

The CLARION

VOL. LXV, NO. 6

MARCH, 2013



President's Corner



Disneyland, here we come in just a few short months. With tables reserved at the Gala, we'd like you to join us. If you haven't told me you plan to attend, do so right away:

diannej23@comcast.net. We'll enjoy a wonderful evening of catching up with one another and witnessing our WSMTA nominees Judith Schoepflin and Michiko Miyamoto being honored as MTNA Foundation Fellows! Thank you for graciously affirming our nominees by donating the necessary funds to the MTNA Foundation in their behalf!

At the MTNA Conference in Anaheim, don't miss our *eighteen Washington students* in the competitions; *Dr. Peter Mack conducting* an advanced piano master class on Sunday March 10; *Bonnie Blanchard, Kendall Feeny, Forrest Kinney, Jody Graves, Deborah Rambo Sinn presenting* on Saturday March 9. There may be others from WSMTA presenting as well, my apologies if I mis-sed your name. Check the February/March AMT for information. The NW Division will meet at 5:00PM in the Magic Kingdom Ballroom 4, followed by a no host dinner! If you are going to the conference please join us!

Your Education Board and Board of Directors have recently (among other things): provided five additional *Certification Grants of \$100.00* each; approved *two new adjudicators*; approved a *budget and schedule for our 2013 conference in Wenatchee*; approved a **\$500.00 donation** from our investment fund, adding to the MTNA Fund for Super Storm Sandy music teachers who have lost studios and instruments; approved funds . . .

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BRAVO!



Bob Pajer, NCTM, to be presented the MTNA-Piano Technicians Guild Scholarship Award

Bob lives in Snoqualmie and is currently a freelance pianist in the Seattle area. He plays regularly at the Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club, Salish Lodge and Cedarbrook Lodge, and many other venues in Washington State. As a busy event pianist, he has held positions with Washington Mutual Bank, Swedish Hospital, University of Washington, and Boeing, where he served as banquet pianist for delivery of the Boeing 777 aircraft to countries around the world, including Morocco, Japan and Austria.

He established his teaching practice in Snoqualmie in 2000 and has had a full studio since then. He is a founding teacher in the Carnegie Hall - Royal Conservatory of Music Achievement Program. His students have consistently received the honors, high honors, and high honors with distinction levels in this program, as well as Honorable Mention at the 2012 Seattle International Piano Festival.

Bob is a past member of the U. S. Air Force Band. He studied piano, music theory, harmony and bassoon at Mannes College of Music in New York City (1944-1953.)

Bob was also a scholarship student at the Dalcroze School in New York. He ...

(Continued on Page 4)

Coming Events



Exciting things are happening at the WSMTA 2013 Conference, "Music from the Heart of Washington." So, step out of the hot tub (winter photo above) at The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, gather with your friends in the hotel lobby, walk across the sky bridge and take part in the wonderful recitals and workshops at the Wenatchee Convention Center and the Wenatchee Performing Arts Center. View a glimpse right now of the many wonderfully varied events that will be happening.

Workshops will include: Adjudications Panel, African Piano Music, Music Transcends the Middle East Conflict Part II, The Three Faces of Debussy, How Much is Too Much (Pedaling)?, Motivating and Growing Music Lovers, The Lighter Side of Bartok, Technical Development of the Young Beginner, Tempos in a Teapot, MTNA Certification, Manuel Ponce and Mexican Nationalism, Stop Me Before I Shriek Again (organ), Alternatives to the Suzuki Violin Method, Brazilian Tangos, Waltzes, Choros, and Chorinhos, Exercise Needs for the Music Professional, Developing Musicianship through Group Activities, Non-Threatening Improvisation, Games and Goodies, and . . .

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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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CLARION Contributors:

- Please submit articles to the Editor no later than the 1st day of the month preceding the publication date.

- Articles should be attached to an email message and will be accepted ONLY in the following file types: **MS Word 97 or later & Mac Pages.**

- **DO NOT USE ANY SPECIAL FORMATS OR INDENTS** other than ordinary paragraph returns.

- Indicate paragraph changes with a double space. Otherwise, use **SINGLE VERTICAL SPACING** and leave **TWO SPACES BETWEEN SENTENCES.**

**DO NOT SUBMIT ARTICLES
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Changiz n' Kawrekshuns

Correction to the correction of
Adjudicator Marilyn Brossard's email:
marilynbrossard@gmail.com

Membership

Welcome New Members!

Bellingham Chapter
Cecile Pendleton

Eastside Chapter
Seth Ahnert

Kitsap County Chapter
Sarah Jordan
Bethany Prindle

Seattle Chapter
Kirsten Carlson
Marsha Ann Wright

South King County Chapter
Dorothy Sica

TriCities Chapter
Val Wenner

Yakima/Ellensburg Chapter
Peg Mary Smith

President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

(continued from page 1)... from the investment account to assist each of our **eighteen** students traveling to the MTNA National Competition representing Washington and NW Division and we received reports of exciting conferences and recitals taking place from our seven district Vice Presidents.

Before long 5,000 students will have taken part in the unique student performance evaluation program called *adjudications* and will be encouraged in their progress. Some students take it in stride, others, especially if it's their first adjudication, are apprehensive. I've wondered on occasion what happens inside some of my students as they enter competitions, adjudications, festivals and other events. To my surprise, I received an unsolicited answer to my unspoken question. A parent recently sent me an email with an attachment of a narrative that her daughter had written for her 6th grade English class, titled "88 Keys in Black and White – The moment that changed me". I'm sharing some of her essay with you, because she captured in words many of the feelings we don't always realize students are experiencing and the excitement they have in their musical journey. In the midst of all your preparation and teaching, let this encourage you. This was her Sonata Festival experience in Ellensburg.

"My fingers itched to touch the keys again, to make melodies fly from the piano like birds, soaring through the air to reach an ear, to tickle it with music. Practicing it over and over, one note at a time, until once, just once, I played it perfectly. Notes sliding together like paints colliding, then blending, others as sharp and as crisp as the sound of fresh snow crunching under your feet. Parts so soft, it felt as if only the wind was whispering a melody, yet some as loud as thunder.

It was dark, quiet, still. It felt like nothing was awake. But I was. Brushing my hair at four twenty-five in the morning was the last place I wanted to be. I walked down the stairs. At the bottom I slipped my feet into shoes, grabbed a snack bar and a water bottle, and headed out to the car. For four hours (maybe 3) I sat in the car on the way to Ellensburg. A small light lit up the page of my book, glowing like a small ray of hope. Possibly, out of the 400 kids competing, out of the ones in my group, I

would get an award. When we drove into the parking lot, the music building in the university loomed above us. Each window that we could see on the second floor twinkled with a piano glistening, waiting to be played. My heart raced, I was excited, yet nervous. I climbed out of the car and stared up at the building. Red banners flew off the side. I felt tiny—so many people, only one me....

Checking the lists and lists of names covering the wall, when I discovered that I would be playing in the concert hall, my heart raced even faster. It seemed as if there was a twelve mile dash happening in my chest, like thousands of feet pounding on the ground of my heart. I sat in a chair outside the concert hall, waiting for my turn.

"Abby Brown?" a young lady stuck her head out of the concert hall. "I'm ready," I responded. I stepped into the concert hall; it was dark, like the black ink spread from a leaking bottle, all dark in the room until my eyes found the stage. A 9 foot Steinway concert grand piano sat on a huge wooden stage. A spotlight shone down on the piano. I sat down at the huge piano, my fingers cold and jittery. "You may begin." I heard the adjudicator say. I let my hands sit in my lap for a few seconds before setting my hands on the cool, white keys of the piano. White, black, white, black, white, black. The keys alternated through the 88 keys on the piano, it was beautiful. Before I knew where I was, I was playing the final chord of my song.

"Very good," the adjudicator complimented me. "I loved how you made the phrases almost sing." "Thank you," I replied. I slipped out of the room, put on my coat, and my mom and I walked out into the cold fall morning. We walked around the university's campus, the crisp, cold air freezing my skin, as if thousands of tiny teeth were biting at my skin. We walked back to the music building to check if they had posted the results yet. We found the page with my groups winners. I looked at the page. The only thing that stood out was my name. My name. I was in shock. I went to the table where they were giving medals to the honors winners.

"I'm Abby Brown and I got... (Honorable Mention)" "Here you go!" the lady handed me a medal and I took the medal and slipped it around my neck. It was cold and itchy, but it was worth it. I felt proud of myself. I felt like I could do anything. I feel more confident in myself now that I have won a medal in something I had pretty much no chance at winning. The front of the medal had a miniature piano sitting on a huge wooden stage. A spotlight shone down on the

piano. I felt as if this medal is a picture of what I went through. Almost as if there was a tiny girl sitting at the piano."

Enjoy your teaching knowing how some students are feeling, whether they say it or not!

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM
WSMTA President

Coming Events

(continued from Page 1)



The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel

(continued from page 1)... Lowering Another Elephant onto the Keys! Our Guest Artist Stephen Beus will also be teaching master classes for advanced students and presenting a workshop.

You won't want to miss any of the recitals: Student Honors Recitals, Washington Winners, Young Composers and Composer of the Year, Volta Piano Trio (formerly Icicle Creek Piano Trio), and Stephen Beus, our Conference Guest Artist.

So make plans to join us June 16th through the 20th. If you have students who wish to apply for Stephen Beus's Master Class, please print out the application form in the "Conference" section of our wsmta.net website, complete it and send it in as instructed on the form. We look forward to seeing you in Wenatchee!

Roz Nau, NCTM
2013 Conference Chair

P.S.: If you would like your area of the state to be pictorially represented on our conference booklet's collage cover, please send us a photo! (see the following)

Conference Booklet

Send your "jpeg" landscape/architectural pictures of your area to be included

on the cover of this year's Booklet to: mnkchris@ncidata.com or mail prints to Kathleen Christensen, 312 Canyon Court, Omak WA 98841. Please include your name, chapter and location of picture. Thank you!

*Kathleen Christensen
Conference Booklet Chair
509-422-4660*

BRAVO!

(Continued from Page 1)

Bob Pajer, NCTM, to be presented the MTNA-Piano Technicians Guild Scholarship Award

(Continued from Page 1)

... served as bassoonist in the Mannes Orchestra and principal bassoonist in the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, as well as many other orchestras throughout the country. His teachers at Mannes were Ruth Johnson, Joe Raieff and Joseph Polisi (Principal Bassoonist, NY Philharmonic). He pursued advanced studies in piano with Frances Clark, Morton Estrin, Arthur Grossman (University of Washington, bassoon) Peter Mack and Cassandra Carr. Bob holds a Bachelors Degree of Arts Degree from Rutgers University. He started his teaching career at age 16, at the Williamsburg Settlement Music School in Brooklyn.

Bob will receive his award at the 2013 MTNA Conference in Anaheim at the Brunch, Wednesday March 13. Congratulations Bob!

*Dianne Johnston, WSCTM
WSMTA President*

Education



Organ Workshop at WSMTA Conference:

"Stop Me Before I Shriek Again: The Art of Combining Organ Stops."

Please join me on Tuesday, June 18, 1:45-2:45 at the WSMTA conference where I will demonstrate techniques for combining organ stops using hymns and "easy organ music"—that is, music that would be playable by an organ student, an organist whose primary instrument is

piano, or an organist who had a busy week and needs something fast for Sunday morning! My presentation will not only include how to combine the stops, but how to use the accessories (such as combination actions, reversibles, couplers, and expression pedals) in order to get the desired sound. I'll even include a few tricks for simulating stops not available on the instrument you play.

The workshop will take place at First United Methodist Church, Wenatchee. Here's how you get there from the Wenatchee Convention Center, located at 121 N. Wenatchee Avenue. (1) Head southeast on N. Wenatchee Ave toward 1st St. (go .3 mi); (2) Take the 3rd right onto Orondo Ave. (go .2 mi -- about 2 mins.); (3) Turn right onto Washington St. (go .5 mi. -- about 2 mins.). First United Methodist Church, 941 Washington St., Wenatchee WA; Total Mileage: 1.0 mi -- about 5 minutes.

Cassandra Bridges of the Wenatchee Chapter has made arrangements with the church for the workshop. Cassandra tells me that there is a park across the street from First Methodist Church (Washington Park) that would be a lovely location for lunch, since that day there is a picnic/box lunch. Box lunches will be picked up at the registration area.

Organ workshop-goers who wish to carpool will meet at the scholarship baskets/raffle area (located near the registration area) in order to group themselves into vehicles. Because, as the presenter, I will be at the church early, I am looking for a volunteer to help organize organ workshop attendees into carpools. If you will be at the conference and would be willing to do this, please contact conference chair Roz Nau (roznu@hotmail.com) or me (naggy@richardsonlaw.biz).

Roz Nau asked me to tell you a bit about myself in this article. Like most WSMTA organists, I have a foot in both the piano and organ worlds. I am certified by MTNA in both organ and piano. Piano was my focus for my undergraduate degree and organ was my focus for my master's degree. I currently serve as the Dean of the Olympic Peninsula chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and have served as Education Chair and Professional Development Chair in the past. I have presented workshops on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, including a series of programs designed to introduce young people to the organ. In addition to regu-

larly playing in churches, I maintain a small teaching studio of piano and organ students.

Also at the conference will be the annual organists lunch meeting, scheduled for Monday, June 17th, @ 12:30 pm in the Red Delicious West room. In addition to providing an open forum for discussion of organ related topics, the organists' lunch is a nice time to meet and greet fellow WSMTA organists so that we can provide each other a network of support. All are welcome, so bring your non-organist friends. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Joann Richardson, NCTM
WSMTA Organ Chair*



March brings changes in many areas: the weather warms, spring flowers begin to show their colorful display, students in my studio begin new music as we complete adjudications and spring competitions and performance events, and I feel rejuvenated as I anticipate going to the MTNA conference (warm weather, colorful displays and new music related experiences all in one place!) Time for a "Happy Dance"!!

What's a "Happy Dance" you ask? My two year old granddaughter taught me this concept this past weekend. "Happy dance" is over the top (to an adult mindset anyway) unbridled joy exhibited in wild flapping of arms and legs and shrieks of delight. It can be brought on by finding the well loved play kitchen her mother used to play with waiting for her arrival at grandma's house ("Yeah, my kitchen!!" —happy dance). Or, the announcement that "Grandpa's home!" ("Yeah, yeah, play with me grandpa"—happy dance). Or, "let's get coffee Jillian." ("Yeah, Starbucks!!"—happy dance).

Everything is new and fresh when seen through two year old eyes and her happy dances throughout the past weekend added excitement and sparkle to the (in my mind) mundane of daily life. So, this week I have been trying to "Happy Dance" through each day. A student played that tricky scale passage...yeah Happy Dance! ("OK Mrs. Hollenback, don't go crazy!") A student now likes a piece that was more challenging than usual for her... yeah Happy Dance!

A student was late again...but I was able to finish skimming through the article I had been trying to read and never could seem to get finished...Happy Dance! Well, okay I didn't actually DO the Happy Dance each time...but I did it in my heart, and it lightened my day more than once this week.

So here's some news that for which you could do a Happy Dance. The WSMTA Education Board recommended and the WSMTA Board of Directors approved 5 more certification grants. We have a total of 8 grants now available. Yeah, Happy Dance! So, if you are considering applying for MTNA national certification, finish your Happy Dance and then send in your application to MTNA to start the certification process. When your application to begin certification is approved, contact me and we'll get the short grant application process started for you. Certification grants are \$100 which reimburses you for half the cost of your application fee for MTNA certification. Now isn't that worth a Happy Dance?

The WSMTA Education Board and Board of Directors have also approved some additional changes in the area of certification which I will cover in the coming months, so stay tuned for additional information in next month's column.

Happy Dancing!!

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

Program News

STUDENT STUDY GRANT PROGRAM

Call for Student Study Grant Applications

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

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

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

For further information contact me at cchungate@comcast.net or 206-232-0117. Application deadline is May 1, 2013.

*Connie Hungate, WSCTM
Grants & Scholarships Chair*

Workshops, Workshops, Workshops!!!

Do you have a theme or topic that you'd like to share with others in the WSM-TA community? Consider offering a workshop, then! The process is easy. 1) Fill out an application form, letting us know of your ideas, availability, and fees. 2) The application is reviewed and approved or rejected. 3) You are on a list available only to WSM-TA members for consideration.

On the other hand, are you looking for new and interesting ideas for your chapter? Have a look at the workshop list at wsmta.net. You'll need your MTNA membership number to get through the portal, but then you can see the whole list of topics given by master teachers from around the state and a few from beyond our borders. Over 200 workshops are listed on

the site, with contact information, fees, and wonderful ideas to enrich your chapter.

Meanwhile, let me know if I can help you get started.

*Dr. Deborah Rambo Sinn, NCTM
Workshop List Chair
drsinn@nikola.com*

Enrichment



Smarties to the rescue.....again. I know I have shared with you that I have three young beginners this year. You know that they have so many concepts to learn, review, relearn, review again and finally conquer. They have quite a few of them after five months of lessons, but now that the note values they are to know cover quarter note, half note, whole note and dotted half note it sometimes takes a little time to remember when it is in a song with all those other concepts. It seems that one at a time they do fine connecting the note and the counts it receives, but put that on a staff with both L H and R H and dynamic markings, bar lines and all the rest and it can get confusing for six year olds.

This was happening just this past week, so I pulled out the Smarties and had her place them on the piano ledge in front of the music. That way she only had to think about one note at a time and remember it's value.

She would put one of the Smarties down for a quarter note, stack two for a half note 3 for a dotted half and 4 for a whole note. She was then able to see the counts and clap them both while the candies were there and when I felt she was ready for them to be removed. I think putting the bar lines in and learning to count 1,2,3,4 is a little more tricky than when she just counted by note value. Seeing it with the candies, she was able to make the transition and when the rhythm was secure we could go on to what note was to be played. This is at the point where she is learning to read notes on the staff. It never hurts that she was able to be praised for how "Smart" she is and be rewarded with an unused package of the candies.

Most of you are teaching above this level, but as students begin to want to

teach others, it never hurts for them to see the how of presenting concepts. In addition I am planning to try using them with sixteenth note rhythms, just have not tried it yet to see if it works as well in reality as it does in my head ☺.

*Doreen Slaugh, NCTM
IMTF Chair
pdslaugh@yahoo.com*

District News

District III Conference

Workshop with the brilliant piano duet team of Dr. Jay & Sandy Mauchley
Saturday, April 20, 2013

Location: First Lutheran Church of Tacoma, 524 S. "I" St., Tacoma

9:00 - 10:30: Workshop with the Mauchleys - "Are We Together"

10:45 - 12 noon: Duet master classes with District 3 students

12 noon - 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00 - 2:30: Duet master classes with

District 3 students and performances by the Mauchleys

Fees:

\$30 for teachers (includes lunch)

\$20 for a family up to 4 people

\$10 for students

Registration forms and flyers will be dispersed by each chapter president. For more information, contact me.

*Donna Olson, NCTM, District III VP
olsonpianostudio@comcast.net
or 253-891-1299*

Chapter News

Eastside Chapter Presents The Mauchley Duo 4 Hands, 2 Grands

This two-Steinway piano duo recital with Jay and Sandy Mauchley will focus on music that showcases Rhythm, Romance, Rhapsody and Ragtime. All ages are sure to be inspired by these crowd-pleasing, high energy Steinway Artists. Sunday, **March 3, 2013** at 3 pm, at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717

Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA. Thanks to a grant from the EMTA Dorothy Woodcock Fund, this recital is free! For more information, contact: Sheri Skidmore sheriskidmore@msn.com.

Bulletin Board

WSU Summer Keyboard Explorations

Washington State University is proud to continue the tradition of Summer Keyboard Explorations for the 24th consecutive year! This summer's piano camp will be held **June 23-28**, and will feature the opportunity to study organ or jazz piano, in addition to daily private lessons with WSU's acclaimed keyboard faculty. You can find more information at <http://libarts.wsu.edu/music/camp/ske/>.

Two other WSU music camps, Cougar String Camp, and the WSU Double Reed Camp, are run in conjunction with Summer Keyboard Explorations. All three camps participate in the same social activities, many of the same musical activities and share the same dormitory.

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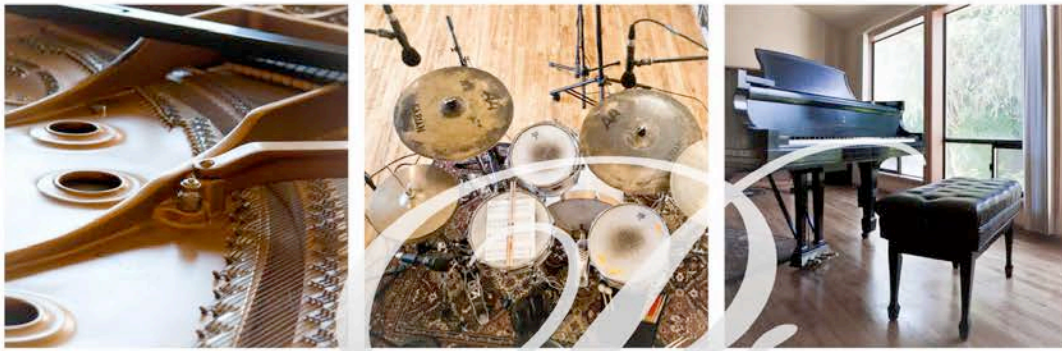
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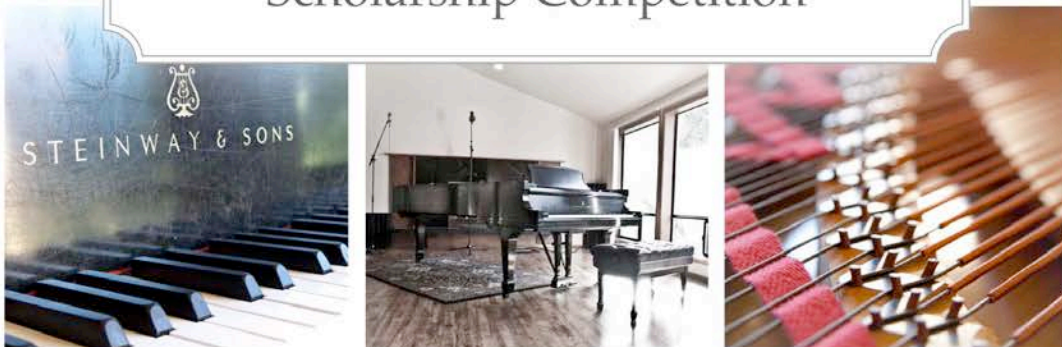
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DATES 'N DEADLINES

March 1: Deadline for Chapter of the Year Entries.

March 3: Eastside Chapter, 2 Grands, 4 Hands, Mauchley Duo. (see article)

March 9-13: MTNA Conference at Disneyland.

April 20: District III Conference. (see article)

June 16-28: WSMTA Conference at Wenatchee. (see article)

June 23-20: WSU Summer Keyboard Explorations. (see article)

**Visit your WSMTA website
at www.wsmta.net to
see The CLARION in full color!**

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- ◆ **President's Corner: "Join me at the MTNA Conference; WSMTA Board Meeting News; A Student's Experience at Adjudications."** (pages 1 & 3)
- ◆ **BRAVO! Bob Pajer, NCTM to be presented Award at MTNA Conference.** (pages 1 & 4)
- ◆ **WSMTA 2013 Conference News: Conference Booklet; Organ Workshop.** (pages 1, 3 & 4)
- ◆ **Call for Student Study Grant Applications.** (page 5)
- ◆ **Chapter Workshop Ideas from the Workshop List Chair.** (page 5)

**Don't Forget! There is
still time to register for
The MTNA Conference!**