



Tuesday Musicale.
Front Row (left to right):
Sandra DeRemer, June
Carlson, Chariotte Maybee,
Margaret Warczak,
Helen Schmitz, Jill Crane,
Bonnie Byadiah,
BACK ROW (left to right):
Kay Johnson, Martha
Windscheif, MaryAnn
LaMonte

By MARK COWAN JR.

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The Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac has kicked off the year-long celebration of their 90th anniversary with a gathering of some of the most committed community spirits in the area. The group kicked off the celebration with a luncheon, awards ceremony and music at Central United Methodist Church in Waterford. Awards were handed out by the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs to members who have been with the organization either 25 or 50 years. Charlotte Maybee, Donna Olkowski, and Martha Windscheif all received 25 year awards, while Muriel Mercer and Nancy Radenbaugh received 50 year awards. Music for the event was provided by soloist Karen Eldred and accompanist Michael Dempsey.

The Tuesday Musicale, founded in 1923 by Mrs. S.A. Kessel, belongs to both the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs. The NFMC is the only musical organization chartered by the UN. "Kessel was the founder of the group," said Helen Schmitz, a former president of the Musicale. "She had a bevy of her friends come in with lovely music."

"I dropped out because I was teaching kindergarten and first grade in Pontiac for 27 years, and now I'm back so they get me again," said Schmitz.

Many of the group's other past presidents were also present at the event.

The group aims "to bring the spiritualizing force of music to the inner life of our nation," according to Sandra DeRemer, another former president.

"We awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and awards to talented young musicians who aspire to make music their careers," said DeRemer. The group currently awards two scholarships annually: The Dora Dawson Award for musicians up through high school and the Rosamond Haeberle Award for college-aged pianists. "All of our scholarship awardees are eligible for national awards as well," said DeRemer. Besides working with local youth talent, the Tuesday Musicale performs in the community year-round- often for free.

"We have two bell groups that perform often in the community," said Mary Ann LaMonte, current president of the group. "We also have a women's chorus with around 25 members. We are starting rehearsals on Thursday."