



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

**Affiliated with Music
Teachers National
Association**



www.wvmta.org

WVMTA News Volume 55, Issue 4, September 2020

Notes from the President, Dr. Henning Vauth NCTM

I hope you are all faring well, considering that we still live in a pandemic that seems to be more resistant than many of us had thought. Still, we are musicians. We are also resistant and are known to find creative solutions for challenges. In the words of German Federal Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel: "We can manage this!"



Our annual conference will take place virtually this year, on October 22-24. Dr. Johan Botes has managed to recruit an impressive array of presenters and artists, namely national MTNA President Martha Hilley (who wrote one of the most used textbooks for class piano instruction), and Ghanaian pianist William Chapman Nyaho. Thank you, Johan!

Of course, there will also be time for socializing at our Annual Meeting/Happy Hour on Friday. I can't wait to talk to you then and to share some of our experiences during the last year. Socializing and staying connected is SO important in times that require distancing and sometimes isolation. I hope many of you will be able to make it to our conference this year. Let's break the record! We are a tight group, and perhaps we will defy the odds and grow even tighter this year.

Last weekend, I virtually attended the MTNA Summit for Leadership, and met state and local presidents, and the national leadership via Zoom. It felt good to hear that quite literally every state is facing similar challenges. In this regard, we indeed ARE in this together.

MTNA provides a multitude of services to its members. I encourage you to browse www.mtna.org, especially the information compiled under the tabs Engage, Stay Informed, Learn, and Connect. If you need personal help with any technological issue, the national organization has a wonderful new

employee, Ryan Greene, who is a tech wizard. Just send me a brief email with a description of the problem and I will forward it to him.

A challenge that most state associations are encountering is decreasing membership numbers. I strongly encourage all of you to reach out to the members of your local associations and to music teacher friends who may not yet know about the many benefits MTNA membership entails.

I do want to congratulate Hannah Davis, voice student of Dr. Hope Koehler at West Virginia University for winning our inaugural scholarship for an African American applied music student in the amount of \$500. Congratulations, Hannah, and best of luck for your senior year!

Please stay tuned and monitor your email addresses for further announcements regarding the WVMTA conference, competitions (new deadline September 23!), the national conference March 17-23 (now 100% virtual), and our Teacher and Distinguished Leader of the Year Awards.

We can manage this!

Henning Vauth

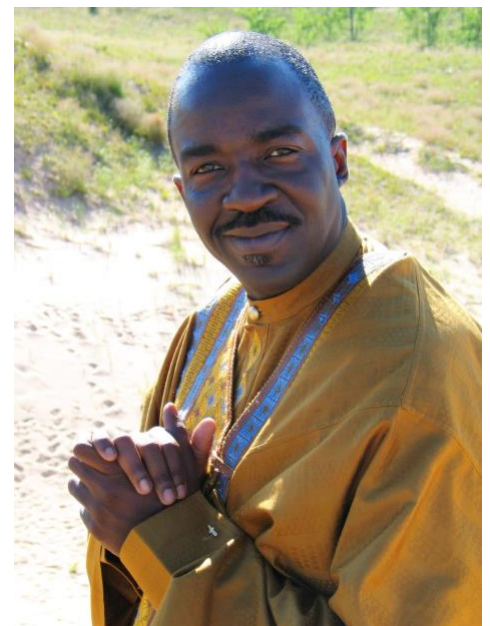
Notes from President--Elect, Dr. Johan Botes NCTM

The pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives and as schools are re-opening, cases are starting to climb again. It is with this current situation, as well as adhering to the policies of Shepherd University, that we have made the unfortunate decision to go entirely online. **The 2020 WVMTA State Conference will now be held ONLINE only.** “Attendees” can now register for the conference and will receive the conference program, as well as the online links to the presentations on the day of the conference (October 23rd). Our competition section will be online as well. PLEASE do register early and join us on Friday, October 23rd for some wonderful presentations, as well as a “happy hour Zoom hangout” afterwards!

Program

I am excited to announce that we will “see” the Ghanaian pianist **William Chapman Nyaho** as he’s giving an online recital for us. Nyaho will also give a presentation on his anthology of music from the African Diaspora, that he has compiled and published under Oxford University Press (<https://www.amazon.com/Piano-Music-Africa-African-Diaspora/dp/0193870150>). These anthologies have piano works of various levels and would be a great addition to any studio. He will also be adjudicating our online MTNA and WVMTA piano competitions. Please check out his impressive biography on his website: <http://www.nyaho.com>

On top of welcoming Nyaho into our homes, we are also VERY fortunate to have MTNA’s president Martha Hilley as one of our guest speakers. Hilley (as we all have come to know her), will give a presentation on getting your money’s worth out of repertoire meant for the “typical” student in an independent studio. She will also give a shoutout about what MTNA meant for her throughout her career.



Then we have Ruta Smedina-Starke from Richmond, Virginia that will give a presentation on Russian Piano Technique. Below is a short description for her lecture. We welcome Ruta back as a presenter for WVMTA!

“The Importance of Short Exercises for Mastering the Elements of Russian Piano Technique”

The lecture presentation will explore the importance of various short exercises by L. Conus, J. Levine, C. Hanon, C. Czerny and H. Neuhaus and their importance in mastering the main elements of Russian piano technique. The discussion and demonstration will include numerous ideas for practicing such elements of technique as scales, arpeggios, chords and many others.



Ruta Smedina-Starke was born in Latvia and began playing the piano at the age of five and later studied the piano with Larisa Olshtinskaja at Yelgava City Music College. In 1988, she graduated from the University of Latvia in Riga with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She then moved to Richmond, VA, where she studied with Dr. Sonia Vlahcevic and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Master of Music in Piano Performance. She has studied privately with Dr. Dmitri Shteinberg and Janis Rinkulis both representatives of Russian School of Pianism.

Smedina-Starke is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, the National Music Honor Society. She is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. She is also a member of RMTA (Richmond Music Teachers Association) and VMTA (Virginia Music Teachers Association). From 2006-2009 she served as a Chairman of RMTA Bach Competition. She has been selected to participate in master classes with international pianists Jon Nakamatsu and Stephen Hough. During the 2006 Piano Texas International Academy and Festival, she participated in the master class with international pianists Harold Martina and Seymour Bernstein.

Smedina-Starke is the recipient of the Jordan Kitt’s Music 2006 Educator Grant. She has served as an adjudicator to local and state competitions, and that includes Richmond Symphonic League Concerto Competition, CMTA (Charlottesville Music Teachers Association) Concerto Competition, Virginia James Bland Music Scholarship Competition, MTNA State Competition held at the Shenandoah Conservatory during the VMTA State Conference of 2012, and in 2013 Eastern District Auditions held at CNU.

Smedina-Starke has been an adjunct faculty member at the VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University) Department of Music for 12 years where she taught the piano. She also has a private studio where she works with talented young musicians. Her students are among major prize winners in local and state competitions.

Smedina-Starke has given many solo piano recitals as well as lecture-recitals.

In 2006 she presented a lecture recital at Virginia Commonwealth University “Carl Maria von Weber and

the Konzertstück for the Piano Op. 79". She has presented a lecture-recital "Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and The Seasons for the Piano Op. 37b" for the MCV Department of Gastroenterology at Virginia Commonwealth University as well as at the Richmond Public Library. She also performed for Virginia Music Teachers Association Conference in October of 2011.

In 2013 she presented a lecture recital "Robert Schumann: Scenes from Childhood Op. 15" for the MCV Department of Gastroenterology at Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as at the Richmond Public Library. In 2014 she received RMTA Teacher of the Year Award. In 2014 she presented a lecture recital "M. Ravel: Mother Goose Suite" at VCU.

In 2015 she presented a lecture-workshop "The Phenomenon of Russian Pianism and Russian Piano Techniques" at VCU Global Summer Institute of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as at the VCU Piano Fest 2015 and she will be a featured clinician at the WVMTA and VMTA Conferences in October of 2016. *smedinastarr@vcu.edu*

Then, last but not least, Dr. Henning Vauth is no stranger to us. He will give a presentation called: "Wellness in Applied Music Teaching: A Two-Way Street". Music makes us well, but we also need to be well to make music. This presentation will introduce three simple steps applied music teachers can take to integrate this bidirectional understanding of wellness into our daily pedagogical routine. The topic is applicable to teaching on all levels and in all settings.

Please see detailed information below. Registration is and remains open. You can find the registration form in this newsletter, and also on our website at <https://www.wvmta.org/>.

I hope you are as excited as I am about this online opportunity. Looking forward to "seeing" you very soon!

Stay safe!
Johan Botes

WVMTA Conference 2020: Online Schedule

Thursday, October 22

6:00 pm Executive Board Meeting via Zoom (link will be created and send out)

Friday, October 23

9:00 am – 10:00 am Presentation: "The Importance of Short Exercises for Mastering the Elements of Russian Piano Technique"
Ruta Smedina-Starke, Richmond, Virginia

10:15 am – 11:15 am Presentation: Music from the African Diaspora
Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, Seattle, Washington

11:30 am – 1 pm *Lunch*

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Presentation: Are Your Students Getting Their Money's Worth Out of Repertoire?
Martha Hilley NCTM, Austin, Texas

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm Presentation: Wellness in Applied Music Teaching: A Two-Way Street
Dr. Henning Vauth NCTM, Marshall University, West Virginia

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm General Membership Meeting via Zoom (link will be created and send out)

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm Featured Guest Artist Recital with William Nyaho Chapman

5:30 pm – 6:30pm (or later) “Happy Hour Zoom Hangout” (link will be created and sent out). This hangout is an opportunity to ask questions to the presenters and performer as well as seeing familiar and new faces. So, grab your favorite drink and hangout with us!

Registration Form - WVMTA State Online Conference October 23, 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address (very important): _____

Please check all that apply and send this printed copy with a check payable to WVMTA to:

Johan Botes, School of Music, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755

_____ \$35 WVMTA Member Registration Fee (by October 9th postmark)

_____ \$40 Non-Member Registration Fee

_____ \$15 Student Members of MTNA or NAFME

_____ I would like to contribute \$_____ to the MTNA Foundation Fund.

_____ **\$ TOTAL (Make check payable to WVMTA)**

*Note: Teachers who enter students in the Mountain State Competitions must register for the conference.

2020 WVMTA Convention Program Ads

The WVMTA Board of Directors would like to invite you to consider a donation to the:

2020 West Virginia Music Teachers Association State Conference Program Book.

The WVMTA Conference will be held entirely ONLINE but will come with a conference program book. Your donation will provide an opportunity for you to visually display your conviction to the importance of music education in all our lives. Listed below are the prices and instructions for purchase of a range of ads--from full-page to "I'm a Music Education Supporter" one-liner, to be included in our conference program book. WVMTA is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and all donations to this association are tax deductible. WVMTA reserves the right to accept or deny ads for publishing.

WVMTA Conference Program book ads (please check)

- ___ Full page (4.5" x 8") \$100
- ___ Half page (4.5" x 4") \$55
- ___ Quarter page/Business Card (4.5" x 2") \$30
- ___ Eighth page (2.25" x 2") \$20
- ___ "Music Education Supporter" (one-line listing) \$10

Please provide camera-ready artwork (b/w) or business card. **Deadline: October 9, 2020.** Mail or email (preferred) this signed contract, ad copy, and check (payable to WVMTA) to:

Dr. Johan Botes
Marshall University School of Music
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
E-mail: botes@marshall.edu

Amount of check: _____ (USD)
Name of Advertiser: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

Notes from Miles Hemlick, Competitions Chair and First Vice President

Greetings WVMTA Member,

I sincerely hope everyone is getting through this tough time that Covid-19 has brought.

As we are now in September, we are drawing nearer to the West Virginia Music Teachers Association state conference and competitions. As announced last month, both the state level competition (Mountain State Competition) and the National WV State level preliminary (MTNA Competition) will be held online this year via video submission. We are looking forward to hearing excellent performances by West Virginia's distinguished music students.

Deadlines for both WVMTA and MTNA Competitions:

Application Deadline: September 23rd, 2020 3:00PM

Video Submission Deadline: October 24th, 2020

More information:

MTNA Competition:

[2020 MTNA Competition Guidelines](#)

[2020 MTNA Competition Application](#)

WVMTA Mountain State Competition

[2020 WVMTA Mountain State Competition Online Application](#)

Please feel free to get in touch with any questions you may have.

WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Marie Borillo

On September 16 2020, our bank account balance was \$28645.78. The current balance of our 5-year CD is \$11,380.32 and our 1-year CD was valued at \$10,779.89.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Borillo

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

September 1st was the deadline to submit nominations for the 2020 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 and,
- Has held membership in WVMTA for at least five (5) years.

Past Teacher of the Year Awards Recipients:

1991 Peggy Johnston, NCTM	1992 Christine Kefferstan, NCTM
1993 Carol Beall, NTCM	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, NTCM
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 Vicki B. Cavendish
2009 Harriet Tucker, NCTM	2010 Jan Jemison Smith, NCTM
2011 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM	2012 Hooi Yin Boeey
2013 Christene Kefferstan, NCTM	2014 Carole Kriewaldt
2015 No award given	2016 James Miltenberger
2017 Henning Vauth	2018 Mary Wilson
2019 Jacob Womack, NCTM	2020

WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year

- This award is based on accumulated years of leadership and service contributed to the organization, over and above 10 years.
- This award will be based on whether the award was or was not already received by a particular member previously. The award CAN be granted to the same individual more than once.
- This award will be based on the recommendation, every year, of the current committees' research and records (If you are interested in becoming a future member of the Awards Committee, please notify Henning Vauth at vauth@marshall.edu). The Distinguished Leader of the Year Award was begun in 2006 and replaced the "Member of the year Award."

Member 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	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	2002 No Award given
2003 James Miltenberger	2004-05 No Awards given

Distinguished Leader of the Year Honorees

2006 Barbara Heckert	2007 Carol Beall, NCTM
2008 Mary Wilson	2009 Karen Taddie, NCTM
2010 Gary Mullenax, NCTM	2011 Janna Kisner, NCTM
2012 Scott Beard, NCTM	2013 Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM
2014 No award given	2015 Mary Ellen Morrison, NCTM
2016 Laura Hamm, NCTM	2017 Gerald (Jerry) Lee
2018 No award given	2019 Hooi Yin Boey

Notes from the Certification Chair, Jacob Womack NCTM

Congratulations Newly Nationally Certified Teachers

Congratulations to Johan Botes, NCTM, and Henning Vauth, NCTM for becoming Nationally Certified Teachers in piano through MTNA. The MTNA certification program exists to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do.

Botes and Vauth are both on the faculty at Marshall University and members of District 5, Huntington.

WVMTA has a certification drawing every year at the state conference which covers the cost of certification fees. WVMTA encourages all members to apply and become a certified teacher of music. For more information on becoming a nationally certified teacher contact Jacob Womack, NCTM at jwomack@concord.edu or visit the MTNA Certification website at certification.mtna.org

MTNA Certification – WVMTA Challenge and Incentive

\$100 Reimbursement Check Available for Any Newly Certified NCTM!*

Yes, for anyone who successfully becomes a NEW NCTM! No stipulations. Receive a \$100 award from the WVMTA board for completing certification, which covers half of the current \$200 fee. Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at www.mtnacertification.org.

*This award does not apply to people who complete their renewals or their permanent professional certificates. This award is only for new certifications. Contact jwomack@concord.edu, for more information.

Certification Drawing

Value: \$200

Our Certification program has a drawing at each year's state conference to allow one person to win a free \$200 application fee for the MTNA certification. This year, any member (regular or collegiate) may enter your name in the drawing prior to the state conference and the winner will be drawn at the state conference. The winner does not need to be present to win, although we encourage all members to attend state conferences. Contact Jacob Womack, certification chair, to enter the drawing (jwomack@concord.edu). Find out the latest information on requirements for the National Certification Program at www.mtnacertification.org. The winner of the drawing must submit their official certification application to MTNA within one (1) year and complete the process within two (2) years.

Collegiate Members are eligible to enter the certification drawing.

Notes from the Membership Chair, Dr. Jerry Lee

- For the current 2020-2021 membership year, according to dues paid during April 1 – August 31, 2020, WVMTA confirms 61 total members, 7 of whom are collegiate.
- Membership update during June 1 – August 31, 2020:
WVMTA welcomes 3 new members!!
 - Dr. Hope Koehler, from Morgantown, WV. She specializes in voice.
 - Dr. Austin Seybert, from Charleston, WV. He specializes in brass, jazz, trombone, and band.
 - Chelsea Zhang, from Huntington, WV. She is a new collegiate member (Marshall University affiliation) specializing in piano.
- If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership to WVMTA for the 2020-21 year.
- In addition, please encourage and recruit new members to join WVMTA so that our organization stays as strong and active as possible!
- To join online and to learn more about specific member benefits, please visit the following website and click on the link towards the top of the page, "Join + Renew": www.mtna.org
- The text below is from MTNA, describing the benefits of membership:

Choices for a More Musical Tomorrow

MTNA offers a number of membership types for teachers, students and those involved in the music industry.

For well over a century, MTNA has been the backbone for a collaborative community of music-teaching professionals, connecting both the seasoned educator and those at the beginning of their career.

Membership with MTNA does more than simply complement your career as a music professional—it supports, supplements and shapes it. It empowers music teachers nationwide to become better educators through networking, leadership, mentoring and educational opportunities.

MTNA Membership Delivers:

- **Peer Connections**—a network of outlets, forums and channels for like-minded individuals in the music profession to collaborate and communicate, both locally and nationally
- **Ongoing Education**—conferences, events and advice on teaching tips and pedagogy, technology and web trends, master classes and informational sessions
- **Invaluable Resources**—access to countless benefits, from Certification, publications and consultation services to competitions, teacher enrichment grants and insurance

Districts Reports

Charleston MTA/District III Report:

This district will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 26 at Christ Church United Methodist. Their theme is "Take the stage". The guest presenter will be Alasha Al-qudwah, who will speak on Stage Fright.

Vicki Cavendish, Chair

Huntington MTA/District V Report:

District 5 is looking forward to our Fall Festival on November 14th, at Grace Gospel Church in Huntington. The theme is "Dancing Through the Decades." We'll be having this recital, even if it needs to be virtual. We're excited to offer our students the opportunity to start earning points again!

DeNeil Hartley and Kim Wiebe, Chairs

Eastern Panhandle MTA/District VI Report:

District VI (EPMTA) members have decided to move two events in the fall semester virtually: Fall Festival (Oct 6, 2020) and Winter Recitals (Dec 5, 2020). We will use the zoom as the platform so the students can still perform "live" for the audiences.

Dr. Yu-Hsuan Liao, chair (NCTM)

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

Dr. Johan Botes, Newsletter Editor, japbotes@gmail.com

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