



**Massachusetts Music Teachers  
Association**

**Fall Newsletter**

**2014**

# President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

September, 2014

Greetings to members both new and continuing! It is an honor to write my first "official" newsletter article as your new President for MMTA. I am honored to work with so many dedicated and talented teachers.

We are very proud to have been represented for the last two years by our hard working Past President, Vera Rubin, who was the first string teacher to be the President of MMTA. She has been influential in increasing the awareness of our organization amongst string teachers and students. She established a new venue for the Bay State Competition. This venue has better served the needs of the string contestants. As Past President, we are thrilled that we will continue to have Vera's input on the Board and that after so much time and effort she has been granted status to remain in the USA so that we can continue to benefit from her wisdom!

**Janet Ainsworth is our new President-elect.** She has been on the Board for many years serving as the Composer Commissioning Chair. She will be attending the Presidents meeting in Cincinnati in September and we look forward to hearing from her what is going on in other states and at national.

**We welcome Vivian Tsang back to the Board as the new Webmaster/Judged Festival Chair.** Her involvement in the website over the past few years and her development of a very successful student program was a natural progression to creating a new Board position.

At our first board meeting in September we will continue our work towards putting the **Handbook/Directory on-line** for all members who are on e-mail. Our new Vice President of Membership, Heather Riley, is reviewing all deadlines and venues. The trend to online directories has been adopted by many organizations. We will still serve those who are not on e-mail, but we will be able to be a "greener" organization by saving paper on these booklets.

**Our biggest fall program for students is the MTNA State Performance and Composition Competition.** Deadline for entry is September 10<sup>th</sup> and the competition will take place at Brandeis University on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Even if you have not entered a student, the public is invited to attend the Senior Competition, which takes place in the auditorium. Every year, the level of playing is very high and it is inspiring to hear these students perform for teachers and students. We have had many students go on to win at the Division and National level. You can read about them on our website!

The 2014 National Conference took place in Chicago and Massachusetts was well

represented. If at all possible, every MMTA member should try to attend a National Conference for the stimulation and as a rich source of continuing education. **The 2015 MTNA National Conference will take place in Las Vegas in March 21-25 of 2015!** We hope to see a good showing from MA at this special location!

Our hardworking Bay State Chair, John Stapp, has **CD's from the performances of last years Bay State Competition contestants.** These high quality CD's will be available starting this Fall. Please see information from John, elsewhere in this Newsletter.

If you have been interested in becoming more involved in the community of music teachers in our state, don't hesitate to contact me or any of the MMTA Chairs and Officers found on our website. There are many opportunities to assist throughout the year. The time commitment need not be large, but the connections you can make with your teaching peers is invaluable.

Best Regards,  
*Dorothy Travis*, MMTA President

## **MTNA STATE PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS**

The MTNA State Performance Competition is the entry level for a three-part competition for advanced students. The Massachusetts portion takes place on Sunday November 22th at Brandeis University and the deadline for application is 3PM on Wed. September 10th.

The winners of the state competition in the Junior (11-14), Senior (15-18), and Young Artist (19-26) levels can be found on our website. They compete at a Division Competition in the winter. The Division winners then compete at the National Convention in the spring and the winners of that Competition perform in a Winners' Recital for teachers from all over the country!

The competition is open to pianists, string, and woodwind students at all age levels. In addition voice students and brass players may enter at the senior and young artist level.

All requirements for this competition are on the national website, [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org), and students must register on this site. Teachers must be members of MTNA and their requirements are also on the MTNA website.

State teachers are welcome to assist at this event. I would welcome your help for a few hours on the day of the Competition (November 22) to work registration or serve as a monitor. It is a great way to get to know some of your colleagues in the state and to hear some very talented students. The portion of the competition that takes place in the Recital Hall at Brandeis is open to the public. All other portions are private due to space constraints.

Current active membership dues for MTNA or a nonmember teacher fee must be paid prior to accessing the student competition application. In addition, all Massachusetts teachers must provide the Participating Teachers Fee and application found here - **MTNA Teacher's Fee Form 2014** For further information, please contact State Competition Chair, Dorothy Travis at <mailto:mtnacompetition@mmta.net> or, please call 781 665 2623.

## **Bay State Contest Chair Announces Winners' CD Set**

We're thrilled to announce that, thanks to Bay State Contest Chair, John Stapp, a wonderful double disc album is now available, containing almost two hours of music and featuring 25 pianists ages 6 to 17, all 1st Place winners in the 2014 Bay State Piano Contest. The double disc album is complete with pictures of each pianist in action as well as a group photo. The price is \$25 and includes free shipping. Please email John Stapp at [Jpstapp@hotmail.com](mailto:Jpstapp@hotmail.com) to order the disc set. Make checks payable to MMTA, and mail to John Stapp, 12 Doncaster Rd., Lynnfield, MA 01940.

Thank you, John, for all the time and energy you've put into this wonderful tribute to these musicians and to our fine Bay State Contest!

## **MAE's for 2014-2015**

The Co-chairs of the Brookline MAE (Music Achievement Evaluations), Valerie Ross and Amy Lee, announce that the event will be held on April 19, 2015. Registration will be available on our website, and more information will be published in the Winter Newsletter in December. The MAE's are noncompetitive, motivational and inspiring opportunity for students to receive feedback. Please check out <http://www.mmta.net/mae.aspx> for more information.

## **The Passing of a Dear Friend and Devoted Member**

*Editor's Note:* Please find below two tributes to Joan Reddy, a longtime MMTA and NEPTA member, officer and friend of many within these organizations. She served both organizations unstintingly for many years, and was a mentor to me when I originally served as MMTA President in the 1980's. Unfortunately, our Spring Newsletter was already completed in early June, and we were unable to include this in a more timely manner.

**From Lydia Reed-Guertin, circulated right after Joan's death on June 3, 2014:**

*Hello friends,  
I just learned about Joan Reddy's passing and I am very saddened to hear this unexpected news. She was a tremendous woman, so involved with her family, students, church, dogs and of course NEPTA. I so enjoyed getting to know her better over the past few years, and will never forget her words of wisdom mixed with a wonderful sense of humor, as I became NEPTA president. She told me "Lydia, every day there is something," which I in turn named this NEPTA moment of the day. This is indeed one of the sorrowful NEPTA moments for me.  
Best Regards,  
Lydia*

**An Appreciation: Joan Reddy, Music Director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
June 11, 2014**

*Reprinted with permission of the author, Emily Mitchell, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bedford, Massachusetts. Photos reprinted with permission of Joan's family.*



*Joan Reddy – Image (c) Life Touch*

On Monday, June 9, nearly two hundred friends and family members gathered at St. Paul's Episcopal Church to celebrate the life and ministry of Joan Reddy. A longtime Lexington resident and, more recently, a resident of Carleton-Willard, Joan served as

St. Paul's music director and organist from 2001 until her death on June 3.

During her tenure at St. Paul's, Joan not only led Sunday worship and the adult and children's choirs, but also directed concerts and frequently shared special music with the parish. Highlights of these extra offerings included a performance of Faure's *Requiem* by the choir of St. Paul's and guests from several other Bedford churches; afternoon Hymn Sings for the whole congregation; and frequent piano-and-violin performances with her son, Conall, and granddaughter, Niamh, during Sunday services.

Joan had a special gift with young people. She taught piano lessons to generations of children and young adults, and led the youth choir at St. Paul's for many years. A no-nonsense teacher, she knew how to capture a child's interest and attention: when she discovered that her junior choir members were consistently late to rehearsal because they were loading up on coffee-hour goodies in the parish hall, she began bringing her own bags of cookies to church—only available to those who stayed for rehearsal.

Joan's strong faith was a source of support throughout her life, and especially in her later years when she faced several bouts of serious illness. Her work as a breeder of English Setters and English Cocker Spaniels brought her tremendous joy. She was an active and thoughtful reader, and a regular audience member at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and other cultural institutions in and around Boston.

As a musician, Joan was precise, demanding, and smart; as a friend, she was warm, gentle, and witty. Till the end, she was indefatigable: only weeks before her final illness, she was planning out repertoire for the 2014–2015 program year.



*Joan Reddy as a young woman – Image courtesy of her daughter, Deirdre Ryan*

From her childhood in Michigan, through many years in Cambridge as an active

member of First Church Congregational, through her long tenure as resident and teacher in Lexington, and finally to her friendship and ministry at St. Paul's, Joan's presence enriched every community she touched.

Donations in Joan's memory can be made to the Fender Music Foundation (<http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org/>), the MSPCA (<http://www.mspca.org/>), or to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 100 Pine Hill Road, Bedford, MA 01730.

## Member News

*Editor's note:* From time to time, we let you know about accomplishments, concerts or other activities our members have shared with us in time for our Newsletter deadline. We do this, not to promote or endorse any particular commercial venture, but to share in the professional growth and pride of our members.

### **TimeWarp Technologies Back in Business**

MMTA member, George Litterst, has announced that his music software company—TimeWarp Technologies—is back in business. Three years ago, the company's music software—Home Concert Xtreme, Classroom Maestro, and Internet MIDI—were sold to another company that went out of business. The software is available once more at [www.timewarptech.com](http://www.timewarptech.com) with new products and features on the way.

*Editor's Note - George had the great honor of being named an MTNA Foundation Fellow at the MTNA Conference in Chicago in March, 2014!!*

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### **Boston University Concerts**

Submitted by Gila Goldstein:

There are four piano recitals at Boston University School of Music the upcoming fall semester -- ALL ADMISSION is FREE:

10/14 - Guest Artist Recital: Jacob Katsnelson, piano (Moscow Conservatory); 8pm Concert Hall, Boston Univ. College of Fine Arts, 855 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

10/20 - Guest Artist Recital: Tien Hsieh, piano; 8pm; All-Liszt recital, Marshall Room, 2nd floor, 855 Commonwealth Ave.

10/26 - Faculty Recital: Gila Goldstein, piano; 8pm Concert Hall, 855 Commonwealth Ave. (works by Bach-Busoni, Brahms, Lior Navok, Schubert-Liszt and De Falla)

11/19 - Faculty Recital: Pavel Nersessian, piano; 8pm, TSAI Performing Arts Center, 685 Comm. Ave. (works by Hindemith, Schubert and Liszt)

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### **Compositions by Diane Anderson**

Diane Anderson had five of her newest piano pieces for students published recently with Alpha Major publishers. *Dorian Jig* and *Downtown Crossing* are solo pieces



for late elementary and early intermediate levels respectively, and ***Windswept Miniatures*** is a suite of three pieces that range in difficulty from late elementary through intermediate levels. The pieces contain exciting rhythms and motifs, and sophisticated sounds. The pieces can be purchased from the publisher at [www.alphamajor.com](http://www.alphamajor.com) or you can contact Diane at [diane88s@gmail.com](mailto:diane88s@gmail.com)

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### **Natick Youth Orchestra Announces Its Fall Season**

An alternative to competitive Youth Orchestra programs, The Natick Youth Orchestra, established by Etleva Hima-Buli, offers a fun “learning experience.” Rehearsals for the fall season begin on Monday, Sept. 8. Please contact Etleva Hima at <mailto:etlevahima@gmail.com> for information on this wonderful program, serving string students from elementary level through the ninth grade.

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### **Gordon Music Learning Theory Workshops with Marilyn Lowe...**

Veteran teacher, Music Learning Theory specialist, creator of *Music Moves for Piano* method, offered in October.

For more information, please contact:

Elizabeth Haymaker, [elizabethhaymakerpiano@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethhaymakerpiano@yahoo.com), 413-586-6704

UMass contact person: Nadine Shank, [nadineshank@gmail.com](mailto:nadineshank@gmail.com), 413-545-0053

Ms. Lowe will take us through a sequential learning process that guides students to hear with understanding. The music learning process is similar to the language learning model of: listen, speak/perform, think/improvise, read and write. The workshop will include singing, chanting, improvisation, rhythm and solfege activities, and is suitable for those who teach children as well as those who teach adults.

Sponsors: UMass Music & Dance Department, Valley Piano Teachers Association

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### **Teacher Li Fan Presents Students in A Romantic Night of Piano**

On Saturday, Sept. 6. At 7:00 p.m., Li Fan will present four of her students in a free recital at the Fine Arts Center, Regis College, 235 Wellesley St., Weston, MA.

## **Teacher Feature**

*As Eastern Division Certification Commissioner, I am periodically asked to write a Certification E-Note that's circulated among all the MTNA Certification Commissioners across the country. This is my most recent column. Alison Barr, Editor*

Every time I open a Teacher Profile Project and start looking through it, I'm struck by two perhaps contradictory things: the sheer amount of work required to compile the entire project, and the sense of earnest dedication and pride that each candidate portrays in presenting his/her teaching identity. The fact that teachers across the country are voluntarily applying for National Certification is a singular sign of the health of our profession and its light for the future.



I am about to celebrate my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, with almost 40 years of independent piano teaching under my belt. I began teaching when it was common practice for teachers to collect their fees once a week. Very few teachers had a studio policy and fewer still believed that independent teaching could provide a viable income. We didn't really think about learning styles in any coherent way and the repertoire we taught and method books we used were surprisingly limited. I'm prouder than I can say to have seen and been a small part of the changes that we've brought about as individuals and as a profession, with the support of MTNA and the many, many dedicated teachers out in the field.

Looking at the portfolios, I've been inspired to imagine the next twenty years of my teaching life, bringing new awareness to many of the components that are covered in the TPP's. I'm having a website created; through that process, I've reworked my philosophy, restated what my curriculum includes, even renovated and redesigned my small studio in my 1774 home. I've asked parents, students and former students to write a few lines about what my teaching has meant to them or to their children. While growth is refreshing and exciting, the work of change can be challenging and uncomfortable. I look around at many of my cohorts who are retiring and "downsizing" in their professional life and understand that, if I don't continually reexamine and redefine myself, I may find it difficult to open my door at 2:00 p.m. and keep it open until 8:45 p.m., all the while remaining motivated, relevant, deep and meaningful in my encounters with each student.

This is all a heartfelt "Thank you!" to all of you who entertain the thought of completing National Certification – do it! It does more good for everyone around you than you can ever know.

Respectfully,  
Alison Barr  
ED Certification Commissioner

