

WVMTA News

West Virginia Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

Volume 44, Issue 4

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From the Presidents' Desk:

" Music can change the world because it can change people." ~ Bono, U2~



Not all of us may be familiar with the rock band U2, or its lead singer, the noted humanitarian Bono, but we can all identify with his statement. Music has the power to change people and by changing people, it transforms *lives* and by the same token the world. Here in West Virginia, it has been my immense pleasure to serve as President of WVMTA for the past two years, and to witness the tremendous difference each and every one of you makes in the lives of your students and their communities. What *you* do day in and day out, on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis makes a difference in the lives of students in our state.

During my tenure as President, we have witnessed the formation of a new student chapter, several new competitions, more district events, significant revision to our student performance plan, and, as the result of careful fiscal planning, WVMTA is in terrific shape financially. We have hosted some very high profile guest artists, including Leon Fleisher (who could have imagined??!!) and this year's convention promises to be just as fulfilling, with an innovative program by the renowned Kandinsky Trio. This trio has performed throughout the region and beyond, and having hosted them before in recital, I know you will all be in for a treat. Please be sure to make your reservations now for the events at Fairmont University on October 30th and 31st.

Lastly, I would like to thank the wonderful district chairs, and the executive board members who have served during the last two years. Your dedication and hard work have helped to make WVMTA the strong organization it is today. Under the capable hands of incoming president Mary Lynne Bennett, I know WVMTA will continue to thrive and prosper.

I will continue to serve MTNA and WVMTA in any way possible. Thank you again for this great opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Beard, NCTM
President, WVMTA 2007-2009

Fall Conference Schedule

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, President Elect

Conference registration forms and fees and any program advertising forms and fees are due to Mary Lynne Bennett by October 1, 2009.

Each district is asked to bring one item representative of their district (possibly donated by well-known local businesses) to the conference to include in the Foundation Raffle (a raffle that is held to earn money for the MTNA Foundation Fund each year.) SUGGESTED EXAMPLES include: Holl's Chocolates from District 4, a basket from Ridgefield Farm from District 6, a resort package from Lakeview Resort or Mountaineer Gear from District 1, season tickets to the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra from District 3, Blenko Glass from District 5, a basket from Colasessano's from District 2. Please contact your district chair if you know of a business in your district who may be willing to donate an item.

WVMTA Fall Conference 2009

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett

For details about clinicians, guest artists, maps and directions please go to the website and click on “Conferences.”

Making Beautiful Music Together

October 29-31—Fairmont State University, Fairmont, West Virginia

Tentative WVMTA Conference Schedule and Guest Artists

(All times and rooms subject to change)

Thursday, October 29

5:00pm-5:30pm District Chairs Meet

5:30pm-7:00pm WVMTA Board Meeting/Dinner **Poky Dot Diner, Fairmont**

7:30pm Collegiate and/or Members Chamber Music Recital **Wallman Hall 229**

Friday, October 30

8:30am-9:30am NCTM Breakfast

9:30am-10:30am Baker/Bennett Workshop: **The Power of Peers Wallman Hall 205**

10:30am Break

11:00am-12:00pm Baker Workshop: **Back to the Basics: A Fresh Perspective on Timeless Teaching Principles Wallman Hall 205**

12:00pm-2:00pm Lunch (many options available on and near campus.)

1:00pm-8:00pm Competition Rehearsals (Various Rooms)

2:00pm-4:00pm Kandinsky Trio Master Class **Wallman Hall Auditorium**

4:00pm-4:30pm Break

4:30pm-5:15pm WVMTA General Membership Annual Meeting

Wallman Hall Tower Room

5:30pm-7:00pm Annual Awards Banquet at the Fairmont State Falcon Center Conf. Room.One

7:30pm Kandinsky Trio Recital **St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Fairmont**

Saturday, October 31

8:00am-2:00pm Mountain State and MTNA Competitions (Various Rooms)

12:00-1:00pm Independent Teachers and College Faculty Forum Box Lunch

Wallman Hall Tower Room

1:00-2:00pm Collegiate Chapter Meeting **TBA**

2:00pm Instrumental/Vocal Winners' Recital **Wallman Hall Auditorium**

3:00pm Piano Winners' Recital **Wallman Hall Auditorium**

WVMTA State Conference REGISTRATION

October 29-31 2009

Fairmont State University • Fairmont, WV

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check all that apply & send this printed copy with check BY OCTOBER 1 to:

Mary Lynne Bennett, 436 Junior Ave., Morgantown, WV, 26505, mbennett1@fairmontstate.edu

_____ **\$30.00** WVMTA, WVMEA member or other State-affiliated member (if postmarked by October 1)

_____ **\$40.00** Non-member (or all members registering after October 1)

_____ **\$25.00** One-day registration

_____ **\$15.00** Student members of MTNA or MENC

_____ **Boxed Lunch for the IMT/College Faculty Meeting** (Saturday, 10/31)

Please select one sandwich and one salad: **\$8.00** each. Lunch comes with condiments on the side, pickle, cookie, and drink. (Feel free to order additional lunches for any guests/students.)

_____ Turkey Club on Kaiser Roll

_____ Chicken Salad Croissant

_____ Grilled Vegetable Sub on Soft Hoagie Roll

_____ Ultimate Sub (ham, turkey, salami, roast beef, swiss cheese)

_____ Roast Beef and Cheddar on Kaiser Roll

_____ pasta salad

_____ fruit salad

_____ **Banquet** (Friday, 10/30) – Fairmont State Falcon Center, Conference Room 1; (**\$28.00** per person; tax & tip included) Please select one entrée per person. Feel free to order additional dinners for any guests/students. All dinners come with seasonal vegetable sides, salad, rolls, tea/coffee, and dessert.

_____ **Chicken Cordon Bleu**

_____ **Eggplant Parmesan with bowtie pasta**

_____ **TOTAL (Make checks payable to WVMTA)**

Board Members (Thursday, 10/29): The administrative board meeting dinner will be at the Poky Dot Diner in the Laurel Room at 1111 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont, WV, 26554, 304-366-3271,

<http://www.thepokydot.com/aboutus.html>

CONFERENCE HOTEL

HOLIDAY INN, FAIRMONT, WV, 304-366-5500 is the official conference hotel. Room rate is **\$62.00+tax** for each room with two double beds, no additional charge for a third or fourth person. If you are planning to stay in Fairmont for the conference, please patronize the Holiday Inn as they are housing the members of the Kandinsky Trio for us at NO cost to WVMTA. **PLEASE USE THE THREE-LETTER CODE "MTA" when registering either on the phone or online to receive the conference rate. Please share this information with families of competitors who will be staying overnight. Rooms will be held for WVMTA only through October 8, 2009.**

We Congratulate...

Harriet Tucker, NCTM, our 2009 Teacher of the Year! Thanks, Harriet, for your years of service to the music teaching profession, your kindness, your love of music, and the good example you set for all of us.

National Music Certificate Program (NMCP) Examinations

This comprehensive NATIONAL examination program, which we as a State have adopted, covers performance, theory, technique, ear training and sight-reading. Officially recognized National Exams and officially trained National Examiners are offered to testing sites twice a year - in December and May. Complete information about the tested performance requirements & specific testing levels is found in the 2008 Edition of The National Conservatory of Music in America's (offshoot of The Royal Conservatory of Music) Official Examination Syllabus. This syllabus, plus a variety of other materials, including ear training & sight reading materials, can either be purchased through your local music retailer, or found through Frederick Harris Music at <http://www.frederickharrismusic.com>

NEW! A variety of syllabi (Harp, Harpsichord, Recorder, Popular Music for Piano) can NOW be downloaded for FREE from <http://www.nationalmusiccertificate.org>

For more information about the NMCP program itself, please visit the above-site (www.nationalmusiccertificate.org) and start getting acquainted with this nationally-recognized, valuable, and comprehensive music education system.

We, here in West Virginia, are pleased to be able to offer you and your students 3 established testing Centers!

*This winter, MORGANTOWN will offer:

--2009 Winter Session Practical Examinations: Saturday December 5, 2008 (10:00am-3:00pm)

--2009 Winter Session Theory Examinations: Friday & Saturday December 11 & 12 (times for Theory Exams are automatically established by the Program).

*PARKERSBURG will NOT hold any exams this winter, but expect to again see them offered next spring.

*SHEPHERDSTOWN:

--2009 Winter Session Practical Examinations: Contact Gary Mullenax for more information

--2009 Winter Session Theory Examinations: Friday & Saturday December 11 & 12 (times for Theory Exams are automatically established by the Program).

***NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS HAS NOW OFFICIALLY OPENED ON-LINE
REGISTRATION FOR WINTER SESSION 2009 (www.nationalmusiccertificate.org)

REGISTRATION ENDS: October 20, 2009.

This comprehensive national examination program covers performance, theory, technique, ear training and sightreading FOR MOST INSTRUMENTS. Exams and examiners can be sent to testing sites twice a year - in December and May. All NMCP 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 National Music Certificate Program promotes objective assessment by sending examiners to centers where they are not acquainted with any teacher or student. Examiners for NMCP 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. It is recommended that new NMCP participants begin with young students, but students of all ages/levels can be tested throughout the program. In the earliest level, the Preparatory A Level Practical Examination requires only three pieces. Memorization is not required in the Practical Examination, but extra points are awarded for memorized performances. Please consider purchasing the NMCP syllabi, and begin working students toward successful accomplishments in this new endeavor. Some important points to ponder (as presented by Dr. Scott McBride Smith at the 2005 WVMTA State convention in Fairmont):

◆A structured curriculum helps foster interaction/cooperation between the independent studio teacher and the public school teacher, or between the independent studio teacher and college faculty. And this program can work for college students too.

◆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.

NOTE TEACHERS: You are ONLY responsible for readying your students! Registration is done by the parents, online. There is no collection of fees; that, too, is taken care of on-line, by the parent, with a handy credit card. All scoring, record keeping, fees, and certificates are handled by the National Music Certificate Program. If you are interested in getting this program "off the ground" for any number of your students (or for other students/teachers in or around your district) please contact Karen Taddie.

Young Peoples' Concerto Competition

The Woman's Club of Huntington, in cooperation with Marshall University and the Cabell County Board of Education is sponsoring concerto auditions for West Virginia and Tri-State students in seventh through twelfth grades. The auditions will take place in Smith Music Hall, on the campus of Marshall University, January 10, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Applications can be obtained from Patricia Walker, 131 Wood Lomond Way, Huntington, WV 25705, 304-716-4004, email: <pkwalker5@msn.com> Applications must be received by January 4, 2010, along with a \$20.00

application fee. A memorized instrumental or vocal composition of 12 minutes or less with orchestral parts available is required. The winner will receive \$150.00 and perform with the Marshall University Symphony in the Forty-Ninth Young People's Concert. The concert is for all Cabell County fifth grade students during Music In Our Schools Month, March 2, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the historic Keith Albee Performing Arts Center, Huntington, WV. The Family Concert will take place at Marshall's Smith Music Hall, that evening at 7:00 p.m.

Did You Know???

With the school year just around the corner, MTNA would like to help you to develop strategies to improve your studios and profits.

MTNA has formed a partnership with Nova Merchant Services, which allows members' businesses to begin to accept credit cards for payments. This service will ensure consistent payment cycles and will improve your billing process for both your studio and your students. For more information on the potential benefits of taking advantage of this partnership, click <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MerchantServices/tabid/598/Default.aspx>.

Another way to sustain business is to increase services and develop creative marketing strategies like branching out into Recreational Music Making (RMM). This concept focuses on teaching retirees or adults with some disposable income and time. Along with expanding your studio, you also can branch out to this market by visiting country clubs, retirement communities, nursing homes and so on. For more information, check out the special focus on the RMM program and the adult learner at the 2010 MTNA National Conference. More information about this track will be available soon.

To promote excitement with current students eager to learn and to retain those in your studio who may be ambivalent about continuing, look to develop new programs. Check out MTNA's "Music for Everyone Programs." Maybe you can develop a studio festival or extra recital program!

Click this link for information

<http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MusicForEveryone/tabid/280/Default.aspx>.

MTNA continues to work on your behalf as the national mouthpiece for the importance of music. In times like these, it is important to remind the decision makers that music and the arts have an important and necessary position in all lives. MTNA will work to assist you in whatever we can and offer ideas and solutions to the independent music teacher.

Also, be sure to attend the 2010 MTNA National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This will be MTNA's 124th National Conference and will once again be the largest gathering of independent and collegiate music teachers in the country. To find out more about the conference or to register, visit <http://members.mtna.org/conference2010/index.html>, and check out the December/January MTNA Conference Preview Issue of *American Music Teacher*.

We need your help!

We need your help getting other teachers to sign up for these (free) [MyEducationDiscount.com](http://www.myeducationdiscount.com) Email Alerts, here: <http://www.myeducationdiscount.com/emailalerts>

You see, several companies have told us they're willing to provide education discounts, **but they want to see a higher level of interest from teachers**. And the best way we can do that is to get as many educators as possible to subscribe. You can help by alerting and signing up all your colleagues and any other educators you know, here:

<http://www.myeducationdiscount.com/emailalerts>

We're currently at 18,000 subscribed in the last 6 months so let's keep that number growing. Thanks in advance for helping us help you!

Sincerely,
Rick and Christina
My Education Discount
PO Box 651
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Teaching Survey

MTNA was contacted by a Julia Bowden, a master's student in Australia at James Cook University, who is conducting research about piano teaching and has put together a survey that she's hoping as many people as possible will complete. The survey is online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zN/ECVxmVfiUQxdotsptOA%3d%3d>

The Musician's Way

In August, Oxford University Press released *The Musician's Way: A Guide to Practice, Performance, and Wellness* by longtime MTNA member Gerald Klickstein (360 pp. \$24.95). *The Musician's Way* presents comprehensive, research-driven guidance geared to all aspiring performers (especially college and pre-college music students) as well as their teachers. It also employs an extensive companion website, which includes free resources and downloadable practice aids: www.MusiciansWay.com..

Gerald Klickstein is Professor of Music at the [University of North Carolina School of the Arts](http://www.unca.edu) and an active classical guitarist. In addition to performing and teaching, he serves on College Board's National Task Force for the Arts in Education and on the board of the American String Teachers Association.

Contact: Gerald Klickstein, klickg@unca.edu, 336-631-1531

MTNA To House Distinguished Composer Archives At UC

Cincinnati, Ohio—Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and the University of Cincinnati (UC) have reached an agreement to house MTNA's complete Distinguished Composer of the Year archives in the University of Cincinnati Libraries.

Each year, MTNA presents the Distinguished Composer of the Year Award to the composer of the outstanding composition submitted as a state-commissioned work. MTNA first awarded this honor in 1969. The archives are composed of all entries from candidates from 1987 to present and include both scores and recordings. A few earlier scores are also available.

“For more than 20 years, the Archives & Rare Books Library has held the historical records of MTNA, dating to the 19th century,” said Victoria A. Montavon, dean and university librarian at UC. “This continuing accession underscores our commitment to community partnerships and provides important research opportunities.” The scores will be housed in the Archive & Rare Books Library, while the recordings will be held at the College-Conservatory of Music Library, both part of the UC Libraries system.

Douglas Knehans, dean and Thomas James Kelly professor of music at CCM, is excited about the addition to the Libraries. “We are delighted to be the recipients of this extensive collection of rare manuscripts and recordings of some of America's finest composers. This gift enhances UC's capacity to deepen our research into and commitment to new music and to using the archive in a meaningful way—hopefully as the core of a newly invigorated performance series reflective of this gift. We are both honored and humbled by the faith that MTNA places in us as the stewards of this unique archive.”

As funds become available, MTNA plans to digitize all the cassette recordings. Anyone interested in contributing to this project can contact MTNA.

MTNA is a nonprofit organization comprising of nearly 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers committed to advancing the value of music study and music making to society and to supporting the professionalism of music teachers. Founded in 1876, MTNA is the oldest professional music teacher association in the United States.

For additional information about MTNA, please contact the MTNA national headquarters at (888) 512-5278, mtnanet@mtna.org or visit the website at www.mtna.org.

Piano Pedagogy Course Online

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, will offer a Piano Pedagogy Course Online through Fairmont State University in the Spring 2010 semester. This will be a graduate level course offered for 3 hours continuing education credit. The course focuses on preparing candidates for MTNA Certification using the new certification process which goes into effect on January 1, 2010. Please contact Mary.Bennett@fairmontstate.edu for more information about the course.

Jon Nakamatsu to Perform With WestVirginia Symphony

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra will perform on tour at Fairmont State University on Thursday, October 15, 2009, at 7:30PM and also in Parkersburg at Blennerhassett School on Sunday, October 18, 2009, at 3:00 PM with pianist Jon Nakamatsu. Mr. Nakamatsu will be performing Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini by Rachmaninoff.

For ticket information in Fairmont 304-367-4240

Parkersburg 304-485-4200.

Footprints.....

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, was promoted to Associate Professor of Music and granted tenure at Fairmont State University in Spring 2009.

WVMTA News is published quarterly online at <http://wvmta.org> and mailed to members who do not have an email address. If you have a change of street address or email address, contact MTNA at <http://www.mtna.org> or call 888-512-5278.

Marilyn H. Horton, NCTM, Newsletter Editor