



## Letter from the President, Vangie Johnson-Parker

What an eventful NDMTA year it has been. We closed the 2018-2019 fiscal year with an entertaining and educational conference in Grand Forks. Due to construction issues at the University of North Dakota, our original location was changed to Popplers Music. This turned out to be an unexpected blessing! The new venue was intimate and since everything was in one building, it was very convenient. Popplers Music opened their Grand Recital Hall to us and supplied us with high quality pianos and a well run sound system. Wynn-Ann Rossi was our main presenter Wednesday and Thursday of the conference and UND's own Nariaki Sugiura closed the conference on Friday with his presentation. The Greater Grand Forks Association did an absolutely outstanding job of hosting this very important event and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. (If you missed it, be sure to mark your calendars for the 2020 conference in Fargo, ND from June 3-5. Marvin Blickenstaff will be our presenter). There is much to look forward to in our upcoming year!



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## NDMTA Conference

*By Gloria Bethke*

Members of the GGFMTA began the planning of the NDMTA Conference last August. With the support of the Upper Valley MTA in providing centerpieces and receptions for the conference we were pleased to plan the conference looking forward to the sessions with Wynn-Anne Rossi, Dr. Nariaki Sugiura and the concerts each evening at UND.

There were a few unexpected changes to be made. Vangie Parker invited Dr. Dianna Anderson and Dr. Erik Anderson to be the recitalists for the first evening concert. All things were in place with the exception of printing the conference booklet when it became necessary to change the venue of the conference due to huge construction projects at UND. We asked Don Langlie and Sharon Pugh at Popplers Music Store if they could host the conference and they most willingly accepted our request. We met with them and Joshua Gratton and Julie Marek to plan the event, opening the entire store to hold the events of the conference. The staff arranged the recital area with lighting and a sound system that provided an excellent setting for the sessions and concerts.



The conference evaluations overwhelmingly mentioned how nice the venue at Popplers was. Wynn-Anne Rossi was fantastic, so enthusiastic, and informative on creative composition and the history of jazz in her presentation. Dr. Sugiura gave a new and deep insight to "rests" in music. The concerts were awesome. The IMTF presentation was informative and the "heart" of the panelists was evident in their presentation.

We were pleased that the conference was successful and enjoyed by those attending the conference.

## Popplers Competition Highlights

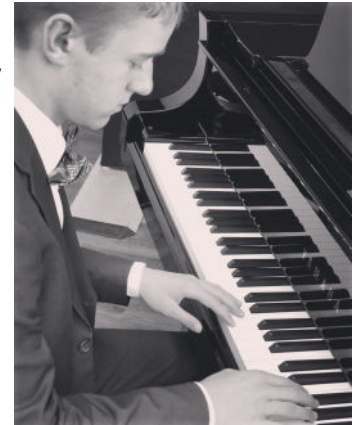
*By Karen Okerlund*



*Michael Langer & Thomas Vadnais*

Popplers music competition was held on June 19, 2019 at Popplers Music Store. We had 3 Elementary students, 2 junior high students and 2 high school students. Teachers that entered students were Gloria Bethke, Susan Nagel, Lisa Schuler, Sharon Wesbrook, Cathy Tweten and Michael Langer.

The elementary winner was Samuel Presteng, student of Gloria Bethke. The junior high winner was Jack Kern, student of Cathy Tweten. The high school winner was Thomas Vadnais, student of Michael Langer.



*Jack Kern, student of Cathy Tweten*



*Gloria Bethke & Samuel Presteng*

Thank you to all the students who entered and worked hard to prepare your pieces. Thank you to the teachers who entered their students and hope that you will enter more students next June in Fargo.



*Joshua Gratten, Kathleen Johnson, Anne Morris & Karen Okerlund*



## MTNA Competitions

*By Sue Nagel*

The MTNA Competitions are a great way to keep your students engaged and inspired! This year's state competition is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2019 at Valley City State University. Applications for 2019-20 MTNA Composition, Junior, Senior, and Young Artists can be found on the MTNA website. Entry deadline is Wednesday, September 11.

The new entry deadline for the "new" Chamber Music Competitions will be Wednesday, December 4, 2019, with applications available November 6. Preliminaries for the Chamber Music competition will be by video submission. Ensembles compete without regard to the state or division in which they live or take lessons. Of these, 7 ensembles will be selected from the pool to compete in the final round, live at the MTNA National Conference.

### **BEST TEACHING TIP**

NDMTA Conference 2019

"All students should be able to play 2-3 pieces by memory at all times SO when asked to play—THEY CAN!!"

By Wynn-Anne Rossi



This engaging and very informative workshop focused on simple and quick ways to involve piano students in composition activities from the very first lesson. When students compose, they identify themselves as musicians, and are hooked on music for a lifetime.

### Getting Started:

Wynn-Anne suggested that first lessons initiating composition should focus on connecting sound to imagination, using images of animals, journeys, weather, or feelings as good starting points. Developing skills of improvisation using range, tempo, dynamics, articulation is the next step. Wynn-Anne has written two resources for composition: Creative Composition Toolbox, and Music By Me, each with multiple levels. She suggests the former for private lessons, and the latter for group lessons or camps. She also produces a weekly video for educational purposes that focuses on jazz, improvisation, and creativity called "Wednesdays with Wynn-Anne." Creative Composition Toolbox comes in a format where the student learns a piece employing a particular tool, and then composes their own piece using the tool. She suggests that a more advanced student using this resource would need to review concepts from earlier levels to understand the more advanced materials.

### Fitting It In:

In the private lesson, she recommends spending 3-5 minutes on composition, emphasizing creativity over notation, doing the work at home, and creating exercises, not masterpieces. The goals for the student should be to create something interesting using the tool, notate it, and be able to perform it. Often students will notate something they can't play, or play something they haven't yet notated. To get the most out of this activity, it is important to do both. The teacher's goals should be to check that the tool is being used, praise creativity, listen, ask questions, and aim for quantity. Composition easily supports theory, technique, and repertoire, and the aim should be to connect composition tools with other aspects of the lesson as much as possible. For instance, if the tool being used is repeats, patterns, plus an element of surprise, this can be found in a student's repertoire easily. Composition is a great way to help students to see musical details. One example of this would be in a

group setting, taking out the markings from a piece, having each student add their own, and then performing it. Wynn-Anne noted that students are often more supportive of each other in composition group lessons than in performance based group lessons.

### Notation:

Wynn-Anne gave several examples of non-traditional or graphic notation for simple musical ideas. Notating rhythm is a challenge, and she suggests learning to notate complicated rhythms such as syncopations one at a time, lingering on one concept for a long time before moving on. There are multiple computer programs that students can easily learn, including MuseScore and Notion, but be wary of computer composing- the composition must be playable!

### Sharing:

In her own studio, Wynn-Anne has masterpiece recitals, students choosing to refine and develop composition, whereas most of the weekly work emphasizes quantity and creativity rather than quality and perfection. Themed composition recitals can be a great way to involve the whole studio, and the experience can be enhanced with art, video, and dance. Self-compositions should be a part of a student's maintained repertoire so that they can share easily in multiple situations.

This session was the first of the entire conference, and I felt it started the whole experience off with an air of curiosity and creativity. I am sure that all who attended feel empowered to try some of these ideas with their students and help them to create their own amazing compositions.



*NDMTA members & Wynn-Anne Rossi enjoying refreshments after Thursdays recital*

What is the difference between Be bob & Hard Bop?" asked Ms. Rossi of the piano teachers. Their response: Absolute Silence! But we were soon to find out . . .



The ever delightful Wynn-Anne Rossi helped us experience the meaningful humanity of music through the colorful characters and rich stories of jazz musicians dating back to beginnings of jazz. She covered ragtime through contemporary jazz using samples from her "Jazzin' Americana" series plus sharing entertaining quips of personal stories from her vast research on the lives of these jazz musicians. Thank you to our own Lisa Schuler for joining Wynn-Anne at the piano for all of the duets in Wynn-Anne's new "Jazzin' Americana for Two" books.

- **Birth of Ragtime** - (Vaudeville/Pre-jazz) The Battle between Tommy Tuprin (who?) & Ben Harney (who?) as the ragtime pioneers (which they were). She elaborated on the story of these two musicians and emergence of Scott Joplin with the "Maple Leaf Rag" in 1899. Did you know Joplin actually wrote two operas before becoming the household word for Ragtime?
- **I've Got the Blues** - Start of the Twelve Bar Blues patterns. Bessie Smith, singer.
- **New Orleans** - Louis Armstrong (trumpet) changed improvisation forever!
- **Harlem Swing** - (Wartime) First mixed (colored & white) performances. Big Band Sounds of Glenn Miller, Bennie Goodman, Chick Webb
- **The COUNT and The DUKE** - Use of lead sheets and chord symbols. Big Band era of Count Basie & Duke Ellington
- **I Love the Piano** - Fats Waller, Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson (one of the great jazz pianists of all time—won 8 Grammy awards).
- **Bebop vs Hard Bop** - Charlie Parker (sax) Cool Bop - Dave Brubeck (piano)
- Thelonius Monk (piano) & Miles Davis (trumpet)
- **Latin Jazz** - Late 1940s. Brazilian - Stan Getz (piano) & Afro-Cuban, Dizzy Gillespie (trumpet)
- **Tough Times, Gritty Lives** - Chet Baker
- **Talented Passionate Women** - Billie Holiday, MaryLou Williams, Sarah Vaughn, Melba Liston, Ella Fitzgerald
- **Cool, Jazz Goes West** - Cool invites counterpoint & criticism. Miles Davis (trumpet), Dave Brubeck (piano)
- **Funk, Fusion, Free** - Jazzin' 1970s, 80s, 90s, 00 and into the future? Herbie Hancock, Coltrane, Joey Alexander, and the list goes on . . .





### Session III: American Music Jazz Meets Latin

By Sheryl Kjelland

This session began with the performance of "Tango Lights Celebration" which was commissioned by and written for the Langdon Area Music Teachers Organization. After everyone listened to the performance by LAMTA and UVMTA members, Wynn-Anne taught dance steps and everyone danced to a second performance of "Tango Lights Celebration."

Wynn-Anne emphasized that music is fusion and music has many common roots. Latin music has grown from the music of indigenous people of South America, Spanish music, and the infusion of European culture. Jazz has a large background that comes from the African slaves, and is also affected by European and indigenous cultures.



*Performing "Tango Lights Celebration"*

Jazz has swing. Latin music does not. Latin music has an absence of beat one as well as the presence of poly rhythms. Jazz swings with an emphasis on beats two and four.



Wynn-Anne concluded this session with some helpful hints about teaching improv. She suggested using "Heart and Soul," "James Bond in Rio" vs. "James Bond in New York," and some simple blues patterns. Rhythm helps are "cherry, blueberry pie." She suggested that we jump in and be brave. Our students will love it. But she emphasized that we should always start with a "small box" to give our students guide lines about where to turn with their improv.

*Front row: Sheryl Kjelland, Cindy Olson,  
Connie Sjostrom, Darla Sheldon  
Back row: Kathleen Johnson,  
Wynn-Anne Rossi, Lisa Schuler*

## Session IV: The Rests in Music. Creative Ways of Using Rests in Performance by Nariaki Sugiura

*By Corinne Nustad*

Dr. Sugiura began with a painting of an Ink Wash from East Asia. An ink wash is the “essence of a subject...of color tonality and shading”. If it is done right, the audience is not aware.



There are 3 qualities of an ink wash:

1. It uses no shadow,
2. The margins create tension (eternal space not bound by frames) and
3. It uses only 2 colors, black and white, although the white can be just the paper used; the black and white reflect colors in one's imagination so we see light, shade, or blur. He likened this to rests in music, using shape in phrases and articulation.

Next he likened rests in music to pauses in speech:

- Pause to gather thought
- Think about your piece (character)
- Pause to allow your audience time to digest the message
- Pause helps convey emotion
- To transition between main points
- To connect or separate between movements of a piece
- Pause for emphasis on critical points
- Accented notes or sudden quiet notes
- Pause to add to your overall effectiveness as a speaker.
- How to finish your piece effectively.

He then gave 13 specific examples in the piano music of Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Schubert, Mozart, Liszt, Brahms, Bach, and Albeniz. To sum up, he emphasized the importance of music and that is to CONVEY THE MESSAGE!!

## Service to the Profession Award

"What is the Service to the Profession Award?" you may ask. In January of each year, Service to the Profession nomination forms will be sent to each active local NDMTA association. An individual member or representative of each local chapter will write a letter, detailing why a particular nominee should be presented the award. The Certification Chair will send the nomination letters to a 3-4 person ad hoc committee who will rank the candidates in order of preference. The candidate with the highest cumulative points will receive the award.

The Service to the Profession award is a lifetime award. Former recipients may not be resubmitted. However, past nominees who have not won may be resubmitted by their local if the local chooses to do so.

At the NDMTA State Conference Banquet on June 20th, 2019, the Award was presented to Jacobsen Music of Dickinson, Minot, and Bismarck, ND.

The bio for Jacobsen Music is very long, with 3 stores participating, but I will try to abbreviate it here:

1. Providing, transporting and setting up keyboards for Badlands Piano Extravaganza in Dickinson and Monster Concerts in Bismarck and Minot
2. Arranging for the donation of a new Yamaha keyboard for giveaway at Extravaganza in Dickinson and Minot.
3. Lending, transporting and setting up keyboards for Music Festivals, All State, and high school competitions.
4. Band program testing at all 3 sites
5. Providing IMC scholarships for students in Minot
6. Assisting with numerous community events in all three stores
7. Voted #1 music store in Minot
8. Member of National Association of Music Merchants in Minot



## Conference Snapshots





*By Vangie Johnson Parker  
Foundation Chair*

## Foundation Fellow Update

We would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to Gloria Bethke Foundation Fellow Fund.



Maxine Beseler	Marjorie Johnson	Anne Morris
Mary Motta	Linda Wallevand	Wanda Wavra
Vangie Parker	Jean Guenther	Paige Keiser-Rezac
Michael Olson	Dianna Anderson	Sharon Gegelmann
Kathryn Greene	E Guenther	Kathleen Johnson
Sheryl Kjelland	Laura O'Rourke	Cynthia Olson
Mary Schneider	Lisa Schuler	Darla Sheldon
Connie Sjostrom	Gary Bethke	Cathy Tweten
Sister Bernadette Trecker		

Please consider donating to the MTNA Foundation Program. These donations fund grants and awards which support music educators and MTA affiliates. When the amount of \$1500 is reached, our Foundation Fellow Nominee will be honored at the 2020 National Conference in Chicago. If you haven't sent in your donation yet, it's not too late!

Please make your checks out to the MTNA Foundation Fund and be sure to place Gloria's name in the memo section. You can also donate on the MTNA website, <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>. Thank you!

MTNA Foundation Fund  
1 W. 4th St., Ste. 1550  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

## Upcoming Events

2019 MTNA State Competitions	October 26	VCSU, Valley City, ND
2019 WCD Competitions	December 4	Video Performances
2020 MTNA Conference	March 21-25	Chicago, Illinois
2020 Popplers Music Competition	June 3	NDSU, Fargo, ND
2020 NDMTA Conference	June 3-5	NDSU, Fargo, ND



## NDMTA Annual Business Meeting June , 2019

President Vangie Johnson Parker opened the business meeting. Sharon Gegelmann read the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes were approved as read. The Treasurers report was given. Income to date (without conference \$) is \$13,749.59 and expenses (with estimates for conference) are \$13,753.53. The numbers will be finalized as of yearend June 30th. Treasurers report was approved as read. The 2018-2019 budget was approved as presented.

Vice-President Dianna Anderson reported that since there was a miscommunication about the dates for the 2019 commission composition, Dr Meyers, who was our 2019 composer, will now be our 2020 commissioned composer.

President Vangie Johnson Parker reported that she attended the National Conference in Spokane, along with Anne Morris and Dianna Anderson. We had applied for a ND Council of the Arts Grant for \$1200. We received a grant for \$1000. We also applied for a MTNA Affiliate Enrichment Grant, but did not receive this. Jeanette Berntson has resigned as Foundation Chair because of a move. Vangie will take this over.

Gloria Bethke, Conference Chair, reported that the 2019 State Conference had 39 people registered. Due to construction at UND, the conference was moved to Popplers Music Store, who are not charging us for the conference. She thanked Popplers for being so accommodating to us. She also thanked Upper Valley MTA for assisting with the reception and centerpieces.

Vangie Johnson Parker, Foundation Chair, reported that we have raised \$895 to date for Gloria Bethke our 2019 Foundation Fellow.

Installation of new committee members was held. Priscilla Keogh is now on the Nominating Committee. Darla Sheldon is the outgoing member. Jean Guenther is our new Historian. Cheryl Dockter is the outgoing Historian.

Vangie gave a summary of the Executive Board Meeting held June 19. There are currently no open positions on the board.

Corinne Nustad extended an invitation to the 2020 Conference in Fargo at NDSU on June 3-5. Marvin Blickenstaff will be our presenter.

New Business: Kathleen Johnson reminded everyone to support the businesses that support our website. And to thank Popplers Music Store staff personally for the use of their store rent free for the conference.

Local Association Presidents gave short reports on their activities.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Gegelmann



## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2019

President Vangie Johnson Parker called the meeting to order. Roll call: Vangie Johnson-Parker, Sharon Gegelmann, Dianna Anderson, Michelle Kallod, Gloria Bethke, Anne Morris, Corinne Nustad, Lisa Schuler, Sue Nagel, Sheryl Kjelland, Darla Sheldon, Karen Okerland, Kathleen Johnson, Karen Dallager, and Jean Guenther.

Sheryl Kjelland made a motion, seconded by Gloria Bethke to approve the agenda.

### Officers Reports

Secretary: Minutes from the January 19, 2019 board meeting were posted online, with the 4 online votes reported on. Dianna Anderson moved, seconded by Karen Okerland to accept the minutes. Motion passed



*Dianna Anderson, Lisa Schuler,  
Michelle Kallod & Karen Okerlund*

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod presented the proposed 2019-20 budget. Corinne Nustad moved to accept the budget, seconded by Kathleen Johnson. Motion passed.

Vice-President/Commission Composer: Dianna Anderson reported the Dr. Meyer could not attend this year's conference and would therefore be our 2020 Commissioned Composer.

President: Vangie Johnson Parker reported that she attended the MTNA 2019 conference in Spokane, WA. She also applied for and received a ND Council for the Arts Grant in the amount of \$1000 and applied for but did not receive an MTNA Affiliate Enrichment Grant. She appointed Jean Guenther as the new state Historian, and Priscilla Keogh as the Nominating Chair.



*Karen Dallager, Gloria Bethke,  
Jean Guenther & Sharon Gegelmann*

### Committees

Conference: Gloria Bethke thanked Popplers Music Store accommodating us at the last minute, when we found out the conference could not be held at UND due to construction.

Advertising: Anne Morris reported that letters were sent to advertisers at the beginning of May. She encouraged us to support businesses that advertise with us.

Certification: Corinne Nustad - Nothing new to report.

Competitions: Sue Nagel reported that state competitions have been arranged with VCSU for October 26, 2019. She reminded us that there is also a composition competition.

Directory: Michelle Schumacher reported that she has started updates on the 2019 directory.

Foundation: Vangie Johnson Parker noted that \$445 has been raised for Gloria Bethke our 2019 Foundation Fellow. Our 2020 Foundation Fellow is Marge Johnson and 2021 is Lisa Schuler.

Historian: Cheryl Dockter reported that she is transferring materials to Jean Guenther, our new State Historian.

IMTF: Sheryl Kjelland reported that the IMTF Luncheon for the state conference will be "The Beat of a Different Drum", teaching piano students with special needs. A discussion was held about what we want to do with the NDMTA library files of videos and DVDs.

Membership: Lisa Schuler requested that we get

*(Continued on page 11)*



(Continued from page 10)

our memberships paid by July 1. We have five 10-year, two 25-year, and one 50-year certificate to present at the banquet.

Newsletter: Michelle Kallod asked for volunteers to submit articles on the conference sessions for the newsletter. Also, if anyone has pictures submit them for the newsletter (send to Michelle), web site (send to Kathleen Johnson) or the scrap book (send to Jean Guenther).

Nominating: Darla Sheldon is stepping down and Priscilla Keogh will be the new chairman.

Popplers Competition: Anne Morris made a motion was made to raise mileage from \$.40 to \$.58. Lisa Schuler seconded, motion carried.

Rally: Sheryl Kjelland reported there were 3 rallies this past year. Twenty teachers entered 190 students. We had an income of \$2850. And expenses of \$2123.06.

Technology: Kathleen Johnson reported that the conference information was added to the website, and the News Highlights page has been up-

dated. She encouraged local associations to send pictures to posts on the website.

### Old Business

The by-laws require an annual review of dues. It was decided to leave the dues at their current rate.

### New Business

There have not been any Local Association of the year applicants as of June 2, 2019. Dr. Meyers will present his Commissioned Composition next year at the conference in Fargo. Our presenter for the 2020 conference will be Marvin Blickenstaff. The contract has been signed. The IMTF luncheon will be the responsibility of UVMTA in 2020, and Northwest MTA in 2021.

Local Association reports were given.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gegelmann

### Conference Snapshots



*IMTF Luncheon Panelists  
Left to Right: Sheryl Kjelland, Corinne Nustad,  
Karen Dalager, Cathy Tweten*



*Kern Brothers, students of Cathy Tweten  
L to R Charlie (Senior), Tommy (Junior), Kenny  
(sophomore at Concordia), Jack (8th Gr)*



Michelle Kallod, Editor  
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[www.ndmta.org](http://www.ndmta.org)

# Dues are Due!

2019-2020 memberships are due ASAP if you'd like your status in the NDMTA directory and on the NDMTA website. MTNA's fiscal year runs June-July.

Memberships can be renewed by returning the statement you received from MTNA or online, [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). Click the "Join +Renew" button.