



West Central Music Teachers Club 2018-2019 Newsletter

Dear WCMTC Members,

It is time to invite you all to renew your membership and to be active members of our club. We have included information about our officers, festival dates and locations, and meetings. We have also included a membership form, and website address.

The southwestern part of the state had terrific representation on a committee that took on the task of reviewing and updating the state club's constitution and by-laws. While the proposed changes won't have a large impact on our local club, it is significant that it was a rural southwest contingent that came forward to get the task completed. Many thanks to local club members Peggy Karsten, Cheryl Schmidt, and Mary Pieh. The other committee member was from the Marshall club. Sometimes we just have to be practical and acknowledge the responsibility required of everyone who belongs to an organization. We hope you will accept that responsibility and attend meetings when possible, volunteer to help with required tasks, and generally help to make our club be a strong organization. We can be a force for musical good in our communities.

The board decided to have three meetings this year, and attendance is encouraged - not to impress our guest speakers, but to demonstrate commitment to our mission: "To improve our skills as music teachers, and to encourage music education in the community through workshops and projects". Our meetings are the "workshops", and we probably need to clarify the "projects" part of our mission.

We plan on having very short business meetings when we get together (10-15 minutes!). We will have coffee, tea, and water available at 9:30. The board will have an agenda (with notes) ready, inform the members about any necessary business, and, if necessary, ask members to vote on any proposals. Our guest presenters will begin at 10:00, and you will find descriptions of their presentations in this newsletter. We think they will share very useful, practical ideas with us. After our January meeting we will have lunch together.

Thank you for participating in our club, and special thanks to our Festival chairs. We look forward to your feedback about what you would like to see covered at our meetings, and what kind of topics would be useful for your teaching experience. That will help us when choosing presenters in the future. Who knows? Perhaps we can even attend a recital or concert together sometime!

Mary Pieh
President-WCMTC

Your Officers for 2018 - 2019:

President:	Mary Pieh	320-354-2906	tpieh@tds.net
Vice-President:	OPEN		
Secretary:	Marla Adrian	320-254-3368	No email
Treasurer:	Megan Gilles	320-220-4006	GillesMusicStudio@gmail.com
Publicity:	Barb Swanson	320-235-7468	swanhome3@gmail.com

Programs

Saturday, September 22, 2018

9:30AM-Coffee/Meeting 10:00 a.m.-Presentation

Bethel Lutheran Church, 411 Becker Ave. SW, Willmar

In Collaboration with the Willmar Music Teachers Association

“Getting It All In! Doing the Impossible in 30 Minutes”

Presenter: Marilyn Henry

Yes, it's impossible, but we have to try! We will start by determining exactly what “it” is, and then explore ideas that will enable us to accomplish our goals in the time we have. After the seminar, you should gain insight about yourself, clarify your goals, and have a new idea or two to try in your own studio.



Biography:

Marilyn Henry decided to become a piano teacher while in fifth grade and has been happily teaching for over 30 years. She maintains a busy private studio in Roseville (north of St. Paul) where her students are active in many MMTA programs. She enjoys long distance running (slowly), going on dates with her husband, and playing with her six grandchildren.

Saturday, January 12, 2019

9:30AM-Coffee/Meeting 10:00 a.m.-Presentation

Bethel Lutheran Church, 411 Becker Ave. SW, Willmar

In Collaboration with the Willmar Music Teachers Association

“My Way to Play It: Encouraging Interpretive Choice at the Early and Intermediate Levels”

Presenter: Dr. David Shaffer-Gottschalk

One of our loftiest visions is to cultivate artistic awareness in our students. Yet the emphasis seems to be on correctness at the earlier difficulty levels, deferring artistic choices to the study of advanced repertoire. Many piano methods encourage creativity through improvisation or composition exercises, but rarely address a range of performance choices. However, elementary and intermediate repertoire provide ample opportunities for students to practice interpretive choices, if we are alert to recognize them. Finding “my way” to play a passage or piece can be empowering for a student and intensely rewarding for the teacher.

David Shaffer-Gottschalk, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, began piano lessons at the age of seven. After earning his Bachelor of Music from Wartburg College, Shaffer-Gottschalk operated an independent piano studio for 8 years in Michigan. He returned to graduate school in 1986, completing a Master of Music from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Colorado. His teachers have included Orvis Ross, Eugene Hudson, Charles Fisher and Robert Spillman. From 1992-2013, Dr. Shaffer-Gottschalk was Professor of Piano and Theory at Virginia State University. He retired from VSU and now

resides back in Rochester where he teaches, coaches piano individually and in masterclasses, performs, and is active in local and state music teacher organizations.

Over the years, Shaffer-Gottschalk has performed extensively as a soloist and collaborative pianist. His repertoire encompasses music of the 18th century to the present, including works of the 20th century avant-garde. He has premiered several works and has recorded for Arizona University Recordings and Albany Records. Recently, Shaffer-Gottschalk has worked on several projects with composer David Kassler and completed a regional 6-concert series of performances of John Cage's *Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano*.

FRIDAY, April 5, 2019

9:30AM-Coffee, Muffins, Juice and Presentation
Vinje Lutheran Church, 1101 Willmar Ave. SW, Willmar

"The Inner Workings of a Piano"

Presenter: Dennis Benson

Yes, check out that date-a Friday! Maybe that day of the week will work better for some of you. Come learn more about piano maintenance, how the piano works, and how to guide parents in their purchase of a new piano. Bring all of your questions about pianos. For all those who use the piano-piano teachers and string and voice teachers who use it to accompany.

Dennis Benson has been in the piano service business since 1966 when he finished technical and tuning training under instructor Cliff Johnson at the McPhail School of Music in Minneapolis. His current responsibilities include maintenance of many pianos in schools, churches and concert halls in the Willmar area. Dennis is passionate about the arts and is involved in several arts organizations including community band, arts council and community theater. He is an amateur photographer and loves playing the trombone. As a former high school band director, he relishes conducting opportunities for the community band.

Festival Groups:

- Music Makers of Willmar (Willmar I)
Festival: January 25/26, 2019
Location: Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar
- West Central Festival Strings (Willmar II)
Festival: February 9, 2019
Location: Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar
- Voices of Song (Willmar III)
Festival: January 25/26, 2019
Location: Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar
- Cadenza Club – (Willmar East)
Festival: February 2, 2019
Location: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Dassel
- Keyboard Kids – (Willmar North)
Festival: February 2, 2019
Location: Faith Lutheran Church, Spicer

Festival Chairperson

Su Michelson
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Cheryl Schmidt
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Sharon Willen
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West Central Music Teachers Club
2018-2019 Membership Form

***Please fill out this form and send in with your annual dues
before September 15, 2018.***

Remember: Dues paid by September 15, 2018 \$60.00 per member
 Dues after September 15, 2018 \$75.00 per member
Final Deadline: September 29th.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail: _____

Instrument (s) you are teaching: _____
Your Festival site: _____
Willing to judge? Yes _____ No _____

Membership enclosed: \$60.00 Checks payable to West Central Music Teachers Club

TEACHERS WITH ADULT STUDENTS: For those teachers who have adult students participating in the festival, please add an additional \$3.00 per student to your registration fee. (This is a federation requirement.)

Adult Student Name: _____
Address: _____

**Mail this form and check to: Megan Gilles
1601 Hansen Dr. SW
Willmar, MN 56201**

Website

www.westcentralmusicteachers.com

The website helps our members have a place to check out our club happenings and has a place for parents who may be looking for a teacher to find teachers who have openings. Permission is needed from you to list your information.

If you would like contact information listed for the website and have not previously had this information listed please notify Megan Gilles.

If you have previously had information listed, please check that your information, as it is displayed on the website, is correct.

All changes or suggestions for the website should be directed to Megan Gilles.