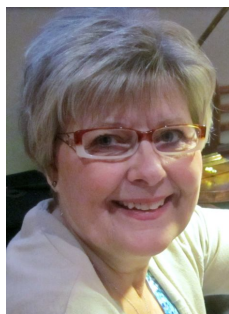


President's Corner



Happy Groundhog Day! While this may be a very minor event on our calendars, it can be a humorous milestone in the middle of our dark winter days. On February 2nd, I recall the movie "Groundhog Day" in which Bill

Murray plays a very self-centered weather man who covers the annual appearance of Punxsutawney Phil (the groundhog). Mysteriously, this weatherman begins to live the same day over and over again. We quickly figure out that he will not move on to another day until many of his bad character traits are improved upon. He cannot move on until he learns patience, acceptance, even love. As he finally "gets it", he begins to add events to his day that are self-improving. You may remember that he looks up the local piano teacher and begins lessons. Since each day is lived over and over, he gets in a lot of practice and a lot of lessons! Near the end of the movie, this "new and improved" character plays fabulously in a jazz combo with his very proud piano teacher looking on.

We all understand the lessons this movie teaches; that after we see the "error of our ways" and if we want to improve, we practice improvement.....over and over again. We make it a priority and we find a way to make things work for us. Why else would we, year after year, enter our students in Adjudications, Musicianship Exams and Ribbon Festivals? Certainly we see that not only do our students learn and develop and improve, but we ourselves learn, develop and improve.

Already in January, the first month of 2014, MTNA Northwest Division leaders gathered to volunteer in the Division level MTNA Performance Competition ... (Continued on Page 3)

BRAVO!

MTNA Northwest Division Composition Competition Winners

It is my great pleasure to announce the following winners of the MTNA Division Composition Competition:

Northwest Junior Composition

Winner: Christina Ding
Teacher: Sharon Van Valin

Northwest Senior Composition

Winner: Gabriel Soilau
Teacher: Barbara Miller

Northwest Young Artist Composition

Representative: Eric McElroy
Teacher: Patricia McElroy

*Bob Pajer, WSCTM, NCTM
Coordinator, Composition Competition*

MTNA Northwest Division Performance Competition Winners

Amazing music was heard in Portland on January 11-12th! The NW Division Performance Competition was held at Reed College. The Washington State winners and their teachers are:

Chamber Music String

Alternate: *Trio Andromeda* - Allion Salvador, violin; Alec Duggan, cello; Li-Cheng Hung, piano
Teacher: Melia Watras

Chamber Music Wind

Representative: *Equis Quartet* - Matt Birmingham, alto saxophone; David Decker, baritone saxophone; Soren Hamm, soprano saxophone; David Hoogkammer, tenor saxophone
Teacher: Fred Winkler

Junior Performance Piano

Winner: Millicent McFall
Teacher: Peter Mack

Junior Performance String

Alternate: Olivia Marckx, cello
Teacher: Leslie Marckx

(Continued on Page 3)

Coming Events



The conference committee has been hard at work these past few months looking at proposals for presentations and meeting with EWU catering and building personnel. It is in the process of drafting the schedule for the conference, which will be complete by the time you read this article. We are very excited about the treats in store. Some highlights below.

The Sunday evening banquet (June 22) will be held in a gorgeous venue: "the Library" in Hargreaves Hall. Massive paladian windows overlook a room filled with beautiful paneling and shelves lined with books arranged informally – like an English estate library. The room will be partitioned to give it a more intimate feel, depending on the number of people who attend the banquet. The banquet will be followed, as usual, by the state winners of the various MTNA competitions in concert.

We hope to be having the Sapphire Trio and the group "Tango Volcado" in concert on Monday evening. Tuesday we look forward to a recital by our guest artist/clinician, Theresa Bogard. Wednesday evening we are planning to have the Composer of the year and the winners of the Young Composer awards perform their wonderful new music. All of these concerts will take place in the newly renovated recital hall of the music building at EWU on the wonderful 9' Steinway the department recently obtained.

(Continued on Page 4)

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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- ❖ WSMTA WEBSITE INFORMATION
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CLARION Contributors:

- 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 EMBEDDED WITH HYPERLINKS.

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WSMTA President Laurie Eash's
street address is backwards;
should read: 1924 S Post

Under Education Board Committee Chairs:

Senior Coordinator for the MTNA
Competitions, Julie Howe's street address
is 522 128th Ave. SE, (not 18th Ave.) and
her ZIP code is 98005 (not 98006)

Young Composers Project Chair, Krista
Seely's phone number should be changed
to 206-335-3384

Membership

Welcome New Members!

Olympia Chapter
Eun Jean Hwang

Collegiate
Cynthia Ferry
Elena Isayev
Andres Jamarillo
Natasha Nay
Noel Ruiz

Fee Waivers

WSMTA offers a limited number of need-based fee waivers for membership dues and WSMTA conferences.

The dues waiver covers the WSMTA portion of MTNA dues. The recipient is still responsible for national and local dues.

The conference waiver covers the basic registration fee. Other meals, travel, lodging, etc., are not included. The Board of Directors also includes a \$100 stipend to help with those expenses. Deadline for applying is May 1.

If you wish more information please contact Diane Stober, 117 N. Franklin Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801 or <dalsegno1@aol.com>

*Diane Stober, NCTM
Fee Waivers Chair*

President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

... in Portland, OR. (See the list of winners on our web site and on pages 1 and 3). We thank **Jani Peterson, NCTM**, NW Division Director-Elect for chairing this event! Also in January, your WSMTA Board of Directors and Education Board have held their bi-annual meetings. We are working to improve, to carry on the programs that you, our members, use over and over again as you strive for improvement in your studios.

Another way our Board of Directors works at teacher and student improvement is providing money for scholarships. Our WSMTA Scholarship Fund provides money for students who need financial help in paying tuition, or for going to music camps or schools. Thanks to **Cinda Redman, NCTM**, for her work at raising money each year for these scholarships! **See form on page 6.** New this year, we offered financial help to needy students entering Adjudications. (The deadline for this new scholarship has passed; watch for it again next year!)

Out and About... My recent travels took me from a harbor on the west side to the farmer's fields in central Washington. I met teachers in the Gig Harbor Chapter and learned about their Festival of Piano Trios. For this event, students of any level are selected to participate. Violinists and cellists are hired to rehearse and perform with these students; an excellent experience in playing with an ensemble! I visited

Moses Lake Chapter, which was held in a farmhouse surrounded by beautiful frost covered fields. This warm and welcoming chapter held their annual Christmas meeting with a gift exchange, and a buffet of lovely holiday foods to share. These teachers and their students provide holiday music in two locations in downtown Moses Lake, which is an excellent way to advertise their chapter. They also were instrumental (no pun intended!) in raising money for a new piano for their local Civic Center.

In the midst of the dark and often dreary days of winter, I send wishes that the continuing progress and improvement in your studio lightens your days!

Sincerely,

*Laurie Eash, NCTM
WSMTA President*

BRAVO!

(Continued from Page 1)

MTNA Northwest Division Performance Competition Winners *(Continued from Page 1)*

Junior Performance Piano

Winner: Zoe Sheill, flute

Teacher: Bonnie Blanchard

Senior Performance Brass

Representative: Geoffrey McKay, trumpet

Teacher: Randy Hubbs

Senior Performance Piano

Winner: Christopher Lu

Teacher: Peter Mack

Senior Performance String

Winner: Audrey Chen, cello

Teacher: Kai Chen

Senior Performance Voice

Winner: Abigail Miles, soprano

Teacher: Darcie Fulkerson

Senior Piano Duet

Winners: Christopher Son Richardson,
Daniel Richardson

Teacher: Duane Hulbert

Young Artist Performance Piano

Alternate: Eric McElroy

Teacher: Gerald Berthiaume

Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Representative: Matt Birmingham, saxophone

Teacher: Fred Winkler

Many thanks go to NW Division Competition Chair **Jani Peterson, NCTM** for a beautifully organized event! We also thank Junior Coordinator **Stephen Allen, NCTM (Idaho)**, Senior Coordinator **Kristin Lenth (Wyoming)** and Young

Artist Coordinator **Mary Kay Owen, NCTM (Washington)** for their work on this competition! We are also grateful to **Deborah Cleaver** at **Reed College** for the use of their wonderful new Music Building.

*Laurie Eash, NCTM
WSMTA President*

Special Thanks to 2013-14 Washington State Composition Competition Judges

State Composition Competition judges perform a great service to students who enter the competition. They evaluate each composition that is entered and provide a detailed review of each student's work. There are no recordings of the scores. All scores are sent to the judges electronically. Students who enter receive their evaluations and an assessment of their work by a professional composer, which really is the heart of the competition.

All of our judges did an outstanding job. I would like to point out that this year we had one judge who for personal reasons could not complete work on the scores.

We had to find a replacement judge who, within the last four days of the deadline for sending the results to the Division level, would be able to complete the work. Judge Robert Lundquist graciously agreed to do the job during his busy schedule as a teacher and performer. He completed all 13 entries in four days! On behalf of the WSMTA and MTNA, thank you, Robert, for your extraordinary work and thanks to all the judges who participated.

Our judges this year were all from the State of Washington: Robert Lundquist, Pianist and Teacher, Bellingham; Jonathan Middleton, Professor, Dept. of Music, Eastern Washington University, Cheney; Scott Blasco, School of Music, Washington State University, Pullman.

*Bob Pajer, WSCTM, NCTM
Coordinator, Composition Competition*

Musicianship Exams for Strings! Pilot Program by Jane Melin

I am pleased to announce that I have completed an edition of the WSMTA Musicianship Exams for strings in the following areas:

Technique (Scales and Arpeggios): Levels 1-10 for violin, viola, cello, bass.
Sightreading: Violin only, Levels 1-10.

Theory: Modified from the Keyboard theory tests, treble clef (violin) only, Levels 1-8 (Levels 9 and 10 should take the Keyboard exam). **Listening:** Same as the Keyboard listening tests but with some questions omitted.

These Exams will be available as a pilot program at the KMTA Music Carnival. WSMTA is reviewing all the materials but will not be adopting them for statewide use in time for this year's Musicianship Exams. We have the opportunity at KMTA to use the materials, see how they work in actual application and help make revisions before they are released to a wider audience. (*Continued in March issue*)

Coming Events

(Continued from Page 1)

WSMTA Conference 2014 Inland Intermezzo at EWU®

Just a sampling of the member presentations we can expect at the conference include one on the piano music of Smetana, performances of two-piano music by women composers, learning to deal with performance anxiety, the role of the young professional in the music teaching business, classical music--an aural approach, delving into the mysteries of the bass line, is there any more to learn about Beethoven Sonatas?, comprehensive curriculum in piano teaching, how to continually honor the body as we practice, teach, and perform, technique for the young beginner, and several more. And of course, Theresa Bogard will be presenting a number of sessions - more on those in the months to come.

Start planning now to take advantage of all this conference has to offer you. In just a few short months, registration will begin. See you there!

*Greg Presley, NCTM
Publicity Chair
WSMTA Conference 2014*

Program Reports



MTNA Foundation News

I am happy to announce that our two Washington MTNA Foundation Fellow nominees for 2014—Patti Robertson and Margee Webster—have been funded in

full, thanks to your generosity. Patti and Margee will be honored at the Gala at the MTNA conference in Chicago in March. Plan to attend the conference and help them celebrate!

Remember that supporting the MTNA Foundation is a wonderful way to further music education in our state and in the country. Grants from the Foundation enable teachers, students, and local chapters to pursue goals that they might not be able to afford on their own.

Donations to the MTNA Foundation are welcome at any time, but an easy time to contribute is in April when membership is renewed. There is a space on the renewal form (online or paper) to give to the Foundation. By then our 2015 nominees will have been announced, and you can show your support for them and the Foundation programs by contributing.

The MTNA website includes much information about the Foundation and its programs, and I encourage you all to check it out.

*Robin Chadwick, NCTM
WSMTA MTNA Foundation Chair*

Commissioned Composer of the Year

Attention Composers: The WSMTA is looking for compositions for the 2014-15 Commissioned Composer of the Year award. The winning composition receives a \$1500 commission from WSMTA. Requirements for the winner include arranging for performance at the State Conference in June and the submission of scores and CD's to the state chair. Membership in WSMTA is preferred but not required. If you are interested or have questions please contact me at vielmusik@comcast.net. Scores and recordings are accepted via mail or electronically (links, pdf's etc.). Deadline for entry is July 1, 2014.

*Dr. Steve Nehrenberg, Chair
Commissioned Composers Program*

Education

STUDENT STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

Call for Student Study Grant Applications

Established ten years ago with a bequest from the Lois Whitner estate, the **WSMTA Student Study Grant** program will be accepting requests for applications for the 2013-2014 year. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for continued private study to music students who demonstrate financial need and who show serious commitment to music study. The following guidelines apply:

1. The grant is open to music students currently in **grades 8 – 11** (note change) who have studied a minimum of 4 years and whose teachers are members (of at least 12 months standing) of WSMTA.
2. The applicant will be considered on a basis of financial need and commitment to music study.
3. The applicant must have participated in WSMTA – sponsored adjudications.
4. Grants up to \$1,000 may be awarded. The applicant must explain specifically and in detail how the funds will be used. The grant will be for a period of not more than one year. Students may reapply in subsequent years by submitting another full application to the committee for consideration.
5. The grant may be used to offset the cost of music lessons, theory, or composition classes, or tuition for music camps.
6. The grant will be sent directly to the teacher or camp/program director.

If you have a student who qualifies you may download an application from our website at: www.wsmta.org Click on "forms."

For further information contact me at cchungate@comcast.net or 206-232-0117. Application deadline is May 1, 2014.

*Connie Hungate, WSCTM
Grants & Scholarships Chair*

CERTIFICATION CORNER

The world is in transition it seems: in general, in my personal life, and in my professional life.

We are moving now to longer days and by the time you read this we will be thinking about spring! While there is still wet,

dreary weather I can picture the red tulips and yellow daffodils. But, as I write this I am getting ready to take down the Christmas decorations and pack them away. The after Christmas sales are going strong and many people are still on vacation. The days feel unsettled without the "normal routine."

Personally, in the last month I have welcomed a new granddaughter and said goodbye to my mother who died in December. Joy filled, tear filled moments all at the same time.

In my professional life, my studio seems to be a revolving door of students. I sadly said goodbye to a family of three students who moved away in December. I am welcoming two new families to the studio in January. We are also transitioning from the music of the holidays to the adjudications/competitions repertoire.

There seems to be a lot of newness and unfamiliarity filling my days.

As I talk with colleagues who are going through or have gone through the certification process, they seem to mirror the feeling of newness, uncertainty and unsettledness that the journey can bring. As Rosabeth Moss Cantor, a professor at Harvard Business School, has said "The middle of every successful project looks like a disaster."

However, all the colleagues who have completed certification and shared reflections about their journey have expressed the conviction that it was well worth it. They have come out the other side of the certification process with new insight, new understanding and new learning about their chosen path of music teacher.

So, congratulations to **Mary Beth Denzer (Tacoma)** and **Christine Miller (a non-member)** who were both certified in piano and have completed the certification journey. Congratulations also to **Patti McElroy** who has been awarded a certification grant and is beginning the certification journey. (WSMTA still has 4 certification grants available...contact me for more information.)

WSMTA leads the way nationally in the number of newly certified teachers. So, as we begin the New Year, congratulations to all those teachers who have obtained certification in the 2013 calendar year (9 of you!) and to those teachers who have received grants this year (4 of you!).

So here's to newness, unfamiliarity and unsettledness...a sure sign of growth!

As always let me know if I can help you in any way with certification.

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

Enrichment

Arts Awareness & Advocacy

Is an Adjudication a Destination?

What is the best compliment you like to hear someone say about you? How you look? What kind of a teacher you are? Maybe what kind of a person you are? Compliment you on your students' quality of playing and preparation?

If you ask me, I like all of those compliments! But are they the goal or just a "cherry on top" of our everyday work with students? Why do we do what we do?

As the season of adjudications and competitions quickly approaches, I find that I have to remind myself and my students more and more: we are on this journey together and the adjudication performance is not an end or a destination. It is just a moment in time to reflect on the past travel and to see the future itinerary more clearly. The "deadline" to get ready for a performance sounds like what it is: a "dead" line of something coming to inevitable ending. That is not how I want my students to feel about their performance preparation. The final polish and performance practice are steps to their growth as artists, their imagination is coming to life, and their goal to tell a story through music is becoming a passion.

Every year I have the privilege to adjudicate in three or four WSMTA chapters all over our state. Quite exhausted and often losing my voice at the end of an adjudicating day, I often feel inspired and energized by communicating with students and teachers. I feel honored to be invited to join them on their musical and often personal journey even if it is for just 12 minutes. One of the most important questions I ask myself when adjudicating is "How do I want this student to be changed after our session together has ended?", "What is one most important

point I want this student to remember and do?"

A teacher's journey alone can be enjoyable but often it might become confusing and discouraging. An adjudicator is your partner on the journey of music making and helping to raise a student to the new heights. Yes, "it takes a village to raise a child". In our profession, it takes more than just our own efforts to raise a student.

The winning competition performance can easily become a distraction to students and parents. Is that the goal of all this hard work? Or is a competition performance just a step to the next challenge? Is it a step and a pause before turning the new page in their musical journey and adventure? I explain to my students that the completion of working on their pieces is at the same time an opening of a new door to start the next adventure.

The WSMTA adjudication program is unique in its magnitude and quality of organization. Dorie Guidon, our WSMTA adjudication Chair, and Janice Smith, past Adjudication Chair and current President Elect work tirelessly to ensure the program runs smoothly and in the best way possible to help teachers and students to succeed. Your feedback is very helpful to both adjudicators and adjudications organizers.

Are you ready for your teaching journey and adventure this year? It may take you somewhere unexpected and new. You may even hear an entirely new compliment! Just ask an adjudicator!

*Yelena Balabanova, NCTM
Arts Awareness & Advocacy Chair*

IMTF Corner

What's So Great About Taking Private Lessons?

This article gives you a quick answer for parents who question the value of having a private teacher but it can also help you remember the value of what we give to our students to make them realize their potential as musicians and as people. When people ask you, "How much do you make as a music teacher?" you can answer with a smile, "I make a difference!"

Continued from the Dec. CLARION

8. So you think you can hear and analyze what you're playing? A teacher

WSMTA Scholarship Fund Contribution Form

Please contribute to the 2014 WSMTA Scholarship Fund.
Fill out this form along with your check payable to *WSMTA Scholarship Fund* and mail to:

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WSMTA Scholarship Fund Chair
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A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

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!**

Bonnie Blanchard-Romain, NCTM
IMTF Chair

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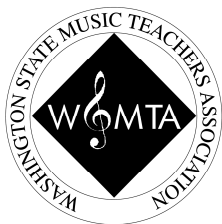
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For 33 years, **Music for Young Children®** has been providing the best quality music education to young children by blending the pleasure and the joy of music making with sound instruction. **MYC®** teachers meet specific piano performance and music theory qualifications, and receive special program training to ensure a consistently high music education standard. We provide teachers with a close network of support and professional development through head office, regional coordinators, advertising and marketing, web seminars, and online training. Discover why **Music for Young Children** is one of the world's leading music programs for young children.

Teaching opportunities are available! Please contact: Wendy Guimont
MYC Coordinator at 1.800.828.4334 mycwest@gmail.com





Washington State Music
Teachers Association
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Olympia, WA 98516

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DATES 'N DEADLINES

Feb. 17: Deadline for Young Composers Project entries.

March 1: Deadline for submitting Chapter of the Year applications.

March 22-26: MTNA Conference in Chicago.

June 22-26: WSM TA Conference at EWU

**Plan now to go to the 2014
WSMTA Conference in Cheney:
*Inland Intermezzo
at EWU***

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see The CLARION in full color!**