

SDMTA NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susanne Skyrn

Greetings from Vermillion, where it seems that we have skipped spring entirely and jumped right into summer! I have just returned from Spain, where I spent a month as part of my sabbatical project, and at least the weather there was spring-like during the month of April. My work entailed taking lessons from concert pianist and pedagogue, Dr. Albert Nieto, who teaches at the Oscar Esplá Conservatory in Alicante. We focused entirely on Spanish piano works, as Professor Nieto specializes in that area, and it is a research interest of mine as well. It has been a long time since I have had piano lessons from anyone, and I found myself hearing many of the same things I tell my own students: "don't rush, keep your arms and wrists relaxed, shape the phrase," etc. It was definitely a humbling experience to be on the receiving end of pianistic advice, but it gave me a new appreciation for what my students experience in a lesson. I will return to my own teaching with much more empathy for what my students are going through!

We also discussed the state of piano pedagogy in our respective countries

and the resources available to piano teachers. There are some fine teachers in Spain, and the Catalan piano school in particular has produced many wonderful pianists, Alicia de Laroccha being the best known of those in the United States. But in general there is no tradition of excellent piano teaching in Spain. Professor Nieto, who is often invited to give master classes in other cities and music schools, expressed his frustration at the low level of playing that he often encounters among Spanish piano students and the inferior teaching that goes on even in some of the country's largest conservatories. Not surprisingly there is no professional organization for piano teachers in Spain such as MTNA.

These observations lead me to two conclusions. The first is that as teachers we also need to be life-long learners. It is easy to get complacent about our own playing and knowledge, especially after teaching for many years. I encourage all SDMTA members to engage in some sort of learning activity this summer—take a class, go to a conference, or even take some lessons on your instrument.



Secondly, we need to embrace SDMTA/MTNA as invaluable resources for our profession and our professional growth. Even though sometimes we get discouraged about the lack of new members, the cost of dues, the difficulties of planning the yearly conference and other such issues, we have so many benefits from this organization that promotes education and excellent teaching and is there to support all of us. In turn we make SDMTA/MTNA stronger with our ongoing commitment to education, our volunteer work, and our financial contributions. So learn something new this summer and support SDMTA/MTNA. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to do both!

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CERTIFICATION REPORT

It is official! I have completed the national certification process and am now the proud owner of the letters NCTM (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music). After completing the process, which was rather intimidating at first, I thought I would present it to the members so others may find that it is not as bad as it seems.

The MTNA certification process was updated a couple of years ago. Instead of taking tests, teachers now must submit a portfolio to the MTNA certification board. The portfolio consists of analyzing teaching pieces, presenting your studio mission statement, recording yourself teaching and performing, handling business and ethical scenarios, and presenting documentation on your teaching environment. Each category is outlined in detail but because of the portfolio-style presentation, you have much freedom in how you reach your final product.

Once you apply for certification, you have one year to complete all five categories of the portfolio. If this does not seem like enough time for you, you can access the handbook online and begin parts of the process BEFORE you apply. This is really an opportunity that *all* teachers are capable of accomplishing. Now it's your turn to build your professionalism and consider becoming an NCTM!

Katie Miller



FOUNDATION REPORT

Marcela Faflak was recognized as an MTNA fellow at the 2013 National Conference Foundation Banquet in Anaheim, California. Several of our members attended the Foundation Banquet and dined with our neighbors to the north, the delegation from North Dakota. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming state conference where we will again have the nomination raffle for the travelling plaque.

Christina Humpal



COMPETITION CHAIR REPORT

With Marilyn Schemp's help I have agreed to take on the Competition Chairmanship. Thank you for your confidence and patience.

We are all working diligently to prepare for our Fall Conference. The Handbook, without revision, can be accessed along with application forms online at www.sdmta.org. I want to personally thank all our chairmen who have agreed to serve our constituents for the next year.

Deb Kalsbeck

LOCAL AREA REPORTS

The Sioux Falls Area Chapter has had a great year of learning. We have had fabulous programs from Delta David Gier on music programming; from Julie Malik Stephanov on the Art of the Russian Piano School as well as a masterclass by Dr. Rick Andrews. We ended our year with a 2 day masterclass/workshop series with Dr. Theresa Boogard from the University of Wyoming. Dr. Boogard is passionate about teaching pedagogy and gave some inspiring workshops. Teachers were also offered the opportunity to observe her in lessons throughout the weekend. We have also hosted a Duet Recital, an All Boys Recital and the Augustana Music Festival this year. All of these events have provided excellent learning and performing events for our students.

Kristin Pater
Sioux Falls Area Chapter President

Brookings Music Teachers Association

Our new officers for 2013-14 are Tammy Knudtson, president; John Walker, vice president; Joan Riessen, secretary; and Diana Christiansen, treasurer. We met 5 times this past school year. Programs included K & M sharing new music literature and Carolyn Curley leading a discussion on studio policies and procedures. Activities for the past year included our annual Piano Festival in March and local studio participation in the annual Festival of Trees at the Community Cultural Center. We did not have a fall event in 2012, but we are planning a Composition Recital for our fall event 2013 where students compose pieces and then perform them.

Lois Darrington, BMTA president 2012-13

Black Hills Area Music Teachers Association was proud to welcome the members of SDMTA to Spearfish and BHSU for our state conference in November. We enjoyed seeing so many of you out here! BHAMTA continues to actively encourage student performance through sponsorship of semiannual group recitals, a spring performance festival, and a keyboard duet "extravaganza" at the local mall. At our winter meeting, held at the home of hostess extraordinaire Joan Iverson, our members traded tried-and-true teaching tidbits in an Idea Swap Meet. A masterclass with pianist Pierce Emata rounded out a very busy and productive year.

James Margetts

Aberdeen Area Music Teachers Association has gained two new members in the past year, Mary Marion and Ron Parker. That brings our number to a total of 14 members. We met four times during the year for regular business meetings. Members, their students, and invited guests (when applicable) participated in various activities:

- **Teaching Skills - Not Pieces**, Beth Klingenstein - skype presentation, October 13, 2012

- **Piano Master Class by Yana Reznik**, in collaboration with Aberdeen Community Concert Association and NSU, October 25, 2012

- **AAMTA Christmas Music in the Mall**, organized by Katie Miller, December 8, 2012

- **NSU Piano Day 2013, co-sponsored by NSU**, conducted by Marcela Faflak, February 2, 2013

- **Make Your Own Music!** Eileen Geske and NSU Faculty: Teaching Composition and Improvisation, all-day workshop, co-sponsored by AAMTA/NSU, April 20, 2013

Our officers for 2012 - 2014 are: Marcela Faflak, President; Marilyn Gibson, Vice president; and Yvonne Lange, Secretary/Treasurer.

Marcela Faflak, AAMTA President

The Huron Area Music Teachers Association (HAMTA)

had a very eventful 2012-2013 season. Our membership list includes Beth Neitzert, Beverly Bigge, Brenda Ruedebusch, Laurie Hamm, Barb Valer, Kristi Kattner, Eric Bliss, Geri Peterson, Cathy Ramsell, and honorary member Don Nelson. We conducted five regular business meetings concluding our meetings by sharing teaching tips with other members. The HAMTA Girl's Recital was held in October where nearly 100 girls performed solos and ensembles in a program titled "Classics". During the holiday season, each teacher programmed individual studio recitals at local nursing homes and within their churches. The 2013-2014 season will kick off with the HAMTA Piano Extravaganza on October 27. We will combine our students from fourth grade and above in a variety of piano duets and ensembles. With eight pianos organized in ensemble form, our students will get the opportunity to perform as a large group.

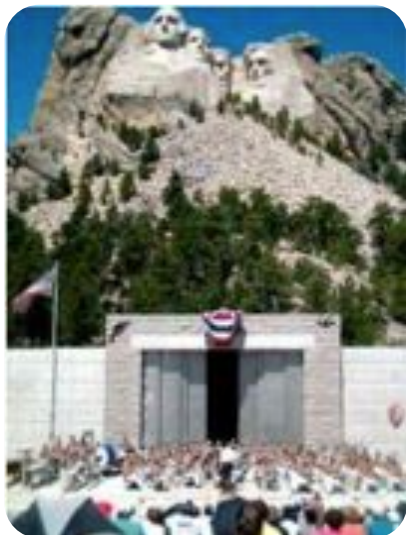
Huron Area Music Teachers (HAMTA) Officers

President: Beth Neitzert

Secretary: Beverly Bigge

Treasurer: Laurie Hamm

Beth Neitzert, HAMTA President



CAMPS

NSU Jazz Camp

A three day camp for instrumentalists of all levels to learn more about performing jazz. Students will study jazz improvisation, play in a jazz combo, a big band and take lessons among other

activities. Instruments included can be piano, bass, guitar, drumset, saxophone, trombone, trumpet
Grades 6 - 12

NSU, Aberdeen, SD

July 10-13

\$100 for the camp

\$51 housing for 3 nights (optional)

\$60.50 meal plan (optional)

Individual meals \$8 for lunch

\$8.50 for supper

Contact info: Terry Beckler

tkbeckler@northern.edu

(605) 228-9064 cell

(605) 626-3436 office

NSU Voice Camp

A three day camp for singers of all levels who enjoy singing and want to learn more about their voice. Students will explore many vocal styles such as classical, opera, jazz, and musical theater. Students will have the opportunity to take voice lessons, sing in small ensembles, among other activities.

Grades 6 - 12

NSU, Aberdeen, SD

July 10-13

\$100 for the camp

\$51 housing for 3 nights (optional)

\$60.50 meal plan (optional)

Individual meals \$8 for lunch, \$8.50 for supper

Contact info: Darci Bultema

dabultema@northern.edu

(701) 200-6221

(605) 626-7759 office

OR

NSU School of Fine Arts (605) 626-2497

Rushmore National Music Camp

Junior High Week: Concert Band, Cadet Band (for those completing first year of band), Rushmore Singers, Rushmore Choir, Jazz Band, beginning guitar, jazz improvisation, music theory, private lessons, dance, daily recreational activities including Wylie Park cookout, Waterpark.

NSU, Aberdeen, SD; July 28-August 2, 2013; Grades 6-9, Fall 2013

\$350 (Tuition/Board & Room, T-Shirt, Camp photo, one private lesson) Junior High Camp (Day Camper Rate) - \$300 (Tuition, 10 meals, T-Shirt, Camp photo, one private lesson)

Senior High Week: Rushmore Band, Jazz Band, Choir and Rushmore Singers, private lessons, music enrichment courses, and daily recreational activities including hikes and the 1880 train. NEW - VOCAL TRACK which is a specialized course for voice students; individual study of vocal techniques, musical theatre, light opera, large/small vocal ensembles.

Camp Judson, Keystone, SD; August 4-10, 2013; Grades 9-college freshman, Fall 2013

\$425 (Tuition/Board & Room, T-shirt, Camp photo, one private lesson); Extra private lessons - \$20.00 each Special Family Rates available

Scholarships:

All State Jr. High/Middle School Band - \$50.00

All State Sr. High Band/Orchestra/Honor Choir - \$75.00

Contact info: Rushmore National Music Camp

Peggy Letcher, Camp Registrar 1609 S. 3rd

Street Aberdeen, SD 57401 (605) 229-5714 e-mail:

rushmoremusiccamp@gmail.com

OR

NSU School of Fine Arts (605) 626-2497 e-mail:

lafavea@northern.edu

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CAMPS CONTINUED

University of South Dakota Summer Music Camp

The USD Summer Music Camp is a six-day experience of learning and music-making open to students who have completed grades 5-12. Activities include vocal and instrumental large ensembles, piano workshops and master classes, chamber music opportunities, as well as a variety of other musical activities, including world drumming, jazz band, show choir, opera, guitar class, rock and roll appreciation, and more.

Opportunities for private lessons in a specific instrument or voice are also available.

Just completed grades 5-12

The University of South Dakota, Vermillion

July 7-12, 2013

Residential Camper \$425

Commuter \$275

After June 22:

Residential \$450

Commuter \$300

Lessons are \$20 for one half hour and \$40 for one full hour of instruction.

Contact info:

Dr. David Holdhusen, Director; USD Summer Music Camp

University of South Dakota

Department of Music

414 E. Clark St.

Vermillion, SD 57069.

605-677-5721

David.Holdhusen@usd.edu

All-State Music Camp

Band, choirs, piano, jazz bands, individual lessons, piano ensemble, classes in theory and improv, fun evening events and concerts.

7th-12th grade

Dormitories available

SDSU - Brookings

June 2-7, 2013

\$390 - inclusive

\$275 - no room and board

Website: www.sdstate.edu/mus/outreach/all-state/

John Walker

Professor of Music

South Dakota State University

BHSU Summer Music Camp

Spend a fun-filled day with BHSU music faculty to discover what it takes to start a career in music! Attendees will learn and review important topics critical to your success as a future college music major. Topics will include music fundamentals, computer notation and audio editing. Prepare for a future in music today!

High School students

The Black Hills State University

Aug. 24th

Contact info: Dr. Jonathan Nero

jonathan.nero@bhsu.edu or (605)642-6628

Board Meeting,
May 24, 2013

FROM THE BOARD

The policy on selling our address list states that addresses of SDMTA members will be available for purchase for one-time use. The purchase cost is \$75. This policy was updated to include e-mail addresses as well as physical addresses.

A motion was passed stating that any publication in the Newsletter of non-SDMTA-related events will incur a \$25 charge.

A motion was passed to allow public and parochial school teachers to receive education points for attending our conference workshops.

Suzanne Skyrn

CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Our fall conference at SDSU should be of keen interest to all members because of our internationally recognized guest soloist, who is... a mystery! We don't even know his or her name yet - but we do know that we will have the silver medalist of the upcoming Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for the Friday night concert. Only following the awards ceremonies in early June will we know the identity of our soloist. We will once again collaborate with the Brookings Chamber Music Society to present this recital, as we did when presenting silver medalist Joyce Yang in 2008.

John Walker
Site Host

EDITOR'S INFO

PLEASE SEND ANY ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS OR
COMMENTS TO: MARCELA FAFLAK
FAFLAKM@NORTHERN.EDU OR
BETHANY FOOTE FOOTEFLUTES@HOTMAIL.COM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

WINTER: JANUARY 15

SPRING: MAY 15

FALL: SEPTEMBER 15

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SDMTA State Conference, November 2013

Sessions should be 30-50 minutes in length. Support for information technology will be available to those who indicate equipment needs in their proposals. Please submit proposals by July 15 through e-mail or regular mail. Please state your name, other participants, phone number and e-mail, title of workshop, length, equipment needs, and a one-paragraph description of workshop, and how it will be of educational interest to our conference. The conference committee will select the workshops to be given and inform participants by the end of summer. Send proposals to:

Kay Fischer, Conference Co-Chair,
1508 Dick Drive
Aberdeen, SD 57401
kay.fischer1@abe.midco.net

**Topics on technology in teaching, contemporary music and teaching issues are especially encouraged.*

MEET A MEMBER

Name: Deb Kalsbeck
Home: Brookings, S.D.
Member SDMTA: since 2003, now competition chair
Born: February 15, 1951
Raised: Minnesota, S.D. and Colorado
Education: BME from SDSU 1999
Current jobs: Private piano instructor, Studio accompanist
Family: Husband of 42 yrs, 4 children, 2 grandchildren
Favorite Composers: Bach and Chopin
Favorite Pianists: Valentina Lisitsa
Most Influential Musicians/Teachers: Dr. David Piersal, Millie Juel and Nadine Anderson
Hobbies/ Activities: Reading, preaching and gardening
Why I like SDMTA: the marvelous people and possibilities for growth and development



SDMTA BOARD LISTING

President: Susanne Skyrn
1st Vice-President: Kay Fischer
Immediate Past-President: John Walker
Treasurer: Cheryl Koch
Secretary: Danie Crowley
2nd Vice-President (Membership): Yvonne Lange
Certification: Katie Miller
Competition Chair: Deborah Kalsbeck
J. Earl Lee Foundation: Christina S Humpal

LA presidents:
Marcela Faflak, Aberdeen
Tammy Knudtson, Brookings
Beth Neitzert, Huron
James A Margetts, Black Hills
Kristin Pater, Sioux Falls

Appointments and Committees:
Conference Site Co-Chairs: John Walker (SDSU), Kay Fischer
Conference 2013 Committee:
Deborah Kalsbeck, Competitions Coordinator
John M Walker, IMTF
Cheryl Koch, Conference Booklet
Cheryl Koch, Registration
Kay Fischer & John M Walker, Booklet
Advertising

Foundation Committee: Christina S Humpal,, Arlene Krueger, Cheryl Koch
Nominating Committee: Susan Keith Gray, Susan Winters, Diane Ketel
Newsletter Editor: Marcela Faflak & Bethany Foote
Community Outreach: Susan Keith Gray
Archives: Cheryl Koch
Grants and Publicity: Susan Keith Gray

MEMORIAM

Margaret Solveig Steen, or better known as Solveig or Sos, was born on January 9, 1936 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Constant J. and Georgina S. (Dalen) Steen. Steen passed away in a house fire April 13, 2013 in her home near campus. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Solveig taught piano as an adjunct professor at Augustana and was honored for 50 years of service in April 2012. She was scheduled to retire from Augustana next month.

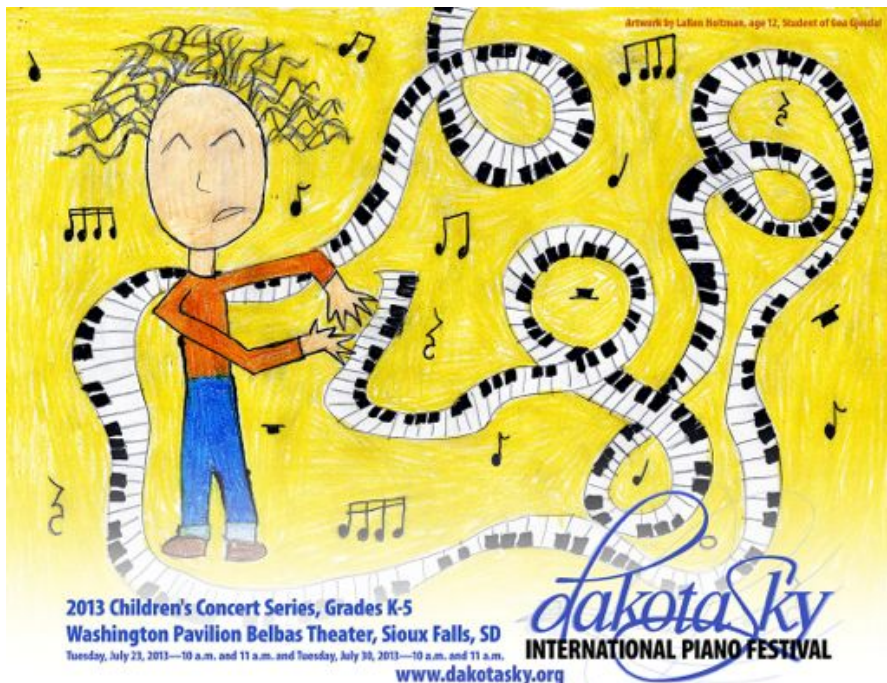
She will be missed by SDMTA.



DAKOTA SKY INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL

On July 20, the Dakota Sky International Piano Festival will begin its seventh season in the Belbas Theater of the Washington Pavilion. By now many SDMTA members are familiar with Dakota Sky. The Sioux Falls Area Music Teachers Association again has signed on as one of the sponsors and SDMTA is a participating advertiser. With discounted tickets for music teachers/students for the recitals and many totally free activities, it provides a wonderful mid-summer motivational opportunity right in our own state.

“Dakota Sky is unique in that it incorporates so many elements into a two-week festival,” says Paul Sanchez, founder and Artistic Director of the festival. “We’ve got something for everyone.”



Over the course of its first six seasons, the Dakota Sky has featured 129 public events, hosted dozens of guest artists from more than nine countries, featured more than twenty-five local musicians, and served more than 1,500 youth.

Featuring both new and returning artists, Dakota Sky’s unique attributes—like after-concert social time and free public seminars—allow the community to get to know artists on a personal level. “It brings artists into dialogue and relationship with the Sioux Falls community,” says Sanchez.

Our roster of guest artists this summer will include **José Feghali** (gold medalist at the 7th Van Cliburn Competition), **Tony Caramia** (Eastman School of Music), **Dr. Jacob Ertl** (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), **Dr. Gregory DeTurck** (University of Pennsylvania), **Lucille Chung** (Southern Methodist University), **Dr. Daniel Paul Horn** and **Dr. Paul Sanchez** (Wheaton College Conservatory). Beyond the five solo recitals, there will be two spotlight concerts, one featuring Bartok’s “Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion,” and the other an evening of jazz.

Among the free activities open to the public: seven master classes with students in the Young Artist Program performing for our soloists; a Seminar/Discussion Series by our artists; and a Children’s Concert Series. A detailed calendar is attached to this newsletter (in .pdf format) or can be accessed at the Dakota Sky web-site.

One of the new ventures for 2013 is a **FREE** workshop for music teachers, featuring **Tony Caramia**, head of Piano Pedagogy at Eastman School of Music. This workshop will be **Wednesday, July 24, at noon**. Members of MTNA are familiar with Mr. Caramia as a frequent performer at our national MTNA Conferences, his contributions to *Clavier Companion Magazine* and *American Music Teacher*. Recent solo piano publications by Alfred Music Publishing include *Shoo-fly Shuffle*, and *American Treasures* (part of the *Jazz Performers Series*); *Suite Dreams and Jazz Moods* (Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation), as well as contributions to the 9th edition of *Keyboard Musicianship, Books 1 and 2*.

In conjunction with the Children’s Series, Dakota Sky sponsors an art contest among piano students 6-12 years of age, drawing pianos for a poster design. This year’s winner was 12-year-old LaRen Holtman, student of Sioux Falls teacher Gea Gjesdal.

Please come and bring your students!