

ND MTA NEWSLETTER



MAY 2016

Table of Contents

2	Letter from Your President
4	Experiences at the 2016 MTNA National Conference San Antonio, Texas - Lisa Schuler
6	MTNA LOCAL ASSOCIATION FORUM - Anne Morris
8	MTNA Conference in San Antonio, Texas - Jeanette Berntson
10	MTNA Conference in San Antonio – Notes from Beth Klingenstein
11	Local Association Meeting with Jani Peterson - Beth Klingenstein
12	Arts Awareness and Advocacy Meeting with Grace McFarlane - Beth Klingenstein
13	Certification Meeting with Marianne Bryan - Beth Klingenstein
16	Open Positions on the NDMTA Executive Board
17	2016 Commissioned Composer Andrew Miller to Premier at NDMTA State Conference
19	2016 NDMTA State Conference Presenter Jennifer Linn
20	2016 NDMTA State Conference Presenter Michael Langer
21	JOHN ADAMS: AN AMERICAN COMPOSER - Michael Langer
22	2016 NDMTA State Conference Recitalist Nariaki Sugiura
23	2016 NDMTA State Conference Recitalist Simona Barbu
24	NDMTA Annual Conference Schedule
26	NDMTA Annual Conference Registration Form
28	POPPLERS Music Competition
28	MTNA Membership Dues
28	MTNA Foundation Reports
32	VIP Membership Newsletter

A Message from your NDMTA President

Greetings NDMTA Members,

I can't say enough about this wonderful organization that we belong to! The rewards we reap from the national, state and local levels are too numerous to mention but I will share that MTNA presented yet another top notch national conference in San Antonio, Texas in April. Seven members from NDMTA attended this year. Not only were we busy attending sessions for our professional growth but we also attended important meetings on behalf of NDMTA, which will help our state organization grow as well.



I would like to once again congratulate Jan Herr, our 2016 Foundation Fellow, who accepted her award at the MTNA Gala on April 4th. As seen in the picture, our past president, Beth Klingenstein and I attended the gala to support Jan and the Foundation. It was an exciting evening for Jan and I know that she is very grateful to NDMTA for this honor.

As we look ahead, we should all be preparing for the annual state conference to be held June 15-17 in Bismarck. The executive board and planning committee have been working to present sessions, competitions, recitals, a luncheon and banquet for all who attend. You can read the biographies in this newsletter for all of our presenters, recitalists, and commission composer. I should share that I talked with presenter, Jennifer Linn, at the national conference and she is super excited to come to North Dakota! You will find her to be a very personable lady who has contributed much to the music world. Also, she has roots in ND being her father had a farm here. I am sure she'll share more about her personal life with us at the conference. If you have not yet registered, you can either return the form you received in the mail or print out the form on the website at www.ndmta.org and mail it in. Forms have also been included in the newsletters. You won't regret saving a couple of days for yourself and NDMTA!

The next state board meeting will be June 15th, just prior to the opening of the state conference. If you have any ideas, concerns, or comments you would like relayed to the board, please contact me and I'll see that they get addressed at the meeting. The board is here to serve you.

I am finding myself to be a little emotional as I compose this last president's message for NDMTA. I have truly enjoyed serving this organization and I hope you feel that you had good leadership. My fondest memories will include accepting the 2015 MTNA State Affiliate Award on your behalf, attending the leadership summits and national conferences, obtaining the Popplers Music Store sponsorship for our state music competition, and working with our wise officers and board members. I wish our Vice President-President Elect, Jeanette Berntson, the very best when she takes over at the conclusion of conference in June. I know she will be a very organized leader for you. Thank you again for an amazing two years, NDMTA!

I would like to leave you with some very good news. North Dakota has placed first in the nation in two out of three categories for Foundation Fund statistics! Here are the results:

1. Highest Percentage of Members Contributing at 28.95% - Montana placed 2nd with 16.79%

2. Highest Percentage of Members Contributing \$25.00 or More at 18.42% - Montana again placed 2nd with 12.21%

NDMTA can also be proud of a Certification statistic. In the West Central Division, North Dakota ranked 2nd out of eight states in the percentage of certified members at 20.7%.

Keep up the good work, NDMTA!

Sincerely,
Lisa Schuler, NDCTM
NDMTA President

**Experiences at the 2016
MTNA National Conference
San Antonio, Texas**

Submitted by Lisa Schuler

Sights of San Antonio – Before the conference began, I was able to tour The Alamo and explore the River Walk. The River Boat tour was very good, as was the dining along the river with NDMTA members throughout the week!

Session Handouts Online – Here is the link to presentation handouts from sessions presented at the MTNA conference. Click on "Daily Schedule" or "Pedagogy Saturday". Click on any blue presentation titles to access their handouts.

<https://members.mtna.org/conference2016/schedule.html>

Faber Adult Book Showcase – “Teaching Adults should be a conversation, not the teacher telling the student what to do.” The adult books now have an app, video instruction online and new supplemental books: Christmas, Classical and Popular.

Willis Showcase with Wendy Stevens – “A student is almost always motivated to practice if they leave the lesson capable.” “Encourage students to do something different in a piece so they feel like they have ownership of the music. Let them add or change the dynamics, add special endings, etc.”

Training Independent Learners – Assign students to send you a mid-week video of their pieces. This will motivate them get to work right away after their lesson to show you their improvement by mid-week. You can also catch any issues with the piece before the next lesson.

Performance Psychology – Before a recital, students can experiment with their bodies while playing, to learn how they can cope during a performance: Run in place to get their heart rate up and then play their piece, play with noise and distraction, run cold water over hands and then play.

Dianna Anderson from ND Presented! – The session discussed benefits and challenges of Bach’s music and activities to help students prepare for Inventions.

The number of sessions and meetings I attended are too numerous to share but know that MTNA National Conferences are wonderful and that all members should try to attend at least one in their lifetime. Many members attend year after year! Here are some pictures from the conference:

The last meal together before heading back to ND



Dianna Anderson, Lisa Schuler, Beth Klingenstein, Mary Sallee, Jeanette Berntson and Anne Morris



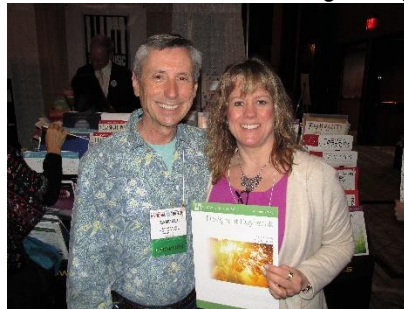
2015 Commission Composer, Rebecca Raber & her choir were caught singing at the Alamo!



Jennifer Linn



Mona Rjino



Randall Hartsell & Lisa



Wendy Stevens & Lisa



Jan Herr & Lisa – MTNA Gala



The Alamo



Even the water is big in Texas! (Jeanette)



A traditional brisket meal on the River Walk



Mary Sallee

LOCAL ASSOCIATION FORUM Sunday, April 3, 2016 Anne Morris

National Piano Teachers Conference

I attended the Local Association Forum on Sunday, 3 April 2016. The National Association would like to help the local Associations with membership. We only had a 1% decline in membership this year, which is good, compared to other years. National would like to develop a marketing strategy, and discover the wants and needs of our local Associations, along with determining what is of value for us all. They are working on continuing education and on what we are adding to the community.

The National Association is working on the following marketing strategies: focus on awareness of people's wants and interests, ease of adaptation, offering the right services (e.g., webinars for people in rural areas), and promoting student events. Many young teachers don't volunteer to help with student events; at the Forum, it was suggested that locals could hire a company to do automated scheduling, so that teachers don't need to do so much work not focused on teaching. Some locals, for example, are currently using "Festival One," an advanced, cloud-based, music festival management website. This would include online student entry/payment, e-mail communication, color-coded room scheduling, rating sheets, administrative entry of judging results, and more.

Also discussed were the reasons why people are leaving the Association. One reason for the decline is our aging membership. We need to bring in more young members and meet their needs. Another reason is that the younger teachers perceive dues as being too high for the value that they receive.

National also discussed creating a better website and helping the locals to do the same. National thought about possibly partnering with a company that could assist with such a project. They would also like to add new programs to MTNA, such as a high school intern program where the high-school student would be assigned a mentor. Some states are already doing this.

Also discussed at the Forum were reasons why colleges don't form groups. College students and faculty don't have a lot of time, so it was suggested that teachers help college faculty with some of the work of college organization. It was also suggested that the locals organize and carry out activities for students, like workshops, including workshops for students that are already there for competition. Some locals have a great Facebook page that draws new members. Some organizations have co-chairs for their local Board members, which eases the work load when encouraging more members to become involved.

Finally, it is important to highlight the benefits of belonging to the association. These include discount cards (e.g., Office Depot), insurance services, legal resources, teaching tips, webinars, and leadership resources.

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Conference in San Antonio, Texas

The national MTNA conference provides valuable education, musical experiences, and connections for the independent music teacher. Here is a bit of what I learned and enjoyed:

"Getting Started on the Right Foot: Beginning Students" -- Go slowly in everything you are introducing so they can be successful at home. Adult students like stickers, too.

"Teaching the Whole Person" with Blickenstaff, Rubinstein MD, and Nagel PhD -- To teach that in a four measure phrase the third measure is the loudest, say, "Out of four, go for three."

Being nervous is normal and can help you have energy and excitement.

"Learning and Making Music through Adulthood" with Pamela Pike -- Because most adults have difficulty hearing over background noise, don't talk and play the piano at the same time in their lessons.

"Entrepreneurship" with Time for Three -- Make talking to people about your music or teaching business second nature and sincere.

"How to Inspire Pianists to Improvise Fantastic Fantasias" with Kevin Olson -- Use the first couple of minutes of the lesson for creativity since that is what they want to do anyway. It will help them relax, laugh, and be emotionally ready for their lesson.

"Wellness Forum" -- Many resources for musician wellness and health can be found on the MTNA website. <http://www.mtna.org/member-resources/wellness-resources/>

"The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program Digital Resources" with Blickenstaff -- Practice arpeggios with the conviction that when the second finger plays the thumb must already be under the hand.

"Seymour Bernstein Master Class" -- Have the wrist glide up towards the end of a phrase so the last note is softest.

"The Two-Part Invention Gap: A Case for Polyphony in Early Piano Study" with Dianna Anderson -- A movement activity to promote awareness and coordination of two parts is "mirroring." The student and teacher stand facing each other and the follower copies the physical movements the leader makes.



Submitted by Jeanette Berntson, NCTM, NDMTA Vice President



(L) Forrest Kinney, creator of Pattern Play, improvising.



(R) Dianna Anderson, assistant professor of piano at Minot State University



Fargo Moorhead MTA members, Anne Morris and 2016 NDMTA Foundation Fellow, Jan Herr, enjoying a river boat tour.



Lisa Schuler, NDMTA President, in front of the conference hotel and convention center.

MTNA Conference in San Antonio – Notes From Beth



MTNA CEO-Gary Ingle & Beth Klingenstein



Foundation Fellow-Jan Herr, Lisa Schuler,
Beth Klingenstein



Lisa and Beth at the MTNA Gala



MTNA Directors – Beth is now a WCD
Director

Local Association Meeting with Jani Peterson

Jani first had Karen Thicksen, MTNA Vice President, present her thoughts on membership. Karen mentioned the five stages for membership (compared to a business model):

- 1) Awareness: Recognizing a need
- 2) Interest: Showing interest. Can we fill the needs of those who are interested? Is there interest in what we offer? Does a potential new member have a need or problem that the group can help with?
- 3) Evaluation or Trial: Trying it out before purchase. Do we allow prospective members to come to meetings and events?
- 4) Adopting: Making the purchase
- 5) Loyalty: Evaluating that purchase – if we met the customer's needs, we have succeeded and have a loyal member.

Some suggestions for ways MTNA can meet needs of potential members/new members:

- Hold online webinars for rural teachers who can't get to local association meetings.
- Tell potential members and membership recruiters (members) about the membership handbook; it is a great resource and is on the website (the public part). It includes sample letters to college faculty for example). Go to current MTNA website → Member Resources → Leadership Resources. (Members should be aware that there will soon be a new MTNA website so this location may change.)
- Make membership a "way of life" not just a one-time project.
- Set up a mentoring program. The biggest problem for young new members: **NO ONE CONNECTED WITH THEM WHEN THEY FIRST JOINED!!!!** We need to *retain* members as much as we need to recruit new ones.
- Encourage Collegiate Chapters and Young Professionals to join MTNA.
 - Collegiate groups are sometimes hard to get going – having time to meet can be an issue plus the group needs a faculty mentor.
 - One thing that can help is if a local association member can do most of the work and just have the faculty member's name on it. That sets up a nice partnership between the local association and the collegiate chapter, too. Very important for locals to have a connection with collegiate chapters or else the collegiate members won't join the local.
 - Joining the two groups – what privileges will the collegiate members have if they partner with the local? Can they enter their students in events? Have a mentorships program for younger members.
- Should MTNA have some sort of discussion site on their website? Search Facebook pages for "piano pedagogy" – there already are lots of chat rooms where people talk about issues and get ideas.
- Could MTNA create profiles for members on the new website?

- Could there be forums for people with similar positions in different states (like all the membership chairs or all the state presidents or all the competition chairs)? Could there be something for local associations?

MTNA realizes they may need more digital resources. We need to think creatively.

Arts Awareness and Advocacy Meeting with Grace McFarlane

How can we advocate for the arts at the local and state level?

- Researching various arts sites for ideas and inspiration...other arts agencies (NEA for example). Appointing an Arts Advocacy Chair. Some states do have such a position. In many (but not all) of those states, this is a board position.
- Holding arts advocacy days in the state....
- Defining arts advocacy to our members and to the state.
- Offer training in grant writing. (MTNA offers grants and so few people apply for them!) This is being rethought and it will be even more accessible.
- Applying for MTNA grants.
- Exploring our resources – asking local businesses for support.
- Publicity
- Galas
- Scholarships; student support
- Gathering young musicians to perform and have peer groups together
- Composer of the Month
- Centralized way to connect with media
- Strengthen alliance with NAFME and other arts organizations

Gary Ingle is tireless in his work with partnering with other organizations. American Psychoanalytic Conference; Arts Advocacy Day in DC and went to the Whitehouse on arts policy; NEA; other federal agencies and now the arts are incorporated: Dept. of Education, HUD, HEW type groups; ESEA - the new ESSA act (Every Student Succeeds Act). STEAM is recognized in ESSA.

What criteria are there for Arts Advocacy funding grants? The Local Association grants require matching funds.

Research that confirms the role of music and the brain are out there and valuable for advocacy arguments (such as keeping music in the schools). Anita Collins has a great video – TED ED Talk (Google “Anita Collins Music Education TED ED”).

In Salt Lake, Utah, one member received a grant for her project, the Mundi Project <http://www.mundiproject.org> . They are giving lessons to students who now are tracked for how the lessons impact their learning. She recommended talking to legislators. Research what UTAH is doing with funding music in the schools. The Mundi kids go out and play in elder care facilities. They get out and play before chamber concerts so that others see that young people are involved in the arts. Lang Lang has a foundation where if you organize group concerts (100 pianos on stage), he plays with them.

Another teacher talked about ESSA and supporting the arts funding and curriculum changes that will happen with that. She also talked about contacting legislators about the importance of the arts and how to work with state arts councils and apply for grants. Is there a way to do a tool kit for how to write to legislators, how to find who, how to address the letter?

Someone suggested “The Harmony Hub” using digital pianos for reaching financially disadvantaged kids. This is more group piano and a way to reach more.

There is a movie called “Alice Inside” about music and memory. Could MTNA support that? Alice Inside is a movement to bring music to elders – music that means something to them (their favorite). It is impressive how this can help with memory, even in those who have advanced dementia.

Oklahoma MTA is sponsoring programs in eldercare facilities with disc claviers and helping the elders to use those. Karen Harrington, their state president, is working on this.

There are other arts groups with great studies including the Harmony Study out of LA and a good one out of Boston about music and the brain.

Certification Meeting with Marianne Bryan

Marianne Bryan, MTNA chair of the national certification committee, led the session. Tim Shook (next national chair) was also there. Marianne introduced Melissa Curtis from MTNA and said she is the one who can answer certification related questions, as will Marianne.

One person asked “what is the value of becoming certified?”

Personal growth; it allows you to be at the top of your game. You also get on that list of certified teachers that is on the MTNA website, which is an advantage.

A story was told about a teacher who was sued by parents who felt he had not done a professional job with his teaching and that their child was not well taught. The teacher lost the case because he could not prove his teaching qualifications (beyond a performance degree) to

the judge. So the teacher telling the story got certified after that – as a means of proving her qualifications!

Certification is also good for the profession – it provides a standard for the profession.

Certification also allows younger teachers to make connections with university pedagogy teachers.

NCTM is not just letters behind your name....they mean something. This matters to younger teachers!

Becoming certified shows you are one of the highest qualified teachers in MTNA – the top organization for private teachers, especially piano.

Some states are now requiring that adjudicators for their state competitions, they have to become certified.

Are there ever concerns that college faculty get an automatic certification by signing a form?

The college faculty member goes through annual evaluation – they already go through an evaluation process. But some college faculty want to go through the whole process....it gives them practical knowledge they may not have gotten during their academic degrees.

Questions were then asked about the process of certification:

Mentoring is wonderful – find someone to mentor – let them know they could be certified and that you would help. Marianne started mentoring groups (3-10) that met once every 4-6 weeks. She developed a plan with assignments for going through the process to help structure the process.

The process for downloading the videos is much easier now. There is a link to use to drag a video and submit that Melissa sends (the link). A question was asked about the content of the videos and what makes a good video. The videos show your teaching skill much more clearly than just having a degree might. Don't worry about not having a "perfect" video. Just start videotaping all of your lessons to get comfortable with the process. It doesn't have to be perfect lessons...it has to be realistic lessons that show you as a competent teacher. The reflection on the video is also important – you submit a self-reflection where you can address the things you notice in your own video.

There are good documents (PDFs) online that assist with what is expected during the teaching videos.

When analyzing the pieces, what is expected? Talk about what you know about that piece – no need for a highly advanced theoretical analysis, or a full chordal analysis. Better to talk about the basics of analysis – main key modulations and cadences in a sonatina for example. The question was asked if they could put a sample on the website.

What is the expected length for the process for becoming certified? That is a personal thing. It can happen in a month or two or in a year. You can do four out of the five projects before you first submit your application.

If you can't get it done in a year, email Melissa and she will give you a one year extension at no extra cost. If a second year extension is needed (third year to work on it) another payment is needed.

Current collegiate members get ½ price fee for certification, if they are in the certification process while in college. Even if they apply in March, graduate in June, and finish certification process in October, they still only have to pay that ½ price fee since they applied while they were in college.

Someone mentioned using a buddy-system for getting certification; working together on the process. For example, that is a good way to talk together about the theory aspects together (for different pieces) – what would you do? Another person is blogging about the process – also helpful.

Some local associations follow the local meeting with a certification meeting right after, where those seeking certification get together and work together.

Valuable information on the MTNA Certification website:

There are some great quotes from highly qualified college teachers in support of certification.

Good documents for explaining the process.

Explanation of the projects needed to be completed.

Teachers can include pedagogy projects into the course processes.

There is a month-by-month schedule in an article that is posted on the webpage.

Open Positions on the NDMTA Executive Board

Submitted by Lisa Schuler

With the new fiscal year approaching for NDMTA, it would be a good situation for our incoming president, Jeanette Berntson, to have a filled executive board in place when she takes over at the state conference in June. Three board positions are now open. Two of them deal with annual competitions and the other is the position of Vice President/President-Elect. Below are the three positions and a summary of their job descriptions. NDMTA would appreciate members stepping up to contribute to the organization that does so much for its members. Please contact Lisa Schuler or Jeanette Berntson as soon as possible with any questions or to accept these positions. By doing so now, one will have months of time to get acclimated. All of the current chairs have offered to mentor the incoming chairs for a smooth transition. 😊

1. **MTNA Competition Co-Chair:** Geraldine Ong of VCSU has been a co-chair for this position for a few years and needs a co-chair to assist her. The competition is held every October and is a one day event in Valley City. It requires scheduling, inviting judges, and forwarding information to MTNA before and after the competitions. Geraldine takes care of the facility and finds door monitors. The treasurer takes care of the financial needs. This chair can vote at the 3 executive board meetings with 2 meetings from your home and 1 meeting at the conference.
2. **Popplers Music Competition:** This is the former NODAK competition, which is a non-advancing, state sponsored competition. This is held every June and is a one day event. It requires scheduling, inviting a judge, and running the competition. The conference committee assists the chair with the site. The chair may vote at 3 board meetings with 2 from your home and 1 at the conference.

*Members are welcomed to contact Arlene Gray (Popplers) or Sue Nagel (MTNA) with any questions they may have about the competition positions. They will mentor you.

3. **Vice President:** The current vice president, Jeanette Berntson, will be moving up to president in June. She needs a member to be vice president for her. There are basically three requirements for the VP - 1) Assist the president when needed, 2) Set up 2 audio meetings in October and January, and 3) Chair the Commission Composer Program, which is an annual one evening event during the conference.

*Some members have expressed interest in the VP position but need to wait a couple of years. We need someone to take the position now to ensure a full slate of officers for June. The VP and president work as a nice team so that the jobs do not get overwhelming. They truly are rewarding positions. Please consider helping on the NDMTA board.



2016 Commissioned Composer to Premier at NDMTA State Conference

The Commissioned Composer's Concert with Andy Miller and Insprare Choir is Wednesday, June 15th at the Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel, Benedictine Center, University of Mary.

Andrew Miller (Andy) is an accomplished choral conductor, clinician, vocalist, composer, arranger, and educator. A native of MN, Andy graduated from Brainerd High School in 2001, earned a bachelor's degree in K-12 vocal music education from Bemidji State University in 2006, and a master's degree in choral conducting from Minnesota State University-Mankato in 2010.

Between degrees, Andy taught K-12 vocal music in Long Prairie MN during the 2007-08 school year. From 2007 – 2012, Miller founded and directed the Minnesota-based professional vocal ensemble "From Age to Age" which performed across the Upper-Midwest. In Fall 2010, Miller moved to Bismarck to accept the position of director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at Bismarck State College. In September of 2012, he started a new vocal chamber ensemble in Bismarck called "Inspiraré" (een-spee-rah-reh) comprising of professionally trained vocalists and music educators in the Bismarck-Mandan area. Inspiraré gives annual performances to the greater community in concerts, nursing homes, and provides entertainment for businesses/organizations. www.inspiresings.org

In addition to his passions in education and working with choirs, Andy spends a lot of time writing music. In 2010, Miller published his first piece, "If Music be the Food of Love", and since then twelve more of his works have been published. Miller won first place in the 2013 NDSU Edwin Fissinger Choral Composition Contest with his piece, "The Tyger", which was performed by The Concordia Choir at Concordia College, Moorhead, and is being published by Pavane Music Publishing along with the other piece of the set, "The Lamb". Andy's music is published

by Pavane, Santa Barbara, Hope and Alfred Publishing, and is sold and distributed by JW Pepper Music Co. in most major cities across the US. Miller also recently was selected and commissioned as ND Composer of the Year by the ND Music Teachers Association and has been nominated as National Composer of the Year by the National Music Teacher's Association, with potential premiere of his work at the national convention in Baltimore, MA, 2017. Andrew remains prolific in his composing career, currently working on a full-scale musical, two choral arrangements for his BSC ensembles, as well as two commissioned works; One for NDMTA and one for Williston High School.

Currently the director of choral activities at BSC, Andy directs the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, and teaches Conducting, Aural Skills, Finale For Beginners and Music Appreciation. Miller is also an adjunct professor for Dickinson State University on BSC campus, and teaches Choral Conducting, Choral Arranging, Music Composition, Elementary and Secondary Choral Music Methods, Activities For Elementary Teachers, as well as Chorale and Chamber Singers. Andy is the vice president of faculty senate at Bismarck State College, and sits on the Grade Appeals Committee as well. With the help of his colleagues, Andrew was a driving force in the establishment of the 2+2 music degree between BSC and DSU, which was recently approved by the National Accreditation of Schools of Music, enabling BSC students to earn their bachelor's degree in music performance or music education while staying on BSC campus all four years. Andy has been nominated four consecutive years by his colleagues at BSC for the faculty/staff award of excellence.

Andrew has just accepted the long-term position as conductor of the Bismarck/Mandan annual community performance of Handel's "Messiah", which is a 75-year tradition in the community. Miller has also recently been accepted into the NDSU School of Music, and will begin pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting this Fall, 2016. Miller is an active member of NDACDA (North Dakota American Choral Directors Association), providing clinics and workshops for state and regional conferences, as well as articles published through the organization's magazine, "The Chorister". Miller is the current R&S (Repertoire and Standards) chair of Student and Youth Activities for ND ACDA and is the primary recruiter for the organization's student and active member chapters.

The Official Opening of the NDMTA Conference and Winner's Recital begins at 7:00 at Heskett Hall, Clairmont Center, University of Mary. The Commission Composer's Concert will follow the intermission.

Jennifer Linn to Present 4 Sessions

1. **The Young & Impressionable – June 16, 9:00-10:15**
2. **But What Does ‘Musical’ Mean? – June 16, 10:45-12:00**
3. **The Wisdom of the Sonatina Masters – June 17, 9:00-10:15**
4. **Hal Leonard Showcase – June 17, 10:45-12:00**

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 to Present at
NDMTA State Conference**

**Thursday, June 16
3:30-4:30**

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.

JOHN ADAMS'S: AN AMERICAN COMPOSER

Submitted by Michael Langer

John Adams is a hugely successful American composer whose compositional style is broadly appealing. My presentation will explore the minimalist nature of his works for piano. I will also explore the question of “what makes American music American?” through looking at the influences that had an impact on Adams’ style. I hope that attendees will leave with a better understanding of 20th Century composition terms, techniques, and composers, and an appreciation of the music of John Adams. There will also be live performances of a couple piano solos and a piece for violin and piano.



2016 NDMTA State Conference Recitalists Nariaki Sugiura and Simona Barbu

Thursday, June 16th at 8:00

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 Istituto 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 Nathaniel 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 led 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.

NDMTA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

June 15-17, 2016

Clairmont Center, University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota

Wednesday – June 15, 2016

- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm NODAK Competition Rehearsals and Auditions
Heskett Hall
- 4:00 pm Board Meeting
Founder’s Room
Select dinner choice on registration form
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration
Heskett Hall Lobby
- 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 Inspirare
 Choir,
 Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel, Benedictine Center
 Reception to follow provided by Jacobsen Music

Thursday – June 16, 2016

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration & Coffee-Muffins-Fruit
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, Coffee-Muffins-Fruit
Classroom
- 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)
Select lunch choice on registration form

- 2:00 pm – 3:00 Session III – Business Meeting
Heskett Hall
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break – Silent Auction, Vendors, Coffee-Vegetables-Cookies
Classroom
- 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
Select dinner choice on registration form
- 8:00 pm Concert
Nariaki Sugiura, Piano and Simona Barbu, Cello
Heskett Hall
Reception to follow provided by J.W. Pepper

Friday – June 17, 2016

- 8:30 am Registration & Coffee-Muffins-Fruit
Heskett Hall Lobby
- 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
Classroom
- 10:45 am – 12:00 pm Session VI – Jennifer Linn
Feature music and materials from Jennifer Linn and Hal Leonard
Heskett Hall
- Closing Remarks

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 _____

_____ Thursday _____ 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)

_____ Boxed Mediterranean Chicken Wrap

_____ 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:

Roasted Pork Prime Rib

Sweet Maple Salmon

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

Popplers Music Competition (Former NODAK)

This is a reminder that the registration deadline for the Popplers Music Competition is May 20th. All rules for this non-advancing state competition can be found in the NDMTA Directory and the NDMTA Website at www.ndmta.org under "events".

MTNA Membership Dues

This is a reminder that national and state membership dues are due by July 1st of each year. You have probably received emails and a regular mail notification for renewal from the offices of MTNA. Paying your dues on time ensures that you can participate in all competitions and activities sponsored by MTNA, NDMTA and your local association. It also ensures that your name and contact information will be published in the directory and website. All members serving on local and state boards must have their membership current. You are all very important to our organization and we don't want you to miss out on anything offered by this great music organization. Thank you!

2016 MTNA Foundation First Quarter Individual Contribution Report

Our Foundation Fellow nominee for 2017 is Kathleen Johnson. Please remember to specify "Kathleen Johnson" in the memo section of your checks to honor her with your donations. The following individuals have made contributions totaling \$160. Thank you for your generosity!

Eileen Geske
Marjorie Johnson
Karen Kalinowski
Anne Morris
Vangie Johnson Parker
Linda Wallevand

MTNA Foundation

When you make a contribution to the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND, you are touching the future through programs which promote the creation, performance, study and teaching of music.

Here are a just a few of the programs which benefit from your donations:

Composer Commissioning program
MTNA Student Competitions
MTNA Achievement Award,
The Distinguished Service Award
Teacher Enrichment Grant program

Congratulations to Jan Herr on being named our NDMTA 2016 Foundation Fellow!

As of April 22, 2016; \$1,203.00 was raised in her honor. We would like to recognize the following contributors who gave so generously this past year:

Jeanette Berntson	Priscilla Keogh	Lynda Pearson
Maxine Beseler	Sheryl Kjelland	Cathie Scheid
Gloria Bethke	Beth Klingenstein	Mary Schneider
Sara Bloom	Isla Law	Lisa Schuler
Kathy Bresee	Anne Morris	Darla Sheldon
Susan Clambey	Mary Motta	Sister Bernadette Trecker
Jane Feigum	Susan Nagel	Linda Wallevand
Eileen Geske	Corinne Nustad	Wanda Wavra
Arlene Gray	Karen Okerlund	Monica Wolff
Gary Herr	Cynthia Olson	North Dakota MTA
Tamara Jasperse	Laura O'Rourke	Fargo Moorhead MTA
Kathleen Johnson	Paulette Orson	
Marjorie Johnson	Myung Park	
Karen Kalinowski	Vangie Johnson Parker.	

We extend a very hearty thank you to all who contributed to the Foundation Fund.



...for a more musical tomorrow

Congratulations to California and North Dakota for winning the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND State Incentive Giving Campaign. The campaign is based on individual member giving to the FOUNDATION FUND in 2015, and winners are selected in three categories. Thank you to all the state chairs and others who work diligently to promote and support the FOUNDATION FUND in their states.

**MTNA FOUNDATION FUND
2015 State Incentive Giving Campaign
January 1–December 31, 2015**

1. Highest Percentage of Members Contributing

1. **North Dakota 28.95%**
2. Montana 16.79%

Louisiana 15.41% Congratulations to California and North Dakota for winning the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND State Incentive Giving Campaign. The campaign is based on individual member giving to the FOUNDATION FUND in 2015, and winners are selected in three categories.

Thank you to all the state chairs and others who work diligently to promote and support the FOUNDATION FUND in their states.

**MTNA FOUNDATION FUND
2015 State Incentive Giving Campaign
January 1–December 31, 2015**

1. Highest Percentage of Members Contributing

3. **North Dakota 28.95%**
4. Montana 16.79%
5. Louisiana 15.41%
6. Nebraska 15.06%
7. Iowa 14.61%

2. Highest Percentage of Members Contributing \$25 or More

1. **North Dakota 18.42%**
2. Montana 12.21%
3. Arkansas 10.64%
4. Maine 10.45%
5. New Hampshire 9.41%

3. Highest Dollar Amount Contributed to the General Fund

1. **California \$9,858.25**
2. Minnesota \$4,065.25
3. Nebraska \$3,914.95
4. Utah \$3,282.75

8. Illinois \$3,169.50
9. Nebraska 15.06%
10. Iowa 14.61%

2. Highest Percentage of Members Contributing \$25 or More

6. **North Dakota 18.42%**
7. Montana 12.21%
8. Arkansas 10.64%
9. Maine 10.45%
10. New Hampshire 9.41%

3. Highest Dollar Amount Contributed to the General Fund

5. **California \$9,858.25**
6. Minnesota \$4,065.25
7. Nebraska \$3,914.95
8. Utah \$3,282.75

Illinois \$3,169.50



...for a more musical tomorrow

VIP Membership Newsletter
One Shining Moment

April 2016
Issue 36

Karen Thickstun, NCTM
MTNA Vice President

I love March Madness.

I rarely watch college basketball until March arrives and the NCAA tournament begins. This iconic event draws millions of viewers who know little of the inner workings of training collegiate basketball players. Instead, we revel in the enthusiasm and optimism of the event. *Any* team can win on *any* given day. There are breakout performances, unlikely heroes and unpredictable results. Bravo to Yale, Stephen F. Austin and Middle Tennessee State! There are singular moments that change an outcome or define a career. Congratulations to Kris Jenkins for his buzzer-beating shot to win the national championship for Villanova!

I love the MTNA National Conference.

I just returned from San Antonio where we celebrated the artistry of our student competitors and the passion of 34 new FOUNDATION Fellows...where we made connections and friendships while renewing our enthusiasm for the profession...where we were inspired and uplifted.

Shining moments influence our teaching for years to come. I will cherish memories of Seymour Bernstein's master class (and the smiling young boy who played *Birds*), Emanuel Ax's all-Beethoven recital, and Time for Three's joy-infused concert that premiered a mash-up (*their* term) of *Stairway to Heaven* with Dido's *Lament*. Also shining bright was San Antonio's weather and River Walk!

Dues renewal notices are being mailed to members this week. Some members will renew automatically, because they understand the **value** that they receive for their membership and how MTNA meets their needs. Others will renew based on **emotion**, because of shining moments they have experienced...a student event where new

heights were achieved, or a compelling performance by a guest artist or a collaborative new event that engaged the community.

Encourage renewal by simply reminding members of the past year's shining moments in your local or state association. Plan innovative events for the upcoming year—ones that members will not want to miss! Remind members of the value of their membership, but also of the fun, the joy, the triumphs, the friendships.... Who *wouldn't* want to come back for more?!

