



Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

September, 2008

From the President

Dear MMTA Members,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer.

I would first like to thank all the board members this past year, especially those who have finished their terms - Lucy DeSa, Treasurer; Janet Ainsworth, MTNA Composition Competitions Chair; Shelley Reeves, Bay State Contest Chair; Michelle Kelley, Newsletter Editor, and of course, Nilly Shilo, President. It had been such a great pleasure to learn under Nilly and she's left me big shoes to fill! I would also like to welcome new members to our board and thank those who have agreed to take new positions - Gwindale Cassity, Vice President of Membership; Shelley Reeves, Treasurer; Leslie Hitelman, MTNA Competitions Chair, and Michelle Gordon, Newsletter Editor. I know how much time and effort it takes to keep this organization running smoothly, so thank you for all your hard work!

I would like to thank the board and MMTA members for giving me this opportunity to serve as President. I will do my best to keep our organization running smoothly and to make MMTA a valuable part of your professional life. My main mission and goal as president will be to increase membership and membership participation, as well as to increase the value of MMTA to our current members. Building on this very solid foundation of all those who served before me, I hope to keep MMTA growing as an even more vibrant and fulfilling community! Please look for our exciting new student and teacher programs in the months to come!

As we are putting together more programs in the effort to increase the value of MMTA for our members, I am humbly asking all of you to get more involved and help us out! We need your help in running our programs and in helping us invite others to join. If all of us pitch in and do just a little bit, no individual will feel overwhelmed and overloaded! As I myself got more involved with MMTA & MTNA and spent more time serving my duties as President-Elect and now President, I've found the experiences to be invigorating and renewing for me as a teacher and a musician. I feel that I've grown so much pedagogically, professionally, and artistically! I invite all of you to really take full advantage of all that MMTA and MTNA has to offer, and offer up what you can for the organization as well!

As members, I know that we all see the value in MMTA in our professional lives, from programs for our students, to opportunities for us to join with other music teachers in this otherwise lonely profession, especially for those of us who are independent teachers. In an effort to understand your needs and thoughts about MMTA, the board is presenting a questionnaire on our website. I urge you to take the time to go on the website and fill out the questionnaire to make your voices heard!

I thank you again for this opportunity to serve you as your President and I look forward to a great year ahead!

Respectfully,
Vivian Tsang

JUDGED FESTIVAL - NEW STUDENT PROGRAM!



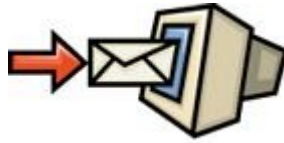
The Judged Festival is a new competition for students that we are instituting this year. They will be held on February 7, 2009, at the Wellesley Free Library. The Judged Festivals will have a rotating theme annually, and the theme for this year is Baroque Music. Students will perform one required piece from a required list of repertoire according to their ages. This festival will give students a chance to perform in a recital setting, be critiqued by judges, and compete for awards. More information, including the required repertoire list and the rules of the competition, will be coming shortly. Please visit the MMTA website at www.mmta.net for more information.

QUESTIONNAIRE



In an effort to better serve our membership, we are currently assessing the needs and wants of our members. We would be most grateful if you could answer a short questionnaire on the MMTA website (www.mmta.net). Make your voices heard and help us make MMTA even more suited to your needs!

E-MAIL



Because we send out essential information through electronic communication, please ensure that your email address is updated with MTNA and MMTA, or provide us with an email address if you haven't done so already. You can send your updated email addresses to Gwindale Cassity at membership@mmta.net, or Vivian Tsang at president@mmta.net.

NATIONAL MUSIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM Dr. Alison Vannah, Chairperson



Once again I am able to report that we are still growing! Each spring we increase our number of students participating enough that we require an extra half-day of examinations! This past spring we used 3-1/2 days! We also had violin examinations for the first time. Our examiner was Andrew Markow, a senior member of the faculty at the Conservatory in Toronto. Apparently he is one of those responsible for the brilliant new syllabus which anyone having students do examinations needs to acquire. There are changes to the repertoire as well as changes to the technical requirements for the exams. The last spring session was the last at which the old requirements will be accepted. The new syllabus can be obtained online at www.longbow.ca. The site also offers the new anthologies as well as materials for preparing for the theory exams. We will be holding practical and theory examinations in the coming winter and spring sessions. For dates of exams and deadlines for applications, please see our Calendar. Registration takes place online at www.nationalmusiccertificate.org.
Alison I. Vannah

MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATION PROGRAM Maria Reesman, Chairperson

These are the MAE Centers that are open at this point. I'm encouraging those of you who know about the program to come forth and volunteer. We would like to see the Marlborough Center open again. We definitely need to expand our area. If any member would like the idea of opening a Center in Western, MA. or any other location, I will provide the support needed through the process. If you would like to know more, contact me. (see info below).

North Shore: Date: March 14, 2009 Postmark Deadline: February 14
Location: Gordon College.

Contact: Norma Brunner, 255 Grapevine Rd. Wenham, MA 01984
978- 867-4102

Metro-West, Lexington: Date: March 29, 2009 Postmark Deadline: February 28.
Location: Yamaha Music School.
Contact: Colleen Henry, 6 Morningside Circle, Woburn, MA 01801.
781-305-3565
cbhkeys@yahoo.com

Metro-West, Natick: Date: Sunday, March 22, 2009 Postmark Deadline: February 22.
Location: M. Steinert & Sons, Natick
Contact: Norman Chan, 1500 Worcester Rd., #307, Framingham, MA 01702
musicfromabove@comcast.net

South Shore: Date: Sunday, April 5, 2009 Postmark Deadline: March 6.
Location: Roger's Piano, Hanover
Contact: Ellen Everett, 7 N. Boundary Rd., Pembroke, MA 02359
ellen.everett@verizon.net

Southeastern: Date: March 14, 2009 Postmark Deadline: February 14.
Location: JPB Piano Studios, 1124 G.A.R. Highway (Rte. 6), Swansea, MA 02777
Contact: Jennifer Boisvert
508-678-2084
Jipboisvert@comcast.net

Maria Reesman
Chair MMTA/MAE
mmreesman@yahoo.com
781-750-8840

MMTA ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held at the Slosberg Music Center at Brandeis University at 415 South Street in Waltham, MA 02453 on November 22, 2008, in conjunction with the MTNA Competitions. We will have the annual meeting at the lunch hour of the competition, and the specific time will be announced shortly on the website. Please check on www.mmta.net for further information. The meeting is open to all MMTA members, and I encourage all of you to come and be an active part of the association!



NEW HAMPSHIRE MTA STATE CONVENTION

The NHMTA is having their state convention on Oct. 4, 2008 at the Manchester Community Music School at 2291 Elm St. in Manchester, NH. It will be a full day of workshops, question and answer sessions, as well as a masterclass from 9:00-4:30, featuring Suzanne Guy and Dr. Ruth Pitts, among others. The fee for nonmembers is \$50 and includes all day attendance plus a catered luncheon. If you are interested in attending, please contact George Loring at gloring@aol.com for more information and to register.

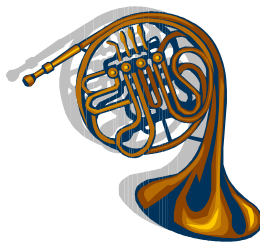
THANKS TO MTNA FOUNDATION DONORS

We would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund in April to June of 2008.

D'Anna Fortunato
Janice Gaboriault
Joan Garniss
Galina Gertsenzon
Michelle Gordon
Michelle Kelley
George Litterst
Bernice Masters
Nilly Shilo
Elizabeth Smith
Dolores Teplitsky
Sue Wen
Steven Zocchi

For more information about the MTNA Foundation Fund or to make a contribution, please visit <http://www.mtnafoundation.org/>

CAPE ANN SYMPHONY



To honor the 100th anniversary of Virginia Lee Burton's birth, the Gloucester-based Cape Ann Symphony has commissioned Robert J. Bradshaw to write an original piece of music based on the author-illustrator's classic children's tale, "Katy and the Big Snow". The musical work will be the centerpiece of Cape Ann Symphony youth concerts in January, 2009. Teacher information connecting the book and music to 4th and 5th grade curriculum will be available through links from the Cape Ann Symphony web site (www.capeannsymphony.org) and at www.katyandthebigsnow.info.



Creative Studio Resources

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Alison S. Barr, MTNA Certified Teacher of Piano
781-982-8920
barr1234@comcast.net

