# OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE WASHINGTON STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

# The CLARION

VOL. LXVIII, NO. 2

Oct., 2015

# President's Corner



In July, my mother--age 95-- passed away peacefully. She lived a long, interesting life and I have spent substantial time reminiscing these last few months. Born in 1919 she saw in-

credible progress and change, going from a farmhouse with no electricity or plumbing to the  $21^{\text{st}}$  century pace of life. I've been thinking of things that have changed in my lifetime – especially those I personally miss:

- We no longer have a music store in Spokane. It used to be a place to meet teachers, discuss studio issues, peruse and even "try" music that we could return later.
- Border's Book Store. I would spend hours there every month, and it had a great coffee shop where I would meet with my student teachers to discuss pedagogy and piano study.
- My favorite shade of lipstick from Clinique. Discontinued.

Many things have changed which better our lives, of course:

- Free long distance telephone calls it used to be long-distance to call our lake cabin which is only 40 minutes away.
- Food labeling now I know how many calories are in that pizza!
- GPS maps & directions. I get lost easily.

Our modern world is full of wonder and transformation that creates both relief and exasperation. We are asked to accept updates, modifications and revisions on a daily basis. WSMTA is also asking that of you as we reshape and revise our programs and events. Take Adjudications for example:

(Continued on Page 3)

### **BRAVO!**

### CHEERS & APPLAUSE!

As President, I want to acknowledge the donations of time, experience and effort freely given by our members each month. We have a very large list of volunteers and supporters, and since space is limited, I will attempt to highlight current events, their leaders, and a few volunteers who are making a difference.

WSMTA Leadership Seminar was held on September 26/27 in Yakima. President-Elect Krista Seely did a fantastic job of bringing together an outstanding weekend of camaraderie, professional development and just plain ol' fun!

MTNA Competitions are just around the corner! Martin Kennedy is the chair of the MTNA Composition Competition, and is working hard to provide a quality experience for the students and teachers. Vice President Karen Hollenback is chair of the MTNA Performance Competition and she and her team - Karen Scholten, Junior Performance Chair; Mary Kaye Owen, Senior Performance Chair and Laura Curtis, Young Artist Performance Chair - are putting in many hours towards a successful event at the University of Puget Sound on November 13 - 15. They need LOTS of help, and Onnie Adams is the Volunteer Coordinator. Be sure to say "YES" when she asks for your help, or better yet, contact her first.

The **Outstanding Artist Competition** will be held the same weekend – same location. **Cherie Felts is the Chair,** and WSMTA is proud to have such a capable person leading that event. She will also need your support and time. It's a great ...

(Continued on Page 3)

## **Coming Events**

### WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition: Fri.-Sat.-Sun. Nov. 13th - 15th, 2015

This year's competition will be held at The University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. 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 are closed/deadline date was by Sept. 16, 2015, so students are in the midst of preparing for this event. ...

(Continued on Page 4)

# MTNA Performance Competitions: Nov. 13 - 15, 2015 University of Puget Sound Tacoma, WA

The MTNA Performance Competitions are just over one month away. Teachers and students are busy making their final preparations.

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: <a href="https://wsmta.org/mtna-performance-competition-teacher-fee/">https://wsmta.org/mtna-performance-competition-teacher-fee/</a>

Your "behind-the-scenes" staff has been hard at work the past couple of months to help ensure a wonderful experience for all the participants: students, teachers and adjudicators. As always, ...

(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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IMPORTANT NOTICE: The USPS does not forward copies of The CLARION. PLEASE notify the WSMTA Executive Office if your address changes.

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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.

**UPDATE**: You may now submit articles embeded with hyperlinks.

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### Welcome New Members!

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Victoria Patterson



President Elect, Krista Seely's phone number is wrong on some lists. It should be: 206-335-3384

### President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

For many years the Adjudications form/style was the same - all hand-written, submitted via US Mail and paid for with personal checks. Then it was altered somewhat with the addition of Excel forms. This worked out fine for some... not so much for others. That model has now been discontinued and everything is entered via computers, website and Inter-The comfort and ease with which many of us were accustomed now requires revision. It is similar to how my mother felt when she could no longer talk to a live human being to discuss her banking information. She had to push buttons and select options. That may be how you feel about our Adjudications system we're making you push buttons and fit into a system that is unfamiliar and annoying, especially when it does not always work as we hope. Given time, WS-MTA will be able to provide a stable, comfortable product that will ease your concerns.

In the meantime, what "Tool" can we use in our studios and chapters that will help to provide for our needs? This tool applies to all of our events: MTNA Competition, OAC Competition, Young Composers Project, Conference Registration, Musicianship Examinations + more!

It's that booklet or tag that accompanies most items you purchase:

### **Directions for Use/Assembly:**

- 1. **Read All Instructions First** study the instructions and other material provided by WSMTA and/or your chapter. I can't tell you how many times I have tossed something in the washer or dryer without reading the instructions first...it is costly and annoying.
- 2. Gather & Organize the required tools, materials and supplies. Have you ever started to assemble an IKEA item and discovered you're missing several of the screws? Same goes for having all the information: know your member number and password; prepare the information about your students, levels, and fees; decide on your meal options or recital tickets; have your credit/debit card information handy. Make sure the information you need is "ready for assembly" before you have it partially entered/

prepared and then run into a delay or complication.

- 3. **Follow Instructions Carefully Call the Help Line if needed**. As with all
  "Help-Lines" WSMTA has several
  tiers of support:
  - Tier I Support: Your teacher/member friends and colleagues. We have a GREAT support network in WSMTA!
  - Tier II Support: Your chapter chair/committee member.
  - Tier III Support: WSMTA Event Chair, Executive Manager, Technical Liaison, AND President. When problems cannot be solved at the member or chapter level, know that we are here to help, too. Contact me I enjoy communicating with all of you and especially value getting to know everyone...it is THE BEST benefit of my job!

Many of you are already very successful with the changes we have implemented. If you are one of those members, then skip directly to being Tier I or Tier II Support: your assistance to members of your chapter and state leadership is vital!

And of course a "Tool" we already have in our Toolbox is PATIENCE. You would not be a teacher if you did not own that tool. The patience tool is as numerous in your toolbox as there are hammers in Home Depot: A style for every job. You will need the Patience tool ready to go as more changes and developments are made with our event systems, website abilities and options. Welcome to Year 101 in WSMTA! I am privileged to be your President during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century of our organization!

Janice Smith, NCTM WSMTA President

### **BRAVO!**

(Continued from Page 1)

# CHEERS & APPLAUSE!

(Continued from Page 1)

... reason to hear such "Outstanding" talent as represented by the students and their teachers, too.

I would also like to recognize several volunteers who have recently accepted leadership positions: Yelena Balabanova, NCTM, along with Judith Price, **NCTM**, lead the team to help recruit and retain **WSMTA Membership**. Judy, as always, is efficiently covering the paperwork, and organizational aspects of membership, and Yelena will be inspiring, guiding and mentoring members and chapters as they work in their local arena to care for and increase their membership.

I have made a slight change to the committee: Arts, Advocacy & Awareness. The name has been shortened to **Arts Advocacy**, and I am thrilled that **Debra Florian, NCTM, is the new chair**. Debra will be focused on providing tools to chapters to promote WSMTA teachers and programs to the general public, increasing name recognition and identity in our communities.

Rose Freeman, NCTM, is the new WMSTA Certification Chair. We are thrilled to have her energy and enthusiasm to guide our membership during their pursuit of MTNA Certification. As a newly Certified teacher, I can attest to the importance of her job when it comes to clarification, communication and support during the weeks of months of preparation.

In the 21st century, no relevant group can survive without technology. Carol Karlak is the WSMTA Technology Liaison and all I can say is THANK YOU! Her dedication and commitment of time and knowledge has already proven a huge asset to WSMTA. She is working with WSMTA Leadership, our web developers and many others to move us forward with proficiency and ease.

There are many, many others that deserve appreciation, and I hope to recognize many of them over the next two years. If you feel someone is doing an outstanding job in a specific area, please let me know so I can thank him or her both personally and publicly.

Janice Smith, NCTM WSMTA President jsmithpiano@gmail.com 509-995-5676



# **Coming Events**

(Continued from Page 1)

# WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition

I would like to encourage teachers to attend part of a day or more to see future possibilities for your own students! 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 <code>jscffelts@comcast.net</code> if you would like to be included as a volunteer.

Cherie Felts, OAC Chair

# WSMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions

... many helpers are needed to be sure everything goes smoothly. Can YOU volunteer a few hours to help with one of the many tasks (time-keeping, monitoring performance venues, staffing the registration desk, hospitality for our judges...) that will need to be done competition weekend? Please contact Onnie Adams (onnieadams496@gmail.com) if you can help for a few hours. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered and those of you who are already working on all the many details of the competition.

These competitions are open to the public, so consider attending, and/or bringing or sending some students to listen to some really inspiring performances!

See you there!!

Karen Hollenback, NCTM WSMTA Performance Competitions Chair

### **Education**

### Musicianship Examinations News

Fall has arrived and it is that time of year again to start gearing up for the Music Exams in your chapters. Some chapters have used the exam along with their carnival, ribbon festival, music olympics, or just an event for taking the exam. This exam is very flexible to fit whatever your chapter does with it and it is always exciting to hear the different ways it is being used. This year we will be using the Set 2

(even year) exam. If you are new to taking the ME exam and need Set 2 testing material, contact me for the CD's and I will send them to you. If you are a new member and would like to get started with having your students participate in this exam, check with your chapter chair for the date of your event and then go to the WSMTA website under programs and click Musicianship Examinations Program. You will find a letter to give to your parents on what this exam is about, also the Handbook to help teachers place your student in the correct level for testing and see what they will need to know for the different areas of testing. Your students can do up to 5 tests in each level. The areas of testing are Rhythm, Sight-playing, Technique & Applied Theory, Written Theory, and Listening or Ear Training. You will also find the registration for the tests online, and several handouts for you and your students to help stay on track to be ready for your testing date.

This is also the second year for the Strings Music Exam. Jane Melin from the Kitsap Chapter has worked very hard putting these testing materials together, and we have had a great response from several chapters. For questions on the content of this exam please contact <code>Jane@melinmusicstudio.com</code>.

The Strings handbook is on the state website. Again, click programs and Musicianship Examinations and you will see it listed there. You will use the same registration as the keyboard students use but please put on your registration "Strings Exam" so I know you will need that material

The Strings exams available are as follows:

**Technique** (scales & arpeggios): Violin, viola, cello, string bass

**Theory:** Violin only

Sight reading: Violin only

Listening: Not a unique test; some questions excluded from the keyboard exam; should be accessible for all strings. The test papers can be used for all instruments if copies are made from the ones Jane modified; there is an asterisk\* next to questions that should not be graded for strings students.

**Rhythm:** No separate test. Use same materials as keyboards.

You can contact me, <u>karen\_scholten</u> @msn.com for the String and Keyboard exam materials/CD's. May all your testing for 2015-2016 go very well!

Karen Scholten Musicianship Examinations Chair

### Enrichment

### HISTORIAN

# A Look Back at Music in Society in 1915: Part 2

# Teaching Piano and The Role of Music in the Home

Culturally 1915 represented the culmination of the Victorian era. Home was a refuge from the fast paced urban life. Music was the vehicle through which children could develop moral character and learn the discipline of hard work through practice. The mother usually held the responsibility for keeping music alive in the home and instilling interest in music in her children. She herself was expected to possess musical skills to be considered a success in homemaking. The piano symbolized Victorian values of morality, hard work and the woman's role to make a home and to instill a sense of values.

Victorian society did not encourage the man to excel in music, but to be a good provider for his family. Many men were prejudiced against music for themselves. Many as children had suffered through morally inspired piano lessons at hands of resolute mothers. The genius male music virtuoso was the exception. Most concert pianists were men. Male concert pianists could command respectable incomes. Other male musicians generally were seen as undependable and unable to support a family. Some men, however, must have been interested and skilled enough in music to participate as amateurs in community and company bands. Band instruments were not considered suited to the Victorian female.

Over 300,000 new pianos were sold in 1915. Used pianos accounted for three times that many. Before indoor plumbing became prevalent more homes had pianos than had bathtubs.

Music played a significant role in home life. Families spent much time together in

(Continued on Page 9)

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The CLARION - Page 7 - Oct., 2015

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### **WSMTA Districts**

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District VI Sunn Valley Tri-City Walla Walla Yakma-Ellensburg

District VII

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Corrections Sept. 30, 2015 (after hard copy was printed and mailed)

Olympia

the parlor or living room to the sounds of mother or sister playing. They sang together and played church hymns, folk tunes sentimental songs, and favorite classical music. Parlor songs such as Schubert's Serenade; Home, Sweet Home, composed by Henry R. Bishop with lyrics by John Payne; The Lost Chord composed by Arthur Sullivan with lyrics by Adelaide A. Proctor; Oh Promise Me by Reginald de Koven; I Love You Truly and A Perfect Day by Carrie Jacobs-Bond, were full of sentiment and romantic idealism including the themes of family, motherhood, home and closer to World War I, patriotism.

Sounds of ragtime and jazz found their way into the home. Popular music such as *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, Irving Berlin, 1911; *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*, Gus Edwards & Edward Madden, 1909; *The Sidewalks of New York*, Lawlor & Blake, 1894 from *Tin Pan Alley*, gradually entered the lives and parlors of Americans. *Tin Pan Alley* was the area in New York City occupied by publishers of popular music. One author suggested that from the street the effect of many pianos playing different tunes at the same time sounded much like a tin pan.

Classical music was also appropriate for the home environment. The Upper Class, following European tastes, defined the culture for middle and lower class Victorians. The classical works of the great European masters were favored. Advocates of nineteenth century music considered those composers to be of great moral character.

Estimates in 1913 indicate that 95% of students were those who intended to use their skills solely in the home. Little girls were especially subjected because musical skills were necessary to being good mothers. From scores of music lessons and hours of practice a nation of amateur musicians was produced. Girls and women were the great majority of amateur musicians. Females dominated concert audiences until well into the twentieth Century. Many eventually played well enough to play for church, school or community.

Quality of home playing and level of playing was mixed. Evaluations of playing suggested in an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* did not catch on. Ignace Paderewski complained on one of his American tours that with girl students and professionals alike, sitting at the piano seemed like a pastime instead of serious work.

For girls who chose to further their music education at finishing schools and music conservatories, music study could be profitable. At the age of twenty the girl could be a self-supporting woman through teaching. The point was to prepare young women to minister to the joy of others, above financial independence. In the complex Victorian system fathers, barring disaster, would have expected to support their daughters until marriage.

The piano played a role in the courting process. Young women who could play and sing sentimental songs were much sought after by suitors. Many parlor songs were arranged as duets, simple enough to teach the gentleman. The arrangements required the couple to cross hands, providing an opportunity for touching, which was otherwise not socially acceptable at this point in courtship.

The teachers of these girls were female pianists who themselves were accomplished beyond the expectations of the era. Independent music teachers could be found in larger towns and probably in rural towns. Some teachers came from Europe to teach, bringing new music with them. Teachers taught from their own homes, in the homes of their pupils, or in boarding schools. Female students studying with male teachers would be chaperoned by another woman in the room. Females, married or not, were not permitted to be alone with men who were not a part of their household.

The code of conduct and dress for female teachers in 1915 dictated that, among other things, the female teacher could not smoke cigarettes, dress in bright colors, or dye her hair. She "must wear at least two petticoats and her dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle."

By 1915 the historic and strenuous Klavier Schule *Method* of Germans Siegmund Lebert and Ludwig Stark had become an institution according to Craig Roell. The objective of the method was to "strengthen fingers by rigidly playing studies, scales, arpeggios, and exercise with power and energy." This rigorous training was to be practiced two to three hours every day, regardless of whether the pupil "aspired to a concert career or merely to enhance social graces."

Students learned to play from a standard list of piano tutors similar to John Thompson of the 1950's. Piano Instruction Books written by composers such as

Berini, Grobe, Beyer, Hunten, Burgmuller, Cramer, Richardson, Latour and Baker were available. Clementi and Kuhlau Sonatinas were studied. But piano students played more widely from bound volumes containing a variety of music--piano solos, vocal solos with accompaniment, occasional choruses, variations on favorite melodies (opera), dances, sentimental pieces. What we would consider as classical music today is for the most part missing from these collections. The Antebellum South and Victorian America were a culture of popular music, at least on the amateur level. Female pianists were not to perform "masculine" music such as the sonatas of Beethoven. They could, however, play Gottschalk's The Last Hope or *The Banjo* and many other lighter works.

Music was an important part of home life during the late Victorian era. The quality of instruction was generally not as high as today, but the interest was strong, making for a rich culture. The emergence of groups like MTNA (1879) and WSMTA (1915) raised the standard of student achievement.

Marilyn Droz, NCTM, WSMTA Historian You may view references at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/nbawb3n">http://tinyurl.com/nbawb3n</a>

### MARK YOUR CALENDERS

for the WSMTA
2016 Conference
June 21 - 24,
2016
Whitman
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Conference
Guest Artist
Dr. Theresa
Boaard.



Keep your eyes on *The Clarion* & Website for more exciting details. *Laura Curtis, Conf. Chair* 



### Washington State Music Teachers Association

### PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

WSMTA 2016 Conference ~ June 21 - 24, 2016 ~ Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington

Topic to be	considered:		
Title of presentation:			
vocalists, in specific day	estrumentalist and general es during the above time s	topic. Presentations are limited to 50 minutes in length. Topics by or teaching will get special consideration. Please indicate if there are a ot that you will not be available.	
Presenter:	Name:Address:		
	Email:	Phone:	

### **DUE DATE:** November 1, 2015

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

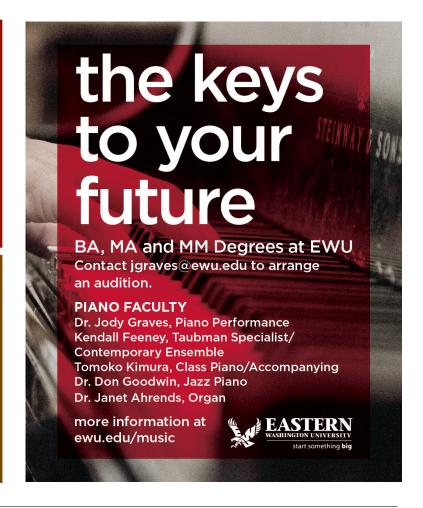
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Friday, October 16, 2015 in the Seattle Steinway Gallery (SG): Master class with Alexander Tutunov, 4 to 6 pm\*

Friday, October 16 in the Seattle SG: Jeannette Fang (2013 professional gold medalist and President's Prize winner) in concert, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 17 in the Seattle SG: Mini concert presenting the works of Maria Szymanowska and master class with Dr. Sławomir Dobrzański (USA, Poland), 10 to 12 pm\*

Saturday, October 17 in Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall (BH): Gold Medalists from Outstanding Amateurs and Youth, 9 and under categories, 1 to 3:30 pm†

Saturday, October 17 in Nordstrom Recital Hall at BH: 6th Seattle Int'l Piano Competition, featuring Youth, ages 10 to 18, 4:45 to 7:45 pm†

Sunday, October 18 in Nordstrom Recital Hall at BH: 6th Seattle Int'l Piano Competition, featuring Collegiate and Professional artists, 3 to 5 pm and 5:20 to 7:25 pm, respectively†

Monday, October 19 in the Founders' Room at BH: Master classes with jurors featuring performing competitors of the 2015 competition, from 1 to 6 pm\*

Monday, October 19 in the Founders' Room at BH: hear 2015 gold medalists in a winners' concert, 7:30 pm\*

<sup>\*</sup> Entry by donation; † Ticketed event, \$35 at the box office



# DATES 'N DEADLINES

Oct. 3: District VII Conference, Spokane

Oct. 15: Deadline for dues for renewing members for Adjudications participation

Nov. 1: Chapter Adjudication Preliminary Report due

Nov. 13-15: MTNA Performance Competition at UPS

Nov. 13-15: WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition at UPS

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# in this issue

- ◆ President's reminder of the value of new Computer tools (Page 1)
- ◆ BRAVO to teacher members for donating time and talent (Page 1)
- ◆ Updates on MTNA Competition & OAC Competition (Page 1)
- ◆ Musicianship Exam News (Page 4)
- ◆ WSMTA Historian Review of Music in 1915, Part 2 (Page 4)
- **♦ WSMTA Officers, Committee Chairs & Chapter Presidents List** (Page 5)
- ◆ Amazon supports WSMTA (Page 9)
- **♦ 2016 Conference Presentation Proposal form** (Page 10)