



# *Rushmore Music Camp Newsletter*

*Fall 2003*

Volume 4 Number 1

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## ***Notes From the Editor***

The 34<sup>nd</sup> year of Rushmore Music Camp is in the works! The 2003 camps continued camp traditions and introduced some new faces. Now the directors and staff are preparing for even better camps in 2004!

Remember that your input for future newsletters is always welcome. Let us know where you are and what you are doing. We're eager to hear from former campers and parents. Please send your suggestions, comments, articles, memories to EDiischer@aol.com, or Ellen Diischer, 1750 Manor Lane, Hastings, MN, 55033.

Be sure to watch for the 2004 brochure, and we'll look for YOU this coming summer!

## ***Hedges Receive Award***

On Nov. 9, 2003, Paul and Lois Hedge, RMC founders, were presented with the Distinguished Service to Music Award by the South Dakota Music Educators Association. The award was presented in Rapid City, South Dakota at the All-State Choir and Orchestra concert. The Hedges have dedicated the last 33 years to providing opportunities for the musical growth of young musicians. The entire Rushmore Music Camp family is proud to be associated with Paul and Lois!

You are invited to send your greetings to Paul and Lois at [hedgelp@tritnet.net](mailto:hedgelp@tritnet.net).

## ***RMC Executive Board Announcement***

After much deliberation, the RMC Executive Board has voted to change the location of the 2004 Junior High Camp. Because there is no Black Hills location available for the last week of July, the board had few options to choose from. Since the camp is now sponsored in part by NSU, the suggestion was made that for this summer, and depending on the Camp Judson schedule, perhaps summer 2005 also, the Junior High Camp will be held on the campus of NSU in Aberdeen, South Dakota. There will be many returning staff and counselor to ensure that long-standing camp traditions are continued, and every effort will be made to make this camp experience as fun, friendly, and musically excellent as previous Junior High Camps.

The board also decided to include younger campers, so that young people from the Aberdeen area who might not be able to travel to the Black Hills, would be able to come to Aberdeen. The camp will also be set up to include "day-campers" who could choose to stay at home and participate in camp activities during the day and early evening.

The use of the NSU music department facilities will give the camp the opportunity to provide two band experiences. Dr. Randy Kohlenberg, who has been the Junior High guest conductor for the last two years, will assume the role of director of the Rushmore Cadet Band. This band will be made up of students who have played their instruments for about one year or less. Gary Hansen, Director of Bands at Rapid City Stevens High School, will be the guest conductor of the Rushmore Junior High Concert Band. Members of this band will be Junior High students who have played their instruments for longer than one year.

Campers will be housed in separate dormitories on the NSU campus. The camper to counselor ratio which has been one of the strengths of RMC will be maintained in the dormitories.

The Junior High Jazz and Talent Night will be held on Thursday evening, July 29. The Junior High final concert will be held on Friday, July 30 at 10:00 a.m. in the Johnson Fine Arts Center Main Theatre. Recording facilities, free parking and comfortable seating will be available. Camp will end after this final concert.

More details about Junior High 2004 will be included in the camp 2004 brochure, which will be available in February 2004.

## ***2004 Senior High Camp***

Rushmore Senior High Camp will be held August 1-7 at Camp Judson, near Keystone, South Dakota. The RMC board is pleased to announce that Dr. Dale Lonis, will be returning to be the guest band director for Senior High week. Dr. Lonis is currently the Director of the School of Music at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Dr. Lonis was an RMC guest conductor several years ago, and he is now looking forward to returning to camp and meeting new campers.

Further details about camp 2004 may be found in the camp brochure which should be mailed out in the new year. Stay tuned!!

### ***2003 Camp Wrap Up***

Gary Hansen directed the Jazz Band, Ellen Diischer and Deb Yess conducted the Rushmore Concert Choir and Rushmore Singers. Kara Gleason led the Modern Dance Class.

Dr. Randy Kohlenberg, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, returned to conduct the Junior High Band Concert which was held at the Rushmore Amphitheater. A combined band and choir arrangement of "America the Beautiful" again brought a stirring close to the final concert.

Dr. Al LaFave, Dean of Fine Arts at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and former camper, returned as the guest conductor for the Senior High Week. An early morning thunderstorm delayed the start of the Saturday morning concert. But our intrepid campers good-naturedly took shelter backstage, entertaining each other with songs and stories until the rain stopped. Chairs were dried off, and the concert went on. Alfred Reed's "Rushmore," the traditional camp closing piece was conducted by camp founder Paul Hedge. Memories of great music-making went with the campers as they headed for home!

### ***Talented Counselors and Staff Return***

Evaluations from campers continue to reveal that returning counselors and staff members provide Rushmore Music Camp with the "at home" atmosphere that appeals to so many young people.

Counselors who returned to provide leadership in 2003 included: Kara Gleason, ReNae Jackson, Ron Wagner, Andrew Thomas, Mark Diischer, Matt Diischer, and Larry Petersen. Christy Leichtnam and Laura Peterson also returned in their roles of Head Counselors.

Returning staff included: Ellen Diischer, Frederic Hemke, Dr. Harry Krueger, Sue Makeever, Dr. Diana Moxness, Terry Beckler, Deb Yess, Pat LaMee, Margaret Hofer, Gary Hansen, Dave Martinson and Jim Panerio. Casey Danielson was very busy in her dual roles as the Junior High horn instructor and counselor. Camp nurses Barb Harvey and Genevieve Skogberg, and camp registrar Peggy Letcher also continued to lend their expertise to the camps.

Of course, everyone's hero is Camp Director, Dr. Paul Moxness, from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota. Paul assumed the role of Camp Director and expanded his daily activities to include direct supervision of all day-to-day camp activities. With the help of assistants Christy Leichtnam and Casey Danielson during Senior High and Junior High camps respectively, the camps ran smoothly, (as usual!) Thank you, Paul, Christy and Casey!

RMC is fortunate to reap the benefits of having such a talented, enthusiastic and faithful staff. Thanks again, to all!

### ***New Members Join the RMC Staff***

The Rushmore family again increased its numbers in 2003 by welcoming several new staff members. New Junior High counselors were: Christi Hansen, horn player and former camper from Rapid City; Michelle Kindle, NSU vocalist from Pierre; Nancy Schlepp, Leola, (Nancy served as the camp accompanist, counselor, AND she brought several campers from her school in Leola!) and Jessica Wanttie, NSU clarinet student from Aberdeen. New counselors Senior High week were: Alinda Buckingham, trombonist and former camper from Rapid City; and Danny Kaul, trumpet and bass player and recent NSU grad from Aberdeen, SD. Teaching low brass sectionals and lessons and lending his voice to the faculty vocal quartet Junior High week was Kent Knutson, NSU grad who is now teaching in Iowa.

Welcome and thanks to all of these new friends who brought their own unique talents to add to the camp experience!

### ***The Best Reasons for Attending Rushmore Music Camp***

From Clay Lundberg, Gregory, South Dakota:

1. Where else can you play with that many good, serious musicians?
2. The walk up the hill is good for the calves!
3. "Taps" is the most gorgeous song in the whole world!
4. One word: "CHURROS!!"
5. The "Johnny Appleseed" song just isn't as much fun anywhere else!

From Marty Haehn, Gillette, Wyoming:

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