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NewsNotes

President's Notes

Dr. Lisa Withers, VMTA State President

Greetings! As we settle into the new year with the hope that spring weather will come soon, let's also be mindful of all of the wonderful opportunities for growth a new year and a new season of teaching and learning brings to us and our students, while looking back with gratitude for the accomplishments of the recent past. I am particularly grateful for the leadership that Debbie Gunnerson brought to our organization for the past two years and very thankful to have such a helpful mentor as I begin my term as VMTA President. I am also thrilled to have such an experienced and energetic Executive Board during my two years at the helm! I look forward to digging into the role with enthusiasm. Also, thanks to Dr. Tracy Cowden and Virginia Tech for hosting such a successful fall conference this past November.

Two of our new "opportunities for growth" as an organization will come in the form of our new Spring Teleconference on June 5, 2010 and our first ever Joint Fall Conference with WVMTA at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA from November 11–14, 2010. Look for details on both of these events on our website as plans progress. We also welcome Gabriella Ryan as our new President-Elect. Her experience in running the VMTA State Auditions has equipped her with the organizational know-how to put together a great program with the assistance of Dr. Eric Ruple, the on-site coordinator at JMU. I look forward to this opportunity to get to know our neighbors in the West Virginia Music Teachers Association through this joint effort.

Before we get to our Fall Conference, however, we should all be making plans to attend the MTNA National Convention in Albuquerque, NM from March 20–24, 2010. Two Virginia students are finalists in the MTNA Senior Competitions, having won the Southern Division competitions recently held at Samford University in Birmingham, AL in January. Fifi Zhang (Marjorie Lee, teacher), pianist and Brian Hong (Jane Huang, teacher), violinist will be competing at the national competitions this March. Congratulations to them and their families and teachers!

There are several areas that I'd like to emphasize as President of VMTA during these upcoming two years. One is surely certification. I am an example of someone who has always "been meaning" to get certified and have just let the opportunity pass me by because of my busy schedule. No longer! I am planning to start the process now and send this out as a challenge to all of our membership. If you haven't become nationally certified, join me in this newly streamlined process and let's make VA the state with the highest number of new certified teachers this year. Gary Ingle gave us a great overview, with specifics, of the new certification process at our fall conference and all of the information can be found on mtna.org. Certification is a mark of professionalism and a way of presenting ourselves as the "real thing" in a marketplace where anyone can "sell" anything—even music lessons! If I can do it, you can too! I hope to have the letters "NCTM" after my name in the next newsletter!

As a professor at a liberal arts college (Emory & Henry College) and a musician with a life-long appreciation of the other arts, humanities, and sciences, the second area that I'd like to emphasize the importance of our work with students who will not become pianists, vocalists, instrumentalists and/or other types of music professionals. The training of amateur musicians, audience members, and arts patrons is just as important as training our future professionals. What are the ways that we can, as college faculty and independent music teachers, sow the seeds of enjoyment and engagement with music in all of our students? The first step, I believe, is to believe that what we do is very valuable and important. The recognition that we receive for this work is not always public, but it is gratifying when it comes from our former students.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful year of music-making and teaching! It is a privilege for me to serve as your President and I would welcome any comments, suggestions, and conversations while I am in this role. Where do you want to see VMTA go in the future? You can contact me at lwithers@ehc.edu at any time. ■

MINUTES

GENERAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 7, 2009 VIRGINIA TECH • BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Sarah Reaser O'Brien, Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lori Bruzzesi, Susan Atkins, Martha Smith, Catherine Valley, Dee Booth, Anne Lewis, Kama Miller, Lynne Kessler, Donna Boles, Joan Moore, Lynn Kleisler, Donna Halleck, Sharron Wheaton, Martha Dorrill, Anne James, Sharon Stewart, Ellis Dunton, Fay Barss, Denise Adkins, Tracy Cowden, Galla Matekova, Debra Gunnerson, Lisa A. Withers, Sarah O'Brien, and Josephine Jones.

CALL TO ORDER

The General Board meeting was called to order by Vice President Denise Adkins at 4:05 p.m.

Secretary Sarah Reaser O'Brien read the minutes from the June 6, 2009, General Board Meeting, and a motion to accept them as read passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Debra Gunnerson thanked Tracy Cowden, Lisa Withers, and the faculty and staff at Virginia Tech for providing and supporting an excellent conference. She reported that 47 members from Virginia attended the 2009 National Conference in Atlanta. The goal for Virginia attendees at the 2010 conference in Albuquerque is 50. Nomination recommendations for Virginia's next MTNA Foundation Fellow should be given to Galla Matekova.

President-Elect Lisa Withers announced that the 2010 Fall Conference will be a collaborative endeavor with West Virginia and will be held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. Eric Ruple will be the on-site coordinator.

Vice President/Membership Chair Denise Adkins distributed reports outlining membership data as follows: 701 active members, 135 senior members, 27 student members, 1 star member, 57 new members so far this year, and a total of 864 members.

Treasurer Tracy Cowden provided copies of the proposed budget for the period beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011. There is a total of \$36,000 in CDs and \$10,000 in the checking account. President Gunnerson moved to accept the proposed budget as stated. The motion passed.

Certification Chair Martha Smith reminded the membership that a new method of certification will take effect on January 1, 2010. The old method may still be used until December 31, 2009. Whereas the old method allowed two years for completion after the initial application, the new method will allow one year. A PowerPoint presentation, "The New Face of Certification," can be found at www.mtnacertification.org. Virginia ranks 33rd in the nation for percentage of certified teachers. There are six newly certified members so far this year, two of whom utilized the administrative verification option.

Local Associations Chair Galla Matekova reported that six local chapter presidents and two chapter representatives attended the Presidents' Luncheon. There are four new chapter presidents.

Concerto Competition information was shared by President Gunnerson. The 2010 competition will take place on Saturday, April 24, at Virginia State University. The registration deadline is March 27, 2010.

Theory Test Chair Virginia Moore emailed a report to President Gunnerson thanking Fay Barss, Nancy Breth, Debbie Lamb, Lynn Redford, and Narciso Solero for checking the Y4 tests for 2010 for errors. She also thanked Marilyn Foreman of the Tidewater Chapter for helping to locate teachers who were willing to check the tests. Sample tests, keys, and CDs are now on the VMTA website thanks to Webmaster Jon Winsor. Lynn Kleiser announced that she had the Skills syllabus at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Galla Matekova moved that the General Membership vote on a proposal that local presidents no longer give oral reports at the Spring Conference. Instead, presidents will present reports at the presidents' luncheon during the Fall Conference and will submit written reports for posting on

(continued on page 3)

The Novus Via

CN/SMS



Minutes... (continued from page 2)

the VMTA website in the spring. Local presidents may add special announcements or concerns to the agenda for the Spring and Fall Conferences as needed.

2. Lisa Withers moved that the Spring Conference be replaced by a web conference on the first Saturday in June. She thanked Corky Sablinsky for hosting the event for the last several years. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Gunnerson will look into the idea of having a website review committee to deal with the issue of adding links to external sites to the VMTA website (such as flashcards to the VMTA Theory Test created by a VMTA member).
- State Collaborative Chair Tracy Cowden presented information on MTNA's "Year of Collaborative Music," which will kick off in March 2010 at the National Conference in Albuquerque and culminate with the International Day of Collaborative Music on Saturday, January 22, 2011. MTNA encourages localities and states to promote collaborative music by hosting events and writing articles. MTNA will put links to these items on its website. Tracy urges members to contact her with information about what individual studios and chapters are doing with collaborative music. MTNA supplies an Intermediate Chamber Music Database on the Recourses page of its website.
- Fay Barss presented the slate of officers for December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2011 as follows:

President – Lisa Withers
President-Elect – Gabriella Ryan
Vice President – Denise Adkins
Secretary – Sarah O'Brien
Treasurer – Tracy Cowden

The membership present voted unanimously to accept the proposed slate, after which the new officers were formally installed.

Lisa Withers adjourned the meeting at 4:52pm. ■

HMTA THEORY/SIGHT READING AND VALLEY DISTRICT AUDITIONS, 2010

HMTA Theory and Sight Reading Tests Saturday, March 6th

at James Madison University
9 a.m.–Noon
Room 318, Music Building

Postmark deadline for entries

Friday, February 12th

Entry forms available via email
from Pat Brady (bradypl@jmu.edu)

2010 Valley District Auditions

Saturday, April 24th

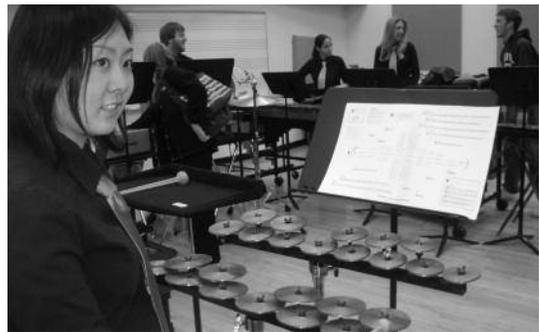
at James Madison University
beginning at 9 a.m.
Room 318, Music Building.

Postmark deadline for entries:

(forms on p. 18 of the 2008-9 VMTA Yearbook)

Friday, April 2nd

to Dr. Pat Brady
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Percussionist with score of "No Chance" by Thomas Albert
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Certification Profile: Anya Campbell

by Anne James, NCTM



In Texas, where Anya Campbell grew up, Ensemble teams present programs at each state convention. Each local MTNA chapter has an ensemble team which participates in concerts of duos, trios and larger ensembles every day during the Texas MTA meeting. Anya was a member of the Metroplex Music Teachers Association, located outside Fort Worth, and served as

Assistant Director of its Metroplex team. She was also Chairman of the Metroplex Fall and Spring Festivals for three or four years and helped with the theory test.

Growing up in Fort Worth Anya studied briefly with her piano teacher mother before beginning formal lessons at age 4 with Glenna O'Dell, a member of the Metroplex MTA. In high school she was a student assistant in Mrs. O'Dell's composition and theory camps, and after graduating, under the guidance of her teacher, she began teaching a few students. Her studio grew and she gained students while continuing to study privately.

Since moving to Richmond nearly four years ago Anya has taught first at the Talent Developing Studio and now at her home studio, where she teaches many elementary students as well as some in middle school and high school. "I enjoy teach-

ing all ages—and have taught a wide range. Diversity in the studio helps keep things exciting!

In her frequent group classes she offers theory games, music history, then a musicale. "Most importantly I want to foster the love of music and the sharing of music in every student—not one specific genre or style of music but appreciation and love of music across the board. I like to find out in the interview where each student's interests are, but we cover everything. I focus on a solid rhythmic foundation, which facilitates sightreading. There are frequent discussions of how to produce beautiful music and how to tell a story through that music."

An active accompanist as well as teacher, Anya studied piano for over two years with Russell Wilson. During the past year she has worked intensively in preparation for the certification process. She first passed hour-long exams in theory, music history and pedagogy, then completed the three-hour certification exam. "I wanted to have credentials to distinguish myself as a competent and qualified piano teacher."

In Richmond Anya is a member of the Richmond Music Teachers Association, where she assists with the theory testing. She has joined the Richmond Music Study Club and will enter students in the Junior Festival this year. ■

Visit VMTA's web site at www.music-usa.org/vmta

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Reports

VMTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Denise Adkins, VMTA Membership Chairman

As of October 31, 2009 VMTA has 701 active members, 135 senior members (indicating members who pay a reduced rate because of age), 27 student members and one Star member. So far this year VMTA has 57 new members. October 31 membership totals 864. ■

STATE CHAIR FOR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS VMTA FALL CONFERENCE, 2009

Galla Matekova, State Chair for Local Associations

The VMTA local association presidents met on Friday, November 6, 2009 for their annual meeting during VMTA Fall Conference at Virginia Tech University. VMTA has 12 chapters, six presidents and two representatives were present from Blue Ridge, Central Virginia, Charlottesville, Highlands, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke Valley and Tidewater.

After introductions of the chapters plans for the 2009/2010 school years and exchanging yearbooks, chairman thank Debra Gunnerson for her hard work and splendid leadership for these past two years as President of VMTA. Chairman also announce to Local Presidents to submit chapter reports electronically to *NewsNotes* Editor and to encourage young new professionals in the area become VMTA members.

Debra Gunnerson announce to all chapter presidents to present a 2010 MTNA Foundation Fund Fellow nominee.

There was sharing of idea from NVMTA president James Litzelman to move his chapter directory completely online and eliminate the printed version altogether, which gives the cost savings approximately \$3,000 of printing and mailing the directory to over 400 members.

Presidents were reminded about upcoming Spring MTNA National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico March 20-24, 2010. ■

VMTA CERTIFICATION REPORT NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Martha Smith, Certification Chairman

Six members of VMTA have become Nationally Certified Teachers of Music in 2009:

1. Lai-Lan Ko, Northern Virginia, March
2. Lisa Powell Carter, Portsmouth, March
3. MaryEllen Bock, Northern Virginia, July
4. Anya Campbell, Richmond, September
5. Noemi Szigeti Otto, Lynchburg, October
6. Cynthia Burch Ramsey, Lynchburg, October

In addition, I administered a Certification Exam for Alicia Derr, who subsequently moved to Utah and is now a member of Utah MTA.

The new "Teacher Profile" method for becoming certified takes effect January 1, 2010. While the standards remain the same, the new process involves documenting your teaching philosophy and videotaping your teaching. A power point presentation, "The New Face of Certification," can be found at www.mtnacertification.org. Once you apply, you will have one year to complete the five required projects. If you wish to apply for certification under the current rules, you must register by December 31, 2009; you will then have two years to complete the portfolio or take the Certification exam.

The renewal process has been streamlined. You will still have to accumulate renewal points, but you can sign your own documentation. From now on, NCTMs will renew their certification every year for a fee of \$15, rather than every 5 years for \$75. ■

FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

Debbie Sacra, VMTA Fall Festival Coordinator

Thanks to the hard work and devotion of the local MTA Chairmen and members, 822 students registered and 779 students participated in the five Fall Festivals across the state in 2009. There were 819 piano solos, 3 piano duets and 1 vocal entry. Thank you all for making the Fall Festival so successful! A detailed report is on file. ■

(continued on page 7)

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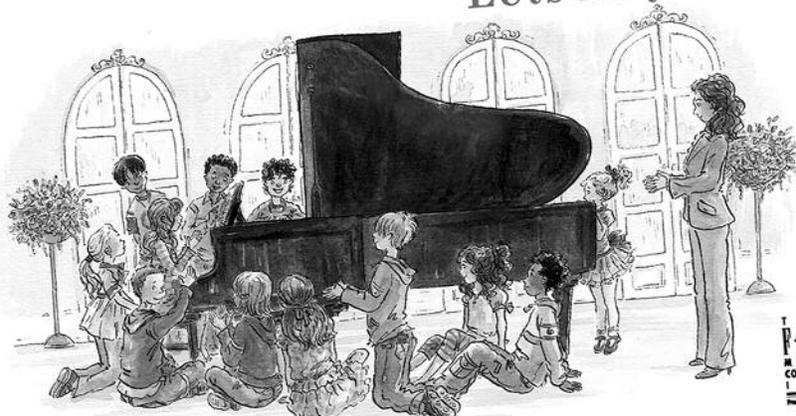
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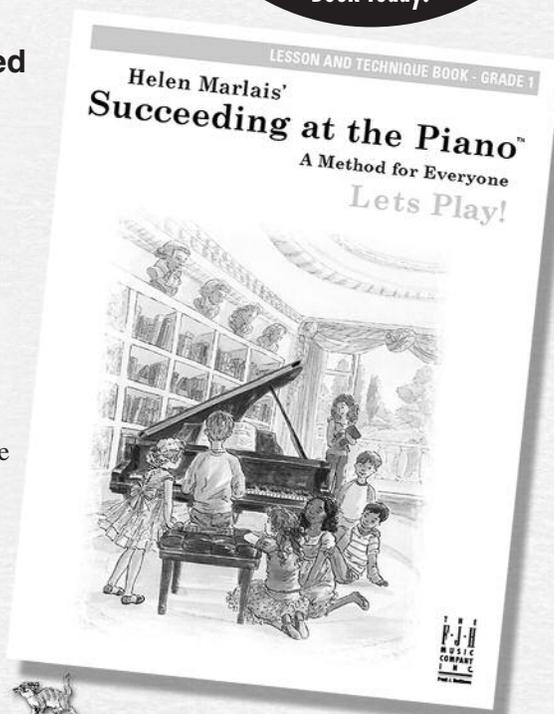


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This new and innovative method will be launched at MTNA and showcased by Dr. Helen Marlais on March 22, 2010 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Reports... (continued from page 5)

VMTA STATE AUDITION WINNERS—2009

Gabriella Ryan, VMTA State Auditions Chairman

The VMTA State Auditions were held on November 7, 2009 at the VMTA Conference in Virginia Technical Institute. There were 27 student entries from 17 teachers. Congratulations to all the winning students and their teachers!

Level 1A

1st Place—Lisa Qin; teacher: Paul Hanson

2nd Place—Michelle Yue; teacher: Josephine Jones

Honorable Mention—Lynne Bai; teacher: Natalya Vornovitsky

Level 1B

1st Place—Elizabeth Hu; teacher: Marjorie Lee

2nd Place—Alec Zhang; teacher: Rosita Kerr Mang

Honorable Mention—Melissa Zhu; teacher: Jolanta Szewczyk

Level 2

1st Place (tie)—Elizabeth Bell; teacher: Ruta Smedina-Starke

1st Place (tie)—Clara Guo; teacher: Rosita Kerr Mang

2nd Place (tie)—Eison de Guzman; teacher: Paul Hanson

2nd place (tie)—Alyssa Santos; teacher: Elizabeth Sjolund

Level 3

1st Place (tie)—Michelle Papenfuss; teacher: Yoshinori Hosaka

1st Place (tie)—Antonia Stabile; teacher: Nancy Breth

2nd Place (tie)—Destiney Kooiman; teacher: Suzanne Guy

2nd Place (tie)—Matthew Thurber; teacher: Paul Hanson

The judges were Kent Holliday from Virginia Tech, Nitza Katz from Radford University, and Louise Billaud from New River Community College. The judges did comment that the students played at a high level and very musically. The 1st Place winners performed in recital along with MTNA winners on Sunday, November 8th at Virginia Tech. On the same day, the 2nd Place VMTA winners performed in a Master Class with John Salmon from UNCG, the Guest Artist for the VMTA Conference.

In addition, Niccolo Seligmann, 1st place winner of Southern District (RMTA) in Viola da Gamba, student of Teresa Bjornes, performed in the Winners Recital. (There were no competitors in his instrument class at the State Auditions.) ■

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VMTA CONCERTO COMPETITION

Wanda M. Hall, NCTM, Chairman

The VMTA Concerto Competition will be held on Saturday, **April 24, 2010**, at Virginia State University, 1 Hayden Drive, Petersburg, VA 23806. The **postmark deadline** for the VMTA Concerto Competition applications is **March 27, 2010**, NOT April 1, 2010 as listed in the VMTA Yearbook. Please send your application and fee to Anna Ouspenskaya, 1319 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna, VA 22182-1304. ■



Tracy Cowden, Gabriel Dobner, Lori Plitz, Paulo Steinberg,
Eric Ruple at the VMTA Banquet, November 6, 2009.

Virginia Music Teachers Association

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM, *NewsNotes* Editor
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YEAR OF COLLABORATIVE MUSIC

Tracy Cowden, Collaborative Chairman

As the Collaborative Chair for VMTA, I would like to draw your attention to a very exciting opportunity presented by MTNA this year: the Year of Collaborative Music. MTNA's website states: "The Year of Collaborative Music will celebrate the importance of collaborative music making in society and in the profession worldwide. Begun by collaborative pianists within MTNA and led by significant national and international music associations, YCM will promote the diversity of ensemble playing opportunities available to musicians of all ages and skill levels. For this project, collaborative music is defined broadly as any activity involving two or more musicians, particularly one-on-a-part, non-conducted ensembles. The umbrella definition would include professionals, amateurs, families, retirees, students of all ages or any combination of interested musicians."

MTNA will be launching this celebration of the collaborative arts at the National Conference in Albuquerque this March, and the event will culminate at the National Conference in Milwaukee in March 2011. In addition to the yearlong celebration, MTNA has declared January 22, 2011 the International Day of Collaborative Music, and hopes to encourage simultaneous music making around the globe. Please read more about this at www.mtna.org, under the Programs menu.

I would like to encourage each of you, through your studios and/or your local associations, to become involved in promoting the collaborative arts. I know that many of you may already be promoting collaborative music-making or planning such events. One of my duties as the Collaborative Chair is to publicize such events, so please feel free to contact me with any questions or announcements: tcowden@vt.edu. If you have any thoughts about how VMTA could participate in the International Day of Collaborative Music, I am eager to hear your ideas.

As part of my first announcement, I would like to congratulate the Harrisonburg Music Teachers Association, which has decided to emphasize the collaborative arts this year. I was fortunate enough to give a presentation to the HMTA on "The 4 Cs of Collaboration" in September 2009, and they will be presenting a Collaborative Recital with their students on February 21, 2010. For more information regarding the recital, please contact HMTA President Kama Miller.

Also, the Staunton Music Festival will be presenting Springfest 2010 featuring the lieder of Schubert and Brahms. This event includes an opportunity for student piano/voice duos to participate in master classes and coachings with festival artists.

I am sure that we could add many events and activities to this list, so please contact me in time for submission to the next issue of *NewsNotes*. In the meantime, please be thinking of ways to promote collaborative music! ■