



**Massachusetts Music Teachers  
Association**

**Winter Newsletter 2014**

# President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter 2014. We hope there are many features in here that are relevant to your students and your teaching. I am continually discovering that there are more opportunities than I realized at both the state and national level to participate, educate, and evaluate!

We are “greener” this year, due to the transition of our handbook to a primarily on-line resource. Many thanks to our membership chair, Heather Riley and to our Webmaster, Vivian Tsang, for taking on this important change. If you have any questions about the handbook material and how to find it on the Webb, please contact them.

Janet Ainsworth, our new President-Elect, attended the MTNA Leadership Summit meeting in Cincinnati in September. It was a rewarding experience as she looks forward to her new position!

The MTNA- State Performance and Composition Competitions have been completed and those students representing MA will be competing at Catholic University in January. We had a record number of entrants in Junior Piano this year! Every year, the level of playing is very high and it is inspiring to hear these students perform for teachers and students. The state results are on our website and will also be found later in this newsletter. Division results will be posted in January of 2015.

Registration for this year's Baroque-themed Judged Festival is open until January 1, 2015. The event will take place for the first time at Gordon College on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

The MTNA National Convention will take place March 21-26 in Las Vegas, Nevada. I would appreciate knowing who is thinking of attending so I can arrange a state social meeting at the convention. If at all possible, every MMTA member should try to attend a National Conference for the stimulation and as a rich source of continuing education. To encourage members to attend these national conventions, we have increased the enrichment funds available for attendance. The application may be found on our website and later in this newsletter. We hope to see a good showing from MA at this special location!

Our hardworking Bay State Chair, John Stapp, has CDs from the performances of last years Bay State Competition contestants. These high quality CDs are available for purchase and showcase many of the talented performers from this competition.

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 connection you can make with your teaching peers is invaluable.

Best Regards,  
*Dorothy Travis*, MMTA President

## **2015 Judged Festival at Gordon College**

Date: February 7, 2015

Where: Gordon College, Wenham, MA

Registration Deadline: January 1, 2015

For the repertoire list and more information, and to register,  
please visit -

[http://www.mmta.net/event\\_details.aspx?event\\_id=1183](http://www.mmta.net/event_details.aspx?event_id=1183)

## **Music Achievement Evaluations**

The MAE North Shore is being rebooted next spring! It will be held at Gordon College on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The MAE MetroWest is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Information can be found on our website at

<http://www.mmta.net/mae.aspx>

## **Massachusetts Composers are Chosen to Compete at the National Competition**

The Massachusetts State Composition Competition was held in the fall. Three judges are given the task of choosing the compositions they feel are the best to represent Massachusetts at the Division Competition in November. The judges for the State Competition were Augusta Read Thomas, Mark Kross, and Michael Foumai. Winners and honorable mention were chosen in three of the possible four categories of Elementary, Junior, Senior and Young Artist. The winners and their teachers are listed below. Below the Massachusetts results are the Eastern Division results. Two of the winners of the Eastern Division Competition are from Massachusetts!

Congratulations to the students and their teachers. May they enjoy continued success!

The Composition Competition was conducted electronically

through a judges' portal again this year. Students submitted their scores electronically and the judges made their comments electronically. Linda Stump, MTNA Director of Competitions, and Chris Goldston, the National Composition Coordinator, made this new system accessible and efficient. Registration for the competition is in early September. Mark your calendars now. Please contact me, the Massachusetts Composition Competition Chair, Leslie Hitelman- [lhitelman@yahoo.com](mailto:lhitelman@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## **Massachusetts Results**

Junior:

Winner: Anna Larsen, Student of Martin Boykan

*Honorable mention:* Caroline Bragg, Student of Alla Cohen

*Honorable mention:* Stella Gitelman Willoughby, Student of Alla Cohen

*Honorable mention:* David Joseph, Student of Irina Gelman

*Honorable mention:* Kendrick Kirby-Lee, Student of Stephen Halloran

*Honorable mention:* Avik Sarkar, Student of Alla Cohen

*Honorable mention:* Chris Wang, Student of Alla Cohen

Senior:

Winner: SiHyun Uhm, Student of Whitman Brown

*Honorable mention:* Roshan Benefo, Student of Derek Jacoby

*Honorable mention:* Eleanor Bragg, Student of Alla Cohen

Young Artist:

Winner: Amit Cohen, Student of Alla Cohen

*Honorable mention:* Andrew Bong, Student of Alla Cohen

This year, the Massachusetts judges were:

Michael Foumai

Mark Kross  
Augusta Read Thomas

## **Eastern Division Results for 2014**

### **Elementary:**

Winner: Aadhitya Ashok, Student of Felicia Ruffman, NJ  
*Honorable mention:* Gabriel Ligowski, Student of Gloriana Sewell, PA

### **Junior:**

Winner: Anna Larsen, Student of Martin Boykan, MA  
*Honorable mention:* Catalina Lennon, Student of Deborah White-Bondhus, MD  
*Honorable mention:* Richard Ren, Student of David Brown, DE

### **Senior:**

Winner: SiHyun Uhm, Student of Whitman Brown, MA  
*Honorable mention:* Vladyslav Nazarchuk, Student of Inessa Gleyzerova, NJ  
*Honorable mention:* Jacob Wilkinson, Student of Arianna Goldina, PA

### **Young Artist:**

Winner: Jacob Gelber, Student of Nancy Modell, NJ  
*Honorable mention:* Amit Cohen, Student of Alla Cohen, MA

Congratulations to all!

## **MTNA State Performance 2014 Competition Results**

The MTNA State Performance Competition was held on

November 22nd at Brandeis University. The winners and State Representatives will compete at the Eastern Division level, which will take place at Catholic University on January 10-11.

**Junior Piano Competition**

Avik Sarkar-State Winner  
Student of Niva Fried

Anna Larsen-State Alternate  
Student of Alexander Korsantia

Amir Siraj- Honorable Mention  
Student of Helena Vesterman

Ahana Mukhopadhyah-Honorable Mention  
Student of Eleanor McLaughlin

**Senior Piano Competition**

Kevin Sherman-State Winner  
Student of Valerie Henkin

Rick Gangopadhyay-State Alternate  
Student of Eleanor McLaughlin

Helen Huang-Honorable Mention  
Student of Niva Fried

**Young Artist Piano Competition**

Vania Lee-State Representative  
Student of David Deveau

**Junior String Competition**

Justin Zhou-State Winner  
Student of Emmanuel Feldman

Joe MacDonald-State Alternate  
Student of Fudeko Cohler

### **Senior String Competition**

Kent Hisada-State Representative  
Student of Fudeko Cohler

### **Junior Woodwind Competition**

Benjamin Cook-State Representative  
Student of Nathan Swain

### **Senior Woodwind Competition**

Sara Nelson-State Representative  
Student of Nathan Swain

### **Chamber Music Wind Competition**

The following students belong to the group, Equilibrium and are the State Representative.

Benjamin Porter Alto Saxophone

Erik Anundson Soprano Saxophone

Zach Robarge Baritone saxophone

Students of Jonathan Hulting-Cohen

Photos can be found on our website. Congratulations to all!

## **Certification Corner**

As Eastern Division Certification Commissioner, I am often asked how teachers might talk to prospective Certification candidates about the entire process. Here are a few ideas that may help!

Alison Barr, ED Certification Commissioner



*In telling the story of your journey to being a Nationally-Certified Teacher, tell the following in the simplest, most direct and heartfelt way you can.*

*Share when and why you first decided to go for Certification*

*Describe the process you used to become certified -- TPP, etc. (make it a simple explanation, because people can look up the exact information and logistics on the website, and we want this to be YOUR personal story)*

*Tell about what you did to prepare for the certification process -- courses, self-study, etc.*

*Tell about what obstacles you encountered and how you surmounted them*

*Tell of any mentorship or inspiration from colleagues, students, etc., you encountered along the way*

*Tell about how long the entire process took from start to finish, including the amount of time BEFORE you actually applied. Let them know that they have a YEAR to complete once they apply, but much of it can be started before that year*

*ESPECIALLY, tell how YOU changed as a professional throughout the process and what you feel it has accomplished for you both tangible in your studio and intangibly in your confidence, professionalism*

*Finish by broadening it out to the entire profession -- when individuals within a profession aspire to a standard credential, it raises the entire profession.*

*Be a cheerleader, but remember to include your times of frustration, doubt and struggle, because that humanizes the process. Certification is not ultimately about what it does for the single teacher, but about what it does for the profession as a whole.*

## **MMTA Teacher Enrichment Travel Grant Guidelines**

*A maximum of \$2000.00 total travel funds will be made available for use of MMTA members for the express use of travel/lodging/registration for the MTNA National Conference.*

**Application for such funds is open to members with the following qualifications:**

- **Any member of MMTA who has been a member in good standing for a minimum of 2 consecutive years is eligible to apply.**
- **Applicants must have served on the board, a committee or volunteered in at least 2 MMTA events.**
- **Past and Present volunteers are invited to apply.**

**Use of such funds would be governed by these criteria:**

- **Applicant must sign this statement: "By signing this application, I verify that I will use awarded funds for their intended purpose and by the proposed date. If I do not use the awarded funds, I will return them to MMTA."**
- **Applicants should attach a copy of the official course or conference application along with conference description.**
- **Grant recipients must provide a brief written report of their experiences to be published in an MMTA newsletter.**
- **Applicants can NOT apply in any two consecutive years.**

**The total amount of NO MORE THAN \$2000.00, with a maximum cap of \$400. per applicant will be divided evenly among all qualified candidates applying, as verified and awarded by a sub-committee of the MMTA Board.**

# MMTA Teacher Enrichment Travel Grant Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

MTNA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

**Below, please document two volunteer committees; appointments and/or activities in which you have participated, including dates and appropriate contact person for verification.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**By signing this application, the applicant agrees to this statement:**

**“I verify that I will use awarded funds for travel/registration/lodging/meals at the MTNA National Conference. If I do not use the awarded funds, I will return them.**

**The applicant agrees to the following:**

**Grant recipients must provide a brief written report of their experiences to be published in an MMTA newsletter AND a copy of**

**their conference registration and receipts of other monies spent, up to the amount of the grant.**

**The deadline for submission of this application is (postmarked) January 15th of the travel year, OR delivered to the February Board Meeting that is prior to the National Conference.**

**It should be submitted to President Dorothy Travis, 40 Naples Rd., Melrose, MA 02176**

**Or emailed to:**

**[president@mmta.net](mailto:president@mmta.net)**

**A sub-committee of Board Members will review the applications.**

**Applicants will be notified of their grant approval by Feb. 25, 2015. Checks will be mailed by early March.**

Member Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_