



Letter from the President, Tamara Bertram

Dear Fellow North Dakota Music Teachers,

I hope this letter finds you well as we approach the winter season. The falling snow and the warmth of cozy indoor spaces create a wonderful backdrop for the musical journey we're embarking on with our students.

As we progress through the academic year, it's essential to keep our students engaged and motivated, especially in the midst of colder and darker days. To this end, I'd like to offer some heartwarming tips that can infuse our music studios with inspiration and enthusiasm:



- Winter Wonderland Repertoire: Embrace the beauty of the winter season by introducing a selection of winter-themed music into your repertoire. Holiday pieces like Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite," Vivaldi's "Winter," can transport your students to a magical world. Encourage them to explore the emotions and stories behind these pieces, fostering a deeper connection to their music.
- Goal Setting for the Frosty Season: Winter can be a wonderful time to have a conversation with your students about their goals and aspirations. Ask them what they'd like to achieve by the time of our spring recital or any upcoming festivals. By setting clear, achievable goals, they will have a sense of purpose and direction in their practice. Remind them that progress is not always about perfection but about growth and development.

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New Website, Same Domain www.ndmta.org

The new NDMTA website has launched! Much work has gone into the website with a reorganization and rewriting of information to make it more compatible with our needs and convenience. There are still a few tweaks and Bluestem Media has been working hard to make sure the website will be what we hope for. It has an entirely new look and with its user-friendly format, information you need will be easily accessed.

The News Updates is one feature that was not carried over to the new website. The Newsletter has its own prominent spot in the menu bar and all of that news with pictures, is in the Newsletter. Michelle Kallod is such a great Newsletter editor, we really didn't need the News Updates anymore. You will also find the archive of all Newsletters from 2004 on. It makes for a fun read to go back to 20 years ago and see what was happening in the NDMTA.

Dates to Remember has its own place in the menu bar also. So, if you can't remember who, what,

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Competitions Report

By Sue Nagel, Competition Chair

The state MTNA competitions were held Saturday, October 28 at the beautiful Center for the Arts at VCSU. Two competitions were held: SR woodwinds and YA woodwinds. Dr. Cassie Keogh from NDSU was the woodwinds adjudicator and Dr. Oswald Johnson from VCSU listened to and provided written comments for two piano representatives and one composition entrant.

Here are the results:

YA Woodwinds

- ♪ Winner Eric Bergeman, flute. Student of Bonita Boyd at Eastman.
- ♪ Alternate is Jacob Kirsch, clarinet. Student of Charles Young at Minot State University.
- ♪ Honorable Mention is Kimberly Knutson, saxophone. Student of Charles Young at Minot State University.



*YA Woodwinds, left to right
Kimberly Knutson, Jacob Kirsch, Eric Bergeman*



*SR Woodwinds, left to right
Enoch Orukotan, Braxton Istilart*

SR Woodwinds

- ♪ Winner is Enoch Orukotan, saxophone, West Fargo. Student of Russell Peterson, Concordia College.
- ♪ Alternate is Braxton Istilart, saxophone, Stanley. Student of Charles Young, Minot State University.

North Dakota Representatives

- ♪ SR Composition - Adam Brachman, Fargo. Student of Kristen Strege.
- ♪ SR Piano - Katelyn Toomey, Fargo. Student of Amy Mercer.
- ♪ SR String - Gabe Sagini, Grand Forks. Student of Tamara Bertram.
- ♪ YA Brass - Brook Jenks, Student of David Rolandson, Minot State University.
- ♪ YA Piano - Kevin Vandal, Student of Dianna Anderson, Minot State University.

All winners and representatives will send in their performance videos for West Central Division (WCD) competition.

Thank you to Ozzie Johnson and student, Alexis, for all their wonderful help!

Upcoming Events

2023 WCD Competitions
2024 MTNA Conference
2024 Popplers Music Competition
2024 NDMTA Conference

December
March 16-20
August 7
August 7-8

Video Performances
Atlanta, Georgia
Grand Forks, ND
Grand Forks, ND

News from your NDMTA Foundation

By Dianna Anderson, Foundation Chair

Dr. Robert Groves has been a member of the North Dakota State University faculty since 1972. His graduate degrees were completed at the University of Iowa, and his principal piano teachers were Arthur Lambert and John Simms with additional study with Joanna Graudan and Vitya Veronsky. His teaching specialties are studio piano, piano pedagogy, chamber music, and music history. He also maintains a private studio of pre-college age piano students ranging in age from early elementary school through late high school. He retired from full-time teaching at the NDSU in 2020 and now teaches 4-6 undergraduate and graduate piano majors and music history courses.



As a member of the piano faculty at NDSU, Dr. Groves has been an active performer, clinician, adjudicator, and author for 50 years. These include serving as coordinator of piano studies at the International Music Camp for over 25 years, numerous lecture/performances through the North Dakota Humanities Council and the Institute for Regional Studies, summer piano teacher workshops, and guest appearances for many of the regional music teacher associations. A number of his university as well as pre-college piano students have been finalists or winners of piano competitions. His approach to teaching piano pedagogy is based on the concept of "applied" pedagogy, in which he places particular focus on helping identify solutions to specific playing challenges (technical, musical, performance-oriented, etc.) commonly encountered by piano students. Dr. Groves also has been highly successful in helping pianists at all playing levels to understand and eventually eliminate recurring tendonitis in their playing. In 2017 he completed a book on the history of music at NDSU (*Music at NDSU*) published by the NDSU Press, and in 2018 was recognized for his "Service to the Profession" at the NDMTA state meeting.

As of September 6, \$1,294.50 has been contributed.

You may give online via the MTNA website (be sure to request your donation to go directly to Robert as Foundation Fellow nominee, or you can mail a check to MTNA. Please be sure to write Robert Groves in the memo section of your check).

MTNA website <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/>

or send your check to:
Jennifer Thomason
MTNA Executive Assistant
600 Vine St Ste 1710
Cincinnati, OH 45202

NDMTA Executive Board Meeting, October 21, 2023 (via Zoom)

President Tamara Bertram called the meeting to order. Roll call: Vangie Johnson Parker, Tamara Bertram, Dianna Anderson, Sue Nagel, Lisa Schuler, Kathleen Johnson, Michelle Kallod, Anne Morris, Sheryl Kjelland.

Officers' Reports

Secretary: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer: Michelle Kallod submitted Treasurer's Report. Checking account balance \$25,209.06. Savings account balance \$15,217.96. Certificate of Deposit \$10,658.89

Vice-President/Commissioned Composer Lisa Schuler reported the following:

- Completed final details with MTNA for the 2023 Commissioned Composer Lisa Bost-Sandberg, a flute professor at UND. Her scores and recordings were submitted for the Distinguished Composer Award.
- Extended an invitation to Isaac Lovdahl from UND to be our 2024 Commissioned Composer and he has excitedly accepted. His contract has been signed by MTNA, Isaac, Tamara and Lisa.
- Presented a proposal to Josh Gratton, owner of Popplers Music Store in Grand Forks, to host the 2024 NDMTA State Conference in conjunction with their annual piano clinic. Accepted!
- Attended a WCD meeting to review parliamentary procedures.
- Reached out to composer Wendy Stevens about the possibility of having her as conference clinician in the future – possibly 2025.

President: Tamara Bertram reported the following:

- She wrote letters for NDMTA Newsletter and NDMTA Directory
- She corresponded with Mary Beth Shaffer/ West Central Division
- She attended website meeting.
- She attended the national MTNA Local Presidents Meeting

Committees

Advertising: Anne Morris has sold \$1,575 in ads. She has received \$1,250 in advertising money and is waiting to receive the remaining \$325. It has been a challenging process this year and she is thinking of new strategies to attract new advertisers.

Competitions: Sue Nagel reported that the state competition will be held at VCSU on October 28, 2023. There will be 2 SR and 3 YA woodwinds competing. Dr. Cassie Keogh will be adjudicator and Dr. Oswald Johnson from VCSU will provide written comments for SR composition and YA pianists. Sue Nagel wants to be done with this job and pass it on to someone else. President Tamara will contact John Clodfetter about taking over this position. Sue Nagel will ask Oswald Johnson if he would take over this position.

Directory: Michelle Schumacher reported that she is working to complete the Directory and wants to know how many members would like to receive the Directory virtually this year.

Foundation: Dianna Anderson asked that members donate to Foundation Fellow in honor of Robert Groves. As of September 6, 2023 we have \$1294.50 so we are getting close to the necessary \$1500. We need to name a new person for next year's Foundation Fellow nominee. Dianna has asked for nominations,

but now wants to ask for a paragraph of recommendation from people who are suggested nominees. Vangie Johnson Parker requested that the next Foundation Fellow nomination be sent out as soon as possible so that we can start raising that money sooner.

At NDMTA State Conference all Foundation checks should go to the Foundation Chair. If there is cash involved the Foundation Chair and the Treasurer will meet and the Treasurer will write a check to MTNA Foundation and the Foundation Chair will mail them in.

Membership: Corinne Nustad was unable to be at the meeting, but is doing what she can to encourage membership.

Newsletter: Due date for articles for the next newsletter is November 5. Please submit any items of interest to Michelle Kallod for the November newsletter.

Popplers Competition: This competition will be August 7, 2024 in Grand Forks.

Rally: New Rally will soon come from Illinois and will be distributed. FMMTA has their Rally scheduled for April 13, 2024.

Technology: Kathleen Johnson reported that we will cut ties with Handmade Designs and have begun a contract with Bluestem Media to design a new website. Work is in progress. Timeline for completion is the first week in November. Each member should create their own password for the secure parts of the website. Kathleen is working on the History section of the website. Teacher Resource Links and News Highlights will be eliminated.

Old Business

Lisa Schuler presented a proposal for a lighter conference that has been accepted by Popplers Music Store to host the 2024 NDMTA State Conference in Grand Forks on August 7 & 8, 2024. The Popplers Competition, Board Meeting, Popplers Recital and Commissioned Composer Recital will be held on August 7. August 8 will be guest clinician sessions by Lisa Bastien, Lunch, Annual Meeting, and IMTF session.

M/S/C by Vangie Johnson Parker, Anne Morris to accept the proposal.

The 2025 Conference will be in Minot. The 2026 Conference will be at Popplers in Grand Forks. The 2027 Conference will be in Fargo. The 2028 Conference will be at Popplers in Grand Forks. The 2029 Conference will be in Dickinson.

IMTF rotation was discussed and this was proposed. It was tabled and will be discussed at the January 2024 meeting. The proposed schedule is:

- 2024 – Minot
- 2025-2026 – UVMTA
- 2027-2028 – Dickinson
- 2029-2030 – Minot

New Business

None.

M/S/C by Michelle Kallod, Dianna Anderson to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Kjelland

Badlands MTA Workshop with Dr. Groves

By Jean Guenther

Badlands MTA hosted Dr. Robert Groves for a Workshop from 9:00 am to noon on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Dickinson, ND. Dr Groves is a Professor and member of the piano faculty at NDSU, Fargo.

Dr. Groves presented the topics "Teaching the Beginning Student" and "How to Make the Transition from Method Books to Intermediate Literature". Some of his tips for beginning piano students included the following:

- ❑ Be mindful of student's position on the bench.
 - They often sit too close to the piano, which can be caused by their feet dangling. The suggestion was made to have students sit on books to obtain the proper height in relation to the keys and to have their feet on a box.
 - Ideally, their arm "floats out from the elbow and is slightly in front of the stomach". If their elbows are locked, the result is arm muscles twisting in order for the hands to be on the keyboard.



*Badlands MTA members in attendance,
Left to right:
Priscilla Keogh, Cheryl Dockter,
Sharon Gegelmann, and Jean Guenther*

He presented the following repertoire collections and anthologies that he most often turns to for students nearing the end or following their method book experience. Groves stated in his handout, "I find these anthologies include very little to none of the obscure "filler" repertoire that no one ever plays. Upon request I will put together a list of the titles I tend to most often select for my students within a specific anthology."

- ♫ Applause! Book 1. ed. Olson, Alfred Publ. intermediate through early advanced levels
- ♫ Encore! Book 1. ed. Jane McGrath, Alfred Publ. intermediate through early advanced levels
- ♫ Melodious Masterpieces, Books 1-3. ed. Jane McGrath, Alfred Publ. intermediate through early advanced levels
- ♫ Masterpieces With Flair, Books 1-3. ed. Jane McGrath, Alfred Publ. intermediate through early advanced levels
- ♫ Artist Piano Literature, Books 1-4. ed. Nancy and Randall Faber, Hal Leonard Publ.
- ♫ Book 4 contains a delightful intermediate level Haydn Concerto in C Major.
- ♫ early intermediate through early advanced levels
- ♫ Piano Literature Vols. 3 and 4. ed. James Bastien, Neil Kjos, Publ. early advanced levels
- ♫ Carl Czerny studies Late elementary through early advanced levels
- ♫ The Little Pianist, Op. 823. Schirmer Library vol. 54
- ♫ The First Tutor (Erster Lehrmeister), Op. 599, Edition Peters, vol 2402
- ♫ Essential Piano Repertoire from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries especially levels 1-6
- ♫ ed. Keith Snell, Neil Kjos Music Co.
- ♫ Favorite Piano Repertoire, Books 1 and 2, ed. Keith Schnell, Kjos Music Co.

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Ice Cream + Piano, LMTA Event

Some spooky sounds were heard in Langdon, ND recently! The Langdon Area Music Teachers Association sponsored a fall music event at Hank's Ice Cream Shop. Forty performers played Halloween and fall music from 2:00-4:30 on Sunday, Oct. 29th. The piano student of Lisa Schuler played in groups of 10 each half hour. The community listened while enjoying ice cream. LAMTA then purchased a treat for each participant after they played.



Many of the students wore costumes to the event. The mini recitals posed two main purposes; to teach young people that sharing music in their communities is important, hoping they will do it the rest of their lives and to provide a playing opportunity in a relaxed atmosphere for the students. Both missions were accomplished, and the event was well received. Maybe your local association can do something similar next year!



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- ♫ Masterwork Classics, vols. 1-6 ed. Jane McGrath, Alfred Publ. elementary through early advanced levels
- ♫ Artist Piano Sonatinas, esp. vols 1-3. ed. Nancy and Randall Faber, Hal. Leonard Publ. Early Intermediate through intermediate
- ♫ Interesting alternative repertoire for late elementary through early intermediate levels
- ♫ Chinese Folk Songs Collection. arr. Joseph Johnson, Hal Leonard Publ.
- ♫ Gifts of Asia - folk music from China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. arr. Emilie Lin
- ♫ F.J.H. Music Co.
- ♫ Browse the repertoire selections for the annual Federation of Music Clubs Festival at a local music store. Popplers Music in Grand Forks generally has a large selection. A new listings catalogue is published every 3 or 4 years by the National Federation of Music Clubs.

The workshop was followed by a complimentary lunch courtesy of the Badlands Music Teachers. There were more members and guests from the community who attended also.

when, you can quickly access that information on the website!

One of the changes is that each member will set their own password to access the member only directory and other information intended only for the members. I'm not sure how this will work, but we will see when the site is launched and that feature is activated.

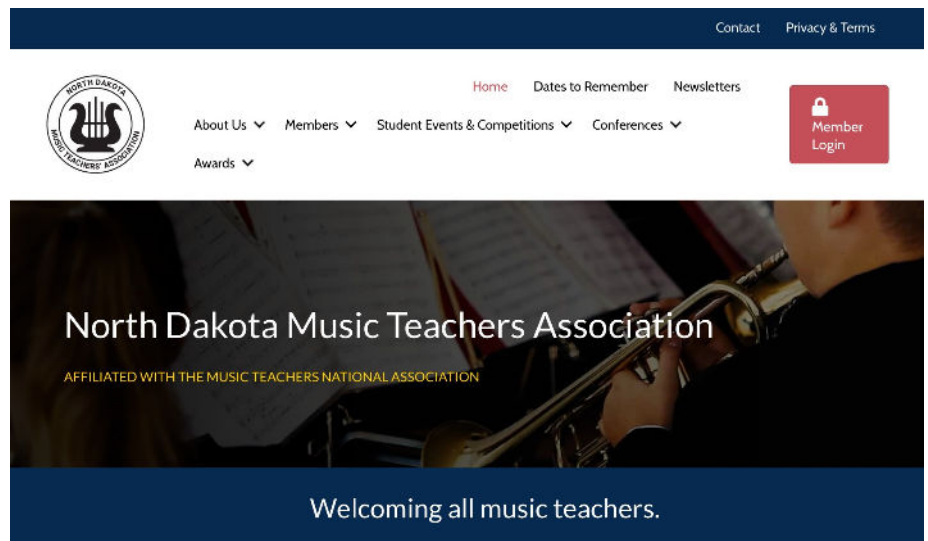
Another change is the "Find a Teacher" is linked to the MTNA.org "Find a Teacher" feature and not our web directory as it was before.

Registration for Conference and Popplers Competitions will be available online as before except with a more user-friendly format. Also included on the new website are the rules and guidelines for the Popplers Competitions and a prominently displayed link to the MTNA Competitions website.

There is so much more to explore on our new website. Do check it out and find the information you need, and maybe some information you didn't know you needed. Our HTML is the same as before: ndmta.org

Kathleen Johnson

NDMTA Technology Chair



(Letter from the President, continued from page 1)

- **Festive Studio Challenges:** To maintain the excitement, consider introducing festive studio challenges. These can be fun and educational tasks related to their music studies. For example, you could organize a holiday-themed composition contest or encourage them to explore and perform music from different cultural traditions.
- **Winter Recital Planning:** As we look ahead to the spring recital, involve your students in the planning process. Ask for their input on the repertoire, theme, or special elements they'd like to include. This collaborative approach can ignite their enthusiasm and give them a sense of ownership in the event's success.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the art of teaching. Let's make this winter season a time of creativity, inspiration, and progress for our students. Together, we can kindle the flame of curiosity and lifelong love for music in their hearts. I'm excited to see the amazing progress our students will make in the coming months.

Warm regards,

Tamara Bertram, State President, North Dakota Music Teachers Association

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



www.ndmta.org

It's not too early
to start preparations for



**Grand Forks
August 2024**

**See NDMTA Handbook
for rules**

The MTNA National Conference is in Atlanta, Georgia March 16-20! This conference is a wonderful opportunity to gain new ideas, fresh perspectives, renewed vigor for any piano teacher, regardless how many students you have. It is truly worth the time, money and effort to attend!

There are already a few NDMTA members attending. Contact Lisa Schuler if you'd like information on connecting with those planning to attend.

More details (including pricing, conference presenters) can be found on the MTNA website, <https://www.mtna.org/Conference>.

