

WVMTA News

West Virginia Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

Volume 44, Issue 2

April 2009

From the Presidents' Desk:

“Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music”

If you're like me, you have a pile of music on your piano, or a list written down somewhere, or even in your mind of all the pieces that you want to work on or perform. Our lives are so busy and lightning fast in this age of texting, emails, and computer programs, it is difficult to take time out of the day just for the sheer pleasure of listening to or playing music. As teachers, we give so much to our students, our families, schools and professional organizations, that we often don't take time for ourselves. I encourage you to take a moment, or five minutes to listen to your favorite piece of music or better yet, play through it. It will remind you of all the joy that music brings to those around us and to YOU!

In looking back over this past year and to the future, I am encouraged that WVMTA will continue to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM. We had our most successful conference ever this past fall, with a record number of attendees, especially student members, and look forward to our conference at Fairmont State University with the Kandinsky Trio. I encourage you to plan now for another inspiring weekend. I leave you with a bit of poetry by Arthur O'Shaugnessy (1844-1881)

We are the music makers,
We are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams;
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the World forever, it seems

Thank you for all that you do to keep music a part of our lives.

News from the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta

Atlanta was the site of this year's MTNA National Conference. As usual, there were many stellar presentations, exhibitor's galore and inspiring masterclasses and concerts by outstanding artists such as Olga Kern and Margo Garrett. At MTNA, increasingly the emphasis is on collaborative music making and the importance of involving more teachers of instruments other than piano, as well as college students in conferences and competitions. With our next conference at Fairmont State University, WVMTA hopes to continue the tradition of involving our collegiate members in state and local events.

It was also great to see fellow WVMTA members Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett and Pacita Salon at the conference. Let's try and put together a West Virginia table for next year's conference in New Mexico. Hope to see you there!

Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM, President, WVMTA

WVMTA member has new publication.

Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM of Shepherd University, along with Dr. Lucy Mauro of West Virginia University in Morgantown have a new collection of Keyboard Trios (I piano, 6 hands) available in the Masterworks Series with Alfred. The cost is \$16.95 each; however, there is a promotional insert in the latest *American Music Teacher*, where the book can be ordered for only \$10! Keyboard trios are not only an enjoyable and entertaining form of ensemble music, but also an effective medium for building musicianship, listening skills, technique, rhythmic control and score-reading abilities. The works in this collection make excellent recital pieces, as performers and audiences alike enjoy the unique musical experience of six hands at one piano. Each work appears in score form (all three parts on the same page). Features of the collection include editorial fingerings, realized ornamentation and numerous suggestions for performing six-hand works. Works included by Rachmaninoff, Gurlitt, Streabogg, Mozart and Carl Czerny.

Teacher of the Year Award

May 1st is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2008 WVMTA Teacher of the Year. According to rules as set up by the WVMTA Administrative Board on October 25, 1996, "Nominations will be limited to three." Also according to rules, the qualifications are:

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

Nominees will be introduced in the June issue of WVMTA NEWS. Mail nominations to: Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM • Shepherd University Department of Music • PO Box 5000 • Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or email to sbeard@shepherd.edu

Past Teacher of the Year Recipients

- * 1991 Peggy Johnston, NCTM
- * 1992 Christine Kefferstan, NCTM
- * 1993 Carol Beall, NCTM
- * 1994 Linda Seime, NCTM
- * 1995 Lena Lim, NCTM
- * 1996 Mary Wilson
- * 1997 Ray Martin, NCTM
- * 1998 Leslie Petteys, NCTM
- * 1999 Ruth Carder, NCTM
- * 2000 Catherine Crotty, NCTM
- * 2001 Bonnie Miltenberger
- * 2002 no award given
- * 2003 Lya Cartwright
- * 2004 Olive Meyer, NCTM
- * 2005 Mila Markun, NCTM
- * 2006 Scott Beard, NCTM
- * 2007 Elaine Tutt
- * 2008 Vickie B. Cavendish

Distinguished Leader of the Year

- ◆ This new award is 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 already received (award was once called "member of the year") by a particular member previously. (The award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once, however).
- ◆ 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 Awards Committee, please notify, Scott Beard, NCTM or Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM)

The first Distinguished Leader of the Year Award (2006) went to Barbara Heckert (Mid-Ohio Valley Area MTA), Carol Beall (Morgantown Area MTA) earned the 2007 award, and Mary Wilson (Morgantown Area MTA) earned the 2008 Award. The 2009 winner will be announced in the June 2009 newsletter.

Member of the Year/Distinguished Leader of the Year Honorees

- * 1991 Mary Shep Mann, NCTM
- * 1992 Bobby Loftis, NCTM
- * 1993 Judy Lambert, NCTM
- * 1994 Jane Mangus, NCTM,
Sandra Hastings
- * 1995 Mila Markun, NCTM
- * 1996 Marija Sommer, NCTM
- * 1997 Marguerite Bostonia, NCTM
- * 1998 Jean Douglass, NCTM
- * 1999 Connie Arrau Sturm, NCTM
- * 2000 Olive Meyer, NCTM
- * 2001 no award given
- * 2001 no award given
- * 2002 no award given
- * 2003 James Miltenberger
- * 2004 no award given
- * 2005 no award given
- * 2006 Barbara Heckert
- * 2007 Carol Beall, NCTM
- * 2008 Mary Wilson

Preview of the 2009 WVMTA Convention

Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM

The 2009 WVMTA State Conference will be held on October 29-31 at Fairmont State University. The conference will have a focus on chamber music. Guest artists will be the Kandinsky Trio, who will be giving a master class and a recital on Friday, October 30. Another guest clinician will be Dr. Nan Baker, NCTM, from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Baker will present two pedagogy workshops on the morning of Friday, October 30 (see below for descriptions.) We would like to kick off this conference by having a collegiate chamber music recital on Thursday evening, October 29, following the WVMTA Board meeting. College faculty who are interested in having their students or chamber groups from their schools perform on the recital or the Kandinsky master class should contact me at mary.bennett@fairmontstate.edu. The more complete conference schedule and registration form will be available in the June 2009 newsletter.

Workshops by Dr. Baker and Dr. Bennett

“Back to the Basics: A Fresh Perspective on Timeless Teaching Principles”

What defines an effective music teacher? What behaviors, processes, and attitudes constitute successful teaching? It is likely that all music teachers have thought about these questions at some point, yet it is always beneficial to go back to the basics and examine timeless teaching principles from a fresh perspective. This session addresses five fundamental maxims commonly found in successful music instruction. Certainly, you will leave this session thinking about your teaching in a different way!

“The Power of Peers” Current research in peer collaboration shows that students learning from each other have increased confidence and ability levels. This session outlines teaching strategies for helping students collaborate successfully. Videos of student collaborations demonstrate successful technique.

Fairmont State to Host Summer Piano Camp

Fairmont State Community Music Program, in conjunction with GEAR-UP West Virginia, will hold a Residential Piano Camp for high school students who are currently in 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Students who are currently in 9th and 10th grades and attend a high school which participates in the *Gear Up* program may attend the camp for free.

Applications for the camp are available at <http://www2.fairmontstate.edu/gearup/2009summercampinfo.html>.

Students who live within commuting distance may also attend as a day camp. Activities will include music theory, music history, piano ensemble, daily private lessons, guest artist recitals, and a final campers' recital. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, at 304-367-4179 or mary.bennett@fairmontstate.edu.

News from the Districts

Dr. Hooi Yin Boey--1st Vice-President

Morgantown MTA (District I)

Janna Kisner, Mary Morrison, and Mary Wilson, Co-Chairs

District I will be hosting several spring 2009 events:

Theory Time Testing, Friday April 17

String Adjudicated Performances, Friday April 24

Piano Adjudicated Performances, Saturday May 9

National Music Certificate Exams -Theory, May 8-9

National Music Certificate Exams - Practical, May 23

Clarksburg MTA (District II)

Dr. Hooi Yin Boey, Chair

The annual Spring Adjudicated Performances for District II will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Wilcox Chapel of Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi.

Charleston MTA (District III)

Vicki Cavendish and Karen Morris, Co-Chairs

Several students from teachers Vicki Cavendish, Rebecca Hinman, Olive Meyer, and Karen Morris sat down for the annual WVMTA theory tests at St. Matthews Episcopal Church on March 7. Levels represented ranged from primer to 10. Teachers shared duties with the ear training section of the test and grading. All students passed.

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA (District IV)

Barbara Heckert, Chair

Technic and theory tests were given on March 21 and April 4 at Ohio Valley University. There were 40 theory tests and 37 technic tests. This represented students of five different teachers—Laura Hamm, Barbara Heckert, Beth Kloes, Jan Smith, and Linda Toomey.

The Spring Adjudicated Performances will be held on Saturday, May 9th at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg. The National Music Certificate Practical Exams will be held on Friday, May 22nd at Ohio Valley University in Vienna.

Huntington MTA (District V)

Judy Lambert, Chair

District 5 held its theory and technique tests at Marshall University Saturday, March 28, with 58 students taking technique tests and 61 taking theory tests. The upcoming Spring Performances are scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Marshall University.

Marshall University

1st Annual Sonatina Festival Winners - Feb. 14, 2009

50 competitors, 17 teachers represented from WV, OH and KY

Level 1A - Chloe de Giorgio from Ashland, KY - teacher - Melissa Green
Level 1B - Lynne Atkins from Pikeville, KY - teacher Dena Gibson
Level 2A - Joshua Stumpf from Pikeville, KY - teacher Dena Gibson
Level 2B - Maria Fraulini from Franklin Furnace, OH - teacher Melissa Green
Level 3A - Alice Zhang from Proctorville, OH - teacher Peggy Johnston
Level 3B - Benaiah Stumpf from Pikeville, KY - teacher Dena Gibson
Level 4A - Jade McGrath from South Charleston, WV - teacher Olive Meyer
Level 4B - Maleea Roy from Proctorville, OH - teacher Cindy Counts
Level 5A - Joy Wu from Charleston, WV - teacher Vicki Cavendish
Level 5 B - Jacob Bumgarner from South Charleston, WV - teacher Olive Meyer
Level 5C - Congi Zhang from Huntington, wV - teacher Cindy Counts
Level 6A - Kathyrn Wantlin from Elkview, WV - teacher Vicki Cavendish
Level 6B - Patrick Tudor from Huntington, WV - teacher Harriet Tucker
Level 6C - Kaitlyn Stumbo from Harold, KY - teacher Dena Gibson
Level 6 - 2 - A - Nhanvan Q. Nguyen from Huntington, WV - teacher Mila Markun
Level 7 C - Seth Skiles from Hurricane, WV - teacher Mike Barnhouse
Level 8 C - Devin Porter from Pikeville, KY - teacher Carolyn Diamond
Level 9B - Anna Marie Sodaro from Scott Depot, WV - teacher Olive Meyer
Level 10A - Christian Smith from Hurricane, WV - teacher Vicki Cavendish
Level 10B - Chris Miller from Ripley, WV - teacher Leslie Petteys
Level 10 -2-A - Jake Sandridge from Phillipi, WV - teacher Hooi Yin Boey

Eastern Panhandle MTA (District VI)

Gary Mullenax, Chair

The EPMTA/District VI held their annual Theory and Technic testing at Shepherd University on Saturday, March 14. Twenty students participated in the testing. A total of 18 technic tests were administered and 17 theory tests were taken.

EPMTA/District VI Held their Spring Adjudications Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Frank Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. A total of 65 students participated in the event. Age groups were as follows: Junior A--19; Junior B--18; Junior High--21; and Senior High--7.

Seven students received trophies. Twelve point trophies were awarded to Isaac Seffers and Ellen Socash. Six point trophies were awarded to Mary Ellen Feuz, Wesley Jernigan, Sara Bess Kemeny, Veronika Slaninova, and Luke Socash.

Junior A students receiving Superior ratings were Grace Ashley (Tabb), Caroline Diaz (Kriewaldt), Eugene Kim (Beard), Christina Manegan (Kriewaldt), Kaleriya Orlova (Kriewaldt), Richard Shin (Beard), Noah Strand (Kriewaldt).

Students earning Superior rating in the junior B category were Alexa Braunsma (Carson), Elena Fierer (Mullenax), Lily Fu (Kriewaldt), Steven Guo (Kriewaldt), Sara Bess Kemeny (Carson), and Luke Socash (Carson).

Junior High pianists receiving 1 ratings were Erron D'Souza (Kriewaldt), Daniel Fierer (Mullenax), Phillip Mullenax (Mullenax), RayLee Peterson (Carson), Ellen Wang (Beard), and Edward Yoon (Beard).

Senior High pianists earning Superior distinction were Emily Holland (Beard), Wesley Jernigan (Carson), and Darwin Yang (Beard).

Adjudicators were Carol Rose Duane and Junko Takahashi. Carol Rose Duane recently moved to Hedgesville, West Virginia from Montgomery County, Maryland, where she was active in the MSMTA. A graduate of Peabody, Ms. Duane is currently on the adjunct faculty of Shepherd University.

Junko Takahashi is currently President of Montgomery County (MD) Music Teachers Association. She is founder and Director of Musical Expressions, a private music school based in Bethesda, Maryland. Ms. Takahashi has degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the Catholic University of America, where she is currently completing her Doctoral Degree.

WVU Collegiate Chapter Workshop

The WVU Collegiate Chapter of the MTNA sponsored a workshop, "Toys and Tools for Stimulating Whole-Body Awareness at the Keyboard" by Jacqueline Herbein, NCTM on Tuesday, April 7, 11:30-12:30 in Room 440A in the Creative Arts Center.

Alignment, balance and ease are critical in developing musical fluency and self-confidence at the keyboard. Frequently, words fall short in stimulating the learning senses necessary to bring about whole-body awareness because each body's intuitive wisdom may be buried under layers of tightness and effort in "trying to get it right". By creatively applying the use of everyday objects to sensations and motions that are the basis of piano playing, students can quickly connect to the experience, thereby immediately changing their sound and ease in getting around the keyboard. Pedagogy students and teachers will increase their repertoire of teaching techniques for stimulating body awareness at all ages and levels of advancement.

Ms. Herbein has an extensive background in the physiology of piano technique, having studied with such leaders in the field as pianists Edna Golandsky and Barbara Lister-Sink and Alexander Technique author and teacher Barbara Conable. She has been an assistant at The Taubman Institute at Amherst College and the WingSound Summer Intensive Training Program at Salem College. Independent work in Alexander Technique, Feldenkrais Method and Iyengar Yoga, as well as teacher training in the Alexander

Technique, has heightened her movement insights while her Certificate in Anatomy from the Massage Therapy Institute of Western Pennsylvania provides a solid foundation in anatomy. Her articles have been published in *The American Music Teacher* and *Clavier* magazines and she regularly lectures at universities, state music conferences, local teacher organizations and music pedagogy classes.

Arts Awareness & Advocacy -- Suzanne Tabb, Chair

As professional educators, we are all aware of the invaluable and varied benefits of studying a musical instrument. But sometimes, in our efforts to advocate and justify music instruction, I think we focus too much on the secondary benefits, and not enough on the music itself. In her article, "Music for Music's Sake", Shannon Keeler addresses this issue. Be sure to read her thoughts in the April/May 2009 issue of *American Music Teacher* magazine, pages 26-27.

The following excerpts are taken from the article:

"Why should children study the piano? Or more precisely, given a contemporary child's current after-school schedule, why should children play the piano instead of participating in soccer, ballet or chess club? All music teachers have a myriad of answers to such a fundamental question. However, often in our attempts to validate musical study, we inadvertently depreciate it."

"There is nothing wrong with secondary benefits, as long as they do not attempt to take the place of primary benefits. When we justify music's presence in a child's life using only secondary benefits, we are implying that the study of music is not a serious pursuit in and of itself. If the benefits we list can be obtained elsewhere, why bother to study the piano? Focusing on secondary benefits weakens our profession by not providing valid pillars in which to justify the existence of our instruction."

"Music study offers valid and unique benefits to every person's life. For society to accept this idea, we, the administrators of music education, need to start using justification that conveys these benefits. Secondary benefits should be a postscript to our profession: a nifty added bonus but not the be-all/end-all. Secondary benefits should not overshadow the core purpose of music."

Report of the Nominating Committee

Slate of WVMTA Officers (effective Nov 09) as put together by the nominating committee of: Mary Wilson, District 1 Co-chair, Laura Hamm, Website manager, and Karen Taddie, Immediate Past President

PRESIDENT: Mary Lynne Bennett

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Vicki Cavendish

1st VP (Competitions & Chair of District Chairs): Tatyana Ringer

2nd VP (Membership): Hooi Yin Boey

SECRETARY: Gerald Lee

TREASURER: (effective Jan 2010 - Jan 2012): Melissa Herceg

Congratulations to:

Ellen Wang, a student of District Six members Carole Kriewaldt and Scott Beard, who won the first place grand prize of \$1500 in the Frederick Optimist Club Competition. Ellen was the 2008 WVMTA Mountain State Junior High Piano Winner.

WVMTA News is published quarterly online at <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 email address, contact MTNA at edonaldson@mtna.org or call 888-512-5278 (toll free).

Marilyn Horton, NCTM, WVMTA News Editor

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