



# *Rushmore Music Camp Newsletter*

*Spring 2002*  
Volume 3 Number 1

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## *Notes From the Editor*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> year of Rushmore Music Camp is in the works! The 2001 camps brought back some familiar camp traditions, and introduced some new faces and new fun, so the directors and staff are preparing for an even better camp in 2002!

In this shortened version of the camp newsletter, you'll find an exciting announcement about the future of RMC from camp director, Paul Hedge, evaluations from campers and information about the upcoming camp.

Remember as you read, that your input for future newsletters is always welcome. How about a "What ever happened to" column? 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.

Now, have a look at the brochure, post it in your band room, run off some copies of the application form, gather your friends, write those scholarship application letters, practice, and we'll look for YOU this coming summer!

## *Former Campers Assume New Roles*

A unique feature of the 2001 Senior High Camp was that a former camper was the guest conductor! Dr. Al LaFave, Dean of Fine Arts at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, attended RMC in the 1970's. In fact, he has commented that it was while sitting in the clarinet section at camp, being directed by Ken Bloomquist, that he decided that being a conductor of bands was what he wanted to choose as his life's work. What an endorsement! Dr. LaFave's enthusiasm for camp and his excellent musicianship shone through the band's fine performance.

Andrew Thomas, a recent former camper from Colorado, joined the staff as a new counselor during Junior High week. Andrew too, showed great enthusiasm, (driving all the way from the state of Washington!) for being "on the other side of the cabin" in his role as counselor! Thank you, Andrew!

## *Special Announcements from Paul Hedge, Camp Director*

Camp director Paul Hedge, and Dr. Alan La Fave, Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Northern State University at Aberdeen, SD, are pleased to announce the sponsorship by NSU of the Rushmore Music Camps. The Executive Board of RMC, the Hedges and NSU are all excited about beginning this new era of RMC.

Dr. La Fave will be returning as the guest conductor for the Senior High camp in July 2002. Dr. Randy Kohlenberg, a King band instrument clinician, noted low brass specialist and director, will be the guest conductor for the Junior High camp in August 2002.

Returning to instruct clarinets after several years of travel and performing, will be Dr. Robert Spring of Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. He will be sponsored in part by the Boosey and Hawkes Co., manufacturer of Buffet clarinets. Back again in 2002 will be Frederic Hempke, a Selmer clinician, from the University of Missouri at Columbia, MO. Mr. Hempke is a prominent saxophonist and jazz instructor.

Instrumental and vocal specialists and counselors from previous years will complete the 2002 staff.

It should also be noted that Camp Judson will be undertaking another building project, so there is a good chance that campers and staff will be able to watch some new facilities take shape this summer!

## *The Train Raid Lives Again!*

At the 2001 Senior High camp, "Men in Black" counselors Matt Diischer and Ron Wagner confronted a suspicious looking bunch of "alien" counselors as they attempted to raid the 1880 train! (Those Saran Wrap food covers and blobs of aluminum foil have never looked better! Great costumes, counselors!) Our heroes overtook the aliens and all ended well as the senior high campers led by director Dr. Al LaFave presented an impromptu concert down by the tracks. Train riders, campers, counselors and staff had a great time and all enjoyed the revival of this RMC tradition!

## ***Faithful 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 2001 included: Carrie Beckler (Daschle), Casey Danielson, Kara Gleason, Gary Hansen, Anna Hedges, Re Nae Jackson, Jennifer Willson, Brad Hakeman, Ron Wagner, Val Fuller (Mohring), Matt Diischer, Laura Dodson, and Laura and Larry Peterson. Christy Leichtnam and Neil Guy also returned in their roles of Head Counselors.

Returning staff included: Jane Berger, Ellen Diischer, Frederic Hempke, Dr. Harry Krueger, Sue Makeever, Dr. Diana Moxness, Craig Spangler, Deb Yess, Pat La Mee, Gary Hansen, Dave Martinson and Jim Panerio. Camp nurses Barb Harvey and Genevieve Skogberg, and camp coordinator Peggy Letcher also continued to lend their expertise to the camps.

Dr. Randy Kohlenberg returned to conduct the Junior High Band. Dr. Kohlenberg had the honor of conducting the first RMC High band concert to be held at the Rushmore Amphitheater. A combined arrangement of “America the Beautiful” for band and choir was a fitting grand finale to the Junior High concert.

Of course, everyone’s unsung hero is assistant camp director, Dr. Paul Moxness, from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota. Paul has been associated with the camp for many years, and continues to plan, schedule, coordinate, compute, make coffee, and generally take charge of all of the activities at camp. Somehow he keeps everything and everyone running smoothly! We couldn’t do it without you, Paul!

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

### ***Campers Comments***

In their own words, here are some comments written by 2001 Junior and Senior High campers:

“I liked the games at camp, the people and the activities.”

“I liked going on the hike and NAPTIME!”

“I liked the free time we had to just hang out sometimes.”

“Awesome counselors and sectional leaders!”

“I liked the outdoor activities that were offered every day like basketball and volleyball.”

“I wouldn’t change anything at this camp because it is all GREAT! Except maybe you could include orchestra!”

“I liked all the evening activities, the staff AND the camp store (Shakes!!)”

“I loved my counselor, Kara Gleason. I also thought Gary Hansen and Andrew Thomas were very nice! I also liked the talent nights.”

“I liked the food. I also thought the counselors were considerate.”

“Food was GREAT!”

“I liked the band and lessons and jazz improv.”

“I liked meeting people and learning how to get better at my instrument.”

“I liked having a band that everyone wanted to be in.”

“I thought the sectionals were very helpful.”

“I like how camp helped my music skills and I still had fun.”

“I absolutely loved the band and chorus songs. What excellent choices!”

“I had an extremely good week at camp. I think the program that you have going here is great. The only thing that I would like to see changed would be to be able to get up a half-hour later!”

“I had an awesome time this week. The faculty was great and fun. It is cool to be in the band, jazz band, and both choirs all at one camp. Keep up the awesome work!”

“I have been to another music camp in previous years and this camp is a whole world different! The camp is so personal..the director and staff really connect with us and everyone here made me feel really wanted. Wonderful directors and staff/counselors. Good classes and schedule- just enough recreation and work balance. I hope to come back next year. Thanks for the great experience!”

These are just a few of the many comments written as the campers were asked to evaluate their camp experiences last summer. There were also lots of suggestions that are being considered for future camps. Thanks to all campers for their evaluations. If you are a 2001 camper or parent and would like to add anything, please e-mail Ellen Diischer. We are listening! See you in July or August!

### **Attention, All Junior High Campers and their families:**

**The 2002 Junior High Camp will be held during the same week as the Sturgis Bike Rally. If you need accommodations in the Black Hills during this time, you should make those arrangements as soon as possible to ensure that you’ll have a place to stay!**

