



Massachusetts Music Teachers Association

Fall Newsletter 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,
September 2015

At our social event last spring, members had the opportunity to socialize at the lovely new home of Vera Rubin, our Immediate Past President. Several new members were there and we all toasted our Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth Reed. New connections were made and colleagues had a chance to talk about their year in a relaxed setting conducive to sharing and learning from each other.



2015 Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth Ann Reed (left) is presented with a gift of original artwork by MMTA President Dorothy Travis.

Our region's biannual **Quad State Convention**, to take place on October 2-3 at Saint Michael's College in Vermont, provides another opportunity to connect with colleagues from four New England states. More information will be found later in the Newsletter. Let me know if you are planning to attend and we will try to have a social gathering in VT for all the MA teachers! *Please let me know you are going, so I may assist in planning for accommodations and carpooling.*

The MTNA State Performance and Composition Competition deadline is September 16th. Registration for these competitions is done on the national website, www.mtna.org. Information for our students, teachers and parents can be found on our state website under Student Programs at www.mmta.net. The competition will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at Brandeis University in Waltham.

Every year, MTNA hosts the state presidents at National Headquarters in Cincinnati in order to inform the states about the resources that are available to them, to educate states about the inner workings of National and to hold a series of meetings for the states to share issues and explore solutions . To do this, there are three meetings organized by region, state size, and then the entire body of states. This was a very inspiring experience!

If you are wondering whether your membership is bringing value to you as a teacher, you should visit the members-only section of the national website and check out the 80% discount available to you at Office Depot for copying services, the prescription savings card, and the teaching and business related documents.

To access this information, go to:

<https://members.mtna.org/mtnasecure/MembersOnly/Active.aspx>

The staff at National is hardworking and interested in creating value for our members. We were given an opportunity to tour the new offices at headquarters. Here I am pictured with my roommate for the weekend, Christina Whitlock from Indiana.



Our National Convention this year will be in San Antonio Texas, home of the Alamo, Spanish Missions, and The Riverwalk. The Grand Hyatt is 11 minutes from the airport. Highlights will include a concert of Beethoven Sonatas by Grammy winning artist Emmanuel Ax, advanced master classes by Seymour Bernstein who was recently highlighted in a documentary film by Ethan Hawke, and intermediate master classes by Bruce Berr and Barbara Fast. Register early by Dec 2 for the best discounts. The dates are April 2-6, 2016.

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

We have a confirmed date for the MTNA Performance Competitions! It will be Saturday, November 14, 2015, at Brandeis in Waltham. For complete information, please consult our website at http://www.mmta.net/event_details.aspx?event_id=1195

MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATIONS

Our MAE Chair Amy Lee has announcing that we should expect evaluations at two locations in 2016:

The North Shore is hoping to remain at Gordon College, and we will try to include an adjudicator for String students! (30-40 registrants.)

The Brookline location should be at Brookline Music School, piano only.
(50-60 registrants, max.)

For more information, please consult our website:
<http://www.mmta.net/mae.aspx>

2015 QUAD STATE CONFERENCE

Friday October 2 and Saturday, October 3, 2015

St. Michael's College

Colchester, Vermont

Hosted by the Vermont Music Teachers Association

A wonderful and stimulating program is planned by VMTA, and, you will have an opportunity to see a spectacular array of fall colors in a stunning part of the state. Also, we'll be helping VMTA celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its inception, as we did a few years ago! Some highlights are the following:

“Celebrate the Life and Music of Amy Beach”

“Composing and Improvising” presented by Gail Smith

Pianist Brian Connelly in Concert, to help celebrate VMTA's 50th Anniversary

“Bela Bartok: Peasant Jewels” presented by Sylvia Parker

Remarks by Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director

Commissioned Composer Concert

Wellness Workshop presented by Dr. Nicholas Quarrier

QUAD STATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To register, find out about how your students can participate, or simply take a look at all the exciting events, please go to:

http://www.mmta.net/event_details.aspx?event_id=1198

MEMBER NEWS

Member *Tanya Schwartzman* announces a new book: “Klever Keys Scales -- Piano Scales for the Early Beginners”. This book introduces 4-6 year-old musicians to piano scales. The author, Tanya Schwartzman, and the students of the Sharon Music Academy will present the book. A limited number of books will be available for teachers in the audience on Sunday, October 25, 5-7 p.m. at Boston University School of Music, Marshall Room (855 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd floor), Boston, MA.

Also, Tanya announces a Piano Master Class with the professor of the Central Special Music School-Lyceum of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Russia, Zora Tsuker, will take place on Sunday, November 1, 4-6 pm, Sharon Music Academy, 112 N. Main St, Sharon, MA. For more information please call Tanya Schwartzman at (508) 259-8246 or consult her website at: www.sharonmusicacademy.com

Member *Alison Barr* announces the creation of the “Midwinter Adult Piano Retreat,” to take place on January 19 -23, 2016, in Lake Worth, Florida. This retreat is open to avocational adult students of ALL levels and also to Music Appreciators who don’t play an instrument. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.alisonbarr.com/midwinter-retreat/>

