

WVMTA News

*West Virginia Music Teachers Association
affiliated with Music Teachers National Association*

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March, 2005

From the President's Desk

Karen Taddie NCTM, President-Elect

As your President-Elect it is my responsibility to "assume all duties of the President in the absence of..." It's now my duty to officially report to you that our President, Dr. Lya M. Cartwright, has resigned her office as of January 19, 2005. She has decided that her priorities cannot allow her undivided attention to be taken away from her precious infant son and his unfortunate precarious health. On behalf of the entire West Virginia Music Teachers Association, I would like to use this opportunity to publicly send all our wishes to Lya and her husband Steve for Ian's continued best progress through his life's future battles. Lya's resignation letter follows.

January 19, 2005

To Members of West Virginia Music Teachers Association:

It is with much sadness that I am resigning as President of West Virginia Music Teachers Association. As many of you know, Ian, our son, was born with a heart defect. To date we have been through two open heart surgeries and are facing several more in the future as well as the day-to-day struggles that we face with Ian. Because of this, I do not feel that I can continue, in the capacity of president, to give the needed attention to our state organization. I plan to continue to be as active a member as Ian will allow. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all of the work that you have done under my tenure. It is because of volunteers like you that WVMTA is as great an organization as it is.

Sincerely, Lya M. Cartwright

"Why North America Is Not A Rhythm Nation"

Karen Taddie, NCTM, President Elect

As your board now gets deeply into the preparations for our 2005 convention at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, I would like to pass along to you a few general comments about the convention we just wrapped up. I think it went very well, thanks especially to our terrifically organized site coordinator Scott Beard and his wonderful colleagues at Shepherd University in beautiful Shepherdstown. I also want to extend a special thanks to 1st VP Yennie Myers for dealing so smartly with all the aggravations involved in running the student competitions. Lastly, I'd like to thank all who attended and/or offered to help in whatever capacity. We had total expenditures of less than \$6000.00 and brought in income of around \$4000.00; of course this means we ran the convention at a deficit, but not a large one; and it's my understanding that this is most frequently the case with conventions.

The pleasant surprise was that we had as many registrants as we did, considering that the theme of the convention was an unusual one for WV music teachers: a survey of some World Musics, their rhythms, instruments, song styles, and dances. Over the past six years that I've been associated with this fine organization, I've seen steady attendance at conventions as we've explored many different and unique themes.

I'm hoping for even greater attendance for the upcoming convention, as we explore something much more relevant to our own state needs, the theme of: where do we want our student evaluation processes to head as we move into the future. Please plan to attend. We've managed to snag nationally renowned clinician Scott McBride Smith to present to us #1 some very specific info on the RACE (Royal American Conservatory Exams) Evaluation Program, and #2 some other more generalized topics which you can participate in selecting (see additional information within this issue).

I'd like to end my message to you by referring to the title at the top of this column: *Why North America Is Not A Rhythm Nation*, an article in the periodical, American Psychological Society. You can access the full article through the "Links" page of our WVMTA website.

This article talks about experiments conducted by Ph.d. candidate Erin E. Hannon of Cornell University. I made reference to this woman's research at our 2004 convention, and some of the graphs I presented which dealt with the outcomes of her work, caused some loud chuckles. Erin's experiments "seemed to verify that there aren't particular rhythms that are just naturally easier for the brain to process; more likely, humans are influenced by the rhythms in the music they are most accustomed to hearing" (quote cited from article).

The graphs showed Americans scoring very low in recognizing and performing unusual complex rhythms (7/8, 9/16, 22/16, etc) while people of some other nationalities have no problems with these rhythms whatsoever. I have to end by saying how very pleased I was to see so many members volunteer at the convention and successfully attempt strumming a 7/8 rhythm on a tambura, or a 9/16 rhythm on a dumbek, or tupan. I'm convinced our West Virginia music teachers are way ahead of the curve!

Benefit Recital and Quilt Show planned for August 6

Ian Stroupe was born May 25, 2004. In July, 2004 he was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot. As a result, he has had two open heart surgeries and faces more in the future. According to statistical data from the American Heart Association, an estimated 40,000 babies with congenital heart defects are born in the United States each year.

Ian's parents, Lya Cartwright-Stroupe and Steven Stroupe, now have numerous medical bills. On Saturday, August 6, 2005 friends of Ian will hold a quilt show and a recital for him. It will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Suncrest United Methodist Church, Drummond Chapel Campus, 479 VanVoorhis road, Morgantown, WV. Recitals will be held throughout the day under the coordination of the local chapter of WVMTA. The goal of the day is two-fold: 1) raise money to help pay for Ian's medical expenses; and 2) raise public awareness of the prevalence of congenital heart defects.

On August 6, in addition to the quilt show and the recital, there will be a silent auction and opportunity (raffle) quilt. If you wish to participate in the day of recitals, please contact Mary Morrison for more information.

Congratulations!

Olive Meyer, NCTM, 2004 WVMTA Teacher of the Year

May 1 is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2005 WVMTA Teacher of the Year and Member of the Year.

According to rules as set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on October 25, 1996, "Nominations will be limited to three in each category." Also according to rules, the qualifications are:

WVMTA Teacher of the Year

- * demonstrates innovative teaching and creative musicianship
- * has held membership in WVMTA for at least five years

WVMTA Member of the Year

- * demonstrates active leadership in WVMTA
- * has held membership in WVMTA for at least **ten** years
(modified from the original 15 years by the Administrative Board on 10/25/96)

Nominees will be introduced in the June issue of WVMTA News. Mail nominations to: Karen Taddie 1122 Queens Court Morgantown WV 26508 or send by email.

MTNA Competition Revisions

The complete revised competitions document will appear in the April/May 2005 issue of the American Music Teacher Magazine. However, for the sake of early communication, a brief summary and rationale follows here:

1. All applications must be made online at www.mtna.org. The application form will soon be accessible online. Mailed applications will no longer be accepted. Composition students will be instructed to print one copy of the online application to mail with three copies of their score to the State Composition Coordinator.
2. Beginning with the 2005-2006 competition year, competitions will be discontinued for Percussion, Guitar and Organ in all levels, due to minimal participation, increased costs, and lack of corporate sponsorships.
3. Repertoire changes are not allowed following submission of the application. Concerto movement(s) required for Senior and Young Artist Piano at the division and national levels must be submitted with the original application.
4. Composition Competitions fees for 2005-2006 are:
 - Elementary: \$30.00
 - Junior: \$40.00
 - Senior: \$50.00
 - Young Artist: \$60.00

The postmark deadline for 2005-2006 MTNA Student Competitions has not been announced as of this writing. Please look for it in the next issue of WVMTA News. The information can also be found in an upcoming issue of American Music Teacher Magazine, and will be posted online at www.mtna.org

This January we placed two alternates at Eastern Division Conference in Plymouth, NH.

Senior Brass Alternate:

Kathleen O'Donnell, trumpet (Bonnie Miltenberger, teacher).

Young Artist Organ Alternate:

Kathryn Simmons, (Dr. Melody Meadows, teacher).

Congratulations to these ladies and to all our other competitors who so strongly represented West Virginia.

Jeremy Bryner, (Junior Brass) will compete in the MTNA national competition in Seattle, WA. We wish him all the best. Jeremy studies with Jeff Shaffer-Gottschalk in Morgantown, WV.

WVMTA Mountain State Competition Updates

1. Entrants may enter in the solo performance areas to include piano, **organ**, voice, strings, **percussion**, brass, woodwind instruments; and chamber music.

The Junior High Competitions is open to junior high school students in grades 7, 8, or 9.

The Senior High Competitions is open to high school students in grades 10, 11, or 12.

The Collegiate Competitions is open to

- a) Freshman and sophomore students.
- b) Junior and senior students.
- c) Graduate students in college who have not reached age 27 at the time of the performance.

2. Mountain State Competition entry forms will be included in the next newsletter or you may call Yennie Myers at 304-485-3782

3. You may find repertoire requirement and other important information at www.wvmta.org



WVMTA Convention 2005 & MTNA/Mountain State Competitions 2005

featuring:

Dr. Scott McBride Smith

The Royal American Conservatory Examinations (RACE) program is a thorough, combined technic -theory -practical performance program spanning beginner through teacher and artist levels of achievement. Make plans now to attend this year's convention to find out more about the RACE program.



Fairmont State University

Friday & Saturday, November 4-5, 2005

Fairmont State is looking forward to hosting the 2005 WVMTA Convention and Mountain State Competition on November 4-5. Our keynote speaker will be Scott McBride Smith who will be addressing us about adopting the Royal American Conservatory Exams. We will also be having a forum/panel discussion for private teachers and college faculty regarding assessment/evaluation of students.

We will be giving tours of Fairmont State's "Smart Music" Lab where students have a fully-functioning music technology work center. This will be a convention you will certainly not want to miss, so mark your calendars early! See you in Fairmont this November.

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM

Possible Workshop Topics by Dr. Scott McBride Smith, NCTM

Karen Taddie NCTM, President Elect

Dr. Scott McBride Smith, NCTM will be joining us for the 2005 convention in Fairmont. He will spend a good amount of his time here taking us through the RACE process in detail, and helping to adjudicate some of our piano competitions. He will also have time to address topics of a more generalized nature. Please read through his list of workshop topics below and send me your choices for three topics you'd be interested in. The choices that receive the most votes will be the winning topics of the day that he will present on November 4 -5. Here is an opportunity to help shape this year's convention and give it our own customized, personalized WV stamp of approval! I will take suggestions that are postmarked through April 16 (that way you can relax with this list after you've filed your taxes!).

You can drop me a postcard - Karen Taddie, 1122 Queens Court, Morgantown WV 26508 or give me a ring at 304-292-7730 Feel free to STUFF the ballot-box!

Dr. Scott McBride Smith, NCTM Basic Pedagogy

1. Teaching vs. Correcting: Every Teacher's Dilemma
2. Preparing for Competitions: What are Judges Really Looking For?
3. User-Friendly Technical Training for Early Level Students
4. Developing Stylistic Awareness
5. Memorization: Psychological Data and Some Practical Tips
6. Voicing: A Key to Artistic Pianism
7. Coping with Parents
8. Talking at the Boundaries: Developing Students' Imagination
9. Musical Punctuation and the Art of Interpretation
10. Cures for the Technique Blahs: Practice Techniques for All Levels
11. Business 101 for the Music Teacher: Working Successfully as an Independent Teacher
12. Musicianship: Should this be Part of Piano Lessons?
13. The Power of Efficient Practice: Cures for the Bored-Practice Blues
14. Preparing Students to Handle Stage Fright
15. Fundamentals of Teaching Good Tone

16. The Three-Cornered Connection: Piano Lessons from the Vantage Point of Students, Parents and Teachers (this is a panel discussion)
17. Teaching Musical Interpretation Through Creative Alternatives
18. Royal American Conservatory Examinations: The National Standard for Developing Musicians
19. Preparing Your Students for RACE Exams Piano Literature, Style and Performance
20. The Teaching Pieces of Muzio Clementi: It's Not All about Sonatinas!
21. Gems from the Piano Teacher's Vault: Forgotten Pieces Overdue for Rediscovery
22. Piano Music from South America
23. Secrets of Form in J.S. Bach's Inventions
24. Mendelssohn's Songs without Words: A True Classic
25. From Sonatinas to New Age: Effective Teaching in All Genres
26. Hanon and Czerny: There's Life in the Old Boys Yet!
27. Teaching Musical Interpretation through Creative Alternatives
28. Music of the Romantic Period: Practical Performance Practice

From the Certification Chair

Congratulations to Crystal Lee, NCTM, from District I on completing the certification process!

In the February/March edition of AMT, there is an excellent article (part 1 of 4) by one of my wonderful mentors, Dr. Dorothy Payne, providing suggestions on ways to meet the new Essential Skills approved by the MTNA Board of Directors. These skills include:

- Ability to internalize basic rhythms and pulse
- Ability to read-musical literacy
- Ability to perform with physical ease and technical efficiency
- Ability to hear the notes on the page
- Ability to work creatively-improvise, compose, harmonize and play by ear
- Ability to understand basic elements of theory, form harmony, etc.
- Ability to respond to the interpretive elements of the composition to express the emotional character of the music
- Ability to conceptualize and transfer musical ideas
- Ability to work independently and to problem-solve
- Ability to perform comfortably individually and with others in a variety of settings

This skill set has many similarities to the National Standards for Music Education approved by the US government in 1994. The National Standards for Music Education are:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, harmonies, and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances

8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

What do all of these Standards and Skills have to do with certification through MTNA? Going through the certification process demonstrates that you are ready to teach these Essential Skills to your students. The certification renewal process shows that you are willing to continue professional development which benefits your students directly. If you, in your training, had little to no experience improvising or composing, for example, developing your own skills in those areas can build your confidence in your ability to teach those skills to your students. Certification also ensures parents and impressionable college students that you are qualified to help students meet and surpass their goals and expectations.

Current NCTM's should familiarize themselves with this new Essential Skills set and take time to evaluate how this is happening in their studios. What can NCTM's do to increase their students' potential by taking time to develop our own musicianship? The options are unlimited and the benefits are countless. If you are looking for ways to earn renewal points or need resources for continuing education, please contact me or other trusted colleagues for new ideas.

Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, WVMTA Certification Chair

New Option for the MTNA Professional Certification Program

Certification candidates now have a third option, administrative verification, which will allow full-time or part-time college and university faculty to become Nationally Certified Teachers of Music (NCTM) and renew their certification using credentials already in place within college/university settings. It will require written verification from a college or university administrator that the full-time or part-time college or university faculty member meets the requirements for fulfilling the appropriate MTNA Professional Certification Standards.

Initial Certification Process

All candidates for MTNA Professional Certification begin the initial certification process with Step I: submitting an application and meeting the requirements for fulfilling Standard I. Upon the successful completion of Step I, candidates proceed to Step II: selecting one of three options to meet the requirements for fulfilling Standards II, III and IV. Candidates now will be able to choose one of the three following options to complete Step II of the initial certification process:

1. Certification Examination-It is a written, practical examination in which the candidate is asked to apply professional preparation to everyday teaching situations and to the operation of a professional studio/classroom.
2. Certification Portfolio-Materials and documents submitted in the Portfolio should reflect the candidate's professional preparation, teaching practices, ability to operate a successful professional studio/classroom, professional involvement and ability to develop partnerships.

3. Administrative Verification-This requires written verification from a college or university administrator that the full-time or part-time college or university faculty member meets the requirements for fulfilling the appropriate MTNA Professional Certification Standards.

Renewal Certification Process

A third option for renewal also became available to candidates on January 1, 2005. It requires similar written verification from a college or university administrator that the full-time or part-time college or university faculty member meets the renewal requirements for fulfilling Standards IV and V. Candidates now will be able to choose one of the following three options to complete the certification renewal process:

1. Documentation of Points
2. Renewal Portfolio
3. Administrative Verification

The new options, for both the initial certification and the certification renewal processes, provide additional ways for the MTNA Professional Certification Program to be more inclusive while remaining true to its philosophy and Standards.

MTNA Clarifies Association Names

At the December 2004 Board of Directors meeting, the Board directed me to clarify the proper usage of MTNA when referring to Locals/States/Divisions. After consulting leaders at all levels, we have determined the following proper usages.

Division: MTNA xxxxx Division (e.g. MTNA East Central Division)

State: xxxxx MTA (e.g. Ohio MTA) or xxxxx State MTA (e.g. Washington State MTA)

Local: xxxxx MTA (Charlotte MTA)

Collegiate chapters should be referred to as XXXX Collegiate Chapter of MTNA (e.g. University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music Collegiate Chapter of MTNA)

All divisions, states, and locals are encouraged to use these forms in order to maintain consistency throughout the organization.

Gary Ingle, Executive Director, MTNA

Morgantown MTA (District 1)

Activities planned in the Morgantown area are: Theory testing on Friday, April 22; string adjudicated performances on Friday, April 29; piano solos on Friday, May 6; and adjudicated performances on Saturday, May 7.

Janna Kisner, Morgantown MTA Co-Chair

Clarksburg MTA (District 2)

Theory & Technic testing will be held on March 26 at Fairmont State University.

May 7--Adjudicated Spring Performances at Alderson Broaddus College, Philippi.

Responsibilities as "acting chair" are being shared among members Mary Lynne Bennett, Virginia Raad, Marija Sommer, Jeanne DeFoe and Eloise Federer.

Bob Ellis, Clarksburg MTA Chair

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA (District 4)

Theory and technique tests are planned for April 23 at Ohio Valley College in Vienna. Spring performances will be held May 21 at the First Lutheran Church in Parkersburg.

Barbara Heckert, Mid-Ohio Valley MTA Chair

Huntington MTA (District 5)

District 5 held its theory and technique tests Saturday, March 12, at Marshall University. Of the 124 string, flute, and piano students who registered, 114 took theory tests, and 78 took technique tests. Teachers of participating students are Cindy Counts, Patricia Green, Peggy Johnston, Judy Lambert, Terry Lawson, Mila Markun, Libby McClung, Rebecca Steffoff, Harriet Tucker, Elaine Tutt, and Kim Wiebe. Spring Performances are scheduled for Saturday, May 14.

Judy Lambert, Huntington MTA Chair

Dates to Remember:

2005 MTNA Convention in Seattle WA: April 2-6

2005 WVMTA Convention at Fairmont State University: November 4-5

2006 Eastern Division Competition in Ithaca, NY (Ithaca College): January 13-14

2007 Eastern Division Competition in Pittsburgh, PA (Duquesne University): January 12-13

Summary of January 2005 Board Meeting

Acting President Karen Taddie called the meeting to order and immediately pointed out that the board was in violation of bylaws. It was agreed that the Board needed to look into some revision of the by-laws at the June meeting.

Lya Cartwright's letter of resignation as President was presented. The situation concerning the vacancy of the Office of President was discussed. Karen voiced her desire

to remain as President-elect and fulfill the needs as President as necessary until the terms are completed at the time of the 2005 State Convention.

Jeanne DeFoe's letter of resignation as Secretary was read. A request for the description of the Secretary's duties was made. Karen Taddie thanked Bob Ellis for arranging accommodations at Ryan's in Anmoore.

Mary Lynne Bennett announced that Crystal Lee had achieved NCTM.

MTNA's decision to drop organ, percussion, and guitar from competitions was discussed. It was decided to keep these instruments eligible for the Mountain State Competition.

Karen Taddie was given approval to purchase a state pride gift at the Seneca Center for the 2005 MTNA Convention.

The Board voted to award \$200 to the National contestant for their Seattle trip. \$100 was awarded retroactively to those contestants who traveled to the Eastern Division competitions.

The 2005 WVMTA Convention will be held November 4 & 5 at Fairmont State. Dr. Scott McBride Smith will be the featured clinician. Dr. Smith will present his proposal to nationalize the MTNA technic requirements.

Ray Martin presented the Treasurer's Report. WVMTA is working without a budget this term and districts are reminded to be conservative with expenses. A finance and auditing committee must oversee an audit of the treasury this year. Carol Beall called for two other people to serve on the nominating committee.

The next Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 3 at Larry's in Flatwoods, WV.

Gary Mullenax, Acting Secretary

Membership Renewal Available Online

Now you can renew your membership or join WVMTA/ MTNA online with just a few easy steps. Watch for your renewal statement to arrive in the mail this spring.

*go to www.mtna.org

*click on the center panel "MTNA enter"

*click on the upper right side "Membership Renewal" OR "Join Now"

*follow the remaining prompts

You will be asked for your membership number, so if you don't have your membership card handy, you can get that information from national headquarters by contacting them at:

mtnanet@mtna.org or call 888-512-5278

What's New at www.wvmta.org

WVMTA Fees and Points are now posted on our website. The chart contains everything you need to know about fees and points for WVMTA student events. Print a copy to keep as a handy reference.

Recent changes to the WVMTA Membership Directory

Renewed in Huntington MTA (District 5): **Dara Henry**, 8364 Pleasant Ave. Wheelersburg, OH 45694 (740) 574-2411, Teaching area: Piano

Moved: **Robert Ellis**, 129 Upland Drive, Fairmont WV 26554 (no change of phone)

WVMTA News is published quarterly online at www.wvmta.org and mailed to members who do not have an email address.

If you have a change of street address or email address, please contact Laura Hamm, editor of WVMTA News, or Scott Beard, Membership Chair. wvmta@westco.net

Updated street addresses will be posted on the online membership directory.