



NDMTA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

Letter from the President, Tamara Bertram

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations on completing another school year! As we all look forward to the summer break, I want to express my deep gratitude for your hard work and dedication.

Now is the perfect time to relax and focus on self-care. Reflect on the past year at your studios: think about what worked well and what could be improved. Celebrating your successes is important, and so is thinking about new ideas or tools that could make your teaching even better next year.

Most importantly, enjoy your break and take time for yourself. A happy, rested teacher brings positivity and energy into the studio.

Thank you once again for your fantastic work this year. Have a wonderful, restful summer!

Best wishes,

Tamara Bertram



Inside this issue:

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	2
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM	3
POPLERS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM	4
CONFERENCE PRESENTER: LISA BASTEIN	5
2024 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER: ISAAC LOVDAHL	5, 10
MTNA HIGHLIGHTS	6-7
2025 FOUNDATION FELLOW: ANNE MORRIS	8
2024 FOUNDATION FELLOW: DR. ROBERT GROVES	9
BADLANDS MTA: GUYS ONLY RECITAL	9
LOCAL ASSOCIATION REQUEST	10
SAVE THE DATE	10

Popplers Competition - Something for Everyone!

With much thanks to Popplers Music in Grand Forks, NDMTA is excited to host Popplers Music Competition on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at Popplers Music Store in Grand Forks.



Students from ages 8-26 are encouraged to prepare two contrasting pieces. We encourage each of you to think through the students in your studios for at least one student who would be interested and able to participate in this non-advancing competition. Cash prizes are given to the winners of each age category. Entries are encouraged for piano, vocal and instrumental works. The entry form and rules can be found on the NDMTA website (<https://ndmta.org/student-events/popplers-music-competitions/>). The application form must be postmarked by Monday, July 15.

Popplers Music Competitions
Popplers Music, Grand Forks, ND
Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Entries close Monday, July 15, 2024

NDMTA Conference Schedule
August 7-8, 2024
Popplers Music, Grand Forks

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

12:00 pm	Popplers Music Competitions Rehearsals Beck Auditorium, Klinefelter Hall
2:00 pm	Popplers Music Competition
4:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting
6:30-7:00 pm	Conference Registration
7:00 pm	Official Opening Concert Popplers Music Competition Winners, Commissioned Composer Premier Concert Reception to Follow

Thursday, August 8, 2024

8:30-9:00 am	Registration & Coffee
9:00- 11:30 am	Session I – Lisa Bastein
11:30 am -12:15 pm	Popplers Lunch (catered by Popplers)
12:15-12:30 pm	Membership Chair, Corinne Nustad
12:30-12:45	Break
12:45-2:00 pm	Session II—Lisa Bastein The Beginning Pianist's Technic Journey
2:00-2:15 pm	Break
2:15-3:00	Annual Business Meeting
3:00-3:15 pm	Break
3:15-4:30 pm	IMTF Session - Dianna Anderson TBD
4:30 pm	Closing of Conference



NDMTA Annual Conference

Registration Form

August 7-8, 2024

Popplers Music, Grand Forks, ND

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

NDMTA Member: Yes _____ No _____ Local Association _____

Registration Fees:

Full Conference – member \$65 _____

Full Conference – non-member \$65 _____

Full Conference - First Time Attendee \$55 _____

Full Conference - Student \$35 _____

Online Processing Fee (DO NOT INCLUDE IF PAYING BY CHECK) \$3.64 _____

Aug 8th, IMTF Luncheon & Program Qty ____ x \$15/person _____

Let us know if you have any dietary needs _____

Late Registration Fee: (Postmarked after June 24) \$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 before June 24th to:

Michelle Kallod

668 17th Ave E

West Fargo, ND 58078

Phone: 701-200-6274

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 & send a written request to Michelle Kallod (see phone & address above).

Hotel information:

La Quinta Inn & Suites
by Wyndham Grand Forks

4051 Garden View Dr,
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Room rate: \$117 Tues, Aug 6 & Wed, Aug 7

\$137 Thurs, Aug 8

Reservation deadline: **JULY 15, 2024 11:59PM**

After this date, group rate is not available and
rooms are subject to availability.

Call hotel directly: 701-314-1106, select option for hotel front desk agent/operator, and mention 08062024 ND MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION room block. Or use this link to book directly online. Contact Michelle Kallod if you have issues with the link below:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/grand-forks-north-dakota/la-quinta-grand-forks/rooms-rates?>

[brand_id=LQ&checkInDate=8/6/2024&checkOutDate=8/9/2024&useWRPoints=false&children=0&groupCode=08062024MUSIC&adults=1&rooms=1&loc=ChIJV68WzWBxIRWj1ffNiUaws&sessionId=1714495550](https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/grand-forks-north-dakota/la-quinta-grand-forks/rooms-rates?brand_id=LQ&checkInDate=8/6/2024&checkOutDate=8/9/2024&useWRPoints=false&children=0&groupCode=08062024MUSIC&adults=1&rooms=1&loc=ChIJV68WzWBxIRWj1ffNiUaws&sessionId=1714495550)



Popplers Music Competitions Application
Popplers Music
1726 S Washington St.
Grand Forks, ND
Wednesday, August 7, 2024



Complete this form in pen or online <https://www.ndmta.org/competitions.php>

Entrant Information

Name _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____ Age as of June 1, 2024 _____
Name(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____
Hometown Newspaper & Email _____

Student Fees (circle one) Elementary \$30.00 (ages 8-11)
Junior High \$35.00 (ages 12-14)
High School \$45.00 (ages 15-18)
Collegiate \$50.00 (ages 19-26)

Teacher Information

Name _____ Member of NDMTA? Yes/No
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____
Name of accompanist (if applicable) _____
Instrument (piano, woodwinds, brass, strings, vocal) _____

Repertoire for Competition Performance

This repertoire program must include title and number of each movement, tempo markings, the composer's full name, total performance time and period of music. Please type the complete program on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this application form.

Example: <u>Composition</u>	<u>Composer</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Period</u>
Sonata No 1 in g minor, BMV 1001	JS Bach	I. Adagio (4:17)	Baroque
		IV Presto (2:48)	
		Total 7:05	

Competition Agreement: It is the responsibility of the teacher and the entrant to abide by the rules listed in the NDMTA directory that are applicable to the Popplers Music Competitions. This form will be returned if there are any omissions or inaccuracies. The undersigned verify that the information submitted on this application form is complete and accurate and that the teacher paid state and national dues. All piano and vocal programs must be memorized.

Signature of Entrant _____
Signature of Teacher _____

Completed forms and check (payable to NDMTA) must be postmarked by July 15, 2024. Mail to:
Tamara Bertram
1103 Darwin Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58203

NDMTA Conference Presenter, Lisa Bastien

On any given day, twenty floors above the bustling streets of New York City, Lisa Bastien's piano studio is abuzz with the joyous sounds of students making and learning about music. For over a quarter century, her home has served as a place where students of diverse ages, abilities, and interests have come to experience joy, discovery, growth, and a passion for music.

Lisa began piano lessons at the age of four in New Orleans, Louisiana, with her mother, Jane Smisor Bastien. While Jane instilled in Lisa a passion for teaching and her keen sense of pedagogy, it was her father, James Bastien that introduced Lisa to the repertoire of the masters and fueled her love of great piano literature. They also shared a love of tennis, which they played together whenever time allowed. Lisa moved to San Diego, California in 1975, and it was there that Lisa graduated from high school.



Lisa went on to receive a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Drake University where she studied with George Katz and her Master's degree in piano pedagogy from Arizona State University where she studied with Dr. Robert Roux. After completing her master's, Lisa and her husband Basil Hanss moved to New Orleans where she taught in the Preparatory Piano Department at Loyola University. They eventually settled in New York City and Lisa established her studio, teaching both private and group lessons in piano and theory.

It was also in New York that Lisa began a prolific career as a writer and composer. Lisa has co-authored over 100 piano books with her mother Jane and her sister Lori. Collectively, the Bastien family has authored over 500 hundred books that are translated into 14 languages and have taught millions of students how to play the piano. Lisa has clocked countless days, weeks, and months in planes, trains, and automobiles traveling around the globe to share the Bastien publications with other teachers at workshops and conventions worldwide.

Through it all, however, it was—and continues to be—Lisa's passion for excellence as a teacher, and her dedication to her students, that define her. Lisa cares deeply about the musical progress and personal growth of each individual student and finds great joy in the lifelong connections she has with her students and their families.

NDMTA Commissioned Composer, Isaac Lovdahl



Dr. Isaac Lovdahl is an award-winning composer, conductor, educator, and bass-baritone vocalist who currently serves as the Interim Director of Choral Activities at the University of North Dakota. He directed high school, church, and community choirs in Minnesota after graduating from Concordia College (Moorhead) in 2015, and recently completed a DMA in Choral Conducting at North Dakota State University where he was named the first ever Challey School of Music Choral Conducting Fellow. During his graduate studies, Isaac served as the Assistant Conductor of the Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists.

His choral compositions and art songs have been performed internationally by educational, community-based, and professional ensembles and soloists among others; a distinct harmonic language, detailed attention to natural speech rhythms, and highly expressive text setting have solidified a niche for him in the world of vocal music.

Isaac and his team took first-place at Minneapolis SongSLAM 2020, an art song composition competition hosted by Source Song Festival in conjunction with Sparks and Wiry Cries. In 2021, he was named the winner of the Yale Glee Club Emerging Composer Competition and the Bellevue Chamber Chorus Emerging Composer Competition. In 2023, Isaac's piece "Freedom" earned second-

(Continued on page 10)

MTNA Conference Highlights from Atlanta, Georgia

Contributors: Michelle Kallod, Anne Morris, Lisa Schuler & Lynnae Wiitamaki

Pedaling

- ♫ Pedaling is listening
- ♫ Scott McBride Smith likes the term “fractional pedal” rather than half pedal being the damper has more than just “half pedal” capabilities.
- ♫ Good idea to start students learning about expressive playing and pedaling at the early stages of their lessons.

Rhythm

- ♫ For some ADHD students, working with a metronome is not helpful
- ♫ Teach conducting early to help with rhythmic security

MTNA

Competitions

- ♫ North Dakota had two students that made it to the finals of MTNA competitions:
- ♫ Enoch Orukatan, saxophone, student of Russell Peterson
- ♫ Eric Bergeman, flute, who won the YA Division
- ♫ Congratulations to both Enoch & Eric on all their hard work and dedication!



L to R: Joann Herman, Eric Bergeman, Alice Pekarski

Technique & Phrasing

- ♫ Have students “play” in the palm of your hand and play in the palm of student’s hands to help them feel the amount of pressure applied to a key(s).



ND Attendees, L to R: Amy Mercer, Anne Morris, Lynnae Wiitamaki, Michelle Kallod, Joann Herman, Robert Groves, Lisa Schuler. Not pictured: Dianna Anderson, Alice Pekarski

- ♫ Young beginners are very capable of playing musically by listening, arm weight, shaping phrases and using gestures. Do not underestimate or expect less just because they are young.
- ♫ When teaching voicing to piano students, a teacher might demonstrate the importance of bringing out important notes by saying a sentence and bringing out important words. The teacher can say the same sentence several times, accenting a different word each time.
- ♫ Teachers can use the movement of a jellyfish as a visualization for shaping a musical phrase.
- ♫ Teachers should provide students the music style they enjoy but should also give students a variety of styles and teach them to like dissonance. The more they hear it the more they may fall in love with it. Playing scales such as a C major scale in one hand and a D major scale and the other to hand at the same time may cultivate some interest.
- ♫ The Secret Life of Musical Notation: Roberto Poli authored this book and discussed that composers use crescendo

and diminuendo hairpins to mean different things in their music. Chopin's crescendo symbol is meant to slow down in the phrase and his diminuendo hairpin is meant to start slower and go back into the tempo. It's a new perspective on music symbols.

- ♪ Appropriate gestures are very important when playing technique - helps to avoid tension.
- ♪ Fingering is a skill. Correct fingering can be the reason why the piece is working or not working.

Composition, Improvisation & Lead Sheets

- ♪ When reading lead sheets, use the scale implied by the chord to improvise
- ♪ Have students improvise on their mood (be specific, not just happy or sad or mad) at the lesson
- ♪ Improv a riff off a pattern from their recital piece
- ♪ A composition topic idea is having a student write about a loved one who has passed. For example, a grandfather. The piece could be written in a theme and variation style. Each variation can be of a memory or experience with that person. Each variation can be named. One Student had the following variations about her grandpa – Planting Tomatoes, Going Fishing, Singing the Day Away, Quarters Out of My Ears, and then end the piece with Never Really Gone.

Self development & Studio Thoughts

- ♪ Ask yourself these 3 questions:
 1. Where do I see my studio 5 years from now?
 2. Describe your dream student in 5-10 years?
 3. How can you get to the above steps?

- ♪ Whatever exercises or music we hear at the lesson conveys our values
- ♪ Be fully present and cultivate joy
- ♪ Bring my reading glasses :)
- ♪ Email parents after a conference with a list of sessions you attended on behalf of their child
- ♪ Google "Cue Sheet No. 1" for preparedness at the piano
- ♪ Teachers are encouraged to help students select a music school, help prepare for auditions, help with scholarships, set up sample lessons with college teachers, etc. College students said in a survey that they wished they had more history, technique, and aural skills before entering college. Listen to the podcast Piano Pantry Episode #39 for more tips
- ♪ Group meal with Wendy Stevens, composer:



- ♪ One teacher did her entire recital using Piano Maestro. Every student played with the app and background music. Other apps covered were Chrome Music lab, Sprout Beat, Note Rush, and Staff Wars.
- ♪ It is important that I recognize my way and the other person's way of problem solving to solve a particular problem in the studio.
- ♪ The RCM program now has an online theory class all year that might be good for some of my students to enroll in due to lack of lesson time.

Which of these ideas can you try in your own studio?

Our NDMTA Foundation Fellow Nominee for 2025... Anne L. Morris!

By Dianna Anderson, Foundation Chair

Anne Morris is a State and Nationally certified piano instructor. She began teaching piano in 1977 and has been a member of MTNA since 1980. She is a contributor to the local and state levels and has held many board positions for FMMTA and NDMTA. Since 1997, Mrs. Morris has attended most of the yearly state and national conferences to keep up-to-date in her field.

Anne has a BA and BS in music from Minnesota State University, Moorhead, and has attended graduate classes at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. She has also trained in Musikgarten, Kodaly, Orff, Music and Young Children, Music Rhapsody, John Feierabend, Frances Clark Center, and RCM (Certified Elementary). In addition to piano, Mrs. Morris taught music at many preschools, daycare centers, and general music K-6 at a Montessori school in Moorhead, Minnesota. Anne is also involved with the Piano Guild (she was Chairperson for several years), Federation of Music Clubs (she has been a judge in ND and SD), Rally, and RCM. She is a church organist/pianist and also teaches guitar and voice. For some time, Anne also taught organ and accordion and formed a young children's accordion band that performed at many of the retirement homes in Fargo.



You may give at the NDMTA August conference, online via the MTNA website, or mail a check to MTNA. Be sure to request your donation to go directly to Anne as Foundation Fellow nominee. If giving by check, please be sure to note Anne Morris in the memo section.

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



Time to Renew!

It's time to renew your Dues for Local, NDMTA & MTNA
Go to www.mtna.org, sign into your account and select Renew
or
Mail in the form you received from MTNA

Dr. Robert Groves, 2024 Foundation Fellow

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Groves, NDMTA's 2024 Foundation Fellow who was able to attend the MTNA Conference in Atlanta to recognized at the MTNA Gala.



James Schimetz: Little Shooting Star by June Montgomery
Carter Underwood: Dance of the Irish by Nancy Faber
Wyatt Grunden: After the Rain by Kevin Olson Pr 3
Hayden Pavelich: Octopuses All Have 8 by C. Rollin
Samuel Shettler: A Mingus Among Us by Eric Baumgartner
Caleb Goettle: Le Coucou by L.C. Daquin
Lane Zimmermann: The Duke of Bedford's March by J.R. Poe Pr3
John Schimetz: With a Yo-Ho-Ho! by Catherine Rollin
Cael Burns: Skeleton Stomp by Melody Bober
Leif Kahm: The Horseman's Night Ride by Nancy Faber
Ethan Tarma: I've Got Peace Like a River Spiritual/arr. Faber
Logan Herbert: The Lost Troubadour by Dennis Alexander
Chance Ellison: Jazz Waltz in D Major by Marth Mier (Elem IV)
Luke Kahm: Flying Fingers by Carolyn Setliff
Levi Kahm: German Dance by Ludvig von Beethoven
Lincoln Goettle: La Fille Aux Cheveaux de Lin by C.A. Debussy
Isaac Lowery: Danse Caprice by Timothy Brown
Conway Heupel: I Giorni by Ludovico Einaudi
Levi Lowery: Concertino in D Minor, Mvmt 3 by Noona
Michael Mehrer: Concertino in C Major, Mvmt 1 by R. Vandall
Nathaniel Mehrer: Concerto Bravo, Mvmt 1 by Kevin Olson

Badlands MTA hosts Guys Only Recital

By Jean Guenther

Badlands MTA hosted our annual Guys Only Recital on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Dickinson North Dakota. We had 19 performers from young beginners to adult advanced players. We had a wonderful variety of pieces from Debussy and Beethoven to Bober and Rollin. We had a good turnout of family members, friends, and faithful supporters of the arts who were there to support our young musicians. Donations from this event go towards scholarships to International Music Camp.



Badlands MTA teachers from L to R: Sharon Geglemann, Priscilla Keogh, Sandy Weisenberger, Jean Guenther, Mariah Haich

Local Chapter Request for August Conference

All local associations are asked to bring their **scrapbooks and/or display boards** to the August conference. The board is hoping to attract some new members with the conference being held in conjunction with Popplers Summer Workshops. Bringing your local information would be a great way for those interested in MTNA to see the benefits of our organization.

NDMTA Commissioned Composer, Isaac Lovdahl

(Continued from page 5)

place at the 43rd Annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival, his piece "The Orange (with Simple Gifts)" was premiered by the Young New Yorkers' Chorus treble ensemble after he was selected as a finalist in their composition competition, his piece "Though the great Waters sleep" was named the winner in the choral music category for the inaugural Festival of New American Music (FeNAM) call for scores, he was named the first of three winners in The Singers - Minnesota Choral Artists' 20th anniversary season call for scores for his setting of William Blake's "The Lamb," and he earned third-place in The American prize for choral composition (shorter works).

Along with his compositional activities, conducting, and teaching, Isaac has sung with a number of professional and semi-professional choral ensembles and keeps an active schedule of performing in various capacities. His original music can be found online through Graphite Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, NewMusicShelf, VocalEssence Music Press, MusicSpoke, and his own website: isaaclovdahl.com

2025 MTNA Conference in Minneapolis!

Make plans now to attend the MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis on March 15-19, 2025. Take advantage of the proximity, gather a few teacher friends to car pool, and set aside some funds now to attend. See you there!

