

**Mass Music Teachers Association
Business Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
At the Home of Vera Rubin, President**

President Rubin called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Once again, a sumptuous feast was provided.

Present: Jane Fiske, Vera Rubin, Nilly Shilo, Valerie Stark, Dorothy Travis, Alice Dusenberry (assisting and observing) and Alison Barr

1) Vera asked for a motion to approve the Secretary's Minutes from the Sept. 11, 2013, meeting, which were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Motion: Dorothy

Seconded: Valerie

Unanimously approved

2) Vera asked Valerie to present a Treasurer's Report.

Valerie reported that we are solvent, operating well, and that she is slowly but surely learning how to handle the software/Pay pal accounts necessary to conduct business. She has been kindly and generously assisted by former Treasurer, Jan Spillane.

Valerie asked that all Competition Chairs - Dorothy, Vivian and John - please automatically give 1099's to each judge, regardless of whether their earnings will reach the \$600.00 mandatory IRS reporting amount, at their respective days of competition, so that Valerie will have them on file and not have to hunt anyone down. She is only awaiting one 1099 for 2013 - that of the Commissioned Composer, and she will follow up on that. Some discussion ensued, resulting in complete agreement that Valerie should proceed by asking each chair to enforce this as a regulation. It will be done retroactively for everyone who has judged thus far in 2014.

Valerie also reported that she has secured help on specialized tax forms, from an accountant she knows.

3) President Rubin asked for Teacher-of-the-Year (TOY) Nominations for 2014.

Nilly submitted candidate Vivian Tsang, and read a beautiful tribute to Vivian.

(Please find a copy of this at the end of these minutes.)

Vera accepted Nilly's nomination on behalf of the Board, naming Vivian Tsang "Teacher of the Year 2014." Alison will include this tribute in the Spring Newsletter.

4 and 5: Travel Enrichment Grants for 2014 and Finalizing Grants for Future
Vera asked Alison to report on the Teacher Enrichment Fund, which has been opened on a one-time only status for this year, to be finalized as a permanent program at our next meeting, when Lydia Reed-Guertin will be present to contribute her thoughts.

Alison reported that there were four (our maximum amount) candidates applying for the grant – Dorothy Travis, Betty Reed, Lydia Reed-Guertin and Vivian Tsang, all attending the MTNA Conference in Chicago, and all worthy of the \$250.00 each (\$1000.00 ceiling) that we voted on via email (see Sept. 11, 2013 minutes.) It was unanimously agreed that these candidates each be granted the \$250.00

Vera stated that she feels strongly that the individual amount of \$250.00 and the overall ceiling of \$1000.00 are BOTH too low, considering the cost of conference travel. Much energetic discussion ensued.

Dorothy asked if the Pres. (\$900.00 allotted by MMTA) And Pres.-Elect (\$600.00 allotted by MMTA) are required to go. No, but they are “expected to, especially the President, who needs to attend many meetings.

Alison contributed that, although the costs are high, we need to be sure we don't give an impression of “granting special benefits” to the Board, therefore she feels we need to keep the total amount fairly low.

Nilly contributed that not every professional is paid to travel to professional meetings, and Alison said that those who travel need to have the money to pay out-of-pocket anyway, since all travel grant money is issued as a reimbursement after the travel has taken place.

Vera offered the option that we could fund a larger travel grant by eliminating the high cost of printing the Handbook/Directory and just have it available online. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

We decided to discuss the overall ceiling and individual grant amounts at the next meeting, when Lydia will be present. Dorothy feels it might be raised to \$2000.00. Vera feels that the upper limit for the amount granted to each individual should be \$400.00

Other thoughts from Vera (ex post facto)

And about the sum in whole: we raised our dues last year, it gave us \$2500.00 per year. From the very beginning we have been talking about the enrichment fund of couple of thousands, not one thousand. But we didn't have time to discuss all the details, so, TEMPORARILY, for 2014 conference, we decided to stay with \$1000.00 and to see how it will go. That I do remember clearly. The sum of \$2000.00 is perfectly sustainable, we have the money. Now we need to create a smart policy,

how to grant the money, but we have plenty of time before the next conference. About the savings on the directory printing: it was not for adding the resources to the same enrichment fund. It is for the student programs. End, ex post facto....

Jane offered that there are two funding options available to professors at her university, and one of them is tiered to include: presenters at conference (first priority;) officers in the organization holding conference; and, finally, those simply attending conference. Another idea offered by Vera, in the hopes of boosting interest and awareness of MMTA, would be to give one grant to someone who has NOT volunteered or been active in the organization.

Dorothy asked that members be informed in some way about the fact that there is travel money available if they volunteer. Alison will put this in the Spring Newsletter.

Again, Quad-State travel might be included in the final proposal.

Nilly asked that we change the grant name to Professional Enrichment Grant.”

6) There are no applicants for the Reed Family Enrichment Fund at this time. This is a \$250.00 grant given (as a priority but not a requirement) to a member of the Board who is a first-time attendee at MTNA’s Conference.

7) Changes to Code of Ethics

MTNA has directed that all states remove a clause from their Code of Ethics about student recruitment from the studio of one teacher to that of another. This is necessitated by action brought upon MTNA by the Federal Trade Commission.

Valerie moved that we remove the specific clause and Dorothy seconded.

President Rubin called for the vote.

Unanimously approved.

Lydia should be asked to remove this clause from the template from the Membership Directory/Handbook.

8) President Rubin appointed a Nominating Committee of Alison, Nilly and (hopefully) Vivian.

****Ex post facto – Vivian agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee.

This committee will submit a slate of Officers for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016, with President Jane Fiske at the head.

**Vera generously offered to continue as Bay State Contest String Coordinator
Note for Handbook: this should be now listed as a separate Chair position
under “Officers and Chairs”**

9) Vera generously offered her home as a venue for our TOY party, which we all decided would be held on either Saturday, June 7 or Saturday, June 14, 2014. Vera will ask Vivian about whom date is better, and then we will plan the party!

10) Chamber Music Festival

Sadly, Vera has been forced to cancel this once again. There are two few participants, mainly because, as Vera reported, many groups do NOT prepare two full movements of their works, but perhaps only a portion of a movement, so they can pass an audition. Vera made a VALIANT effort, with full support of the MMTA Board. She made and disseminated 150 posters, made personal phone calls, circulated information, let all her colleagues in the Greater Boston area know about it, but there just is not enough registration to proceed. Vera will see if she can recover portions of rental fees paid to the two venues. She is saddened that this lovely event, which she first conceived in New Zealand, could not go forward. It is all encompassing – across ages and very democratic musically; however, Massachusetts does not seem to be ready to accept it, although the Roman Totenberg Festival which Vera initiated has been extremely successful, and many teachers have expressed support and interest in the Chamber Music Festival.

Dorothy expressed that the Board was extremely appreciative and supportive should we decide to go forward again with this idea, and we all heartily thanked and consoled Vera in her disappointment.

11) MMTA Website

Vera initiated discussion about ways in which our website might be improved. It seems to be difficult to find a teacher of a particular instrument from a particular geographic area or town. Vera feels we need “everything” on the website, including the Membership Directory/Handbook.

Alison stated that there are about 20-25 people on the “no email” list who would need a hard copy sent to them.

Dorothy said that we could ask Vivian to make any changes we feel are necessary.

Valerie reported that the Directory/Handbook costs us \$600.00 after advertising income, but the ads could be placed in the online version. She offered that perhaps we could have a “transitional year,” where both online and print are available. Dorothy and Nilly both attested to using the print version fairly regularly. If it goes online, we can include a heading for “Calendar” also.

We should ask the no email people whether they want the Directory mailed to them.

This agenda item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

12) Request from a Longy student to form Student Chapter:

Dear Dr. Shilo,

I am a graduate student at Longy School of Music of Bard College who is interested in learning more about starting a student chapter of the MTNA/MMTA at school. In their programs, Longy puts enormous importance on the role of teaching artist, and I think that having an MTNA chapter at the school would enhance and complement the pedagogy education they offer. Please let me know what the next steps would be and whether this would be possible. I'd be more than happy to organize and lead the group.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Alaina Calloway Bolton

Alaina Calloway Bolton, mezzo-soprano
Voice and piano instructor
alainaboltonmusic@gmail.com
www.creativemusician.musicteachershelper.com

It was decided to direct this person to join MTNA/MMTA and also to look at the MTNA Website where there is a section on how to establish a Student Chapter. We have not had one in Mass. for a long time.

New Business:

Bay State Contest Prizes: Recording Time at Blink Studios

Blink Studios offered recording time as a prize to winners - this may have happened for two years in a row, but is no longer offered. Vera suggested that MMTA fund the recording time as a prize to each winner. Much discussion ensued. This would perhaps encourage membership and also boost our visibility as an organization. From Vera: "I do think we need to make the recordings of the best students, published on our website. I have another idea how to do it, which we can discuss the next meeting."

Valerie stated that everything seems to be a competition and it's nice to have some things that aren't. Alison stated that there probably should be, at a future time, a larger, more overarching discussion on MMTA Membership in Massachusetts, the mission of our organization, including a study of student programs and teacher needs.

President Rubin adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Barr
MMTA Secretary pro temps

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Please see Teacher-of-the Year Nomination on the next page!!!

2014 MMTA Teacher of the Year Nominating Vivian Tsang

I would like to nominate Vivian Tsang for the 2014 MMTA Teacher of the Year Award. Few teachers in our association deserve this award more than Vivian.

I first met Vivian while chairing the MTNA Young Artist Competition in 2002. Only an NEC student at the time, little did I know that this student would soon become an important figure in our association. For a very long time, the MMTA Board had been looking for someone to take over as Bay State Chair, to no avail. It was one of the most difficult and time-consuming jobs on the Board. No one wanted to do it. Until we asked Vivian. She joined the Board, immediately volunteered for the task, and single-handedly coordinated the contest registration and competition day itself. Later, she would add to it a new successful program - the Judged Festival. Not only did she prove to be a great event chair who possesses superb organizational skills, but we would soon discover her incredible technological skills as well. She helped reshape the MMTA website and created online tools for the Bay State Contest and Judged Festival, a redesign which literally changed the face of our association. In 2008, at 28, she became one of the youngest MMTA Presidents ever (if not THE youngest), and followed this capacity as Webmaster and Judged Festival Chair. In addition to all of these responsibilities, Vivian teaches piano privately and also runs a successful music school, overseeing many teachers and students.

Lastly, Vivian is one of the nicest, most accommodating and easy going people that I know. Even under pressure at huge events, you'll find her calm and efficient, listening to every student, parent, or teacher, and answering every question patiently and politely. Our association is fortunate to have Vivian as a member and officer, and she surely deserves the MMTA Teacher of the Year Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Nilly Shilo
MMTA Certification Chair

2/10/2014