

8th annual Junior Music Festival held

About 60 young musicians participated in the 48th annual Junior Music Festival, sponsored by the Vermillion Music Club in conjunction with the National Federation of Music Clubs. The Festival was held on March 31, at the Vermillion High School.

The young pianists played the grand piano in the auditorium, while the string players performed in the band room. The festival organizers are very grateful to the high school administration for the use of their wonderful performance setting and the staff for their help and cooperation in accommodating this event. Most of the participants, ages 5-17, are from the Vermillion/Yankton area, although this year we also had students from Milbank, Sioux Falls, and Centerville.

The following teachers had students playing in the festival: Susan Keith Gray, Jaclyn Mathison, Christy Kimball, Beth Mitchell, Karen Wearne, Janis Yarbrough, Melissa Wood, Sheila Dailie, and Amy Redhage. Each student performed two pieces of music from memory, one of which was a required selection and the other was a piece chosen by the student and teacher; a rating for the performance along with a written critique was given by a professional in the field of study. The judges this year were University of South Dakota graduate students in performance, violinist, Andrew Paa, and pianist, Zachary Rohlwing.

The following students participated in the piano solo event (by category of expertise):

PrePrimary: Kristy Muriuki and Sean Poppens

Primary I: Anna Armbrust, Rylan Craig, Paige Krell, Camiryn Regnerus, Ashton Ruesch, Amber Schulz, and Elaina Taggart

Primary II: Rileigh Arne, Teo Kim, Megan Muriuki, Natalie Poppens, and Connor Saunders

Primary III: Sydney Allen, Alexis Allgrunn, Toria Andre, Ashlyn Bickett, Regan Heine, Lexi Saunders, Jane Ni Struckman-Johnson, and Ella Wittmuss

Primary IV: Wyatt Loftus, Tristen Ruesch, Kate Struckman-Johnson, Sophia Taggart, Luke VanPeurse, and Wyatt Waage

Elementary I: Becca Ford, Grace Kjelden, Ashley Schulz, Anneleises Taggart, Sydney Tigert, and Shinayne Whipple

Elementary II: Adam Allgrunn, Sagarika Ghosh, Maggie Peterson, and Anna VanHolland

Elementary III: Sophia Dudley, Abby VanPeurse, and Joel VanPeurse

Elementary IV: McKayla Poppens

Medium: Adele Benoit and Kevin Helenurm

Moderately Difficult III: Seth Phillips

Difficult II: Sowmya Ragothaman

Connor and Lexi Saunders participated in the piano duet category.

The following students participated in violin solos:

PrePrimary: James Buckneberg, Jessica Lee, and Michael Redhage

Primary I: Brock Buckneberg, Camille Johnson, and Kayli Schaap

Primary II: Sarah Redhage

Primary III: David Redhage and Chloe Voegeli

Primary IV: Brianna Johnson

Medium II: Leah Waid

In addition to receiving a rating and comments from the judge, participants can earn points every year based on the ratings they receive, and gold cups are then awarded to those earning the required



AM Piano Gold Cup 2012: (seated) Sean Poppens, Kim Muriuki, Tristen Ruesch, Ashton Ruesch, Rylan Craig, and Connor Saunders (kneeling) Victoria Andre, Rileigh Arne, Alexis Allgrunn, Amber Schulz, Elaina Taggart, and Lexi Saunders (3rd row) Annaliese Taggart, Megan Muriuki, Luke VanPeurse, Natalie Poppens, Paige Krell, and Jane Ni Struckman-Johnson (back row) Sophia Taggart, Ashley Schulz, Sidney Tigert, Shinayne Whipple, Grace Kjelden, and Kate Struckman-Johnson.



AM Piano Gold Cup 2012: (left to right) Shinayne Whipple, Tristen Ruesch, Lexi Saunders, Ashley Schulz, Alexis Allgrunn, Connor Saunders, Natalie Poppens, and Rileigh Arne



PM Piano Gold Cup 2012: (front) Sowmya Ragothaman, McKayla Poppens, and Adele Benoit (back) Joel VanPeurse, Kevin Helenurm, and Seth Phillips



PM Piano Gold Cup 2012: (front) Sowmya Ragothaman, McKayla Poppens, and Adele Benoit (back) Joel VanPeurse, Kevin Helenurm, and Seth Phillips



Strings 2012: (front) Michael Redhage and James Buckneberg (center) Kayli Schaap, Jessica Lee, Sarah Redhage, and Camille Johnson (back) Chloe Voegeli, Brianna Johnson, Leah Waid, Brock Buckneberg, and David Redhage



Strings Gold Cup 2012: Amy Redhage and David Redhage

number of points; 15 points for a small cup, 30 points for a medium cup, and 45 points for a large cup. The students must study and perform for a minimum of three years and earn a superior rating in order to earn a small gold cup.

This year a total of 16 gold cups were

awarded. Small gold cups (15 points) for the piano solo category were earned by: Alexis Allgrunn, Rileigh Arne, Adele Benoit, Natalie Poppens, Tristen Ruesch, Lexi Saunders, and Wyatt Waage.

Kevin Helenurm, McKayla Poppens, Sowmya Ragothaman, Ashley Schulz, Joel

Van Peurse, and Shinayne Whipple, earned medium gold cups (30 points) for piano solo, and Seth Phillips earned a large gold cup (45 points) for piano solo.

Sarah Redhage and David Redhage earned small gold cups (15 points) in the violin solo event.

Thanks to all the students for performing, the judges, members of the

Vermillion Music Club who facilitated this Festival, and to the teachers and parents who encourage these young musicians to excellence through participation. For further information about the Junior Music Festival or the Vermillion Music Club, contact Mary Sorensen at 624-6604 or Sarah Chadima 624-6745.

STATE

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we solve this problem? What can we do to make a decision on this rather than just sit on the fence?" she said.

Jackley agreed, saying that this cooperation can take place across party lines.

Although he is a Republican, Jackley said he has hired "a lot of very good Democrat lawyers."

"When I look at hires, I'm looking for the best lawyers," he said.

In terms of decision-making, very often politics do not enter the equation - even in the case of the "big" issues, Jackley said.

"Even the death penalty, because most Democrat or Republican prosecutors are going to believe in it, and are going to ask for it the same way," he said. "Whether you're a Republican or a Democrat and you're prosecuting a rapist, you're going to ask for as much time as you can get."

Jackley said one area his political views come into play is that of fiscal responsibility, although he acknowledged that many Democrats are "very fiscally responsible."

Perhaps the biggest difference between a Republican and Democrat attorney general is their views on regulation, Jackley said.

"You'll see some attorney general offices shutting down business after business after business," he said. "That's not my philosophy. ... There should be firm regulation, and you have to follow the rules, and if you break it you're held responsible."

"But I don't think you should

over-regulate things," he said.

Noem and Jackley both encouraged the Girls State delegates to get involved this week, and into the future.

"We need you. We need you to get involved in making decisions in this country," Noem said. "What we need in government is decision-makers. We need people who are problem-solvers."

Jackley is a former attendee of the Boys State program, from which he said he learned the importance of public service.

"You'll have an opportunity throughout your lives to be engaged in community and public service," he said. "That might be running for the school board, being on different civic groups. I would encourage you always to stay active."

"You don't have to devote your entire life to public service, but certainly the little things like serving on your county commission or city council can further your community," he said. "Know that you have a civic responsibility to do that."

Noem added that the girls should approach the week as if they have released their emergency brakes.

"Let's get rid of our insecurities, the things that might hold us back," she said. "Run for that office you might run for this week, and try the things that you might do. Step out of your comfort zone and do something you never thought you would do when you came here. This is the week to try it out."

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