



WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MMTA Members,

Thanks for a great year with MMTA in 2009! Looking back at the past year, there were lots of firsts this year: the local chapter Cape and Islands MTA was formed; we had our first Judged Festival; and we started offering group health insurance. We also had many very successful annual events. Thank you for all of you who have volunteered to help run the events and for preparing and entering your students for the events.

I'm looking forward to a great 2010! The upcoming year will be a very special one - it is the 50th anniversary of MMTA! I hope to see you all at the Gala on May 1, 2010 to help celebrate this special event.

Realizing that this is my last newsletter as State President, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve in the past two years. It has been truly a wonderful and fulfilling experience for me personally. I have learned a lot and my passion for teaching has been reinvigorated by the constant contact with other wonderful teachers throughout the state and the country! I hope that when you are asked to serve and volunteer for the organization, you will remember that when you give, you will get back many times more! Alison Barr will be succeeding me as MMTA President in June of 2010. I look forward to Alison's leadership as she will bring energy, passion, enthusiasm and experience to MMTA!

Wishing you a Wonderful, Prosperous, and Fruitful Year ahead!

Sincerely,
Vivian Tsang
President, MMTA

MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2010 MTNA National Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from March 20 to 24, 2010. For those of you who have never attended a national conference, it is a great place to network and meet other teachers from all around the country, and learn from the many professional workshops, sessions, master classes, recitals, competitions, and industry showcases that are offered. In our isolated world that is private studio teaching, it is a wonderful opportunity to get together with others and learn from each other! The registration prices go up after February 10, 2010, so be sure to register early! For more information, please visit:

<http://members.mtna.org/conference2010/index.html>

JUDGED FESTIVAL

The Second Annual Judged Festival will be held on February 27, 2010. Our theme this year is Sonatas and Sonatinas. The registration is now open and will be open until January 30, 2010. However, registration is first come first serve, so be sure to sign up early! Registration will be online only, so please visit our website for more information (www.mmta.net).

BAY STATE CONTEST

Bay State Contest will be held on May 15, 2010 at Fitchburg State College. This year's registration will be online only and will be open from March 1-April 1. Some new changes to the contest this year:

1. Any division with more than 13 students will be split into smaller subdivisions.
2. There will be NO repertoire changes after the application deadline of April 1, 2010.
3. We have a new online registration system that is much simpler and user friendly this year. Each teacher will be able to log into the system using their email and a password (first assigned but can be changed). Once in the system, teachers will only need to enter their students once and the database will keep all of their information for future Bay State Contests and Judged Festivals. All proof of age (copy of passport or copy of birth certificate) will need to be scanned and included with the online registration. The great news is that this will only need to be done once and this information will be stored for all future competitions.

4. There will not be a chair for the contest, but a contest committee that share in the responsibilities of organizing the contest. Please contact state president Vivian Tsang at president@mmta.net if you are able to volunteer to help with the organization of the contest. Thank you in advance!

MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATIONS – Maria Reesman, Chairperson

A new year has arrived. Among the activities you can use to further your students musical development is the Musical Achievement Evaluations (MAE). It can be used to set a goal for 2010.

The first one would be preparation for Bay State Contest. It is also a valuable tool for monitoring students' progress. It's very exciting for them to have a goal to refine and memorize two very special pieces of their choice with their teacher's guidance. Since there are no required levels, it is a very convenient way to have them evaluated.

MMTA members that have not yet entered students in this program should consider preparing students to participate during March and April. (See our website at mmta.net to find Centers available in your area). You will also find a description of MAE program. Center's Chairs can be contacted for more info. For teachers who are not members of MMTA, we offer a nominal fee of \$45.00 to enter all your students.

We are going to use Center Stage School of Performing Arts in Westford to hold MAE Event as one of the Metro-West Centers. We are very excited about the use of their facility. They are in very accessible location. The address is **359 Littleton Rd. in Westford**. We will have fliers available on March 10, 2010. But if you wish to get more information about the School's Programs and Activities please contact their Director Tish Kilgore at 978-392-3433 or google *Center Stage School of Performing Arts*.

I would like to wish MMTA members a wonderful new year of opportunities for teachers and students. **Think MAE!**

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

Metro-West, Westford: Date: April 10, 2010

Postmark Deadline: March 10

Location: Center Stage School of Performing Arts, 359 Littleton Rd. Westford, MA

Contact: Colleen Henry, 6 Morningside Circle, Woburn, MA 01801

781-305-3565

cbhkeys@yahoo.com

[Click here for directions](#)

MTNA State Performance and Composition Competition Results

The MTNA State Performance Competition was held on November 21st at Brandeis University. The winners and State Representatives of the piano and string competitions will compete at the Division level, which will be held at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. on January 8-9, 2010.

Young Artist Piano Competition

Kenric Tam-State Representative
Student of Wha Kyung Byun

Senior Piano Competition

Layla Siraj-Winner
Student of Helena Vesterman

Carl Lian-Alternate
Student of Nilly Shilo

Yong Murray-Honorable Mention
Student of Niva Fried

Junior Piano Competition

Eric Lu-Winner
Student of Dorothy Shi

Kevin Sherman-Alternate
Student of Valerie Henkin

Winston Wang-Honorable Mention
Student of Sandra Hebert

Young Artist String Competition

Yi-Jung Su-State Representative
Student of Edwin Barker

Senior String Competition

Madeleine Tucker-State Representative
Student of Carol Ou

Junior String Competition

Hikaru Yonezaki-Winner
Student of Fedeko Takahashi

Hyunnew Choi-Alternate
Student of Fedeko Takahashi

Young Artist Composition

Liraz Barak-State Representative
Student of Alla Elana Cohen

Senior Composition

Jeremiah Klarman-Winner
Student of Rodney Lister
Danielle Galler-Rabinowitz-Honorable mention
Christina Azarian-Honorable Mention
Arielle Galler-Rabinowitz-Honorable mention
Students of Alla Elana Cohen

Junior Composition

Eleanor Bragg-Winner
Eric Kim-Honorable Mention
Students of Alla Elana Cohen

Elementary Composition

Anna Larsen-Winner
Stella Gitelman Willoughby
Students of Alla Elana Cohen



Layla Siraj

Winner – Senior Piano



Carl Lian

Alternate – Senior Piano



Eric Lu & Kevin Sherman
Winner & Alternate – Junior Piano



Hikaru Yonezaki & Hyunnew Choi
Winner & Alternate – Junior Strings

LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Greater Lowell Music Teacher's Association

It is usually around this time of year when I reflect most on how lucky we all are. It's so cold outside, but we can retreat to our warm practice rooms and teaching studios and do what we love most... make music. So many people are struggling to survive. So many people hate their job (if they have one). But we, the lucky few, get to do what we enjoy and share that gift with so many others and... make a living doing so. Yes, teaching music doesn't pay as well as other jobs which require less skill and dedication, but I would not trade any of my practice hours or teaching time for any sum of money. (O.K. that's not entirely true) Seriously though, you should all take a moment and thank yourselves for all the work you've done to earn the honor and privilege of being music teachers.

On February 7th 2010 GLMTA is sponsoring a fundraising concert. (3:30 P.M. at the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford, \$15). Half of the proceeds go to Feed The Children, half go to sponsoring future GLMTA events. This is my favorite event of the year. I love the idea of turning sound waves into food for hungry children. Leslie Hitelman will be performing, and hearing her play is well worth the price of admission. I will also be playing... hopefully some Mozart but certainly some Jazz. I am in the process of lining up the other performers. All performers play for free and it is always a wonderful event.

Speaking of Leslie Hitelman. She will be performing for the Piano Heritage Series on January 23rd 4:00 at the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford. This will be a full-length solo piano

recital which will include works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and some of Ms. Hitelman's own compositions. It will be awesome.

By the way, GLMTA's International Music Concert in December was fantastic. That event is always a celebration of diversity. Seeing kids and teachers of so many different cultural backgrounds all together makes one proud of America. Just the fact that so many cultures peacefully coexist in this country is highly moving.

And this brings me back to realizing how lucky we are. We are lucky to be living in the U.S.A. Let us all remember how rich we are (relatively speaking), and let us continue to give of ourselves in contribution to this great nation. Music, our art, is the highest calling. We should feel Gratitude every minute of every day that we have the talent, patience and work-ethic to make a living teaching and performing music.

Sincerely,

Steve Zocchi, GLMTA president

978-761-0633 Spzocchi@yahoo.com

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

We will be accepting nominations for the MMTA Teacher of the Year for 2010. This form will be due to Vivian Tsang by January 30, 2010. You may use the form included at the end of this newsletter or email the information to Vivian at president@mmta.net. The MMTA Teacher of the Year is based on fine teaching, leadership service to MMTA, involvement in this and other organizations in the community, speaking honors, and competition success among other things. The MMTA Teacher of the Year will be nominated by the state to the MTNA National Teacher of the Year for 2011.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Michelle Kelley will be presenting a recital of all Boston-area composers at Indian Hill School of Music in Littleton, MA on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at 7:30. Composers in the program are John Craig Cooper, Martin Epstein, Donald Fox, John McDonald and Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee.

The concert is open to the public and donations will be accepted for the benefit of the scholarship fund at Indian Hill.

MMTA 50th ANNIVERSARY GALA



This could be you on Saturday, May 1st...

Being served a marvelous beverage at this bar...



Making a grand entrance down this staircase...



And then, enjoying a four-star dinner in this room.

As a dedicated music teacher, you work tirelessly to meet your students' needs, rarely thinking of your own night on the town! Well, now's your chance -- the 50th Anniversary MMTA Gala, to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Tara, conveniently located off the Mass Pike in Framingham. Come alone or with a non-member guest! Ladies, put on your glitziest gown or cocktail dress and men, don your favorite formal attire (black tie optional), and join us for cocktails, a lovely dinner, cool jazz and only a very few words to commemorate the many accomplishments of our professional organization since its inception. We are planning an evening extraordinaire with a unique souvenir memory book, resident photographer and warm exchanges with colleagues who are also friends. A printed invitation and ticket information will follow, but for now, SAVE the DATE! Rooms will be available at the hotel for a special rate.

Kathy Maskell & Alison Barr

Many of us have already turned 50, and we're LOVING it, but now our professional organization, MMTA, is maturing to that fine age, and we're set to celebrate on Saturday, May 1, 2010, at the Sheraton Tara in Framingham. MMTA has grown since its inception in 1960, providing student opportunities, member support through national and regional conventions, insurance programs, studio support and, especially, as many of us can attest, collegial interaction and FRIENDSHIP.

So, as part of the celebration, we're compiling, an "**MMTA Gala Memory Book**" which will be a lovely keepsake for all those attending the gala. Please read instructions and fill out the form included at the end of the newsletter to contribute a memory, (FREE!), send a photo, become a sponsor, or place an ad (see fee information below) to help turn this even into an Evening to Remember! **Please note: The deadline for receipt of memories, sponsorships, ads and checks is February 15, 2010.**

Example of a memory:

"I remember the 1991 Miami Convention -- Betty Reed, Ginger Hwalek (from Maine) and I came in on the same flight, checked in, got on our bathing suits and ran down to the beach. Afterwards, we sat at a boardwalk bar where I was dumbfounded watching a man wrap himself up in an 8 foot long boa constrictor. What a break from teaching piano back in Massachusetts! Later during that same convention, Kallin Johnson played a lovely piano we found in one of the conference rooms while I sang my entire repertoire of Broadway songs. Many Mass. and Eastern Division members, wondering what all the wailing was, came in. Before long, we had our very own party going. Here's to all my good friends in MMTA, all the support you've given me, and all we've shared throughout the years!" Alison Barr

Thanks so much-

Kathy Maskell
e-mail: muzicworks@aol.com
978-869-3078

Alison Barr
e-mail: abarr54@verizon.net
781-982-8920
Gala Co-Chairs

Midsummer Adult Piano Retreat at Williams College

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For more information, contact Alison Barr 781-982-8920 or abarr54@verizon.net

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MMTA Gala Memory Book

Deadline: February 15, 2010

Your Name: _____

Your E-mail address: _____

Your phone numbers: _____

Check all that apply:

_____ I would like to contribute a MEMORY of an experience I've had during or related to an MMTA activity.

Please be as specific as possible, including dates and names of other members with you at the time. We will edit any memory of over 100 words or anything that is commercial by nature. Please see example above for format.

There is no charge for your memory to be printed in the **Gala Memory Book**.

Your memory:

_____ I am sending a photo through the mail (please send to Kathy Maskell's address below.)

_____ I am sending a photo via e-mail (please send to Kathy Maskell: muzicworks@aol.com)

Identify the people in the photo from left to right:

Identify the date (to the best of your recollection) and MMTA event (place) where the photo was taken:

_____ I would like to be a sponsor for the GALA for a donation of \$25.00

For sponsorship -- your name and greeting, as listed below, will appear in a special "Sponsors" section of the **Gala Memory Book**.

Name: _____

Greeting: (10 words or less)

_____ I would like to place an ad in the **Gala Memory Book**.

Select ad size and rates below (the book will be in a 5x7 format)

_____ Half page \$50 Camera-ready 2 1/2 x 3 1/2

_____ Full page \$100 Camera-ready 5x7

The deadline for receipt of all information and checks is February 15, 2010. Please send this form and check (payable to MMTA and notated "MMTA Gala") to:

Kathy Maskell
36 Wetherbee Ave.
Lowell, MA 01852