Everyone is now gearing up for the monthly club meetings, scheduling piano students, and preparing for upcoming festivals.

We are currently working on plans for the State and National Conventions to be held in Fargo June 15-20, 2015. Our speaker for the State Banquet will be Michael Edwards, current NFMC First Vice President. This will be an opportunity for you to get to know Carolyn’s successor. The Noteables from the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club will provide entertainment during the meeting and Junior Days will be observed on the second day, June 16. Carolyn Nelson, National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) President will be our guest speaker during the State Convention also.

The National Convention will begin June 16 with auditions for Young Artists. You will hear music by the Excelsior Trio, 188th Jazz Group, Young Artists winners, BEllissimo Handbells, Jazz Trio, Richard Glazier and many more. Beverly Everett, director of the Bismarck Symphony is among the speakers scheduled, along with Natasha Thomas, music therapist, and Steve Stark, who will speak and do illustrations on the History of the Red River Valley. There will be workshops and other presentations to attend. This is only a portion of what you will experience at the convention. At every convention there is a national chorus who will rehearse a few days and then present a concert. This is a fun event and everyone is invited to join in if you like to sing and have fun. The chorus always needs male singers so bring your husband, friend, brother or anyone who would like to experience singing with a wonderful director, Stephen Varney.

The convention will end with a Memorial Breakfast and a composer master class conducted by Seth Custer, current director of NCR (North Central Region) Junior Composers. Students who don’t have an opportunity to (continued on Page 2)
attend NCR JC to study composition will receive hands-on training for a minimal fee. Registration may be limited to ensure students get all the information they need and/or want.

If you have never attended a national convention or conference, this is such a great opportunity to enjoy the music, attend information sessions, meet new people, renew old friendships — all at a nominal cost. You won’t have to purchase an airline ticket, gas prices are currently lower, and perhaps some of you have friends or relatives in the area that you could stay with. We are keeping the costs as low as possible for everyone and at the same time bringing you a wonderful experience.

More information will be sent out as we get closer to the events. You will notice the word “opportunity” being used multiple times, but that’s what this is. Please plan to attend!

I was fortunate to spend a weekend with my first great-granddaughter in the Cities, and you will get to see her picture in an upcoming Music Club Magazine as a new cradle roll member.

The big event of the summer was traveling to Portland, Ore., to attend the 2014 National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) Conference. Nine members from the North Dakota clubs were able to attend and enjoy some of the wonderful music and informative sessions. We were fortunate to hear the great-grandchildren of Captain VonTrapp in concert. The four currently reside in Portland, but have toured and traveled over five continents. The Ellis Duo pianists wowed us with selections from Rachmaninoff, Saint Saens, Ravel and a selection of Slavonic dances. A trip to the Columbia River Gorge, followed by a lovely dinner and entertainment by Whispering Roses made for a fun evening. There was much, much more to enjoy than what I have mentioned.

In July, Carolyn Nelson, NFMC president, and I drove up to the International Music Camp (IMC) for Federation Days, visited with the directors, the Baumann’s, and attended the evening concert, after which we served the reception to a group of very appreciative musicians. Carma Kulish, IMC chair, presented checks to the scholarship winners and a gift was presented to the camp from North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs (NDFMC). Carolyn Nelson spoke to the audience and presented information about the Federation.

**NDFMC President’s Message**

*(continued from Page 1)*

Jeremiah Laue Receives President’s Cup

Jeremiah Christian Laue began his music career a month before he was five years old, taking lessons from Hyley Lee. In 2003 he took part in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival piano solo event, earning a superior rating. In the years following, he performed in the piano solo, hymn playing and concerto events. He attended study with Carol Wagner in 2008, Gloria Bethke in 2012, and Keith Teepen at UND in 2013. He graduated from the Minnesota Connections Academy in Plymouth, Minn., in 2013, and is presently a student at UND. He has earned eight gold cups culminating with the President’s Cup in 2014. Since he began playing in the Festival, it has been his goal and passion to continue and earn the President’s Cup, the highest award.

Jeremiah began taking violin lessons with Donnilyn Bergman and continued with Karen Wyatt, Ligia Drago, and Joel Alarcon. He has played in the Greater Grand Forks Junior Symphony, the Northern Valley Youth Orchestra, and the UND Chamber Orchestra. He serves as church organist at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, and First Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks.

Jeremiah is the son of Reverend David and Linda Laue. A President’s Cup was also awarded to Jana Hathaway, a student of Michael Langer from the Bismarck Festival.

American Women Composers

Has your club had a program that features the work of one or more American Women Composers? Do you sing a song from Together We Sing by an American Woman Composer? Is someone on your program performing something by an American Woman Composer?

Keep track of these and compile a report at the end of the year. These women can be internationally, nationally, regionally, or state-wide known, or your own local members, or others in the community. These do not have to be published composers.

Submit your program directly to the National American Women Composers Chair, and a copy to me, as state chairman.

It’s more important that you are aware of American Women Composers and make use of their work than that you win an award, but it is possible to do both!

Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club has won certificates and monetary awards in the past few years, including another $70 check this summer! You can do it too. Plan a program and report it! — Janice Stoffel, Fargo, N.D.

North Dakota Increases Membership

In 2013-2014, North Dakota had nine Senior Clubs with 421 seniors (three were Life), 132 Junior Clubs (2,220 juniors and 160 teachers), and one Individual Member (Junior), for a total membership of 2,642, an increase of 42 from 2012-2013.
Senior Club Notes

Editor’s Note: The Minot Piano Teachers are featured in this issue.

Minot Piano Teachers Club

We held our fall organizational meeting in September. The number of members able to attend our meetings has changed with the retirement of one teacher and a job change for another. Our numbers are rather small, but we continually strive to provide positive musical experiences for our students. We are seeking new members.

Last year we again sponsored the Federated Festival and Monster Concert. We were seeking outside financial support and were able to get some help from the Hess Corporation for our Music Camp scholarships. We are concerned that, without outside support, we may not be able to continue the Monster Concerts.

We were able to give several half-scholarships to Music Camp for piano week. The students who attended had great experiences and wish to go back next year. One student even chose to continue piano lessons, after all, with renewed excitement after her experience there.

We look forward to an enriching year of musical events that help us, as teachers, to know that we are making a difference in the lives of our students. — Arnola Levenson, president.

The Monster Concert

We start organizing our ideas about a theme in the fall, make a selection and let all teachers know so they can start looking through their music to find pieces at all levels that would fit the theme.

Then in late November we meet with teachers, going through their music, plus the music that the club owns from previous Monster concerts.

We organize pieces from very beginners up through teacher level. Initially we pick about 20 -22 pieces and then go back through them again, deleting any that might not fit, getting down to about 16 pieces.

We then make about 12-14 packets of practice copies for each teacher to take them to her students in January. Students work on them until the Monster Concert which is usually in early April.

We have previously reserved the hall at Central Campus High School and contacted Dennis Jacobsen for the seven pianos that he will bring in for us. He contacts Yamaha with the concert information. We must have seven originals of each piece for the seven pianos, so we order any that we need. For the last few years, Karen Atwood has presented an improvisation during the Free Will Offering. Also, one of the teachers will direct the concert and another will be the MC.

Teachers send notes home with their students, we put notices in the paper, and sometimes appear on the TV Noon Show promoting the concert. We also sell large cookies and mini-waters in the entry before the concert. They are a big hit!

Three of Four Are Mary Ann Fitchner’s Monster Concert Piano Winners

Kresten Drevicky

Lydia Hoverson

Wyatt Cowley
History of Minot Piano Teachers

In 1921 a club was organized in Minot, N.D. The purpose of it was to have a venue through which musicians of all types could meet and support music in Minot. A membership of about 66 was listed in the first booklet that we have. In 1922, the Schumann Club became federated and then supported the work of the North Dakota Federation and National Federation. Another booklet from 1936-1937 listed a chairman of Junior Clubs — Jane Jennings. The piano teachers from Minot and the surrounding area became involved in the Federation Music Festival through this club. In addition, several other music groups were offshoots of the Schumann Club, including the Minot Chamber Chorale which now is in its 41st season.

In our archives we have secretarial minutes from Piano Club meetings dating back to 1974. In 1984, the Schumann Club was disbanded and The Minot Piano Teachers Club became federated. Since that time we have hosted the North Central Federated Festival. We currently have 28 teachers entering federated. Since that time we have hosted the North Central Federated Festival. In 1984, the Schumann Club became federated and then supported the work of the North Dakota Federation and National Federation. Another booklet from 1936-1937 listed a chairman of Junior Clubs — Jane Jennings. The piano teachers from Minot and the surrounding area became involved in the Federation Music Festival through this club. In addition, several other music groups were offshoots of the Schumann Club, including the Minot Chamber Chorale which now is in its 41st season.

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In 2004 we held our first Monster Concert. Through the estate of one of our former members, Evelyn Sampson, we received a $1,500 grant to help establish this concert. We were also fortunate to have the Kenmare Gaming Commission sponsor this event for a number of years. This past spring we produced our 10th annual Monster Concert. We have had 100 students or more performing in each concert and always had a theme. Last spring’s theme was “Rockin’ the Bakken.” Jacobsen Music and the Yamaha Corporation have added their sponsorship and have given a Clavinova in a drawing at the end of each concert. The students and parents have loved these concerts.

The Minot Piano Teachers is especially proud of its heritage of piano teachers. Evelyn Sampson, Jane Jennings, Gay Gidley King and Helen Burns were all members of our club and contributed both musically and financially to various aspects of the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs.

Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club

Our September meeting at the First Presbyterian Church was designated as “Bring a Friend to Music Club” and Past President’s Silver Tea Day. A collection was taken to support the NFMC Young Artists Fund. Our new officers are: Co-Presidents: Alpha Roeszler and Jill Post; Vice President: Robyn Vinje; Recording Secretary: Arlene McComb; Treasurer: Marian Fagerholt; Corresponding Secretary: Sue Clambe; Historian: Jan Nelson; Publicity Chairman: Mary Mohr; and Past President: Joyce Westfall. Tania Arseculeratine, 2014 Dorothy Sewell Hector Scholarship Award winner, was a special guest. A talented pianist, Tania attends MSUM.

We hold meetings on the Mondays of Federal holidays when possible. This year’s dates are: Oct. 13, Nov. 11 (7 p.m.), Dec. 8 (7 p.m.), Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 2, April 6, and May 8 (at the Fargo Country Club).

We sponsor 14 different scholarships, and those winners perform throughout the year. September featured Carole Flatau presenting her program, “Woodie Guthrie - He Said It In Song.” November will be open to the public with a program of patriotic music as a special tribute to veterans, featuring Dakota Brass and Dakota Harmony. In December we will collaborate with the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to offer a concert/sing-a-long of Christmas music featuring the Noteables and the community handbell choir; BELLissimo. This program is also open to the public.

In January we honor Founders Day and enjoy “Excelsior! Trio” from Concordia in a presentation of eclectic music for flute, soprano sax, and piano. In February Dr. Peggy Johnson will perform on the First Presbyterian Church 2007 Schantz organ. Ensemble Melange, consisting of clarinet, violin and piano from NDSU, will present a concert in March. Our annual meeting is in April, and we will hear our Sue Simpson Scholarship winner. In May we hold our Spring Luncheon with the Noteables providing the entertainment. The Course of Study throughout the year will be snippets from the book Sue Clambe created for our 100th anniversary celebration in 1994.

The 2015 Festival will be Saturday, Feb. 21, at NDSU with Karen Okerlund and Michelle Kalld as co-chairs. Our club provides the workers and treats to make this a success.

Our clubsent delegates and attendees to the National Conference in Portland. Several also attended the North Central Region meeting and Federation Days at the International Peace Gardens where they helped serve. We won several national awards this past year. — Jill Post and Alpha Roeszler, co-presidents.

Bismarck Mandan Thursday Music Club

The Greg Slag Scholarship and Belle Mehus Scholarship winners performed at our May meeting. We were also entertained by a Barbershop Quartet. Five International Music Camp scholarships were awarded this year. The program committee have planned a variety of programs featuring our young people. The September meeting was a noon luncheon with a visit by Vivian Acuff, state president. Our club will be 100 years old in May 2015. A spring luncheon is planned to kick off the celebration. — Gareth Fay, president.
Thursday Music Club of Greater Grand Forks

The Spring Luncheon was held at the Ramada Inn in May. Our 2014 Gold Note award recipients, Hal and Kathy Gershman, were unable to attend due to prior commitments. We were entertained by the Central High School Madrigal Singers under the direction of Paul Barta. We completed the 2013-14 season with 135 members.

Our Membership Tea in September featured Keith Teepen, pianist. His colleague at UND, Dr. Nariaki Suguira, joined him in a piano duet as a portion of the program. The Song of the Month was introduced and sung. There was a special presentation to Kathy Gershman as a recipient of the 2014 Gold Note Award.

Our programs for the coming year are: October: Scholarship recipients will perform; November: UND Theatre presentation at Parkwood Senior Living as well as appeal for Young Artists Fund; December: Christmas Musicals which features our own TMC Chorus as well as area artists; January: Grand Forks Central High School Instrumental Ensemble; February: Solo Violinist; March: Fallcreek Quartet; April: Music Therapy Presentation; May: Gold Note Award Luncheon where Red River High School Madrigal Club and the 2014 Gold Note winners will perform and the 2015 Gold Note Award will be presented. All our programs are open to the public.

The club gave three student scholarships to International Music Camp and facilitated four memorial scholarships to IMC. We also awarded a UND scholarship to a student majoring in music. The club annually contributes a specified amount to a number of musical organizations in the Greater Grand Forks Area. — Agnes Hamerlik, president.

Valley Music Makers - East Central Valley

We are happy to report that we have grown from 16 to 19 members and five teachers. Here is a little about our clubs.

The Thompson Tunes - Julie Brorby — Our club had 35 students in the 2013-2014 school year. At Christmas the elementary students played Christmas songs for their music class at school as the students sang along. This was very helpful for their accompanying practice. Some of the high school students performed in the school Christmas program doing duets and quartets. The Music Festival was held in March with 30 students participating, with the favorite category being duets. In April, the fourth grade class entertained at 4000 Valley Square Retirement Home in Grand Forks for the monthly birthday party. During our spring recital in April, each student played a solo and duet, and all elementary students also played a group song. Thirteen students took summer lessons. We did a Disney theme with each student learning a Disney solo, duet and group song. We then performed at Tufte Manor Retirement Home where Red River High School Madrigal Club and the 2014 Gold Note winners will perform and the 2015 Gold Note Award will be presented. All our programs are open to the public.

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The Treble Makers Music Club - Katie Morgan — The Treble Makers Music Club will be busy making music again this year. Katie Morgan’s students had a marvelous year performing at various events and participating in the Festival. Looking into the 2014-2015 school year we will be participating in the National Federation’s Festival, having a spring recital and will be leaders in their school music classrooms by accompanying sections and ensembles. The Treble Makers are also hoping to have students play at nursing homes and other events in the community.

The Dynamics - Amy Thoreson — Last year was the first year for the Dynamics (with official name) and we had fun! Three students competed in the Festival and they all did wonderful getting superior and excellent. I am very proud of how well my students did in their first big competition. This year I’m hoping to balance work, school and piano lessons. I am happy to hear that many still want to continue lessons this fall. I enjoy teaching the students and watching them learn. I look forward to a new year and new songs plus having them compete again in Festival in February. It is a joy to watch them learn, grow and share a love of piano!

The Pollywog Music Club - Melanie Joerger — Our club had 17 members during the past year. The club performed a Christmas Pageant, “A Christmas to Remember” at Luther Memorial Home in Mayville. Nine members participated in our local music festival. Students have enjoyed three performance classes at the studio. These classes are held on Thursday nights during the fall, winter and spring. Students get a chance to play piano for their fellow students, participate in group ensembles containing a variety of instruments, enjoy group musical games and share a snack. Students look forward to these nights immensely and the April performance class received a 100% attendance rate. Pollywog Music Club also held an end of the year recital, “Music the Song of Life,” at Luther Memorial Home in May. Members enjoy sharing their music with the residents as they have performed at the home several times throughout the year. The club has grown to 22 members for the upcoming school year. Plans are to hold two performance classes, a Christmas program, “The Old Familiar Carols Tell,” a “Bring a Friend” Valentine party, and a Post-Music Festival Recital. We look forward to another year of “growing together at the keyboard.”

— Karen Knudsvig, Julie Brorby, co-chairs.
Getting to Know You.... Carole Flatau

Second from the bottom, fifth from the top. That’s Carole’s placement in the family lineup, between a brother six years older and a sister six years younger. The three older sisters had an immediate influence on her life: they convinced their mother not to name the baby after her best friend. Carole has always felt that Carole was a better fit for her than Gertrude would have been.

She grew up in Valley City, N.D., taking the virtues of small-town living for granted. Her father died when she was nine years old, so responsibilities were taken for granted, and frugality was a necessity. There wasn’t money for lessons but there was a piano and music books, and by the time she was old enough to earn enough for lessons, she had taught herself enough to be the Sunday School piano player. (Her piano teachers later had some “un-teaching” to do, of course!) By the time she graduated from Valley City State Teachers College, with majors in English and music, she had a husband, two children, and a full load of piano students, and was expanding her music horizons. A charter member of North Dakota Music Teachers Association (NDMTA), with membership in the Fargo Moorhead local, she held various state offices, all the while attending workshops at every opportunity. By the time the family had grown by two more children, she was also involved at the Division level and was taking part in various conferences and conventions, and continuing to do the things that small town musicians do.

By 1971, as president of NDMTA, Carole attended her first national convention, held in Philadelphia. Her roommates were Helen Jacobson from Fargo and Jo Mushik from Mandan. She was “scared to pieces” of both of them because they were both recognized as outstanding teachers, far out of her league. Both, of course, were generous in attitude and became dear friends. Jo later told Carole, though, that she was about ready to “trade her in” the night that she convinced her that they should ride the subway. They did, to the end of the line. Details of the return to the hotel are not to be shared.

Attending national conventions meant making friends with teachers from across the country, sharing and learning together. By 1985 she had written magazine articles, presented sessions at national conventions, held various offices, and was National Public Relations Chairman of MTNA, and was a busy Valley City piano teacher. A phone call during a lesson (no answer machine to take the message) led to a whole new experience. Frank Hackinson, then president of Columbia Pictures Publication, asked her if she’d consider a job in Florida.

Long story short, in June 1985, she started work in Miami for Columbia Pictures Publications, as Director of Keyboard Publications. She had the same office and the same responsibilities (under a number of different company presidents) for 15 years. The position centered on piano-teaching materials. Columbia Pictures Publications, a unit of the Coca Cola company, specialized in popular music. When they bought Belwin Millies, the largest educational publisher, they needed “educational” people to make it work.

Her account of the adventure:

“Four of us were hired at the same time as directors, of Band, of Marching Band, of Choir/Vocal, of Keyboard (which included organ). The String editor was already in place. Of the directors, I was the only woman and the only one without an advanced degree. I had never lived anywhere other than Valley City. I had never lived alone. I went from my independent teaching studio to the midst of the corporate world in one big step. My only previous office job had been right after high school (shorthand and typing skills) in the County Extension Office in Barnes County, 33 years earlier. To say that this was a challenge would be an enormous understatement. I knew, though, that it was a one-time opportunity.

“What did I do? I learned a lot. There’s no way to be comprehensive, but here are a few high points! By the way, we were the only full line publisher with every department on site. We could take a product from inception to shipping it out the door. I selected and edited music (working with the composer/arranger as possible, worked with the engraving, art, production, and sales staff. I worked with the advertising department but wrote my own advertising copy. I frequently went to sales department meetings to play and describe my products so they knew what they were selling.

“I presented workshops across the United States and Canada, spoke and presented at state conventions, did Music Industry sessions and pedagogy workshops at colleges and universities. And on and on. Oh yes, because I felt it would be hypocritical to be producing teaching material and not be teaching, I continued to have students. Obviously, not many! I helped plan and man the booths at conventions and shows, was National Chairman of MTNA Exhibitors Committee when I decided in 2000 that it was time to go home.

“My involvement in NFMC (National Federation of Music Clubs) has been a joy of my life. Although I had judged Festivals for years, I’d not been a federation member until I came back to North Dakota. A major concern when I tendered my resignation from WB was where I would find the intellectual stimulation that had filled my days. (I haven’t mentioned the amazing people I worked with every day, and the people who stopped in my office when they were in the building — such as Dave Brubeck, Wynton Marsallis, Santana). NDFMC, FMAMC, NFMC = great friends, opportunities, important contributions to the future of American music.

“Oh yes, I should explain that the boat in the photo belongs to my Utah son. He’s keeping the original name, saying that it’s definitely appropriate!”

Editor’s Note: Carole is the editor of our songbook, “Together We Sing,” and holds several state and national positions in the Music Federation.
Bismarck-Mandan Club Celebrates North Dakota Statehood at Governor’s Mansion

The Bismarck-Mandan (ND) Thursday Music Club met at noon February 13, 2014, in the former Governor’s Mansion, Bismarck, in celebration of North Dakota’s statehood 125 years ago. Hostesses were Lois Swenson, Bonnie Stromme and Joy Sorenson. Lunch was turkey-almond-grape salad, fresh sliced bread, cranberry-orange cream cheese, and whole, chilled, pears. Dessert was a choice of chocolate frosted brownies, lemon tarts or fruit covered cheesecake.

Music club members and guests carried on lively conversations before and during the delicious meal. Program chair, Iris Giedd, introduced composer Mary Leaf Schneider, Bismarck, who played two breathtaking original compositions at the Steinway grand piano. Mary shared her background thoughts which inspired the pieces: “The Voyage of Saint Brendan” (Ireland) and “In the Valley of the Giants” (California Redwoods). She is a composer of numerous piano pieces for JFH Publisher. She uses her maiden name, Leaf, for her compositions.

Teri Fay sang and played her composition of 25 years ago, “What North Dakota Means to Me,” which she composed for the centennial celebration. Teri shared the original program of 1989 for second graders in the state who would be the class of 2000. She directs the Bel Canto Choir of Dakota Children’s Choirs and has the fifth graders learn the song each year.

Iris introduced a North Dakota tune which everyone sang, accompanied by Karen Peterson, then North Dakota poet James Foley’s poem was shared. Happy Birthday to the state was sung.

Winter storms closed the interstate, preventing Fargo members from attending the birthday celebration. In their place, several local friends of TMC members were included in the celebration event. Money from the luncheon will benefit the International Peace Camp Scholarships awarded every spring to deserving high school and junior high musicians.

Report Occasion Notices to NDFMC
Corresponding Secretary

As NDFMC Corresponding Secretary, I send cards to members who are ill, or have had a death in the family, or who need a word of cheer, or of congratulations, when given the name, address, and occasion.

Please note that someone has to let me know to whom to send it, where, and the occasion! Better to have 10 people let me know than no one, and assume that someone else will do it!

Janice Stoffel
3102 3rd St. North #104, Fargo, ND  58102
701-293-0244 — Jan.Stoffel@hotmail.com

Applications Sought for Two Scholarships

Letters have been sent to the senior club presidents in North Dakota requesting that they forward information on the Stillman Kelley and Thelma Byrum Awards to their junior club leaders. The former is open to instrumentalists, while the latter is for pianists. The application forms and requirements are listed on the NFMC website, which is included in the letter. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2015.

The age limitation for the Stillman Kelley Award is 19 by March 1, and for the Byrum Award is 17 by March 1. These competitions are open to students in the United States, with no geographical restrictions as in previous years.

I have held this chairmanship for the past four years, but have not had any applicants. Each state can select a winner to enter the national contest.

I would like to devise a simpler method of getting the information on these scholarships to prospective students, and am open to suggestions. — Robyn Vinje, Stillman Kelley Chair.
Agnes Jardine Scholarships Awarded to Six IMC Students

Six International Music Camp students were recipients of the Agnes Jardine Scholarships presented at Federation Day July 26, 2014, at the International Music Camp (IMC).

Tim Baumann, IMC co-director, presented the recipients with their award. They were: Cherilyn Muilenburg (flute), The Pas, Manitoba; Michelle Archibald (oboe), Killarney, Manitoba; Tara Troxel (flute), Minot, N.D.; Lauren Wander (flute and piccolo), Moorhead, Minn.; Katriana Mehlhaff (oboe), Detroit Lakes, Minn.; and Grace Sullivan (flute), Rochester, Minn.

Muilenburg, 18, graduated this spring. Along with flute, she plays piano, fiddle, and alto saxophone. She has attended IMC for the past seven years in 17 different sessions.

Archibald, 18, is both an oboist and a pianist. She has played oboe in her high school band, the Brandon University Symphonic Band, and has been a member of the Westman Honour Band for the past six years.

Troxel, 17, plays both the flute and piano. Her band experience includes marching in the 2014 Macy’s Great American Band, and participating in honor bands such as the North Dakota All State, UND Honor Band, and the International Northwest Music Festival.

Wander, 16, has played the flute for over six years. She has also taken seven years of piano lessons. She has spent time working at an instrument repair shop, and has been in over 15 Honor Bands and Choirs.

Mehlhaff, 15, plays the oboe, and has taken piano lessons for 10 years. She began playing the English Horn last year, and plays in her church’s Handbell Choir. She also has played in her high school band, community band, and began playing in the Fargo-Moorhead Area Youth Symphony this fall.

Sullivan, 16, not only plays the flute, but also is involved in her church’s choir. She has participated in several musicals. Because of her love of animals, her future plans include attending Animal Behavioral College and becoming a dog trainer. “Although I don’t plan to make music a career, it will always be a huge part of the joy in my life,” she said.

Camp Directors Tim and Christine Baumann were pleased with the community’s attendance for the six Friday night concerts. A Saturday night concert was added for the adult camp. This year there were 1,930 campers, which is up 280 from last year. Campers came from seven provinces and 17 states. There were 232 staff/faculty members along with seven volunteers. Eleven countries were represented this year. Their focus this year was to visit North Dakota and Manitoba to build relationships with teachers, students and schools. Next year they plan to focus on South Dakota, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg. — Carma Kulish, NFMC International Music Camp Representative.