



Newsletter – Fall 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hasn't Hurricane Katrina changed our outlook on life? Suddenly, all the challenges associated with the new school year seem downright trivial compared with the overwhelming obstacles the hurricane victims face. I ask myself, "Can we music teachers possibly make a difference?"

I contacted Sue Turner, president of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association (LMTA), about how we might help our southern colleagues, and she writes, in part,

"We are currently working on a LMTA Recovery Fund. It has been only this week (September 7) that our communications have improved to the extent that we can begin to identify our members' needs. Even at this time we have made contact with only about 20 of the 100-some members in the affected areas. Many of our teachers have lost everything, but more important so have the families of their students. Many parents face unemployment for some time to come. We are working now with MTNA to check on the legalities and procedures of setting up a fund from which we can pay rentals for pianos for both teachers and outstanding students, perhaps furnish keyboards and definitely subsidize lessons for students whose families can no longer afford the "luxury". Right now, just getting students back to their teachers is a major concern. Most of the teachers have had no contact with students and do not know their whereabouts.

We are waiting to hear from MTNA and when we do, I will contact you with specific information.

Once again, thanks for your concern and keep us in your prayers..."

Gary Ingle, executive director of MTNA writes, "MTNA, as the national organization, is in a position to assist these state and local MTAs in their efforts to aid MTNA members affected by Hurricane Katrina. For this purpose, the following steps are being taken at the national level:

1. A Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund has been established. You may make a tax-deductible donation on-line at (<https://members.mtna.org/Katrina/recoveryfund.asp>) or send it in the mail designated for the MTNA Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund.

2. An on-line bulletin board has been created on the MTNA website (<https://members.mtna.org/discussions/index.php>) that enables affected teachers to request specific assistance as well as enables our members to respond to these requests and/or to offer assistance as appropriate.

3. An article has been placed on-line providing guidance on donations, especially in-kind (instruments, music, etc) contributions. <http://www.mtna.org/Inkindinfo.htm>.

4. I have designated Assistant Executive Director Marge Bengel to coordinate our hurricane relief efforts with the state and local affiliates.

Over the next few days, weeks, and months, you will be hearing more about our efforts to aid music teachers in the affected areas. Other organizations around the country are doing the same for their colleagues, for example, orchestras around the country are assisting Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra members, the Cincinnati Police Department is doing the same for affected police officers, and the list goes on and on. While there will be tax dollars to rebuild school music programs, the independent studio teacher will not have the same assistance. Therefore, it is imperative that MTNA and its members reach out to these colleagues. Please give freely of your time, money, and other resources to aid your fellow music teachers during these times.

It will take all of us working together to make the difference. The needs are too great and the tasks are too important to be left to "someone else." So, give generously in order that we can fulfill as many opportunities as possible."

I've been proud, so far, of the leadership role Massachusetts has taken in the relief effort. But relief organizations will only tend to the needs of the body. Let's us as a group tend to the need of the heart, mind and soul. I will let you know via e-mail and our website, www.mmta.net (or you may call me if you don't have internet access) when the LMTA Recovery Fund is set up and what Louisiana musicians need most. Let's be especially generous, because don't we all believe that, in fact, music-making is a basic need, too?

Shelley Reeves, NCTM
President

REPORT FROM MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT EXAM CHAIR

Did you notice? MMTA has painted a new face on an old friend, the NCE's. So, how did it all happen?

It was the result of brainstorming to bring this activity to 21st Century culture. A great tool that is very valuable to our members, but needed some tweaking. So we held a meeting of all the Chairs in early June to discuss the changes.

The event was renamed from the Non-Competitive Evaluations, as we needed to make it user friendly. We decided to reflect its true purpose: **Musical Achievement!**...at your own pace...all welcome...come and we will acknowledge your efforts and offer ideas to enhance your performance...support system... win-win situation and a positive experience for the learning process. The new name helps all involved. The adjudicators will receive specific instructions on how to proceed to bring about the results intended. The Chairs will receive the packet with all the forms needed, in late September. They were edited to conform to the new standards.

So start making plans to involve your students in the new and improved 2006 MAE. Look for it in the new Directory. We had input coming from many directions. Too many names to mention. But their ideas are very much appreciated. *Thank you all!*

Call the Chair in your area and begin the process. I will be attending as many of the Venue Events as possible when they happen in 2006. Hope to see you there!!

Maria Reesman,
Chair MMTA MAE

REPORT FROM NATIONAL MTNA CERTIFICATION

Application Time Limit Policy

At its July meeting, the MTNA Board of Directors approved the following policy regarding the two year time limit for completing the certification process:

“The MTNA Professional Certification process must be completed within a two-year time limit from the date the application is received at MTNA Headquarters. If the process is not completed within two years, the applicant may request, in writing, a single one-year time extension, after which, an application extension fee of \$100.00 will be assessed.”

The above policy replaces the former one found in the Application Packet’s **FAQ** that read:

“Is there a time limit for becoming certified once I have sent my initial application and fee? Yes: you have two years from the date of application. Candidates exceeding this time limit will be assessed a new application fee.”

The new policy allows candidates who encounter extenuating circumstances during the two-year certification process to request, in writing, a single one-year extension before being assessed an application extension fee.

Certification Application Made Easier

Applying for MTNA Professional Certification has just been made easier with the availability of fillable forms on the MTNA Certification Website. Applicants may now go to the Website, bring up the appropriate forms, type in the information requested and print them out for submitting to MTNA. The forms are available for applicants seeking initial certification as well as for those seeking renewal of certification. This is much easier for applicants than completing the forms by hand and forces the “old typewriter” into even deeper obsolescence. Evaluators will find fillable forms much easier to read. To check out this new service provided by MTNA, visit the MTNA Certification website at www.mtnacertification.org.

New Certification Examinations

Three new Certification Examinations have been completed that meet the requirements for fulfilling Standards II, III and IV, bringing all documents pertaining to the Certification Program in line with the MTNA Professional Certification Standards.

These exams will test candidates in all of the twenty-one performance areas in which MTNA Professional Certification is offered, and will be used on a predetermined rotation plan. A different exam will be provided for those who do not pass the first time.

The Examination will be evaluated on the basis of PASS/FAIL for each of the three Standards (II, III & IV). Only the Standard(s) that results in FAIL will require retesting.

Supporting materials and documents pertaining to the Certification Examination have been revised. In particular, the STUDY GUIDE reflects the new evaluation guidelines. The new examinations are formatted in the following manner:

- Standard II: Sections A, B and C
- Standard III: Sections A and B
- Standard IV: Sections A and B

Answering one question from each of the seven sections will be required. The STUDY GUIDE contains a sample question from each section that reflects the subject matter of its contents.

The 21st Century Piano Project

MTNA is working in partnership with Piano Manufacturers Association International (PMAI) on an important activity entitled *The 21st Century Piano Project*. The purpose is to work with members of the “Piano Community” to develop a model that will enable all of us to successfully and profitably serve the needs of traditional piano students, serve the interests and expectations of diverse demographic segments and expand the number of people who play the piano. An important aspect of the project is a survey of the membership of leading music associations, as well as current piano shoppers and recent (within the last five years) piano purchasers. This project also is supported by the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG), the Retail Print Music Dealers Association (RPMDA), NAMM: the International Music Products Association and retailers throughout the U.S.

The piano community has long relied on assumptions and anecdotes without concrete data to support them. The findings from the surveys will be used to help develop a strategic plan for the future based on accurate data. *The 21st Century Piano Project* is unique in that it will involve every segment of the piano community, which is defined as those professionals and those organizations whose financial well-being is affected by AN INCREASE or DECREASE in the number of people who play the piano.

To complete the teacher survey, MTNA members will simply click on this URL www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224KAGFCLJP. The survey is now ready to complete and will remain on the site until October 31, 2005. Thank you for taking time to complete this very important survey. The results will be reported to you by MTNA.

EDUCATORS DISCOUNT

It's back to school time and many music teachers are searching for the best deal on office supplies and materials to assist them with their teaching. Did you know that many stores will offer an educational discount? All you have to do is ask.

The following are a few examples of establishments that may or may not offer discounts:

- * Arts & Crafts
- * Bookstores
- * Catalog Suppliers of all sorts of things
- * Computer Stores (computer hardware and software for teacher & students)
- * Copy Centers (Kinko's, Staples, etc.)
- * Furniture Stores (student desks & chairs)
- * General Merchandise
- * Hardware Stores (For all those bookshelves and projects)
- * Museums
- * Music Stores
- * Office Supply
- * Performing Arts (symphony, choral society, plays, etc.)
- * Science Stores
- * Sewing Stores
- * Shipping Centers (UPS, FedEx, etc.)
- * Sporting goods
- * Video Stores

Here's how you should approach the store personnel to inquire about discounts. First, ask for the general manager, at many businesses, or for the sales person in charge of corporate accounts at larger businesses. Ask him or her if they offer an "educators' discount" You will want to ask this before you tell them you are an independent music teacher.

If they answer "yes" that will give them less room to debate once you do tell them that you teach independently. If they say "yes," tell them you are a independent music teacher (No need to go into great detail.) and you'd like to apply to get an educators' discount as you plan to be purchasing merchandise from them for your studio within the next year.

The business may want any combination of the following, therefore you will want to be prepared.

- * Have an ID card that "proves" you are a teacher. This is where keeping your MTNA membership card handy is important.
- * Have a written statement on letterhead from your studio saying you are authorized by that studio to make purchases.

Now, the store manager knows you are an independent music teacher. They just need to make a copy of these documents to give to their accountant. In turn, they may issue you a special card to use when making purchases, or ask that you follow a certain procedure to make your purchases.

It's important to note that not all businesses will offer these discounts, but also keep in mind that there's harm in asking.

DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, October 29: A Masterclass with Helena Vesterman, MMTA Teacher of the Year, 2005. See the application later in this letter.

Saturday, May 13, 2006: Bay State Contest at Fitchburg State College

MMTA MEMBER NOTES

Janet Ainsworth is the new Coordinator for the MTNA Composition Competition.

Li Fan will play the Yellow River Piano Concerto with the Newton Symphony Orchestra on Friday Nov 11 at 8:pm. There are two other Chinese classical masterpieces, on the program, "The Butterfly Lover" for violin, and "Yellow River Cantata" for Chorus and Orchestra. For Tickets, call 617-527-1428 or go to www.yhpa.org.

MMTA Members **George Litterst, Michelle Gordon, NCTM, and Kathy Maskell, NCTM**, were part of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in Oak Brook, IL in August, presenting Technology Hubs.

George's Hub focused on multimedia in concert performance and using technology to learn and perform piano concerti

Kathy's Hub focused on semi-private teaching and keyboard camps' and

Michelle's Hub focused on adding technology to a traditional studio and designing computer lab curriculums for the private lesson.

Elizabeth and Lydia Reed, duo-pianists, will present a program of four-hand piano works on Sunday, November 13, 2005 at 2:00PM at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, Newton. Admission is free and open to the public.

Membership updates As of July 5, 2005

Please change the following in MMTA Membership list in your Handbook:

**Johnson, Catherine V, 9 Pentucket Lane, Danvers, MA 01923, 978-777-1605,
Piano, johnsoncv@comcast.net**

Please send changes of address, phone or e-mail to:
Sima Shwartz, Vice President, Membership
shwartzpianoschool@juno.com
508-799-0766

**2005 Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year
Helena Vesterman Masterclass
Saturday, October 29 at 10:00 AM at M. Steinert & Sons,
162 Boylston St., Boston**

_____ I would like my student to play in the masterclass

Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Student _____

Age _____ Number of years studying with you _____

Repertoire _____

DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

Please send this top portion directly to: Helena Vesterman, 91 Pine Ridge Rd.
Waban, MA 02168

You may include a recording of your student's performance, if you have one available.

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_____ I would like to attend the masterclass as an observer.

Name _____

Please enclose the following registration fee: MMTA Members \$10.00
Non-Members \$15.00
Students FREE

DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

Please send this bottom half to: Shelley Reeves, NCTM
157 Carleton Rd.
Carlisle, MA 01741

News from the Greater Lowell Chapter (GLMTA) Fall 2006

We are gearing up for a fabulous year! GLMTA has revamped the meeting agenda and has a brand new brochure online at www.mmta.net. If you are a local GLMTA member all meetings are FREE of charge and if you are not, please **feel free** to come and check us out for a free meeting/lecture of your choice! Our first meeting will take place on October 3, 2005 at MusicWorks, 885 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA at 10:30am entitled "new member orientation" where we will be answering questions and covering our new format. Please join us this year as we discuss pertinent and valuable topics for teachers. Details can be found on our brochure and website. If you are interested in joining the annual dues if you are a state member are \$5.00.

Mark your calendars: **JULY JAMBOREE! July 9, 2006**. This will be our 2nd annual event held at the prestigious Parish center for the Arts in Westford, MA. This music event features both students and professional from the Greater Boston Area. Applications will be available with the next newsletter.

Houry Marie Schmeizl
GLMTA president



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