



Letter from the President, Jeanette Berntson

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying this Spring and that all your recitals were successful!

In March I was privileged to attend the MTNA conference in Baltimore. As usual, there were many fantastic sessions and performances. One



Leon Fleisher & Kathrine Jacobson, MTNA Recital

of my highlights was hearing Leon Fleisher perform *Clair de Lune*. Although it is a familiar piece, he made it sound new, like light sparkling on water—so beautiful! Another highlight was watching Elissa Milne and Diane Hidy demonstrate two different ways to teach the first lesson of intermediate piano pieces. One method started away from the printed score with experiential learning and improvisation and the other method started by analyzing the printed score, yet both methods were successful. Several members of NDMTA also attended the conference and have shared notes from some sessions and meetings in this newsletter. Be sure to read them and find out how MTNA is serving you!



ND Delegation at the MTNA Gala

If you are disappointed you couldn't attend the national conference, don't be! Our NDMTA Conference in Fargo, June 7-9, will bring first class presenters and

performances to you! Our opening night will include performances by Popplers Competitions winners and the debut of our 2017 NDMTA Commissioned Composition, a trio for flute, cello, and piano by Susan Clambey. Nancy Weems, Keyboard Division Chair at the University of Houston, will give two master classes and our Thursday evening recital. Geraldine Ong and Dianna Anderson will also be presenting. Our conference sessions will cover most of the musical eras: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 19th and 20th Century French. I hope you can come and bring a friend! I am sure everyone who comes will return to their studio inspired to share the joy of music again!

Once again, North Dakota has ranked highly among the state MTA's! We have the highest percentage of members contributing to the MTNA Foundation Fund – 33.02%. We also have the highest percentage of members contributing \$25 or more – 21.7%. Thanks to all of you who give to the Foundation Fund to support MTNA's awards and grants!

Best wishes as you wrap up your school-year lessons and prepare for the summer!

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NDMTA Annual Conference

The Fargo-Moorhead Music Teachers Association would like to warmly welcome you to attend NDMTA's State Conference, June 7-9, 2017 at Reineke Festival Hall on the campus of NDSU in Fargo. We are anticipating a great conference!

Wednesday, June 7th, will be Popplers Music Competition in Beckwith Recital Hall from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. (More information about this non-advancing competition can be found on page 4 and at NDMTA.org - click on Events.) Our state president, Jeanette Berntson, will officially open our conference at the evening concert, 7:00 pm in Beckwith Recital Hall. Winners of the competition will perform, as well as Susan Clambey, our 2017 ND Commissioned Composer. Her original work will be premiered. The concert is free and open to the public.

Conference sessions will begin Thursday, June 8th. Our three clinicians for the conference are Geraldine Ong, Nancy Weems and Dianna Anderson, all qualified professionals who are eager to share their expertise with us. The IMTF Buffet Lunch will be held in the Reineke Atrium with featured speaker, Corinne Nustad, our ND Certification Coordinator. After our Banquet in Reineke's Atrium on Thursday evening, we will move to Beckwith Hall for a rapturous recital by Nancy Weems. This concert is at 7:30 pm and is also free and open to the public. Friday, June 9th, we will have two more sessions, wrap up any loose ends and send everyone on their way loaded with inspiration, ideas, door prizes and new memories from a fabulous conference!

During the entire conference, several vendors will be set up, offering products and music for you to purchase. We will also have our Silent Auction displayed in the same area. Each local association and individual members are encouraged to donate item(s) for the Silent Auction. Historical scrapbooks, photo and activity display boards from each association are encouraged as well.

Please fill out the enclosed Registration form and send it in with your check before May 24 to avoid a late fee. Registrations will be taken at the door but no meal options will be available. Invite a friend, a student or music teacher acquaintance who may not be a member of NDMTA/MTNA to one of the free concerts. Come ready to connect with old friends, make new friends, enjoy really good food you don't have to cook, bid on a Silent Auction item to support the next generation of musicians, absorb great teaching and inspiring music. We hope to see you in Fargo in June!

Conference Recitalist & Presenter - Nancy Weems



Nancy Weems has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia, Mexico, Central America, and the former Soviet Union to wide critical acclaim. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Texas, her solo appearances include concerts in fourteen foreign countries, in addition to the U.S. After a recital in Reykjavik, Iceland, one critic called her *"a rare treasure... Nancy Weems is an extraordinary pianist, grand in scope, and powerful in her interpretation, possessing fantastic technique."* In Mexico City, a reviewer stated that *"Nancy Weems is gradually beginning to occupy the place of one of the top international pianists in Mexico."* A Houston Post article reported, *"The young performer put an amazing display of energy and keyboard technique into a recital that went from strength to strength."*

In 1984, Ms. Weems won the **Artistic Ambassador Competition** sponsored by the United States Information Agency in Washington, D.C. As a result, Ms. Weems represented the United States in an international concert tour, including the countries of Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and the U.S.S.R. In March, 1987, Ms. Weems presented a solo debut recital at the **John F. Kennedy Center** for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The music critic of The Washington Post praised "Weems' powerful technique" and "delightful mix of strength and flexibility." In 1987, Ms. Weems was invited for a second international tour to the countries of Mexico, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Costa Rica and in 1993, to Taiwan and Hong Kong. In addition, Ms. Weems has represented the United States in the 1981 **Van Cliburn International Competition**, and won top awards in the **International Recording Competition**. She has appeared as guest artist with numerous symphony orchestras, and has given master classes in music schools and conservatories in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the West Indies. Ms.

Weems was an exchange professor and guest performer at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England; Sungshin Women's University in Seoul, Korea; and in 2008, the International Piano Master Class Series of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Currently, Nancy Weems is Professor and Division Chair of the piano area at the University of Houston Moores School of Music in Houston, Texas. Her students have won top awards in many national and international competitions including the first prizes in the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition, the Corpus Christi Young Artist Competition, and the Nena Wideman National Young Artist Concerto Competition. Many of her current and former students now hold positions in music schools and universities worldwide, and several have successful performing careers under professional artist management. A dedicated teacher, she was named the **Outstanding Collegiate Teacher** in 1991 by the Texas Music Teachers Association, and received a **University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award** in 1995. Professor Weems regularly presents lectures, recitals and teacher workshops and has been a featured MTNA convention artist for the states of New York, Washington, Minnesota, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas. In addition, Ms. Weems has been a frequent presenter at the Music Teachers National Association Convention and the World Piano Pedagogy Conferences.

Ms. Weems has recorded for the Albany and the Bay Cities labels. The recording, *"Classical Hollywood"* was nominated for a **Grammy award** in 1990. In addition, she has been featured in recordings of American composers Arnold Rosner and Chris Theofanidis.

North Dakota Music Teachers Association Annual Conference

June 7-9, 2017

Reineke Fine Arts Bldg, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

NDMTA Member: Yes No Local Association _____

Registration Fees: (not including meals)

Full Conference - member \$100 _____

Full Conference - non-member \$120 _____

First Time/Student/One Day Only - member \$50 _____

One Day - non-member \$60 _____

Thursday _____ OR _____ Friday

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

Wednesday, Board Meeting/Supper – Marlin’s Family Restaurant, Fargo

(Please view Marlin’s menu online before coming to make ordering easier)

On Your Own

Thursday, IMTF Lunch & Program – Reineke Hall Lobby

(Build Your Own Sandwich Bar)

\$15 _____

Thursday, Banquet – Reineke Hall Lobby (Bourbon Glazed Chicken,

Rosemary Roasted Reds, House Salad, Fresh Rolls, Coffee, Chocolate Cake)

\$25 _____

Late Registration Fee (Postmarked after May 24th) \$15 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail completed form and check payable to NDMTA to:

Monica Wolff, 678 Wyndemere Drive, West Fargo, ND 58078

(701-492-8973) ewolff@q.com

Conference Hotel Options: Block of rooms available under “NDMTA”

Days Inn & Suites, 1507 19th Ave. N. Fargo, ND 58102 701-232-0000

\$88.39/night (tax included) UNTIL MAY 17, 2017 Free Continental Breakfast

Expressway Suites, 4303 17th Ave. S. Fargo, ND 58103 877-239-4303 or 701-239-4303

\$89.95/night (tax not included) UNTIL MAY 17, 2017 Free Hot Breakfast

Refunds: Registration fees are nonrefundable except for emergencies and illness. Should these conflicts arise, the registration fee, minus all food costs will be refunded. Please contact Monica Wolff: (701) 492-8973 or ewolff@q.com AND send a written request to Kathy Bresee: 438 Birch Lane, Moorhead, MN 56560.

North Dakota Music Teachers Association Annual Conference

June 7-9, 2017 North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, June 7

- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Poppler's Music Competition rehearsals and auditions – Reineke Fine Arts Bldg
- 4:00 pm Executive Board Meeting at Marlin's Restaurant – 3500 12th Ave. N. Fargo, ND
Order/pay from menu
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm Registration – Reineke Fine Arts Bldg Lobby
- 7:00 pm Official Opening in Beckwith Recital Hall (in Reineke Bldg)
Poppler's Music Competition Winner's Recital
Commissioned Composer's Concert followed by Reception upstairs

Thursday, June 8

- 8:30 am Registration – Reineke Fine Arts Bldg Lobby
- 9:00 – 10:15 am Session I – Nancy Weems – Beckwith Recital Hall
"Focus on Classical Style"
- 10:15 – 10:45 am Break – Silent Auction, Vendor Fair, Refreshments
- 10:45 – 12:00 pm Session II – Geraldine Ong – Beckwith Recital Hall
"Understanding Progressions in Baroque Music"
- 12:30 – 1:45 pm IMTF Lunch – Reineke Lobby – Corinne Nustad "Certification"
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm Session III - All – Member Business Meeting – Beckwith Recital Hall
- 3:00 – 3:30 pm Break – Silent Auction, Vendor Fair, Refreshments
- 3:30 – 4:45 pm Session IV – Dianna Anderson – Beckwith Recital Hall
"Two Part Invention Gap: A Case for Polyphony in Early Piano Study"
- 5:45 – 7:00 pm Banquet – Lobby of Reineke Fine Arts Bldg
- 7:30 pm Concert with Recitalist, Nancy Weems
Beckwith Recital Hall, followed by Reception upstairs

(2017 Conference Schedule cont on p 6)

Friday, June 9

- 8:30 am Registration – Reineke Fine Arts Bldg Lobby
- 9:00 – 10:15 am Session V – Geraldine Ong – Beckwith Recital Hall
“19th and 20th Century French Style Through the Piano Works of Maurice Ravel”
- 10:15 – 10:45 am Break – Final bids on Silent Auction items, Refreshments
- 10:45 – 12:00 pm Session VI – Nancy Weems – Beckwith Recital Hall
“Focus on Romantic Style”
- Closing remarks and Silent Auction winners

Conference Presenter - Dr. Dianna Anderson

Pianist Dr. Dianna Anderson demonstrates a rare combination of scholarship and virtuosity, performing frequently as a solo recitalist and collaborator, her repertoire ranging from classical standards to new music. As a founding member of the piano trio, Luminus, with violinist Dr. Jon Rumney, and cellist Dr. Erik Anderson, she has performed hundreds of concerts bringing the intimate art of chamber music to stages throughout the Midwest. Also with cellist, Erik Anderson, she has a more than 20-year relationship as a duo, performing recitals across the US and in Canada.

Much sought-after as a collaborator, she performs regularly with various musical groups, including the Minot Symphony Orchestra, Western Plains Opera Company, her colleagues at Minot State University as well as guest artists. Recent highlights include collaborative performances with the Ying Quartet and a series of concerts given in Minot, ND of the complete works for cello and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven with cellists Yehuda Hanani and Erik Anderson. She has recently been a featured soloist with the North State Symphony, Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, Minot Symphony Orchestra, and the Bismarck-Mandan Youth Symphony, and will be fea-

tured with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony in March 2017.

A passionate educator, she teaches piano, piano pedagogy, and collaborative piano at Minot State University, as well as maintaining a studio of young pianists. A member of NDMTA, she has presented or performed at state conventions in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Oklahoma, as well as the MTNA National Convention. She frequently adjudicates regional festivals and competitions and is on faculty at Dakota Chamber Music and International Music Camp. Her degrees are from the University of Idaho, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where her principle instructors were Jay Mauchley and Frank Weinstock.

An avid runner, Dr. Anderson has run numerous marathons. She also enjoys cooking, traveling, back-packing, and gardening. She lives in a home designed based on Brahms' Intermezzo Op. 118, No. 2, with her husband, four sons, two yellow labs and cat.



Conference Presenter - Geraldine Ong

Born in Seremban, Malaysia, pianist Geraldine Ong has performed recitals in the China, France, Malaysia, United States, and Vietnam, including a debut at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC. Geraldine specializes in 19th/20th century French music, in particular, piano works of composer Maurice Ravel.

Geraldine has performed Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto with the Houston Symphony under the baton of Robert Franz and Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra (NUSO) under Victor Yampolsky. She has also performed Ravel's Left Hand Concerto with the Houston Civic Symphony and Symphony North of Houston. As an avid collaborative artist and chamber musician, she is seen in many concerts throughout the year. Recent performances include duo recitals with Yamaha artist, Jason T. Laczkoski, saxophonist, and Buffet Crampon artist, Cecilia Kang, clarinetist. Previously, she had been invited to perform with the Greenbriar Consortium, Houston Grand Opera Co., and AURA Contemporary Ensemble. Her performances have been featured on Fox Television Network KRIV Channel-26, Chicago's WFMT 98.7 FM – Chicago's Classical and Folk Music radio, and Houston's KUHA 91.7 FM radio The Front Row.



In 2011-2013, Ong was selected as a Da Camera of Houston Young Artist, a fellowship program for emerging professional instrumentalists, singers and composers. Other accolades include special recognition at the San Antonio International Piano Competition, fourth place and audience prize at the Ima Hogg National Concerto Competition, first place at the New Orleans Piano Institute Concerto Competition, and third place at the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Competition. Geraldine earned a Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Houston Moores School of Music studying with renowned pedagogue Nancy Weems. She was awarded the prestigious Presidential Graduate Fellowship, Winifred and Maurice Hirsch Memorial Scholarship, and Charles and Dorothy Bishop Scholarship. Prior to doctoral studies, she received masters and bachelors degrees from Northwestern University and Missouri State University respectively. Past principle teachers include Alan Chow, Wei-Han Su, and Chong-Lim Ng.

Geraldine currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at Valley City State University. She teaches applied piano, class piano, piano pedagogy, and music theory. Previously, she was a faculty member at Houston Community College and University of Houston. During the summers she teaches at International Music Camp, located at the beautiful International Peace Gardens in Dunseith, North Dakota. She is a member of North Dakota Music Teachers Association, Music Teachers National Association, National Federation of Music Clubs, and Pi Kappa Lambda.

For more information on current events, please visit www.geraldineong.com.

INTRODUCING...Susan Clambey, 2017 NDMTA Commissioned Composer

By Vanessa Wold, ND Commissioned Composer Chair

Susan Clambey was chosen to be the NDMTA 2017 Commissioned Composer.

From childhood, singing and playing have been a natural focus of Susan's life, participating in both church and school settings. Composing came as an extension of her love of music. She has been composing since her high school days in Fergus Falls, MN and has produced an extensive list of compositional works, including pipe organ, instrumental ensemble, poetry for vocal solos and a complete Children's Christmas Pageant. Many of her compositions are registered at the Library of Congress Copyright Office. Susan is a commissioned composer of unison, SSA, and SATB choral works.

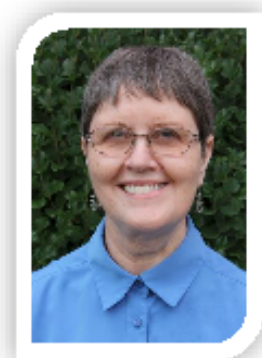


Susan's professional experiences include Pipe Organist, Choir Directing positions for various levels of church choirs, classroom teaching from preschool through elementary to senior high and private piano instruction.

Susan maintains membership in multiple professional organizations and is past president of the Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club. She currently lives in Moorhead, MN with Gary, her husband of 48 years. She has an active piano teaching studio in her home. Her original musical composition "Suite Trio" for flute, cello and piano will premiere at 7:00 pm, June 7, 2017 in Beckwith Recital Hall on the North Dakota State University Campus during the NDMTA State Conference. Ms. Clambey's complete bio will be available at the premiere, you surely don't want to miss this!

2018 Foundation Fellow

By Lisa Schuler, NDCTM NDMTA Foundation Chair



NDMTA is a long time supporter of the MTNA Foundation Fellow Program. Our organization continues to take pride in its fundraising for we know that each Foundation Fellow brings in at least \$1,000 for the foundation. The foundation uses these funds to support programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. The MTNA Foundation first quarter contribution report has been released and we would like to thank the following for their contributions in honor of Arlene Gray:

Maxine Beseler, Eileen Geske, Anne Morris, Linda Wallevand and Monica Wolff. NDMTA now has \$130 raised and is working toward the goal of \$1,000 by the

end of the year. How can you contribute to this program? You may give online when you renew your dues for this year at www.mtna.org. Be sure to name **Arlene Gray** in the appropriate box. You can also go to www.mtna.org/foundation-overview where you can read more about the foundation and then simply click on the "contribute now" link and scroll down to the foundation fellow portion. The other popular way to donate is to bring your checkbook to the NDMTA State Conference in June! Our wonderful tradition of passing the basket at the IMTF Luncheon will continue this year. As always, we suggest that members try to donate \$25 if they are able. By doing so, your name will appear in the American Music Teacher Journal as a contributor. So let's get fired up for our foundation and honor our very special NDMTA member, Arlene Gray!

Why MTNA Certification?

By Dr. Geraldine Ong

Many of us have pondered over this many times: should I be nationally certified with MTNA? Some are unsure of the amount of work involved, some are afraid to embark on this huge project, and some wonder if it's worth their time and effort.

Learning and growing should be a never-ending process, regardless of age or time. We arrive at checkpoints throughout our growth as teachers, but it should never feel as if we've arrived for good. The MTNA certification encourages us to keep learning and to better ourselves as teachers.

I would like to go through a brief overview of the MTNA Certification process.

There are 5 projects to complete:

1. Write your teaching philosophy
2. Analyzing 4 teaching pieces – giving historical and theoretical background information
3. Present Your Teaching – through three (3) teaching videos demonstrating the beginning, middle, and end of your student's progress
4. Share Information on Your Teaching Space - What is your teaching studio like? Submit a picture of your teaching space, books that you use, or technology that you incorporate in your teaching, etc.
5. Discuss Business Ethics and Studio policies

Once you send in an application, you have one year to complete all projects. Keep in mind that you can begin the projects ahead of time. The only project that you can't complete in advance will be Project #2 as teaching pieces will be assigned.

What are evaluators looking for? Competent teachers!

For more information, please visit mtnacertification.org. The website contains a handbook, a workbook, and other important information pertaining to the certification process. If you have questions or need any help, feel free to contact our division commissioner or NDMTA Certification Chair, Corinne Nustad at 218-233-8374.

Are *YOU* going to be our next nationally certified teacher?

Thank you for the Fellowship Honor



I wish to thank all of the contributors that made it possible for me to be recognized as an MTNA Foundation Fellow at the 2017 MTNA Conference in Baltimore. It was truly a great honor and I thank the NDMTA members for the raising of the \$1000 for the Foundation Fund and also those that attended the Gala with me. Your support was greatly appreciated! It was a beautiful banquet and a special time to be among fellow NDMTA members. Love you all and thank you all, so much!



Kathleen Johnson

MTNA One for All Open Meeting

By Anne Morris

The One For All open meeting focused on the collaborative efforts of MTNA to include other genres of music in the organization and discussed how to improve the MTNA and help its members. Low rate of retention among teachers is a major issue, so including those who teach instruments besides piano, as well as vocal music teachers, may help address this problem and increase membership. In the meeting, Kevin Chance, presiding for Board of Directors, asked teachers for their recommendations for initiatives, projects, and services that might improve the value of MTNA for members. He also informed attendees of new programs being offered to members-for instance, the MTNA e-Festival, an online festival allowing students and teachers to record videos of their performance and share them with a skilled evaluator. The MTNA e-Festival will begin in May and costs \$60/person.

The MTNA Board of Directors has initiated several projects to serve members, such as the intermediate Chamber Repertoire Database, as well as a discussion group devoted to collaborative performance issues in the online community portion of the MTNA website.

MTNA Wellness Session

By Jeanette Berntson

Music teachers from several states met on Monday afternoon, March 20th, to consider wellness. Ginger Yang Hwalek, of the Board of Directors, led the meeting.

She asked every participant to introduce themselves by name, state, and interest in Wellness. Most of the teachers shared stories of returning to health and music.

Wellness is an integrated awareness of the importance of good posture, careful breathing, guided meditation, healthy food choices, a balance of activities, rest, work and recreation. The list is many faceted, including both emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

The MTNA website is a resource wellness resources.

There was mention of using smaller sized keyboards for young pianists. One teacher has this in her studio and finds the transition back

(Continued on page 11)

The Board of Directors' future plans include expanding the organization globally, utilizing ideas of Jazz Theory, Music and the Brain, and emphasizing collaborative approaches.

Chance then opened up the discussion to the audience and asked what could be done to improve MTNA services. Some of the suggestions are as follows:

- Insurance should be offered for private recitals
- Easier material should be available for teaching collaborative music to beginners
- Members should brainstorm how to help other organizations learn about MTNA
- MTNA should focus on getting and retaining good leaders, even though nearly everyone is over-scheduled and overworked
- Colleges should be contacted and students should be encouraged to join collegiate chapters of MTNA

He closed the session with the suggestion that members reach out to local and state MTNA presidents with ideas for improvement; presidents can pass those ideas, suggestions, and comments on to MTNA.

MTNA Highlights



2016 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year Recital

By Vanessa Wold

The 2016 Distinguished Composer of the Year Recital was held in Baltimore on Sunday, March 19, 2016, presented by Ms. Ann Witherspoon, Commissioned Composer Chair.

David Gompper's composition, *Cycles*, for violoncello and piano is the recipient of the MTNA 2016 Distinguished Composer of the Year Award, commissioned by Iowa MTA. This performance was extraordinary, and Mr. Gompper's interview following the performance gave an even deeper appreciation for the piece. He shared extensively his compositional process, stating the precompositional process started with two perfect 5ths spread apart in space (vertical) and time (horizontal). He used the Farey sequence on lattice and in quadrants to come up with the sequence in sunburst (cycle). He used the rubic cube form, starting with a simple structure and spinning it out. As the performers stated, this composition is heavy on sound and less on meaning. I agree, however I found the piece mesmerizing and true to its name.

Mr. Gompper also shared personal information. He is inspired by Rachmaninov and Zenakis. He keeps 'bankers' hours, trying to compose daily from 3-5pm. During his performances, he watches the audience from the back of the room for analysis, asking himself, "did I go too far in some areas, or not far enough in some areas based on audience reaction?" Interestingly, listening to music doesn't 'feed' his compositional process

so he doesn't do this, he likes silence. His favorite ensemble is orchestra with the "timbre being slightly more interesting with the big palette". To end, Mr. Gompper's compositional advice was, "make sure to have a flight-plan when composing is important."



Left Jeanette Berntson, Vanessa Wold & Michael Langer at Little Italy for supper. Middle: Baltimore view from Conference Hotel



(Wellness, Continued from page 10)

and forth from full sized to smaller sizes is not a concern. Two hours of rehearsal was the minimum needed for a performer to fully adjust to the smaller keyboard size. (the smaller grand piano action is simply traded into a standard grand)

National conference has a yoga instructor offering classes every day. This year the classes were at noon and offered stretching that could be done in street clothing. I attended two of the classes and found them relaxing for neck and shoulders. Participants were reminded that we need to be aware of projecting our heads forward while at the piano. This causes strain on the neck which is best alleviated by sitting straight. Our students may need reminding to sit comfortably, yet correctly while at the piano. My students almost always respond in kind, when I make it obvious to sit up, needing no comment from me!

Wellness issues will continue to be a part of conference. A group picture was taken at the end of the session so members could recognize one another in subsequent social networking via email.

COLLEGE FACULTY FORUM
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017, 9:15 AM
Submitted by Beth Klingenstein

As WCD Director, I chaired this committee. I solicited suggestions in advance for issues and concerns to discuss at today's meeting. Topics submitted included:

- faculty being overworked, and a shrinking pool of piano students putting pressure on faculty to recruit
- pressures on students
- shrinking budgets

Discussion on Budget Cuts, faculty loads, shrinking pool of piano students

A number of faculty talked about the massive cuts at their institutions due to budget concerns. Small departments in small schools are particularly hard hit. A catch-22 for pianists is that scholarship money exists mostly for students who will play or sing in ensembles (i.e. instrumentalists or vocalists), rather than just contribute to the piano program as a whole. People commented that we need to prove that music departments are teaching the skills that every other department is crying for; that we need to prove our relevance. Another comment about ways to make music departments more relevant to the whole university is to provide as many services to non-majors as to majors- it boosts the relevance of the music department.

Discussion on Student Pressures

Several people mentioned their concern with students being overwhelmed with onerous schedules that can lead to or exacerbate existing depression. Several people felt that there is too much pressure put on students to graduate in four years. A discussion ensued as to whether we were dealing with mental illnesses in students or just overwork and day-to-day pressures. Although for cases of actual clinical depression or other chemical imbalances, we are not trained psychiatrists or psychologists, it was suggested that the faculty member actually make the call to the counseling center for the student. At UTexas they have instituted a freshman program called FIGs (Freshman Interest Groups) where the same group of students takes classes together and become a support group for each other. The goal is to improve cohesiveness and retention within the music program. There was a brief discussion of concert etiquette and students unwilling to completely disconnect from their electronics during live performances. Discussion also ensued as to the seeming lack of respect and support on the part of students for attending classmates' and faculty recitals.

ARTS AND ADVOCACY AWARENESS FORUM
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017, 2:15 PM
Submitted by Beth Klingenstein

Christine Steiner, East Central Division Director, presided over this session. A few people shared advocacy activities in their area, such as holding concerts in conjunction with visual artists and the impact of instigating music programs in rural areas.

A discussion followed with concerns about President Trump's suggestion to eliminate the NEA. It was suggested that we each do one small action every day: make a phone call, write a letter, connect with legislators and community leaders, make a donation to an arts advocacy group. The talking points when connecting with a legislator should include economics, health, and jobs. Recent data shows there are more music/entertainment jobs than in agriculture and transportation. The 2016 Congressional Report Card is on the AFTA website. There are also tips for communicating with legislators at the Utah Music Teachers Association website. They have a pdf with ten tips on how to write an advocacy letter. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies has good advocacy information. It was suggested that our states each develop a *Community Arts* or *Advocacy and Arts Service Award* at the state level. It was suggested that we have our parents and students support advocacy of the arts and contact their legislators. Also, students can perform in nursing homes, hospitals, etc. to share their talents.

Greetings from your Membership Chair!

Vangie Johnson Parker

Can you believe that we are already coming to the close of another wonderful year in NDMTA? We have had some fun, created some new NDMTA friendships and hopefully had some great triumphs in our studios.

This past year has been full of monthly programs where we have either enjoyed musical offerings or learned from the educational workshops. Some of you have also participated in the MTNA webinars. (My favorite this year was the informative discussion on interpreting ornamentations from all eras).

Are you are still feeling the inspiration from our 2016 conference music and presenters? Well, guess what? We have more inspiration in store for you at your local monthly meetings and our 2017 state conference in Fargo this June! We try hard to keep things new and interesting. You won't want to miss out! The information you receive is a gift which will truly keep on giving!

As a valued member of NDMTA and MTNA, we appreciate your friendship, your commitment to our organization and your students. Your Dues renewal notices have been mailed out and several of you have probably already renewed your memberships. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible. We wouldn't want you to miss out on the 2017 opportunities! We hope to see you in Fargo this June!

Familiar Faces at MTNA



Jeanette with Kevin Olson (top), Helen Marlais (middle) Marvin Blickenstaff (right)



Vanessa, Wendy Stevens & Jeanette (above) Carolyn Miller (left)



Jeanette with Tom Gerou (left) Wynn-Anne Rossi (center) and Martha Mier (right)

Michelle Kallod, Editor
668 17th Ave E
West Fargo, ND 58078



www.ndmta.org

Upcoming Events

2017 Popplers Music Competition	June 7	NDSU, Fargo
2017 NDMTA Conference	June 7-9	NDSU, Fargo
2017 MTNA Competitions	October 28	VCSU, Valley City
2018 MTNA Conference	March 17-21	Lake Buena Vista, FL
2018 NDMTA Conference	June 13-15	Dickinson, ND

State Conference Rotation

2017 Fargo	2018 Dickinson	2019 Grand Forks	2020 Bismarck
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