

NDMTA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Letter from the President, Dianna Anderson

Greetings from Minot! Our new local association is so thrilled to be hosting the NDMTA conference from Minot State University. We have prepared an inspiring and educational lineup of conference presenters and recitalists. I am proud to say that even though these amazing musicians live in Pittsburgh and Minnesota, they have strong ties to North Dakota. You can read more about



their topics and follow links to performances in the pages below. In addition, we will hear from the collegiate chapter at Minot State, and watch inspiring performances of brand new works from our commissioned composers from the past two years, as well as performances from the participants in the Popplers Competition. The IMTF Luncheon will feature teachers from around the state discussing what they have learned about using technology in their studios over the past year. Even though we can't meet in person at this time, I know we will all enjoy seeing each other virtually. There are several coffee hour/happy hour sessions that will allow us to all connect and talk with each other in small groups. If you haven't yet registered, please do so as soon as possible. You won't want to miss it!

Inside this issue: CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION 2 CONFERENCE SESSIONS: 4-5 BARTOK, COLLABORATIONS, ALBUM FOR THE YOUNG CONFERENCE SESSION: BEO QUARTET VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS: MARRY MOTTA 7 CONFERENCE PRESENTER AUTUMN XANDER CONFERENCE PRESENTER 7 CHRISTOPHER YOUNG 2021 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER SEAN NEUKOM CONFERENCE PRESENTERS 9 & RECITALISTS - BEO QUARTET 2019 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER 10 NICHOLAUS MEYERS THANK YOU 10 **BADLANDS EVENT** 11 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS: LISA SCHULER 2022 MTNA FOUNDATION 12 **FELLOW** UPCOMING EVENTS 12

Autumn Xander, Presenter of Sessions I, II & IV

As a pianist, teacher, writer and life long learner I have always been intrigued by the paths musicians follow and the elements that help to shape both their work and their development as individuals. Whether working with beginning students, preparing teens for competitions or helping adults reconnect with the piano after several decades, knowing more about the composers and repertoire I teach enriches the learning experiences for students and fuels my musical interests and curiosity. Please join me in learning more about pedagogical works of Bela Bartok and Lera Auerbach and the myriad of ways you



can use their collections in your teaching. And, while the conference may be virtual this year, it is a great time to learn more about fostering in-person collaborative experiences for students. The overlooked area of works for piano and narrator provide wonderful opportunities for students to explore and develop collaborative skills that they will use for a lifetime.

Read more details on each of Autumn's sessions on pages 4 & 5:

- Session I Mikrokosmos Bartok's Practical Piano Legacy
- Session II Fostering Collaborations: Works for Elementary and Intermediate Level Pianists and Narrator
- Session IV Scenes from Childhood 2.0 New Music for a New Generation

NDMTA Conference Schedule Virtual, June 2-4 Hosted by Minot State University

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

4:00 pm Board Meeting 6:30-7:00 pm Happy Hour 7:00 pm Official Opening

Recital for students who participated in the Popplers Music Competition & Commissioned Composers (Nicholaus Meyers & Sean Neukom) Performances

Thursday, June 3, 2021

8:30-9:00 am Coffee Hour

9:00- 10:00 am Session I – Autumn Zander

Mikrokosmos—Bartok's Practical Piano Legacy

10:00 -10:30 Break

10:30-11:00 Collegiate Chapter Spotlight 11:00-12:00 Session II - Autumn Zander

Fostering Collaborations: Works for Elementary & Intermediate Level

Pianists & Narrator

12:15-1:30 pm IMTF Virtual Lunch - Technology Panel

1:45-2:45 pm NDMTA Business meeting

2:45-3:15 pm Break

3:15-4:30 pm Session III - Presented by Beo String Quartet

TBD

5:30 pm Virtual Banquet

7:30 pm Concert

Beo String Quartet

Friday, June 4, 2021

8:30 am Coffee Hour

9:00-10:15am Session IV: - Autumn Zander

Scenes from Childhood 2.0—New Music for a New Generation

10:30-11:00 am Break

11:00-12:00 am Session V - Charles Young

TBD

Closing Remarks

NDMTA Annual Conference

Wednesday-Friday, June 2-4, 2021 Virtual, Hosted by Minot Music Teachers Association

Name	
Address	
City	
Telephone: Home W	
E-mail	
	al Association
Registration Fees:	
Full Conference – member	\$100
Full Conference – non-member	\$120
First Time Attendee or Student or One	Day Only (member) \$50
One Day – non-member	
Friday Friday	\$60
Online Processing Fee (DO NOT INCLUDE IF PAYING BY CHECK) \$3.20	
Late Registration Fee: (Postmarked af	ter May 11) \$15
Total Enclosed:	\$

Payment Options:

- 1. Complete this registration form online and use PayPal to pay online at www.ndmta.org OR
- 2. Mail completed form and send check, payable to NDMTA to:

Michelle Kallod 668 17th Ave. E West Fargo, ND 58708 mkallod@hotmail.com

Refunds: Registration fees are nonrefundable except for emergencies and illness. Should such a conflict arise, the registration fee, minus all food costs, will be refunded. Please contact Dianna Anderson at (701) 833-4253 and send a written request to Michelle Kallod, 668 17th Ave. East, West Fargo, ND 58078.

Conference Session I. Mikrokosmos - Bartok's Practical Piano Legacy

Bela Bartok's *Mikrokosmos* was revolutionary for its time. Created between 1926-1939, this six volume collection consists of 153 progressive e pieces and sought to fill a gaping void in the piano rep-

ertoire namely, a piano series that guides students thorough the elementary & intermediate levels of study. While nearly 100 years old, Bartok's practical approach for piano students and teachers is still relevant today.

This session examines both the foundational elements and practical application of *Mikrokosmos*. Part 1 addresses Bartok's musical and pedagogical philosophies, including his perspectives on the role of the teacher, the need to create and the importance of nurturing of the whole musician as well as the use of ancient and contemporary tonalities in piano study



Specific examples in *Mikrokosmos* will be examined and demonstrated.

Part II explores the myriad of uses Bartok envisioned for *Mikrokosmos* and how these ideas can be readily utilized in today's teaching studio. With particular emphasis on volumes I, II and III, exploration into the possibilities for ensemble, creative, composing, transposing and accompanying experiences for the elementary and early intermediate level student will be demonstrated. By exploring the ideas embedded within *Mikrokosmos*, we witness the progressive thinking of Bartok as pedagogue, composer, musician and visionary. By embracing the spirit of *Mikrokosmos*, we enhance our own creativity and musically and in turn help to foster the creativity and musicality within our students.

Conference Session II - Fostering Collaborations: Works for Elementary and Intermediate Level Pianists and Narrator

By default, being a pianist can feel like a lonely musical pursuit. Students frequently take private lessons, practice alone, perform solo repertoire and occasionally play duets with a teacher, family member or friend. It is not until after many years of private study that students are finally encouraged to collaborate with other student musicians, frequently without having had any prior ensemble experiences or the foundational skills necessary for successful collaborations. Thankfully elementary and intermediate level pianists need not be left behind in the collaborative process! An exciting new world awaits students and teachers in the overlooked area of works for piano and narrator. Before ever having to negotiate and independent vocal or instrumental line in conjunction with the piano score, students are eased into the artistic demands of a collaborative pianist and gain the necessary skills and confidence to help them succeed in this new role.

This session explores late elementary and early intermediate level repertoire that introduces students to the skills needed when exploring the role of collaborate pianist including...

- Developing rehearsal and performance skills such as initiating/responding to cues, discovering the importance of breathing and developing awareness of balance
- Exploring the relationships between text and piano and the ways in which each part may influence the other

- Examining how individual pieces contribute to a larger work, akin to song cycles, and how to execute these pieces as a complete work
- Experiencing the joy and camaraderie of creating music with others while paving the way for future collaborations

Conference Session III - Scenes from Childhood 2.0 New Music for a New Generation



Schumann's Scenes from Childhood Op. 15 is one of those rare pedagogical works that is not only a staple of teaching libraries, but is also frequently performed by concert artists. A true representation of the Romantic Era, these character pieces epitomize the musical and artistic styles that were explored during the 10th Century. Nearly 200 years after its creation, melodies such as From *Foreign Lands and People, Curious Story* and *The Poet Speaks* remain popular. Unlike Schumann's *Album for the Young* in which composers from Tchaikovsky to Lowell Liebermann have written their own homages, Scenes from Childhood has not been widely replicated...until now. At the dawn of the 21st Century composer Lera Auerbach (b. 1973) honors the artistic and peda-

gogical legacy of Robert Schumann with her Images of Childhood Op. 52.

This session examines each of the 12 intermediate level pieces in Lera Auerbach's *Images for Childhood*. Specific technical and artistic challenges of each piece, links between Schumann and Auerbach and how this collection prepares the 21st century pianist for 21st century music will be addressed. The accessibility of these pieces, similar to the technical levels of *Album for the Young*, combined with the distinct musical style of one of classical music's leading voices makes this session relevant to both teachers and performers. Not only will attendees gain insights on new repertoire that is easily utilized for recitals, competitions and enjoyment, but they will also learn more about this exciting 21st century female composer.





Beo Quartet: Conference Presenters and Recitalists

Did you know that brothers Sean and Jason Neukom grew up in Devils Lake and graduated from Minot State University? They have maintained their link to North Dakota through numerous outreach tours and teaching/performing at Dakota Chamber Music. Their father, Rick Neukom, taught orchestra in Devils Lake for many decades and was the NDMTA Commissioned Composer in 1994!

"Jason and I are always so proud to tell audiences, music festivals, schools, and our fan base that we're from North Dakota. We're excited to be part of the NDMTA conference this year; to share what we do professionally with roots sown in such a wonderful place.

We hope you'll join us!"

-Sean Neukom, 2021 Commissioned Composer and Violist in Beo Quartet



Conference Session III - Beo String Quartet

Beo String Quartet values the proposition of education from the stage. To embrace this, Beo has adopted a mentality of "education through the illusion of entertainment". In this presentation Beo will demonstrate a choice selection of their educational set pieces, why they use them, and their intended effect.

We will hear Beo both at the Wednesday evening concert, playing a brand new string quartet by Sean Neukom, and a full recital on Thursday evening, featuring two more works by Sean Neukom and Beethoven's Quartet Op. 131.

Explore these links to video content from Beo Quartet:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pqi YR03qA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pUPVlxJMg4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MofNnW0o5y4&t=8s

Reflections on MTNA virtual conference

The 2021 MTNA virtual conference really was a state-of-the art production. I made time to view a number of sessions at my convenience! Sitting at my kitchen table, it was easy to maneuver around the site, click on the sessions, view the chat rooms and download handouts. The first session I watched was Beth Klingenstein's entitled, "Looking Ahead to a Creative Retirement – No Matter What Your Age". Beth is always energetic and thorough – it was great. After viewing some very practical and inspiring sessions over the three days, the last one I watched was "Six Hands on Deck". Yes, three adults on the bench playing the Hallelujah Chorus is absolutely fabulous! I'm so grateful to

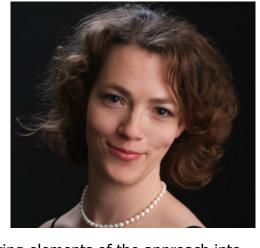
NDMTA, who pays for the VP to attend the conference. My time invested was well worth it!

Conference Presenter - Autumn L. Zander

Autumn L. Zander, NCMT, is a pianist, teacher, writer and piano faculty member at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, MN. Her articles & interviews on piano pedagogy and music history appear in *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier Companion*, *Faber Piano Adventures*, *Piano Journal* of the European Piano Teachers Association and *The Piano Teacher* magazine of Australia.

A recipient of numerous grants including several MTNA Teacher Enrichment & James E. Ericksen Professional Development Grants, her most recent project has focused on the Taubman ap-

Grants, her most recent project has focused on the Taubman approach to piano technique, with particular emphasis on incorporating elements of the approach into



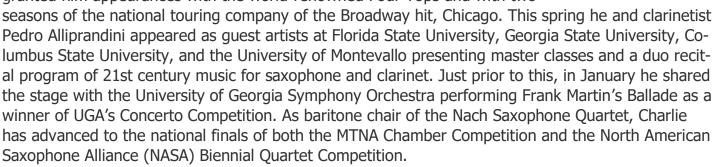
Autumn is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and holds a M. M. in Piano Performance & Pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a B. M. in Piano Performance & Pedagogy from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin and has additional studies in Dalcroze Eurhythmics from Carnegie Mellon University.

Conference Presenter - Charles Young

beginning piano studies.

Charlie Young is an avid performer of solo and chamber works on five instruments (saxophone, bassoon, clarinet, flute, and oboe), an emerging composer, and an active arranger. He serves as Assistant Professor of Woodwinds and Director of Jazz Studies at Minot State University, where he teaches applied saxophone, clarinet, and bassoon, music theory, and directs the jazz program. He also holds the principal clarinet chair of the Minot Symphony Orchestra and the Western Plains Opera Company.

Charlie's background in woodwind playing and comfort across genres has granted him appearances with the world-renowned Four Tops and with two



Charlie has completed coursework for his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in saxophone performance with a minor concentration in music theory at the University of Georgia. He also holds an MM in woodwinds from the University of Southern Mississippi and a BM in education from the University of Mississippi. His primary teachers include Connie Frigo, Lawrence Gwozdz, Kimberly Woolly, and Wade Irvin.



Commissioned Composer - Sean Neukom

Composer and instrumentalist Sean Neukom began his violin studies at the age of three at joint lessons with his brother, Jason. These lessons, taught by their father, laid the foundation for an intense love, respect, and appreciation for music and for making music as brothers. This love of music took Sean to Minot State University where he received a Bachelor in Music degree, under Dr. Jon Rumney. While at MSU Sean's musical curiosity lead to the start of compositions in the form of exercises. Following Minot, Sean went on to the Cleveland Institute of Music to earn a Master of Music degree in violin performance under the violin division head at the time, David Updegraff.

Sean's mainstay as a performer is as the violist, and as a founding member, of Beo String Quartet. Prior to Beo String Quartet, Sean played violin in the Milhaud Trio for three years. (In 2007 the Milhaud Trio gave one of the few American performances of Darius Milhaud's only piano trio with the composer's wife in attendance.) Additionally, Sean studied the inner workings of chamber music extensively with members of the Ying Quartet and



with Peter Salaff of the Cleveland Quartet. When not performing with Beo String Quartet, Sean is the principal 2nd violin with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Leading up to the winning of this post, Sean played violin in many top ensembles including the Nashville Symphony and the New Zealand based Southern Sinfonia.

As a composer, Sean's works cover a wide range of styles. His concert works have been commissioned by organizations such as the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, the Charlotte-based Fresh Ink new music series, the innovative multi-media music and dance group Cadence Collective out of Milwaukee, and most recently by the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra (DPO). The DPO commissioned Sean to write a violin concerto for their illustrious concertmaster, Jessica Hung Calligan, and will be premiering the work in May 2018. Sean's pop-art works are self produced and are approached through the same creative means as his concert works, but with the goal of reaching ears both in and out of a concert hall. Such albums include The Ghost & Mr. Able, Dead Reckoning, and a yet to be named new album currently being composed. Beo String Quartet, being joined by two other stunning musicians, will be starting to perform these albums live in 2017 under the name of "The Beo Plug-In".

An awareness of the changing ways in which music is consumed and produced in the 21st century has lead Sean to really consider how music groups and organizations are managed. His first step into such waters was with the organization named Symbiotic Collusion that ran from 2011 to 2014. This group was run as a for-profit outfit and with the notion that by having products and services to sell one could finance their own artistic projects. Elements of this have been brought to Beo String Quartet but with the necessary tweaks all endeavors require. Sean believes that music is one of the most enriching elements for humankind and that the modern musician needs to know how to market and illicit a call to action just as well as play their instrument. This combination of an intense love for chamber music, a desire to connect different audiences through like music, and a practiced sense of entrepreneurship through music has shaped Sean's early and developing career.

Conference Presenters & Recitalists - Beo String Quartet

Beo exists as a 21st century quartet by directing the future of the art through original music and projects; engaging listeners through entertainment and thoughtful demonstration; collaborating with living composers to showcase the music of our time; performing the masterpieces of the string quartet literature in a wide array of settings and venues; and participating in our modern global culture through a strong social media presence. Now in its sixth season, Beo has performed over 100 concert works in the US and Europe--including over 40 world premieres.

In addition to its many recordings, music videos, and covers, Beo regularly performs original works and projects – repertoire you cannot hear any other ensemble perform. One of its most unique original projects, 'Projection1: Triple Quartet,' was composed by Beo's violist, Sean Neukom, and premiered at Virginia Tech University in 2017. The work is essentially written for three string quartets—one live and two digital—the live Beo quartet being flanked by two pre-recorded projections of Beo! In addition to a rich aural texture, the performance experience engages the visual and spatial senses of the listener. Other projects include genre-mixing albums and full length shows such as 'TriggerLand,' a set of rock-inspired, classically composed, rhythmically-charged songs combining animation and amplification with a strong narrative focus on social issues.

Music education outreach is essential to the quartet's vision, and Beo has earned a reputation for its thoughtfully-crafted presentations – disguised as entertainment. Each show is designed to teach chamber music skills and a love for classical music to students ranging from complete beginners to pre-professionals. Through its educational tours of elementary, middle, and high schools, short-term residencies at colleges and universities, and annual residency at Dakota Chamber Music, Beo has shared these unique, engaging experiences with more than 3,000 students to date.

Beo is actively involved in the contemporary music scene and holds an annual residency with the Charlotte New Music Festival. In partnership with the summer festival, Beo hosts an annual Composition Competition. For this competition, a winning work is selected from a large pool of submissions, recorded, and programmed frequently through Beo's following season. Recordings of the winning works can be found on Beo's website alongside other contemporary works. Notable composers that Beo has worked with include Richard Danielpour, Marc Mellits, and Lawrence Dillon. With several new projects always in the works, be sure to stay in touch with all things Beo by subscribing to the handle @beostringquartet on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and SoundCloud. Beo joined the roster of the Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates in 2020.



Commissioned Composer - Nicholaus Meyers

Nicholaus Meyers, a native of Georgia, is currently Director of Bands and Percussion at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Dr. Meyers directs the ECU marching band, wind ensemble, concert band, percussion ensemble, teaches applied percussion, conducting, and other courses in the music education sequence. Additionally, he organizes a large high school marching band annual competition "Tigerpalooza" at East Central University that brings marching bands from across the state of Oklahoma to compete. Before coming to ECU, he was the Director of Bands, Percussion, and Composition at Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. He was also the assistant director for the North Dakota State University "Gold Star Marching Band" who were part of 6 Division I FCS National Championship football seasons, 2011-2015, 2017. Additionally, he serves as a faculty member at IMC (International Music Camp), a member of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, as well as the drumline arranger for the Northeastern State University "River Hawk" drumline in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Before coming to Oklaho-



ma, Dr. Meyers also taught at Augusta State University, Troy University, and Augusta Technical College and was the assistant band director at Lakeside High School in Evans, Georgia. Other ensembles he has performed with consist of the Augusta Symphony, Augusta Opera, Augusta Players, Augusta Chorale Society, Greater Grand Forks Symphony, Oak Ridge Symphony, and Fort Gordon Dinner Theater. He also performs throughout the year on recitals, masterclasses and adjudicates solo, chamber, and large group contest. He is also a commissioned composer whose works have been performed throughout the United States and Europe. His latest CD "Stepping Away" was released on September 19, 2016 which features his solo piano music.

He is the Chair of the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Composition Committee, past President of the PAS North Dakota Chapter, is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), and Percussive Arts Society (PAS). Dr. Meyers is also a Black Swamp Percussion, Vater Sticks and Mallets, Sabian Cymbals, Gon Bops, Aquarian Drumheads, and Yamaha Performing Artist.

He received his degrees from North Dakota State University (DMA), the University of Tennessee (MM), and Augusta State University (BM). He also studied at the University of Georgia and in Oslo, Norway with the Oslo Philharmonic.

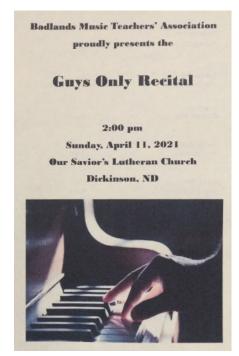
Thank you NDMTA

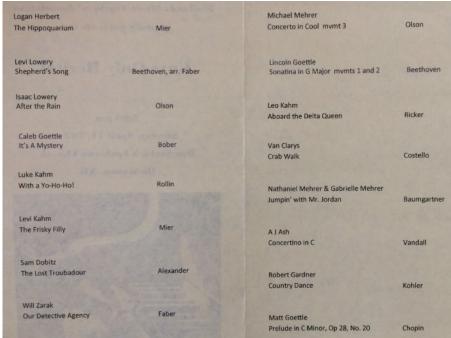
Dear Music Teachers in North Dakota,

I am so grateful to all of you for your generous contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund. This enabled me to represent North Dakota as a Foundation Fellow at the virtual conference in March.

My life has been blessed with joy by all my 50 years with all of you in NDMTA.

Congratulations to Lisa Schuler our nominee for 2022. Thank you, Marge Johnson





Our Badlands MTA recently sponsored our 15th annual "Guys Only Recital. The event was held on April 11, 2021 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Dickinson.

We were delighted to hear first and second year students on up to adult students sharing their musical skills. We heard classical pieces, a wonderful jazz-y duet, and a nice variety of pieces in between.

For an upcoming event, we plan to meet as a group at Our Saviour's Church to view our upcoming Virtual Conference.

Reflections on MTNA Virtual Conference

By Lisa Schuler

I really enjoyed the virtual MTNA Conference. As I did during a normal conference, I spent the night before deciding which sessions I wanted to attend. When I got up each morning, I made some tea, got situated on my couch, and simply clicked on the link for each session throughout the day. I had the capabilities to mirror my phone onto my smart tv, so every session was on the big screen. I had my laptop and/or notepad to take notes and I learned in the comfort of my own home. The only thing I missed was being with colleagues in person and feeling the energy of live recital performances. But the recitals were still enjoyable. The beauty of being virtual is that you can be in comfortable clothing, you can stand up to stretch and move about the room without being rude to the presenter. A huge benefit to the virtual conference this year is that all

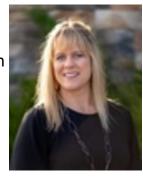
of the sessions are now available to watch on the website until December! I can go on and rewatch sessions and catch the ones I missed. Well done, MTNA!

The virtual NDMTA conference will be just as good! You won't have to decide which sessions because it's a simple schedule and will run just like a regular conference. Keep in mind that all of the presenters and recitalists have worked hard to prepare for this event and as long as the technology works, our members will be in for a real treat. I feel the registration fee is worth it for the knowledge we'll receive, seeing our colleagues via zoom, and hearing wonderful music from the competitions and concerts! Yes, being in-person is valuable but being virtual is the next best thing!

Introducing our NDMTA Foundation Fellow Nominee for 2022...Lisa Schuler!

Lisa Rae Schuler is a NDMTA Certified Teacher of Music. She is married to Jeremy Schuler and has 3 children. She is a 1985 HS graduate from Langdon, North Dakota and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1989 with degrees in Elementary Education and Music.

Lisa has taught piano and flute lessons in her home studio for 32 years and has taught preschool music classes for 20 years. She is an accompanist for the Langdon Area High School, Langdon Community Musicals and Reviews, Missoula Children's Theatre, and she plays for weddings, funerals, and wor-



ship services at her church. She also played in an 8-piece band for over 20 years. Lisa adjudicates Music Rallies and Federation Festivals. Her students are involved in several recitals each year, the annual Music Rally, NDMTA Competitions and some have gone on to earn college degrees in music.

She credits most of her success to her membership in MTNA, NDMTA, and the Langdon Area Music Teachers Association. She was a charter member of LAMTA in 1991. In 2003 Lisa applied for the MTNA Local Association of the Year Award on behalf of her local and they won the award! When she was state president in 2015, she applied for the MTNA State Affiliate Award on behalf of NDMTA and they won that award as well! Lisa loves promoting MTNA and being active at the local and state level.

She has held all positions in her local association and at the state level she has been Secretary, Local Associations Chair, Vice President, President, Foundation Fellow Chair and she is currently the Membership Chair for NDMTA. Lisa is honored to be a 2022 Foundation Fellow Nominee and appreciates that funds raised in her name are going toward the MTNA Foundation.



The 2021 MTNA Conference is available online through December 31, 2021.

Enjoy watching any of the video presentations, key note addresses or masterclasses whenever is convenient for you!

Registration is required, but well worth every penny!

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



www.ndmta.org

Upcoming Events

2021 Popplers Music Competition May 14, deadline Virtual Virtual 2021 NDMTA Conference June 2-4 Virtual 2022 MTNA National Conference March 26-30 Minneapolis, MN