

# SDMTA Newsletter

South Dakota Music Teachers Association  
An Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association



## President's Message

Our annual conference approaches. In the summer it sneaks around, like any wild animal, but leaps at you from a tree in October. Preparations are being made by our conference team, Symeon Waseen, site host at Blacks Hills State University, Susanne Skyrn, president-elect, and Marilyn Schempp, our longtime competitions chair. Not to mention many others like Kay Fischer, who gathers the advertising that pays for the program book; Marcela Faflak and Bethany Foote who labor to get the newsletter out on time; Cheryl Koch, our priceless treasurer on

whom we absolutely depend; Katie Miller, our certification chair; Yvonne Lange, who works to increase our membership and sets up the conference IMTF luncheon; Janeen Larsen, who is a constant help with the conference and SDMTA policy; and all of the local association presidents who set meetings and agendas and keep our organization alive. All of these people are to be recognized and honored for keeping SDMTA an active and relevant state association.

I would like to invite every one of you to our conference in Spearfish on November 1-3. You will enjoy the talents of our guest artist, pianist Eugene Gienger, hear our best students compete, gain new insights from our Professional Development Day workshops, and very importantly to meet and greet with your colleagues from around the state. At our general membership meeting we will elect new officers, and also discuss the possibility of having a summer conference along with our fall competitions. And the banquet will be a time to see old friends and engage in unlimited gossip and innuendo!

There is something for everyone at the conference, and I encourage you to make a hole in your schedule and get out to the Black Hills for a terrific weekend in November. It's a great way to refresh your teaching skills and reinvigorate our profession. I look forward to seeing you there.

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## Board of Directors

**President:** John Walker  
**1st Vice-President:** Susanne Skyrn  
**Immediate Past-President:** Marcela Faflak  
**Treasurer:** Cheryl Koch  
**Secretary:** Danie Crowley  
**2nd Vice-President (Membership):**  
 Yvonne Lange  
**Certification:** Katie Miller  
**Competition Chair:** Marilyn Schempp  
**J. Earl Lee Foundation:** Susanne Skyrn  
**Local Area Presidents:**  
 Marcela Faflak, Aberdeen  
 Lois Darrington, Brookings  
 Beth Neitzert, Huron  
 Beverly Groth, Rapid City  
 Kristin Pater, Sioux Falls

### Appointments and Committees:

**Conference Site Co-Chairs:** Symeon Waseen (BHSU), Janeen Larsen, Susanne Skyrn

### **Conference 2012 Committee:**

Marilyn Schempp, Competitions Coordinator  
 Yvonne Lange, IMTF

Cheryl Koch, Conference Booklet

Cheryl Koch, Registration

Kay Fischer & Susanne Skyrn, Booklet Advertising

**Foundation Committee:** Susanne Skyrn, Arlene Krueger, Cheryl Koch

**Nominating Committee:** Susan Keith Gray, Susan Winters, Diane Ketel

**Newsletter Editor:** Marcela Faflak & Bethany Foote

**Community Outreach:** Susan Keith Gray

### **Composition Competitions:**

Colleen Tucker

### **Commissioned Composition Committee:**

Robert Vodnoy, Anna Vorhes, Jim MacInnes

**Archives:** Cheryl Koch

**Grants and Publicity:** Susan Keith Gray

**Website:** Joseph L'Amour

## New Slate of Officers To Be Elected

SDMTA will elect new officers for the 2012-2014 term. The Board of Directors approved the Nominating committee's slate of officers on September 7. Members will vote at the General Membership Meeting in Spearfish on Friday evening. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the banquet in the Meier Hall balcony and lobby beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Immediate Past-President: John Walker  
 President: Susanne Skyrn  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/President-elect: Kay Fischer  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Yvonne Lange  
 Secretary: Danie Crowley  
 Treasurer: Cheryl Koch

Nominating committee—Susan Keith Gray, chair, Diane Ketel, Sue Winters

### **Editor's Info**

Please send any additions, corrections or comments to:  
 Marcela Faflak faflakm@northern.edu or  
 Bethany Foote [footeflutes@hotmail.com](mailto:footeflutes@hotmail.com)

### **Newsletter Deadlines**

Winter: January 15  
 Spring: May 15  
 Fall: September 15



### *Meet a Member*

Name: Susanne Skyrms  
 Home: Vermillion, SD  
 Member SDMTA since: 1988  
 Born: January 21, 1949  
 Raised: Caldwell, Idaho  
 Education: BA, College of Idaho, MM University of Cincinnati, DMA University of Colorado, 7 years piano study in Milan, Italy  
 Current jobs: Professor of Music, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, teach studio piano and fortepiano, class piano and piano literature  
 Family: Chloe, the yellow tabby cat  
 Favorite Composers: Whatever I am working on at the moment  
 Favorite Pianists: Alicia De Larrocha, Andras Schiff, Richard Goode, Stephen Hough  
 Most Influential Musicians/Teachers: Fern Nolte Davidson, Ilonka Deckers  
 Hobbies/Activities: Scuba diving and photography  
 Why I like SDMTA: It promotes professionalism in music teaching and is a wonderful way to connect with other music teachers around the state and the nation.

## Foundation Report

Black Hills State University at Spearfish is the site of this year's SDMTA annual conference. Fundraising will include the SDMTA Traveling Plaque raffle at the banquet this year. Please bring your ideas about influential teachers, musicians, mentors, from your past and nominate one or more of these folks for inclusion on our handsome Plaque. Last year's winner was Paul Royer, nominated by Beverly Bigge. Paul's widow Ruth has had the Plaque displayed in her home this year as our twelfth Plaque recipient. We have been doing the Plaque raffle since 2000, and it has helped raise money for both our State organization and National.

We did not nominate a Fellow for 2012, deciding instead to give ourselves two years to raise funds for the 2013 Fellow. Our nominee for that honor is Dr. Marcela Faflak of Northern State University. Marcela is a very active member of SDMTA and MTNA. She has served two terms as our state president and is now serving as SDMTA Past President and as Newsletter editor

We are well on our way to raising the \$1000 necessary to name

Marcela our 2013 MTNA Fellow. We'll be looking for contributions for both SDMTA and the MTNA Fellow Fund at the state conference. Remember that now you can donate to either the Fellow Fund or the J. Earl Lee Fund, or both! Checks for the Lee fund should be made out to SDMTA with J. Earl Lee Fund in the memo line. Checks for the Fellow should be made out to MTNA with the name of the Fellow or South Dakota Fellow in the memo line. You may also send your contribution to the MTNA Foundation at 441 Vine St., Ste. 3100 Cincinnati, OH 45202-3004. Please make your check payable to MTNA Foundation Fund and indicate in the memo line that it is to be used for the South Dakota Fellow Fund. The deadline for Foundation Fellows to be fully funded and presented at the 2013 MTNA National Conference is January 15, 2013, so we'll want to finish up our fund-raising for Marcela ideally by the end of the calendar year.

We will see you in Spearfish in November!

Susanne Skyrms

## Certification Report

Although there have been no new applicants for SDMTA certification, I am sure there are teachers who have questions about state and national certification. The conference is an excellent place to ask those questions and find the answers! I will have a display table set up and you may find me to ask questions at any time throughout the conference. If you would like to contact me before November, feel free to e-mail me at [keynote\\_studio@yahoo.com](mailto:keynote_studio@yahoo.com). See you at the conference!

Katie Miller

*[CUSTOMIZE SECTIONS IN ITALICS AND SEND TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH/SCHOOL./STUDIO/NEWSPAPER OR NEWSLETTER.]*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *print date*

CONTACT:

*Melody Maker*

*Owner, Top Notch Music Studios*

*(133) 323-4433; melody@melody.music*

### **Local musicians will attend/attend Music Teachers state conference**

*Ms. Melody Maker of Busyville, South Dakota and three of her piano students will attend/attended the 58<sup>th</sup> state conference of the South Dakota Music Teachers Association, to be held/held at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, November 1-3. Concerts, workshops and student competitions are/were the featured activities of the annual fall event. Guest artist for the conference will be/was South Dakota native, pianist Eugene Gienger. Additional state and regional performers, clinicians and adjudicators will be/were featured.*

The South Dakota Music Teachers Association (SDMTA) was founded in 1955 to serve the needs of studio teachers teaching music to individuals or small groups of students. The organization is an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), a group which now has a membership of 24,000 music professionals in fifty states and the District of Columbia. SDMTA is further supported through five local associations in Aberdeen, the Black Hills, Brookings, Huron and Sioux Falls.

*Three of Ms. Maker's students will participate/participated in the Elementary and Junior piano competitions on Saturday, November 5. Performers are/were Furious Fingers, age 11, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Parent Fingers, Powerful Chords, age 13, son of Ms. Solid Chords, and Gentle Soul, age 12, daughter of Ms. Good Woman and Mr. Helpful Soul. Each student will perform/performed two memorized pieces and will receive/received written comments from the competition adjudicators. Gentle Soul was awarded First Place in the Age 12 category. Furious Fingers performed with other Busyville pianists on Saturday evening in the multi-piano Extravaganza.*

*Ms. Maker has owned and taught at Top Notch Music Studios since 1992 and is a member of the Local Area Music Teachers Association.. She has a bachelor's degree in music from Best University and serves as pianist for the Busyville Community Choir. Ms. Maker completed her music teachers certification through MTNA and her state certification through SDMTA in 1994. She teaches solo and group piano lessons with additional classes in music theory, music history and music performance. Ms. Maker's students perform in the annual City Christmas concert, Top Notch Studio annual recitals and in SDMTA and Piano Teachers Guild festivals and competitions. The Top Notch Music Studios' Fall recital will be held on Sunday, December 4th at 3:00 p.m. in the Beautiful Church at 17 Autumn Lane in Busyville. The public is invited to attend. For information about Top Notch Studios, please call 133-323-4433.*

*For information about SDMTA and MTNA, Call Local area member....at ..... or visit [www.sdmata.org](http://www.sdmata.org).*

## Registration Policies for Members

Because SDMTA has a small membership, it is important that each member do their part to make the state conference run smoothly. During the conference we need not only a site host and chair people to run the competitions, but members to be monitors, sit at the registration table, work at the IMTF luncheon, provide snacks for the hospitality room, etc. The \$35 conference fee is extremely minimal when you look at the cost of attending other conferences. That conference fee and student registrations help make it possible for us to hold our state conference each year. Members attending the state conference should register whether they are coming to hear only one of their students compete or coming for the whole 3 day conference. In addition, each member attending should be willing to help in some way at the conference, such as monitoring a competition or sitting at

the registration desk. On the conference registration form you will be able to check in which way you would be willing to help. The Executive Board feels this is extremely important to the success of our conference and for our state to be able to continue to hold these conferences. Without our state members helping both physically and financially, we may no longer be able to hold these conferences.

Please notice that we have two new competition chairs for this year: Joseph L'Amour as composition chair and Russell Svenningsen as SDMTA vocal chair. Application forms and the handbook are now on the SDMTA website. Please observe the deadlines—3:00 Eastern time on Sept. 12 for MTNA competitions and Sept. 21 for SDMTA competitions. Also note that we are going back to the old way of sending both the check and

application via regular mail to the chairs. There were too many issues with checks arriving after deadlines. Applications still must be typed. When sending your applications, please allow enough time for them to arrive to the chairs by the deadline. Also note that national has changed the membership deadline slightly—members must have joined before entering students. The same applies to our SDMTA competitions. Again, please send those membership fees in early, allowing for them to arrive at national and for them to be posted on time.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters which will help things to run much more smoothly for our competitions.

Marilyn Schempp  
SDMTA Competition  
Chair



*Janeen Larsen confirmed as speaker for Independent Music Teachers  
Forum Lunch: Ideas to "Jazz up" your lessons*

Dr. Janeen Larsen received her Master of Music degree in both Piano Performance and Musicology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Florida. She is recently retired from Black Hills State University, where she taught courses in piano, piano pedagogy, music history and advanced theory for 32 years. Dr. Larsen has presented sessions on a variety of music topics at national and international conferences, and performs regularly as a solo and collaborative pianist. Her book, Jazz Piano: A Primer for Classical Pianists is available at online bookstores and at the conference.

**Spearfish Area Hotels and Lodging**

(Mention the SDMTA Conference for special rates)

**Best Western Black Hills Lodge:**

10 rooms reserved for the 1<sup>st</sup> and  
2<sup>nd</sup> at \$54.00 + tax, reserve by  
mid-October.  
605-642-7795

[Map](#)

**Howard Johnson Inn:**

\$49.00 + tax for 10+ rooms,  
reserve by mid-October.  
605-642-8105

[Maps & Directions](#)

**CONFERENCE COUPON**

If you are a new member this year of SDMTA,  
this coupon is for you.

This entitles \_\_\_\_\_ to receive  
(your name)

one free conference registration for the  
**2011 SDMTA Conference**  
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, November 3-5, 2011.

For one-time use only.  
You must send in THIS coupon with your registration.

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Visit our page by  
searching *South Dakota  
Music Teachers  
Association*

## **2012 SDMTA CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**

Please go to [www.sdmata.org](http://www.sdmata.org) for updated information or to register

November 1 -3, 2012 • Spearfish, SD

*Schedule is subject to change*

### **Thursday, November 1**

7:30 am – 10:30 pm	<b>Rehearsal rooms</b> available
7:30 am	<b>Registration</b> begins
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Eugene Gienger master class
Times TBA	<b>Competitions:</b>
	SDMTA Collegiate Voice I, II, III
	All levels of MTNA and SDMTA Brass, Woodwinds, Strings
	MTNA and SDMTA Collegiate piano
	MTNA Junior and Senior Piano
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Board Meeting and Dinner, <a href="#">Bay Leaf Cafe</a>
7:30 pm	Faculty Recital and SDMTA Composition Commission Premiere of <i>Five Moments</i> for voice: Nancy Roberts, soprano and Symeon Waseen, piano Meier Recital Hall

### **Friday, November 2**

8:00 am	<b>Registration</b> begins
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Exhibits and Resource Tables</b>
Times TBA	<b>Competitions:</b>
	MTNA Young Artist Voice
	MTNA Senior Voice
	SDMTA Senior Voice
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Professional Development Day (times TBA):</b>
	<i>A Performer's Perspective on Teaching Beginning Pianists.</i> – Eugene Gienger
	<i>"Resistance is Useful" Resistance and Opposition Techniques for Teacher and Student</i> – John Walker
	<i>Pictures at an Exhibition by Modest Mussorgsky, Lecture-recital</i> - Marcela Faflak
	12-1:15: IMTF luncheon and presentation, <i>Ideas to "Jazz up" your lessons</i> – Janeen Larsen
	<i>Mozart Claviers: The Dawn of a Keyboard Dynasty</i> – Adrian Ries
	<i>Other presentations TBA</i>
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Banquet and General Membership Meeting, Meier Hall balcony and lobby
8:00 pm	Piano Recital: Eugene Gienger, <i>Monumental Schubert</i> , Meier Recital Hall

### **Saturday, November 3**

7:30 am	<b>Registration</b> begins
Times TBA	<b>Competitions:</b>
	All levels of SDMTA Elementary, Junior, and Senior Piano
	SDMTA Piano Duets

**2012 South Dakota Music Teachers Association Conference**  
**Spearfish, South Dakota • November 1-3, 2012**

**Advance Registration Form** *(postmarked no later than October 20<sup>th</sup>)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Identify any office held \_\_\_\_\_ Are you State Certified? \_\_\_\_\_ Nationally Certified? \_\_\_\_\_

***Please check conference schedule for more detailed information.***

**CONFERENCE FEES** \*

Amount:

**\$35.00** Member (*\$40 if not paid by October 20<sup>th</sup>*) / **\$50.00** Non-Member (*includes all workshops*)

**\$ FREE.** ☐ I am a NEW member (Conference Coupon attached) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Family members may attend their child's auditions at no charge.*

**MEAL RESERVATIONS**

*There will be no opportunity for meal reservations once you get to the conference.*

• **FRIDAY IMTF Luncheon** at Meier Hall (Music Building) **\$10.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will be attending the IMTF meeting & luncheon (*sub sandwiches, chips, beverage, etc.*).

• **FRIDAY Banquet and SDMTA General Membership Meeting**

Buffet dinner at the Meier Hall (Music Building) is **\$17.00**.

Chicken with Romesco Sauce (*Spanish sauce—tomatoes, red peppers, onion, garlic, almonds & olive oil*)

[Vegetarian Option substitute request: \_\_\_\_\_]

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the business meeting and dinner. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do **not** want the dinner, but plan to attend the meeting.

**COMPETITION ASSISTANCE**

*I understand that if I enter students in the competition, I will monitor or recruit someone to serve in my place. Check the appropriate box:*

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to monitor on **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday** (*circle your preference*)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will recruit someone to monitor and let the site host know by **Nov. 1** who that person is.

**Teacher's signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** *Please make a single check for total amount payable to SDMTA.* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form and check to:**

**Cheryl Koch, SDMTA CONFERENCE**  
**P.O. Box 456**  
**Freeman, SD 57029**