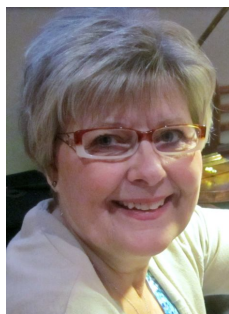


The CLARION

VOL. LXVII, NO. 2

Oct., 2014

President's Corner



Have you ever had doubts about the importance of what you do for a living? About the importance of the *passion* you have for the subject you teach? Have you ever had confirmation that yes, what you do is immensely important? I think we may all have had these thoughts and experiences.

I have had this experience several times....enough times to feel that this is universal. I've been to many a party or gathering where most of the attendees were professionals of one sort or another. As people inevitably asked "What do you do?" I would answer "I'm a piano teacher". And do you know what? Time after time, the inquisitive person would turn to me and say "Oh!!! I love piano/flute/string/horn/vocal music! I wish I hadn't talked my mom into letting me quit!" Or, "Do you know, I can still play 'The Spinning Song'!" (Every male of a certain generation learned and never forgot that song!) The remembrances of their short experience studying music would make them beam with pleasure. This would be followed by expressions of admiration and then more regrets for a lost opportunity. This makes one feel that music is at the very heart of our souls.... that somewhere deep inside, music can express what words or even thoughts cannot.

You may remember similar experiences you've had when you need bolstering. You know, when discouragement sets in and parents don't appreciate you enough to even pay you on time, or when sports participation takes the number one place in your talented student's schedule.

(Continued. on Page 3)

Coming Events

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A



Exciting News!!!

We have not just one but . . . TWO very special guest artists joining us for our birthday celebration.

Nelita True and Alan Chow

We are bringing back a NW favorite! *Nelita True* will be joining us once again, along with another special guest, *Alan Chow*. Alan was a student of Nelita's and they are both very excited to be here together. In the planning stages is a recital by Alan, master classes and sessions by both and even a joint session. *Double the fun!!*



Since **Nelita True** made her debut at age seventeen with the Chicago Symphony and her New York debut with the Juilliard Orchestra, her career has taken her to major cities all over the world. She was a visiting professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, performing and conducting master classes and has been in the People's Republic of China more than 20 times for recitals and master classes.

Ms. True, currently a Professor of Music at the Eastman School of Music, has received five major music achievement awards, which includes the 2002 Achievement Award from the Music Teachers National Association. She is described in *Clavier Companion*, as "One of the world's most sought-after and beloved pianist-teachers."

(Continued. on Page 3)



Acclaimed for his "elegant poetry and virtuosic fire," **Alan Chow** has won First Prize in the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the UCLA International Piano Competition, and the Palm Beach Invitational International Piano Competition. Winner of the Silver Medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, he was also a prizewinner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition.

A Steinway artist, Professor Chow has performed in recital and in concert with orchestras from coast to coast in 45 states. Concerto performances include appearances with the National Symphony, Utah Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Tulsa Philharmonic, Kansas City Symphony, and Omaha Symphony.

(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 EMBEDDED WITH HYPERLINKS.

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Membership

Welcome New Members!

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Angela Draghicescu
David Done
Mayumi Tayakel

Puyallup Valley

Amy Onstot

Snohomish County Chapter

Susan Arnold
Grace Stowell

Spokane Chapter

Marin Ramey

Associate Members

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Cornish College of the Arts
Henry Bischofberger Violins, LLC
Musikgarten
Eastern Washington University
Washington Music Educators Assoc.



WSMTA Treasurer, Patti Robertson's
email has changed to:
parpiano2@gmail.com

WSMTA can bolster your spirits! Membership and participation in our organization boosts your level of professionalism in many ways with the opportunities it gives you and your students. You can and should be very proud of your affiliation with Washington State Music Teachers Association.

Our fall competitions are coming up. The deadlines for the MTNA Performance competitions, MTNA Composition competitions and the Outstanding Artist Competition are past, but volunteers are needed. If you have a student in one or both of these competitions, you might consider helping out as an outside monitor. Other teachers would be appreciated as monitors or inside timekeepers as well.

Please see following articles for more information.

Website – I encourage all to log on to our website! Consider it our “house” and tour all of the rooms! You will benefit by familiarizing yourself with the site. As we continue to work on developing this wonderful tool, we realize it is a contemporary way to communicate, and to simplify registrations for our various programs. **Jani Peterson, NCTM** and **Judy Price, NCTM**, deserve many thanks as they work to enter information onto the website. And we can never thank **Janice Smith** enough as she has devoted 2 years of her time as the liaison between WSMTA and our website developers. Thanks also to website committee member **Patti Robertson, NCTM** and former committee member **Dianne Johnston, WSCTM** for their wise counsel. And lastly, thanks to **Dorie Guidon**, who has worked tirelessly to implement Adjudications on the website.

Out and about... The *CLARION* deadline means that I can't share my visits and travels with you yet, but next month I hope to have many ideas and stories to share. I look forward to the upcoming MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati, and our own Leadership Seminar in Yakima. Stay tuned!

Best wishes to all as you forge ahead in your studios this fall! Remember, what you do is life changing and of great value!

Sincerely,

*Laurie Eash, NCTM
WSMTA President*

Ms. True has been a jury member for many international competitions, including Dublin, China (Beijing), Shenzhen, Queen Sonja (Oslo), Gina Bachauer, New Orleans, Hilton Head, William Kapell, and many others.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan as a student of Helen Titus, Ms. True went on to Juilliard to study with Sascha Gorodnitzki, and then earned the DMA with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory. In Paris, she studied with Nadia Boulanger on a Fulbright grant.

A series of four videotapes, “Nelita True at Eastman,” featuring her performances, lectures, and teaching are currently being seen on five continents. She has been featured in articles in *Clavier*, *Piano Today*, *The European Piano Teachers' Journal*, and is the subject of cover stories in *Keyboard Companion* and *Clavier Companion*.

*Jani Peterson, NCTM
WSMTA 2015 Conference Committee*

WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition

**Friday - Saturday - Sunday
November 7- 9, 2014**

This year's competition will be held at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Senior competitors, ages 15 - 18 and Junior competitors ages 11- 14 will be competing for cash awards.

The competition was established in 2005 to provide an additional performance opportunity for talented pianists from our state. It runs concurrently with the MTNA Competition, but is not part of the MTNA Competition. The Outstanding Artist Competition may serve as a positive initial step for students wanting to compete in the MTNA Performance Competition in future years.

Registrations were due by Sept. 10, 2014, so students are in the midst of preparing for this event. The level and breadth of their performances are always wonderful to hear. Consider volunteering for this event so you can enjoy their music! Contact me at onahappynote@comcast.net if you'd like to be included as a volunteer.

Patti Ray, NCTM, OAC Chair

Professor Chow regularly tours Asia with performances in China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore, including performances with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Pan-Asia Symphony. An avid chamber musician, he has collaborated with the American, Pacifica and Miami String Quartets and has been guest artist at several renowned music festivals throughout the U.S. In addition, he appears in joint recital engagements in the Cheng-Chow Trio with pianists Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow.

A revered teacher, Chow has taught master classes at universities, conservatories and summer festivals throughout Europe, Asia and North America. He was appointed guest professor at the Central Conservatory in Beijing and honored visiting professor at the Shenyang Conservatory. He is currently a member of the artist faculty at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music.

Professor Chow studied with Nelita True at the University of Maryland where he graduated Co-Valedictorian with his twin brother Alvin, and received the Charles Manning Prize in the Creative and Performing Arts given to the outstanding graduate; with Sascha Gorodnitzki at The Juilliard School and with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University.

*Jani Peterson, NCTM
WSMTA 2015 Conference Committee*

MTNA Performance Competitions

**November 7 - 9, 2014
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA**

The MTNA Performance Competitions are just over one month away. Teachers and students are busy making their final preparations. These competitions are open to the public, so consider attending, and/or bring or send some students to listen to some really inspiring performances.

We always need lots of helpers at this event. There are many tasks, including time keeping, monitoring performance venues and the registration desk, and providing hospitality to performers and teachers. If you can help, I'd LOVE to hear from you! Email ks88keys@gmail.com or

call me: 206-335-3384. Consider lending a hand for a day, a few hours, or for the entire weekend.

A reminder to teachers with students registered: If you haven't already done so, please pay your WSMTA teacher fee by going to this link: <https://wsmta.org/mtna-teacher-fee/>

Special thanks to WSMTA website gurus Janice Smith and Jani Peterson for making this step easier than ever by making it possible to pay online. No more need to track down the checkbook, envelope, stamp, address, etc. etc. Just a few keystrokes and, voila – you're done!

I'll see you in Ellensburg,

Krista Seely

MTNA Competitions Chair

Education

CERTIFICATION CORNER

I have two yellowwood trees in the front of my house right along the driveway. They are beautiful this time of the year with big bright yellow leaves. As the leaves fall I try to keep them raked up because when the rains hit they turn to ugly mush. This may be the last year I will enjoy them however as their roots appear to be further cracking a 40 year old driveway. Decisions will need to be made about replacing the driveway and selection of new plantings.

This sounds like my studio teaching this year. My students are like the trees, big, bright and beautiful. But, if I don't do my work (selecting music, checking theory, encouraging good technique, etc.) they will turn to ugly mush. Some of them will be leaving the studio at the end of the year, and then I will need to make decisions about new students... Does this sound like your teaching life?

I know that when I start the concrete replacement/re-landscape project I will be learning new things and consulting with "experts."

This is analogous to the certification experience through MTNA...building on things you already know, evaluating your teaching practices, and consulting with your colleague experts, learning some new things along the way. Just like any project it will take time and have its un-

expected challenges. But isn't that the learning process in a nutshell?

WSMTA congratulates two members who recently completed national certification in piano: Yuko Furman (Kitsap County) and Risa Jun (East-side). If you are currently working on certification (or have gotten detoured) consult with your newly certified colleagues for some additional insight into the process and encouragement. If you are considering beginning certification they are also a great resource for answers to your questions.

There are also seven certification grants from WSMTA available to reimburse \$100 of the MTNA certification application fee. After submitting your application to MTNA to begin the certification process and paying the application fee, contact me about applying for a grant. (Once NCTM is obtained you are no longer eligible to receive a grant.)

As always, if you have certification questions don't hesitate to email or call me...

Enjoy those fall projects and the beautiful leaves!

Karen Hollenback, NCTM

WSMTA Certification Chair

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Program Reports

Young Composers Project

WSMTA 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 (there is an additional fee for non-members).

How to Register: There is a big change this year regarding YCP registration for WSMTA members: For the 2015 Young Composers Project, members will register online. The composition entries will still be mailed (in a single mailer per

teacher) as in the past. The online form will be available later this year so be sure to check the WSMTA website. Specific registration information will also be announced in *The Clarion*. The 2015 Young Composers Project Rules and Guidelines are posted on the WSMTA website (wsmta.org) under "Programs for Students" > "Competitions" > "Young Composers Project". The registration form for non-members is available on the same web page as the Rules and Guidelines.

Registration Deadline: Teachers must mail their student's entries. All entries from one teacher are to be sent together, postmarked on or before **Tuesday, February 17, 2015**.

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 "[Compose createcompose.com](http://compose.createcompose.com)" (there are several composition sections under "blog").

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 the score is hand-written, be sure your student uses a straightedge for all stems, bar lines, etc. Also, make sure to align notes in more than one clef. Allow time for a thorough 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: Carol Karlak, WSMTA YCP Chair, c.karlak@comcast.net or 425-736-7327.

Musicianship Exams for Strings

The Kitsap chapter of WSMTA deployed the newly revised-for-strings Set 2 of the WSMTA Musicianship Exams at our Music Carnival event last April. About 20 strings students participated in this pilot

program. The Set 1 Strings exams are being prepared for use this year statewide. Some of the exams are available only for violin students until a low-strings teacher comes forward to revise exams for those instruments.

The strings versions of the exams are in the following areas:

- Technique (Scales and Arpeggios): Levels 1-10 for violin, viola, cello, bass
- Sight-reading: 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. Can be taken by all strings students.
- The standard rhythm exams can be used by students of all instruments and they have not been edited.

The American String Teachers Association Certificate Advancement Program (ASTACAP) 10-level technique and repertoire syllabus was consulted as a set of established leveling criteria that is already being used nationwide. The ABRSM 8-grade syllabus was also consulted and requirements for each level were combined from these two sources. Where there was a discrepancy, the least-rigorous standard for each level was retained.

A Musicianship Exam Curriculum Guide for strings/violin has been prepared to describe the skills and theory knowledge that will be needed for students to successfully complete each level's exams. It will be posted on the WSM-TA site along with other exam-prep resources. I would be happy to field questions about the material to be covered in the exams, and could work with a volunteer to develop low-strings versions for future years.

Jane Melin, NCTM
WSMTA Strings Musicianship
Exam Editor

Enrichment



Rather than discuss new piano solos available this month, I would like to discuss some new books that are available for music teachers:

1. ***The iPad Piano Studio*** by Leila J Viss, Alfred Publishing Company. Leila Viss has operated an independent music studio in Denver since 1990 and she herself admits that she is "unashamedly infatuated with the iPad and the variety of apps and learning tools it provides." As 21st century music teachers, we need to know what students of today are using in school and at home, and learn how to incorporate these tools into our studios. Leila provides a clear comprehensive survey in layman's terms on how to do just that.

2. ***Playing Beyond the Notes, A Pianist's Guide to Musical Interpretation***, by Deborah Rambo Sinn, Oxford University Press. How I wish I had had Deborah's book when I was a beginning teacher years ago! This book should be in every teacher's library! It is clearly organized so that you can either refer to a specific interpretive area or read from cover to cover. Deborah includes multiple examples of each idea she presents. Her text is very understandable. Congratulations to WSM-TA's own Deborah Sinn on such an outstanding contribution to piano pedagogy!

3. ***Chopin and Beyond, my extraordinary life in music and the paranormal***, by Bryon Janis with Maria Cooper Janis, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. This was such an interesting book! Personally I love to read biographies or autobiographies, and this book is no exception. Rather than give you any clues about what Bryon means about the paranormal, I will let you read the book! Bryon gave an extraordinary interview at the Chicago MTNA Conference in March, 2014.

4. ***The Little Girl in the Yellow Dress: A Musical Memoir Digging for the Roots of Performance Anxiety***, by Nancy Kaesler, available from Amazon.com. It was difficult to put this book down once I began to read this personal story of Nancy's musical journey, and the pitfalls of performance anxiety and how she overcame them. The book is also a wonderful instructional guide for performers and teachers on ways to nurture students' creativity without destroying their musicianship and self esteem. Nancy is a retired piano teacher, past president of Colorado State Music Teachers Association, adjudicator, and performer.

ENJOY!

Phyllis Pieffer, NCTM
New Music Review Chair

District News

District VII Conference Features Yelena Balabanova

Spokane Music Teachers Association presents the District VII Conference with Dr. Yelena Balabanova on October 18th In the Music Building Recital Hall at Whitworth University.

At 10:00 a.m., she will present "Artistry and Technique from the Start" and at 1:15 p.m., she will present "Healthy Technique is Not a Dream". Each presentation will be followed by a master class, the first being for young students and the second for advanced students. At 12:00 there will be a no-host lunch at the Crow's Nest in the Whitworth HUB. The cost for lunch is \$8.00 cash - exact change requested. Credit cards will not be accepted.

You may access the ticket order form by going to www.spokanemusicteachers.org under Forms. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. COST:

- \$25.00 for District VII Members
- \$30.00 for Non-Members
- \$15.00 for Students w/ID

Chapter News

Edmonds Chapter Presents Peter Mack



Peter Mack will conduct a workshop on "Motivation", Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (registration at 8:30 a.m.) at the Edmonds United Methodist Church, 828 Caspers Street, Edmonds.

"Two different ways to think about motivation: Carrot or Stick. People either: (1) avoid negative outcome or (2) seek positive (outcome). Often a mixture of the two. There are two ways to teach. One is by fear and intimidation. The other is by seeking joy and instilling love of music in students' souls. Unfortunately, BOTH of them work."

You may register that morning, or you can send a check, along with your name and chapter affiliation. WSM-TA Members \$30; Non-member \$40; students Free. Please make check payable to EMTA and mail to Marilyn Droz, 5118 97th St. SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275-4228.

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Whidbey Island

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Lake Washington
Seattle
South King County

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Gig Harbor
Kitsap County
Mount Ranier
Puyallup Valley
Olympic Peninsula
Tacoma

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Clark County
Cowlitz County
Grays Harbor
Lewis County
Mason County
Olympia

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Okanogan County
Wenatchee Valley

District VI
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Tri-City
Walla Walla
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District VII
Clarkston-Lewiston
Pullman
Spokane

Updated Sept. 15, 2014

PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

WSMTA 100th Birthday Conference ~ June 23 - 26, 2015 ~ Kitsap Conference Center, Bremerton, Washington

Topic to be considered: _____

Title of presentation: _____

Please attach a description of your topic. *Presentations are limited to 50 minutes in length. Topics by or for vocalists, instrumentalists and general teaching will get special consideration. Please indicate if there are any specific days during the above time slot that you will not be available.*

Audio-visual equipment needed: _____

Presenter: Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

DUE DATE: November 1, 2014

WSMTA member presenters will receive a discount on their conference registration.

Please send this completed form to:

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM, Conference Co-Chair
11445 SE 185th Pl.
Renton, WA 98055

Teacher Activities

Steinway Artist Dr. Yelena Balabanova Performs "Piano Masterworks of All Time II"

The 5th anniversary season of Soli Deo Gloria Concert Series features compositions from Bach to Gershwin. This **FREE** event takes place at the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way at 2 p.m., Sunday October 12. The Steinway Gallery of Bellevue has provided a concert grand piano. Come and bring your students! (see ad)

Debra Florian Performs Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto with the Bremerton Symphony

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, October 18, at the Bremerton High School Performing Arts Auditorium. The program includes music by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Glinka and Musorgsky and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a pre-concert chat with conductor Alan Futterman.

Julliard Graduates Robin McCabe & Maria Larionoff Collaborate - "The Beethoven Project"

Robin McCabe, pianist and long time member of WSMTA, and Maria Larionoff, violinist will present all the sonatas by Beethoven in a series of concerts at 2:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Unitarian Universalist Church, Oct. 19, Feb. 8, and April 19. Robin and Maria have performed to great acclaim throughout the state. (see ad)

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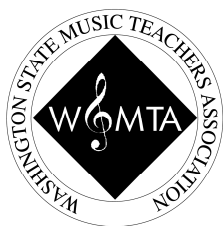
MARIA LARIONOFF

The Beethoven Project

Robin McCabe, pianist and long-time member of WSMTA,
and Maria Larionoff, violinist present sonatas by
Beethoven in a series of three concerts sponsored by the
Tacoma Unitarian Universalist Church, 1115 S. 56th St.,
2:30 p.m.- October 19, February 8 and April 19
\$20 donation ticket price

For more information, call 253-474-4646

The duo have played together over 5 years
to great acclaim, performing at the University of
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DATES 'N DEADLINES

- Oct. 4: Districts I & II Conference**
- Oct. 4: District V Conference**
- Oct. 15: Dues deadline for renewing members for Adjudications participation.**
- Oct. 18: District VII Conference**
- Oct. 18: Edmonds Workshop with Peter Mack**
- Oct. 25: District III Conference "Artist Retreat" with Jody Graves, RSVP mary@marygrantpiano.com**
- Nov. 7-9: WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competitions**
- Nov. 7-9: MTNA Performance Competitions**
- Jan. 9-11: Northwest Competitions at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho**

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