
WVMTA News

West Virginia Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with
Music Teachers National Association



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As I write this, I am waiting in expectation for the birth of our third child, who will probably arrive before you receive this newsletter. So, I have been thinking about expectations and anticipations quite a bit recently. There are many expectations that we hold for our students in the coming months as we prepare them for competitions and recitals in the fall. We also have expectations for ourselves...goals that we set and plans that we'd like to accomplish. Perhaps some of us are figuring out the best way to fill our studios while others are working toward national certification. How do we live up to our own high expectations for ourselves? One thing we can do is count on each other for support, mentorship, and networking. That is one of the reasons I find so compelling for being involved in a professional association of music educators. I continue to learn so much about my profession by staying engaged with colleagues and the association's activities.

We as an association also have much to anticipate during the summer months as we await and prepare for the beginning of the new school year. Along with our fall festivals and competitions, we are hosting an exciting joint conference with Virginia Music Teachers Association (see more info in this newsletter) in November. MTNA is asking us to participate in an International Collaborative Music Making Day event on January 22, 2011. Look for more information to come on what events are planned for that day in your district and statewide and be a part of MTNA history.



May your summers be restful and yet filled with exciting expectations and anticipations for the coming school year.

Musically Yours,

Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, President WVMTA

2010 Distinguished Leader of the Year

With pleasure, we announce that **Gary Mullenax** will be honored at our state conference this year as Distinguished Leader of the Year for WVMTA. Gary has served as chair of District 6 (Eastern Panhandle Music Teachers Association) since 2001 and as coordinator of the Independent Music Teachers' Forum for the WVMTA Board since 2003. He is an instructor at Shepherd University and also teaches privately in Martinsburg, WV. He has also served as an adjudicator for numerous competitions throughout the state. We thank Gary for his dedicated years of service and congratulate him on receiving this award.

Teacher of the Year Nominees

There are three nominees for the WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award for 2010, Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM, and Jan Jemison Smith, NCTM. Please read their biographies below and send your votes to Dr. R. Scott Beard at [sbeard\(at\)shepherd\(dot\)edu](mailto:sbeard@shepherd.edu) by July 15, 2010.

Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM

Mary Lynne Bennett is Associate Professor of Music at Fairmont State University. She has taught at Fairmont State since 2003, teaching group piano, applied piano, piano ensemble, and music education methods classes. She recently taught her first online piano pedagogy class, training six beginning piano teachers in the state of West Virginia. She also served as a mentor for an undergraduate research project that led to a senior FSU music education student presenting a poster session at the MTNA National Conference in Albuquerque, NM. She serves as a chapter advisor for student chapters of Sigma Alpha Iota and CMENC at Fairmont State. It is her mission to help ensure that the state of West Virginia and the surrounding area continues to have well-qualified music educators in the schools and private studios teaching our children. Mary Lynne also maintains a private teaching studio in Morgantown, WV, and regularly volunteers to teach preschool and after school music in area schools to continue making music with young children.

Mary Lynne regularly presents workshops at state and national conferences (both MTNA and MENC) to help teachers enhance their own continuing education. She has served on the MTNA National Certification Commission as Eastern Division Commissioner and served as certification chair, treasurer, president elect and president of WVMTA during the past six years.

Mary Ellen Morrison, BME, MME, NCTM

Mary Ellen Morrison is a graduate of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. She is a teacher of private lessons on cello and piano and has been with the Community Music Department of West Virginia University for 37 years. Her students on both instruments are active in all of the WVMTA events and recently she has had both cello and piano students passing their National Music Certificate Program exams. She enjoys a wide variety of teaching. In addition to those who have an obvious talent that might lead them into the music profession, there are young students just starting to discover music, teens that play other instruments but want a foundation on piano and theory, adults who are retired and want to try something new and adults who come back to lessons mid-life. She also works as a church musician directing both children and adult hand bell choirs. She has been serving as District One Co-Chair for WVMTA since 1999.

Jan Jemison Smith, NCTM

Jan Jemison Smith is an Independent Piano Teacher in Washington, West Virginia where she teaches over 40 children and adults. She is presently an Adjunct Faculty member at WVU at Parkersburg. She is also active in her church as a member of the choir and as piano accompanist. She started the first *Kindermusik Studio* in Parkersburg, WV.

Jan received her Bachelor Degree of Music in Music Education, cum laude, from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music. She studied with Raymond Dudley. After teaching choral music in public schools in Wood County for four years, she attended Ohio University, School of Music to complete a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy. She studied with Eugene Jennings, Stephanie Brown and Gail Berenson.

Jan, a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, is a 30-year member of Music Teachers National Association, West Virginia Music Teachers Association and Ohio Music Teachers Association. She is past chairman of the OMTA Southeast District and has held this position and other chairmanships in WVMTA and OMTA in the past. She has also been the WVMTA State Independent Music Teachers Forum chairman. She holds an MTNA Permanent Professional Certificate. She was recognized in 2006 as the OMTA Southeast District Teacher of the Year, and Teacher of the Year for the state of Ohio.

She has performed in master classes, solo, duet, and two-piano recitals, along with organ/piano duets in West Virginia and Ohio. She continues to study with Gail Berenson.

Her students have competed and won honors in the WV Mountain State Competitions. The WVMTNA High School and Junior High School divisions, Graves Piano Competition in Columbus, Ohio, the OMTA Southeast District Buckeye Competition and state competition. Her students have competed and also won honors in the MENC State Honors Recitals, WV Governor's School for the Arts, the *Arts Alive: The Best of West Virginia* performance at the Clay Center in 2008 and 2009.

As a *Founding Teacher* for the Royal Academy Conservatory Exam, now the National Certificate Program, all of her participating students have achieved First Class Honors and/or First Class Honors with Distinction.

Her students have gone on to make their careers in Music Therapy, as well as Professional Piano Accompanists, Professional Organists and Music Educators. Jan says, "The success of my students depends on a positive relationship with their parents and the student. I try to find a way they can use and enjoy their piano skills, (at school, church, or with a duet partner), and by selection of repertoire they want to practice. By my being a member of the Mid-Ohio Valley Music Teachers Association my students are offered many adjudicated and non-adjudicated activities which helps motivate them to polish their pieces for performance. With the help of the MOVMTA we created the upcoming Mid-Ohio Valley Piano Ensemble event for November 2010."

"My teaching philosophy is to give each student a musical experience that will enhance a positive self-image and help to develop self-discipline. In learning music we develop an appreciation of music and an understanding of how music is created. From this experience our lives are enriched as we grow into adults. We enjoy listening to music and playing as an emotional release and emotional enrichment."

She lives with her husband of 33 years, Jim, a Wood County high school art teacher. They have one son, Joel, and a daughter-in-law, Emily who live in Charleston, SC.

District Reports

Tatyana Ringer, First Vice Pres. WVMTA

West Virginia Music Teachers Association Adjudicated Spring Performances are held in late April and early May of each year and are sponsored by the WVMTA and its parent organization, MTNA. Students prepare for the performance of two compositions in contrasting styles and in two different musical periods.

Morgantown MTA

Spring 2010 Adjudicated Performances were held April 23 & May 8 at WVU Creative Arts Center, Morgantown, WV. Total number of students performing was 78.

Theory Tests were given on April 16, 2010 at WVU Creative Arts Center, Morgantown, WV. Total number of students tested was 69.

Judges were Dr. Hooi Yin Boey and Catherine Crotty. Participating teachers were Linda Albuquerque, Carol Beall, NCTM, Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, Maria Crystalia, Wey-Tsyr Chen, Janna Kisner, NCTM, Natilia Liston, Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM, Tatyana Ringer and Karen Taddie, NCTM.

Mary Ellen Morrison and Janna Kisner, Co-Chairs

Clarksburg MTA

Spring 2010 Adjudicated Performances were held May 1 at Alderson-Broaddus College, Philippi, WV. Total number of students performing was 18. Participating teachers were Eloise Federer, Robert Ellis, Dr. Virginia Raad and Dr. Hooi Yin Boey.

Dr. Hooi Yin Boey, Chair

Charleston MTA

Spring 2010 Adjudicated Performances were held on Saturday April 24 at Bible Center Church, South Charleston WV. Performances were 28 Piano, one vocal, 20 strings.

Judges were Dr. Lesley Pettys, piano; Randy Pollok, piano; Sandra Groce, strings; Jon Cavendish, voice. Participating teachers were Karen Morris, Olive Meyer, Vicki Cavendish, Margie Cooper, Ian Jessee, Andrea DiGregorio and Mariel van Dalsum-Boggs.

Vicki Cavendish, Chair

Mid-Ohio Valley MTA

Spring 2010 Adjudicated Performances were held on Saturday, May 1 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg. The number of performances was 39 piano and 4 flute. Participating teachers were Melissa Herceg, Barbara Heckert, Marilyn Horton, Vivian O'Connor, Amy Rice, Jan Smith, and Linda Toomey. The adjudicator was Mike Barnhouse. Twelve trophies and plaques were awarded.

Theory and Technique Tests were held, March 20 and March 27 at First Lutheran Church and Ohio Valley University. Total number of students tested was 69. Participating teachers were Laura Hamm, Barbara Heckert, Vivian O'Connor, Linda Toomey, and Jan Smith.

Barbara Heckert, Chair

Eastern Panhandle MTA

Spring 2010 Adjudicated Performances, April 24 at Frank Arts Center, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV. Total number of students who performed was 56. Adjudicators were Dr. Phyllis Vickers of Great Falls, Virginia, and Dr. Karen Walker who is on the faculty of Shenandoah University and resides in Stephens City, Virginia.

Gary Mullenax, Chair

Tentative WVMTA/VMTA Conference Schedule (subject to change).

REGISTRATION form is on the website under Conferences; postmark deadline is October 7.

Conference Program Ad information is also on the website under Conferences.

Collaboration “In Concert”

November 11-14 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VMTA

Thursday, November 11

5:30-6:00 pm District Chairs Meet

6:00-7:30 pm WVMTA Board Meeting/Dinner

8:00 pm Dobner, Wheaton and McMillan Workshop

Friday, November 12

8:00-9:00 am NCTM Breakfast

9:30 am-----WVMTA Competition

9:00-10:00 am Kefferstan Workshop

10:00-11:00 Beard Workshop

11:30-12:30 pm Opening Ceremonies..Combined Recital

12:30--1:30 Lunch (various options on or near campus)

2:00-2:30 pm Mauroschatd Workshop

2:30-3:00 pm Nissman Video- Franz Liszt

3:00-4:00 pm Bennett/Spears Workshop

4:00-5:00 pm WV Winner’s Recital

5:30-6:00 pm Cash Bar – Cocktails

6:00-7:30 pm WVMTA/VMTA Banquet in the Montpelier Room at JMU

8:00 pm Barbara Nissman Recital, Forbes Performing Arts Center

Saturday, November 13

9:00 am -WVMTA Competitions

9:00-10:00 am Winsor/Ford Workshop

9:00-10:00 am Dobner Collaborative Piano Master Class

10:00-11:00 am Mauro/George Workshop

9:00-11:00 am Nissman Master Class with WV Students

11:00-12:00 am Commissioned Composers Concert

12:00-1:00 pm IMTF Box Lunch

1:00-1:30 pm WV General Meeting

1:30-2:30 pm WV Winner's Recital
2:30-4:30 pm Nissman Master Class with VA Students
4:45-6:00 pm VMTA Piano Winners Recital
6:00-8:00 pm Dinner
8:00 PM Orchestra Concert
Sunday, November 14
9:00-10:00 am Menard Workshop
10:00-11:00 am Ruple/Steinberg Workshop
11:30-12:30 pm VMTA MTNA Winner's Recital

Barbara Nissman

Described as "a pianist of a bygone era," Barbara Nissman continues the grand bravura tradition of romantic pianism, making it relevant to our century. Her recordings of twentieth-century composers, Prokofiev, Ginastera and Bartók are considered "definitive," and her ongoing series for the Pierian label of the nineteenth-century composers Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, and also Rachmaninoff, has garnered critical praise. "*One of the last pianists in the grand Romantic tradition of Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Rubinstein,*" Barbara Nissman connects the souls of the composers of the past to the lives of today's listener.



Barbara Nissman's international career was personally launched by Eugene Ormandy who had previously engaged her as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has performed with the leading orchestras of Europe and America including the London Philharmonic, the Royal Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony, the Rotterdam Philharmonic and the Munich Philharmonic; in the US she has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the National Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra among others. She has worked with some of the major conductors of our time including Eugene Ormandy, Riccardo Muti, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and Leonard Slatkin.

Ms. Nissman has long been associated with the music of Argentine composer, Alberto Ginastera, and is the dedicatee of the composer's final work, the *Sonata No. 3*. In 1976 she was invited by the composer to play his *Piano Concerto No. 1* with l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in celebration of his sixtieth birthday. She will present the premiere of his *Concierto Argentino* in 2011. Both *Gramophone* and the *American Record Guide* chose her Ginastera recording as one of the best releases in 1989. Recently, Barbara was invited by the BBC to co-host a five-part radio series that featured Ginastera as Composer-of-the-Week on Radio 3.

Nissman made history in 1989 by becoming the first pianist to perform the complete piano sonatas of Sergei Prokofiev in a series of three recitals in both New York and London. Her recordings of this repertoire represented the first complete set of Prokofiev Sonatas made available on compact disc. A noted Prokofiev scholar and authority in her own right, Ms. Nissman was invited by the former Soviet Union to travel to Moscow and collaborate with leading Soviet musicians on a detailed study of the Prokofiev manuscripts housed in the Central State Archives. In commemoration of the composer's 100th birthday, she performed the complete cycle of his piano sonatas throughout Europe and the US. In April '98, Ms. Nissman was invited by the Moscow Conservatory for concerts and master classes on Prokofiev; she also presented master classes at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. For the 50th anniversary of Prokofiev's death in 2003, she performed all five Piano Concertos throughout Europe and the United States as well as presenting a series of lecture-recitals devoted to a better understanding of his music. *BBC Music Magazine* in their recent cover story on Prokofiev recommended Nissman's recordings as the best recordings of Prokofiev's piano music. Barbara Nissman

recently appeared on stage with Don Henley of the Eagles and Billy Joel, performing on the “Walden Steinway” in a gala fundraiser for the Walden Woods project, held at Jazz at Lincoln Center. She was also one of the participants with Leonard Slatkin at the Kennedy Center’s 25th Anniversary Gala Concert that was broadcast on PBS Television. She has also been involved with the Robert James Frascino AIDS Foundation benefit concert series, “A Concerted Effort” since 2002. To date these concerts have raised well over one million dollars for AIDS service organizations worldwide.

In addition to performing and recording, she has contributed numerous articles to music publications. *Liszt by Nissman*, a recent release for the Pierian label, features the Sonata in b minor, the Six Paganini Etudes and other solo works. *Bartók by Nissman* includes the first performance of Bartók’s unknown 1898 Sonata that Barbara discovered in the Morgan Library’s manuscript collection while writing *Bartók and the Piano: A Performer’s View*, recently published with a cd insert by Scarecrow Press. Other releases on the Pierian label include: *Chopin by Nissman*, *Beethoven by Nissman*, *Schumann by Nissman* and *Brahms by Nissman*. Two volumes devoted to the music of Rachmaninoff have just been released, along with the first four volumes of a new ten disc series, *Recital Favorites by Nissman*. She is frequently invited to present master-classes at American and European universities (most recently at the Royal Academy of Music in London and Canterbury University, New Zealand) and has presented two-week master courses for pianists at the Federal University in Salvador, Brazil. Barbara also initiated a music-lecture series, “Barbara & Friends,” based on the series she had filmed for BBC Television. These informal programs, focusing on the music of one composer, combine music with casual dialogue, enhancing the listening experience of the listener, no matter their musical background. Her opening program of the series features the music of “Franz Liszt, The Elvis of the Keyboard.” In collaboration with the Greenbrier Valley Theater, she has adapted this program for children. The film will be used in the public schools throughout the State, and will also be available in all of West Virginia’s libraries.

Performer, writer, lecturer and frequent guest artist/teacher, Barbara Nissman has toured and given master classes throughout the United States, Europe, the Far East, New Zealand, Russia and South America. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she received her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan. She received the Stanley Medal upon graduating from the School of Music in 1966, and was honored by the University in 1983 with their prestigious Athena Award, given annually to an outstanding alumna, as well as the School of Music’s 1996 Citation of Merit Award. In 2008, she received the Governor’s Distinguished Service to the Arts Award from the State of West Virginia. She now calls West Virginia home and lives on a farm in the Allegheny Mountains.

Chamber Music Performance Competition

The MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition is the youngest of the Competitions, having begun in 1988 to encourage music making in ensembles. The Chamber Music Competition has shown growth in numbers, particularly from the 32 entrants of 2001–2002 to the 94 entrants of the 2009–2010 competition year.

As musicians, we all spend much time in a practice room honing our skills as performers. And most of that time is spent **alone**, in most cases necessarily so. More and more, however, students/teachers/coaches are encouraging the joy of ensemble music making and have found/are finding that students improve their listening, phrasing, imitating, anticipating, technical skills and general musicianship when making music with others in an ensemble. In addition to learning to share time, musical ideas, motivating each other and the joy of companionship in music making together, lasting friendships can, and do, develop. There is no doubt that the great composers of the western world have contributed much fine music to this genre.

Playing chamber music requires careful attention to music-making techniques that might be taken for granted when performing music alone. Is the phrase shaped the same way among the players? Are the lengths of notes played the same (both legato and staccato)? Is the singing line sounding the same when played by the piano, violin and cello, and other instruments (either together or separately)? Does the crescendo or diminuendo show consistency among the players in the ensemble? All of these questions and more come into being when learning from each other and sharing music making together, resulting in the enhancement of the music-making skills of each participant. Thus, ensemble members can be exposed to wonderful repertoire and characteristics of composers that they might never have experienced in performing only solo music.

I hope that you as teachers/coaches will seriously consider bringing your students together into ensembles and offering them the music-making opportunities available playing the trios, quartets, quintets and sextets of the great composers (with and without piano). The MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition is one vehicle your Association offers for you to provide this added joy and music-making experience for your students.

The MTNA Competition application deadline for the 2010–2011 year is September 14, 2010.

The **average age** of the members in an ensemble must be 18–26 years of age. This allows for a range of varying ages among the performers in any group. Please see the MTNA website at www.mtna.org for all the Competition rules and requirements.

James C. Norden, National Coordinator

MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition

MTNA Student Competitions: Application Process Q & A

Q. Is there any way to see an application before I start the application process?

A. Yes, there will be a Sample Application available in the Competitions section of the MTNA website.

Q. How late can an application be submitted?

A. The deadline is 12:00 midnight the application day. However, it is best NOT to wait until the last day in case you have problems submitting the application.

Q. Is it possible to start the application and go back to it at a later time?

A. No, you cannot save an unfinished application. Make sure you have all the needed information before beginning the application process. (See the April/May AMT or the website for details regarding what information is needed.)

Q. What will happen if I don't have all the repertoire information?

A. Your application is not complete until your repertoire has been successfully submitted.

We recommend copying and pasting from a word processing document to ease the process.

Q. What will happen if I forget to write down my confirmation number?

A. We can usually find your application if we have your name and the time when you submitted it. However, at the end of the application process, you are instructed to print your confirmation page. This is very important in case any information is inadvertently lost.

Q. Who do I contact if I have problems or questions?

A. You can contact the Director of Competitions or the appropriate National Coordinator of your level. Their information can be found on the MTNA website or in the back of AMT.

Q. If I contact a national official, how should I identify myself?

A. Put your full name, competition level and state in the subject line of the e-mail. For example: John Smith, Senior String, Texas. Please sign your e-mail with the full name on your application. With almost 2,000 entrants, it is very difficult for the national coordinators to identify you if you sign your e-mail with just your first name.

Q. Are there specific rules for filling out the application?

A. Please use correct capitalization for names and addresses. Do NOT use all lower case (john smith) and do NOT use all capital letters (JOHN SMITH). For example: John Smith, 22 Oak Street, Seattle, WA.

MTNA Foundation Raffle Items

At the 2010 WVMTA/VMFTA Conference, we will hold a raffle to earn money for the MTNA Foundation. Each **district** is asked to contribute **one** item to the raffle (in the spirit of the raffle they hold at the MTNA national conference, where each state donates an item).

Please let your district chair(s) or myself know if you have something you can donate to the raffle, even if you cannot bring it to the conference. We would appreciate donations of the following types of items for the conference raffle: **gift baskets or gift certificates from a well-known business in your district** (Holl's chocolates, Ryder Pharmacy, Lakeview or Stonewall resort, Ridgefield Farm, etc.)

Most businesses will donate the items to us because we are a 501c3 non-profit organization, and their donations are tax-exempt. Please bring your items to the registration table at the conference, where we will set up a display and sell tickets during registration hours. Raffle winners will be announced at the Saturday afternoon winners' recital and you need not be present to win.

Vicki Cavendish
President Elect

Take Part in the Year of Collaborative Music

MTNA invites our state and local affiliates to take part in the Year of Collaborative Music (YCM) in 2010-2011. The YCM celebrates the importance of collaborative music making in society and in the profession worldwide. Led by MTNA in partnership with significant national and international music associations, the YCM promotes the diversity of ensemble playing opportunities available to musicians of all ages and skill levels. The Year of Collaborative Music was launched in March at the 2010 MTNA National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It will culminate on Saturday March 26, 2011 at the MTNA National Conference and NATS Spring Workshop in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a special Salute to Collaborative Music, to take place during Pedagogy Saturday. Throughout the year, performers, groups, ensembles, and associations around the world will focus on the importance of collaborative music in the life of every artist. In addition to the special salute, we have designated Saturday, January 22, 2011, as the International Day of Collaborative Music (IDCM), one special day devoted to collaborative music making throughout the world. MTNA encourages all of our state and local affiliates to schedule collaborative music events throughout the year, particularly on January 22. Also, make plans to attend the 2011 MTNA National Conference in Milwaukee to celebrate the conclusion of the YCM. Participating in these events provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration with colleagues outside of MTNA, opening the doors for member recruitment and future collaboration.

We hope that you will join us in this exciting endeavor.

For more information, visit MTNA YCM Page or contact MTNA at (888) 512-5278 or mtnanet@mtna.org.

MTNA Certification

The new MTNA Certification process is now available for piano, voice, violin and flute teachers. Certification candidates are now required to complete these projects: explanation of teaching philosophy, analysis of teaching pieces, video of teaching, description of teaching environment, discussion of business ethics and studio policies. Teacher Profile Project workbooks for each instrument are available on the MTNA Certification website. The workbooks are accompanied by a document titled, "What Will the Evaluators Be Looking For?" which guides candidates as they complete the profile projects. Other materials, including articles about video recording lessons, can also be found on the Certification website. For more information about the new process, visit www.mtnacertification.org or e-mail mtnacertification@mtna.org.

Membership

It's time to begin recruiting for the 2010–2011 membership year. MTNA members are a vital link to recruiting new music-teaching professionals, and we want to offer the resources you need to develop your local, state and national associations.

In an effort to go green, MTNA will not be printing and mailing large quantities of membership brochures this year. However, all applications can be downloaded and printed off the web site, www.mtna.org. If you have any problems printing the applications, please contact MTNA and we will take care of it. Prospective members can join MTNA and current members can renew their membership from there. The collegiate membership application can also be found on this page.

Talking to prospective members? You may want to mention some of these benefits MTNA offers its members.

- A nationwide network of 22,000 music-teaching professionals, performers and pedagogues representing all applied areas
- Low-cost insurance, merchant services and support for zoning, tax and legal issues
- Practical resources such as *American Music Teacher* magazine and the *MTNA e-Journal*
- Programs and activities to inspire and motivate your everyday students, in addition to recognizing excellence
- Opportunities for continuing education and career advancement through conferences, seminars, workshops and the MTNA Professional Certification Program
- National Student Performance and Composition Competitions

If you have any ideas or suggestions on membership recruitment and retention, please e-mail MTNA headquarters at mtnanet@mtna.org. We'd love to hear from you!

GP3, Group Piano Forum

GP3, National Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum, will have its 10th anniversary biennial meeting on August 6–7, 2010, at the University of Texas' Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music in Austin. This two-day conference will concentrate on the specific needs of college and university teachers of group piano and piano pedagogy. The conference theme is "Retooling Tradition," and topics will include updating traditional teaching techniques, innovative use of technology and current trends in independent studios, community schools, and academies.

The GP3 Goals continue to remain the mission of the forum:

- Share in concrete ways what we are doing in our day to day teaching.

- Discuss how the direction of our field is affecting our approach to professional development, program initiatives and teacher training.
- Plan how we must contribute to the course of group piano now and in the coming years.

Please visit the website [click here](#) to see details of the program, to register and link to information about convenient hotel accommodations. Register before July 15, to take advantage of the early bird rate of \$150 (students \$75)

New College Degree Programs Available in West Virginia

Fairmont State University announces that it will offer a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree beginning in Fall, 2010. This degree offers flexibility for students to choose a secondary emphasis area of study such as business, psychology, theater, by taking free electives or a minor in those or other areas of study. For more information, contact Dr. Constance Edwards, Department of Music Coordinator, at Constance.Edwards@fairmontstate.edu Fairmont State University also continues to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, Comprehensive Pre-K-Adult degree.

The Division of Music at WVU will be offering a new degree beginning in Fall 2010, the Master of Music in Collaborative Piano. This degree will provide students wishing to specialize in piano accompaniment an opportunity to study and achieve an advanced degree in this highly demanding and lucrative professional field. This new degree is an important addition to the existing graduate program in the Division of Music. Students in the Master of Music in Collaborative Piano program will develop the necessary skills for collaborative performance in today's market, including opera and art song coaching techniques, diction, and vocal and instrumental accompanying, and will engage in a wide array of performing ensemble settings already in place in the Division. Applicants should hold an undergraduate performance or collaborative piano degree. Through this new MM in Collaborative Piano degree, students will further develop their performing abilities as highly skilled and marketable pianists.

Music Advocacy's Top Ten Quotes

(Source: online article from the Children's Music Workshop, an Emmy award winning music education company)

1. "During the Gulf War, the few opportunities I had for relaxation I always listened to music, and it brought me great peace of mind. I have shared my love of music with people throughout this world, while listening to the drums and special instruments of the Far East, Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Far North, and all of this started with the music

appreciation course that I was taught in a third-grade elementary class in Princeton, New Jersey. What a tragedy it would be if we lived in a world where music was not taught to children."

- *General H. Norman Schwarzkopf -- United States Army*

2. "Music is exciting. It is thrilling to be sitting in a group of musicians playing (more or less) the same piece of music. You are part of a great, powerful vibrant entity. And nothing beats the feeling you get when you've practiced a difficult section over and over and finally get it right. (Yes, even on the wood block.) Music is important. It says things your heart can't say any other way, and in a language everyone speaks. Music crosses borders, turns smiles into frowns, and vice versa. These observations are shared with a hope: that, when schools cut back on music classes, they really think about what they're doing -- and don't take music for granted."

- *Dan Rather -- CBS News*

3. "In every successful business...there is one budget line that never gets cut. It's called 'Product Development' -- and it's the key to any company's future growth. Music education is critical to the product development of this nation's most important resource -- our children."

- *John Sykes -- President, VH1*

4. "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage and pride in results...Not a bad preparation for the workforce!"

- *Gregory Anrig -- President, Educational Testing Service*

5. "Music is an essential part of everything we do. Like puppetry, music has an abstract quality which speaks to a worldwide audience in a wonderful way that nourishes the soul."

- *Jim Henson -- television producer and puppeteer*

6. "Should we not be putting all our emphasis on reading, writing and math? The 'back-to-basics curricula,' while it has merit, ignores the most urgent void in our present system -- absence of self-discipline. The arts, inspiring -- indeed requiring -- self-discipline, may be more 'basic' to our nation's survival than traditional credit courses. Presently we are spending 29 times more on science than on the arts, and the result so far is worldwide intellectual embarrassment."

- *Paul Harvey -- syndicated radio show host*

7. "It's [music education] terribly important, extremely important -- because when you are a child, you are in a receptive age ... In high schools, public schools -- that's where they must have the best influence, the first influence, which will go through their whole life."

- *Eugene Ormandy - conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra*

8. "It is our job, as parents, educators, and friends, to see that our young people have the opportunity to attain the thorough education that will prepare them for the future. Much of that education takes place in the classroom. We must encourage our youngsters in such pursuits as music education. In addition to learning the valuable lesson that it takes hard work to achieve success, no matter what the arena, music education can provide students with a strong sense of determination, improved communication skills, and a host of other qualities essential for successful living."

- *Edward H. Rensi -- President and Chief Operation Officer, U.S.A. McDonald's Corporation*

9. " A grounding in the arts will help our children to see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology. In short, it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser."

- *Robert E. Allen -- Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Corporation*

10. " Some people think music education is a privilege, but I think it's essential to being human."

- *Jewel -- singer, songwriter, and instrumentalist*

Suzanne Tabb, WVMTA Arts Advocacy and Awareness

Footprints

Laura Hamm, NCTM, received a Teacher Enrichment grant from the MTNA Foundation which she used for attending training in the Music for Young Children program.

We send our very best wishes to Mary Lynne and her coming baby!

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

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