

## President's Corner



Have you ever been alongside the wake of a boat, thrown a pebble into a pond, listened to a single pitch as it pulses through the air? Have you experienced contagious laughter begun by one person, or felt the desire to respond to the excitement of another person's experience? I imagine most of us one time or other have been touched by the *ripple effect* in a positive or negative way. Are you excited about one particular activity of your chapter? Have you enjoyed some wonderful times with your WSMTA colleagues? Have your students benefited from the activities WSMTA and your affiliate chapters provide? I propose we launch some of those *pebbles* into the ponds of musicians outside our local chapter and create some ripples! Your enthusiasm is contagious and can inspire others to join you.

Why not use this year's MTNA theme "**INVOLVE, INFORM, INSPIRE**" as our own personal motto? I think these words work nicely in a little different order as well, **INSPIRE, INFORM, INVOLVE**. For me, inspiration leads to information and then involvement when reaching out. However, no matter the order, it takes a *pebble* of our *enthusiasm* tossed out to those around us, or else "Involve, Inform, Inspire" are just nice words with no compelling effect! Maybe we can each take a few minutes and consider what we are enthused about, and what advantages there are to our MTNA/WSMTA/chapter membership, so we throw exciting pebbles with which to create our *ripple effect*!

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## BRAVO!

### Foundation Fellow Nominee



Michiko Miyamoto

WSMTA is sponsoring two MTNA Foundation Fellow nominations this year. In addition to Dr. Judith Schoepflin, Spokane, Michiko Miyamoto, Seattle, has been nominated, as well.

Support the MTNA Foundation Fund AND these outstanding teachers by contributing to the MTNA Foundation Fund and designating your gift for one (or both) of our nominations.

Robin Chadwick, NCTM

MTNA Foundation chair for WSMTA

### Michiko Morita Miyamoto Biography

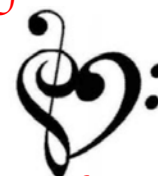
Michiko Morita Miyamoto, born in Seattle, Washington, was the second daughter of parents who had emigrated from Japan to the United States and had strong interests in music and art. Michiko's innate talent for music became evident very early. When she was still a year too young for the age requirement of the Cornish School, today the Cornish College of the Arts, the school agreed to hear her. She was auditioned and accepted by Miss Nellie Cornish herself and entered as their youngest student, soon becoming a star at the school regularly called upon for performances. She was also known as an accompanist for her older sister who

(Continued on Page 3)

## Coming Events

### Conference 2013 Wenatchee!

*Music from the Heart*



*of Washington*

Ah! Crisp, cool, refreshing blue October skies! Red ripe apples. Sugar-filled, hanging bunches of grapes. Music students back into the groove of practicing, fulfilling their heart's desire--to make music, glorious, wonderful, beautiful music. Now fast-forward to June: ripening red cherries, apple blossoms perhaps still lingering. Green grass and spraying sprinklers.

So, where are we? In Wenatchee, located in the Heart of Washington. What are WE doing? Why, of course, attending the 2013 WSMTA Conference! Learning more about music and teaching. Enjoying outstanding recitals from our wonderful Washington students and musicians. Not the least of which will be our own Washington-grown, internationally renowned guest artist, Stephen Beus!

The corrected Presenter's Application Form appears on page 9 of this issue of the Clarion. We welcome all who desire to present a workshop at the conference to apply for our consideration. Applications must be received by November 18<sup>th</sup>, so please make haste to send this in if you have not done so already.

We look forward to our time together in Wenatchee. Mark your calendars now: Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Roz Nau, NCTM, 2013 Conference Chair

## 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  
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The email address for District I Vice President, Yelena Balabanova was missing the last letter of her name in our Sept. issue. Please note the correction in this issue to:  
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## Membership

*Welcome New Members!*

**Clark County**  
Kattie Clark  
Debbie Lee

**Eastside**  
Na Young Kwon  
Jully Lee  
Kristina Lee

**Gig Harbor**  
Kaitlynn Igari

Kae Matsuda  
Karen Sundell

**Snohomish County**

Olivia Johansen  
Jessica Martin

**Wenatchee Valley**

Sally Tuttle

**Collegiate**

Kimberly Hashimura

## President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

If you can't think of any, perhaps you should explore some of the programs available as a WSM TA/MTNA member, and become INVOLVED!

At our Conference in Bellingham I had the privilege to hear how the WSM TA Student Grants Program created a "ripple effect" from one of our member teachers. (I'll avoid using names to maintain anonymity.) She told me of a hardworking student with musical talent, whose father had suffered several strokes during the winter, causing him to be hospitalized for several weeks, followed by rehab and therapy that continues to this day. This illness had a devastating effect on the family since the father was self-employed with no other employees except the mother, his wife. Because their livelihood was gone, (at least for a time and still is) they had no option *but* to consider discontinuing piano lessons. This teacher did everything she could and helped them continue through the year. A Clarion article about *WSM TA Student Study Grants* caught the teacher's eye. Long story short, the traumatized family applied for, and was awarded a grant from the WSM TA Study Grant Committee chaired by Connie Hungate. The grant will make it possible for this student to continue piano study this year.

However, the story doesn't end there; listen to the *ripple effect* in action! In an effort to inspire other students and honor the efforts of this particular family and student, at her studio recital, our teacher gave an overview of the student's situation, how he continued diligently in spite of the situation and was also chosen student of the year at his school. She told how WSM TA had awarded her student a grant for this fall to continue his piano study. Because she wanted to inspire dedication in her students, not solicit for

the family, she was totally overwhelmed at what took place after the festivities. The father of another student, who is in the military, hearing his own daughter perform in a recital for the first time because of his military duty, handed her \$100.00 cash, saying he also wanted to contribute to this student's music study. Later in the parking lot as she was leaving, a couple handed her a check for this same student. Telling about the WSM TA Grant began a positive *ripple effect*. What good *ripples* can you begin?



How long has it been since your chapter has invited non-members to your concerts or workshops? Could your chapter use new life and ideas? Then consider inviting more non-members to every chapter or district event; it takes many invites to find those who will be inspired to join! Your chapter could possibly be the recipient of \$200.00 if you have the highest percentage or the largest number of new members join before April 1, 2013!

As you send *ripples* out to non-members remember you can invite them to attend your chapter meetings recitals, events, and your district conference, the **Outstanding Artists Competition and MTNA Performance Competition** which will take place **November 8 - 11** are also open to the public. The competitions provide the opportunity to be inspired with great student performances and at the same time allow you to contribute your help. Assistance is needed at both events to *monitor, register and time performers* among other things. If you live in Western Washington, especially near Tacoma, **Janice Smith, Patti Ray and Julie Swienty** will want to hear from you! Don't forget you can invite others to attend also and be inspired by these fabulous competitions!

**FROM MTNA** - Other items of interest for you to take advantage of and share: **Making Music, the magazine** is a lifestyle resource for all recreational music makers and music hobbyists, regardless of instrument or ability. Music Magazine is now offering MTNA members a dis-

counted subscription through a special website link. The normal subscription rate of Making Music is \$16.95 and MTNA members can now purchase a one-year subscription for \$9.95.

**Oxford University Press** has also launched an MTNA-OUP partnership web store. The online store features hundreds of OUP Music Education and Performance titles at discounts exclusive to MTNA members. Check for both at MTNA.org and click on Member Discounts

**Remember:** You can purchase and give **WSM TA Gift Certificates** to other members! You can **view the Clarion on line** at wsmta.net! You can **opt out** of receiving the hard copy of the Clarion! Check all the details in the September Clarion page 3, it's on-line at wsmta.net.

Wishing you all a wonderful month with your students and colleagues!

Dianne Johnston, WSM TA  
WSM TA President

## BRAVO!

(continued from Page 1)

### Foundation Fellow Nominee

**Michiko Morita Miyamoto**  
*Biography (continued)*

studied violin at Cornish, as a chamber music performer, and as one who excelled in music theory.

In due course, young Michiko was assigned to the renowned teacher, Madame Berthe Poncy Jacobson, and studied with her throughout her pre-college and college years. Michiko feels she owes to Mrs. Jacobson much of what she ultimately achieved at the piano, especially in her understanding of music. At age sixteen, Michiko graduated from Broadway High School as Salutatorian, left Cornish School and entered the University of Washington as a music major. The School of Music required that she take piano lessons for credit, but finding no one at the University with whom she wanted to study, she asked to continue her studies with Mrs. Jacobson, with University credit. Her request was granted, and a year later, the University astutely chose to hire Mrs. Jacobson for its own faculty. Mrs. Jacobson went on to become the legendary head of the piano department until her retirement.

Michiko graduated from the University of Washington with Magna Cum Laude honors and a Phi Beta Kappa key. But



perhaps more important to her musical advancement was the honor of being named to the women's music honorary sorority, Mu Phi Epsilon, for the friends she made in Mu Phi were formative in developing her identity as a musician.

**TEACHING** Michiko began teaching piano in the 1930's while in high school and the university, which helped pay for her own music lessons. The fifteen to twenty students she had developed before World War II were all from the local Japanese community. The outbreak of World War II came in December 1941, and she married Shotaro Frank Miyamoto late that month, without waiting for their intended February wedding date. She and Frank were evacuated to the Tule Lake Relocation Center with other West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry. There, to her amazement and delight, she discovered that one of the families had brought with them an upright piano that they offered for her use. Another family had brought a large collection of 78 rpm records. A teacher to the core, she quickly resumed teaching piano, and organized and presented weekly Saturday night concerts of the recordings, complete with explanations of the music to enrich the experience for the internees, until she and Frank moved from the "camp" to Chicago in the latter years of the war. While her husband completed his doctorate, Michiko taught Japanese language classes at the University of Chicago and taught piano to children of the University's faculty. The couple returned to Seattle at the end of the war.

From the beginning, Mrs. Miyamoto used private spring and fall recitals as motivational goals around which to organize her students' study and to teach stage presence. In the postwar years, as a member of the Seattle and Washington State Music Teachers Associations, the Music Teachers National Association, and the Eastside Music Teachers' Eastside Festival, she used their annual competitions as further means of motivating her students and organizing their development. The regularity with which her students won recognition and honors at these events, including her two children John, Jane, and niece, Anne Morita, was the early basis on which Michiko established her name as a piano teacher in the Seattle area. ...

... to be continued in the  
November CLARION

## WSMTA Salutes High Honors Students: Congratulations to You & Your Teachers!

### Okanogan Chapter

#### Teacher: (Level) Student(s)

Roz Nau: (1) Julie Bello

Lois Rhoads: (2) Sarah Cravy

Sandy Sheets: (2) Evan Porter; (4) Madison Gariano

Mariliz Romano: (4) Jasmine Bolz

### Tri-Cities Chapter

#### Teacher: (Level) Student(s)

Angela Jacobson: (2) Nathan Fisler; (4) Riley Santo, Sophia Sorenson; (6) Paul Pierson

Ben Fowler: (1) Sarah Jarman; (2) Isabel Bartholomew, Anna Jarman; (3) Jessica Dunlap; (5) Samuel McKinnon

Julianne Barnaby: (1) Clara Crawford; (2) Tove Hayden, Jerome Zito; (3) Nicholas Zito; (4) Maeve Fogle, Kevin Weng; (6) Alani Safford; (8) Lillie Gray, Yvonne Lumette

## Education

### CERTIFICATION CORNER

Let's hear it for October, fall leaves, lingering summerlike days with crisp cool nights, baseball playoffs, Halloween chocolates, piano festivals, new students, continuing students, inspiring colleagues at chapter meetings, and **Katie O'Rourke** of Bellingham who is WSMTA's newest nationally certified teacher of music in piano. Way to go Katie!

I'm sure each of you reading this has lots to cheer about as well. I hope you are sharing your excitement and good news with those around you. Too often it seems that news is mostly bad, sad or discouraging. Somehow, it seems that the good things tend to get glossed over.

What's happening in your music lives and the music lives of your students? A new piece learned, exploration of a lesser known composer, an inspiring new recording you just heard, a student who just couldn't wait to tell you how easy the assigned theory page was? Share it!!

More good news on the certification front...there are 5 WSMTA certification grants available. Start your certification process by sending in your application to MTNA, and then contact me to apply for a certification grant (an easy process). Last summer Katie applied to MTNA to begin certification, received a WSMTA certifica-

tion grant, worked on her certification projects and we now celebrate her exciting news of obtaining NCTM designation.

I know there are several other WSMTA members who are finishing up their certification work and will be awaiting evaluation results of their projects. I look forward to sharing their good news of receiving NCTM designation in the coming months!

Karen Hollenback, NCTM  
WSMTA Certification Chair  
425-228-1110

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## District News

### District I & II Conference 2012 Featuring Dr. Sasha Starcevich



The combined District I and District II Conference will be held at the Marysville United Methodist Church, 5600 64th St. NE. on Sat., Oct. 13, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dr. Starcevich will present a workshop on **"Technical development of the young beginner"** and **"The ordering of the repertoire of the great composers"**.

In addition, there will be a presentation of the Piano Concerto repertoire, with focus on works from the 18th to 20th centuries. Three roundtable discussion groups will be led by Master teachers for Districts I and II: (1) Theory Study in the piano studio; (2) Ensemble music study; and (3) How to put on one of a kind exciting recital.

**WSMTA members may receive  
Certification credit for attending!**

Contact Yunbo Cassady, WSMTA Dist. II VP at [conanima63@gmail.com](mailto:conanima63@gmail.com) for more information.

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Last Update 9-13 -12



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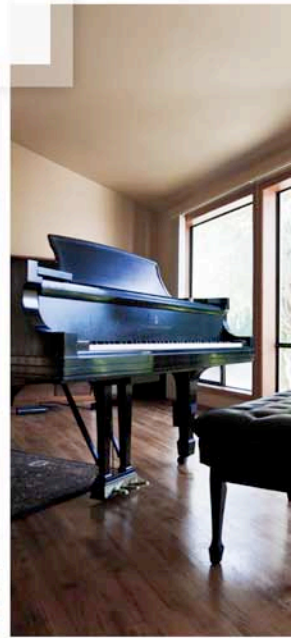
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## ***DATES 'N DEADLINES***

**Oct. 1 - Nov. 18: Conference 2013 Presenter application form acceptance period** (see page 9)

**Oct. 13: District I & II Conference 2012** (see page 4)

**Nov. 8 - 10: OAC Competition**

**Nov. 9 - 11: MTNA Performance Competitions**

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- ◆ **BRAVO! Foundation Fellow Nominee Michiko Miyamoto** (see page 1)
- ◆ **District I & II Conference features Dr. Sasha Starceovich** (see page 4)
- ◆ **Annual List of WSMTA officers, chairs & chapter presidents** (see pages 5-8))

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