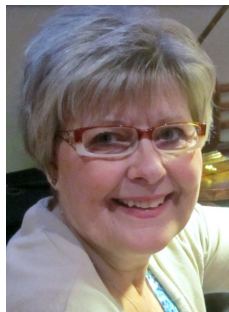


President's Corner



As you receive this *CLARION*, Thanksgiving is right around the corner. The air has gone from a hint of cool to *cold*, and you may be seeing students skipping up your walk surrounded with colorful leaves

blowing in the wind.....a sight to be *thankful* for!

I am *thankful* this year for the many intelligent, devoted and articulate teachers I come into contact with in WSMTA and in my own Spokane Chapter. It is truly a privilege to meet teachers who are more than wonderful teachers....they are also leaders in this organization and lend their ears and minds and ideas for the betterment of us all. I am so *thankful* for you all!

We and our chapters can also be *thankful* for the following:

Chapter Growth Awards available!

In our Board of Directors meeting recently, we voted to continue two awards we have been offering to chapters with the highest new member growth. The chapter with the highest *number* of new members and the chapter with the highest *percentage* of new members this year will be awarded \$200.00. And a new award was instituted this year! Chapters with the highest *number* of *non-keyboard* new members will be awarded \$200.00. We hope this will be great incentive for each of our local chapters to work at and be *thankful* for membership growth.

MTNA ~ Don't forget about the MTNA Grants and Awards. Go to MTNA.org. On the bottom left side of the home page, you can click onto links for detailed information.

If you want to make others *thankful*:
Sign up to help ~ It may still not be too

(Continued on Page 3)

BRAVO!

Leadership Seminar 2013

Members, leaders and friends of WSMTA attended an outstanding weekend in Yakima on September 28 – 29. The room was filled with smiles, collegial conversation, inspirational sharing and professional development. Our guest speaker, Jennifer Evans, provided information and education to help individual members, chapters and state leaders. Many of our leaders shared their program plans, and filled us in on the upcoming events at the local, state and national levels.

I want to thank Yelena Balabonova, Dianne Johnston, Debra Florian and Karen Hollenback for a truly inspirational presentation during our dinner on Saturday. My appreciation goes to everyone who contributed to the success of the weekend with particular gratitude to Laurie Eash, Robin Chadwick, and Judy Price.

The 2014 Leadership Seminar will include a WSMTA Adjudicator Conference – so plan ahead to attend next year – more inspiration and motivation coming your way!

Janice Smith
WSMTA President Elect

Coming Events



As I write this article, the entire state of Washington is being buffeted by strong winds and heavy rains. By the time you receive this, the peaks of the high mountains will be blanketed with snow, the fallen leaves will be thick on lawns, and we'll be well into the rainy season with snow to follow east of the mountains. What to expect in Cheney and Spokane in late June? This part of the Inland Northwest is a great area for summer gardening and late June is peak perennial season, with delphiniums, oriental poppies, and roses at their best. We often get our first consistently warm and sunny days in the third week in June, a bit ahead of the west side, with highs around 80 and lows in the low 50's. The conference will start just as we arrive at the summer solstice and its promise of many hours of light. If it's a normal June, look forward to strolling comfortably around the EWU campus in light clothing on your way to the fine array of concerts, sessions, and workshops or on your way to share a meal with friends you haven't seen since the last conference. EWU has a number of cafeterias on campus, mostly within 3 blocks or so of the Music Building, which offer a full array of soups, sandwiches and salads for lunch and heartier options for dinner. There are also a surprising number of nice restaurants in downtown Cheney – about ½ mile from the music building.

(Continued on Page 3)

WSMTA & Clarion Information

The CLARION is published 9 times during each public school year: Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April, May, and June. It includes membership news and announcements, as well as pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association.

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- Please submit articles to the Editor no later than the 1st day of the month preceding the publication date.

- Articles should be attached to an email message and will be accepted ONLY in the following file types: **MS Word 97 or later & Mac Pages.**

- **DO NOT USE ANY SPECIAL FORMATS OR INDENTS** other than ordinary paragraph returns.

- Indicate paragraph changes with a double space. Otherwise, use **SINGLE VERTICAL SPACING** and leave **TWO SPACES BETWEEN SENTENCES.**

**DO NOT SUBMIT ARTICLES
EMBEDED WITH HYPERLINKS.**

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Eastside Chapter Stephanie White's
new email address is:

eastsidemusicteachers@gmail.com

The Executive Manager's phone
number should be corrected to match
the one in the left column of this page:

360-459-3765

Please add "NCTM" to Moses Lake-
Central Basin Chapter President
Preta Laughlin's name.

Membership

Welcome New Members!

Seattle Chapter
Heather Howland

South King County Chapter
Brian Wharton

Spokane Chapter
Barry Smith

Tri-City Chapter
Tatyana Wright

Yakima-Ellensburg Chapter

President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

late to offer a hand at our MTNA Performance Competition or Outstanding Artist Competitions on November 9-10 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Also, our Division MTNA Performance Competition is January 10-12 at Reed College in Portland Oregon. We are thankful for many helping hands!

Out and About ~ In September I visited several wonderful chapters with great programs and ideas! Did you know:

Skagit Valley Chapter has honored their 12th grade students who participated in Adjudications for three years with a certificate and cash award? These teachers also play piano at Christmas time at a local retirement center or hospital.

The **Seattle Chapter** has an innovative fund raiser called "Cinco de Mayo Bunco", which is great fun and raises money for student scholarships!

Whidbey Island Chapter holds an Open House for possible new members. Last year's theme was Debussy's Birthday, complete with Birthday Cake, and lots of this composer's music.

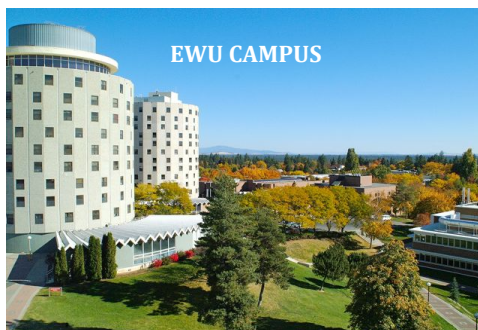
I also visited **MTNA's headquarters in Cincinnati** for the Leadership Summit they sponsor. I gained many new ideas, lots of information about our national affiliate, and became acquainted with many state Presidents who are busily serving the teachers in their states. And last but not least, our state **Leadership Seminar** in Yakima was a wonderfully organized (thanks Janice Smith!) 24 hours in which Chapter Presidents, Board members and Committee chairs gathered to share ideas and hear a wonderful speaker, Jennifer Evans.

Autumn is indeed a busy time, but also a time to be *thankful* for students who practice, for exciting pieces to teach, and for colleagues who inspire and challenge us! I am wishing you a terrific November!

Laurie Eash, NCTM
WSMTA President

Coming Events

(Continued from Page 1)



WSMTA Conference 2014 "Inland Intermezzo at EWU"

(Maybe not so surprising, since what college kid likes to cook?) If Washington has endured its usual cool and showery spring, look forward to spending a few minutes each day basking in the sun in the park-like central campus of EWU between honors recitals or after browsing through stacks of music. Write off that experience as part of your personal "Inland Intermezzo". Start making your plans to attend now. June 22-26.

Greg Presley, NCTM
Publicity Chair
WSMTA Conference 2014

2013 WSMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions November 9th and 10th, 2013 Central Washington University Ellensburg

COMPETITION SCHEDULES

Saturday Nov. 9th, 2013

Concert Hall:

8:00am-6:30pm - Senior Piano

Band Room:

1:00pm-2:00pm - Junior woodwind

2:55pm-4:30 - Senior Woodwind

5:00pm-6:00pm - Senior Voice

Choir Room:

8:30am-10:30am - Chamber Music Strings

12:00pm-6:30pm - Junior Strings

Sunday Nov. 10th, 2013

Concert Hall:

7:55am-12:00 - Junior Piano

1:25pm-2:45pm - Senior Piano Duet

2:55pm-6:35pm - Young Artist Piano

Band Room:

8:25am-1:10pm - Senior Strings

Choir Room:

11:00am-12:30pm - Senior Brass

COMPETITION TEACHERS: If you have not yet sent in your Teacher Entry Fees, please do so right away. This is a required fee.

Mail the form and check to:

Yunbo Cassady
6130 147th PL SE
Bellevue WA 98006

WSMTA MEMBERS: Did you know this competition is open to the public? Come to hear amazing performances! Bring students along! Better yet, VOLUNTEER to help our competition run smoothly! We need monitors, timekeepers, registrars, and hospitality providers! Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the premier competition in Washington state. Call or email: 425-644-6110 or conanima63@gmail.com.

Yunbo Cassady
MTNA Performance Competition Chair

Program Reports

Young Composers Project

What It Is: The YCP offers an educational opportunity for students to receive evaluations of their original compositions. Each entrant receives written comments from a WSMTA-approved adjudicator. YCP also sponsors an annual Winners Recital at the state conference, featuring a performer from each grade or entry level.

Who May Participate: YCP is open to all students from kindergarten through college including students of teachers who are not members of WSMTA (they pay an extra fee).

How to Register: The Rules and Guidelines and Entry Form for the 2014 Young Composers Project have been posted on the WSMTA website (wsmta.org) This document provides detailed instructions about how to register. When you reach the WSMTA homepage, scroll over to "ABOUT" at the top of the page, and then scroll down and click on "Forms". The YCP is the 5th category on this page. Click on "Rules and Entry Form" to bring up the document for printing. Each entry must have a separate entry form (even if one student is submitting two pieces).

Registration deadline: Teachers must mail their students' entries. All entries from one teacher are to be sent to-

gether, postmarked on or before **Tuesday, February 18, 2014.**

Registration fee: \$20-\$35, depending on the age of the student (very similar to the cost of adjudications):

Resources: Many new composition curriculums have become available in recent years. For younger students, check out *Creative Composition Toolbox* by Wynn-Anne Rossi. Another fantastic resource is Wendy Stevens' website entitled "*Compose Create.com*. <http://www.composecreate.com/tips-and-tricks-for-upcoming-composition-contests/>

Logistics: Plan ahead if you want to do this, just as you would prepare students for adjudications. Students are evaluated on the musical form, accuracy and completeness of their score, in addition to creative elements. It can take many drafts before the student's final copy is free of errors and ready to submit for evaluation.

Tips: If score is hand-written, be sure student uses a strait-edge for all stems, measure bars, etc. and to line up notes in more than one clef. Allow time to do a meticulous review of the score before the mailing deadline. This is as important for manuscripts produced on a computer as it is for those that are hand-written. Be sure that the student takes responsibility for all changes and corrections to the score (with the exception of the primary-level entrants who may dictate their piece to their teacher.)

Questions: Krista Seely, WSM TA YCP Chair - ks88keys@gmail.com or 206-335-3384.

Education

CERTIFICATION CORNER

There is some exciting news this month in the area of certification.

First, two of our members have received their **certification in piano: Sarah Silvia, NCTM** (South King County, Kitsap County and Seattle), and **Rose Freeman, NCTM (Spokane)**.

Congratulations to both of you! As of August 31 (the most recent numbers available as of this writing) WSM TA now has 198 certified members.

Second, a certification grant has been awarded to Rachel Ann Preston (Snohom-

ish) who is beginning her work on certification. Congratulations to her on taking this step in her professional career.

Third, at the July Certification Board of Directors meeting a motion was passed that reduced the fee for certification for collegiate members. They will receive a 50% discount on the regular certification application fee. So if you know of collegiate members who have been considering applying for certification, please pass on this good news and encourage them to start the process.

And to help everyone with the cost of applying for certification, WSM TA still has 5 certification grants of \$100 available. Please contact me if you would like more information about the simple application process.

Have a wonderful month and Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

Karen Hollenback, NCTM
WSMTA Certification Chair
425-228-1110
karen.hollenback@gmail.com

Enrichment



What's So Great About Taking Private Lessons?

I've always wanted to play tennis. Tennis looks fun and it looks pretty easy to learn. You can look up how to hold the racket and learn the rules of the game on the internet. If you can run and keep your eye on the ball, and practice a lot, it should be pretty simple, right? Wrong.

How I wish that I had had the opportunity to learn tennis the right way and to get off on the right track! Learning to play an instrument is much like learning to play tennis-impossible to do really well on your own. The best advice I can give to anyone of any age who wants to play an instrument is to find a good private teach-

er. But if parents never had a good experience with taking lessons they can be hesitant to take the plunge.

Experienced teachers have probably already heard most of these parent "excuses." The next time it happens, **arm your-self with these great reasons to have private music lessons:**

Parent: "Shouldn't my child show talent before he begins lessons?" For most people, the problem isn't lack of talent. The real problem is lack of opportunity, training, and the encouragement we need to develop the talents we *are* born with. Take superstar golf pro Tiger Woods for example. No doubt he was born with athletic ability, but he also had passion for his sport and a dad who acted as his teacher and devoted himself to developing his son's talent. Would he have broken as many records if his father hadn't been a great teacher? We'll never know because Tiger Woods grew up with the perfect combination of talent, training, and encouragement.

Parent: "She doesn't seem to pick up on music so fast. Don't all musicians who are going to be really good show talent at an early age?" While there are a few budding Mozarts, most kids need time to mature, learn to practice, and even discover their best instrument. Although Beethoven's dad envisioned him becoming famous as a child like Mozart, even Beethoven was not a mature composer until he was in his thirties! Some kids who show talent at an early age fizzle out later if their talent is not backed up by lots of practicing. Talent might get you noticed but it won't keep you ahead. Why? **Because hard work beats talent every time.**

Parent: "Why can't she just learn by herself with a book?" Books may tell you how to finger the notes and count but they can't catch you when you make a mistake, coach you to get a good tone, or teach you to play musically. They can't check your posture and hand position or tell if you play out of tune. A book may be able to help you with some basics, but a private teacher is like a personal trainer who can collaborate with you to solve your individual problems and work with your own learning style. A book will never tell you to go home and practice more or hold a recital. Interactive DVDs and CDs are better than books because they give you a sound to imitate but still can never replace a real teacher and should

be used as a supplement to private lessons.

Parent: "Isn't playing in school band or orchestra enough?" Playing in school band or orchestra is a great way to meet friends, practice teamwork, learn new music, support your school, and sometimes even take exciting trips. But you'll notice that the kids who play best are almost always the ones who take private lessons.

While participating in your school music program can be great fun, it's hard to get the personal attention you need in a traditional band setting. Your poor band or orchestra conductor usually has a hundred kids to teach at one time and might not even hear you individually. He also has to teach all the instruments; if he's a trumpet player he may know everything about the trumpet but little beyond the basics for the clarinet. Only a private teacher who is expert on your instrument can give you the best help you need.

Parent: "You have to play in band a year or two first. Then if you stick with it I might be willing to pay for lessons." Should you try to learn math on your own for a couple of years before you get a teacher? Should you drive a car a couple of months before you have someone show you how? I hope not!

Parent: "I know you've been begging for piano lessons but you're only eight, I think we'll just wait until they teach you an instrument for free in school." How lucky to have a child beg for something other than computer games! If a child shows an affinity for a particular instrument, then that is the instrument she should play. Later on when school instrumental programs begin, if she wants to add or switch instruments the training she's had on piano will give her a head start and will have given her years of enjoyment.

Parent: "You take gym class at school and don't need private tennis lessons. Why would you need private lessons if you have music class at school?" If tennis was your passion, and you wanted to get really good, you would want to take private lessons. Being only in band limits you to the kind of music you can play and how good you will get.

Parent: "You don't practice enough to justify paying for private lessons." No one would expect you to study before taking a class. How can they expect you to

practice when you've never been taught how to practice? Or how much to practice? Or what to practice?

Parent: "I don't want to pay for private lessons. You're never going to be a professional musician, and lessons would be a waste of money." Private lessons help anyone who wants to learn an instrument the right way--for those who want to be music majors, and for those, both young and old, who want to play for fun. Do you only take golf lessons or join the football team because you're going to be a professional athlete?

Parent: "I'm already spending money on buying an instrument, I don't want to spend any more on lessons." What if you went to private school, would you not want to waste any more money by buying the books? After paying the admission, how much more would you learn in a museum by paying a few dollars more for the guided tour than by just cruising by the exhibits by yourself?

Parent: "I have to nag you about brushing your teeth, doing your homework and wearing clean underwear; I don't want to nag you about practicing. If you want to take lessons it has to be entirely your idea and you'll have to do it all on your own. The only thing I will do is write the check and provide transportation." Even if your child prefers clean teeth and underwear and good grades, parents have to sometimes step in to help because the end result is worth it. Some young musicians are entirely self-sufficient, but most of us mortals need more help. Providing music lessons, setting up a practice schedule and environment, coming to lessons, explaining concepts and encouraging your child will all help make your child stick with playing an instrument. Though it can be one of the hardest parts of parenting, it is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child and much more rewarding than reminding him to clean his room.

Parent: "I played the sax in high school. I can teach you how to play the clarinet. How hard can it be? You just put your lips together and blow. And think of all the money I'll save." Parents can be invaluable coaches, especially for beginner musicians but you need an expert on your instrument to take you beyond the basics. And even when you are an expert musician, children, especially in their teens--will find it a whole lot easier to

take direction from someone else. Keep the peace and get a teacher!

Parent: "You can learn to play the guitar on your own. All the great guitar players are self-taught." Sure, some rock and jazz players have never had private lessons but they've studied and studied the techniques of the great players who came before them. They had to become their own teachers, but why not start out lessons to overcome the initial hurdles then continue to zoom ahead to develop your style?

Parent: "We can save a lot of money by having her take lessons from the neighbor girl who has taken piano lessons for three years." Knowing how to play is a lot different than knowing how to teach. Would you want the teachers at your child's grade school to be kids from the sophomore algebra two class?

Parent: "Music lessons are just for students who are really serious." Private lessons are for anyone who wants to learn an instrument the right way, for those who want to be music majors and for those who just want to play for fun. Private lessons are for anyone who wants them and is willing to practice.

Parent: "Music lessons cost a lot and I would rather spend that money on a big screen TV. (Love those Seahawks!)" No comment.

Parent: "Sure, you may need a teacher to learn an instrument but who needs a teacher to learn how to sing? Everyone was born knowing how to sing." Even though you may be able to sing in the shower now, many young vocalists ruin their voice by using bad vocal technique. Voice lessons will teach you how to sight read, sing in tune, and much more!

Parent: "Can't he just learn to sing with an online course or DVD instead of a teacher? Online courses and DVDs are cheaper than private lessons, scheduling is easier, and you don't have to get off the couch." A simple cruise through the internet will let you see the outlandish claims made by some instrumental and vocal teachers and "learn- to -sing" DVDs meant to replace a living, breathing teacher:

- Learn to have perfect pitch after listening to our five DVDs!
- Learn to sing in the car!
- Add one octave to your range - guaranteed!

- Learn to sing like a pro in only three months!
- Guaranteed to teach you to sing like a star in ten easy lessons!

Do these claims sound too good to be true? They probably are. Books and DVDs may have tips and tricks, but nothing replaces a real live teacher who will tailor lessons to you, your learning style, and who can actually give you real feedback.

Parent: “I don’t think having music lessons will be worth the hassle.” You may be worried about the cost of the instrument or time constraints, but I promise you, the time and money you spend taking music lessons will be one of the best investments you will ever make and will bring you and your child closer. It may be a big sacrifice, but learning to play with a living, breathing teacher can be the difference between developing a lifelong passion and giving up in frustration.

What’s so great about having a private teacher?

1. Your private teacher can help you choose the right instrument for your playing level and your wallet.

2. You get out of the tough beginning stages faster. If you have a hard beginning and no teacher, you may be tempted to quit--or everyone who hears you may beg you to quit!

3. You’ll learn the right way from the very beginning. It’s very difficult to unlearn bad habits. Every time you play your instrument your mind is learning. Are you planting weeds or just flowers? If you play incorrectly you will have to spend more time pulling the weeds.

4. A good teacher will be a model and a watch dog for the way you hold your body and the way you hold your instrument which not only makes you look better, but makes you play better and avoid physical problems in the future.

5. A teacher will help you make practicing a daily habit. Knowing what to practice and that you have to perform for someone once a week helps you schedule your time. Weight Watchers knows this same trick by making you weigh in every week!

6. A teacher will help you practice the right way. Mindless practicing and practicing without a goal is a big waste of time!

7. You become motivated by your teacher. It’s hard to stay on track when you’re learning by yourself. Your teacher is your cheerleader.

8. So you think you can hear and analyze what you’re playing? A teacher will help you understand what is happening in the music--it won’t just be a big blur.

9. And once you can listen more carefully you will probably decide that what you are hearing isn’t as good as you thought!
A teacher will help you understand and maintain high standards and the sooner you get better, the sooner you will have fun.

10. A good teacher will help you when you get discouraged and give you concrete ways to get over the hump. A teacher will keep you interested and practicing.

11. You’ll meet other kids who play instruments who have the same interests and commitment as you. And parents, these are the kids you want your child to hang around with.

12. You’ll enjoy more musical opportunities through concerts, contests, parties, and ensembles.

13. A teacher that cares will become a mentor and a friend. One of the best things about having a private teacher is the personal relationship the two of you develop.

14. A good teacher will give you ideas to solve your problems if you want to quit.

15. A teacher will help you learn and understand the skills that will contribute to having a happy and successful life--and that should be music to your ears!

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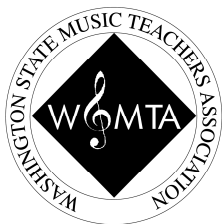
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DATES 'n DEADLINES

Nov. 9-11: MTNA Performance Competition, CWU, Ellensburg (see article)

Nov. 9-11: WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition, CWU, Ellensburg

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