



Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

October, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I write the first President's Message of my term. So much has changed since I was President back in the Dark Ages, and MMTA is certainly a stronger, more vibrant and well-resourced organization than it was then. Many have contributed and worked hard to make MMTA what it is today, most recently, Immediate Past President Vivian Tsang, and I know that many more of our membership are out there ready to serve. For example, I want to welcome and congratulate Vera Rubin from Newtonville, an accomplished violinist and faculty member at NEC. Vera has graciously accepted the office of President-Elect! I am excited to get to know her and work in what I know will be a rich partnership!

I'm so impressed by the scope of our activities all over the state, as evidenced by our calendar listing in the recently published Handbook/Directory. So much happens on the state and local levels, but also I urge you to remember that a huge resource of MMTA/MTNA membership is our National Conference, to be held this year on March 26 -30, 2011, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (I remember being at another Milwaukee National Conference years ago!) You will never be disappointed -- you can't help but bring the energy, inspiration and ideas of thousands of our colleagues nationwide home with you. It's worth every penny and it's even more fun because our Massachusetts contingent is always ready to enjoy everything the conference has to offer. Please say you'll mark your calendar to come!

My vision for MMTA is simple:

1) I want to facilitate the wonderful student programs that now exist, including our wonderful and relatively new *Judged Festival* that was started by Vivian Tsang, and will take place this year at Indian Hill Music School in Littleton on Sunday, February 27, 2011. The theme this year is Romantic music. All the repertoire and registration information can be found on our website: www.mmta.net

2) I want to continue to build on the energy of our 50th Anniversary Gala, held last May and co-chaired by my dear friend, Kathy Maskell. I want to connect all of us through more than just the programs in which we enter our students, but also in a deep, personal way, as friends who understand each other's work, support each other's progress and applaud each other's successes. This vision will be borne out by a regular, annual social event, to take place in the spring. This year's event will be more low-key than our Gala was, but its goal will be the same: to insure that we are more to each other than just a name in a Directory! Past President Shelley Reeves has generously offered to chair this effort, and I, always interested in planning a party, will help her in any way I can. Please save the date of Saturday, May 7, 2011, for an evening that will be memorable, fun and inexpensive.

In the spirit of that camaraderie, please accept a reprint of the words I spoke at the Gala:

“Good evening to my friends and colleagues, President Vivian Tsang, Past Presidents, my Gala Co-Chair Kathy Maskell, and MTNA Executive Director Gary Ingle. Thank you all so very much for being here, at what has been called the biggest party MMTA has ever had and thank you for all your dedication to the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association.

It was nostalgic to look over the list of our members sorted by the date they had joined. And I'd like to acknowledge a few who are here, all of whom joined when they were only in their teens:

IRENE REED DATE JOINED DECEMBER 1, 1968

DIANNE RAHBEE DATE JOINED NOVEMBER 1, 1978

JOAN REDDY DATE JOINED AUGUST 1, 1981

I honor these teacher-members – not only because they've stuck with MMTA this long, but because they networked before networking was fashionable, committed their time and energy to the betterment of our profession and served as strong mentors we could love and follow. I thank them for that.

It's also been nostalgic to recall the start of some of our MMTA programs – for example, the non-competitive evaluation began at the Rivers School in the 80's which now has evolved into the Musical Achievement Evaluations. And, I have to admit I was pleasantly surprised to see that both our membership and our treasury have grown by leaps and bounds, thanks to Vivian and to our past Presidents before her. Over the past several years, MMTA has also been about its affiliation with surrounding states – as in our wonderful Quad-State Conventions, a brilliant innovation.

MMTA is also about our affiliation with MTNA, which offers the National Conferences with their leading edge pedagogy and technology sessions (does anyone else remember when the first digital pianos on display at National Conference and having conferences back at the room or at the bar about how we could each get one into our studio?) MTNA is our lifeline for myriad other services while we're back in the trenches of our studios, we know we're connected to a huge power source. Most important, MMTA is about its members -- you, the individual teachers who believe that it's a requirement to grow and serve, who are funny, bright, talented and dedicated. Whether I see you on a regular basis or only once a year, you're my oracles – you're at the other end of the phone for

anything I might need. So especially for those of us who are completely independent and unaffiliated, our participation in MMTA helps dispel the feeling of going it alone.

I was young, passionate and fairly clueless about piano teaching when I joined MMTA/MTNA. I'm older, passionate and still somewhat clueless, though hopefully less so. I'm about to undertake my 5th term as State President (2 in Maine, 2 in MA) I said yes again because the existence and vitality of MMTA is even more crucial in today's complex world than it was when it was founded by President Herbert Bowker in 1960. I'm not sure I'll be here for the 100th Anniversary Gala, but I want to raise my glass and thank all of you for celebrating this wonderful organization and remember that when I call you to serve on my Board, you'd better say Yes! Here's to MMTA!

Alison S. Barr, President

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students who won the Herbert H. Bowker Memorial Scholarship to attend a summer music camp. Students were selected by the Board back in June. We had an amazing turnout this year and the Board would like to thank all those students who sent in an application.

Clara Hong (Teacher: Luba Pyatkovskaya) to attend SYMS-UNH Summer Youth Music School

Winston Huang (Teacher: Sandra Hebert) to attend International Summer Music Academy in Germany

Kevin Ren (Teacher: Houry Schmeizl) to attend Summer Music at Rivers

Kevin Sherman (Teacher: Valerie Henkin) to attend Summer Piano Institute at Ithaca College of Music

Madeleine Tucker (Teacher: Carol Ou) to attend Heifetz International Music Institute

NANCY OLIVA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to **Maxim Bukhovko**, student of Valerie Henkin, for winning the Nancy Oliva Scholarship for a graduating Massachusetts high school senior for continuing music studies at the college level. Students who applied for this scholarship must have participated in the Bay State Contest in his or her senior year. Once again, we thank all those who sent in an application.

MMTA JUDGED FESTIVAL

Please mark your calendar! The Judged Festival is scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2011 at the Indian Hill Music School in Littleton, MA. The theme for this year is Romantic Music.

We are so fortunate that Indian Hill Music School is generous about allowing MMTA to use their space because we are no longer limited by the amount of space. In light of this, there are some really important rule changes this year:

1. Teachers are not longer bound by the five entrants per teacher limit. You may enter as many students as you would like.
2. Applications will no longer be a first-come, first-serve limit. Any students who register before the deadline will be able to participate. Last year, we had to unfortunately turn away students because there was not enough space, but this will not be an issue this year.

The Rules and Required Repertoire List is now available on the website. Thank you!

Preparing Our Students For A College Audition

(Editor's Note -- Starting in this issue, we'll run a "Teacher-Feature," reflecting a unique perspective about an aspect of teaching. Please enjoy the first one, and ask about guidelines if you wish to submit a future "Teacher-Feature.")

What goes into preparing for a college audition? Beginning this fall, many music students will be preparing for upcoming college auditions with music theory workbooks, scale and arpeggio practice and carefully selected repertoire. Practice performances will be planned and essays written and re-written.....As much practicing as it takes, it also takes many other skills and journeys for high school students to realize their aspirations of a degree in music. There is an amount of emotional turmoil that cannot be overlooked including all the self-doubt or over-confidence they can muster.

What I am interested in my students bringing to the process is mindfulness, awareness, and a state of being present during the experience. Too often students want to "get it over with." If they are not curious about this process they will lose an opportunity for growth.

I am a teacher of The Alexander Technique as well as piano. Contrary to popular belief, this Technique is not about posture and alignment. The results of its study can lead to better posture, but the essence of this work is to bring conscious awareness to the moments between stimulus and response and to give us tools to choose the best course of action. What does this have to do with a college audition? Everything. While we play a piece, whether it is for an audition or not, we are faced with a myriad of choices in response to things going well and to things going not so well. How do we respond to a sudden unexpected error? We know we should go on and not draw attention to this minuscule moment. But often we hold on to the reaction longer than is useful. We play passages that scare us and are confined to a sound and execution that are determined by that fearful response. Through the study of the Alexander Technique pianists can learn to gain control of themselves and hence their playing. This year, I needed to come up with a domain name for a website on Alexander Technique and Piano. What I stumbled upon has given me much food for thought: The Well-Tempered Pianist. Yes. The WELL TEMPERED Pianist. What does it mean to be "well tempered?" This state encompasses our complete way of being. A well tempered pianist is one who is poised, calm and prepared for whatever happens during the course of a performance. Isn't this what we want from our students as they consider a career and an audition? There are certainly scales and arpeggios to be played; there is music theory to conquer. But the most challenging bit to "conquer" is ourselves. Well temperament is an empowering experience. I want my students to be "well tempered."

Debi Adams, NCTM in Piano is also ATI certified in Alexander Technique. For information on her workshops for college bound students visit her website: www.thewelltemperedianist.com. There you can sign up for the Nov 13th workshop at Steinert's.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

On October 30th, 2010 Dr. Natalia Katonova will give a series of master classes in piano and chamber music performance. Dr. Katonova is a professor at St. Petersburg Conservatory (St. Petersburg, Russia) and Executive Director of the St. Petersburg State Hermitage Museum's orchestra "Camerata". Dr. Katonova has authored two books and many articles on the subject of the clavier-ensemble performances.

Location: Sharon Music Academy, Sharon MA. Date: October 30th. Time: 1-3 pm. For more information please call Sharon Music Academy (781)784-9079 or send email to info@sharonmusicacademy.com.



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Music Teachers Association

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**Learning Modalities - Brain-Friendly Study
Strategies and How They Work**

A Workshop for Music Teachers
(All Teachers Welcome)

Event Information:

- + **Presenter:** Amy Schwed, author/learning specialist from New York
- + **Location:** Cape Cod Conservatory, West Barnstable Campus
- + **Date:** Sunday, November 7th, 2010
- + **Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- + **Cost:**
 - + CIMTA Members: \$15
 - + Non-Members: \$25
- + **Contact:** Norma Atwood, Registrar — 508-394-3667
willazemusic@mindspring.com

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Website: <http://www.cimta.net/>

E-mail: contactus@cimta.net

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When you make a contribution to the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND, you are helping us work for a more musical tomorrow through programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music

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BAY STATE CONTEST RESULTS

We would like to congratulate and thank all the students and their teachers who participated in the Bay State Contest this past May. Below are the results. For more detailed results and the biographies of the judges, please visit our website at http://www.mmta.net/event_details.aspx?event_id=1001.

Piano 1A (17 years - 18 years)

Contestant #6: Matthew Wu — 1st Place

(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #4: Maxim Bukhovko — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Valerie Henkin)

Piano 2A (16 years)

Contestant #1: Carl Lian — 1st Place

(Teacher: Nilly Shilo)

Contestant #2: Geena Chen — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 3A (15 years)

Contestant #4: Winber Xu — 1st Place

(Teacher: Sandra Hebert)

Contestant #5: Felix Xu — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #6: Anna Shneyderman — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 3B (15 years)

Contestant #6: Yong Murray — 1st Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #1: Layla Siraj — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #5: Winston Huang — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Sandra Hebert)

Contestant #3: Priyanka Ram — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 4A (14 years)

Contestant #7: Luke Halberstadt — 1st Place

(Teacher: Janet Ainsworth)

Contestant #12: Michelle Tian — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #1: Kevin Chen — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #2: Natsuko Yamagata — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Margaret Denton)

Piano 4B (14 years)

Contestant #12: Karen Bouchard — 1st Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #2: Raagini Rameshwar — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Janet Ainsworth)

Contestant #4: Brian Li — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Nilly Shilo)

Contestant #6: Alan Tang — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Felix Margolin)

Contestant #7: Kevin Jiang — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 5A (13 years)

Contestant #1: Kevin Sherman — 1st Place

(Teacher: Valerie Henkin)

Contestant #10: Emanuel Lorusso — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Nilly Shilo)

Contestant #8: Christopher Chen — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Tanya Schwartzman)

Contestant #6: Victoria Chen — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 5B (13 years)

Contestant #5: Kevin Ren — 1st Place

(Teacher: Houry Schmeizl)

Contestant #3: Kunwoo Shin — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Tanya Schwartzman)

Contestant #6: Edward Huang — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Margarita Gurevich)

Contestant #10: Mingmei Quan — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Valerie Henkin)

Contestant #1: Nathan Sheng — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 6A (12 years)

Contestant #4: Catherine Song — 1st Place

(Teacher: Tanya Schwartzman)

Contestant #9: Minji Kwon — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Natalia Harlap)

Contestant #7: Valerie Zhu — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Mia Le)

Contestant #3: Nicholas Walters — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Lorna Henderson)

Contestant #8: Katherine Gao — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Julia Bernstein)

Piano 6B (12 years)

Contestant #4: Angelique Scully — 1st Place

(Teacher: Tanya Schwartzman)

Contestant #9: Jonathan Ye — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Philip Feng)

Contestant #6: Ethan Zou — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Piano 7A (11 years)

Contestant #12: Siddharth Arun — 1st Place

(Teacher: Margarita Gurevich)

Contestant #10: Kevin Zhu — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Mia Le)

Contestant #6: Xuan Chau — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Marianna Rashkovetsky)

Contestant #11: Riri Uchida — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #4: Victor Zhang — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #3: David Kotler — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Valerie Henkin)

Contestant #13: Jacob Nazarenko — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Elena Drabkin)

Contestant #9: Iris Hou — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Nilly Shilo)

Piano 7B (11 years)

Contestant #2: Michelle Chen — 1st Place

(Teacher: Nilly Shilo)

Contestant #6: Victor Li — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #1: Cindy Sun — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Philip Feng)

Contestant #12: Grace Ding — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #4: Yuan Tian — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #11: Andrew Song — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Tanya Schwartzman)

Contestant #10: Amy Mao Shen — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Piano 8A (10 years)

Contestant #7: Amir Siraj — 1st Place

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #2: Tiffany Lu — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Philip Feng)

Contestant #5: Albert Lee — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Lyubov Shlain)

Contestant #6: Riona Chen — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Marianna Rashkovetsky)

Piano 8B (10 years)

Contestant #2: Anna Shi — 1st Place

(Teacher: Philip Feng)

Contestant #5: Kara Chuang — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Nilly Shilo)

Contestant #1: Grace Cheng — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #3: Yumi Sato — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 9A (9 years)

Contestant #10: Andrew Li — 1st Place

(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #2: Mariel Lulu Yuan — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Margarita Gurevich)

Contestant #6: Michelle Chao — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Alex Foaksman)

Contestant #5: Sevigne Pak — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Natalia Harlap)

Contestant #12: Sarah Hsu — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Houry Schmeizl)

Contestant #7: Ririko Uchida — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Contestant #8: Anna Stoll — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Lyubov Shlain)

Piano 9B (9 years)

Contestant #11: Kevin Fang — 1st Place

(Teacher: Margarita Gurevich)

Contestant #2: Rachel Wang — 2nd Place

(Teacher: Selma Ramic)

Contestant #8: Anna Dai — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Chieko Loy)

Contestant #6: James Lee — 3rd Place

(Teacher: Rita Mikulinsky)

Contestant #12: Sarah Wan — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Luba Pyatkovskaya)

Contestant #3: Jonathan Yuan — Honorable Mention

(Teacher: Valerie Henkin)

Contestant #1: Simonida Spasojevic — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Piano 10A (8 years)

Contestant #1: Jessica Gao — 1st Place
(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #10: Alan Wang — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Viktorija Knezevic-Liu)

Contestant #2: Grace Zhang — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Marianna Rashkovetsky)

Contestant #8: Nicole Ostrovsky — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Anna Anderson)

Piano 10B (8 years)

Contestant #3: Sabrina Zhang — 1st Place
(Teacher: Tanya Schwartzman)

Contestant #2: Emily Ma — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Sandra Hebert)

Contestant #1: Carina Hou — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Zumin Kuang)

Contestant #5: Katherine Gu — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Chieko Loy)

Piano 11A (6 years - 7 years)

Contestant #9: Christina Wu — 1st Place
(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #3: Christopher Zhu — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #6: Lucia Kisova — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Svetlana Seifer)

Contestant #1: Emily Huang — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #7: Jason Liang — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Zumin Kuang)

Contestant #4: Andrew Shi — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Helena Vesterman)

Piano 11B (6 years - 7 years)

Contestant #8: Elizabeth Zhang — 1st Place
(Teacher: Mia Le)

Contestant #7: Leon Fan — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #2: Annabella Chen — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Niva Fried)

Contestant #5: Steven Zhang — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Dorothy Shi)

Contestant #4: Anna Wang — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Yee-han Wu)

Strings 1A (15 years - 18 years)

Contestant #1: Lisa Kojima — 1st Place
(Teacher: Vera Rubin)

Contestant #2: Annabelle Batten — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Bonnie Black)

Strings 2A (12 years - 14 years)

Contestant #6: Sydney Adedamola — 1st Place
(Teacher: Bonnie Black)

Contestant #5: Sulamit Gorski — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Magdalena Richter)

Contestant #1: Alexandra Gorski — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Magdalena Richter)

Contestant #3: Yasmin Yacoby — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Bonnie Black)

Contestant #2: Ida Xu — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Vera Rubin)

Contestant #4: Henri Bouchard — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Lynn Basila)

Strings 3A (9 years - 11 years)

Contestant #3: Christina Lai — 1st Place
(Teacher: Vera Rubin)

Contestant #1: Eugenia Zhang — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Patty Lee)

Contestant #4: Daniel Cetlin — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Bonnie Black)

Strings 4A (6 years - 8 years)

Contestant #4: Yugo Okutomo — 1st Place
(Teacher: Bonnie Black)

Contestant #3: Grace Liu — 2nd Place
(Teacher: Anna Anderson)

Contestant #5: Aneeza Ahmad — 3rd Place
(Teacher: Daniela Rubinstein)

Contestant #1: Frank Wang — Honorable Mention
(Teacher: Daniela Rubinstein)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY ERRATA and ADDENDA

Please correct the following in the 2010-2011 Membership Directory and Handbook:

Donna Gross Javel Phone Number is 781-354-0170
Email: <http://www.AnythingPiano.com>

Membership Directory Addendum

Guiney, Ashley 6 Devlin Cir Blackstone, MA 01505	Piano (401) 714-5255 agpianist@gmail.com
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Porter-Englehart, Sandra 104 Hull St Newtonville, MA 02460	Unknown (617) 964-0126 SandraEnglehart@comcast.net
---	--

Pauley, Gregg 22 Monroe St Concord, NH 03301	Piano (603) 228-5209 glpauley@comcast.net
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Phiet, Thuyen NCTM 10 Brookdale Ave Wellesley, MA 02482-1021	Piano (781) 431-1130
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Christensen, Kevin 10 Fam Rd Weston, MA 02493	Band (781) 893-1193 kchrist9@lesley.edu
--	---

Palumbo, Jane 4 Perkins Ave Reading, MA 01867	Piano (781) 944-2017 japalumbo@comcast.net
--	--

Smith, Paul	Theory (617) 879-0836
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352 Tappan St #3
Brookline, MA 02445

paul@paulhenrysmith.com

Yeh, Yi-Chen

33 Waterfall Dr #C
Canton, MA 02021

Piano
(781) 821-0280
yichenpiano@gmail.com

Terrien-Queen, Alys

99 West St
Wendell, MA 01379

Piano
(978) 544-2221
atqueen@post.harvard.edu

Lister, John

97 Oxford St
Somerville, MA 02143

Composition
(617) 628-4741
lister@fas.harvard.edu

VanRemoortel, Dara

135 Tedesco St
Marblehead, MA 01945

Piano
(781) 631-8336
dara@musicwithdara.com

Glennon, Maura

53 Florence Rd
Florence, MA 01062-2638

Piano
(603) 358-2157
mglennon@keene.edu

Taevs, Meghan

14 Augustine Rd
Groton, MA 01450

Piano
(425) 281-4503
meghan.taevs@gmail.com

Synnestvedt, Inga

40 Riner St
Framingham, MA 01701

Voice
(508) 788-0532

Cohen, Susan

PO Box 662
Weston, MA 02493

Piano
(781) 891-0068
sbccat@comcast.net

BEWARE – PIANO TEACHER SCAM

Unsuspecting music teachers may be targets of the “Piano Teacher Scam,” as related on a recent Clark Howard Show (weekly financial show on CNN). The scam begins with a telephone call placed to the targeted teacher from a scammer requesting music lessons for his/her child. The scammer then offers to pay for several months’ worth of lessons with a certified check. If the teacher suggests that a preliminary meeting should be scheduled first, the scammer responds that such a meeting is not necessary because he/she has heard of the teacher’s outstanding experience, and trusts the teacher’s ability to teach the child without an introductory meeting. The real goal of the scammer is to obtain the teacher’s checking account number which then opens the door to all manner of identity theft.



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