



MANKATO SCHOOL OF MUSIC

January 2022

Winter Recitals

All **Mankato recitals** will be held at Belgrade Methodist Church in North Mankato on:

Friday, January 21st at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 22nd at 2:30pm and 4:30pm

Sunday, January 23rd at 2:30pm and 4:30pm

The **Madelia recital** will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Madelia on:

Saturday, January 22nd at 1:00pm

The **Blue Earth recital** will be held at the Ten Talents Center for the Arts in Blue Earth on:

Thursday, January 27th at 7:30pm

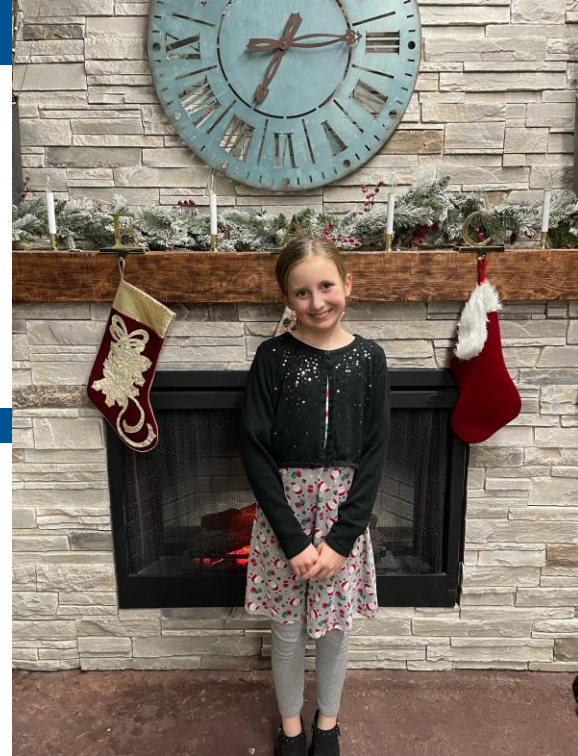
The **Henderson recital** will be held on:

Wednesday, January 19th at 7:00pm

The **Mountain Lake recital** will be held on:

Monday, January 24th at 5:30pm

Ask your teacher if you have any questions and to sign-up!



Student Spotlight

Lucy Koch

How long have you been taking voice lessons?

---I started in September of this year.

What is your favorite part of lessons?

---Probably learning how to sing using proper technique.

What is your favorite type of music to sing?

---I like slow songs that sound really pretty when you sing them.

“Perhaps it is music that will save the world.”

~Dr. Suzuki

Director's Note

When it comes to music lessons, we all have different expectations and desires. Some of you study your instrument because you want a hobby, others approach lessons as a form of music therapy. Still others come because they are curious about an instrument and they want to pursue that curiosity. Many parents bring their child because they want to give them an opportunity they didn't have or expose them to the arts so they can have a well-rounded education.

With this new year come new opportunities and resolutions. Regardless of what you hope to attain from music lessons, regular practicing is essential. And when it comes to practicing, quality is often better than quantity.

What do you hope to improve in your practicing? I am often guilty of whipping out my violin and practicing just to get it over with. But this is a bit mindless, and it doesn't result in the improvement that I want. In college I had great success implementing the following strategy when facing my practice time. I'd like to share it with you!

Before you start your practice, take 1 minute and ask yourself a few questions:

1. Which part of my playing or my piece of music do I want to improve? Be as specific and detailed as possible, even down to the measure number or the specific skill. Picture what it would be like if you had perfected it.
2. What is your strategy to improve the section? Repetition? Slowing down? Listening to a professional recording?

At the end of your practice time ask yourself:

- 1.) Did I stay focused on my goal?
- 2.) Did I accomplish my goal?
- 3.) Did my strategy for improving it work?
- 4.) If not, how will I change my strategy the next time I practice?

New Year's practicing resolutions often do not bear fruit unless we write them down and visit them regularly. Try the above method for a week and see if it makes a difference!

Remember: practice doesn't make perfect. Structured practice makes perfect.



Happy practicing in 2022!

Mary Flanagan
Executive Director, MSOM

Teacher Feature

Evan Shallcross



What is your hometown?

---I grew up in the suburbs just outside of Minneapolis, MN

What instruments do you play?

---Mainly, I play violin, and sometimes I pretend to know how to sing and play viola, cello, piano, and guitar

What is the most rewarding part of teaching for you?

---It definitely is seeing my students develop confidence in what they can do and the curiosity to learn

What is your favorite type of music to play?

---I love being immersed in music that tells a great story: beginning, middle, and end.

How long have you been teaching?

---I taught my first unfortunate guinea pigs almost 20 years ago, and have been teaching substantial numbers of students for about 12 years.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

---I lived in southern China for almost six years. That's fun, right? In any case, full of experiences that I treasure.

Silent Auction, Lively Music Event

Saturday, February 12th at 4:00-7:00pm

Location TBD

Featuring MSOM area alumni, the BullyPulpit Bluegrass Band and any students who wish to perform and share their gifts. All proceeds will go to the MSOM's scholarship fund.



Violin Group Classes!

*All classes held at MSOM Mankato
Location*

Beginner violin group class:

Tuesdays 4:30-5:15pm

Fiddle group class: first two

Thursdays a month 6:30-7:20

Intermediate violin group class:

Saturdays 9:30-10:15am

Advanced violin group class:

Saturdays 10:15-11:00am