

# *WVMTA News*

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

Volume 42, Issue

June 2007

---

## **From the President's Desk**

Karen Taddie NCTM, President

As I work with our Newsletter editor Beth Royall to prepare this newsletter, as I work with our Treasurer Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett NCTM to prepare the quarterly financial report and budget for next year, as I work with your entire Administrative Board to hash through agenda items from our most recent meetings, I am constantly reminded that I have very little time left to continue the privilege of being your president. It truly HAS been a privilege to serve such a fine organization of members. But the time has come to 'pass the baton'.

Back in the winter, a Nominating Committee (Olive Meyer NCTM, Dr. Ray Martin NCTM, and Committee Chair & Acting Immediate Past President Carol Beall NCTM) got together to create an Officer Slate for the 07-09 term.

It is my pleasure to now publicly announce to you the Slate of Officers that has been set up to be your Executive Board for the next few years:

Dr. R. Scott Beard NCTM, President  
Dr. Gerald Lee, President-elect  
Dr. Hooi Yin Boey, 1st Vice President  
Vicki Cavendish, 2nd Vice President  
Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett NCTM, Treasurer  
Terry Lawson, Secretary

According to our Constitution and Bylaws: "At least twenty-four (24) hours prior to election, any WVMTA member may submit in writing to the President, with the approval of the candidate, an additional nominee for any office. If no additional nominees are received by the President [in writing], the nominees presented by the nominating committee shall be considered elected by acclamation."

According to Webster's dictionary, "acclamation" means "with applause". I hope you will all consider joining me at our Annual General Membership Meeting on Friday November 16th in Morgantown, and APPLAUD the new leaders as they, along with your District Chairs, take over the governance of the West Virginia Music Teachers Association.

## **2007 Competitions Report**

Dr. Scott Beard NCTM, 1st Vice-President

Two students of Dr. Scott Beard NCTM recently won prizes in the International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington, DC. Founded 22 years ago by pianist and composer Li-Ly Chang, the competition promotes music by contemporary Chinese Composers, as well as a cultural exchange of musical and artistic ideals.

After a taped round of competition, finalists are selected for six divisions. Jason Solounias, a sophomore music major at Shepherd University was one of 10 finalists, and won second place and a prize of \$800. George Fu, a rising junior at Urbana High School (MD) won first prize in a field of 17 contestants. Student finalists came from all over the country as well as abroad.

## District News

Dr. Scott Beard NCTM, 1st Vice-President

“Over my head, I hear music in the air---A BUSY SPRING!”

Spring is always a busy time for WVMTA members and students. All of the districts held spring performances, most had theory and technique tests, as well as special events like recitals and master classes. Bravo to all the districts and their chairs for having so many musical opportunities for the students of West Virginia.

### FALL FESTIVAL THEME

The Fall Festival Theme will be open this year, but we thought you'd like to hear what some of the districts are doing:

Morgantown MTA (District I)—A Day at the Zoo

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA (District IV)—Duets and more

Huntington MTA (District V)—the biannual PIANORAMA. Lots of fun music has been chosen.

Eastern Panhandle MTA (District VI)—Celebrating the Classics! Students will perform music by composers of the Classical period or forms that were prevalent during that time. Three recitals will be held with member teachers demonstrating on the second recital.

\*\*Keep us posted on your progress. We'll be looking forward to hearing what you've done!

### MTNA & MOUNTAIN STATE COMPETITION REMINDERS!

Start planning your repertoire NOW, as the deadline for MTNA and WVMTA Mountain State Competitions is September 11th. The Mountain State competition information and application form are included in this newsletter and is also available online at the WVMTA website: [www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org). Please consult your performance plan for changes that have been implemented since last year. Changes have been made regarding Mountain State Competitions. We cleaned up some wording regarding MTNA competitions, and added the recently approved general rules governing WVMTA events. Thanks to the board and district chairs for their help!

\*Please note that all MTNA applications must be completed online (electronically) only.

\*\*Mountain State competition applications should be postmarked by 9/11 and sent to the chair listed in the newsletter. Teachers should send in one check for all their entries.

\*\*\*Remember that there are NO changes in repertoire once you have completed the application. WVMTA follows MTNA guidelines for all competitions.

### PERFORMANCE PLAN REMINDERS

The latest edition of the Student Performances Plan is available online! Please download it and note recent changes. Some new additions:

Please note that Mountain State applications contain changes regarding the age of students in each category. As a board we voted to have our guidelines match those of the national organization, so the changes are the following:

Junior High: Ages 11-14 as of November 1, 2007

Senior High: Ages 15-18 as of November 1, 2007

Collegiate: The graduate age limit is 26.

\*Teachers should also note the member in good standing requirement and being available the day of the event for help with the competitions.

# DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

## Morgantown MTA (District I)

Mary Ellen Morrison NCTM, Janna Kisner NCTM, Mary Wilson, Co-chairs

District One held a number of events this spring, starting with Theory Testing on April 20th. There were 82 students participating from the studios of: Linda Albuquerque, Carol Beall NCTM, Wey-Tsy Chen, Catherine Crotty NCTM, Janna Kisner NCTM, Crystal Ai Wei Lee NCTM, Mary Ellen Morrison NCTM, Karen Taddie NCTM, and Christine Yunn Bing Tan.

Spring adjudicated performances for piano took place Saturday May 5, 2007 at West Virginia University. Judges were Dr. Gerald Lee and Yij Ching Schoolar. There were 70 students participating from the studios of: Linda Albuquerque, Carol Beall NCTM, Wey-Tsy Chen, Catherine Crotty NCTM, Dr. Christine Kefferstan NCTM, Janna Kisner NCTM, Crystal Ai Wei Lee NCTM, Dr. James Miltenberger, Mary Ellen Morrison NCTM, Karen Taddie NCTM, and Christine Yunn Bing Tan.

Students who received a "I" rating are listed below.

Junior A: Anthony Chen (Tan), Sophia Chen (Crotty), Stephen Chen (Tan), Liam Dennis (Beall), JieRui Fang (Tan), Olivia Haddad (Beall), Allie Haddad (Beall), Brian Huang (Kefferstan), Ben Kan (Crotty), Emma Krolczyk (Beall), Olivia Lin (Crotty), Kyle Luo (Crotty), Nila Manivannan (Lee), Erica Min (Morrison), Celestial Rubenstein (Lee), Cynthia Shi (Tan), Sam van der Sloot (Crotty), Madison Verbosky (Morrison), Michelle Wang (Crotty).

Junior B: Peter Chen (Tan), Tristan Dennis (Beall), Samuel Deal (Beall), Demi Fang (Kefferstan), Alex Lai (Chen), Oliver Lin (Crotty), Vuong Nguyen (Beall), Theodore Schuman (Tan), Jennifer Yu (Crotty).

Junior High: Elizabeth Albuquerque (Morrison), Christina Deal (Beall), Alexandra Dennis (Beall), Billy Fang (Kefferstan), Jennifer Gore (Taddie), Jessie Griffith (Lee), Angela Hewett (Taddie), Rena Jiang (Crotty), Guiliana Napolitano (Albuquerque), Jessica Seese (Taddie), Allissa Sun (Tan), LiXiang Tan (Tan), Joanne Twist (Beall), Jimmy Yuan (Crotty).

Senior High: Emily Chow (Crotty), Jessica Deal (Kefferstan), Leila Famouri (Crotty), Mary Joanna Grisso (Beall), Clemens Hsiao (Crotty), Lisa Jiang (Crotty), Pierson Keating (Miltenberger), Surya Manivannan (Beall), Emily Ngan (Crotty), Jennifer van der Sloot (Crotty), Emily Yang (Crotty).

Spring adjudicated performances for strings were held on April 2, 2007 at West Virginia University. The judge was Micah Fleming. There were 43 entries total in both solo and ensemble performances. Students were from the studios of Mary Ellen Morrison NCTM, Patricia van der Sloot, and Mary Wilson. Students earning a "I" rating were the following:

Junior A Solo: Emily Braham, Nina Han, Michael Zhang, Daniel Deal, Tiffany Park, Craig Weimer, William Gu, Katherine Henneberger, Kienan Battin, Sam Van der Sloot, Sahn Kim, Thomas Can der Sloot, Erica Min.  
JR A Ensemble-Emily Braham, Nina Han, William Gu, Tiffany Park, Daniel Deal, Sam Van der Sloot, Thomas van der Sloot.

Junior B Solo: Sean Elliott, Akshay Chandran, Duncan Crooks, Tristan Quinones, Sara Jones, Vuong Nguyen, Alex Albuquerque.

Junior B Ensemble: Kienan Battin, Akshay Chandran, Sean Elliott, Duncan Crooks, Vuong Nguyen.

Junior High Solo: Kristi Curitza, Cindy Lin, Jimmy Yuan, Elizabeth Albuquerque, Jason Snyder, Allison Prescott, Patrick Sullivan, Christine Deal, Kendra Berkley, Stephen Hill.

Junior High Ensemble: Cindy Lin, jimmy Yuan, Elizabeth Albuquerque, Katherine Henneberger, Tristan Quinones, Kristi Buritza, Sara Jones.

Senior High Solo: Eriko Hattori, Emily Ngan, Lucian Mazza.

## **DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, cont.**

### Clarksburg MTA (District II)

Hooi Yin Boey, Chair

This spring, District Two held several events. Several students took the theory and technique exams and were graded by Dr. Virginia Raad. The spring adjudicated performances were held May 5, 2007 at Alderson-Broadus College, and included piano solo and ensemble performances by 18 students. Participating teachers were Robert Ellis, Eloise Federer, Dr. Virginia Raad, Marija Sommer, and Dr. Hoi Yin Boey. The judge was Dr. James Miltenberger.

### Charleston MTA (District III)

Vicki Cavendish and Karen Morris, Co-chairs

District 3 Spring Performances were held Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Charleston Baptist Temple. Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett was the adjudicator. The following students received superior ratings.

Junior A Piano Solos: Camillo Peracchia (Cavendish), Rachael Saldanha (Cavendish), Mandy Spiegel (Morris), Ali McPhail (Morris), Grace Liu (Cavendish), Madeline Sayre (Morris), Eugene Lee (Cavendish), Joy Wu (Cavendish), Matthew Sivaprakasam (Cavendish), Jade McGrath (Meyer), Euna Lee (Cavendish), Jacob Bumgarner (Meyer), Jessica Gill (Meyer), Megan Kirk (Cavendish).

Junior B Piano Solos: Vivian Yao (Martin), Jessica Sayre (Morris), Luke Lowen (Morris), Kendra Ramsey (Meyer), Sophie Nellhaus (Meyer), Cameron Stroebel (Morris), Meredith Lauerman (Meyer), Anna Sodaro (Meyer), Christian Smith (Cavendish).

Junior High Piano Solos: Michael Terranova (Cavendish), Paul Ray Issacs (Morris), Andrew Swing (Meyer), Erin O'Neil (Cavendish), Taylor Giorgio (Cavendish).

Senior High Piano Solos: Nathaniel Ramsey (Meyer), Marita Sodaro (Meyer), Yiping Wang (Smith)

### Mid-Ohio Valley MTA (District IV)

Barbara Heckert, Chair

Auditions for the Mid-Ohio Valley District were held on May 5 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg. The adjudicator was John Walkup. There were 42 piano entrants and 2 flute entrants. Seven teachers entered students: Laura Hamm NCTM, Barbara Heckert, Melissa Herceg, Marilyn Horton NCTM, Beth Kloes NCTM, Jan Jemison Smith NCTM, and Linda Toomey NCTM.

Students earning a rating of "I" were as follows:

Junior A Piano: Cody Bahr (Smith), Madeline Brown (Smith), Makella Brown (Smith), Alex Herring (Smith), Meredith McClain (Smith), Margaret McGraw (Hamm), Jennifer Murphy (Smith), Grace Reed (Toomey)

Junior B Piano: John Bolton (Smith), Joshua Foust (Hamm), Eleanor Hardy (Hamm), Zoe Heflin (Smith), Katelyn Hess (Heckert), Madeline McGraw (Hamm), Rachel Mureiko (Toomey), Carly O'Callaghan (Toomey), Lauren Richardson (Toomey), Andrew Steele (Smith), Daniel Steele (Smith).

Junior High Piano: Christopher Bahr (Smith), Tyler Bahr (Smith), Karli Casto (Heckert), Jeremy Fouss (Kloes), Sheila Hande (Smith), Paul Mureiko (Toomey), Emily Pierson (Heckert), James Rexroad (Hamm), Lalan Shah (Smith).

Senior High Piano: Jared Gragan (Toomey), Kailyn Lockhart (Toomey).

Junior B Flute: Julianne Beckett (Herceg).

## **DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, cont.**

### Mid-Ohio Valley MTA (District IV), cont.

Students Earning Trophies were as follows:

Trophy I: Christopher Bahr (Smith), Tyler Bahr (Smith), Mary Catherine Bolton (Smith), Elijah Copen (Horton), Joshua Foust (Hamm), Margaret McGraw (Hamm), Rachel Mureiko (Toomey), Devin Pierson (Heckert), Andrew Steele (Smith), Daniel Steele (Smith), Jennifer Wheeler (Smith).

Trophy II: Esther Hardy (Hamm), Zoe Heflin (Smith), Alex Herring (Smith).

Technique and theory tests were held the first and third weeks in April. We gave 62 theory and 45 technique tests.

Spring Auditions took place on May 14th at Vienna Baptist Church. The adjudicator was Robert Ellis. There were 49 entrants as follows:

Junior A: 16

Junior B: 13

Junior High: 13

High School: 6

Duets: 1

There were students from 8 different teachers, with 34 "I" ratings awarded. There were 11 first-level trophies presented and 6 second-level trophies.

### Huntington MTA (District V)

Judy Lambert, Chair

District Five held their theory and technique tests at Marshall University on March 17, 2007. 64 students took the theory tests and 40 students took the technique exam. Participating teachers were Hannah Burbery, Cynthia Counts, Patricia Green, Peggy Johnston NCTM, Judy Lambert NCTM, Terry Lawson, Mila Markun NCTM, Harriet Tucker NCTM, Elain Tutt, and Kim Wiebe.

Spring Adjudicated Performances were held May 12, 2007 at Marshall University. Judges were Dr. Leslie Petteys NCTM, Dr. Solen Dikener, and Pam Johnson. 58 students (piano and violin) participated in the performances. Participating teachers were Mark Barnhouse, Hannah Burbery Cynthia Counts, Patricia Green, Dara Henry, Peggy Johnston NCTM, Judy Lambert NCTM, Terry Lawson, Mila Markun NCTM, Leslie Petteys NCTM, and Harriet Tucker NCTM.

### Eastern Panhandle MTA (District VI)

Gary Mullenax, Chair

In addition to the theory and technique exams held earlier in the spring, District Six also hosted their Annual Spring Recital on April 29, 2007 at Shepherd University. 75 students participated in three separate programs. Participating teachers were Ginny Anderson, Dr. Scott Beard NCTM, Ruth Carson, Gary Mullenax, Ruth Raubertas and Suzanne Tabb.

An annual planning meeting/luncheon was held June 7th at the home of Scott Beard NCTM. Members looked through some new music, discussed ideas for the coming year and enjoyed a delicious pot-lunch luncheon. One new event the district will be hosting is a concerto competition on January 26th. Winners of each movement of the required pieces will be featured in a winner's recital in May with a second-piano accompaniment.

## **Membership Report**

Dr. Gerald K. Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

I am very happy to report that membership in WVMTA continues to thrive! To date, WVMTA is able to account for a total of 121 members (96 independent teachers and/or college/university professors as well as 25 student

## Membership Report, cont.

members). Many, many thanks to each and every one of you—your active membership, support, and participation is of utmost importance to the vitality, strength, and continued growth of our organization. As of May 31, 2007, 45 membership renewals (for the 2007-08 membership year) have been recorded. I anticipate and hope that the number of membership renewals should increase significantly by the end of this month as well as into July. In addition, I welcome and look forward to seeing many new members join WVMTA.

As a friendly reminder, those individuals wishing to join WVMTA for the first time, renew membership, or reinstate membership for the 2007-08 membership year should aim to do so as soon as possible. The new WVMTA membership year for 2007-08 officially begins on July 1, 2007; however, anyone is welcome to join, renew, or reinstate membership at any point during the 2007-08 membership year as the door is always open. To join, renew, or reinstate membership, check out the WVMTA membership page or go directly to our parent organization, Music Teachers National Association at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

So, why should you consider joining WVMTA as a new member, renewing your membership, or reinstating your membership in WVMTA for the 2007-08 membership year?

**Networking:** Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA) is made up of nearly 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers like you in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. As a member you will receive the American Music Teacher (a bimonthly magazine from MTNA), quarterly WVMTA state newsletter, and an annual WVMTA Member-Directory. WVMTA directories and the quarterly newsletter are available online to members and can be mailed upon request.

**Professional Standards:** MTNA has an extensive certification program for its members that sets a standard of excellence and professionalism. Please contact the state certification chair, Marilyn Horton, NCTM, for more information.

**Professional Development:** Career training and development can be found at the local, state and national levels, in the form of workshops, clinics, and performance-oriented activities. Grant money may be earned from Teacher Training Funds and Matching Grants for Local Associations from the MTNA Foundation Fund.

**Student Activities:** Students of WVMTA members may participate in theory tests, technique tests, workshops, recitals, adjudicated performances and competitions. Through participation in WVMTA events, students earn points that accumulate to trophy awards. For a full description of student events through WVMTA, please see the Student Performances Plan available at [www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org).

**State & National Conferences:** Every year, State and National Conferences feature such invaluable activities as group discussions, workshops, master-classes, guest artists, recital performances, and a wide array of student competitions.

**Arts Advocacy:** There exists, through MTNA, a National Advocacy for Music Education Partnership, Advocacy Training, as well as a Congressional Liaison.

**Other Benefits:** Group health and disability insurance, retirement planning, group liability insurance, and credit card programs are also available through MTNA.

## From the Top

The summer provides a great opportunity to prepare for the upcoming teaching year. Whether you will be attending seminars or planning new activities for your students MTNA has several concepts that you can incorporate in your studio this fall.

## **From the Top, cont.**

You might find yourself wondering how you can expand your earning potential without adding to your stress level or making a large financial investment. If this is the case, you will want to attend one of four regional Recreational Music Making (RMM) Teacher Training Seminars presented by MTNA and the National Piano Foundation. These events will demonstrate how you can incorporate RMM into your teaching in a traditional setting.

The seminars will take place this summer at the following locations:

- June 30-July 1: Madison, WI
- July 7-8: Harrisburg, PA
- July 14-15: Seattle, WA
- August 11-12: Raleigh-Durham, NC

Space will be available on a first-come first-served basis, so you will want to register today. For more information or to register, visit the National Piano Foundation website at [www.pianonet.com](http://www.pianonet.com) and click on "Recreational Music Making."

You might not have time to attend any weekend seminars, but no matter what age level you teach or whether or not you offer traditional or recreational music lessons, MTNA encourages you to incorporate the Ten Essential Skills for Promoting a Lifelong Love of Music and Music Making into your fall teaching programs.

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

This set of skills does not require a certain level of advancement that may or may not be possible with students, but rather gives the teacher the option of creating programs in each skill area that meets the needs and goals of the individual students in the studio.

For more information about the Essential Skills, in addition to a four part series of articles on the subject, visit <http://www.mtna.org/Default.aspx?tabid=312>.

## **Independent Music Teachers Forum**

Gary Mullenax, IMT Forum Chair

The Independent Music Teachers Forum at the 2007 WVMTA State Convention will be a Q & A session with Miss Hannah Guyer. Hannah is 22 years of age and is studying with WVMTA member Gary Mullenax in pursuit of her ARCT Diploma. The ARCT Diploma is the culmination of the Royal Conservatory of Music Examination.

Miss Guyer is a native of Canada, and her musical training has been with RACE. Upon moving to the US, about five years ago, Hannah encountered some difficulty in finding qualified teachers to help her prepare for RACE. As IMT Forum chair, I hope this session will give WVMTA members a clearer view of the high standards of RACE, and the willingness to accept high standard of expectations in our teaching.

# *WVMTA Mountain State Competition*



## **FEES & DEADLINE:**

Application fees are non-refundable and are as follows:

Jr. High-\$20.00

Sr. High-\$20.00

Collegiate-\$25.00

Check/money order payable to: West Virginia Music Teacher's Association (WVMTA)

Postmark Deadline: September 11th, 2007

Please send the application form, fee, and repertoire list to Competitions Chair:

Dr. Scott Beard NCTM

Department of Music

Shepherd University

PO Box 3210

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Questions: Email: [sbeard@shepherd.edu](mailto:sbeard@shepherd.edu)

Phone: 304-876-5370

## **STUDENT CLASSIFICATION:**

Junior High: ages 11-14 as of November 1, 2007

Senior High: ages 15-18 as of November 1, 2007

Collegiate A: Freshman or sophomore standing

Collegiate B: Junior or Senior standing.

Collegiate C: Graduate students or other students no older than 26 years of age.

**ENTRANT CATEGORIES** - Entrants may enter in the solo performance areas to include piano, organ, voice, strings, percussion, brass, woodwind instruments; and chamber music. Students may also enter in the category of composition.

**REPERTOIRE INFORMATION:** Please attach a repertoire list to this application, typewritten on a separate sheet of paper. Include the title, composer, performance timing and style classification. While there is no minimum time requirement, the maximum time limits are 20 min. for jr./sr. high and 30 min. for collegiate. Student and teacher should work together to prepare a program of at least three pieces, representing different style periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, Contemporary). Please consult the WVMTA Performance Plan for rules and requirements at [www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org). Composer/style classifications may be found on the MTNA website under competitions: [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). For ease of typing programs, students or teachers may also forward an electronic version of the repertoire list to the competitions chair at: [sbeard@shepherd.edu](mailto:sbeard@shepherd.edu)

**\*\*Students/teachers should keep a copy of this application.\*\***

The application should be filled out completely and legibly.

# *WVMTA Mountain State Competition Application Form*



Instrument/Voice classification or Composition \_\_\_\_\_

Jr High \_\_\_\_\_ Sr High \_\_\_\_\_ Collegiate \_\_\_\_\_ (A, B or C)

**STUDENT INFORMATION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEACHER INFORMATION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WVMTA DUES paid? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMPANIST INFORMATION (if applicable):**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF INTENT:**

It is the responsibility of the teacher and the student to determine that all rules and requirements are met, and by signature, to certify this fact. The undersigned verify that the information contained on this application is complete and accurate:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the teacher, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the rules governing WVMTA events and agree to abide by them. My students and/or parents have also been apprised of the rules. I understand that I must be a member in good standing and be available to assist on the competition day with the event. If I fail to fulfill this obligation, I understand and agree that my students may be declared ineligible to participate in this event.

Teacher's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Co-teacher \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to assist during the following hours \_\_\_\_\_

## WVMTA Convention 2007

### *WVMTA Convention Guest Artist: Dr. Chan Kiat Lim*



Chan Kiat Lim was born in Alor Setar, Malaysia and began lesson at age 6. He received his music certifications in piano, violin, and theory from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London; and the Trinity College of Music, London. While in Malaysia under the tutelage of Rickie Ooi, he was awarded the College of Creative Arts Performance Grant from West Virginia University, which brought him to the U.S.A. in 1995. After completing his Bachelor's degree there with Dr. James Miltenberger, he went on to the University of Cincinnati where he received his Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the College-Conservatory of Music as a scholarship student of Elizabeth and Eugene Pridonoff. Lim's D.M.A. degree was in piano performance with a secondary emphasis on piano pedagogy.

Lim has won several piano competitions including the Young Artist Concerto Competition, WVMTNA Collegiate Piano Competition, and WGUC Cincinnati Public Classical Radio Audition. In addition, he has served as collaborative pianist for the *Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca* in Italy the *45<sup>th</sup> World Piano Competition* and has worked with esteemed artists and pedagogues such as Dorothy Delay, Masao Kawasaki, Peter Oundjian, Sandra Rivers, and James Tocco.

An active recitalist, Lim has performed in the U.S.A., Asia, and Europe, including solo recitals in Italy and Romania this summer. Most recently, he performed Sergei Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto and performed a solo recital at Steinway Hall in New York City. He has also received invitations for concerts in Asia and at music festivals in the U.S.A.

Lim has a special interest in the performance and research of Twentieth-Century music which has resulted in his dissertation entitled "Twentieth-Century Piano Nocturnes by American Composers: Echoes of Romanticism." His enthusiasm in new music, particularly by American composers, has led to lecture performances at state and national levels. At present, Lim is a member of the piano faculty at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

### *WVMTA Convention Clinician: Dr. Christine Kefferstan, NCTM*



Recognized by the WVU Division of Music and by WVMTA for her excellence in teaching, Professor Kefferstan graduated from the College-Conservatory of Cincinnati where she studied with David Bar-Illan. Recently, she co-presented a lecture/recital on Ravel's *La Valse* for the MTNA National Convention in Utah, and was piano soloist for the Steinway Series, Pittsburgh. As recitalist and adjudicator, Kefferstan has presented programs throughout the United States. Her articles have appeared in *Keyboard Companion*, *Clavier*, and *Piano Quarterly*.

An active member of Music Teachers National Association, Kefferstan has served as WV State President, Eastern Division President, and member of both the National Foundation Board and the Board of Directors.

Kefferstan's students have placed in the Amateur Competition of the Van Cliburn, Greensboro Music Academy, Bartok-Kabalevsky Competition, Stravinsky Competition, the Fite Family competition, the Pittsburgh Young Artists, and in various MTNA competitions.



**Pre-conference Workshop: Teaching Sight Reading Through Composition by Dr. Chan Kiat Lim; A Pedagogy Session for College Students and Teachers**

*November 15, 2007 at noon, Creative Arts Center, West Virginia University*

Sight reading is an important skill that many students and pianists, at large, often neglect. One of the methods that Dr. Lim has adopted is having students compose as a tool to improve their sight reading.

**Workshop 1: Lowell Liebermann's Album for the Young, Op. 43 – A Musical Approach to Teaching Intermediate Repertoire by Dr. Chan Kiat Lim**

Lowell Liebermann is one of the most prominent American composers of recent decades whose works have steadily penetrated the standard classical art music repertoire. An accomplished pianist, Liebermann has also contributed a catalogue of attractive solo piano compositions. This presentation will feature Liebermann's Album for the Young, Op. 43--a set of intermediate piano pieces--and discuss the aesthetic and pedagogical values of these miniature gems.

**Workshop 2: Comfort at the Keyboard: Teaching Technic Musically at All Levels by Dr. Christine Kefferstan NCTM**

Using students from elementary through college age, this presentation will explore several technical routines that promote an awareness of physical ease and musical listening.

**Workshop 3: WEB-based Videos in Group Piano Instruction by Dr. Chan Kiat Lim**

With the popularity of the Internet, course management software such as Moodle and Blackboard, and millennial students' adaptability to technological advancements, WEB-based videos in group piano teaching function as an effective course enhancement tool while providing remedies for limitations of the group piano labs.

***Friday Night Orchestra Concert: November 16, 2007 7:30 pm at Lyell Clay Concert Theatre***

Please join us for a night of classical music while you are in town for the convention. Dr. Chan Kiat Lim will be performing with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Harvey Felder.

The Orchestra program is the Bartok Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, the remainder of the program to be announced. The two pianists for the concerto are Dr. Chan Kiat Lim and Dr. James Miltenberger, Professor of Piano at WVU, former teacher of Dr. Lim and a founding member of WVMTA.

## ***Call for Participants: Afternoon Recital***

*November 16, 2007 at 3:00 pm*

Dear WVMTA Members,

I would like to invite WVMTA members to participate in an afternoon Recital on Friday, November 16, 2007 at 3:00 pm. Please limit your performance to about 5 minutes and ensemble setting is preferred. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talent and show your love of music with your peers.

If you are interested in participating, contact Yennie by September 15, 2007 via e-mail [davidandyennie@yahoo.com](mailto:davidandyennie@yahoo.com) or phone at (304) 210-5827.

## **Convention Schedule as of 6/25/07**

		<u>Location</u>
<b><u>Thursday 11/15/07</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	
12:00pm-1:00pm	Teaching Sight Reading Through Composition, Dr. Chan Kiat Lim, Guest Artist - Pedagogy Session for College Students*	Creative Arts Center (CAC): Room 211A
<b><u>Friday 11/16/07</u></b>		
9:45-10:30am	District Chair Meeting	Golden Corral
10:30-1:15pm	Admin Meeting (with lunch break)	Golden Corral
1:00-3:45pm	Convention Registration	CAC: Lobby
1:30-2:45pm	Workshop 1: 20th Century American Composer Liebermann	CAC: Room 440A
2:00-5:00pm	MTNA/WVMTA Mountain State Competitions Registration	CAC: Lobby
2:45-3:00pm	Break	
3:00-3:40pm	Afternoon Concert by WVMTA Members	CAC: Bloch Hall
3:45-5pm	Workshop 2 by Dr. Kefferstan: Teaching Technic Musically at all Levels	CAC: Room 440A
5:00-5:30pm	General Members Meeting	CAC: Room 440A
5:45-7:15pm	Banquet	Regatta Bar & Grille
7:30-9:00pm	Concert	CAC Concert Theatre
<b><u>Saturday 11/17/07</u></b>		
7:30-8am, 7:30-3pm	Adjudicators/monitors meeting w/ Comp Chair	CAC:213A
7:00-9:00am	Certification Breakfast	CAC: Green Room 324A
8:00-1:00pm	MTNA/WVMTA Mountain State Competitions	Varies
9:00-12 noon	Certification Test	CAC: Room 223A
11:00am-12 noon	1st Winner's Recital (WW, STR, BRA, VOC)	CAC: Room 200B
12 noon to 1:00pm	IMT Forum	
1:30-2:45pm	Workshop: 20th Century American Music	CAC: Room 440A
3:00-4:00pm	2nd Winner's Recital	CAC: Bloch Hall

**WVMTA Convention REGISTRATION**  
**November 16-17, 2007**  
*West Virginia University • Morgantown, WV*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply & send this printed copy to:**  
**Yennie Myers 33 Oak Circle Parkersburg, WV 26101**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 WVMTA, WVMEA member or other State-affiliated member (if postmarked by September 11;  
**please note change of date to coincide with competition registration deadline)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 Non-member (or members registering after September 11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 One day registration
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Student members of MTNA or MENC

\_\_\_\_\_ **Boxed Lunch for the IMT/College Faculty/Certification Meeting (Saturday, 11/17)**  
 Please select one sandwich: All lunches are \$6.90 per person and all sandwiches come with a pickle, chips and drink. (Feel free to order additional lunches for any guests/students you may consider bringing.)  
**Sandwiches:** Smoked Ham & Swiss ( ) Chicken Caesar ( )  
 Mediterranean Veggie ( ) Asiago Roast Beef ( )

\_\_\_\_\_ **Banquet (Friday, 11/16) – Regatta Bar & Grille at Waterfront Place Hotel**  
 (\$29 per person; tax & tip included) Please select one entrée, one salad, and one non-alcoholic beverage.  
 Feel free to order additional dinners for any guests/students you may consider bringing.

<u>Entrees</u>	<u>Salads</u>	<u>Beverages</u>
_____ Pepper Crusted Ahi Tuna	_____ Chopped Salad	_____ Tea
_____ Tortilla-Crusted Chicken Breast	_____ Caesar Salad	_____ Coffee
_____ Grilled Portobello au Poivre	_____ none	_____ Soft Drink
_____ Sliced Oak Barrel Sirloin with Roasted Potato/asparagus ( )Medium ( )Medium Rare ( )Well Done	_____ Water	

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL (Make checks payable to WVMTA)**

**Board Members (Friday, 11/16):** The administrative board meeting luncheon will be buffet-style, and held at the Golden Corral at 3515 Monongahela Blvd, Star City, WV 26505.

**CONVENTION HOTELS**

**Quality Inn & Suites: 5 minutes from campus (Reservation Deadline Oct. 15, 2007)**  
 1400 Saratoga Ave., (exit 155 on I-79) Free continental breakfast, (304)599-1680  
 Morgantown, WV 26505 Rate: \$71.99 + tax \*\*\*Ask for West Virginia MTA Convention Rate\*\*\*

**Hampton Inn: 5 minutes from campus (Reservation Deadline Oct 15, 2007)**  
 1053 Van Voorhis Rd, (exit 155 on I-79) Free continental breakfast, (304)599-1200  
 Morgantown, WV 26505 Rate: \$80.00 + tax \*\*\*Ask for West Virginia MTA Convention rate \*\*\*

# Donations Sought for 2007 WVMTA State Convention Program Booklet

Regardless of whether you will or will not be able to attend this year's WVMTA State Convention in Morgantown, WV on November 16-17, we, the Board, would like to invite you to consider a donation to the 2007 WVMTA State Convention Program Booklet. Your donation will provide an opportunity to visually display your conviction of the importance of music education in all of our lives. WVMTA is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation, and all donations are tax deductible.

Your donation will help WVMTA remain a strong and thriving organization; moreover, your donation will help to provide continuing music education opportunities – both for students and teachers alike – at the local, state, and even national levels. Thank you for supporting **MUSIC EDUCATION** and thank you for **supporting WVMTA**. Please send all donation-related correspondence to Gerald Lee, [binkylee@gmail.com](mailto:binkylee@gmail.com) (304) 336-8372.

On behalf of WVMTA and its Board,  
Yennie Myers, President-elect &  
Gerald Lee, assistant to the President-elect for the 2007 WVMTA State Convention

The following represents the program booklet advertisement sizes and their respective prices.  
Deadline for donation: 10/15/07, 12:00 a.m. (midnight)

## Program booklet advertisements:

- Full Page (4.5 x 8): \$100 (\*WVMTA members \$85)
- Half page (4.5 x 4): \$55 (\*WVMTA members \$46.75)
- Quarter page/business card (4.5 x 2): \$30 (\*WVMTA members \$25.50)
- Eighth page (2.25 x 2): \$20 (\*WVMTA members \$17)
- "Music Education" Supporter: \$10 (One-line name listing)

\*Special 15% discounted rate reflected above on prices for individual WVMTA members, collegiate student chapters, and district associations. Please provide camera-ready artwork (b/w) or a business card. E-mail attachments will also be accepted.

## ♪ Awards ♪ 2007 Teacher of the Year

May 1st was the deadline to submit nominations for the 2007 WVMTA Teacher of the Year. According to the rules set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on Oct. 25, 1996 nominations will be limited to three. The qualifications are:

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

## Awards, cont.

The award will be voted on by WVMTA members, and presented at the Convention Banquet in Morgantown WV in November (please refer to Convention information elsewhere in this issue).

This year there was only one nomination submitted by May 1st: Elaine Tutt. Elaine was our State Trophy Chairperson, and has been described by many members as a "very, very fine teacher". Elaine passed away in April, from breast cancer complications. Elaine Tutt will be our Teacher of the Year for 2007.

Elaine will be honored in the September issue of our newsletter with a page of testimonials written by YOU, our organizational members who knew her. Please send any paragraphs you feel moved to write to Karen Taddie NCTM by August 31st. Elaine will also be honored at the Fall Convention Banquet at the Regatta Bar & Grille in Morgantown, on Friday, November 16th. In lieu of a posthumous plaque, your WVMTA Administrative Board has voted to instead to donate a check for \$50 to Breast Cancer Research.

### IN MEMORY OF ELAINE TUTT 2007 WVMTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

-----

## WVMTA Teacher of the Year: Past Honorees

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *1991 Peggy Johnston NCTM       | *2000 Catherine Crotty NCTM |
| *1992 Christine Kefferstan NCTM | *2001 Bonnie Miltenberger   |
| *1993 Carol Beall, NCTM         | *2002 no award given        |
| *1994 Linda Seime NCTM          | *2003 Lya Cartwright        |
| *1995 Lena Lim NCTM             | *2004 Olive Meyer NCTM      |
| *1996 Mary Wilson               | *2005 Mila Markun NCTM      |
| *1997 Ray Martin NCTM           | *2006 Scott Beard NCTM      |
| *1998 Leslie Petteys NCTM       | *2007 Elaine Tutt           |
| *1999 Ruth Carder NCTM          |                             |

## 2007 Distinguished Leader of the Year Award

Karen Taddie NCTM, President

With the September 2005 newsletter, a call went out to members to encourage participation on a newly-formed Awards Committee. Mary Wilson and Carol Beall NCTM volunteered. Along with Karen Taddie NCTM, President, they presented ideas to the Administrative Board at the January 2006 meeting. At that meeting the Board voted to accept the following recommendations of the newly-formed Awards Committee:

- The Teacher of the Year Award will continue as is for now (see article above).
- The Member of the Year Award will be dissolved.
- In its place a new award, Distinguished Leader of the Year, will be instituted.
- This new award will be based on accumulated years of leadership and service contributed to the organization, over and above 10 years.
- This new award will be based on whether the award was or was not received by a particular member previously (although the award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once).
- This new award will be based on the recommendation, every year, of the current committee's research and records (if you are interested in becoming a future member of the newly-formed Awards Committee, please notify Karen Taddie NCTM, Carol Beall NCTM, or Mary Wilson).

The first Distinguished Leader of the Year Award (2006) went to Barbara Heckert (Mid-Ohio Valley Area MTA). It is the Committee's pleasure to inform the membership that the second Distinguished Leader of the Year Award (2007) will go to Carol Beall NCTM (Morgantown Area MTA).

## Awards, cont.

According to records, Carol has contributed at least 14 years of service to WVMTA in various capacities:

- Morgantown Area MTA District Chair for several years dating from 1982
- 1st Vice-President (85-87)
- twice President (87-89 & 01-03)
- four-time Immediate Past President (89-91 & 03-05 & 05-06 & currently)
- she also did a stint as President-elect (99-01)

Please join us as we celebrate Carol's dedication to the organization by presenting her with the Distinguished Leader of the Year Award (2007) at the Fall Convention Banquet in Morgantown in November.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROL BEALL NCTM  
2007 WVMTA DISTINGUISHED LEADER OF THE YEAR!

-----

## History of the WVMTA Member of the Year/Distinguished Leader of the Year Award

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| * 1991 Mary Shep Mann NCTM                 | * 2000 Olive Meyer NCTM   |
| * 1992 Bobby Loftis NCTM                   | * 2001 no award given     |
| * 1993 Judy Lambert NCTM                   | * 2002 no award given     |
| * 1994 Jane Mangus NCTM, & Sandra Hastings | * 2003 James Miltenberger |
| * 1995 Mila Markun NCTM                    | * 2004 no award given     |
| * 1996 Marija Sommer NCTM                  | * 2005 no award given     |
| * 1997 Marguerite Bostonia NCTM            | * 2006 Barbara Heckert    |
| * 1998 Jean Douglass NCTM                  | * 2007 Carol Beall NCTM   |
| * 1999 Connie Arrau Sturm NCTM             |                           |

## RACE Program

Karen Taddie NCTM, President

For the first time since we, as a State, adopted the RACE program, we had 2 centers 'open for business' this past May. Morgantown and Parkersburg both set up examination centers and had students signed up to attempt the exams for the first time in our State. (See below for names of individual students who graduated from their respective levels of the RACE program, for the first time in West Virginia). It was actually very easy to get these sites up-n-running. And Parkersburg was allowed to run their program with only 7 students registered; Morgantown with 11. Local teachers are NOT responsible for registering their students or collecting fees. Registration is done by the parents, online. All scoring, record keeping, fees, and certificates are handled by the Royal American Conservatory. If you are interested in getting this program "off the ground" for any number of YOUR students (or for other students/teachers in your district) please contact Karen Taddie.

This comprehensive national examination program covers performance, theory, technique, ear training and sight reading. Exams and examiners can be sent to testing sites twice a year - in December and May. All RACE examiners complete an apprenticeship and attend annual training. Examiners sit in with a mentor examiner for three sessions, and their critiques and scores are analyzed. This extensive training of examiners ensures that students in small towns are evaluated by the same standards used in large cities. The Royal American Conservatory promotes objective assessment by sending examiners to centers where they are not acquainted with any teacher or student. Examiners for RACE have these minimum qualifications: (1) Bachelor of Music or equivalent degree, (2) five years professional teaching experience with students of all ages, (3) adjudicating or judging experience at competitions or festivals.

## RACE Program, cont.

It is recommended that new RACE centers begin with young students. In the earliest level, the Preparatory A Level Practical Examination requires three pieces--one each from Lists A, B and C. Pieces from List A would feature LH melody and part playing, from book one or early book two in most method books. List B features pieces in which the melody is in RH, and List C is a piece of the teacher's choice. Memorization is not required in the Practical Examination, but extra points are awarded for memorized performances.

Please consider purchasing the RACE syllabi, and begin working students toward successful accomplishments in this new endeavor. Complete information about performance requirements is found in the RACE Piano Syllabus. A variety of materials, including the syllabus, can be found through Frederick Harris Music at [www.frederickharrismusic.com](http://www.frederickharrismusic.com). For more information about the RACE program itself, please visit [www.royalamericanconservatory.org](http://www.royalamericanconservatory.org) and start getting acquainted with the site.

Some important points to ponder (as presented by Dr. Scott McBride Smith at the 05 WVMTA State convention in Fairmont):

- A structured curriculum helps foster interaction/cooperation between the independent studio teacher and the public school teacher.
- Surveys have shown that 25% of Americans have studied piano; however, less than 1/100th of 1% still play piano in adulthood. Regular assessment of musical accomplishments encourages students to study music longer. Research has shown that piano students who are assessed study music 2.7 years longer than those who are not assessed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Effective in the Fall of this year, the RACE program will be changing its name to **National Music Certificate Program (NMCP)**. The website address, which is now [www.royalamericanconservatory.org](http://www.royalamericanconservatory.org) will become [www.nationalmusiccertificate.org](http://www.nationalmusiccertificate.org). Everything else will remain the same: 2004 Piano Syllabus will remain in effect, registration procedures will be the same.

### Students Who Successfully Participated in the (first-ever) 07 RACE Examinations in West Virginia

#### Preparatory A

Kathryn Quillen (First Class Honours) - Student of Marilyn Horton NCTM (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)  
Arienne Sole (First Class Honours) - Student of Marilyn Horton NCTM (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)  
Analese Sole (Honours) - Student of Marilyn Horton NCTM (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)  
Angela Hewett (First Class Honours with Distinction) - Student of Karen Taddie NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Nicole Walch (First Class Honours) - Student of Karen Taddie NCTM (Morgantown MTA)

#### Preparatory B

Abigail Wilson (Honours) - Student of Laura Hamm NCTM (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)  
Jacqueline Braham (First Class Honours) - Student of Marilyn Horton NCTM (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)  
Amanda Adams (First Class Honours) - Student of Karen Taddie NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Madison Petrick (First Class Honours with Distinction) - Student of Karen Taddie NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Jessica Seese (First Class Honours with Distinction) - Student of Karen Taddie NCTM (Morgantown MTA)

#### Grade 1

Alex Herring (First Class Honours) - Student of Jan J. Smith (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)  
Jennifer Gore (First Class Honours) - Student of Karen Taddie NCTM (Morgantown MTA)

#### Grade 2

Madeline Brown (First Class Honours with Distinction) - Student of Jan J. Smith (Mid-Ohio Valley MTA)

#### Grade 4

Ben Kan (First Class Honours) - Student of Catherine Crotty NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Oliver Lin (First Class Honours) - Student of Catherine Crotty NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Kyle Luo (First Class Honours) - Student of Catherine Crotty NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Michelle Wang (First Class Honours) - Student of Catherine Crotty NCTM (Morgantown MTA)  
Jennifer Yu (First Class Honours) - Student of Catherine Crotty NCTM (Morgantown MTA)

## **Highlights of January 07 Approved Administrative Board Minutes** [implementation of the minutes are spelled out in brackets]

1. President Elect Yennie Myers reported that the deficit for the 2006 convention was only \$1300. (The 2005 convention had a \$2000 deficit.)
2. A plaque given to WVMTA in recognition of our 40 Year Anniversary was circulated along with a letter of congratulations from Gary Engle.
3. The 2007 convention will be at WVU in Morgantown with guest artist, Dr. Chan Klat Lim, and site coordinator, Dr. Connie Sturm.
4. 1st Vice President Scott Beard reported that our WV performance plans for competitions will be updated to comply with the new national policy to register students according to chronological age. [General rules have also been updated. See newly revised Performance Plan on-line.]
4. An update to our Mountain State ethics conduct will be presented at the June 2007 meeting to address out-of-state teachers and teachers who are not involved in the organization.
5. There are 3 students going on to the national competitions in brass, junior strings and voice. MSP to award \$200 travel awards to each of the three students who will attend the 2007 national competitions. [All 3 students participated at National Conference in Toronto. None won this year.]
4. 2nd Vice President Jerry Lee submitted a written report detailing that since our last meeting, 13 new student members have joined WVMTA.
5. Treasurer Mary Lynne Bennett reported a cash balance of \$7551.73.
6. State dues for 2007-2008 will be \$30. This reflects an increase of \$5 that is the last of three years of increases. MSP to raise the state portion of student memberships from \$2 to \$3.
7. DLOY Committee Report (Mary Wilson, Carol Beall, Karen Taddie) MSP to approve Carol Beall, NCTM, as Distinguished Leader of the Year. She has 14+ years of leadership service in our organization.
8. WVMTA Commissioned Composer Statistics Report (Mary Wilson, John Beall, Karen Taddie) Karen Taddie presented a written report of expenses/income from the 1st of our bi-annual Commissioned WV Composer Program.
9. MSP to dispense with an audit of financial records for this year by virtue of the fact that the group could attest to the accuracy [to the penny] of our books.
10. MSP to reimburse the President's registration costs (\$250-\$275) for this year's national convention to be held in Toronto, Ontario from March 23-27. [actual cost = \$275]

## **Dates to Remember**

- 07 WVMTA State Convention: Morgantown, WV (WVU)/November 16-17, 2007
- 08 Eastern Division Competitions: Penn State University, State College, PA/January 11, 2008
- 08 MTNA National Conference: Denver, CO/March 29-April 2, 2008
- 09 Eastern Division Competitions: West Chester University, West Chester, PA/TBA

## **Arts Advocacy & Awareness**

Suzanne Tabb, Arts Advocacy & Awareness Chair

It is generally well-known and accepted today that by staying mentally active a person can reduce the risk of developing certain types of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Joe Verghese, M.D., documented this in his five-year study of older adults. His team of researchers reported that regular participation in a number of leisure activities, among them playing a musical instrument, correlated with a lowered risk for dementia -- up to a 63 percent reduction, with those being the most active having the lowest risk. (Verghese, et al. 2003. Leisure activities and the risk of dementia in the elderly. *New England Journal of Medicine* 348: 2508-2516.)

And now there is a scientist who is learning how music may prevent dementia.

Lee Dye, in his January 23, 2007 weekly column on ABCNEWS.com, addressed the question "Are Brains Wired for Music Better Built to Last?" The following remarks are excerpts from this column.

## **Arts Advocacy & Awareness, cont.**

As Christo Pantev prowled the halls of Toronto's Baycrest Center for Geriatric Care he was struck, over and over, by the vitality of many of the elderly patients who played a musical instrument. "I saw much more activity in these people than in others," says Pantev, a neuroscientist at the center's Rotman Research Institute. He saw a difference even among those who were slipping over the edge into dementia. Memory begins to fade as the patients slide toward that dark abyss, but the last thing that goes -- the last bit of memory -- he says, is their ability to remember music. And he thinks he may know why. He has developed evidence over the years that the study of music may change the way the human brain is wired. He has a few questions he would like to answer, including: does learning a skill, like playing the violin physically change the brain and improve cognitive and perceptive skills among children, and maybe even stave off mental illness among the elderly? As a child, Pantev spent years studying the violin, and it became his passion. In time, the violin gave way to neuroscience, but it was to return later as a key player in his research. Pantev's prior research with people who had lost a limb had shown that the brain adapted to a new environment by rewiring itself; other parts of the body commandeered the neurons formerly used by the missing limb. This led him to ask: "Can we modify the functional brain organization by training?" To answer that, the researchers needed a model, something they could test to see if training had a measurable impact on the brain. Pantev knew from his own experience that playing the violin required far more dexterity in the left hand than the right. The difference between the use of the left hand as opposed to the right gave the researchers something to measure in the brain. Over time, they reasoned, practicing the violin several hours a day should cause a neurological shift in the brain. The researchers used a helmet-like device with more than 200 sensors to detect magnetic fields in the brain. The non-invasive system allowed them to measure changes in the field in both musicians and non-musicians. "We found very well pronounced changes," he says. The magnetic field in the section of the brain that analyzes tactile signals from the fingers of the left hand was far stronger among the violinists than it was among non-musicians. "So music does something to us, and to our brain," he says.

Now, Pantev has moved on to another area. The human brain is more "plastic," or malleable, when we are young than when we are old. So Pantev has teamed up with professors Larry E. Roberts and Laurel Trainor of nearby McMaster University to measure the change in children's brains when they first begin studying music. The children, aged 4 to 6, will be compared to children of similar background and intelligence who have never studied music. The long-range goal of the research is to figure out if learning -- be it music or any other demanding task -- can equip the mind to deal better with such things as mental illness. Can learning something force the brain to "increase its resources" by tapping into the neuron pool and re-deploy those that are underutilized? Pantev thinks the answer is probably yes, but he says that's only intuition at this point.

It may well be that music is quite different from most other learning experiences. No one becomes an accomplished artist overnight. It takes years of hard work, self-discipline, and a high level of concentration to reach the point where the room doesn't empty when the student picks up the violin. And it may be, if Pantev's intuition is right, that a lot more is going on there than simply learning how to make music.

## **Concerto Competition**

Iris Malcom

The Women's Club of Huntington, in cooperation with Marshall University and the Cabell County Board of Education, is sponsoring concerto auditions for all West Virginia and tri-state area junior and senior high school students. A memorized instrumental or vocal composition (not to exceed 12 minutes, with orchestra parts available) is required. Auditions are January 13, 2008 at 1:30 pm at the Jomie Jazz Center, Marshall University. Applications can be obtained by contacting Patricia Walker, 131 Lomond Way, Huntington, WV 25705, 304-736-4004 or [pkwalker5@msn.com](mailto:pkwalker5@msn.com). Audition applications are due by January 1 with a \$20 fee.

The winner will perform for all fifth grade students of Cabell County with the Marshall University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dr. Solen Dikener on March 4th at Smith Hall and on March 5th at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. The Women's Club will present the soloist with a prize of \$150.



## MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### **Vision and Values**

The mission of MTNA is to advance the value of music study and music making in society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.

The mission is accomplished by members who teach with competence, act with integrity, volunteer services to MTNA programs, provide professional support for colleagues and communities, and comply with all laws and regulations that impact the music teaching profession.

The mission calls for an ethical commitment to students, to colleagues, and to society.

### **Code of Ethics**

**COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS**—The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.

- ◆ The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.
- ◆ The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.
- ◆ The teacher shall encourage, guide and develop the musical potential of each student.
- ◆ The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.
- ◆ The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of his/her choice.

**COMMITMENT TO COLLEAGUES**—The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity in regard to colleagues in the profession.

- ◆ The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.
- ◆ The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
- ◆ The teacher shall respect the integrity of other teachers' studios and shall not actively recruit students from another studio.
- ◆ The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.

**COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY**—The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.

- ◆ The teacher shall accurately represent his/her professional qualifications.
- ◆ The teacher shall strive for continued growth in professional competencies.
- ◆ The teacher is encouraged to be a resource in the community.

## Footprints

♥ Congratulations to 1st VP Dr. Jerry Lee (Morgantown MTA). He has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at West Liberty State College, to begin the 07-08 school year.

♥ Condolences to Ellen Flint (Eastern Panhandle MTA) of Wilkes University, on the death of her husband who recently passed away due to cancer.

♥ Condolences to District Co-Chair Mary Morrison NCTM (Morgantown MTA) on the death of her father-in-law.

♥ Welcome to our newest member: Valerie Betterton, of Hurricane, WV.

♥ Congratulations to District Co-Chair Mary Morrison NCTM (Morgantown MTA) and her husband Don as they celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary.

♥ Congratulations to Dr. John Beall (Morgantown MTA) and Immediate Past President Carol Beall NCTM (Morgantown Area MTA). They celebrated their wedding anniversary with a trip to Europe. Best wishes.

♥ Andrew Wilson, the son of District Co-Chair Mary Wilson (Morgantown MTA) and husband CB, has moved from Almaty, Kazakhstan, to Keiv, Ukraine. The great news is, he is a tad closer to the USA.

### WVMTA Officers 2005-2007

- \* President: Karen Taddie NCTM
- \* President Elect: Yennie Myers
- \* First Vice President: Dr. Scott Beard NCTM
- \* Second Vice President: Dr. Gerald Lee
- \* Secretary: Janna Kisner NCTM
- \* Treasurer: Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett NCTM
- \* 'Acting' Immediate Past President: Carol Beall NCTM

### District Chairs

#### Morgantown MTA (District 1)

- \* Janna Kisner NCTM
- \* Mary Morrison NCTM
- \* Mary Wilson

#### Clarksburg MTA (District 2)

- \* Dr. Hooi Yin Boeoy

#### Charleston MTA (District 3)

- \* Vicki Cavendish
- \* Karen Morris

#### Mid-Ohio Valley MTA (District 4)

- \* Barbara Heckert

#### Huntington MTA (District 5)

- \* Judy Lambert NCTM

#### Eastern Panhandle MTA (District 6)

- \* Gary Mullenax

### Committee Chairs

- \* Arts Awareness and Advocacy: Suzanne Tabb
- \* Certification Chair: Marilyn Horton NCTM
- \* Foundation Fund: Dr. Gerald Lee
- \* Historian: Pat Zabel

- \* Independent Music Teachers Forum: Gary Mullenax
- \* Website Manager: Laura Hamm NCTM
- \* WVMTA News Editor: Beth Royall

---

WVMTA News is published quarterly online at [www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org) and mailed to members who do not have an e-mail address. If you have a change of street address or e-mail address, please contact Beth Royall, editor of WVMTA News, or Gerald Lee, Membership Chair. [wvmta@westco.net](mailto:wvmta@westco.net)  
Updated street addresses are posted on the Find a Music Teacher link at [www.wvmta.org](http://www.wvmta.org)

---