



Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Massachusetts Music Teacher Association

Fall Newsletter, September 2007

Fall Newsletter Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Letter from the President | 1 |
| 2007 Teacher of the Year Presentation..... | 3 |
| 2007 Quad State Convention Schedule..... | 4 |
| Kenon Renfrow Biography | 5 |
| Quad State Convention Registration Form..... | 6 |
| Directions to Quad State Convention | 7 |
| National Music Certificate Program | 8 |
| Music Achievement Evaluations | 9 |
| Local Association News | 10 |
| Greater Lowell Association News | 10 |
| Southeastern Chapter News | 10 |
| Music for Everyone..... | 11 |
| Scholarship Fund | 12 |
| Membership Corner | 13 |



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NEWSLETTER – FALL 2007

From the President

Dr. Nilly Shilo

Dear colleagues,

I hope you all had a delightful summer, and that you are excited for the new teaching year.

All of you should have recently received the 2007-2008 MMTA Directory & Handbook. Please take a look at the many events and programs it offers, and mark these dates on your calendars. Our first event this year will be presented by Joan Garniss, the current MMTA Teacher-of-the-Year. Together with her partner, Fern Abrams, these two will treat us to “A Musical Primer” – a lecture/recital to be held on Sunday October 21, at 2:00 PM, at the Newton Free Library. Directions to the library and other details can be found in the Handbook, or on the website, www.mmta.net.

On October 26-27, the combined Music Teachers Associations of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont will hold a joint Quad State Convention in Williston, Vermont. Music teachers from all four states will be attending. The various sessions will include topics such as teaching creativity and functional skills at the keyboard, technological tools for teachers, and computer software. Our state will be represented by the 2007 MMTA Commissioned Composer, John MacDonald. A convention schedule, registration form, and directions, are available on the website, in the Handbook, and in the Fall Newsletter. We hope to see many of you at the event.

The MTNA Performance Competitions will be held on Saturday November 17, at Brandeis University. They are open to the public. For further information please contact our Competition Coordinator, Dorothy Travis, at travis40@comcast.net, or (781) 665-2623.

Additionally, The Greater Lowell Music Teachers Association will sponsor a Master class with pianist Max Levinson on November 18, at 3:00, in Westford, MA. Later this year, GLMTA will also organize a fund-raising concert, to be held on February 17, at 3:00, in Westford as well. For more information on both events please email GLMTA@mmta.net and or log on to the MMTA website.

As always, our association will continue to offer educational student programs, such as the National Music Certificate Program (NMCP), the Musical Achievement Evaluations (MAE), the MTNA composition and performance competitions, the Bay State Contest, as well as student scholarships. I would like to urge you to attend as many of these events as you can despite your

busy teaching schedules, and to also recommend them to your students. Your participation and attendance is vital to the association and to our profession!


Wishing all of you a successful and rewarding teaching year,

Nilly Shilo

IIIZ+
Asian Zither Quartet

Yi-Chieh Lai, Zheng; Jocelyn Clark, Kayagum
Ryuko Mizutani, Koto; Il-Ryun Chung, Changgu

3pm, Sunday
October 7, 2007
Killian Hall, MIT
Free Admission




The MIT Korean Students' Association (KSA) and
Graduate Korean Students Association (KGSA)
present

Seoul Yego Youth Chamber Orchestra
Nanse Gum, music director

Shostakovich, Chamber Symphony in c
Elgar, Introduction and Allegro, Op.47
with the BORROMEO STRING QUARTET
Tchaikovsky, Serenade for Strings in C, Op.48

8 pm, Saturday
October 20, 2007
Kresge Auditorium, MIT
Free Admission



vento chiaro

woodwind quintet

Joanna Goldstein, flute; Ane Sofia Camposino, oboe
Michelle Doyle, clarinet; Ellen Bennum, bassoon
Jason White, French horn

Bernstein, Overture to Candide
Bach, Italian Concerto
Villa Lobos, Quintette
Robert Dick, Startling Stories

8pm, Friday
October 19, 2007
Kresge Auditorium, MIT
Free Admission



Zehetmair String Quartet

Thomas Zehetmair, violin
Kuba Jakowicz, violin
Ruth Killius, viola
Ursula Smith, cello

Mozart, String Quartet in G major, K.156
Hindemith, String Quartet No. 4, Op. 22
Schumann, String Quartet No. 1 in a minor, Op. 41

8pm, Friday
November 16, 2007
MIT Kresge Auditorium
Free Admission



2007 TEACHER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

October 21, 2007
2:00 pm
Druker Auditorium
The Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton Center, MA 02459

Duo Con Anima

Fern Abrams and Joan Garniss, piano

“A Classical Primer”

An interactive program to introduce the basics of classical music to the general audience. Four-hand music of Mozart, Beethoven, Bizet, Brahms, Ravel and Gershwin.

Directions to the Newton Free Library:

From the North, West, and South: Go on Route 128 to Exit 24 (Route 30/ Commonwealth Avenue). At the end of the exit ramp, turn RIGHT onto Route 30 EAST towards Newton and Boston. Proceed on Route 30 for 3.1 miles and bear RIGHT at the traffic light onto Homer Street. (Newton City Hall is across from Homer Street on the LEFT.)

From the East: Take the Mass Pike or Commonwealth Avenue WEST towards Newton. Leave the Mass Pike at Exit 17 (Newton-Watertown). Stay in the middle lane at the end of the exit ramp and go straight ahead onto Washington Street. Continue on Washington Street for 1.3 miles to Walnut Street. Turn LEFT onto Walnut Street and drive SOUTH for 1.1 miles to Homer Street. Turn RIGHT onto Homer Street and drive past the Library to the adjacent parking lot on the left.

If you take Commonwealth Ave., continue WEST from Boston or Brookline through Newton until you reach Walnut St. Turn LEFT onto Walnut St. and drive one block to Homer St. Turn RIGHT onto Homer Street and drive past the LIBRARY to the adjacent parking lot on the LEFT.

If you enter the Library from the parking lot, the Druker Auditorium will be the first room on the LEFT.

2007 QUAD STATE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

October 26-27, 2007

Convention Artist and Clinician: **Kenon D. Renfrow**

Friday, October 26, 2007

- 3:00pm** Check in at the Courtyard by Marriott, Williston, VT
- 4:00pm** Registration begins at **Trinity Baptist Church**, Williston, VT
- 4:15pm** **Publishers showcase with Kenon Renfrow** featuring Alfred publications and a high quality sacred music publisher, Soundforth publications
- 5:30pm** Break for supper at local restaurants (suggested list provided at the hotel)
- 7:00pm** **Sacred concert by Kenon Renfrow**, including power point presentation, at Trinity Baptist Church, Reception following the concert

Saturday, October 27, 2007

Morning sessions held at the **Courtyard by Marriott** in the **Hillside Room**

- 8:00am** Registration and Continental Breakfast in the Hillside Room of the Courtyard by Marriott
- 8:45am** **Teaching Creativity and Functional Skills at the Keyboard**
Since the keyboard is the ultimate audio-visual aid for teaching creativity in music, we explore ways to use it as the perfect vehicle for building the functional skills of your piano students. Strategies are presented for incorporating sight-reading, improvisation, harmonization, listening, and performance into a well-rounded keyboard curriculum.
- 9:45am** **Technology for Teachers**
Explore the use of technological tools—computers, digital pianos, MIDI, sound modules, and related technologies—to enhance piano teaching. This session deals primarily with the various types of technology available to piano teachers today.
- 10:45am** Break
- 11:00am** **Computer and General MIDI Software**
Discover computer software currently available for teaching various facets of music. From functional skills to technique to repertoire, this session also includes an overview of General MIDI accompaniment software for use in teaching piano.
- 12:00pm** Check out of guest rooms, **Catered Lunch** at the Courtyard by Marriott, **State Business Meetings**
- 2:00pm** **Commissioned Composers Recital** at the **Elley-Long Music Center**, Colchester, VT

KENON D. RENFROW

Dr. Kenon D. Renfrow recently came to Bob Jones University from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, where he served as Professor of Keyboard Performance and Director of Keyboard Pedagogy for 13 years. At BJU, Renfrow teaches piano pedagogy, music technology, applied piano and is coordinator of group piano. He holds the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees in piano performance from Bob Jones University and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in music education with an emphasis in keyboard pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma.

In addition to teaching graduate keyboard pedagogy offerings and innovative courses in new technology, Dr. Renfrow supervised the group piano program and the Computer/MIDI labs. He is the founder of Keyboard for Kids, a preparatory group piano program that serves more than 125 students from the greater Miami area. Renfrow has served in churches as pianist, organist, and guest artist for more than 35 years. He has worked with choirs, ensembles, and soloists as accompanist and vocal coach, and as musical director for major productions.

Dr. Renfrow presents workshops and conducts on-going research in the educational applications of MIDI, computers, digital keyboard technology and the Internet and World Wide Web. He serves as a clinician and consultant for electronic keyboard manufacturers and has published articles in *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier*, *Church Musician*, *Electronic Musician's Digital Piano Buyers Guide*, *Keyboard Companion*, *Piano & Keyboard* and the *Proceedings and Reference of the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy*. His music is published by Alfred Publishing Company, www.alfred.com, and Soundforth, Inc., www.soundforth.com. His solo piano recordings are available from www.pianomusicnow.com and www.cdbaby.com.

Happily married for more than 20 years, Ken and Beth have two wonderful college-age children. In addition to his musical activities, Ken enjoys gun collecting, motorcycling and restoring classic cars and antique clocks.

2007 Quad State Convention
Hosted by Vermont Music Teachers Association

Registration Form

October 26-27, 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

The Registration Fee includes the Friday Publishers Showcase, the Friday night concert, all Saturday sessions, continental breakfast, catered lunch, and the Commissioned Composers Recital.

| | |
|--|----------|
| MTNA Member: \$55.00 | \$ _____ |
| Non-MTNA Member: \$65.00 | \$ _____ |
| MTNA Member and Spouse: \$65.00 | \$ _____ |

College students are invited to attend the Friday night concert and all Saturday sessions, including the Composers Commissioned Recital at no charge. However, any students who want to include the continental breakfast & lunch will need to pay \$15.

Please send this form and your check payable to Vermont MTA by Sept. 26, 2007 to:

Teresa Miranda, Treasurer, Vermont MTA, 100 Trayah Road, Fairfax, VT 05454

The convention hotel is **Courtyard by Marriott**, 177 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495. Rooms have been set aside in a special block for Friday, October 26th for \$79/room plus tax. **The rooms must be reserved by September 26th to guarantee this low rate.** Check in time is 3:00 and check out time is noon. **For hotel reservations, please call 802-879-0100.** View the hotel's amenities at www.burlingtoncourtyard.com

Please clip & save the directions below -----

Directions to the Courtyard by Marriott 177 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495

From **I-89 North**, get off at exit 12 and turn left onto VT Route 2A. Go under the interstate and take first left onto Hurricane Lane. The hotel is the 2nd one on the left.

Directions to Trinity Baptist Church 300 Trinity Drive, Williston, VT 05495

From the **Courtyard by Marriott**, turn right onto VT Route 2A. Go 1.9 miles to the light at Mountain View Road and turn right. Go .2 mile and turn left onto Trinity Drive. Follow Trinity Drive to its end (you will turn left into a parking lot). Trinity Baptist Church is large white church.

From **I-89 North**, get off at exit 12 and turn right onto VT Route 2A. Go about 1.9 miles to the light at Mountain View Road and turn right. Go .2 mile and turn left onto Trinity Drive. Follow Trinity Drive to its end (you will turn left into a parking lot). Trinity Baptist Church is large white church.

Directions to the Elley-Long Music Center 223 Ethan Allen Ave., Colchester, VT 05446

From the **Courtyard by Marriott**, turn right onto VT 2A. Merge onto I-89 North via ramp on the left. Take exit 15 and turn right onto VT Route 15 (College Parkway). Go approximately 1.3 miles and turn left at the 5th light at Fort Ethan Allen. Then turn at the second right onto Ethan Allen Ave. Elley-Long Music Center is on the left. Parking is behind the building.

NATIONAL MUSIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (NMCP)

NMCP was formerly “RACE”, the program of examinations in an instrument and theory. Nothing has really changed but the name. It is still a program not just for “exceptional” students, but is for “ordinary” students as well. Practical and theory examinations are offered twice a year, in December and May.

Important NMCP dates:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| October 23, 2007 | Deadline for applications for Winter Session |
| December 3, 2007 | Piano Examinations |
| December 7-8, 2007 | Theory Examinations |
| February 26, 2008 | Deadline for applications for Spring Session |
| May 9-10, 2008 | Theory Examinations |
| May 15-16-17, 2008 | Piano Examinations |

Registration for the examinations is done on line at www.nationalmusiccertificate.org

Registration deadlines are listed in the calendar of the MMTA Handbook, and online at www.mmta.net

To prepare students for these examinations, still consult the RACE Piano Syllabus (2004) and the Theory Syllabus (2002). New editions under NMCP will be published soon.

For further information, call 866-716-2223, or Dr. Alison I. Vannah at 781-641-0430

MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATIONS (MAE)

Maria Reesman, Chair

781-750-8840

E-mail address: mmreesman@yahoo.com

Fall is almost here; time to start preparing for a full teaching year. We begin searching for newly published materials to find ideas to help with the development of our student's curriculum. We also start preparing them for activities outside our Studios that will challenge and further their performance ability.

We offer our members and non-members as well the opportunity to use our Musical Achievement Evaluations (MAE) for that purpose.

Our previous Newsletter gives the information necessary for non-members to access the Evaluation. Encourage your teacher friends who are not members of our Organization to enter students in 2008.

Below is the information for all 5 Centers with the Dates and Deadlines, location and Chair to be contacted. For location directions visit www.mmta.net

Central MA:

Date: Saturday, February 9, 2008
Postmark Deadline: January 14
Location: St. Stephen Lutheran Church.
Contact: Camille Buddecke
3 Miles Standish Dr., Marlborough, MA 01752
508-786-9628

Metro-West:

Date: Sunday, April 6, 2008
Postmark Deadline: March 8
Location: M.Steinert & Sons, Natick
Contact: Viktorija Knezevic
74 Roberts Dr., Bedford, MA 01730
781-325-4649

North Shore:

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2008
Postmark Deadline: February 15
Location: Gordon College
Contact: Norma Brunner
255 Grapevine Rd. Wenham, MA 01984
978-867- 4102

South Shore:

Date: Saturday, April 5,
Postmark Deadline: March 8
Location: James Library, Norwell
Contact: Ellen Everett
ellen.everett@verizon.net

Southeastern:

Date: March 15, 2008
Postmark Deadline: February 15
Location: Mattapoisett Congregational Church, in Mattapoisett, MA
Contact: Kim Wheeler
kim_wheeler@comcast.net

If you would like more information about the MAE Evaluations feel free to call 781-750-8840 or e-mail mmreesman@yahoo.com

Maria Reesman
Chair MMTA/MAE

LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

GREATER LOWELL CHAPTER

My name is Steve Zocchi and last year I took on the enjoyable task of being the President of the Greater Lowell Chapter. We had a great year which certainly benefited many young music students. The greatest benefit, however, came to me. First of all, I got to meet dozens of other teachers with similar goals and values. Secondly, in my attempt to extend the reach of GLMTA, I stumbled upon many life-changing opportunities. The most important was being offered a chance to be the managing director of the Piano Heritage Series at the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford, a non-profit concert venue. Together with Bonnie Anderson, Mike Harde and Josh Shapiro (a new MMTA member) I've had the chance to help put together a wonderful series for this year. I must put in a plug for these concerts.

On November 4th we have Steve Hunt and Constantine Finehouse performing an eclectic concert including both classical and jazz. On February 3rd 2008 David Deveau will be performing an all romantic recital. On April 6th 2008, Legendary Concert Pianist Russell Sherman will be performing an all Schumann program. Each concert has an optional pre-concert talk and student involvement. These concerts are totally concordant with the mission of MMTA and I'm so proud to be a part of them. For more information contact Steve Zocchi at spzocchi@yahoo.com or call me at (978) 761-0633.

I owe much of my success this year to MMTA. It has been so pleasurable to be part of an organization whose goals are the same as my own. I thank you all for your participation in our events, and for the many emails I've received. I love associating with each and every person that I've met, and I look forward to another wonderful year.

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER NEWS

At the meeting of the aforesaid held on September 12, 2007 at the Fall River Public Library, we set the following program of events for 2007 - 2008.

Master class with Dr. Eleanor Carlson - January 19, 2008 - Mattapoisett Congregational Church

Winter recital (students) 3:00pm February 9, 2008 - First Baptist Church, Fall River, MA

Teachers night out February 9 2008 (restaurant undecided)

Musical Achievement Evaluations March 15, '08 Mattapoisett Congregational Church

Speaker Program

Mr. Franz Mohr (tentative) April 26, '08 Mattapoisett Congregational Church

Our next meeting will be held on Monday October 15, '07 at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church

Judy Mitchell

President Southeastern Chapter, MMTA



Did you know over the past few years, thousands of students nationwide have participated in MTNA's Music for Everyone Programs? Each year more and more teachers use these programs in their studios to motivate their "everyday" students. Through the use of each of the Music for Everyone programs, teachers encourage students of all abilities to set manageable goals and work toward them. While they are achieving these goals, they develop self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment, in addition to an appreciation of music.

The first of the programs is the Music Study Award. This is an excellent way to encourage your students by acknowledging their commitment to music lessons. Through MTNA, you can order certificates celebrating the years of music making your students have completed. Whether it is their first or their twelfth year, they deserve to have their commitment recognized.

The next program is the Studio Festival Program. This is designed to give students the opportunity to perform and receive a supportive critique from an experienced adjudicator whom you choose. Students receive performance certificates and also have the option of ordering medals commemorating their experience. This program is ideal because you, the teacher, tailor the festival to meet the needs of your studio. MTNA provides detailed guidance to help you through all the steps from event preparation to publicity. This will surely be a memorable event for any studio.

The final MTNA sponsored program is the Music Achievement Award Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage all the students in a teacher's studio to continue their music study. With this program, the teacher works with each student to set measurable and achievable goals. Upon completion of these goals the student will not only be intrinsically rewarded, but will also have a tangible pin as a symbol of their accomplishments.

The programs have been very successful in studios across the country. One teacher noted the great progress her students made when she was using the Music Achievement Award Program. The following year her students did not participate in the program and they did not show as much musical growth as they had the previous year. Let this be the year that your students show tremendous growth as musicians, no matter what instrument they play.

For more information about the Music for Everyone programs, visit the MTNA website at <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MusicForEveryone/tabid/280/Default.aspx>, or contact MTNA at mtnanet@mtna.org or by calling (888) 512-5278.

Scholarship Fund

Special thanks to the following for contributing to the MMTA Scholarship Fund:

Norman Chan
H. Delphine Chen
Jennifer Cheng
Jie Fan
Ziqiang Wang
Galina Gertsenzon
Margarita Gurevich
Boksim Hyun
Alice Ju
Victoria Kasznica
Eric Lu
Marianna Rashkovetsky
Arun Santhanam
Svetlana Seifer
Nilly Shilo
Oliver Xie
Qihong Xu
Wenqiong Xue
Xiao Fan Zhang



Won't you consider giving to MTNA or MMTA this year? You may direct your tax-deductible gift to one of MMTA's Scholarship Funds, or make an unrestricted gift.

____Alma Canuel Travel Grants for a student competitor to attend the MTNA National Competition

____Herbert H. Bowker Memorial Scholarship for a student to attend a summer music camp

____Nancy Oliva Scholarship for a MA high school senior to continue music studies at the college level

____Reed Family Teacher Enrichment Fund for a teacher serving on the MMTA Board to attend a National Conference

____Unrestricted

Clip this and mail it with a check payable to MMTA Scholarships to:

Lucy DeSa, MMTA Treasurer
5 Oakland St.
Lowell, MA 01851

MEMBERS CORNER

Alla E. Cohen, who teaches at New England Conservatory, has authored a book entitled "Perfect Pitch for You". This text is recommended by NEC and was just released in September 2007. It can be downloaded from the publishers website: www.lenrhodesmusic.com.

Send us your news, concert dates and ideas. We will put them in the next Members Corner. We want to know what you are doing!