



# Metropolitan Music Ministries

## Grace Notes

May 25, 2022

Editor: Diann P. Back

“My servants sing for joy  
of heart...” Isaiah 65:14

### MMM Music Scholarship Program

From the date of its organization in 1984, Metropolitan Music Ministries' supporters sought to fulfill its mission found in Isaiah 65:14: "...my servants sing for joy of heart." They dreamed of creating on-going scholarships for North Carolina College students in Church Music and Music Therapy. This project became a major emphasis for the ministry and required raising the necessary funds.

Over the years since the first scholarships were awarded in 1996, MMM has raised funds through spaghetti suppers, yard sales, and dessert-talent shows. These funds have been supplemented by donations from supporters and a generous gift from The Queen City Music Club and, more recently, another generous gift from Nova Voce (see article on page 4). In addition, funds have come from individuals in large and small amounts in memory and honor of friends and loved ones.

The first scholarships included the Katherine Baucom Ungerbuehler \$500 award in music therapy, the Rebecca Mae Abernethy \$1,000 award in voice, and the Fan Karr Sparrow \$1,000 award in organ. Today, MMM offers \$1,500 scholarships in organ, voice, piano, and music therapy.

In 2000, an endowment fund was created to insure the continued availability of funds for the MMM scholarships. Today, students in North Carolina and South Carolina are invited to apply for \$1,500 scholarships in organ, piano, voice,

and music therapy. (See this year's winners on pages 2 and 3).

Each scholarship type (organ, piano, voice, and music therapy) has specific requirements. The application process is rigorous, and includes an application along with a letter of intention, references, and audition videos that include a hymn and two additional repertoire selections. Judges are local musicians closely affiliated with area churches.

Since its inception, the scholarship program has awarded approximately \$114,940 to worthy college students interested in using their talents in church music and music therapy.

Tax-exempt contributions in memory or honor of a loved one or friend are welcomed. Encouragement and financial aid to these students at a crucial time in their lives can make a tremendous difference to them. To make a donation to MMM Scholarships, please mail your contribution to:

Metropolitan Music Ministries  
PO Box 12736  
Charlotte, NC 28220

In the note section of your check specify **scholarship** and the name of the person being recognized by your gift.

# 2022 MMM Scholarship Winners Announced



**ALYSON SMITH: Cheryl Iley Lindstrom Church Music Scholarship in Piano**

Beginning at eight years old, attending piano lessons on Monday afternoons became the norm. Some weeks were better than others in terms of my practice, but each week I grew more and more. It never crossed my mind that music would become an integral part of my life. Since then, recitals, festivals, and 12 fun filled years have passed. Presently, I am a piano teacher with 17 students studying music performance and finance at UNCC with a dream of starting a piano school. This has been a surprising journey filled with unexpected opportunities from God by whom I am greatly blessed.



**MEGAN BLOOD: Cheryl Iley Lindstrom Church Music Scholarship in Piano**

Megan Blood is a pianist, pedagogue, and teacher of all ages. Her goal in teaching is to create lifelong musicians and independent learners who can adapt to many different musical experiences, and to serve God through joyful music making. Megan earned a Bachelor's of Music in Piano Performance and Masters of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Idaho. She performed throughout the Pacific Northwest with the Vandaleers Concert Choir and as a soloist of works such as Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Scriabin's *Black Mass Sonata*. While in Idaho she served at First Presbyterian Church of Moscow for several years, playing piano and organ, and singing with the worship band and choir. Megan is currently a DMA Candidate in Piano Pedagogy at the University of South Carolina, where she teaches group piano and accompanies opera and solo vocal students.

## WELCOME

Welcome to the third digital edition of MMM's *Grace Notes*. If you would like to receive your copy of this newsletter electronically, or you know of someone who would like to receive a copy, please submit names and email addresses to the link below.

[www.metromucisministries.org](http://www.metromucisministries.org)



## MMM Scholarship Winners continued...



**SHELBY MOSS: Martha Strawn Iley Church  
Music Scholarship in Voice**

Shelby is a junior Music Education Major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Shelby has a strong connection with music ministry, beginning with her involvement in church music as a child. Her time participating with music ministry has been a strong force in shaping her love for music and her decision to become a music educator. She currently serves as a McCormick Music Intern at First Baptist Church in Greensboro, where she sings in the Sanctuary Choir and works with the Children's Music ensembles. She is excited to share her passion for music and faith through music ministry for years to come.

“This will be our reply to violence: To make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devoted than ever before.”

-- Leonard Bernstein

### 2022 MMM Officers and Advisors

#### Officers

Interim President	Jo Walters
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**Ex: Officio Member** Jill Willet

### MMM Mission Statement

*Established 1984*

Metropolitan Music Ministries is a Christian service organization of volunteers committed to sharing the gifts of music with our community for the glory of God by:

- Awarding scholarships to aspiring church musicians and music therapists.
- Presenting musical programs and devotionals.



## **The Legacy of Nova Voce, Inc.**

by Judah L. Jones

Although we were saddened at the news of the dissolution of the women's classical choral ensemble, Nova Voce, MMM was thankful to receive the gift of their final monetary assets.

Nova Voce was the original vision of Deborah Carnes Lutz, and was established in 2003. Its mission was to encourage, enhance, and celebrate the art of women's voices in quality choral singing. Assisting with student scholarships was part of this mission, which aligns with that of MMM.

What a blessing it was that Nova Voce's final concert was able to be held on March 9, 2020, just before the shut down due to the pandemic.

This was a wonderful celebration of 17 years together in song. The choir was under the direction of Margaret Carpenter Haigh, but also included founder Deborah (Debbie) Carnes Lutz,

and long-time director James R. (Jimmy) Jones. The choir included returning singers from previous seasons and at least one founding member for this farewell concert.

Thank you, Nova Voce, for the beautiful music over the years, and for your final gift to the ministry of MMM.



Nova Voce members: D Evans, Lisa Cloninger, Kathleen Smith, and Judah L. Jones