



West Virginia Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music
Teachers National
Association



www.wvmta.org WVMTA News Volume 55, Issue 3, June 2020

Notes from the President, Dr. Henning Vauth

Dear WVMTA Friends:

Two historic societal events have taken place in the first half of 2020 that also affect us as music teachers in West Virginia: the CoViD-19 outbreak and the protests against the unfortunately still existent problem of racism. Music has the power to bring forth healing. Therefore, I am strongly convinced that it is our noblest task a) to keep music-making alive and well in West Virginia, even amidst a pandemic, and b) to use it actively for good as a force in the fight against racial injustice. To these ends, I have to make several announcements on behalf of the WVMTA Administrative Board, and ask you to take note carefully.

- 1) The Administrative Board has voted to give the six districts autonomy in their decisions if, how, and when to host fall events. This replaces our advisory from March regarding spring performances. We believe that this flexible approach is most appropriate, as each district faces different challenges.
- 2) The MTNA and WVMTA competitions will be held via video submission. The application deadline for all competitions is September 16, 3 pm. The deadline to submit video recordings will be October 24, 3 pm (the day on which the live competitions would have taken place). Stay tuned for more info from our 1st Vice President and Competitions Chair, Miles Helmick.
- 3) At this point, we are intending to host the annual WVMTA Conference as planned Oct. 22-24 at Shepherd University with proper precautions. The events of the conference will be live-streamed, so that remote participation is possible. Since the CoViD-19 situation is evolving, we need to stay flexible and may have to alter these plans, depending on state advisories, Shepherd University policies, and our own best judgment. More information to follow from our President-Elect, Dr. Johan Botes.



- 4) In support of the fight against racial injustice, the Administrative Board has put together a three-pronged strategy:
 - A) I will write a statement that clearly positions WVMTA as an organization that is open all, wants to be open to all, and will actively work toward being open to all with special emphasis on fighting racial inequality. This statement will be given a prominent place on our official website at WVMTA.org.
 - B) Our annual conference will feature Ghanaian-American

pianist William Chapman Nyaho as guest artist. In an act of divine inspiration, Dr. Johan Botes had arranged for this even before the tragic events of this year commenced.

C) WVMTA will provide an annual scholarship of \$500 for an African-American student, to be chosen based on need and merit by the budget committee (Treasurer, President, and President-Elect). We were able to accommodate the \$500 in this year's budget, so please note that the application deadline is **August 10, 2020**, and help us find a student to support!

- 5) I am extending the deadline for nominations for the Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Leader of the Year Awards until **September 1**. Please send me your nominations via email to vauth@marshall.edu.

I hope all of the above finds your approval, and I hope that it will help us navigate through this storm safely and in the right direction. Our compass is love and understanding through music, and that also means care/safety and welcome/inclusion. For resources regarding studio teaching in times of CoViD-19, I point you to this repository of useful links on the MTNA website:

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/COVID19_Resources.aspx

Stay safe, take care of yourself, your loved ones, and your students, and make music, no matter what!

Henning Vauth
President, WVMTA

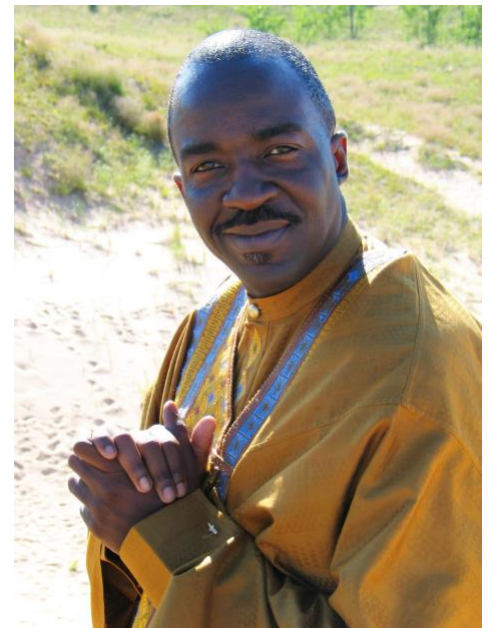
Notes from President--Elect, Dr. Johan Botes NCTM

The 2020 WVMTA State Conference will be held at Shepherd University October 23 – 24 with Yuhsuan Liao as site coordinator. Thank you Yuhsuan!! As we are currently living through a pandemic, the board has decided that this year's conference will be a hybrid. This means that while we are currently still planning to have the conference *in-person*, we will also be livestreaming all sessions for our members that will feel uncomfortable to attend in person. If, for any reason, another spike in cases is found in October, or if the country is forced into another lockdown, the conference will go ahead online. We continue to monitor the situation and will be in touch if anything changes. The only big change currently is that our competition section (that usually happens on the Saturday of the conference), will now be online. This is in line with the current practices of the MTNA National Competitions and this is our way of streamlining the situation until this pandemic is over.

Program

I am excited to announce that we will host the Ghanaian pianist **William Chapman Nyaho** as our Featured Guest Artist. He will be performing an evening recital on Friday, October 23rd, adjudicate our online MTNA competitions, and conduct a master class on Saturday, October 24. Nyaho will also discuss 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. It is a very special honor for us to welcome Nyaho to West Virginia. Please check out his impressive biography on his website: <http://www.nyaho.com>

On top of welcoming Nyaho to our conference, 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 as well as a talk about what MTNA meant for her throughout her career.



Then we have Ruta Smedina-Starke from Virginia Commonwealth University that will give a presentation on Debussy. Below is a short description for her lecture. We welcome Ruta back to West Virginia!

“Debussy: The Painter and Poet in Music”

This lecture presentation will explore the variety of sources for Debussy's desire to create a new kind of sound, including Javanese Gamelan and his fascination with Oriental culture amongst others. It will discuss Debussy's three main style periods and differences between them. There will be a focus on Debussy's compositional style and innovations, as well as his Impressionistic vocabulary of sound with ambiguous harmonies and unresolved tonalities. A portion of the discussion will be devoted to exploring Debussy's harmonic language which will be illustrated by musical excerpts.

Ruta Smedina-Starke, adjunct piano faculty member at VCU, has graduated with Honors from Yelgava City (Latvia) Specialized Music School specializing in piano pedagogy, holds a Bachelor of Arts in English degree from University of Latvia, Riga and Master of Music in Piano Performance degree from VCU. She is the recipient of RMTA Teacher of the Year awards of 2014 and 2018. She has presented her lecture-recitals on various topics ranging from Beethoven to Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Russian School of pianism for various audiences including MCV Department of Gastroenterology at VCU and Richmond Public Library from 2012-2018, VMTA State and WVTA State Conferences of 2016, as well as VCU Global Summer Institute of Music of 2015 and 2018.

Accommodations

Both the Clarion Inn and Quality Inn are still “temporarily closed *until August* due to the current pandemic”. Which means, at this point, I am unable to secure us any rooms. However, in August (pending on the pandemic's situation in the country at that point), I will be able to call and reserve a block of rooms for us. I will then add those options in the September Newsletter. I will also include the application form for the conference. Hopefully by then we will have a clearer picture of the rest of the year ahead.

Call for Presentations

We still have room for TWO presentations. Please contact me at japbotes@gmail.com with suggestions for session topics that you would like to see at the conference, or if you are interested in presenting. Proposals for presentations should be submitted via e-mail attachment in a Word document or PDF format to me via email at your earliest convenience, and should include the following information:

- 1) Name(s) of presenter(s)
- 2) Short biography for each presenter
- 3) Workshop title
- 4) 35-word workshop description (for program)
- 5) 250-word proposal
- 6) List of special equipment needs (e.g. computer/projector, piano, etc.)

Call for Master Class Participants

If you have advanced students who would like to perform for our Featured Guest Artist Nyaho Chapman in the master class, please also write to me at japbotes@gmail.com.

Have a great summer and stay safe!
Johan Botes

New Scholarship Available, Dr. Henning Vauth

WVMTA Scholarship for an African-American Applied Music Student

- WVMTA will provide a \$500 scholarship for an African-American applied music student.
- The scholarship will be awarded annually, if the WVMTA Budget Committee determines there are sufficient funds in the general WVMTA budget.
- Students cannot receive the scholarship in two successive years, unless there are no other competitors.
- All African-American students shall be eligible, regardless of age and level, including pre-college, college, and adult students, and regardless of instrument or voice type.
- Eligible students must be students of a WVMTA member (“dues paid”) at the time of application or start lessons with a WVMTA member by the week after Labor Day.
- A call for applications shall be included in the June Newsletter by the President.
- Applications shall be due on or before August 10, and selections will be made by the WVMTA Budget Committee (President, President-Elect, Treasurer) by August 17. Applications should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the President.
- There is no application fee.
- Selections will be made based on need and/or merit.
- The student or legal guardians shall receive the scholarship in form of a one-time payment from the WVMTA Treasurer, postmarked on or before September 1.
- If there are no applicants, the earmarked money shall go back into the general WVMTA budget.

Application:

- A formless one-page letter written by the student’s applied teacher, speaking to a) need and/or merit of the student, b) stating that the student either has already been studying with the teacher, or will start lessons with the teacher by the first week after Labor Day, and c) confirming that the teacher has paid WVMTA dues for the current fiscal year.
- Proof of the teacher’s dues payment to MTNA/WVMTA for the current fiscal year.

WVMTA Treasurer's Report, Marie Borillo

On June 20, 2020, our bank account balance was \$30,964.90. The current balance of our 5-year CD is \$11,324.11 and our 1-year CD was valued at \$10,777.29.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Borillo

WVMTA Teacher of the Year Award

September 1st is 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.

Nominees will be introduced in the September issue of WVMTA NEWS. Email nominations to: Henning Vauth at vauth@marshall.edu

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

Lastly, do you want to take your professionalism to the next level? Did you know that the MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to accomplish that goal? Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for professional achievement and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field. The MTNA Certification program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do.

For more information about the Certification Program, visit www.mtnacertification.org or contact jwomack@concord.edu, the national headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or mtnacertification@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 – May 31, 2020, WVMTA confirms 27 renewals, 4 of whom are collegiate members. To date, no new memberships have been recorded.
- Membership update during April 1 – May 31, 2020:
 - Dr. Jacob Womack, NCTM added both Virginia Music Teachers' Association and Highlands Chapter Music Teachers' Association.

- 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
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Districts Reports

Charleston MTA/District III Report:

District 3 held their Spring Adjudication on May 23, adjudicated by Dr. Johan Botes. After much difficulty and a lot of time and patience on the part of Dr. Botes, 37 students successfully submitted videos as their participation in the event.

Vicki Cavendish, Chair

Huntington MTA/District V Report:

District 5 gave 288 theory and technic tests in February. Our testing sites were at Aspire in Ashland and Grace Gospel Church in Huntington. The following teachers prepared students for testing:

Nick Blain

Marisa Carpenter

Kayla Harmon

Jody Harmony

DeNeil Hartley

Karen Hopkins

Mila Markun

Matt Monnig

Ruth Tompkins

Henning Vauth

Kim Wiebe

We cancelled our spring auditions, but are very much looking forward to our fall festival in November!

DeNeil Hartley and Kim Wiebe, Chairs

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

Volume 55, Issue 3, June 2020