



A Message from your President:

I hope you are all having a good year and that your teaching is going well. As most of you know, I have moved into the position of Chair of the Department of Music at VCSU. What you may not know is that, for the first time in 46 years, I am not teaching piano. It feels decidedly strange! Fortunately, I am still teaching pedagogy and enjoying it immensely.

I want to thank all the dedicated members of our NDMTA Board of Directors. Thank you for agreeing to serve NDMTA; thank you for the excellent work you do at your individual jobs; and thank you for your recent input into our November NDMTA board meeting. We are fortunate to have such a great group working for NDMTA. If any of you have never served on the board, I hope you will consider doing so. It is a wonderful way to be involved on the state level and to have input into the decisions that guide our organization.

I attended the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati in September. It is a wonderful opportunity for state presidents to learn more about MTNA and to network with other state presidents. I know that Lisa Schuler will enjoy her Leadership Summit experience next year!

One thing that was discussed at this year's Summit was the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) concerns about MTNA's Code of Ethics. I put an article in this month's newsletter about this; **please read it!** This is an important issue that will affect our state as well as any local association that has a Code of Ethics. Local presidents, you will be hearing from the FTC and must be sure to respond.

Congratulations to Sue Nagel for doing a wonderful job with our NDMTA competitions again this year. The WCD Competitions will be held at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa on January 10-12. Please let me know if any of you want to join me there to cheer on our ND contestants.

How many of you are able to attend this year's MTNA conference in Chicago? The dates are March 22-26. Chicago is close enough that a number of us could drive together (like we did one time to Kansas City and another time in Milwaukee). It would be great to start making plans, so let me know if you are interested.

This summer's NDMTA conference will be in Dickinson. MTNA's CEO, Gary Ingle, will be joining us. I hope we can have a fabulous turnout - and we will be able to enjoy Medora and the pitchfork fondue, so I hope you are all saving the date!

Here is wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season. I hope you can take time off for family, food, and friends.

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Come on out to the **Western Edge** and see what's happening! The Badlands MTA is pleased to invite you to attend the **2014 State MTA Conference in Dickinson** on June 18, 19 and 20. Come and meet **Mary Sallee**, our guest presenter from Oklahoma; **Tom Gerou**, our commissioned composer and **Gary Ingle**, the Executive Director and CEO of MTNA. Our banquet will be the Pitchfork Fondue in Medora and afterward we will be attending the Medora Musical. Please come and join in the fun!

MTNA and the Federal Trade Commission: This is Important!

Beth Gigante Klingenstein

State presidents were sent the following statement from Gary Ingle, CEO of MTNA:

Recently, MTNA, along with some other national music teachers associations, was informed by the Federal Trade Commission of an investigation into alleged anti-competitive agreements among our members and affiliates. The focus of the FTC's investigation is on a particular provision within the Code of Ethics related to student recruitment.

As a result of this investigation, MTNA has rewritten its Code of Ethics to remove any reference to teachers not soliciting students from other teachers, as the FTC considers this a violation of free trade. NDMTA was made aware of this conflict and we changed our bylaws and Code of Ethics to comply with MTNA's requests last June. Local associations need to do the same, should they have any similar language in their Code of Ethics or bylaws.

Here are the things that all local associations must make clear:

- Compliance with a Code of Ethics is voluntary, not required for membership
- No local association's bylaws or Code of Ethics can restrict a teacher's right or ability to solicit students, even from other teachers.
- No local association can tell teachers what they should or shouldn't charge, including suggestions for minimum rates to charge, amount that rates should be raised, not offering makeup lessons, etc.

As Gary Ingle said in a recent email:

In the words of MTNA legal counsel, Scott Gilligan: "Association members should be free to make business decisions based on the dictates of the market - not the dictates of the association."

Local and state associations are going to need to certify that we don't do any of these things that the FTC opposes. So be sure to change your bylaws or Code of Ethics if needed. NDMTA adjusted our Code of Ethics to state that we support MTNA's and that our Code of Ethics is voluntary (see link at <http://ndmta.org/handbook.php>). Now that MTNA's Code of Ethics has been updated, that is a safe statement.

Each association's president will receive a notice from the FTC and will have 90 days to reply. Presidents can request a 30 day extension if needed. **If the FTC's request has not been responded to within 120 days, that association will be disassociated from MTNA.** So please remember, local associations, this is important!

Mary Sallee is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and has run her own piano studio in Norman, Oklahoma since 1988. She holds a double bachelors degree in piano performance and vocal music education as well as a masters in piano performance and pedagogy, all from the University of Oklahoma. After graduating, she studied at the Hochschule fur Musik in Vienna as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. In 1987, she was one of six graduate students chosen to perform and teach at the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy.



As a composer, Mary writes a majority of the music used in her piano studio as well as vocal and choral music. She has over 60 publications with various publishers including Alfred, FJH, Carl Fischer and Willis. Over the years, several of her original pieces have made the Federated Music Teachers list. Mary is also a singer and church pianist and freelances as a guest conductor for various choirs including Windsong, a semi-professional chamber choir in which she sings. She enjoys composing for voice and piano and has been commissioned to write several choral works for churches, community choirs and arts organizations including the Oklahoma Music Teachers.

She specializes in teaching adults but also enjoys talking to teachers about music that she has composed to motivate *young* students. She has written several articles for Keyboard Companion and has presented pedagogical workshops in California, Ohio, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, North Carolina, Texas and Oklahoma as well as the MTNA national conference. She has taught piano at the International Music Camp in Manitoba, Canada and served on the adjunct piano faculty at Oklahoma Baptist University for three years.

Mary is a versatile performer and enjoys freelancing as an accompanist, a classical duo performer and a dinner/jazz pianist. Her jazz group performs throughout the Okla. City metro and has been featured at the annual Jazz in June Festival in Norman. Mary is active as a community volunteer and has been her Rotary Club's pianist for the last 17 years. In 2004, she became the official accompanist for the International Rotary Assembly held in San Diego.

Mrs. Sallee is active in her local MTA and chairs several competitions and festivals. She is a past state president of Oklahoma MTA, a MTNA Foundation Fellow and currently serves as an MTNA Director representing the South-Central Division.

NDMTA Competition Summary

Submitted by Sue Nagel

The NDMTA competitions were held at Valley City State University on Saturday, October 26. North Dakota had a total of 9 entrants. Competing in Chamber Music were the NDSU Brass Trio (winners) and the NDSU Woodwind Quintet (alternates); Young Artist Piano: Daniel Ewens (winner), Farren Rowan (alternate) and Joshua Gratton, all of UND.

The Young Artist Woodwind winner was clarinetist Zachery Pavlicek of NDSU and the alternate was clarinetist Greta Teigen, also from NDSU. The teacher of these students are Dr. Jeremy Brekke (brass), Dr. Cecilia Kang (woodwind) from NDSU and Dr. Nariaki Sugiura (piano) from UND.

We are excited for the winners to represent North Dakota in January at the West Central Division competitions which will be held at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Also representing North Dakota will be Nils Aardahl, bassist from Minot (teacher Dr. Erik Anderson) in the Young Artist Strings category and Jonas Fischer, Warroad, MN (student of Dr. Sugiura at UND) in the Senior Piano category. Judges for the competition were Dr. Geraldine Ong, from VCSU, who judged the pianists, and Andrew Allen, also from VCSU, who judged chamber music and YA woodwinds.



TOP Photo: YA pianists - Farren Rowan, Daniel Ewens, Joshua Gratton

Bottom Photo: Chamber Music winners: NDSU brass trio - Erika Berger, Neil Erickson, Amy Schaaf





Chamber Music alternates: NDSU woodwind quintet - Erika Berger, Alyson Hubrig, Dr. Kang, Alex Blaser, Devon Tucker, Zachery Pavlicek



YA woodwinds:
Greta Teigen and Zachery Pavlicek



Tom Gerou

Commission Composer 2014 Conference

With over 140 publications, Tom is known for the wide variety of his output. His work ranges from the unique library of five-finger arrangements to the very successful *Essential Dictionary of Music Notation* and *Essential Dictionary of Orchestration*. Mr. Gerou is currently co-authoring and designing *Great Music & Musicians*, a new series for *Alfred's Premier Piano Course*.

Tom's piano arrangements in the *Movie Heroes for Students*, *Christmas Solos for Students*, and *Play Praise* series have become staples in piano teachers' libraries. He is also one of the primary arrangers in the supplementary books for Alfred's *Basic Piano Library*—*Top Hits*, *Greatest Hits*, *Patriotic Solos*, and most

recently, *Praise Hits*.

He is well known for his unique use of harmonies and color in his original works for students found in the *Piece by Piece* series, as well as his solos and recital suites.

Young students continue to enjoy his supplemental books *DogGoneIt!*, *KittenKaBoodle!*, and *Lewis & Clark: A Musical Expedition* year after year.

As Alfred's Vice President of Keyboard Production and Director of Keyboard Operations, Tom has the opportunity to combine his design and illustration talents with his experience as a composer and pianist. His outgoing personality also allows him to excel as a popular Alfred clinician, offering special insights into Alfred's latest publications.

After studying music in his native North Dakota, Tom graduated with honors from the University of Southern California, where he received a bachelor degree in composition. He continued his education as a Charles Ditson Scholar at Yale University, receiving his masters of music degree in composition.

The recipient of two consecutive Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for best original theatrical music, Tom has also been awarded an ASCAP composition prize, two consecutive Rena Greenwald Awards, and a Jimmy McHugh Composition Prize. For many years, he has worked extensively in the dance and theater fields, both as a pianist and composer.

NDMTA Website Updates

Submitted by Kathleen Johnson
Foundation Chair and Technology Chair

The NDMTA Website has been updated for the 2014-15 year. Information you can find on the website includes the revisions of the NDMTA Certification Plan, updates to the Bylaws and Code of Ethics, current leadership in the NDMTA, local association officer information, updates to the Use of Membership List information, and the IMTF Lending Library list.

It is important to contact the technology chair, directory/handbook chair, and membership chair if you have a change of address, telephone and email address.

Foundation Report

Submitted by Kathleen Johnson
Foundation Chair and Technology Chair

We have great news! As of Sept. 30, \$1,177 has been given to the MTNA Foundation in Karen Okerlund's name and we have surpassed our goal! Karen will be named a Foundation Fellow at the Conference Gala in Chicago, March 2014. We wish to thank all the members that have contributed to the Foundation in her name and made possible the bestowing of this honor to a deserving member.

In the third quarter, NDMTA individual contributions were received from Beth Klingenstein and Lisa Schuler. Thank you so much! Interesting information from the MTNA says that individuals in North Dakota gave \$825; in Minnesota, \$245; in Utah \$30; and in Virginia \$77.

The process of nominating our next Foundation Fellow for 2015 has started and when the acceptance from the member is received and the information sent to the MTNA, announcement of who the person is will be made and we can then start the money raising process.

Great whoops and pats on the back to the NDMTA for attaining our \$1000 goal so soon! Karen can start planning her trip to Chicago and packing her bags!