



Letter from the President, Lisa Schuler

Look out, she's back!

In all seriousness, it is my pleasure to have been asked to be your NDMTA president again. I was first president in 2014–2016. Already ten years ago! At our recent state conference in Grand Forks, I was nominated, elected, and installed along with my “right hand woman” Vangie Johnson-Parker, who will be your Vice President. Both of us have been in these positions before but not together. I am really looking forward to us as a duo, working hard to put energy into NDMTA’s programs and membership. Please reach out to Vangie or me when you have questions, concerns, or ideas that will make NDMTA the best it can be for our teachers, students, and profession.



Your board members are always looking to better NDMTA and one idea was to try a fall mini conference. The goal was to increase attendance, have a lower conference budget, and gain new members. Though attendance didn’t increase, we did well in the other areas. I encourage you to think about what keeps you from attending a state conference. Consider trying just one, and I bet you’ll find the pros well outweigh the cons. Where else can you learn from college professors, nationally known clinicians, enter students in competitions, attend inspiring recitals, and have great food and fellowship for around a hundred dollars? A NDMTA conference can do that for you!

Moving forward, be looking for the 2024-2025 directory coming later in the fall. It is available in print or online at ndmta.org. If your contact information has changed, please contact the editor at schumakerrm@bektel.com Until then, may all of you have a wonderful teaching year. If you’re a retired member, reflect on all that you have given to the music world. We are truly blessed to be in our profession.

I’ll leave you with this quote from Nancy Kapman: “Music isn’t a subject we teach. It’s a gift we share.”

Sincerely,
Lisa Schuler
NDMTA President

Enroll Your Scholarship Students in MusicLink (great benefits)!

By Beth Gigante Klingenstein

For those of you who have scholarship students, here is hoping you will consider enrolling those students in the MusicLink program. Although MusicLink doesn’t reimburse teachers for their students’ scholarships, there are several excellent benefits to belonging to this ground-breaking program.

- Students can get up to \$250 scholarship from MusicLink to attend a summer music camp to which they have been accepted. <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/kit/campscholarship.pdf>
- If needed, the MusicLink Foundation is can sometimes assist in finding an instrument which will

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Popplers Competition & Commissioned Composer Highlights

By Michelle Kallod

This year's Popplers Competition was judged by Thiago Andre, NDSU Doctoral Candidate.

We had 13 students enter the competition, representing 7 different teachers.

Thanks to the generous support of Popplers Music, NDMTA was able to disperse 1st and 2nd place cash awards to winners in the following categories:

* **Elementary** winners:

1st	Flora Liu	Piano	student of Yechun Wang, Fargo
1st	Jocelyn Zhang	Piano	student of Yechun Wang, Fargo
2nd	Ethan Choi	Piano	student of Amy Mercer, Fargo

• **Junior High** winners:

1st	Elaine Liu	Piano	student of Gloria Bethke, Grand Forks
2nd	Jannie Yang	Piano	student of Robert Groves, Fargo



* **Senior High** winners:

1st	Emily Kerian	Voice	student of Kyler Moltzan, Grand Forks
2nd	Katelynn Toomey	Piano	student of Amy Mercer, Fargo

Honorable Mentions

Monica Kerian	Elementary	Piano	student of Kyler Moltzan, Grand Forks
Luca Merkens	Elementary	Strings	student of Tamara Bertram, Grand Forks
Akasha Meier	Elementary	Piano	student of Yechun Wang, Fargo
Nanae Yashiro	Elementary	Piano	student of Nariaki Sugiura, Grand Forks
Bodhi Meier	Junior High	Piano	student of Yechun Wang, Fargo
Cadence You	Junior High	Strings	student of Yechun Wang, Fargo

Each participating student chose one of their pieces to be played at the winner's recital.

Thank you to all who participated!



Popplers Music Competition entrants and judge

NDMTA Conference Session by Amy Mercer Unleashing the Power of the Ear in Piano Teaching

By Corinne Nustad

Thank you, Amy, for doing such extensive research on this topic!

There were many advantages, but also disadvantages that were presented.

Generally, the topic related to rote learning, whether in a specific rote piece, or as incorporated into difficult passages in their repertoire.



Her advantages were broken down into 7 areas:

- Quick Memorization
- Simplifies Complex Information
- Foundation for Further Learning
- More Focus on Listening
- Opens up Possibilities for Improvisation and Composition
- Motivation
- Advantages for specific age groups

Disadvantages listed were:

- Potential Lack of Understanding
- Limited Retention
- Inhibits Creativity and Critical Thinking
- Uniform Learning Approach

Then Amy presented a list of Methods and Materials that can be used, some in-lesson teaching ideas, practicing tips for students at home who are learning by rote, and specific pieces to try.

Closing up the presentation she had several volunteers join her at the piano for some specific examples of rote learning.

For specific clarifications and examples on everything, contact those who attended the NDMTA conference at Popplers in Grand Forks.

Premier of Isaac Lovdahl's "i am a little church", NDMTA's 2024 Commissioned Composer



Dr. Kelly Burns, baritone and Thiago Andre, piano, both from NDSU premiered "i am a little church". The text for the song came from an E.E. Cummings poem.



Isaac Lovdahl was interviewed by Lisa Schuler following the premier. Mr. Lovdahl's commissioned work will be entered in the National MTNA Commissioned Composers 2024 contest.

NDMTA Conference Sessions with Lisa Bastien

By Jennifer Flores

Lisa Bastien was our featured clinician at our 68th annual NDMTA conference held at Poppler's Music in Grand Forks on August 7th-8th. During her two sessions, she walked us through her latest Bastien series, the New Traditions All-In-One Course, and their new Technic books. Lisa, who "adores teaching piano," peppered the logic of the series' pedagogy with teaching tips and advice.



Her first session, built around discovering the New Traditions series, included detailed descriptions of successful group lessons, taught as an add-on to private lessons. She encourages parental involvement in

several ways, including taking and sending videos, using the app which comes free with every book, and participation in several recitals per year, varying in formality.

Lisa's strongest teaching tips include:

- ◆ Practice slow, learn fast. Practice fast, learn slow.
- ◆ Use rolling fingers, attack with arm weight, roll forward.
- ◆ Students sing counts, letters, and words while playing, helping students learn to listen and make music from the very beginning.
- ◆ Start transposing early.
- ◆ Let students use the soft pedal for playing pp – they love using the pedals!
- ◆ Introduce the beginning overlapping pedal technique – pedal on beat 2
- ◆ Staccato is an Up Touch.

The group enjoyed singing along and hearing several of Lisa's new compositions from the book series.

Lisa's second session, "Beginning Piano Technique", brought us through the newest Bastien Essentials: Technic Classics. The Bastien sisters, Lisa and Lori, sought to answer to the question, "Can musicality and rhythm be taught?"

She focused on many areas of technique, with aims to have students shape and move the line, count themselves in, balance the Left and Right hands, play with dynamics and a round mezzo-forte tone. Lisa encourages students to sing, helping improve intonation and internalize rhythm, and finds group lessons in which an advanced student plays while younger students work beneficial. She also stressed techniques that increase periods of relaxation, helping music, body, and mind. These included making



two-note slurs with a drop-lift motion, an up-touch staccato, counting in 'One, Two, LIFT, Play', lifting after every 3rd note, and voicing Alberti bass.

Throughout, Lisa demonstrated these various techniques and how they can be taught to students, vastly increasing their musicianship and future piano success. Her joy in describing time with students was palpable.

NCTM: Journey to Certification

By Vangie Johnson Parker

Dear Fellow Music Teachers:

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. I know some teachers took the summer off and will be welcoming their students back in the next week or two. Others taught the majority of the summer and are focusing on the new year in a different way. I did neither. I spent the summer working on completion of my MTNA Certification requirements...I'm so glad I did! I received notification this morning that all requirements were met and I am officially a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music!



My journey began in September 2022 with guidance from Beth Klingenstein as she walked several of us through the certification booklet. Thank you Beth! I paid my registration fee and sent in my initial application this past May. Along with essay completion, I studied for several weeks with Dr. Robert Groves who gave me piano lessons and answered my many questions about Shostakovich. Thank you Bob! The completed document was sent on August 1 and then came the wait to see if everything was approved. It was! My feet are dancing as I write this!

For anyone who may be interested in the journey to certification, I strongly encourage you to consider it. I learned so much from the research and self-examination required. My students will benefit greatly from my newly acquired knowledge...yours will too! Please contact me if you have any questions about the process. I would love an opportunity to "Pay it Forward"!

Sincerely,

Vangie Johnson Parker, NCTM (It feels so great to add that)!

MTNA Vote for Beth Gigante Klingenstein

By Lisa Schuler

Have you read your August/September AMT yet? If not, go and get it right now. Go, and I will wait for you...

Now, turn to page 38! You'll see a very familiar face to NDMTA, MTNA, and literally the world through her accomplishments and publications. After reading her biography and thinking about all she has done for our organization to this point, I hope you find it in your heart and mind to vote for **Beth Klingenstein for our next MTNA President-Elect!** I assure you she will be an outstanding leader. She's so passionate about MTNA that she is willing to give us the next 6 years during her retirement time. Two years as president-elect, two years as president, and two years as past president. How great would it be for our ND girl to head this amazing organization?! So, be on the lookout for the election that will take place in February. The only way she can become president-elect is to receive the most votes. It's not an appointment, but determined by you, the voting member. You will receive voting information in your AMT and online notifications from MTNA. So, "VOTE for BETH!"



Our best to Beth Gigante Klingenstein!

MTNA Competitions

MTNA State Performance Competitions will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at Valley City State University. Registrations are open now and will close September 11, 2024.

Please see MTNA.org for guidelines and rules about Performance, Composition and Chamber Music Competitions.



As always, any of our membership are invited to assist in Valley City that day. Door monitors and time keepers are always welcome and needed! Contact Oswald Johnson, oswald.johnson@vcsu.edu with questions or to volunteer.

Entry information for all competitions can be found on the MTNA website, <https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx>

NDMTA Annual Business Meeting August 8, 2024

President Tamara Bertram Called the meeting to order:

Roll call: Tamara Bertram, Lisa Schuler, Anne Morris, Vangie Johnson Parker, Sue Nagel, Corinne Nustad, Kathy Tsen, Michelle Schumacher, Beth Klingenstein, Michelle Kallod, Lynae Wiitamaki, Amy Mercer, Nariaki Siguirra, Jennifer Flores, Sharon Geggelman, Sue Kerr, Tammy Jasperse, Kathleen Johnson, Gloria Bethke, Mia Presteng, Cindy Johnson.

Lisa Schuler moved to adopt the agenda. Vangie Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report: Approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Kallod submitted her report. Approved as read.

Checking: \$24,009.22

Savings: \$15, 258.00

CD: \$10,712.18 Renews 1-17-2027

VP/Commissioned Composer: Lisa Schuler reported that Isaac Lovdahl had his premier performance last evening at Popplers Music. Lisa Schuler presented him with his honorarium.

Ephraim Amaya will be our Commissioned Composer for 2025 and will present his composition at the conference in Minot. (June 4th, 2025).

· Lisa continues to preside over the FB page.

Should any of the associations have any concerns, please notify Lisa so she can present question/concerns to officials at the MTNA Summit in September.

· Lisa has reset the IMTF rotation.

President's Report: Tamara Bertram's report was approved as read.

Positions filled: Priscilla Keogh has agreed to be Conference Co-chair with someone from the host city (Minot) in 2025.

MTNA Competition Chair: Sue Nagel has stepped down from the position. Ozzie Johnson will be our new representative. VCSU will host on Saturday, October 19th. Registration deadline is 3:00 Eastern time on September 11, 2024.

Advertising Chair: Anne Morris is stepping down from this position. She will be replaced by Michelle Schumacher who will also continue her responsibilities as Directory Chair.

Positions yet to be filled: Historian and Membership Chairs as these positions are now open. Corinne will assist Lisa with recruitment for these positions.

Next Conference: June 4-6 will be hosted by the Minot Association at Minot State University.

Committee Reports

Foundation Fellow Chair: Dianna Anderson was absent. Corinne Nustad read Anne Morris's biography and requested donations to fund her as our ND Foundation Fellow Nominee. Corinne passed the basket and asked for generosity. \$451.00 has been raised so far. \$1500 is required. By the end of the meeting, the amount was raised to \$806.00.

Michelle Kallod presented the proposed budget.

We have increased the Rally registration fee from \$15-20.

-We had two people sent to the National Conference. One of which won the National Award. Congratulations Eric Bergemen!

Priscilla Keogh of the nominating committee has nominated Lisa Schuler and Vangie Johnson Parker as President and Vice President respectively. There was a unanimous vote to accept the nominated slate of officers. Both were officially installed in their respective positions.

Old Business

The MTNA Conference will be held in Minneapolis from March 15-19. We are encouraging as many members to attend as possible. Lisa is tentatively planning on reserving an NDMTA table at the Gala.

The NDMTA Conference is set for June 4-6, 2025 at Minot State University

New Business

None at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Lisa Schuler. Seconded by Michelle Schumacher. Motion carried.



Service to the Profession Award

By Sheryl Kjelland

We recommend Josh Gratton, the owner of Popplers Music Store, as the person to receive the Service to Profession Award. Josh Gratton is a young man who purchased Popplers Music Store a few years ago and has been keeping Popplers very alive and well since then.

Josh provides us with a wonderful music store that provides all of our needs as music teachers. We are so fortunate to be able to go to Popplers and actually look at and even try playing the music that we are shopping for, rather than see it only online. It is great to be able to provide real, live pieces for our students to choose.

Popplers has a warm and very welcoming personality. There is a wide range of music to choose from. There are also many beautiful instruments available for purchase at Popplers. Josh Gratton and Popplers work hard to encourage the growth and progress of music education. And I'm sure that Josh and Popplers are doing everything they can to benefit professional musicians as well.

We are grateful to have such a wonderful music store available to us in person. We know that Popplers must do a lot of business online and that is great as well. We appreciate Josh Gratton and all that he does to provide what is needed for piano teachers, students, and professional musicians, as well as the many people who play and enjoy music just for fun!



*Amy Mercer,
Service to Profession Chair,
presents the award to
Josh Gratton, Popplers owner*

We nominate Josh Gratton for the Service to Profession Award.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes, August 7, 2024

Vice President Lisa Schuler called the meeting to order.

Roll call: Tamara Bertram, Jennifer Flores, Kathleen Johnson, Vangie Johnson Parker, Michelle Kallod, Amy Mercer, Anne Morris, Corinne Nustad, Lisa Schuler, Michelle Schumacher, Ozzie Johnson from VCSU joined us online.



Officer Reports

Secretary's Report: approved as read.

Vangie Johnson Parker filled in as acting secretary and read the Secretary's minutes from Sheryl Kjelland.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Kallod submitted her report. It was approved as read. Checking: \$24,009.22. Savings: \$15,258.00. CD: \$10,712.18 Renewal is listed as 01-17-2027

VP/Commissioned Composer Chair Lisa Schuler attended 2024 MTNA Conference in Atlanta, assisted with planning the state conference, continued to manage the Facebook page and is planning to attend the MTNA Leadership Summit in Sept. She also worked on filling open board positions.

President's Report: Tamara Bertram's report was approved as read.

Committee Reports

2024 Conference Committee Report: 24 members have registered for the conference. There were 30 registered in 2023. June 4-6, 2025 is the Minot Conference.

Advertising Coordinator: Anne Morris has the box for Michelle Schumacher who will be taking over for her in the 2024-2025 term. She has done a wonderful job fundraising! Thank you Anne and Michelle!

Certification/Service to the Profession: Amy Mercer received nominations and will be presenting the Service to the Profession award at the annual business meeting. Certification: Vangie Johnson Parker has submitted her 5 projects for approval. She is hoping for new of an approved submission by the middle of October.

MTNA Competitions: Ozzie Johnson has taken over for Sue Nagel. VCSU will host on Saturday, October 19th. Registration deadline is 3:00 Eastern time on Sept. 11, 2024. He is now working on the acquisition of judges. Competitions will be for Piano and woodwinds as for now.

Directory Editor: Michelle Schumacher is working on updates. She requested new officer changes from locals be sent to her ASAP. Locals, please also let her know if you're interested in an advertisement.

Foundation Fellow Chair: Dianna Anderson was unable to attend. Corinne Nustad filled in for her and reported that \$451.00 has been donated in honor of Anne Morris as of Aug 6. A reminder that checks can be submitted online.

Historian: Lisa Schuler asked that we all think on anyone who can step in as a new historian. We are currently missing

someone to fill this spot.

IMTF Luncheon: Dianna Anderson was unable to attend. There will be refreshments and a session presented by Amy Mercer titled "Unleashing the Power of the Ear in Piano Teaching. IMTF rotations are as follows: Minot 2024 & 2025, Upper Valley 2026 & 2027, Dickinson 2028 & 2029.

Membership: Corinne has made 20 copies of Beth Klingenstein's "Hidden Gems" to assist the new membership chair with recruiting. She is ready to present membership award(s). She let us know she will be resigning from the position at the close of our conference.

Newsletter Editor: Michelle Kallod asked for volunteers to write articles for the upcoming newsletter. The deadline is August 19.

Nominating Committee: Priscilla Keogh was unable to attend. Tamara reported that Lisa Schuler & Vangie Johnson Parker have been nominated for President & Vice President, respectively.

Popplers Music Competition: Tamara noted we had 7 elementary, 4 junior high and 2 high school participants. We had more teachers & more students involved this year. Priscilla Keogh & Dianna Anderson will chair for 2025. The plan is to have Priscilla continue with the role along with one member from the host conference.

Rally Chairperson: Upper Valley & FMMTA held Rally in April 2024. Rally had a nominal profit this year.

Technology Coordinator: Kathleen reported a glitch with PayPal & Poppers Competition registration forms. She has been working with Bluestem Media to resolve the glitch & keep the NDMTA website up to date with Conference needs.

Local Association Reports

Badlands: Met to discuss Music Festivals. Held a Boy's Recital in April that was well attended. Distributed scholarship for International Music Camp to two students.

FMMTA: Spring programs included Gail Berenson on "The Art of Communication. Nurturing Resourceful & Spiritual Students with Good Mental Health". Dr. Groves gave Tips for Introducing the Pedal. Communicating with Parents: Program by Karen Okerlund, Corinne Nustad, and Sue Nagel. The annual Rally was held in April and May's Spring brunch showcased Herb Parker's Pre-dinner and dinner music. The program was provided by scholarship winner performances.

Greater Grand Forks: Tamara Bertram reported that the Association attempted a meet and greet this year, but it was not a success. Some serious concerns about how to move forward.

Langdon Area: Joining with Upper Valley to bring composer/clinician Wynn-Anne Rossi to Langdon & Park River in April 2025.

Upper Valley: Same as Langdon Area.

Northwest: Inactive

Valley City: Ozzie took over for Eileen Geske. He is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Bismarck: Michael Langer is dearly missed. The music program at BSC is now closed. There are some local non-piano MTNA members but it has been difficult to find times to meet. Jennifer Flores is in contact with Beth Klingenstein on how to proceed. She is very optimistic about overcoming the membership obstacles.

(Continued on page 10)

Old Business - IMTF Luncheon. The 2025 chair will be Dr. Dianna Anderson with the Minot Association.

New Business

Revisit the constitutional and bylaws to be sure everything is updated.

Consider a sign up for various conference duties to lighten the load of the host conference committee. Duties could include: advertising, registration, needs of the clinician, meals, banquet planning, sponsored breaks, recital receptions and vendors.

Will also need to discuss the August conference vs June conference.



It was noted that Episode 130 from Piano Pantry Podcast was presented by Michelle Kallod. We're proud of her and it might be something we should

all check out.

New Board Appointments:

Popplers Competition Chair: Lisa Schuler reached out to Priscilla Keogh about the position. Tamara may be interested in serving as co-chair.

MTNA Competitions: New Chair is Ozzie Johnson from VCSU.

Membership Chair: Vangie Johnson Parker was awarded a 10 year membership certificate. A new chair is needed.



Michelle Kallod presented the proposed budget. There was discussion regarding an increase of Rally fees from \$15 to \$20. Lisa Schuler moved that we increase the fees to \$20.00. Anne Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vangie Johnson Parker moved that we accept the new proposed budget. Motion seconded by Jennifer Flores. Motion carried.

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

2025 next NDMTA Conference is set for June 4-6 at Minot State University. Dr. Sarah Ernst from U of Oklahoma has been suggested as a clinician. Lisa Schuler suggested inviting members from our MTNA leadership to the Minot Conference. Further discussion has been tabled until the early Nov Board meeting.

Michelle Schumacher moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Lisa Schuler.

Respectfully submitted, Vangie Johnson Parker

Thank you! Outgoing Officers & Welcome our Incoming Officers!

Office

President
Vice President
Advertising Editor
Competitions
Historian
Membership
Popplers Competition

Outgoing

Tamara Bertram
Lisa Schuler
Anne Morris
Oswald Johnson
Tamara Bertram
Corinne Nustad
Tamara Bertram

Incoming

Lisa Schuler
Vangie Johnson Parker
Michelle Schumacher
Sue Nagel
Lisa Schuler

Priscilla Keogh &
Dianna Anderson

(Music Link continued from page 1)

be on loan. If the student remains in the MusicLink program for four years, the instrument will be theirs to keep.

- There are a number of sponsors who provide resources at free or reduced costs to MusicLink teachers and students alike (such as free or reduced music). You can check out these great resources at <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/sponsors.php>

Students are eligible for the program if they are taught for free or with a scholarship of 50% or more off the full tuition. Students qualify until they reach the age of 18 or graduate from high school. If you think this program might work for your scholarship students, you can register as a participating teacher (no cost) at <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/partcpat.php> and then register your students.

I had many MusicLink students when I had a private studio and also when I was Director of the VCSU Community School of the Arts. Several of these students received scholarships to attend IMC, and one even received a beautiful cello.



I think it is a great program, and I hope it interests you!

Upcoming Events

2024 MTNA State Competition Deadline	September 11	
2024 MTNA State Competition	October 19	VCSU, Valley City, ND
2024 WCD Competition	December	Video Performances
2025 MTNA Conference	March 15-19	Minneapolis, MN
2025 Popplers Music Competition	June 4	Minot, ND
2025 NDMTA Conference	June 4-6	Minot, ND