



MMTA Fall Newsletter, October 2009

Letter from the President

Dear MMTA Members,

I hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer! I would like to start out the year by personally thanking all the volunteers who helped to make all of our events run so smoothly! Without all of your participation, MMTA programs would fail to exist.

I would like to thank Alison Vannah for serving as National Music Certificate Program Chair. We appreciate all that she has done for MMTA!

I would like to welcome Alison Barr as President-Elect! The Board is thrilled to have the addition of Alison's experience and insights, and we are thankful that she has agreed to take on this important responsibility!

We would also like to welcome Jan Spillane as National Music Certificate Program Chair. We look forward to working with Jan and we thank her for her commitment to this position!

We would like to welcome a new local chapter on the Cape and the Islands to MMTA! I would like to thank Donna Murphy and Sylvia Furash for all their hard work in starting up this new chapter. We look forward to their exciting programming in the years to come!

I thank you all again for your participation and membership in MMTA this year, and we hope that you will continue to serve and give to the organization because a member-run organization like ours definitely needs your support and help!

Sincerely,
Vivian Tsang
President, MMTA

Bay State Contest

The Bay State Contest will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at Fitchburg State College. Please mark the date on your calendar! As always, we are looking for volunteers to help organize the event. We are short staffed, and in order for us to have a contest this year, it is imperative that we have the volunteers to serve on the contest committee. There are many different jobs, so even if you are entering lots of students, there are many ways that you could help without compromising the integrity of the event! We are looking for volunteers to help out *before* the event to organize it. Please contact Vivian Tsang at president@mmta.net if you can help!

Judged Festival

The Judged Festival will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Wellesley Library. The theme of the Festival will be Sonatas and Sonatinas. Please visit the MMTA website at <http://www.mmta.net/judgedFestivals.php> for the required repertoire list and the rules.

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Diana Chen and Kurt Munstedt as recipients of the Herbert H. Bowker Memorial Scholarship. They were each awarded \$100 to attend a summer camp.

Congratulations to Anirudh Arun as recipient of the Nancy Oliva Scholarship. The Nancy Oliva Scholarship is awarded to a graduating Massachusetts high school senior who have participated in the Bay State Contest in his or her senior year and for continuing music studies at the college level.

Breaking News! New Local Chapter formed on the Cape!

The Cape and Islands Music Teachers Association (CIMTA) is officially forming! We would like to warm-heartily welcome this local chapter to MMTA! If you are a MMTA member living on the Cape or the Islands, and are interested in joining CIMTA, please contact Donna Murphy at tiggerdsm@hotmail.com or Sylvia Furash at syl10on88@gmail.com. MMTA is extremely excited about having this new local chapter!

Corrections to the Handbook

The MMTA Officers and Chairs is listed incorrectly in the handbook. The Composer Commissioning Chair is Janet Ainsworth, and the MTNA Composition Competitions Chair is Leslie Hitelman. Please note the following corrections:

Composer Commissioning Chair

Janet Ainsworth
40 Nashua St.
Clinton, MA 01510
978-368-1330
JAKpiano@aol.com

MTNA Composition Competitions Chair

Leslie Hitelman
8 Forrest Rd.
Westford, MA 01886
978-692-8847
leslie@lesliehitelman.com

QUAD STATE CONVENTION

Those of us who attended enjoyed a rewarding and fun day at the Quad State Convention held at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire on October 2-3. We heard a wonderful concert, insightful masterclasses and inspiring lectures by the clinicians Jean Barr, Diane Birr and Brad Hougham, with the main theme of the conference being The Collaborative Musician. It was a wonderful day spent with friends while learning and reinvigorating our own teaching. We also got a chance to hear some wonderful new music by the commissioned composers of the participating states. Our very own Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee premiered her well written and beautiful piano trio, Three Poems Op. 187.

We would like to thank Carl Lian (student of Nilly Shilo) and Lisa Kojima (student of Vera Rubin) for representing our state and performing in the masterclass. We would also like to thank their teachers for preparing such high levels of playing for this event. Our state was definitely well represented!

The Quad State Convention is a collaboration between Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. A Quad State Convention is held once every two years and we rotate from state to state. In 2011, Massachusetts will be the host of the Quad State Convention. We hope to see you there!

EMAIL SCAM – Notice from National

MTNA has become aware of a scam directed toward music teachers. As many of you are likely aware, there has been a marked increase in the efforts of individuals performing acts of fraud via the Internet. Until recently these acts were not specifically targeted to independent music teachers, however, over the past few weeks many music teachers have received e-mails inquiring about having international students study with them. The person sending the e-mail poses as a parent interested in having their child or children study with them. The music teacher is offered prepayment for a certain amount of lessons, and once a cashier's check is sent and in the bank the teacher is asked to refund a large portion of the check because of some emergency or to pay for the fees the "parent" incurred in transferring the money and obtaining the check or for their children's travel. The cashier's check is an elaborate counterfeit and it takes the bank longer than usual to discover the fake..

If you receive an e-mail similar to one of those above do not respond to them. Due to the high number of these scams, it is impossible to investigate each e-mail. If you or someone you know have lost funds because of this type of fraud, please contact your local field office of the Secret Service. A list of field offices is available at http://www.secretservice.gov/field_offices.shtml.

For more information about common types of Internet fraud, visit the FBI website at <http://www.fbi.gov/cyber/cysweep/cysweep1.htm>.

GLMTA News

Greetings to all as we begin another great year. I hope this season finds your studios full and your teaching inspired.

GLMTA is planning several performance opportunities for students of MMTA teachers this year. On Saturday, December 5th at 3:00 GLMTA is sponsoring an International Music Recital. Students and teachers perform music from around the world as well as standard classical repertoire. At the last two concerts, over a dozen ethnicities were represented. It is a celebration of the diversity that makes this country so great. The best part though... everyone bring delicious foods of their ethnic background. It's a concert and a feast. This concert will be held at the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford. If you have any questions call Steve Zocchi at 978-761-0633 or email spzocchi@yahoo.com.

On Sunday February 7th at 3:30 GLMTA will sponsor GLMTA Teachers in Concert. This is a fundraising event which helps support other upcoming events. Also, we donate half of the proceeds to Feed the Children. We have donated over \$500 to Feed the Children in the last two years. All MMTA members are invited to participate, although we never have a shortage of performers. This event will also be at the Parish Center in Westford. (Tickets are \$15, available at the door) Call Steve Zocchi with any questions.

We are trying a new event on May 2nd at 6:30 PM at the Parish Center in Westford. We are sponsoring a recital of Original Compositions and Improvisation. Teachers and

Students will perform. This should be an interesting experiment. This concert seeks to help rekindle the excitement of the composer as performer and music on the spot.

On May 30th GLMTA will be having a dinner party and elections. (More on that later) And of course, we will be having our annual July Jamboree Concerts on July 11th.

I would be remiss if I didn't put in a plug for a Concert Series at the Parish Center in Westford. It's called Piano Heritage Series, and this year we have another great line up

November 7, 2009: **Mark Laverty ~ Guest Pianist from St. Louis,**

Join us for a delightful afternoon of piano music by Bach, Mozart, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. Presentation by Mr. Laverty at 3:15 pm.

January 23, 2010: **Leslie Hitelman ~ Westford's Own Pianist,** Enjoy an afternoon featuring the pianist as composer: music by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Hitelman. Presentation by Ms. Hitelman at 3:15 pm.

March 20, 2010: **Minsoo Sohn ~ Virtuoso Pianist Returns to the PCA,** Don't miss this dazzling program of music by Bach, Beethoven, Franck and Liszt's *Paganini* Etudes. Presentation by Bonnie Anderson, Artistic Director, at 3:15 pm.

May 22, 2010: **Bonnie Anderson & Donna Gross-Javel ~ Four-Hand Piano Duo,** Come hear our Artistic Director make 'four hands' look and sound like 'two' with Donna Gross-Javel, with music by Benda, Schubert, Brahms, and living composers from around the world (The Living Composers: AnythingPiano Project). Presentation by Bonnie Anderson and Donna Gross-Javel at 3:15 pm.

Parish Center for the Arts, 10 Lincoln Street, Westford, 978-692-6333,

www.westford.com/pca, pca@westford.com PCA is a not-for-profit \$12 PCA Members; \$15 Non-Members, \$8 Teens/College Students, \$5 Children 12 and under.

Invitation to MMTA members:

I would like to invite local teachers to join the performance classes I schedule throughout the year for my own students. Currently, I consolidate all levels of students in one session in my home: there is no charge, just an adjunct to their private lessons. These informal settings have been invaluable for student motivation, goal setting, performance experience in preparation for recital work, and my own studio.

This year I would like to divide my students into at least two groups according to age/performance level, but need additional students to fill a full session for each level. I would also love to organize an adult session this year!

If you are interested please contact me.

Gwindale Cassity

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