendees are encouraged to mix and match the sessions to maximize their pre-conference experience.

(If you are already registered for the conference, but would like to add Pedagogy Saturday, you can add the event online with your confirmation link or contact us at (888) 512-5278 or mtnanet@mtna.org.)

Pedagogy Saturday Tracks

Advanced Piano/Teaching Artistry ***Advanced Pianism Is More Than Winning Competitions***

This track will focus on a number of topics, including teaching the whole musician, how one's sound expresses that and how the piano can become an orchestra. We will also examine the nature of music in higher education, how our awareness of things beyond music influences us and how the music we choose to play touches others. For schedule and details, [click here](#).

Music Learning Theory***Exploring How We Learn Music***

Most of us have thought a great deal about how we teach music, but perhaps given less thought to how we learn music. This first-time track about music learning theory will draw on the latest research in neuroscience and cognitive psychology to explore how multiple generations—from infants to adults—learn music. For schedule and details, [click here](#).

Musician Wellness***Developing Self-Confident and Resilient Musicians: Teaching The Whole Person***

Students, regardless of age, come to music lessons bringing life experiences with them. These experiences can positively or negatively impact potential. Today's sessions will explore the psychological issues music teachers handle every day. Members of the American Psychoanalytic Association will partner with MTNA members to discuss ways to nurture emotionally healthy and resilient musicians. For schedule and details, [click here](#).

Recreational Music Making***Changing Lives Through RMM***

Recreational Music Making opens up the world of music to potentially millions of new piano students. This year's sessions feature practical applications and fun creative tips to help make your RMM teaching more effective. Discover the rewards of teaching people who have always wanted to play piano, as well as broadening your studio's potential for increased income. For schedule and details, [click here](#).

Young Professionals

The Young Professionals track brings together a unique series of sessions dedicated to the needs and interests of new faculty, new teachers and college students. Experts from different parts the industry will give presentations covering a wide range of topics including professional development, technology, careers and more. For schedule and details, [click here](#).



...for a more musical tomorrow

The **Grand Hyatt San Antonio** is the official housing provider for the upcoming 2016 MTNA National Conference that will take place April 2–6.

The conference rates are

- \$175 single/double,
- \$200 triple and
- \$225 quad and
- will be available until March 9, 2016, or until all rooms set aside for the conference are reserved, whichever comes first.
- Reservations are on the first-come, first-served basis.
- Refer to the group block Music Teachers National Association.
- Reservations may be made online by [clicking here](#)
- or by calling toll-free (888) 421-1442.
- **These are the only two methods to receive the special MTNA rate.**
- Please do not use the (855) 201-7819 number that was published, as those rooms will not be at the conference rate or within the MTNA room block.
- If you have not already booked your room we do encourage you to do so as the hotel is expected to sell out.
- We look forward to welcoming you to San Antonio!

MTNA/NDMTA EVENT SCHEDULE PLANNER 2016

EVENT	DATE	
MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE	04.2-6.2016	SAN ANTONIO TX
NDMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING U OF MARY	06.15.2016 4:00 PM	BISMARCK ND
2016 NODAK	6.15.2016	BISMARCK ND
ND MTA CONFERENCE	06.15-06.17	BISMARCK ND
	[Select Date]	
	[Select Date]	
	[Select Date]	

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE							JULY							
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