President's Report
Alpha Roeszler, NDFMC President

Welcome to the last weeks of summer! It’s a time for summer walks, hearing the birds sing, enjoying the trees and flowers in full bloom, smelling the new cut grass and lots of people walking.

In reading the reports from our ND chapters, most have been trying to meet in regular schedules but have had some cancellations due to weather and COVID. Another trying year! It is refreshing to see live concerts again with audiences enjoying the efforts of all the musicians in our areas. Our chapters have all been having wonderful musical programs to share with their members and the community.

Some things of note: Williston had a highlight of celebrating their 100th year and what a celebration it was! They celebrated in the same church they did 100 years ago with a recital and a Lincoln Day Tea. The entire year was hosting events as were done 100 years ago. It is exciting to see a small group as Williston carry on such a great program year!

Our clubs are very productive in giving scholarships to students for IMC and other musical interests. Grand Forks also gives donations to musical groups in their city. This seems to be the main objective of most of our clubs in addition to sponsoring the Junior Festivals in our state. Most of our Junior Clubs sent their students to live judging events but some gave the option of online judging.

The main concern that seems to be of all of our clubs is the declining membership. Many members have passed, and it is difficult to find new members to fill those roles. Is there some way to create interest in joining? One idea that I have been thinking about is contacting recently retired teachers, musicians, etc. I know that I did not become actively involved until I retired because of lack of time.

The 2022 Conference was held in Indianapolis from June 14-18. Effie Carr went in my place, and I so appreciate that. Carolyn and Robyn will be attending also.

You may have noticed that this edition of the Prairie Rose Notes has two new editors: Jill Post and myself. We can’t thank our previous editors enough, Pat Grantier and Effie Carr, for the work they put into this project during the past years. Jill and I will know first hand what it all takes in a short while. What we plan to do is include the reports that the clubs sent to our Spring Board meeting. We might do some editing if you don’t mind.

Musically yours,
Alpha Roeszler, NDFMC State President

A Note from the Editors

From now on, the Prairie Rose Notes will only be sent by e-mail to club presidents so they can forward it to their members. If someone does not have e-mail capability, the president is asked to print and mail a copy to them. Sending PRN electronically will save both money and labor, and more color pictures can be used. Most of this issue is comprised of reports from the May board meeting. Please read them to get ideas for your own club!
Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club Report

Denise W. Anderson, President

February 6, the Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club held our annual Greg Slag and Belle Mehus scholarship auditions at the Veteran’s Memorial Library in Bismarck. Our Scholarship Chair, Marnie Kraft, submitted the following press release to the Bismarck Tribune:

“Bismarck-Mandan Thursday Music Club, a senior club of the National Federation of Music Clubs, recently awarded two major scholarships for 2022. Awards are based on talent and artistry, rather than financial need, and are intended to assist students with their serious study of music.

“The Greg Slag Scholarship ($500) is awarded to a graduating high school senior who is planning to pursue a music degree. Sophia Klee (bassoon), daughter of Todd and Shana Klee, attends St. Mary’s Central High School. Sophia’s private bassoon teacher is Russell Peterson (Concordia College).

"The Belle Mehus Scholarship ($200) is awarded to a piano student in grades 8-11. This year’s recipient is Kobey Jia, son of Hongchen Jia and Ping Lin. Kobey is a sophomore at Century High School and studies piano with David Poffenberger.”

Our March Student Honors Recital featured the Belle Mehus and Greg Slag scholarship winners listed above, and a variety of student performances from teachers Gareth Fay, Arlene Gray, JoLynn Keller (program chair), David Poffenberger, and Vanessa Wold.

The picture below was taken following the recital when the scholarship recipients received their awards and shows the scholarship winners and their parents (from left to right) Hongchen Jia, Ping Lin, Kobey Jia, Shana Klee, Sophia Klee, and Todd Klee.

Applications for International Music Camp were accepted by the scholarship committee during the months of January - April 2022. Fifteen students, grades 8-11, were awarded $200 each to supplement their attendance at the music camp during the summer of 2022. The funds were sent directly to the camp and families notified.

On February 10, Teri Fay chaired a program held at the Veteran’s Memorial Library in Bismarck featuring students from Bismarck State College (BSC) that included 3 vocal solos, 3 clarinet duets, and the BSC Men’s Ensemble under the direction of Dawn Hagerott. Each year the ensemble does singing valentines to raise funds for the program and performs as a group for our club to the delight of our membership!

With the assistance of Kris Brugamyer, NDFMC Treasurer, our executive board has undertaken a revision of our current bylaws. The membership will be voting on the revision during our spring luncheon to be held at the Former Governor’s Mansion on May 12.

With a sad heart, the executive board received notice that Bonnie Stromme will no longer be serving as our secretary as of the end of May 2022. She has been the secretary for many years and has given her time and talents willingly to the club. A search is being conducted for her replacement.

We welcome our new treasurer, Jean King, to the executive board and appreciate her willingness to serve. We also received word from Effie Carr that Alisha Harris will be our new Junior Festival Chairman beginning in the 2023 festival season. We welcome both women to our executive board!
St. Cecelia Music Club of Dickinson

Kris Brugamyer, President

The St. Cecelia Music Club of Dickinson ND continues to support and run a Junior Festival at Dickinson State University each spring for the Southwest District of the NDFMC. Fourteen junior clubs, thirteen of which belong to teachers who are members of St. Cecelia, and one that belongs to an area teacher who is a Senior Individual member of the NDFMC, entered students in our 2022 festival, totaling 147 entries.

St. Cecelia’s three festival co-chairs continue to do a fantastic job organizing and running our area’s festival. They are aware that the NFMC is encouraging all festivals to use the Vivace program by 2023, so our club is planning a one-day workshop this summer at a local church to go through the online videos the NFMC has posted, to familiarize and teach us how to use the online festival management program.

Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club

Jill Post, President

This past year we have returned to meeting in person after a year off due to the pandemic. We’ve had wonderful programs from scholarship winners and professional musicians. Unfortunately we had to cancel our September program due to our performer’s accidental injury and our February program because of a blizzard. However, our October program was filled with our talented scholarship winners who fill us with pride. We love helping these young musicians in their musical endeavors.

For our Jazz in January program we were treated to music by some of the finest jazz musicians in the area with the Michael Helm Trio. They are pictured above. The March program featured the Young Artists from the Fargo Moorhead Opera in a delightful program of opera favorites. Our April meeting consisted of talented Junior Composers and the Sue Simpson scholarship winner, as well as our annual meeting.

Our scholarship committee, comprised of chair Robyn Vinje, Carol Tschakert, and Jill Post has been busy both last year and this year. We awarded almost all of our scholarships last year in the amount of $4,570 and continue to support and grow all of our scholarship funds.

Our May Luncheon took place at the Sons of Norway on May 2nd, with the Noteables providing the program.

Next year the board will be planning the North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs Convention for next spring in Fargo, and we hope many of you will be involved and able to attend.
NDFMC Williston Chapter

Ann DeLorme Holmen, President

I am submitting this report on behalf of the Williston Thursday Musical Club for the spring board meeting.

Our goals for the 2021-2022 season were to encourage and support music for all ages in our community. Listed below are events that occurred during our 100th year celebration.

We did many extra events in honor of our year, beginning with a mayoral proclamation on the same day as the 10 founding ladies did 100 years ago. We imitated their program and color theme along with serving cake as they did. Mrs. Emily Black Driscoll, Thursday Musical member, premiered her original composition celebrating our 100th year.

National Music Week kicked off May with banners in local businesses, and a coloring contest for elementary students. In addition, the local radio station provided air time each day so we could promote music in our family, church and community. We were guests in the Williston Band Day Parade, as it was Thursday Musical that originated this event. We sent a list to all local churches promoting the concept of hymn of the month. We intend to continue this in the future.

June began with our 2nd annual Young Composers’ Camp. Four instructors and 10 students attended. Lots of laughter and great compositions were heard. June was a busy month, as we partnered with our local humane society in sponsoring, judging, and presenting the most musical dog award at their annual dog jog fundraiser. We will continue this moving forward. We participated musically with Williston’s Chokecherry Festival.

August arrived and we sang at the James memorial Art Fest. Joining us for our stage performance of patriotic and folk songs were Miss North Dakota and Miss Williston Teen. Mrs. Driscoll again performed her composition.

We kicked off our regular meeting season with a guest night and chili supper, as they did 100 years ago. This has been a tradition for us for many years. Since September is classical music month, we used this as our meeting theme.

A Music Fun Run was our last event in September. The following musical groups participated in this event: the junior high percussion ensemble, the high school band, the high school music society, Williston State College musicians, plus community musicians, helped make this event a success. Participants were given musical bells to wear and kazoo to play. This event was so successful that we will sponsor it again in the future.

In October, we sang at an assisted living facility helping a resident celebrate her birthday.

We honored our veterans with a Salute to the Armed Forces Program Veterans Day with members playing and singing patriotic selections at the senior center during their lunch.

Highlighting our 100 year festivities was the “Celebration of Music” program held on February 20, 2022 at Faith United Methodist Church. This church hosted many of the events over the years. This program featured singers, instrumentalists, and pianists of all ages. This program represented activities that Thursday Musical sponsors and promotes throughout the year such as Hymn of the Month for churches, Parade of American Music, broadway and opera music, International Music Camp Scholarships, Crusade for Strings, the NDFMC piano festival, and the Williston Young Musicians’ Composition Camp. Emily Black Driscoll, our commissioned composer, performed her piece entitled “Then There Was Music”. A lifetime membership award was presented to Merna Patch, a member for over 50 years. We also dedicated a music room to Eloise Halvorson.

Following the recital, an anniversary tea was served to guests representing the Lincoln Day Tea of days past. We had a marvelous time and were privileged to have several state board members attend. March’s activity was the NDFMC piano festival with 21 participants.

Our year concluded on April 28th with a member dinner, just as they did 100 years ago. What a fun filled celebratory year we had. Thursday Musical is thankful for all of the musical friendships through our 100 years and most of all, for the amazing gift of music in our lives.
Valley Music Makers

Katie Hillestad, President

Valley Music Makers returned to many of our regular events during the 2021-2022 school year. We spent much of last summer and the fall preparing to use Vivace for the 2022 festival. Although it took a lot of work initially, using the online platform made our annual festival run smoothly. Our festival was successful and had eighty-four entries in the solo, hymn, duet, and trio categories. Unfortunately, we were still unable to perform our annual recital at the retirement home in Mayville due to visitor restrictions. However, our junior club recitals and performance classes were able to be held as usual. Our club still consists of three teachers, Julie Brorby, Katie Hillestad, and Melanie Joerger.

Thursday Music Club  of Greater Grand Forks

Elaine Einarson, President

Due to Covid we did not have a general meeting in September or October. Our first in person general meeting was on November 4th, 2021. Karen Braaten organized “Name that Tune!” Alpha Roeszler was our special guest which added so much to our day! On December 5th, 2021 we had a storm so our Christmas Musicale was cancelled due to weather.

January 6th, 2022 our general meeting was held at Trinity Free church, and our entertainment was Dr. Yen Loh Lee and Delores Clark on violin and piano. On February 3rd, 2022 our program for our general meeting was a Flute Ensemble from UND. Also on Feb 19th, 2022 the Junior Music Festival was held at UND. About 225 students took part and 55 gold cups were given out. On March 3rd, 2022 our program consisted of the UND Saxophone Quartet. April 7th, 2022 we were entertained by Nariaki Suguira on piano and Simone Suguira on cello.

On May 5th, 2022 we had our Gold Note Award for our final meeting of the year. Christie Aleshire who was our Gold Note Recipient in 2019 was our entertainment. Kathy Fiedler is our Gold Note Award Recipient for this year 2022. At this time also our officers for the coming year were installed.

At all of our general meetings we have sung the Star Spangled Banner and the Gift of Song. We also had Together we Sing, Poetry read, and the National Collect recited. Monies were collected for the Young Artist Fund and the Past President Organization.

Eight students from the Grand Forks area received scholarships of $600 each to attend the International Music Camp this summer totaling $4800. On Giving Hearts Day $200 was given to Spa from our club. $200 will be given to Youth Valley Orchestra, $100 to Grand Forks Symphony, $200 to the Children’s Choir, and $500 to UND. Every year we also give a $500 scholarship to a junior or senior at UND.

We now have a Facebook page for TMC of Greater Grand Forks. At this time we are also in the process of updating our constitution and by laws. Nine of our members have passed away these past 2 years. At the present time we have 74 members in our club.
I attended the NDMC conference this June. Our State President, Alpha Roeszler, was unable to attend so my husband agreed to be the driver with me as navigator and we headed off to Indianapolis.

The conference was at the Sheraton in downtown Indianapolis. When we arrived at the hotel, I knew we were at the right place when we were greeted by guests here and there – all seemed to be smiling and friendly. They had to be a part of the National Federation of Music Clubs conference. As I attended meetings and luncheons, I realized my hunch was correct. A great bunch of women and men.

On Wednesday I attended the Presidents Day session. The minutes from that meeting will be sent as an extra attachment.

**Highlights for me:**

**NFMC President, Deborah Freeman,** was introduced. She seems like a leader – positive and committed to her role as president.

**Carolyn Nelson, Finance Division Chair.** Carolyn is from North Dakota! She talked about the impact of COVID and how it affected the finances of NFMC.

**Dr. Liana Valente – United Nations Chair.** Who knew? NFMC was the first music organization to be invited to the United Nations.

**Dr. George Keck, Competition and Awards Division Chair.** NFMC is the largest philanthropic organization. $750,000 is awarded annually to junior students and adults at all levels.

**Ruth Murrow, American Music Division Chair.** This group show-cased American music in their presentation. It was patriotic and so fun. There are ten $100 awards given to clubs who include American women composers in their programs.

Wednesday was the Procession Assemblies that included a concert by the 38th Infantry Division Band – they were just great. The new president was installed.

We also heard Isabella Brown, Valentin Award Winner – beautiful.

I attended the Festival Committee session, led by Lori Jessen. Changes to the festival were voted on and approved. These updates will be communicated by Lori soon.

Sandra Preysz had several Vivace question and answer sessions. The goal of NFMC is to have all districts using Vivace by 2023. Current users’ comments were positive, and there was a lot of enthusiasm by others to start using Vivace. However, I was surprised to learn that several districts in the U.S. had not even heard of Vivace.

Onboarding is the process to get started using Vivace. It requires a completed application and designated users viewing training tapes (they are very good). I will be sending out more information about this in an email. We have 10 districts in North Dakota, of those, four districts used Vivace in 2022 and three districts are in the process of onboarding this summer.

I attended the North Central Regional luncheon. Again, an opportunity to meet and visit with others involved in NFMC. A lot of conversations about Vivace.

I communicate often with Laurie Marshall, Junior Division Chair; Lori Jessen, Festival Chair; Sandra Preysz, Festival Database Chair and Mary Westcott, North Central Regional Chair. I was able to meet and visit with each one of these women at the conference.

Some other items of interest discussed:

- More and more music can be purchased and printed online;
- An electronic NFMC Bulletin;
- Clubs creating Facebook pages as another way to communicate;
- The number of scholarships that are NOT awarded because no one applies for them.

Please refer to the NFMC-music.org website often. There is so much information available that helps to keep us all current with NFMC events.
DUNSEITH, N.D. — **Merton Utgaard,** the founder of an influential youth music camp in the International Peace Garden near here, finally received an immortalizing award many North Dakotans believe he should have gotten during his lifetime.

Utgaard's three children received the **North Dakota Rough Rider Award** on behalf of their father from Gov. Doug Burgum during a ceremony at the Peace Garden on Friday, July 29. Utgaard, who died in 1998 at age 84, is the 47th recipient of the state's **highest citizen commendation.** His portrait will be hung in the North Dakota Capitol at a later date.

Originally from Maddock, Utgaard established the International Music Camp at the Peace Garden in 1956 as a way to bring music education to his home state during the summer. The camp started with about 100 students in its first year, but it grew rapidly as students from around the world flocked to the North Dakota-Manitoba border.

Since its founding, the camp has hosted more than 140,000 students and directors from 84 countries. In addition to music education, the summer camp now offers programs for other fine arts disciplines, including dance, creative writing, painting and theater.

Burgum said Utgaard's passion and vision led him to craft a unique educational opportunity for aspiring musicians in North Dakota.

"Under Dr. Utgaard’s guidance, the International Music Camp has grown into a nationally and internationally known program supporting arts and culture in our communities and sharing North Dakota with the world," Burgum said in a news release.

Utgaard's daughter Karen Rolston said her father loved North Dakota and would have been honored to receive the award. "He was a man of few words, but someone who made his voice heard with his love of music," Rolston said in a news release.

"He never stopped sharing this love of his, with the citizens of North Dakota, the United States, Canada and many places around the world."

Before his music education career took off, Utgaard served as an officer in the Army Air Corps for several years and stayed on as a reserve for the next two decades.

Early in his teaching days, Utgaard worked as the music director for Carrington Public Schools. He later sought advanced degrees, including a doctorate in music, and taught at the University of South Dakota, Ball State University and Northern Illinois University. Utgaard took the helm at the camp in 1960 and continued as its full-time director for 28 years.

Utgaard's posthumous reception of the Rough Rider Award coincides with the 90th anniversary of the International Peace Garden. The ceremony was followed by a concert performed at the camp.