



NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2007

From the President

Dr. Nilly Shilo

Dear MMTA Colleagues:

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope you enjoyed the holidays, spent time with family and friends, and managed to get some rest as well.

We have had several very worthwhile events this past fall. I would like to extend many thanks to **Dorothy Travis** for coordinating and running the MTNA Performance Competitions so smoothly; **Janet Ainsworth**, for coordinating the Composition Competitions and managing the Composer Commissioning event; **Kathy Maskell**, for her engaging Teacher-of-the-Year presentation and workshop, and for arranging the use of the Lowell High School for our State event; **Alison Vannah**, for coordinating the RACE Winter exams; and **Steve Zocchi**, for organizing the master class with Bonnie Anderson. All of these events require much planning, and we are fortunate to have such a remarkable and dedicated group of teachers on our board.

The coming months will bring many important MMTA events, including a Jazz Seminar with Steve Hunt (February 11), the MAE's (see below), a workshop with Rachel Kramer (April 21), the RACE Spring exams (May 12-19), and the Bay State Contest (May 12). Some of the events are planned by our local associations, so make sure to check the information on our website at www.mmta.net, or in the Handbook.

In other news, our board has recently voted to extend the Musical Achievement Evaluations (MAE) to **every teacher** in the state. Non-members will be able to enter as many students as they wish for a one-time fee of \$45. The MAE's will be held in six different centers throughout the state during the month of March, but please note that some of their deadlines are earlier in February. These evaluations provide a wonderful and enriching experience in a non-competitive and encouraging setting, and we would like to see as many students as possible participate. Deadlines, directions and other information, can be found on the website, or in the Handbook, or by calling Maria Reesman at (781) 750-8840.

Please mark your calendar for the 2007 Collaborative Conference (formerly known as the MTNA National Conference) on March 23-27 in Toronto, Canada. It will be the first joint effort of MTNA, the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations and the Royal Conservatory of Music. This huge and diverse pedagogical event will include educational sessions, evening concerts and master classes with acclaimed artists, workshops, and the national competitions finals. It's a unique opportunity for us teachers to broaden our professional horizons and meet colleagues from across North America. To learn more about this event, or to register, visit the MTNA website at www.mtna.org and click on "conference."

At this time of seasonal reflection, I would like to thank each member for being a vital part of our association. I hope that the coming year will bring many of you to our events.

Best wishes,

Nilly Shilo
MMTA President

MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATIONS (MAE)

Maria Reesman, Chair

781-750-8840

New Email Address: mmreesman@yahoo.com

January is the month to begin planning worthwhile and exciting activities that will enhance, develop, and enrich your students' goals as budding musicians. This is where we turn to MMTA MAE. It's the perfect and very favored Evaluation these days. It is becoming an alternative to the Guild Auditions and many teachers have seen the value of its use. We hope you look into it. If you go to our website www.mmta.net, you can get the information under "Students Programs". You can also reach me at my new phone number, 781-750-8840 and I will be delighted to walk you through them, as well as connect you to the Center closest to you.

The Application Form in the Handbook omits by mistake the Evaluation Fee of \$20.00.

It is stated correctly on our website. The evaluation is 15 minutes long.

The Evaluations will be held in March at 6 different Centers around the state. Please check the website for dates and locations.

Because we strongly believe in the value of the MAE Evaluation, we recently voted to offer it to non-member teachers for a fee of \$45.00 with an unlimited number of students entering from an individual studio. It is an opportunity to not only experience the benefit of this Evaluation, but also get to know MMTA and all it can offer us as dedicated teachers. We assure you it will open doors that will facilitate a wealth of information and a new support system.

Please feel free to call if you would like to accept our offer for non-member teachers.

MTNA COMPETITION NEWS

COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

State Composition Competitions Coordinator

Janet Ainsworth

I would like to congratulate all of the participating students and teachers for all of their hard work in the 2006-07 MTNA State Composition Competition. The MTNA Student Competitions consist of three levels: State Competition, Division Competitions and National Finals. One winner is selected from each category at the Elementary, Junior, Senior and Young Artist levels. The state winners advance to the Eastern Divisional Competition. This year's Massachusetts Composition Competition State winners are:

Elementary Level- Eleanor Bragg for her composition '*Songs of The Forest*'

Teacher: Alla Cohen

Junior Level- Madelaine Abel for her composition '*A Longfellow Trilogy of Songs*' Teacher: Alla Cohen

Senior Level: Stephen Feigenbaum for his composition 'Serenade for Strings'

Teacher: Rodney Lister

Young Artist Level: Brian Buch for his composition 'Icy Silence of the Salamander Fire'

Teacher: Alla Cohen

Massachusetts Composition winners in the 2005-06 Competition advanced all the way to The National Level last year in Austin, Texas. The state of Massachusetts had the most students represented as winner or honorable mentions. Best of luck for the 2007 year!

MTNA STATE PIANO AND STRING COMPETITIONS

Dorothy Travis, State Competitions Chair

The MTNA State Piano and String Competition was held on November 18th at Brandeis University. MMTA would like to thank Brandeis University and it's Concert Coordinator, Shawna Kelly, for their generous and friendly hospitality. The music building had an excellent concert hall for the Piano Competition, ample practice rooms, and a convenient classroom for the String Competition. The contestants appreciated the convenient location and parking!

The Senior Piano Competition had ten entrants and the Junior Piano Competition had three entrants. The Senior String Competition had three entrants. Levels with one entrant automatically proceed to the division level.

Congratulations to all the students and their teachers who participated. The level of playing was very high and we wish the winners all the best at the Division level, which will be held at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on January 5-6, 2007.

Announcing the winners and alternates of the State Competition!!

Young Artist Piano Competition

Joseph Shippee-State Representative (only entrant)
Student of Doris Stevenson

Senior Piano Competition

Richard Chen-Winner
Student of Nilly Shilo

Simon Xu-Alternate
Student of Helena Vesterman

Junior Piano Competition

Winston Huang-Winner
Student of Sandra Hebert

Carl Lian-Alternate
Student of Wei Le

Senior String Competition

Metok Hughes-Levine-Winner
Student of Vera Rubin

Lydia Ding-Alternate
Student of Samuil Kreynes

Junior String Competition

Samuel Kishinevsky-State Representative
Student of Brach Kishinevsky

RACE REPORT

Alison I. Vannah Ph.D

I have much good news!

First, our registrations for the 2006 May session increased by 60% over those of 2005! Since we receive \$5 per registration for our scholarship fund, that is a sizeable addition to that asset. Not to mention the increased number of teachers and students who are benefiting from the RACE program. Silver medal winners for the examinations were:

Prep. A: Joy Tianle Zhang
Prep. B: Raymond Hunt
Grade 1: Abbey Mui
Janet Chen
Grade 2: Rubi Tanimura
Grade 3: Carol Tianyue Zhang
Grade 4: Joanne Chang
Grade 5: Mark Li
Grade 6: Rene Saldanha
Grade 7: Louisa Li

Teachers whose students won silver medals were: Norman Chan, Neya Korsantia, Wei Le, Cheng-Feng Lin, Lise Wallace.

Congratulations to the medal winners and their teachers and to all students and teachers who worked hard to prepare for the exams!

Second, in December, we had 15 students sit the theory exams and 6 students sit the practical piano exams. Although having 6 registrations does not meet the usual RACE requirements for sending an examiner, they obliged us as a courtesy. So, be forewarned: We plan to hold an examination center next December, too!

Finally, registration for the spring session ends Feb. 26, 2007. Consult our fall newsletter calendar for the dates of the exams. If our center is to grow at this rate, we will need **more presiding officers!!!!** Please call me to offer your services for a morning or an afternoon, or with the name of someone who can substitute for you. We all have full teaching schedules, but a little rearrangement should be possible to enable our center to succeed.

COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

The Massachusetts Music Teacher's Association presented and honored the 2006 State Commissioned Composer Dr. Stephen Halloran during its annual state meeting's Commissioned Composer's Concert held on October 14, 2006 at St. Anne's Episcopal church in Lowell, Massachusetts. The presentation and premiere of Dr. Halloran's

'*Piano Sonata No. 2*' was performed beautifully by the composer.

Dr. Halloran has been entered as a candidate for the MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year award. This award further promotes and recognizes outstanding contributions to American music. "MTNA annually has its state affiliates submit their commissioned works to a panel of recognized composers for selection of the MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year. The new work of the selected composer is presented in a performance during a general session at the next MTNA national conference, and the composer is proclaimed the MTNA-Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year. The selected composer also receives a check at that time for \$3,000, funded by Sylvia Shepherd, MTNA member from California."

Stephen Halloran earned a BM from the Eastman School of Music and MM and DMA from Boston University, studying composition with Joseph Schwanter, Samuel Adler, Lukas Foss and Stephen Albert. Among his numerous awards for composition are the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship and multiple ASCAP grants. Dr. Halloran is the recipient Renee B. Fisher Award for his piano work, *The Galilee Hitchhiker*, which is available on compact disc. His film score, *Xiangqian*, has received national acclaim by winning the Princess Grace Award. Dr. Halloran has completed a major commission for the Boston Classical Orchestra entitled *Concerto for New Orleans*. Dr. Halloran is also chair of the Theory and Composition Departments at the Rivers Music School and recently joined the faculty at The Boston Conservatory.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

GLMTA

This is an exciting year for the Greater Lowell Music Teachers Association. On November 12th 2006 we sponsored a Piano master class with Bonnie Anderson. Six wonderful young pianists performed repertoire ranging from Bach to Brahms. The students and everyone observing learned much from Bonnie's many insights. She gave advice on practice techniques, articulation, historical awareness, artistry and so much more. Over thirty people attended this event.

Upcoming Events:

On January 14th 2007 GLMTA is sponsoring a Teacher Recital. This full-length concert will feature several MMTA teachers and some excellent performers who have not yet joined the organization. This event will serve two main purposes: 1. To recruit new members and bring attention to our organization. 2. To give students a chance to see their teachers perform.

This concert will be held at MusicWorks Inc. in Tewksbury MA at 3:00. For more information contact Steve Zocchi at GLMTA@mmta.net or call (978) 761-0633.

On February 4th at 4:00 GLMTA is sponsoring a Solo Piano Recital featuring yours truly, Steve Zocchi. I decided to perform this concert as a fundraiser for future GLMTA events. The program will feature Beethoven's famous Pathetique Sonata in it's entirety, a Toccata which I recently composed, and several Jazz standards.

This event will be held at the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford MA, on a wonderful Steinway B. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for MMTA members) For more information contact Steve Zocchi.

On February 11th at 3:00 GLMTA is sponsoring a Jazz Master Class with Steve Hunt. Learn how to study, teach and listen to this great American style. Steve Hunt is an amazing musician who has toured with Allan Holdsworth and has a stunning bio. Check him out at www.stevhuntjazz.com. Even more impressive than his technique and creativity is his ability to teach Jazz. He is approachable, kind and fun. I've taken a few lessons with him and I am always inspired by him. He is also one of the best Classical musicians I've ever met. This event will improve the teaching of even the most accomplished players.

This Jazz master class will be held at MusicWorks Inc. in Tewksbury MA. Contact Steve Zocchi.

For more information about any of these events, feel free to call Steve Zocchi at (978) 761-0633. You can also email me at GLMTA@mmta.net or spzocchi@yahoo.com.

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Whether a novice teacher or seasoned professional, have you at one time or another felt burned out or bored or just plain tired?!? There are many reasons, and the Southeastern Chapter is ready to help you find some solutions!

The Southeastern Chapter announces that RACHEL KRAMER, Director of Educational Services for MTNA will present a workshop for teachers on on April 21, 2007, at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church.

This workshop will focus not only on the causes and cures of burn-out, but on ways to “make-over” any aspect of you, your teaching, or your studio. How's? Well, sign up for this 2-hour workshop, and find out.

Rachel holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in piano performance from Eastern Illinois University and a Master of Music in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Michigan. From 1990-1996, she served as the Manager of Educational Programs for the Baldwin Piano & Organi Co., and from 1998-2001 was the Assistant Executive Director for Programs and Conventions at the Music Teachers'a National Association and where she is currently serving as the Director of Educational Services.

Rachel is president of Music Learning Center, Inc., with 250 students ages 6-months through 8th grade – all group music classes. She is the Associate Director of Music at St. John's Unitarian Church and is the accompanist for MUSE – Cincinnati's Women's Chorus, the Wilmington College Chorale and the Martin Luther King Coalition Chorale. She has been a presenter at the National Group Piano Symposium, the National Piano Foundation Group Conference in Orlando, the Group Piano Teack at the MTNA Conference, and has been teaching group piano for over 25 years.

This workshop is focused on studio makeover ideas to help teachers energize and awaken the soulful music teacher! The Studio Makeover Workshop is beneficial for both the novice and seasoned music professional. The ideas presented in this session can be used immediately to make anyone's studio run more smoothly.

This workshop will be held on April 21, 2007, at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. The very affordable cost is \$20 (which includes lunch), or \$25 at the door.
For more information, please contact Michelle Gordon, NCTM at newsletter@mmta.net

MTNA FOUNDATION AND SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

A special thanks to the following for contributing to the MTNA Foundation this year:

D'Anna Fortunato
Galina Gertsenzon
Michelle Gordon
Elizabeth Smith
Dolores Teplitsky
Claire Tognolatti
Margaret Tuttle
Alexander Yablonsky
Steven Zocchi

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

Because Michelle Gordon, NCTM is relinquishing the position after nine years, **MMTA is seeking a new NEWSLETTER EDITOR** to start June 1. An ability to work with Word documents is important, and having publishing software is a plus! Contact President Nilly Shilo, president@mmta.net or Michelle, newsletter@mmta.net for more information or to volunteer.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

New contact information for MARIA REESMAN:

21 Greenwood Road

Burlington, MA 01803-2742

Phone Number: 701-750-8824

New E-Mail Address for Maria Reesman: mmreesman@yahoo.com

MEMBERS CORNER

"The Flying Lesson", by Alison Barr

There is nothing simple about flying a plane. I know this because I took my first flying lesson last Sunday. A black bomber jacket and microphoned flight helmet don't make you a pilot, that's for sure. No more than owning a Steinway makes you a pianist. But it always helps to look the part, so after my instructor, Joe, guided me through the requisite 40 minutes of fuel, power and radio checks (and double and triple-checks), we were off into the wild blue yonder and I felt the cockeyed confidence that our beginners show at their first lesson – "Listen to this song I figured out at home!"

Joe controlled the take-off, but I took over to gain altitude, cruise and land (mostly). A leap of faith was required during the ascent; all I could see was the windshield and the nose of the plane, but then, suddenly, we had leveled off. I asked Joe, "When do I get to look around?" He told me that's why he had separate controls, so I could look to my heart's content. What I saw was the pristine December sky ahead and the churning Atlantic below. It was stunningly, incomparably beautiful and completely petrifying. It was free beyond belief, but with a sense of awareness, caution and responsibility that stretched almost to the depth of my being (it would have stretched to the very depth if Joe hadn't been there with his controls.)

I knew up there that perfect Sunday that what I was experiencing was not new – it's the same as when I play the piano, when I perform, and, most strikingly, when I teach. There is, in music, so much beauty to be had and so much to share with our students. And so much arduous work to do it all justice. Note after note, phrase after phrase, the horizon ahead and the ocean below.

Alison Barr, NCTM

December, 2006

Beginning in February, **Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee** will begin a monthly seminar for performing pianist and teachers with emphasis on exploring contemporary music.

Participants will be asked to work on new music either of their own choice or assigned for each class and there will be discussions about the music presented.

The aim is to encourage more pianists to explore new literature and find hidden treasures by doing so. This can only enrich us all as musicians.

If you are interested in participating in these seminars, please call Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee evenings at 617-489-1848. The classes will be held at her home in Belmont at 45 Common Street.

Michelle Coolidge Kelley, will be giving a piano recital in March. For more information, please contact her.

We extend condolences to Alison Vannah for the loss of her parents this past month.

Duo Con Anima, Fern Abrams and Joan Garniss, will be giving two concerts this year. The first, sponsored by the Friends of the Waltham Public Library, will include 4-hand works by Clementi, Schubert, Debussy, Grieg, Milhaud and Anderson. It will be held Sunday January 28 at 2:30 at the Waltham Public Library.

The other will be a two-piano concert marking their 22nd appearance in the First Parish Lexington Summer Concert Series. It will be at noon on Friday June 29. This will feature music by Couperin, Poulenc, Ravel and Milhaud. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

The 2007 season marks their 20th year performing as a duo. They released a CD of two-piano music by Beach, Debussy, Bernstein and Holst in 2002, on the HiRoc label.

Newly Certified:

Warm Congratulations to Newly Certified teacher, **Camille Buddecke, NCTM**

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Did you know that the early registration deadline for the 2007 Collaborative Conference is approaching? Make sure you register on or before February 14, 2007, to receive your discount.

This year's conference will feature more than 100 educational sessions and industry showcases and evening concerts featuring pianist Yefim Bronfman, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra with pianist Jane Coop and student soloists with The Royal Conservatory Orchestra. In addition, keynote addresses will be presented by conductors James Jordan and Bramwell Tovey.

Please note that since the publication of the December/January and February/March issues of American Music Teacher magazine, Air Canada has revised their discount program. To take advantage of their 10 percent discount, please visit www.aircanada.com and enter the promotional code GVDMQBB1. Also, an additional pre-conference Niagara Region Historical Tour and Niagara Falls tour has been scheduled for March 22, 2007, from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

For a schedule of events, tour and travel information and registration, visit www.mtna.org/conference.htm.

You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore pedagogical diversity with your colleagues from across North America.

At the MTNA Collaborative Conference, **George F. Litterst** is participating in the following sessions:

Pedagogy Friday 10:00 am -1:00 pm Grand Ballroom
Before and After: What to Listen for in Assessing Our Students

A unique and innovative presentation featuring prerecorded student performances played back on the Yamaha Disklavier synchronized with video. This state-of-the-art technology will enable analysis and discussion of selected performances chosen to illustrate specific approaches to evaluation and assessment.

Saturday 8:00 am Civic Ballroom
Technology To Enliven and Extend Your Teaching

Join us as we explore new opportunities for inspiring your students, facilitating your musical goals, and even extending your teaching beyond the walls of your studio. Technology novices as well as advanced users of technology are welcome!!

Saturday 3:30 pm Civic Ballroom
From Technophobes to Techies, Everyone Can Teach Using Modern Tools: Whichever YOU Are, We've Got Ideas For YOU!

Let's face it, many teachers still have their doubts and fears about technology! This session will show how a traditional teacher and self-professed technophobe, Ingrid Clarfield, overcame her fears and is now a "user." Techno-geek, George F. Litterst, will continue to enlighten all with the myriad of ways he incorporates technology.

Ingrid Clarfield, George F. Litterst

Sunday 8:00 am City Hall
TimeWarp Technologies Showcase: Intelligent Software for Practice and Performance of Method Material and Piano Concerti
Home Concert Xtreme is a score-following software program that displays music notation, follows your playing, adjusts the tempo and volume of accompaniment tracks, and "turns the pages." Classroom Maestro is an electronic blackboard for class keyboard instruction.

Shana Kirk, George F. Litterst

Sunday 3:30 pm Essex Ballroom
A Window into Your Musical Soul
Hollywood has portrayed musicians and music teachers in many ways over the years. Let George take you on a passionate and humorous tour which—quite surprisingly—may give you a new perspective on your musical self.

From Kathryn Hepburn's Clara Schumann in Song of Love to Dudley Moore's humorous portrayal of violinist who suspects that his wife is cheating on him in Unfaithfully Yours, Hollywood has provided us with a wide-ranging look at composers, performers, and teachers. Whether serious or humorous, these flights of cinematic fantasy often give us pause to consider our musical selves, our roles as musicians and teachers, and even to rechannel our musical energies.

Directors, scriptwriters, and actors have frequently given us interesting and often absurd glimpses into the lifestyles, thoughts, and musical performances of famous and fictitious musicians. In doing so, they provide us with a window into the minds of non-musicians and the ways that they think about us.

If we reflect upon these musical portrayals—from the serious and successful ones to the serious and unsuccessful ones to the silly and even absurd ones—we can find plenty of reason to spend some time in musical introspection and even laugh out loud at ourselves.

As a sidelight, this session will include George's picks for these crucial award categories:

- Best Fake Performance of a Keyboard Instrument
- Playing Style Most Likely to Set an Instrument on Fire
- Best Musical Duel
- The Thing You Should Never Say to a Student Even If You Heard it Said in a Movie
- Best Portrayal of a Musician
- Most Ridiculous Portrayal of a Musician (while actually trying to be serious)
- Musical Performance Most Likely to Cause an Audience to Swoon
- Most Unlikely Reason To Play Faster Than Normal



Harmony
Xpllosion
Camp Northeast
August 9-12, 2007
Fitchburg State College

A 3-day music camp for male high school students, and all music educators & music education majors sponsored by the Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and Harmony Foundation.

www.hxcamp.nedymih.org

Over the years, all 1000+ attendees have received a full scholarship for attendance!

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Endorsed**