

# The CLARION

## President's Corner



It's the first of February and I have spent some time over the last month attempting to follow through on my New Years Resolutions (health & decluttering). On an intellectual level I

know exactly what I need to do, but old habits along with a healthy dose of procrastination and fear wage a vicious battle against my rational intellect. Fear seems an odd emotion when it comes to habits and goals, but it is a powerful motivator to resist change. That is because our brains are hard-wired to resist change. Through some research, I have learned about the "Lizard Brain" – that part of the brain that tells us not to take risks, to fear the unknown and simply do what is comfortable. As I work to clean out my kitchen and office, the fear kicks in: what if I need that ½ page of stickers; those pencils still have lead (even though the eraser is gone); I might use that candy at the next recital – don't throw it out (as I sample a piece to make sure it's OK). The process is so overwhelming, my personal lizard tells me to not worry about it...do it later...go check my email...

Of course it's not just clutter and sugar, but it can be practice habits, teaching a new method series, accepting a volunteer position or taking a risk to ask a neighborhood teacher to come to my chapter meeting (they'll probably just say no anyway)...it's a whole lot easier to leave old habits in place and accept the status quo: that's the Lizard Brain talking to me.

So I have learned – and am still learning – how to fight the lizard. It's actually one of the reasons I accepted a leadership position with WSMTA: to battle against my habit of staying in my cozy little suburb of Mead WA. ... (Continued on Page 3)

## BRAVO!

### 2016 MTNA Elections

MTNA is holding elections for Division Directors-elect who will serve on the Board of Directors during the 2018–2020 Biennium, and WSMTA's own Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM is running for office!

WSMTA has a proud legacy of representation at the national level, and we would love to see this continue with Mary Kaye as our next Northwest Division Director. She would serve 2 years as Director-elect, followed by 2 years as Division Director. Please read through her bio and then be sure to vote. The February/March 2016 issue of *American Music Teacher* will contain a ballot and voting instructions. Online voting also will be available at that time.

Washington has a large voting block – so let's use that power and increase our voting percentage this year, sending Mary Kaye Owen to Cincinnati!

*Janice Smith, NCTM  
WSMTA President*

### Nominee for MTNA Northwest Division Director-elect



Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM, has taught piano at her independent music studio for over 30 years. Serving as accompanist for local school and community choirs, she is also pianist at her church. Mary Kaye earned a Bachelor of Sacred Music degree

... (Continued on Page 3)

## Coming Events

**WSMTA State Conference**  
*June 21 - 24, 2016*  
**Walla Walla, Washington**



*Walla Walla Chamber Musical Festival  
January 2016*

This year's WSMTA Conference is in Walla Walla, a town known for its sweet onions, rolling hills and numerous wineries and tasting rooms. But there is more to Walla Walla than grapes and onions. Our beautiful downtown is also home to a rather vibrant music scene.

The week of Conference coincides with the Summer 2016 Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, a bi-annual festival which fills nearly the entire month of June with chamber ensembles performances. Stay tuned to the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival's website to find out more about the events coming up in June.

The Walla Walla Symphony is in its 109th season and performs on Whitman College campus a half a dozen times every year, sometimes with their young counterparts, the Walla Walla Symphony Youth Orchestra. The Walla Walla Valley Bands also perform several times a year on the campus of Walla Walla Community College. This group of non-audition community ensembles includes a large concert band, two jazz bands, a jazz trio and a saxophone quartet. The Walla Walla Choral Society brings us our vocal classics ...

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## 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 GENERAL INFORMATION
- ❖ MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS RECORDS
- ❖ WSMTA WEBSITE INFORMATION
- ❖ CLARION ADVERTISING

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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 both Gary Hind and Jani Peterson 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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## Membership

*Welcome New Members!*

#### East Side

Jong Eun Lee  
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#### Edmonds

Rick Asher  
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#### Tacoma

Shannon Davis

#### Tri-City

Branden Bachaud  
Jing Chen  
Bonnie Hall

#### Walla Walla

Emily James

The email address and Zip code for **Education Board Chair, Jeffrey Savage** should be: [jrsavage@wsu.edu](mailto:jrsavage@wsu.edu) and **99163**

## Fee Waivers Available

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

The dues waiver covers the WSMATA 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 for the conference waiver is May 1.

If you wish more information please contact Diane Stober, 117 N. Franklin Ave, Wenatchee WA 98801 or [dalsegno1@aol.com](mailto:dalsegno1@aol.com)

*Diane M. Stober, NCTM  
WSMTA Waivers Chair*

## President's Corner

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... It's quiet, comfortable, routine and very predictable. Travel pushes me out of my nest. Every time I prepare for a chapter visit or other event, my anxiety levels go up and I become irritable and nervous. But that's the lizard talking again. We all have our personal lizards – while many of you absolutely love to travel, you might fear creating a website (I've worked on four of them so far). While I'm very comfortable with Internet technology, I have to push way out of my comfort zone for travel. Yet I am ALWAYS glad that I took a risk with the airline, the rental car process, and the hotel room. My life is enriched through the chapter visits, conference travel (San Antonio this year and Baltimore in 2017), and leadership work – both WSMATA and MTNA.

What are your goals or desires?

- Maybe you have a great idea for an AMT or Clarion article?
  - Would love to become MTNA Certified?

- Sell your old music to build your travel fund?
  - Take lessons from that outstanding teacher you met?
  - Terminate that student/parent that never practices or pays on time?
- Can you hear the lizard talking to you? It might be saying:
- It's just too much work to write an article – and you might be rejected;
  - There's too much technology involved with Certification;
  - You would be embarrassed to take lessons from someone so good;
  - That student/parent *might* start practicing or pay the 3 months of tuition.

It's easier to accept the status quo - and I have a tool that may help:

The February Tool-of-the-Month: ***The Lizard-Slayer***

*Purpose of this tool: Identify and work toward a long-held goal, desire or solution.*

Here's a "Sample Plan to Slay the Lizard" (this is actually how I achieved Certification):

1. Write down the goal – keep it simple!
2. Create a reasonable timeline:
  - a. Certification: you may need 6 – 12 months;
  - b. Organizing and Selling old music: Dedicate two hours per week and set a timer;
  - c. Private Lessons: Set aside a very specific time each day – put it on the calendar just like the lessons you teach.
3. Create a financial outline:
  - a. Take the money you receive from a specific student and use it for your own lessons;
  - b. Open a separate bank account for the money needed for travel or other goal;
  - c. Apply for an MTNA/WSMTA grant or scholarship to assist with funding.
4. Build Support:
  - a. Let your friends and colleagues know about your goals;
  - b. Research and use your WSMATA contacts for information: If you don't know how to do it – someone else does, and our association is super-helpful.

- c. Share your progress and help others – giving back is a fantastic Lizard-Slayer!

The act of trying is reward in itself. While this may be clichéd, it is still true. I can personally attest to the rewards of stepping outside my personal risk boundaries, and banishing the lizard – now let's just hope I can do that with my eating habits and cluttered office!

*Janice Smith, NCTM  
WSMTA President*

## BRAVO!

*(Continued from Page 1)*

## Nominee for MTNA Northwest Division Director-elect

*(Continued from Page 1)*

... from Multnomah University, and a M.A. Music Education from the University of Washington.

A 30-year member of MTNA, Mary Kaye is a past president of Washington State Music Teachers Association. She currently serves on the boards of two local WSMATA music teacher associations, is Senior Coordinator at the state level, and Young Artist and Chamber Music Coordinator at the division level of MTNA's Performance Competitions.

Mary Kaye is eager to help accomplish MTNA's mission by volunteering services to MTNA programs and providing professional support for colleagues and communities as the Northwest Division Director-elect.

## MTNA Foundation Fellows

I am privileged to be taking over as foundation fellow chair from Robin Chadwick. She has worked tirelessly and achieved so much. The program in Washington State is very strong, thanks to her.

In April, at the MTNA National Conference in San Antonio, three fellows from Washington State will be honored. Robin has been in charge of two of them, Margaret Pressley and Dianne Johnston, who were recognized in the *April 2015 Clarion*. Due to the fundraising efforts of a group of former students, it has been possible to name Béla Síki as the third Washington State Foundation Fellow for 2016. *Congratulations!!*

*Peter Mack, NCTM  
MTNA Foundation Chair*

## Bela Siki, 2016 Washington State Foundation Fellow



**Béla Siki** was born in Hungary, where he was a student in Budapest of Leo Weiner and Ernest von Dohnányi at the Franz Liszt Music Academy. He moved to Switzerland in 1945, where he studied with Dinu Lipatti and won the 1948 Geneva Competition. His international solo career led him to perform on all five continents with distinguished conductors and orchestras. In 1965, he moved to the United States, teaching at the University of Washington in Seattle; between 1980 and 1985 he taught at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, moving back to Seattle in 1985, where he taught until his retirement in 2001. He has made several recordings. He is often asked to be on the jury of international musical competitions such as Leeds, Geneva, and Bolzano. In a career spanning 50 years, Béla has distinguished himself as both a performer and a teacher.

### MTNA NW Division Composition Competition Washington Winners

Students of Sharon Van Valin won in the following 3 categories:

**Elementary:** Winner - Nelle Paek

**Junior:** Winner - Gannon Forsberg

**Senior:** H.M. - Ariel Hsieh

**Young Artist:** Representative - Alex Worland, student of Martin Kennedy

The winning compositions automatically advanced to the national competition as national finalists in January. (see Washington winners below.)

*Martin Kennedy, MTNA Composition Competition Chair*

## MTNA National Composition Competition Washington Winners!

Congratulations to the following! ...

### Elementary

2nd Place: Noelle Paek, student of Sharon Van Valin, WA, NW

### Junior

3rd Place: Gannon Forsberg, student of Sharon Van Valin, WA, NW

### MTNA NW Division Performance Competition

The MTNA NW Division National Performance Competition took place January 16 – 18, 2016 in snowy Missoula Montana, hosted by the University of Montana. Several Washington contestants placed as acknowledged through the winner article. The competition was made possible by the efforts of Jani Peterson, NW Division Director, Christopher Hahn, NW Division Elect, Mary Kaye Owen, WA, Young Artist Coordinator, Diane Volkman, MT, Senior Coordinator and Susan Todd, OR, Junior Coordinator. Volunteers included state presidents; Janice Smith, WA, Cindy Peterson Peart, OR, Judy O'Dell MT, Tawna Love, ID, Jim Margetts, WY, and Steven Hesla, Professor of Piano at University of Montana. The judges included for Piano - Dr. Jody Graves, WA, Dr. Julie Gosswiller, MT, Dr. Mark Hansen, ID; for Strings - Dr. Julia Cory Slovarp, MT; for Chamber Winds and Woodwinds - Dr. Johan Eriksson, MT; for Woodwinds - Dr. Beth Antonopulos, MT and Dr. Jennifer Cooper, MT; and for Piano Duets - Dr. Steven Hesla, MT.

Thanks to all the above for providing a wonderful competition experience for our students.

*Dianne Johnston, WSCTM  
MTNA NW Division Performance  
Competition Chair*

### MTNA NW Division Performance Competition Washington Winners

#### Chamber Music Strings:

**Alt.:** Daana Quartet (Corentin Pokorny, violin; Erin Kelly, violin; Alessandra Barrett, viola; Sonja Myklebust, cello) *Teacher: Melia Watras*

#### Chamber Music Winds:

**Alt.:** Horizon Quartet (Asa Abbott, alto sax; David Decker, baritone sax; Kevin

McCowan, tenor sax; Soren Hamm, soprano sax) *Teacher: Fred Winkler*

#### Junior Performance Piano:

**Winner:** Janet Phang - *Teacher: Peter Mack*

#### Junior Performance String:

**Alt:** Marley Erickson (violin) - *Teacher: Simon James*

#### Junior Performance Woodwind:

**Winner:** Minsoo Kwon (flute) - *Teacher: Bonnie Blanchard*

#### Senior Performance Piano:

**H.M.:** Leah Deobald - *Teacher: Duane Hulbert*

#### Senior Performance String:

**Alt.:** Madelyn Kowalski (cello) - *Teacher: Leslie Marckx*

#### Senior Performance Woodwind:

**Winner:** Zoe Sheill (flute) - *Teacher: Bonnie Blanchard*

#### Senior Piano Duet:

**Winner:** Janet Phang and Justin Cai - *Teacher: Peter Mack*

#### Young Artist Performance Woodwind:

**Winner:** Soren Hamm (sax) - *Teacher: Fred Winkler*

### A Wrap-up to WSMTA's Performance Competitions

In addition to all those mentioned in the December Clarion I want to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteer "staff" who served as time keepers, door monitors, and at the registration desk during the November 2015 MTNA Performance competition. Thank you **Laurie Eash** (Past President, who also arranged for the printing of all the programs), **Julie Howe**, **Yunbo Cassady**, **Phyllis Twedt**, **Mary Beth Denzer**, **Karen Savage**, **Jeffrey Savage** (current Education Board Chair), **Krista Seely** (President-Elect), **Janice Smith** (President), and **Dianne Johnston** (who organized hospitality for all of our judges and volunteers). This event would not have been possible without you. From the early 6:00 am opening of the registration desk to the 7:00 pm closing of competition on Friday and Saturday and 3:00 pm on Sunday, you were a source of energy and smiles, willing to do whatever task needed to be done on the spur of the moment to make the competition a success! We in WSMTA are so fortunate to have you as a part of this organization. (If I have inadvertently missed anyone who

also pitched in that weekend, please let me know.)

I also want to extend thanks to all our judges who spend long hours listening and writing comments to make this event a wonderful experience for all the entrants:

**Piano:** Kay Zavislak (WWU), Cameron Bennett (PLU), Michael McQuay (BYU-Idaho)

**Strings:** Quinton Morris (SU), Tim Betts (CWU), Alistair MacRae (UPS)

**Woodwinds:** Sandra Saathoff (SPU), Jennifer Rhyne (PLU), Erik Steighner (PLU)

And to all the 48 teachers who entered students in the competition congratulations and thank you for all you did to help make our administrative work a little easier!

*Karen Hollenback, NCTM  
WSMTA/MTNA Performance Competition  
Chair*

### Musicianship Examinations High Honors

#### Tri-City

Teacher	Students (Level)
Patti Robertson	Luke Liebert (4)
Holly Harty	Karissa Nakamura (4) Kristen Nakamura (7)
Amy Meridith	Liah Meredith (5)
Laura Mackey	Mikah Turpin (9)

### CHEERS & APPLAUSE!

There is always much to cheer about with WSMTA. This month I would like to spotlight those volunteers who have the job of finding other volunteers!

**Onnie Adams** serves in multiple capacities: she is the District VI Vice-President; serves on the Nominating committee and was the volunteer coordinator for the several of the MTNA Performance Competitions. If I were to actually list ALL of the positions Onnie has held at both the chapter and state level, there would be no space left in this article ☺ She is one of our hardest workers and also one of the most patient people I have worked with at both a personal and professional level. Her soft-spoken encouragement and friendly manner immediate-

ly put you at ease during high-tension events, labor-intensive projects and difficult undertakings. Onnie always has a funny story, and interesting adventure to share. Her advice has helped me tremendously as I work through the many complexities of the WSMTA presidency and I offer her my hearty applause and thanks for her time and expertise!

**Jeff Savage, NCTM** is our Education Board chair. Did you know there are 25 committee chairs that are part of the Education Board, and that it is Jeff's responsibility to find qualified, willing volunteers to take on those positions? Jeff is also a WSMTA Adjudicator and prior to becoming Ed Board chair, was Adjudicator chair, working with chapters and adjudicators across the state. He is part of the WSU piano faculty and married to the lovely Karen Savage - you may have seen them with their son Will at various events over the years. In addition to all of this, he and Karen are award-winning touring/recording artists with their piano duo "88 Squared". When I first met Jeff, I thought of him as very quiet and hard to get to know - but learned quickly that he is very friendly with a witty sense of humor. His intelligent observations provide insight and wisdom that are of tremendous value to me as a studio teacher and to our membership and leadership boards. His willingness to take on the job of Ed Board chair is appreciated and valued. Be sure to give him your thanks when you see him next!

**Chapter Presidents.** Every chapter president has the job of finding volunteers, recruiting/retaining members, running meetings and administering programs. I cannot thank all of the Chapter Presidents enough for what they do each and every month. As a past-president of the Spokane chapter, I know what it is like to be turned down when asking someone to take on a new task or responsibility, and the elation felt when someone says yes! During their term of office the energy requirements and organizational skills convey not only a high level of professionalism, but also their personal connection to the success of their group. Congratulations to all the Chapter Presidents - I speak for myself as WSMTA President and for all the membership of our state: you are appreciated, respected and held with much admiration!

**There are many, many others who deserve appreciation,** and I hope to rec-

ognize 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*

## Coming Events

*(Continued from Page 1)*

### Walla Walla Conference

*(Continued from Page 1)*

... at concerts held four to five times per year.

Main Street Studios opened their beautiful lounge two years ago in the historic Dacres Hotel. Musicians have come from near and far to play in Walla Walla's newest venue, whose mission is to cultivate and define the art and entertainment in southeastern Washington through live music, comedy shows, celebrity speakers, food, wine and art.



*Main St. Studios*

Another venue is the Power House Theater, which seats 368 people for music, dance, theater, film and other performance art events in the beautifully renovated, 120-year-old utility station.

And speaking of wineries, many of the 140 plus wineries in town regularly book local and regional musical acts to perform at their tasting rooms. Downtown, one can count on Sapolil Cellars, Charles Smith Wines and Sinclair Estates Vineyard to have live music at least once a week—and frequently more.

For a town of its size, Walla Walla is a cultural destination, a rising star of creative achievement and cultivation of talent. Your trip to Eastern Washington for the 2016 Conference will be one full of opportunities, both within the Conference and without, to experience the music that fills our valley so exquisitely.

*Laura Curtis, Conference Chair*

## WSMTA Scholarship Fund

Hello WSMTA members and supporters: I am looking forward to another fun fundraising event at our June Conference in Walla Walla. Please begin now spreading the word that this is a way that all members can contribute and have a good time doing it. I am always optimistic that we will have a banner year and this year is no exception. So please start talking with your chapters, music stores and music supporters everywhere you turn and let's have a banner year!! My very best to all of you in 2016.

Cinda Redman, NCTM  
WSMTA Scholarship Fund Chair

## Membership

(Continued from Page 3)

### Marilyn Clizer, NCTM 1927 - 2015



Marilyn Grace Clizer passed away on November 7, 2015 in Walla Walla. She was born in Spokane, Washington on October 3, 1927 to Marjorie and Wayne Pratt and grew up on the family farm west of Tekoa, Washington. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree (major in music) from Whitman College in 1949. She was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, the Mu Phi Epsilon music honorary and the Mortar Board.

Marilyn gained her Washington State music teacher's certification in 1950. In the fall of 1951, she moved with her husband Charles Clizer, Jr. to Dayton, Washington, where she started teaching private piano lessons. In addition to raising four children, she had leadership roles in many church, school and community organizations and was instrumental in

founding a community daycare for migrant children.

The Clizer family moved to Walla Walla in 1969. Marilyn became an active member in the Walla Walla Chapter of the Washington State Music Teachers Association. At the State level, Marilyn served one term as District Vice-President, two terms as Second Vice-President in charge of MTNA Auditions and a term as First Vice-President in charge of the 1982 Convention in Walla Walla.

From 1985-1987, Marilyn served as our WSMTA President. During her term as President she started the *Leadership Seminar* and together with Judith Price put together the first *WSMTA Handbook* (now the *New Member Handbook*). She continued to enjoy teaching her private piano students until her retirement in 1989. She said about her teaching: *"It's something I really enjoy doing. It was a nice opportunity to encourage people to music ... a most joyous adventure."*

Marilyn served from 1989 to 2002 as a piano adjudicator for the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, WSMTA and the National Guild of Piano Teachers. In 1995-96 she served as the MTNA Northwest Division Certification Chair and in 1996 WSMTA bestowed upon her *Honorary Life Member*.

In a 1984 *Clarion* article, she spoke of her leadership roles: *"Each assignment has been full of personal opportunity and growth plus the chance to make new and enduring friendships."*

## Education

### The Spirit of Competition

In the middle of last November, many of our most eager and dedicated students descended on Tacoma to perform in the state competitions for MTNA as well as WSMTA's Outstanding Artist Competition. These competitions are always a highlight of the WSMTA calendar, and a significant component of the educational outreach toward which we strive.

One way in which we can support our students (and our colleagues) is by promoting and embodying the educational value of competition. Win or lose, our students have accomplished much simply by preparing for these events. The countless hours of practice, the challenging repertoire, the run-throughs and studio re-

citals, that final "push" at the end challenging them to reach beyond their potential - they all contribute to a sense of achievement that should be felt by every student who participates.

The learning isn't just "top-down," either. Encourage students to listen to their peers and get to know each other. Meeting others with the same passion and dedication to their art is invaluable to their growth and maturity. They might even hear that next piece they just can't live without and that will challenge them even more in the coming year!

Modeling a healthy attitude toward competition can do wonders for our students and fellow teachers. While you are at it, don't forget to thank those behind-the-scenes volunteers who made this educational opportunity possible for our students. Karen Hollenback, Cherie Felts and their teams of WSMTA members have worked hard to make this experience as positive and informative for everyone as it can be.

Jeffrey Savage, NCTM  
WSMTA Education Board Chairman

## CERTIFICATION CORNER

Happy 2016 to you! This year I'm learning to embrace new things - new city, new piano studio, new challenges and new adventures. A couple years ago I used to long to hike and camp at the same places. Those places are dear to my heart and really beautiful! In 2015, I moved and began exploring new places. While I still return to those favorite hikes, however, traveling to different places inspires my heart and makes me long to see more. Similarly, we as music teachers need to challenge ourselves to continue to grow as professionals and inspire our students' hearts and minds.

I value certain repetitive teaching techniques and literature in my studio! But, if I taught the same way each day and didn't learn from the resources available to me as a member of WSMTA and MTNA, my students would shortly become uninspired and not receive the best music education I can offer them. The National Certification process through MTNA will challenge and validate *why* you teach the way you do. The certification 5 project journey will give you the opportunity to share your favorite teaching methods and

remind you of *what* you value most in your studio. This is the year to be certified! So, go get your favorite hot drink and visit [www.mtnacertification.org](http://www.mtnacertification.org) to see more details about each project!

Please give me a call sometime this week and ask about how to get started with your National Certification. Also, I'd love to hear from you if you have any questions along the way (or if you just want to go hiking and talk about it on the trail!). There are currently 5 certification grants available on a first come first serve basis. Certification grants reimburse you \$100, which is half the cost of your application fee! I've had several people contact me in the last month about applying for a grant so contact me soon to get started! Happy new year!

[www.mtnacertification.org](http://www.mtnacertification.org)

Rose Freeman, NCTM  
WSMTA Certification Chair  
425-248-9288  
[pianoteacherose@gmail.com](mailto:pianoteacherose@gmail.com)

## Young Composers Project

### 2016 Young Composers Project

The Rules and Regulations for YCP were updated over the summer. All information is available on the YCP webpage.

Manuscripts must be postmarked by February 16, 2016.

<https://wsmta.org/programs-for-students/competitions/young-composers-project/>

Carol Karlak, YCP Chair

## Program Reports

### Call for Student Study Grant Applications

Established thirteen years ago with a bequest from the Lois Whitner estate, the **WSMTA Student Study Grant** program will be accepting requests for applications for the 2016-2017 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** 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 \$1,500 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 the five-part application form from our web site at:

[www.wsmta.org](http://www.wsmta.org) At the top of the page click on "Programs for students" and then "Scholarships."

If you have questions or need further information please contact me at [cchunigate@comcast.net](mailto:cchunigate@comcast.net) or 206-232-0117.

**Application deadline is June 1, 2016.**

Connie Hungate, WSCTM  
Grants & Scholarship Chair

## Enrichment

### IMTF Corner

#### How to Gain Recognition for Independent Music Teachers - Part I

What's the difference between a pizza and a musician? A pizza can feed a family of four. What's the difference between an amateur musician and a professional musician? An amateur musician has a day job, a professional musician has a spouse with a day job. If you don't think these

jokes are so funny, then it's time to do something about it.

One of the goals of MTNA, and especially our certification program, is to show the world that we are valued professionals. How do we start? *We start by believing in ourselves.*

What we do as private music teachers has so much impact on our students and the world. It goes way beyond teaching the instrument. Remember, we don't just teach music, we teach *people*. If I ever doubt my significance to my students I re-read the stack of Christmas, birthday and thank you cards I've kept over the years. (I'm sure you all have a stack of cherished notes too.) Almost every card says, "Thank you for changing my life." And they don't just mean thank you for teaching me to play the flute. They talk about our special relationship, the pride in being in the studio, how they learned to work and overcome obstacles and how they gained self confidence that allows them to tackle things in the "real world." Our students understand what we do for them, the rest of the world needs to know too. If someone ever asks you, "What do you make as a music teacher?" you can answer with confidence: "I make a difference!"

Realize the importance of what you give to students and expect to be treated accordingly. Being a music teacher is your passion, but it is also your profession. You deserve the same respect and money (!) as other valued professions but no one will treat you that way unless you act like a professional and stick up for yourself.

At their first lesson as the student leaves I say, "All of my students say thank you for the lesson at the end of each lesson." The student then dutifully replies but it later becomes not just a habit but an attitude. We need to teach our students' parents that same attitude and the idea of respect for our profession will spread.

We need to say "No" to requests like these:

- Can I have a lesson every other week?
- Can I have lessons on Sundays?
- Will you hold my spot while I take off soccer season?
- Can you make up the lesson I had to miss because I went to that birthday party?
- Can we get a discount for two kids?
- I think half an hour of practice a day is too much so we will only commit to 10 minutes a day

- Can you come teach at my house? (the traffic is so awful)
- If we leave school at 3:30 we get here at 4:10. Can the lesson start then?
- Can the boys stay here a couple of hours after their lesson so I can shop?
- Can Susie not practice during tennis season but still come to the lessons?
- Can I get a discount from the lessons we missed while we were in Paris?
- Yikes! Thanks for calling, I just forgot the lesson. How about we make it up on Saturday?
- I only want my daughter to enter contests she can win so it looks good on her resume.
- Since I got here 15 minutes late can we make the lesson go 15 minutes over?
- We have a party we want to go to so we won't be coming to the recital.
- I want my daughter to take lessons from you but we don't want to participate in any activities outside of the lesson since we are so busy.

Of course you might be able to honor such requests but that makes your families think that you are available to them 24/7 and that I will do anything even when they don't keep up their end of the bargain. That's not what a valued professional does and that's not what we should do either! Stand up for yourself and others will respect you. Come on, you can do it!

Bonnie Blanchard, NCTM  
IMTF Chair

## ARTS ADVOCACY

### Arts Advocacy - Throw Open the Doors!

As I write this article, it is New Year's Eve—an excellent time for reflection... I would expect that like myself, most of you really had no idea how much you and your students would benefit from your MTNA membership until *after* you had joined and began actively participating in local, state and national programs. Just for a moment, think back over the course of your membership... Think of all the festivals, workshops, recitals, adjudications, master classes, conference sessions, competitions, etc. that you and your students have taken advantage of, and how much you have gained from it—musically, professionally and personally.

In this new year, let's **resolve** to not be a well-kept secret, an exclusive music club. Rather, let's choose to throw open the doors! Let other students, non-member teachers, other arts organizations, and the public in general see what great things we're doing—**from the inside!** To do this effectively, we must be **intentional** about outreach and publicity. The good news is that it really only requires a small adjustment to add an outreach focus to what we are already doing.

As an example, over the last many years, my local association (Kitsap) has presented holiday recitals at our local mall over two weekends in December, with individual teachers signing up for time blocks. This year, we were intentional about expanding to include other arts groups. The mall administrators were delighted to work with us, and offered all four weekends from Thanksgiving to Christmas. With KMTA as the official sponsor of this holiday festival of music, our event chair, Leslie Devine, extended an invitation on our behalf to other arts organizations, local school ensembles, music academies, dance academies, etc. to participate free of charge. We provided a grand piano; the mall graciously provided festival setup and décor, sound system, and large, professional signage that listed the schedule of all participating groups for the whole month, with our association name in large lettering at the top. We had brochures displayed on a table, and the other participants were invited to place brochures as well.

I'm pleased to report this collaborative effort was a huge success! With many outside groups participating, appreciative of the opportunity, we ALL benefitted through sharing resources and joint publicity. It provided tremendous variety of musical offerings, visibly enjoyed by the shopping public. Students and teachers had a marvelous time sharing music. And it only required a small shift of focus from an in-house activity to a **collaborative** one!

In closing, a few thoughts to consider:

As state/local affiliates of MTNA, are we **visible** in our communities? Are we working alone or do we truly see ourselves as a vital force within the larger arts community?

#### When we are visible

- We build *awareness* which engages our current members and students,

and creates interest among non-members.

- The importance of the arts in our lives, individually and collectively, is elevated.
- We support one of the three pillars of the MTNA Strategic Plan - to "*Engage the Public*," by increasing the number of people making and teaching music.
- We also support the second pillar, "*Sustain the Profession*," especially the objective "*promote the music teaching profession as a worthwhile, respected and financially viable career*." When the community can see us in action at local or state venues, they see a thriving, productive and valuable profession at work.

#### When we are visible—**WE ALL WIN!**

As we look ahead to a spring season filled with exciting programs and activities, let's encourage our state and local leadership to shift our focus outward and throw open the doors! WSMTA provides a non-member fee for each of its programs, and local associations can do the same for local activities to help offset expenses that membership dues would normally support. Allowing non-members to participate and experience MTNA *from the inside* is a great marketing strategy!

(Reminder: you can find many helpful outreach and publicity resources on the MTNA website. MTNA.org: click on Membership Resources/Leadership Resources /Publicity.)

Debra Florian, NCTM  
WSMTA Arts Advocacy Chair  
[flostudio@comcast.net](mailto:flostudio@comcast.net)



It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that I am retiring from writing the New Music Review column for the Clarion. My main source of new music, Rockley Music Center in Denver, is closing its Print Music Department. It is no longer economically feasible for the store to try and compete with on-line music sales and direct publisher sales. As you can imagine, this is a huge loss for the Denver metro area but it is happening all over the country.



I urge each of you to continue to patronize your local music dealers. One of the best ways to see and hear new music is to visit the local music dealer. And, yes, that means also purchasing your music and your students' music at the music store rather than on line. That is the only way that the music store can stay in business.

Thanks for the privilege of sharing my ideas and thoughts on new music with you. It has been a distinct honor!

*Phyllis Pieffer, NCTM*

## Chapter News

Wondering what NCTM means? Skeptical about the need to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music? Confused about the process? Wondering if it is all worth it? Like to party?? Then please join us for

### **SMTA's first ever Certification Gala! at the Steinway Gallery 1218 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., downtown Seattle on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 pm**

We welcome all members of WSMTA to this entertaining and festive event. Hear "How to certify in one year or less" by our own certification chairman, Rose Freeman NCTM with additional speakers and musical performances by Yelena Balabanova NCTM, Talman Welle NCTM, Laura Dean NCTM and Risa Jun NCTM. The goal of this event is to provide our members with information on certification and its benefits. And if informative speakers and transcendent musical performances in the inspirational setting of the Steinway Gallery isn't enough we will provide catered food and beverage service. For free! What's not to love?

This event is semi-formal and will last approximately 2 hours though I'm sure

you will have so much fun you will wish it lasted longer! RSVP required. Please join us!

*Bonnie Blanchard, NCTM  
SMTA Member*

## MTNA News

### **Greetings from MTNA and your Northwest Director!**



*Jani Peterson, NCTM  
MTNA NW Division Director*

*Do you know* how YOUR national organization works for you? You are probably most familiar with some of the programs such as Competitions, Commissioned Composer and the National Conference, to name a few, but perhaps you are not aware of all the "resources" MTNA provides its members. For example: Insurance Services, Professional Support Line, Legal Resources, Leadership Resources, Teaching Tips, Studio Resources and Parent/Student Resources. MTNA is also working with companies to provide discounts for members, such as prescriptions, car rentals and hotels. The most significant discount is through Office Depot/Office Max where you can get BW copies for 2.5 cents!! That is a huge savings to your studios and chapters!

*Do you like* more technology? Your *American Music Teachers* magazine is now online. Wherever you are, *AMT* is at your fingertips. Issues since June 2015 can be read by going to [www.americanmusicteacher.org](http://www.americanmusicteacher.org). As the *AMT* is part of your membership dues, this site is MTNA members only. There is also the MTNA e-Journal, which features in-depth, scholarly, research-oriented articles enhanced through the use of sound, image and video. This can be accessed through the

MTNA website. Also new are the MTNA Webinars. The first one was in November and if you missed out it can be viewed on MTNA's YouTube Channel. Another webinar is being planned and will also be available soon.

The above is only a sampling of what MTNA has to offer. MTNA is a unique organization that is constantly looking for ways to provide services that will benefit all members. If we, as members, want to get the full potential and value from our membership, then it is our responsibility to take the time to learn more about what is being offered.

*Do you know* who the other leaders are for your Northwest Division? Washington State is blessed with many talented and willing volunteers! The *MTNA NW Division Competition Chair* is Dianne Johnston, WSCM-WA. Coordinators for this event are Susan Todd, NCTM-OR (Junior), Diane Volkman, NCTM-MT (Senior) and Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM-WA (Young Artist/Chamber). The *MTNA NW Division Composition Chair* is Patrick Stephens, NCTM-WA and your *MTNA NW Division Certification Commissioner* is Karen Hollenback, NCTM-WA. A huge thank you to all of these fabulous leaders who give of their time to ensure the success of the MTNA programs for all the Northwest states.

*Did you know* that all Northwest members are invited to attend a NW Divisional meeting and a no-host dinner? If you are planning to be at the MTNA National Conference in San Antonio then please pencil these events into your calendars. If you haven't met colleagues from the other NW states then it's a must. It's a great group of people and we have a fantastic time. You should not miss out! Those who are registered will receive more information or it will be posted on the NW Division Portal on the MTNA website.

*Did you know* that as members you have the opportunity and privilege to select your future leaders? Beginning in February, voting will be opened to select the next Northwest Division Director-elect. There are two very well qualified nominees and each would make excellent leaders. As a WSMTA member, one of the nominees will be of particular interest! Take time to go back to page 1 to learn more about that special person! Please take your responsibility seriously and don't forget to vote.



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Being part of the National organization is as important as your local and state associations. At each level different programs and services are provided to enhance your membership - services that National offers us, which the local associations could not and vice versa. We need the whole package! Take ownership of your membership by becoming more involved and help shape the future of the associations. Be an advocate for MTNA by inviting and

sharing with others. Be proud of MTNA and advertise in your studios that you are a member of a professional organization.

*MTNA is **your** MTNA  
MTNA is **your** Partner in Teaching*

*Jani Peterson, NCTM  
NW Division Director*



Eastern Washington University Campus



Downtown Walla Walla

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S



**Seattle pianist Talman Welle to present two exciting concerts in March**

The first concert will be at **Stage 7 Pianos**, 511 6th St., Kirkland, WA, March 13, 2016 at 4 p.m. The second concert will be at the **Steinway Gallery**, 1218 3rd Ave., Suite 105, Seattle, WA, March 26, 2016 at 7 p.m. **Talman's unique program promises to be massive, fiery and innovative.** Pairing a contemporary interpretation of *Carnaval*, Op. 9 by Robert Schumann with the premiere of unknown and lost works by 20th century British composer Cyril Scott, this will be an exciting and unforgettable evening of music.

Talman received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in piano performance studying with nationally known pianist Dr. John Salmon of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, Timothy Strong of Tacoma, and Dr. Bonalyn Bricker-Smith, Professor emeritus, Central Washington University. He began his studies with his mother, the late Martha Thatcher of Bremerton. He has been a professor of piano at Olympic College since 1988, and has performed with the Bremerton Symphony, the Bainbridge Orchestra, and has given numerous

solo performances throughout the state for many years. He maintains a very busy studio of piano teaching in Seattle, as well as Bremerton and Poulsbo, and is a State and Nationally Certified Teacher, NCTM. He also has 4 CD's to his credit including Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

**PROGRAM**

- **Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, the voice commands) BWV645--Bach/Busoni (1898)**
- **Carnaval, op. 9—Robert Schumann (1834-35):** 1. Preamble, 2. Pierrot, 3. Arlequin, 4. Valse noble, 5. Eusebius, 6. Florestan, 7. Coquette, 8. Replique, 9. Sphinxes, 10. Papillons, 11. Lettres dansantes, 12. Chiarina, 13. Chopin, 14. Estrella, 15. Reconnaissance, 16. Pantalon et Colombine, 17. Valse allemande, 18. Paganini, 19. Aveu, 20. Promenade, 21. Pause, 22. Marche des "Davidsbundler" contre les Philistins

**Intermission**

- **Lento --- Cyril Scott (circa 1915)**
- **Summerland—Four Little Pieces for Pianoforte, op. 54 no. 1-4--Cyril Scott (circa 1915):** 1. Playtime, 2. A Song from the East, 3. Evening Idyll, 4. Fairy Folk
- **Introduction and Fugue, Op. 75, No. 5--Cyril Scott (circa 1925) Unknown work**

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### Session II: (\$400)

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Dainius Vaicekonis, Amy Grinsteiner

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Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard, Directors

July 5-15, 2016

Session I: July 5-15  
(for ages 16 and up)

Session II: July 15-18  
(for up to age 15)

Priority Application Deadline: April 1, 2016



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## ***DATES 'N DEADLINES***

**Feb. 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the March Clarion**

**Feb. 15: Deadline for Young Composers entries** (see article, Page 7)

**March 1: Postmark Deadline for submitting Chapter of the Year application**

**March 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the April Clarion**

*Visit your WSMTA website  
at [www.wsmta.org](http://www.wsmta.org)  
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in full color!*

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